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SENATE—Monday, February 2, 2015

The Senate met at 4 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

We praise You, Lord, for You have rescued us. You refuse to permit our enemies to win. Help us to so live that the generations to come will know of Your mighty acts.

Today, give our lawmakers the singularity of heart to seek, find, and follow Your will so that their legacy will be exemplary. Guide them in the path You have created, inspiring them with the potency of Your powerful presence. May they trust You in times of adversity and prosperity, knowing that they will reap a productive harvest if they persevere.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORKER). The majority leader is recognized.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 203

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the previous order with respect to H.R. 203 be modified so that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 203 at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, February 3, 2015, with all other provisions of the order being in effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. For the information of my colleagues, this moves the

vote on the Clay Hunt suicide prevention bill to noon tomorrow. We are all doing this because of unforeseen weather events that have created travel problems for Senators on both sides of the aisle.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to H.R. 240.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 5, H.R. 240, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WELCOMING BACK THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, let me say first that I want to welcome back our colleague, the minority leader. He has had a challenging month. We are happy to see him back here in the Senate. We wish him well in his recovery, which looks as if it is coming along nicely.

Welcome back, I say on behalf of all of our colleagues to the Democratic leader.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S BUDGET AND CLAY HUNT SUICIDE PREVENTION FOR AMERICAN VETERANS ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, in his State of the Union Address, President Obama promised to deliver a budget filled with "ideas that are prac-

tical, not partisan." I know many Americans were glad to hear him say that. The American people elected a right-of-center Congress focused on jobs and reform, so it makes sense that a President would want to send commonsense ideas that could pass the Congress that the people actually elected last November.

He could have proposed a budget that was balanced. He could have challenged us with serious, innovative reforms aimed at getting spending under control or effective ideas to create jobs and opportunity. There are so many positive things he could have done instead of phoning in another tired tax-and-spend manifesto. We basically see the same thing every year. It focuses on growing the bureaucracy instead of opportunity. It does not balance ever. Because it isn't designed to pass Congress, of course it doesn't pass Congress.

The budget is just one symptom of a wider disconnect. Rhetorically, at least, we hear the White House echo Republican calls for policies aimed at helping the middle class, but then we see the White House push more of the same stale, top-down policies favored by political bosses over on the left. As Americans who have lost health plans or who are seeing health costs skyrocket could tell you, the left's priorities often hurt the very people they purport to help.

This is the wrong approach. We need fresh ideas. Republicans want the President to join us in fighting for the middle class, so we think he should take opportunities such as the budget to actually rally Members of both parties behind serious ideas that can actually pass. We think the country could really benefit from his positive leadership.

His next test will come soon as the new Congress works to develop the kind of budget the American people deserve. We are going to focus on growing the economy from the ground up, with more future-oriented reform, more jobs, more opportunity. We are going to pursue ideas that make government leaner, more efficient, and more effective. We are going to honor the hard-

working men and women who count on us to spend their dollars wisely, not offload Washington's problems onto them with higher taxes. That is what the American people expect. It is the kind of practical agenda you pursue if you are serious about helping the middle class. It is what I hope the President will now encourage Members of both parties to work toward.

The truth is, there is a lot we can achieve with constructive, bipartisan cooperation. The bill we will vote on tomorrow is a great example of that. Members in both parties agree it is time to pursue positive reform for veterans who are hurting. The Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act aims to reduce the tragedy that befalls too many of our heroes and the heartbreak that befalls too many of their families. We lose thousands of veterans every year to suicide. Now is the time for practical, bipartisan action to do something about it.

The legislation we will vote on tomorrow will provide more of the suicide prevention and mental health support our veterans deserve. It will help veterans transition from Active-Duty service. It will take steps to improve the effectiveness of programs to help heroes in need.

This bill has already passed the House unanimously. I hope we can achieve a similar result in the Senate and send this bipartisan legislation to the White House for signature.

Before I finish, I would like to thank both the senior Senator from Georgia, Mr. ISAKSON, and the senior Senator from Arizona, Mr. MCCAIN, for their tireless work on this bill. These Senators care deeply about the men and women who give everything—literally everything—to protect us. Veterans are lucky to have such strong champions on their side.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

EXPRESSING MY APPRECIATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is really good to be back. I appreciate the kind remarks of the Republican leader. Senator MCCONNELL and his lovely wife Elaine have been very good to Landra and me over the years. We appreciate their words of support.

I want to express my appreciation to my colleagues who have been so kind and thoughtful during my recovery time. The Presiding Officer—I received your phone call. That was very warm. I very much appreciate it.

WORKING FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as Senators, our work is measured by what

we are able to accomplish for the middle class, what we are able to accomplish for the American people. I have watched very closely and been in touch, as we all know, having read all the stories, of what has gone on here in the last month. I am sorry to say that we spent 1 month on a bill calling for the importation of oil from a foreign country and then exporting that oil outside of America. I am glad we were able to work it out so that we had a number of amendments. That was really good. We felt very comfortable with that. I wish we could have done some more, but I am satisfied with what we were able to do. Of course now we await the action of the President, as we should be doing.

The work of this Senate is based upon—should be based upon—what we are able to do for the middle class. We are a constructive minority, and we proved that the last month. To show how constructive we are, take for example TRIA, terrorism insurance. It is so important up and down the Las Vegas Strip, Times Square, everywhere in America. That is important to the business community. Yet that was held up in the last Congress by my Republican colleagues. To show our good faith, we were able to pass that in a matter of hours. That is the way it should be.

We are going to vote tomorrow on the Clay Hunt bill. That is an important piece of legislation. I have worked hard on suicide prevention. We need to keep working on it. Each year in America 32,000 Americans kill themselves. That does not take into consideration the car accidents that are not reported properly, hunting accidents. We have about 24 veterans who kill themselves every day in America. We believe that is important for America, and because of that, we are going to pass that in a matter of hours tomorrow. That is the way it should be.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there is an issue that is now before this body. It is an important issue. All we need to look at is what is going on around the world—terrorism attack in Australia; terrorism attack in Canada; in France, scores of people killed. We saw what happened in Belgium. Terrorism is for real. Senator MCCASKILL said it about the best way I have seen it described. The Republicans are more afraid of the DREAMers than they are of ISIS. By the way, ISIS said they are coming our way. Why should we be dealing with issues that have nothing to do with homeland security?

We should pass a homeland security bill with no strings attached to it. That is where we are going to wind up. If the Republican majority in the House and the Senate wants to have a

CR for Homeland Security—a continuing resolution—that would cut about \$1 billion out of the budget for Homeland Security.

Homeland Security was developed after 9/11. It was a bipartisan piece of legislation that consolidated 22 different government agencies. We need to get that done and sent to the President in a clean fashion. If my Republican colleagues have some problem with something the President has done on immigration, for example, hit it head-on. Do not hide behind Homeland Security. We need a safe homeland. I hope my Republican colleagues will join us to get that done as quickly as possible.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, what is the order of business on the floor of the Senate at this moment?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is in morning business.

WELCOMING BACK THE MINORITY LEADER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, first I wish to welcome back my colleague and friend, the minority leader of the Senate, Senator HARRY REID. I was told he was coming back. I found a way to avoid a blizzard in Chicago to be here with him because I wanted to be here for this moment.

It is a great moment for those of us on the Democratic side of the aisle to have him back. I know it means a lot to him. We have been on the phone. I know he has gone through a lot in terms of his injury and also his impatience at home when for a period of time he could not read a book, which he loves to do, watch television, or do much of anything. I know he was anxious to get back in the saddle and back here, and we are so glad he has returned.

His message at the outset shows he may be scarred and beaten up, but there is no diminution of the fighting spirit that HARRY REID has brought to the Senate floor on so many occasions with his opening remarks, reminding us we are going to embark this week on a question about the funding of the Department of Homeland Security.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, of all things, the Department of Homeland Security, created to protect America from terrorism, is a Department that is underfunded by Republican design. The Republicans refuse to give the regular

budget appropriation to the Department of Homeland Security to protest President Obama's Executive order on immigration. The House of Representatives went so far as to add five riders—conditions—to the budget for the Department of Homeland Security and send them here. They have said they will not fund this Department unless we join them in what has become an extremely negative and, I believe, hate-filled attack on people across America.

Saturday we had a rally in Chicago, and at that rally was Secretary Jeh Johnson of the Department of Homeland Security. Joining us were Congressman LUIS GUTIÉRREZ of Chicago, the mayor of Chicago, and literally hundreds of people, many of them DREAMers—young people who are now, because of President Obama's Executive order, allowed to go to school and work in America.

Remember, these were children—toddlers, infants—brought to America by their families, who are undocumented through no fault of their own. They have lived in America, they have been educated in America, they have pledged allegiance to our flag in their classrooms, and they have no future because we have not changed the immigration law to give them a chance. But President Obama has given them a chance. DACA is a program where, when these young people sign up for it, they can be protected to live in America without fear of deportation—to work here, to go to school here, and to start to realize their dreams. They even want to volunteer for our military. Many of them do. They are trying their best to be part of America's future, and the President gave them that chance.

The House of Representatives—the Republican majority—said: We will not fund the Department of Homeland Security to protect America against terrorism unless the Senate will vote to literally deport the DREAMers.

At a time, as Senator REID said, when we are threatened with ISIS, when we are sickened by the images on television of innocent people—including Americans—being beheaded, at that same time the Republicans on Capitol Hill are telling us: We are not going to properly fund the Department of Homeland Security to protect America unless we can protest what President Obama has done for 600,000 young people protected by DACA.

Senator REID quoted Senator McCASKILL, who spoke up at one of our meetings the other day, who said: Apparently the Republicans fear the DREAMers more than they fear ISIS.

That is wrong. I do not know who cooked up this political strategy. They were not thinking clearly. If they were thinking clearly, we would fund that Department with a clean appropria-

tion—one that is now sitting on the calendar of the Senate that was offered by Senators JEANNE SHAHEEN and BARBARA MIKULSKI. It is sitting here. By unanimous consent, with the approval of the majority leader, we could pass it today, fund this agency.

I asked Secretary Johnson: Well, what difference does it make if you get a temporary funding bill or a regular budget bill?

He said: I can't properly run this Department. I am wasting time and money. I am not investing in things that make us safer because of the way Congress—in this case, the House Republicans—insists that they will not properly fund this agency.

It funded every other agency of government except for the Department of Homeland Security. What are they thinking? Why would they want to make an object lesson out of this critical Department?

I said to Secretary Johnson: So what types of things can't you do?

He gave one example. He said: We give grants for research to find ways to make America safer when we are attacked. We can't give those grants now because we are under a continuing resolution.

Research to make America safe has stopped. Is that a wise thing for the new Republican majority in the House and Senate to do? Clearly, that is their plan. But we are going to give them an alternative and very quickly. Tomorrow we are going to consider a procedural motion about whether we go to this House bill, which has the five riders on immigration. I believe the Democrats will say: No, we want a clean bill, and we want to move to that bill quickly.

And we need to do it not just because we need to keep America safe—isn't that our first obligation?—but secondly because I do not believe our caucus—and I hope not a majority of the other caucus—has the same hate-filled feelings toward DREAMers that we have seen in the House of Representatives.

Mr. President, 600,000 of them have stepped forward. I have come to the floor day after day to tell their stories. They are the most amazing stories of young people who, with no help from the government, finished college and pursued professional degrees, without a penny of assistance from our government, whose only dream is to be part of the future of America. They are our future. They will help our economy. They will reduce our deficit. They will once again reestablish and reaffirm the American dream that people can risk everything to come to this country to make sure their children have a better life. These DREAMers deserve that chance. America deserves the chance to be properly secure in this age of terrorism. This Republican strategy is not going to achieve that.

I thank my colleague.

Mr. REID. Will my friend yield for a question?

Mr. DURBIN. I will be happy to yield for a question.

Mr. REID. My friend is modest, my friend the senior Senator from Illinois. But tell those within the sound of our voices how long you have worked on the DREAM Act—you.

Mr. DURBIN. I thank the Senator from Nevada, our minority leader. Fourteen years ago I introduced the DREAM Act, and I got into a spat with a Republican Senator, Mr. HATCH, who said: That is my idea.

I said: Fine. Then it will be the Hatch-Durbin DREAM Act.

And we introduced it 14 years ago, and it has not been enacted into law. Senator HATCH now has some misgivings over this issue, but I have stuck with it for 14 years. And the majority leader joined me in sending a letter to President Obama asking that he create this Executive order of protection.

I would like to say a word about Executive orders. Republicans come to the floor and suggest that when a President of the United States issues an Executive order, it is an unconstitutional exercise of power. You hear it over and over again.

If you step out of this Chamber and take just a few steps toward the staircase, you will see this magnificent, historic painting of Abraham Lincoln signing the Emancipation Proclamation. It is historic because, with the signature of President Lincoln, 3 million American slaves were freed—an Executive order. And it was an order which had the force of law. It was signed by President Lincoln—an Executive order.

It was not the only one. You think back in history to the historic Executive orders, and you have to think of Harry Truman. After World War II Harry Truman stepped up and said: We are going to integrate the Armed Forces of the United States of America, and I will not wait for Congress. Give me the pen and paper to sign the Executive order to achieve it.

So if President Lincoln can liberate 3 million American slaves, if President Truman can sign an Executive order integrating the Armed Forces, how can the Republicans come to the floor, one after the other, and say the use of an Executive order by the President is unconstitutional and want to hold President Obama accountable for their misguided thinking? It does not make sense.

I might just say—and I thought perhaps the Senator from Nevada was going to say it as well—if none of the Republicans like what President Obama has done on immigration, can I remind them they are now in majority control of the House and the Senate? If they think it is better to have a law enacted—despite the fact that for 2

years the House of Representatives refused to even call the bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform—if they think it is proper and right for a law to be enacted on immigration, the American people have given them the majorities in both Houses to do it.

So instead of cursing the darkness and failing to fund the Department of Homeland Security, why don't they roll up their sleeves and go to work as Members of the House and Senate and pass immigration reform? I think that is worthy of this great body and the one across the rotunda. But to underfund the Department of Homeland Security that protects us from terrorism? What are they thinking?

I thank the Senator from Nevada for returning. It feels great to have you back in your capacity here as our leader on the Democratic side and as my friend.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). The Senator from Georgia.

WELCOMING BACK SENATOR REID

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I would like to add that we are glad to have Senator REID back. I know he has had a difficult time the last few weeks, and we are proud he is back on his feet.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be recognized to address the Clay Hunt suicide prevention bill, followed by Senator BLUMENTHAL from Connecticut.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLAY HUNT SUICIDE PREVENTION FOR AMERICAN VETERANS ACT

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I want to give you a stark fact and figure. Every year 8,000 American veterans take their own lives and commit suicide. That is more people, more veterans than were killed in all the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We have a major epidemic in America's Armed Forces because of soft tissue issues of PTSD and TBI. This Congress, both Committees on Veterans' Affairs—in the House and Senate—have acted, and tomorrow this Senate will vote on the Clay Hunt suicide prevention bill. I want to talk about it for a few minutes because it is critically important.

When these men and women go overseas and volunteer to serve America and lay their lives on the line for us, many come back with terrible injuries, prosthesis, an inability to walk, some in wheelchairs. But the stealth disease, the one that hurts the most, the one that permeates the most, is PTSD and TBI. We have been doing as much as we could but not enough within veterans health care.

Secretary McDonald has committed himself to improving the services of

mental health to our veterans. I have committed myself.

Senator BLUMENTHAL has committed himself. Senator BOOZMAN from Arkansas, Senator MCCAIN from Arizona, who will speak later—all are committed to see to it that we have a better program for our veterans.

What the Clay Hunt suicide prevention bill does is create incentives for more psychiatric professionals to come into the VA health care system because psychiatry is the best physician expertise you need to deal with PTSD and TBI. But it also has external audits of the VA to make sure they are doing what needs to take place in terms of veterans health care and in terms of mental health for our veterans.

The tragedies are daily, the tragedies are compounding, and we must find an end to it. A lot of people think these tragedies are with veterans of the gulf war, our Operation Iraqi Freedom, or our battle in Afghanistan. But, quite frankly, a lot of them are our Vietnam veterans. We looked the other way and did not recognize PTSD and TBI for a long time, but now we have recognized it front and center, and it is the major injury from the battles in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other conflicts in the history of the United States of America. We owe it to our veterans to have the best mental health available to them.

In my hometown of Atlanta, on August 21, 2013, I called a field hearing at Georgia State University and brought in all the VA experts on suicide prevention because, quite frankly, we had had three suicides in the Atlanta VA within a very short period of time that got high-profile headlines in our newspaper.

As it turned out, we found that we really did not have the followup, the follow-through, and the continuum of care that mental health needs and deserves, and we had some veterans who had fallen through the cracks—not just in Atlanta but around the United States of America. In fact, as recently as last week there was a tragic death in Atlanta. We do not know yet the root cause of it, but we know the individual may have had mental health problems and was a veteran of the war in Afghanistan and took their life and the life of their children. We do not know whether PTSD or TBI was the contributing cause or whether we had done anything wrong in terms of veterans health care. But we know this: Four more lives were taken from the stealth disease called tragic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder.

So I am very pleased as the chairman of the Veterans Affairs' Committee to tell you that the House unanimously passed this bill 3 weeks ago on the floor of the House, the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee unanimously passed it 2 weeks ago in committee, and the bill we will vote on tomorrow can go di-

rectly from the floor of the Senate to the desk of the President of the United States and be signed.

Very quickly, I want to make two points for anybody who is listening that remembers last year. This bill failed last year. It failed for two reasons:

One, Members questioned whether we could afford it because it had a price tag of \$24 million. We have fixed the price problem by taking internally generated funds of the VA to pay the \$24 million. That is done.

Secondly, some said: Well, this is a duplicative service. We already have mental health services and suicide prevention at the VA.

We have some, and we do not have enough. It is not duplicative. It is absolutely necessary and essential that we do what we are doing.

Mr. President, I am proud to come to the floor of the Senate on behalf of all of our veterans and tell them: Washington is watching. We are listening. We feel your pain. We understand the problems you have. And we are going to do everything we can to see to it that the Clay Hunt suicide prevention bill becomes the law of the land, that the VA is held accountable for its policies and procedure in mental health, and that we put an end and stem the tide of the tragic number of veteran suicides that take place every single day.

I would like to now yield to my ranking member on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, the Senator from Connecticut, who has done an overwhelmingly great job to see this through from beginning to end, Mr. BLUMENTHAL.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I begin by thanking the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Senator ISAKSON, and really giving him immeasurable credit for his courage and his fortitude in addressing this bill that he could have allowed to languish on the agenda of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. In fact, he made it the very first agenda item—the very first issue—that we would confront on the Veterans' Affairs Committee at our very first meeting, and it passed unanimously through the Veterans' Affairs Committee because of his leadership—and I really mean his leadership in making it happen.

So on behalf of the veterans of America, he deserves due credit, and so do my colleagues on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Senator BOOZMAN and Senator SANDERS, who championed this bill, along with Senator BURR.

During the last session I was pleased to argue for it on the floor in the closing days of the session, and unfortunately it failed to pass.

There is no reason to look back and try to blame others for that failure.

What is important is to look forward and to give credit to both sides of the aisle—most especially to my colleague, Senator MCCAIN, who, of course, dwarfs us in his service to our Nation in the Armed Forces. He literally is a giant in his service and sacrifice for our Nation while serving in the Navy. I have felt very privileged and proud to work with him and to introduce this measure, the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act or the Clay Hunt SAV Act, as it is called, that basically provides for suicide prevention services and, even more importantly, pioneers and champions mental health care for our VA.

I thank all of our colleagues who have worked on this bill over the past year or so because this measure gives us a tremendous opportunity to set a direction for the VA and for the Senate. If I may be so bold and perhaps presumptuous, I say this measure is truly bipartisan. It provides a template for bipartisan action to help our veterans, our military men and women who serve now, and to set a real lodestar for action by this body.

Very fittingly, we are on the floor when the Democratic leader, Senator REID has returned. I am tremendously heartened by his presence here and by the President's budget today, which provides a proposed increase in health care spending and, most especially, mental health care spending, to \$7.4 billion from last year's expenditure of \$6.7 billion. It is significant, again, in the context of a bipartisan approach to this issue.

This legislation is named for Clay Hunt, a marine, a patriot, a veteran who served bravely in Iraq. His mom, Susan Selke, is a real hero. She came before the Veterans' Affairs Committee during the last session.

Her testimony was not only as a patriot and an advocate of veterans but as a family member. There have been too many family members forced to grieve the loss of their loved ones who have succumbed to suicide, as did Clay Hunt in March of 2011, after struggling valiantly and courageously with post-traumatic stress and the inadequate care of his local VA hospital.

Far too many of Clay Hunt's fellow veterans, 22 per day, have succumbed to suicide, including a friend of mine, Justin Eldridge of southeastern Connecticut.

Justin braved mortar fire and sniper attacks in Afghanistan to return to southeastern Connecticut and to his family, his children, and his wife Joanna. Suffering from post-traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress, tragically, like so many others, Justin slipped through the cracks of his local VA facility and eventually succumbed in his fight against those inner demons and invisible wounds when he took his own life. As brave as Justin Eldridge was on the battlefield, he could not win that war at home.

How Justin and Clay fell into that black hole of depression and despair I certainly will never understand, but we grieve for them and we hope that their example of courage will inspire us to face this issue.

All too often, the response to suicide—whether it is among veterans or others—is denial. It is to turn away, to look in the other direction because sometimes it is too painful or there is stigma or shame in mental health needs.

We can conquer that stigma and shame. To its credit the military is doing more every day. The VA has raised awareness and is increasing its commitment.

This bill is a tremendous opportunity for the VA to be a pioneer and champion in mental health care, just as it has been in other areas of health care, such as amputee rehabilitation, prosthetics, and traumatic brain injury.

This bill is a downpayment. It is the beginning—not the end—of our commitment and our solutions to problems. It is a worthwhile measure to take limited, targeted steps—less than we must eventually do—to keep faith with our veterans and their mental health needs.

I hope the committee and this Congress will continue in this great, bipartisan spirit.

I look forward to a continuing partnership with my friend Senator ISAKSON, who is such a leader in this area, as we work on these issues and seek to make progress as quickly as possible. As we do so—remember all of our efforts from all of the years of conflict and war in this country—Senator ISAKSON is absolutely right that post-traumatic stress and mental health needs are hardly limited to the veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan.

I have worked hard to help veterans of the Vietnam and Korea eras. In fact, I successfully championed the needs of our veterans of earlier eras when they have been burdened by less-than-honorable discharge resulting from post-traumatic stress, from an era when post-traumatic stress was nonexistent as a diagnosis.

Post-traumatic stress was unknown for our Vietnam and Korea veterans. It was not unknown as a condition. It was not nonexistent. It was simply unknown has a diagnosis. It was not called post-traumatic stress. It may have been called shell shock or battle fatigue. But the horror, the nightmares, the cold sweats, the headaches, and the crippling mental issues have plagued many of our veterans over many eras and many wars.

Today we take a step to recognize this Nation's obligation to Justin Eldridge, to Clay Hunt, to all of our veterans and to Joanna Eldridge, Susan Selke, and to the countless family members who have struggled and borne that burden side by side when

their heroes have awakened at night with the nightmares and the battles they continue to fight against post-traumatic stress, the invisible wounds, and the inner demons that have come back with them from their service.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, on March 21, 2010, Deborah Johnson of Sherwood, AR, answered a call no parent should ever receive. Her son, 23-year-old Army Private Jeremy Andrew Johnson, was dead from a drug overdose.

Private Johnson was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder after his deployment to Afghanistan. Deborah said she thought he was getting the proper care he needed during the transition out of the military, but when she received a goodbye text from him, she knew he needed more help.

The family made his commanders aware of his suicidal thoughts and Private Johnson was put on suicide watch. Three days later Deborah answered that horrible call.

Deborah shared her family's story with me in hopes that other families can be spared the anguish of losing a loved one to mental illness.

Deborah understands Congress has an opportunity to deliver help to veterans living with mental illness and prevent suicides by passing the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act. This legislation would improve mental health care and suicide prevention resources for veterans by increasing access to mental health programs, providing incentives to recruit and retain psychiatrists to treat veterans and enhancing resources for members of the military transitioning to civilian life.

The VA estimates 22 veterans commit suicide every day. This trend is tragic and it is unacceptable. We need to provide the VA with the personnel, services, and proper tools to help veterans facing mental illness struggles. These invisible injuries are why we struggle to identify at-risk individuals.

As a member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, my colleagues and I are working to fully understand the scope of mental illness in our veteran community. In the meantime, we are paving the way for improvements.

Two weeks ago the Veterans' Affairs Committee met for its first order of business in the 114th Congress—approving the Clay Hunt SAV Act. I am proud to say the committee approved this bill

with a bipartisan vote of 15 to 0. Our veterans deserve this care.

The VA needs to evaluate its mental health programs using metrics common to mental health practitioners to determine the success of its programs. This legislation will do that. It will help the VA more efficiently use the taxpayer funding it receives to support the programs most effective for our veterans.

The House approved this bill in January and I am confident the Senate will follow its lead. Deborah Johnson says she wishes Congress would have taken up legislation to improve mental health services years ago. As the President of the Arkansas chapter of Gold Star Mothers, Deborah hears similarities from other families who have suffered a loss because of suicide. She admits that a one-size-fits-all approach will not adequately address mental health struggles, but she is hopeful the Clay Hunt SAV Act will help prevent other families from suffering the pain hers lives with.

We owe it to Deborah and others like her who have lost loved ones to this battle, as well as servicemembers and veterans coping with mental health issues, to make this one of the first bills the 114th Congress sends to President Obama to sign.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I come to the floor in strong support of the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act.

Our men and women in uniform serve our country with honor and courage. They put themselves in harm's way day in and day out to protect us. I have a special appreciation for how much servicemembers and their families contribute to our country, and how important it is that we honor their service. All three of my brothers served in the military, and my oldest brother was career military. He flew 288 combat missions in Vietnam.

When you grow up in a family with someone in the military, you know how lucky you are to see them come home safely. But that doesn't mean the sacred trust with our servicemembers ends the moment they step off a plane. We owe our servicemembers the very best, and that means ensuring they always have access to high-quality services and care, including mental health care.

The Clay Hunt SAV Act, introduced in the Senate by Senators JOHN MCCAIN and RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, would strengthen critical mental

health care services and suicide prevention resources for our country's veterans. We have heard the deeply troubling statistics. The VA has reported that 22 veterans die each day from suicide. Data collected in the BackHome project shows that while 10 percent of Americans served in the military, veterans make up 20 percent of all suicides in the United States. These statistics tell us something is deeply wrong and that we need to make significant changes.

The SAV act calls for an evaluation of the mental health services and suicide prevention efforts of the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense, and launches a pilot program to provide education loan repayment for psychiatrists who work at the VA. It also helps build stronger partnerships between the VA and non-profit organizations working with veterans in our communities.

The SAV act is named for Clay Hunt, a marine veteran from Texas who served in Iraq and Afghanistan and was a strong advocate for improved services for his fellow veterans. He struggled with post-traumatic stress, and when he was unable to access the care he needed from the VA, he took his own life.

As Clay's mother Susan Selke said in her testimony at the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing last summer:

Not one more veteran should have to go through what Clay went through with the VA after returning home from the war. Not one more parent should have to testify before a congressional committee to compel the VA to fulfill its responsibilities to those who served and sacrificed.

She went on to say:

The reforms, evaluations, and programs directed by this legislation will be critical to helping the VA better serve and treat veterans suffering from mental injuries from war. Had the VA been doing these things all along, it very well may have saved Clay's life.

I am proud Massachusetts has taken steps at the State level to help improve suicide prevention resources for veterans, such as establishing the Statewide Advocacy for Veterans' Empowerment Program, or SAVE.

The SAVE team is comprised of veterans who work directly in the community to connect veterans and their families to services provided by the Commonwealth and by nonprofits. I have also visited several outstanding community organizations in Massachusetts, such as Veterans Inc. in Worcester, Soldier On in Pittsfield, and the New England Center for Homeless Veterans in Boston, that work tirelessly to help servicemembers access the full range of services they need and deserve, from housing and education to health care.

In August, I met with veterans in Framingham, MA, at a mobile vet center. One of the veterans I heard from

was Army MAJ Justin Fitch, who was working at the Natick Soldier Research Development and Engineering Center. Justin, who is battling terminal cancer and has had his own struggles with depression, is retiring from the Army just this week, but he is still a powerful and relentless voice fighting to improve care and prevent suicide among veterans fighting depression and psychological stress after returning home from war.

Justin told me:

Too many veterans are suffering in silence. Twenty-two a day is a lot. One is too many.

Justin is right. Our armed service men and women are tough, smart, and courageous. They make huge sacrifices to keep our families safe, and we owe them all a true debt of gratitude for their service. But gratitude isn't enough. We must do more to protect our men and women in uniform who devote their lives to the service of our country.

It is clear that Congress has more work to do to bolster our Nation's commitment to supporting veterans and providing the mental health care services they deserve. The Clay Hunt SAV Act is an important part of this effort. I hope my colleagues will join me in voting to pass this legislation in the Senate.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COATS). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am here now for the 88th time to urge this body to wake up to the looming threat of climate change.

In the last few weeks, my Republican colleagues have talked about climate change here on the floor more than at any other time since I began giving these weekly speeches. We had heard next to nothing from Republicans about climate change since the 2010 Citizens United decision. That decision let loose the fossil fuel industry to cast an ever darker shadow of intimidation across this town. So this minor outbreak of dialogue, although minor, has been significant.

All but one of my Republican colleagues is now on the record saying they agree that climate change is real, and 15 voted that it is caused at least in some part by humans. That is some progress. Yet some still persist in their denial. Our scientists now tell us that warming of the climate system is "unequivocal." Yet we equivocate. Scientists are a careful bunch. When they

say something is unequivocal, we ought to take note.

The senior Senator from Oklahoma, our chairman of the Environmental and Public Works Committee, however, maintains that human-caused climate change is a hoax. He thinks it is arrogant to say that humans could cause the climate to change. What is really arrogant is thinking we can ignore the laws of nature, the laws of physics, the laws of chemistry, the laws of biology. Whose laws do we think those are? Those laws were given to us by our Creator. They came with this world. They are immutable.

These laws of nature dictate that carbon dioxide is the byproduct of our burning of fossil fuels. These laws of nature, fresh from the hands of our Creator, explain why carbon traps heat in our atmosphere—something we have known since Abraham Lincoln was riding around this town in his top hat.

Here in the Senate, we have no human power to amend or repeal those laws—and here in the Senate, we shouldn't cherry-pick from the scientific record. That is not fair play. Here on the floor, the EPW chairman paraphrased a 2013 paper from the journal *Nature*, saying:

... there is considerable uncertainty as to whether [increases in extreme climate variability] is occurring.

The author of the paper, Dr. Chris Huntingford of the UK's National Environmental Research Council, took exception to his paper being mischaracterized. He said this:

Our *Nature* paper strictly analyzes only year-to-year variability (fluctuations) in temperature. . . . We do not at any point offer evidence against a general on-going background and upwards warming trend. Detection and attribution statistical studies show that the observed average increasing temperatures are almost certainly a consequence of the burning of fossil fuels.

In that same floor speech, my colleague from Oklahoma suggested we could relax about climate change because the Munich Reinsurance Company said weather-related disaster losses have declined as a proportion of GDP worldwide. He neglected to mention testimony before our EPW Committee last July by Munich Re's head of risk accumulation in the United States, Carl Hedde, to wit:

Due to our history of insuring natural catastrophe, Munich Re was one of the first companies in the industry to recognize the impact that weather-related events and a changing climate could have on its business model and customers. As a nation, we need to take steps to reduce the societal impact of weather events as we see greater variability and volatility in our climate.

The senior Senator from Oklahoma has even resurrected the ghost of ClimateGate, that faux scandal whipped up a few years ago by the polluters and their allies to suggest climate scientists were colluding to exaggerate global warming data. Turned out it was

the cooked-up, phony scandal that was exaggerated and not the data. So-called ClimateGate should actually be accurately called ClimateGate-Gate. Yet years later this zombie falsehood still staggers about the floor of the Senate attempting to cast doubt on human-caused climate change. The polluters have relentlessly made it their business to misconstrue the findings of scientific works and to cling to discredited accusations.

We would do well to listen to the overwhelming majority of practicing, publishing climate scientists who agree our carbon pollution is altering the climate. Scientists who conduct experiments, who examine data, who arrive at conclusions, who submit their work through peer review, and who make their data accessible for due diligence by other researchers. It is the best science out there.

But I am afraid those scientists don't have the ear of the senior Senator from Oklahoma. He showed us whom he listens to. He brought a chart to the floor showing several dozen "recognized" scientists—as he called them—who don't buy the climate consensus. That chart was produced by an outfit called the Heartland Institute. You may remember them for associating climate scientists with the Unabomber—a classy group.

Their scientists, so-called, included bloggers, columnists, staff of conservative think tanks, a member of the European Parliament, and many scientists who have been funded by the fossil fuel industry.

I will side with the scientists affiliated with the American Association for the Advancement of Science over a bunch of carefully selected bloggers. I will trust NASA and NOAA over scientists who shill for the fossil fuel industry. The Heartland Institute is not alone. It is part of a sophisticated network of climate denial propped up by the carbon-polluting fossil fuel industry. It is a front group fueled by the special interests and their dubious experts.

Interestingly, if we go to Oklahoma State University, we will find one of the experts on this. Dr. Riley Dunlap at Oklahoma State could tell his Senator all about it. Professor Dunlap is one of the preeminent researchers into the deliberate and coordinated effort by corporate interests to spread denial propaganda and distort public opinion on climate change—what he calls the "organized climate-denial machine." Dunlap and a colleague found that nearly 90 percent of climate denial books coming out of publishing houses between 1982 and 2010—guess what—had ties to conservative fossil fuel-funded think tanks such as the Heartland Institute. The whole thing is a rigged game and a phony, and there is a very good professor at Oklahoma State University who keeps track of it.

I also have a fact sheet from the Oklahoma Climatological Survey, its statement on climate change and its implications for Oklahoma. Here is what it says in plain language: The Earth's climate has warmed during the last 100 years. The Earth's climate will continue to warm for the foreseeable future, and much of the global temperature increases over the last 50 years can be attributed to human activities, particularly increasing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. That is actually a noncontroversial statement among regular scientists.

This is no radical with some political agenda. This is a fact sheet from a State scientific agency. It happens to be Oklahoma's. Here is what the agency expects this means for Oklahoma: earlier maturation of winter wheat and orchard crops, leaving them more vulnerable to late freeze events; drought frequency increases, especially during the summer; drier and warmer conditions increasing the risk of wildfires; rain-free periods lengthening with individual rainfall events becoming more intense, with more runoff and flash flooding occurring.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have this statement printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Oklahoma Climatological Survey]

STATEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR OKLAHOMA

"Warming of the climate system is unequivocal, as is now evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising global average sea level."

—the Fourth Assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

That statement reflects the essence of a vast amount of observational data and climate research: the earth's climate has warmed on average during the last 100 years and will continue to warm through the 21st century. Further, ample evidence from observational data and climate modeling studies indicates that this global-scale warming is not attributable to natural variability. The Oklahoma Climatological Survey (OCS) has been mandated by the Oklahoma legislature to provide climate information and expertise which could be of value to the public, as well as to state policy- and decision-makers. In accordance with that directive, OCS has conducted a review of the current assessments of climate change research and concludes the following to be true:

Across the globe, a warming climate will be beneficial to some and detrimental to others. Anticipating how this climatic shift will impact Oklahoma is of vital importance to state decision-makers. One of the greatest impacts will be the exposure of Oklahoma's growing population and economy to water stress. Oklahoma's future requires access to fresh water. Thus, due diligence in protecting our water resources and adapting to future climate variability is paramount if we are to maintain and improve the quality of life and the economy of Oklahoma.

THE SCIENCE OF GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

The earth's climate is always changing. Evidence such as tree ring and ice core studies indicates large and sometimes abrupt climate changes have occurred in the earth's distant past, lasting centuries to millennia. These climate swings are attributed to natural variations, such as changes in the output of the sun or shifts in the earth's orbit. Oklahoma has exhibited distinct climate periods attributable to natural variability in the last 100 years, from the decadal-scale droughts of the 1920s, 1930s and 1950s to an extended period of abundant precipitation during the 1980s and 1990s. Mounting evidence continues to indicate, however, that human activities have begun to impact the earth's climate through the release of greenhouse gases. Ice core studies show carbon dioxide and methane are at their greatest levels within the last 650,000 years. Due to the extended periods required for these gases to be removed from the atmosphere, further emissions during the 21st century will cause additional warming for more than a millennium. In fact, even if greenhouse gas concentrations were held steady since the year 2000, the earth is committed to decades of warming from heat already absorbed by the oceans.

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS FOR OKLAHOMA

The continued warming of the climate averaged across the globe will create a cascade of climatic shifts which could impact Oklahoma's climate. These shifts will not mean an end of year-to-year natural variability—hot years and cold years will continue, as will wet years and dry years. The projected changes will be seen at time scales averaged over a decade or more. Little is known of the effects climate change will have on severe weather. The ingredients required for severe weather involve complex combinations that do not exhibit clear changes in a warming climate. Further, global climate models are unable to accurately simulate small scale weather events like thunderstorms or tornadoes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

OCS recommends that Oklahoma aggressively pursue four initiatives to address the risks of both climate variability and climate change. First, the state should undertake a comprehensive assessment of Oklahoma's social and economic vulnerability to climate variability as well as climate change. Learning to adapt to nature's extremes now will yield benefits in reduced disaster losses, regardless of the future trajectory of climate change. Climate change may also bring economic opportunities that would be identified in such an assessment. Second, OCS recommends immediate funding of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board's Comprehensive Water Plan study to identify existing as well as projected needs for water. Third, OCS encourages efficiency programs to reduce our growing demand for energy. Fourth, OCS recommends investment in renewable energy technology and production. Oklahoma has already demonstrated the successes of wind energy; similar efforts should be undertaken to advance development of solar and sustainable bio-energy as well as fostering further research and development of wind energy.

Even if climate does not evolve as expected, these steps will yield long-term benefits to Oklahoma's society and economy through reduced losses to existing climate and weather threats and cost-savings through reduced energy use. If climate does evolve as expected, Oklahoma will be better

positioned to adapt to those changes without rapid social upheaval. Furthermore, building resilience to climate and weather events will help position Oklahoma at a relative advantage to neighboring states, especially in attracting businesses that are dependent upon a continuous water supply.

This statement is the first in a series issued by OCS which delineates the impacts, both beneficial and detrimental, of a warming climate system on the economy of Oklahoma and the quality of life for Oklahomans. Further statements will illuminate possible impacts to specific industries, such as water management and agriculture.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. The National Climate Assessment estimates that by the end of the century the temperatures in the Southern Great Plains will increase up to 9 degrees. Mark Shafer is a researcher at the Oklahoma Climatological Survey who contributed to the National Climate Assessment. He told the Oklahoman newspaper that in a few decades Oklahoma could see 100-plus temperatures every summer. By century's end, daily temperatures could top 100 degrees for the entire summer. As the climate warms, droughts will probably get worse, both more severe and more frequent.

Nine Oklahoma professors from Oral Roberts University, Southern Nazarene University, and the University of Tulsa were among 200 evangelical scientists and academics to sign a 2013 letter to Congress imploring us to address climate change.

All of God's Creation . . . is groaning under the weight of our uncontrolled use of fossil fuels. . . . The threat to future generations and global prosperity means we can no longer afford complacency and endless debate. We as a society risk being counted among "those who destroy the earth."

Those who know the Bible will know that reference to "those who destroy the earth" comes from Revelations. I will quote from Revelations: "And Thy wrath is come, and the time . . . that thou . . . shouldst destroy them which destroy the earth."

The letter warns that the way we live harms our neighbors, threatening to create more empty wells, devastated cropland, loss of villages, environmental refugees, and disease.

I ask unanimous consent to have that letter from the 200 evangelical scientists printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

JULY 10, 2013.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER, SENATE MAJORITY LEADER REID, AND MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS: As evangelical scientists and academics, we understand climate change is real and action is urgently needed. All of God's Creation—humans and our environment—is groaning under the weight of our uncontrolled use of fossil fuels, bringing on a warming planet, melting ice, and rising seas. The negative consequences and burdens of a changing climate will fall disproportionately on those whom Jesus called "the least of these": the poor, vulnerable, and op-

pressed. Our nation has entrusted you with political power; we plead with you to lead on this issue and enact policies this year that will protect our climate and help us all to be better stewards of Creation.

Average global temperatures are at their highest level within the measurement record, and we are beginning to see indications of increasingly disturbed weather. For example, 2012 was the hottest year ever recorded for the contiguous United States, and it will go down as one of the most destructive and disruptive years in U.S. history: wildfires, drought, superstorms, and public health outbreaks. This past year is only one example of the patterns of change we expect to see as the climate warms globally. We're already spending billions in emergency aid for the victims of hurricanes and weather disasters, and these expenses will only increase as the "once in a lifetime" storms become the new normal.

The Bible tells us that "love does no harm to its neighbor" (Romans 13:10), yet the way we live now harms our neighbors, both locally and globally. For the world's poorest people, climate change means dried-up wells in Africa, floods in Asia that wash away crops and homes, wildfires in the U.S. and Russia, loss of villages and food species in the Arctic, environmental refugees, and disease. Our changing climate threatens the health, security, and well-being of millions of people who are made in God's image. The threat to future generations and global prosperity means we can no longer afford complacency and endless debate. We as a society risk being counted among "those who destroy the earth" (Revelation 11:18).

We call on you to pass meaningful legislation during this Congress to reduce carbon emissions and protect our environment, thereby strengthening the long-term outlook for our economy and our children. As Christian scientists and educators, we offer our knowledge, experience, and prayerful witness to assist you and all of our nation's leaders who are willing to address this urgent challenge.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tom Ackerman, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington; Dr. Carolyn Anderson, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Dr. Stanley Anderson, University of California—Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, California; Dr. Brian Aukema, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Prof. Michael Bailey, Anderson University, Anderson, Indiana; Dr. Jonathan Bakker, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington; Dr. Marvin Bauer, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Dr. Philip Bays, Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana; Dr. Caroline Bentley, Southern Nazarene University, Bethany, Oklahoma; Dr. Abram Bicksler, International Sustainable Development Studies Institute, Chiang Mai, Thailand; Prof. Russell Bjork, Gordon College, Wenham, Massachusetts; Dr. Curtis Blankespoor, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Dr. Harvey Blankespoor, Hope College, Holland, Michigan; Dr. Mark Bloom, Dallas Baptist University, Dallas, Texas; Dr. Robert Boomsma, Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, Illinois.

Dr. Dorothy Boone, Gordon College, Wenham, Massachusetts; Prof. Michael Bosscher, Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, Illinois; Dr. Sheri Boyce, Messiah College, Grantham, Pennsylvania; Prof. Lynn Braband, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York; Dr. James Bradley, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Dr. Robert Bringolf, University of Georgia, Athens,

Georgia; Dr. Joshua Brokaw, Abilene Christian University, Abilene, Texas; Dr. Jeff Brown, Hope College, Holland, Michigan; Dr. Douglas Bulthuis, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington; Dr. Russell Camp, Gordon College, Wenham, Massachusetts; Dr. David Campbell, Gardner-Webb University, Boiling Springs, North Carolina; Dr. Clayton Carlson, Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, Illinois; Dr. Chris Carmichael, Bob Jones University, Greenville, South Carolina; Dr. Walter Cho, Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, California; Dr. Hyun Joong Cho, University of California—San Francisco, San Francisco, California.

Dr. James Clark, Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois; Dr. Stephen Cole, MidAmerica Nazarene University, Olathe, Kansas; Dr. Bruce Congdon, Seattle Pacific University, Seattle, Washington; Dr. John Cossel, Jr., Northwest Nazarene University, Nampa, Idaho; Dr. Lisa Crow, Southern Nazarene University, Bethany, Oklahoma; Dr. Thomas F. Cummings, Bradley University, Peoria, Illinois; Dr. Robert De Haan, Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa; Dr. William Deutsch, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama; Dr. Calvin DeWitt, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin; Prof. Jeffrey Divino, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut; Dr. David Dornbos Jr., Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Dr. Mike Dorrell, Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, California; Dr. Ruth Douglas Miller, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas; Dr. Job Ebenezer, Technology for the Poor, Westerville, Ohio; Dr. Gary Emberger, Messiah College, Grantham, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Darrel Falk, Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, California; Dr. Chris Farrell, Trevecca Nazarene University, Nashville, Tennessee; Dr. Leo Finkenbinder, Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, Illinois; Dr. Lloyd Fisher, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington; Dr. Vanessa Fitsanakis, King University, Bristol, Tennessee; Dr. Aaron Fletcher, Dallas Baptist University, Dallas, Texas; Dr. David K. Foster, Messiah College, Grantham, Pennsylvania; Dr. Michael Freake, Lee University, Cleveland, Tennessee; Dr. Laura Furlong, Northwestern College, Orange City, Iowa; Dr. Herb Fynewever, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Dr. Robert Gammon, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland; Dr. Jason Ganley, Colorado School of Mines, Golden, Colorado; Dr. Luke Gascho, Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana; Prof. Raymond Gates, Cornerstone University, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Dr. Mark Gathany, Cedarville University, Cedarville, Ohio.

Dr. Dale Gentry, Northwestern College, St. Paul, Minnesota; Dr. Dwight Ginn, Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, Illinois; Dr. Micah Green, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas; Dr. Jeffrey Greenberg, Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois; Dr. Brian T. Greuel, John Brown University, Siloam Springs, Arkansas; Dr. Roger Griffioen, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Dr. Jeff Griffiths, Southern Nazarene University, Bethany, Oklahoma; Dr. Herb Grover, Wayland Baptist University, Plainview, Texas; Dr. Terry Gustafson, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio; Dr. Loren Haarsma, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Dr. Steven Hall, Louisiana State University and LSU AgCenter, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Dr. Rick Hammer, Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas; Dr. Wesley H. Hanson, Southern Nazarene University, Bethany, Oklahoma; Dr. David Hart-

nett, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas; Prof. Elizabeth Hasenmyer, Taylor University, Upland, Indiana.

Dr. Katharine Hayhoe, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas; Dr. Kevin Heaney, Ocean Acoustical Services and Instrumentation Systems, Lexington, Massachusetts; Dr. Matthew Heun, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Dr. Gregory Hitzhusen, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio; Dr. David Hoferer, Judson University, Elgin, Illinois; Dr. Thomas Hooyer, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Prof. Elizabeth Horvath, Westmont College, Santa Barbara, California; Dr. Michael Huster, Nyack College, Nyack, New York; Dr. Dan Ippolito, Anderson University, Anderson, Indiana; Dr. Randy Isaac, IBM, Armonk, New York; Dr. Forest Isbell, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Dr. Delano Janutolo, Anderson University, Anderson, Indiana; Dr. Randal Johnson, Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, Illinois; Dr. Carey Johnson, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas; Dr. Ian Johnston, Bethel University, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dr. Chris Keil, Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois; Dr. Wayne Keith, McMurry University, Abilene, Texas; Dr. Robert Keys, Cornerstone University, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Dr. John Korstad, Oral Roberts University, Tulsa, Oklahoma; Dr. Kirk Larsen, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa; Dr. Tom Lee, Abilene Christian University, Abilene, Texas; Dr. Curtis Lee, Dallas Baptist University, Dallas, Texas; Prof. Irvin Levy, Gordon College, Wenham, Massachusetts; Dr. Raymond Lewis, Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois; Dr. Erik Lindquist, Messiah College, Grantham, Pennsylvania; Dr. Richard Lindroth, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin; Dr. Greg Long, Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, Illinois; Dr. Eric Long, Seattle Pacific University, Seattle, Washington; Dr. Larry Louters, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Dr. William Lynch, University of Evansville, Evansville, Indiana.

Dr. Thomas Mangum, Northwest Nazarene University, Nampa, Idaho; Dr. Bryan Mark, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio; Dr. April Maskiewicz, Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, California; Dr. Jon Masso, Daystar University, Athi River, Kenya; Dr. Ann Mayo, Tarrant County College, Fort Worth, Texas; Dr. Michelle McCully, University of California—San Francisco, San Francisco, California; Prof. Karen McReynolds, Hope International University, Fullerton, California; Dr. Clarence Menninga, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Dr. Wendy L. Mercier, Eastern University, St. Davids, Pennsylvania; Dr. Grace Ju Miller, Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, Indiana; Dr. Keith Miller, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas; Dr. Kristy Miller, University of Evansville, Evansville, Indiana; Dr. Mike Mooring, Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, California; Dr. Stephen Moshier, Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois; Dr. Lytton Musselman, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia.

Dr. Timothy Nelson, Seattle Pacific University, Seattle, Washington; Dr. Chris Newhouse, Spring Arbor University, Township, Michigan; Prof. Andrew Newhouse, SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry, Syracuse, New York; Dr. Karen Nordell Pearson, Hope College, Holland, Michigan; Dr. Jennifer Noseworthy, Gordon College, Wenham, Massachusetts; Dr. Han Chuan Ong, King University, Bristol, Tennessee; Dr. Laura Ong, King University, Bris-

tol, Tennessee; Dr. Dawne Page, Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, California; Dr. Rafe Payne, Biola University, La Mirada, California; Dr. Wesley Pearson, St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota; Dr. Kenneth Petersen, Bethel University, St. Paul, Minnesota; Dr. Kenneth Piers, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Dr. Jeffrey Ploegstra, Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa; Dr. Derek Posselt, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan; Dr. Marla Potess, Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas.

Dr. Darren Proppe, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Dr. Kathleen Purvis-Roberts, Claremont McKenna, Pitzer, and Scripps Colleges, Claremont, California; Dr. Michael Pyle, Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, Illinois; Dr. Max Reams, Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, Illinois; Dr. Jan Reber, Taylor University, Upland, Indiana; Prof. Stanley Reczek, Gordon College, Wenham, Massachusetts; Dr. Hal Reed, Oral Roberts University, Tulsa, Oklahoma; Dr. Jeffrey Regier, Taylor University, Upland, Indiana; Dr. Timothy Richmond, Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Missouri; Dr. Jon Roberts, Cadmus Group, Arlington, Virginia; Dr. David Robinson, Utah State University, Logan, Utah; Dr. John Roe, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania; Dr. Thomas Roose, Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, Illinois; Dr. Paul Rothrock, Taylor University, Upland, Indiana; Dr. John Rowley, Houghton College, Houghton, New York.

Dr. John Sanderson, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York; Dr. Jeffrey Schloss, Westmont College, Santa Barbara, California; Dr. Jonathon Schramm, Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana; Dr. Abbie Schrotenboer, Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, Illinois; Dr. John Schutt, James A. Rhodes State College, Lima, Ohio; Dr. Arthur Schwarz, Southwestern Adventist University, Keene, Texas; Dr. Ryan Sensenig, Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana; Dr. Andrew Sensenig, Tabor College, Hillsboro, Kansas; Dr. Daniel Sharda, Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, Illinois; Dr. Joseph Sheldon, Messiah College, Grantham, Pennsylvania; Dr. Walt Sinnamon, Southern Wesleyan University, Central, South Carolina; Dr. Kumar Sinniah, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Dr. R. Darrell Smith, Global Environmental Relief, Conyers, Georgia; Dr. Ralph Stearley, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Dr. Eric Steinkamp, Northwest University, Kirkland, Washington.

Dr. Craig Story, Gordon College, Wenham, Massachusetts; Dr. Darren Stoub, Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa; Dr. Aaron Sullivan, Houghton College, Houghton, New York; Dr. Michael Summers, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia; Dr. Jack Swearengen, Washington State University—Vancouver, Vancouver, Washington; Dr. Sara Sybesma-Tolsma, Northwestern College, Orange City, Iowa; Dr. Lou Sytsma, Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, Illinois; Dr. Kenneth Sytsma, University of Wisconsin—Madison, Madison, Wisconsin; Dr. David Terrell, Warner Pacific College, Portland, Oregon; Dr. Perry Tompkins, Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Missouri; Dr. Todd Tracy, Northwestern College, Orange City, Iowa; Dr. Donna Tucker, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas; Dr. Daniel Tucker, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Lafayette, Louisiana; Prof. Jonathan Twining, Eastern Nazarene College, Quincy, Massachusetts; Dr. Dave Unander, Eastern University, St. Davids, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Gerald van Belle, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington; Dr. Randall Van Dragt, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Dr. Fred Van Dyke, Au Sable Institute of Environmental Studies, Mancelona, Michigan; Dr. Douglas Vander Griend, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Dr. Steven VanderLeest, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Dr. Aggie Veld, Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, Illinois; Dr. Pamela Veltkamp, McMurry University, Abilene, Texas; Dr. Hans Verlinde, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania; Dr. David Vosburg, Harvey Mudd College, Claremont, California; Dr. Peter Walhout, Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois; Dr. David Warners, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Dr. Matthew Waterman, Eastern Nazarene College, Quincy, Massachusetts; Dr. Leslie Wickman, Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, California; Dr. Douglas Wiens, Washington University in Saint Louis, St. Louis, Missouri; Dr. Alex Williams, York College of Nebraska, York, Nebraska; Dr. Mark Winslow, Southern Nazarene University, Bethany, Oklahoma; Dr. Ken Wolgemuth, University of Tulsa, Tulsa, Oklahoma; Dr. Richard Wright, Gordon College, Wenham, Massachusetts; Dr. Davis Young, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Dr. Sharon Young, Southern Nazarene University, Bethany, Oklahoma; Dr. Uko Zylstra, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Finally, Mr. President, at the University of Oklahoma Berrien Moore III is dean of the College of Atmosphere and Geographic Sciences. He is also Director of the National Weather Center. Dean Moore of the University of Oklahoma was a lead author on an intergovernmental panel on climate change report, which the Senator from Oklahoma is so fond of disparaging. Dr. Moore's work helped the IPCC earn the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007. He has won research accolades from NOAA and from NASA. In 2009 Dr. Moore testified before the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. Here is what he had to say about climate change:

On the increasing strength of Earth science, we now can state that global warming is "unequivocal,"—

There is that word again—

but this simply sets the challenge. We need now—

This is 5 years ago, by the way—

to develop the capability to monitor and thereby manage greenhouse gas emissions through this century and beyond. . . . The challenge is growing and will not go away.

The effects of climate change are all too real in Oklahoma, in Rhode Island, and across the Nation. If you don't believe me, go to Oklahoma State and the University of Oklahoma and talk to the scientists I just mentioned. The outlook for us if we fail to act is increasingly dark.

But look again at Oklahoma. The Sooner State is the fourth largest producer of wind power in the country. Wind turbines there make progress toward energy independence and they give Oklahoma farmers steady income as a hedge against droughts and ex-

treme weather. So people farm and they get paid for having a wind turbine located on your farm. It is a win-win. Gary McManus, the Oklahoma State climatologist, has given a number of presentations on climate change and its likely effects on his home State. He often prefaces those talks with this admonition:

This is the science. It is up to you to decide what you do with it. You can either ignore it or you can use it.

In my view, there will be a high price in harm and in infamy to this democracy if we continue to ignore it. So I say let's use it, but first we will have to wake up.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

(The remarks of Mr. GRASSLEY pertaining to the introduction of S. 335 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. GRASSLEY. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The absence of a quorum is suggested, and the clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CHIP FUNDING

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, 1 year and 1 week ago, on a cold, snowy morning in Cleveland, OH, not much different from what I woke up to this morning in Cleveland, OH, I attended the Dr. Martin Luther King Memorial Breakfast in that city, which is also my hometown. A minister at that breakfast said something that we all know but probably have not thought about and rarely put in such succinct, meaningful words. He said: Your life expectancy is connected to your ZIP Code. Think about that. Whether you grew up on the east side of Cleveland or Gary, IN, or whether you grew up in Appalachia, OH, or southern Indiana, or whether you grew up in a city, suburb, small town, affluent, less affluent, low income, rural, or urban, your ZIP Code often determines whether you have access to quality health care, to a good, solid education, and the social support that is necessary to succeed. It is up to this body to help ensure—not to do it and not to do it alone—that every ZIP Code is one that provides opportunity, not inequality.

Ten years ago, the ZIP Code where my wife and I live in the city of Cleveland had the highest foreclosure rate of any ZIP Code in America. Think about what that means for a 12 year-old-child of a family where the father gets laid off from work and the mother has her

hours cut back. Even though they were doing everything right, they can't pay their mortgage. They sit down with their 12-year-old daughter and say: Honey, we are going to have to move, but we don't know where we are going yet. We don't know what school district you are going to be in, and we don't know if you will be close enough to be able to stay with your friends.

Those kinds of decisions happen far too often. Those kinds of scenarios happen far too often. But we know that in many ways we have made progress. Fifty years ago the poverty rate was 26 percent, and today it is around 15 percent thanks in large part to what people in this institution have done with social insurance programs, such as the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid, and today's Children's Health Insurance Program, so-called CHIP.

There was no greater champion in the Senate for children's health care than my predecessor, the Senator from West Virginia who actually sat at this desk on the Senate floor, retired Senator Jay Rockefeller. He helped to write CHIP in 1997. I was a member of the House Health Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee at that time. I believe the Presiding Officer sat on that committee when he was in the House many years ago. We worked on writing CHIP in 1997 when it was a joint State-Federal health insurance program for low- to moderate-income children and pregnant women.

Keep in mind that in most cases the children who are in today's Children's Health Insurance Program have at least one working parent in their family. CHIP provides health insurance to low-income families who fall into a coverage gap: They make too much to qualify for Medicaid, but they don't make enough to qualify for private insurance. Many employers don't offer the insurance. They don't make enough money and are not able to afford to buy the insurance due to the high copays and the high premiums they would typically face. Today's CHIP, the current CHIP program, bridges that gap.

I am honored to continue the fight to protect this program and ensure that Congress acts to extend funding for the current program before it expires at the end of September.

You may have noticed that I said today's CHIP, the current program. When CHIP started in 1997, it was a good program. It was started in the Senate by Senator Rockefeller, Senator Kennedy, and Senator HATCH. It was very bipartisan, and it passed overwhelmingly. Those of us who worked on it in the House—Congressman Billirakis and I, as leaders on the Health Subcommittee, and others—made sure that it was bipartisan and that it worked very well. But understand that over the 20 years of CHIP, each time it has been reauthorized, we made it better.

We extended the benefits because we have seen where the coverage gaps are. We made it more efficient, we made it work better, we have kept the bipartisan nature to it, and that is why I referred to it as today's CHIP, as the current program.

Providing health insurance to low-income children is not just the right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do. It is the right thing to do because these are families where the parents are working hard and taking responsibility but simply can't afford health insurance for their child. Today I was in Cleveland with a couple of people—Shonte Saunders and her daughter Amari. Ms. Saunders is a young woman with two children. Amari is 9 years old. Ms. Saunders told me she is working, raising her children, and she is in school studying to become a nurse at Cuyahoga County Community College. She is doing the right thing, but she said: If CHIP expires, I don't want to be in the position where I have to choose between taking my daughter to a doctor for an ear infection versus having to provide enough food to put food on the table, or a more serious illness or injury than that.

Why should she be subjected to that?

Listen to these numbers. Thanks to CHIP, the number of uninsured children has fallen by half. It went from 14 percent almost 20 years ago when Senator HATCH, Senator Kennedy, and Senator Rockefeller wrote this program in the Senate and Congressman Billirakis and I and others in the House wrote it to a record low of 7 percent. Because of today's CHIP, 10 million children—130,000 children in my State of Ohio alone—have access to health care they may not have received otherwise.

Over the past week I met with parents across Ohio. I met with Jennifer Huit in Cincinnati and listened to her story. In Dayton, I listened to a family talk about what CHIP means to them.

Think about this: It provides a sigh of relief for parents like Shonte and Jennifer, and not only for financial reasons. CHIP means better access for preventive and comprehensive care. Too often, if you are right on the edge and making \$12 or \$13 or less an hour and don't have Medicaid, think about the choices you know you have to make. You can't take your child to the doctor if they are only kind of sick. If you had insurance, you would take her in. But she is kind of sick, and it may get worse, but you will only take her in if it gets worse because you really can't afford those out-of-pocket expenses. Think of the tension and the difficult life that people generally have anyway at that income level. Think of how much more difficult that is. CHIP—which in Ohio is administered through Medicaid—means that a child in Cleveland or Cincinnati or Gallipolis or Troy or Pickaway, OH, can see a family doctor when they need it, there-

by preventing a costly ambulance ride and emergency room visit.

CHIP means a bunch of things. It means vaccines, shots, dental coverage, and better treatment if kids get sick. Think about this: It is not just the health care. It means they do better in school. It means they miss fewer days in school so they don't fall behind their classmates who perhaps have better health insurance. It means they perform better in school because they feel better. We know the stories of how a hungry or sick child can't focus on what they need to do in the classroom. CHIP means that children from Bowling Green will get the health care they need to become healthy, active adults.

We know that the current CHIP—today's 2015 version of CHIP—works not just because of the number of insured children under the program but because of the flexibility it provides States and the quality of care children receive.

Ohio's conservative Republican Governor supports CHIP. It is called Healthy Start in Ohio because the Governor and legislature have been given flexibility under CHIP to make it work for that State.

The flexibility that CHIP provides States is the result of 20 years of watching, observing, quantifying, and analyzing CHIP. We have had 18 years of experience in seeing what works best, and we have worked together to make improvements. As a result, under the current CHIP program, more children are covered and the coverage they get is better.

If we don't act, understand that CHIP—the authorization, the language, the law governing CHIP is in effect until 2019, but the funding for CHIP runs out in September of this year. You have to have both. You have to have the law governing CHIP—how it works, who is eligible, how the States have flexibility—but obviously you also need the money to implement it.

If Congress doesn't act now, first of all, Ohio, my State, would lose \$146 million in Federal funds in 2016 alone, and the Presiding Officer's State of Indiana would lose tens of millions of dollars in CHIP funding.

We know another thing: Whether it is Governor Pence in Indiana or Governor Kasich in my State, they need the flexibility of knowing what Congress is actually going to do. We should not wait until July or August; we should reallocate money for CHIP today. If we don't act, parents like Shonte and Jennifer may not be able to get the quality, affordable care for their children as States would start to roll back CHIP programs.

That is why I will soon introduce legislation to protect the program and extend its funding so it runs out at the same time as the authorization—the roadmap, if you will, of how CHIP will work. If we let the program run out of

funding, the number of uninsured children will increase, the quality of health care will decrease, and States will see a significant increase in cost-sharing services.

Providing health insurance to low-income children isn't just the right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do. If the program works, it works for children, it works for parents, it works for communities, and it works for our great country.

I call on my colleagues to work with me to extend funding for the current CHIP program before it is too late.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise today because I wish to speak about the importance of this DHS funding bill that is going to be before the body in the coming days. In particular, I wish to emphasize what I think is the important imperative that we pass what we are calling a clean bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security for the remainder of fiscal year 2015 through the end of September. That clean bill would be a bill that would fund homeland security without attaching additional items to it concerning immigration.

The support of this legislation was an initiative we were together on. We negotiated in December as part of a budget process by leaders of both parties in both Chambers, and the funding for DHS would have been an increase to help protect our borders and help protect our security by about \$1.2 billion above the enacted level for fiscal year 2014. But at the end of the year the decision was made by the House to not fund that piece and leave it separately and that is why we are now talking about whether we will fund the Nation's homeland security efforts and under what circumstances.

All 45 Members on the Democratic side, save only Senator REID, have written a letter saying let's make sure we fund DHS at the level we have already agreed to between the Houses. Then, let's not play politics over immigration issues; let's take up immigration separately. But the House bill that has been sent to us includes measures to begin to block or unwind actions taken by the President on immigration, and those complicate what all should agree is a national imperative, which is the need to fund homeland security. If we don't pass such a bill, that funding will expire on February 28.

I don't need to explain too much why homeland security funding is important, but let me make a few points. This Department was created after the attacks of 9/11, and its stated mission—while it employs an awful lot of people and does many complicated things, the mission is quite simple—let's keep our country safe, secure, and resilient against terrorism and other hazards. We see every day the kinds of terrorism hazards we are dealing with. The horrible shooting in Paris a few weeks ago and the shooting in Quebec a few months ago remind us of the dangers of terrorism, and now that we are in a war against ISIL—a jihadist terrorist enemy that has promised to carry out attacks on the United States—we should be very concerned about the mission the DHS performs and the need to provide funding.

The men and women who work for the DHS are quite a wide swath of our Federal employees. They are the TSA personnel who protect our transportation system, the Border Patrol agents who serve on our Nation's front lines, Customs officials who oversee the entrance of nearly 1 million visitors per day who come to the United States, and we need Customs agents to help process those visitors. Our DHS folks include disaster specialists—people who respond to hurricanes and other emergencies. Our Coast Guard, our Secret Service, and many of our cyber security professionals all work for the DHS and they work hard every day to carry out that mission of keeping our Nation safe.

Funding DHS is not just critical to the Nation's security, it is also critical to the economy because DHS is the third largest agency in the Federal Government by the number of employees. The impact of any shutdown or cessation of funding would reverberate through the country, from our Southwest border to our Nation's ports to every international airport that brings in either foreign commerce or foreign visitors who want to come and be tourists in our country.

Many DHS employees, as the Presiding Officer knows, call Virginia home, and a shutdown would impact their lives and would make it difficult for them to plan not only for their immediate needs but for an unknown period of time.

So as we are facing threats—and I think we all would agree—while we sometimes have differences of opinion about how to deal with threats, I think everybody in this body would acknowledge that the threats we are dealing with as a nation are not shrinking, they are growing. The challenges we are facing are not getting fewer in number, they are getting greater in number. To respond to threats, the DHS not only needs a good funding bill at an appropriate level, which we have already agreed to, but they need finan-

cial certainty and the flexibility to direct its resources as they can.

Let me give one interesting recent example of how DHS employees have been very important in Virginia, and how those serving in Virginia have performed a critical role for the Nation.

We saw a crisis spring up in 2014 that many of us hadn't paid too much attention to before, and that is the spread of the Ebola virus in Africa. That epidemic that began in 2014 is the largest in history for this kind of virus and it had a significant impact on many West African countries. There were more than 22,000 cases as of January 30, 2015.

One of the great things is whenever there is a challenge such as this, the nations of the world turn to the United States and they ask for our help. Many parts of our government responded. We deployed military and health professionals to Africa to try to battle the disease there, but we have also deployed our DHS personnel right here at home to keep us safe. As part of this strategy to stop the spread of Ebola, DHS announced in October that five U.S. airports would begin an advanced screening process for Ebola, and one of those airports is in Virginia, and that is Dulles airport. Shortly after, DHS announced that all travelers from Ebola-affected countries would have to enter the United States from one of these five airports.

So using existing resources—using existing resources because we didn't have an Ebola line item in the 2014 budget; this is an emergency that came up—but with existing resources, the DHS employees at Dulles were charged with supervising the entire Ebola screening process, including administering questionnaires, taking travelers' temperatures, and referring potentially infected people to the Centers for Disease Control, while also doing all of their regular duties. These officers in Virginia have gone above and beyond their mission for the sake of keeping every American safe.

Since this advanced screening began in October, CBP officers at Dulles have interviewed more than 2,000 visitors to the United States from African countries and they have referred more than 140 people to the CDC. As a result of their work and the work of their colleagues and their ability to react to this emerging threat, the United States has only seen two diagnosed cases of Ebola since advanced screening began at our airports, and both patients recovered.

This should be viewed as a huge success. Remember how worried we all were—how worried I was—when this was happening in September and October. Our DHS employees have gone the extra mile to keep us safe.

This is the kind of mission that we call upon our DHS employees to carry out for our security. It has nothing to do with congressional debates about

immigration policy, but it has everything to do with doing the stated mission of keeping us safe. To limit DHS's access to resources by shutting down the agency or passing another continuing resolution that would keep them running on auto pilot—sort of driving by looking in the rearview mirror rather than looking through the windshield of the challenges to come—would damage the ability of DHS to deal with growing threats.

I understand the message from the House. We have agreed on the right funding level for DHS. They are saying, however, that we will only fund DHS, we will only fund the guys who are protecting us from ISIL, or protecting us from Ebola, or protecting our ports from nuclear material being shipped—we will only fund it if we can get an agreement to change policies enacted by the President with immigration. They are threatening to stop funding DHS actions unless we reverse the President's actions on immigration—actions that, in my view, are already helping the economy by bringing families out of the shadows to become productive, taxpaying members of our communities.

While I strongly support the President's immigration actions—and most of them I voted for as part of the Senate's comprehensive immigration reform bill that we passed in June of 2013—I can understand there might be Members of the House who may not like those actions. They may want to do something different. And the great thing is they have an ability to do something different. The House, with a significant Republican majority, can pass their own immigration reform bill. They can retract the President's actions. They can express what they want to do about immigration reform. They can pass that bill just as they passed the DHS funding bill, and send it over to the Senate, and we can have a debate about immigration reform. But we can have that debate without holding hostage the funding of the third largest agency in government, without holding hostage the work that agency does every day to keep us safe.

I think the good news in all of this is in both the House and Senate there are people who think the immigration system is broken, the immigration system needs to be fixed, and we ought to have a dialogue to do it. Certainly, when the Senate passed an immigration reform bill in June of 2013—nearly 2 years ago—and we sent it to the House, we knew the House was not going to adopt what the Senate passed without changing anything. We were trying to start a dialogue where the House could pass their own bill and then we could sit down in conference and work out a solution to an immigration system that we all think is broken. That is what we should be doing as responsible legislators—fixing an immigration system,

and even those of us who have different views, getting those views on the table and finding a compromise. It is the wrong thing to do to try to hold up funding for the third largest agency in government—this agency that is keeping us safe in so many ways all over this country every day—to try to reverse actions the President took that are well within his legal authority.

So I am going to continue to support the President's Executive actions. I am going to continue to encourage the House and others, if they have different ideas about immigration reform, to pass a bill, put their ideas on the table and we will talk about them. But it is wrong to try to hold up protecting our Nation's security as a punishment to the President for using Executive action that was within his legal power to make. Since we have the complete ability to have a discussion about immigration, let's do it.

I will conclude and say this, although I wish I didn't have to—and particularly looking at these young pages who are sitting in front of me—it is a dangerous world out there. For the sake of these youngsters and my own kids, I wish it was getting less dangerous. I have a son in the military. I wish it was getting less dangerous, but it is not. It is getting more dangerous. The kinds of threats we have to face abroad and at home are tough, challenging, difficult threats. We have professionals on the front line every day, many of whom are risking their lives for us, to try to stop these threats. Let's not starve their work. Let's not hamper their work. Let's not make them face the threat of a shutdown or losing their salary or losing their livelihood while we wait for Congress to have a meaningful debate about immigration.

I appreciate the opportunity to offer those thoughts and to urge funding for a clean DHS bill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, tomorrow afternoon the Senate will vote to begin consideration of the bill called H.R. 240. This is a bill that authorizes funding for the Department of Homeland Security, or DHS. It would fund DHS through September of this year. This, of course, is a procedural vote we have scheduled for tomorrow, not a substantive one. The only question on the table, the sole question in connection with this particular vote, will be whether the Senate is ready to begin voting and debating on H.R. 240.

I am ready—I am eager, in fact—to begin this debate. It does need to begin. That is what this vote is about. Not just because we have only 25 days before the current budget authority for DHS expires but also because this debate will finally allow the American people to see where their elected representatives, right here in the U.S.

Senate, stand on President Obama's recent Executive action on immigration.

The legislature is the only lawmaking branch within our Federal Government because it is the only deliberative branch in our government. Before Congress enacts a piece of legislation—before it makes a new piece of law—we first debate the merits of that legislation—weighing the various pros and cons of each proposal in a candid and transparent discussion, and allowing the various sides of the issue to make their case.

Open, robust debate is not merely incidental to the lawmaking process that goes on here, it is the essence of that lawmaking process. It is at the very heart, the very center, the very core of this process that we hold near and dear and was established by our 227-year-old founding document. It is the only way for Members of Congress to fully explore the cost and consequences of a particular policy under consideration. It is the only way for the American people to know exactly where their elected officials stand on an issue; and, just as importantly, why they stand where they stand.

When the President of the United States announced in November of last year he was singlehandedly going to rewrite our immigration laws, in effect, he short-circuited this process of debate and of deliberation that is at the very heart of our constitutional lawmaking process.

His announcement showed us what it looks like when one person ignores the limits of his office and claims the power to change the law all on his own, just as an expression of his own unilateral will.

Policies are written behind closed doors, in consultation with lawyers and special-interest groups, rather than the American people. The law is pronounced from behind a podium as a fait accompli rather than discussed and debated in an open, transparent, fair contest of ideas and open to inspection by 300 million Americans who will be affected by these decisions.

This is not how our Republic works. It is not what the American people expect from their elected officials in Washington, DC. Indeed, poll after poll shows most people disapprove of the President's Executive action on immigration—that same action taken just this last November. Even those who agree with the President on policy grounds, even those who think the President's amnesty action would be the kind of policy they would prefer, even those people disagree with the President on the process because the American people understand that the process does matter. Especially among those people who have taken an oath to uphold, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States—that same document that prescribes the formula by which our laws are made.

According to one poll, when asked if the President should “sidestep Congress and act on his own using Executive orders,” only 22 percent of the public said he should—22 percent. It is hardly a rousing mandate from the American people. In other words, the American people know what our President seems to have forgotten: that in a constitutional republic the ends don't justify the means.

The American people oppose lawmaking by fiat not out of some abstract loyalty to the abstract concept of separation of powers. No, that is not why. Rather, they understand quite intuitively that when a President sidesteps Congress and avoids open, robust debate on a particular policy, it is probably because the public isn't likely to accept and isn't likely to like the substance of that policy. Otherwise, he wouldn't need to take this kind of action. Otherwise, he could do it through the people's duly elected representatives who have been put in office specifically for the purpose of making law through this open, deliberative, transparent process.

This is certainly what we have seen in the aftermath of the President's Executive order on immigration. The more the people discover about the content and about the consequences of his policy, the less they like it. For instance, the President claimed that his Executive order would honor the golden rule of American exceptionalism: If you work hard and play by the rules, you can get ahead.

We now know his plan subverts this very basic fundamental bargain by paving a path to citizenship for millions of immigrants who have broken the rules and violated the law, and by granting them work permits and benefits such as Social Security and Medicare.

Likewise, we were told the President's Executive order would make our immigration system more fair and more functional, more accessible for everyone. But we now know his plan will only exacerbate the problems in our labor market for American workers by giving more power and more money to the dysfunctional U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, or USCIS. This is the agency within the Department of Homeland Security that was recently reported to have given over 900,000 work permits to illegal immigrants since 2009. We know that unless we do something to stop it, unless we do something to reach back and take back our constitutional privilege, our institutional privilege as the lawmaking branch of the Federal Government, the President's Executive order will go into effect at a time when all net job growth in our economy since 2007 has gone to immigrants.

These are the kinds of facts and figures that ought to inform the legislative process and ought to not be treated as some sort of afterthought. These

are not, coincidentally, exactly the kinds of observations, the kinds of facts and figures, the kinds of details that could have been and should have been and, undoubtedly, inevitably would have been explored had this policy been implemented through the constitutionally prescribed formula.

Last November the President may have chosen to ignore these facts and to circumvent debate altogether, but that doesn't mean we have to respond in kind. That certainly doesn't mean we have to capitulate and say, okay, the way he wants to do it is fine. It is not constitutional. It is not legal. It is not what the American people want, but we just have to accept it. No. On the contrary, I believe we have not just a right but we have a duty, we have an affirmative obligation to make every effort to ensure lawmaking by edict does not become the new normal in this country. Not now, not ever, not in the United States of America.

Beginning debate on this bill will give us the opportunity to do just that, to make sure this never becomes the new normal. Some have said we shouldn't be debating the President's Executive action on immigration right now. They say it has nothing to do with funding the operations of the Department of Homeland Security. To this I have a very simple reply: If not now, when? If we are not going to do it right now, when are we going to do it? When will there be a better time? When will there be any adequate time for us to respond to this constitutional overreach, this grave injustice? If we don't debate the legality of the President's Executive orders when we are in the very process of authorizing money to the Department that is tasked with carrying out those very orders, then when exactly will we have that debate?

The truth is now is the perfect time because it is the only time. It is the only time when we can do this. It is the only time for us to have a meaningful debate on the President's Executive action on immigration.

At any other point our debate is more or less hypothetical. Now is the time, when we are exercising our constitutional power of the purse, that our debate has consequences, real consequences. They are consequences the American people can see and feel, consequences that will inure to the betterment or the detriment of the American people. Now is the time when this needs to be debated.

The power of the purse is the power to allocate money to fund government operations as well as the power to withhold money from improper or illegitimate government operations. It is what enables Congress—and only Congress, uniquely Congress—to reform dysfunctional government.

We like to talk about the power of the purse as a tool that Congress can use, use as a check and a balance

against the excesses of an overbearing President. That is absolutely true. There is no doubt about it. But first and foremost, it is a tool for Members of Congress themselves to represent the interests of our constituents and to fix the very things that are broken within our government.

Our Constitution grants the legislative branch—this branch, Congress—the power of the purse not simply to achieve some abstract equilibrium or balance of power, but to compel the national government to truly represent the American people and to be faithful stewards of taxpayer funds.

At the end of November of last year, President Obama made his choice. It was an unfortunate choice; it was a wrong choice. It was a choice not backed up by law, not backed up by the U.S. Constitution, and flatly inconsistent with the same. President Obama made his choice in November. Now it is time for us to make ours.

The President chose to sidestep Congress, and in the process to avoid debate and to rewrite our immigration laws on his own. Now we must decide: Are we going to be a deliberative body or are we going to be a rubberstamp for the President's agenda, whoever the President is happens to be in power, whether it is now or years from now? Are we going to be that kind of legislative body that just rubberstamps what the President does, or are we going to exercise our prerogative as an independent coordinate branch of this government to make sure our laws are faithfully and carefully executed in a manner consistent not only with the wishes of the people but also with the formula prescribed by the Constitution? Are we going to acquiesce to an Executive who disregards the boundaries of his office, or are we going to stand up for the rule of law and for the will of the American people?

I choose the latter. I urge my colleagues to choose the latter. I hope my colleagues will join me in voting to at least begin debate on H.R. 240. This is a debate the American people have been waiting for Congress to have for far too long. If not now, when? The time is now. We need to get on this bill. We need to debate it. We need to allow our constituents to be heard.

The American people have a will, and that will is expressed through regular elections. Those elections choose those people who occupy seats in this Chamber and in the House of Representatives. We must represent them. We must do so in a manner fully consistent with the oath that every one of us has taken as required by article VI of the Constitution. We can begin to do that by voting to proceed to H.R. 240 tomorrow.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLAY HUNT SAV ACT

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, last night tens of millions of Americans watched the Super Bowl, a game that has become a national tradition, something of an American holiday—and for good reason. Competition, grit, and hard work can bring out the best in all of us. But not all Americans were watching.

Last night, just like every other night of the year, there were young American men and women, humbly and without complaint, shouldering the burden of protecting their fellow citizens from harm. Some were doing this overseas, in places both familiar and unfamiliar to us. Others were here in America doing the hard training that is necessary to hone their warrior skills to protect us.

I had the privilege of being with thousands of these fine young Americans last night at the Army's National Training Center, the NTC, at Fort Irwin, CA. Just as in the Super Bowl, they were on the field engaged in fierce competition, force-on-force operations, as part of some of the best, most challenging military training anywhere in the world.

But unlike the Super Bowl, there were no winners or losers last night—just winners. Among the participants at NTC are 3,000 soldiers from a battle-hardened Army Stryker brigade based in Fairbanks, AK, along with hundreds of paratroopers from other military bases across Alaska. I felt immense pride in watching them train last night.

These young men and women, volunteers all, selflessly stand ready to fight and give their lives for our great country. With all due respect to my distinguished colleagues from New England who are deservedly celebrating today, it is very important to keep in mind that America's true patriots were on the field last night in places such as Fort Irwin, Baghdad, and Kabul.

We have an important opportunity to honor their service tomorrow as we prepare to vote on a bipartisan bill to make sure the patriots in our military have the resources and care that can help them fight the despair of suicide. Tomorrow we vote on the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act, which I was proud to cosponsor and help pass out of the Veteran's Affairs Committee.

This bill is named for a true American hero, a decorated Marine who fought in Afghanistan and Iraq and who struggled with despair and ultimately took his own life. This bill will

start to bring greater awareness and services to the devastation that too many of our finest fall sway to. I encourage all of my distinguished colleagues to vote for this bill tomorrow so we can get it on the President's desk for his signature as soon as possible.

A vote tomorrow will be a vote for Clay Hunt, for his courageous family, and for all the families and their loved ones who have lost someone to the national tragedy of suicide.

This will be a vote for my State, Alaska, which proudly boasts the highest number of veterans per capita in the United States but, sadly, has the highest rates of suicide in our country. This is also a personal vote for me. It is a story I do not share often or lightly. As an officer in the Marine Corps, both on Active Duty and in the Reserve, I have personally witnessed the struggles, at times tragic, that some of our service men and women undergo.

The suicide of a young Alaskan marine under my command still haunts me. You always wonder: Could I have done more? With the proper awareness and resources this marine might be alive today. That is why we need legislation such as the Clay Hunt bill. When I cast my vote tomorrow, it will be a vote for all of our veterans but particularly for the families who have suffered the unspeakable pain of suicide.

This is a good bill. It is a good start. As my distinguished colleague from Connecticut calls it, this bill is a downpayment on our debt to our veterans. It will not solve all the problems they face, including rates of suicide among veterans that are far too high in this country. But it is an important beginning. I ask my colleagues to vote for this bill tomorrow.

I yield the floor.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONGREGATION NER TAMID

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today in celebration of the 40th anniversary of Congregation Ner Tamid in Henderson, NV. With its strong commitment to serving others, Congregation Ner Tamid is an integral and deeply valued part of the Las Vegas community.

As the largest Reform synagogue in the State of Nevada, with a membership of more than 600 families, Congregation Ner Tamid is an important center for the Jewish community. For decades, the congregation has provided opportunities for religious education to members of all ages and helped sustain important Jewish traditions that have been practiced for centuries. At the same time, Congregation Ner Tamid has worked to develop strong, interfaith relationships with other communities in southern Nevada. Congregation Ner Tamid hosted the Interfaith Council of Southern Nevada's annual Thanksgiving observance this past No-

vember, bringing together people with diverse spiritual views in a unified commitment to mutual understanding and cooperation.

In particular, I appreciate the value Congregation Ner Tamid places on serving others and working to improve the Las Vegas community. Congregation Ner Tamid is committed to helping the homeless, engaging in important political discussions, and providing support to individuals and families through a variety of programs and events.

I extend my congratulations to Congregation Ner Tamid on this important anniversary, and I thank Rabbi Sanford Akselrad, Cantor Jessica Hutchings, president Jacky Rosen, and the past presidents of Congregation Ner Tamid for their leadership and dedication.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to engage in a colloquy with Senator WYDEN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise for the purpose of entering into a colloquy with the senior senator from Oregon and ranking member of the Finance Committee in regards to the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

As the senior senator from Oregon knows, the Land and Water Conservation Fund was created in a bipartisan manner to help safeguard national parks, rivers, lakes and critical habitats for wildlife in all fifty States. Over the years, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has helped protect some of our Nation's most treasured places. Two such places are located in Delaware. They are the Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge and the Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge. Now that Delaware has a new national park—the First State National Historical Park—the State has even more opportunities to take advantage of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

As you know, every year, some of the royalties from drilling for oil and gas on public lands are paid into the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Despite over \$900 million coming into the fund every year, only about one-third of that amount actually goes toward conservation. The funding is diverted elsewhere, despite the huge unmet need across our country to safeguard national parks, national forests, national wildlife refuges, rivers, lakes, and critical wildlife habitat.

Two weeks ago, I sought to bring an amendment up for a vote on S. 1, the Keystone XL Pipeline Act, in an effort to address some of the Land and Water Conservation Fund funding issues. Critical habitats are impacted every year by the building of pipelines like

the Keystone pipeline. Therefore, increasing funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund to help counter these impacts seemed like a relevant issue to debate and vote on. Unfortunately, my amendment was tabled, along with other Democratic amendments, and we were not able to have that debate and vote. Although I am disappointed we were not able to address this issue on this piece of legislation, I am determined to continue to work on this issue.

Let me say to my colleague, our ranking member, I know you have been a long-time champion for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. I would welcome the opportunity to work with you and your staff on legislation that not only reauthorizes the program, but also better ensures that the revenues credited to the Land and Water Conservation Fund each year are no longer diverted, but are used instead to meet more of our Nation's critical conservation needs. Would the Senator be willing to work with my staff and me?

Mr. WYDEN. I want to thank the senior Senator from Delaware for raising this important issue. I would be happy to work with him on this issue because, as my friend and colleague from Delaware knows, the Land and Water Conservation Fund is not only good for the environment but good for local economies. Economists have determined that communities that are near or part of protected natural resources have better and more sustainable economic outlooks than communities that are not.

In addition to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, I have been working on longer term solutions to the need to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act, as well as the need to consistently fund Payments in Lieu of Taxes. These programs share a similar, though not identical, vision as the Land and Water Conservation Fund in that they seek to support the rural communities that house some of our most important conservation-based treasures. I know the Senator seeks to support these sorts of American communities and so, while we are working on ensuring the stable continuation of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, we can also work together on these funds.

Mr. CARPER. I thank the Senator.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, the Committee on Foreign Relations has adopted rules governing its procedures for the 114th Congress. Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 2, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, on behalf of myself and Senator MENENDEZ, I ask

unanimous consent that a copy of the committee rules be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

RULE 1—JURISDICTION

(a) *Substantive*.—In accordance with Senate Rule XXV.1(j)(1), the jurisdiction of the committee shall extend to all proposed legislation, messages, petitions, memorials, and other matters relating to the following subjects:

1. Acquisition of land and buildings for embassies and legations in foreign countries.
2. Boundaries of the United States.
3. Diplomatic service.
4. Foreign economic, military, technical, and humanitarian assistance.
5. Foreign loans.
6. International activities of the American National Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross.
7. International aspects of nuclear energy, including nuclear transfer policy.
8. International conferences and congresses.
9. International law as it relates to foreign policy.
10. International Monetary Fund and other international organizations established primarily for international monetary purposes (except that, at the request of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, any proposed legislation relating to such subjects reported by the Committee on Foreign Relations shall be referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs).
11. Intervention abroad and declarations of war.
12. Measures to foster commercial intercourse with foreign nations and to safeguard American business interests abroad.
13. National security and international aspects of trusteeships of the United States.
14. Ocean and international environmental and scientific affairs as they relate to foreign policy.
15. Protection of United States citizens abroad and expatriation.
16. Relations of the United States with foreign nations generally.
17. Treaties and executive agreements, except reciprocal trade agreements.
18. United Nations and its affiliated organizations.
19. World Bank group, the regional development banks, and other international organizations established primarily for development assistance purposes.

The committee is also mandated by Senate Rule XXV.1(j)(2) to study and review, on a comprehensive basis, matters relating to the national security policy, foreign policy, and international economic policy as it relates to foreign policy of the United States, and matters relating to food, hunger, and nutrition in foreign countries, and report thereon from time to time.

(b) *Oversight*.—The committee also has a responsibility under Senate Rule XXVI.8(a)(2), which provides that “. . . each standing committee . . . shall review and study, on a continuing basis, the application, administration, and execution of those laws or parts of laws, the subject matter of which is within the jurisdiction of the committee.”

(c) *“Advice and Consent” Clauses*.—The committee has a special responsibility to as-

sist the Senate in its constitutional function of providing “advice and consent” to all treaties entered into by the United States and all nominations to the principal executive branch positions in the field of foreign policy and diplomacy.

RULE 2—SUBCOMMITTEES

(a) *Creation*.—Unless otherwise authorized by law or Senate resolution, subcommittees shall be created by majority vote of the committee and shall deal with such legislation and oversight of programs and policies as the committee directs. Legislative measures or other matters may be referred to a subcommittee for consideration in the discretion of the chairman or by vote of a majority of the committee. If the principal subject matter of a measure or matter to be referred falls within the jurisdiction of more than one subcommittee, the chairman or the committee may refer the matter to two or more subcommittees for joint consideration.

(b) *Assignments*.—Assignments of members to subcommittees shall be made in an equitable fashion. No member of the committee may receive assignment to a second subcommittee until, in order of seniority, all members of the committee have chosen assignments to one subcommittee, and no member shall receive assignments to a third subcommittee until, in order of seniority, all members have chosen assignments to two subcommittees.

No member of the committee may serve on more than four subcommittees at any one time.

The chairman and ranking member of the committee shall be *ex officio* members, without vote, of each subcommittee.

(c) *Hearings*.—Except when funds have been specifically made available by the Senate for a subcommittee purpose, no subcommittee of the Committee on Foreign Relations shall hold hearings involving expenses without prior approval of the chairman of the full committee or by decision of the full committee. Hearings of subcommittees shall be scheduled after consultation with the chairman of the committee with a view toward avoiding conflicts with hearings of other subcommittees insofar as possible. Hearings of subcommittees shall not be scheduled to conflict with meetings or hearings of the full committee.

The proceedings of each subcommittee shall be governed by the rules of the full committee, subject to such authorizations or limitations as the committee may from time to time prescribe.

RULE 3—MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

(a) *Regular Meeting Day*.—The regular meeting day of the Committee on Foreign Relations for the transaction of committee business shall be on Tuesday of each week, unless otherwise directed by the chairman.

(b) *Additional Meetings and Hearings*.—Additional meetings and hearings of the committee may be called by the chairman as he may deem necessary. If at least three members of the committee desire that a special meeting of the committee be called by the chairman, those members may file in the offices of the committee their written request to the chairman for that special meeting. Immediately upon filing of the request, the chief clerk of the committee shall notify the chairman of the filing of the request. If, within three calendar days after the filing of the request, the chairman does not call the requested special meeting, to be held within seven calendar days after the filing of the request, a majority of the members of the committee may file in the offices of the com-

mittee their written notice that a special meeting of the committee will be held, specifying the date and hour of that special meeting. The committee shall meet on that date and hour. Immediately upon the filing of the notice, the clerk shall notify all members of the committee that such special meeting will be held and inform them of its date and hour.

(c) *Hearings, Selection of Witnesses*.—To ensure that the issue which is the subject of the hearing is presented as fully and fairly as possible, whenever a hearing is conducted by the committee or a subcommittee upon any measure or matter, the ranking member of the committee or subcommittee may select and call an equal number of non-governmental witnesses to testify at that hearing.

(d) *Public Announcement*.—The committee, or any subcommittee thereof, shall make public announcement of the date, place, time, and subject matter of any meeting or hearing to be conducted on any measure or matter at least seven calendar days in advance of such meetings or hearings, unless the chairman of the committee, or subcommittee, in consultation with the ranking member, determines that there is good cause to begin such meeting or hearing at an earlier date.

(e) *Procedure*.—Insofar as possible, proceedings of the committee will be conducted without resort to the formalities of parliamentary procedure and with due regard for the views of all members. Issues of procedure which may arise from time to time shall be resolved by decision of the chairman, in consultation with the ranking member. The chairman, in consultation with the ranking member, may also propose special procedures to govern the consideration of particular matters by the committee.

(f) *Closed Sessions*.—Each meeting and hearing of the Committee on Foreign Relations, or any subcommittee thereof shall be open to the public, except that a meeting or hearing or series of meetings or hearings by the committee or a subcommittee on the same subject for a period of no more than 14 calendar days may be closed to the public on a motion made and seconded to go into closed session to discuss only whether the matters enumerated in paragraphs (1) through (6) would require the meeting or hearing to be closed followed immediately by a record vote in open session by a majority of the members of the committee or subcommittee when it is determined that the matters to be discussed or the testimony to be taken at such meeting or hearing or series of meetings or hearings—

(1) will disclose matters necessary to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or the confidential conduct of the foreign relations of the United States;

(2) will relate solely to matters of committee staff personnel or internal staff management or procedure;

(3) will tend to charge an individual with crime or misconduct; to disgrace or injure the professional standing of an individual, or otherwise to expose an individual to public contempt or obloquy, or will represent a clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of an individual;

(4) will disclose the identity of any informer or law enforcement agent or will disclose any information relating to the investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense that is required to be kept secret in the interests of effective law enforcement;

(5) will disclose information relating to the trade secrets or financial or commercial information pertaining specifically to a given person if—

(A) an Act of Congress requires the information to be kept confidential by government officers and employees; or

(B) the information has been obtained by the government on a confidential basis, other than through an application by such person for a specific government financial or other benefit, and is required to be kept secret in order to prevent undue injury to the competitive position of such person, or

(6) may divulge matters required to be kept confidential under other provisions of law or government regulations.

A closed meeting or hearing may be opened by a majority vote of the committee.

(g) *Staff Attendance*.—A member of the committee may have one member of his or her personal staff, for whom that member assumes personal responsibility, accompany and be seated nearby at committee meetings and hearings. The chairman or ranking member may authorize the attendance and seating of such a staff member at committee meetings and hearings where the member of the committee is not present.

Each member of the committee may designate members of his or her personal staff for whom that member assumes personal responsibility, who holds, at a minimum, a top secret security clearance, for the purpose of their eligibility to attend closed sessions of the committee, subject to the same conditions set forth for committee staff under Rules 12, 13, and 14.

In addition, the majority leader and the minority leader of the Senate, if they are not otherwise members of the committee, may designate one member of their staff for whom that leader assumes personal responsibility and who holds, at a minimum, a top secret security clearance, to attend closed sessions of the committee, subject to the same conditions set forth for committee staff under Rules 12, 13, and 14.

Staff of other Senators who are not members of the committee may not attend closed sessions of the committee.

Attendance of committee staff at meetings and hearings shall be limited to those designated by the staff director or the minority staff director.

The committee, by majority vote, or the chairman, with the concurrence of the ranking member, may limit staff attendance at specified meetings or hearings.

RULE 4—QUORUMS

(a) *Testimony*.—For the purpose of taking sworn or unsworn testimony at any duly scheduled meeting a quorum of the committee and each subcommittee thereof shall consist of one member of such committee or subcommittee.

(b) *Business*.—A quorum for the transaction of committee or subcommittee business, other than for reporting a measure or recommendation to the Senate or the taking of testimony, shall consist of one-third of the members of the committee or subcommittee, including at least one member from each party.

(c) *Reporting*.—A majority of the membership of the committee, including at least one member from each party, shall constitute a quorum for reporting any measure or recommendation to the Senate. No measure or recommendation shall be ordered reported from the committee unless a majority of the committee members is physically present, including at least one member from each party, and a majority of those present concurs.

RULE 5—PROXIES

Proxies must be in writing with the signature of the absent member. Subject to the re-

quirements of Rule 4 for the physical presence of a quorum to report a matter, proxy voting shall be allowed on all measures and matters before the committee. However, proxies shall not be voted on a measure or matter except when the absent member has been informed of the matter on which he is being recorded and has affirmatively requested that he or she be so recorded.

RULE 6—WITNESSES

(a) *General*.—The Committee on Foreign Relations will consider requests to testify on any matter or measure pending before the committee.

(b) *Presentation*.—If the chairman so determines, the oral presentation of witnesses shall be limited to 10 minutes. However, written statements of reasonable length may be submitted by witnesses and other interested persons who are unable to testify in person.

(c) *Filing of Statements*.—A witness appearing before the committee, or any subcommittee thereof, shall submit an electronic copy of the written statement of his proposed testimony at least 24 hours prior to his appearance, unless this requirement is waived by the chairman and the ranking member following their determination that there is good cause for failure to file such a statement.

(d) *Expenses*.—Only the chairman may authorize expenditures of funds for the expenses of witnesses appearing before the committee or its subcommittees.

(e) *Requests*.—Any witness called for a hearing may submit a written request to the chairman no later than 24 hours in advance for his testimony to be in closed or open session, or for any other unusual procedure. The chairman shall determine whether to grant any such request and shall notify the committee members of the request and of his decision.

RULE 7—SUBPOENAS

(a) *Authorization*.—The chairman or any other member of the committee, when authorized by a majority vote of the committee at a meeting or by proxies, shall have authority to subpoena the attendance of witnesses or the production of memoranda, documents, records, or any other materials. At the request of any member of the committee, the committee shall authorize the issuance of a subpoena only at a meeting of the committee. When the committee authorizes a subpoena, it may be issued upon the signature of the chairman or any other member designated by the committee.

(b) *Return*.—A subpoena, or a request to an agency, for documents may be issued whose return shall occur at a time and place other than that of a scheduled committee meeting. A return on such a subpoena or request which is incomplete or accompanied by an objection constitutes good cause for a hearing on shortened notice. Upon such a return, the chairman or any other member designated by him may convene a hearing by giving 4 hours notice by telephone or electronic mail to all other members. One member shall constitute a quorum for such a hearing. The sole purpose of such a hearing shall be to elucidate further information about the return and to rule on the objection.

(c) *Depositions*.—At the direction of the committee, staff is authorized to take depositions from witnesses.

RULE 8—REPORTS

(a) *Filing*.—When the committee has ordered a measure or recommendation reported, the report thereon shall be filed in the Senate at the earliest practicable time.

(b) *Supplemental, Minority and Additional Views*.—A member of the committee who gives notice of his intentions to file supplemental, minority, or additional views at the time of final committee approval of a measure or matter, shall be entitled to not less than 3 calendar days in which to file such views, in writing (including by electronic mail), with the chief clerk of the committee, with the 3 days to begin at 11:00 p.m. on the same day that the committee has ordered a measure or matter reported. Such views shall then be included in the committee report and printed in the same volume, as a part thereof, and their inclusion shall be noted on the cover of the report. In the absence of timely notice, the committee report may be filed and printed immediately without such views.

(c) *Roll Call Votes*.—The results of all roll call votes taken in any meeting of the committee on any measure, or amendment thereto, shall be announced in the committee report. The announcement shall include a tabulation of the votes cast in favor and votes cast in opposition to each such measure and amendment by each member of the committee.

RULE 9—TREATIES

(a) *General*.—The committee is the only committee of the Senate with jurisdiction to review and report to the Senate on treaties submitted by the President for Senate advice and consent to ratification. Because the House of Representatives has no role in the approval of treaties, the committee is therefore the only congressional committee with responsibility for treaties.

(b) *Committee Proceedings*.—Once submitted by the President for advice and consent, each treaty is referred to the committee and remains on its calendar from Congress to Congress until the committee takes action to report it to the Senate or recommend its return to the President, or until the committee is discharged of the treaty by the Senate.

(c) *Floor Proceedings*.—In accordance with Senate Rule XXX.2, treaties which have been reported to the Senate but not acted on before the end of a Congress "shall be resumed at the commencement of the next Congress as if no proceedings had previously been had thereon."

(d) *Hearings*.—Insofar as possible, the committee should conduct a public hearing on each treaty as soon as possible after its submission by the President. Except in extraordinary circumstances, treaties reported to the Senate shall be accompanied by a written report.

RULE 10—NOMINATIONS

(a) *Waiting Requirement*.—Unless otherwise directed by the chairman and the ranking member, the Committee on Foreign Relations shall not consider any nomination until 5 business days after it has been formally submitted to the Senate.

(b) *Public Consideration*.—Nominees for any post who are invited to appear before the committee shall be heard in public session, unless a majority of the committee decrees otherwise, consistent with Rule 3(f).

(c) *Required Data*.—No nomination shall be reported to the Senate unless (1) the nominee has been accorded a security clearance on the basis of a thorough investigation by executive branch agencies; (2) the nominee has filed a financial disclosure report and a related ethics undertaking with the committee; (3) the committee has been assured that the nominee does not have any interests which could conflict with the interests of the

government in the exercise of the nominee's proposed responsibilities; (4) for persons nominated to be chief of mission, ambassador-at-large, or minister, the committee has received a complete list of any contributions made by the nominee or members of his immediate family to any Federal election campaign during the year of his or her nomination and for the 4 preceding years; (5) for persons nominated to be chiefs of mission, the report required by Section 304(a)(4) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 on the demonstrated competence of that nominee to perform the duties of the position to which he or she has been nominated; and (6) the nominee has provided the committee with a signed and notarized copy of the committee questionnaire for executive branch nominees.

RULE 11—TRAVEL

(a) *Foreign Travel.*—No member of the Committee on Foreign Relations or its staff shall travel abroad on committee business unless specifically authorized by the chairman, who is required by law to approve vouchers and report expenditures of foreign currencies, and the ranking member. Requests for authorization of such travel shall state the purpose and, when completed, a full substantive and financial report shall be filed with the committee within 30 days. This report shall be furnished to all members of the committee and shall not be otherwise disseminated without authorization of the chairman and the ranking member. Except in extraordinary circumstances, staff travel shall not be approved unless the reporting requirements have been fulfilled for all prior trips. Except for travel that is strictly personal, travel funded by non-U.S. Government sources is subject to the same approval and substantive reporting requirements as U.S. Government-funded travel. In addition, members and staff are reminded to consult the Senate Code of Conduct, and, as appropriate, the Senate Select Committee on Ethics, in the case of travel sponsored by non-U.S. Government sources.

Any proposed travel by committee staff for a subcommittee purpose must be approved by the subcommittee chairman and ranking member prior to submission of the request to the chairman and ranking member of the full committee.

(b) *Domestic Travel.*—All official travel in the United States by the committee staff shall be approved in advance by the staff director, or in the case of minority staff, by the minority staff director.

(c) *Personal Staff Travel.*—As a general rule, no more than one member of the personal staff of a member of the committee may travel with that member with the approval of the chairman and the ranking member of the committee. During such travel, the personal staff member shall be considered to be an employee of the committee.

(d) *PRM Travel.*—For the purposes of this rule regarding staff foreign travel, the officially-designated personal representative of the member pursuant to rule 14(b), shall be deemed to have the same rights, duties, and responsibilities as members of the staff of the Committee on Foreign Relations.

RULE 12—TRANSCRIPTS AND MATERIALS PROVIDED TO THE COMMITTEE

(a) *General.*—The Committee on Foreign Relations shall keep verbatim transcripts of all committee and subcommittee meetings and hearings and such transcripts shall remain in the custody of the committee, unless a majority of the committee decides otherwise. Transcripts of public hearings by the

committee shall be published unless the chairman, with the concurrence of the ranking member, determines otherwise.

The committee, through the chief clerk, shall also maintain at least one copy of all materials provided to the committee by the Executive Branch; such copy shall remain in the custody of the committee and be subject to the committee's rules and procedures, including those rules and procedures applicable to the handling of classified materials.

Such transcripts and materials shall be made available to all members of the committee, committee staff, and designated personal representatives of members of the committee, except as otherwise provided in these rules.

(b) *Classified or Restricted Transcripts or Materials.*—

(1) The chief clerk of the committee shall have responsibility for the maintenance and security of classified or restricted transcripts or materials, and shall ensure that such transcripts or materials are handled in a manner consistent with the requirements of the United States Senate Security Manual.

(2) A record shall be maintained of each use of classified or restricted transcripts or materials as required by the Senate Security Manual.

(3) Classified transcripts or materials may not leave the committee offices, or SVC-217 of the Capitol Visitors Center, except for the purpose of declassification or archiving, consistent with these rules.

(4) Extreme care shall be exercised to avoid taking notes or quotes from classified transcripts or materials. Their contents may not be divulged to any unauthorized person.

(5) Subject to any additional restrictions imposed by the chairman with the concurrence of the ranking member, only the following persons are authorized to have access to classified or restricted transcripts or materials:

(A) Members and staff of the committee in the committee offices or in SVC-217 of the Capitol Visitors Center;

(B) Designated personal representatives of members of the committee, and of the majority and minority leaders, with appropriate security clearances, in the committee offices or in SVC-217 of the Capitol Visitors Center;

(C) Senators not members of the committee, by permission of the chairman, in the committee offices or in SVC-217 of the Capitol Visitors Center; and

(D) Officials of the executive departments involved in the meeting, hearing, or matter, with authorization of the chairman, in the committee offices or SVC-217 of the Capitol Visitors Center.

(6) Any restrictions imposed by the committee upon access to a meeting or hearing of the committee shall also apply to the transcript of such meeting, except by special permission of the chairman and ranking member.

(7) In addition to restrictions resulting from the inclusion of any classified information in the transcript of a committee meeting or hearing, members and staff shall not discuss with anyone the proceedings of the committee in closed session or reveal information conveyed or discussed in such a session unless that person would have been permitted to attend the session itself or is a member or staff of a relevant committee or executive branch agency and possess an appropriate security clearance, or unless such communication is specifically authorized by the chairman, the ranking member, or in the case of staff, by the staff director or minor-

ity staff director. A record shall be kept of all such authorizations.

(c) *Declassification.*—

(1) All noncurrent records of the committee are governed by Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate and by S. Res. 474 (96th Congress). Any classified transcripts or materials transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration under Rule XI may not be made available for public use unless they have been subject to declassification review in accordance with applicable laws or Executive orders.

(2) Any transcript or classified committee report, or any portion thereof, may be declassified, in accordance with applicable laws or Executive orders, sooner than the time period provided for under S. Res. 474 if:

(A) the chairman originates such action, with the concurrence of the ranking member;

(B) the other current members of the committee who participated in such meeting or report have been notified of the proposed declassification, and have not objected thereto, except that the committee by majority vote may overrule any objections thereby raised to early declassification; and

(C) the executive departments that participated in the meeting or originated the classified information have been consulted regarding the declassification.

RULE 13—CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

(a) *General.*—The handling of classified information in the Senate is governed by S. Res. 243 (100th Congress), which established the Office of Senate Security. All handling of classified information by the committee shall be consistent with the procedures set forth in the United States Senate Security Manual issued by the Office of Senate Security.

(b) *Security Manager.*—The chief clerk is the security manager for the committee. The chief clerk shall be responsible for implementing the provisions of the Senate Security Manual and for serving as the committee liaison to the Office of Senate Security. The staff director, in consultation with the minority staff director, may appoint an alternate security manager as circumstances warrant.

(c) *Transportation of Classified Material.*—Classified material may only be transported between Senate offices by appropriately cleared staff members who have been specifically authorized to do so by the security manager.

(d) *Access to Classified Material.*—In general, Senators and staff undertake to confine their access to classified information on the basis of a "need to know" such information related to their committee responsibilities.

(e) *Staff Clearances.*—The chairman, or, in the case of minority staff, the ranking member, shall designate the members of the committee staff whose assignments require access to classified and compartmented information and shall seek to obtain the requisite security clearances pursuant to Office of Senate Security procedures.

(f) *PRM Clearances.*—For the purposes of this rule regarding security clearances and access to compartmented information, the officially-designated personal representative of the member (PRM) pursuant to rule 14(b), shall be deemed to have the same rights, duties, and responsibilities as members of the staff of the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(g) *Regulations.*—The staff director is authorized to make such administrative regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this rule.

RULE 14—STAFF

(a) *Responsibilities.*—

(1) The staff works for the committee as a whole, under the general supervision of the chairman of the committee, and the immediate direction of the staff director, except that such part of the staff as is designated minority staff shall be under the general supervision of the ranking member and under the immediate direction of the minority staff director.

(2) Any member of the committee should feel free to call upon the staff at any time for assistance in connection with committee business. Members of the Senate not members of the committee who call upon the staff for assistance from time to time should be given assistance subject to the overriding responsibility of the staff to the committee.

(3) The staff's primary responsibility is with respect to bills, resolutions, treaties, and nominations and other matters within the jurisdiction of the committee. In addition to carrying out assignments from the committee and its individual members, the staff has a responsibility to originate suggestions for committee or subcommittee consideration. The staff also has a responsibility to make suggestions to individual members regarding matters of special interest to such members.

(4) It is part of the staff's duty to keep itself as well informed as possible in regard to developments affecting foreign relations and national security and in regard to the administration of foreign programs of the United States. Significant trends or developments which might otherwise escape notice should be called to the attention of the committee, or of individual Senators with particular interests.

(5) The staff shall pay due regard to the constitutional separation of powers between the Senate and the executive branch. It therefore has a responsibility to help the committee bring to bear an independent, objective judgment of proposals by the executive branch and when appropriate to originate sound proposals of its own. At the same time, the staff shall avoid impinging upon the day-to-day conduct of foreign affairs.

(6) In those instances when committee action requires the expression of minority views, the staff shall assist the minority as fully as the majority to the end that all points of view may be fully considered by members of the committee and of the Senate. The staff shall bear in mind that under our constitutional system it is the responsibility of the elected members of the Senate to determine legislative issues in the light of as full and fair a presentation of the facts as the staff may be able to obtain.

(b) *Personal Representatives of the Member (PRM).*—Each Senator on the committee shall be authorized to designate one personal staff member as the member's personal representative of the member and designee to the committee (PRM) that shall be deemed to have the same rights, duties, and responsibilities as members of the staff of the Committee on Foreign Relations where specifically provided for in these rules.

(c) *Restrictions.*—

(1) The staff shall regard its relationship to the committee as a privileged one, in the nature of the relationship of a lawyer to a client. In order to protect this relationship and the mutual confidence which must prevail if the committee-staff relationship is to be a satisfactory and fruitful one, the following criteria shall apply, unless staff has consulted with and obtained, as appropriate, the approval of the Senate Ethics Committee and advance permission from the staff director (or the minority staff director in the case of minority staff):

(A) members of the staff shall not be identified with any special interest group in the field of foreign relations or allow their names to be used by any such group; and

(B) members of the staff shall not accept public speaking engagements or write for publication in the field of foreign relations.

(2) The staff shall not discuss their private conversations with members of the committee without specific advance permission from the Senator or Senators concerned.

(3) The staff shall not discuss with anyone the proceedings of the committee in closed session or reveal information conveyed or discussed in such a session unless that person would have been permitted to attend the session itself or is a member or staff of a relevant committee or executive branch agency and possesses an appropriate security clearance, or unless such communication is specifically authorized by the staff director or minority staff director. Unauthorized disclosure of information from a closed session or of classified information shall be cause for immediate dismissal and may, in certain cases, be grounds for criminal prosecution.

RULE 15—STATUS AND AMENDMENT OF RULES

(a) *Status.*—In addition to the foregoing, the Committee on Foreign Relations is governed by the Standing Rules of the Senate, which shall take precedence in the event of a clear inconsistency. In addition, the jurisdiction and responsibilities of the committee with respect to certain matters, as well as the timing and procedure for their consideration in committee, may be governed by statute.

(b) *Amendment.*—These rules may be modified, amended, or repealed by a majority of the committee, provided that a notice in writing (including by electronic mail) of the proposed change has been given to each member at least 72 hours prior to the meeting at which action thereon is to be taken. However, rules of the committee which are based upon Senate rules may not be superseded by committee vote alone.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO ODELL LUMONT PRICE

• Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, I am humbled to recognize Mr. Odell Lumont Price, and especially during Black History Month. As a constituent, I can say he has encouraged all who are familiar with his story. Mr. Price exemplifies the words of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.—he has truly lived a life in which he has been “judged by the content of his character rather than the color of his skin.”

He grew up in Liberty Hill, a small part of North Charleston, and was among the first to graduate from all-white North Charleston High in 1967. Upon graduation, he volunteered to join the U.S. Marines at the age of 17 because he lacked the finances to attend college. He also served to show his love and respect for his country and family.

He saw much during his time in battle, and quickly became a squad leader of the 3rd Marine Division. After leaving the military, he used the GI Bill to

further his education. Mr. Price believes that the opportunity to further his education played a huge part in his success working at the Charleston Naval Shipyard.

Mr. Price is an example of everything that has allowed me to stand before you today. His values of faith, family and freedom have granted me the chance to stand on his shoulders and continue helping our beloved country march forward.

Please join me in a heartfelt “Thanks” to not only a fellow South Carolinian but someone who deserves the title of “Hero” for his service to our country.●

REMEMBERING PRIVATE NATHAN WHITE, JR.

• Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, I rise today to honor another of our Lowcountry Vietnam Veterans, Nathan White, Jr. He grew up in the area known as Liberty Hill, SC. As a young boy growing up, he embedded in his heart a desire to be a U.S. Marine. His mother gave her final blessing upon his graduation from Bonds-Wilson High School, and Nathan went to training at Parris Island before being deployed to Vietnam.

Private White gave his life while saving a fellow Marine at the age of 19 years old. His influence continues today in the lives of his family members who have extended his love of serving our country. His oldest nephew Alfred Green serves in Germany and his niece Lt. Col. Antoinette Sheppard proudly serves at Joint Base Charleston.

We are also honored to recognize his sister Alfreda Levaie, who not only helped raise her brother but also took a stand and marched with Mrs. Coretta Scott King in 1969. As she passionately puts it, “you have to stand for something during your life to make a difference.”

It is with pride and honor we recognize Private Nathan White, Jr. and his family. We will never forget his sacrifice.●

BUDGET OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016—PM 3

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975 as modified by the order of April 11, 1986; to the Committees on Appropriations; and the Budget:

To the Congress of the United States:

After a breakthrough year for America, our economy is growing and creating jobs at the fastest pace since 1999, and in 58 months we have created

over 11 million jobs. Our unemployment rate is now lower than it was before the financial crisis. More of our kids are graduating than ever before. More of our people are insured than ever before. We are as free from the grip of foreign oil as we've been in almost 30 years. Thanks to the hard work, resilience, and determination of the American people over the last six years, the shadow of crisis has passed.

With a growing economy, shrinking deficits, bustling industry, and booming energy production, we have risen from recession freer to write our own future than any other Nation on Earth. It's now up to us to choose what kind of country we want to be over the next 15 years, and for decades to come. Will we accept an economy where prosperity belongs to a few and opportunity remains out of reach for too many? Or will we commit ourselves to an economy that generates rising incomes and chances for everyone who makes the effort?

Over the last six years, we've seen that middle-class economic works. We've reaffirmed one of our most fundamental values as Americans: that this country does best when everyone gets their fair shot, does their fair share, and plays by the same set of rules.

The ideas I offer in this Budget are designed to bring middle-class economic into the 21st century. These proposals are practical, not partisan. They'll help working families feel more secure with paychecks that go further, help American workers upgrade their skills, so they can compete for higher-paying jobs, and help create the conditions for our businesses to keep generating good new jobs for our workers to fill. The Budget will do these things while fulfilling our most basic responsibility to keep Americans safe. We will make these investments and end the harmful spending cuts known as sequestration, by cutting inefficient spending, and closing tax loopholes. We will also put our Nation on a more sustainable fiscal path by achieving \$1.8 trillion in deficit reduction, primarily from reforms in health programs, our tax code, and immigration.

First, middle-class economics means helping working families afford the cornerstones of economic security: child care, college, health care, a home, and retirement. We will help working families tackle the high costs of child care and make ends meet by tripling the maximum child care credit for middle-class families with young children, increasing it to up to \$3,000 per child, expanding child care assistance to all eligible low-income families with children under four by the end of 10 years, and making preschool available to all four-year-olds.

The Budget also provides middle-class families more flexibility at work by encouraging States to develop paid

family leave programs. Today, we're the only advanced country on Earth that doesn't guarantee paid sick leave or paid maternity leave to our workers. Forty-three million workers have no paid sick leave, which forces too many parents to make the gut-wrenching choice between a paycheck and a sick kid at home. It's time to change that. For many families in today's economy, having both parents in the workforce isn't a luxury, it's an economic necessity.

Second, middle-class economics means making sure more Americans have the chance to learn the skills and education they need to keep earning higher wages down the road. The Budget calls for new investments and innovation that will expand preschool and invest in high-quality early education for America's youngest learners, provide more help to disadvantaged students and the schools that serve them, better prepare and support teachers, and transform our high schools so they help all students graduate prepared for college and career.

In a 21st century economy that rewards knowledge more than ever, our efforts must reach higher than high school. By the end of this decade, two-thirds of job openings will require some higher education, and no American should be priced out of the education they need. Over the course of my Administration, we have increased Pell Grants, and the Budget continues to ensure that they will keep pace with inflation over time. The Budget also includes a bold new plan to bring down the cost of community college tuition for responsible students, to zero. Forty percent of college students attend community college; some to learn a particular skill, others as a path to a four-year degree. It is time for two years of college to become as free and universal in America as high school is today.

Even as we help give our students the chance to succeed, we also must work together to give our workers the chance to retool. Last year, the Congress came together and passed important improvements to the Nation's job training system with the bipartisan Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. To build on this progress, the proposals in this Budget support more in-person career counseling for unemployed workers and double the number of workers receiving training through the workforce development system. My plan would also expand the successful "learn-as-you-earn" approaches that our European counterparts use successfully by investing in the expansion of registered apprenticeships that allow workers to learn new skills while they are earning a paycheck. The Budget would also ensure that training leads to high-quality jobs by investing in projects that feature strong employer partnerships, include work-based learning, and develop new employer-validated credentials.

As we welcome home a new generation of returning heroes, the Budget makes sure they have the chance to live the American Dream they helped defend. It invests in the five pillars I have outlined to support our Nation's veterans: providing the resources and funding they deserve; ensuring high-quality and timely health care; getting veterans their earned benefits quickly and efficiently; ending veteran homelessness; and helping veterans and their families get good jobs, education, and access to affordable housing.

Third, middle-class economics means creating the kind of environment that helps businesses start here, stay here, and hire here. We want to build on the growth we have seen in the manufacturing sector, where more than 750,000 new jobs have been created over the last 58 months. To create jobs, continue growth in the industry, and strengthen America's leadership in advanced manufacturing technology, the Budget funds a national network of 45 manufacturing institutes, building on the nine already funded through 2015. As part of the manufacturing initiative, the Budget also launches a Scale-Up Fund, funded through a public-private partnership to help ensure that if a technology is invented in the United States, it can be made in the United States. The Budget proposes an investment fund to help startup companies produce the goods they have developed. Taken together, these investments will help ensure that America keeps making things the rest of the world wants to buy and will also help create manufacturing jobs for the future.

Our Nation thrives when we are leading the world with cutting-edge technology in manufacturing, infrastructure, clean energy, and other growing fields. That is why the Budget includes investments in cutting-edge advanced manufacturing research—to make sure we are leading the way in creating technology that supports our manufacturing sector; biomedical research—like our BRAIN initiative, which studies the brain to offer new insight into diseases like Alzheimer's, and Precision Medicine, which can improve health outcomes and better treat diseases; or, agricultural research—looking at climate resilience and sustainability. These investments have the potential to create high-wage jobs, improve lives, and open the door to new industries, resulting in sustainable economic growth.

As our economy continues to grow, our Nation's businesses and workers also need a stronger infrastructure that works in the new economy—modern ports, stronger bridges, better roads, faster trains, and better broadband. The Budget proposes to build a 21st century infrastructure that creates jobs for thousands of construction workers and engineers, connects hardworking Americans to their jobs,

and makes it easier for businesses to transport goods. The Budget would do more to repair and modernize our existing roads and bridges, while expanding transit systems to link communities and support workers.

These proposals will put more money in middle-class pockets, raise wages, and bring more high-paying jobs to America. To pay for them, the Budget will cut inefficient spending and close tax loopholes to make sure that everyone pays their fair share. The Budget closes loopholes that punish businesses investing domestically and reward companies that keep profits abroad, and uses some of the savings created to rebuild our aging infrastructure. The Budget closes loopholes that perpetuate inequality by allowing the top one percent of Americans to avoid paying any taxes on their accumulated wealth and uses that money to help more young people go to college. The Budget simplifies the system so that a small business owner can file based on her actual bank statement, instead of the number of accountants she can afford. It is time for tax reform that at its core is about helping working families afford child care and college, and plan for retirement, and above all, get a leg up in the new economy.

Of course, we cannot separate our work here at home from challenges beyond our shores. By winding down the wars overseas and lowering war spending, we've strengthened our economy and shrunk our deficits. But we still face threats to our security that we must address.

The Budget supports our efforts to degrade and ultimately destroy ISIL. We are leading over 60 partners in a global effort that will take time and steady resolve. As I made clear in my State of the Union address, I am calling on the Congress to show the world that we are united in this mission by passing a bill to authorize the use of force against ISIL.

The Budget supports our efforts to counter Russian pressure and aggressive actions in concert with our European allies, by funding support for Ukraine's democracy and efforts to reassure our NATO allies.

We also must look beyond the issues that have consumed us in the past to shape the coming century. This Budget provides the resources we need to defend the Nation against cyber-attacks. No foreign nation, no hacker, should be able to shut down our networks, steal our trade secrets, or invade the privacy of American families. In addition to increasing funding to protect our Nation against cyber-attacks, I continue to urge the Congress to finally pass the legislation we need to meet this evolving threat.

The Budget invests in our efforts to confront the threat posed by infectious diseases like Ebola—here at home, and internationally. It provides resources

to support the Global Health Security Agenda, increases funding to eradicate polio and other global health challenges, and creates a new Impact Fund for targeted global HIV/AIDS efforts. In addition, the Budget increases funding for domestic preparedness efforts to more effectively and efficiently respond to potential, future outbreaks here at home and dedicates funding for States to develop HIV Plans to help them reach the goals of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy.

The Budget also capitalizes on historic opportunities in Asia and the Pacific—where we are modernizing alliances, opening new markets, and making sure that other nations play by the rules—in how they trade, resolve disputes, and do their part to confront the biggest challenges we face.

No challenge poses a greater threat to future generations than climate change. Fourteen of our planet's 15 warmest years on record have all fallen in the first 15 years of this century. The world's best scientists are telling us that our activities are changing the climate, and if we do not act forcefully, we'll continue to see rising oceans, longer, hotter heat waves, dangerous droughts and floods, and massive disruptions that can trigger greater migration, conflict, and hunger around the globe. The Pentagon says that climate change poses immediate risks to our national security. And as discussed in the Budget, the significant costs to inaction on climate change hit the Federal Government's bottom-line directly, as worsening climate impacts create Government liabilities. That's why this Budget takes action on climate by supporting the Climate Action Plan that I released in 2013 with investments to accelerate carbon pollution reductions, to build on-the-ground partnerships with local communities and help them put in place strategies for greater resilience to climate change impacts, and to support America's leadership abroad on this important moral and fiscal issue.

Beyond these critical investments, the Budget also supports my Management Agenda, which seeks to create a Government for the future that is more efficient, effective, and supportive of economic growth. The Budget includes initiatives to improve the service we provide to the American public; to leverage the Federal Government's buying power to bring more value and efficiency to how we use taxpayer dollars; to open Government data and research to the private sector to drive innovation and economic growth; to promote smarter information technology; and, to attract and retain the best talent in the Federal workforce. The Budget includes proposals to consolidate and reorganize Government agencies to make them leaner and more efficient, and it increases the use of evidence and evaluation to ensure that taxpayer dollars

are spent wisely on programs that work.

The Congress can also help grow the economy, reduce deficits, and strengthen Social Security by passing comprehensive immigration reform. Last year, I took a series of executive actions to crack down on illegal immigration at the border; prioritize deporting felons, not families; and allow certain undocumented immigrants who register and pass criminal and national security background checks to start paying their fair share of taxes and stay in the United States without fear of deportation. I also took action to streamline the legal immigration system for talented STEM students, entrepreneurs, and business. These actions will raise average wages for all American workers and reduce the deficit. But this is only a first step toward real reform, and as I have said before, the Congress should act on the more comprehensive reform that only changes in the law can provide. Independent economists say immigration reform will grow our economy and shrink our deficits by almost \$1 trillion over 20 years. It is time to fix our broken system and help grow our economy by passing comprehensive immigration reform.

The Budget also builds on the progress we have made ensuring that every American has the peace of mind that comes with quality, affordable health insurance. The Affordable Care Act has helped to provide millions more Americans get covered. It has forced insurance companies to play by the rules by prohibiting discrimination for pre-existing conditions and eliminating lifetime insurance caps. It has also helped to put our Nation on a more sustainable fiscal path by slowing the growth of health care costs. The Budget includes additional reforms and cost saving proposals to continue encouraging high-quality and efficient health care.

This Budget shows what we can do if we invest in America's future and commit ourselves to an economy that rewards hard work, generates rising incomes, and allows everyone to share in the prosperity of a growing America. It lays out a strategy to strengthen our middle class, and help America's hard-working families get ahead in a time of relentless economic and technological change.

Fifteen years into this new century, and six years after the darkest days of the financial crisis, we have picked ourselves up, dusted ourselves off, and begun again the work of remaking America. We've laid a new foundation. A brighter future is ours to write. This Budget will help us begin this new chapter together.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 2, 2015.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

S. 338. A bill to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

S. 339. A bill to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 entirely.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-499. A communication from the Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities (HSACU)" (RIN0524-AA39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 28, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-500. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Adding 20 Coral Species to the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife" (RIN1018-BA63) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 27, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-501. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Department of Homeland Security Privacy Office 2014 Annual Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-502. A communication from the Deputy Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Closed-Circuit Escape Respirators; Extension of Transition Period" (RIN0920-AA60) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 28, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-503. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report on H-1B Petitions" for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-504. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2014 Data Mining Report to Congress"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 327. A bill to provide for auditable financial statements for the Department of De-

fense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. LEE, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 328. A bill to amend the Trademark Act of 1946 to provide for the registration of marks consisting of a flag, coat of arms, or other insignia of the United States, or any State or local government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 329. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook in the State of Connecticut as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HELLER (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 330. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. UDALL, Mr. BENNET, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 331. A bill to amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act to improve compensation for workers involved in uranium mining, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 332. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make permanent the extension of the Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) program and the increased payments under the Medicare low-volume hospital program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. LEE, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. VITTER):

S. 333. A bill to require that any debt limit increase be balanced by equal spending cuts over the next decade; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. LEE, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. 334. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BURR, Mr. WARNER, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 335. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve 529 plans; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. VITTER, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. HATCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. PERDUE, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. MORAN, Mr. COATS, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. FLAKE, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. DAINES, Mr. THUNE, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BURR, Mr. LEE, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. SASSE, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 336. A bill to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 entirely; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 337. A bill to improve the Freedom of Information Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 338. A bill to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund; read the first time.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. VITTER, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. HATCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. PERDUE, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. MORAN, Mr. COATS, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. FLAKE, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. DAINES, Mr. THUNE, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BURR, Mr. LEE, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. SASSE, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 339. A bill to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 entirely; read the first time.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. Res. 61. A resolution honoring the life and legacy of Peggy Charren; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Mr. THUNE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PETERS, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. UDALL):

S. Res. 62. A resolution designating the week beginning on February 8, 2015, as "National Tribal Colleges and Universities Week"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 167

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 167, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the conduct of annual evaluations of mental health care and suicide prevention programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health

Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 176

At the request of Mr. REID, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 176, a bill to advance integrated water management and development through innovation, resiliency, conservation, and efficiency in the 21st century, and for other purposes.

S. 197

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 197, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to award grants to States to improve delivery of high-quality assessments, and for other purposes.

S. 198

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 198, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules relating to inverted corporations.

S. 207

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 207, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to use existing authorities to furnish health care at non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities to veterans who live more than 40 miles driving distance from the closest medical facility of the Department that furnishes the care sought by the veteran, and for other purposes.

S. 240

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 240, a bill to promote competition, to preserve the ability of local governments to provide broadband capability and services, and for other purposes.

S. 257

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. 257, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to physician supervision of therapeutic hospital outpatient services.

S. 258

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 258, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services.

S. 269

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr.

PORTMAN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 269, a bill to expand sanctions imposed with respect to Iran and to impose additional sanctions with respect to Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 270

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 270, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to revise the definition of spouse for purposes of veterans benefits in recognition of new State definitions of spouse, and for other purposes.

S. 273

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 273, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the intentional discrimination of a person or organization by an employee of the Internal Revenue Service.

S. 274

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 274, a bill to prohibit the Department of the Treasury from assigning tax statuses to organizations based on their political beliefs and activities.

S. 293

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 293, a bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to establish a procedure for approval of certain settlements.

S. 314

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 314, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of pharmacist services.

S. 316

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 316, a bill to amend the charter school program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

S. 322

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 322, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain compensation received by public safety officers and their dependents from gross income.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BURR, Mr. WAR-

NER, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 335. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve 529 plans; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am glad to be joined by Senator CASEY of Pennsylvania in introducing bipartisan legislation to improve upon the already immensely successful college 529 savings programs. Those are savings plans to go to college. The 529 plans have helped millions earn a college degree without piling up a mountain of debt. These plans have long had strong bipartisan support, and I am glad the introduction of this bill today continues that tradition.

Given the bipartisan nature of 529 plans, it came as a shock to me, and I am sure to most of my colleagues, when the President put forth a proposal that would undermine years of hard work toward making savings for college as accessible as it is today. College savings vehicles, we now know by the Tax Code section—that is where section 529 comes from—were first started by States in the late 1980s. However, it was only after a bipartisan effort led by then-Senator Bob Graham of Florida and Senator MCCONNELL, now our majority leader, in 1996 that these savings plans were finally enshrined in section 529 of the Tax Code.

By recognizing college savings plans in the Tax Code, States and participants could now be certain about the favorable tax treatment they would receive and thus the plans flourished. During this time, individuals' parents and grandparents were able to contribute to savings plans with certainty that the college savings for themselves and their loved ones would accumulate tax free. However, while 529 plans could accumulate interest tax free, tax was still owed once money was distributed to pay for college.

So in 2001, as chairman of the Finance Committee, I worked with Senator Baucus of Montana and others to advance a proposal to further enhance college savings by excluding distributions from 529 plans from income tax so long as the money was used to pay for college education costs. We were then successful in making this provision permanent in the tax law as part of the Pension Protection Act of 2006.

This change helped 529 plans take off to even new heights. From 2001 to 2002 assets in these plans doubled from \$13 billion to \$26 billion and totalled nearly \$245 billion by July last year. The total number of accounts also nearly doubled. The number of accounts increased from 2.4 million in 2001 to 4.4 million in 2002 and increased to nearly 12 million by July of last year.

The misguided proposal put forth in the President's State of the Union Address has a potential to reverse these gains by once again subjecting distributions to tax. The policy rationale

given by the President was that too much of the benefit for 529 plans went to more affluent households and individuals. I believe a big reason the President's proposal was met with bipartisan disapproval is that we all know firsthand through communications with our constituents back home that the typical family with a 529 account is one with only modest means. We hear about how they have scrimped and pinched pennies so they could put money away for their child's college. They have a dream of sending their child to college and graduating without a crushing amount of debt holding them back as they start their new career post-college.

Data from the College Savings Plans Network backs up this anecdotal evidence that we receive at the grassroots from our constituents. On a national basis the average account balance is under \$21,000 and for Iowans the average balance is slightly lower than \$17,878. This is obviously hard evidence that a typical family contributing to a 529 account is far from being part of the wealthy elite the President wants us to believe they are.

A private study commissioned by the College Savings Foundation further demonstrates that these accounts are largely held by middle-class families. According to this study, about 10 percent of 529 accounts are owned by households with income below \$50,000, over 70 percent are owned by households with income below \$150,000, and almost 95 percent of 529 accounts are in households with incomes below \$250,000.

The bill I introduced today with Democratic Senator CASEY will help build on the success that has so far been achieved by increasing the attractiveness of 529 plans.

This bill has three primary provisions:

The first provision recognizes the reality that in today's world a computer is just as much a necessary educational tool—and the expense associated with it—as a required class textbook. As such, this bill allows 529 funds to purchase a computer on the same tax payroll basis as other required materials.

The second provision eliminates an outdated and unnecessary aggregation rule that increases paperwork and costs for plan administrators.

The final provision provides tax and penalty relief in instances where a student may have to withdraw from school for illness or other reasons. Under current law, any refunds from the college are subject to immediate taxation and a 10-percent tax penalty. This provision eliminates this tax and penalty if the refund is redeposited in a 529 account. This permits a family to set the refund aside to pay for the student's education should that student be able to return to college or to use it for another family member.

The reforms in 529 plans included in Senator CASEY's and my bill are very modest but will help keep administrative costs low and provide a little extra incentive for parents to put money away for their child's education. The bill further demonstrates a renewed bipartisan commitment to 529 plans that will hopefully help erase concerns some may have in contributing to 529s given the President's misguided proposal.

I hope Congress will act on this legislation and speak with a loud bipartisan voice on its commitment to college savings.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 337. A bill to improve the Freedom of Information Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 337

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "FOIA Improvement Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO FOIA.

Section 552 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "for public inspection and copying" and inserting "for public inspection in an electronic format";

(ii) by striking subparagraph (D) and inserting the following:

"(D) copies of all records, regardless of form or format—

"(i) that have been released to any person under paragraph (3); and

"(ii)(I) that because of the nature of their subject matter, the agency determines have become or are likely to become the subject of subsequent requests for substantially the same records; or

"(II) that have been requested 3 or more times; and"; and

(iii) in the undesignated matter following subparagraph (E), by striking "public inspection and copying current" and inserting "public inspection in an electronic format current";

(B) in paragraph (4)(A), by striking clause (viii) and inserting the following:

"(viii)(I) Except as provided in subclause (II), an agency shall not assess any search fees (or in the case of a requester described under clause (ii)(II) of this subparagraph, duplication fees) under this subparagraph if the agency has failed to comply with any time limit under paragraph (6).

"(II)(aa) If an agency has determined that unusual circumstances apply (as the term is defined in paragraph (6)(B)) and the agency provided a timely written notice to the requester in accordance with paragraph (6)(B), a failure described in subclause (I) is excused for an additional 10 days. If the agency fails to comply with the extended time limit, the agency may not assess any search fees (or in the case of a requester described under

clause (ii)(II) of this subparagraph, duplication fees).

"(bb) If an agency has determined that unusual circumstances apply and more than 50,000 pages are necessary to respond to the request, an agency may charge search fees (or in the case of a requester described under clause (ii)(II) of this subparagraph, duplication fees) if the agency has provided a timely written notice to the requester in accordance with paragraph (6)(B) and the agency has discussed with the requester via written mail, electronic mail, or telephone (or made not less than 3 good-faith attempts to do so) how the requester could effectively limit the scope of the request in accordance with paragraph (6)(B)(ii).

"(cc) If a court has determined that exceptional circumstances exist (as that term is defined in paragraph (6)(C)), a failure described in subclause (I) shall be excused for the length of time provided by the court order.";

(C) in paragraph (6)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking "making such request" and all that follows through "determination; and" and inserting the following: "making such request of—"

"(I) such determination and the reasons therefor;

"(II) the right of such person to seek assistance from the FOIA Public Liaison of the agency; and

"(III) in the case of an adverse determination—

"(aa) the right of such person to appeal to the head of the agency, within a period determined by the head of the agency that is not less than 90 days after the date of such adverse determination; and

"(bb) the right of such person to seek dispute resolution services from the FOIA Public Liaison of the agency or the Office of Government Information Services; and"; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking "the agency." and inserting "the agency, and notify the requester of the right of the requester to seek dispute resolution services from the Office of Government Information Services."; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

"(8)(A) An agency—

"(i) shall—

"(I) withhold information under this section only if—

"(aa) the agency reasonably foresees that disclosure would harm an interest protected by an exemption described in subsection (b) or other provision of law; or

"(bb) disclosure is prohibited by law; and

"(II)(aa) consider whether partial disclosure of information is possible whenever the agency determines that a full disclosure of a requested record is not possible; and

"(bb) take reasonable steps necessary to segregate and release nonexempt information; and

"(ii) may not—

"(I) withhold information requested under this section merely because the agency can demonstrate, as a technical matter, that the records fall within the scope of an exemption described in subsection (b); or

"(II) withhold information requested under this section merely because disclosure of the information may be embarrassing to the agency or because of speculative or abstract concerns.

"(B) Nothing in this paragraph requires disclosure of information that is otherwise prohibited from disclosure by law, or otherwise exempted from disclosure under subsection (b)(3).";

(2) in subsection (b), by amending paragraph (5) to read as follows:

“(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters that would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency, if the requested record or information was created less than 25 years before the date on which the request was made.”;

(3) in subsection (e)

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “and to the Director of the Office of Government Information Services” after “United States”;

(ii) in subparagraph (N), by striking “and” at the end;

(iii) in subparagraph (O), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(P) the number of times the agency denied a request for records under subsection (c); and

“(Q) the number of records that were made available for public inspection in an electronic format under subsection (a)(2).”;

(B) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) Each agency shall make each such report available for public inspection in an electronic format. In addition, each agency shall make the raw statistical data used in each report available in a timely manner for public inspection in an electronic format, which shall be made available—

“(A) without charge, license, or registration requirement;

“(B) in an aggregated, searchable format; and

“(C) in a format that may be downloaded in bulk.”;

(C) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by striking “Government Reform and Oversight” and inserting “Oversight and Government Reform”;

(ii) by inserting “Homeland Security and” before “Governmental Affairs”;

(iii) by striking “April” and inserting “March”; and

(D) by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

“(6)(A) The Attorney General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Judiciary of the Senate, and the President a report on or before March 1 of each calendar year, which shall include for the prior calendar year—

“(i) a listing of the number of cases arising under this section;

“(ii) a listing of—

“(I) each subsection, and any exemption, if applicable, involved in each case arising under this section;

“(II) the disposition of each case arising under this section; and

“(III) the cost, fees, and penalties assessed under subparagraphs (E), (F), and (G) of subsection (a)(4); and

“(iii) a description of the efforts undertaken by the Department of Justice to encourage agency compliance with this section.

“(B) The Attorney General of the United States shall make—

“(i) each report submitted under subparagraph (A) available for public inspection in an electronic format; and

“(ii) the raw statistical data used in each report submitted under subparagraph (A) available for public inspection in an electronic format, which shall be made available—

“(I) without charge, license, or registration requirement;

“(II) in an aggregated, searchable format; and

“(III) in a format that may be downloaded in bulk.”;

(4) in subsection (g), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “publicly available upon request” and inserting “available for public inspection in an electronic format”;

(5) in subsection (h)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following: “The head of the Office shall be the Director of the Office of Government Information Services.”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

“(C) identify procedures and methods for improving compliance under this section.”;

(C) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) The Office of Government Information Services shall offer mediation services to resolve disputes between persons making requests under this section and administrative agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation and may issue advisory opinions at the discretion of the Office or upon request of any party to a dispute.”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(4)(A) Not less frequently than annually, the Director of the Office of Government Information Services shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, and the President—

“(i) a report on the findings of the information reviewed and identified under paragraph (2);

“(ii) a summary of the activities of the Office of Government Information Services under paragraph (3), including—

“(I) any advisory opinions issued; and

“(II) the number of times each agency engaged in dispute resolution with the assistance of the Office of Government Information Services or the FOIA Public Liaison; and

“(iii) legislative and regulatory recommendations, if any, to improve the administration of this section.

“(B) The Director of the Office of Government Information Services shall make each report submitted under subparagraph (A) available for public inspection in an electronic format.

“(C) The Director of the Office of Government Information Services shall not be required to obtain the prior approval, comment, or review of any officer or agency of the United States, including the Department of Justice, the Archivist of the United States, or the Office of Management and Budget before submitting to Congress, or any committee or subcommittee thereof, any reports, recommendations, testimony, or comments, if such submissions include a statement indicating that the views expressed therein are those of the Director and do not necessarily represent the views of the President.

“(5) The Director of the Office of Government Information Services may directly submit additional information to Congress and the President as the Director determines to be appropriate.

“(6) Not less frequently than annually, the Office of Government Information Services shall conduct a meeting that is open to the public on the review and reports by the Office and shall allow interested persons to appear and present oral or written statements at the meeting.”;

(6) by striking subsections (i), (j), and (k), and inserting the following:

“(i) The Government Accountability Office shall—

“(1) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the FOIA Improvement Act of 2015 and every 2 years thereafter, conduct audits of 3 or more administrative agencies on compliance with and implementation of the requirements of this section and issue reports detailing the results of such audits;

“(2) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the FOIA Improvement Act of 2015 and every 2 years thereafter, issue a report cataloging the number of exemptions described in paragraphs (3) and (5) of subsection (b) and the use of such exemptions by each agency;

“(3) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the FOIA Improvement Act of 2015, conduct a study on the methods Federal agencies use to reduce the backlog of requests under this section and issue a report on the effectiveness of those methods; and

“(4) submit copies of all reports and audits described in this subsection to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

“(j)(1) Each agency shall designate a Chief FOIA Officer who shall be a senior official of such agency (at the Assistant Secretary or equivalent level).

“(2) The Chief FOIA Officer of each agency shall, subject to the authority of the head of the agency—

“(A) have agency-wide responsibility for efficient and appropriate compliance with this section;

“(B) monitor implementation of this section throughout the agency and keep the head of the agency, the chief legal officer of the agency, and the Attorney General appropriately informed of the agency’s performance in implementing this section;

“(C) recommend to the head of the agency such adjustments to agency practices, policies, personnel, and funding as may be necessary to improve its implementation of this section;

“(D) review and report to the Attorney General, through the head of the agency, at such times and in such formats as the Attorney General may direct, on the agency’s performance in implementing this section;

“(E) facilitate public understanding of the purposes of the statutory exemptions of this section by including concise descriptions of the exemptions in both the agency’s handbook issued under subsection (g), and the agency’s annual report on this section, and by providing an overview, where appropriate, of certain general categories of agency records to which those exemptions apply;

“(F) offer training to agency staff regarding their responsibilities under this section;

“(G) serve as the primary agency liaison with the Office of Government Information Services and the Office of Information Policy; and

“(H) designate 1 or more FOIA Public Liaisons.

“(3) The Chief FOIA Officer of each agency shall review, not less frequently than annually, all aspects of the administration of this section by the agency to ensure compliance with the requirements of this section, including—

“(A) agency regulations;

“(B) disclosure of records required under paragraphs (2) and (8) of subsection (a);

“(C) assessment of fees and determination of eligibility for fee waivers;

“(D) the timely processing of requests for information under this section;

“(E) the use of exemptions under subsection (b); and

“(F) dispute resolution services with the assistance of the Office of Government Information Services or the FOIA Public Liaison.

“(k)(1) There is established in the executive branch the Chief FOIA Officers Council (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Council’).

“(2) The Council shall be comprised of the following members:

“(A) The Deputy Director for Management of the Office of Management and Budget.

“(B) The Director of the Office of Information Policy at the Department of Justice.

“(C) The Director of the Office of Government Information Services.

“(D) The Chief FOIA Officer of each agency.

“(E) Any other officer or employee of the United States as designated by the Co-Chairs.

“(3) The Director of the Office of Information Policy at the Department of Justice and the Director of the Office of Government Information Services shall be the Co-Chairs of the Council.

“(4) The Administrator of General Services shall provide administrative and other support for the Council.

“(5)(A) The duties of the Council shall include the following:

“(i) Develop recommendations for increasing compliance and efficiency under this section.

“(ii) Disseminate information about agency experiences, ideas, best practices, and innovative approaches related to this section.

“(iii) Identify, develop, and coordinate initiatives to increase transparency and compliance with this section.

“(iv) Promote the development and use of common performance measures for agency compliance with this section.

“(B) In performing the duties described in subparagraph (A), the Council shall consult on a regular basis with members of the public who make requests under this section.

“(6)(A) The Council shall meet regularly and such meetings shall be open to the public unless the Council determines to close the meeting for reasons of national security or to discuss information exempt under subsection (b).

“(B) Not less frequently than annually, the Council shall hold a meeting that shall be open to the public and permit interested persons to appear and present oral and written statements to the Council.

“(C) Not later than 10 business days before a meeting of the Council, notice of such meeting shall be published in the Federal Register.

“(D) Except as provided in subsection (b), the records, reports, transcripts, minutes, appendices, working papers, drafts, studies, agenda, or other documents that were made available to or prepared for or by the Council shall be made publicly available.

“(E) Detailed minutes of each meeting of the Council shall be kept and shall contain a record of the persons present, a complete and accurate description of matters discussed and conclusions reached, and copies of all reports received, issued, or approved by the Council. The minutes shall be redacted as necessary and made publicly available.”; and (7) by adding at the end the following:

“(m)(1) The Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Attorney General, shall ensure the operation of a consolidated online request portal that allows a member of the public to submit a request for records under subsection (a) to any agency from a single website. The portal may include any additional tools the Direc-

tor of the Office of Management and Budget finds will improve the implementation of this section.

“(2) This subsection shall not be construed to alter the power of any other agency to create or maintain an independent online portal for the submission of a request for records under this section. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall establish standards for interoperability between the portal required under paragraph (1) and other request processing software used by agencies subject to this section.”.

SEC. 3. REVIEW AND ISSUANCE OF REGULATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the head of each agency (as defined in section 551 of title 5, United States Code) shall review the regulations of such agency and shall issue regulations on procedures for the disclosure of records under section 552 of title 5, United States Code, in accordance with the amendments made by section 2.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The regulations of each agency shall include procedures for engaging in dispute resolution through the FOIA Public Liaison and the Office of Government Information Services.

SEC. 4. PROACTIVE DISCLOSURE THROUGH RECORDS MANAGEMENT.

Section 3102 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) procedures for identifying records of general interest or use to the public that are appropriate for public disclosure, and for posting such records in a publicly accessible electronic format.”.

SEC. 5. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.

No additional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements of this Act or the amendments made by this Act. The requirements of this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized or appropriated.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am proud to once again join with Senator CORNYN to introduce the FOIA Improvement Act, a bipartisan bill that will make our Federal government more accountable to all Americans by strengthening the Freedom of Information Act, FOIA.

Senator CORNYN and I introduced an almost identical bill last year, and despite it passing the Senate unanimously, the House failed to act. This was deeply disappointing, and was a missed opportunity for Congress. But Senator CORNYN and I have worked together for more than a decade to make our government more open, through Democratic and Republican administrations and Republican and Democratic-led Congresses. We have a strong partnership, and we will not quit. We are determined to make progress on creating a more open and transparent government for all Americans.

The FOIA Improvement Act of 2015 codifies what President Obama laid out in his historic 2009 memorandum by requiring Federal agencies to adopt a “Presumption of Openness” when considering the release of government in-

formation under FOIA. Under this bill, when considering FOIA requests Federal agencies must find a reasonable foreseeable harm in order to invoke a discretionary exemption and withhold information from the public. The government should always err on the side of disclosure. Our legislation also provides additional independence to the Office of Government Information Services, OGIS, an office created by the Leahy-Cornyn OPEN Government Act in 2007 that helps mediate disputes between the Federal Government and FOIA requesters. Finally, our legislation will limit the use of Exemption 5 by placing a 25 year limitation on information covered by the exemption.

I have fought for years to make our government more open and transparent. Senator CORNYN has been an important partner in these efforts, and our collaboration has resulted in the enactment of several improvements to FOIA including the OPEN Government Act, the first major reform to FOIA in more than a decade; the OPEN FOIA Act, which increased the transparency of legislative exemptions to FOIA; and the Faster FOIA Act, which responded to the concerns of FOIA requestors and addressed agency delays in processing requests.

After four decades in the Senate, I appreciate that legislating requires compromise. The FOIA Improvement Act of 2015 reflects the input of both sides of the aisle, the open government community, the administration, and many other stakeholders. It is the product of nearly a year of careful negotiations on behalf of Senator CORNYN and me. It is supported by more than 70 public interest groups that advocate for government transparency and it had the unanimous support of the Judiciary Committee and the full Senate last year. Above all, it marks an historic step forward in our continued effort to open the government by codifying what President Obama set out to achieve in 2009 when he said “In the face of doubt, openness prevails.” This is common sense, and so I urge the Senate to quickly take up and pass this bill and for the House to follow suit so we can show the American people, in a bipartisan fashion, that we are committed to advancing their interests above special interests, no matter who holds control of Congress or the White House.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 61—HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PEGGY CHARREN

Mr. MARKEY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 61

Whereas Peggy Charren was born on March 9, 1928, in New York City;

Whereas Peggy Charren founded the Action for Children's Television in 1968 to promote educational television programming for children;

Whereas under the extraordinary leadership of Peggy Charren, the Action for Children's Television grew to a strong organization of more than 20,000 advocates for children;

Whereas Peggy Charren and the Action for Children's Television worked tirelessly for decades to establish youth-friendly educational programming standards for television for children;

Whereas Peggy Charren and the Action for Children's Television played a central role in the passage of the Children's Television Act of 1990, which established standards for children's television by requiring television stations to serve the educational needs of children in the United States;

Whereas Peggy Charren was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom on September 29, 1995, by the 42nd President of the United States for her leadership in reforming television for children in the United States;

Whereas Peggy Charren remained a powerful voice for television programming for children over the course of her entire life, constantly fighting for the interests of the youngest viewers in the United States; and

Whereas the content of television for children in the United States has been forever altered for the better thanks to the remarkable efforts of Peggy Charren: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate—

(A) honors the lifetime of service by Peggy Charren to the children of the United States;

(B) recognizes the lasting contributions made by Peggy Charren to the children of the United States and educational television programming worldwide; and

(C) requests the Secretary of the Senate to prepare an official copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Peggy Charren; and

(2) when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of Peggy Charren.

SENATE RESOLUTION 62—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING ON FEBRUARY 8, 2015, AS “NATIONAL TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK”

Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Mr. THUNE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PETERS, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. UDALL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 62

Whereas there are 37 tribal colleges and universities operating on more than 75 campuses in 16 States;

Whereas tribal colleges and universities are tribally or federally chartered institutions of higher education and therefore have a unique relationship with the Federal Government;

Whereas tribal colleges and universities serve students from more than 250 federally recognized Indian tribes;

Whereas tribal colleges and universities offer students access to knowledge and skills grounded in cultural traditions and values, including indigenous languages, which enhance Indian communities and enrich the United States as a whole;

Whereas tribal colleges and universities provide access to high quality postsecondary education opportunities for American Indians, Alaska Natives, and other individuals living in some of the most isolated and economically depressed areas in the United States;

Whereas tribal colleges and universities are accredited institutions of higher education that effectively prepare students to succeed in their academic pursuits and in a global and highly competitive workforce;

Whereas tribal colleges and universities have open enrollment policies, and approximately 20 percent of the students at tribal colleges and universities are non-Indian; and

Whereas the collective mission and considerable achievements of tribal colleges and universities deserve national recognition: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning on February 8, 2015, as “National Tribal Colleges and Universities Week”; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States and interested groups to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for tribal colleges and universities.

NATIONAL TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 62, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 62) designating the week beginning on February 8, 2015, as “National Tribal Colleges and Universities Week.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 62) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 338 AND S. 339

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I understand that there are two bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bills by title for the first time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 338) to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

A bill (S. 339) to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 entirely.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading, and I object to my own request en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 93-112, as amended by Public Law 112-166, and further amended by Public Law 113-128, the appointment of the following to serve as a member of the National Council on Disability: Neil Romano of Maryland.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2015

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. Tuesday, February 3; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein, equally divided, with the Democrats controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half; that following morning business, the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 6, H.R. 203, the Clay Hunt SAV Act, with the time until 12 p.m. equally divided, and following the use or yielding back of time, the bill be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill. I ask consent that the Senate recess following the vote until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Reserving the right to object, during the Keystone debate, the Energy and Natural Resources Committee chair said we should get beyond the discussion as to whether climate change is real—

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask for regular order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the unanimous consent request?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. CORNYN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I renew my unanimous consent request. I have conferred with the Senator from Rhode Island and yield to him for purposes of asking a question.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Reserving the right to object—it is not in the form of a question—but, as I said, during the Keystone debate, the energy committee chair said we should get beyond the discussion as to whether climate change is real and talk about what do we do. I will not take more time now than to say that I hope we soon do get to that question: What do we do?

With that, I will not object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of the Senator from Alabama, Mr. SESSIONS, who I understand is en route.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORNYN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, tomorrow we will vote on whether to proceed to the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill, which fully funds the Department of Homeland Security and includes the law enforcement priorities that were agreed to on a bipartisan basis in the House. It

is indeed a clean bill. The House of Representatives has voted to fund fully homeland security, as the President has requested.

Now, it is not a perfect bill. Republicans and Democrats and individuals on both sides have different priorities on some matters, but they did come to an agreement to fund all of the programs of the Department of Homeland Security and on how much they were funded—activities and actions that are authorized, however, by the laws of the United States.

So this bill will not deny a penny of funding. In fact, it says: Mr. President, spend the money on enforcing and following the law. Spend the money on enforcing the Immigration and Nationality Act as passed by Congress—that is the law of the United States of America. Spend the money to let our law enforcement officers carry out their duties as prescribed by the laws.

Yet our Democratic colleagues say they are going to block this bill—that they will all stick together and not even let it come to the floor of the Senate. Why? Why would they do that? Because, they say, they want to give the President the funds, apparently, to spend on his unconstitutional and unlawful Executive amnesty. They will not allow the bill to even be voted on, and without a vote in the Senate, the funding for Homeland Security does not go forward. They are not going to allow it to be voted on because they want to protect the President in his assertion of an unconstitutional and illegal power to order duly-constituted enforcement officers of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to carry out unlawful activity.

The President is not entitled to spend taxpayer dollars to implement a system of immigration that Congress—representing the American people's wishes, let me add—rejected just last year. Surely our Democratic colleagues will not block the Senate from proceeding to this bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security. If they are unhappy with the language of the bill of the House of Representatives, if they think the President wrongfully or rightfully, using legitimate powers, could direct them to provide Social Security numbers, Medicare participation, earned income tax credit money from the Federal Government and the right to work in the United States when the law says they are not entitled to be employed in the United States, then they can offer an amendment to the bill and bring it up on the floor of the Senate to strike that language if they think it is so bad.

Of course, if you think about it, that would be a stunning event; would it not be—the Senate taking language from a bill or striking language from a bill that restores the separation of powers as properly understood by the Framers and preventing the President from vio-

lating law and the constitution. They are going to vote against that? Maybe that is why they choose not to have this bill go forward. Maybe they do not want to confront the issue.

I am going to quote Senator REID in a moment because he said we ought to confront the issue square-on. All right, let's do so. I suspect Senator REID, though, and his team are not so interested in having votes and being held accountable for their votes.

Our colleagues would have the right to offer amendments. Senator MCCONNELL is allowing amendments. He is going out of his way to allow amendments and changing the terrible state the Senate had found itself in under the leadership of Senator REID. Consistent with the rules of the Senate, those amendments can be brought up, and a motion to strike this language is certainly appropriate.

It is an untenable position—untenable constitutionally, untenable because it is contrary to the will of the Members of the House and Senate who oppose the President's action—Republicans and Democrats. Perhaps most importantly, it is untenable politically because the American people strongly reject it. So why would any Senator—Democrat or Republican—when the very integrity of the Congress is under assault by an overreaching executive branch, not want to assert congressional authority at this point?

We are coequal branches of government, and the President does not have the authority to enforce a law that was never passed—indeed, a law that was explicitly rejected by the Congress of the United States—and grant amnesty to people who are unlawfully here, provide them work authorizations, a photo ID allowing them to apply for any job in America, with Social Security numbers and the right to participate in Social Security and Medicare. That is what the President's actions are going to do.

This is not prosecutorial discretion—nowhere close to prosecutorial discretion. It is an Executive fiat. It is an imperial act. As the President himself said repeatedly: I am not a king; I am not an emperor. When dealing with this very issue, he told people over a period of years—20 times—that he did not have the power to do this. But then he changed his mind. Under pressure from certain political interest groups and because he couldn't get Congress to vote for the bill he wanted, he just decided to do it on his own.

This is an unthinkable overreach. It is a matter of great national importance. The American people were engaged in this. They were following this issue. The President couldn't get the constitutional process to give him the power he wanted, so he just did it anyway.

Why can't it be stopped? I get asked that. What is the matter with you people in Congress?

Well, we had seven Members on the Democratic side of the aisle, still in this Senate today, who said the President overreached. They said he shouldn't have done this, and it should have been done by the legislature, by the Congress, not by the President. Yet are all seven of them going to vote with Senator REID and become part of the palace guard that protects the President in his unlawful act so the President can't be challenged?

That is what it amounts to. There is no doubt about it. That is precisely what it amounts to—a palace guard circling around the White House to protect the President, even though Members of this Senate have said he overreached and what he did was wrong. They are, apparently, going to continue to vote for it. Out of what—party loyalty? Out of loyalty to Senator REID, the minority leader in the Senate?

Well, they say—and the media even is saying sometimes—Democrats and others are sometimes saying that the bill contains controversial new immigration riders, and therefore, it ought to be blocked. It contains unconstitutional or controversial new immigration riders, and that is bad. That is why it ought to be blocked.

What new policy is in the bill? What new expenditure is in the bill that is not consistent with the laws of the United States? Not one. The bill passed by the House carries out the essential functions in the normal orderly way of Homeland Security. It doesn't add any pork, and it doesn't add any special expenditures for some controversial project. It doesn't do any of that.

So if the President says that he will deploy his Border Patrol officers—no longer at the Mexican border where we have large flows of illegal labor—to Montana or Maine, where we have very few people, in effect, he is saying we are no longer going to enforce the border there or even attempt to, and he is going to reassign them. He is saying: I am the President. They work for me. I can do such things.

Well, would it be a controversial rider for the Senate, or for the House of Representatives, to say no, we prohibit funds to do that? We are going to fund the officers' duty at the border with our Mexican neighbors where they need to be.

The point is who is creating the controversy—not the House of Representatives. It is the President of the United States. He has overreached, without any doubt, and the situation is very grave.

What if the next President of the United States decides to do something else? Senator CRUZ, at the hearing for the Attorney General nominee, Ms. Lynch, asked her: What if Mr. CORNYN—whom he was sitting by, at the time, the Senator from Texas—were President and he didn't like certain

labor laws that applied to people in Texas and he told his bureaucrats—who in effect work for the President of the United States—don't enforce labor laws in Texas?

So Senator CRUZ asked the nominee, Loretta Lynch, who wants to be Attorney General of the United States of America, whether under President Obama's Executive amnesty theory, the next President could do that and bar the enforcement of labor laws in the State of Texas. She said she would have to review it. She wasn't sure. Of course that is blatantly unconstitutional. It shouldn't have taken her 5 seconds to say of course a President can't do that. Have we gotten such a confused understanding of law in America that we are at that point that universal laws of labor are subject to the whim of a President of the United States, and even the Attorney General will not say it is wrong and even the Congress will not say no to the President on this?

Well, the House did say no. They passed a perfectly responsible funding bill for Homeland Security. They said: We are not going to allow you to spend money to advocate a policy which we have rejected—which they can do just that way: We don't like this action. We are not going to fund this action. The Executive of this country—the President—cannot act on it if he is prevented from spending money on it. It goes to the very core of the legislative process. It is what the American Revolution was about. It is what happened in England. They wrested this power from the King, and we adopted it in terms of the President and put the power in Congress. They had the power in Parliament. It is a big deal.

I don't think we are at a point where we need to back down on this. It is not an overreach. Those great leaders, some at Homeland Security, so confident in their wisdom and policy ideas, having forgotten what the rule of law is, suggest that Congress should just roll over and forget it and go on and let it happen and not be controversial by standing up to it.

Now, look. I like Senator REID. We battle a lot. He is pugnacious, as this Politico article said, but I can live with that. I am glad he is back and I hope he is doing better and I hope he recovers fully, and I am confident he will. A Politico article by Mr. Burgess Everett earlier today quoted Senator REID as saying:

Why should we be dealing with issues that have nothing to do with homeland security?

Nothing to do with homeland security, Senator REID said.

If my Republican colleagues have some problems with something the President has done on immigration, for example, hit it head on. Don't hide it in homeland security.

Well, the problem is Homeland Security. The President has directed the officials of Homeland Security to take

money that has been authorized and appropriated for them to enforce the immigration laws of this country and to use those funds to carry out a scheme Congress has rejected.

Under the laws of the United States it is illegal to hire somebody unlawfully in the country. There is no doubt about that. People unlawfully in the country are not entitled to participate in Social Security or Medicare. How could it be otherwise?

So he told the Homeland Security officials to create a new office, a new building across the river in Crystal City. He directed them to hire 1,000 new employees to process applications under his Executive amnesty, a policy Congress rejected. It is breathtaking. It is going to cost tens of millions of dollars just for that one office. That just begins to suggest how much money will have to be spent to execute his vision for immigration that the American people rejected.

So how do we deal with it directly? How do we hit it on the head openly and directly? The Congress has the power of the purse. No money can be spent by this President that Congress hasn't authorized.

So the House discussed this. They went into some detail about it, worked at it for some time, and the House decided they would not fund this action that contradicted laws they passed and execute a policy they didn't agree with. I think that is confronting it head on—no doubt about that—and it absolutely deals with homeland security. My goodness. So this is the kind of logic and weak arguments that are being put forth here.

We will talk about a lot of things as we go forward with this debate that evidences the bankruptcy of the policies carried out by this administration.

One of the things that came out today as part of the President's budget was his assumption that if his immigration policies are passed, we would save lots of money for the U.S. Treasury. Why would it save money? It would save money because we would collect more Social Security benefits, and this would create more revenue for the government and put us in a sound position to help balance the budget.

We are not going to balance the budget. We are not going to come close to it, but he said a substantial amount of money would come from it.

Colleagues, we have to understand what a misrepresentation of colossal enormity is at stake in that statement. Everybody knows Social Security and Medicare are on unsustainable financial courses. Anybody who knows anything about Medicare and Social Security knows the fundamental problem is people are not putting in enough money to take care of those who retire, and so the flow is not enough. Over time it is going to get worse. We are just now beginning to go into deficit

for Social Security. The disability portion is in critical shape. It is in very bad shape, but what this calculation is based on is the next 10 years.

So it says we will have more income in the next 10 years, and that may be so. But every person who goes on Social Security today—and even more so in the future—are, under law, projected to take out more than they put in plus interest. So obviously add 5 million new people to the Social Security rolls and no change in the amount of money that they pay in, they make the long-term strength of Social Security even more weak. It makes the hole even deeper that we have to dig our way out of. There is no other way to analyze it. It is just unbelievable to me that they would make such a statement.

Those of us in the Congress need to be thinking about the long-term financial course of America. We need to be trying to put not just short-term benefits here so Congress can spend more money, but also we need to be thinking about how to place this country on a sound long-term path. Adding more people to Social Security—particularly lower income people as most of these are, who will draw out even more than the higher income people draw out as a percentage on the basis of what they paid in—is not a way to save Social Security.

In a December 1, 2014 article in *Investor's Business Daily* entitled, "Obama's Amnesty will create a Fiscal Nightmare for Entitlements," Merrill Matthews, resident scholar at the Institute for Policy Innovation, and Mark E. Litow, retired actuary and past chairman of the Social Insurance Public Finance Section of the Society of Actuaries, wrote this:

Obama's amnesty action greatly exacerbates the problem, because retirees get back far more than they pay in.

That is as plain and as simple as daylight following dark. They go on to write:

But millions of Obama's newly legalized are working-age adults with children, so many could be in their 40s or older.

Thus, they could pay FICA taxes for the next, say, 15 or 20 years—less than the average American worker—and be eligible for the full array of Social Security and Medicare benefits.

This is going to be devastating to Social Security and Medicare. It is going to hammer those programs. It is going to make it harder for us to save them, which we have an obligation to do. There is no obligation to give Social Security and Medicare to persons who enter the United States unlawfully. People aren't entitled to come into the country unlawfully and demand the benefits of the country. The first thing we should do to confront unlawful immigration is not to subsidize it with taxpayer money.

The article goes on to say:

Using a basic simulation model, we believe the government will receive about \$500 billion in payroll tax revenue (including Part B and drug premiums) and expect it to pay out some \$2 trillion in benefits over several decades.

So they pay in \$500 billion, but we are going to pay out \$2 trillion—four times as much. How does this make America more financially stable?

On December 4 of last year, in an article in the *Atlantic* magazine entitled "The Cost of Amnesty," senior editor David Frum wrote this:

In the 2011 tax year, the average EITC payment to a family with children was \$2,905, according to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities. The Additional Child Tax Credit works in much the same way, paying an average of \$1,800 to qualifying households.

Earned-income tax credit—that sounds like some sort of deduction you might have, but it is not. So many of the persons who will be given this legal status will be eligible for the earned-income tax credit because they have a family—presumably—that is what the President tells us; these are for families—and their income is at a rate that entitles them to draw earned-income tax credit.

But go to the budget of the United States of America and how the Congressional Budget Office calculates this—they don't calculate earned-income tax credit as some sort of tax deduction. They calculate it as an expenditure of the United States of America, and it absolutely is.

The way it works is your income is so low you have a family of such that you don't owe any income tax, and they send you a credit and they call it an earned-income tax credit, and a tax credit is a cash payment to you. It looks something like a tax matter, but it is really a direct check from the United States of America to lower-income families. So this is going to be qualifying for large numbers of people that will be given a legal status.

Citing the Center for Immigration Studies, Mr. Frum in the *Atlantic* article explains:

About 14.5 percent of the native-born population of the United States earns little enough to qualify for the EITC. Almost twice as great a portion of the total immigrant population, 29.7 percent, qualifies. But the specific immigrant groups most likely to benefit from the President's actions earned even less.

So you have, on a percentage basis, twice as many in the immigrant population eligible for EITC as the average native-born American would be to qualify to receive that check from the United States.

Mr. Frum goes on to say, "The EITC will cost a shade over \$70 billion in fiscal year 2015."

That is a lot of money—\$70 billion. A Federal highway bill is \$40 billion, moving up to \$50 billion. This is \$70 billion.

The refundable portion of the child tax credit will cost about \$33 billion. That's \$100 billion in total. Together, they cost 10 times as much as traditional cash welfare. Soon they will cost much, much more.

He goes on to note:

Quaintly enough, U.S. immigration law still forbids the president to grant residency to aliens likely to become "a public charge." The list of exceptions, however, overwhelms the rule. Here are the benefits that are "not intended for income maintenance" and therefore exempt, according to the Citizenship and Immigration Services. . . .

And they list a whole lot of taxes.

Well, I just want to wrap up by saying the House of Representatives can do time and order, pass the bill that fully funds the United States, and it does not contain riders and it does not contain pork spending. Well, maybe it contains it, but it is not being complained about at this time, and it is before the Senate. To fund the Department of Homeland Security the Senate has to pass the same bill with the same expenditures to do so. So all we have to do is fund the Department of Homeland Security but not approve the President's desire to transmit funds in Homeland Security to an illegal, unlawful policy of amnesty that Congress opposes and the American people oppose. Who do we represent?

Since 2009, we learned today, the Obama administration issued 5.5 million extra work permits—double the normal expected flow by over almost a million a year. We understood it to be 700,000. Now we understand there are so many more that have not been calculated in the numbers. His Executive amnesty will issue 5 million more.

Since 2009 family incomes are down \$4,000. There is no doubt about it, colleagues, that this incredibly large flow of immigrants into America exceeds the ability of the American economy to absorb them. It is pulling down wages. It is moving people out of the workplace. It is making it very difficult for lawful immigrants to get jobs in America because there will always be a new group coming in willing to work for less. It is eroding the middle class and middle-class values.

So we are going to talk about this as we go forward. I believe this country will continue to be a nation that allows immigration. We don't dislike or hate or demean people that want to come to America and work here. But we need to send a clear message: If you are not coming lawfully, don't come. And if you come unlawfully, you are not going to be given amnesty. You are not going to be given Social Security, Medicare, earned income tax credits, and the right to go to any hospital in America and demand health care. We are just not going to do that.

If we do that with clarity, colleagues, what will happen? The people who are coming here unlawfully will stop coming. The numbers will fall dramatically, and we will be in a position, then, to reestablish a lawful system of immigration that the American people have pleaded with us to establish—one that we can be proud of, that is just

and fair where people apply and wait their turn and are accepted or not accepted based on the merits. If we do that, we will have served the American people with what they have asked us to do.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:06 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, February 3, 2015, at 10 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, February 2, 2015

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. EMMER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

February 2, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM EMMER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

ACTIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT LEADS TO HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the Twenty-Five Percent Fund Act of 1908 required 25 percent of tax receipts of timber harvested from U.S. national forests to be returned to the counties where the tax receipts originated.

Since local property taxes cannot be levied on Federal lands, these dollars along with payment in lieu of taxes, or PILT, funding are critical for counties located in national forests and other Federal lands. This is because the 1908 law specifies that they directly support local schools and road activities in national forests.

Unfortunately, timbering has dramatically decreased in the National Forest System since the late 1980s. According to the Forest Service, the agency was annually harvesting over 12 billion board feet by the end of the 1980s, but today, this amount has decreased to less than 2 billion board feet per year.

Make no mistake, timbering activities, such as removing unhealthy wood waste and potential fire fuel, plays a fundamental role in the core mission of the Forest Service and lends the forest health.

Leading up to the turn of the century, declining timber production has resulted in less forest management and, therefore, decreased forest health, fewer local employment opportunities, and dramatically less funding for schools and roads in forested communities.

As a result, the Secure Rural Schools program was created in 2000 to help offset the lack of funding for essential local activities. Unfortunately, the program was allowed to expire at the end of September 2014, resulting in payments to counties reverting back to previous law which again requires 25 percent of the tax receipts from timbering to be returned to the counties of origin.

Earlier this month, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the parent agency of the Forest Service, announced that 25 percent of receipts will be paid to 41 States throughout the coming months in 2015.

These funds are very much needed in rural communities located on Federal lands, including the Allegheny National Forest, where four counties in northwestern Pennsylvania directly benefit.

While these funds amount to nearly \$50 million nationally, they represent only one-sixth of the funds that were provided the previous year through the Secure Rural Schools program.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Education and the Workforce Committee and a former school board president, I can attest that there is no school district in America that could have 94 percent of a funding stream pulled out from underneath them and still manage.

Make no mistake, the Secure Rural Schools program has gone a long way in helping communities bridge the financial shortfalls for the lack of taxable land over the past 15 years, but the program alone does not solve the underlying challenges faced by counties and communities collocated in national forests and other Federal lands.

In order to ensure the long-term ecological sustainability and economic prosperity of our national forests and our local communities, the Forest Service must adhere to its historical mission of active forest management and timber harvesting for our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, let us not be confused. National forests are not national parks; they are home to the people's resources. We must encourage sustainable and increased production of the public's resources which directly support those communities that are collocated on Federal lands. This would be a win-win for the country. The American people deserve as much.

RECOGNIZING STACY EGGERS, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Stacy Eggers, Jr., of Boone, North Carolina.

On March 20, Stacy will be 91 years old, but he hasn't let age slow him down one bit. He still goes daily to his office on West King Street where he has been continually practicing law since 1950. Back then, he was one of only four attorneys in Watauga County.

Stacy is one of the last attorneys in the State of North Carolina who did not attend law school. He was admitted by the North Carolina State Bar to practice law on April 19, 1950, and eventually, his law practice became a family affair.

He formed the law firm Eggers & Eggers with his son Stacy Eggers III in 1974 and later formed Eggers, Eggers, & Eggers when his daughter Rebecca Eggers-Gryder joined the practice.

His grandson Stacy Eggers IV, who is known as Four, joined the firm in 2001. His granddaughter-in-law Kimberly Eggers joined the firm in 2010. Another grandson, Austin Eggers, joined the firm in 2011.

I think it bears repeating that Stacy still goes to work every day at the age of 90. In fact, he tried a property rights case with his grandson Four before a local jury at the age of 88. You rarely see that kind of dedication to one's profession anymore.

In addition to his work in private practice, Stacy has served as county attorney for Watauga County, as well as town attorney for Blowing Rock and Seven Devils. His service to the bar also includes terms as councilor of the North Carolina State Bar for the 24th Judicial District, president of the Watauga Bar Association, and president of the 24th Judicial District Bar Association.

He is an active member of the North Carolina Bar Association, where he

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

served on the Client Security Fund Board, which helps reimburse individuals who have suffered financial loss as a result of the dishonest conduct of lawyers.

In 1996, Stacy was inducted into the North Carolina General Practice Hall of Fame and received the Liberty Bell Award in 2008. The Liberty Bell Award is given annually by the North Carolina Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division to one individual who "has strengthened the American system of freedom under law."

Active in the local community, Stacy has served as a member of the Watauga County Hospital Board of Trustees, the Watauga County Board of Elections, the Boone Rotary Club, the executive committee of the Watauga County Republican Party, the Boone Chamber of Commerce, and the Watauga Savings and Loan Association Board of Directors. He also currently serves on the board for LifeStore Bank.

Prior to his career as a lawyer, Stacy served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. When describing the experience to his children in later years, he would say he received a personal invitation from the President to take an all-expense paid world tour.

He left on a transport out of Charleston, North Carolina, and by the time he arrived in Los Angeles at the end of the war, he had served his country in locations across the globe, including Africa, the Mediterranean, India, and Tinian. Stacy is a lifetime member and past commander of the American Legion and a lifetime member and judge advocate of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Stacy raised four children with his loving and supportive wife of 56 years, Elizabeth Bingham Eggers, who passed away in 2004. He is blessed with eight grandsons and three great-grandsons and has another great-grandbaby on the way. His family is one of the most respected families in Watauga County.

Stacy is a man of few words but great wisdom. He has tremendous insights into human nature, and his observations are well worth hearing. Watauga County is fortunate to call this hard-working citizen one of its own.

WEST VIRGINIA'S SECOND DISTRICT PRIORITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the great honor of addressing the Nation as a newly-elected Representative for the people of West Virginia's Second District.

My name is ALEX MOONEY, and I grew up in a home where the American ideals of personal freedom and limited government were cherished.

My mother was born and raised in Cuba where, at age 21, she was thrown in jail for 7 weeks as a political prisoner by the communist regime of Fidel Castro. After her release, she fled here to the United States where she was welcomed with open arms to restart her life in freedom.

My father was a feisty Irishman from New York and a Vietnam veteran. He was an ardent conservative and had great pride in leaders like Ronald Reagan.

Through the hard work of my parents, my three siblings and I had the chance to live the American Dream. My older brother, Vincent, is a professor of electrical engineers at Georgia Tech. My younger brother, Patrick, is a successful businessman. My younger sister, Margarita, is a professor of sociology at Yale University where she conducts research on happiness, virtues, and the common good. I was blessed to have the opportunity to attend Dartmouth College where I played football and rugby and graduated in 1993.

In 2001, my father suffered a stroke and was dying. There was one doctor who was particularly compassionate in her efforts to comfort my family and me through that difficult time. She also happened to be very pretty. One year later, that neurosurgeon, Dr. Grace Gonzalez, agreed to marry me.

My wonderful wife and I have been blessed with three beautiful children. My son, Lucas, is 11; my daughter, Camille, is 9; and we were pleasantly surprised on October 13 of last year with a third child, Gabrielle. My wife and I have been doing the hard work of homeschooling our older children, imparting on them an appreciation for the special place America holds in the world, just as my parents did for me.

My parents also taught me personal responsibility enshrined in the Constitution must always be protected. Their example showed me we must never cower in the face of tyranny, never give up on the God-given rights we are entitled to, and never stop fighting for the American Dream. They taught me the importance of serving one's Nation and community.

I knew early in life I wanted an opportunity to fight for the values which have made our Nation a beacon of freedom and prosperity around the world. As a young State senator, I fought for relief for hardworking taxpayers, for more personal responsibility, for the right to life of unborn babies, for a prosperous business climate, and to protect our Second Amendment rights.

Last fall, the people of the Second District of West Virginia afforded me the tremendous honor of representing them in Congress.

Our Nation faces great challenges. Our President and his liberal allies on the left would see us lose the values which make us who we are, lose the

values my father fought for and my mother escaped despotism to enjoy.

West Virginia is blessed to be abundant in natural resources. I will fight so that West Virginians and all Americans are able to seek prosperity from our natural bounty. I expect to spend much of my time at my home in Charles Town and crossing the district, listening to the citizens I serve.

During my first week in office, I didn't wait to begin delivering on West Virginia priorities. I cosponsored legislation to gut onerous provisions of ObamaCare, to audit the Federal Reserve, and authorize construction of the Keystone XL pipeline. I also cosponsored bipartisan legislation to protect the unborn after 20 weeks when they are capable of feeling pain.

I am fortunate to serve on the House Natural Resources Committee, where I will focus on policies which contribute to the energy security of our Nation and the expansion of our production here at home.

I have also been selected to serve on the important House Budget Committee, where I will fight to fulfill my commitment for a balanced Federal budget. It is totally unacceptable for West Virginians and all Americans to live within their means while the Federal Government continues to allow its spending and debt to run rampant.

We are a nation whose values are emulated around the world by people seeking freedom, justice, and constitutional self-government defined by the rule of law.

This legacy faces great challenges today, and I am proud to stand here on the floor of the United States Congress, vigilant in the defense of our defining principles and West Virginia priorities.

□ 1215

IT IS ALL IN THE NAME—THE NAME IS TERRORIST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, ISIS has beheaded yet another person.

Just this morning we also learned that the Taliban assassins murdered nine people in Afghanistan.

A few months ago, the Taliban did a most vicious act of jihad. They attacked a school and murdered 150 children and their teachers in Pakistan.

Last week, we learned that one of the Taliban Five, who was unfortunately swapped by the President in exchange for deserter Bowe Bergdahl, has recently called his buddies in the jihadist Taliban.

Now, isn't that lovely?

But the Taliban are not terrorists, so sayeth the White House.

According to the White House Press Secretary:

They do carry out tactics that are akin to terrorism. They do pursue terror attacks in an effort to try to advance their agenda.

Well then, why not call them “terrorists”? Why is the White House so timid and so intimidated by refusing to call the Taliban “terrorists”?

The National Review reports that the Al Jazeera news service has banned the terms “Islamist,” “jihad,” and “terrorists” from their reporting. Is the White House Press Secretary getting his politically correct language and censored statements from Al Jazeera? Who knows.

Even Secretary Kerry refuses to define the foreign terrorist group ISIS as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. Mr. Speaker, at a House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on September 18, entitled, “The ISIS Threat: Weighing the Obama Administration’s Response,” I asked Secretary Kerry this question:

Who are we at war with? I call them “ISIS.” Who would you call them?

Secretary Kerry: Well, I would call them the “enemy of Islam” because that is what I think they are, and they certainly don’t represent a state even though they try to claim to do so.

So, officially, Mr. Kerry, we should refer to them as the “enemy of Islam”?

Secretary Kerry: Well, I do.

Mr. Speaker, this administration also refuses to say that we are at war with radical Islam. There is so much sensitivity in the White House over its statements that one is puzzled to wonder: Why are they sensitive about calling terrorists “terrorists”?

Radical Islam is a cancer that is spreading throughout the world. Thousands are joining in the jihad, which preaches hate and murder in the name of religion. Even other world leaders have publicly recognized this and have called our enemy “terrorists”—but not the United States. The leader of the free world dances around the topic instead of telling it like it is.

Why does the administration refuse to define our enemy? We are at war with radical Islam. We are at war with the Taliban. We are at war with ISIS, and we are at war with terrorism and terrorists. And, Mr. Speaker, they are at war with us.

Is the White House worried about hurting the feelings of the radical terrorists, who make it their mission to kill us, and so refuses to call them “terrorists”? We need to call them what they are—terrorists who kill in the name of radical Islam.

Political correctness and political jargon will not win this war. Americans and our military must have a clearly defined enemy, not some nebulous, undefined named enemy that the White House advocates.

The threat of Islamic extremism has never been greater. Their mission is clear. They are ruthless in pursuing it and will kill anybody who doesn’t agree with them regardless of their religion. These killers are at war with America and humanity. We cannot defeat this enemy without first knowing

who they are and then defining them. Mr. Speaker, they are terrorists.

And that is just the way it is.

REPORT: AL JAZEERA’S BANNED ‘ISLAMIST,’ ‘JIHAD,’ ‘TERRORIST’ FROM AIRWAVES

Al Jazeera’s New York and Washington, D.C. journalists have reportedly received strict orders from Qatari management: please do not use the words “terrorist,” “militant,” “Islamist,” “jihad” and “extremist” in your reporting.

After a January 27 Islamist terrorist attack in Libya, an internal email obtained by National Review showed that Al Jazeera English executive Carlos van Meek sent out an email demanding that his employees refrain from using the banned terms. “All: We manage our words carefully around here,” van Meek reportedly wrote. “So I’d like to bring to your attention some key words that have a tendency of tripping us up.”

Van Meek explained, “One person’s terrorist is another person’s freedom fighter,” in writing why his employees must stop using the aforementioned words. “Avoid characterizing people,” he reportedly added.

Regarding the term Islamist: “Do not use,” van Meek wrote in bold. “We will continue to describe groups and individuals, by talking about their previous actions and current aims to give viewers the context they require, rather than use a simplistic label.

“Strictly speaking, jihad means an inner spiritual struggle, not a holy war,” van Meek said in explaining why the Arabic term will no longer be allowed in Al Jazeera’s reporting. He continued, “It is not by tradition a negative term. It also means the struggle to defend Islam against things challenging it.”

He added: “We do not use words such as militants, radicals, insurgents. We will stick with fighters.”

National Review reports that van Meek was previously described as the man tasked with “establishing Al Jazeera in America.”

Breitbart News has reported on Al Jazeera’s radical past, including its current support for Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood terrorist group.

After September 11, 2001, the network’s headquarters in Doha reportedly put on display multiple pictures in its studio honoring the deceased Al Qaeda terrorist Osama bin Laden.

In 2013, dozens of staff resigned in protest of Al Jazeera’s “biased coverage” in favor of the Muslim Brotherhood jihadist organization.

[From HFAC Hearing on Sept. 18 entitled, “The ISIS Threat: Weighing the Obama Administration’s Response”]

Mr. POE. You just go ahead and answer the question:

Who are we at war with? I call them ISIS. Who would you call these?

Secretary KERRY. Well, I call them the enemy of Islam, because that is what, I think, they are. And they certainly don’t represent a state, even though they try to claim to.

Mr. POE. So officially we should refer to them as the enemy of Islam.

Secretary KERRY. Well, I do.

Mr. POE. Okay.

Secretary KERRY. I don’t know if there is an official whatever.

Mr. POE. Well, why don’t we tell the American people—

Secretary KERRY. I hope you join me in doing that, because that is what I think they are; and I don’t think they deserve to have a

reference in their name that gives them legitimacy.

Mr. POE. Are they the enemy of the United States?

Secretary KERRY. Beg your pardon?

Mr. POE. Are they the enemy of the United States?

Secretary KERRY. They are an enemy of humanity.

Mr. POE. So they are an enemy of the U.S., too?

Secretary KERRY. Among others.

Mr. POE. Okay.

Secretary KERRY. Among many others—

Mr. POE. Well, I am just looking specifically at the national security interest of the United States.

Secretary KERRY. Definitely, it is in the national security interest of our country, with Americans over there with passports, learning how to fight and taking part in this—

Mr. POE. And I agree with you, they shouldn’t come back unless they are in handcuffs. I agree with that.

Secretary KERRY. For all those reasons, yes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Speaker declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o’clock and 19 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. EMMER) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, through whom we see what we could be and what we can become, thank You for giving us another day.

Send Your spirit upon the Members of this people’s House to encourage them in their official tasks. Be with them and with all who labor here to serve this great Nation and its people.

Assure them that whatever their responsibilities, You provide the grace to enable them to be faithful to their duties and the wisdom to be conscious of their obligations and fulfill them with integrity.

Remind us all of the dignity of work and teach us to use our talents and abilities in ways that are honorable and just and are of benefit to those we serve.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

JOHN LOCKE FOUNDATION

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, this month marks 25 years since John Hood and Marc Rotterman founded the John Locke Foundation with the help of Art Pope and the John William Pope Foundation.

While its beginnings may have been small, the John Locke Foundation quickly made an impact, and today, it is the leading voice in North Carolina for free markets, limited government, and personal responsibility.

This silver jubilee represents a changing of the guard for the organization. After nearly 20 years at its helm, founder John Hood has taken a new role as president of the Pope Foundation. He leaves the John Locke Foundation in the very capable hands of Kory Swanson, who has been a central figure in the growth and influence of the organization over the last 15 years.

The future is bright at the John Locke Foundation, and the people of North Carolina are the beneficiaries and are grateful.

REPEAL OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT FOR THE 56TH TIME

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is week five for the new Congress—and it happens to be Groundhog Day—and my Republican colleagues, unfortunately, I think, are still stuck in the shadow of their extreme agenda.

Instead of taking up a jobs bill or an infrastructure bill or a minimum wage bill to give working families bigger paychecks, they have again decided this week, for the 56th time, to take up repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

Never mind that repealing the ACA in this House would take away insurance for millions of individuals or raise insurance premiums on working families or allow insurance companies to once again discriminate against those who have preexisting medical conditions.

This extreme bill we know will never see the light of day or become law, however. Similar bills were dead on arrival the first time that the Speaker brought it up, and it is not going anywhere this time.

This vote, pandering to the most extreme voices at the expense of a jobs bill or the first vote on a national manufacturing plan or the first vote to repair our crumbling roads and bridges, takes away the time to deal with those important issues and continues this House on the road to another repeal of the ACA.

COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL SERVITUDE

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, human sex trafficking continues to be a major problem plaguing both America and countries around the globe.

The Department of Homeland Security cumulatively estimates there are approximately 1.4 million victims of sexual servitude at any one time on an international scale; furthermore, the FBI has estimated that over 300,000 American children are at risk of sexual exploitation and trafficking annually.

Last week, the House moved forward on several pieces of legislation aimed at preventing and combating this horrific fact. I am proud to have cosponsored and voted in favor of several bills last week which diverted more financial and labor-intensive resources to countering these atrocities.

These bills include H.R. 514, the Human Trafficking Prioritization Act, and H.R. 469, the Strengthening Child Welfare Response to Trafficking Act, among others. Each of these bills passed with overwhelming bipartisan support and will be commonsense steps in the path towards shutting down these operations.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support further actions that will further protect these vulnerable populations.

RECOGNIZING ANGELA DANISON

(Mr. BENISHEK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Angela

Danison, a third grade teacher at Chassell Elementary School, as the Michigan Teacher of the Year. On behalf of all residents of northern Michigan, I wish to congratulate Mrs. Danison on earning this honorable distinction.

Loved by her students, fellow teachers, and school administrators, Mrs. Danison's dedication to teaching children is a credit to her hard work and attention to her students. Mrs. Danison decided that she wanted to help the next generation while she was still a high school student herself. She turned this dream into a successful, lifelong teaching career.

On receiving the award, Mrs. Danison modestly stated the following:

Educators work so hard, and there is a lot of time where you just don't feel worthy because there are a lot of other dedicated people working around you.

Mr. Speaker, I submit to you that Mrs. Danison is certainly a worthy recipient, and I applaud her hard work and dedication.

REMEMBERING VICKY CHAMBERS

(Mr. COLLINS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise with great sadness to express the loss of a true public servant.

Longtime Lula councilwoman and Mayor Pro Tem Vicky Chambers sustained serious injuries when a drunk driver hit her car head-on on January 18. Tragically, Vicky succumbed to her injuries several days later.

She served Hall County and Banks County in many capacities for well over a decade, including years on the Lula City Council. Vicky was well known for her volunteer activity. She generously gave her time to the Lula Area Betterment Association, the Lula Downtown Development Authority, Hall County and Banks County cemetery restoration, area animal rescue, and the Lula Historical Society.

Lula will miss Vicky's compassion, her optimism, and smiling face, but her legacy will live on in the northeast Georgia town she clearly loved.

My wife, Lisa—whose home town is Lula—and I express our extended heartfelt prayers and condolences to Vicky's family, friends, and colleagues during this very difficult time.

It is in tragedies like this that we remember public servants serve first those around us, and when they are gone, they are missed.

Vicky, we will miss you.

THE BUDGET MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 114-3)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message

from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

After a breakthrough year for America, our economy is growing and creating jobs at the fastest pace since 1999, and in 58 months we have created over 11 million jobs. Our unemployment rate is now lower than it was before the financial crisis. More of our kids are graduating than ever before. More of our people are insured than ever before. We are as free from the grip of foreign oil as we've been in almost 30 years. Thanks to the hard work, resilience, and determination of the American people over the last six years, the shadow of crisis has passed.

With a growing economy, shrinking deficits, bustling industry, and booming energy production, we have risen from recession freer to write our own future than any other Nation on Earth. It's now up to us to choose what kind of country we want to be over the next 15 years, and for decades to come. Will we accept an economy where prosperity belongs to a few and opportunity remains out of reach for too many? Or will we commit ourselves to an economy that generates rising incomes and chances for everyone who makes the effort?

Over the last six years, we've seen that middle-class economic works. We've reaffirmed one of our most fundamental values as Americans: that this country does best when everyone gets their fair shot, does their fair share, and plays by the same set of rules.

The ideas I offer in this Budget are designed to bring middle-class economics into the 21st century. These proposals are practical, not partisan. They'll help working families feel more secure with paychecks that go further, help American workers upgrade their skills, so they can compete for higher-paying jobs, and help create the conditions for our businesses to keep generating good new jobs for our workers to fill. The Budget will do these things while fulfilling our most basic responsibility to keep Americans safe. We will make these investments and end the harmful spending cuts known as sequestration, by cutting inefficient spending, and closing tax loopholes. We will also put our Nation on a more sustainable fiscal path by achieving \$1.8 trillion in deficit reduction, primarily from reforms in health programs, our tax code, and immigration.

First, middle-class economics means helping working families afford the cornerstones of economic security: child care, college, health care, a home, and retirement. We will help working families tackle the high costs of child care and make ends meet by tripling the maximum child care credit

for middle-class families with young children, increasing it to up to \$3,000 per child, expanding child care assistance to all eligible low-income families with children under four by the end of 10 years, and making preschool available to all four-year-olds.

The Budget also provides middle-class families more flexibility at work by encouraging States to develop paid family leave programs. Today, we're the only advanced country on Earth that doesn't guarantee paid sick leave or paid maternity leave to our workers. Forty-three million workers have no paid sick leave, which forces too many parents to make the gut-wrenching choice between a paycheck and a sick kid at home. It's time to change that. For many families in today's economy, having both parents in the workforce isn't a luxury, it's an economic necessity.

Second, middle-class economics means making sure more Americans have the chance to earn the skills and education they need to keep earning higher wages down the road. The Budget calls for new investments and innovation that will expand preschool and invest in high-quality early education for America's youngest learners, provide more help to disadvantaged students and the schools that serve them, better prepare and support teachers, and transform our high schools so they help all students graduate prepared for college and career.

In a 21st century economy that rewards knowledge more than ever, our efforts must reach higher than high school. By the end of this decade, two-thirds of job openings will require some higher education, and no American should be priced out of the education they need. Over the course of my Administration, we have increased Pell Grants, and the Budget continues to ensure that they will keep pace with inflation over time. The Budget also includes a bold new plan to bring down the cost of community college tuition for responsible students, to zero. Forty percent of college students attend community college; some to learn a particular skill, others as a path to a four-year degree. It is time for two years of college to become as free and universal in America as high school is today.

Even as we help give our students the chance to succeed, we also must work together to give our workers the chance to retool. Last year, the Congress came together and passed important improvements to the Nation's job training system with the bipartisan Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. To build on this progress, the proposals in this Budget support more in-person career counseling for unemployed workers and double the number of workers receiving training through the workforce development system. My plan would also expand the successful "learn-as-you-earn" approaches that

our European counterparts use successfully by investing in the expansion of registered apprenticeships that allow workers to learn new skills while they are earning a paycheck. The Budget would also ensure that training leads to high-quality jobs by investing in projects that feature strong employer partnerships, include work-based learning, and develop new employer-validated credentials.

As we welcome home a new generation of returning heroes, the Budget makes sure they have the chance to live the American Dream they helped defend. It invests in the five pillars I have outlined to support our Nation's veterans: providing the resources and funding they deserve; ensuring high-quality and timely health care; getting veterans their earned benefits quickly and efficiently; ending veteran homelessness; and helping veterans and their families get good jobs, education, and access to affordable housing.

Third, middle-class economics means creating the kind of environment that helps businesses start here, stay here, and hire here. We want to build on the growth we have seen in the manufacturing sector, where more than 750,000 new jobs have been created over the last 58 months. To create jobs, continue growth in the industry, and strengthen America's leadership in advanced manufacturing technology, the Budget funds a national network of 45 manufacturing institutes, building on the nine already funded through 2015. As part of the manufacturing initiative, the Budget also launches a Scale-Up Fund, funded through a public-private partnership to help ensure that if a technology is invented in the United States, it can be made in the United States. The Budget proposes an investment fund to help startup companies produce the goods they have developed. Taken together, these investments will help ensure that America keeps making things the rest of the world wants to buy and will also help create manufacturing jobs for the future.

Our Nation thrives when we are leading the world with cutting-edge technology in manufacturing, infrastructure, clean energy, and other growing fields. That is why the Budget includes investments in cutting-edge advanced manufacturing research—to make sure we are leading the way in creating technology that supports our manufacturing sector; biomedical research—like our BRAIN initiative, which studies the brain to offer new insight into diseases like Alzheimer's, and Precision Medicine, which can improve health outcomes and better treat diseases; or, agricultural research—looking at climate resilience and sustainability. These investments have the potential to create high-wage jobs, improve lives, and open the door to new industries, resulting in sustainable economic growth.

As our economy continues to grow, our Nation's businesses and workers also need a stronger infrastructure that works in the new economy—modern ports, stronger bridges, better roads, faster trains, and better broadband. The Budget proposes to build a 21st century infrastructure that creates jobs for thousands of construction workers and engineers, connects hardworking Americans to their jobs, and makes it easier for businesses to transport goods. The Budget would do more to repair and modernize our existing roads and bridges, while expanding transit systems to link communities and support workers.

These proposals will put more money in middle-class pockets, raise wages, and bring more high-paying jobs to America. To pay for them, the Budget will cut inefficient spending and close tax loopholes to make sure that everyone pays their fair share. The Budget closes loopholes that punish businesses investing domestically and reward companies that keep profits abroad, and uses some of the savings created to rebuild our aging infrastructure. The Budget closes loopholes that perpetuate inequality by allowing the top one percent of Americans to avoid paying any taxes on their accumulated wealth and uses that money to help more young people go to college. The Budget simplifies the system so that a small business owner can file based on her actual bank statement, instead of the number of accountants she can afford. It is time for tax reform that at its core is about helping working families afford child care and college, and plan for retirement, and above all, get a leg up in the new economy.

Of course, we cannot separate our work here at home from challenges beyond our shores. By winding down the wars overseas and lowering war spending, we've strengthened our economy and shrunk our deficits. But we still face threats to our security that we must address.

The Budget supports our efforts to degrade and ultimately destroy ISIL. We are leading over 60 partners in a global effort that will take time and steady resolve. As I made clear in my State of the Union address, I am calling on the Congress to show the world that we are united in this mission by passing a bill to authorize the use of force against ISIL.

The Budget supports our efforts to counter Russian pressure and aggressive actions in concert with our European allies, by funding support for Ukraine's democracy and efforts to reassure our NATO allies.

We also must look beyond the issues that have consumed us in the past to shape the coming century. This Budget provides the resources we need to defend the Nation against cyber-attacks. No foreign nation, no hacker, should be able to shut down our networks, steal

our trade secrets, or invade the privacy of American families. In addition to increasing funding to protect our Nation against cyber-attacks, I continue to urge the Congress to finally pass the legislation we need to meet this evolving threat.

The Budget invests in our efforts to confront the threat posed by infectious diseases like Ebola—here at home, and internationally. It provides resources to support the Global Health Security Agenda, increases funding to eradicate polio and other global health challenges, and creates a new Impact Fund for targeted global HIV/AIDS efforts. In addition, the Budget increases funding for domestic preparedness efforts to more effectively and efficiently respond to potential, future outbreaks here at home and dedicates funding for States to develop HIV Plans to help them reach the goals of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy.

The Budget also capitalizes on historic opportunities in Asia and the Pacific—where we are modernizing alliances, opening new markets, and making sure that other nations play by the rules—in how they trade, resolve disputes, and do their part to confront the biggest challenges we face.

No challenge poses a greater threat to future generations than climate change. Fourteen of our planet's 15 warmest years on record have all fallen in the first 15 years of this century. The world's best scientists are telling us that our activities are changing the climate, and if we do not act forcefully, we'll continue to see rising oceans, longer, hotter heat waves, dangerous droughts and floods, and massive disruptions that can trigger greater migration, conflict, and hunger around the globe. The Pentagon says that climate change poses immediate risks to our national security. And as discussed in the Budget, the significant costs to inaction on climate change hit the Federal Government's bottom-line directly, as worsening climate impacts create Government liabilities. That's why this Budget takes action on climate by supporting the Climate Action Plan that I released in 2013 with investments to accelerate carbon pollution reductions, to build on-the-ground partnerships with local communities and help them put in place strategies for greater resilience to climate change impacts, and to support America's leadership abroad on this important moral and fiscal issue.

Beyond these critical investments, the Budget also supports my Management Agenda, which seeks to create a Government for the future that is more efficient, effective, and supportive of economic growth. The Budget includes initiatives to improve the service we provide to the American public; to leverage the Federal Government's buying power to bring more value and efficiency to how we use taxpayer dollars;

to open Government data and research to the private sector to drive innovation and economic growth; to promote smarter information technology; and, to attract and retain the best talent in the Federal workforce. The Budget includes proposals to consolidate and reorganize Government agencies to make them leaner and more efficient, and it increases the use of evidence and evaluation to ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely on programs that work.

The Congress can also help grow the economy, reduce deficits, and strengthen Social Security by passing comprehensive immigration reform. Last year, I took a series of executive actions to crack down on illegal immigration at the border; prioritize deporting felons, not families; and allow certain undocumented immigrants who register and pass criminal and national security background checks to start paying their fair share of taxes and stay in the United States without fear of deportation. I also took action to streamline the legal immigration system for talented STEM students, entrepreneurs, and business. These actions will raise average wages for all American workers and reduce the deficit. But this is only a first step toward real reform, and as I have said before, the Congress should act on the more comprehensive reform that only changes in the law can provide. Independent economists say immigration reform will grow our economy and shrink our deficits by almost \$1 trillion over 20 years. It is time to fix our broken system and help grow our economy by passing comprehensive immigration reform.

The Budget also builds on the progress we have made ensuring that every American has the peace of mind that comes with quality, affordable health insurance. The Affordable Care Act has helped to provide millions more Americans get covered. It has forced insurance companies to play by the rules by prohibiting discrimination for preexisting conditions and eliminating lifetime insurance caps. It has also helped to put our Nation on a more sustainable fiscal path by slowing the growth of health care costs. The Budget includes additional reforms and cost saving proposals to continue encouraging high-quality and efficient health care.

This Budget shows what we can do if we invest in America's future and commit ourselves to an economy that rewards hard work, generates rising incomes, and allows everyone to share in the prosperity of a growing America. It lays out a strategy to strengthen our middle class, and help America's hardworking families get ahead in a time of relentless economic and technological change.

Fifteen years into this new century, and six years after the darkest days of

the financial crisis, we have picked ourselves up, dusted ourselves off, and begun again the work of remaking America. We've laid a new foundation. A brighter future is ours to write. This Budget will help us begin this new chapter together.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 2, 2015.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1704

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee) at 5 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

MEDICAL PREPAREDNESS ALLOWABLE USE ACT

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 361) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to codify authority under existing grant guidance authorizing use of Urban Area Security Initiative and State Homeland Security Grant Program funding for enhancing medical preparedness, medical surge capacity, and mass prophylaxis capabilities.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 361

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act".

SEC. 2. USE OF CERTAIN HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT FUNDS FOR ENHANCING MEDICAL PREPAREDNESS, MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY, AND MASS PROPHYLAXIS CAPABILITIES.

Section 2008 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 609) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by redesignating paragraphs (10) through (13) as paragraphs (11) through (14), respectively, and by inserting after paragraph (9) the following:

"(10) enhancing medical preparedness, medical surge capacity, and mass prophylaxis capabilities, including the development and maintenance of an initial pharmaceutical stockpile, including medical kits, and diagnostics sufficient to protect first responders, their families, immediate victims, and vulnerable populations from a chemical or biological event;" and

(2) in subsection (b)(3)(B), by striking "(a)(10)" and inserting "(a)(11)".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 361, the Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act, introduced by my colleague and the former chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, Congressman BILIRAKIS.

This bill amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make it clear that grant funds under the State Homeland Security Grant Program and the Urban Area Security Initiative may be used to enhance medical preparedness and purchase medical countermeasures.

The grant guidance for these programs currently allows funds to be used for medical preparedness equipment and activities. This bill codifies those activities to ensure that they will continue to be allowable, and it will not cost any additional money to do so.

We have seen the benefits that grant funds, including those used for medical preparedness activities, have provided when it comes to response capabilities. This was clearly demonstrated in the response to the Boston Marathon bombings.

We know that the threat of a chemical or biological attack is real. We must ensure that our first responders have the tools and capabilities they need if such an event should occur.

As a result of this bill, grant funds could be used for items such as predeployed medical kits for first responders and their families, caches of equipment, training and exercises, and planning activities.

Identical language to H.R. 361 was approved by the Committee on Homeland Security last year by a bipartisan

voice vote and passed the House by a vote of 391-2.

Mr. Speaker, as a pharmacist and someone whose coastal district lives under constant threat of hurricanes, floods, and other natural disasters, I know firsthand the benefits that these types of equipment and activities can provide for our first responders and the citizens that they protect.

I urge Members to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 361, the Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 361 would authorize grant recipients under the Homeland Security Grant or Urban Area Security Initiative Program to use funding to enhance medical preparedness and medical surge capacity.

Currently, the Federal Emergency Management Agency already permits grantees to use these funds for such purposes. However, enactment of this measure into law will give some predictability to the grant recipients as they struggle to build and maintain medical response capabilities at the State and local levels.

Over the course of the past year, our doctors, nurses, and emergency service personnel have responded to outbreaks of Ebola, measles, D68, and other contagious diseases.

Although none of these outbreaks were the result of bioterrorism, they nevertheless served as a reminder that medical preparedness is a critical component of our national preparedness.

I commend the gentleman from Florida for working with the Homeland Security Committee to make sure that medical preparedness continues to remain a priority at the Federal, State, and local level.

I would be remiss if I did not take this time and opportunity to express my support for the reauthorization of the Metropolitan Medical Response System, which would provide dedicated funds to medical preparedness activities.

I would also note that Members may be here today to discuss the use of grant funding, but overshadowing this debate is a more immediate obstacle to the effectiveness of DHS' grant programs: the fact that Congress has not passed a full-year funding for the Department of Homeland Security that the President can sign into law.

Mr. Speaker, I will place into the RECORD a Washington Post editorial piece entitled, "GOP holds security hostage to immigration." It underscores the urgent need for gamesmanship over immigration to be put aside for the betterment of national security.

With respect to the measure before us today, I would note that, without funding, neither the Urban Area Security Initiative nor the State Homeland

Security Grant Program will be working to build medical preparedness capabilities, or any other capability, at the State and local level.

Ask any first responder, and they will tell you: These grant programs are essential to building, maintaining, and exercising important preparedness capabilities.

Representing the 10th Congressional District, I have seen firsthand how these programs have bolstered capabilities, both in Newark and Jersey City. Delays or cuts to these programs only punish first responders and medical services personnel, and the citizens whom they are charged with protecting.

GOP HOLDS SECURITY HOSTAGE TO IMMIGRATION

[By Editorial Board, February 1, 2015]

How far will Republicans in Congress take their reckless flirtation with undermining government this time?

Will they, as seems increasingly likely, fail to pass a bill that the president can sign ensuring adequate funding for the Department of Homeland Security and its 280,000 employees before the agency's support expires Feb. 27? Are they ready to let funding lapse, secure in the knowledge that Border Patrol officers, Secret Service agents, airport security personnel and other so-called essential employees would still have to report to work—even though they would not be drawing paychecks?

A number of prominent Republican lawmakers clearly believe that denying funding to the nation's premier organ of domestic security is no big deal, as long as the move expresses the GOP's anger about President Obama's executive actions on immigration.

As Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-Fla.) put it to Politico: Letting the department's funding lapse would not be "the end of the world."

Mr. Diaz-Balart's complacency may come as news to Americans concerned about the risk of terrorism in the wake of attacks in Paris, Ottawa, Sydney and elsewhere. It certainly came as news to Homeland Security Secretary Jeh C. Johnson, as well as his three predecessors—Democrat Janet Napolitano and Republicans Michael Chertoff and Tom Ridge—all of whom have warned GOP lawmakers not to conflate essential funding for the department with the political fight over immigration.

House Republicans were deaf to such appeals. Last month, they passed a bill furnishing the department with \$40 billion in funding through September, the end of the current budget year. But they attached provisions to that bill, certain to draw a presidential veto, that would kill the administration's plan to temporarily protect several million undocumented immigrants from deportation and repeal a program, in force since 2012, that offers a similar shield to people brought here illegally as children.

There is room for legitimate debate over the president's most recent unilateral moves on immigration, which we happen to agree represent executive overreach. If congressional Republicans want to attack those actions responsibly, with discrete legislation, they are free to try—though they are unlikely to muster the votes to override a presidential veto.

However, it is another thing to wield their frustration over immigration as a cudgel,

holding hostage an entire department of government that is critical to the nation's security. That is as irresponsible as it is politically ill advised.

On Friday, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) announced the body would consider the House bill this week, a sign that the GOP is persisting with its game of chicken. The bill is unlikely to attract the necessary 60 votes for passage, which would require a half-dozen Democratic defections. But there is no shortage of Republican lawmakers who would rather try to antagonize the president than carry out the workaday task of funding the government.

In the absence of a bill, the department's funding lapses in less than a month. What happens in the intervening weeks will indicate whether Republicans are more interested in gamesmanship or governance.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) as well. I also want to thank the ranking member for doing such a great job and working on this piece of legislation.

I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 361, the Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act. This legislation would amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to clarify that grant funds under the State Homeland Security Grant Program and the Urban Area Security Initiative may be used to enhance medical preparedness and purchase medical countermeasures.

I originally introduced the Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act in 2012 after a series of hearings on medical countermeasures when I proudly served as chairman of the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications.

At these hearings, the need for this legislation was highlighted when we received numerous testimonies from the emergency response community on the importance of stockpiling medical countermeasures in the event of a WMD attack.

This includes predeployed medical kits for first responders, as Mr. CARTER said, their families, and immediate victims of widespread terrorist attacks on our homeland and natural disasters, resources similar to those provided to postal workers participating in the national U.S. Postal Medical Countermeasures Dispensing Pilot Program.

The grant guidance for the State Homeland Security Grant Program and the Urban Area Security Initiative currently permits this funding to be used to procure medical countermeasures. It also allows for other medical preparedness and medical surge capacity equipment and activities.

However, this guidance is developed on an annual basis. There is no guarantee that these uses will be authorized in the future.

To be clear, as Mr. CARTER said, no new funding is authorized in this bill. However, the expenditures authorized and codified by the bill we are considering today can make a big difference in protecting the public.

If we are not safe, Mr. Speaker, nothing else matters.

□ 1715

Codifying this authority will assist emergency responders in the event of an attack, providing certainty that grant funding may be used to support them now and in the future. We must have certainty.

I consistently find myself in awe of our first responders and the sacrifices that they make on the public's behalf. In the wake of recent terrorist attacks, such as the Boston Marathon bombing, I am committed to ensuring Congress fulfills its obligation to support those brave men and women responding to these various threats.

I thank my colleagues, Representative SUSAN BROOKS and Representative PETER KING, for being original cosponsors and for their continued support with this legislation. I would also like to commend the chairman of the full Homeland Security Committee, Chairman MCCAUL, for his leadership in making this initiative a priority and also for being a cosponsor of this good bill.

Finally, I would like to note that the Emergency Services Coalition for Medical Preparedness continues to endorse this bill and its intent.

The Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support in the last two Congresses; however, the Senate never acted on this measure. With new leadership in the Senate, Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that they can take this measure up quickly so that we can get this before the President to be signed into law.

We have a responsibility to ensure our communities are prepared, equipped, and capable of executing countermeasures for future terrorist threats and natural disasters. Passage of H.R. 361 would truly aid our first responders in this endeavor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to vote in favor of this great bill.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time on my side. If my colleague on the other side is ready to close, I am as well.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time and am prepared to close.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, the Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act is a good bill, and it has my support.

The gentleman from Florida has given us a piece of commonsense legislation, and this is the type of legislation, when it comes to keeping our Nation safe during times of attack or natural disaster, that we need.

I also urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the passage of a clean DHS funding bill so that the States and urban areas across the country can continue building and maintaining critical preparedness capabilities.

Again, I would like to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) for working with us on this issue, and I congratulate him on a wonderful bill that ensures that our Nation continues to be prepared in times of disaster. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 361, the Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as I noted earlier, this bill enjoyed broad bipartisan support last Congress. I hope Members will once again express their support for the men and women who protect us every day by voting for this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 361, the Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act that was introduced by Congressman BILIRAKIS. Over the years, the Committee on Homeland Security has heard about the importance of medical countermeasures.

This bill amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make it clear that grant funds under the State Homeland Security Grant Program and Urban Area Security Initiative may be used to enhance medical preparedness and purchase medical countermeasures. We owe it to our emergency response community, our first responders, to ensure that they have every tool necessary to be prepared for and combat the threats they face every day and may face in the future.

Over the years, we have seen that the investments in medical preparedness activities have provided positive benefits when it comes to response capabilities. This was clearly demonstrated in the response to the Boston Marathon bombings when the medical community was largely praised by all involved in the response. The Committee on Homeland Security heard testimony last year from the head of Boston Emergency Medical Services, Chief Hooley, who spoke about the importance of Homeland Security grant funding in their preparation for events such as the Boston Marathon Bombing.

Sadly, we realize that the threat of a biological or chemical or other attack is real. We therefore must do everything that we can to ensure that our first responders are prepared to combat the threat.

This measure has passed the House both in the 112th and the 113th Congress with overwhelming bipartisan support. I ask my colleagues to support this measure and my colleagues in the Senate to do the same.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 361, the Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act for two reasons.

First, the bill will save lives. Second, the legislation is necessary to support the vital work of first responders in the event of a biological and chemical terrorists attack or incident.

The legislation provides for the development and maintenance of an initial pharmaceutical stockpile, including medical kits, and diagnostics sufficient to protect first responders, their families, and immediate victims from a chemical or biological event.

The Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act will amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the use of Urban Area Security Initiative and State Homeland Security Grant Program funding for: enhancing medical preparedness, medical surge capacity, and mass prophylaxis capabilities.

This legislation ensures that first responders have necessary medicines and treatments to protect themselves, their families and those within their vicinity immediately should a biological and chemical terrorist attack occur.

In short, first responders will not be able to do the work of saving lives if they fall victim to an attack or are distracted by worry regarding how their family may be fairing during a biological or chemical attack should one occur.

First responders often include law enforcement officers, fire fighters, and emergency medical personnel.

The city of Houston covers over a 1000 square mile region in Southeast Texas. It has an evening population of nearly two million people and over three million during the day when commuters are in the city.

There are 103 Fire Stations that serve the city of Houston with most offering ambulance or medic support, but there is only one station Number 22 that Specializes in Hazardous Material.

In the city of Houston one out of every ten citizens use Emergency Management Services (EMS) and within a year there are over 200,000 EMS incidents involving over 225,000 patients or potential patients.

EMS response services have 88 City of Houston EMS vehicles, with just under fifty percent staffed by two paramedics and can provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) to patients.

These consist of 15 ALS Squads, and 22 ALS transport units with eight functioning in a "Dual" capacity as both Advanced Life Support and Basic Life Support (BLS).

The remaining fifty-one transport units are Basic Life Support (BLS), and staffed by two Emergency Medical Technicians.

Law enforcement agencies that serve the city of Houston include the Houston Police Department, Harris County Sheriff's Department, Harris County Constables, Port of Houston Authority Police and Corrections Officers.

Because of the nature of chemical or biological terrorist attacks mass casualties are the objective and the impressive resources of our nation's 4th largest city would likely be overwhelmed immediately should an attack occur it is important to provide them with the resources provided by this legislation.

The prepositioning of resources in the form of medicines that can support pulmonary respiratory function or arrest neurological damage as a result of poisoning lives can be saved that could otherwise be lost. This bill can reduce deaths and give victims the greatest chance for survival and recovery.

Emergency responders because of this bill would have treatments in the communities where they serve and live to help neighbors,

co-workers, and people who are immediate need to live saving help.

As a senior member of the House Homeland Security Committee, I am mindful of the need for our first responders to be prepared and well trained to manage a wide range of potential threats both conventional and unconventional.

This bill offers one more resource that will be available to first responders to do the work they have dedicated their lives to doing—saving lives.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 361 the Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act for two reasons.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 361.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS ACT

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 615) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to take administrative action to achieve and maintain interoperable communications capabilities among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 615

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act" or the "DHS Interoperable Communications Act".

SEC. 2. INCLUSION OF INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITIES IN RESPONSIBILITIES OF UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT.

Section 701 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 341) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4) of subsection (a), by inserting before the period at the end the following: "including policies and directives to achieve and maintain interoperable communications among the components of the Department"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(d) INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'interoperable communications' means the ability of components of the Department to communicate with each other as necessary, utilizing information technology systems and

radio communications systems to exchange voice, data, and video in real time, as necessary, for acts of terrorism, daily operations, planned events, and emergencies.”.

SEC. 3. STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a strategy, which shall be updated as necessary, for achieving and maintaining interoperable communications (as such term is defined in subsection (d) of section 701 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2 of this Act) among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, including for daily operations, planned events, and emergencies, with corresponding milestones, that includes, at a minimum the following:

(1) An assessment of interoperability gaps in radio communications among the components of the Department, as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) Information on efforts and activities, including current and planned policies, directives, and training, of the Department since November 1, 2012, to achieve and maintain interoperable communications among the components of the Department, and planned efforts and activities of the Department to achieve and maintain such interoperable communications.

(3) An assessment of obstacles and challenges to achieving and maintaining interoperable communications among the components of the Department.

(4) Information on, and an assessment of, the adequacy of mechanisms available to the Under Secretary for Management to enforce and compel compliance with interoperable communications policies and directives of the Department.

(5) Guidance provided to the components of the Department to implement interoperable communications policies and directives of the Department.

(6) The total amount of funds expended by the Department since November 1, 2012, and projected future expenditures, to achieve interoperable communications, including on equipment, infrastructure, and maintenance.

(7) Dates upon which Department-wide interoperability is projected to be achieved for voice, data, and video communications, respectively, and interim milestones that correspond to the achievement of each such mode of communication.

(b) SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL.—Together with the strategy required under subsection (a), the Under Secretary for Management shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate information on any intra-agency effort or task force that has been delegated certain responsibilities by the Under Secretary relating to achieving and maintaining interoperable communications among the components of the Department by the dates referred to in paragraph (9) of subsection (a), and on who, within each such component, is responsible for implementing policies and directives issued by the Under Secretary to so achieve and maintain such interoperable communications.

SEC. 4. REPORT.

Not later than 220 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and biannually thereafter, the Under Secretary for Manage-

ment shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the status of efforts, since the issuance of the strategy required under section 3, to implement such strategy, including the following:

(1) Progress on each interim milestone referred to in paragraph (9) of subsection (a) toward achieving and maintaining interoperable communications among the components of the Department.

(2) Information on any policies, directives, guidance, and training established by the Under Secretary.

(3) An assessment of the level of compliance, adoption, and participation among the components of the Department with the policies, directives, guidance, and training established by the Under Secretary to achieve and maintain interoperable communications among such components.

(4) Information on any additional resources or authorities needed by the Under Secretary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 615, the Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act, introduced by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), the ranking member of the Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications.

This bill amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to include, among the responsibilities of the Department of Homeland Security's Under Secretary for Management, achieving and maintaining interoperable communications among the Department's components.

H.R. 615 addresses the findings and recommendations of a November 2012 DHS Office of Inspector General report, which stated that the Department does not have the appropriate oversight or governance structure to ensure communications interoperability among its components.

The Department has been in the forefront on working with stakeholders to provide our Nation's first responders with the resources and tools needed to have effective interoperable communications. Now the Department needs to practice what they preach. It is vital

that the Department's components are able to effectively communicate day to day and, most importantly, during emergencies.

Mr. Speaker, I recently visited our southwest border and met with men and women from the Border Patrol, Customs and Border Protection, and the Coast Guard who are on the front lines of our efforts to secure the border. It is vital that they have the ability to communicate with one another and personnel from other DHS components as they work to achieve their vital missions.

In order to ensure the Department is taking the necessary steps to achieve and maintain interoperable communications capabilities, H.R. 615 requires the Department's Under Secretary for Management to submit an interoperable communications strategy to the Committee on Homeland Security no later than 120 days after enactment.

I urge all Members to join me in supporting this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 615, the Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act. My goal today is to put the Department of Homeland Security on the path to achieving agencywide interoperable communications.

Almost 15 years ago, courageous first responders raced to Lower Manhattan, to an area that came to be known as Ground Zero. In the days that followed, first responders from neighboring jurisdictions, including Jersey City, responded to help with response and recovery efforts.

Not long after these devastating attacks, concerns were raised about the interoperability gaps that existed between responders on that deadly September day. The 9/11 Commission identified improving interoperable communications at all levels of government as a pressing recommendation. They emphasized that both technology and governance are critical components of interoperable solutions and recognized DHS as the Federal agency responsible for spearheading such an effort.

Though nationwide over \$13 billion has been invested in achieving interoperable communications at the State and local level, we are still not there. At DHS, over \$430 million has been invested into communication capabilities for its 123,000 radio users since 2003. However, in 2012, the Department's own top watchdog, the Office of Inspector General, found that DHS "personnel do not have reliable interoperable communications for daily operations, planned events, and emergencies."

In May of 2014, the inspector general testified before the Homeland Security Subcommittee that, out of 479 field radios that attempted to communicate on a specific channel, only one user

could do so. That is a 99.8 percent failure rate.

Too often, communication failures are attributed to technology or a lack of resources. But here, technology is not the culprit; it is the scapegoat. Indeed, the inspector general found that DHS had not established protocols to ensure that practices are in place to achieve interoperability throughout the Department.

H.R. 615, the DHS Interoperable Communications Act, which I introduced with the gentlewoman from Indiana, Congresswoman SUSAN BROOKS, the former chair of the Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee, would direct the Under Secretary for Management to issue policies and directives related to interoperability, develop a strategy to achieve DHS-wide interoperability, and report to Congress biannually on the Department's progress.

Interoperable communications are essential to emergency response and Homeland Security operations. The men and women in uniform that serve and protect the 10th Congressional District of New Jersey never miss an opportunity to remind me of something we already know: interoperable communications save lives during disasters.

Interoperable communications challenges must be addressed in a timely and thoughtful manner. Last Congress, this Chamber unanimously approved legislation identical to the measure before you today. Enactment of H.R. 615 into law would put DHS on the path to achieving interoperability.

I would like to thank the former subcommittee chairwoman, SUSAN BROOKS, for her dedicated efforts to work with me on this measure. I will miss working with her on this panel.

I would also like to thank Ranking Member THOMPSON, Chairman MCCAUL, and the new chairwoman of the subcommittee, Ms. MCSALLY, for their continued support in addressing this important issue.

I urge my colleagues to support improving interoperable communications at DHS by voting.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the distinguished gentlelady from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS), the former chairman of the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 615, the Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act.

I did have the opportunity to work on this bill with the fine gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications last Congress when I chaired the subcommittee.

I am very pleased to see this bill on the floor today, and I want to thank Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member THOMPSON for bringing it back to the floor.

The need for interoperable communications was highlighted, as the Congressman from New Jersey noted, by the 9/11 Commission after the September 11 terrorist attacks. We know that much progress has been made by first responders across the country in gaining interoperability, and the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network that is being developed by the First Responder Network Authority will further contribute to these capabilities.

However, as the Department of Homeland Security inspector general's November 2012 report illustrated, the Department, itself, has not made sufficient progress in addressing its own interoperable communications capabilities.

□ 1730

H.R. 615 works to address this serious issue by requiring the Department's Under Secretary for Management to develop a strategy for achieving and maintaining interoperable communications between the DHS components. It requires DHS, as you have learned, to report to Congress on the progress it is making toward achieving milestones.

As a former U.S. attorney who helped set up Indiana's Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council after 9/11 and Indiana's first fusion center, I know firsthand the importance of seamless communication between first responders, especially in times of crisis, including those in the Department of Homeland Security.

Continued inability to make progress on interoperability can have serious consequences for public safety across our country. That is why Congress must hold our various law enforcement agencies, particularly those in Federal Government, accountable for communicating clearly with one another to ensure we eliminate confusion, duplication, and discord among those most necessary when lives are on the line.

That is exactly what the gentleman from New Jersey's bill does, and that is why I encourage my colleagues to support, once again, this very important piece of legislation, and I thank him for his leadership.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency.

I am glad to have her join us here in Congress for her great ability in the State legislature, and she has removed me from being the lowest member in the delegation, off the bottom.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from

New Jersey and fellow member of the Committee on Homeland Security, Mr. PAYNE, and obviously my senior for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Ranking Member PAYNE's legislation, H.R. 615, the DHS Interoperable Communications Act. This common-sense, bipartisan legislation builds upon recommendations made by the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security by requiring DHS to develop a strategy for achieving interoperable communications among the Department's components.

During an emergency, be that a terrorist attack or natural disaster such as Superstorm Sandy that devastated my home State of New Jersey, it is essential that first responders are able to communicate.

It is also essential that components of the Department of Homeland Security are able to communicate with one another at all times. H.R. 615, as introduced by my colleague from New Jersey and before us on the floor today, seeks to make that aspiration a reality.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, in the 14 years since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, we have still not reached the day where interoperable communications is a universal reality among State, local, and Federal agencies. Ranking Member PAYNE's bill puts us on a path to fixing that reality as it relates to the Department of Homeland Security.

Importantly, the bill clarifies and enhances the Department's Under Secretary for Management's responsibility for achieving and maintaining interoperable communications among the components of DHS. By doing so, the bill focuses this important mission and will aid Congress in conducting the oversight necessary to see that the policy goals of the bill are achieved.

As ranking member of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency, I look forward to conducting robust oversight of DHS' operations in many areas, including interoperable communications.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) for his work on this legislation and urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 615, the DHS Interoperable Communications Act.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers. If the gentleman from New Jersey has no further speakers, I am prepared to close once the gentleman does.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, TSA must be able to talk to FEMA and the Coast Guard during an emergency, be it a terrorist incident or natural disaster. For that reason, the achievement of cross-component interoperable communications

is essential to DHS' being able to carry out its mission.

H.R. 615 takes a responsible approach to addressing the oversight findings of the inspector general and the Committee on Homeland Security about a serious operational gap at the Department of Homeland Security: interoperability.

Moreover, an earlier version of this bipartisan measure passed the House unanimously last Congress. For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 615.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is vital that the various component agencies at the Department of Homeland Security be able to communicate on a daily basis and particularly in times of crisis. This bill will help to ensure these capabilities are implemented and maintained.

I urge all Members to join me in supporting this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 615, the Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act for three reasons. The bill would address interoperability among information technology systems and radio communications systems to exchange voice, data, and video in real time.

First, the bill will save lives of first responders and those they seek to help. Second, the legislation is necessary to create a seamless level of communication among Department of Homeland Security components that are first responders to a terrorist attack, natural or manmade disaster; and finally to meet the technological challenges of bridging the communication divide between different communications systems used by first responders within the Department of Homeland Security.

As a senior member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, I am well aware, as are many of my colleagues, of the essential and lifesaving role of communications during a crisis.

Because the tragedy of September 11, 2001, was compounded by communication failures among the brave first responders who entered the burning towers that comprised the World Trade Center it has been an imperative of the Homeland Security Committee to address first responder communication interoperability challenges.

The number of first responders lost on that single day was the greatest loss of first responders at any single event in U.S. history:

343 New York City Fire Department firefighters;

23 New York City Police Department officers;

37 Port Authority Police Department officers; 15 EMTs; and

3 court officers were casualties of the attacks.

The need for this bill authored by Congressman PAYNE is evident.

The City of Houston covers over a 1,000 square mile region in Southeast Texas. It has

a night-time population of nearly two million people, which peaks with over three million daytime inhabitants.

The city of Houston's 9-1-1 Emergency Center manages nearly 9,000 emergency calls per day. The volume of emergency calls can easily double during times of inclement weather or special City social/sporting events like Hurricanes Ike in September 2008; and Katrina as well as Rita, which occurred in September and October of 2005).

Annually, one out of every ten citizens uses EMS.

There are over 200,000 EMS incidents involving over 225,000 patients or potential patients annually. On the average, EMS responds to a citizen every 3 minutes. Each EMS response is made by one of 88 City of Houston EMS vehicles.

In 2013, the City of Houston's fire Department lost Captain EMT Matthew Renaud, Engineer Operator EMT Robert Bebee, Firefighter EMT Robert Garner and Probationary Firefighter Anne Sullivan when they responded to a hotel fire.

Throughout the history of the Houston Police Department over 110 officers have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Each member of the House of Representatives knows of the loss of a first responder who was going to the aid of those in harm's way. This bill will offer additional resources to the first responders of the Department of Homeland Security.

The bill amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to include among the responsibilities of the Under Secretary for Management responsibilities with respect to policies and directives to achieve and maintain interoperable communications among the components of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

The Under Secretary of Homeland Security would submit to the House and Senate Homeland Security Committees a strategy, which shall be updated as necessary, for achieving and maintaining interoperable communications, including for daily operations, planned events, and emergencies, with corresponding milestones, that includes:

an assessment of interoperability gaps in radio communications DHS components, as of this Act's enactment date;

information on DHS efforts and activities, including current and planned policies, directives, and training, since November 1, 2012, to achieve and maintain interoperable communications, and planned efforts and activities to achieve and maintain interoperable communications;

an assessment of obstacles and challenges to achieving and maintaining interoperable communications;

information on, and an assessment of, the adequacy of mechanisms available to the Under Secretary to enforce and compel compliance with interoperable communications policies and directives of DHS;

guidance provided to DHS components to implement interoperable communications policies and directives;

the total amount of funds expended by DHS since November 1, 2012, and projected future expenditures, to achieve interoperable communications; and

dates upon which DHS-wide interoperability is projected to be achieved for voice, data,

and video communications, respectively, and interim milestones.

The bill ensures that the Department of Homeland Security would conduct a survey of intra-agency efforts or task forces that have been delegated responsibilities for achieving and maintaining interoperable communications, and report on the status of these efforts, including:

progress on each interim milestone; information on any policies, directives, guidance, and training established by the Under Secretary of Homeland Security;

an assessment of the level of compliance, adoption, and participation among the DHS components with the policies, directives, guidance, and training established by the Under Secretary; and

information on any additional resources or authorities needed by the Under Secretary.

This bill will ensure that the Department of Homeland Security's first responders are prepared to meet the challenges of manmade or natural disasters.

I ask my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of H.R. 615.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 615, the Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act that was introduced by the Congressman PAYNE. I am proud to join Ranking Member THOMPSON and Congresswoman BROOKS in cosponsoring this legislation that will begin to solve a problem that continues to plague the Department of Homeland Security.

This measure was written to address a November 2012 DHS Office of Inspector General report, which found that DHS lacks an effective governance structure to ensure interoperable communications among its components. This is unacceptable, and an issue that should be fixed, especially after the Department has been in existence for well over a decade.

Component agencies of the Department of Homeland Security must be able to communicate on a daily basis, and particularly in times of crisis. One of the benefits of have a Department of Homeland Security should be that components, including FEMA, ICE, and CBP, are able to act as one department and communicate at will.

This bill requires the Department's Under Secretary of Management to submit a strategy to the Committee on Homeland Security on achieving and maintaining interoperability within the Department.

This measure passed the 113th Congress on a bipartisan vote and I urge all Members to join me in supporting this important legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 615.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays. The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SOCIAL MEDIA WORKING GROUP ACT OF 2015

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 623) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Department of Homeland Security to establish a social media working group, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 623

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Social Media Working Group Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. SOCIAL MEDIA WORKING GROUP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 318. SOCIAL MEDIA WORKING GROUP.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish within the Department a social media working group (in this section referred to as the ‘Group’).

“(b) PURPOSE.—In order to enhance information sharing between the Department and appropriate stakeholders, the Group shall provide guidance and best practices to the emergency preparedness and response community on the use of social media technologies before, during, and after a terrorist attack or other emergency.

“(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary for Science and Technology shall serve as the permanent chairperson of the Group, and shall designate, on a rotating basis, a representative from a State or local government who is a member of the Group to serve as co-chairperson. The Under Secretary shall establish term limits for individuals appointed to the Group pursuant to paragraph (2). Membership of the Group shall be composed of a cross section of subject matter experts from Federal, State, local, tribal, and nongovernmental organization practitioners, including representatives from the following entities:

“(A) The Office of Public Affairs of the Department.

“(B) The Office of the Chief Information Officer of the Department.

“(C) The Privacy Office of the Department.

“(D) The Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“(E) The Office of Disability Integration and Coordination of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“(F) The American Red Cross.

“(G) The Forest Service.

“(H) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“(I) The United States Geological Survey.

“(J) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“(2) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—The Under Secretary for Science and Technology shall appoint, on a rotating basis, qualified individuals to the Group. The total number of such additional members shall—

“(A) be equal to or greater than the total number of regular members under paragraph (1); and

“(B) include—

“(i) not fewer than three representatives from the private sector; and

“(ii) representatives from—

“(I) State, local, and tribal entities, including from—

“(aa) law enforcement;

“(bb) fire services;

“(cc) emergency management; and

“(dd) public health entities;

“(II) universities and academia; and

“(III) non-profit disaster relief organizations.

“(d) CONSULTATION WITH NON-MEMBERS.—To the extent practicable, the Group shall work with existing bodies in the public and private sectors to carry out subsection (b).

“(e) MEETINGS.—

“(1) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Group shall hold its initial meeting. Such initial meeting may be held virtually.

“(2) SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS.—After the initial meeting under paragraph (1), the Group shall meet at least twice each year, or at the call of the Chairperson. Such subsequent meetings may be held virtually.

“(f) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Group.

“(g) REPORTS.—Not later than March 30 of each year, the Group shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes the following:

“(1) A review of current and emerging social media technologies being used to support preparedness and response activities related to terrorist attacks and other emergencies.

“(2) A review of best practices and lessons learned on the use of social media during the response to terrorist attacks and other emergencies that occurred during the period covered by the report at issue.

“(3) Recommendations to improve the Department’s use of social media for emergency management purposes.

“(4) Recommendations to improve public awareness of the type of information disseminated through social media, and how to access such information, during a terrorist attack or other emergency.

“(5) Recommendations to improve information sharing among the Department and its components.

“(6) Recommendations to improve information sharing among State and local governments.

“(7) A review of available training for Federal, State, local, and tribal officials on the use of social media in response to a terrorist attack or other emergency.

“(8) A summary of coordination efforts with the private sector to discuss and resolve legal, operational, technical, privacy, and security concerns.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 317 the following new item:

“Sec. 318. Social media working group.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Indiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their re-

marks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 623.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 623, the Social Media Working Group Act of 2015.

Social media is transforming the way the Nation is communicating before, during, and after terrorist attacks, natural disasters, and other emergencies. There are countless examples from recent events of how citizens are turning to Facebook, Twitter, and even Instagram for public safety information, to comfort survivors, and to request assistance.

For example, during the height of the most recent winter storm Juno in the Northeast, there were over 20,000 posts using the hashtag #blizzardof2015.

A quarter of Americans—let me repeat that—a quarter of Americans got information about the devastating terrorist attack at the 2013 Boston Marathon from Facebook and Twitter.

Immediately following that attack and during the manhunt, the Boston Police Department utilized social media as a way to communicate with and solicit information from citizens and visitors.

In fact, the first official announcement that Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev had been captured was not through a traditional press conference, but it was through the Boston Police Department’s Twitter account. That post was retweeted more than 135,000 times.

These examples prove that social media has become one of the primary ways we share information.

In the 113th Congress, I served as the chair of the Committee on Homeland Security’s Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications with the gentleman from New Jersey as my ranking member. Our subcommittee held two hearings that focused on this new phenomenon, and we learned that while the Nation is making great strides in this area, gaps and challenges remain.

One of the key takeaways from these hearings was that during and after a terrorist attack, natural disaster, or other emergency, there is still a need for better communication between the public sector and the private sector, specifically with how we utilize social media as a communication tool.

Last year, I introduced this bill, along with Ranking Member PAYNE, Chairman MCCAUL, Representative PALAZZO, and Representative SWALWELL, to address this issue; and I am pleased now to reintroduce the bill this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 623 addresses the issues we heard in our hearings by authorizing and enhancing the Department of Homeland Security's Virtual Social Media Working Group to ensure information sharing between the Department and appropriate stakeholders and the leveraging of best practices.

Currently, the Virtual Social Media Working Group, which is made up mostly of State and local officials, is doing great work in developing guidance documents on how to utilize social media during disasters. In fact, it produced a lessons learned paper on social media usage during Hurricane Sandy.

This bill will increase the working group's stakeholder participation, particularly among the private sector and Federal response agencies, thereby creating a Whole Community dialogue on this issue.

The bill will require this group to submit an annual report to Congress highlighting best practices, lessons learned, and any recommendations. Finally, this bill will require the group to meet in person or virtually at least twice a year, and it will not be a financial burden on the Department.

In today's day and age, when new social media platforms and technologies can change the game almost instantly, we must ensure our critical first responders are nimble enough to adapt to an ever-changing landscape. This group is one way to help facilitate this.

The House passed this bill last Congress with strong bipartisan support. I now want to thank Chairman SHUSTER and Chairman BARLETTA of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for working with the Committee on Homeland Security and me to get this bill to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to join me in supporting this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate and commend Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana and Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey for sponsoring the Social Media Working Group Act of 2013 which addresses an emerging and important topic in emergency management.

More and more, we are seeing social media, especially Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube, playing a critical role in the preparedness, response, and recovery operations in emergency situations.

In the past few years, social media has become a valuable tool that has been used by emergency managers at all levels to warn those in harm's way of impending natural disasters. I might add that the same could occur in terrorist disasters.

Moreover, it has been used to inform survivors of how to access disaster assistance and tips for speedier recovery. Equally important, social media has

been used to coordinate and manage assistance from nonprofits and volunteers who want to help in recovery efforts.

It is not just emergency managers who use social media regarding emergencies. Individuals have used social media to help identify locations where assistance may still be needed and to raise awareness of impending hazards. They have used it to communicate with loved ones who may be impacted by an event, as well as to reconnect pets with their owners.

It was no different here in the District of Columbia, Mr. Speaker, after 9/11, and I refer to the earthquake centered in Mineral, Virginia, but certainly felt in every part of the Nation's Capital.

Because cellphone service was jammed, residents turned to social media to communicate. Within minutes of that earthquake, Twitter noted that over 40,000 earthquake-related tweets were sent about the occurrence.

□ 1745

Facebook noted 3 million mentions related to the earthquake.

In 2010, the Department of Homeland Security established the Virtual Social Media Working Group to provide recommendations on how to use social media before, during, and after emergencies. The existing working group consists of emergency responders, nonprofit organizations, and Federal agencies.

H.R. 623 would codify the working group to make certain that their good work continues. To allow for broader representation, the bill expands the working group membership to include the private sectors and requires consultation with nonmembers. To ensure accountability, the bill requires an annual report to Congress on important issues such as best practices and lessons learned. It would also provide recommendations on various issues, including how to improve the use of social media for emergency management purposes.

This is a very timely bill, Mr. Speaker. It will assist in informing the public of critical emergency information which may well save lives and reduce injuries. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as I was coming to the floor, I tweeted and Facebooked that I would be on the floor managing this bill. We are used to Tweeting and Facebooking our every movement, usually for fun—and yes, even to come on the floor.

I will be very interested to know whether, after we had the tragic acci-

dent last month in our Metro system when we lost one life—and we know for sure communication between the District of Columbia fire, emergency, and Metro was informed—I will be very interested to know whether Facebook, Twitter, and other forms of social media were helpful. I cannot believe they were not.

We all think of social media for social fun. What is important about the bill that my two colleagues, Representative BROOKS and Representative PAYNE, have brought to us is, of course, that it shows a very essential use.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), a cosponsor of the bill.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) for yielding me this time.

Last Congress, the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications held a series of hearings examining how the Internet can positively impact disaster response at all levels.

Over the course of these hearings, industry stakeholders, who included Google.org, Palantir, and the Internet Association, provided testimony about how the Internet helped galvanize citizens affected by disasters—from the Boston Marathon bombings to Hurricane Sandy.

We also heard from an energy services company headquartered in my district, PSE&G, that was recognized by J.D. Power and Associates for its innovative use of social media in the days leading up to and following Hurricane Sandy. PSE&G used social media to communicate with its customers about how to prepare for the storm and to mitigate damage and about power restoration efforts afterward.

Additionally, PSE&G testified about lessons learned about using social media during disaster response—ranging from using the right tone in messages to preparing social media companies to handle the increased volume of messages.

In those hearings, we also took testimony from Federal, State, and local governments about how to use social media more effectively to provide disaster-related information to be better integrated into disaster response applications.

We also heard from FEMA and local officials on efforts to improve the use of social media following a terrorist attack or natural disaster.

I was pleased to work with then-Subcommittee Chairwoman SUSAN BROOKS on this oversight effort and ultimately on the bill to ensure that the important conversation about how to best use social media following a disaster can continue.

Last July, I was pleased to manage an identical version of this bill on the

House floor on behalf of the Committee on Homeland Security. That measure, H.R. 4263, passed the House on suspension, as I hope will occur with H.R. 623.

This Congress, I am pleased that my committee was able to work with the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to ensure that H.R. 623 gets considered early this Congress. That said, I am disappointed that this time around, under the rules of the House, the committee that developed the legislation, in response to extensive oversight findings, was not given the opportunity to present it in the full House on its own.

That said, I congratulate Subcommittee Chairwoman BROOKS on the success of her efforts to ensure that Federal, State, and local governments continue to work with the private sector and nonprofit disaster response providers to develop innovative uses of social media. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 623.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentlelady from the District of Columbia and the gentleman from New Jersey for continuing this important work that we began last year.

It was a visit to the American Red Cross shortly after Hurricane Sandy where we learned about the important role that social media had played and the growing role that it played and the fact that they have digital volunteers now who continue to work on behalf of saving lives.

I just want to thank all of those who have been supportive of this bill, and I urge my colleagues to join me in once again supporting this important legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the sponsor and cosponsor once again on this vital and valuable bill.

As we see the kinds of, really, unheard of events we are experiencing, it seems to us often that phones and cell phones are so 20th century. Twitter and Facebook are the functional equivalent for many Americans of 911. So today on this floor, I think we are resolved that social media are, to be sure, often about fun and games, but they may also be about life and death.

I am pleased to support this bill and ask Members for its support here in the House.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I again thank the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia and the gentleman from New Jersey in supporting this important legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, I rise in support of H.R. 423, "The Social Media Working Group Act of 2014," which would establish within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) a social media working group.

The Social Media Working Group would provide guidance and best practices to the emergency preparedness and response community on the use of social media technologies before, during, and after a terrorist attack.

Today, people are relying more on Internet enabled communications to engage and be engaged in personal, professional and commercial communications.

Since September 11, 2001, our nation has committed resources toward the preparation of our first responders and citizens in preventing, mitigating and responding to terrorist events.

As these efforts continue, we must keep pace with the rapid changing nature of the Internet. Part of this requires that Congress ensure that the Department of Homeland Security and especially the Federal Emergency Management Agency can reach citizens in new ways so that critical information is received in a timely manner.

In 2012, smartphones, most particularly phones running Apple Computer's iOS and the open source Android operating system, accounted for at least 40 percent of the mobile devices used in the United States.

In the first quarter of 2012, mobile phone consumers spent over \$109 billion, while consumers of landline-telephone service spent \$64.4 billion.

The Federal Communication Commission reports that this trend is expected to accelerate as United States consumers participate in a worldwide trend towards mobile communication devices and away from traditional means of receiving and sending information.

Electronic tablet computers and e-readers, the other fully enabled portable Internet devices, smartphones are increasingly a resource for people to access information, share content, and communicate their views.

Social media is quickly emerging as a major source of information that citizens rely upon to receive news and engage government.

The number of people using social networking sites has nearly doubled since 2008.

In a 2011, a Pew Internet Center Research Project reported that 79 percent of American adults said they used the Internet and 59 percent of all Internet users say they use at least one of social networking service, such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn or Instagram.

The reasons for supporting this bill are obvious and I ask my colleagues in the House to vote for its passage.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 623, the Social Media Working Group Act of 2015, which was introduced by Congresswoman BROOKS, Congressman PAYNE, and myself.

Social media is becoming an important tool before, during and after disasters. This becomes more and more obvious after every incident and was especially prevalent both after Hurricane Sandy and the Boston bombings. Almost two years ago, when two pressure cooker bombs exploded at the finish line of the Boston Marathon, local emergency managers and law enforcement turned to social media to alert the public, solicit assistance, and offer comfort to the city. Incidents like these point to the fact that authorities must embrace the use of social media as a way to both collect and disseminate information in the management of a disaster.

Last year, I visited the headquarters of the American Red Cross with the author of this legislation, Congresswoman BROOKS. One of the highlights of our visit was the Red Cross Digital Disaster Operations Center, where, in partnership with Dell, the Red Cross built the first-ever social media operations center for humanitarian relief. I was impressed to see how the Red Cross is communicating with disaster survivors through social media and how social media is changing the way we are able to prepare for and respond to disasters.

In the last Congress, the Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response and Communications held two hearings on the impact of social media before, during and after disasters. These hearings informed the writing of this legislation which authorizes and enhances the Department's Virtual Social Media Working Group to ensure best practices and lessons learned are shared with appropriate stakeholders, including the private sector, and ensure our first responders understand the ever changing dynamic of using social media.

This measure passed the House floor with almost 400 votes in the 113th Congress, demonstrating its importance and bipartisan support. I urge Members to join me in supporting this bill today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 623.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1831

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois) at 6 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 361, by the yeas and nays;

Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Sinema
Sires
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Torres
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Viscosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin

Labrador
LaMalfa
Loudermilk
Lummis
Massie
Moelenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mulvaney
Neugebauer
Olson
Palmer
Pearce

□ 1906

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle (PA)
Duffy
Duncan (TN)
Edwards

NAYS—51

Labrador
 LaMalfa
 Loudermilk
 Lummis
 Massie
 Moolenaar
 Mooney (WV)
 Mulvaney
 Neugebauer
 Olson
 Palmer
 Pearce

Perry	Ribble	Walker
Poe (TX)	Rice (SC)	Weber (TX)
Polis	Russell	Westmoreland
Price (GA)	Salmon	Williams
Ratcliffe	Sensenbrenner	Zinke

NOT VOTING—54

Barton	Higgins	Napolitano
Blum	Huizenga (MI)	Neal
Brownley (CA)	Hultgren	Nunnelee
Capuano	Israel	Quigley
Cárdenas	Jenkins (WV)	Roe (TN)
Chu (CA)	Keating	Rohrabacher
Clark (MA)	Kennedy	Rokita
Cuellar	Kind	Roskam
Dold	King (IA)	Rush
Duckworth	Kuster	Sanchez, Loretta
Eshoo	Langevin	Simpson
Fitzpatrick	Lawrence	Slaughter
Fleischmann	Lee	Smith (WA)
Gibson	Lipinski	Tiberi
Green, Gene	Lofgren	Tsongas
Guinta	McClintock	Walorski
Gutiérrez	Meeks	Wilson (FL)
Heck (NV)	Meng	Young (AK)

□ 1915

Messrs. GRIFFITH, MOOLENAAR, OLSON, and POE of Texas changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. HARRIS changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, on February 2, 2015, due to weather, I was unavoidably detained and missed recorded votes 51–53. Had I been present, I would have voted: On Roll Call 51—Yes on H.R. 361—Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act; On Roll Call 52—Yes on H.R. 615—Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act; On Roll Call 53—Yes on H.R. 623—Social Media Working Group Act of 2015.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed Roll Call vote numbers 51, 52 and 53. Had I been present, I would have voted aye on Roll Call vote numbers 51, 52 and 53.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 51–53, I was unavoidably detained due to cancelled flights out of Chicago. Had I been present, I would have voted aye.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 596, REPEAL OF THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-13) on the resolution (H. Res. 70) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 596) to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 71

Resolved, That the following named Members be and are hereby elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON ETHICS.—Mr. Capuano, Ms. Clarke of New York, Mr. Deutch, and Mr. Larson of Connecticut.

Mr. BECERRA (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ZINKE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL FOR A CEREMONY TO PRESENT THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO JACK NICKLAUS

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of House Concurrent Resolution 12, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 12

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL FOR CEREMONY TO PRESENT CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO JACK NICKLAUS.

The rotunda of the United States Capitol is authorized to be used on March 24, 2015, for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal to Jack Nicklaus. Physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COOPPORTUNITY HEALTH INSURANCE FACING LIQUIDATION

(Mr. SMITH of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw your attention to CoOpportunity Health, one of 23 insurance co-ops created by ObamaCare. These plans have been awarded approximately \$2 billion in taxpayer dollars. CoOpportunity specifically received \$146 million in Federal loans.

On December 23, 2014, the Iowa insurance commissioner submitted a petition for an order of rehabilitation of CoOpportunity Health. The company now faces liquidation.

Approximately 120,000 of CoOpportunity's customers, most of whom live in Nebraska, have been told they need to find a new insurance carrier. I am extremely concerned about this situation for Nebraskans needing health coverage and for the taxpayers who have seen millions of dollars lost and millions more put at risk. This is one more example of ObamaCare's failure.

Last month, I sent a letter to HHS Secretary Burwell seeking more information about these concerns. Americans were promised they could keep the insurance they had and liked, and now we are seeing they cannot even keep the insurance this very law created.

This is one more reason I look forward to voting tomorrow to repeal this harmful law.

WELL WISHES FOR MAYOR COLLINS OF TOLEDO, OHIO

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to give reassurance and hope to Sandy Collins and the family of the mayor of Toledo, Mike Collins, who, yesterday, was involved in a very serious automotive accident. He apparently had a heart attack while he was driving after trying to prepare the city crews for the level 3 snowfall that was about to come.

Then there was the heroic act that has saved his life, though he is in critical condition at the University of Toledo Medical Center. A woman named Evelyn Johnson—mother of eight children and grandmother of five—saw his SUV that had crashed into this telephone pole. She stopped her car on her way to work, and she and another man, a good Samaritan who came along, had to pry him out of the car. It was still running. He still had his foot on the gas, but he was completely unconscious. She and the other gentleman administered CPR at the direction of the 911 crew in the city of Toledo.

I am so proud of my hometown and the love and the care and the preparedness that they demonstrated to care for our mayor. We pray to God that he will fully recover and that his injuries will be healed. We give comfort to his

wife, Sandy. We know she is at his side. Our entire community reaches out to them. And we congratulate Mrs. Johnson for her incredible heroism in helping our mayor.

CHASKA STUDENT COUNCIL TAKING ACTION TO END TRAFFICKING

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, last week, the House passed 12 different bills combating the growing crime of sex trafficking by protecting victims and bringing traffickers to justice.

In addition to the action that Congress is taking, however, it takes people on the ground, in our communities, stepping up to deal with this issue. I would like to highlight some of the efforts that are being done by some students in Chaska, Minnesota, who are making efforts to put an end to this horrible problem.

The Chaska High School Student Council, led by senior Luke Standbrook, is helping fight sex trafficking by organizing assemblies to help fellow students know the signs of trafficking in their community. They are also organizing fundraisers to help raise money for organizations that help victims of human trafficking.

Mr. Speaker, it is rewarding and energizing to know that there are young leaders like Luke in the senior student council who are working to have such a strong impact in putting an end to this horrific crime, and I am proud of their efforts.

THE MEASLES OUTBREAK

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Today, Mr. Speaker, I sent a letter to the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control requesting an alert to the public that highlights the importance of our children becoming vaccinated for this outbreak of measles, particularly the MMR.

The United States is experiencing a large multistate measles outbreak that started in California in December of 2014 and has spread to six additional States and Mexico. From December 28, Mr. Speaker, through January 21, 2015, 51 confirmed cases linked to this outbreak have been reported to the CDC: 42 from California and nine from six other States—three in Utah, two in Washington, one in Oregon, one in Colorado, one in Nebraska, and one in Arizona.

But the spread of this is enormous. The most disturbing aspect of this outbreak is that 86 percent of the patients who have contracted the disease had ei-

ther been unvaccinated or had an unknown vaccination status. The outbreak is aggravated by the large number of children whose parents have chosen not to get the MMR vaccine.

What I want to focus on, Mr. Speaker, is for us to be cautious and for us to be able to do the right thing. The saddest case was an 8-month-old baby in Arizona—innocent—who was exposed to the measles.

I ask that we take this seriously, as a member of the Homeland Security Committee, and find a way to alert parents to make the right decision for their children. I will be continuing to work on this and have asked my own community to send out an alert to help save those children and the others who are vulnerable to the measles outbreak.

SITES RESERVOIR PROJECT

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, as California enters what looks like its fourth year of a severe drought, we need to take action so that when we do finally get rain once again, we will be able to store it.

Sites Reservoir is a project that has been talked about for many, many years in northern California that would store nearly 2 million acre-feet of water in its best possible configuration. So we need to take that action. A little bit later on in this session, we will be introducing legislation to authorize that.

We also need help from the Bureau of Reclamation in putting the funding forward to finish the feasibility studies that are necessary to go from talk, from dream, to getting construction going and having the water reservoirs that we need for California to stave off drought in the future years.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by welcoming our new members and by thanking the gentlewoman from Ohio, Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, for her leadership of the Congressional Black Caucus during the 113th Con-

gress. Thanks to her dedication and tireless work, this caucus is better positioned to address the diverse challenges of the African American community.

I also want to thank the new CBC chair, the Honorable Congressman G.K. BUTTERFIELD of North Carolina. I am confident that he will do a great job leading this caucus with steadfast commitment to justice and to building an America that works for everyone.

Let me also thank my counterpart, the Honorable Congresswoman ROBIN KELLY, for joining me in leading the CBC Special Orders this year. I am truly honored to take on this new role, and I look forward to working with her as we help carry out the critical mission of this caucus.

Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago, in the midst of the civil rights movement, hundreds of brave men and women gathered in Selma, Alabama, to begin a long, arduous march to Montgomery in support of the fundamental truth: that every American, regardless of what they look like, has the right to vote.

□ 1930

On March 7, 1965, 600 men and women set out from Selma following the death of 26-year-old Jimmie Lee Jackson, a deacon from Marion, Alabama, who died from gunshot wounds inflicted by a State trooper at a nonviolent demonstration.

Theirs was a peaceful, nonviolent march, but it was met with fierce brutality. It would take the marchers two more attempts to arrive at Montgomery; but on March 25, after a 12-day journey, they did arrive.

Since that day, our country has made significant strides in achieving equality and justice for all, but significant challenges remain unmet. Tonight, we will examine where we have come from, where we are, and where we would like to go as a society. We must be ready to go.

In 1965, Selma became the focal point of voter registration efforts in the South. At the time, only 2 percent of the city's eligible African American voters had been able to register. The impact of Selma to the Montgomery march was profound.

As Dr. King said, "Selma produced the voting rights legislation of 1965." The Voting Rights Act of 1965 banned discriminatory voting requirements that disenfranchised African American voters throughout this country; yet, today, the dream of full equality is still something many African Americans can only dream of.

Where we are, nearly 6 years after the end of the recession, people still struggle to find work, and the gap between the rich and poor continues to grow. For African Americans, this situation is severe, given the disproportionate effect of unemployment on our communities.

At the same time, there remains widespread poverty, a defining challenge of our time. This persistent economic inequality threatens to undercut the gains that African American communities have made, and it undermines the idea of economic mobility, the idea that if you work hard in this country and have ambition, you can get ahead. The economic crisis is not only facing African American communities.

Where we are in education, education is the most important economic investment we can make now and for future generations; yet, across the country, we still have seen cuts to education at all levels and attacks on critical programs like Head Start and Pell grants.

These attacks undermine the ability of African Americans to get ahead—that is why I strongly support President Obama's new, bold initiative for free access to community colleges—so, too, do efforts to dismantle social safety net programs which our communities depend on. Those efforts are irresponsible, unjust, and contrary to who we are as Americans.

The Congressional Black Caucus will make criminal justice reform a centerpiece of our agenda. We will work to reduce the epidemic of poverty in this country. We will work to create educational opportunities for African American children, and we will support efforts to strengthen our 105 Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

The CBC also remains committed to fighting against efforts to dismantle the social safety net. We are determined to restore section 5 of the Voting Rights Act and to make sure everyone, regardless of what they look like or where they come from, has equal access to the polls, and we resolve to ensure that increasing diversity in this Nation is reflected in American corporations.

Together, these policies will bring us closer as a nation where we are empowering the communities of African Americans, and they will benefit from the full equality and live the American Dream. There is no doubt that we are in difficult times in this Nation.

Injustices are widespread and threaten some of our most fundamental rights, but we will find no answers in apathy, no comfort in complacency. As we always have, we will continue the march for progress, for freedom, for justice, and for equality for all.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege now that I yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from Illinois, Ms. ROBIN KELLY.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Thank you, my friend from New Jersey. It is an honor to host with you this year. I am excited about the work ahead for the CBC in the 114th Congress. I also want to acknowledge the great job that Congressman Horsford and Congressman JEFFRIES did in hosting the Special Order hour in the 113th Congress. I also

want to honor our past chair, Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, for all of her great work.

Discussing 50 years from Selma, where we were, where we are, and where we are headed, I expect this to be very stimulating, frustrating, and rewarding all at the same time. It remains that we have a lot of work to do.

Mr. PAYNE. I thank the gentlewoman.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, it is my honor and privilege for the first time in the 114th Congress to have the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, G. K. BUTTERFIELD, address us, and I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

The Congressional Black Caucus is delighted to come to the floor this evening to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

At the end of slavery, Mr. Speaker, in 1865, which was 150 years ago, the State of North Carolina had a slave population of 331,000 slaves. After the passage of the 13th Amendment and ratification of it by 27 States, these slaves became free. They became American citizens, and males 21 years old or older would soon be entitled to vote.

Among those 331,000 slaves gaining freedom, 128,000 of them resided in my congressional district. In some of the counties, the Black population exceeded the White population.

In 1870, African American citizens gained the right to vote by the enactment of the 15th Amendment. For the next 30 years, Mr. Speaker, African American men voted in large numbers and became a political force in State politics.

Four African Americans were elected to Congress in North Carolina, eight in South Carolina, three in Alabama, and one each in Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Virginia, and Louisiana. Many more were elected to State and local office.

In 1900, after KKK violence and lynchings had not deterred Black political participation, most Southern States passed disfranchisement laws requiring a literacy test and the payment of a poll tax. These laws had the intent and effect of disenfranchising Black people from voting, and it worked. For the next half century, African Americans were effectively denied the right to vote with a few exceptions.

Following his 1964 acceptance of the Nobel Peace Prize, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., approached President Lyndon Johnson about advocating for a strong voting rights law that would enforce the 15th Amendment. President Johnson was uncomfortable in advancing the idea of a voting rights law, which greatly disappointed Dr. King. Dr. King was motivated to launch the Selma voting rights movement.

On March 7, 1965, under the leadership of Dr. King, JOHN LEWIS, and others, Black residents of Selma attempted to march from Brown Chapel Church to the Alabama State capital to demand a voting rights law.

As they approached the Edmund Pettus Bridge, the marchers were brutalized, and they were terrorized by State police and forced to retreat. We now refer to this confrontation as "Bloody Sunday."

Two days later, the marchers again began their journey to Montgomery, but as they crossed the bridge and saw the strong police presence, they turned around and returned to the church. At this point, President Johnson was outraged with Governor George Wallace for preventing the march. Johnson telephoned Wallace to demand that the marchers walk to Montgomery without incident.

Three weeks later, on March 21, 1965, Dr. King persuaded thousands of Black and White to come to Selma to participate in the march. The march proceeded without incident. Fifty thousand participated.

Following the March, a White marcher, Mrs. Viola Liuzzo from Detroit, was murdered while transporting marchers back to Selma. Jimmie Lee Jackson was killed by police during a Selma protest in February 1965. Saddened by these murders, President Johnson reconsidered his unwillingness to promote voting rights legislation. He went on national television on March 15 and announced that he would support a voting rights bill.

Despite the Southern filibuster, the Voting Rights Act was enacted into law on August 6, 1965. This important law has changed the political landscape for African American communities. It bans the use of literacy tests. It gives minority communities the right to litigate discriminatory election schemes that dilute their vote.

The act provides for a section 5 that requires certain jurisdictions with discriminatory histories to preclear election law changes with the Attorney General. To our great dismay, on June 25, 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court made section 5 unenforceable because the data used to determine covered jurisdictions is outdated, according to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has now called on Congress to modify the formula.

To this day, Mr. Speaker, our Republican colleagues have refused to allow the bipartisan VRA amendment bill to be voted upon. In fact, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. GOODLATTE, announced that he has no intention to legislate a modification to the formula, and so the effect of not having section 5 is to allow jurisdictions to pass discriminatory election laws with impunity and without oversight.

The Voting Rights Act has enabled African American communities to

elect hundreds of Black elected officials. We successfully litigated dozens and dozens of cases. Many of my colleagues were elected because enforcement of the Voting Rights Act forced—forced—States to draw congressional districts where Black communities are not submerged and their vote diluted.

Mr. Speaker, this story must be understood by every American citizen. The right to vote for African Americans was obtained by blood, sweat, and tears; and we are determined—the Congressional Black Caucus is determined—to continue this fight into 2016 and beyond.

Mr. PAYNE, thank you very much for yielding time.

Mr. PAYNE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are looking forward to your leadership in the 114th Congress, and we will continue to strive to make sure that the issues that the CBC find important are relevant on the day-to-day basis.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN), the leader, who has probably forgotten more about the goings-on and the rules in this Chamber than I will ever know.

Mr. CLYBURN. Thank you so much, Mr. PAYNE, for yielding me time. I appreciate your accolades, and I promise you that my long, distant memory is getting very good, but I assure you that your contributions to this great body are very much appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I opened up Black History Month with a speech at Cornerstone Baptist Church on Wayne Street in Columbia, South Carolina. They had an interesting topic for me to develop. It was all about remembering our past and preparing for the future.

Chairman BUTTERFIELD has talked a little bit about the past that many of us remember, but 50 years after Selma, we must turn to the question that Martin Luther King, Jr., asked in one of his great books: Where do we go from here, chaos or community?

Statistics show that there are nearly 500 counties and thousands of communities in the United States that are classified by the United States Census Bureau as persistent poverty areas. They are so defined because 20 percent of their populations have lived below the poverty level for the past 30 years or more.

□ 1945

They are diverse, including Caucasian communities in States like West Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee; Native American communities in States like South Dakota, Alaska, and Oklahoma; Latino communities in States like Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas; and African American communities in States like South Carolina, Alabama, and Mississippi. They are urban communities in States like New York and heartland communities in

States like Missouri. 139 of these counties are represented in this body by Democrats; 331 of these counties are represented in this body by Republicans; and 18 of these counties are split between the two parties. Combating persistent poverty should matter to all of us, regardless of party, geography, or race.

In early 2009, when we were putting together the Recovery Act, I proposed language to require that at least 10 percent of funds in three rural development accounts be directed to efforts in these persistent-poverty counties. This requirement was enacted into law. In light of the definition of persistent-poverty counties as having at least 20 percent poverty rates over 30 years, the provision became known as the 10-20-30 initiative.

This initiative bore dividends as economic development projects proliferated in persistent poverty communities across the country. Using the 10-20-30 formula, the Recovery Act funded a total of 4,655 projects in persistent-poverty counties, totaling nearly \$1.7 billion. I saw firsthand the positive effects of these projects in my district. We were able to undertake projects to create jobs that would have otherwise languished. Among those investments was a \$5.8 million grant and a \$2 million loan to construct 51 miles of water lines in the little community of Brittons Neck in Marion County, South Carolina. There are many other success stories.

In Lowndes County, Mississippi, \$17.5 million was spent to install a water line, elevated tank, and two wastewater pump stations, providing potable water to rural Mississippians and creating badly needed construction jobs.

The Wellborn Special Utility District in Brazos County, Texas, received a \$538,000 loan to construct more than 9 miles of new water distribution lines and connect over 60 households to a new water system.

In 2011, I joined with our former Republican colleague, Representative Jo Ann Emerson of Missouri, to introduce an amendment to the continuing resolution that would have continued 10-20-30 for rural development and expanded it to 11 additional accounts throughout the Federal Government affecting economic development, education, job training, health, justice, the environment, and more.

I want to make one thing clear about the 10-20-30 approach. It does not—I repeat, it does not—add one dime to the deficit. It simply targets resources from funds already authorized or appropriated.

Over the past 30 years, the national economy has risen and fallen multiple times. During each economic downturn, while we have been rightly focused on getting the economy as a whole back on track, we have not given adequate attention to these commu-

nities that are suffering from chronic distress and Depression-era levels of joblessness.

As a result, they have suffered even in good economic times. The 10-20-30 approach would provide a mechanism to address this deprivation in times of want and in times of plenty, in times of Federal investment and in times of fiscal austerity.

Last year, I wrote an essay on 10-20-30 which was published in the Harvard Journal on Legislation. I discussed the history of our Nation's efforts to address chronic poverty and more fully laid out the case for broadly implementing 10-20-30 in a bipartisan fashion.

Mr. Speaker, as we begin to put our 2016 budget together, I look forward to working with all Members in this body on both sides of the aisle irrespective of what State or county you may represent. I look forward to working together so that we can make a real productive legacy for Selma and we can move forward and answer Dr. King's question "Chaos or community?" with a resounding: We are building communities.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. CLYBURN. As in the past, the Congressional Black Caucus will work to continue to reduce the epidemic of poverty in this country. When over 45 million Americans live below the poverty line, we are failing as a nation. As Congressman BUTTERFIELD said earlier this month, the CBC will advocate the Clyburn 10-20-30 plan, which redirects at least 10 percent of an agency's grants in its discretionary budget to communities where at least 20 percent of the population has lived below the poverty line for the past 30 years. These are the issues that we will continue to work on as members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

It is now my honor to yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), one of my mentors since before I arrived in Congress, a former friend of my father's and a great colleague.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I wish I had a prepared statement, but I was so moved after listening and being a part of this great congressional group in this great country to be able to celebrate 50 years since the Voting Rights Act.

As a kid who grew up on the streets of Lenox Avenue and dropped out of high school, I didn't have the benefit of having anything to attach a dream to that would allow me to believe that one day I could be sitting in the United States House of Representatives.

But after returning from the war in Korea and after being the beneficiary of the GI Bill, and after graduating from law school, I was able to see and hear atrocities that have been committed on Black folks in this country the likes of which I had not seen except during wartime. And even though my

mother's family came from Virginia, in the city of New York even today I don't ever remember meeting any White people from the South. I don't know what that is. Perhaps Congressman BUTTERFIELD may be able to do some historical research about why they stayed in the South and didn't come to New York City, where racism had a sugar coating to it. They didn't use dogs and bombs and things of that nature. But I recall so vividly seeing people like Andy Young and especially our dear friend and colleague, JOHN LEWIS, be prepared to put their lives on the line for our country, not for themselves.

In Korea and in most wars, people fight to stay alive and they don't voluntarily put their life on the line, as JOHN LEWIS and others have done. But what happened was, when they had the first Selma march, what we refer to as Bloody Sunday, years before our beloved Congresswoman was born, I saw something that really pained me as an American rather than as a human being. And then they had the second march from Selma to Montgomery and Dr. King pulled that back, and then we had the plea for people from all over the country to come down for the third march. I recalled before, I had bad feet and wasn't thinking about going to Selma to do 54 miles, but the inspiration to see people that had been prepared to put their life on the line for me and others like me could not allow me to return to New York.

It is very interesting that I have to admit publicly that when I heard the voice of Lyndon Johnson coming across on radio and television saying, "We shall overcome," I kind of thought, TERRI, that those were our words. And if a White person was to say it, I never expected to find that accent of the very people that sounded as though they were part of a conspiracy to keep children of slaves from assimilating into the constitutional beliefs that we had since learned to live by and enjoy and hope for.

What an historic moment that was. What a revolutionary period that was, because as we review that and look at the picture "Selma," we wonder where did all of the people that represented this hatred go, the people who stood in the way of people registering voters; the people who took advantage of the idea that just because of their complexion they were superior; the people that belonged to the Ku Klux Klan; the people who used religion as a sword instead of a shield? Did they disappear? What happened to the so-called Dixiecrats?

But then I am reminded that as a result of the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act that they didn't go very far, that they threw down their party label but they stayed in the same places, and many of them are doing the same thing—trying to continue to pre-

vent people of color from enjoying their full constitutional voting rights.

Then when I was honored enough to come down here in 1971 with half a dozen Congressional Black Caucus members, nine, who joined with four of us who had decided to form the Congressional Black Caucus, you could not believe, Congressman PAYNE, how it was never our dream that that small group would go from 13 to 26 to 40 to 46 to 47, and reach the historic impact on our policy and on our Nation, a group that had no intention of doing anything except to introduce, create, and support policies that could make this great country even stronger for all of us. And true, we have a lot of obstacles to overcome, but I don't think any group of people have been as successful as we have in coming from the pits of slavery in such a short period of time as we are now, and to see how much more work we have to do so that one day our children and our grandchildren will say: Why did they have to have a Congressional Black Caucus? Why wasn't it just a Democratic caucus? Why did we need it?

□ 2000

Well, because of the intellect, the commitment of individual members of the Black Caucus, like the rest of the Congress, that come from all walks of life and they got here to make this a better country, a more effective Congress, soon and very soon, we may hear those words: Why were we needed? Until we accomplish these lofty goals, thank God that we have had it.

I think that the Democrats appreciate the work that we are trying to do, and one day, as so many people who got rid of their sheets, their children and their grandchildren would see that we only were trying to eliminate the pain for all people, regardless of color, to make the red, white, and blue, rather than just whether you are Black or White, become the theme that the fathers of this Constitution should have been striving for.

There is no question in my mind that the things we stand for really and what the country is committed to do, and I am so proud of these last couple of years, that there is not a group of people I would rather spend my time with than with my friends and my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus.

Mr. PAYNE. I thank the gentleman from New York. His kind thoughts and perspective is always, always needed in this House.

Now, I have the honor and the privilege of yielding to the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL), who represents the city, the town, that is on everybody's breath over the last couple of months.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the CBC for this Special Order hour, and I commend my col-

league from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and my colleague from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) for choosing such a great topic for tonight's Special Order hour.

Selma, Lord, Selma. I have the great pleasure of standing before you not only as a Representative who represents the great city of Selma but as a native of Selma, Alabama, and a lifelong member of the historic Brown Chapel AME Church.

I know that the journey I now take, the journey that many others who are here today take, was only made possible because of the courage, fortitude, and determination of those brave men and women on that bridge, Bloody Sunday, March 7, 1965.

We who have the privilege and honor of taking this journey must ask ourselves: What will we do to extend the legacy? What will we do to protect the legacy?

Selma is the soul of America. It is the place where the struggle for civil rights and voting rights began, the epicenter, if you will, of the voting rights movement.

It deserves to be more than just a footnote in the history books. It deserves to take up chapters in the history books, the tactical and strategic voices of Martin Luther King and those brave men and women of SCLC and SNCC that had the fortitude and had the intellect to see this as a strategy, to know that they were speaking not only for themselves and their children, but for future generations.

Only a true visionary could defeat such opposition with little more than a dream, and Dr. King held so tightly to his that it forced our country to become a more equal and just nation.

Some want to forget the painful past. I know many in my district and many in my city would like to forget our painful past, but we cannot turn the pages as if certain chapters were never written; nor can we celebrate how far we have come without first acknowledging where we have been. Bloody Sunday forced America to confront its own inhumanity. Our painful past has ushered in a new day.

As I tell my constituents, out of our painful past came the birth of a movement that changed a nation, and from that movement came a human rights movement that changed a world. If we don't write our own history, others will tell it for us, and they may not be so kind, they may not tell our history the way we would tell our history.

My father grew up in Selma, as did I, and the Selma of my childhood was very, very different than the Selma of my father's childhood. There has been progress. My father went to segregated schools in Selma. My father drank from "colored only" fountains in Selma. My father's mother never got the chance to vote, though she tried to register several times.

The Selma that I grew up in had an integrated public high school, a public

high school that was 55 percent African American and 45 percent White. Yes, across town, there was an all-White private school.

I want you to know that the Selma I grew up in, in the seventies and eighties, it produced me as its first Black valedictorian of Selma High School. I know that Selma and the journey that we all take now because of Selma was only made possible because of the bravery of others.

As I stood to give my speech as a valedictorian in 1982 at Selma High School, I remember standing up and saying:

Maybe one day I could join the likes of a Charlie Rangel, of a John Lewis, in the House of Congress.

I said it as a pious, overly confident teenager probably, but I said it with every vigor because I believed in my heart that I could be and do anything. Why? Because the people of that community nurtured me, Black and White, my teachers, my Girl Scout troop leaders, my Sunday school teachers.

Yes, I had proud parents who were educators, educated at Alabama State University, and because of their education at this wonderful quality institution of higher learning, I had a chance to go to Princeton—but I had more than that. I had an obligation to give back, to make sure that others had an opportunity to walk through those same doors. It wasn't enough to be the first.

In fact, I was most proud 5 years after I graduated from Princeton that April Williams from Selma High School got to go to Princeton. I must have done something right.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 would have never been possible had it not been for the intellect, the mind of these wonderful leaders, some known. All of us know about the contributions of our colleague, JOHN LEWIS; all of us know about the contributions of the SCLC, Andy Young, and Martin Luther King.

Some unknown, like my sixth grade teacher, Mrs. Richie Jean Jackson, she was featured in the movie "Selma" because it was her home, the home that she shared with Dr. Jackson, the first Black dentist in Selma, that housed Martin Luther King and Andrew Young and all those leaders every time they came to Selma because they couldn't stay at the all-White hotel.

Mrs. Jackson was my sixth grade teacher. Mrs. Jackson did not live to see the movie "Selma," but I am proud that this body is seeking to provide a Congressional Gold Medal to the foot soldiers of the movement, so that the Richie Jacksons, Mrs. Jacksons of the world, who had the bravery to go and be on that bridge Bloody Sunday or Turnaround Tuesday or the ultimate final march from Selma to Montgomery, that they are acknowledged by this Nation for the sacrifices that they made.

In closing, I want to remind my colleagues of my guest at the State of the Union, January 20, 2015. My special guest was the 103-year-old Amelia Boynton.

Amelia Boynton was characterized in the movie "Selma" as the proud African American woman who told Coretta Scott King:

You are prepared. You are the descendants of kings and queens. Your heritage is one and your bloodline is one that survived slave ships. You are prepared.

Amelia Boynton is known for her bravery that Bloody Sunday when she was bludgeoned, but she came back 2 days later on Turnaround Tuesday and continued to fight in Selma long after this march from Selma to Montgomery.

She honored us with her presence, and as person after person came up to her and kissed her on the cheek and said, "Miss Boynton, I stand on your shoulders today, thank you," Miss Boynton said something very poignant. She said, "Everybody keeps talking about being on my shoulders. I tell them, Get off my shoulders, do your own work, there is plenty of work to be done." I want to remind my colleagues that there is plenty of work for us still to do.

I want to honor the legacy of Amelia Boynton, F.D. Reese, JOHN LEWIS, and so many; but we cannot honor their legacy without acknowledging that the Voting Rights Act of 1965, major sections of it, have been invalidated.

We owe it to that legacy, the legacy and memory of those who fought so valiantly, that this body should once again work together to make sure that Federal protections are there because, as we know, progress is always elusive, all battles become new again, and there is a renewed assault on voting.

It may not be counting how many jelly beans are in a jar or how many county judges there are in the State of Alabama; but, nevertheless, we still have modern-day barriers to voting that we must overcome.

I hope that we have the courage of our own convictions to see the movie "Selma" as a beginning of a national conversation about how we can continue to recommit ourselves to the ideals that were fought on that Bloody Sunday. I know that if we combined our hearts and our minds, both sides of the aisle will see that it is in everyone's best interest that all Americans have the right to vote.

I thank my colleagues of the CBC for having this Special Order hour. I invite all of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to come to Selma, to experience the living history, and I hope that we will all come away from the 50th commemoration of the march from Selma to Montgomery with a renewed vigor to once again provide Federal protection for all Americans to exercise that sacred right to vote.

Mr. PAYNE. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

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Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this is a very important evening. I thank my colleagues, both Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey and Ms. KELLY, for, first of all, taking up a very important challenge of being able to lead the members of the Congressional Black Caucus through this period of challenge to America.

I am reflective of the number of Members who have had the chance to convey their thoughts, and each one I thank personally: our chairman, Mr. G.K. BUTTERFIELD, for his leadership and his internal knowledge from his walk in life of the civil rights journey; Mr. CLYBURN for living and understanding the civil rights journey and conveying it in his legislative journey; Mr. RANGEL for his service to this Nation as a Korean war vet and then coming home to be a vet of the civil rights effort; then, of course, the holder of the seat who represents Selma for her life story.

Today, I rise to ask the question, What is our moral standard? And, following the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, why we can't wait.

This is a clarion call to my colleagues—Democrats and Republicans—that, in fact, this year—of all years—calls for us to act. It calls for us to be able to understand why the Nation cannot wait and who is going to lift up the moral standard.

The walk from Selma to Montgomery turned into Bloody Sunday. It was where a young man by the name of JOHN LEWIS stood bravely alongside names like Hosea Williams. It was, of course, a place where the world watched, and it became the stair steps on which the Voting Rights Act was passed.

Today, we realize that, on the shoulders of that tragic time, violence claimed the life of Jimmie Lee Jackson, beaten by State troopers as he was attempting to protect his mother and others, and that violence claimed the lives of Reverend James Reeb of Boston and of Viola Liuzzo of Detroit at that time as she returned from the Selma march—a time when 25,000 strong or more marched across the Montgomery bridge.

We understand that our job is yet not done. In the wake of the decision by the Supreme Court that crippled the Voting Rights Act, we as members of the Judiciary Committee, led by our colleagues Mr. CLYBURN and JOHN CONYERS, sought to correct that crippling.

Today, I stand and ask my chairman and the Speaker of the House to have us put that fix with the new Members, Republicans and Democrats—the same body of individuals who President Johnson convened—to be able to ensure

that that Voting Rights Act of 1965 could be done. It is important to note that we not allow the efforts to go unnoted.

Mr. Speaker, the voter ID law in Texas needs to be corrected by passing the Voting Rights Amendment Act. The terrible oppression of individuals in their walks to the polls has to be corrected by this amendment. Of course, we must ensure against the horrors of wealth inequality. The median income of Black households is \$33,764—a mere 60 percent of the median income for White households.

Then, of course, we must move to criminal justice reform. I am privileged, Mr. Speaker, to serve as the ranking member on the Crime Subcommittee, and I join my colleagues in the commitment to ensure that we, in fact, answer the call of the mothers of so many, such as those of Trayvon Martin, Sean Bell, Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Bobby Tolan, Jordan Baker, and many others, that we have grand jury reform, special prosecutor reform, prison reform—the transition of nonviolent offenders to productive lives—law enforcement training and best practices.

Yes, the bill that I introduced, the Build TRUST Act, will not give incentives to towns that rely upon racial profiling and on stopping African Americans and other minorities to build their revenue.

Mr. Speaker, tonight, I have the opportunity to remind us that our walk is not done in wealth inequality, in criminal justice reform and, as I know that my colleague Mr. GREEN will mention, in the body cameras. All of these—closing the wealth gap and passing the Voting Rights Act—are challenges not to Democrats, not to minorities; they are to the Nation, to our Republicans and our Democrats.

So I answer the question why we cannot wait: because Dr. King left us a prophetic message and a mountain to climb to get to the promised land.

Tonight, as I close, I call upon all aspects of the beloved community that JOHN LEWIS so often speaks of—the youth who continue to persist in the streets of America, indicating that Black lives and all lives matter; women, the impoverished, the faith community, workers, and many others whose names I have left out. Today, I ask for them to join hands and march in the month of March in your own cities and hamlets and counties on an agenda of healing, justice, and equality in commemoration of the march of those who crossed on that bloody day but of those who crossed as well successfully from Selma to Montgomery.

Do not sit in your seats. Do not sit in your homes. March in the month of March. Let me hear your voices. Let us see you. Let us join you. You call us, and we will join you in those marches to make a difference in this Nation. I

ask for that to all of my colleagues tonight.

Mr. PAYNE. Thank you.

I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN).

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Thank you, Mr. PAYNE.

Mr. Speaker, because time is of the essence, please allow me to get right to my message.

Where were we in 1965? I will relate this to Congress. In 1965, when they crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge, there were five African American Members of Congress. Now there are 48. In 1965, there were four Latino Members of Congress. Now there are 38. There were three Asian Americans in Congress. Now we have a total of 14. There were 14 women in Congress. We now have 104.

Where were we? We were at a point in our history when it was turning for us, but it was a bloody point in our history because, when President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act, he signed it in ink, but it was written in blood. It was written in the blood of the people who crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge, in the blood of the people who lived and died so that some of us could have these opportunities to serve in the Congress of the United States of America. That is where we were.

We have progressed. We have more Members of Congress, but in a true sense, it is back to the future because we have seen the evisceration of section 4 of the Voting Rights Act, which emasculated section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, meaning you don't have any States or any territories under section 4 so you cannot preclear them under section 5. We are now back to a point wherein we have to find a way to revitalize and to reinstate section 4 of the Voting Rights Act.

I am sorry that the time has run out, but I do want to say this: if we with only five Members of Congress could get a Voting Rights Act passed, one would think that with 48 we can get it reinstated.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus, to recognize the lasting legacy of the Selma marches. 50 years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King, Stokely Carmichael, Congressman JOHN LEWIS, and a number of other fearless fighters, led the historic marches from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama in protest of discriminatory voting laws.

In the years prior to the Selma marches, less than 1% of the black voting age population was registered to vote in Dallas County, where Selma is located. However, more than 80% of Dallas County blacks lived below the poverty line. Various efforts to get blacks in Dallas County registered to vote were met physical violence and economic intimidation. But with the local leadership of the Dallas

County Voters League, and the help of two national organizations, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the Student Non-violence Coordinating Committee, the Selma marches were born.

During the first march from Selma to Montgomery, in what would become known as "Bloody Sunday," the nation watched in horror as African Americans were brutally beaten by police officers, attacked by dogs, and sprayed by fire hoses. Their courage, in the face of dehumanizing treatment from law enforcement, thrust the issue of segregation and race relations in the Deep South into the national consciousness. It led to President Lyndon B. Johnson presenting to a joint session of Congress what would become the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the most important piece of civil rights legislation in the history of this country.

50 years later, the images of "Bloody Sunday" are permanently etched into our Nation's history as a deep and painful reminder of the struggles we triumphantly conquered to get to where we are today. And yet, the deaths of Michael Brown and Eric Garner, at the hands of law enforcement, serve as tragic reminders that we still have so far to go.

The work of Selma is not finished. The work of Dr. King, Stokely Carmichael, and Congressman LEWIS is not finished. But we must remain encouraged and faithful for the progress still left to achieve. While the discriminatory voting laws of the 1960s are no more, we have encountered a new brand of voter disenfranchisement in 2015 that poses a serious threat to the electoral process. And once again, the great citizens of this nation must fight to protect their constitutional right to vote. It is with the painful lessons learned from the marches on Selma, and with the same tenacity and fearlessness that we will continue to fight this battle today.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, first, let me thank Congressman DONALD PAYNE, Jr. and Congresswoman ROBIN KELLY for hosting this evening's Special Order. I appreciate your leadership in organizing this important discussion.

Today we ask: where we were, where we are, and where we are headed. This year, we celebrate 50 years from the March in Selma. 50 years from the signing of the pivotal Voting Rights Act. Over that last 50 years, much has changed. But the work remains unfinished.

Fifty years ago, civil rights leaders and concerned citizens marched in Selma for freedom. The freedom to vote, to assemble, to petition their government—the Constitutional protections enshrined in our nation's Constitution.

It was a fight to end legal, Jim Crow segregation in the South that actively and systematically suppressed African Americans. But it was also a fight to protect all Americans—as Dr. King wrote in his famous letter from the Birmingham Jail: "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

We are still fighting to end injustice in our nation—we are fighting for economic justice and justice under the law.

Nearly 50 years ago, Dr. King outlined the two Americas that still exist today.

In a speech on April 14th, 1967 at Stanford University, Dr. King explained: "there are literally two Americas. One America is beautiful for situation. And, in a sense, this America is overflowing with the milk of prosperity and the

honey of opportunity. . . . tragically and unfortunately, there is another America. This other America has a daily ugliness about it that constantly transforms the ebullience of hope into the fatigue of despair."

Ladies and gentlemen—tragically, there are still two Americas.

Systemic and institutional disparities and inequality are endemic at every level of our society—a legacy born in the suffering of the Middle Passage, nurtured through slavery and preserved with Jim Crow.

Today, we see this legacy in African American unemployment that is more than twice the unemployment rate of whites.

We see it in poverty rates for African Americans that are nearly three times the rate of white Americans.

We see it in the faces of the 1 in 3 black men who will have spent some time of their life in jail.

Mr. Speaker—In many ways, we are still living in two Americas. One of poverty, unemployment and injustice.

Mr. Speaker—too many are being left behind.

Sadly, Congressional leadership has decided to pursue partisan gridlock instead of acting for the millions of struggling Americans.

Tragically, many of the rights we fought for 50 years ago we are still fighting today. Congress has reauthorized the Voting Rights Act four times, with large bipartisan support. However, there has been no Congressional action since the Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act. Not one hearing, not one vote and the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee has made clear, on this floor, that he has no intentions of taking up this matter.

Likewise, the deaths of Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Tamir Rice, Oscar Grant—one of my constituents—and many others illustrate that there are still two Americas.

Recent events forced us to ask ourselves do Black lives matter? Yes—black lives matter. Brown lives matter. White lives matter—all lives matter.

Our institutions must reflect this core value that all lives matters. We in Congress have a duty to get serious about reforming our broken criminal justice system. We need to repeal unfair sentencing laws, increase police force diversity, improve racial sensitivity training, end the school-to-prison pipeline and work to re-integrate ex-offenders back into society.

The Black Lives Matter movement parallels the Civil Rights Movement's call to action, a movement to that calls us to end economic despair, drives out hate and fear and embrace love, and unseats the unjust status quo.

While Americans from all walks of life continue to protest and demand for change, Congress must hear their call and work to enact real change.

Like Congress acted 50 years ago after Selma, we were sent to Washington to address the issues facing our nation—let's start working on the structural and racial biases that pervades and poisons our institutions.

That is why I am a proud cosponsor of the Grand Jury Reform Act, which authorizes an appointment of a special prosecutor to conduct an investigation and present the results to a judge in a probable cause hearing, open to the public, whenever a police officer kills an individual while acting in the line of duty.

Mr. Speaker—We must pass this bill.

I have also introduced the Half in Ten Act to create a national strategy to cut the poverty rate in half over the next decade and lift 22 million Americans into the middle class.

Mr. Speaker—We must also pass this bill.

As a nation, we have made progress against racism and injustice. But we are backsliding.

We cannot lose the prize that our forefathers and mothers fought, bled and died to obtain and preserve. The soul of our nation is at stake.

Today, we carry the banner of Dr. King, Rosa Parks, and Medgar Evers. We have a duty to continue the fight for freedom, equality and justice.

This means Congress working together—Republican and Democrat—to pass important legislation to address unemployment and poverty and protect the voting rights of all.

The American dream of equality, freedom, liberty, justice and life must be more than just words. It must be a promise to all Americans, regardless of race, gender, place of birth, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity, nationality or religion.

Together, we can continue the unfinished work of creating a more perfect union.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey, Congressman DONALD PAYNE, Jr., and the gentlewoman from Illinois, Congresswoman ROBIN KELLY, for organizing this important Special Order on the legacy of the events at Selma, Alabama.

As Ava DuVarney's Oscar-nominated film "Selma" continues to foster discussion about the history of the Civil Rights Movement and bring the horrific events of "Bloody Sunday" to life for a new generation, I believe there is no better time to reflect on our journey, both past and ahead.

The march from Selma to Montgomery stands out as one of the defining moments of the Civil Rights Movement in the 20th century. The images are seared into the minds of Americans, and serve as a constant reminder of the violence and injustice that our predecessors faced as they strove for equal representation.

Violence that claimed the life of Jimmy Lee Jackson, beaten by state troopers as he tried to protect his mother and grandmother. His death was a catalyst that ignited the community and inspired the march.

Violence that claimed the lives of Reverend James Reeb of Boston and Viola Liuzzo of Detroit, who had journeyed to Selma to join the protests after the events at Edmund Pettus Bridge on "Bloody Sunday" had been broadcast across America.

In spite of all the violence, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his fellow protestors held their heads high and remained committed to their cause, a cause which touched people across the nation, so that when they reached Montgomery the crowd had swelled to 25,000 strong.

The actions of those brave men and women were a shout to the world that injustice and oppression would no longer be tolerated. Their struggles ensured that the blood that was shed, the lives that were lost were not in vain.

The very next week, President Lyndon Johnson announced to the nation that he

would put legislation before Congress to eliminate barriers to the right to vote.

We have made great strides towards equality and towards justice since those tumultuous events in Selma, Alabama.

We are honored today to serve alongside Rep. JOHN LEWIS, who experienced firsthand that fight for rights and representation.

This congress counts 44 black members among its number, and thanks to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, millions of African-Americans can proudly cast their votes and make their voices heard.

But our work is far from done. The dreams of Dr. King and of all those who gave their lives in the struggle for civil rights are not behind us. They are ahead.

In the wake of the Supreme Court's ruling which severely crippled the Voting Rights Act, states across our nation enacted legislation designed to limit the ability of women, the elderly, African-Americans to exercise their right to vote.

In Texas alone, new voter ID laws are estimated to have prevented or deterred as many as 600,000 citizens from registering to vote in 2014.

Such an act is a direct affront to all those who participated in the march to Montgomery, as well as anyone who values the principles of true democracy.

It was exactly these principles that motivated 13 students from Texas Southern University to stage a sit-in in Houston 55 years ago in pursuit of desegregation.

Their actions remind us of that guiding ideal that no action is too small, too local to affect change in our society.

The Voting Rights Act is one of the most important pieces of legislation in American history, and it represents not only the hope, but also the blood and tears of millions of Americans.

We must work, through legislation like the Voting Rights Amendments Act of 2014, to strengthen it and protect the achievements of Dr. King, Ralph Abernathy, Andrew Young, Hosea Williams, and all those who made securing the right to vote for African-Americans their life's work.

The freedom to vote is not the only freedom for which we must continue to fight. Across America, our communities struggle for their economic freedom, for the right to opportunity and to financial security.

In 2014, black unemployment was twice that of white Americans, and they are more than twice as likely to live in poverty.

Median income for a black household was \$33,764, a mere 60% of median income for a white household.

For these reasons, I will continue to advocate for legislation to benefit the working class, to benefit those members of our community who continue to struggle with unemployment and underemployment.

We need legislation that creates new jobs, and legislation that provides our citizens with the training that they need to break the cycle of unemployment.

We must understand that the minimum wage is not a living wage, and that, without action, we are condemning those with minimum wage jobs to a lifetime of hardship.

Thank you again for this opportunity to speak, and for bringing these issues to the forefront of the conversation.

As we move forward with our work, let us remember the lessons of Selma, of the past. Let them serve as our inspiration and strengthen our resolve as we look to the future and continue our efforts to protect the freedoms and opportunities of the American people.

Tonight I call upon all people of good will, those who Dr. King called the Beloved Community, to join hands and march toward an agenda of healing, justice and equality in commemoration of those historic events.

We march to preserve equality at the voting booth. We march to bring an end to systemic poverty and disenfranchisement. We march because we believe that all lives matter, and that this truth makes our country great.

SELMA TO MONTGOMERY VOTING RIGHTS MARCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MACARTHUR). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY) for 30 minutes.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my other colleagues tonight to thank Congresswoman KELLY from Illinois and Congressman PAYNE from New Jersey for organizing tonight's Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour.

I rise to highlight a pivotal moment in America's history—the Selma voting rights march—that 50 years ago, Mr. Speaker, brought together Americans to march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, across the now famous Edmund Pettus Bridge. There were attacks and dogs, beatings and deaths, but still we marched because we as a country knew that all Americans should have the same rights. The 54-mile walk was an effort to demonstrate the desire of Black American citizens to exercise their constitutional right to vote and to be treated equally.

Mr. Speaker, although the Civil Rights Act of 1964 legally desegregated the South, discrimination and segregation remained throughout much of the United States. The march led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which, today, continues to be eroded in a threatened bill. The communities across our Nation certainly have threats to their basic rights, and there are certainly injustices. In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King—and they still ring true today when I think about his words—“injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” When I reflect on my recent trip to Ferguson—where I witnessed firsthand—it seems that we are still re-engaging in our unfortunate history and ongoing challenges with voting rights, voter registration, and injustices—and with new vitality and vigor.

Mr. Speaker, I will stand with my colleagues—those who are here, along with Congressman JOHN LEWIS and Congresswoman TERRI SEWELL—when we march across that bridge and when

we say that we must turn our march toward solutions. If we, Democrats and Republicans, can watch a movie together about Selma, sharing silent moments in tears, sharing stories of our own experiences, surely we can come together to fix voting rights. How long must we wait, Mr. Speaker? How long will it take?

Let me end with these words: it is on all of us here in this body to march for voting rights and to march for having voting rights.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague, Congresswoman ROBIN KELLY.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. I would like to thank the gentlewoman from Ohio for her important remarks.

As we come to a close, I thank the distinguished gentleman from the Garden State—my good friend, Representative DONALD PAYNE—for his tremendous leadership and for leading this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour.

Mr. Speaker, in our hour of power, we have had the opportunity to speak directly to the American people. This is a privilege that I take seriously and a responsibility that the CBC cherishes.

Tonight, we strengthen our future by embracing our past. 2015 represents a critical junction in the advancement of our Nation. Fifty years after the Selma to Montgomery march there are strengthened civil rights and improved access to the ballot. Today, we find ourselves with equally important ground to cover in promoting civil rights, in reducing economic and health disparities, and in strengthening voter rights protection.

As a legislative body, we have made progress, but as Representatives and as men and women who love this country, our work continues. As we look back, we are comforted by the bridges we have crossed, by the trails we have blazed, and by the future ahead of us that we envision.

I want to thank the entire Congressional Black Caucus, especially my fellow coanchor, the gentleman from New Jersey, Congressman PAYNE.

□ 2030

Fifty years after Selma, the CBC remembers that it exists to promote the public welfare through legislation that meets the needs of millions of neglected citizens. It is that spirit that guides us and many others in Congress.

When we see millions of men, women, and children who need help moving forward, we march. When we see obstruction in our path to creating a more perfect Union, we respond.

Again, I thank my colleagues.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to allow my colleague, Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE from Brooklyn, who is also the vice president of the Congressional Black Caucus, to share her thoughts with us.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY) for extending this time to me, and I want to also thank the gentlelady from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus for hosting this evening's Special Order and this extension this evening.

Today I proudly rise to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the historic events of the nonviolent protests that took place in Selma, Alabama, and to recognize their importance in igniting and fueling the civil rights movement that brought an end to the practice of Jim Crow racial segregation by law in America and voting rights legislation that guaranteed every American citizen the right to vote.

It is a privilege to represent the Ninth District of New York in offering tribute to the historic people of conscience that walked the Edmund Pettus Bridge on March 7, 1965, known as Bloody Sunday. The march from Selma to Montgomery in 1965 included more than 600 women and men who walked from the historic Brown Chapel AME Church to the State capital of Alabama.

They marched for the right to vote, the freedom and human dignity that had been denied to them. They marched to end the evil practice of segregation and the violent terrorism to which they were subjected on an everyday basis, to remove from our society the poison of racism and racial discrimination.

However, at the Edmund Pettus Bridge this peaceful protest was met with tear gas, police batons, police dogs, and hatred and violence. Images of this tragedy were broadcast across America, opening the eyes of millions of citizens to the brutality and injustices that African American communities, especially in the South, had experienced every day.

Five months after Bloody Sunday, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was signed into law on August 6, 1965, by President Lyndon B. Johnson, prohibiting racial discrimination in voting. I was 9 months at that time. Sadly, the right to vote remains under threat in the United States.

Just imagine, five decades later, the disparate treatment and discrimination, the trampling of the civil rights and civil liberties of vulnerable communities of color, black and Hispanic, Latino Americans, continues to be a blood-soaked stain on the Star-Spangled Banner in the minds of many Americans.

In June 2013, the Supreme Court ruled that section 4(b) of the Voting Rights Act was unconstitutional, effectively undermining our ability to protect the right to vote and ensure unfettered access to the ballot.

We, the members of the CBC, will not stand silent and allow the partisanship in this House to reverse these gains made through the bloodshed and the lives martyred to erase from the law books those rights for which many fought and died.

Mr. Speaker, while we have made great progress since 1965, it is all relative. As long as systemic racism remains in the hearts and minds of some Americans, there is still much work to be done so that the blood, sweat, and tears shed for the freedom and justice in 1965 and every day since will not have been in vain.

The courage it took for our colleague Representative JOHN LEWIS and the countless and nameless Americans to face an angry State-sponsored mob so that we can all enjoy the freedoms of our country must never be forgotten. We must remain vigilant and continuously fight for equal rights for all people, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, or social background. Until then, Mr. Speaker, the struggle continues.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, as we talk about the struggle continuing, it is my honor to ask my colleague and classmate, Congressman MARC VEASEY from Texas, to be our next presenter.

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman BEATTY for yielding. I would also like to thank my colleagues DONALD PAYNE and ROBIN KELLY for putting together something that we really need to talk about, and I am glad that the theme here is 50 years from Selma, where we are, where we are headed, because I think it is important that we have that discussion.

I oftentimes hear people say in conjunction when you talk about civil rights, you know, we need to move on, we need to get over it, it was the past, it happened a long time ago. But we know that we can learn a lot from the past. We know that we can learn a lot about where we are going by studying our history.

So I am really glad that during this Black History Month that just started in February that we are able to reconnect and take the opportunity to talk more about our community's past and the challenges that we face, and Selma really provides us with a great vehicle to do that.

I think about an event that I attended several years ago when I was in the State legislature, and I was talking to the audience and mentioning some of the schools in the Fort Worth Independent School District and around the State of Texas that were segregated. After I got done talking, I was really dismayed that one of the reporters came up to me that was younger than me but had graduated from school in Fort Worth ISD, had graduated 9 years after I did, and she said: I was raised in Fort Worth, and I graduated from a school in Fort Worth, but I didn't know

that the schools were ever segregated here.

You see how quickly it is that the history can disappear and fade away if it is not kept alive; and I think that that is one of the reasons why I am really excited about Selma and the opportunity to talk about this more, because we really do need to make sure that we keep our youth reconnected with the past or we know that it will fade away.

Then, also, when you start talking about where we are headed, and it has been mentioned tonight, I would like to say that we are headed to someplace more positive, someplace that is for the betterment of all Americans. But we know that there are many mechanisms out there that are being designed and implemented by State legislatures all around the country to impede one's right to vote.

You can look no further than the State that I am very proud of, my own State of Texas, but we have some serious issues. I mean, when you look at redistricting in the State of Texas, when you look at the voter ID laws that were passed in the State of Texas, I mean, right now in the State of Texas you cannot vote with a State-issued ID, but you can vote with a concealed handgun license.

It is just rules like that that are being implemented and put in place that we know are designed to be a barrier to people voting, the same types of barriers that were put in place, maybe a little bit differently, maybe with a smile on their face, but we know that the goal is to do exactly what was done in Selma 50 years ago, and it is to prevent people from voting.

So, again, I want to thank the Congresswoman from Ohio and I want to thank my colleagues from Illinois and from New Jersey for putting this together. We need to talk about history. It is not the past. It really is still the present, something similar to what Faulkner said.

We need to continue to have these discussions and share these stories with our young people, but I think more importantly that we need to put them in the perspective from today because many of these battles we know that we are still fighting.

So I am glad that I am able to share this with everyone, and I hope that all Members, regardless of where they are from, regardless of what their party is, that they can think about what happened 50 years ago when the walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge happened, and this is something we can all learn from.

I want to thank Mrs. BEATTY for allowing me to have a few words.

Mrs. BEATTY. Thank you so much to my colleague.

Mr. Speaker, at this time it gives me great pleasure to ask Congresswoman BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN—I am very

proud to say that she is a part of this 114th freshman class—to say a few words.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlelady from Ohio for yielding to me. I want to thank both the gentlelady from Illinois and the gentleman from New Jersey for providing this opportunity here to speak tonight on something that I think is very important.

As a member of the CBC, a very proud member, I am here because we rise to commemorate a slice of American history that speaks to the spirit that is America. We rise to acknowledge the sacrifice and the forethought of a generation whose risks were ultimately America's reward. We rise to recognize the American heroes and heroes of Selma on the 50th anniversary of this Bloody Sunday.

From Selma, we learned that sometimes protests and objections that are deemed un-American today may later be considered the greatest manifestation of American democracy.

From Selma, we learned that because of a young person's protests today, he may be called an outside agitator, a troublemaker, or even a provocateur, but that same young person, because of that same activity, may later be called courageous, a hero, or even a Congressman.

Yes, from Selma, we learned that ordinary people can do extraordinary things when they are on the side of righteousness. Selma taught us, as Dr. King suggested, that it is always the right time to do what is right.

But at the time of that fight, the likelihood that this generation of young dreamers would be successful in transforming an entire society seemed slim. They persevered anyhow. In the face of seemingly insurmountable odds, these young people fought for what was right no matter the consequence.

Today we must learn from their example; we must persevere in the fight for working families, despite those that believe that there should be no floor for the poor and no ceiling for the rich.

We must protect the precious right to vote for all people. We must persevere despite the fact that there is little reward for fighting for people who cannot fight for themselves, and we must fight for what is right and not what is popular.

We must remember that it is our legacy to fight on the side of righteousness when we debate giving access to health care, access to education, access to the right to marry, and access to just plain old justice. I look forward to this collective will and this collective commitment of the CBC because I know that we can never forget Selma.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady from Ohio.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, in closing remarks, let me thank you for extending our time tonight. We have

heard from voices of legends tonight. But tonight I would like to end by giving special recognition to two new voices, two new legends who tonight led us through something more than a Special Order hour. They led us through a Special Order hour in history.

To Congressman DONALD PAYNE of New Jersey, thank you for picking this topic and partnering with my colleague and friend, Congresswoman ROBIN KELLY.

Mr. Speaker, tonight they are our voices of the future. Tonight they had the courage to come and manage time on an issue that we think, as members not only of the Congressional Black Caucus, but of this Congress, being the conscience of this Congress.

□ 2045

Hopefully, it will make a difference in this Chamber as we proceed forward.

Thank you again, Congressman PAYNE and Congresswoman KELLY. You are our voices.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of flight cancellation due to weather.

Mrs. LAWRENCE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of flight cancellation due to weather.

Ms. LOFGREN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today through February 5 on account of personal business.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of flight cancellation.

EXPENDITURES BY THE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL UNDER HOUSE RESOLUTION 676, 113TH CONGRESS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION,

Washington, DC, January 30, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 3(b) of H. Res. 676 of the 113th Congress, as continued by section 3(f)(2) of H. Res. 5 of the 114th Congress, I write with the following enclosure which is a statement of the aggregate amount expended on outside counsel and other experts on any civil action authorized by H. Res. 676.

Sincerely,

CANDICE S. MILLER,
Chairman, Committee on House
Administration.

AGGREGATE AMOUNT EXPENDED ON OUTSIDE COUNSEL
OR OTHER EXPERTS, H. RES. 676

AGGREGATE AMOUNT EXPENDED ON OUTSIDE COUNSEL OR OTHER EXPERTS, H. RES. 676—Continued

October 1–December 31, 2014	\$42,875.00
Total	42,875.00

PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE RULES

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE 114TH CONGRESS

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I submit for publication the rules of the Committee on Appropriations for the 114th Congress, as adopted on January 28, 2015.

Resolved, That the rules and practices of the Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, in the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress, except as otherwise provided hereinafter, shall be and are hereby adopted as the rules and practices of the Committee on Appropriations in the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress.

The foregoing resolution adopts the following rules:

SEC. 1: POWER TO SIT AND ACT

(a) For the purpose of carrying out any of its functions and duties under Rules X and XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee and each of its subcommittees is authorized:

(1) To sit and act at such times and places within the United States whether the House is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned, and to hold such hearings as it deems necessary; and

(2) To require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, reports, correspondence, memorandums, papers, and documents as it deems necessary.

(b) The Chairman, or any Member designated by the Chairman, may administer oaths to any witness.

(c) A subpoena may be authorized and issued by the Committee or its subcommittees under subsection (a)(2) in the conduct of any investigation or activity or series of investigations or activities, only when authorized by a majority of the Members of the Committee voting, a majority being present. The power to authorize and issue subpoenas under subsection (a)(2) may be delegated to the Chairman pursuant to such rules and under such limitations as the Committee may prescribe. Authorized subpoenas shall be signed by the Chairman or by any Member designated by the Committee.

(d) Compliance with any subpoena issued by the Committee or its subcommittees may be enforced only as authorized or directed by the House.

SEC. 2: SUBCOMMITTEES

(a) The Majority Caucus of the Committee shall establish the number of subcommittees and shall determine the jurisdiction of each subcommittee.

(b) Each subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive evidence, and report to the Committee all matters referred to it.

(c) All legislation and other matters referred to the Committee shall be referred to the subcommittee of appropriate jurisdiction within two weeks unless, by majority vote of the Majority Members of the full Committee, consideration is to be by the full Committee.

(d) The Majority Caucus of the Committee shall determine an appropriate ratio of Majority to Minority Members for each subcommittee. The Chairman is authorized to

negotiate that ratio with the Minority; *Provided, however*, That party representation in each subcommittee, including ex-officio members, shall be no less favorable to the Majority than the ratio for the full Committee.

(e) The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the full Committee are each authorized to sit as a member of all subcommittees and to participate, including voting, in all of the work of the subcommittees.

SEC. 3: STAFFING

(a) Committee Staff—The Chairman is authorized to appoint the staff of the Committee, and make adjustments in the job titles and compensation thereof subject to the maximum rates and conditions established in Clause 9(c) of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives. In addition, he is authorized, in his discretion, to arrange for their specialized training. The Chairman is also authorized to employ additional personnel as necessary.

(b) Assistants to Members:

(1) Each Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of a Subcommittee or the Full Committee, including a Chairman Emeritus, may select and designate one staff member who shall serve at the pleasure of that Member.

(2) Notwithstanding (b)(1), the Chairman may prescribe such terms and conditions necessary to achieve a reduction in the number of Assistants to Members previously designated by a Member of the Committee prior to the adoption of the Rules of the House establishing the Committee for the 112th Congress.

(3) Staff members designated under this subsection shall be compensated at a rate, determined by the Member, not to exceed 75 per centum of the maximum established in Clause 9(c) of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(4) Members designating staff members under this subsection must specifically certify by letter to the Chairman that the employees are needed and will be utilized for Committee work.

SEC. 4: COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(a) Regular Meeting Day—The regular meeting day of the Committee shall be the first Wednesday of each month while the House is in session if notice is given pursuant to paragraph (d)(3).

(b) Additional and Special Meetings:

(1) The Chairman may call and convene, as he considers necessary, additional meetings of the Committee for the consideration of any bill or resolution pending before the Committee or for the conduct of other Committee business. The Committee shall meet for such purpose pursuant to that call of the Chairman.

(2) If at least three Committee Members desire that a special meeting of the Committee be called by the Chairman, those Members may file in the Committee Offices a written request to the Chairman for that special meeting. Such request shall specify the measure or matter to be considered. Upon the filing of the request, the Committee Clerk shall notify the Chairman.

(3) If within three calendar days after the filing of the request, the Chairman does not call the requested special meeting to be held within seven calendar days after the filing of the request, a majority of the Committee Members may file in the Committee Offices their written notice that a special meeting will be held, specifying the date and hour of such meeting, and the measure or matter to be considered. The Committee shall meet on that date and hour.

(4) Immediately upon the filing of the notice, the Committee Clerk shall notify all Committee Members that such special meeting will be held and inform them of its date and hour and the measure or matter to be considered. Such notice shall also be made publicly available in electronic form and shall be deemed to satisfy paragraph (d)(3). Only the measure or matter specified in that notice may be considered at the special meeting.

(c) Vice Chairman To Preside in Absence of Chairman—A member of the majority party on the Committee or subcommittee thereof designated by the Chairman of the full Committee shall be vice chairman of the Committee or subcommittee, as the case may be, and shall preside at any meeting during the temporary absence of the chairman. If the chairman and vice chairman of the Committee or subcommittee are not present at any meeting of the Committee or subcommittee, the ranking member of the majority party who is present shall preside at that meeting.

(d) Business Meetings:

(1) Each meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, of the Committee and its subcommittees shall be open to the public except when the Committee or the subcommittee concerned, in open session and with a majority present, determines by roll call vote that all or part of the remainder of the meeting on that day shall be closed.

(2) No person other than Committee Members and such congressional staff and departmental representatives as they may authorize shall be present at any business or markup session which has been closed.

(3) The Chairman shall announce the date, place, and subject matter of each committee meeting for the transaction of business, which may not commence earlier than the third day on which members have notice thereof, unless the Chairman, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, or the Committee by majority vote with a quorum present for the transaction of business, determines there is good cause to begin the meeting sooner, in which case the Chairman shall make the announcement at the earliest possible date. An announcement shall be published promptly in the Daily Digest and made publicly available in electronic form.

(4) At least 24 hours prior to the commencement of a meeting for the markup of a bill or resolution, or at the time an announcement is made pursuant to the preceding subparagraph within 24 hours before such meeting, the Chairman shall cause the text of such bill or resolution to be made publicly available in electronic form.

(e) Committee Records:

(1) The Committee shall keep a complete record of all Committee action, including a record of the votes on any question on which a roll call is taken. The result of each roll call vote shall be available for inspection by the public during regular business hours in the Committee Offices and also made available in electronic form within 48 hours of such record vote. The information made available for public inspection shall include a description of the amendment, motion, or other proposition, and the name of each Member voting for and each Member voting against, and the names of those Members present but not voting.

(2) Committee records (including hearings, data, charts, and files) shall be kept separate and distinct from the congressional office records of the Chairman of the Committee.

Such records shall be the property of the House, and all Members of the House shall have access thereto.

(3) The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available in accordance with Rule VII of the Rules of the House, except that the Committee authorizes use of any record to which Clause 3(b)(4) of Rule VII of the Rules of the House would otherwise apply after such record has been in existence for 20 years. The Chairman shall notify the Ranking Minority Member of any decision, pursuant to Clause 3(b)(3) or Clause 4(b) of Rule VII of the Rules of the House, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination upon the written request of any Member of the Committee.

(f) Availability of Amendments Adopted—Not later than 24 hours after the adoption of an amendment to a bill or resolution, the Chairman shall cause the text of any amendment adopted thereto to be made publicly available in electronic form.

SEC. 5: COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS

(a) Overall Budget Hearings—Overall budget hearings by the Committee, including the hearing required by Section 242(c) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 and Clause 4(a)(1) of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, shall be conducted in open session except when the Committee in open session and with a majority present, determines by roll call vote that the testimony to be taken at that hearing on that day may be related to a matter of national security; except that the Committee may by the same procedure close one subsequent day of hearing. A transcript of all such hearings shall be printed and a copy furnished to each Member, Delegate, and the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico.

(b) Other Hearings:

(1) All other hearings conducted by the Committee or its subcommittees shall be open to the public except when the Committee or subcommittee in open session and with a majority present determines by roll call vote that all or part of the remainder of that hearing on that day shall be closed to the public because disclosure of testimony, evidence, or other matters to be considered would endanger the national security or would violate any law or Rule of the House of Representatives. Notwithstanding the requirements of the preceding sentence, a majority of those present at a hearing conducted by the Committee or any of its subcommittees, there being in attendance the number required under Section 5(c) of these Rules to be present for the purpose of taking testimony, (1) may vote to close the hearing for the sole purpose of discussing whether testimony or evidence to be received would endanger the national security or violate Clause 2(k)(5) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives or (2) may vote to close the hearing, as provided in Clause 2(k)(5) of such Rule. No Member of the House of Representatives may be excluded from nonparticipatory attendance at any hearing of the Committee or its subcommittees unless the House of Representatives shall by majority vote authorize the Committee or any of its subcommittees, for purposes of a particular series of hearings on a particular article of legislation or on a particular subject of investigation, to close its hearings to Members by the same procedures designated in this subsection for closing hearings to the public; *Provided, however*, That the Committee or its subcommittees may by the

same procedure vote to close five subsequent days of hearings.

(2) Subcommittee chairmen shall coordinate the development of schedules for meetings or hearings after consultation with the Chairman and other subcommittee chairmen with a view toward avoiding simultaneous scheduling of Committee and subcommittee meetings or hearings.

(3) Each witness who is to appear before the Committee or any of its subcommittees as the case may be, insofar as is practicable, shall file in advance of such appearance, a written statement of the proposed testimony and shall limit the oral presentation at such appearance to a brief summary, except that this provision shall not apply to any witness appearing before the Committee in the overall budget hearings.

(4) Each witness appearing in a nongovernmental capacity before the Committee, or any of its subcommittees as the case may be, shall to the greatest extent practicable, submit a written statement including a curriculum vitae and a disclosure of the amount and source (by agency and program) of any Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof), or contracts or payments originating from a foreign government, received during the current fiscal year or either of the two previous fiscal years by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness and related to the subject matter of the hearing. Such statements, with appropriate redactions to protect the privacy of witnesses, shall be made publicly available in electronic form not later than one day after the witness appears. The disclosure referred to in this paragraph shall include the amount and source of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) related to the subject matter of the hearing, and the amount and country of origin of any payment or contract related to the subject matter of the hearing originating with a foreign government.

(c) Quorum for Taking Testimony—The number of Members of the Committee which shall constitute a quorum for taking testimony and receiving evidence in any hearing of the Committee shall be two.

(d) Calling and Interrogation of Witnesses:

(1) The Minority Members of the Committee or its subcommittees shall be entitled, upon request to the Chairman or subcommittee chairman, by a majority of them before completion of any hearing, to call witnesses selected by the Minority to testify with respect to the matter under consideration during at least one day of hearings thereon.

(2) The Committee and its subcommittees shall observe the five-minute rule during the interrogation of witnesses until such time as each Member of the Committee or subcommittee who so desires has had an opportunity to question the witness.

(e) Broadcasting and Photographing of Committee Meetings and Hearings—Whenever a hearing or meeting conducted by the full Committee or any of its subcommittees is open to the public, those proceedings shall be open to coverage by television, radio, and still photography, and shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements set forth in Clause 4(f) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives. Neither the full Committee Chairman or subcommittee chairman shall limit the number of television or still cameras to fewer than two representatives from each medium (except for legitimate space or safety, in which case pool coverage shall be authorized). To the

maximum practicable, the Committee shall provide audio and video coverage of each hearing or meeting for the transaction of business in a manner that allows the public to easily listen to and view the proceedings and shall maintain the recordings of such coverage in a manner that is easily accessible to the public.

(f) Subcommittee Meetings—No subcommittee shall sit while the House is reading an appropriation measure for amendment under the five-minute rule or while the Committee is in session.

(g) Public Notice of Committee Hearings—The Chairman of the Committee shall make public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of any Committee or subcommittee hearing at least one week before the commencement of the hearing. If the Chairman of the Committee or subcommittee, with the concurrence of the ranking minority member of the Committee or respective subcommittee, determines there is good cause to begin the hearing sooner, or if the Committee or subcommittee so determines by majority vote, a quorum being present for the transaction of business, the Chairman or subcommittee chairman shall make the announcement at the earliest possible date. Any announcement made under this subsection shall be promptly published in the Daily Digest and made publicly available in electronic form.

SEC. 6: PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

(a) Prompt Reporting Requirement:

(1) It shall be the duty of the Chairman to report, or cause to be reported promptly to the House any bill or resolution approved by the Committee and to take or cause to be taken necessary steps to bring the matter to a vote.

(2) In any event, a report on a bill or resolution which the Committee has approved shall be filed within seven calendar days (exclusive of days in which the House is not in session) after the day on which there has been filed with the Committee Clerk a written request, signed by a majority of Committee Members, for the reporting of such bill or resolution. Upon the filing of any such request, the Committee Clerk shall notify the Chairman immediately of the filing of the request. This subsection does not apply to the reporting of a regular appropriation bill or to the reporting of a resolution of inquiry addressed to the head of an executive department.

(b) Presence of Committee Majority—No measure or recommendation shall be reported from the Committee unless a majority of the Committee was actually present.

(c) Roll Call Votes—With respect to each roll call vote on a motion to report any measure or matter of a public character, and on any amendment offered to the measure of matter, the total number of votes cast for and against, and the names of those Members voting for and against, shall be included in the Committee report on the measure or matter.

(d) Compliance With Congressional Budget Act—A Committee report on a bill or resolution which has been approved by the Committee shall include the statement required by Section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, separately set out and clearly identified, if the bill or resolution provides new budget authority.

(e) Changes in Existing Law—Each Committee report on a general appropriation bill shall contain a concise statement describing fully the effect of any provision of the bill which directly or indirectly changes the application of existing law.

(f) Rescissions and Transfers—Each bill or resolution reported by the Committee shall include separate headings for rescissions and transfers of unexpended balances with all proposed rescissions and transfers listed therein. The report of the Committee accompanying such a bill or resolution shall include a separate section with respect to such rescissions or transfers.

(g) Listing of Unauthorized Appropriations—Each Committee report on a general appropriation bill shall contain a list of all appropriations contained in the bill for any expenditure not currently authorized by law for the period concerned (except for classified intelligence or national security programs, projects, or activities) along with a statement of the last year for which such expenditures were authorized, the level of expenditures authorized for that year, the actual level of expenditures for that year, and the level of appropriations in the bill for such expenditures.

(h) Supplemental or Minority Views:

(1) If, at the time the Committee approves any measure or matter, any Committee Member gives notice of intention to file supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views, all Members shall be entitled to not less than two additional calendar days after the day of such notice (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) in which to file such views in writing and signed by the Member, with the Clerk of the Committee. All such views so filed shall be included in and shall be a part of the report filed by the Committee with respect to that measure or matter.

(2) The Committee report on that measure or matter shall be printed in a single volume which—

(i) shall include all supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views which have been submitted by the time of the filing of the report, and

(ii) shall have on its cover a recital that any such supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views are included as part of the report.

(3) This subsection does not preclude—

(i) the immediate filing or printing of a Committee report unless timely request for the opportunity to file supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views has been made as provided by such subsection; or

(ii) the filing by the Committee of a supplemental report on a measure or matter which may be required for correction of any technical error in a previous report made by the Committee on that measure or matter.

(4) If, at the time a subcommittee approves any measure or matter for recommendation to the full Committee, any Member of that subcommittee who gives notice of intention to offer supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views shall be entitled, insofar as is practicable and in accordance with the printing requirements as determined by the subcommittee, to include such views in the Committee Print with respect to that measure or matter.

(i) Availability of Reports—A copy of each bill, resolution, or report shall be made available to each Member of the Committee at least three calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) in advance of the date on which the Committee is to consider each bill, resolution, or report; Provided, That this subsection may be waived by agreement between the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member of the full Committee.

(j) Performance Goals and Objectives—Each Committee report shall contain a

statement of general performance goals and objectives, including outcome-related goals and objectives, for which the measure authorizes funding.

(k) Motion to go to Conference—The Chairman is directed to offer a motion under clause 1 of rule XXII of the Rules of the House whenever the Chairman considers it appropriate.

SEC. 7: VOTING

(a) No vote by any Member of the Committee or any of its subcommittees with respect to any measure or matter may be cast by proxy.

(b) The vote on any question before the Committee shall be taken by the yeas and nays on the demand of one-fifth of the Members present.

(c) The Chairman of the Committee or the chairman of any of its subcommittees may—

(1) postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving a measure or matter or on adopting an amendment;

(2) resume proceedings on a postponed question at any time after reasonable notice.

When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

SEC. 8: STUDIES AND EXAMINATIONS

The following procedure shall be applicable with respect to the conduct of studies and examinations of the organization and operation of Executive Agencies under authority contained in Section 202(b) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 and in Clause (3)(a) of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives:

(a) The Chairman is authorized to appoint such staff and, in his discretion, arrange for the procurement of temporary services of consultants, as from time to time may be required.

(b) Studies and examinations will be initiated upon the written request of a subcommittee which shall be reasonably specific and definite in character, and shall be initiated only by a majority vote of the subcommittee, with the chairman of the subcommittee and the ranking minority member thereof participating as part of such majority vote. When so initiated such request shall be filed with the Clerk of the Committee for submission to the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member and their approval shall be required to make the same effective. Notwithstanding any action taken on such request by the chairman and ranking minority member of the subcommittee, a request may be approved by a majority of the Committee.

(c) Any request approved as provided under subsection (b) shall be immediately turned over to the staff appointed for action.

(d) Any information obtained by such staff shall be reported to the chairman of the subcommittee requesting such study and examination and to the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member, shall be made available to the members of the subcommittee concerned, and shall not be released for publication until the subcommittee so determines.

(e) Any hearings or investigations which may be desired, aside from the regular hearings on appropriation items, when approved by the Committee, shall be conducted by the subcommittee having jurisdiction over the matter.

SEC. 9: TEMPORARY INVESTIGATIVE TASK FORCES

(a) The Chairman of the Full Committee, in consultation with the Ranking Member of

the Full Committee, may establish and appoint members to serve on task forces of the Committee, to examine specific activities for a limited period of time in accordance with clause 5(b)(2)(C) of Rule X of the Rules of the House.

(b) The Chairman of the Full Committee shall issue a written directive, in consultation with the Ranking Member of the Full Committee, delineating the specific activities to be reviewed by a task force constituted pursuant to the preceding paragraph.

(c) A task force constituted under this section shall provide a written report of its findings and recommendations to the Full Committee Chairman and Ranking Member and members of the relevant subcommittees having jurisdiction over the matters reviewed. Such report shall be approved by a majority vote of the task force and shall include any supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views submitted by a Member of the task force or a member of a subcommittee having jurisdiction over the matter reviewed.

(d) Any information obtained during the course of such investigation, and any report produced by, a task force pursuant to this section, shall not be released until the Chairman of the Full Committee has authorized such release.

(e) The Chairman is authorized to appoint such staff, and, in his discretion, arrange for the procurement of temporary services, as from time to time may be required.

SEC. 10: OFFICIAL TRAVEL

(a) The chairman of a subcommittee shall approve requests for travel by subcommittee members and staff for official business within the jurisdiction of that subcommittee. The ranking minority member of a subcommittee shall concur in such travel requests by minority members of that subcommittee and the Ranking Minority Member shall concur in such travel requests for Minority Members of the Committee. Requests in writing covering the purpose, itinerary, and dates of proposed travel shall be submitted for final approval to the Chairman. Specific approval shall be required for each and every trip.

(b) The Chairman is authorized during the recess of the Congress to approve travel authorizations for Committee Members and staff, including travel outside the United States.

(c) As soon as practicable, the Chairman shall direct the head of each Government agency concerned to honor requests of subcommittees, individual Members, or staff for travel, the direct or indirect expenses of which are to be defrayed from an executive appropriation, only upon request from the Chairman.

(d) In accordance with Clause 8 of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives and Section 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended, local currencies owned by the United States shall be available to Committee Members and staff engaged in carrying out their official duties outside the United States, its territories, or possessions. No Committee Member or staff member shall receive or expend local currencies for subsistence in any country at a rate in excess of the maximum per diem rate set forth in applicable Federal law.

(e) Travel Reports:

(1) Members or staff shall make a report to the Chairman on their travel, covering the purpose, results, itinerary, expenses, and other pertinent comments.

(2) With respect to travel outside the United States or its territories or posses-

sions, the report shall include: (1) an itemized list showing the dates each country was visited, the amount of per diem furnished, the cost of transportation furnished, and any funds expended for any other official purpose; and (2) a summary in these categories of the total foreign currencies and/or appropriated funds expended. All such individual reports on foreign travel shall be filed with the Chairman no later than sixty days following completion of the travel for use in complying with reporting requirements in applicable Federal law, and shall be open for public inspection.

(3) Each Member or employee performing such travel shall be solely responsible for supporting the amounts reported by the Member or employee.

(4) No report or statement as to any trip shall be publicized making any recommendations on behalf of the Committee without the authorization of a majority of the Committee.

(f) Members and staff of the Committee performing authorized travel on official business pertaining to the jurisdiction of the Committee shall be governed by applicable laws or regulations of the House and of the Committee on House Administration pertaining to such travel, and as promulgated from time to time by the Chairman.

SEC. 11. ACTIVITIES REPORTS

(a) Not later than January 2 of each odd-numbered year, the Committee shall submit to the House a report on the activities of the Committee.

(b) After adjournment sine die of a regular session of Congress, or after December 15, whichever occurs first, the Chairman may file the report with the Clerk of the House at any time and without the approval of the Committee, provided that a copy of the report has been available to each Member of the Committee for at least seven calendar days and the report includes any supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views submitted by a Member of the Committee.

PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE RULES

RULES FOR THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE 114TH CONGRESS

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to clause 2(a)(2) of House of Representatives Rule XI, I am submitting the Committee on Natural Resources's Rules for publication in the Congressional Record. These rules were adopted by a vote of the Committee on January 28, 2015.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

(Adopted January 28, 2015)

RULE 1. RULES OF THE HOUSE; VICE CHAIRMEN

(a) Applicability of House Rules.

(1) The Rules of the House of Representatives, so far as they are applicable, are the rules of the Committee on Natural Resources (hereinafter in these rules referred to as the "Committee") and its Subcommittees.

(2) Each Subcommittee is part of the Committee and is subject to the authority, direction and rules of the Committee. References in these rules to "Committee" and "Chair-

man" shall apply to each Subcommittee and its Chairman wherever applicable.

(3) House Rule XI is incorporated and made a part of the rules of the Committee to the extent applicable.

(b) Vice Chairmen.—Unless inconsistent with other rules, the Chairman shall appoint Vice Chairmen of the Committee and the Subcommittees. If the Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee is not present at any meeting of the Committee or Subcommittee, as the case may be, the Vice Chairman shall preside. If the Vice Chairman is not present, the ranking Member of the Majority party on the Committee or Subcommittee who is present shall preside at that meeting.

RULE 2. MEETINGS IN GENERAL

(a) Scheduled Meetings.—The Committee shall meet at 10 a.m. the first Wednesday of each month when the House is in session if so noticed by the Chairman under Committee Rule 3(a). The Committee shall also meet at the call of the Chairman subject to advance notice to all Members of the Committee. Special meetings shall be called and convened by the Chairman as provided in clause 2(c)(1) of House Rule XI. Any Committee meeting or hearing that conflicts with a party caucus, conference, or similar party meeting shall be rescheduled at the discretion of the Chairman, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member. The Committee may not sit during a joint session of the House and Senate or during a recess when a joint meeting of the House and Senate is in progress.

(b) Open Meetings.—Each meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, and each hearing of the Committee or a Subcommittee shall be open to the public, except as provided by clause 2(g) and clause 2(k) of House Rule XI.

(c) Broadcasting.—Whenever a meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, or a hearing is open to the public, that meeting or hearing shall be open to coverage by television, radio, and still photography in accordance with clauses 2(a)(1) and 4 of House Rule XI. The provisions of clause 4(f) of House Rule XI are specifically made part of these rules by reference. To the maximum extent practicable, the Committee shall provide audio and visual coverage of each hearing or meeting for the transaction of business in a manner that allows the public to easily listen to and view the proceedings, and maintain the recordings of such coverage in a manner that is easily accessible to the public. Operation and use of any Committee Internet broadcast system shall be fair and nonpartisan and in accordance with clause 4(b) of House Rule XI and all other applicable rules of the Committee and the House.

(d) Oversight Plan.—No later than February 15 of the first session of each Congress, the Committee shall adopt its oversight plans for that Congress in accordance with clause 2(d)(1) of House Rule X.

RULE 3. MEETING AND HEARING PROCEDURES IN GENERAL

(a) Notice and Information for Members and the Public.

(1) The Chairman shall publicly announce the date, place and subject matter of: (i) a Committee hearing, which may not commence earlier than one week after such notice; or (ii) a Committee meeting, which may not commence earlier than the third day on which Members have notice thereof.

(2) A hearing or meeting may begin sooner if the Chairman, with the concurrence of the

Ranking Minority Member, determines that there is good cause to begin the meeting or hearing sooner, or if the Committee so determines by majority vote. In these cases, the Chairman shall publicly announce the meeting or hearing at the earliest possible time. The Committee shall promptly notify the Daily Digest Clerk of the Congressional Record and shall promptly make publicly available in electronic form the appropriate information as soon as possible after the public announcement is made.

(3) To the extent practicable, a background memorandum prepared by the Majority staff summarizing the major provisions of any bill being considered by the Committee, including the need for the bill and its effect on current law, will be available for the Members of the Committee and the public no later than 48 hours before the meeting.

(b) Public Availability of Markup Text.—At least 24 hours prior to the markup of any legislation (or at the time of an announcement under paragraph (a)(2) above made within 24 hours before such meeting), the Chairman shall cause the text of such legislation to be made publicly available in electronic form.

(c) Meetings and Hearings to Begin Promptly.—Each meeting or hearing of the Committee shall begin promptly at the time stipulated in the public announcement of the meeting or hearing.

(d) Addressing the Committee.—A Committee Member may address the Committee or a Subcommittee on any bill, motion, or other matter under consideration or may question a witness at a hearing only when recognized by the Chairman for that purpose. The time a Member may address the Committee or Subcommittee for any purpose or to question a witness shall be limited to five minutes, except as provided in Committee Rule 4(f). A Member shall limit his remarks to the subject matter under consideration. The Chairman shall enforce the preceding provision.

(e) Quorums.

(1) A majority of the Members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the reporting of any measure or recommendation, the authorizing of a subpoena, the closing of any meeting or hearing to the public under clause 2(g)(1), clause 2(g)(2)(A) and clause 2(k)(5)(B) of House Rule XI, and the releasing of executive session materials under clause 2(k)(7) of House Rule X. Testimony and evidence may be received at any hearing at which there are at least two Members of the Committee present. For the purpose of transacting all other business of the Committee, one third of the Members shall constitute a quorum.

(2) When a call of the roll is required to ascertain the presence of a quorum, the offices of all Members shall be notified and the Members shall have not less than 15 minutes to prove their attendance. The Chairman shall have the discretion to waive this requirement when a quorum is actually present or whenever a quorum is secured and may direct the relevant Committee Staff to note the names of all Members present within the 15-minute period.

(f) Participation of Members in Committee and Subcommittees.—Any Member of the Committee may sit with any Subcommittee during any meeting or hearing, and by unanimous consent of the Members of the Subcommittee, may participate in such meeting or hearing. However, a Member who is not a Member of the Subcommittee may not vote on any matter before the Subcommittee, be counted for purposes of establishing a quorum or raise points of order.

(g) Proxies.—No vote in the Committee or its Subcommittees may be cast by proxy.

(h) Record Votes.—Record votes shall be ordered on the demand of one-fifth of the Members present, or by any Member in the apparent absence of a quorum.

(i) Postponed Record Votes.

(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the Chairman may, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving any measure or matter or adopting an amendment. The Chairman shall resume proceedings on a postponed request at any time after reasonable notice, but no later than the next meeting day.

(2) Notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, when proceedings resume on a postponed question under paragraph (1), an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

(3) This rule shall apply to Subcommittee proceedings.

(j) Privileged Motions.—A motion to recess from day to day, a motion to recess subject to the call of the Chairman (within 24 hours), and a motion to dispense with the first reading (in full) of a bill or resolution if printed copies are available, are nondebatable motions of high privilege.

(k) Layover and Copy of Bill.—No measure or recommendation reported by a Subcommittee shall be considered by the Committee until two calendar days from the time of Subcommittee action. No bill shall be considered by the Committee unless a copy has been delivered to the office of each Member of the Committee requesting a copy. These requirements may be waived by a majority vote of the Committee at the time of consideration of the measure or recommendation.

(l) Access to Dais and Conference Room.—Access to the hearing rooms' daises (and to the conference rooms adjacent to the Committee hearing rooms) shall be limited to Members of Congress and employees of the Committee during a meeting or hearing of the Committee, except that Committee Members' personal staff may be present on the daises if their employing Member is the author of a bill or amendment under consideration by the Committee, but only during the time that the bill or amendment is under active consideration by the Committee. Access to the conference rooms adjacent to the Committee hearing rooms shall be limited to Members of Congress and employees of Congress during a meeting or hearing of the Committee.

(m) Cellular Telephones.—The use of cellular telephones is prohibited on the Committee dais or in the Committee hearing rooms during a meeting or hearing of the Committee.

(n) Motion to go to Conference with the Senate.—The Chairman may offer a motion under clause 1 of Rule XXII whenever the Chairman considers it appropriate.

RULE 4. HEARING PROCEDURES

(a) Written Statement; Oral Testimony.—Each witness who is to appear before the Committee or a Subcommittee shall file with the relevant Full Committee Staff or Subcommittee Clerk, at least two working days before the day of his or her appearance, a written statement of their proposed testimony. Each witness shall limit his or her oral presentation to a five-minute summary of the written statement, unless the Chairman, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, extends this time period.

Subject to the approval of the Committee, the Chairman may waive oral testimony of any witness who has submitted written testimony for the record. In addition, a witness appearing in a nongovernmental capacity shall include a curriculum vitae and a disclosure of any Federal grants or contracts, or contracts or payments originating with a foreign government, received during the current calendar year or either of the previous calendar years by the witness or by the entity represented by the witness and related to the subject matter of the hearing. The disclosure shall include the amount and source of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) related to the subject matter of the hearing and the amount and country of origin of any payment or contract related to the subject matter of the hearing originating with a foreign government. Failure to comply with these disclosure requirements may result in the exclusion of the written testimony from the hearing record and/or the barring of an oral presentation of the testimony.

(b) Minority Witnesses.—When any hearing is conducted by the Committee or any Subcommittee upon any measure or matter, the Minority party Members on the Committee or Subcommittee shall be entitled, upon request to the Chairman by a majority of those Minority Members before the completion of the hearing, to call witnesses selected by the Minority to testify with respect to that measure or matter during at least one day of hearings thereon.

(c) Information for Members.—After announcement of a hearing, the Committee shall make available as soon as practicable to all Members of the Committee a tentative witness list and to the extent practicable the Majority staff shall make publicly available a memorandum explaining the subject matter of the hearing (including relevant legislative reports and other necessary material). In addition, the Chairman shall make available to the Members of the Committee any official reports from departments and agencies on the subject matter as they are received.

(d) Subpoenas.—The Committee or a Subcommittee may authorize and issue a subpoena under clause 2(m) of House Rule XI if authorized by a majority of the Members voting. In addition, the Chairman of the Committee may authorize and issue subpoenas during any period of time in which the House of Representatives has adjourned for more than three days. Subpoenas shall be signed only by the Chairman of the Committee, or any Member of the Committee authorized by the Committee, and may be served by any person designated by the Chairman or Member.

(e) Oaths.—The Chairman of the Committee, the Chairmen of the Subcommittees or any Member designated by the Chairman may administer oaths to any witness before the Committee. All witnesses appearing in hearings may be administered the following oath by the Chairman or his designee prior to receiving the testimony: "Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the testimony that you are about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?"

(f) Opening Statements; Questioning of Witnesses.

(1) Opening statements by Members may not be presented orally, unless the Chairman or his designee makes a statement, in which case the Ranking Minority Member or his designee may also make a statement. In addition, the Vice Chairman may make a statement, in which case, a designee of the Ranking Minority Member may also make a

statement. If a witness scheduled to testify at any hearing of the Committee is a constituent of a Member of the Committee, that Member shall be entitled to briefly introduce the witness at the hearing.

(2) The questioning of witnesses in Committee and Subcommittee hearings shall be initiated by the Chairman, followed by the Ranking Minority Member and all other Members alternating between the Majority and Minority parties. In recognizing Members to question witnesses, the Chairman shall take into consideration the ratio of the Majority to Minority Members present and shall establish the order of recognition for questioning in a manner so as not to disadvantage the Members of the Majority or the Members of the Minority. A motion in order to allow designated Majority and Minority party Members to question a witness for a specified period to be equally divided between the Majority and Minority parties. This period shall not exceed one hour in the aggregate.

(g) Materials for Hearing Record.—Any materials submitted specifically for inclusion in the hearing record must address the announced subject matter of the hearing and be submitted to the relevant Full Committee Staff or Subcommittee Clerk no later than 10 business days following the last day of the hearing.

(h) Claims of Privilege.—Claims of common-law privileges made by witnesses in hearings, or by interviewees or deponents in investigations or inquiries, are applicable only at the discretion of the Chairman, subject to appeal to the Committee.

RULE 5. FILING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) Duty of Chairman.—Whenever the Committee authorizes the favorable reporting of a measure from the Committee, the Chairman or his designee shall report the same to the House of Representatives and shall take all steps necessary to secure its passage without any additional authority needing to be set forth in the motion to report each individual measure. In appropriate cases, the authority set forth in this rule shall extend to moving in accordance with the Rules of the House of Representatives that the House be resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the measure; and to moving in accordance with the Rules of the House of Representatives for the disposition of a Senate measure that is substantially the same as the House measure as reported.

(b) Filing.—A report on a measure which has been approved by the Committee shall be filed within seven calendar days (exclusive of days on which the House of Representatives is not in session) after the day on which there has been filed with the relevant Full Committee Staff a written request, signed by a majority of the Members of the Committee, for the reporting of that measure. Upon the filing with the relevant Full Committee Staff of this request, the Staff shall transmit immediately to the Chairman notice of the filing of that request.

(c) Supplemental, Additional, Dissenting or Minority Views.—Any Member may, if notice is given by any Member at the time a measure or matter is approved by the Committee, file supplemental, additional, dissenting or minority views. These views must be in writing and signed by each Member joining therein and be filed with the Committee Chief Counsel not less than two additional calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays except when the House is in session on those days) of the time the bill or resolution is approved by the

Committee. This paragraph shall not preclude the filing of any supplemental report on any measure or matter that may be required for the correction of any technical error in a previous report made by the Committee on that bill or resolution.

(d) Review by Members.—Each Member of the Committee shall be given an opportunity to review each proposed Committee report before it is filed with the Clerk of the House of Representatives. Nothing in this paragraph extends the time allowed for filing supplemental, additional or minority views under paragraph (c).

(e) Disclaimer.—All Committee or Subcommittee reports printed and not approved by a majority vote of the Committee or Subcommittee, as appropriate, shall contain the following disclaimer on the cover of the report:

“This report has not been officially adopted by the {Committee on Natural Resources} {Subcommittee} and may not therefore necessarily reflect the views of its Members.”

RULE 6. ESTABLISHMENT OF SUBCOMMITTEES; FULL COMMITTEE JURISDICTION; BILL REFERRALS

(a) Subcommittees.—There shall be five standing Subcommittees of the Committee, with the following jurisdiction and responsibilities:

Subcommittee on Federal Lands

(1) Measures and matters related to the National Park System and its units, including Federal reserved water rights.

(2) The National Wilderness Preservation System.

(3) Wild and Scenic Rivers System, National Trails System, national heritage areas and other national units established for protection, conservation, preservation or recreational development, other than coastal barriers.

(4) Military parks and battlefields, national cemeteries administered by the Secretary of the Interior, parks in and within the vicinity of the District of Columbia and the erection of monuments to the memory of individuals.

(5) Federal and non-Federal outdoor recreation plans, programs and administration including the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 and the Outdoor Recreation Act of 1963.

(6) Preservation of prehistoric ruins and objects of interest on the public domain and other historic preservation programs and activities, including national monuments, historic sites and programs for international cooperation in the field of historic preservation.

(7) Matters concerning the following agencies and programs: Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Program, Historic American Buildings Survey, Historic American Engineering Record, and U.S. Holocaust Memorial.

(8) Public lands generally, including measures or matters relating to entry, easements, withdrawals, grazing and Federal reserved water rights.

(9) Forfeiture of land grants and alien ownership, including alien ownership of mineral lands.

(10) Cooperative efforts to encourage, enhance and improve international programs for the protection of the environment and the conservation of natural resources otherwise within the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee.

(11) Forest reservations, including management thereof, created from the public domain.

(12) Public forest lands generally, including measures or matters related to entry, easements, withdrawals, grazing and Federal reserved water rights.

(13) Wildlife resources, including research, restoration, refuges and conservation, and National Wildlife Refuges.

Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans

(1) Generation and marketing of electric power from Federal water projects by Federally chartered or Federal regional power marketing authorities.

(2) All measures and matters concerning water resources planning conducted pursuant to the Water Resources Planning Act, water resource research and development programs and saline water research and development.

(3) Compacts relating to the use and apportionment of interstate waters, water rights and major interbasin water or power movement programs.

(4) All measures and matters pertaining to irrigation and reclamation projects and other water resources development and recycling programs, including policies and procedures.

(5) Indian water rights and settlements.

(6) Rights of way over public lands for energy-related transmission.

(7) Fisheries management and fisheries research generally, including the management of all commercial and recreational fisheries (including the reauthorization of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act), interjurisdictional fisheries, international fisheries agreements, aquaculture, seafood safety, and fisheries promotion.

(8) All matters pertaining to the protection of coastal and marine environments, estuarine protection, and coastal barriers (except coastal zone management).

(9) Oceanography.

(10) Ocean engineering, including materials, technology and systems.

(11) Marine sanctuaries.

(12) U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea.

(13) All matters regarding Antarctica within the Committee's jurisdiction.

(14) Sea Grant programs and marine extension services.

(15) Cooperative efforts to encourage, enhance and improve international programs for the protection of the environment and the conservation of natural resources otherwise within the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee.

Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources

(1) All measures and matters concerning the U.S. Geological Survey, except for the activities and programs of the Water Resources Division or its successor.

(2) All measures and matters affecting geothermal resources.

(3) Conservation of United States uranium supply.

(4) Mining interests generally, including all matters involving mining regulation and enforcement, including the reclamation of mined lands, the environmental effects of mining, and the management of mineral receipts, mineral land laws and claims, long-range mineral programs and deep seabed mining.

(5) Mining schools, experimental stations and long-range mineral programs.

(6) Mineral resources on public lands.

(7) Conservation and development of oil and gas resources of the Outer Continental Shelf.

(8) Petroleum conservation on the public lands and conservation of the radium supply in the United States.

(9) Measures and matters concerning the transportation of natural gas from or within Alaska and disposition of oil transported by the trans-Alaska oil pipeline.

(10) Cooperative efforts to encourage, enhance and improve international programs for the protection of the environment and the conservation of natural resources otherwise within the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee.

(11) Coastal zone management.

Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs

(1) Measures relating to the welfare of Native Americans, including management of Indian lands in general and special measures relating to claims which are paid out of Indian funds.

(2) All matters regarding the relations of the United States with Native Americans and Native American tribes, including special oversight functions under House Rule X.

(3) All matters regarding Native Alaskans.

(4) All matters related to the Federal trust responsibility to Native Americans and the sovereignty of Native Americans.

(5) All matters regarding insular areas of the United States.

(6) All measures or matters regarding the Freely Associated States.

(7) All matters regarding Native Hawaiians.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

(1) Primary and general oversight and investigative authority on all activities, policies and programs within the jurisdiction of the Committee under House Rule X.

(b) Full Committee.—The following measures and matters shall be retained at the Full Committee:

(1) Environmental and habitat measures of general applicability, including the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act.

(2) Cooperative efforts to encourage, enhance and improve international programs for the protection of the environment and the conservation of natural resources otherwise within the jurisdiction of the Full Committee under this paragraph.

(3) All other measures and matters retained by the Full Committee, including those retained under Committee Rule 6(e).

(4) General and continuing oversight and investigative authority over activities, policies and programs within the jurisdiction of the Full Committee.

(c) Ex-officio Members.—The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee may serve as ex-officio Members of each standing Subcommittee to which the Chairman or the Ranking Minority Member have not been assigned. Ex-officio Members shall have the right to fully participate in Subcommittee activities but may not vote and may not be counted in establishing a quorum.

(d) Powers and Duties of Subcommittees.—Each Subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive evidence and report to the Committee on all matters within its jurisdiction. Each Subcommittee shall review and study, on a continuing basis, the application, administration, execution and effectiveness of those statutes, or parts of statutes, the subject matter of which is within that Subcommittee's jurisdiction; and the organization, operation, and regulations of any Federal agency or entity having responsibilities in or for the administration of such statutes, to determine whether these statutes are being implemented and carried out in accordance with the intent of Congress.

Each Subcommittee shall review and study any conditions or circumstances indicating the need of enacting new or supplemental legislation within the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee. Each Subcommittee shall have general and continuing oversight and investigative authority over activities, policies and programs within the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee.

(e) Referral to Subcommittees; Recall.

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) and for those measures or matters retained at the Full Committee, every legislative measure or other matter referred to the Committee shall be referred to the maximum extent possible to the Subcommittee of jurisdiction within two weeks of the date of its referral to the Committee. If any measure or matter is within or affects the jurisdiction of one or more Subcommittees, the Chairman may refer that measure or matter simultaneously to two or more Subcommittees for concurrent consideration or for consideration in sequence subject to appropriate time limits, or divide the matter into two or more parts and refer each part to a Subcommittee.

(2) The Chairman, with the approval of a majority of the Majority Members of the Committee, may refer a legislative measure or other matter to a select or special Subcommittee. A legislative measure or other matter referred by the Chairman to a Subcommittee may be recalled from the Subcommittee for direct consideration by the Full Committee, or for referral to another Subcommittee, provided Members of the Committee receive one week written notice of the recall and a majority of the Members of the Committee do not object. In addition, a legislative measure or other matter referred by the Chairman to a Subcommittee may be recalled from the Subcommittee at any time by majority vote of the Committee for direct consideration by the Full Committee or for referral to another Subcommittee.

(f) Consultation.—Each Subcommittee Chairman shall consult with the Chairman of the Full Committee prior to setting dates for Subcommittee meetings and hearings with a view towards avoiding whenever possible conflicting Committee and Subcommittee meetings and hearings.

(g) Vacancy.—A vacancy in the membership of a Subcommittee shall not affect the power of the remaining Members to execute the functions of the Subcommittee.

RULE 7. TASK FORCES, SPECIAL OR SELECT SUBCOMMITTEES

(a) Appointment.—The Chairman of the Committee is authorized, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, to appoint Task Forces, or special or select Subcommittees, to carry out the duties and functions of the Committee.

(b) Ex-Officio Members.—The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee may serve as ex-officio Members of each Task Force, or special or select Subcommittee if they are not otherwise members. Ex-officio Members shall have the right to fully participate in activities but may not vote and may not be counted in establishing a quorum.

(c) Party Ratios.—The ratio of Majority Members to Minority Members, excluding ex-officio Members, on each Task Force, special or select Subcommittee shall be as close as practicable to the ratio on the Full Committee.

(d) Temporary Resignation.—A Member can temporarily resign his or her position on a Subcommittee to serve on a Task Force,

special or select Subcommittee without prejudice to the Member's seniority on the Subcommittee.

(e) Chairman and Ranking Minority Member.—The Chairman of any Task Force, or special or select Subcommittee shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Committee. The Ranking Minority Member shall select a Ranking Minority Member for each Task Force, or standing, special or select Subcommittee.

RULE 8. RECOMMENDATION OF CONFEREES

Whenever it becomes necessary to appoint conferees on a particular measure, the Chairman shall recommend to the Speaker as conferees those Majority Members, as well as those Minority Members recommended to the Chairman by the Ranking Minority Member, primarily responsible for the measure. The ratio of Majority Members to Minority Members recommended for conferences shall be no greater than the ratio on the Committee.

RULE 9. COMMITTEE RECORDS

(a) Segregation of Records.—All Committee records shall be kept separate and distinct from the office records of individual Committee Members serving as Chairmen or Ranking Minority Members. These records shall be the property of the House and all Members shall have access to them in accordance with clause 2(e)(2) of House Rule XI.

(b) Availability.—The Committee shall make available to the public for review at reasonable times in the Committee office transcripts of public meetings and hearings, except those that are unrevised or unedited and intended solely for the use of the Committee.

(c) Archived Records.—Records of the Committee which are deposited with the National Archives shall be made available for public use pursuant to House Rule VII. The Chairman of the Committee shall notify the Ranking Minority Member of any decision, pursuant to clause 3(b)(3) or clause 4(b) of House Rule VII, to withhold, or to provide a time, schedule or condition for availability of any record otherwise available. At the written request of any Member of the Committee, the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination and shall be subject to the same notice and quorum requirements for the conduct of business under Committee Rule 3.

(d) Records of Closed Meetings.—Notwithstanding the other provisions of this rule, no records of Committee meetings or hearings which were closed to the public pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives shall be released to the public unless the Committee votes to release those records in accordance with the procedure used to close the Committee meeting.

(e) Classified Materials.—All classified materials shall be maintained in an appropriately secured location and shall be released only to authorized persons for review, who shall not remove the material from the Committee offices without the written permission of the Chairman.

(f) Committee Information Available for the Public.—In addition to any other requirement of these rules or the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Chairman shall cause to be made available publicly in electronic form the following:

(1) a record of the votes on any question on which a recorded vote is taken which shall be posted no later than 24 hours after the vote is taken that shall include:

(i) a copy of the amendment or a detailed description of the motion, order or other proposition; and

(ii) the name of each Member voting for and each Member voting against such amendment, motion, order, or proposition, the names of those Members voting present, and the names of any Member not present.

(2) copies of all amendments adopted in Committee by voice vote or unanimous consent within 24 hours of the adoption of the amendment.

(3) the rules of the Committee, once adopted, and any amendments thereto, in accordance with clause 2(a)(2) of House Rule XI.

(4) the statements required under the second sentence of clause 2(g)(5) of House Rule XI, with appropriate redactions to protect the privacy of the witness, which shall be posted no later than one day after the witness appears before the Committee.

RULE 10. COMMITTEE BUDGET AND EXPENSES

(a) Budget.—At the beginning of each Congress, after consultation with the Chairman of each Subcommittee and the Ranking Minority Member, the Chairman shall present to the Committee for its approval a budget covering the funding required for staff, travel, and miscellaneous expenses.

(b) Expense Resolution.—Upon approval by the Committee of each budget, the Chairman, acting pursuant to clause 6 of House Rule X, shall prepare and introduce in the House a supporting expense resolution, and take all action necessary to bring about its approval by the Committee on House Administration and by the House of Representatives.

(c) Amendments.—The Chairman shall report to the Committee any amendments to each expense resolution and any related changes in the budget.

(d) Additional Expenses.—Authorization for the payment of additional or unforeseen Committee expenses may be procured by one or more additional expense resolutions processed in the same manner as set out under this rule.

(e) Month Reports.—Copies of each monthly report, prepared by the Chairman for the Committee on House Administration, which shows expenditures made during the reporting period and cumulative for the year, anticipated expenditures for the projected Committee program, and detailed information on travel, shall be available to each Member.

RULE 11. COMMITTEE STAFF

(a) Rules and Policies.—Committee staff members are subject to the provisions of clause 9 of House Rule X, as well as any written personnel policies the Committee may from time to time adopt.

(b) Majority and Nonpartisan Staff.—The Chairman shall appoint, determine the remuneration of, and may remove, the legislative and administrative employees of the Committee not assigned to the Minority. The legislative and administrative staff of the Committee not assigned to the Minority shall be under the general supervision and direction of the Chairman, who shall establish and assign the duties and responsibilities of these staff members and delegate any authority he determines appropriate.

(c) Minority Staff.—The Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall appoint, determine the remuneration of, and may remove, the legislative and administrative staff assigned to the Minority within the budget approved for those purposes. The legislative and administrative staff assigned to the Minority shall be under the general supervision and direction of the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee who may delegate any authority the Ranking Member determines appropriate.

(d) Availability.—The skills and services of all Committee staff shall be available to all Members of the Committee.

RULE 12. COMMITTEE TRAVEL

In addition to any written travel policies the Committee may from time to time adopt, all travel of Members and staff of the Committee or its Subcommittees, to hearings, meetings, conferences and investigations, including all foreign travel, must be authorized by the Full Committee Chairman prior to any public notice of the travel and prior to the actual travel. In the case of Minority staff, all travel shall first be approved by the Ranking Minority Member. Funds authorized for the Committee under clauses 6 and 7 of House Rule X are for expenses incurred in the Committee's activities within the United States.

RULE 13. CHANGES TO COMMITTEE RULES

The rules of the Committee may be modified, amended, or repealed, by a majority vote of the Committee, provided that written notice of the proposed change has been provided each Member of the Committee prior to the meeting date on which the changes are to be discussed and voted on consistent with Committee Rule 3(a). A change to the rules of the Committee shall be published in the Congressional Record no later than 30 days after its approval and made publicly available in electronic form.

RULE 14. OTHER PROCEDURES

The Chairman may establish procedures and take actions as may be necessary to carry out the rules of the Committee or to facilitate the effective administration of the Committee, in accordance with the rules of the Committee and the Rules of the House of Representatives.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, February 3, 2015, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

273. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's Agency Financial Report for FY 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture.

274. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's withdrawal of interim rule — Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia; Interstate Movement and Import Restrictions on Certain Live Fish [Docket No.: APHIS-2007-0038] (RIN: 0579-AC74) received January 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

275. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Sulfoxaflo; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0643; FRL-9920-45] received January

23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

276. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, OUSD(AT&L) DPAP/DARS, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Further Implementation of Trafficking in Persons Policy (DFARS Case 2013-D007) (RIN: 0750-AH93) received January 26, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

277. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Federal Awarding Agency Regulatory Implementation of Office of Management and Budget's Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (RIN: 1991-AB94) received January 6, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

278. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Extension of the Laboratory and Analytical Use Exemption for Essential Class I Ozone-Depleting Substances [EPA-HQ-OAR-2014-0621; FRL-9921-52-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AS38) received January 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

279. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Promulgation of State Implementation Plan Revisions; Infrastructure Requirements for the 1997 and 2006 PM_{2.5}, 2008 Lead, 2008 Ozone, and 2010 NO₂ National Ambient Air Quality Standards; South Dakota [EPA-R08-OAR-2011-0725; FRL-9922-04-Region 8] received January 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

280. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Partial Exemption of Certain Chemical Substances from Reporting Additional Chemical Data [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2014-0809; FRL-9921-56] (RIN: 2070-AK01) received January 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

281. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — New Source Performance Standards and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Delegation of Authority to New Mexico [EPA-R06-OAR-2007-0488; FRL-9921-77-Region 6] received January 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

282. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of California; Sacramento Metro Area; Attainment Plan for 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standard [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0178; FRL-9921-99-Region 9] received January 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

283. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Montana;

Revisions to Administrative Rules of Montana — Prevention of Significant Deterioration [EPA-R08-OAR-2014-0713; FRL-9919-42-Region 8] received January 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

284. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's ninth annual report entitled "Assessment of Demand Response and Advanced Metering", pursuant to section 1252(e)(3) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

285. A letter from the Director, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Direct Investment Surveys: BE-10, Benchmark Survey of U.S. Direct Investment Abroad [Docket No.: 1206013202-4700-01] (RIN: 0691-AA83) received January 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

286. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Libya that was declared in Executive Order 13566 of February 25, 2011; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

287. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the former Liberrian regime of Charles Taylor that was declared in Executive Order 13348 of July 22, 2004; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

288. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to transnational criminal organizations that was declared in Executive Order 13581 of July 24, 2011; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

289. A letter from the Departmental Privacy Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Privacy Act Regulations; Exemption for the Insider Threat Program [XXDX4523WT DWT000000.000000 DS65101000] (RIN: 1090-AB07) received January 21, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

290. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program; Limited Liability for Noncoal Reclamation by Certified States and Indian Tribes [Docket ID: OSM-2012-0010; SID1S SS08011000 SX066A00067F 134S180110; S2D2S SS08011000 SX066A00 33F 13XS501520] received January 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

291. A letter from the Chief, Endangered Species Listing Branch, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Status for Gunnison Sage-Grouse [Docket No.: FWS-R6-ES-2012-

0108; 4500030114] (RIN: 1018-AZ20) received January 26, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

292. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's inseason action rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries [Docket No.: 120328229-4949-02] (RIN: 0648-XD653) received January 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. CHAFFETZ: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 50. A bill to provide for additional safeguards with respect to imposing Federal mandates, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-11, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 527. A bill to amend chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the Regulatory Flexibility Act), to ensure complete analysis of potential impacts on small entities of rules, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-12, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BURGESS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 70. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 596) to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-13). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII the Committees on the Budget, Rules, and the Judiciary discharged from further consideration. H.R. 50 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII the Committee on Small Business discharged from further consideration. H.R. 527 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. RANGEL (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. POCAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. LEE, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. PETERSON, Ms. BASS, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. POLIS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CLAY, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. SERRANO, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 634. A bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. RANGEL (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. MEEKS,

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. LEE, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. PETERSON, Ms. BASS, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. POLIS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CLAY, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. SERRANO, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 635. A bill to facilitate the export of United States agricultural products to Cuba as authorized by the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000, to remove impediments to the export to Cuba of medical devices and medicines, to allow travel to Cuba by United States legal residents, to establish an agricultural export promotion program with respect to Cuba, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, the Judiciary, Agriculture, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TIBERI (for himself, Mr. KIND, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. NEAL, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. REED, and Mr. SMITH of Missouri):

H.R. 636. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCHOCK (for himself and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 637. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the rule allowing certain tax-free distributions from individual retirement accounts for charitable purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MACARTHUR:

H.R. 638. A bill to prohibit the Federal Emergency Management Agency from recouping certain assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. PITTS (for himself, Mr. PAL-LONE, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas):

H.R. 639. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to drug scheduling recommendations by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and with respect to registration of manufacturers and distributors seeking to conduct clinical testing; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PAULSEN (for himself and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 640. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the tax rate for excise tax on investment income of private foundations; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. DENT, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. ESTY, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. JOYCE, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KIND, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. NEAL, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. REED, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. WALZ, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. MARINO, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. WELCH, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, and Mr. SANFORD):

H.R. 641. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. WALORSKI (for herself, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. COFFMAN, and Mr. RUIZ):

H.R. 642. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the eligibility for beneficiary travel for veterans seeking treatment or care for military sexual trauma in specialized outpatient or residential programs at facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK):

H.R. 643. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into a contract with a non-government entity to conduct a survey of individuals who have used or are using their entitlement to educational assistance under the educational assistance programs administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 644. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 645. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide career education pathways in manufacturing; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ESTY (for herself and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut):

H.R. 646. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook in the State of Connecticut as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BURGESS (for himself and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas):

H.R. 647. A bill to amend title XII of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain trauma care programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BURGESS (for himself and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas):

H.R. 648. A bill to amend title XII of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain trauma care programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. POCAN (for himself, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. KIND, Mr.

COHEN, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California):

H.R. 649. A bill to authorize borrowers of loans under the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program to modify the interest rate of such loans to be equal to the interest rate for such loans at the time of modification; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. FINCHER (for himself, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. BARR, and Ms. SINEMA):

H.R. 650. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to modify the definitions of a mortgage originator and a high-cost mortgage; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself and Mr. LANGEVIN):

H.R. 651. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 820 Elmwood Avenue in Providence, Rhode Island, as the "Sister Ann Keefe Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. HANNA (for himself and Ms. HAHN):

H.R. 652. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to reauthorize the State infrastructure bank program; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. QUIGLEY):

H.R. 653. A bill to amend section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the Freedom of Information Act), to provide for greater public access to information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. JOLLY (for himself, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. SALMON, Mr. NUGENT, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. PALMER, Mr. YOHO, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. GOWDY, and Mr. HARRIS):

H.R. 654. A bill to prohibit the modification, termination, abandonment, or transfer of the lease by which the United States acquired the land and waters containing Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. LATTA (for himself and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 655. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to reform the Federal Communications Commission by requiring an analysis of benefits and costs during the rule making process and creating certain presumptions regarding regulatory forbearance and biennial regulatory review determinations; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. LOFGREN (for herself, Mr. POE of Texas, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. POLIS, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. SWALWELL of California, and Mr. O'ROURKE):

H.R. 656. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to disclosures to governments by communications-related service providers of certain information consisting of or relating to communications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consider-

ation of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 657. A bill to direct the United States Postal Service to designate a single, unique ZIP Code for Glendale, New York; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. MENG (for herself and Mr. LANCE):

H.R. 658. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress an annual report on the performance of the regional offices of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MULLIN (for himself, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. COLE, Mr. TIPTON, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. FLORES, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. HUELSKAMP, and Mr. BRIDESTINE):

H.R. 659. A bill to reverse the Department of the Interior's listing of the lesser prairie chicken as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, to prevent further consideration of listing of such species as a threatened species or endangered species under that Act pending implementation of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Lesser Prairie-Chicken Range-Wide Conservation Plan and other conservation measures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. PERLMUTTER:

H.R. 660. A bill to amend section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, to allow the President not to make an annual budget resolution until all appropriations for the preceding fiscal year are enacted; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. POMPEO (for himself, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, and Mr. WESTMORELAND):

H.R. 661. A bill to terminate the Economic Development Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POSEY (for himself, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. FOXX, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. CLAY, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. ROSS, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. YODER, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. COLE, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. CARDENAS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. COSTA, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. ROSKAM):

H.R. 662. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to clarify the Food and Drug Administration's jurisdiction over certain tobacco products, and to protect jobs and small businesses involved in the sale, manufacturing and distribution of traditional and premium cigars; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 663. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make permanent the

extension of the Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) program and the increased payments under the Medicare low-volume hospital program; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SANFORD (for himself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Ms. LEE, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. RANGEL):

H.R. 664. A bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. PETERSON):

H.R. 665. A bill to provide for the establishment of the Tick-Borne Diseases Advisory Committee; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SCHIFF:

H.J. Res. 27. A joint resolution to authorize the use of United States Armed Forces against the terrorist organization Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant ("ISIL"); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. HIMES (for himself, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. POCAN, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. HONDA, Mr. COHEN, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mr. SMITH of Washington):

H. Res. 67. A resolution expressing support for designation of February 12, 2015, as "Darwin Day" and recognizing the importance of science in the betterment of humanity; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. KLINE (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia):

H. Res. 68. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Education and the Workforce in the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. MILLER of Florida:

H. Res. 69. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs in the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. BECERRA:

H. Res. 71. A resolution electing Members to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CONAWAY:

H. Res. 72. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Agriculture in the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN:

H. Res. 73. A resolution recognizing the importance of trade to the United States economy and the importance of completing free trade agreements with Pacific Rim countries and the European Union; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California (for herself, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. HONDA, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. HINOJOSA):

H. Res. 74. A resolution expressing support for designation of the week of February 2, 2015, through February 6, 2015, as "National School Counseling Week"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SHUSTER (for himself and Mr. DEFazio):

H. Res. 75. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in the One Hun-

dred Fourteenth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. UPTON:

H. Res. 76. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Energy and Commerce in the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H.R. 634.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

To regulate Commerce with Foreign Nations

By Mr. RANGEL:

H.R. 635.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

To regulate Commerce with Foreign Nations

By Mr. TIBERI:

H.R. 636.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 7 which provides that "All bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives."

By Mr. SCHOCK:

H.R. 637.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress as stated in Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MACARTHUR:

H.R. 638.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill was introduced pursuant to powers granted to Congress under the General Welfare Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 1) and the Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Clause 18)

By Mr. PITTS:

H.R. 639.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, which states that Congress shall have the power "to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states . . ."

By Mr. PAULSEN:

H.R. 640.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 641.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. WALORSKI:

H.R. 642.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 643.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States and Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution of the United States.

Article I, section 8 of the United State Constitution, which grants Congress the power to raise and support an Army; to provide and maintain a Navy; to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces; and provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia.

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 644.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 645.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. ESTY:

H.R. 646.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 647.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article One, Section Eight, Clause One

"The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States."

Article One, Section Eight, Clause Three

"To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes."

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 648.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article One, Section Eight, Clause One

"The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States."

Article One, Section Eight, Clause Three

"To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes."

By Mr. POCAN:

H.R. 649.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. FINCHER:

H.R. 650.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article II, Section 8

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 651.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 7.

By Mr. HANNA:

H.R. 652.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority on which this bill rests is enumerated in Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ISSA:

H.R. 653.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. JOLLY:

H.R. 654.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 655.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: Congress shall have the Power . . . "to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes."

By Ms. LOFGREN:

H.R. 656.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 657.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 658.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. MULLIN:

H.R. 659.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. PERLMUTTER:

H.R. 660.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. POMPEO:

H.R. 661.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 662.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

Mr. REED:

H.R. 663.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8

By Mr. SANFORD:

H.R. 664.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, granting authority to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18, granting authority to make all laws that are necessary and proper for executing the foregoing powers.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 665.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill is based is Congress's power under Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. SCHIFF:

H.J. Res. 27.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 93: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 94: Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 114: Mr. WESTERMAN.

H.R. 167: Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. ISSA, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. STEWART, and Mr. HUNTER.

H.R. 169: Mr. SIMPSON, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. JONES, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. POMPEO.

H.R. 173: Mr. FARENTHOLD and Mr. POLIQUIN.

H.R. 183: Mr. ROUZER and Mr. NEUGEBAUER.

H.R. 197: Mr. DOLD, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 232: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 234: Mr. ROYCE and Mr. PITTINGER.

H.R. 247: Mr. HONDA, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. LEE, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 266: Ms. FOXX.

H.R. 271: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 280: Ms. SINEMA.

H.R. 281: Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. MESSER, Mr. LONG, Mr. PEARCE, and Mr. YODER.

H.R. 284: Mrs. BLACK and Mrs. ELLMERS.

H.R. 287: Mr. RUSSELL.

H.R. 303: Mr. SARBANES.

H.R. 310: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. FORBES, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. LATTA, and Mr. FINCHER.

H.R. 333: Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. DELBENE, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 361: Ms. MCSALLY.

H.R. 381: Ms. PINGREE and Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 402: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

H.R. 403: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 408: Mr. TAKANO, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SABLON, Mr. POLIS, Mr. POCAN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. HINOJOSA.

H.R. 417: Mr. BUCK.

H.R. 446: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 451: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. HURT of Virginia, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. POSEY, and Mr. KLINE.

H.R. 453: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. PALAZZO, and Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 465: Mr. NUGENT, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. LONG, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.

H.R. 478: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 483: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. FARR, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.

H.R. 486: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.

H.R. 519: Mr. KATKO.

H.R. 523: Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. NEAL, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. POLIS, and Ms. BROWN of Florida.

H.R. 527: Mr. HARDY, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. KLINE, and Mr. CUELLAR.

H.R. 529: Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. AMODEI, and Mr. BENISHEK.

H.R. 540: Ms. NORTON, Mr. O'ROURKE, and Mr. JONES.

H.R. 544: Ms. MENG, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 546: Ms. MOORE, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. WAGNER, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. HARPER, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. CARDENAS, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, and Mr. FINCHER.

H.R. 548: Mr. HUNTER.

H.R. 554: Mr. DESANTIS.

H.R. 586: Ms. SINEMA and Mr. KIND.

H.R. 587: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. NADLER, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 590: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.

H.R. 592: Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. JOYCE, Mrs. BUSTOS, and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 595: Mr. SCHOCK.

H.R. 596: Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. HILL, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. MARCHANT, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. MACARTHUR, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. SALMON, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. STEWART, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. PERRY, Mr. OLSON, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. BARR, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. YODER, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. BABIN, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. TROTT, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. WOMACK, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. YOHO, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. MULVANEY, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. MESSER, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. RUSSELL, Mr. CRENshaw, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. MARINO, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. BUCK, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. FLEMING, and Mr. LUCAS.

H.R. 598: Ms. MCSALLY.

H.R. 606: Mr. BRADY of Texas.

H.R. 608: Mrs. BEATTY and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 615: Ms. MCSALLY.

H.R. 622: Mr. POE of Texas.

H.R. 623: Ms. MCSALLY and Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 629: Mr. REED.

H.R. 630: Mr. REED.

H.J. Res. 23: Mr. LANGEVIN.

H. Res. 11: Mr. PALMER.

H. Res. 12: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. PAYNE, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H. Res. 28: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HASTINGS, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H. Res. 45: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.

H. Res. 49: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LANCE, and Ms. MENG.

H. Res. 50: Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H. Res. 56: Mr. LONG and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H. Res. 62: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H. Res. 66: Mr. LEWIS.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. BISHOP OF UTAH

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Natural Resources in H.R. 596 do not contain any congressional ear-

marks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. GOODLATTE

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on the Judiciary in H.R. 596 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. KLINE

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Education and the Workforce in H.R. 596 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MRS. MILLER OF MICHIGAN

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on House Administration in H.R. 596, to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, and for other purposes, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. PRICE OF GEORGIA

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on the Budget in H.R. 596 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF KENTUCKY

H.R. 596, a bill to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, and for other purposes, referred to the Committee on Appropriations, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI with respect to the provisions for which the bill was referred to the Committee.

OFFERED BY MR. RYAN OF WISCONSIN

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Ways and Means in H.R. 596 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. SESSIONS

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Rules in H.R. 596 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. UPTON

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Energy and Commerce in H.R. 596 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE REVEREND DR. C.
WELTON GADDY'S RETIREMENT

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the Reverend Dr. C. Welton Gaddy for a life and career distinguished by passion, leadership, and faith.

As President of Interfaith Alliance, a national non-partisan grassroots and educational organization, Dr. Gaddy emerged as a leading advocate for protecting the boundaries between religion and government. A champion of religious freedom and defender of individual rights, Dr. Gaddy has relentlessly worked to promote policies that protect religion, democracy, and the role of faith in America.

Throughout his career, Dr. Gaddy has shown a strong history of leadership and service. His past roles include being President of the Alliance of Baptists and a 20-year member of the Commission of Christian Ethics of the Baptist World Alliance. He has served as a member of the General Council of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, President of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, Chair of the Pastoral Leadership Commission of the Baptist World Alliance and as a member of the World Economic Forum's Council of 100. Currently Dr. Gaddy serves on the White House task-force on Reform of the Office of Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, while also serving as Pastor for Preaching and Worship at Northminster Baptist Church in Monroe, Louisiana.

In addition to authoring over 20 books addressing religion in American life, Dr. Gaddy hosts the weekly State of Belief radio program, where he illustrates the vast diversity of beliefs in the United States and their influence on politics. Although Dr. Gaddy is moving onto the next chapter in his life, the influence and power of his works efforts are boundless and will remain strong for years to come.

I am pleased to celebrate Dr. Gaddy's countless achievements as he is honored by his friends and colleagues tonight. We are so grateful for his many years of service and wish him nothing but continued success in his retirement.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2015

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and sincere admiration that I rise today to celebrate Black History Month and its 2015 theme—A Century of Black Life, History,

and Culture. This year's theme reflects on the extraordinary contributions of African Americans in the arts, literature, music, history, sports, science, and pop culture. In celebration of this year's theme, we reflect on several of the important milestones that helped form the cornerstone of African American culture and tradition. Part of the African American fight for freedom included the struggle to ensure that their ideas and talents mattered in American culture and history.

In the 20th century, the rise of jazz music can be linked to African Americans of the post World War I generation. The Harlem Renaissance put the spotlight on African Americans writers and artists, making their names known nationwide. In the 1960s, African American museums opened across the nation, displaying and commemorating advances made by African Americans in art, history, and science. Also during this time of transformation, African American athletes excelled in individual and team sports, including baseball, track and field, football, boxing, and basketball. In addition, student activism in the 1960s led to the black studies movement, the creation of black professional organizations, and doctoral programs at American universities.

This month and always, it is important that we honor and celebrate America's greatest advocates for equal rights and civil liberties. Along with this month's theme, we celebrate those who have contributed to the foundation of African American culture, arts, and entertainment, including Maya Angelou, Langston Hughes, Jackie Robinson, Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Patricia Bath, and Thurgood Marshall, among many others. As we pay tribute to these heroes of American history, let us remember their profound perseverance, sacrifice, and struggle in the fight for freedom and equality, and the remarkable impact their contributions have had in shaping our great nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in celebrating Black History Month and honoring those who fought, and continue to fight, for civil rights and justice. We honor the African American scholars, artists, athletes, and entertainers who have played such a critical role in changing the landscape of American society for the better.

RECOGNIZING THE KIWANIS CLUB
OF WINTER HAVEN

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the Kiwanis Club of Winter Haven, Florida as they celebrate their 80th anniversary on April 6, 2015.

With the assistance of the Bartow and Lake Wales Clubs, the Kiwanis Club of Winter Haven was chartered on April 6, 1935. Since its founding, the Club has provided educational, community-building and recreational opportunities for Central Florida's youth. In 1942, Camp Kegan was established on the shore of Lake Josephine. Over the years, Camp Kegan has been a destination for Scouts, youth programs and underprivileged children. The Club also established a recreation center on Lake Maude, which has since been deeded to the city.

In the spirit of providing educational opportunities for our community's students, the Kiwanis Club of Winter Haven supports a Student Loan Fund and the Southern Scholarship Foundation of Tallahassee to help make college more affordable. The Club's members also coach little league teams, partner with children in foster care, promote youth agricultural projects and support Key Clubs in local high schools.

I am thankful for the Kiwanis members of Winter Haven for their tremendous contributions to our community. The future of our nation is in the hands of our youth, and the Kiwanis members' investment in them cannot be over appreciated.

BARNARD COLLEGE FOUNDERS
DAY—125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join the people of New York's Tenth Congressional District in recognition of Barnard College for 125 years of dedication and commitment to providing a rigorous liberal arts education to talented women from all over the world. On October 26, 2014, Barnard opened its campus to the community, and the entire City of New York, in celebration of its 125th anniversary, sharing the "Barnard experience" with all who visit.

In 125 years of education and service, Barnard has established an incomparable legacy and has become an integral part of its community, as well as the entire city beyond its historic Morningside Heights campus. Since its founding in 1889, the College has produced many distinguished alumni who have gone on to be leaders in nearly every field of endeavor. Today's students are following in their footsteps by impacting not just their campus or New York City, but the entire world. In commemoration of the 125th anniversary, the Barnard women have again chosen outreach as their most important message and have pledged to perform 125 Days of Service in New York City and beyond.

Over the years, I have been proud to work with the College in some of its many pursuits

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

of supporting and developing collaborations between the College and many on- and off-campus constituencies. Through these efforts, Barnard has made a positive impact throughout the city, particularly in the Morningside Heights and Harlem communities.

Barnard participates in numerous community partnerships and initiatives, both through annual contributions as well as organizing volunteer opportunities with local organizations like Morningside-Area Alliance, Community Impact, the Friends of Morningside Park, the Friends of Riverside Park, and the Broadway Mall Group. It has also worked to provide educational opportunities to young people in its community, working together with groups like St. John the Divine's ACT summer camp program, Tompkins Hall, and the Learning Center. And through an annual bike-a-thon, it raises funds for Columbia Community Service, with donations and participation increasing every year.

In addition to its foundational commitment of educating promising young women, the College has historically reached out to those students who may be otherwise hindered by a lack of access to opportunities, which I commend. This has resulted in a diverse and inclusive student body, faculty, and staff.

For all this and more, I would like to honor Barnard College for 125 years of significant and enduring contributions to the civic life of our community and the scholarship of our Nation. I wish the College the best of luck in its future endeavors, as I know it will continue to impact the lives of its students and its fellow community members throughout New York City and the world. I ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing Barnard College's efforts.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
MR. ROBERT CRAVES

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Robert "Bob" Craves, who recently passed away at the age of 72.

I would like to honor Bob Craves, a founding officer of Costco, for his support of students throughout Washington state in their pursuit of a college degree. In 2000, Mr. Craves started the College Success Foundation, which provides scholarships and mentoring to low-income and first-generation Washington students. Mr. Craves served as CEO of the foundation until his retirement in 2013, and thereafter remained with the organization as a member of the Board of Directors.

His efforts to make higher education accessible were not isolated to Washington state. The foundation estimates that 5,000 students across the country are currently enrolled in college due to the generosity of Craves' work. The organization has raised an estimated \$600 million, and now includes a branch in Washington, DC.

Scholarship recipients continue to vocally express the meaningful impact Mr. Craves had on their lives by providing them with the op-

portunity to attend college. Several have gone back to work with the non-profit upon graduation to offer career training services and help graduates find jobs.

I would like to commemorate Bob Craves on his lifetime of achievements. He will be remembered by his uplifting demeanor and unfailing optimism, and as a committed community servant whose significant work will continue to echo in years to come. My thoughts go out to his wife, Gerry, and all of his family and friends.

TRIBUTE TO MR. FORREST
WELLS—RECIPIENT OF THE
BRONZE STAR MEDAL (POST-
HUMOUS)

HON. SCOTT DesJARLAIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor the life and service of Private First Class (PFC) Forrest Wells upon his receipt of the Bronze Star Medal.

PFC Wells landed on the shores of Normandy in June of 1944, as a member of the 113th Field Artillery of the 30th Infantry Division, nicknamed "Old Hickory."

During their deployment to Europe, the 30th Infantry Division assisted in the liberation of Saint-Lo, fought off the German counter-attack at Mortain, was the first infantry division to enter Belgium and the Netherlands, and was instrumental in halting the German offensive near Malmedy during the "Battle of the Bulge."

On July 29, 1944, while serving as a member of a gun section outside of Hebecrevon, France, PFC Wells' battery was subjected to a heavy aerial attack. During this bombardment, the gunpowder surrounding one of the units 155 mm howitzers was set ablaze. Without hesitation, PFC Wells left his sheltered position and rushed over to extinguish the flames, thereby eliminating the danger it posed to his fellow soldiers and saving valuable materials from destruction.

In recognition of his service, Brigadier General James M. Lewis, Commanding Officer 30th Infantry Division, awarded PFC Wells with a certificate of merit in the days following the incident.

More than 70 years later, the United States Army, by order of the Secretary of the Army, announced that PFC Forrest Wells would posthumously receive the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious achievement in active ground combat.

Long overdue, this recognition is certainly well-deserved and is a testament to the heroism and dedication to duty that marked PFC Wells' exemplary service during World War II.

I wish to extend to the Wells family my sincere congratulations upon receiving this award, as well as my heartfelt thanks for Private Wells' outstanding service to our great country.

HONORING THREE NORTH
GEORGIAN VETERANS

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize three patriots from Georgia's Ninth District.

Arthur Mohor from Hartwell is a 91-year old World War II veteran, who received France's highest honor on January 27, 2015. As a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army's 302nd Infantry Regiment, he stormed the beaches of Normandy in 1944.

In a special ceremony in Atlanta, France's Consul General bestowed on Mr. Mohor and two more Northeast Georgians—Harry T. Catchpole (Technical Sergeant, 9th Traffic regulation Group, 3rd Army) of Bogart and Henry R. Petree (Private First Class, 1306th Engineer General Service Regiment) of Bethlehem—The National Legion of Honor medal.

The medal symbolizes France's eternal gratitude to these three brave Georgians, who risked their lives to knock the Nazis on their heels and help liberate France and the rest of Europe. We owe them—and the many others who gave their lives to preserve this country's freedom—our own eternal gratitude.

The actions of Arthur Mohor, Harry Catchpole and Henry Petree provide amazing examples of service and sacrifice. The honor France bestowed upon them is a wonderful tribute to their bravery and a fitting tribute to America's Greatest Generation.

CORY NOTESTINE TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Cory Notestine. Mr. Notestine is a school counselor at Alamosa High School and has recently been named the 2015 School Counselor of the Year by the American School Counselor Association.

Mr. Notestine has been counselor since 2008 and prior to accepting his position at Alamosa High School in 2012, was the North Carolina School Counselor of the Year. His passion for his students shows in the investment he makes in their individual success. Since coming to Alamosa High School, he has implemented numerous counseling innovations that have improved the success of his students and better prepared them for life after high school, even joining with his fellow counselors to raise financial aid on behalf of their graduating seniors. Mr. Notestine has made huge strides in improving the counseling program in his first year at the high school, earning a RAMP designation—which is given for the program's efforts to ensure a rigorous education to all students and equitable participation in the program.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Notestine's selfless work ethic and devotion to serving as an advocate for our nation's youth through his community

is worthy of admiration and duplication. His students are truly fortunate to have him in their lives as they prepare for their futures. I stand with the residents of Alamosa County, the people of the 3rd Congressional District and the State of Colorado in thanking Mr. Notestine for his dedication, and congratulating him on the prestigious award.

HONORING KALMAN GURZO

HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kalman Gurzo of New Jersey's Third Congressional District, and to express my deepest condolences to his family and friends.

Mr. Gurzo served our country as a radio operator for the United States Navy. He defended our freedom in the Pacific Theater of World War II. His service showed his tremendous courage, and he was a member of our country's Greatest Generation.

After his distinguished service in the Navy, Kalman was a small business owner before retiring to Berkeley Township, New Jersey.

The son of Hungarian immigrants, Mr. Gurzo passed away at the age of ninety one on January 23, 2015 in Toms River. He is survived by his daughters Kathy Sciscione and Mary Ellen Tramutolo, his son Michael Gurzo, his brother Paul Gurzo, and his seven grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, the people of New Jersey's Third Congressional District are tremendously grateful for Mr. Kalman Gurzo's service to our nation. It is my honor to recognize his life and achievements before the United States House of Representatives. May he rest in peace.

COMMEMORATING THE OPENING OF ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL—SOUTH IN RIVERVIEW, FLORIDA

HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commemorate the opening of BayCare Health System's St. Joseph's Hospital—South in Riverview, Florida. This \$225 million project will forever change healthcare in South Hillsborough County, and I am excited to see the positive impact the hospital will have on the Riverview community.

Community-owned BayCare Health System consistently upholds a standard of excellence in Florida. From private rooms with full bathrooms and in-room family areas to patient entertainment centers and Internet access, St. Joseph's—South is bringing the newest innovations in healthcare to South Hillsborough County. No detail was overlooked in the construction of St. Joseph's—South.

Riverview is a fast growing community in Florida's 17th District, and St. Joseph's—South's 352,000-square-foot campus is not only an exciting new healthcare option but

also a catalyst for hundreds of jobs in the community. Since the Franciscan Sisters of Allegheny came to Tampa from New York to open the first St. Joseph's Hospital in 1934, St. Joseph's has been synonymous with quality healthcare that focuses on the patients first. South Hillsborough County is thrilled that BayCare is bringing St. Joseph's outstanding reputation to Riverview.

I would like to congratulate St. Joseph's Hospital—South president Scott Smith, his staff, and all the supporters of BayCare Health System on such a significant milestone in the history of South Hillsborough County. The hard work and dedication of everyone involved with the project made St. Joseph's—South a reality, and the new hospital will further highlight the great services that BayCare provides the community and lay the groundwork for a bright future.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF BRAVO 369 FLIGHT FOUNDATION

HON. SUZAN K. DeBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Ms. DeBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of the Bravo 369 Flight Foundation and their current project, "Warplanes to Siberia." Additionally, I want to recognize the efforts of the project's co-founders, Craig Lang and Jeff Geer. Mr. Geer, who serves as the President and Chairman of the Bravo 369 Flight Foundation, will pilot his own plane as part of the project. I applaud their work to educate and inspire the next generation of aviation enthusiasts.

"Warplanes to Siberia" is a historical re-creation of the Alaska-Siberia air route (ALSIB) with both American and Russian pilots flying together in formation to celebrate the end of World War II. It will commence in 2015 and follow the exact flight route from Great Falls, Montana to Krasnoyarsk to Moscow, flying the same types of aircraft used 70 years ago. The project is intended to pay tribute to the men and women of the United States, Russia, and Canada who were involved in this effort during the war, and to bring awareness to the significance of their work.

The Alaska-Siberia air route was used to deliver warplanes to the Eastern Front of the war effort as part of President Roosevelt's Lend-Lease policy, and contributed to the success of the Allies in World War II. The re-creation of the flight route will be documented for educational and broadcasting purposes, and accompanied with school, airport, and museum visits.

I want to commend the Bravo 369 Flight Foundation and their continued work on the "Warplanes to Siberia" project, celebrating past achievements and building strong relations for the future.

HONORING VITO MARCANTONIO

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is important to pay homage to those who have left an indelible mark on the community and the country as a whole. Former Congressman Vito Marcantonio, whose distinguished career in office spanned 3 decades, is most deserving of posthumous commemoration.

Vito was born on December 10, 1902 to Italian parents in East Harlem. After graduating from NYU Law School in 1924, Vito became Fiorello LaGuardia's campaign manager and protégé till 1934, when he was first elected to congress, filling LaGuardia's vacant seat in the House of Representatives.

Following defeat in 1937, Vito was reelected to the House in 1939 and served his East Harlem community in the House till 1950. His long-standing neighborhood presence, accessibility and responsiveness made him an extremely popular figure with the public. This powerful bond allowed Vito to build a strong coalition with a diverse political constituency.

As a legislator, Vito was a staunch defender of the civil rights of Italian Americans during World War II and of African Americans in the 40s and 50s. Vito advocated for the desegregation of Washington D.C. and in 1945 introduced a House resolution directing the Secretary of Commerce to investigate the employment practices of major league baseball clubs to determine if they were discriminating against African Americans. He was also known as the "de facto" representative of Puerto Rico in the House and led the drive to try to defeat the anti-union Taft-Hartley Act.

Vito passed away in 1954 and was buried in the Historic Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx. He now rests there next to his beloved wife and community activist, Miriam Sanders. On Saturday, August 9th, 2014 the Vito Marcantonio Forum hosted a commemorative event on the 60th anniversary of his passing at the gravesite. Their remembrance was important and well deserved.

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING STANISLAUS COUNTY SUPERVISOR DICK MONTEITH

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Stanislaus County Supervisor Dick Monteith, who will be awarded the first ever Champion of Free Enterprise Award by the Modesto Chamber of Commerce, for his 55 years of public service.

Dick Monteith was born in Los Banos, California to Kenneth and Elizabeth Monteith. He spent his early years attending Merced and Stanislaus County public schools, graduating from Turlock High School in 1950. He continued his education at Menlo College and Stanford University, graduating with a B.A. degree

in Sociology in 1954. While at Stanford University, he played football as a starting defensive back and was a member of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

From 1950 to 1957, he served in the United States Navy Reserve, whose mission is to deliver strategic depth and operational capability to the Navy, Marine Corps, and Joint Forces.

Soon after graduation, Dick started a life-long career in agri-business as a partner with his father in Monteith Tractor/Truck Company. He subsequently served in the marketing department of Gallo Wines, and as a Sales Representative for Weyerhaeuser Company. He retired in 1991 as General Manager of Sales and Distribution for Middleton Packaging prior to seeking his first elective office.

Dick was first elected to the California State Senate, 12th District, in 1994 and again in 1998—terminating out in 2002. In 2007, Dick was elected to the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors and was Chairman of the Board in 2011.

Supervisor Monteith serves on the boards of Youth for Christ and the Modesto Gospel Mission. He has also been a fifty-year plus member of the Turlock Masonic Lodge #395.

Dick and his wife Jeanine make their home in Modesto. He has two adult sons, three adult step-daughters, and seven grandchildren.

Dick and Jeanine attend Trinity Presbyterian Church. In their spare time, they enjoy traveling, sporting events, and the arts.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Supervisor Dick Monteith for his recognition from the Modesto Chamber of Commerce with the Champion of Free Enterprise Award. His 55 years of dedicated service to the community and the state are to be commended.

HONORING WILLIAM LEE
EDWARDS

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a man who had a tremendous impact on my life, William Lee Edwards. Bill was a treasured member of the Greensburg community and served in many different leadership roles at both Greensburg Junior High School and Greensburg High School over the past 40 years.

Bill Edwards was also a devoted husband to his wife of 46 years, Joyce. Together, they were the proud parents of three sons and grandparents to four grandchildren. Bill was an avid fisherman and loved spending his free time outdoors.

In addition to his family, Bill's lifelong passions revolved around education and sports. Bill served as the Greensburg Junior High Athletic Director for 27 years, coaching both the boys and girls track team, the football team, and the basketball team. Bill then moved on to become the face of Greensburg sports as the Athletic Director for Greensburg High School.

Mr. Edwards, as I always called him, played a significant role in the lives of literally thousands of young people in his decades of service to Greensburg. I was one of them. He was

my seventh grade Social Studies teacher and my eighth grade football coach. He was an outstanding teacher, who brought energy to the classroom. And, decades later, now as a Member of Congress, I still recall his lessons on Israel and Vietnam. He was a great coach, who pushed us to excel and coached many undefeated seasons. But, maybe most importantly, he taught us that anything was possible if you worked hard, followed a plan and believed.

Mr. Edwards, I will always be grateful for those lessons. I know I speak for generations of young people in Greensburg when I thank you for your career. You will be missed by those you helped to smile, succeed and empower. May God bless you, your family, and all the people of Greensburg who you touched through your work.

HONORING SUMA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, financial service organizations have the ability to change lives and lift up entire communities. Such has been the case with SUMA Federal Credit Union, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2014 at their Jubilee Banquet.

SUMA was organized by a small contingent of Ukrainian immigrants who settled in Yonkers after World War II. Citing the growing need for financial services in order to improve the quality of life for their families, they developed a credit union whereby financial resources would be pooled to help obtain less expensive loans and insurance.

To comply with National Credit Union Association requirements, they chose to support the Ukrainian American Youth Association, Yonkers branch, as their sponsor. Using shoe boxes to store cash reserves, the credit union opened for business in September of 1964, and in four short months had accumulated over \$25,000 in assets from 82 members. For the next several decades, the SUMA Credit Union continued to grow and expand, establishing branch offices in Spring Valley, New York as well as Stamford, Connecticut.

Today, SUMA has a membership base of over 7,000 and over \$286,000,000 in total assets. But their impact goes beyond the financial wellbeing of its members; it has lifted up an entire community and provided incredible support to the excellent works of the Ukrainian American Youth Organization.

The SUMA Federal Credit Union is a testament to the power of the financial sector and its ability to positively impact communities. I am proud to represent such a fine organization in the House of Representatives and wish them nothing but continued success in their next 50 years.

DR. C.T. VIVIAN

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, today it is with great pleasure that I rise to commemorate the contributions of Dr. C.T. Vivian, a public servant and passionate leader in the civil rights movement who has dedicated his life to the struggle for racial equality in America.

Dr. C.T. Vivian was born July 30, 1924 in Howard County, Missouri and attended Western Illinois University in Macomb and was recreation director for the Carver Community Center in Peoria, Illinois. It was there that Dr. Vivian participated in his first sit-in demonstrations which successfully integrated Barton's Cafeteria in 1947.

Dr. Vivian was a close friend and adviser to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King appointed Dr. Vivian to the executive staff of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in 1963, naming him national director of affiliates and strategist for the organization.

After leaving Dr. King's Executive Staff, Dr. Vivian founded the Black Action Strategies and Information Center (BASIC), a workplace consultancy on race relations and multicultural training. He and his late wife, Octavia Vivian founded the C.T. & Octavia Vivian Archives and Museum in Fayetteville, GA, in 2014.

In March 2007 at the occasion of the anniversary of Selma to Montgomery marches, then-Senator Barack Obama recognized Dr. Vivian in his opening remarks as "the greatest preacher to ever live." And, on August 8, 2013, President Obama honored Dr. Vivian at the White House by presenting him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. C.T. Vivian remains a distinguished minister, author, and organizer. His historic contributions and achievements as a spiritual leader, champion of social justice, and strategist of the Civil Rights Movement have reserved his place in history. I ask my colleagues join me in expressing the appreciation of a grateful nation.

HONORING COMMUNITY CHAMPION
SALLY CARLOW KOHLER

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize one of my constituents from Western Pennsylvania, Sally Carlow Kohler. Sally is a lifelong resident of Erie County, where she was born and raised, attended college, started her own family, and has made quite a name for herself within the community.

Sally is a proud mother of five, grandmother of twelve, and great-grandmother of one. In 1951 Sally received a bachelor of history degree from Mercyhurst College and then went on to earn her master of education degree from Gannon University. Sally worked for the

Erie School District as a classroom teacher and guidance counselor, both unique positions that allowed her to positively influence the lives of many. After 30 successful years, Sally retired from the Erie School District however; she continues to play a significant role in the education system.

Sally has actively participated in over 30 civic organizations, proudly making community service a central part of her life. She has served on countless advisory boards, committees, councils, and task forces, voluntarily committing her time and efforts to support these initiatives. As a result of her educational background and expertise, Sally's participation has been an asset to various organizations, including Penn State Education Association—Department of Pupil Services (President), Mercyhurst College Alumni Board, Villa Maria Academy Board of Trustees, Erie School District Middle School Evaluation Committee (Chairman), Erie Guidance Counselors Association (President), Memorial School PTA (President), Northwestern Pennsylvania Personnel and Guidance Association (Secretary), Wayne School Truancy Prevention Program Board, Wattsburg School District Advisory Committee, and the Committee for Better Schools (Vice Chairman).

In addition to her loyalty to education, Sally is also a dedicated advocate for safety. Her sincere desire to protect the vulnerable and create an overall safe and secure environment has motivated her to participate in local, county, state, and national organizations such as the Northwest Pennsylvania Business Coalition for Homeland Security, Erie County Public Safety Citizens Corps, Neighborhood Revitalization Task Force, Erie Bureau of Police—Citizens Police Academy, Greater Kalkwa Neighborhood Watch (Coordinator), Erie Neighborhood Watch Council (Trustee/Officer), Presque Isle State Park (Advisory Committee), Erie County Juvenile Probation Diversion Committee (Chairman), Erie County Children and Youth Advisory Board, Child Welfare League of America, Children Services Advisory Board, Erie County Children Services, Western Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee, and Erie County Youth Services Coordinating Council.

Sally's involvement does not stop there, she also proudly associates herself with the Erie Rotary Club, Erie Yacht Club, and Jaycee Wives Auxiliary (President). Sally is a catalyst for improvement throughout Erie County and the determination and passion she displays is truly remarkable. To this very day, Sally enthusiastically participates in 13 organizations, humbly remaining a fully engaged community volunteer.

Sally has built a legacy based on altruism, compassion, and faithfulness. She has set a standard of excellence and generosity that will inspire others for generations to come. Sally is the epitome of a service-minded citizen and her selfless contributions are admirable and noteworthy. On behalf of many, I would like to express sincere gratitude and appreciation to Sally Carlow Kohler, a respectful Community Champion.

HONORING DR. NADER J. SAYEGH

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, those who selflessly give of themselves to serve the general good are the heartbeat of every community. Such is the case with Dr. Nader J. Sayegh, a lawyer and educator by profession who has done a great deal to give back to society.

Dr. Sayegh worked in education in many different capacities for more than 40 years, holding various titles and roles ranging from teacher and principal to superintendent. In that time he also received a law degree from Pace University, and has practiced every kind of law from personal injury and criminal to real estate and immigration for over 23 years.

But Dr. Sayegh's true passion is community involvement. Giving back to society was always an important tenet of his philosophy in life. He has served as Trustee for Yonkers Public Schools, a Liaison for the Westchester-Putnam School Boards Association, and a member of Yonker's Mayor Mike Spano's Education Re-Design Team, which looks for positive ways to reform the way we teach our kids. He serves as Chairman of the Charter Revision Committee, the President of the Yonkers Board of Education, and if all of that wasn't impressive enough, he is also multi-lingual.

Dr. Sayegh's work has been recognized and honored by many incredible organizations focused on civic engagement, including the NAACP, the March of Dimes, and the Red Cross.

On October 9th, 2014 another great organization, the Salvation Army, honored Dr. Sayegh at their annual dinner. I want to congratulate Dr. Nader Sayegh on this well-deserved recognition and thank him for the countless contributions he has made to better our community.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD D. "DICK" GILROY

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard D. "Dick" Gilroy, a great Hoosier and valued friend who passed away on January 25, 2015. On that Sunday evening we lost a committed husband and father, as well as a dedicated community servant. I consider the words recorded on the floor of this House to be the official record of our nation. As such, please allow me to submit the following:

After law school, Dick Gilroy joined the office of former Indianapolis Mayor, Richard G. Lugar, where he served the citizens of the city admirably and where he met Sue Anne Starnes, who he would marry in 1973.

Having been a member of the United States Army Reserve, Dick Gilroy was a patriot who cared deeply for our nation and the ideals of American Exceptionalism. As one who believed deeply in the sacred American principle

of "innocent until proven guilty," Dick continued to serve the people of Indianapolis as a public defender, and later as a Magistrate Judge.

Always close to politics and public service, Dick Gilroy was the perfect spouse "behind the scenes" as his cherished wife ran for statewide office and served two celebrated terms as Indiana's 58th Secretary of State.

Mr. Speaker, we live in an age when the spouse of an elected official may often times play an integral role in the success of the official's public service. The unelected spouse will often share the work and time commitment of his/her partner. Dick Gilroy understood the significance of this role and executed it faithfully always supporting the efforts of his wife and understanding her commitment to public service. For that reason he was a tremendous asset to Sue Anne and her staff alike. In that role he greatly served the state and country he loved so much.

Dick believed in using his talents and passion to improve the lives of those in his church and community. He created Young Life basketball and tutoring program through Tabernacle Presbyterian Church and led the ministry for ten years. The program influenced the lives of those who participated and the volunteers who supported it. Dick is still referred to as "Coach Gilroy" by those who participated in the program.

As another Gilroy family friend recently remarked, Dick Gilroy was the "salt-of-the-earth" and one of the "best" human beings anyone would come across. Those of us who were lucky enough to "experience" Dick Gilroy, whether we are former Gilroy staffers, personal friends, professional colleagues, or community leaders, could not be more in agreement with these statements.

He was a caring and strong father, a loving husband, and a great mentor to young lawyers and public servants like me. Aside from coaching troubled kids, he played a great deal of sports himself, including hockey. I remember Dick telling me one time when I was playing as an adult that "the only appropriate beverage after a hockey game is a LaBatt's Blue." Growing up in Detroit, and being so close to our northern neighbor, Dick was always allowed this one indiscretion.

Dick Gilroy leaves his wife of 41 years, who along with him, serves as a mentor and friend to Kathy and me. He also leaves his son, Grant, and two granddaughters. Dick has finally been reunited with the Gilroy's beloved daughter, Emily, who preceded him in death.

While leaders always lead, and the leadership that the Gilroy family has provided Indiana for so many years will certainly continue on, Hoosiers experienced a setback in losing Dick Gilroy so unexpectedly. Because so many of us gained so much from him and the quiet leadership he provided, he will always be cherished, missed, and emulated.

HOMELAND SECURITY BILLS

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the three Homeland Security bills

under consideration today. H.R. 615, the DHS Interoperable Communications Act, is a bipartisan bill which would improve communication between the many components of the Department of Homeland Security. It is critical for our Homeland Security Department to have a state-of-the-art communications infrastructure. The Department needs that infrastructure to ensure the smooth functioning of everything from routine daily operations to terrorism response efforts. To understand the importance of a strong communications network, we only need to look back a few weeks ago, when radio communications failed in a Washington Metro tunnel as emergency officials worked to rescue passengers trapped aboard a smoke-filled train.

H.R. 361, the Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act, would use grant funding to enhance our nation's preparedness for chemical and biological events. It is an unfortunate fact of modern life that our nation faces genuine threats from chemical and biological attacks. It makes sense for us to take precautions which will put us in a position to deal with such attacks if they occur.

Finally, H.R. 623, the Social Media Working Group Act of 2015, would authorize the Department of Homeland Security to establish a social media working group, which would offer guidance to the emergency preparedness and response community on how to use social media. I have spent years using social media to communicate with my constituents, and have found it extremely effective in rapidly disseminating important information to a wide audience. Emergency services need to be taught how they can best use social media to quickly and effectively communicate with Americans in the period surrounding a terrorist attack or other crisis.

All three of these bills take sensible steps to further protect the American people against threats to their well-being. I urge the House to pass these bills.

HONORING AURELIA GREENE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the people who devote their lives so selflessly to public service are the ones who transform and change entire communities. Such has been the case with Aurelia Greene, my longtime friend and partner in government, whose distinguished career of public service has made a positive, lasting impact on the Bronx and far beyond.

A native Bronxite, Aurelia is a graduate of Livingston College at Rutgers University, where she majored in Community Development. Following school she became a Public Agency Administrator, a prelude to her eventual calling in government. She was elected female district leader for the 76th District before winning the Assembly seat in the Bronx's 77th District in 1981. For the next 27 years, Aurelia served in the Assembly with distinction, using her urban planning skills to negotiate for affordable housing, healthcare, a quality education and employment opportunities for

all New Yorkers. She regularly sponsored educational and informational seminars to aid her constituents on issues of concern, and worked hard to bring economic development and businesses to her district.

Aurelia's legislative achievements are many, as she introduced and passed a number of important bills in the State Legislature during her time as Assemblywoman. Rising through the ranks, she became the Speaker Pro Tempore of the Assembly in 2006, the first African-American to hold the prestigious position which oversees the chamber in the absence of the Assembly Speaker. She also chaired the Assembly's Bronx delegation as the longest serving member in the Assembly from the Bronx.

In 2009, Aurelia was asked to serve as Deputy Borough President by newly elected Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. She has been a steady voice and excellent confidant for the borough president ever since.

Aurelia celebrated her 80th birthday in October 2014 at a gala brunch hosted in her honor. As I was in attendance, I had the great pleasure of wishing her nothing but the very best on the occasion, and thanked her for all of her amazing service to the public good.

DR. ALVIN V. BLOUNT, JR.

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, today it is with great pleasure that I rise to commemorate the contributions of Dr. Alvin V. Blount, Jr., a decorated veteran, civil servant and pioneer. Dr. Blount is not only a decorated military surgeon; he is also recognized as an outstanding physician in the Greensboro medical community.

Dr. Blount was born February 24, 1922, in Raleigh, North Carolina, and was the eldest of four children. He attended North Carolina A&T University in 1939 and graduated magna cum laude in 1943. After completing his undergraduate degree, he attended Howard University earning his medical degree in 1947.

After, Dr. Blount entered the military as a member of the U.S. Army Medical Corps. He served two tours of military duty in Korea during the War and returned to Greensboro in 1952. In 1957, Dr. Blount, a surgeon by training, became the first African American in North Carolina to earn the American College of Abdominal Surgeons' certification.

In 1964, Dr. Blount championed the integration of Cone Hospital in Greensboro and would become the first African American to operate there. Dr. Blount's distinguished surgical career includes service as chief of surgery for L. Richardson Hospital; a position he held for 23 years. He was also responsible for establishing the hospital's first quality improvement committee.

On February 1, 2007, Dr. Alvin V. Blount, Jr., received the 2007 Human Rights Medal from his alma mater North Carolina A&T State University. The Human Rights Medal is one of the highest awards given by the University and it is presented to an individual for their extraordinary contributions to humanity.

Dr. Blount Jr. has been married to Gwendolyn Harris for over 40 years. They are the proud parents of seven children. They also have nine grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Blount's contributions to our great nation are many. He bravely served his country during the Korean War and was time and time again a trailblazer in the field of medicine. I ask my colleagues join me in expressing the appreciation of a grateful nation.

RECOGNIZING ALCALDESSA MARCIE WALDRON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marcie Waldron, who has been named the City of Sonoma's 2015 Alcaldessa, or Honorary Mayor. The title "Alcalde," or "Alcaldessa" when referring to a woman, is the Spanish word for "mayor." While the Alcalde was the primary civil authority during the Spanish colonial period in California, in modern times, it is an honorary title bestowed upon invaluable members of the community.

Ms. Waldron has lived in Sonoma for 12 years, where she has given back to the community as a leader and member of community organizations. She is the president of the Vintage House board, a non-profit organization that promotes the well-being of elderly citizens by encouraging independence and involvement in community life. Ms. Waldron also serves as the interim president of the WillMar Family Grief and Healing Center, which provides support to families grieving the loss of a loved one or living with family members with a life-altering illness. Outside of her leadership roles with these non-profit organizations, Ms. Waldron serves as a board member of the Sonoma Community Center and Kiwanis of Sonoma Plaza.

In addition to her involvement in community organizations, Ms. Waldron works to raise awareness about organ donation. Herself a double transplant recipient, Ms. Waldron speaks to schools and organizations honoring donors and stressing the importance of organ donation. Ms. Waldron also works to recognize donors through her "LifeStar" program, which gives donors hand-made silver LifeStar pendants in appreciation for their gift of life.

Mr. Speaker, Marcie Waldron is a beloved and vitally important member of the community and it is appropriate that we acknowledge her today as Sonoma's Alcaldessa for 2015.

HONORING YONKERS KIWANIS CLUB

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, civic organizations play an indispensable role in our society by serving their communities and setting responsible public examples of how volunteerism and service can assist, enrich and

inspire rising generations. Civic pride is truly the tie that binds our nation together.

The feeling of belonging to the larger whole, and the practice of serving the greater good is part and parcel of our responsibilities to each other. Those are the tenants that have guided the Yonkers Kiwanis Club, which celebrated its 85th year of service to the Yonkers community in 2014.

The Yonkers Kiwanis Club received its Charter on November 11, 1929, and has been an integral part of the community for decades. Since its founding, the Yonkers Kiwanis Club has helped foster local youth through a wide variety of projects and programs, including scholarships for High School Seniors, book donations to reading programs, and holiday food baskets for people in need.

The Yonkers Kiwanis Club has also sponsored local children's service clubs, Teacher of the Year awards, and programs focusing on services and facilities for children with special needs. The Yonkers Kiwanis club has also worked in partnership with many organizations to provide service to the community, including Toys for Tots and the Red Cross. The Yonkers Kiwanians have also marshaled their resources to support awareness of health issues including Alzheimer's disease and Cystic Fibrosis.

I commend the Yonkers Kiwanis Club for 85 years of outstanding service, which they commemorated at their annual dinner on October 24, 2014. The impact of their work has been, and will continue to be, an important pillar of the Yonkers community.

HONORING LOCAL 34 OF THE FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES, UNITE HERE ON THE CELEBRATION OF THEIR 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to extend my warmest congratulations to Local 34 of the Federation of University Employees, UNITE HERE as they celebrate their 30th Anniversary—a remarkable milestone for this wonderful organization!

Representing over 3,400 clerical and technical employees at Yale University, Local 34 has given a strong voice to its membership over the last three decades. Their members perform a broad spectrum of duties that make Yale University a world-class institution of teaching, research and medical care. Local 34's efforts have ensured fair salaries and guaranteed raises, healthcare benefits, workplace health and safety protections, as well as good pensions and fully paid retiree medical benefits for members and their spouses. Local 34 can be proud of the work they do on behalf of their members and the role the union plays in making Yale a great place to work.

The organization of Local 34 holds a special place in my memory—it is hard to believe that 30 years have already passed. As the organization effort grew, my husband and I were

glad to support them and our basement housed the phone-bank effort. Our home became a base of operation throughout the creation of Local 34 and it was a proud moment when the day of the vote came and Local 34 became a reality. Over the course of the last three decades, Local 34 has played a unique role in our community, not only representing the interests of their members, but also in strengthening the town-gown relationship between Yale University and the City of New Haven.

Understanding the connection between strong communities and healthy employment, in the 1990s Local 34 created the New Haven Resident's Training Program—one of the few job training initiatives in the entire country that led to a commitment to hire locally. Today, as New Haven and the country emerge from challenging economic times, Local 34 has doubled-down on this effort with the creation of a jobs pipeline—New Haven Works—an organization committed to providing employers with a trained and qualified workforce and connecting New Haven residents to good jobs. Last year alone they placed over 300 individuals in new jobs and the effort is only growing.

From its origins as a "pink-collar" union of secretaries—little sister to the blue-collar Local 35—Local 34 has grown into a labor powerhouse. I am honored to have this opportunity to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Local 34 President Laurie Kennington, the union's executive leadership, and each of its more than 3,400 members as they celebrate this very special anniversary. Happy 30th and best wishes for many more years of success!

AARON T. FORD

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Aaron T. Ford who, after 30 years of service to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, was honored for his retirement on Thursday, January 29, 2015.

Mr. Ford began his career with the FBI as a Special Agent in August 1985. Following New Agents training, he was assigned to the St. Louis Division, primarily working Violent Crime and Organized Crime matters. He also served on the SWAT team where he participated in the execution of numerous high-risk threats, search warrants and protective details.

In June 1989, Agent Ford was transferred to the Newark Division. He served as Team Leader on the SWAT Team. In August 1998, he was promoted to Supervisory Special Agent on a drug squad.

In January 2000, he was named the supervisor for the Public Corruption/Civil Rights squad. In August 2005, he was assigned as SSRA of the Red Bank Resident Agency, where he supervised all criminal matters.

In February 2006, Agent Ford was assigned as a Team Leader in the Inspection Division at FBI Headquarters in Washington D.C., where he served until August 2007. During this time, he participated in the auditing of all programs throughout the FBI. In October 2007, Agent

Ford was designated as Assistant Special Agent in Charge in the Newark Division, first overseeing the Administrative Branch and later the Criminal Enterprise Branch.

As an inspector in the Inspection Division at FBI Headquarters from August 2010 to November 2011, Agent Ford oversaw field office and headquarters inspections, shooting incident review teams, audits and special inquiries.

Prior to his FBI career, he served as a special agent with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation where he investigated a variety of violations including Violent Crime, Fugitives, Drugs, and Corruption.

On April 8, 2013, Director Robert S. Mueller III announced that he has naming Agent Ford as Special Agent in Charge of the Newark Division. Agent Ford most recently served as the special agent in charge of the Memphis Division.

Agent Ford is a native of Atlanta, Georgia. He earned a bachelor of science degree in Criminology from Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee, and a juris doctorate degree from Rutgers School of Law in New Jersey.

Agent Ford truly lived up to the FBI's motto of "Fidelity, Bravery, Integrity" by protecting Americans from all threats, both foreign and domestic. As Chair of the Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus, I value the sacrifice and dedication of law enforcement officials like Agent Ford, who selflessly serve the great people of the United States of America.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the achievements of individuals such as Aaron T. Ford.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Aaron T. Ford's coworkers, family and friends, all those whose lives he has touched, and me, in recognizing the career of Aaron T. Ford.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN JOHN T. MYERS

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Congressman John T. Myers, an American patriot, a dedicated public servant and a great Hoosier who passed away on January 27, 2015. I consider the words recorded on the floor of this House to be the official record of our nation. As such, please allow me to submit the following:

John Myers was born and raised in Covington, Indiana and graduated from Covington High School. His service to our Nation began immediately after his high school graduation when he joined the United States Army. He later earned his B.S. at Indiana State University in 1951 and also attended Eastern Illinois University where he was a member of Sigma Pi.

Though working in the Indiana banking industry, Myers never abandoned his farming roots as he continued to work a farm in Fountain County. Before long however, Myers returned his attention to public service becoming

a member of this honorable House of Representatives. He first took office in 1967, winning fifteen consecutive elections and continuing his admirable public service for 30 years before retiring in 1997.

During his tenure representing Indiana's 7th District in the United States Congress.

Mr. Myers became known locally as an essential player in the Lafayette Railroad Relocation Project, a three decades long project that moved the trains from city streets and into a dedicated corridor. The Main Street Bridge was in fact renamed in his honor after the pedestrian bridge was opened as part of the rail relocation project.

As Indiana Governor Pence noted while paying tribute to Congressman Myers, "The legacy of public service he leaves behind is unmatched, and we do well to strive to emulate his example."

Congressman Myers passed away in his Covington home leaving behind his wife Carol, daughters Carol Ann Myers and Lori Jan Kerns, seven grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

I offer my sincerest condolences to the Myers family. We grieve with you as we mourn the loss of a great Hoosier who lived a life of servant leadership while humbly representing our district in the U.S. House of Representatives for three decades. Congressman Myers legacy will not be forgotten. His example is a challenge to all of us to rededicate ourselves to serving in our communities and working with our neighbors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, last week I missed several roll call votes due to weather. I wish to state how I would have voted had I been present:

Roll Call No. 46—No
Roll Call No. 47—Yes
Roll Call No. 48—Yes
Roll Call No. 49—Yes
Roll Call No. 50—No

HONORING WARTBURG'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, when organizations are able to ingratiate themselves with the community through good works, they often become a cornerstone of the neighborhood. Such is the case with Wartburg in Westchester, which celebrated its 150th Anniversary at the Wartburg Fall Festival on October 11th, 2014.

For over a century, Wartburg has offered integrated, comprehensive senior care services to both residents and people in their own homes. Their programs, from independent, as-

sisted living to nursing home care and rehabilitation have become so renowned that U.S. News & World Report has named Wartburg one of the "Best Nursing Homes in New York State" for three consecutive years.

Their skilled Nursing facility, Licensed Home Health Care and Adult Day Services programs accept all patients, regardless of their income or their ability to pay.

Wartburg's status as a not-for-profit has also allowed them to reinvest heavily in the community, with initiatives that include over \$7 million in uncompensated care each year for the aging population.

Wartburg's impact on the community is also economic in nature. They are the largest employer in the Mt. Vernon area and generate an estimated \$80 million annually in direct and indirect activity for the surrounding communities.

Last year's Wartburg Fall Festival once again took place on the institution's beautiful, 34-acre wooded campus, which was founded in 1865 by Reverend William A. Passavant. I count myself fortunate to have such an exceptional organization housed within my district and I am honored to represent them in Congress. Congratulations again to Wartburg on 150 years of great work for the community.

H.R. 161—NATURAL GAS PIPELINE PERMITTING REFORM ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this unnecessary legislation, which would place arbitrary deadlines on Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) decisions, potentially forcing them to deny applications because they simply do not have enough information to make a credible determination.

FERC has received high marks from the Government Accountability Office for its predictable and consistent application process. This bill would needlessly disrupt what is already working, forcing FERC to abide by rigid deadlines no matter how large or complex a project happens to be. If other agencies with permitting authority on a project fail to report to FERC within the bill's timeline, FERC would become a kind of "super-permitting" agency, with the ability to issue permits on the agencies' behalf without the expertise necessary to make those decisions.

By rushing a functioning and important process, this bill jeopardizes the environment and public health. With a number of high-profile pipeline spills requiring costly clean-up across the country, we should not needlessly short-circuit the process that is intended to make sure pipelines are built safely. This bill would prevent federal agencies from doing their job to protect taxpayers and communities, and I urge a no vote.

CONGRATULATING LILLIAN PINKUS ON BEING SELECTED PRESIDENT OF AIPAC

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to congratulate my friend, Mrs. Lillian Pinkus, on her being selected as the next president of the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). I am confident that she will contribute greatly to AIPAC's mission "to strengthen, protect and promote the U.S.-Israel relationship in ways that enhance the security of Israel and the United States."

Lillian was born in upstate New York to parents who were survivors of the Holocaust. Even after being liberated from the atrocities of that time, her parents spent additional years in a deportation camp in Germany, awaiting the opportunity to emigrate to another country. As a result, Lillian grew up in a family that instilled within her a sense of appreciation for the blessings of freedom and opportunity that she and her siblings enjoy in the United States. She also developed an understanding of the immense importance of a safe and free homeland for the Jewish people.

A tireless advocate for the security and strength of Israel, the U.S., and the alliance between them, Lillian has served AIPAC with years of dedication. Prior to being selected president at the most recent annual Board meeting in Israel, she was a National Board Member. She also has been honored by Israel Bonds, an organization that allows Americans to invest in building up the modern State of Israel.

Lillian has now lived in Dallas with her husband, Jon, for over forty years. Together they have two married sons, Jared and his wife Samantha, and Aaron and his wife Pamela. She will become president-elect this March and take office as president during AIPAC's annual policy conference in March, 2016. I have enjoyed working with Lillian over the years on our common goal of ensuring the security of our ally, Israel; and I look forward to continuing our strong working relationship into the future.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating and wishing well Lillian Pinkus as she begins to serve as the president of AIPAC.

IN RECOGNITION OF PRINCEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA'S 130TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise in recognition of the 130th Anniversary of the Town of Princeville, North Carolina—the oldest town in the United States incorporated by African Americans. Princeville is located in Edgecombe County in

my congressional district and was originally known as Freedom Hill when it was founded at the close of the Civil War in 1865 by newly freed slaves who sought protection in the Union Army encampments there.

Following the departure of the Union soldiers, many of the former slaves stayed behind and formed a free community in Freedom Hill. The settlement grew and was incorporated on February 20, 1885, as Princeville in honor of Turner Prince, a former slave who used his carpentry skills to build many homes in the free community for his family and others who sought refuge there.

The Town of Princeville and its residents have endured much over its 130 year history. Whether it was racial prejudice, social and economic isolation, or Hurricane Floyd that nearly destroyed Princeville, the Town and its proud residents remain resilient and dedicated to building for the future. Today, the Town has well over 2,000 residents and continues to grow.

The Town of Princeville serves as a symbol of the self-determination, endurance, and fearlessness of the African Americans who braved the unimaginable horrors of slavery to reclaim their lives and build a lasting community for future generations.

Today we celebrate Princeville's incredible survival and its unique place in African American culture and United States History. Princeville's story deserves recognition so that the historical and social significance of the Town and the unwavering spirit of its people are widely known.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and congratulating the Town of Princeville, North Carolina for 130 years of perseverance and for being a symbol of African American strength and resilience.

HONORING R.A.I.N. 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, sometimes a simple civic organization intended to help and improve a small community can turn into a pillar of hope for an entire city. That has undoubtedly been the case with Regional Aid for Interim Needs, or R.A.I.N.

R.A.I.N. was founded in 1964 by Beatrice Castiglia-Catullo to serve those in need as a multi-social service agency. It provides an array of invaluable services to the senior community of the Bronx, many of whom are handicapped, home bound, or otherwise incapable of providing themselves with certain necessities.

R.A.I.N. has full-service neighborhood senior centers, home-delivered meals, transportation services, assistance with benefits and entitlements, case management and elder abuse services, in addition to community-based mobile meals for homeless and hungry persons. Their commitment to helping the elderly population has also led to the sponsorship of two residential housing projects for low-income seniors and an affiliated home at-

tendant program that provides in-home attendant and care services.

Building off their incredible success in the Bronx, R.A.I.N. has recently expanded its services to Manhattan and has licensed to provide Home Health Care in all five New York City boroughs as well as Westchester County.

Today, R.A.I.N. has funding that accounts for 1,600 meals on wheels, 325 daily meals to the hungry and homeless, and 11 senior centers providing quality programming to over 100 seniors at each site every day. Thousands of New Yorkers have come to rely on R.A.I.N. as a lifeline, and as a Congressman representing parts of the Bronx it is always heart-warming and comforting to see one of R.A.I.N.'s trucks on a block in my district.

R.A.I.N. celebrated their 50th Anniversary on October 30th 2014. I want to personally thank their Board for all of the years of great service to the community. The work done by R.A.I.N. has literally saved lives and I am so proud to have such a caring organization operating in my district. Here's to many more great years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for votes on January 27–28, 2015 because of a serious family illness. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on roll call votes #46, #47, #48, and #50. I would have voted nay on roll call vote #49.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,085,063,837,781.82. We've added \$7,458,186,788,868.74 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.4 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING PASTORS MOULTON AND JUDITH ESDAILLE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, religious institutions have the power to shape and bind a community in ways that can forever change their neighborhood for the better. That has

been the case with the Mount Carmel Pentecostal Church in the Bronx, which celebrated its 30th Anniversary in 2014.

The Mt. Carmel Pentecostal Church has been a beacon of hope and source of strength for its parishioners for so long because of the incredible commitment made by its leaders, Pastors Moulton and Judith Esdaille, who have served their community unselfishly for over 30 years. Their work to advance and grow the church they loved started in roles like Sunday School Teacher, Choir Director and Evangelist among others. Over time, Pastors Moulton and Judith began working to expand their congregation by developing outreach programs.

Driven by their creed, "Each One, Win One," Pastors Moulton and Judith have made it their mission to help those in need. They created the Bronx Park East Home for the Aging Outreach program, the Mount Carmel Pentecostal Church Partners with Feed the Hungry program, a youth mentorship program, a monthly tract program to increase spiritual awareness in the community and a series of enrichment classes to uplift parishioners. They have also been able to partner their church with Mission to Africa and Haiti organizations, sending food, clothing and supplies to areas of the globe that are in dire need of assistance.

In addition to all Pastors Moulton and Judith have achieved for their church, they are also loving parents who have managed to juggle three children and family responsibilities with two full-time secular jobs by day. They are truly an impressive combination of leaders, who have done incredible work to reach out and touch the lives of countless people all throughout the world.

In 2014 the Mt. Carmel Pentecostal Church honored Pastors Moulton and Judith Esdaille for all of their fantastic accomplishments and contributions. I'd like to echo the congratulations of the church and thank Moulton and Judith for all they've accomplished and done for the Bronx community and beyond.

HONORING SUSAN GOLDY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, a thriving community can only be achieved when its members strive to better their surroundings. For several decades, the Riverdale neighborhood has benefitted from the hard work and dedication of Susan Goldy, one of the northwest Bronx's most respected citizens and my dear friend.

Susan's work in Riverdale began in earnest in 1981 when she established her own agency, Susan E Goldy Inc., which specialized in the sale and rental of residential property. Her company immediately earned high marks for its professionalism, courtesy, integrity and reliability. As Susan's agency grew she began to enhance her involvement in other real estate related ventures, including the Bronx Manhattan North Association of Realtors, an organization which she served as President of in 1995 and 1996.

Later, Susan became a member of the New York State Association of Realtors (NYSAR)

serving on and chairing many committees within NYSAR focused on growing communities through real estate interests. Not surprisingly in 2012, Susan was elected President of NYSAR, an obvious reflection of her outstanding work ethic and accomplishments within the organization and beyond.

Susan has been recognized over the years with numerous awards and honors from different community groups and organizations, including the YMCA, the Kingsbridge Riverdale Van Cortlandt Development Corporation and the New York State Legislature. She has also done a great deal of volunteerism in this community and beyond, working with the Red Cross and Habitat for Humanity to help those who were impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy.

Susan moved to Riverdale in 1972 to raise her children, Jason and Lauren. The entire Riverdale community is fortunate that she did. I have known Susan for many years and I absolutely treasure the friendship we have developed over that time.

In 2014, the Riverdale Neighborhood House honored Susan at their annual benefit, and they could not have found a more deserving honoree. Congratulations, Susan, on this honor!

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, February 3, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 4

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Ashton B. Carter, of Massachusetts, to be Secretary of Defense.

SD-G50

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine ending modern slavery, focusing on the best way forward.

SD-419

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine private sector experience with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) framework, focusing on building a more secure cyber future.

SR-253

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to examine impacts of the proposed waters of the United States rule on state and local governments.

HVC-210

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016.

SD-215

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine deferred action on immigration, focusing on implications and unanswered questions.

SD-342

2 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

2:15 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine combating financial exploitation of vulnerable seniors.

SD-562

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard

To hold hearings to examine the impacts of vessel discharge regulations on shipping and fishing industries.

SR-253

Committee on Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 184, to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to require background checks before foster care placements are ordered in tribal court proceedings, S. 209, to amend the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act of 2005, S. 246, to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and an original bill to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian tribes; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine loan leveraging in Indian country.

SD-628

FEBRUARY 5

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the Guantanamo detention facility and the future of United States detention policy.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance

To hold hearings to examine data breach and notification legislation in the 114th Congress.

SR-253

Committee on Finance

To continue hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016.

SD-215

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the "joint employer" standard and business ownership.

SD-430

10:30 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

FEBRUARY 11

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the Internet.

SR-253

FEBRUARY 12

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Energy.

SD-366

FEBRUARY 24

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of the Interior.

SD-366

FEBRUARY 26

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Forest Service.

SD-366

SENATE—Tuesday, February 3, 2015

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, every good and perfect gift comes from You alone. For with You, there is no variation or shadow of turning. Help us to place our hope in You and remember how You have sustained us in the past.

Give our Senators the wisdom to trust You in the small things, realizing that faithfulness with the least prepares them for fidelity with the much. May they trust You to do what is best for America. In good and bad times, keep them from underestimating the power of Your might.

Lord, we thank You for continuing to heal Senator HARRY REID.

We praise You in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to H.R. 240.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 5, H.R. 240, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 338 AND S. 339

Mr. MCCONNELL. I understand there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 338) to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

A bill (S. 339) to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 entirely.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, in order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bills will be placed on the calendar.

SCHEDULE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, at noon today the Senate will vote on passage of H.R. 203, the bipartisan veterans suicide prevention bill. Following the recess for the weekly party lunches, we will vote on cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 240, a bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security.

CLAY HUNT SUICIDE PREVENTION FOR AMERICAN VETERANS ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, following last week's bipartisan vote for American jobs, the new Republican Congress will vote to send the President another bipartisan bill today. It is legislation that already passed the House of Representatives unanimously, the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act.

This bill would offer critical support to the men and women who have already sacrificed so much for all of us. It would extend a helping hand to heroes when they need it. It is just the kind of commonsense bipartisan action the new Congress can deliver for the American people.

Let me recognize once more the great work of Senators ISAKSON and MCCAIN on this bill. I hope our colleagues across the aisle will help us pass this legislation today with strong bipartisan support.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. President, when the new Senate convened, I stated my view that democracy is not about what you can get away with, it is about what can be achieved together. Exercising raw power is easier, no question about that. Changing the rules of democracy when they do not suit you can be pretty tempting to politicians. But we are

hoping our colleagues in the Democratic Party will agree that elected leaders can be bigger than that. We are hoping Democrats will agree that it is on Presidents to consider the long-term consequences of partisan power grabs and to rise above the kinds of partisan temptations that tend to emerge.

The choices Democrats make on the legislation before us will say a lot about whether there are still two serious political parties in our country, whether there are still two parties interested in governing within a constitutional framework.

At its core, the debate is about whether Democrats think Presidents of either party should have the power to simply do what they want. While this is about more than just President Obama, it is also true that President Obama has repeatedly reached beyond his authority.

Some of the President's overreach has been so out of bounds that the Supreme Court struck it down unanimously. Whether on the left, right, or center, every last Justice—even those appointed by the President—rebuked him for his overreach on recess appointments last June. Then just a couple of months ago the President rebuked himself by taking actions he had previously said many times that he lacked the legal authority to take. When he tried to suggest otherwise, a fact-checker blasted the spin and clarified that the President had been asked specifically about just the sorts of actions he was contemplating.

Last year President Obama declared that executive action was “not an option” because it would mean “ignoring the law.” “There is a path to get this done,” the President said, “and that is through Congress.” That was his view then. What changed? What changed?

The truth is, the latest power grab is not really about immigration reform. It is about making an already broken system even more broken. It is about imposing even more unfairness on immigrants who have already worked so hard and played by the rules. It is hard to understand why the President would want to impose additional unfairness on immigrants like these who just want to live their own American dream.

The question is, Do Democrats agree with the President? Well, we will soon find out. We will also find out if Democrats agree with President Obama who ignores the law when it suits him or if they agree with President Obama who made this statement just a few years ago in Miami. Here is what he said in Miami just a couple of years ago.

The President:

Democracy is hard, but it's right. [And] changing our laws means doing the hard work of changing minds and changing votes one by one.

That is the President a couple of years ago.

So I am calling on Democrats to vote with us now to fund the Department of Homeland Security. I am calling on Democrats to join us and stand up for core democratic principles such as the rule of law and separation of powers.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

LORETTA LYNCH NOMINATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the record held by the Republicans dealing with Cabinet officers is not one they should be proud of. For example, during a time of the War on Terror, the Republicans held up the Defense Department's nominee for a historically long time. Never in the past had someone who was to be Defense Secretary been held up by being blocked from moving forward.

You would think that would be a lesson learned and that would be enough, but no, that is not enough. Loretta Lynch, for example, who was nominated by the President to be Attorney General, has been held up for longer than any nominee for Attorney General in the last 30 or 40 years. It is hard to comprehend that. For example, Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM said she was "a solid choice." Senator ORRIN HATCH has indicated that he supports her nomination. Why, then, do we have to keep waiting and waiting? We are approaching 3 months that this good woman has been held up from a job for which she has been nominated.

I would hope the Republican leadership would move this out of the Senate as quickly as possible.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. President, I am not going to dwell very long on the matter that is before this body, and we will vote at 2:30. We have here with us the leading Democrat on the Appropriations Committee, and she will talk about homeland security. We have here on the floor today the assistant Democratic leader, who was one of the authors of a bill which we brought to the floor and which was debated for a long time and passed overwhelmingly before it was blocked by the Republicans.

We have before us a very interesting proposition. We have had terrorist attacks in Canada, in Australia, all over the European Union, including France and Belgium. Those countries, rather than talking about not funding homeland security, are talking about funding it with more money—but not the Senate led by the Republicans. They are doing everything within their power to make sure Homeland Security is held hostage to matters that do not really relate to homeland security.

If my Republican colleagues do not like something President Obama has done dealing with Presidential Executive orders—which, by the way, he has done less than any President in modern times—bring it up on the Senate floor and let's have a debate on that. Let's not do what happened previously and shut down the government. That is the direction we are headed. That is really too bad.

THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

Finally, Mr. President, the President has outlined a good proposal for a budget. It is nothing that is new. It is simply building upon the budget that was so successfully negotiated by Senator MURRAY and Congressman RYAN. That is what this budget he proposed is all about. It would seem to me, rather than the Republicans running out, as soon as he said a word, saying no, no, no, let's look at areas where we can compromise. Don't we need something done with the infrastructure of this country? The answer is obviously yes. Why can't we work something out in that regard? So I would hope that rather than saying no to everything the President does, that we should understand that our role, including Republican Senators, is to legislate. Legislation is the art of compromise.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, equally divided, with Senators permitted to speak therein, with the Democrats controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half.

The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask to speak in morning business as agreed upon.

WELCOMING BACK THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, before the Democratic leader leaves, in the warmest and most enthusiastic way, I want to welcome him back. He looks like he has been in a big fight. I am sure he won. It is wonderful to have him back in his leadership role, here right at his duty station. We look forward to following him and to working with him to try to forge these bipartisan relationships.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I come to the floor to call for a vote against the motion to proceed to H.R.

240, the House Homeland Security funding bill.

Now, this is a shock—for Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI to call for a vote against a motion to proceed on an appropriations bill. For the past 2 years, I have been on the floor speaking out, pounding the table, saying: Let's bring up bills; let's bring them up one at a time.

So now why am I on the floor asking for a vote against the motion to proceed on the Department of Homeland Security funding bill?

Well, I can tell us it is because the Homeland Security bill has two parts. One is an essential bill, the funding for the Department of Homeland Security—which I hope we get to and we get to as expeditiously as possible. But they have another component to it—poison pill riders—five riders from the House of Representatives designed to attack the President on immigration.

These riders, if passed, will guarantee the President will veto the bill, and we are going to be back to parliamentary ping-pong. We posture and pomp and vote. Send it to the President; he will veto it. We will get into more posturing, pomp, and partisan points. For what? We need to fund the Department of Homeland Security.

Yes, we do need to deal with immigration, but the Senate passed an immigration bill. Rather than attacking the President, let's attack the problems from immigration. Let's deal with the DREAMers. Let's deal with getting people into the sunshine.

This institution, both the House and the Senate under Republican control, criticized the President for not acting.

Where is leadership? Where is leadership? When the President acts, as he did on immigration, they want to punish him by adding poison pill riders to an essential—essential—national security bill.

Colleagues on the other side say: Why are you seeking to delay the funding bill?

I am not seeking to delay the funding bill. I am asking that we put in a clean bill and just vote on the money part.

All of my Democratic colleagues and I wrote a letter to Senator McCONNELL asking him to schedule a vote on a clean Homeland Security bill. Senator JEANNE SHAHEEN, the ranking member on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security, and I put in a clean bill the other day.

We could do it now. We could pass that funding today and reserve the debate on immigration for another day, calling upon the House to do their job. But right now I want all of the wonderful men and women who work at the Department of Homeland Security to be paid for the work they do.

We need them. We need them in cyber security. We need them searching out the lone-wolf attacks. Weren't we proud of the brilliant job our Homeland Security leadership provided to

protect all the people who so enjoyed the Super Bowl?

We have a lot of work to do. In my own home State we are dependent on the Coast Guard, but so is every other State with a coastal area, protecting us in terms of search and rescue, against drug dealers.

What about our Border Patrol, which is there every single day in dangerous circumstances; don't they deserve our respect, the resources they need, and the pay they have earned?

Let's get with the program. The program is to protect America, not to protect a political party and its partisan points on immigration. Our job is to protect the homeland security of the United States of America.

I am adamant about this. We are now 4 months into the fiscal year. We could be heading for—I hope not—another continuing resolution. We need to stand for America.

Americans are in danger at home and abroad. I know my other colleagues are waiting to speak. But we do face terrorist threats. We do face cyber criminals. The Secret Service is reforming itself. We have fence jumpers at the White House, we have drones over the White House, and yet we are going to dicker, dicker, dicker, and dicker against five poison pill amendments.

Let's clean this up and vote against the motion to proceed today. Let's come back with the clean bill that Senator SHAHEEN and I introduced.

The money has been agreed upon on both sides of the aisle and both sides of the dome in the closing hours of the fiscal year 2015 debate. Working hand-in-hand with Senator DAN COATS we fashioned a bill in the Senate, and we have it agreed to over in the House. So we could do our job so that Homeland Security can do their job.

Defeat this ill-conceived motion to proceed. Let's proceed to a clean bill. Let's protect America and then get on with other important debates.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant Democratic leader.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to follow my leader on the Appropriations Committee, Senator MIKULSKI. She and I know what it was like on 9/11/2001 in this building. We were looking out the window down the Mall and saw black smoke billowing from the Pentagon. We didn't know what happened, but we were told immediately to evacuate this U.S. Capitol Building.

I had never heard those words before. We raced out of the building, standing on the lawn outside, unaware of exactly what happened.

We knew about the tragedy in New York. We didn't know what was next. We stood there in our bewilderment, thinking what could we do. Well, what we did was protect ourselves and our Nation and come together. I remember

our choral director, when we came together, Senator MIKULSKI of Maryland, led us in singing "God Bless America" that evening on the steps of the Capitol.

There was a feeling of bipartisanship brought about by the tragedy of that moment and the belief that we had to rise above party to do something and keep America safe.

We did. I am proud of that, and I am proud of the role the Senator from Maryland played in that.

One of the aspects that went way beyond singing was to roll up our sleeves and decide how to make government work more effectively. We had two outstanding leaders in that effort: Senator Lieberman of Connecticut and Senator COLLINS of Maine. The ranking Republican and Democratic chair of that committee came together and crafted a bill literally to create a new department in our government, the Department of Homeland Security, that brought together, I believe, 22 different agencies under one roof so that we could effectively coordinate keeping America safe.

We agreed on a bipartisan basis and created that Department, and that Department has really served us well. The current Secretary, Jeh Johnson, is an outstanding individual. They have so many areas of responsibility. Other agencies play an important role—defense, intelligence, transportation—but the Department of Homeland Security is the coordinating department for America's safety against terrorism.

That is why it is incredible to me that we have refused to provide the funds the Department of Homeland Security needs to keep America safe.

The Republicans insisted in December, in the House of Representatives, they would not pass the appropriations bill for one department, the Department of Homeland Security, because they wanted to enter into a debate with the President over immigration policy. There is nothing wrong with a debate over immigration policy. In fact, the Republicans, now in the majority control of the House and Senate, could have started that debate weeks ago. They didn't.

Instead, they attached five riders to the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill, and they said: We will not allow that Department to be properly funded unless the President accepts these five immigration riders.

I wish to speak to one of those riders because it really tells the story of the feelings of many on the Republican side when it comes to immigration.

Fourteen years ago I introduced the DREAM Act. The DREAM Act is very basic. If you were brought to America as an infant, a toddler, a child by your parents, and you were undocumented in America, we believe you still deserve a chance.

As children, they didn't vote on the family decision to come to America,

but their lives have been changed because of that decision. They have lived in America—many of these young people—undocumented, growing up, going to school, doing everything every child around them did, and then finally knowing they didn't have the necessary legal documentation to stay in this country.

Well, I introduced the DREAM Act and said for those kids—who should not be held responsible for any wrongdoing by their parents—give them a chance. Give them a chance if they have led a good life, if they have graduated from high school, if they aspire to serve in our military or go on to college. Give them a chance to be legal in America.

The DREAM Act we have never enacted into law despite 14 years of effort. But the President stepped in 2½ years ago and said by Executive order: We will not deport the DREAMers if there is no evidence of criminal wrongdoing, if they have completed high school, if they came here as infants, toddlers, and children. We will give them a chance to stay in America, to work in America, and to go to school in America.

We estimate 2 million young people would qualify, and 600,000 have gone through the process. They have paid the filing fee, gone through the process, have the protection of what we call DACA, and now don't have to fear deportation. Who are these young people? They, frankly, are some of the most inspiring stories I have met as a Member of the Senate.

The Republicans in the House of Representatives have said they want to deport the DREAMers. That is right. They will not allow the Department of Homeland Security to renew their protection from deportation, and they won't allow any others to apply for DACA protection.

That means 600,000 young people currently protected by DACA would be facing deportation and another 1.5 million will be facing it as well.

Now, that is the answer of the Republican Party when it comes to immigration. Take these children—who came here as children to America, who have shown they want to be part of America's future—and deport them. Get rid of them.

From the Republican point of view in the House of Representatives, we have no use for these young people.

I wish to introduce one of these young people. This is Aaima Sayed. Aaima Sayed was brought to the United States from Pakistan. When she was 3 years old her parents brought her to this country. She grew up in Chicago like every other typical American kid. Aaima says:

I have no memories but those of living in the United States; I am an American in every way, except on paper.

Aaima was an outstanding student. She graduated in the top 10 percent of

her high school class, where she was secretary of the Spanish club, the math team, and a member of the National Society of High School Scholars. Her dream in life is to be a doctor. This is how she explains it:

It completely breaks my heart to see thousands of children die of treatable diseases due to inadequate basic health care facilities, and I want to have the skills and ability to change that.

In January 2012, Aaima graduated from Rutgers University magna cum laude with a major in psychology. She was on the dean's list six times and had a grade point average of 3.75 out of 4.0. She was a research assistant at the Rutgers Department of Psychology and interned with a local cardiologist. Aaima took the Medical College Admission Test, the MCAT, after graduating magna cum laude from Rutgers.

She scored in the 90th percentile. Her score was better than 90 percent of those who took the test. Shortly after she graduated from Rutgers, she was told that President Obama had an Executive order that gave her a chance to stay in America. It was called DACA. She applied for it, and she was accepted.

For Aaima, it meant that now, for the first time, she could honestly think about going to go medical school. She has never received any government assistance, incidentally. As an undocumented person in America, she doesn't qualify. So when she goes to college, it is at considerable challenge and hardship beyond those who had help from the government. She never did.

Aaima sent a letter to me about DACA and its impact on her. She said:

I went from feeling hopeless and full of uncertainty regarding my future to feeling confident and optimistic that I will one day get the opportunity to help my community and people in other poverty-stricken areas.

Then something amazing happened. Loyola University in Chicago, after the President's Executive order on DACA, decided they would create 10 spots in their medical school for DACA students around America such as Aaima. She applied.

I went to Loyola the day they started classes and met 10 of them. Aaima is an amazing young woman. This was an extraordinary academic achievement in her life, and she was surrounded by those just like her who were "undocumented," protected by President Obama's Executive order.

The 10 were accepted to Loyola in this special program in their medical school on one condition; that is that when they finished and became doctors, they had to agree to serve in underserved areas where the poor people live in America and don't have doctors. They gladly agreed to do it.

They are not going to medical school to get rich. They are going to medical school for the enrichment of a profession where they can help so many de-

serving people. That is where Aaima is today, at Loyola's medical school. I thank Loyola University for giving her a chance and giving nine others a chance. I thank them as well for giving Aaima the opportunity to serve those in America—in cities and rural areas—who have no doctors.

The House Republicans want to deport this young woman. That is what they have said: We want to deport her. We don't believe she should stay in America. After all she has accomplished in her life, after all she promises to bring to our great country, the Republicans have said: No, we don't need you. We don't want you. Leave.

That is what the rider says on the Department of Homeland Security. I come to this floor virtually every day and tell another story, such as the story of Aaima, the story of what she has been through and the promise she holds for the future of this country. I cannot understand the mentality of some on the other side of the aisle who are so hateful when it comes to these young, idealistic, amazing young people. Some of the things they have said about these DREAMers are very sad. I have had a chance to meet them, and I am going to continue to work for them.

So let us do this. Let us pass a clean Department of Homeland Security bill. What does that mean? Take off the riders, take off the politically extraneous things. Let us pass the bill to fund the Department that keeps America safe and then turn to the majority party—the Republican majority party—and say: Now accept your responsibility. If you want to debate immigration, bring it to the floor of the Senate, bring it to the floor of the House. It is within your power to do it. Don't hold the Department of Homeland Security hostage. Please, when you consider the future of immigration in America, don't forget we are a nation of immigrants, and that immigrant stock has made this the greatest country on Earth, if I can say. Let us continue that tradition.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, later today, the Senate will vote on whether it should proceed to a bill that attempts to link two critical yet independent debates: the day-to-day operations of one of the Nation's key national security agencies, and addressing our broken immigration system. Now, in doing that, it appears that leadership wants to hold hostage the operations of the Department of Homeland Security, an office charged with protecting our national security. And frankly, that is simply irresponsible.

Sometimes the sense of history around here is whatever was the last sound bite heard on television, but let's take an honest look at the real history and how we got here: It has been well over a year and a half since a strong,

bipartisan majority, Democrats and Republicans, came together in the Senate and approved a package of comprehensive immigration reforms. We did this after the Senate Judiciary Committee had held hundreds of hours of hearings and debate in markup. We passed it here overwhelmingly. The Republican House leadership refused to allow a vote on that measure even though most of it would have passed the House of Representatives. Now, because they wouldn't act at all, and left a void, the President acted. The President acted when he had waited for a couple of years to see if Congress would act—waited for the House of Representatives to take up the bill we passed. He had to act. This is almost like "Alice in Wonderland." The Republican leadership refuses to act on the immigration bill and then they get mad because the President, who has to take responsibility for this country, acts. They now want to put at risk the very operations of the agency charged with enforcing the immigration laws in question and blame it on the President because they failed to act. This is "Alice in Wonderland."

I know Republicans object to the President's Executive action. We spent hours hearing their complaints last week as the Senate Judiciary Committee was supposed to be considering the qualifications of Loretta Lynch to be Attorney General. It had nothing to do with her but they wanted to vent for the cameras. It went on until the cameras were turned off. I would say that instead of complaining about what they failed to do and complaining about what the President does to protect this country, why don't they offer some meaningful solutions for fixing our broken immigration system. A good place to start would be the comprehensive immigration bill we passed last Congress by a vote of 68-32. There was plenty in that bill I did not like but it included meaningful reforms to all aspects of our immigration system that was negotiated and improved through the full committee process and that is what made it a real compromise.

Now, instead of voting on that bipartisan compromise or other alternative solutions, all we see are attempts to undermine any efforts at comprehensive reform. By blocking all alternatives, the Republicans are keeping us locked in a status quo that hurts our economy, makes us less safe and pulls families apart.

The President's Executive action is a positive step toward keeping our communities safe because it requires DHS to prioritize the deportation of dangerous criminals. And it encourages those immigrants with longstanding ties to our communities who do not pose a danger to register with the government and come out of the shadows.

Law enforcement officers and victims' advocates tell us the President's

Executive action will make our communities and families safer because people will not hesitate to call the police for fear of being deported themselves.

Business leaders, economists and labor leaders tell us it will grow our economy and increase wages for all workers. It will level the playing field for American workers and raise revenues by more than \$22.6 billion over 5 years.

Immigration and constitutional law experts have concluded that it is constitutional and the President acted within his authority.

Mayors from 33 major cities across the country who work every day to make our communities safe and our businesses flourish, have said the Executive action will fuel growth in local economies, increase public safety, and facilitate the integration of immigrants. These are not political partisans. They are frontline leaders who understand the daily problems posed by our broken immigration system. They are telling us that we must act. And until we do, they are supportive of the temporary steps the President has taken.

House Republicans have said their proposal will bolster border security in a way the President's Executive actions did not but those claims ignore reality. Border security has become a game of who can develop the most outlandish, unrealistic proposals. Round-the-clock drone surveillance. Doubling the border patrol. Waiving all environmental laws. Requiring DHS to prevent every last undocumented person from crossing the southern border. These proposals are not serious. They never worked in the past. They are not going to work now. We are not at war with Mexico and Canada. We cannot seal our borders. Nor should we.

We already have devoted an enormous amount of resources to border security. The overall budget for CBP and ICE has nearly doubled in the past 10 years. Hundreds of miles of border fencing has been constructed. We have more than 21,000 border patrol agents. And, the Department has deployed advanced technologies and airborne assets. The most effective border security measure would be approving the comprehensive immigration reforms passed by the Senate last Congress that reduce the number of people trying to come here in the first place.

The Senate has a choice. We can set aside politics and act like grownups or we can waste days debating the legislation sent to us by the House, which the President has made clear he will veto.

What I suggest is that we respond to the American people and act like grownups—consider legislation introduced last week by Senator SHAHEEN and Senator MIKULSKI. That bill, negotiated last year by Senate and House members, Democrats and Republicans

alike, would ensure that the Department of Homeland Security has the critical resources it needs to protect our national interests. That bill will raise DHS funding by \$400 million, and fund the largest operation force of border patrol agents and CBP officers in history. It will provide resources to respond quickly when natural disasters devastate our states and communities. It will provide funding for the essential services provided by the Coast Guard and Secret Service. It will invest in FEMA's State and Local Grants Program, which also helps all of our states—including rural, border ones like Vermont. And it will support our state and local law enforcement, fire departments and first responder emergency services. It replaces rhetoric with reality. I think the American people are tired of rhetoric. They'd like some reality.

We all know our current immigration system needs comprehensive reform. That's why I held hundreds of hours of hearings and markups in the Judiciary Committee and why this Senate, Republicans and Democrats, came together last Congress and passed a comprehensive immigration bill. And I'm so sorry that the House Republican leadership refused to bring it up even though there were the votes to pass it. So the President took the first step. Now, Congress must act. But this appropriations bill is not the place for that debate. Have a real debate on immigration. We cannot send the message that we are more willing to play politics than promote and protect national security. That posturing is beneath the Senate. We should pass a clean funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security, and renew our efforts to enact meaningful, comprehensive immigration reforms such as those passed by the Senate in 2013.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I stand to discuss what has been discussed by the previous two Senators, the urgent need for a clean bill to fund our Department of Homeland Security.

I wasn't part of this body during the 9/11 attacks. I was living in Newark, NJ, and watched, as many in my city did, with a view clearly to the World Trade Center and saw that attack. What moved me afterward was the incredible unity of our country. There was no partisan politics. People pulled together. First responders from New Jersey, all over New York, and all over the country came together.

What we did after that as a nation was we began to prepare to ensure we could prevent those attacks and have better systems in place should emergencies, crises, disasters or attacks happen again. What happened from that unity is evidenced by this body joining together not just to sing patri-

otic songs on the Capitol steps but to work in unison to create the Department of Homeland Security.

That agency is tasked with the urgent need to prepare our country to meet crises if they come. This is not a partisan issue and should not fall prey to political fights between congressional Republicans and the President of the United States over immigration. There is way too much at stake.

Let me cite a few examples. Something we have learned from past attacks is the urgency of coordinating between different layers of law enforcement and first responders. If we do not pass a clean DHS bill, resources for that coordination, getting everyone working together, will be put at risk.

Let me cite another example. It is critical in this day and age that we stay on the cutting edge of technology, one step ahead of those people who seek to do us harm. We see clearly if we do not get a clean bill passed, we will not be able to stay on that technological edge. We see that in many areas. One great example is at our ports. New Jersey has one of the third busiest ports in America, and we need that critical technological equipment for upgrades that can help us to detect nuclear devices or harmful materials coming into our country. Without a clean bill, we will not have those resources.

We also see the headlines from just the past few months about cyber attack after cyber attack. A critical agency that must be funded appropriately to protect our businesses and our infrastructure and our first-responding capabilities against cyber attack is coordinated and led from the DHS. Not to fund this agency adequately so they can prepare for those attacks is unacceptable.

We are Americans and this idea of unifying together is our strength. We stand united against attacks. If we do it right, as we have learned not just throughout our country's history but in every aspect of our society—my college—high school coach used to talk about the five Ps: Proper preparation prevents poor performance. This, unfortunately, will so undermine our ability to secure ourselves, it is almost an insult that it will not even give proper funding to meet the weaknesses to the Secret Service, as we have seen their weaknesses exposed. As we go into a Presidential election, we must provide adequate security and protection for the next potential President.

This also harms our businesses as well. Take for example the E-Verify system. This makes sure people who are hired by our companies do not have things in their background that would undermine our security. Those systems are harmed as well.

This is an example where petty politics and recklessness is being placed above people, policy, and reason. We as

a nation have stood in unity after the most horrifying of attacks. We live in a world where we have seen diseases such as Ebola, where we have experienced cyber attacks, and where we have had to recover from vicious weather events such as Sandy. We live in a world where people seek to do us harm, and we should do nothing to weaken our ability to respond, to prepare, to make ourselves more resilient for any such occurrences. The urgency is upon us. We cannot be a reactive nation unified after the fact. We must be a proactive nation, working together, above politics, to do what is right for the strength and the security of our country.

I call for a clean bill in the critical, most important part, of our government to provide for the common defense. This is a time that should bring us together, not have us fall prey to every bit of Washington that people have grown tired and sick of. Let us pass a clean bill, as a bipartisan group of former Secretaries of Homeland Security has called for. This is not a time for recklessness; it is a time for reason. It is not a time for petty politics; it is time to put people first.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, yesterday the President of the United States released his budget. Unfortunately, it looks like the same old failed, top-down policies of the past. It is a government-knows-best approach that clings to more taxes, more spending, and bigger government. And it is exactly what the American people don't need.

If the past 6 years have demonstrated anything, it is that big government doesn't work. Six years of big-government policies have left the American people struggling.

Even the Vice President of the United States admits it. Speaking at the House Democrats' retreat last week, Vice President BIDEN said:

To state the obvious, the past six years have been really, really hard for this country.

That is the truth. The recession officially ended more than 5 years ago, but the recovery has been weak and sluggish. Economic growth has lagged far behind the pace of other recoveries.

By this point in the Reagan recovery, the economy had created a staggering 11.8 million more private sector jobs than we have created since the recession ended.

Wage growth has remained stagnant under the Obama administration, while prices have risen. The average family health insurance premium has increased by over \$3,000 since the President's health care law was passed.

Household income has declined by more than \$2,000 over the past 6 years. And too many Americans are unemployed or trapped in part-time jobs because they can't find full-time employment.

Over the past 6 years, middle-class families have had to work harder and harder just to stay in place. Getting ahead has started to seem like an impossible dream.

Republicans are committed to changing that. Providing relief to the middle class is the priority of America's new Congress. We intend to do it by eliminating the top-down, big-government policies of the past few years and replacing them with a new path focused on growing the economy from the ground up.

If big government programs tend to assume one thing, it is that government knows best. The government decides what it thinks you need, and then it makes you pay for it.

Well, Republicans don't believe government knows best. We believe the American people know best. And our goal is to get government off the backs of American families. We want to eliminate burdensome government programs and regulations and allow Americans to keep more of their hard-earned dollars. We want to leave Americans free to make the best decisions for their families about health care, about housing, and about everything in between. We want to make sure Americans live in an economy that provides the resources and opportunities they need to support their families and achieve their dreams. That is what we mean by fighting for people, not government, and we have already gotten started.

Senate Republicans just passed legislation to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline. This project is a win-win for Americans. It would support 42,000 jobs during construction. It would invest billions in the economy. It would bring in millions in revenue to State and local governments.

In my home State of South Dakota alone, the pipeline would bring in \$20 million in tax revenue. That is a lot of funding for local priorities such as schools and teachers, law enforcement, roads, and bridges.

Finally, the Keystone Pipeline would substantially reduce our reliance on oil from unstable countries such as Russia, Venezuela, and Iran. That would be good news for American families' energy bills.

In addition to legislation to approve Keystone, Republicans have a number of other job-creating bills on the agenda.

The House of Representatives has already taken up legislation to make it easier for employers to hire veterans by exempting new veteran hires from ObamaCare's burdensome employer mandate. House Republicans have also

taken up legislation to fix ObamaCare's 30-hour workweek rule, which is currently cutting workers' hours and wages by making it more difficult for employers to create or maintain full-time positions.

Republicans will also be releasing our own budget in the next few weeks, and it will be very different from President Obama's. First of all, our budget is going to balance. The President's budget never balances—ever—and that is not a sustainable path for our country. Families have to balance their budgets. They don't have a choice. The Federal Government should be no different.

The President tends to act as if the Federal Government is different, as if the fact that his new government programs have good intentions means he can somehow ignore the fact that the country can't afford them. But the Federal Government is just like any family or business or organization. If its budget isn't balanced, bad things happen.

Right now, the Federal Government is in debt to the tune of \$18.1 trillion. That number is so large that it is practically unfathomable.

To put it in perspective, 18.1 trillion people are more than 2,540 times the total population of the Earth; 18.1 trillion miles is the distance to the Moon and back—almost 38 million times.

Needless to say, a debt that big is not a good thing—and the President's budget would keep adding to it. In fact, it would add another \$8.5 trillion to the debt. That is not good news for future generations who will have to pay down the bills our generation is racking up.

Republicans' budget will balance. It will take aim at out-of-control Federal spending and address our massive Federal debt. Our budget will also cut waste to make the government more efficient, effective, and accountable to the American people. There is no excuse for wasting Americans' money on ineffective and duplicative programs.

The President's budget is about the past. Republicans' budget will be about the future. The American people sent a clear message in November that they were tired of the status quo in Washington. They were tired of gridlock. They were tired of the same old top-down, government-knows-best approach to governing.

Well, Republicans heard them. And since we took control of Congress a month ago, we have focused on living up to the trust the American people placed in us. We have gotten Washington working again.

In just 1 month, we have held more amendment votes than Democrats held in an entire year. Committees are back up and running, and Republicans and Democrats are getting the chance to make their constituents' voices heard.

We have passed job-creating legislation, and we are going to keep passing more. We are going to put forward the

kind of budget the American people are looking for: a budget that balances, a budget that targets wasteful Washington spending, and a budget that starts to address the massive debt that has accumulated under the Obama administration.

President Obama has a choice: He can continue to put forward the failed policies his budget offers, or he can move away from these policies and work with Republicans to start cleaning up the debt and getting government off the backs of the American people. We hope he will choose to work with us.

But whatever he chooses, though, Republicans will continue this Congress as we have begun: by getting Washington working again for American families.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I wish to join in the comments from my able and learned colleague from South Dakota to talk about what happened when the President yesterday released his budget for the next fiscal year.

I agree with my colleague from South Dakota that the President's spending is absolutely astonishing. The President wants to spend \$4 trillion in 2016. That is \$1 billion 4,000 times. Nobody has ever seen a budget that big before.

The New York Times ran an article right after the budget came out yesterday with the headline "Liberal aspirations, set out as a budget." The article said:

President Obama presented a budget on Monday that is more utopian vision than pragmatic blueprint.

The American people don't want a utopian vision. They want responsible leadership—responsible leadership that understands their needs and the challenges people face every day.

So far this year, all we have seen from the President is a list of ways he wants to spend taxpayers' hard-earned dollars. These ideas are so unrealistic, there has been no sign that the President actually wants to get anything done for the rest of his term. If the President wanted to get something done, what he would do is write a budget that spends a reasonable amount of money in a responsible way. If he wanted to get something done, he would offer responsible tax simplification.

Instead, the President of the United States asked for more taxes on hard-working American families. That is what he did when he said last month that he wanted to raise taxes on college savings plans. Millions of people use those plans to give their children a better future. When even Democrats in Congress told the President it was a terrible idea, the President finally had to relent and drop his plan.

Then came the State of the Union Address, and the President had more

ideas for even additional new taxes. The Tax Policy Center analyzed those ideas, and they found that millions of middle-class families would pay even higher taxes under the President's plans. When they looked at families squarely in the middle of the middle class, they found that only about one in four of them would even get a tax break and, instead, twice as many families in the middle of the middle class—twice as many families—would see their taxes go up, and they would pay almost \$300 more on average under President Obama's plan. How is that a good deal for hard-working taxpayers all across the country, for middle-class families?

Another study looked at some of the President's other plans for tax increases. It found those ideas would lead to a smaller economy and smaller incomes. How is that a good idea for the middle class?

Now we have the President's budget. Next year, he wants to increase spending by 7 percent over what Washington will spend this year. Did most Americans get a raise of 7 percent last year? Of course not. Under President Obama's economy, wages have been stagnant. Part-time workers are having their hours cut, their paychecks cut. Why? Because of the President's health care law. People are paying higher premiums, higher deductibles, higher copays for health insurance that meets all of President Obama's mandates but doesn't necessarily meet the needs for them and their families. President Obama still has not learned that every dollar Washington takes out of the pockets of hard-working taxpayers all across the country is a dollar they can't use for themselves, to spend, to save, to invest.

In his budget the President sent over yesterday, he wants to add another \$474 billion to Washington's debt next year alone—see what the debt is, and he wants to add it to the debt on top of that. He wants another \$8.5 trillion over the next decade. Every one of those numbers is right there in his budget, and every one of them is bad news for hard-working American taxpayers.

Americans aren't asking the President to add trillions of dollars to Washington's out-of-control spending and debt. They know they are the ones who are going to have to pay for this new spending. The President may not realize it, but the American taxpayer knows it.

The White House says it can add all of this new spending because the budget deficit this year, as they say, will only be \$468 billion. That is how out of touch this administration is. The President sees a deficit of \$468 billion—and that is adding it on top of the debt—and is declaring victory. He wants to celebrate by piling on more debt to spend on his priorities, not on

the priorities of hard-working American families. That is not a victory.

Over the next 10 years, under President Obama's budget, the debt in Washington is going to climb to more than \$26 trillion. That is \$75,000 that each man, woman, and child in America would owe to pay off the debt President Obama is suggesting in his budget.

We have all of that debt, and the President's budget does nothing to preserve and protect Social Security. There is nothing to preserve and protect Social Security so it will be there for the next generation. Is that really the legacy President Obama wants to leave for America's young people?

At least the President will send his budget to Congress by the deadline this year. This is President Obama's seventh budget, and five of those he turned over after the legal deadline. Maybe the President should have taken a little more time to double check his math because the President's figures don't add up for the American people.

President Obama's economic policies have led to far less growth than we would have had following the recession. According to the latest numbers released on Friday, our economy grew by just 2.4 percent last year. That is not really what it should be, not for our country. We have tried President Obama's ideas for the last 6 years, and they have failed. They have failed the American people. This budget is more of the same ideas—more middle-class taxes, more spending, more debt. And Democrats in Congress didn't even offer a budget the past few years.

Republicans are ready to do the work of passing a responsible budget. We are going to pass a budget with common-sense spending that fits America's priorities, not Washington and President Obama's priorities. We will pass a budget that actually helps middle-class families thrive and our economy grow. We will pass a budget that takes control of Washington spending and starts to bring down President Obama's massive debt. Republicans in Congress understand that governing responsibly begins with budgeting responsibly. Instead of more new spending that middle-class, hard-working American families can't afford, we will balance the budget. We will cut waste and support programs that deliver real results.

That is what the President should have done. What he should have done is shown real leadership, not just more utopian vision. The President missed his chance to lead. Republicans will produce a budget that focuses on jobs, economic growth, and opportunity for all Americans.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). The Senator from Louisiana.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND
SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I rise in strong support of moving to the Homeland Security appropriations bill. I hope we do that with a vote today. This is very important in terms of governing and in terms of passing an appropriations bill for a vital part of government.

It is also important to address and debate and vote head-on on President Obama's illegal Executive amnesty, which he announced last December, which would basically give amnesty to about 5 million illegal aliens with no basis whatsoever in statutory law. In fact, statutory law is opposed to that sort of Executive action.

I find it ironic that the very same Members from the very same party and ideology that is constantly beating the drum and saying "For God's sake, we can't shut down the government; we can't have that sort of showdown" are apparently preparing to vote against even moving to this spending bill which is necessary to fund a vital part of the government. That makes no sense.

We need to move to this spending bill, debate it, and act on it. Not moving to the spending bill is a vote for a government shutdown in that area of the government, and I think that is irresponsible. We need to move to the spending bill which originated in the House. This is the House-passed spending bill for Homeland Security. We need to move to it.

Furthermore, as is evident from the last couple of weeks, we are going to have an open amendment process. There will be amendments offered and available to be debated and voted on that will have anything and everything with regard to this spending bill.

The House put several policy provisions in the spending bill, including those that I agree with, such as defunding this unconstitutional Executive amnesty from December. I agree with that, I support that, and I will certainly vote to support it. But the point is that there will be plenty of opportunity to vote on that and potentially remove that because we are going to have an open debate and amendment process—as we should—here on the Senate floor.

Let's move to this vital spending bill. Let's not threaten to shut down the government. Let's have the debate here on the floor, and let's vote. That is what we were elected to do. We were elected to represent our constituents, debate major issues of the day—and that certainly includes the President's Executive amnesty—and to vote.

If there is an effort to not allow us to even move to the bill to do that, I can only come to one conclusion: that folks voting that way for the most part support President Obama's illegal Executive amnesty, but they just don't want

to have to say so, and they certainly don't want to have to vote that way. Well, sorry. You ran for the job, you asked for the job, and you got it. Let's do our job, which means putting the country's business on the floor of the Senate and acting one way or the other, debating, voting, proposing amendments, and moving on with this essential spending bill for this part of the government.

I will strongly support moving to the bill. That is the responsible thing to do. I will strongly support the provisions in the bill that the House enacted, including blocking the President's illegal Executive amnesty.

With regard to that, this is an important matter for two reasons. First of all, I believe this Executive amnesty is really bad policy that is going to grow the problem and not solve it. A fundamental rule in life is that when you reward something, you get more of it, not less of it, right? That is true of our Tax Code, and that is true in parenting. Well, we are rewarding illegal crossings. We are rewarding that flow of illegal immigrants. We are rewarding that through the President's Executive amnesty, and it is only going to produce more of it. That is my first objection to the policy. It is a very bad idea, and it is going to grow the problem, not decrease it.

My second objection is even more fundamental. I believe this action is clearly way beyond the President's Executive authority and way beyond his true powers under the Constitution. The Supreme Court has said many times that there is nothing that Congress has more clear and straightforward powers on than immigration policy, and it certainly includes anything like a major amnesty.

What the President did in December was not filling in the blanks of statutory laws or executing statutory law. What he did was completely contrary to all sorts of statutory law. Statutory law is clear. It is on the books. It has been passed through a valid process. It is clear that folks who enter the country illegally, break the law and are here illegally, are subject to removal and cannot work in the country legally.

In contrast to that clear statutory law, President Obama is first giving them authorization to stay here for at least 3 years, and that can be renewed. Secondly, he is handing them a document that he is making up out of thin air called a work permit which gives them authority to work even though that is clearly contrary to statutory law given the means by which they entered the country.

We need to put that issue and topic directly on the Senate floor and debate and act on that as well. As I suggested, the only way we do any of that is to first take a responsible vote and put the House spending bill on the Senate

floor. To vote otherwise is to block a necessary spending bill, to basically threaten shutting down part of the government, and to avoid our responsibility in terms of debating and voting on the major issues of the day—to deal directly with that.

I urge all of my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, to put this necessary bill on the floor, and then we will have an open and full debate, we will have an open amendment process, we will have all of the votes that go to this topic, and then we will act. That is what we should do, and that is what we were elected to do.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, elections in our representative form of government are supposed to have consequences, and if they don't have consequences, there is not much point of having elections.

One of the issues in the most recent election for Congress was a promise of some people running for office to overcome the President's constitutional actions, particularly what he did on immigration but on a lot of other things as well. The bill we have before us is a demonstration on the part of people who were victorious in that last election to deliver on the promises of that election.

So obviously I am here at this time to speak on the Department of Homeland Security appropriations that the Senate is considering today and, as the Senator from Louisiana just said, to urge my colleagues to support the efforts to move ahead.

In doing so, I wish to discuss what we are doing. This bill is about stopping the unilateral actions the President has taken with respect to the country's immigration laws, doing it without congressional approval or scrutiny. It is our responsibility to check the President and ensure that he does not go beyond the limits of his powers as defined in that basic document, the Constitution. This is about restoring the rule of law. This is about restoring the Constitution by denying that funds be utilized to carry out the President's improper, unconstitutional actions.

Our government is based on the rule of law. No one is above the law, not even those who were chosen to be leaders among the people. This core principle has kept us free and preserved our rights and liberties for over 200 years.

However, the rule of law in our country has slowly eroded away. While the current administration is not the only culprit of that corrosion of the rule of law, this administration has expedited its erosion more than others. That is the basis for the President saying: If Congress won't, I have a pen and a phone, and I will.

Let me explain this erosion. Under article II of the Constitution, the

President “shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed.” This is not a permissive clause, letting the President pick and choose which laws he will enforce. The article uses the mandatory “shall,” which requires him to enforce all laws. However, the President has not done that. He has taken the attitude that he is above the law and is not required to obey it.

Just in the last couple of years we have seen President Obama’s complete disregard for laws passed by Congress. Rather than enforcing the Affordable Care Act, he rewrote the deadlines prescribed by law. He has not enforced the Controlled Substance Act in some States and, even worse, has allowed them to openly defy Federal law.

He released five Taliban prisoners from Guantanamo without first providing 30 days’ notice to Congress as required under the National Defense Authorization Act.

He unlawfully made four appointments to executive positions without authority under the appointments clause of the Constitution. In that regard, he was even overruled by two members he appointed to the Supreme Court in that 9-to-0 decision that says when the Constitution says only Congress can decide when a House is in session, the President can’t say on some basis that they aren’t in session and proceed to make recess appointments. In other words, what the judges said is that what the Constitution says is what it says. So he took unconstitutional action in making those appointments.

Lastly, he took the drastic step of changing immigration laws on the books without the authority or approval from Congress.

When the President acts in contravention to the law, he erodes the rule of law. He sets an example for future Presidents who will expand on his precedent and actions on other laws and policies they don’t agree with. By doing this the President sends the message that the laws as written by the legislative branch aren’t important, thereby removing and reducing faith in the rule of law.

The Founders understood the serious dangers of investing all powers of our government in a single body. They understood that because the Revolution was all about colonists being sick and tired of one man—George III—making decisions. So under the doctrine of separation of powers, they wrote into the Constitution dividing the power among three branches of government so one person could not be George III. They gave all legislative powers to the Congress, all Executive powers to the President, and all judicial powers to the judicial branch. No body of government may exercise the powers of other bodies of the government.

Separation of power then is fundamental to the Constitution of the

United States, and the Constitution of the United States enshrines the spirit of the Declaration of Independence, that we are endowed by our Creator, not by government, with certain inalienable rights.

Just last week during the nomination hearings of Loretta Lynch as Attorney General, we had an outstanding professor from George Washington Law School testify by the name of Jonathan Turley, and he said this: “The Separation of Powers is the very core of our constitutional system and was designed not as a protection of the powers of the branches but a protection of liberty.”

We are endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights, among them life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The Founding Fathers knew that if the same body had all the powers, that body, no matter how large or small, would be tyrannical, as was George III.

However, President Obama has overreached the limits of his constitutional authority. He has blurred the lines of separation of powers.

The executive branch action taken with respect to our immigration laws is only the most recent, if not the most pervasive, of legislative actions he has taken under the proposition that I have a phone and a pen and I can do almost anything Congress isn’t doing that I want them to do. In effect, the President has thwarted the immigration laws Congress has written in order to implement the policy he wants. Contrary to the laws on the books, the President’s action would give people who have crossed the border illegally the right to remain in the United States and many taxpayer benefits that are only available to lawfully documented immigrants, as well as the right to work.

The President’s action expanded a program he created without congressional approval, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals—or DACA as it is called—and created a new program, the deferred action of parents of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents—or DAPA—as it is called.

But under the Constitution only Congress has the authority to create these types of programs that grant a lawful status to people who have come here undocumented. Let me repeat: Congress has the responsibility of writing laws, not the President. I remind my colleagues that Congress considered a law that resembled the DACA Program, but it never passed that law. So what has the President done? In effect, he has enacted a law Congress rejected.

The President justifies his actions by saying “Congress has failed.” However, that doesn’t give him license to act on his own. I wish to again quote Professor Turley:

Our government requires consent and compromise to function. It goes without saying

that when we are politically divided as a nation, less tends to get done. However, such division is no license to “go it alone” as the President has suggested.

The genius of our government is that it allows for the collection of ideas and opinions. It allows these different ideas and opinions to work together to find common ground. Once common ground is reached, then laws are enacted. The President doesn’t represent that many different views in the country, but obviously Congressmen from all over this geographical area represent those views. Congressmen are elected by the people directly, and if there is a disagreement in Congress on how immigration should be handled, that means there is disagreement in the country on how immigration should be handled. The President cannot imagine that everyone agrees his plan is the best plan. It is the job of Congress to find compromises and solutions that most people can agree with and particularly in the U.S. Senate where it takes 60 votes to pass legislation. This is where consensus is built when there are only 54 Republicans and 46 Democrats. If we are going to get anything done, there has to be a consensus.

The other justification the President is fond of using for his actions is the executive branch’s ability to exercise prosecutorial discretion, but while the President does have the authority to decide when to prosecute or where to allocate resources, that authority is not unlimited.

The President’s actions with respect to immigration go far beyond prosecutorial discretion. Lawful prosecutorial discretion is exercised on a case-by-case basis. Lawful prosecutorial discretion isn’t excluding entire categories of individuals in a blanket fashion and telling them that going forward the law will be applied to them.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask unanimous consent to proceed for 4 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. In addition, lawful prosecutorial discretion doesn’t reward illegal behavior by conferring substantive benefits to those who have violated the law. Yet under the President’s unilateral action, individuals who have entered without inspection or overstayed their visas unlawfully now will get work permits, Social Security numbers, driver’s licenses, employment and education opportunities, and many other benefits only afforded to those who abide by the law.

Further, the President argues that because the Department doesn’t have sufficient resources, he has exercised his prosecutorial discretion by prioritizing the removal of the most dangerous aliens for better security of our country. Yet the reality of his

statement is that in fiscal year 2013, 36,007 criminal aliens were released. What is more, a report just issued by the Department of Homeland Security reveals that 1,000 of those criminal aliens have gone on to commit further crimes.

So the President isn't even doing what he says he is doing. Instead of removing criminals from our country as required by law, he is just releasing them back into the community so they can continue to commit further crimes and jeopardize public safety.

No matter how the President paints the picture, his Executive action on immigration is an abuse of constitutional duty to faithfully execute the law and an overreach of his executive branch authority under the separation of powers doctrine.

Under the Constitution, the Congress has several tools it can use to check the President and rein him in when he operates outside of the Constitution. Among the tools Congress has is the power of the purse. Congress appropriates funds and has the authority to dictate where and how those funds may or may not be used. If the President exceeds the limits of his Executive authority to create an illegal program such as DACA or DAPA, Congress has the power to defund such a program.

The Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill is a check on the executive branch. It is a result of the last election, and elections are supposed to have consequences. This bill is our way of showing to the American people we are carrying out a campaign promise to make sure the President doesn't act in an unconstitutional way and abuse his authority.

So I ask my colleagues to take this under serious consideration when deciding whether to vote in favor or against proceeding to this bill.

I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

CLAY HUNT SUICIDE PREVENTION FOR AMERICAN VETERANS ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.R. 203, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 203) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the conduct of annual evaluations of mental health care and suicide prevention programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 12

noon will be equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I thank Senator GRASSLEY for his remarks. As chairman of the Judiciary Committee and a longtime vigorous leader in the U.S. Senate, I know he was here and saw the problems of the 1986 amnesty. It had bad ramifications in a lot of ways. I believe if we listened to the experience of Senator GRASSLEY and his understanding of what is at stake, we would all be in a lot better shape than we are today.

The American people want a lawful system of immigration. They want one that is fair to applicants who want to come to America. They are not for eliminating immigration to America. They want a system that allows people to apply, wait their turn, and if they are qualified, be admitted; if they don't qualify, not be admitted. They want that enforced. They don't believe we should have open borders and open visa programs that allow people by the millions to come unlawfully into this country. The President obviously has a different view. As a result, we are in a situation in which the Constitution is at stake in a lot of ways.

We will vote after lunch on moving forward to the Department of Homeland Security bill. The Department of Homeland Security bill, passed by the House of Representatives, fully funds the Department of Homeland Security. The basic funding mechanisms and agreements and allocations of money in that legislation were approved on a bipartisan basis. The House of Representatives simply said: Mr. President, the money in the Department of Homeland Security funding mechanism will be spent for lawful purposes. That money will be spent to secure the homeland in an effective way. That money, however, will not be spent by anyone to take actions outside the lawful limitations and lawful powers of the Department of Homeland Security. But that is what the President wanted to do, and that is what he wants to do through his Executive action.

They are now leasing a new building across the river in Crystal City. They are hiring 1,000 new Federal employees. Those Federal employees will be processing the applications for up to 5 million people and they will be providing those people with photo IDs. These are people in the country unlawfully. They are not lawfully allowed to work in America. Businesses aren't allowed to hire people who are here unlawfully.

It is plain and simple. They are not eligible to qualify for Social Security or Medicare. So the President has de-

clared he is going to set up this office. They will process these individuals, and they will provide up to 5 million photo IDs, 5 million Social Security numbers, and the right to work in America. They will be allowed to participate in Social Security and Medicare.

He says: I am entitled to do that. Well, he is not entitled to do that. As scholar after scholar and as common sense tells us, the President doesn't have that power. That is what this is about.

The House barred any spending on this unlawful activity—an activity the President asked Congress to allow him to do and which Congress rejected. This proposal was presented to Congress, and Congress refused to pass it. But he is doing it anyway. It is an arrogant overreach, a direct challenge to the historic role of Congress in our American system.

Our Democratic colleagues say they don't want controversial immigration riders on this bill—controversial immigration riders. In other words, they don't want the Congress to do what it is required to do—fund the programs it believes need to be funded and not fund programs it doesn't believe should be funded.

As a matter of policy, Congress has not adopted and does not support what the President wants to do. In fact, it has prohibited it. It has no duty whatsoever to allow the President to spend moneys of the United States of America to advocate a program they don't approve of, or certainly one that is unlawful. That is what this is all about. Our colleagues are voting to block the bill that would fund Homeland Security at the level the President has asked for. So there is no policy change here. Every lawful activity of Homeland Security is funded.

There was a headline in the New York Times today. I am going to push back a little on my colleagues because they have been spinning this idea that somehow the Republican House, in sending this legislation over that funded Homeland Security, is disrupting the fair flow and causing controversies within our funding mechanisms of Congress. The headline from an experienced reporter's article in today's New York Times is: "Democrats Look to Protect Obama's Immigration Directives."

That is exactly what this is about, colleagues. At least seven of our Democratic colleagues have explicitly said they don't agree with the policy of the President with regard to Executive amnesty and providing work permits and Social Security to people unlawfully here. But they are now united. We are told all of them are going to stand together to protect President Obama's immigration directives.

When they were running for office during the campaign last fall, people

were saying they didn't agree with him. Now, when the issue hits the floor and we have an opportunity to do the normal and rational thing and not fund an unlawful policy, they are all sticking together like a palace guard around the White House to protect Obama's immigration directives. This is a sad thing and a disappointing thing to me. The article goes on to say:

Democrats are hoping they can force the new Republican majority to drop the immigration provisions and send the \$40 billion spending bill to the President.

Congress is spending \$40 billion on homeland security. All of that money is directed to legitimate lawful policies of Homeland Security and not allowing any of it to be spent on unlawful, unapproved policies in Homeland Security—an absolute power that Congress has, a duty that it has. Congress is violating its fundamental duty if it allows the President to carry out power he is not authorized. It is absolutely violating its duty if it supports and funds actions by the President to violate the law. It has a duty to say no to the President who overreaches.

The article goes on to say:

But Democrats have decided to shut down debate on the measure altogether, fearful that it could lead to the bill's approval and could prompt negotiations with the House that would put them at a disadvantage.

Fearful that the process could lead to the bill's approval during negotiations with the House—isn't that what legislation is all about? Isn't that what it is all about? Shouldn't our colleagues have the right, if they don't like the language that constricts the President's power to carry on this unlawful act, to offer an amendment to strip it out? They have the ability to strike that language. Why don't they do that? No, they are blocking even moving to the bill in its entirety. Then they are attempting one of the most through-the-looking-glass, down-the-rabbit-hole arguments you have ever heard. They are saying Republicans are shutting down Homeland Security when they are not passing the bill that is on the floor today and we will be voting on. They are rejecting it. All it does is fund the Department of Homeland Security at a level agreed upon on a bipartisan basis, \$40 billion.

What kind of world are we in when we do that? I would like to ask who is being protected here. The answer is clear. The New York Times said: They are protecting President Obama's political immigration directives.

I would ask this. Isn't it our duty to protect the Constitution? Isn't it our duty to protect the laws of the United States of America? Isn't it our duty to protect American workers from the decline in wages and their job prospects as a result of now legalizing 5 million people to be able to take any job whatsoever in the entire American economy, including working for the county

commission, the power company, the trucking companies?

Isn't that what our duty is? Who should we be protecting here? Shouldn't we be protecting a lawful system of immigration?

But the President wants to take money. He wants Congress to appropriate money to give him at Homeland Security so he can spend it to undermine the law of the United States of America. What an unthinkable thing that is. But that is fundamentally what is happening. He wants and is demanding that this Congress not follow its promises to the American people—not follow its lawful and constitutional duty—but to give him the money so he can carry out a policy in contradiction to the laws of the United States of America and to the good policy of America. This is the way we do business in this country.

I think the reason our Democratic colleagues don't want to move to the bill is because they don't want to debate the substance of it. That is not a good reason. They don't want to debate the substance of it because their position is untenable. The American people understand that Congress is not shutting down the government and is not shutting down Homeland Security. Our Democratic colleagues are the ones that are refusing to pass the legislation that would fund Homeland Security. The President is backing them up and encouraging them, and apparently he has had success. He twisted arms or something because at least seven of the Members said they didn't agree with this, and more probably would have, had they been asked. But no, not now. Now they are all standing together with Senator REID, the minority leader of the Senate, to advocate this policy.

I don't appreciate it being said time and again by so many of our Democratic colleagues and the President that somehow Congress is acting improperly and that Congress is not funding Homeland Security. This is through the looking glass. This is beyond acceptance. I think the New York Times pretty well said it correct. I don't believe the media is buying this argument. I don't think the American people are buying this argument, and Congress shouldn't buy the argument. The right thing to do, colleagues, is to get on the bill.

Let me say this to my Democratic colleagues. I know many of you are uneasy about this. Let's get on the legislation. There will be amendments. There will be a number of amendments. Perhaps things could develop in a way that you can support them. We will protect the lawful constitutional powers of Congress and fund Homeland Security. We will do it in a way that strengthens the rule of law in America and strengthens our ability to have integrity in the immigration system. It creates a system the American people

rightfully have demanded, pleaded for, and prayed for, and that Congress and the politicians have failed to produce for now over 40 years. That is the problem. The American people are angry, and they are not angry at immigrants. All of us have friends and relatives and neighbors who have immigrated to America. We are not against immigrants. I think there is a growing unease out there about the willful refusal of Congress to do what it takes to fix this system.

I would just say one more thing. American wages are down. Wages fell in December 5 cents an hour—not a good event after we have been told everything is getting so much better. There is a limit, colleagues, to how many people we can bring to America to take jobs when we have a limited number of jobs and falling wages.

We have the lowest percentage of Americans in the workforce working today since the 1970s. Things aren't going good. We can't accept everybody in the whole world to take jobs here.

We just had a report produced yesterday that said we have now discovered there are another 5 million people who have been—it looks to me—admitted to work in the country unlawfully. Through the Freedom of Information Act, it was discovered that not only do we have a million people a year come to America with green cards and permanent residency, we have 700,000 guest workers that come every year. Add to that the asylees, plus the refugees and other people. What they found out was we have now—in the last 5 years under this administration—given work authorization to 5 million more people than anybody knew. Do we think this doesn't impact people's wages, impact women to have a better job, their children to have a better job?

Somebody needs to be thinking about this. There is a limit here, and it is obvious the limits need to be discussed. We need to create a lawful system which protects American workers. We need to be less concerned about protecting President Obama's unlawful directives and more concerned with protecting the interests of the American working person.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for such time as I may consume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today I rise to speak on the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act, a most important piece of legislation. I would like to thank Senator ISAKSON in particular for expediting this legislation through the Veterans' Affairs Committee. I admire his leadership. I

admire his commitment to the veterans of America. It has been a pleasure to know him and to serve in the Senate with an advocate for our American veterans.

I would also like to thank Senator BLUMENTHAL, whose partnership I have been with for a long period of time. Without his leadership and support, this legislation would not be coming to the floor.

Every day approximately 22 American veterans commit suicide, totaling over 8,000 veteran suicides each year. I repeat: 8,000 veteran suicides each year. It is evident by these staggering numbers that our military and veterans affairs programs are not effectively treating post-traumatic stress disorder, known as PTSD, and other mental health illnesses that can lead to suicide. There are too many disconnected and ineffective treatment programs, and as a result our service men and women are suffering from the bureaucracy.

Against this backdrop, I wish to highlight the story of Clay Hunt, for whom this proposed legislation is named. Clay enlisted in the Marine Corps in May of 2005, deployed to Al Anbar Province near Fallujah in January 2007.

During that deployment Clay Hunt was shot in the wrist by a sniper's bullet that barely missed his head, a wound for which he received a Purple Heart. Despite having been wounded, Clay Hunt volunteered and graduated from Marine Corps Scout Sniper School in March 2008.

After another deployment to Afghanistan, Clay was honorably discharged from the marines in April 2009. After returning home, Clay suffered from the effects of PTSD for many years and struggled with inadequate care at his local VA hospital. Subsequently, Clay took his own life in March 2011 at the age of 28. Clay is only one example of veterans who are trying to make their way in our country today, but who suffer, more so than they have to, because of Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs mismanagement of resources for suicide prevention and mental health treatment.

This bipartisan bill will lay the foundation for improved mental health care and better suicide prevention resources for our American servicemembers. Specifically, this bill would require an independent evaluation of existing suicide prevention programs at the DOD and VA, gauge their effectiveness, and make recommendations for consolidation, elimination, or improvement.

Additionally, this legislation would establish a new single Web site that provides information for veterans regarding available mental health care services, create a pilot loan repayment program to recruit more psychiatrists to treat veterans at the VA, improve the exchange of training best practices

and other resources among the VA and nonprofit mental health organizations, create a community outreach pilot program to assist with and mitigate the stressors of servicemembers transitioning to civilian life, and provide a 1-year extension for certain combat veterans to enroll in the VA.

Our Nation has a moral obligation to identify, resource, and make available to our veterans effective forms of treatment to help eliminate suicide resulting from severe combat-related psychological trauma. This bill is an important step to improve the care we provide to the men and women who have sacrificed for all of us and to whom we are forever indebted. We owe it to these brave men and women to act now.

Obviously I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation.

THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

Mr. President, I would like to briefly discuss the President's budget request for fiscal year 2016 as it relates to the Veterans' Administration. In this year's budget request, the President has stated he will submit legislation to reallocate part of the funding for the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014, legislation he signed into law just last August, to other programs within the VA.

In other words, he wants to take money from the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act and put it into other programs within the VA—a bill we just passed last August. It clearly suggests that the President of the United States is disconnected from the needs of our veterans and he may be more solicitous about supporting a bloated, demonstrably dysfunctional bureaucracy than ensuring that quality care is available to our veterans.

Our veterans have suffered long enough with wait times and scheduling delays at the VA, and deserve to have the right to choose where and when they get their health care. Taking funding away from this legislation, especially the choice card, shows a complete disregard for our veterans' well-being and the service they provide to our country.

If or when this legislative proposal comes to the Hill, I would urge my colleagues to vote against it—in fact, not even consider it.

I want to thank my colleagues. I am sure we will have an overwhelming vote today. I think it is an important step forward.

I would like to thank all of the veterans organizations and veterans advocates who have made the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention Act for American Veterans a reality. But I would also like to urge my colleagues to understand that this problem, this serious problem, of 8,000 veteran suicides each year is not going away anytime soon. So do not believe the passage of this legislation will somehow be a cure-all.

That can only come through long and persistent efforts and care and concern for our veterans who have given so much to their country. So I am very honored to be a part of this legislation.

Again, I want to thank the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and the ranking member, Senator SANDERS. I would like to thank Senator BURR, who was ranking member previously.

My friends, we have a long way to go. We have a lot of young men who have not been able to come all the way home. It is our job and our obligation to do everything we possibly can not only to honor them but to see that they have a safe and secure future, and one in which the thought of suicide would never be any consideration.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to express my strong support for the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans—SAV—Act, of which I am a cosponsor.

This bill addresses a true public health crisis facing our Nation's military members and veterans: suicide. You see, an estimated 22 veterans commit suicide every day. According to data from the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, young veterans are particularly at risk, dying by suicide more often than both Active-Duty troops and civilians. In fact, the Department of Defense, DOD, reports that in 2012 and 2013 more veterans died by committing suicide than died in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. This is a serious problem that must be addressed.

The legislation being considered today is named for a marine who served in Iraq and Afghanistan and who committed suicide in 2011. He was 28. After being honorably discharged from the Marine Corps, Clay Hunt sought VA medical care for post-traumatic stress disorder. He constantly voiced concerns about the care he was receiving, both in terms of scheduling and the treatment received, which consisted solely of medication.

Clay decided to move closer to his family but had to wait months to see a psychiatrist at the VA medical center. After the appointment, Clay called his mother on his way home and told her that the VA is way too stressful of a place and that he can't go back. Two weeks later, Clay took his own life. Despite Clay Hunt's proactive and open approach to seeking care to address his injuries, the VA system did not adequately address his needs.

Unfortunately, this story is far too common. In 2014, Jeremy Sears, a

Camp Pendleton, CA, marine who survived several tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, also took his own life after struggling to receive adequate care from the San Diego VA Medical Center. It took the VA 16 months to respond to Jeremy's disability claim. After the long wait, Jeremy received a letter that he had been denied all disability payments, despite reporting symptoms of traumatic brain injury and hearing loss from his military service. The 35-year-old former Camp Pendleton marine tragically took his own life almost 2 years after being discharged from service.

These tragedies are unacceptable, and it is our moral duty to ensure that the men and women who bravely serve our country have access to the mental health care needed to address serious mental health conditions like depression and post-traumatic stress disorder.

What does this bill do? The SAV Act is an important bill that will improve the delivery of mental health care to veterans and will address obstacles in the VA and DOD health care systems.

Under this bill, special care and attention will be given to service personnel transitioning from Active-Duty to veteran status through community outreach and peer support groups. The legislation also calls for a one-stop Web site with suicide prevention resources for veterans. In addition, to make recruitment of mental health professionals easier, the bill creates new incentives for psychiatrists who agree to serve at the VA. Both Department of Defense and VA suicide-prevention programs will also be required to be evaluated each year to increase accountability and improve care. Lastly, this bill empowers the VA to collaborate with Veteran Service Organizations and nonprofit mental health organizations to combat veteran suicide.

Suicide is a deadly epidemic for veterans that the Federal Government must address. This bill will be a starting point, by requiring the VA to prioritize suicide prevention. However, Congress must continue to work to address this critical public health issue, and I hope this will be one of many steps we will take to prevent veteran and military suicides.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the passage of the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans, SAV, Act.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I remain strongly committed to our veterans and their families. When America sends our men and women to war, we vow to care for them when they return. However, throughout the Nation, we have seen reports of our veterans enduring long wait times, substandard quality of care, and a lack of transparency at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

In my great State of Oklahoma, we have a large population of veterans at

roughly 340,000. From 2005–2012, there was an increase of 34 percent in the annual veteran suicide rate in Oklahoma, totaling 1,018 veteran suicide deaths. An average of 127 deaths per year is not acceptable. We must help our veterans get access to the best mental health and suicide prevention programs.

I believe the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for Americans bill will provide opportunities for the VA to work collaboratively with local community organizations and require an evaluation of the various mental health care programs to identify the efficiencies or lack thereof. It will also allow the VA to compete in recruiting the necessary staff for the mental health care and suicide prevention programs. We cannot allow VA psychiatry positions to remain open for long periods of time, and the education loan repayment pilot program will assist the VA in attracting the much needed psychiatrists to support those currently employed with the abundant workload. With this bill, Congress will exercise its constitutional right to oversight of the VA while requiring the Department to use the resources it already has.

Freedom is not free. Many of our veterans and their families have paid and continue to pay the price for us and our great Nation. It is our duty to honor the promises made to them in return for their sacrifices.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I have spoken repeatedly on this floor about the cost of war. In doing so, I have tried to remind the American people and my colleagues that the cost of war does not end when the last shots are fired and the last missiles launched. The cost of war is very, very expensive not just in dollars and cents but in terms of human life and human suffering.

The cost of war in Iraq and Afghanistan is almost 7,000 dead. Nearly 52,000 servicemembers have returned with physical wounds; however, more than 200,000 service men and women are seeking treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury.

The cost of war is nearly 1,600 servicemembers who face amputations, to include a number of with multiple amputations.

The cost of war is veterans returning home unable to find jobs and get their feet back on the ground financially.

The cost of war is high divorce rates and the impact that family stress has on children.

The cost of war is mothers losing their children to suicide.

Late last session the Veterans' Affairs Committee heard from two mothers—Valerie Pallotta from Vermont and Susan Selke from Texas—whose lives have been forever changed because of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The experience these two mothers shared with the committee goes well

beyond anything I can put into words. They shared powerful stories about their own cost of war—the tragic suicides of their sons following their return from combat. They talked about their sons' struggles with post-traumatic stress disorder and efforts to seek help from the Department of Veterans Affairs. It is with the stories shared by these mothers in mind that I come to the floor today.

As chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I worked hard to listen to and address concerns brought to my attention by veterans, their family members and advocates within the military and veterans' community.

The ideas in the bill under consideration—which will be voted on shortly—are the result of the work of the families and friends of those who have committed suicide, advocates, and countless others who continue to search and fight for solutions to address the staggering rate of suicide among veterans.

This bill is a good start. Everyone needs to be thanked for their efforts, especially the mothers who came before our committee and shared their thoughts on mental health and suicide.

But, we can never do too much in the area of veterans' mental health and suicide. That is why I intend to pursue additional enhancements at another time. I do not want to slow down the bill we will be voting on today—but I want my colleagues to recognize that much, much more needs to be done to assist veterans and families struggling with either their own mental health conditions or a loved ones' mental health condition. We can never do enough.

Briefly, let me tell you what additional provisions I will be pursuing at a later time.

Currently, returning veterans have 5 years from their date of discharge to enroll in the VA health care system and receive free health care for their medical conditions resulting from their service.

The bill we are voting on today would provide an additional 1-year window during which VA can provide health care for veterans whose eligibility for the initial 5-year period has lapsed.

Now, is that exactly what I wanted? No. I think the period of eligibility for health care at VA following separation from service should be 10 years.

We hear time and time again that for many veterans, problems do not necessarily manifest until years after they have returned from war. Then it might take some time before they actually seek assistance at VA. However, recognizing the importance of getting this legislation to the President's desk as soon as possible, I intend to pursue that provision at another time.

During her testimony before this committee last session, Valerie Pallotta, the mother of a veteran who

succumbed to suicide, talked about her desire to see complementary and alternative medicine opportunities expanded at VA.

While VA has made significant strides in providing complementary and alternative medicine at VA medical centers, access to such services is not standardized across VA. I commend VA's current efforts, but more must be done.

I will pursue expanding access to complementary and alternative medicine at another time, so that we can increase the likelihood that veterans will get the care that not only meets their needs, but their personal preferences, as well.

We have also heard that families, who are caring for loved ones with mental health conditions, are highly stressed and looking for resources to help their loved ones. At the moment, VA has only limited capacity to offer support and education to family members and caregivers of veterans with mental health conditions. This is an issue I will pursue in the near future.

We could never do too much to help veterans and their family members after these veterans return from war. As I said earlier, this bill is a good start—but we have much more to do.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I know we are close to a vote on the Clay Hunt suicide prevention bill. As chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, who has just left the Veterans' Administration this morning after a 3-hour meeting with employees, I want to tell all of the Members of the Senate how much I appreciate their commitment to this bill, how much I would appreciate their vote in favor of this bill.

Every day in America, 22 veterans commit suicide. Every year in America, 8,000 veterans commit suicide. Eight thousand is more than all who have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan over the last 13 years. Suicide is a critical problem in the VA. The Clay Hunt bill focuses and targets on what we need: more psychiatric care, more accountability in the VA, and an investment in the future of our soldiers who have come home after defending our country for ourselves.

As chairman of the committee, I want to thank Senator MCCAIN, Senator BLUMENTHAL, Senator BOOZMAN, and Senator BURR for their tremendous effort and work to bring this about. I want to thank the members of the committee who unanimously passed this out, including the Presiding Officer, in the very first meeting of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

I encourage every Member of the Senate to vote for the Clay Hunt suicide prevention bill and make an investment in the future of the lives we will save of our veterans who return with mental health problems.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I want to begin by thanking Chairman ISAKSON for giving the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act the priority it needs and deserves. I know the Presiding Officer, as a veteran, understands and supports the vital mission of this legislation.

I also want to thank the veterans service organizations, particularly the IAVA, for the critical role they have played in heightening awareness and educating the American public about the scourge that veteran suicide reflects in our society, the unacceptable 22 veterans who commit suicide every day in the greatest, strongest Nation in the history of the world.

Our veterans all too often succumb to the invisible wounds and inner demons that come home with them. They lack the mental health care they need and deserve because the VA lacks the resources to provide that health care.

I know the VA is committed to do better. Senator ISAKSON and I have just returned from 3 hours at the VA, where we heard the Secretary, as well as his top-ranking staff, commit to using this act as a means of enhancing and increasing the quality and quantity of mental health care our veterans deserve. Far too many of our veterans have succumbed to suicide, including a friend of mine, Justin Eldridge, whose widow Joanna was my guest at the State of the Union.

She has struggled in the wake of his death with their children to survive this tragedy. Her courage and strength mirror those same qualities of bravery and fortitude demonstrated by Susan Selke who testified before our committee about her son Clay Hunt, for whom this bill is named. My hope is we can continue this bipartisan work together.

I thank Senator MCCAIN, the cosponsor of this bill, and hope we keep faith with all of our veterans and make the VA the pioneer and champion of mental health care so we end the scourge of veteran suicide in this great Nation.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this measure.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ISAKSON. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask for a vote to be called, and I ask that it be a rollcall vote on the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act.

I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 99, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 50 Leg.]

YEAS—99

Alexander	Fischer	Murray
Ayotte	Flake	Nelson
Baldwin	Franken	Paul
Barrasso	Gardner	Perdue
Bennet	Gillibrand	Peters
Blumenthal	Graham	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Reed
Booker	Hatch	Reid
Boozman	Heinrich	Risch
Boxer	Heitkamp	Roberts
Brown	Heller	Rounds
Burr	Hirono	Rubio
Cantwell	Hoeven	Sanders
Capito	Inhofe	Sasse
Cardin	Isakson	Schatz
Carper	Johnson	Schumer
Casey	Kaine	Scott
Cassidy	King	Sessions
Coats	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cochran	Lankford	Shelby
Collins	Leahy	Stabenow
Coons	Lee	Sullivan
Corker	Manchin	Tester
Cornyn	Markey	Thune
Cotton	McCain	Tillis
Crapo	McCaskill	Toomey
Cruz	McConnell	Udall
Daines	Menendez	Vitter
Donnelly	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Mikulski	Warren
Enzi	Moran	Whitehouse
Ernst	Murkowski	Wicker
Feinstein	Murphy	Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

Kirk

The bill (H.R. 203) was passed.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:32 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. PORTMAN).

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, as we begin this debate on funding for the Department of Homeland Security, we face some fundamental questions: Are we going to prioritize the safety and security of the American people? Or are we going to put the country at risk because of an ideological disagreement?

That is the choice I believe we face with this bill. We can either pass a

clean bill that makes critical investments in our Nation's security or we can put this country at risk by playing politics with the funding for the Department of Homeland Security.

We all know these are dangerous times that we live in. Every day, new threats emerge that endanger our citizens at home and our allies abroad. The Department of Homeland Security's role in protecting our country from these threats cannot be overstated, and its funding should not be controversial.

Right now, the U.S. law enforcement community is on high alert for terror threats after attacks in Sydney, Australia, and Ottawa, Canada, and in Paris. Just 2 weeks ago, an Ohio man was arrested when authorities discovered he was plotting to blow up the U.S. Capitol in an ISIS-inspired plan. I believe, as the Presiding Officer understands, the man was from Ohio.

ISIS has thousands of foreign fighters, including Americans, among their ranks who seek to return to their home countries to do harm—not to mention the barbarity of ISIS today in killing the Jordanian pilot whom they had in their custody.

These are very real threats—a clear and present danger to the homeland—and because they are so real, we need our counterterrorism intelligence community operating at full strength. We need the entire Department of Homeland Security fully engaged in keeping our Nation safe.

Last week, President Bush's two Homeland Security Secretaries, Tom Ridge and Michael Chertoff, joined former DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano in a letter to Congress. The three of them wrote:

The national security role that the Department of Homeland Security plays . . . is critical to ensuring that our nation is safe from harm. . . . It is imperative that we ensure that DHS is ready, willing, and able to protect the American people . . . we urge you not to risk funding for the operations that protect every American and pass a clean DHS funding bill.

All three former Secretaries—two of whom served under a Republican President and one under a Democratic President—are warning us that the safety and security of our Nation are at risk if we hold up funding for Homeland Security operations.

Anything short of passing a clean funding bill will endanger important security operations and could very well put our citizens at risk. But because of the anti-immigration riders that have been attached by House Republicans, the bill we are about to vote on cannot become law. Senate Democrats are not going to support it. The President has already said he will veto it. And, furthermore, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, the bill also adds \$7.5 billion to the deficit.

Last week, Senator MIKULSKI and I introduced a clean bill that is modeled after the bicameral, bipartisan agree-

ment that was negotiated last December by Senator MIKULSKI, who was then chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and Congressman HAL ROGERS, then chair of the House Appropriations Committee. The bipartisan bill negotiated by Senator MIKULSKI and Congressman ROGERS is a good bill. It is in line with the Murray-Ryan budget deal. It will help keep our Nation safe and secure, funding key counterterrorism, intelligence, and law enforcement activities, and will also strengthen the protections on our borders.

So our position on this issue is clear: Congress needs to pass a clean, full-year funding bill without any controversial immigration riders that are not going to be able to gain support, that the President has already said he is going to veto. It is that simple. There is too much at stake for the security of our Nation to play politics with this bill.

Before I conclude, I would note again that the House-passed Department of Homeland Security funding bill includes several immigration-related provisions that draw budget points of order against the bill. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the immigration-related provisions would increase the deficit by \$7.5 billion over 10 years. In addition, the bill includes language relating to the budgetary treatment of these provisions. The result is multiple points of order that would not apply to the bill if the immigration provisions had not been added.

Mr. President, I have a parliamentary inquiry: Does a budget point of order lie against H.R. 240 pursuant to section 311(a)(2)(B) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair is advised that the point of order lies.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Does a budget point of order lie against the bill pursuant to section 311(a)(3) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair is advised that the point of order does lie.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. And does a budget point of order lie against the bill pursuant to section 306 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair is advised again that the budget point of order does lie.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who seeks recognition?

The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I rise to highlight the importance of voting yes to proceed to the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill for 2015, H.R. 240. This bill, which has passed the House, is necessary to protect our borders, fight terrorism, and

defend communities under threat from natural disasters. The list of national security-related programs this bill provides resources for is long, but before I speak to those programs in greater detail, I will reinforce the importance of proceeding to this DHS appropriations bill.

DHS's funding expires on February 27. To my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who do not want to proceed to this bill, I would just point out, we need to take up this DHS appropriations funding bill and debate it—to let the Senate do its work.

We just passed a Keystone bill after the consideration of more than 40 amendments. At the end of the day, we were able to produce a bill that garnered 62 votes. I urge my colleagues to let the Senate do its business. Vote yes on cloture on the motion to proceed.

Now I would like to walk through some of the things this bill funds. I want to remind my colleagues how critical these DHS operations are to the economic prosperity, public safety, and security of the American people.

The bill provides \$39.67 billion in net discretionary appropriations plus \$6.4 billion in disaster funding.

Let's take a look at some of the critical security functions this bill provides.

The bill provides \$10.7 billion for Customs and Border Protection—an increase of \$119 million over fiscal year 2014. It supports record levels of personnel, tactical infrastructure, technology, and air and marine assets, including 21,370 Border Patrol agents; 23,775 Customs and Border Protection officers; miles of fencing and border roads; fixed and mobile surveillance and detection technology; aircraft and vessels outfitted with the latest sensor technology, as well as unmanned aerial systems; reused technology from the Department of Defense, such as tethered aerostat radar systems.

The bill also includes funding for a biometric exit pilot program in airports in 2015, as well as improvements to the Department's biometric system to support exit implementation in the future.

The bill provides \$5.96 billion for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE—an increase of \$689 million over fiscal year 2014, which is a 13-percent increase.

It holds the administration's feet to the fire by maintaining a record 34,000 adult detention beds.

It responds to the recent flood of families coming across our border by significantly increasing family detention beds from 96 to 3,828.

It provides increases for the criminal alien program and for fugitive operations, both of which are critical to identifying, apprehending, and removing the criminals that the administration claims are a priority.

The bill provides increases for Homeland Security Investigations to combat

human trafficking, cyber crime, child exploitation, and drug smuggling.

It also includes \$50 million for the Visa Security Program and supports enforcement to address visa overstays.

In addition, the bill provides strong support for the Secret Service, an organization that requires reform and congressional oversight, given recent incidents, with \$81 million above fiscal year 2014.

In addition to funding increases associated with preparations for the 2016 campaign season, the bill provides \$25 million to begin addressing security needs at the White House complex.

Recognizing the need for a state-of-the-art biosafety level 4 research facility to prepare for and respond to animal-borne and other biologic threats, this bill provides the funding necessary to construct the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility.

The bill provides more than \$10 billion for the Coast Guard. It continues our commitment to recapitalization of the Coast Guard fleet, including funding the 8th National Security Cutter. And it takes a serious step to address nearer term heavy ice breaker needs with \$8 million for preserving the Polar Sea.

The bill supports our cyber security efforts as a nation, both protecting government systems and working with the private sector to share threat information and protective measures.

Since homeland security is a national effort, the bill continues funding for grant programs to State and local firefighters, emergency managers, and law enforcement—\$467 million for State homeland security grants, including \$55 million for Operation Stonegarden related to border security; \$800 million for the Urban Area Security Initiative, port security grants, and transit security grants; \$680 million for fire assistance grants; \$350 million for Emergency Management Program grants.

For research and development efforts, funding is provided consistent with fiscal year 2014 levels. The Science and Technology Directorate supports research and development at our national labs, with our university partners, and in the private sector to meet homeland security needs.

The bill also provides for aviation security screening operations by the TSA, law enforcement training needs by the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, and E-Verify, which supports businesses across the United States in hiring legal workers.

Finally, the bill provides the requested almost \$7 billion for the Disaster Relief Fund to assist with recovery costs for communities hit by natural disasters.

What the bill does not fund is the President's Executive actions. The House bill includes several amendments that are targeted at reversing

the President's actions and articulating priorities for immigration enforcement.

The President's actions overstepped his authority. His actions put illegal immigrants ahead of legal immigrants who are hoping to be a part of the American dream, who are following and respecting the Nation's laws.

The immigration system is broken, but it cannot be fixed through Executive actions that exceed the President's authority. Instead, it should be accomplished through legislative reforms that start with border security, do not provide amnesty, and respect the rule of law.

I leave my colleagues with this thought: We need to support these vital national security programs. Vote yes on cloture on the motion to proceed to this bill, and let's get to work.

With that, I yield the floor.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, will my colleague yield for a question?

Mr. HOEVEN. I will.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire is recognized.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I certainly appreciate Senator HOEVEN, who chairs the Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security, for laying out the case for the importance of the funding for critical security agencies in this bill—for the Coast Guard, for Customs and Border Patrol, for efforts to address security at our border, for cyber security.

As the Senator pointed out, there is a lot of very important funding in this bill to address homeland security. I wonder if the Senator agrees with me that we should support the funding of this bill and that if we are going to have a debate about the President's Executive actions, it should be a separate debate on immigration rather than putting at risk the funding in this bill to protect our Nation.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I would like to respond to my colleague from the State of New Hampshire. I thank her for her work on our Appropriations Committee on the Department of Homeland Security and—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If the Senator will yield.

All time for debate has expired.

Mr. HOEVEN. I ask unanimous consent for 1 minute to respond.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, she and I will be continuing to work together on this and other important issues, but the reality is that we need to proceed to this bill so that we can get the funding in place.

Let's proceed to the bill. Let's have the debate. Let's have amendments. Let's do the work of the Senate on this important legislation. That is why we need a "yes" on this cloture motion to

proceed—so we can get on this funding bill and go to work, have debate, have amendments, and do the work of the Senate on funding DHS, which is very important for our country.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 240, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015.

Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, Richard Burr, Jerry Moran, John Thune, Johnny Isakson, Marco Rubio, Roy Blunt, Pat Roberts, Deb Fischer, John Boozman, David Vitter, Tim Scott, Roger F. Wicker, Richard C. Shelby, Michael B. Enzi, Rand Paul.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 240, an act making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 51 Leg.]

YEAS—51

Alexander	Enzi	Paul
Ayotte	Ernst	Perdue
Barrasso	Fischer	Portman
Blunt	Flake	Risch
Boozman	Gardner	Roberts
Burr	Graham	Rounds
Capito	Grassley	Rubio
Cassidy	Hatch	Sasse
Coats	Hoeven	Scott
Cochran	Inhofe	Sessions
Collins	Isakson	Shelby
Corker	Johnson	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	McCain	Toomey
Cruz	Moran	Vitter
Daines	Murkowski	Wicker

NAYS—48

Baldwin	Coons	Kaine
Bennet	Donnelly	King
Blumenthal	Durbin	Klobuchar
Booker	Feinstein	Leahy
Boxer	Franken	Manchin
Brown	Gillibrand	Markey
Cantwell	Heinrich	McCaskill
Cardin	Heitkamp	McConnell
Carper	Heller	Menendez
Casey	Hirono	Merkley

Mikulski	Reid	Tester
Murphy	Sanders	Udall
Murray	Schatz	Warner
Nelson	Schumer	Warren
Peters	Shaheen	Whitehouse
Reed	Stabenow	Wyden

NOT VOTING—

Kirk

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 48. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I enter a motion to reconsider the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

The majority whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, yesterday President Obama, as part of the rollout of his blueprint budget that calls for more than \$2 trillion in new taxes and adds more than \$8 trillion to our national debt over the next 10 years, visited the Department of Homeland Security to urge the House of Representatives to pass a funding bill for that Department.

It struck me as somewhat odd that the President would go to the Department of Homeland Security and ask the House to pass a bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security since they have already done it. They passed a \$40 billion funding bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security. It seems to me the President—rather than giving a speech at the Department of Homeland Security—needs to be talking to Members of his own political party. If the President wants Congress to pass a Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill, then he needs to talk to our friends in the minority in the Senate who just blocked consideration of a \$40 billion Department of Homeland Security funding bill.

I know what they will say. They will say: We don't like parts of the bill. But the only way to finish a bill is to start a bill, and today they voted to refuse to start that process.

Why in the world is it that the Senate Democrats will not even allow this particular legislation to be debated and amended? One of the reasons is that they probably don't want to revisit the President's own repeated assertions—22 different times—when he said he didn't believe he had the legal authority to issue the Executive action he issued in November of 2014. Twenty-two times he said: I don't have the authority.

In 2013, when the President was speaking at an immigration event, he was interrupted by a heckler who urged him to stop deportations by Executive fiat. In response, the President said:

If in fact I could solve all these problems without passing laws in Congress, then I would do so. But we're also a nation of laws—that's part of our tradition.

Thus spoke the President of the United States on 1 of those 22 different occasions.

Maybe our colleagues in the minority don't want to debate this bill because they don't want to have to answer questions from their constituents about those 22 different occasions when the President said, "I don't have the authority," and explain how they now agree with him and that somehow he miraculously got that authority absent an act of Congress.

I can think of another reason our friends on the Democratic side are reluctant to allow us to even begin debate on this legislation. I have had the honor of participating in naturalization ceremonies all across my State. I have witnessed men and women who were born in other countries, came to the United States of America, raised their right hand and swore allegiance to the U.S. Constitution. They may have come from Mexico, India, Vietnam or from any one of a number of other countries, but they decided, notwithstanding from where they came, they wanted to be an American.

Those naturalization ceremonies are almost like birthdays—a celebration of one's birth—because in a way it is a birthday. It is a day when they become proud Americans.

As Americans we believe in the benefits of legal immigration because in many cases it was our parents, grandparents or great-grandparents who came here from another country in search of the American dream—a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Sadly, the President of the United States has made it clear his administration is willing to take the people who played by the rules and applied for immigration and legal status to become an American citizen and kick them to the back of the line. This President has kicked the people who played by the rules to the back of the line, and he has moved people who did not play by the rules to the front of the line. That is fundamentally unfair. It also sends a terrible message that we are going to reward people who break the law and we are going to punish people who follow and comply with the law.

So maybe our colleagues across the aisle don't really want to talk about that, and that is the reason they voted not to proceed to even begin to debate this important Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill—again, a bill that was passed by the House that would fund, to the tune of roughly \$40 billion, the functions of the Department of Homeland Security. Yet our friends in the minority have said: We don't even want to talk about it. I can tell my colleagues what they don't want to talk about. They don't want to talk about the President's unconstitutional Executive action which he issued or announced last November.

Here are some interesting quotes from some of our colleagues in the mi-

nority. The senior Senator from West Virginia said: I wish he wouldn't do it. He was talking about the President's stated intention to issue his Executive action.

The senior Senator from Missouri, a member of the minority party, said: I have to be honest. How this is coming about makes me uncomfortable.

Then there is the junior Senator from Indiana who said: I am as frustrated as anyone in Congress that it is not doing its job, but the President shouldn't make such significant policy changes on his own.

Then there is the junior Senator from North Dakota, a member of the minority party, who said: It could poison any hope of compromise or bipartisanship in the new Senate before it has even started. That is what a Democrat from North Dakota said about the President's stated intention to issue his Executive action.

The senior Senator from Minnesota said: I have concerns.

Then there is Senator KING from Maine who said: And I also frankly am concerned about the constitutional separation of powers.

The Senator from Maine isn't the only one because 26 different States have filed a lawsuit in the Southern District of Texas challenging the constitutionality of the President's Executive action, and the Federal district judge could rule at any time on that.

Then there is the Senator from Montana.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, will my colleague from Texas yield for a question?

Mr. CORNYN. I will not yield at this time, Mr. President. I will be glad to yield at the conclusion of my remarks if the Senator still has a question.

Then there is the Senator from Montana who said: I would prefer that the Congress act, yes.

Then there is the Senator from Delaware who said: What I would say to Congress, I am going to give you a little bit of time in the new Congress, and I expect you to do something.

So that is eight Members of the minority party who said they are more than a little uncomfortable about what the President has done. Yet today the Members of the minority party have voted in lockstep to deny a debate, any opportunity to discuss how to fund the Department of Homeland Security, how to rein in a reckless President who has overreached his constitutional authority.

Here are some other provisions that are actually in the House bill that perhaps some of the Members of the minority are a little bit nervous to talk about, much less vote on.

The House has offered as part of their bill a rider which defunds Executive actions treating domestic violence, sexual abuse, and child exploitation offenders as secondary priorities for removal. In other words, the President's

Executive action took people who have actually committed crimes—not just entered the country illegally but committed other crimes—and made them nonpriority in terms of removal.

Then, of course, there is the provision of the House bill that says we don't want to disadvantage legal immigrants and people who played by the rules because the House recognized that is exactly what the President's Executive action did. It kicked the people who played by the rules to the back of the line and the people who did not to the front of the line. But our friends in the minority obviously don't want to talk about that either.

Millions of foreign-born immigrants have become successful, patriotic American citizens. We are richer as a country because of the contributions they have made to our great land.

The fundamental choice we have is, are we going to have controlled immigration or uncontrolled immigration? The President and apparently his political party have embraced uncontrolled, illegal immigration as their cause.

We, on the other hand, have said we believe in the benefits to our great country of legal immigration and assimilation because that is who we are. All of us have a family story somewhere back in our history. Mine goes back to the 19th century following a potato crop famine in Ireland that caused my forebears to immigrate to Canada and then to the United States. Everybody has a story like that.

But it is a sad and important realization that the President, through his Executive action, is disrespecting the very individuals who have played by the rules and whom we celebrate as great, patriotic Americans. But apparently our friends in the minority don't even want to talk about it, so that is why they stopped this funding bill—\$40 billion to fund the Department of Homeland Security—and refused to even talk about it, much less debate it. They are going to come out here on the floor, I trust, and click through the days and say: Well, we only have 3 weeks until the Department runs out of money. It is like the old story about the teenager who murders his own parents, and then he goes to court and pleads for mercy because—he says: Judge, I am an orphan. That is what our friends in the minority have done.

This is a crisis of their own making. In fact, we don't want a crisis. We want to eliminate government by crises. That is why the House has passed the responsible piece of legislation they have. That is why we ought to take it up today. If they don't like it—I know there are Members on our side who disagree with certain portions of it—then we ought to debate it and we ought to vote. Any way we look at it, the Senate ought to at least have the debate on this legislation.

Last week our colleague from Illinois, the assistant minority leader,

came to the floor and praised the new majority leader, Senator McCONNELL, for his leadership during the first few weeks of the new Republican majority here in the Senate. He said:

I hope that in our role in the minority, we can work with you to achieve at least debate on the floor if not some significant legislation.

That was a nice moment. But then the very next day, on a call with reporters, my colleague from Illinois pledged to filibuster the House-passed Department of Homeland Security funding bill and refused to even allow a debate—a threat they made good on today.

So my request to our colleagues on the Democratic side is simple: Honor the promise the senior Senator from Illinois made last week to have an open and fair debate and not just shut it down and create government by crisis and add to the very dysfunction the voters repudiated on November 4.

I am glad to yield to the Senator from New York.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. I thank my colleague. I just have a few more questions, and then I will say my piece.

First, I ask my colleague, is it his party that is in the majority in this body?

Mr. CORNYN. Absolutely.

Mr. SCHUMER. Indeed they are—sad, from our point of view.

Mr. CORNYN. We are delighted to be.

Mr. SCHUMER. Isn't it true that the majority has the ability to put any bill they want on the floor just about at any time? They can rule XIV. They can go through committee. There are many procedural ways to get a bill on the floor; is that right?

Mr. CORNYN. Again, Mr. President, the distinguished Senator from New York knows well the answer to that is yes.

Mr. SCHUMER. My final question is this: Since we have a Department of Homeland Security that needs funding and the issue of immigration is a controversial issue—one on which we relish a debate—wouldn't it be possible for the majority to pass a Department of Homeland Security bill without extraneous and controversial amendments, send that back to the House, and then move immediately to debate the immigration proposal that was added to the bill by the House or any other immigration proposal they wish to bring forward? I am not saying they will do it; I am just asking my dear friend, isn't that possible procedurally for the majority to do?

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, responding to my friend from New York, I would say theoretically the answer to his question is yes. As a practical matter, we know the House has passed a particular piece of legislation that we

would like to take up. It is what it is. It is the hand we have been dealt. That is the base bill to operate from. There are, of course, procedures to change it.

Senator McCONNELL, the majority leader of the Senate, has said he believes there should be an open amendment process, and I trust our friends across the aisle would have a chance to offer an amendment and get a vote. If they have the votes, they are going to win.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from New York.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the distinguished majority leader has stated that it is possible within the procedures of this Senate to pass a homeland security bill, as negotiated by our Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs—and I see the able head of the subcommittee here on the floor, the Senator from New Hampshire—and then move to immigration and bring it to the floor. So all of his arguments that we are afraid to debate immigration, that we don't want to debate immigration are false.

There is not one choice, there are two. One is to debate immigration fully and openly. The other is to play a game of hostage, to say: We are kidnapping Homeland Security, and now let's have a debate on how much the ransom should be.

No one in America wants us to legislate that way. I know my colleagues in the Senate didn't do that. It was the House that did it, led by thinking by the junior Senator from Texas. His view, as I have heard him say, is that what the President did on immigration is so awful that we should shut down the Department of Homeland Security as a way of forcing the President to go along with what the junior Senator from Texas wants.

When are our colleagues on the other side of the aisle going to learn? They followed Senator CRUZ a year and a half ago when he wanted to shut down the government over ObamaCare. They actually did shut down the government for a few weeks and were so widely excoriated by just about all Americans that they backed off. But they haven't learned. They are following the junior Senator from Texas, Mr. CRUZ, into a cul-de-sac at best and over a cliff at worst.

We are happy to debate homeland security but not with a gun to our head

or the President's head; not to say: If you don't do it my way, I am going to shut down the government. The vast majority of Americans—Democratic, Independent, Republican, North, East, South, West—don't believe that is how we should legislate. I am surprised—I am almost shocked, with some of the wisdom we have in the leadership of this body, that they are allowing that to happen. We will not. We have the ability to block it, and block it we will. We will not play hostage. We will not risk shutting down Homeland Security—as I am sure my colleague from New Hampshire will talk about—a vital Department. We will not let their being upset with DREAM kids jeopardize our safety with ISIS. We will not let that happen.

I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to pass the bill that has already been put on the floor—a clean Homeland Security bill—then they may decide to put immigration on the floor, and we will be happy, happy, happy to debate it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mrs. McCASKILL. Mr. President, I have to say that I am a little confused about what is happening right now. The Republican Party is in charge—totally in charge of Congress. I am sure Speaker BOEHNER's and Majority Leader MCCONNELL's staffs talk on a daily basis. I am sure they are talking, coordinating, and realizing the Republican Party now has the responsibility of showing this country they can run Congress.

So what do we do right out of the gate? We threaten to shut down the Department of our government that protects our homeland while ISIS is burning prisoners alive on film? The irony of this is Republicans are in charge. All they have to do is present a clean funding bill for Homeland Security, and the very next day take up immigration reform and debate it. But they are trying to play a political trick and trying to make it look as if somehow their disagreement with the President on immigration trumps the protection of our country and that somehow we will all go along with that.

Speaker BOEHNER mentioned me. My friend and my colleague from Texas just mentioned me. Yes, I said it. I am uncomfortable with the President issuing Executive orders such as this—no matter what party it is, no matter who the President is. But what I said when I made that statement is—I pivoted, and I said: Do you know how we prevent that from happening? We have a House of Representatives that is willing to take up and debate immigration reform. This body passed a bipartisan immigration reform bill by a wide margin. It wasn't even a squeaker. Many of my Republican colleagues voted for it, understanding this is a

public policy area in our country that needs to be addressed.

We can't make it a political punching bag on either side. My party can't say: We are for the immigrants; we get their votes. And the Republican Party can't say: Well, we are for the tea party, and we are against all immigrants. We need to come together and do public policy in a system that is broken. The bill we passed here was amazing in terms of border security. But Speaker BOEHNER wouldn't take it up for more than 18 months. Speaker BOEHNER wouldn't even allow it to be debated on the floor of the House.

Now the Republicans are in charge. Do they take up immigration reform? Do they have a proposal? By the way, that is the way you get rid of the President's Executive order; that is, we do our jobs. We do our job. It is a little bit like "replace" for health care. I have heard repeal and replace for 4 years. Has anybody seen replace? Has it been identified anywhere? If it is out there, I would love to see it. It has been talked about a lot. The same thing for immigration. If you don't like what the President has done, then put up a bill and let's debate it.

By the way, the Republicans have the power to do that immediately after we fund Homeland Security. We don't have to talk about anything else. We can stay on immigration reform and pound out a compromise and public policy that won't please everyone but will do exactly what the American people want us to do, and that is find a compromise that works.

As countries around the world have united in their opposition to ISIS and the barbarians who are participating in ISIS activities, as all of our allies and some who haven't traditionally been our allies are beefing up their cyber security, their border security, beefing up their homeland security, their airport security, adding more resources, what are we doing in America? Talk about a mixed signal—we are threatening to shut ours down. We are threatening to shut ours down to score political points.

I know there would be tough votes on immigration reform when we debate it, for me in my State and for many in their States. We had those tough votes last year and the year before. We pounded out a bill that nobody loved, but it was pretty good. It made sure, by the way, that people who had broken the rules went to the back of the line. If you want people who break the rules to go to the back of the line, then let's get busy on immigration reform. But this is exactly the nonsense that frustrates Americans—threatening to shut down a vital part of protecting our country in the name of politics.

The notion that the senior Senator from Texas, the assistant majority floor leader, just said—that we were denying a debate—is absurd on its face.

We debate whatever the Republican Party wants us to debate now. They are in charge. So step up, fund Homeland Security, and move on to an immigration debate. You will find a lot of willing partners trying to find a way forward but not with this gamesmanship. It is not going to happen. It isn't going to happen because homeland security is too important, especially at this moment in our history.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I appreciate the remarks from the Senators from Missouri and New York because I think they reflect my sentiments as well. The senior Senator from Texas suggested that we don't want to debate immigration. We are happy to debate immigration. In fact, I would love to debate immigration reform with our colleagues. But the bill before us is not about immigration reform. It is about whether we are going to fund the Department of Homeland Security. The fact is many of the issues the senior Senator from Texas raised about immigration were addressed in the comprehensive immigration reform bill this body passed in 2013. I am happy to go back to that debate, but that debate should not come in place of our willingness to fund national security and the Department of Homeland Security. That is the issue that is before us today, and we should not hold up our willingness to fund the Department because there are certain Members of the Republican Party in the House and Senate who want to talk about the President's Executive action. This bill is not about that. It is about whether we are going to fund the Department of Homeland Security.

I thought it might be instructive to point out some of the changes Congress has made which are included in this bill and which actually strengthen border security, since that is one of the concerns that has been raised. Over the past 10 years, Congress has gone to extraordinary lengths to secure our borders against the threat of smugglers, of human traffickers, and of illegal immigrants.

Since 2005 the combined budgets for Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement have grown by an astounding 97 percent—97 percent—from about \$8.5 billion in 2005 to more than \$16.7 billion today.

In fact, the combined budgets for these two border security agencies now account for more than 42 percent of the entire discretionary appropriations of the Department of Homeland Security. But Congress just hasn't thrown money at the problem. We have made wise investments to ensure our borders are more secure than they have ever been.

Since 2011 Congress has steadily maintained 21,370 Border Patrol agents.

That more than doubles the size of this force since 2001. Over the past 2 years Congress has added 2,000 Customs officers to help stop the flow of illegal drugs and prevent human trafficking while still facilitating legitimate trade.

I have been to the San Ysidro border crossing in San Diego. I have seen the advanced technologies that have been implemented to make sure that legitimate trade can get across the border yet stop those people who are coming illegally.

Congress has deployed enhanced border security technology, including integrated fixed towers, remote and mobile video surveillance systems, tethered aerostats, and other technology to secure our southern border.

We have also funded the construction of 652 miles of vehicle and pedestrian fencing at critical locations determined by the Border Patrol agents on the ground. The Department's ability to detect illegal border traffic has grown substantially due to simultaneous investments in airborne assets, including Blackhawk helicopters, multirole enforcement aircraft, and surveillance planes critical in the war against drugs, as well as nine unmanned, unarmed Predator aerial systems.

Since 2011 Congress has provided more than \$721 million above the President's request for these important airborne assets that strengthen our border security. In the bipartisan full-year budget that Senator MIKULSKI and Congressman ROGERS negotiated last December—the same bill that Senator MIKULSKI and I have introduced in this session of the Senate—we included those critical investments made to continue those efforts to secure the border. These investments will not occur or they are going to be delayed if we have a short-term budget, if we continue with a continuing resolution and, heaven forbid, if we shut down the Department of Homeland Security, which some of the Members of this body and the House have suggested is not a problem for us to do.

The clean bill includes a \$119 million increase for Customs and Border Protection. This is the funding level that supports the largest operational force levels in history—21,370 Border Patrol agents and 23,775 CBP officers. The agreement restores funding cuts to CBP's Office of Air and Marine proposed by the administration. That enables them to fly more patrols along the border and to continue purchasing critical assets.

The clean bill also increases funding for the border security, fencing, infrastructure, and technology account by \$20 million to provide additional video surveillance systems and adapt surplus Defense Department equipment for border security purposes.

For Customs and Border Protection, a short-term budget also means that

pending contracts for border security upgrades are going to be put on hold. When I met last week with CBP Commissioner Gil Kerlikowske, he told me that \$90 million in contracts for mobile and remote video surveillance technology—the very technology that is going to help us keep illegal aliens from coming across the border—is going to be put on hold due to funding uncertainty.

A clean, full-year budget bill provides an increase of \$700 million for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the agency responsible for apprehending and detaining undocumented immigrants in this country. If we don't pass on full-year bill, ICE will have insufficient resources to maintain a statutorily mandated level of 34,000 detention beds for detaining illegal immigrants, the vast majority of which are criminals. They are going to fall over 4,000 beds short of that mandated level under a continuing resolution. Furthermore, they will have no funding to complete construction and continue operating new family detention facilities in Texas.

Now, 3,000 family detention beds are supposed to be completed in Texas to deal with the surge of unaccompanied children and families to the southwest border. The very people who are complaining about border security, who are complaining about illegal immigrants coming into this country are opposing the funding that would address that border security. It makes no sense.

The bill also increases ICE's capability to engage in domestic and international investigations with a \$67 million increase for antihuman smuggling and traffic activities, to combat cyber crime, to combat drug smuggling, and to expand visa vetting capabilities. With a short-term budget, a continuing resolution, these additional investments will not be made. We should not be holding up this funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security with critical border protections in it because we have a few Members of the House and Senate who want to make this an ideological battle about the President's Executive action. Let's have that immigration debate, but this is not the place to do it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, let me thank Senator SHAHEEN for her leadership on the Homeland Security bill. She has taken that over this year and learned it, knows the ins and outs of it. She is someone who truly cares about being fiscally responsible. She just recently pointed out to our caucus that if we pass the House bill with all of the riders in it, it would cost \$7.5 billion more and put us \$7.5 billion more into debt, which I do not think is a fiscally responsible move. So we should be taking a very hard look at these riders as they come through from the House.

I have come to the floor to talk about how important it is for us to pass a clean appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security. I wish to talk about how failing to pass a bill will impact the southern border, impact my State of New Mexico, where DHS plays a vital role in security, in business, and in people's daily lives. The men and women at DHS make sure commerce is conducted smoothly across our border with Mexico. They make sure workers can get back and forth. They inspect shipments coming into the country, and they protect our communities from drug smugglers and crime.

It is inconceivable to me that Republicans would threaten to stop funding this agency over a policy dispute with the President. I have heard Republican leaders say the era of shutdowns was over, but here we are again, rapidly approaching the date when DHS funding expires. We need an appropriations bill that does not disrupt this important work.

I talk to New Mexicans who live in the border communities. I talk to ranchers and farmers in my State. Border security is not theoretical. It is not a political game. It is crucial to safety. It is crucial to trade at our ports of entry, such as Santa Teresa and Columbus. In New Mexico a shutdown of DHS is a threat to our security, to jobs, and to our economy.

I have read some reports where congressional Republicans have said on the record that a delay in funding DHS would not be a big deal. They say most of the Department's employees are considered essential so they would still be working at our borders and screening airline passengers. That may be true, but those employees would not get paid. I am not willing to tell our Border Patrol agents and TSA officers with families to feed that they still need to go to work, but they are not going to get paid because Washington cannot get its act together.

I know my constituents would feel a lot more secure in border communities if the Border Patrol officers were getting paid rather than worrying about their mortgages, their car payments, tuition payments, and other household expenses. Despite the Republican claims that DHS will not actually shut down, there would be significant consequences if Congress failed to fund DHS.

Consider what would happen to the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, FLETC as they are called out in New Mexico. FLETC serves as the law enforcement training academy for 96 Federal agencies. FLETC in Artesia, NM, trains all of our Border Patrol agents and Bureau of Indian Affairs police officers.

If we fail to fund DHS, FLETC training grinds to a halt. This will impact every Federal agency whose law enforcement officers must complete basic

training before they can be deployed in their posts of duty. A delay in training impacts securing the Nation's borders, aviation security, protecting our Nation's leaders and diplomats, securing Federal buildings, and other countless Federal law enforcement activities.

The economic impact is huge. Over 3,000 students, 350 of them in Artesia, NM, are expected to be in training at the end of February. If DHS is not funded, they have to go back home. This will cost about \$2.4 million in airfare to send students back to their agencies, and then turn around and fly them back to FLETC when Congress does its job and funds DHS.

Regardless of your views on immigration policy, wasting law enforcement's time and taxpayer money does not improve our security. Artesia is not a big city. Its economy relies on FLETC. The students spend their money at local businesses. Many residents are contract employees at the facility. If FLETC closes, it has a real impact in our community.

As a New Mexican, I am appalled that a DHS shutdown is even being considered. We cannot risk our national security, our community safety, and our border commerce just so Republicans can prove some sort of inside-the-beltway point about how angry they are about immigration reform. The House Republican bill threatens to deport millions of people who have been living and working and going to school in our country for many years. The Senate should choose a different route: Put a clean bill on the floor, allow an open amendment debate, and enact a bill the President can sign before any shutdown occurs.

Few States understand the importance of comprehensive immigration reform as New Mexico does. We need a system that secures our borders, strengthens families, and supports our economy. In fact, we almost had just that. The Senate passed a bipartisan bill in the last Congress, but House Republicans let it die—would not even take it up, would not put it on the floor.

That bill was not perfect. It did not satisfy everyone in every case, but that is what compromise means. That is what a bipartisan effort requires. Due to the House's failure to act on immigration reform, over 400,000 people in my State live in immigration limbo, all the while they work and raise families. Deporting these children and families is not a realistic option. We need to focus limited resources, as the President has done, on securing the border. We need to go after drug dealers and gang members and potential terrorists.

I and so many other New Mexicans are appalled that Republicans want to take out their anger on the DREAMers. They will not commit to real reform, but they will commit to chasing down children—innocent children—brought

to this country by their parents. These are inspiring young people in my State, when I talk about these young DREAMers. They have worked hard. They have persevered. They know and love this country as their own.

They are young leaders such as Mabel Arellanes. Mabel came to Santa Fe with her mother from Mexico when she was just 6 years old. Mabel graduated from Capital High School. Her dream was to go to college, but her immigration status made that impossible. From the age of 15, Mabel worked to help other DREAMers. She helped pass the New Mexico DREAM Act. Mabel eventually did get to college and graduated from the University of New Mexico with honors. She is in her second year of law school now.

Another one of the DREAMers—this is Alejandro Rivera. Another DREAMer, he moved to Belen, NM, when he was 7 years old. After high school, Alejandro enrolled at the University of New Mexico. Undocumented, he could not get financial aid. He and his mother worked hard to pay tuition. Alejandro also volunteered to help other young people get an education and to follow their dreams. He is at work now on his Ph.D. in education. We may disagree on the specifics of immigration reform, but these DREAMers have earned our admiration. They should not be pushed back into the shadows by the House deportation bill.

The men and women who work to keep us safe, who screen more than 1 million people a day through our ports of entry, who patrol our borders and help secure our communities should not be a bargaining chip. In New Mexico we believe homeland security should be a priority, not a talking point. Secretary Johnson at DHS has been very clear. Key security initiatives are left waiting. His predecessors have also been very clear. Last week all three former DHS Secretaries, two of whom are Republican, sent a letter to the Senate leadership urging them to pass a clean funding bill.

We live in a very dangerous world. We face terrorist threats at home and abroad. Recent events make that very clear. Now is not the time to play politics with homeland security. In fact, there never is a right time for that. The American people are watching. The people of my State are watching. They are watching these games. What they see is a lot of sound and fury that leads nowhere. What they want is a government that works.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. AYOTTE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I rise today to discuss a matter of utmost importance: the Department of Homeland Security funding bill, H.R. 240.

We live in a world of extraordinary threats. Around the world, terrorists continue to devise ways to harm Americans and our interests. In Pakistan and Afghanistan, we see a resurgent Al Qaeda, which continues to plot attacks from increasingly ungoverned safe havens. Throughout the broader Middle East, we see Al Qaeda's affiliate groups—from Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula to al-Shabaab—posing sophisticated new threats. In Iraq and Syria, we see the self-proclaimed Islamic State controlling vast swaths of territory, shocking the world with its brutality, and announcing its deadly serious intent to kill Americans. Within Western societies, we see the potential for radicalization at home, the danger of which has been made manifest in the attacks on Ottawa, Sydney, and Paris. Inside the United States, the Department of Homeland Security serves as our critical line of defense against many of these threats at critical points—from our borders, to our airports, to our coasts and our ports.

In the realm of cyber space, criminals, terrorists, and other nations' governments present sophisticated threats on a variety of fronts. Defending against these many serious threats requires efforts that range from securing critical infrastructure to guarding against the sort of espionage and blackmail that Sony recently experienced. These are enormously difficult tasks, especially in an ever-changing, high-tech operating environment. As the agency charged with protecting civilian networks and coordinating on cyber defense issues with the private sector, the Department of Homeland Security stands at the crossroads of our Nation's defense against this next generation of threats.

When the dangers we face are natural rather than manmade, the Department plays no less of a critical role. From hurricanes and tornadoes to volcanos and forest fires, the Department's component agencies, such as FEMA and the Coast Guard, play a critical role in the preservation of lives and property.

The House-passed bill provides the Department with nearly \$40 billion in funding—a level consistent with the Budget Control Act's spending limits. That money will not only fund the critical programs I have mentioned so far, but will also provide critical improvements on a wide range of fronts, including more border control agents, new ICE detention facilities, increased funding for E-Verify, more effective security screening at our airports, improved Secret Service protection, increased support for cyber defense, and important disaster relief.

These provisions all enjoy broad bipartisan support, and I commend my

colleagues on the Appropriations Committee for their hard work on this package. But this work has been complicated by a troubling development: some of my colleagues—almost all of them Democrats—actively seeking to block consideration of this vitally important funding. Why? Only because they seek to protect a President of their own party who has acted lawlessly and overstepped proper constitutional bounds. Instead of following the examples of great Senators of the past who stood up to Presidents of their own party on behalf of the Constitution and the rule of law, today we have witnessed far too many Senators instead shamefully toeing the party line.

Our Nation's Founders knew, in the sage words of Montesquieu, that "in all tyrannical governments . . . the right both of making and enforcing the laws is vested in one and the same man . . . and wherever these two powers are united together, there can be no public liberty." For this reason, when drafting the Constitution, the Framers divided power between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches, and between the Federal Government and the States.

Despite these constitutional foundations, President Obama has decided that he "won't take no for an answer" when Congress refuses to go along with his agenda. In direct opposition to our centuries-old system of legislation and to the binding authority of the Constitution, the President has audaciously declared that "when Congress won't act, I will." And he has followed up these threats with a variety of unilateral Executive actions, many of which are flatly inconsistent with the law and the Constitution.

Over the past weeks and months, I have come to the Senate floor to speak out about a series of specific instances that exemplified the brazen lawlessness of this administration. This pervasive and illegitimate overreach has come in many different forms.

With his recent move on immigration, President Obama seeks not only to prevent enforcement proceedings against millions of people unlawfully present in this country, but also to license their unlawful presence with affirmative work permits. In doing so, he not only ignores the duly-enacted laws of the land but also seeks to unilaterally replace them with his own contradicting policies.

The President and his allies in this Chamber want nothing more than to turn this into a debate about immigration policy, but that is not what this debate is about. Immigration is a complex and divisive issue, and Americans hold a wide variety of views on the matter that don't always divide neatly along partisan lines. Many conservatives—myself included—share some of the same policy goals as President Obama. Instead, this is a debate about

loyalty. As Senators, where do our loyalties lie? Do we owe our loyalties first to the Constitution, to the protection of the American people, and to the goal of lawful and lasting immigration reform, or do we owe our loyalty, out of reflexive partisanship, to a President bent on dangerous unilateralism?

President Obama's Executive action is a direct affront to our system of republican self-government. The Constitution vests legislative authority with the Congress, not the President alone. Instead, the President is charged with the duty to "take care that the laws be faithfully executed." This is not a suggestion or an invitation for the President to enforce the law; it is an obligation for him to do so.

The President and his executive branch exercise prosecutorial discretion—the discretion to choose not to prosecute certain cases. But that power stems from considerations of fairness and equity in particular cases. Instead of requiring individualized determinations based on individuals' specific situations, the President's latest action sweeps up millions of people based on only a few broad, widely shared criteria.

An administration, of course, cannot prosecute when there are not sufficient resources to do so. But the Obama administration has never explained how these Executive actions will save money. In fact, the administration's own policy advisers have acknowledged that a work-permitting program will be expensive and will actually take away resources from law enforcement.

While no one disagrees that capturing and removing violent criminals should be our highest immigration priority, President Obama has gone much further and made current immigration law essentially a dead letter for millions of illegal immigrants.

Despite the administration's claim to the contrary, President Obama's action is not comparable to the Executive actions taken by President Ronald Reagan and President George H.W. Bush. Even the Washington Post editorial board found that claim by the White House to be "indefensible." Presidents Reagan and Bush simply implemented the enforcement priorities established in laws that Congress actually passed. By contrast, President Obama sought to change the law before Congress has acted, so he cannot rely on Congress's authority to enforce the policy he prefers. Indeed, President Obama has acted directly in the face of congressional opposition, so we should call his Executive order what it is: an attempt to bypass the constitutionally ordained legislative process and rewrite the law unilaterally.

Perhaps the most persuasive case against this disturbing unilateralism was laid out by President Obama himself. On at least 22 different occasions since he took office, the President ac-

knowledgeed that he lacked the legal authority to carry out these actions. As he himself said, by broadening immigration enforcement carve-outs, "then essentially I would be ignoring the law in a way that I think would be very difficult to defend legally. So that's not an option . . . What I've said is there is a path to get this done, and that's through Congress." He was right then; he is wrong now.

Faced with this brazen lawlessness, the House of Representatives passed a bill that both funds our critical homeland security priorities and fulfills our duty to respond to the President's lawless actions. This is a careful line to walk, and our colleagues in the House deserve praise for their admirable work. Their bill represents a responsible governing approach by funding our critical homeland security needs while preventing President Obama's constitutional abuse.

When faced with such a sensible approach, I have frankly been shocked and dismayed by the opposition that many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have expressed to this bill. On the floor today, many of my colleagues have indicated that they will oppose letting us vote on Homeland Security funding and even oppose allowing a formal debate and an open amendment process on the bill unless we allow President Obama's Executive action to come into effect.

Senators of both political parties have often stood up to Executive encroachment—not for purposes of partisan gain or political grandstanding, but in defense of Congress as a coordinate and coequal branch of government with its own essential authorities and responsibilities.

Implicit in the constitutional design of separating the Federal Government's powers is the idea that each branch would have the incentive and authority to resist encroachments from the other branches, ensuring that unfettered power is not concentrated in any one set of hands. The Founders recognized this as indispensable to preserving the individual liberty of all citizens. As Madison counseled in *Federalist* 51, "The great security against a gradual concentration of the several powers in the same department consists in giving to those who administer each department the necessary constitutional means and personal motives to resist encroachments of the others."

Senator Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia embodied this institutional idea as much as anyone with whom I have served. Although he helped to lead this body for more than half a century and left us less than 5 short years ago, I was surprised and dismayed to learn recently that nearly half of current Members never served alongside Robert C. Byrd.

Senator Byrd fiercely defended this body's prerogatives and independence

against the encroachments of the executive branch—whether they were Republicans or Democrats in the executive branch. He neither censored his criticisms nor weakened his defenses based on the President's political party. Even in his twilight years, when President Obama took office with extraordinarily high approval ratings, Senator Byrd was willing to hold the new President's feet to the fire to defend the Senate's right to give advice and consent to nominees. He publicly chastised the White House for its excessive reliance on czars, observing that unconfirmed policy chieftains "can threaten the Constitutional system of checks and balances. At the worst, White House staff have taken direction and control of programmatic areas that are the statutory responsibility of Senate-confirmed officials."

How far we have fallen since the days of Senator Byrd. Indeed, this brinkmanship by my colleagues in the minority represents the height of irresponsibility. They risk our homeland security funding at a time when our terrorist enemies have repeatedly demonstrated a renewed capability to threaten the homeland. They risk our very system of constitutional government by sacrificing our power to make the laws and the President's duty to enforce them. They risk many of the immigration reform goals that are shared across party lines.

I am committed to making real progress toward implementing lasting immigration reform. I supported the Senate's comprehensive immigration bill in the last Congress. Even though that bill was far from perfect, I voted for it because I believe in working together to make much needed progress on this vitally important issue.

As I have long argued, the way to get real immigration reform back on track is not for the President and his allies to insist on his "my way or the highway" approach. Responsible legislating—not unilateralism—is the right way forward on immigration. The President's Executive action risked the opportunity for meaningful bipartisan progress and undermined the Constitution in the process. And now, his allies in this Chamber are apparently willing to risk the security of our Nation at a time of extreme danger just to close partisan ranks and provide political cover to the President.

If my colleagues in both parties are serious about protecting our Constitution's separation of powers and the liberty it ensures, if they are committed to protecting Americans from the sorts of terrorist attacks we have lately witnessed with alarming frequency, and if they are committed to working together to achieve lasting immigration reform the right way, I urge them to reconsider their vote earlier today and to agree to—at the very least—debate this critically important bill.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I rise in opposition to what seems to be a politically motivated Department of Homeland Security funding bill that we had to vote on. Funding the DHS should be a priority of Congress. It really should be. I know it is for all of us, and we cannot afford to play any of the political partisan games. It is not what people in this country want see. It doesn't do any of us justice whatsoever. We jeopardize the funding for third largest agency in the country that will risk lapse in not only our border security, which is most important to all of us, but also cyber security, also Secret Service protection, disaster response, FEMA, TSA in airports. Our Nation faces many threats from our enemies, both overseas and here at home, more so than ever before.

The world is a troubled place. We all go home and the No. 1 thing people are concerned about is the security of our own Nation. They see this evil going on, and now this horrific, barbaric action we saw that took place with the Jordanian pilot is unimaginable to us, that people could act this way to other humans.

With that being said, we have to stand united in supporting our values and protecting our citizens in the United States of America. This is not the forum for debate on immigration, and I have said that. I would hope some of my colleagues would feel the same way. We should fully fund the DHS, and this is one that has necessary levels that must be funded for the protection of our country. Then we can deal with our immigration system which is broken. I think we have stated that in the Senate. We have stood bravely, we voted, and we did changes and took some tough votes that needed to be made.

I agree with all of my Republican colleagues that our borders need to be secure. I don't think any of us disagree with that. It has to be secured first and then must stem the tide of illegal immigrants flowing into our country. We have seen them coming in all different sizes, races, and sexes. It continues to be something we should be concerned about.

I also agree with my Republican colleagues that President Obama should not have executed action—he should not have used his Executive action to make changes in our immigration system. I think we should have doubled down and gotten this bill before us and

get the House. I disagree with the House's decision not to even take up the bill we sent. In a bipartisan fashion it was debated on this floor, put together by Democrats and Republicans.

I have been here for 4 years. I haven't seen a bill worked more intensely than the immigration bill. I haven't seen the border security worked more intensely and Republicans and Democrats working together to make sure we have a Homeland Security that will secure our borders. That is the first time I saw the Senate truly work since I have been here and saw what the potential would be if we worked together. I was very excited about that. I thought for sure we would get a vote. Now we are back to the same, putting together who is for what and how we are going to posture on this one. I believe this is not the place and this is not the bill for us to get into a political squabble. I don't.

I know the House put us in a difficult position. It came over here, it had to be voted on, and it was. Now we have to get on to serious business. How do we take care and make sure our Department of Homeland Security has the necessary funding through an appropriations bill that both Democrats and Republicans worked on, not for another continuing resolution which does not let our different branches that are responsible for Homeland Security be able to upgrade and fight the battle we need to fight.

When we think about all of the new equipment that is needed for our forces out there, our National Guard, also our Coast Guard, what they need to be updated and upgraded to and the things that have been planned, it will only happen through a bill we pass on this side. It will not happen through a continuing resolution bill. It will be the same as we have had. The status quo will not change.

I am willing to work with all of my friends in here to have a good, clean Homeland Security bill that does the job and protects the United States of America. I am not willing to do a bill that will jeopardize the security of our homeland, which is what I think we have received. I think we can do better than that.

I urge all of our colleagues to work together to get a piece of legislation that helps protect America and keeps America safe and also puts the emphasis where it needs to be. That is what the people back home in West Virginia expect. I know people in New Hampshire expect the same from the Presiding Officer. I know we can deliver, working together in a bipartisan way, putting America first and not our politics. That is what they expect. I hope we are able to rise above this, and we will get through this. I think we will get to a clean bill that basically secures America and keeps us safe.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I come to the floor to join my colleagues to call for an end to any political gamesmanship being played over this bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security. I thank Senators SHAHEEN and MIKULSKI for their leadership on this issue. They have introduced legislation I am proud to cosponsor and that provides the critical resources the Department of Homeland Security needs today and for the remainder of 2015.

The issue of funding the Department of Homeland Security has become particularly important to my State. It is important to every State. New Hampshire cares a lot about the Coast Guard and many of the other agencies involved in security.

In Minnesota we have actually had active recruiting, a first from al-Shabaab that recruited young men in the State of Minnesota—and particularly in the Twin Cities—to go to Somalia and to fight, including becoming suicide bombers. We actually had 18 Federal indictments that came out of that. Half of those people have already been convicted because of the fact our community—our Somali community—has been able to work with the law enforcement positively. We have been able to get the information to prosecute those cases.

Then we go to Syria, something our Presiding Officer knows a lot about and is an expert on. The first American who was killed fighting on the side of the terrorists was from Minnesota. There is active recruiting that has been going on there. I have seen the ads of some of the recruiting from the FBI that has been going on there. In fact, we had an indictment of people involved in going to fight for ISIS. So this is real for us. This isn't just something that is thousands of miles away. It is happening in our communities.

Just last fall a young man from the Twin Cities area was arrested by the FBI at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport as he was trying to fly to Turkey. The next day the young man's partner was able to board a flight for Turkey and is thought to be fighting with ISIS.

These are real people, real terrorists. I think we all know when it comes to Homeland Security it is not just our national security that is at stake, it is also our economy. Our border with Canada stretches over 5,500 miles, the longest in the world. Over 400,000 people and nearly \$2 billion in goods and services cross our borders every day.

In Minnesota we understand the economic significance of cross-border commerce. Canada is our State's top international trading partner with over \$19 billion in total business across the border. Think of that—\$19 billion. Over 1 million Canadians visit Minnesota every year—that is a lot of Canadians—contributing \$265 million to our local

economy. A lot of them visit the Mall of America in Bloomington. Many of them go fishing up north. That relationship relies on a seamless United States-Canadian border with U.S. Customs and Border Protection keeping that border secure and efficiently screening all cross-border traffic.

We have made important strides in recent years with the trusted travel programs to make our northern border more secure while encouraging the cross-border tourism and commerce that is the lifeblood of so many Northern States, including Minnesota and New Hampshire. Withholding critical funding from DHS could threaten this progress, leading to a less secure border and also hindering economic opportunity. Withholding critical funding risks the safety of our people, the strength of our economy, and even our relationships abroad.

At a time when other countries around the world are stepping up their security, we can't be standing it down. Even a cursory look at world headlines shows the threats the United States and our allies face—from the terrorist attacks in Paris and Sydney to cyber attacks by North Korea. We need to be stepping up our security.

That is why it is so important we turn immediately to this bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security, a bill we can all agree on. The funding bill introduced by Senator SHAHEEN and Senator MIKULSKI and that I am proud to cosponsor does just that. It would provide funding for security while keeping crossings open for business. It would support 23,775 Customs and Border Protection officers working at our country's 329 ports of entry. It would ensure that we keep 21,370 Border Patrol agents at work keeping our country safe. It funds cyber security initiatives that protect our critical infrastructure and allows us to track down and punish hackers who are responsible for cyber crimes.

It provides over \$1 billion for security-related grants to States—we are talking about firefighters and first responders—and localities to help ensure they are prepared to handle both man-made and natural disasters. No one knows this better than our State when we had a bridge fall down in the middle of a summer day on August 1 in Minneapolis, MN. An 8-lane highway right in the middle of the Mississippi River, 13 people died, dozens of people injured, dozens of cars submerged in the water after dropping 111 feet. No one knows this better than our State after we had the floods we shared with North Dakota across the Red River, floods that nearly swept away homes and resulted in a lot of economic loss. That happened in our State. No one knows better than our State, where we have had tornadoes similar to so many places in the Midwest, sweep across the prairies, taking everything in their path. That

is when you know what FEMA is all about. That is when you know what Homeland Security is all about. That is why we must continue to fund this important Agency.

It is my hope we can come together to pass the Shaheen-Mikulski Homeland Security appropriations bill. We should never play politics when it comes to protecting our homeland. That is why former Homeland Security Secretaries from the George W. Bush and Obama administrations have come together—Tom Ridge, Michael Chertoff and Janet Napolitano—and all agree on the need to pass a clean bill. Anyone who is watching C-SPAN and says, What is she talking about—a clean bill? Did it go through the laundry machine? This is a bill that focuses on what it is supposed to focus on, which is funding Homeland Security. It doesn't have other provisions in it that are better debated on other bills, that are comprehensive and focus on these issues. This bill should not have those kinds of things on it. This bill is about Homeland Security, and we shouldn't be shutting down our security over political fights.

As Senators, chief among our responsibilities is to do everything we can do to keep Americans safe. As a Senator from Minnesota, no job is more important to me than keeping our State and our country safe. I was a prosecutor for 8 years. I know how much this means to people. I deeply respect the work of the Department of Homeland Security and what they do every single day to protect us. Those workers deserve the best. The people of America deserve the best. That is why we have to pass this bill.

I urge my colleagues to pass the Shaheen-Mikulski bill without delay.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate in morning business for such time as I may consume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CHOICE ACT

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I am on the floor today to speak about an issue that I spoke about just a few days ago, the Choice Act.

Let me take my colleagues back in history just a few months, just to last year. I don't imagine any of us don't remember the scandal the Department

of Veterans Affairs was facing—the stories across the country of fake waiting lists, of services not provided, of the potential death of veterans while waiting for those services to occur. I also would think that at least many of my colleagues would agree that for much of the past few years the Senate hasn't done much of the business it was designed to do and that needed to be done in our country.

But I remember a day in August of 2014 in which the Senate and the House of Representatives were successful in passing a bill. It is somewhat embarrassing to me to be on the floor praising the accomplishment of a bill passage. It is a significant part of what should be the normal course of business of the Senate.

But those of us—and I would put all of my colleagues in this category who care about the service men and women who sacrificed for the benefit of their fellow countrymen and came home to a Department of Veterans Affairs that failed to meet their needs. I have indicated that since I came to Congress, both in the House and the Senate, I have served on the Veterans' Affairs Committee. This is an issue that we need to make certain we get right.

Just this week, in fact this morning, we passed a piece of legislation, the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act. That is an accomplishment. I remember the testimony of the two mothers in the Veterans' Affairs Committee who came to talk to us about the importance of this legislation, their experience as mothers, and the death of their sons by suicide.

In the time that I have been in Congress, it is among the most compelling testimony I have ever heard. The part that sticks with me the most is the belief by these two mothers that had the Department of Veterans Affairs done their work, their sons would be alive. What that tells me is the decisions we make and those decisions as implemented by the Department of Veterans Affairs in some cases—in fact in many cases—are a matter of life and death.

We saw the scandal that came about last year. We know the decisions we make have huge consequences on veterans and their families. We rejoiced—at least I did—in the passage of the Choice Act, which gave veterans the opportunity to choose VA services, to choose health care to be provided in their hometowns by their hometown physicians and doctors.

The criteria that is set out in the Choice Act for that to occur is pretty straightforward. It says if you live more than 40 miles from a VA facility, you are entitled to have the VA provide the services at home, if that is what you want. It says that if those services can't be provided within 30 days of the time you need those services, then the VA shall provide those

services at home if you choose. You can see the hospital, you can be admitted to the hospital of your choice, and you can be seen by the doctor of your choice.

That was actually something to rejoice about, to be excited about—that this Congress and this Senate came together and passed what I know to be a very significant and important piece of legislation. It is important for the reasons that common sense tells us it is important—that a veteran who lives a long way from a VA hospital or a VA facility can now get services at home. A veteran who had to wait in line for too long could now get those services at home.

The other aspect of that is that the Department of Veterans Affairs has told us time and again about the inability to attract and retain the necessary health care providers, the doctors and others who provide services to our veterans.

So one way to improve that circumstance is to allow other health care providers, those in your hometown, to provide that service.

The Choice Act was a good measure for the Department of Veterans Affairs to meet its mandate to care for our veterans, and the Choice Act was a good measure for veterans who live long distances from a VA facility, especially in States such as mine and the Presiding Officer's, where it is a long way to a VA facility.

So I remember the moment in which that bill passed and was sent to the President. Finally something good has come. A bill has been passed. Something important to our veterans is occurring.

But the reality is the implementation of the Choice Act has created many problems and, in my view, the Department of Veterans Affairs is finding ways to make that implementation not advantageous to the veteran but self-serving to the Department.

This is what catches my attention today. We are reviewing the President's budget, and within that budget is this language:

In the coming months, the Administration will submit legislation to reallocate a portion of Veterans Choice Program funding to support essential investments in VA system priorities in a fiscally responsible, budget-neutral manner.

What the President's budget is telling us is that there is excess money within the Choice Act. We allocated money—emergency spending—to fund the Choice Act, and the President's budget is telling us: Well, we think there is too much money in there. We are going to submit legislation to reallocate that money to something we think is a higher priority.

I don't expect many of my colleagues to remember, but I was on the Senate floor last week talking about a specific problem in the implementation of the

Choice Act, and it was this: The Department of Veterans Affairs shall provide services at home to a veteran who lives more than 40 miles from a facility.

Well, the problem I described last week is that the VA has determined that if there is an outpatient clinic within that 40 miles, even though it doesn't provide the services that the veteran needs, that veteran, he or she, must drive to the VA, wherever that is located, and does not qualify for the at-home services.

Does this make any sense to any of us, that the VA says: Oh, there is an outpatient clinic within 40 miles of you, Mr. Veteran? Even though it doesn't provide the service that you need, we are still going to require you to drive to a VA hospital to receive those services and you don't qualify to go see your hometown doctor or be admitted to your hometown hospital.

Who would think—in fact, I admired Secretary McDonald in his early days at the Department in which he talked about how the VA is going to serve the veteran: The decisions we make at the VA will be directed at how do we best care for our veterans.

I respect Secretary McDonald for that attitude and approach, and I want the Department to follow his lead in accomplishing that mission.

But clearly deciding that a facility, even though it can't provide the service you need, precludes you from getting services at home makes no sense, and it certainly doesn't put the veteran at the forefront of what is in the best interest of a veteran.

So why would the Department of Veterans Affairs make that decision? We have a facility within 40 miles, but you don't qualify. So drive 3 or 4 hours to the VA hospital.

Well, one might think they have made the decision that we are going to enforce that aspect of the Choice Act. We are going to enforce the idea that you don't qualify because they don't have enough money to pay for those services. But, lo and behold, the President's budget says there is excess money that we now want to transfer to other priorities.

So, clearly, it is not funding issues. The Department is making decisions for some reason that makes absolutely no sense, defies common sense, and certainly doesn't put the veteran ahead of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

I don't know what the story is that these kinds of decisions would be made, but it certainly is worthy of the Senate to make certain the Department implements its moment of triumph, the Choice Act, in a way that benefits those we intended for the legislation to serve.

I will ask some questions of the Department, and I wonder about the attitude. I have been on task trying to get services provided closer to home for

veterans for as long as I have been in Congress.

One of the other programs, aside from the Choice Act, is a program called ARCH for accessing services closer to home. There are pilot programs across the country to do that. One of them is in Kansas.

In an internal memo from Washington, DC, to a VA hospital in Kansas, the Department of Veterans Affairs indicated to the VA hospital in Kansas they could not promote, encourage or market the idea of a veteran seeking services at home.

So already I bring skepticism about the attitude at the Department of Veterans Affairs. For a long time they have been told not to encourage veterans to find health care outside the VA hospital, outside the VA outpatient clinic.

Here are a few questions. How do you reach the conclusion that there is excess money when the program is just now being implemented and, in fact, there has been a significant delay in getting the choice cards out to veterans so they could determine whether they were interested and qualified?

I also have learned that the Department of Veterans Affairs has intentionally narrowed the veteran population that is eligible for the choice program by rule, narrowing the number of medical procedures for which they will consider whether it can be performed outside the VA on the 30-day rule.

I didn't say that quite right. I didn't say it quite as well as I would like. But the VA already narrowed, by regulation, the services that might qualify for hometown services if it takes longer than 30 days to get those services.

The VA added an unnecessary reimbursement requirement. I am told now that if there is a third-party provider and you have some insurance, the VA is going to require that the veteran pay the copayment up front and then seek reimbursement from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Of course, the fourth one is how can you reach the conclusion that a veteran, who needs colonoscopy—in my hometown, as I talked about last week, one must drive 3 or 4 hours to Wichita to the VA to get the colonoscopy because there is an outpatient clinic within 40 miles of my hometown, but the outpatient clinic doesn't provide colonoscopies.

Now we learn that it is not a matter of money. It has to be a matter of attitude, approach, and culture.

Just today, a few minutes before I came to the Senate floor to talk about this issue, I received an inquiry from a constituent who is a health care provider. What they indicated to me is their interest in providing services under the Choice Act. They have contacted the VA, pursued the opportunity

to be a provider for that veteran population in rural Kansas, and they were told the rate of reimbursement would be something significantly less than Medicare.

The Choice Act says the Department of Veterans Affairs shall provide these services up to paying Medicare rates. The VA says if you are going to provide services to our veterans, we are only going to reimburse you at something significantly less. That is something this health care provider didn't believe they could make any money doing, but ultimately they concluded it was their responsibility to try to help veterans who lived in rural Kansas, and so they went back to the VA and said we are willing to take less rates. Certainly let's negotiate and see if we can find something mutually agreeable between the VA and us to provide those services. They have yet to receive a return to their inquiry to the VA—again, trying to preclude a willing provider who is willing to provide services at less than cost. How can that be common sense? How can that be putting veterans ahead of the VA?

I look forward to working with my colleagues. I look forward to our Committee on Veterans' Affairs—a committee the Presiding Officer serves on—trying to make sure we get this right. I want to return to the day in August when the Senate passed the Choice Act and there was this feeling of accomplishment of something beneficial and useful.

If the VA continues to implement this bill—if it doesn't reverse course, if it doesn't put the veteran first, we will have missed another opportunity to care for the needs of those who served our country. What American would we expect to receive the best health care possible in this country? Well, of course, I want all Americans to receive quality health care at an affordable cost. But I would say there is no group of people for whom it is more important that they receive what is their due, what was committed to them, than those who served in our military and are now our Nation's veterans.

I represent a very rural State. The congressional district that I represented as a House Member is larger than the size of the State of Illinois. It has no VA hospital. How do you get to a VA hospital when you are a 92-year-old World War II veteran and the hospital is 4, 5, 6 hours away?

I thought we had finally come to a solution. I thought that earlier with the passage of legislation I introduced in the House that ultimately became the ARCH pilot program. While it gets rave reviews from veterans who are in those pilot program areas, it has not been expanded. It doesn't solve the country's rural needs.

Then I thought, well, a great day has occurred; we passed the Choice Act. But as I look at the implementation, as

I look at the decisions being made today at the Department of Veterans Affairs, I have to wonder if one more time we are providing false hope, false promises to those who served our country. We owe them something different than what is occurring today.

I reaffirm my commitment to my colleagues, but also to the leadership of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to work closely, side-by-side, to make sure the choices made fit the reality of those who served our country in the circumstances they find themselves in today. Help those veterans who can't get the service because they can't get there. Help those veterans who need the services more quickly than the Department of Veterans Affairs can provide them.

This seems straightforward to me, but I raise this concern today to make sure my colleagues and I are united in the effort to see that good things happen as a result of the passage of the Choice Act in 2014.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Wisconsin.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, it is no secret we are living in dangerous times and that we face a variety of threats. We face the threat of ISIL, a barbaric and despicable terrorist organization. We face threats to the security of our personal information both online and in our daily life. We still face threats from Al Qaeda and rogue nations such as North Korea. With all of these ongoing threats to our Nation and its citizens, shouldn't our colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to work together in a bipartisan manner in order to fund the government agency responsible for protecting us from those threats?

Evidently they do not. Instead, they are playing a partisan game while threatening to shut down the Department of Homeland Security. They are playing politics with our homeland security. The vote the Senate just took relates to a bill that put partisan politics ahead of our national security while also needlessly creating another manufactured budget crisis, and that is why I voted no.

I understand our Republican colleagues have concerns about the President's Executive actions on immigration, and I believe there is a time and place for this body to debate those

issues, as we have in the past and we must in the future. But to jeopardize our Nation's security by playing politics with this vital funding measure is extremely disappointing.

I would actually like to remind our colleagues that the President's actions on immigration reform devote even more resources to securing our Southwest border and to deporting felons, not families, and identifying threats to our national security.

The President's Executive action on immigration also provides certain undocumented immigrants temporary relief, after background checks and other security measures are passed, bringing families out of the shadows so they can work and pay taxes like everyone else.

I remain committed to finishing the job on bipartisan and comprehensive immigration reform here in Congress, but until we can achieve that goal, I support the President keeping his promise to take action and do what he legally can to fix our broken system.

Consistent with the actions by previous Presidents of both parties, President Obama is right to follow in the footsteps of every President since Eisenhower to address as much of this problem as he can through Executive action. The status quo is simply unacceptable.

In fact, the Congressional Budget Office—also known as the nonpartisan scorekeeper—recently found that including a reversal of these Executive orders in the homeland security funding bill would actually increase our deficit.

Instead of attaching these transparent attacks on the President, the Congress should pass a clean, straightforward, bipartisan bill. And there is such a bill. That bill was previously negotiated and it was just introduced by the vice chairwoman of the Committee on Appropriations, BARBARA MIKULSKI, and the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Homeland Security, Senator SHAHEEN.

As a new member of the Subcommittee on Homeland Security of the Committee on Appropriations, I am a strong supporter of the Mikulski-Shaheen bill because it would fund programs that are critical to our Nation and to my home State of Wisconsin. Their straightforward funding bill funds essential Departments such as the Coast Guard, which keeps the Great Lakes safe and open for business; and it funds FEMA grants, which have helped communities in western Wisconsin, for example, plan and prepare for floods; and it funds fire grants that help rural fire departments with equipment they could never afford through the proceeds of annual pancake breakfasts. These are critical assets that my constituents rely on, and putting them at risk is simply irresponsible.

It is time for our colleagues to drop this dangerous political stunt and to

join with Democrats to pass a bipartisan bill that gives the Department of Homeland Security the resources it needs to keep Americans safe.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, today the House of Representatives held yet another vote—I think they are maybe up to 50-some—to repeal the Affordable Care Act, showing once again their objective is to dismantle the health care law. House Republicans voted to repeal the law. They like to say “repeal and replace,” but the “replace” doesn't ever really quite come forward.

Think what that would be like. It would take us back to the day when children with preexisting conditions such as cancer or asthma could be turned away from health coverage. Let me illustrate.

Several months ago a couple came to my coffee, which I hold every Thursday when the Senate is in session. It is open to anyone from Ohio who wants to stop in. A woman came from Cincinnati. She lives in one of the most conservative parts of the State. We talked for a few minutes about home schooling and her desire to be able to get some support from the Federal Government in a variety of different ways for home schooling.

Then she said: I want to thank you for the Affordable Care Act.

I said: Certainly. I was proud to support it.

She said: You see, my son—and she pointed across the room. He was about 15. He was diagnosed with diabetes when he was 7 or 8 years old.

She hesitated. She said: I counted them, 33 times, we were turned down for health insurance because of his preexisting condition. We signed up last week for the Affordable Care Act.

So if the House's effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act had come to the Senate and become law, someone would have to explain to her why she loses her health care. Again, if this is repealed, insurers could place lifetime or annual caps on health coverage. We know that tens of thousands of people in this country have gotten sick and their insurance has been cancelled because their insurance was so expensive. That is prohibited under the Affordable Care Act. That would be back if we repealed the Affordable Care Act.

Seniors were forced to pay huge out-of-pocket costs when they hit the gap

in prescription drug coverage known as the doughnut hole.

A decade ago, when I was a Member of the House of Representatives, I voted against that Medicare plan in part because it had this huge gap in coverage. So if you have an illness or a series of illnesses and buy a lot of prescription drugs, between the second thousandth dollar and the fifth thousandth dollar, there is a gap in coverage. In other words, you continue to pay the premiums for prescription drug coverage but get no assistance from the government. Under the Affordable Care Act, we have closed that gap. We have already cut it better than half, and over the next 3 or 4 years it will be eliminated entirely. We know the Affordable Care Act is working.

In my State, 100,000 young Ohioans, a little older than these pages, between the ages of 18 and 26, are on their parents' health insurance plans right now. They would be dropped from that coverage if the Affordable Care Act were repealed.

Ohio seniors have saved \$65 million in prescription drug costs by the closing of the coverage gap, the so-called doughnut hole. Those savings would end. Those with preexisting conditions would no longer be covered or would be charged higher premiums, and 700,000 Ohioans—people in my State—now have health insurance they did not have 5 years ago.

So if we repeal the Affordable Care Act, somebody has to explain to those 700,000 people why they no longer have insurance, why those 100,000 young people are getting dropped from coverage; those families like the woman's who would lose her insurance because her child has a preexisting condition, and all the consumer protections the Affordable Care Act has been part of.

Last month I spoke with Charles McClinton, a Cincinnati resident who suffered from severe epilepsy and, as a result, was unable to work. After Ohio chose to expand Medicaid—and I give Republican Governor Kasich credit for that—Mr. McClinton qualified for health care coverage and was able to schedule surgery. Thanks to this life-saving coverage, he has returned to work.

Isn't that what we want? If people are ill, injured, sick, don't we want to take care of them so they can return to work? Mr. McClinton never wanted to miss work, but he had to. Because of the expansion of Medicaid, because of the Affordable Care Act passed by a Democratic Senate, signed by a Democratic President, because of a Republican Governor in Ohio expanding Medicaid, unlike Republican Governors in many States, people such as Charles McClinton can now go back to work and live a healthier, more productive life and pay taxes.

Since its creation in 1965, Medicaid has been a joint Federal and State program, providing free or low-cost health

coverage to qualified individuals. One of the key components of the Affordable Care Act expanded both the eligibility and the Federal funding for Medicaid. States were given the opportunity to expand Medicaid to individuals with incomes of up to 130 percent of the Federal poverty level. Many people on Medicaid who are now on the expanded Medicaid in Ohio and Kentucky and many other States hold jobs, just like the parents of the 130,000 Ohio children who now have insurance because of the Children's Health Insurance Program. Their parents are working at places such as Walmart and McDonald's, making \$8, \$9, \$10 an hour. Those companies generally don't provide health insurance and don't pay wages high enough to be able to buy health insurance.

What kind of society do we want to be? Where people are working every bit as hard as all of us as U.S. Senators work, with very little compensation, without health insurance, generally without pensions?

Do we want to say: Well, we don't care about you? If you weren't smart enough, if you weren't educated enough, if you weren't smart enough to get a good-paying job with insurance, then we are going to turn our backs on you? Of course we are not that kind of society. That is what the Affordable Care Act is about.

The expansion of Medicaid has saved Ohio about \$350 million. It also helped Ohioans who already have insurance. When people lack health insurance, someone has to pay for their care.

The Presiding Officer's State of Colorado is not much different, just smaller dollar amounts because it is a smaller State. But Ohioans spend over \$2 billion on care for people who can't pay. It is a hidden tax on the insured estimated to be about \$1,000 a year per insured family.

So prior to the Affordable Care Act, somebody who went to a hospital in Denver, Cleveland, Dayton or Colorado Springs or Pueblo or Youngstown—because those without insurance would go to hospitals and get care; that is what we do; we take care of people if they show up in an emergency room—because they were not paying, because they were low income, they were unemployed, and they had no insurance, the cost of their treatment got shifted onto those of us with insurance. Economists say pretty much everybody pays about \$1,000 additional for their health insurance because of the problems of the uninsured. So when we expand Medicaid, when we pass the Affordable Care Act, when we get people into the health exchanges, it means we are not charging people that \$1,000 hidden tax, so it is a savings to those of us with insurance. Ultimately it is better for taxpayers, ultimately it is better for our health care system, and ultimately, most importantly, it is better for a healthier society.

We should be helping Ohioans gain health care, not cutting them off. That is the importance of expanding Medicaid.

I urge the Ohio legislature to work with the Governor to include Medicaid expansion in the budget. I urge my colleagues here in this Chamber to end their grandstanding attacks on a law that is helping Americans such as Charles McClinton get the care they need. It helped him go back to work. It will help others live more healthy lives. It will help all our communities. We should be helping Ohioans gain health care, not cutting them off.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I call for the regular order with respect to the motion to proceed to H.R. 240.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is pending.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 240, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015.

Mitch McConnell, Thad Cochran, Tom Cotton, Roger F. Wicker, David Vitter, Jerry Moran, Daniel Coats, Michael B. Enzi, Mike Crapo, Bill Cassidy, John Boozman, John Thune, Tim Scott, John Hoeven, James Lankford, Jeff Sessions.

MORNING BUSINESS

CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL CEREMONY HONORING 1ST SPECIAL SERVICE FORCE, THE "DEVIL'S BRIGADE"

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today I had the honor of addressing the legendary World War II-era 1st Special Service Force, a joint American-Canadian special forces military unit called the Devil's Brigade, on the occasion of

the surviving members of that elite unit receiving the Congressional Gold Medal. I ask for unanimous consent that my remarks be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Sometimes, truth can be more impressive than fiction.

When it comes to the heroes we honor today, that's certainly the case.

Members of the elite "Devil's Brigade" excelled in rock-climbing and amphibious assault.

They advanced on skis and through the air. They survived by stealth, and trained in demolitions.

Some of their more daring mission plans would've made James Bond blush.

And through it all, they helped save a continent in chaos. They helped defeat some of the greatest menaces our world has known.

But this isn't just some Hollywood script. It's a true story about a fearless group of young Canadians and Americans—including many Kentuckians—who were willing to put their lives on the line in the truest sense of the term.

Some probably did it to protect neighbors and families. Others to defend cherished democratic ideals. Many likely fought for all these reasons.

And they volunteered for this danger. Here's how the force's recruiting slogan read: Vigorous training.

Hazardous duty.

For those who measure up, get into the war quick.

Typical Madison Avenue spin, this was not.

But it was honest.

The fighting could be fierce. Conditions could be awful. The missions, seemingly impossible.

Yet, dark masses of boot polish and young courage—fighting knives gripped tightly in hand, elements purged consciously from thought—advanced against the Wehrmacht and held strong against forces of fascism.

The Devil's Brigade, heeding Churchill's call for "specially trained troops of the hunter class" who might unleash "a reign of terror" against the Nazis, became a feared adversary.

But these "Devils" only rented space in the shadows. They moved within darkness in order to defeat it.

And today, here they are. Champions of freedom. Heroes in two nations. Saviors to many others.

To you, we offer our most profound gratitude for distinguished service.

To the families gathered today, know that your loved one made a difference. Know that the veteran you've loved made a contribution to history that we as a people will not soon forget.

As the son of a World War II veteran, I'm particularly determined to ensure we don't.

That's why we will soon dedicate the highest civilian honor Congress can bestow.

It may only be a piece of metal, but it carries the gratitude of a nation.

May you always remember it.

KENTUCKIANS CELEBRATING THE VIETNAMESE LUNAR NEW YEAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish our friends in the Vietnamese-American community in Louisville, KY, and across the Commonwealth, a

very merry celebration of Tet Nguyen Dan. Tet Nguyen Dan means “first day,” and is the celebration of the Vietnamese Lunar New Year and the arrival of Spring. The Lunar New Year is the most important celebration in traditional Vietnamese culture. This year it falls on February 19.

The celebration of the Lunar New Year lasts for several days. It is seen as the precursor for events of the coming year, and therefore is celebrated by paying homage to one’s ancestors, having family reunions, and paying old debts.

At midnight of the Lunar New Year, the event is celebrated with firecrackers, gongs, and drums. Children wear new clothes to visit their relatives, and elders offer children little red envelopes full of money.

The festival then continues for several days with special events on each day. Many traditional foods are served during the Lunar New Year celebrations, including *banh chung*, a dish made of sticky rice, and mung beans and pork, all wrapped in banana leaves.

Of course, one doesn’t have to be in Vietnam to celebrate the Lunar New Year. Louisville has a strong and vibrant Vietnamese-American community that contributes to the mosaic that is the River City, and this year they will celebrate the Lunar New Year with great gusto. Celebrations are scheduled across the city for several days.

I know that Louisville and the Commonwealth of Kentucky are better off for the values that Vietnamese-Americans celebrate during Tet Nguyen Dan—love of family, appreciation of one’s elders and ancestors, and optimism about the times ahead. I convey to my friends in Kentucky’s Vietnamese-American community my best wishes and I ask my U.S. Senate colleagues to join me in wishing them a happy, healthy, and prosperous Lunar New Year.

CLAY HUNT SUICIDE PREVENTION FOR AMERICAN VETERANS ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am a proud cosponsor of the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act and am pleased my colleagues chose to support it unanimously. The bill is designed to help reduce—and hopefully eliminate—veteran suicides by improving access to and quality of mental health care for veterans.

An estimated 22 veterans a day take their own lives. That is twice as high as the general population. Veterans of all ages and from all wars are affected by conditions that can contribute to depression and thoughts of suicide. We are learning more and more, for example, about how common post-traumatic stress disorder is among our returning heroes. PTSD can surface years—even decades—after a veteran was in com-

bat. It is one of many factors that contribute to this disheartening problem.

The number of suicides is disproportionately high, however, for veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. Young men and women just out of the service and receiving health care from the government committed suicide at nearly three times the rate of active-duty troops in 2012. We have to work harder to make sure our heroes have access to the help they need.

The Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act will create a peer support and community outreach pilot program to connect transitioning service members with programs that could help them. The bill will create a pilot program to repay the loan debt of psychiatry students so it is easier to recruit them to work at the VA. It also will improve the accountability of VA mental health and suicide-prevention programs by requiring an annual evaluation.

Today, in a bipartisan fashion, the Senate said we need to do more to make sure our heroes have access to the assistance they need. I hope the step we took here today helps many veterans regain a path to wellness and happiness.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise today to commend my colleagues for swift passage of the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act. This act will build upon the Veterans Choice Act and put in place needed measures to improve responsiveness, reporting, oversight and accountability for mental health outreach, intervention, treatment, and counseling in the Department of Veterans Affairs. Sometimes the greatest hurdle for ailing veterans is just getting started. There is nothing more frustrating and potentially demoralizing and debilitating for a veteran in crisis to seek mental health care from the VA and be told he will have to wait weeks or months for an appointment because VA facilities lack sufficient personnel with an expertise in psychiatric medicine to provide timely care. Left to fend on their own, many veterans become depressed and feel powerless, some resort to high-risk behaviors, from isolation, self-medication with alcohol and prescription drugs, to suicide.

This bill authorizes a pilot program to expand the VA’s capacity to help repay loans incurred by individuals who are eligible to practice psychiatric medicine and agree to serve the VA in that field. In doing so, we recognize that serving veterans is a noble cause that some are called to, but working in such a demanding field requires economic incentives, especially in areas where abundant career options exist or in more remote locales, where attracting talent is difficult for the VA.

The Clay Hunt Act also facilitates greater veteran’s access through a consolidated interactive website, where

veterans can visit from the privacy of their own home or wherever they may be when the need arises.

Most importantly, the bill directs VA to establish a pilot program for community-based support networks in the VA’s Integrated Service Networks to ease the transition of veterans and provide peer-based support for those who are encountering difficulties coping with those life changes. These community outreach teams at each medical center will be aimed at getting care to the point of need with the least amount of delay and help those veterans who are unwilling or unable to seek professional help on their own.

Make no mistake, the suicides of our veterans are preventable with the right intervention and proper continuum of care. When a veteran takes their own life due to untreated mental pain, it is a stark and sobering sign that somewhere, someone who loved them was unable to reach them and recognize the warning signs to help or that the veteran just couldn’t carry a heavy burden any longer and found stability or some greater peace and solace elusive. It is at these moments, with nowhere to turn and perhaps no one to trust, that some of our veterans want to escape life. The sooner we can fully transform the VA into a place where veterans in crisis at any time can find access to caregivers and peers ready to light the path to a better place in our society, the better outcomes we will see and the surer we will be that the promises we have made to them are being kept.

RECOGNIZING BURTON SNOWBOARDS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, for generations, Vermonters have contributed to the global culture of winter sports. Whether the sport is snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling or snowboarding, Vermonters never pass up an opportunity to claim the first run of the day.

Almost four decades ago, Jake Burton’s passion for winter sports led to the creation of Burton Snowboards, one of the leading snowboard manufacturers in the world. Jake at a young age enjoyed “snurfing”—surfing on snow—but he never anticipated the path he would eventually take, becoming one of the pioneers in snowboard manufacturing.

In the late 1970s, Jake started exploring the idea of manufacturing snowboards, building prototypes from a barn in Londonderry, VT. At the time, most ski resorts did not allow snowboarders, as snowboarding was not yet considered a sport, and gaining recognition as a sport proved to be harder than one might expect. Jake didn’t let his optimism or passion wane, and interest in the fledgling sport finally spread. Jake and his wife Donna explored the European market, eventually opening a distribution center in

Austria, while maintaining their national headquarters in Burlington, VT. For a little-known sport, it quickly gained international notoriety and stature. In 1998, snowboarding debuted at the winter Olympics in Nagano.

Jake is now one of the most successful business leaders Vermont has ever known. His commitment and passion allow him to remain one with the pulse of his company, with consumers, and, most of all, with the sport, on a level unique to Burton Snowboards.

The Wall Street Journal recently chronicled the multiple ways in which Jake keeps himself healthy, in shape, and on the slopes. Jake's lifestyle is one that truly speaks to the Vermont spirit. Marcelle and I are proud to have Jake and Donna as friends.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the article from The Wall Street Journal.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Wall Street Journal, Dec. 22, 2014]

JAKE BURTON, SNOWBOARD KING, SETS
MULTIPLE GOALS FOR HIS WORKOUT
(By Jen Murphy)

The founder and chairman of Burton Snowboards, finds multiple ways to keep his lower body in shape for snowboarding and surfing.

Jake Burton sets an annual goal of snowboarding 100 days a year. A snowboard pioneer, and founder and chairman of Burton Snowboards Inc. in Burlington, Vt., has hit that goal nearly every year during the past 19 years, with the exception of 2011, when he was diagnosed with testicular cancer. Mr. Burton went through three months of chemotherapy. In January 2012, his doctors gave him a cancer-free bill of health and he slowly began regaining his strength in the pool and at the gym. Today, at age 60, he is charging harder than ever on the mountain.

"I got in 114 days this season," he says. And when the snow is gone, he takes to the ocean for his other obsession, surfing.

Mr. Burton relies on four regular activities—hiking, yoga, swimming, and biking—to keep him fit enough to snowboard and surf. He thinks of his workouts on a point system, awarding himself one point per workout, with 10 being his target each week. "I usually manage six." Some days he tries to double up on workouts by mixing business with an activity. He might bike with a colleague and discuss new snowboard gear.

Mr. Burton includes his family in as many activities as possible. He and his wife, Donna Carpenter, who is president of Burton Snowboards, have trails within minutes of their Vermont home in Stowe. They often set out together on hikes, but "hiking with Jake is a solo sport," jokes Ms. Carpenter. "He recently had a minor knee surgery and still beat me up the mountain."

He takes about six surf trips a year. This year he brought his three sons, ages 18, 21, and 25, on a surf trip to the Maldives. Recently, he and his wife started booking bike tours when they visit cities such as Florence and Paris.

THE WORKOUT

Hiking is Mr. Burton's main form of cardio. "I have to keep it up to keep my weight in check," he says. One of his favorite hikes is up the Pinnacle Trail, which is 10

minutes from his home. It takes him about 50 minutes to hike up and another 50 minutes to hike down. He will also drive to Mount Mansfield, Vermont's highest peak, and hike the Long Trail, which is nearly 5 miles round trip. Mr. Burton always takes a watch when he hikes. "My watch is like a heart rate monitor. The times tell me how hard I'm working," he says.

In the winter he often hikes up the mountain with his dogs and snowboards down four or five times before the ski resort is officially open. Bigger trips, most recently to Japan, allow him to have full days snowboarding in the backcountry.

While attending New York University, he was the captain of the swim team and he continues to get in the pool every other day when he is home. He swims intervals, warming up with 800 meters and then doing a few intervals of 500 meters and 50-meter intervals for speed.

Two days a week, Mr. Burton uses weight machines at the Swimming Hole, a nonprofit pool and gym facility in Stowe that he and his wife helped fund. He does an all-body workout with a focus on legs. "The stronger my legs, the better my snowboarding," he says. He says he used to lift more but scaled back when he began practicing yoga. "I might not be as strong as I once was but I feel better doing yoga," he says. "It makes surfing easier and every day things easier, like standing on one leg when you're drying your feet after you get out of the shower."

He takes a private Ashtanga-style yoga lesson in his home once a week.

THE DIET

Mr. Burton is pescetarian and tries to eat mostly organic. He and his wife hire someone to help prepare meals, which are left in the fridge. "We're spoiled," he says. In the morning Mr. Burton has a smoothie made from frozen mangos and frozen peaches or frozen berries and bananas. Lunch might be vegetable soup and an avocado and tomato sandwich with a tiny bit of mayo on whole wheat bread. They might have a squash soup with some cheese or lentils and a salad with avocado. "I average more than two avocados a day," he says. His wife's vegetable garden provides many of the ingredients that go into meals. They freeze vegetables to use during the winter. His splurge is pizza.

THE GEAR

Mr. Burton estimates he has about 30 different snowboards at home. His favorites are the Burton Namedropper (retail \$419.95) and the Burton Barracuda (retail \$519.95). Right now he is riding with Burton EST Genesis bindings (retail \$329.95) and wearing Burton Ion leather boots (retail \$499.95). Mr. Burton likes to hike in Adidas trail running sneakers. In 2006, Burton purchased Channel Islands Surfboards and Mr. Burton is constantly trying out new boards. He has recently been riding the Average Joe short board (retail about \$1,500) and a Waterhog longboard (retail \$765) from Channel Islands.

THE PLAYLIST

"I'm hooked on hip hop," he says. "It drives Donna nuts so I try not to listen to it at home but I'll put on my headphones when I hike. The music is so clean and raw. It really motivates me." He says he'll listen to the classics from Biggie [The Notorious B.I.G.], Tupac, and 2 Chainz or he'll put on the hip-hop channel on Sirius XM Radio. "I also love classic rock so much that my kids now like it."

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE LEGACY OF STORER COLLEGE

● Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I wish to honor Storer College, a historic educational establishment that truly left a significant imprint on the history of our State and our Nation.

Located in West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle in beautiful Harpers Ferry, the legacy of Storer College began following the Civil War. It was established by the Reverend Dr. Nathan Cook Brackett and philanthropist John Storer of Sanford, ME, whose goals were to create a school that was open and accepting of all students regardless of gender, race, or religion.

Particularly now, during Black History Month, it is fitting to recognize such a tremendously important endeavor as Storer College because it had such a significant impact on civil rights in the decades following the Civil War. This educational institution was a constant refuge for former slaves who found themselves without the necessary skillsets to lead marketable lives. Attendees were taught how to read and write, but they also gained a sense of purpose.

John Brown's raid is largely considered the motivation for the school's creation in Jefferson County, as the 1859 rebellion liberated countless African Americans in the area. Frederick Douglass, also a trustee of Storer College, once spoke at the school about John Brown and the raid's significance.

On October 2, 1867, Storer Normal School opened its doors with 2 teachers and 19 attending students. Under the leadership of Henry T. McDonald, Storer converted into a college in 1938.

Storer College set the groundwork for integrated education across the rest of the Nation. For many years, it was the only school that allowed African Americans to acquire an education past elementary school.

By the end of the 19th century, our Nation faced another battle marked with Jim Crow laws and legal segregation. To combat these injustices, many brilliant leaders in the African-American community created the Niagra Movement, a precursor to the NAACP. The second meeting of the Niagra Movement was held at Storer College in 1906. It was supported by such leaders as W.E.B. Du Bois, William Monroe Trotter, and Booker T. Washington.

In 1954, legal segregation came to an end with the Supreme Court's decision in Brown v. the Board of Education. This decision, while revolutionary across our Nation, also brought an end to Federal and State funding for Storer College, and regrettably, its doors closed a year later.

Today, though no longer a learning institution, the National Park Service continues the college's mission to welcome individuals of all backgrounds by

using the campus as a training facility. It continues to serve as a staunch reminder of triumph over injustice.

As we reflect on Storer's history, it is important that we continue to pass down this legacy for future generations because it remains relevant in so many ways to this day.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:16 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 361. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to codify authority under existing grant guidance authorizing use of Urban Area Security Initiative and State Homeland Security Grant Program funding for enhancing medical preparedness, medical surge capacity, and mass prophylaxis capabilities.

H.R. 615. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to take administrative action to achieve and maintain interoperable communications capabilities among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

H.R. 623. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Department of Homeland Security to establish a social media working group, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 12. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the United States Capitol for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal to Jack Nicklaus.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 361. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to codify authority under existing grant guidance authorizing use of Urban Area Security Initiative and State Homeland Security Grant Program funding for enhancing medical preparedness, medical surge capacity, and mass prophylaxis capabilities; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 615. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to take administrative action to achieve and maintain interoperable communications capabilities among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 623. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Department of Homeland Security to establish a social media working group, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 338. A bill to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

S. 339. A bill to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 entirely.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ALEXANDER, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, without amendment:

S. 192. A bill to reauthorize the Older Americans Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 340. A bill to make certain luggage and travel articles eligible for duty-free treatment under the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. CARPER):

S. 341. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent certain small business tax provisions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 342. A bill to promote the use of blended learning in classrooms across America; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 343. A bill to ensure that individuals do not simultaneously receive unemployment compensation and disability insurance benefits; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. BURR):

S. 344. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to equalize the excise tax on liquefied petroleum gas and liquefied natural gas; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. 345. A bill to limit the level of premium subsidy provided by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation to agricultural producers; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 346. A bill to withdraw certain land located in Curry County and Josephine County, Oregon, from all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws, location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and operation under the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 347. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that the individual health insurance mandate not apply until the employer health insurance mandate is enforced without exceptions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 348. A bill to impose enhanced penalties for conduct relating to unlawful production of a controlled substance on Federal property or while intentionally trespassing on the property of another that causes environmental damage; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. NELSON):

S. 349. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to empower individuals with disabilities to establish their own supplemental needs trusts; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 350. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for transparency of payments made from the Judgment Fund; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HELLER:

S. 351. A bill to prevent homeowners from being forced to pay taxes on forgiven mortgage loan debt; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. AYOTTE (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KIRK, Mr. MORAN, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 352. A bill to amend section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an additional religious exemption from the individual health coverage mandate, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 353. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent unjust and irrational criminal punishments; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 354. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 820 Elmwood Avenue in Providence, Rhode Island, as the "Sister Ann Keefe Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 355. A bill to support the provision of safe relationship behavior education and training; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. REED, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Res. 63. A resolution congratulating the New England Patriots on their victory in Super Bowl XLIX; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CASEY, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs.

FEINSTEIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. KING, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. Res. 64. A resolution designating February 2 through 6, 2015, as "National School Counseling Week"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 48

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 48, a bill to prohibit discrimination against the unborn on the basis of sex or gender, and for other purposes.

S. 53

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 53, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify eligibility for the child tax credit.

S. 165

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) were added as cosponsors of S. 165, a bill to extend and enhance prohibitions and limitations with respect to the transfer or release of individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and for other purposes.

S. 183

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 183, a bill to repeal the annual fee on health insurance providers enacted by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 185

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 185, a bill to create a limited population pathway for approval of certain antibacterial drugs.

S. 207

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 207, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to use existing authorities to furnish health care at non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities to veterans who live more than 40 miles driving distance from the closest medical facility of the Department that furnishes the care sought by the veteran, and for other purposes.

S. 212

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 212, a bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to ensure that voters in elections for Federal office do not wait in long lines in order to vote.

S. 228

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 228, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to provide for congressional and State approval of national monuments and restrictions on the use of national monuments.

S. 240

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 240, a bill to promote competition, to preserve the ability of local governments to provide broadband capability and services, and for other purposes.

S. 257

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 257, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to physician supervision of therapeutic hospital outpatient services.

S. 258

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 258, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services.

S. 271

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 271, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 272

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 272, a bill making appropriations for the De-

partment of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

S. 275

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 275, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of home as a site of care for infusion therapy under the Medicare program.

S. 309

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 309, a bill to prohibit earmarks.

S. 310

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) were added as cosponsors of S. 310, a bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds for the costs of painting portraits of officers and employees of the Federal Government.

S. 314

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 314, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of pharmacist services.

S. 326

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 326, a bill to amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to provide cancellation ceilings for stewardship end result contracting projects, and for other purposes.

S. 336

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) were added as cosponsors of S. 336, a bill to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 entirely.

S. 338

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 338, a bill to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

S. RES. 52

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 52, a resolution calling for the release of Ukrainian fighter pilot Nadiya Savchenko, who was captured by Russian forces in Eastern Ukraine and has been held illegally in a Russian prison since July 2014.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED
BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. Kaine (for himself, Mrs. McCaskill, and Mr. Blumenthal):

S. 355. A bill to support the provision of safe relationship behavior education and training; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. Kaine. Mr. President, it is widely recognized that relationship violence and campus sexual assault are major issues facing our Nation. According to the Department of Justice more than 290,000 Americans are victims of rape and sexual assault each year with young women between the ages of 16 and 24 consistently experiencing the highest rate of intimate partner violence. Secondary schools can play an important role in educating young people about relationship behavior and dating violence, but comprehensive health education courses are not required to include these topics, even though similar requirements for including age appropriate content and abstinence-only education already exist.

Safe relationship behavior education is age-appropriate education that promotes safe relationships and teaches students to recognize and prevent physical and emotional relationship abuse, including teen and adolescent dating violence, domestic abuse, sexual violence and sexual harassment. This includes education regarding consent as well as emotional health and well-being in relationships. Currently there is no federal requirement that sex education courses cover topics like sexual assault prevention and discussions about communication in safe relationships.

This is why I am proud to introduce with my colleagues, Senator McCaskill and Senator Blumenthal, the Teach Safe Relationships Act of 2015, which would build upon the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act to develop and implement prevention and intervention policies in middle and high schools, including appropriate procedures for students who are experiencing or perpetrating domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or sex trafficking.

The idea for this legislation developed as a result of a meeting at the University of Virginia with members of One Less, a sexual assault education group that advocates for survivors of rape and sexual assault. With the alarming statistics on the prevalence of sexual assault on college campuses and in communities across the country, secondary schools should play a role in promoting safe relationship behavior and teaching students about sexual assault and dating violence.

Currently, it is not mandatory for schools to offer health education. But if they do, this proposal is consistent

with existing requirements in current law. This bill will amend the Elementary and Secondary Schools Act, ESEA, to include safe relationship behavior education in comprehensive health education and assists State and local educational agencies and institutions to meet the Title IX requirements of the Educational Amendments of 1972. Additionally, this legislation authorizes grant programs to enable secondary schools to educate staff and administration, and provide age appropriate educational curricula for students regarding safe relationship behavior. In addition to being age-appropriate the training and education programs must also be culturally and linguistically appropriate, reflecting the diverse circumstances and realities of young people.

I am hopeful the Teach Safe Relationships Act will be one part of the solution as lawmakers, parents, colleges and universities, and law enforcement continue working together to embrace comprehensive reforms to make our country safer. I strongly encourage my colleagues in the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions committee to consider this legislation in any ESEA reauthorization.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 63—CONGRATULATING THE NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS ON THEIR VICTORY IN SUPER BOWL XLIX

Ms. Warren (for herself, Mr. Markey, Mr. Reed, Mr. Whitehouse, Mrs. Shaheen, Ms. Ayotte, Mr. Leahy, Mr. Blumenthal, and Ms. Collins) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 63

Whereas on Sunday, February 1, 2015, the New England Patriots won Super Bowl XLIX with a score of 28 to 24, defeating the Seattle Seahawks in Glendale, Arizona;

Whereas Malcolm Butler's goal line interception with 20 seconds remaining in the game clinched the Super Bowl XLIX Championship for the New England Patriots;

Whereas the Super Bowl XLIX victory is the fourth Super Bowl Championship for the New England Patriots;

Whereas quarterback Tom Brady broke, tied, or extended 9 Super Bowl records in leading the New England Patriots to their fourth Super Bowl victory and was named the "Super Bowl Most Valuable Player" for the third time;

Whereas Head Coach Bill Belichick, Coordinators Matt Patricia and Josh McDaniels, and the staff of the New England Patriots brilliantly created successful game plans throughout the 2014 season;

Whereas extraordinary efforts by players of the New England Patriots, including Tom Brady, Julian Edelman, Rob Gronkowski, Brandon LaFell, Danny Amendola, Shane Vereen, LeGarrette Blount, Darrelle Revis, Chandler Jones, Jamie Collins, Vince Wilfork, Rob Ninkovich, Devin McCourty,

Don'ta Hightower, Sealver Siliga, Alan Branch, Ryan Allen, Stephen Gostkowski, Brandon Browner, Matthew Slater, and Malcolm Butler, significantly contributed to the Super Bowl XLIX victory;

Whereas the offensive line of the New England Patriots was crucial to their victory in Super Bowl XLIX, and strong efforts by Nate Solder, Sebastian Vollmer, Bryan Stork, Ryan Wendell, Dan Connolly, and Cameron Fleming resulted in the New England Patriots conceding only one sack out of the 51 times quarterback Tom Brady dropped back to pass during Super Bowl XLIX;

Whereas Robert Kraft, the owner of the New England Patriots, deserves great credit for his unwavering commitment and leadership, and for his gracious acknowledgment that the team's Super Bowl Championship would not have been possible without the strong support of the millions of fans who comprise "Patriots Nation"; and

Whereas all members of the New England Patriots "did their job" to help deliver a fourth Vince Lombardi Trophy to New England and are now "on to the White House" to celebrate their victory: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate congratulates the New England Patriots on their dramatic Super Bowl XLIX victory.

SENATE RESOLUTION 64—DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 2 THROUGH 6, 2015, AS "NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK"

Mrs. Murray (for herself, Ms. Collins, Mr. Casey, Ms. Stabenow, Mrs. Feinstein, Mr. Durbin, Mr. Isakson, Mr. Schatz, Mr. King, and Mr. Cornyn) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 64

Whereas the American School Counselor Association has designated February 2 through 6, 2015, as "National School Counseling Week";

Whereas school counselors have long advocated for equal opportunities for all students;

Whereas school counselors help develop well-rounded students by guiding students through academic, personal, social, and career development;

Whereas personal and social growth results in increased academic achievement;

Whereas school counselors play a vital role in ensuring that students are ready for college and careers;

Whereas school counselors play a vital role in making students aware of opportunities for financial aid and college scholarships;

Whereas school counselors assist with and coordinate efforts to foster a positive school climate, resulting in a safer learning environment for all students;

Whereas school counselors have been instrumental in helping students, teachers, and parents deal with personal trauma as well as tragedies in their communities and the United States;

Whereas students face myriad challenges every day, including peer pressure, bullying, mental health issues, the deployment of family members to serve in conflicts overseas, and school violence;

Whereas a school counselor is 1 of the few professionals in a school building who is trained in both education and social and emotional development;

Whereas the roles and responsibilities of school counselors are often misunderstood;

Whereas the school counselor position is often among the first to be eliminated to meet budgetary constraints;

Whereas the national average ratio of students to school counselors is 471 to 1, almost twice the 250 to 1 ratio recommended by the American School Counselor Association, the National Association for College Admission Counseling, and other organizations; and

Whereas the celebration of National School Counseling Week will increase awareness of the important and necessary role school counselors play in the lives of students in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 2 through 6, 2015, as “National School Counseling Week”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe National School Counseling Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the role school counselors play in schools and the community at large in preparing students for fulfilling lives as contributing members of society.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 3, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 3, 2015, at 10:30 a.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Internal Revenue Service Operations and the President’s Budget for Fiscal Year 2016.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 3, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SH-216 of the Hart Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled “Fixing No Child Left Behind: Innovation to Better Meet the Needs of Students.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be author-

ized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 3, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WESTERN HEMISPHERE, TRANSNATIONAL CRIME, CIVILIAN SECURITY, DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND GLOBAL WOMEN’S ISSUES

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women’s Issues be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 3, 2015, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Understanding the Impact of U.S. Policy Changes on Human Rights and Democracy in Cuba.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Eric Bader, a detailee from the Coast Guard, be granted floor privileges for the duration of debate to consider the fiscal year 2015 Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Public Law 94-304, as amended by Public Law 99-7, appoints the following Senators as members of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki) during the 114th Congress: the Honorable ROGER WICKER of Mississippi, Co-Chair; the Honorable RICHARD BURR of North Carolina; and the Honorable JOHN BOOZMAN of Arkansas.

The Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 99-93, as amended by Public Law 99-151, appoints the following Senators as members of the United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control during the 114th Congress: the Honorable CHUCK GRASSLEY of Iowa, Co-Chairman; the Honorable JOHN CORNYN of Texas; the Honorable JAMES E. RISCH of Idaho; and the Honorable JEFF SESSIONS of Alabama.

NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 64, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 64) designating February 2 through 6, 2015, as “National School Counseling Week.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 64) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2015

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 4; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 12:30 p.m., equally divided, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; and that following morning business, the Senate recess until 2 p.m. to allow for the bipartisan conference meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:19 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, February 4, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, February 3, 2015

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FLEISCHMANN).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 3, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CHARLES J. FLEISCHMANN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

EXPAND AND IMPROVE ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, too many people in our country—the richest country in the history of the world—are hungry, and it is a sad reality. Hunger has many faces: children, seniors, veterans, the disabled. One group that experiences hunger and is often overlooked is working families.

Millions of people who work for a living don't earn enough to ensure that their families have enough to eat. They don't earn enough to ensure that their kids have access to quality child care. For millions of working families, every single day is a struggle. We in this Chamber ought to do more to help.

In his State of the Union Address, I was pleased to see the President identify specific ways to support working families: tripling the child care tax credit; increasing the number of slots available and investing in high-quality, affordable child care programs. These are investments that are important to

all families but especially working and poor families.

We know that the early years of a child's life are critical to shaping healthy cognitive, social, and emotional development. Ensuring that all of our young children have an opportunity to thrive in a safe, nurturing environment is one of the best economic investments that we can make. It is the right thing to do, and it pays huge dividends later on.

Families at all income levels know how expensive child care is today. In 2013, the cost of full-time care for an infant in a child care center was about \$10,000 per year, more than the cost of in-state college tuition in many States, and many of the best child care programs cost more than that.

For poor families, the cost of quality child care can be an untenable burden. For these families, it may mean being forced to choose between paying rent, getting medicine, or buying food.

No parent should find themselves in the difficult situation of having to drop their child off at a program that is unsafe or of poor quality just so they can get to their job. Parents shouldn't have to choose between safe child care and keeping their job to pay the bills. For poor families in particular, it is a daily struggle to balance everything and still make ends meet.

Mr. Speaker, last week, the Census Bureau released figures that showed that one in five children in this country received food stamps last year. Let me repeat that. One in five children relied on SNAP. That is 16 million children who relied on SNAP to keep them from going hungry last year, more than at the start of the Great Recession.

We know that our economy is improving slowly, but the gains aren't shared evenly among all Americans. Too many poor and working families are still struggling to make ends meet. We know that despite some of the false rhetoric, the majority of SNAP participants who are expected to work and are able to work, in fact, work.

Families with children have even higher rates of employment than other households on SNAP. More than 60 percent of families with children receiving SNAP have someone in the household working.

Mr. Speaker, these families have a working adult but still make so little that they qualify for SNAP. Without SNAP, these families would not be able to put enough nutritious food on the table for their children and for themselves.

Being poor is hard, and it is expensive. We should do everything we can to support working families. Expanding and investing in child care is an important step toward achieving that goal.

I urge the Republican leadership to support the President's initiatives to expand and improve access to high-quality, affordable child care programs. At the same time, I urge the Republican leadership—I plead with them—to refrain from cutting food and nutrition programs that are essential to a child's healthy development.

It is the right thing to do to support these families, to support food and nutrition programs, to support quality child care programs. It is the right thing to do for all American families. It is especially the right thing to do for our low-income families who have not shared in recent economic improvements and who face tough choices every day.

Families should not be forced to choose between good, safe child care and putting food on the table. That is a false choice; and, quite frankly, in this country, it is shameful that they have to make that choice.

I urge my colleagues to make a renewed commitment to end hunger now. We have the resources, we have the food, we have everything, but we lack the political will.

Hunger is a political condition. We can solve this problem in a bipartisan way if we choose to, if we make it a priority. There are millions and millions of our citizens who are depending on us to do more than we are doing now. I hope that we live up to that challenge. We can and we should do much better.

DEFAULT PREVENTION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, amidst all the controversies gripping Congress, certainly, we should all be able to agree that the full faith and credit of the United States should not hang in the balance every time there is a fiscal debate in Washington.

This Nation now staggers under \$18 trillion of debt, nearly \$7.5 trillion of it run up during this administration. The interest on that debt is one of the fastest growing components of the Federal budget.

If there is ever any doubt of the security or reliability of that debt owed by

this government, interest rates would quickly rise, and our precarious budget situation could rapidly spin out of control.

Ernest Hemingway put it this way. He asked:

How do you go bankrupt? Two ways. First gradually, then suddenly.

So it is with nations.

The debt limit is how we regulate the Nation's debt. It is the national equivalent of a credit card limit. That limit has to be periodically adjusted. It is appropriate for Congress to take responsibility when it is raised. When it is raised, it is also appropriate for Congress to review and revise the policies that are driving that debt.

The fundamental problem under both Democratic and Republican Congresses is that this process is fraught with controversy—the bigger the debt, the bigger the controversy; the bigger the controversy, the more credit markets are likely to be spooked into demanding higher interest payments to meet their greater risk. Given the size of our debt, that could produce an interest tidal wave that could sink our budget and our Nation along with it.

I am, today, introducing the Default Prevention Act with 43 cosponsors to guarantee that the sovereign debt of the United States Government will be paid in full and on time, under any circumstances, even total political gridlock.

It simply provides that if the debt limit is reached, the Treasury Secretary may continue to borrow above that limit for the sole purpose of paying interest and principal that is due. It is an absolute guarantee that the debt of the United States will be honored.

Most States have various laws to guarantee payment of their debts. Three years ago, in testimony to the Senate, Ben Bernanke praised these State provisions for maintaining confidence in their bonds.

This act passed the House in the 113th Congress, but it was never taken up by the Senate. Now, we are approaching the expiration of the government's current borrowing authority. We will soon have serious discussions over the level of our debt and the additional measures necessary to bring that debt under control. We all hope these discussions will go smoothly, but we all know that sometimes they don't.

The Default Prevention Act says loudly and clearly to the world that no matter how much we may differ and quarrel, the sovereign debt of this Nation is guaranteed, and their loans to this government are absolutely safe.

Last session, the Democrats opposed this measure, charging that it is an excuse not to pay our other bills. Do they actually suggest that all these other States—that have guaranteed their sovereign debts for generations, some

for centuries—have ever used these guarantees as an excuse not to pay their other bills?

On the contrary—by providing clear and unambiguous mandates to protect their credit first, they actually support and maintain their ability to pay for all of their other obligations.

The most outrageous claim the Democrats made was that this measure paid China first. What nonsense. More than half of our debt is held by Americans, often in American pension funds. This act actually protects Americans far more than Chinese or other foreign investors.

Whether our loans come from China or Timbuktu, from Grandma's pension fund or Johnny's savings bond, without the Nation's credit, we cannot meet any of our other obligations.

Principled disputes over how the debt limit is addressed are going to happen from time to time. Just a few years ago, then-Senator Barack Obama vigorously opposed an increase in the debt limit sought by the Bush administration.

When these controversies erupt, as they inevitably do in a free society, it is imperative that credit markets are supremely confident that their loans to the United States are secure.

Providing such a guarantee could prevent a future debt crisis and give Congress the calm it needs to negotiate the changes that must be made to bring our debt under control before Congress authorizes still more debt.

I urge its speedy consideration.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this is the week where the President submits his budget. We are seeing a great deal of conversation about many of the provisions. One area that I am pleased has been greeted with positive reaction is his emphasis on infrastructure, on rebuilding and renewing America.

This is a debate that is very important. It is long overdue to focus in on solutions. It is an area of potential agreement: the need to address the fact that America is falling apart while we are falling behind, somewhere on the order of 25th in the world rankings. Where once we had the finest infrastructure in the world, that is no longer the case.

The American Society of Civil Engineers gives us a grade of "D." It is going to cost \$2.2 trillion by 2020 to be able to bring us up to standard. The longer we wait, the worse the situation.

It is costing each American \$323 a year, on average, in damage to their cars because of inadequate infrastruc-

ture, to say nothing of thousands of lives lost because of unsafe road conditions and the potential disruption of business and commerce.

Americans are spending millions of hours a year trapped in traffic. America's highways—which are how we deliver products to stores, to factories—are increasingly congested, causing increased costs due to delay.

The President's proposal is a bit complicated. It deals with other tax provisions that virtually everybody thinks are a long shot, at best, to be enacted.

□ 1015

This is part of the pattern the administration has had in the past: offering up things that, in theory, would make a difference but that are unlikely. Usually they are pronounced dead on arrival. Likewise, the proposals of some of my Republican friends for their approaches, wrapping it into their version of tax reform, have been consistently declared not possible.

We have one, simple, commonsense approach that should be taken—it was highlighted again today in an editorial in *The Washington Post*. It has also been written about in *The New York Times*, in the *LA Times*, in *USA Today*, in *Bloomberg View*, in papers large and small across the country—to raise the gas tax. It has not been raised in 22 years, and in that time, it has lost a significant portion of the purchasing power while America's needs grow.

For 60 years, the gas tax has formed the backbone of how we deal with America's infrastructure finance. The user pays—people who benefit the most pay the most—and it served us well for over half a century.

But over the course of the last 10 years, it is no longer adequate. The fixed amount that hasn't been increased, the erosion due to inflation, increasing the fuel efficiency of vehicles all combine to mean that we are falling short of the mark. We have been required to transfer over \$60 billion from the general fund just to maintain our already inadequate levels of funding, and the current patch expires in May. The clock is ticking. There are opportunities to make a difference.

It is interesting. It is not just the newspaper editorial writers who focus on this as the simplest, most effective, commonsense approach. We are finding in the other body a number of Senators, including Republican Senators, who indicate that they are open to finally addressing and updating the gas tax.

My colleague on the Ways and Means Committee, JIM RENACCI from Ohio, wrote a very insightful article in a recent issue of *Roll Call*. He made the case for our moving forward with increasing the user fee to be able to maintain our roads and bridges, highlighting the costs and consequences.

Mr. Speaker, there is an opportunity for us to move forward. This does not

have to be something that is complicated or partisan. This is something that Ronald Reagan in 1982 called upon the Congress to do, where he in his Thanksgiving Day address asked for the Congress to more than double the gas tax. Tip O'Neill and Ronald Reagan did it. We can do it today. I strongly urge my colleagues to address this simple, commonsense approach and help us rebuild and renew America.

THE VALUE OF VACCINATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this morning, I feel compelled to speak again about the necessity of increasing the knowledge and the notice given by the FDA—the Food and Drug Administration—and the Centers for Disease Control on what seems to be a surge in the getting of measles by many across this country. The numbers have gone past 100. It is clear that measles is a disease that quickly spreads, and it is also clear that medical science affirms the value of vaccines.

So I believe it is extremely important today to again ask the FDA and the CDC, as I did yesterday in a letter, to raise the level of warning and concern to parents, schools, counties, and States in the entire Nation on being able to provide information to encourage vaccination, if that is what is the ability to have—if you are the age or if your child is of the age to be able to receive that vaccination and to do so.

Over the last couple of weeks, we have seen measles spread to enormous numbers. We have seen the numbers grow in California and then spread. We have heard of cases in which the measles started in an entertainment facility, and people moved around the country. One example, in particular, I think, is potent because the father of the children has been speaking out. He is a pediatrician, and he is calling upon families to vaccinate, particularly the MMR, which is the vaccination dealing with measles.

Unfortunately, an innocent visit to a clinic, which a child needs to do for pediatric services, exposed an 8-month-old to the possibility of measles and exposed his 3-year-old sister, who is suffering from leukemia. Now, as I understand it, they are in isolation. There is the thought of someone traveling on an airplane with measles. Unlike a number of other diseases, measles spreads extremely quickly. Stories have been told or examples have been given that if you have measles and if you are in a room and if you leave that room—and maybe you have coughed or done something—an hour later, someone comes in, and there is the possibility that you still may be exposed to it. When riding on an airplane, you may expose a whole number of persons to measles if you are, in fact, infected.

I think it is extremely important. Though we realize there are differences of opinion, I am glad to find in the political landscape that this is not a political football and that, in essence, we come together and recognize the importance of having this information and of encouraging vaccination.

I am asking for the State and city health departments and county health departments across the Nation to provide their own information to parents and schools. I wonder whether or not there is need to again reassess the importance of reinstating the obligation and the responsibility of all families who have children who are going into a public school system to have them vaccinated within the realm of their own health conditions and their own assessments by their pediatricians.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important issue. This is an issue of which we in a modern day, 21st century nation—and as an example of health care to those around the world—need to show the importance of preventative medicine and protecting our children. We have worked on these issues in many ways. We have fought for a vaccine for HIV. As has been said in the past, they are looking for a vaccine for Ebola because we understand how that can intervene and, in those instances, save lives. In this instance, in not knowing the condition of individuals, we know that this disease can be damaging.

It is important that we focus on educating the public. I believe an alert should go out that we have a problem and that we should be working with our local health facilities and disciplines and districts to be able to establish best practices and protocols, and that parents and others should be informed to make intelligent decisions.

More importantly, I think this is an issue that should be quickly assessed on behalf of the CDC and the FDA. Mr. Speaker, it is important for the children of America that we provide them the safety and security for their lives.

FIFTY YEARS FROM SELMA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, in one of his great books, Martin Luther King, Jr., asked the question: Where do we go from here—chaos or community?

Mr. Speaker, today, 50 years after Selma, that question is still in need of an answer.

One area in need of aggressive action is persistent poverty, and I want to thank President Obama for sending us a budget that equalizes the Tax Code and that, if substantially enacted, will move us closer to what Dr. King often referred to as the “beloved community.”

Statistics show that there are nearly 500 counties and thousands of commu-

nities in the United States that are classified by the Census Bureau as “persistent-poverty areas.” They are certified because 20 percent of their populations have lived below the poverty line for the last 30 or more years. They are diverse communities, including Caucasian communities in States like West Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee; Native American communities in States like South Dakota, Alaska, and Oklahoma; Latino communities in States like Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas; and African American communities in States like South Carolina, Alabama, and Mississippi. They are urban communities in States like New York and heartland communities in States like Missouri.

There are 139 of these counties that are represented in this House by Democrats, 331 by Republicans, and 18 are split between the two parties. Combating persistent poverty should matter to all of us regardless of party, geography, or race.

In early 2009, as we were putting together the Recovery Act, I proposed language to require at least 10 percent of funds in three rural development accounts to be directed to efforts in these persistent-poverty counties. This requirement was enacted into law. In light of the definition of “persistent-poverty counties” as having at least 20 percent poverty rates over 30 years, this provision became known as the “10-20-30 initiative.”

In using the 10-20-30 formula, the Recovery Act funded a total of 4,655 projects in persistent-poverty counties, totaling nearly \$1.7 billion. I saw firsthand the positive effects of these projects in my district. We were able to undertake projects and create jobs that would have otherwise languished. Among these investments were a \$5.8 million grant and a \$2 million loan to construct 51 miles of water lines in the rural community of Brittons Neck in Marion County, South Carolina.

There are many other success stories. In Lowndes County, Mississippi, \$17.5 million was spent to install a water line, elevator tank, and two wastewater pump stations, providing potable water to rural Mississippians and creating badly needed construction jobs.

In 2011, I joined with our former Republican colleague, Representative Jo Ann Emerson of Missouri, to introduce an amendment to the continuing resolution that would have continued 10-20-30 for rural development and would have expanded it to 11 additional accounts throughout the Federal budget to enhance economic development, education, job training, health, justice, the environment, and much more.

I want to make one thing clear about the 10-20-30 approach. It does not add one dime to the deficit. It simply targets resources from funds already authorized or appropriated.

Over the past 30 years, the national economy has risen and fallen multiple

times. During these economic downturns, we have been rightly focused on getting our economy, as a whole, on track. We have not given adequate attention to these communities that are suffering from chronic distress and Depression-era levels of joblessness.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that, as we undertake this budget, we will find ways to work together to move our Nation closer to Dr. King's dream of a beloved community.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 29 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving God, thank You for giving us another day.

All of Congress today remembers the heroic sacrifices and accomplishments of the First Special Service Force of World War II when Americans and Canadians formed for the first time a combined unit trained to be a small, elite corps capable of accomplishing the seemingly impossible.

May their story be an inspiration to the Members of this people's House where a similar cooperative effort toward a shared common goal appears all too often to be seemingly impossible.

We ask, O God, that all who populate these hallways this day be possessed of goodwill, appreciative of the great exploits of so many of our American ancestors.

And may all that is said and done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S BUDGET PROPOSAL

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, President Obama released his budget. Unfortunately, it is right out of the liberals' tax-and-spend playbook.

Apparently, the President thinks that since he has already added \$7.5 trillion to America's record \$18 trillion debt, what is \$8.5 trillion more?

As chairman of the Social Security Subcommittee, I am also concerned that President Obama has once again ignored the grim finances of Social Security, and that is a shame because we cannot keep kicking the can down the road. It is just not fair or right to the millions of hardworking Americans who have paid into Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, contrary to what Obama likes to say in his speeches, too many Americans are still struggling. The last thing this country needs is more taxes, more spending, and more debt.

Americans want, need, and deserve better.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S BUDGET

(Mr. SWALWELL of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, this week, the President put forward his budget. Now, this House has an opportunity to put forward one of our own that reflects the values of those we represent.

We have a choice. We can embrace and support the President's budget

that lifts all Americans up, or we can pass another House Republican budget that keeps Americans down.

In California's East Bay, access to child care is going down while costs go up. Access to education has been reduced while costs go up for those who are lucky enough to get in. Paychecks are going down while everyday costs around us are going up.

With this budget, we can address and fix these problems for the families we represent. We can expand access to child care and cut taxes for families paying child care. We can pass and expand access to community colleges with tuition-free community colleges. We can see paycheck progress by making investments in transportation and infrastructure.

We have a choice. Pass the House Republican budget which will keep families down, or we can lift America up and provide more opportunity for everyone with this President's budget.

PUNXSUTAWNEY, PENNSYLVANIA, CELEBRATES 129TH ANNUAL GROUNDHOG DAY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the town of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, held its 129th annual Groundhog Day celebration.

Each year, I am honored to be a part of this celebration, being in the Pennsylvania Fifth Congressional District, but a snowstorm moving across the region forced me back down to Washington sooner than expected.

Punxsutawney Phil was awakened from his burrow yesterday at 7:28 in the morning and, despite overcast skies, saw his shadow and predicted 6 more weeks of winter.

Groundhog Day is not only about Phil's prediction of the future and how soon the next season will be upon us; it is a celebration of our past, the Commonwealth heritage, and a time for communities to come together and carry on this great tradition for generations to come.

It is truly an honor to have this celebration take place in my home district, and I want to thank President Bill Deely of the Groundhog Club Inner Circle and everyone from Punxsutawney and the surrounding area for their hard work and planning to make this year's Groundhog Day such a special event.

LET EPA DO ITS JOB AND PROTECT OUR WATER

(Mr. CARTWRIGHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, from the shores of the Delaware and

the banks of the Allegheny, to the streams and the creeks that feed them, Pennsylvanians know that water is vital to our health, our recreation, and our wildlife.

Mr. Speaker, our waterways remain at risk. To protect them, the EPA is considering a rule to restore Clean Water Act protections to thousands of waterways in Pennsylvania and across the country. When finalized, this rule will mark the biggest step forward for clean water in more than a decade.

Unfortunately, polluters and their allies are now working to derail this clean water rule. They have even scheduled a rare, joint House-Senate hearing to set the stage for this dirty water attack.

I say it is time for Congress to get out of the way and let EPA do its job and protect our water, as is its charge.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S BUDGET

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the President's budget proposal which was released yesterday.

While I appreciate the President putting forth his vision for the future of our Nation, that vision is neither one that our Nation can afford, nor one that I can support.

Each year, the President brings us a budget that increases spending, raises taxes, and seeks trillions upon trillions of new debt upon our great Nation. If the Republican-led House had agreed to these budget requests, our Federal Government would be 20 percent larger today.

This year, the President's budget proposal proposes another \$8.5 trillion in deficits that will push our debt to well over \$26 trillion in the next 10 years, slowing our economy and leaving the next generation with the legacy of higher taxes and less opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, we must work together—Democrats and Republicans—to balance our budget by cutting wasteful spending, holding the line on spending increases, reforming programs, and reducing the size of government.

Kansans know and the American people know that a leaner, more efficient and effective government is critical to strengthening our economy and creating prosperity and opportunity for every American.

IMPROVE THE QUALITY AND STATE OF OUR INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROTOCOLS AT PORTS OF ENTRY

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the Peace Bridge in my western New York

district is the second busiest border crossing between the United States and Canada, making it essential that people and goods are able to move quickly and efficiently across the bridge. The second phase of a cargo preinspection pilot project at the Peace Bridge recently concluded and is currently under evaluation.

While I have confidence that the bill will call for expansion of preinspection at the Peace Bridge, the pilot revealed several challenges which create delays and require immediate attention.

Internet speeds on the Canadian side of the bridge exceed those on the American side, enabling faster screening. Radiation detectors on the American side are older and often inaccurate, resulting in false negatives that create delays. Finally, empty trucks are not required to provide a manifest, resulting in unnecessary secondary inspections for empty vehicles.

Last week, I wrote to Secretary Jeh Johnson highlighting the urgent need to rectify these issues. We must improve the quality and state of the infrastructure and protocols at ports of entry across the country.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Speaker BOEHNER for appointing me to serve as the Republican cochair of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission. It is a great honor to serve as a voice defending the rights of people worldwide to live free of repression and violence.

I have served as a member of the Commission since its establishment following the passing of our dear colleague Congressman Lantos. A Holocaust survivor, he understood what it was like to live under the thumb of a brutal and oppressive regime.

While we vowed "never again," today, hundreds of millions of people worldwide live under governments that restrict the rights of free speech and religious expression—regimes that persecute minorities, women, and children.

We are blessed to live in a country where individual rights are protected and cherished. Despite our differences, Democrats and Republicans work hand in hand to protect these rights at home and expand them worldwide.

I am particularly honored to share the leadership of the Commission with Congressman MCGOVERN. We have worked together to promote human rights for many years now, and I think there is much we can accomplish together.

REPEALING OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT FOR THE 56TH TIME

(Mr. HIMES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, with all that we should be doing to help address middle class anxiety, to help the economy along, to help with student debt, to help with the challenges that all of our constituents face, what will we be doing this week? We will be repealing the Affordable Care Act for the 56th time—56.

I get it. The first couple of times, Mr. Speaker, I get it. The first couple of times, the Republicans believed that this was a government takeover of health care, that there were death panels, that it was unconstitutional, that it would raise costs in the health care section, that it would be a job killer. None of that turned out to be true.

In fact, the opposite turned out to be true. The Supreme Court said it was constitutional, it actually helped lower costs in the overall health care system, and we are now adding jobs in the private sector faster than we have added them in 10 years.

None of that was true.

What is true is that the Affordable Care Act has given 10 million or more Americans the security for the first time of having health insurance. It has cut the uninsured rate in my State of Connecticut in half.

Do you know what that means? It means that Ann Christman—51 years old, a single mother, could never afford health care insurance—now, she has it. She went to a doctor, and her breast cancer was diagnosed early. She said:

The cancer has been detected at a very early stage, which, with a 98 percent survival rate, has saved my life.

Respectfully, let's leave it alone.

AMERICA DESERVES AN EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT THAT SOLVES OUR NATION'S PROBLEMS

(Mr. POLIQUIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Speaker, a huge congratulations to the New England Patriots for winning Super Bowl XLIX—surgical passes from quarterback Tom Brady, a thunderous spike by tight end Rob Gronkowski, and a crucial goal line interception by rookie cornerback Malcolm Butler.

Although our Patriots earned a thrilling fourth Super Bowl title, I also congratulate the Seattle Seahawks and their fans for battling until the very end of their terrific season.

Maine is Patriots nation. We appreciate hard work and results. In this Chamber, Republicans and Democrats

engage in passionate debate on issues critically important to American families. We have been sent here to move the ball down the field together, to put points on the board for hardworking taxpayers.

Patriots fans, Seahawks fans, and families coast to coast deserve an effective government that solves our Nation's problems. Then we will have a healthy, growing economy with more jobs, fatter paychecks, and more freedom.

Here in this Chamber, we are all Patriots, we are all Americans, and we work for the people.

□ 1215

RICK ORLOV

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, many of us have love-hate relationships with the news media and with various reporters, but today I wanted to rise and express my condolences for a reporter in Los Angeles whom we mostly had a love relationship with and very little hate.

Rick Orlov was a reporter for the Daily News, and he covered Los Angeles City Hall for almost 30 years. I served on the Los Angeles City Council for 10 of those, so I got to know him well.

Do you know what? He earned everyone's respect. Somehow, he made no enemies. Rick was a true newsman, and he focused on writing the news that mattered. He was not interested in gotcha reporting. His longstanding institutional knowledge allowed him to understand and tell the whole story.

Rick Orlov was not only a great reporter, but he was a great man. I considered him my friend, and he really was a piece of Los Angeles. His death is a huge loss for the city and for all of us who had a chance to know him.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(Mr. TROTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TROTT. Mr. Speaker, the President presented his budget yesterday, and I am disappointed to say that it is just more of the same tax-and-spend policies that we have seen over the past 6 years—\$4 trillion of spending, \$2 trillion in new taxes, and more deficits for the next 10 years.

I have only been in Washington for a month, but the prevailing message from the President seems to be that politicians know better than the people, that Big Government is the solution, and that huge deficits are just part of life. This experiment has failed and has hurt the hardworking taxpayers in my district, who built our

economy. Since 2009, the debt has grown from \$10 trillion to \$18 trillion. The new budget has the debt at \$26 trillion in 10 years, and interest payments alone on our national debt will quadruple in the next 10 years.

Now more than ever we need a balanced budget amendment to our Constitution. It is a simple concept: force the Federal Government to live within its means. Families do it; businesses do it; cities, counties, and States are doing it. I urge my colleagues to join me as cosponsors of House Joint Resolutions 1 and 2.

FULLY FUND THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

(Mr. ISRAEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, this month, in a very short period of time, the Department of Homeland Security is going to run out of money. Our enemies, they plot, they plan to do us harm, and this Republican majority in this Congress refuses to give the Department of Homeland Security the full funding they need to keep us safe. What we will do this week is the 56th repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

Mr. Speaker, some in this Chamber may be willing to cater to their base for political reasons, but catering to our enemies in order to cater to the base is unacceptable.

Making it easier for our enemies to attack and do us harm by refusing to fund the Department of Homeland Security so you can score points with your base over a difference you may have with the President on an executive order is not what the American people want, expect, or deserve.

The contrast could not be more clear, Mr. Speaker. There is one party in this House that is willing to undermine our homeland security and to undermine the middle class' economic security. There is another that wants to strengthen both.

OVERTIME

(Mr. TAKANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to show my support for America's middle class.

Currently, government rules allow for only 11 percent of salaried workers to be eligible for overtime pay. Contrast that to 1975, when the income threshold for overtime pay covered 65 percent of our salaried workers. This is because Department of Labor rules prohibit workers who earn more than \$23,660 a year from earning overtime pay.

Recently, I was joined by more than 30 of my colleagues in calling for this

administration to raise the income threshold to \$69,000. At this level, we could cover the same number of workers who were eligible in 1975. For 35 years, American workers have increased their productivity, yet they have not been rewarded. Let's remember that it is a strong middle class that drives economic growth.

Be bold, Mr. President. Your administration can help middle class families. Raise the income threshold for overtime pay.

A COLLEGE EDUCATION FOR ALL

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, making higher education available to everyone has to be a top priority, and the President's budget makes a major commitment to increasing access to high-quality education from preschool through college, particularly at our Nation's community colleges. With the high cost of attending a 4-year institution, community college is often a viable option to so many driven students who are seeking a higher degree without incurring overwhelming debt.

In the President's addresses, he addresses the challenges that so many students face today. In his proposal, his budget makes 2 years of high-quality community college free to responsible students, saving 9 million students an average of \$3,800 a year in tuition.

In my home State of New Jersey and across the Nation, community colleges offer educational opportunities to students just beginning higher education, to people already in the workforce who are looking to gain additional training, and for the unemployed looking to change careers. The President's proposal could benefit them all and countless others for whom higher education currently seems unattainable.

I would just hope that my Republican colleagues across the aisle will join us in making sure that a college education is an attainable goal for all Americans.

GROWING OUR ECONOMY

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is week five of this new Congress, and the American people are still waiting for action to create jobs. Instead of doing that, Republicans seem focused on appeasing and pandering to the most extreme voices in their party. Even some Republicans are appalled by this Republican agenda now that they control Congress.

One Republican Member told the National Journal:

Week one, Republicans had a Speaker election that did not go well; week two, Republicans got into a big fight about deporting

children; week three, Republicans are now talking about rape and incest and reportable rapes and incest for minors . . . I just can't wait for week four.

Now we are in week five, and the new Republican Congress is still working. It doesn't look like we are going to see a jobs bill or an infrastructure bill. Instead, today, for the 56th time, we will see a vote on the floor of the House to take away health care for millions of Americans.

The Republican leadership needs to stop putting the politics of the extreme rightwing of their party in the fore and get back to the work of the American people.

THE BUDGET

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress to admit what people with common sense all across America have known for years: mindless austerity just does not work. It doesn't grow the economy, it does not add jobs, and it doesn't unleash anything except misery.

The sequester was a bad idea from the start. The country needs to embrace its can-do spirit, and Congress has to stop saying: "Sorry, we just can't."

The President's budget is tailor-made to help hardworking middle class families get ahead. It will invest in education, strengthen workers' skills, provide tax relief for the middle class, and rebuild our infrastructure. This is exactly what we need to build on the record of the 58 months of job growth we are experiencing and to make sure that everyone shares in the gains of our growing economy.

FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY

(Ms. GRAHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, to celebrate Black History Month, I rise to recognize Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, one of the oldest and most prestigious Historically Black Colleges in the United States.

The Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, or "FAMU," as it is more affectionately known in north Florida, was founded in 1887 with just 15 students and two instructors. Today, the university has grown to enroll nearly 10,000 students, and it was named by the U.S. News & World Report as the top public Historically Black College or university in the Nation for 2015.

I am proud to represent FAMU in the Second Congressional District of Florida. Their mission and the public serv-

ice they provide is a benefit to north Florida, to our State, and to our Nation.

OBAMACARE HAS WON

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, the Affordable Care Act is working. Here is what I hear:

Women can afford to get pregnant because maternity is covered. Parents sleep better because their children are covered up to age 26. People with pre-existing conditions are no longer terrified that they are going to be uninsured. Small businesses are saving money. Doctors and nurses are saving lives because patients can come to them. In Illinois, over 700,000 individuals are newly insured, and we are not even through with enrollment.

As the President said in this Chamber 2 weeks ago: "That is good news, people."

But, today, we have gone back to the Republican old song book—yet another vote to repeal ObamaCare. Let me warn them that they do this at their peril. Tens of millions of Americans, many insured for the first time and others who can finally afford insurance, will not give it up without a fight.

Let's hope the 56th time of a vote to repeal will be the last so we can get to the real work of raising wages and creating good jobs and passing equal pay and of comprehensive immigration reform and improving retirement security and passing a renewed Voting Rights Act. The war against ObamaCare is over, and ObamaCare has won.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 596, REPEAL OF THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 70 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 70

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 596) to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto,

to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) 90 minutes of debate equally divided among and controlled by the respective chairs and ranking minority members of the Committees on Education and the Workforce, Energy and Commerce, and Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 70 provides for a rule to consider the full repeal of the flawed and ill-conceived Affordable Care Act.

The rule provides for 90 minutes of debate, divided and controlled by the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Committee on Education and the Workforce. Further, the rule self-executes the Byrne amendment, which provides for a clean repeal of the entire Affordable Care Act. The rule further provides the minority with one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

This approach—a full repeal—will give the House, particularly freshmen from both parties, an opportunity to have an up-or-down vote on the Affordable Care Act.

More than just a full repeal, the legislation before us provides for a process whereby the committees of jurisdiction are tasked with coming up with a replacement for the flawed law now being implemented. We know what ideas don't work. Those are the ideas enshrined into law in the Affordable Care Act. Now let's look toward ideas that will work.

□ 1230

I do look forward to working with the Energy and Commerce Committee's chairman, FRED UPTON, to craft meaningful legislation that will actually help the American people instead of strangle them with more government regulation, which is what the Affordable Care Act actually does.

Americans should have the freedom to make their own health care decisions. In March of 2010, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act was signed into law. It was drafted quickly and behind closed doors. It included secret deals, loopholes, drafting

errors, and funding cliffs that allowed Federal agencies to be created without congressional knowledge or oversight.

More and more of the Affordable Care Act's supporters are having to admit to the American people that, in their rush to pass a bill, the same people who put their voting cards in the slot and helped the ACA become law didn't actually know what was in the bill.

Now people are finding out what is in the bill, and they are upset. So upset are the American people that in every election for the House and Senate since the passage of the Affordable Care Act, more and more Republicans were chosen to replace supporters of the flawed law.

Indeed, this past fall, President Obama, in no uncertain terms, declared:

Make no mistake, my policies are on the ballot.

It is actually one of the few times I have ever agreed with this President. His policies were on the ballot, and the American people soundly rejected them, placing a historic majority of Republicans in the House and taking control of the Senate out of the hands of HARRY REID.

The bottom line: the drafting and passage of the Affordable Care Act was not the way to achieve meaningful reform. Many errors occurred through the language. This is why the Supreme Court this spring will be hearing a case that could upend the Affordable Care Act's subsidy structure. This case is entirely the fault of people who drafted and implemented the bill so poorly.

With the Supreme Court case looming, this body—this body—must be prepared to work for the American people and stave off the possible chaos which could ensue. The health care system in America needs reform and improvement, but the law that was passed will cost the American taxpayer millions of dollars, will not improve care, nor will it make it more affordable.

The bill that this House will vote on puts in place a procedure that will begin the process of crafting a replacement that could truly bring affordable access to health care to all Americans. The so-called Affordable Care Act does not accomplish that goal.

We need to start, and start fresh, and we need to address the issues with commonsense improvements that focus on the real issues at hand: creating a health care system that is focused on patients instead of payment, quality instead of quantity, affordability instead of cheapness, and innovation instead of stagnation. The first step is eliminating this bad legislation that simply does not work. That is why, today, I strongly support the repeal of the President's health care law.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Texas for the customary 30 minutes.

I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I rise in very strong opposition to this closed rule and to the underlying bill. Let me just say to my colleagues, to make it crystal clear, that this is an absolutely closed rule.

This bill had no hearings in any of the committees of jurisdiction; it was not reported out by any of the committees of jurisdiction; and the Committee on Rules decided last night that no Member, no Republican or Democrat, has the right to offer any amendments. This is a closed process.

Whatever happened to regular order?

So, Mr. Speaker, here we are again, back on the House floor with yet another pointless attempt by the Republican majority to repeal the Affordable Care Act. Today's exercise in time-wasting gamesmanship marks the 56th time that we have been down this well-traveled road.

Fifty-six. Let's see. That is two score and 16. It is 4½ dozen. But no matter how you add it up, it has to be some sort of world record in political futility.

So it is tempting to say that nothing has changed, but that is not exactly true because, in fact, a great deal has changed since my Republican colleagues first tried to repeal the ACA. Here are some of the things that changed:

The number of uninsured Americans has dropped by 10 million people; 3 million young adults have been able to gain coverage through a parent's plan; insurance companies can no longer discriminate on the basis of a so-called preexisting condition, like, say, being a woman; lifetime limits and caps on coverage have been eliminated; seniors have saved more than \$11 billion in prescription drugs, an average of \$1400 per Medicare beneficiary; copays and deductibles for preventive services for Medicare patients have been eliminated, and the solvency of the Medicare trust fund has been extended by 13 years; and the growth in health care spending in this country is the slowest on record, while health care price inflation is at its lowest rate in 50 years.

All that has happened thanks to the Affordable Care Act. If the Republicans get their way, much of it will disappear in an instant. If Republicans get their way, millions of Americans would lose their health care coverage, millions more would lose the subsidies they receive to purchase plans, millions of children would lose CHIP coverage, millions of seniors would lose benefits, and the deficit would increase.

So let's be crystal clear, Mr. Speaker: this is no longer a theoretical political exercise; this is very, very, very real. If this Republican bill were ever to become law, then real people would see real benefits taken away. That is why President Obama has said very plainly

that he would veto this bill if it ever reached his desk.

There is something else new about this 56th version of Republicans banging their heads against a brick wall. For the first time, according to Politico:

House Republicans want to postpone the full repeal of ObamaCare for 6 months to allow time to come up with a replacement plan.

I have to say, Mr. Speaker, when I read that, I actually laughed out loud. The health care crisis in this country has been happening for years and years—decades. How many studies have been done? How many reports issued? How many hearings and debates and news stories? But after all of that, my Republican friends still need another 6 months to come up with a replacement plan.

Here is an idea. Let's vote down this rule with the understanding that in 6 months—actually, I will give you 7, until after Labor Day—that in 7 months you will be back here with your magic replacement plan, which I assume will be flown in on a unicorn sliding down a rainbow.

I will tell you why, Mr. Speaker. Because Republicans have absolutely no intention of actually doing the hard work of health care reform. This is just a gimmick. It is a chance for their new freshmen to cast their symbolic vote against ObamaCare so they can put out a press release and act like they have accomplished something.

As the Washington Examiner reported:

Republicans know that the repeal legislation isn't ever going to become law. "We are just getting it out of the way," one GOP aide told the Examiner when asked about the repeal vote.

Just getting it out of the way, Mr. Speaker? What a cynical abuse of this House. It is a sham. It is a waste of everyone's time. It deserves to be defeated in this House, and if it ever makes it out of the Senate, it deserves the quickest veto President Obama can muster.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL).

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise in opposition to the rule and the underlying bill. I may be new to this Chamber, but it sure seems like Groundhog Day around here to me. This is the 56th time my friends on the other side of the aisle have tried to repeal or weaken this landmark law, and the puzzle for me is that I know that they believe in so many of the provisions and support them.

Since the passage of the Affordable Care Act, millions of people who didn't have insurance now have it and have

signed up for the marketplace plans; 299,000 in Michigan alone.

I know my friends on the other side of the aisle believe that nobody's health coverage should be dropped when they suddenly get diagnosed with cancer. I know my friends on the other side of the aisle don't want to tell 129 million Americans that they are going to be denied insurance because they have a preexisting condition. I know my friends don't want to kick young people off their parents' insurance plan, and I know they never want to go back to the days of lifetime caps on health coverage or tell seniors they have got to start paying more for their medicine again. This is why I am totally perplexed, because if this bill were to pass, over 9.5 million Americans would be hurt and left behind without access to quality, affordable coverage.

The ACA may not be perfect. The last perfect law that there was agreement on was the Ten Commandments; and honestly, in today's climate, I am not sure we could get it through the Congress today. I urge my colleagues to work together with us on how to improve the law instead of constantly trying to do something they don't believe in.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I am pleased to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS), the chairman of the Committee on Rules.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to rise on the floor today really for two reasons, perhaps three. First of all, to support and defend the Committee on Rules last night where we overwhelmingly are in favor of making sure that every Member of this body has an opportunity to vote up or down on this terrible piece of legislation that is the law that is known as the Affordable Care Act, or ObamaCare.

This last election the people of this country openly asked the question in many districts across this country: Are you for or against this terrible law that was put through this Congress without one Republican vote? So it is only obvious that every single new Member of this body would want to have an opportunity to vote up or down.

Secondly, I want to defend the gentleman, Dr. BURGESS, a member of our committee, who was attacked last night. I unfortunately had taken 2 or 3 minutes away from the chair to attend to some other matters of the committee and was not available to be in the chair.

Thirdly, I want to stand up for my State of Texas. In defense of the State of Texas, there has been a lot of talk about Texas lately, not just last night, but lately. So I want to make sure that people have a better understanding to know why Texans are being attacked,

and that is because we reject big, liberal government that is embodied in the laws that are known as ObamaCare, or the Affordable Care Act.

In defense of our great State of Texas, we represent people of the State of Texas, and I strongly stand with my fellow Texan and fellow committee member, the gentleman from Lewisville, Texas, Dr. MICHAEL BURGESS. Dr. BURGESS is not just a proud member of our delegation and a proud member who represents Texas, just as I do, born in Waco, Texas, but I stand today for why Texas is a great State.

Evidently we have got to defend our honor. It was done last night in the Committee on Rules; it is being done today on the floor of the House of Representatives. I stand in defense of Texas; although Texas I don't think really needs much defense.

Texans are proud people, and we have been a proud people since the days of the Alamo and San Jacinto. That is when we used to be our own nation. Texans are fiercely independent, and we, I think, lead to the very best not only for ourselves, but we are trying to do that also for America.

Texas is thriving, and the reason why we are thriving is because of economic growth, robust job creation, and overall quality of life. American families and businesses all across this country, I think, look to Texas as the leader in freedom and economic opportunity. That is what the Lone Star State is.

In our system of federalism, people can also vote with their feet. In the last 5 years, the Texas population grew by 1.8 million people. People from all over the United States, all 50 States, found a brighter future for themselves in Texas.

Over 1.6 million veterans call Texas home. These are men and women who fought for the freedoms that we enjoy and have today. Because of our communities, they support our veterans, and people know when they look to Texas, those people in Texas care about veterans and protecting our country.

□ 1245

Our churches, our schools, our hospitals, and our charities all lead the way in providing our citizens with things so that the government does not have to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BURGESS. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. SESSIONS. Yesterday, in the Rules Committee, Dr. BURGESS was merely reflecting the views of our home State and the people who live there. Our Nation does better when we allow individuals to succeed, rather than look to government. We need to have a limited government, and people will then have more freedom.

While some people may think that limited government and empowering

families is "crazy," I disagree. I think the numbers prove it. Texas has been called the great American job machine because we are the State that leads the Nation and the world. In fact, if Texas were its own country, it would have the 13th highest GDP in the world.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank the gentleman from Texas for the wonderful commercial for Texas. We all should visit Texas.

He said something that I thought was particularly interesting. He said: We're bringing this bill to the floor because every freshman deserves a vote on the repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

I guess I would ask the chairman: Does he believe that every freshman also deserves a vote on increasing the minimum wage or on comprehensive immigration reform or on adequate child care for our children in this country or on a whole number of other issues which we have routinely been denied the right to even have a vote on these issues on the House floor, which is supposed to be the greatest deliberative body in the world?

What he neglects to tell everybody, including these freshmen—some of whom are Republicans—is that under this rule, you can't amend anything. You have been totally locked out.

The committees of jurisdiction didn't hold a hearing. The committees of jurisdiction didn't hold a markup. Nothing was reported out of any of these committees, notwithstanding the fact that they have been constituted and organized—nothing.

It just shows up in the Rules Committee, and they bring it to the floor under a completely closed process. This is a lousy way to run a Congress.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI).

Ms. MATSUI. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the rule and the underlying legislation.

Here we go again. This bill marks yet another attempt by the Republican majority to repeal the Affordable Care Act but the first time after implementation of many of the provisions that Americans have relied upon.

People think the ACA only provides the ability to buy health insurance on an exchange or marketplace. Yes, it is a new way to shop for health insurance in which you can compare plans apples to apples. Yes, it is a way to obtain subsidies to make that coverage more affordable. Yes, with all these benefits, people can join the system and cover themselves prior to a medical catastrophe.

However, the Affordable Care Act has also accomplished so much more than that. Repealing the law lock, stock, and barrel that has been in place for nearly 5 years is not in anyone's best interest.

As an example, the ACA created the prevention and public health fund, an unprecedented mandatory investment in States' public health systems. The need for this investment has become increasingly evident after public health emergencies in recent months—evidenced by Ebola and, today, measles.

Repealing the ACA today would mean 129 million Americans could again be denied insurance coverage for preexisting conditions. It would mean Americans would no longer have access to free preventive services such as vaccines, disease screenings, well-child visits, and tobacco cessation.

I heard from one of my constituents Lara who, as a freelance film producer with a former cancer diagnosis, found getting health insurance to be impossible. Thanks to the ACA, she now has coverage and is able to have regular checkups to make sure that the cancer does not return.

Do you want to take away all of that? The health care providers, health plans, and consumer advocates in my district and across the country have worked hard to put these provisions in place and to make the ACA work.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. MATSUI. We can't take this away now. It works.

I urge my colleagues to vote down the rule and the underlying legislation.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Thank you, Dr. BURGESS. You are doing an outstanding job with this course and health care in general. I appreciate it so very much. I know my constituents do.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the rule and the underlying bill to repeal and replace the President's health care law.

Health care reform should lower costs and increase access; instead, the President's signature piece of legislation didn't let people keep the plans they liked, raised health care premiums, and cut Medicare by \$500 billion.

When the President said, "If you like your plan, you can keep it," my constituents told me that wasn't true. On average, a 30-year-old woman in Pasco County, Florida, will see her prices increase over 30 percent. Costs haven't been lowered. It is as simple as that.

The Obama administration willingly cut Medicare to pay for a health care law that was poorly written and implemented.

Support H.R. 596, and repeal this law, and support a patient-centered, free market alternative that will lower costs and increase access to care.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments. There is no replacement here. All the Republicans want to do is repeal the Affordable Care Act and take away all these important benefits that people have received as a result of it.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER).

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Thank you, Mr. MCGOVERN, for giving me a chance to tell a little personal story about the success of the Affordable Care Act and its impact on the Perlmutter family.

On election day, my wife, a teacher in the Jeffco school system in Colorado, who had hardly ever been to the hospital, had something that they thought was pretty devastating. She went into surgery on election day.

It turned out it was exploratory. A very rare condition was exposed which required a second surgery. Only a handful of surgeons across this country deal with that kind of condition. The surgeons who do it were outside of the network of the original insurance company that provided insurance for her.

Because of the Affordable Care Act, we were able to go into the exchange and find an insurance company through an outstanding insurance broker. Rocky Mountain Health Plans had a surgeon who could handle this kind of condition and was within their network.

It provided her with fantastic medical care and peace of mind that she was going to somebody who knew precisely what they were doing, and it was all because of the Affordable Care Act.

Under the Affordable Care Act, you cannot discriminate against people with a preexisting condition; so for her, she was able to have the peace of mind that is required for recovery. She got the best medical care possible through a coverage that was professional and prompt in its service.

Physically, mentally, and emotionally, the Affordable Care Act helped her find a physician equipped and qualified to help her condition.

The Affordable Care Act is a civil rights act, and it has got to be upheld.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH), a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. YARMUTH. I thank my friend from Massachusetts.

Mr. Speaker, today, we will take our 56th vote to repeal or undermine the Affordable Care Act.

In my home State of Kentucky—a nationwide success story of this law—521,000 Kentuckians enrolled in health coverage last year. That is more than a half a million people in a State with a population of just over 4 million. Seventy-five percent of those who signed up were previously uninsured.

These are maps of before and after uninsured rates in our 120 counties. The orange and red represent uninsured rates of 14 percent to more than 20 percent. The dark blue is less than 5 percent.

Today, after the Affordable Care Act, every single county has had a reduction in their uninsured rates. In some areas, uninsured rates have plummeted by more than 65 percent.

As we watch these uninsured rates drop, as the counties on this map go from red to green or blue, that is another person getting the care or treatment they need, a family's future transformed, lives saved.

This law is a success. The Affordable Care Act is working, and you need to look no further than the Commonwealth of Kentucky to see the proof.

Repealing the Affordable Care Act at this stage would be an absolute death sentence to thousands of people in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and throughout the country. We cannot let this happen.

I urge a vote against the rule and the underlying legislation.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, can I inquire of the gentleman from Texas if he has any more speakers?

Mr. BURGESS. Yes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I was just curious because it seems like there is no enthusiasm on your side for debating this for the 56th time.

Mr. BURGESS. I generally reserve my enthusiasm for closing.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule for consideration of legislation that would encourage schools to provide career education about local manufacturing jobs.

To discuss our proposal, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY).

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, instead of wasting time on bills that would strip health care away from millions of Americans, we should be focusing on legislation like my bill, the American Manufacturing Jobs for Students Act, which will help connect young people to highly skilled manufacturing jobs in their own communities. A strong middle class begins with early and effective career education.

Small business owners in my district have told me time and time again that they cannot find the workforce they need in the communities where they are located. Many high school graduates are underemployed and have trouble finding innovative and inspiring careers close to home.

My bill would bridge that gap by fostering connections between manufacturing jobs, small businesses, and schools. It will support student engagement and professional relationships

with local businesses through workplace visits and hands-on learning experiences. It will strengthen the economy and help employers find the employees they need close to home.

By giving middle and high school students the opportunity to learn firsthand about exciting and innovative careers in manufacturing, we can strengthen our country's economic competitiveness. We can also encourage manufacturers to keep their production in the United States.

We should do all we can to ensure that job creators stay here to provide opportunities for our own constituents. We should be working together on bills like the American Manufacturing Jobs for Students Act and not on bills which are dead on arrival when they reach the President's desk.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the motion on ordering the previous question on the rule.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Dr. DAN BENISHEK.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the rule and the underlying bill.

I have been a doctor in northern Michigan for 30 years, and I have always put the needs of my patients first. I believe it is time for Congress to do the same thing today.

We need to get to work on finding bipartisan and commonsense solutions that will put the patient and their doctor back in control of health care decisions and help lower the cost of health care while maintaining the quality.

□ 1300

We need to focus on things like allowing people to purchase health insurance across State lines, just like we can already do with car insurance, making health insurance portable so you can take it with you from job to job, another simple change that would improve access to health care. A few of these simple changes would dramatically improve the quality of care available while lowering the overall cost.

Many of the patients that I have been talking to tell me their health insurance has gone up, their deductible has gone up. This is not bringing more health care to the American people. This is bringing less health care to the American people. They have less access to care now than they have had in the past.

I hope all my colleagues today will join me in voting "yes" on H.R. 596 so that we can finally pass patient-centered improvements to our Nation's health care system.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am puzzled by what I just heard from the gentleman about all these alternatives to fix and improve our health care system.

Four years ago, the Republicans passed an identical bill like the one we are considering today in which they said they ordered their committees to report out alternative replacement language or their vision of what a health care reform should be. That was 4 years ago.

They have done nothing but demagogue this issue for 4 years, and here we are again today, playing political gamesmanship with a bill to repeal the Affordable Care Act and take away health insurance for millions of Americans, increase prescription drug prices for our senior citizens, raise taxes on middle class families, and they have nothing to replace it with. This is a waste of our time. This is an insult to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the Democratic leader.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership on this important issue, as important as the health of the American people.

I salute Congresswoman BROWNLEY for her alternative bill that we should be voting on, if we can defeat this rule, that helps students get manufacturing jobs, just what we have been asking for, a collaboration between business and education where kids are trained for good-paying jobs as they leave school.

Instead, the Republicans are putting forth this rule that would, once again, for the 56th time, repeal the Affordable Care Act.

We come together on the floor of the House right now, when we need to pass a homeland security bill to protect the American people. The Speaker said in December, when we didn't pass the appropriation bill for the year, we will do it after the first of the year.

In January, the world was alarmed by what they saw in Paris. The whole world was galvanized around the issue of fighting terrorism and protecting homeland security, except in this hermetically sealed House Chamber.

We still haven't done what we take an oath to do: support and protect the American people when we take an oath of office to uphold the Constitution of the United States. Instead, we have the Republicans continuing to bay at the Moon. They are baying at the Moon, something that is not going to work; and instead of proposing any, which we would be welcome to hear, good suggestions they may have to approve the Affordable Care Act, they are baying at the Moon—56 times.

We have important work to do for the American people. They want us here to create jobs. They want us here to protect them. We need to pass that homeland security bill. Instead, in our hermetically sealed world, oblivious to what is going on outside, we are taking this up.

They want to strip health security from America's families. They are willing to threaten what that means to our economy, willing to jeopardize the need for us to lower costs for businesses is what this bill does.

I have said over and over again, even if everyone loves his or her health insurance or his or her health care, even if that were the case in our country, we would still have had to pass the Affordable Care Act because the cost to individuals, to families, to businesses large and small, to governments—local, State, and national—the cost was unsustainable. That was one of the things the Affordable Care Act set out to do, and I am so pleased to show that the statistics show that the rate of growth of health costs is going at a lower rate than ever in our history—very important.

The CBO projected that this bill would save—what?—hundreds of billions of dollars, maybe up to \$1 trillion over its projected life, the life that we have to account for when we put it before us.

So this is about the health of our people. It is about the health of our economy. It is about lowering costs.

It is important to know what is at stake, because families are seeing the full promise of the Affordable Care Act emerge, to make health care a right for all, not a privilege for the few:

8.2 million seniors have saved more than \$11.5 billion on their prescription drugs since this bill passed, an average of \$1,407 per senior;

105 million Americans no longer have a lifetime limit or an annual limit on their coverage. This is what you want to repeal today;

129 million Americans with pre-existing conditions no longer have to worry about being denied coverage because of their health status. That is what you want to repeal today.

It is also important to note that, with the success of the Affordable Care Act and the 9.5 million people who are signed up in marketplaces, including Medicaid expansion, 19 million uninsured Americans will be covered in 2015.

In addition to that, the Affordable Care Act has pushed forth the solvency of Medicare for 13 years longer. That is what you want to repeal today.

Our Founders, how beautiful they were in all that they did and wrote and their courage and their optimism for the future. They wrote about life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness in the Declaration of Independence. In that Declaration of Independence, that is the independence we want to give people: for a healthier life, the liberty to pursue their happiness without being job-locked because of a health care policy, free to be self-employed, to start a business, to change jobs, to pursue their happiness.

So this is about, again, the health of our country, not just the health care of

our country. On our path forward today, and in the future, the Affordable Care Act will continue to rank up there with Social Security, with Medicare, a third pillar of economic and health security for the American people.

So I urge our colleagues to vote “no” on this rule. Enable Congresswoman BROWNLEY’s education proposal to match kids up with skills and jobs, something that this country needs to move on to legislation to create good-paying jobs, to add bigger paychecks for America’s working families, to stop the stagnation of wages, and to do so in a way that understands how important health care is to reducing the deficit in addition to improving the health of our country.

Again, by the way, the clock is ticking on the bill for homeland security. That is our responsibility: to support and protect. Let’s get about the business that we take an oath to do instead of, for the 56th time, bay at the Moon. It is hard to understand why we would waste the time of this Chamber and the American people on this frivolous resolution.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes for the purpose of response.

First off, I don’t know. Maybe people weren’t paying attention, but the House has passed a funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security. It awaits action over in the Senate. So if the minority leader is concerned, perhaps she can talk to people in the other body about whether or not it might be a good idea for them to take some action, and that would be the correct way to proceed. The House acts; the Senate acts. I refer people who are unclear on that concept to “Schoolhouse Rock,” and it will tell you how a bill becomes law.

People talk about the 56th time we have had something on the floor. Obviously, I don’t know that I can attest to the accuracy of that count, but what I can attest to the accuracy of is that 11 times the President of the United States has signed into law some action passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate and then subsequently signed by the President—11 times—modifying or changing his signature legislation, the Affordable Care Act. Probably what is more telling is the 28 times—28 times—that the President has simply set aside part of his law because it wasn’t convenient.

If the other side wants, I can go through and delineate these one by one. I have, actually, a document prepared by the Galen Institute, and I would refer people to them if they would like to look at this.

But really, some of the things that the President himself has set aside—I mean, who can forget, in a blog post, the administration setting aside the employer mandate, the entire employer mandate. Not surprising, be-

cause when the President was a candidate and he came down to Texas and debated Hillary Clinton for the nomination in 2008, he was against the mandate, and then he was for it. So then he set it aside right before the Fourth of July in 2013. And for people who aren’t paying attention, guess what? It actually started January 1 of this year.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, if only we were debating another subsidy for Big Oil or another tax break for some special corporate interest, my colleagues would be down here with great joy advocating for it.

But when it comes to a bill to ensure that millions and millions of our citizens get health insurance, they want to repeal it. When it comes to protecting our senior citizens who are seeing their prescription drugs being lowered because of this bill, they want to repeal it. When it comes to eliminating pre-existing conditions, they want to repeal it. I mean, that tells you all you need to know about where their priorities are.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BOYLE).

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the Republican majority.

As a new Member, I haven’t had the opportunity to speak on this issue on the House floor or vote on it. When I saw that the previous Congress had voted 55 times to repeal the Affordable Care Act, I was a little concerned that I would miss all the fun. So I am very happy that we now have a 56th vote on this issue, and it gives me an opportunity to say what a strong supporter I am of the Affordable Care Act.

This has worked. More than 10 million Americans have health insurance today that otherwise would not have it. More than 3 million children have been able to stay on their parents’ plan who otherwise would not have had health insurance. And another 3 million, on top of that, have extra protections through State-affiliated agencies, such as CHIP, that would not have it today if not for the Affordable Care Act.

Now, with the rate of the uninsured at its lowest percentage in American history, you would think that with this success that maybe the downside would be that health care costs would have gone through the roof. In fact, quite the opposite has happened. We have just had a year in which health care costs rose by the lowest rate in 50 years—and this is something that all Americans can celebrate, Democrats and Republicans.

So, Mr. Speaker, for the 56th time, this Congress will attempt to repeal the entire Affordable Care Act. It is a mistake. I will join my colleagues in voting against it.

I would say sincerely to Members on the other side, if there are those who are willing to look openly at this issue and say, yes, it has largely worked but let’s address those areas that could do better, I think you will find those, particularly new Members on this side of the aisle, who are open-minded toward that and want to address areas that can be improved. Look at all the times that Medicare has been improved since its initial passage in 1965.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING).

□ 1315

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding and for leading around this Nation on this issue. So far away from Texas as even Iowa, the gentleman from Texas has fought for the full 100 percent repeal of ObamaCare and laid out, I think, a good strategy for the future health care circumstances in America.

First, Mr. Speaker, I would say that, when this passed, many of us went through a long battle here on the floor of the House of Representatives and outside among the masses of people that came here and surrounded the United States Capitol to plead: Do not take our liberty. Let us manage our own health and our own health care, and let us purchase a health insurance policy that is right for us, not one that the government thinks is right for us, and let’s do something that is constitutional.

Well, we watched as that drama unfolded and engaged in that drama. I have a number of scars left over from that. In the end, ObamaCare passed by hook, by crook, and by legislative shenanigan. History shows that. The litigation that has emerged and the litigation yet to emerge will shape this to some degree, but this Congress needs to resolve this.

What had happened was, in the election in 2010, 87 freshmen Republicans were elected into office here to come, and every single one of them ran on the full 100 percent repeal of ObamaCare. That was a transformative election. It shifted the majority from the Democrats to the Republicans, Mr. Speaker, a mandate to repeal ObamaCare. We acted on that mandate.

In fact, the morning after ObamaCare was passed, I was at the door—my staff was actually at the door. I had written a bill in the middle of the night to repeal ObamaCare. I had the first draft to repeal ObamaCare, a component of 40 words, and it applies to two sections of the bill. That bill was drafted March 24, 2010. It was filed March 25, 2010. I filed a discharge petition down here on the floor on the 16th of June 2010—it received 173 signatures—with Republicans in the minority, Mr. Speaker. It has been a long effort.

We voted on the full repeal of ObamaCare, H.R. 2 by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Cantor), on the 19th of January 2011; another repeal by Mr. Cantor on the 9th of July 2012, always with the 40-word King language in it; and again on the 16th of May 2013, H.R. 45.

We have been bringing the full repeal of ObamaCare here to the floor over and over again to give everybody an opportunity—even those who didn't have an opportunity to get involved in this debate—to go on record and tell us where you want to see the future of the health care circumstances here in the United States. Every Republican up to this point has voted to repeal ObamaCare.

Every Member of the House, with the exception of those that were sworn in for the first time this Congress, has had that chance. Now we give everyone that chance, and we will send a full repeal over to the Senate so the nine freshmen Republicans over there can clearly also go on record.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BURGESS. I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman from Texas.

Because we want to elect a President who will take the oath on January 20, 2017, to sign the repeal of ObamaCare at the podium on the west portico of the Capitol as the very first act of the next President of the United States.

So I thank the leadership for incorporating my language into this bill. I thank those all across this country who have stepped up to defend our constitutional liberties, our personal liberties. When this is done, we will get to work on putting together a good health insurance and health care delivery system in America in spite of all of the time that we have lost fighting over this unconstitutional mess called ObamaCare.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I just would remind the gentleman from Iowa that there was a Republican Presidential candidate named Mitt Romney who ran on the platform of total repeal of the Affordable Care Act, and he lost. And, by the way, Obama won Iowa by 51–46.

With that, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was Groundhog Day. How appropriate that the Republican majority chose today for their 56th attempt to repeal or to undermine the Affordable Care Act. These futile, ideological gestures are getting old.

The vote I cast for the health care law is one of the proudest I have cast in my political career because the reforms that we put in place are helping millions of families across the Nation. Americans can no longer be denied cov-

erage for a preexisting condition. Preventive screenings, maternity care, and pediatric care are now all covered. Seniors enjoy relief from high drug costs. Millions of low-income children have health care through the CHIP program. Women's health has been put on an equal footing. Insurers can no longer subject families to lifetime caps on coverage. Annual caps are being phased out.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, the Affordable Care Act has reduced the number of uninsured people by 12 million last year, 19 million this year. My Republican colleagues don't really care about that because they have health care as a Member of Congress. Why should they worry about people who do not have health care?

The CBO has also cut its estimate of the cost of rolling out coverage to millions of Americans, a saving of \$140 billion compared to previous estimates. This is good news. It should be on the front page of every newspaper.

The Affordable Care Act has succeeded by putting people—not insurance companies—in charge of health care. It has given millions of families care that they can depend on. We are a better country because of it.

Let me say to my colleagues in the majority: Give it a rest. Get a life. The American people like this law. The Supreme Court has upheld it. We have had two elections around it. Stop trying to take away people's health care benefits.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts for being astute in reminding us of the vast bipartisan support for the important Affordable Care Act. If I might add, the past Presidential candidate who lost was the same Governor, however, I understand, that supported it and succeeded in his support of it at that time.

But I think what is important is to again remind this Nation that we are now on the 56th annual trip to repeal what has been a lifesaver to Americans across the country. Let me simply share these very potent points:

People not having health insurance include 20 percent of the underinsured who delay receiving care when signs of illness appear; 15 percent of the underinsured had problems paying medical bills; 10 percent of the underinsured needed prescription drugs but could not afford them; 8 percent were hounded by collection agencies, many of them went into bankruptcy because of health issues—of course we have tried to reform that—6 percent did not seek treatment even though they needed it; and, of course, a report by the Congressional Budget Office, The Budget and

Economic Outlook: 2015 to 2025 states that the actual cost of the Affordable Care Act is 7 percent lower than first calculated in 2010.

Let me tell you the real issues, the story of a lady written up in *The Ledger*, dated January 8, 2015, who was diagnosed with leukemia in 2013. She determined that her insurance at that time would not allow her to have health insurance. Her words are: "I thought I was going to die," Ms. Gray said. In her scramble to try to get drugs, she was left holding the bag, yet she was able to get the Affordable Care Act starting on January 1, 2014. It gave her access to the recommended chemotherapy. Her cancer went into remission in the fall, and she is alive.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 15 seconds.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. What about the situation of the measles? Why do we have this dead-end road again, repetitiously voting against the valuable Affordable Care Act that has saved lives?

Does anybody know about Medicare? It goes on and on and on. And many on the other side of the aisle opposed it in 1965.

I am going to stand on the right side of history and support the Affordable Care Act. Vote against this untimely bill.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes for the purpose of a response.

First off, when Medicare passed, it was passed with a bipartisan vote in the House of Representatives, and that is a matter of historic record. In fact, that is one of the weaknesses of the President's takeover of health care in this country is that it passed only with Democratic votes in both the House and the Senate on final passage.

Mr. Speaker, I also went through the number of times that the President has unilaterally delayed, deferred, or simply dismissed parts of his own law. One of, perhaps, the most troublesome, one of the most curious, is when the President set aside entry into his own preexisting pool in January of 2013, they did that because they were worried that they were going to run out of money in the preexisting fund. But the reality was that for anyone who was hoping to get coverage under the preexisting pool beginning in January–February of 2013, they were told: Sorry. Window closed. Go somewhere else.

Then to add further insult to injury, when they couldn't get the Web site up and working at the end of 2013, they actually had to extend coverage in the Federal preexisting pool until March of 2014 so those patients would not be left out in the cold.

So the President has been deeply involved in delaying parts and deferring parts and repealing parts of his very own law.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment that I intend to offer in the RECORD along with extraneous materials immediately prior to the vote on the previous question. This would be the amendment that Ms. BROWNLEY of California talked about, providing manufacturing training for our high school students.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Now, Mr. Speaker, let me begin by talking about the process. Let me say two words about this process: it stinks.

We have a bill before us today on the House floor that bypassed all of the committees of jurisdiction. And I say to my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats alike, if you are on the Energy and Commerce Committee, on the Education and the Workforce Committee, or on the Ways and Means Committee, you should be outraged that legislation that is under your jurisdiction never went to your committees. It just showed up in the Rules Committee last night. And on top of all of that, no amendments are allowed; nobody can offer any ideas.

I have heard some of my Republican colleagues talk about they have ideas for making the Affordable Care Act better or for replacing it. They don't have the opportunity even to bring those ideas to this House floor.

Four years ago, we voted on a similar measure which said that the Republicans would have the committees of jurisdiction report out alternatives. It is 4 years later, and we are doing the same thing over and over and over again. It is a waste of taxpayer time. It is an insult to the American people.

And as far as the substance of what my Republican friends are trying to do, I just wonder if any of my friends on the other side of the aisle would have the courage to say to people face to face, "I am going to take your health care away," because that is what this bill would do. That is what this bill would do, and it is shameful.

When I first ran for office, I said to my constituents that one of the things I was committed to was making sure that everybody in this country had health insurance. Health care ought to be a right. Nobody should have to worry whether or not they can afford to get the health care that, quite frankly, every American is entitled to and deserves. We have made a great stride forward with the Affordable Care Act.

Is it perfect? No.

Could it be better? Yes.

But to come up with bill after bill after bill, 56 times of repeal, repeal, it

is getting old. It is getting boring. People are sick of this.

Let me just remind my colleagues about what this bill has accomplished, just because this is no longer a theoretical, abstract debate. These are some real things that have changed.

The number of insured Americans has dropped by about 10 million people. I mean, that is a good thing. I am sorry my colleagues have a problem with that. But I think most Americans, Democrats and Republicans, think that is a good thing.

Three million young adults have been able to gain coverage through a parent's plan. I think that is good.

Insurance companies can no longer discriminate on the basis of a so-called preexisting condition, like, say, being a woman. I think that is a great thing. I am sorry my colleagues have a problem with that.

Lifetime limits and caps on coverage have been eliminated. That is wonderful.

Seniors have saved more than \$11 billion in prescription drugs, an average of \$1,400 per Medicare beneficiary. That is positive. We knew that there was a flaw, the doughnut hole, in the Medicare prescription drug bill. This fixed it.

Copays and deductibles for preventive services for Medicare patients have been eliminated, and the solvency of the Medicare trust fund has been extended by 13 years. That is a good thing. Now, I know my friends on the other side of the aisle want to privatize Medicare or have no use for Medicare, but for those of us who want to see this program move well into the next century in complete solvency, this is a good thing.

□ 1330

The growth in health care spending in this country is the slowest on record while health care price inflation is at its lowest rate in 50 years. This didn't happen by accident. This happened because we passed the Affordable Care Act, and if Republicans get their way, all of these things will disappear.

This is a debate, I think, about values more than anything else. This is about whether or not we believe that everybody in this country ought to have health insurance, whether or not we ought to make the reforms that I have just mentioned part of the permanent culture of this country.

I think this is good. I voted for the Affordable Care Act. I am proud I voted for the Affordable Care Act. My friends, this issue about health care and access to health care has been around for decades and decades and decades, and my friends have done nothing.

Their prescription for health care reform has been: take two tax breaks, and call me in the morning. That is the total reform that they have advocated

in the time I have been here and in the time I have been paying attention to what has been going on in this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for us to appreciate that this Congress did something positive in passing the Affordable Care Act, and we ought not to let extremists on the other side take the protections away from the American people.

We are going to fight you every step of the way because we believe that people in this country are entitled to health insurance.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" and defeat the previous question. I urge a "no" vote on the rule, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, let me first address the question of process because the Affordable Care Act did pass in the 111th Congress. The Affordable Care Act, as it came to the 111th Congress under then-Speaker PELOSI, was not a bill that had been considered in any of the committees of jurisdiction. H.R. 3590 came to us from the Senate of the United States.

Now, in fairness, H.R. 3590 had passed the floor of the House, I believe it was July of 2009; but H.R. 3590, when it passed the floor of the House, was a bill dealing with veterans housing.

So it goes over to the Senate to await further work, and to be sure, in the meantime, H.R. 3200 and then a couple of follow-on bills were marked up in committees, and then the Speaker condensed things and introduced her own bill.

We heard it on the floor of the House; and, indeed, it passed in November of 2009. Mr. Speaker, that was the end of the line for that bill. No one has seen or heard from it again.

My friends on the other side may remember some parts of that bill. What about the Independent Payment Advisory Board? Was that included in the House-passed bill? No, it was not.

Well, there was a public option because the Democrats felt very strongly about having a public option. Really, they wanted a single-payer system, so a way to move to a single-payer system was to include the public option, but the public option wasn't in H.R. 3590.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3590, a House-passed bill dealing with veterans housing, went over to the Senate where, sometime between Thanksgiving and Christmas, it was pulled out of HARRY REID's desk and amended.

The amendment read "strike all after the enacting clause and insert." All of the housing language was removed, and all of the health care language was inserted. This travesty was passed on Christmas Eve in 2009.

A big snowstorm was bearing down on Washington, D.C., Senators wanted

to get home to be with their families before the airport closed, and so it was passed in the early hours of Christmas Eve in 2009.

Now, shortly after that, Massachusetts had a special election to fill the vacancy that occurred after the unfortunate death of Senator Kennedy. That vacancy was filled for the first time by a Republican from Massachusetts.

I think that was really the first time since the Earth cooled, the first time that a Republican had been elected from Massachusetts. The critical point on that was that HARRY REID no longer had 60 votes over in the Senate.

Prior to that, he had been pretty much impervious: I have got 60 votes. I am going to do what I want. Democrats can bust a filibuster on anything because they have got 60 votes.

After the loss of that 60th vote, H.R. 3590 could not be changed—or at least HARRY REID's assertion was that it could not be changed, and Speaker PELOSI would simply have to pass what he gave her.

Now, there was a lot of resistance here on the House to passing—even on the Democratic side—there was a lot of resistance to passing that bill that came over from the Senate because it was not a House product.

It had the Independent Payment Advisory Board in it. It didn't have a public option in it. Many of the Democratic Members were reluctant to engage on this. In fact, I think the quote from Speaker PELOSI that day was: I don't have 100 votes for this thing over on the House side.

Over the ensuing 3 months, they did convince and cajole enough of their Members to pass this by the slimmest of majorities in the early part of March of 2010, and that leads us to where we are today.

Mr. Speaker, it was the 111th Congress that passed this thing. I had 18 amendments to the Affordable Care Act that I dutifully took up to the Rules Committee when we were in the minority and said: Look, I don't like what you are doing, but let's at least keep it from being quite the problem that it is going to be.

Every one of those was rejected. I lost on a 9-4 vote. No surprise—it is the Speaker's committee, she held the votes on the committee, but don't tell me that this was a process of anything other than what was a very flawed and partisan process.

Now, several people today have referenced the Founders and the Declaration of Independence. The reality is, Mr. Speaker, we are a country that was founded on the principle of government with the consent of the governed.

No one was asking for this thing. No one wanted this thing. Sure, 14 percent of people in this country have been helped, so they like it. Seventeen percent have been hurt, such as myself. I lost my health savings account under

the Affordable Care Act. Seventeen percent of the country doesn't like it.

Most everyone else feels as if, "I am basically unaffected, I may have a problem ideologically either pro or con, but I have not been affected."

Mr. Speaker, I do recommend that people pay attention. The employer mandate actually became effective January 1 of this year. It won't really affect people until next year when medium-sized businesses begin to file their taxes and find that if they have not kept up with all of the laborious reporting requirements and paperwork requirements under the employer mandate, they are going to be in a world of hurt when they file their taxes for calendar year 2015.

Mr. Speaker, today's rule provides for the consideration of a bill to repeal the Affordable Care Act, a piece of legislation that the American people have time and again said they do not want.

I thank Mr. BYRNE for his legislation and for working on this matter. I urge my colleagues to support both the rule and the underlying bill.

The material previously referred to by Mr. MCGOVERN is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 70 OFFERED BY
MR. MCGOVERN OF MASSACHUSETTS

Strike all after the resolved clause and insert:

That immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 645) to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide career education pathways in manufacturing. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommend with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 2. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 645.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT
IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and

a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's *Precedents of the House of Representatives* (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule. . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In Deschler's *Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives*, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on ordering the previous question will be followed by 5-minute votes on adopting House Resolution 70, if ordered, and agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 242, nays 176, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 54]

YEAS—242

Abraham	Gowdy	Mulvaney
Aderholt	Granger	Murphy (PA)
Allen	Graves (GA)	Neugebauer
Amash	Graves (LA)	Newhouse
Amodei	Graves (MO)	Noem
Babin	Griffith	Nugent
Barletta	Grothman	Nunes
Barr	Guinta	Olson
Barton	Guthrie	Palazzo
Benishek	Hanna	Palmer
Bilirakis	Hardy	Paulsen
Bishop (MI)	Harper	Pearce
Bishop (UT)	Harris	Perry
Black	Hartzler	Pittenger
Blackburn	Heck (NV)	Pitts
Blum	Hensarling	Poe (TX)
Bost	Herrera Beutler	Poliquin
Boustany	Hice (GA)	Pompeo
Brady (TX)	Hill	Posey
Brat	Holding	Price (GA)
Bridenstine	Hudson	Ratcliffe
Brooks (AL)	Huelskamp	Reed
Brooks (IN)	Huizenga (MI)	Reichert
Buchanan	Hultgren	Renacci
Buck	Hunter	Ribble
Bucshon	Hurd (TX)	Rice (SC)
Burgess	Hurt (VA)	Rigell
Byrne	Issa	Roby
Calvert	Jenkins (KS)	Rogers (AL)
Carter (GA)	Jenkins (WV)	Rogers (KY)
Carter (TX)	Johnson (OH)	Rohrabacher
Chabot	Johnson, Sam	Rokita
Chaffetz	Jolly	Rooney (FL)
Clawson (FL)	Jones	Ros-Lehtinen
Coffman	Jordan	Roskam
Cole	Joyce	Ross
Collins (GA)	Katko	Rothfus
Collins (NY)	Kelly (PA)	Rouzer
Comstock	King (IA)	Royce
Conaway	King (NY)	Russell
Cook	Kinzinger (IL)	Ryan (WI)
Costello (PA)	Kline	Salmon
Cramer	Knight	Sanford
Crawford	Labrador	Scalise
Crenshaw	LaMalfa	Schock
Culberson	Lamborn	Schweikert
Curbelo (FL)	Lance	Scott, Austin
Davis, Rodney	Latta	Sensenbrenner
Denham	LoBiondo	Sessions
Dent	Long	Shimkus
DeSantis	Loudermilk	Shuster
DesJarlais	Love	Simpson
Diaz-Balart	Lucas	Smith (MO)
Dold	Luetkemeyer	Smith (NE)
Duffy	Lummis	Smith (NJ)
Duncan (SC)	MacArthur	Smith (TX)
Duncan (TN)	Marchant	Stefanik
Ellmers	Marino	Stewart
Emmer	Masse	Stivers
Farenthold	McCarthy	Stutzman
Fincher	McCaul	Thompson (PA)
Fitzpatrick	McClintock	Thornberry
Fleischmann	McHenry	Tiberi
Fleming	McKinley	Tipton
Flores	McMorris	Trott
Forbes	Rodgers	Turner
Fortenberry	McSally	Upton
Fox	Meadows	Valadao
Franks (AZ)	Meehan	Wagner
Frelinghuysen	Messer	Walberg
Garrett	Mica	Walden
Gibbs	Miller (FL)	Walker
Gibson	Miller (MI)	Walorski
Gohmert	Moolenaar	Walters, Mimi
Goodlatte	Mooney (WV)	Weber (TX)
Gosar	Mullin	Webster (FL)

Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams

Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder

Yoho
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NAYS—176

Adams	Gallego
Aguilar	Garamendi
Ashford	Graham
Bass	Grayson
Beatty	Green, Al
Becerra	Green, Gene
Bera	Grijalva
Beyer	Hahn
Bishop (GA)	Hastings
Blumenauer	Heck (WA)
Bonamici	Higgins
Boyle (PA)	Himes
Brady (PA)	Hinojosa
Brown (FL)	Honda
Brownley (CA)	Hoyer
Bustos	Huffman
Butterfield	Israel
Capps	Jackson Lee
Capuano	Jeffries
Carney	Johnson (GA)
Carson (IN)	Johnson, E. B.
Cartwright	Kaptur
Castor (FL)	Keating
Castro (TX)	Kelly (IL)
Cicilline	Kennedy
Clark (MA)	Kildee
Clarke (NY)	Kilmer
Clay	Kind
Cleaver	Kirkpatrick
Clyburn	Kuster
Cohen	Larsen (WA)
Connolly	Larson (CT)
Conyers	Lawrence
Cooper	Levin
Costa	Lewis
Courtney	Lieu (CA)
Crowley	Lipinski
Cuellar	Loebsack
Cummings	Lowenthal
Davis (CA)	Lowe
DeFazio	Lujan Grisham
DeGette	(NM)
Delaney	Lujan, Ben Ray
DeLauro	(NM)
DeBene	Lynch
DeSaulnier	Maloney,
Deutch	Carolyn
Dingell	Maloney, Sean
Doggett	Matsui
Doyle (PA)	McCollum
Edwards	McDermott
Ellison	McGovern
Engel	McNerney
Eshoo	Meeks
Esty	Meng
Farr	Moore
Fattah	Moulton
Foster	Murphy (FL)
Frankel (FL)	Nadler
Fudge	Napolitano
Gabbard	Neal

NOT VOTING—15

Cárdenas	Langevin	Rush
Chu (CA)	Lee	Smith (WA)
Davis, Danny	Lofgren	Tsongas
Duckworth	Nunnelee	Wilson (FL)
Gutiérrez	Roe (TN)	Young (AK)

□ 1405

Messrs. CARSON of Indiana, CUELLAR, Ms. HAHN, Mr. COOPER, Mrs. TORRES, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 242, noes 178, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 55]

AYES—242

Abraham	Griffith	Paulsen
Aderholt	Grothman	Pearce
Allen	Guinta	Perry
Amash	Guthrie	Pittenger
Amodei	Hanna	Pitts
Babin	Hardy	Poe (TX)
Barletta	Harper	Poliquin
Barr	Harris	Pompeo
Barton	Hartzler	Posey
Benishek	Heck (NV)	Price (GA)
Bilirakis	Hensarling	Ratcliffe
Bishop (MI)	Herrera Beutler	Reed
Bishop (UT)	Hice (GA)	Reichert
Black	Hill	Renacci
Blackburn	Holding	Ribble
Blum	Hudson	Rice (SC)
Bost	Huelskamp	Rigell
Boustany	Huizenga (MI)	Roby
Brady (TX)	Hultgren	Rogers (AL)
Brat	Hunter	Rogers (KY)
Bridenstine	Hurd (TX)	Rohrabacher
Brooks (AL)	Hurt (VA)	Rokita
Brooks (IN)	Issa	Rooney (FL)
Buchanan	Jenkins (KS)	Ros-Lehtinen
Buck	Jenkins (WV)	Roskam
Bucshon	Johnson (OH)	Ross
Burgess	Johnson, Sam	Rothfus
Byrne	Jolly	Rouzer
Calvert	Jones	Royce
Carter (GA)	Jordan	Russell
Carter (TX)	Joyce	Ryan (WI)
Chabot	Katko	Salmon
Chaffetz	Kelly (PA)	Sanford
Clawson (FL)	King (IA)	Scalise
Coffman	King (NY)	Schock
Cole	Kinzinger (IL)	Schweikert
Collins (GA)	Kline	Scott, Austin
Collins (NY)	Knight	Sensenbrenner
Comstock	Labrador	Sessions
Conaway	LaMalfa	Shimkus
Cook	Lamborn	Shuster
Costello (PA)	Lance	Simpson
Cramer	Latta	Smith (MO)
Crawford	LoBiondo	Smith (NE)
Crenshaw	Long	Smith (NJ)
Culberson	Loudermilk	Smith (TX)
Curbelo (FL)	Love	Stefanik
Davis, Rodney	Lucas	Stewart
Denham	Luetkemeyer	Stivers
Dent	Lummis	Stutzman
DeSantis	MacArthur	Thompson (PA)
DesJarlais	Marchant	Thornberry
Diaz-Balart	Marino	Tiberi
Dold	Masse	Tipton
Duffy	McCarthy	Trott
Duncan (SC)	McCaul	Turner
Duncan (TN)	McClintock	Upton
Ellmers	McHenry	Valadao
Emmer	McKinley	Wagner
Farenthold	McMorris	Walberg
Fincher	Rodgers	Walden
Fitzpatrick	McSally	Walker
Fleischmann	Meadows	Walorski
Fleming	Fleming	Walters, Mimi
Flores	Flores	Weber (TX)
Forbes	Forbes	Webster (FL)
Fortenberry	Fortenberry	Wenstrup
Fox	Fox	Westerman
Franks (AZ)	Franks (AZ)	Westmoreland
Frelinghuysen	Frelinghuysen	Whitfield
Garrett	Garrett	Williams
Gibbs	Gibbs	Wilson (SC)
Gibson	Gibson	Wittman
Gohmert	Gohmert	Womack
Goodlatte	Goodlatte	Woodall
Gosar	Gosar	Yoder
	Gowdy	Yoho
	Granger	Young (IA)
	Graves (GA)	Young (IN)
	Graves (LA)	Zeldin
	Graves (MO)	Zinke

NOES—178

Adams Fudge Napolitano
Aguilar Gabbard Neal
Ashford Gallego Nolan
Bass Garamendi Norcross
Beatty Graham O'Rourke
Becerra Grayson Pallone
Bera Green, Al Pascarell
Beyer Green, Gene Payne
Bishop (GA) Grijalva Pelosi
Blumenauer Hahn Perlmutter
Bonamici Hastings Peters
Boyle (PA) Heck (WA) Peterson
Brady (PA) Higgins Pingree
Brown (FL) Himes Pocan
Brownley (CA) Hinojosa Polis
Bustos Honda Price (NC)
Butterfield Hoyer Ruiz
Capps Huffman Rangel
Capuano Israel Rice (NY)
Cárdenas Jackson Lee Richmond
Carney Jeffries Roybal-Allard
Carson (IN) Johnson (GA) Ruiz
Cartwright Johnson, E. B. Ruppertsberger
Castor (FL) Kaptur Ryan (OH)
Castro (TX) Keating Sánchez, Linda
Cicilline Kelly (IL) T.
Clark (MA) Kennedy Sanchez, Loretta
Clarke (NY) Kildee Sarbanes
Clay Kilmer Schakowsky
Cleaver Kind Schiff
Clyburn Kirkpatrick Schrader
Cohen Kuster Scott (VA)
Connolly Larsen (WA) Scott, David
Conyers Larson (CT) Serrano
Cooper Lawrence Sewell (AL)
Costa Levin Sherman
Courtney Lewis Sinema
Crowley Lieu (CA) Sires
Cuellar Lipinski Slaughter
Cummings Loebsock Speier
Davis (CA) Lowenthal Swallow (CA)
Davis, Danny Lowey Takai
DeFazio Lujan Grisham Takano
DeGette (NM) Thompson (CA)
Delaney Luján, Ben Ray Thompson (MS)
DeLauro (NM) Titus
DelBene Lynch Tonko
DeSaulnier Maloney, Torres
Deutch Carolyn Van Hollen
Dingell Maloney, Sean Vargus
Doggett Matsui Veasey
Doyle (PA) McCollum Vela
Edwards McDermott Velázquez
Ellison McGovern Visclosky
Engel McNerney Walz
Eshoo Meeks Wasserman
Esty Meng Schultz
Farr Moore Waters, Maxine
Fattah Moulton Watson Coleman
Foster Murphy (FL) Welch
Frankel (FL) Nadler Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—13

Chu (CA) Lofgren Tsongas
Duckworth Nunnalee Wilson (FL)
Gutiérrez Roe (TN) Young (AK)
Langevin Rush
Lee Smith (WA)

□ 1413

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 267, nays

148, answered "present" 1, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 56]

YEAS—267

Abraham Gabbard Napolitano
Aderholt Gallego Neugebauer
Allen Garamendi Newhouse
Amodei Garrett Noem
Ashford Gibbs Nunes
Babin Goodlatte O'Rourke
Barietta Gosar Olson
Barr Gowdy Palmer
Barton Graham Pascarell
Beatty Granger Payne
Becerra Graves (LA) Pelosi
Beyer Grayson Perlmutter
Bilirakis Grothman Perry
Bishop (GA) Guinta Pingree
Bishop (UT) Guthrie
Black Hahn Pitts
Blackburn Hardy Pocan
Blum Harper Polis
Blumenauer Harris Pompeo
Bonamici Heck (WA) Posey
Boustany Hensarling Price (NC)
Brady (TX) Higgins Quigley
Brat Himes Ribble
Bridenstine Hinojosa Richmond
Brooks (AL) Huelskamp Roby
Brooks (IN) Huffman Rogers (KY)
Brown (FL) Hultgren Rohrabacher
Buchanan Hurd (TX) Rokita
Bustos Hurt (VA) Roskam
Issa Ross
Jeffries Rothfus
Johnson (GA) Royce
Johnson, E. B. Ruiz
Johnson, Sam Ruppertsberger
Jolly Russell
Kaptur Ryan (WI)
Keating Salmon
Kelly (IL) Sanford
Kelly (PA) Scalise
Kennedy Schiff
Kildee Schweikert
King (IA) Scott (VA)
King (NY) Scott, Austin
Kline Scott, David
Knight Sensenbrenner
Kuster Sessions
Labrador Sherman
LaMalfa Shimkus
Lamborn Shuster
Larsen (WA) Simpson
Latta Sinema
Lawrence Smith (MO)
Levin Smith (NE)
Lieu (CA) Smith (NJ)
Lipinski Smith (TX)
Loebsock Speier
Long Stefanik
Lowenthal Stewart
Lucas Stivers
Luetkemeyer Stutzman
Lujan Grisham Takai
(NM) Takano
Lummis Thornberry
MacArthur Titus
Maloney, Carolyn Trott
Marino Tonko
Massie Trott
McCarthy Upton
McCaul Van Hollen
McClintock Vela
McCormack Wagner
McHenry Walden
McKinley Walker
McMorris Walorski
Rodgers Walters, Mimi
McNerney Walz
Meadows Wasserman
Meeks Schultz
Meng Waters, Maxine
Messer Watson Coleman
Mica Webster (FL)
Miller (FL) Welch
Miller (MI) Westerman
Moolenaar Westmoreland
Moulton Whitfield
Mullin Williams
Murphy (PA) Wilson (SC)
Nadler Wittman
Womack

Yarmuth
Yoho

Young (IA)
Young (IN)

Zeldin
Zinke

NAYS—148

Adams Heck (NV) Paulsen
Aguilar Herrera Beutler Pearce
Amash Hice (GA) Peters
Bass Hill Peterson
Benishek Holding Pittenger
Bera Honda Poe (TX)
Bishop (MI) Hoyer Poliquin
Bost Hudson Price (GA)
Boyle (PA) Huizenga (MI) Ratcliffe
Brady (PA) Hunter Reed
Brownley (CA) Israel Reichert
Buck Jackson Lee Renacci
Bucshon Jenkins (KS) Rice (NY)
Burgess Jenkins (WV) Rice (SC)
Capuano Johnson (OH) Rigell
Carter (GA) Jones Rogers (AL)
Cartwright Jordan Rooney (FL)
Castor (FL) Joyce Ros-Lehtinen
Clawson (FL) Katko Rouzer
Clyburn Kilmer Roybal-Allard
Collins (GA) Kind Ryan (OH)
Connolly Kinzinger (IL) Sánchez, Linda
Conyers Kirkpatrick T.
Costa Lance Sanchez, Loretta
Costello (PA) Larson (CT) Sarbanes
Cummings Lewis Schakowsky
Curbelo (FL) LoBiondo Schock
Davis, Rodney Loudermilk Schrader
DeFazio Love Serrano
Delaney Lowey Sewell (AL)
Denham Luján, Ben Ray Sires
DeSantis (NM) Slaughter
Dingell Lynch Swalwell (CA)
Dold Maloney, Sean Thompson (CA)
Duffy Marchant Thompson (MS)
Ellmers Matsui Thompson (PA)
Farenthold McDermott Tiberi
Farr McGovern Tipton
Fitzpatrick McSally Torres
Flores Meehan Turner
Foxy Mooney (WV) Valadao
Fudge Moore Vargus
Gibson Mulvaney Veasey
Graves (GA) Murphy (FL) Velázquez
Graves (MO) Neal Visclosky
Green, Al Nolan Walberg
Green, Gene Norcross Weber (TX)
Hanna Nugent Wenstrup
Hartzler Palazzo Woodall
Hastings Pallone Yoder

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Gohmert

NOT VOTING—17

Chaffetz Langevin Rush
Chu (CA) Lee Smith (WA)
Duckworth Lofgren Tsongas
Griffith Nunnalee Wilson (FL)
Grijalva Rangel Young (AK)
Gutiérrez Roe (TN)

□ 1420

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote today because of a serious illness in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted: Roll Call #54—Yea; Roll Call #55—Yea; Roll Call #56—Yea.

REPEAL OF THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 70, I call up the bill (H.R. 596) to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, and for other purposes, as amended, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Pursuant to House Resolution 70, the amendment printed in House Report 114-13 is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 596

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REPEAL OF PPACA AND HEALTH CARE-RELATED PROVISIONS IN THE HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2010.

(a) PPACA.—Effective on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148) is repealed, and the provisions of law amended or repealed by such Act are restored or revived as if such Act had not been enacted.

(b) HEALTH CARE-RELATED PROVISIONS IN THE HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2010.—Effective on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, title I and subtitle B of title II of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-152) are repealed, and the provisions of law amended or repealed by such title or subtitle, respectively, are restored or revived as if such title and subtitle had not been enacted.

SEC. 2. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

SEC. 3. REPORTING REPLACEMENT LEGISLATION.

The Committee on Education and the Workforce, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives shall each report to the House of Representatives legislation proposing changes to existing law within each committee's jurisdiction with provisions that—

- (1) foster economic growth and private sector job creation by eliminating job-killing policies and regulations;
- (2) lower health care premiums through increased competition and choice;
- (3) preserve a patient's ability to keep his or her health plan if he or she likes it;
- (4) provide people with pre-existing conditions access to affordable health coverage;
- (5) reform the medical liability system to reduce unnecessary and wasteful health care spending;
- (6) increase the number of insured Americans;
- (7) protect the doctor-patient relationship;
- (8) provide the States greater flexibility to administer Medicaid programs while reducing costs under such programs;
- (9) expand incentives to encourage personal responsibility for health care coverage and costs;
- (10) prohibit taxpayer funding of abortions and provide conscience protections for health care providers;
- (11) eliminate duplicative government programs and wasteful spending; or
- (12) do not accelerate the growth of entitlement programs or increase the tax burden on Americans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 90 minutes,

equally divided and controlled by the chairs and ranking minority members of the Committees on Education and the Workforce, Energy and Commerce, and Ways and Means.

The gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE), the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS), the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY), and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 596.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 596, sponsored by BRADLEY BYRNE of Alabama.

Today, the House acts, once again, to repeal ObamaCare. Millions of Americans continue to feel the harmful effects of the President's health care law in almost every corner of their lives.

Recently, I heard from a public schoolteacher who told me that many of our local schools are having trouble finding long-term substitutes for specialty classes such as art, music, and physical education. Under ObamaCare's new definition of full-time work, substitute teachers are strictly limited to 3½ days a week. Children are simply missing out on these important classes or are being pushed into packed, combined classes. Many of our local schools have already had to outsource cafeteria workers and other part-time positions. School districts are spending too much time worrying about Federal mandates rather than the best way to teach children.

Republicans have no shortage of good ideas with which to replace the President's health care law. Last session, there were hundreds of bills introduced to reform health care with more affordable choices. We will hear many of these good ideas and other reasons for repeal today, and I look forward to hearing from my colleagues. The American people continue to oppose the President's health care law, and, today, House Republicans will stand with them again.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I have great respect for my colleague from Pennsylvania, but I just think more and more what I am hearing from my Republican colleagues is what I call "fantasy land." This isn't the America we know.

In the past few years, since the Affordable Care Act has taken effect, so many Americans who didn't have health insurance now have it. Something like 19 million Americans who were uninsured now have health insurance. Millions of young adults have health insurance because they are able to stay on their parents' plans. There are 129 million Americans who can no longer be denied health insurance for having preexisting conditions. Seniors have saved so much money on the prescription drugs. I could go on and on, but I don't need to.

Americans like the Affordable Care Act. It is working. We cannot go back. We cannot turn over the health care system again to the insurance companies, which are going to have skeletal plans, not provide good benefits, raise premiums to whatever they want, and not actually have any help from the Federal Government. When you repeal ObamaCare, or the Affordable Care Act, you are basically giving Americans a tax increase because they are not going to be able to get the tax credits or the subsidies that help them pay for their premiums and make those premiums affordable. This is working. This is happening. This isn't something we can just throw away.

The Republicans say—what did my colleagues say?—that the GOP has no shortage of good ideas. What ideas? Four years ago, when they first took the majority in this House, the House Republicans passed a similar repeal bill and instructed the committees to come back with alternatives. It never happened, and it will never happen again. They might have a few good ideas here and there, but they have never come up with a comprehensive plan to provide Americans with low-cost health insurance and to insure most Americans.

That is what we have done with the Affordable Care Act. We are not going to go back. We are not going to repeal. This is fantasy. The President will never sign it, and I just wish that they would stop wasting our time and would get to things that are actually going to make a difference to the American people.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the vice chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, talk about fantasy. I think that it finds its root in this comment from Jonathan Gruber, who was the architect of ObamaCare:

If you had a law which said that healthy people are going to pay and sick people would get money, it would never have passed. Lack of transparency is a huge political advantage. Call it the stupidity of the American voter or whatever, but that was critical for the thing to pass.

Mr. Speaker, that is the fantasy on which this was based. It does not work.

It has driven up costs. Indeed, we know that 70 of our Democrat colleagues have crossed the aisle and have voted with us to repeal different provisions of this law because it does not work. It is not making insurance more affordable. It is costing more.

One of my constituents is Emily. Her insurance was \$57 a month before ObamaCare. After ObamaCare, with the subsidies, it was \$373 a month. Another constituent, Jimmy, is saying he can't afford to offer the benefits now because of the way ObamaCare has driven up the cost of insurance. It is offer insurance or close his business. Those are the choices. That is why we are here. It does not work, and it is time to get this law off the books.

Yes, there are lots of ideas. Mr. Speaker, just for my colleagues to know, at Energy and Commerce, we have over 100 bills that have been filed that would repeal different provisions of this law, and we are doing it because the American people have said, We are tired of this. It is damaging health care. It is returning us to the day of the old major medical when you had higher premiums, when you had higher out-of-pocket costs, and when you had fewer benefits.

□ 1430

Now, our colleagues across the aisle, Mr. Speaker, may say that those are not suitable plans, but guess what? That is what ObamaCare plans are becoming. It is time to get it off the books and restore choice and option for the American people.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), our Democratic whip.

Mr. HOYER. This bill is about restoring choice not to have insurance, not to have the assurance that if you get sick, you are going to be able to not go bankrupt. That is what this bill is about.

Mr. Speaker, this House is about to hold its 56th vote to undermine or repeal the Affordable Care Act, which came to us, by the way, by route of The Heritage Foundation, as I think probably most of you recall.

But this vote is different than the previously full repeal votes for one significant reason. Since the last repeal vote, the health insurance marketplace has opened and is working. Over 9½ million Americans have signed up through these marketplaces for health care coverage for 2015 so far. That means that with today's vote, Republicans are choosing to take away health care coverage from millions of Americans.

This vote will also remove patient protections and cost savings reforms. To make matters worse, today's vote would also defund the bipartisan popular CHIP program that helps States cover uninsured children. So it abandons children as well.

In 2011, when House Republicans voted to repeal the Affordable Care Act, they included language that said they would replace it with something else; and I say to my friend, Mr. PITTS, Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding that, they have not done so. However, they still have failed to give us an alternative.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from North Carolina (Mrs. ELLMERS), a member of the Subcommittee on Health.

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for this very important discussion that we are having today.

Yes, I rise in support of H.R. 596, which aims to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, otherwise known as ObamaCare. ObamaCare has been a costly disaster to my constituents in the Second District of North Carolina and across this country.

I have heard numerous stories, ranging from young women to senior citizens, and they all touch on the same underlying problem: ObamaCare is unaffordable and results in severe consequences.

As a nurse, I know that repeal alone is not enough because the American people need high-quality, patient-centered health care. I am so proud to be standing with my Republican colleagues and many of the Democrats that we serve with who are now going to say to the American people, not only are we against this awful law, but we are for good, patient-centered health care, and we are going to provide that plan of action for the American people to see.

We need to stand with the American people, who overwhelmingly disapprove of ObamaCare.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN), ranking member of the Subcommittee on Health.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my staunch opposition to H.R. 596, legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Yesterday was Groundhog Day, yet it is today's vote that really feels familiar. The House has now attempted to repeal or undermine the Affordable Care Act for 56 times. It is disappointing that the Republican leadership continues its partisan campaign to undermine the ACA and create barriers for millions of uninsured Americans having access to health insurance.

Based on the latest estimate from the Congressional Budget Office, 19 million Americans—and 20,000 in our Houston area district—would lose their health insurance this year if the ACA is repealed. These are people who would be without coverage today if it were not for the ACA.

H.R. 596 would take away critical benefits and health care coverage for hardworking families. Not only that, this bill would increase the deficit, repeal reforms that help slow the growth in health care costs, and undo basic protections that provide security for the middle class.

It is long past time to stop playing political games on health reform. We need to work to enact reforms that improve and build on the ACA for the good of the American people.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, a lot of those people are on Medicaid and can't even see a doctor.

I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to an outstanding Member from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS).

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I have sat here today listening both to the rule debate and the debate we are having right now, to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who ridicule our relief efforts and joke about the number of votes that we have taken to repeal ObamaCare.

Mr. Speaker, my friends across the aisle may think this is funny, but it is no joke to the folks I represent back in Pennsylvania. It is not a joke to the mother who walked into a pharmacy and found out a drug that cost \$40 under her old plan, the one that the President promised she could keep, now costs \$700 because of the skyrocketing deductibles that she has. It isn't funny to people who have received a cancellation notice in the mail and have been forced onto plans with ridiculous out-of-pocket costs. A woman I spoke to who can't go to a doctor she has seen for 20 years definitely isn't amused by ObamaCare.

There wasn't one single Republican who voted to create the train wreck that is known as ObamaCare, and we made our opposition abundantly clear to voters before we went to the ballots last November.

I urge my colleagues to give Americans what they asked for and support this legislation. Do it for every American who was lied to about the real cost of this law. Do it for the millions who have been hurt by this law, and let's find a better way forward.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS).

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding.

It is not a joke. It is disheartening that here we are for the 56th time again considering a bill to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

This time it is different. This time repeal will do more than simply take away the important consumer protections that hold insurance companies accountable and make sure everyone is insurable.

This time it will actually take health insurance away from millions of families, plans they have both chosen and

paid for. This time it will hit families where it hurts, raising their costs by erasing the benefits that make their insurance more affordable, as well as raising Medicare prescription drug costs.

This time small businesses who have received tax credits to make insurance affordable will lose them, leaving employees without coverage and few, if any, affordable options.

We all know that the Affordable Care Act is not perfect and there are clear areas where we could work together to build on and improve this law, but today's repeal vote would turn back time, reverting back to a system everyone agreed was broken. The American people deserve better than that from us. I ask for a "no" vote.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MOOLENAAR).

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, this is my first speech on the House floor, and today I am here speaking because we are voting to repeal the unpopular and unaffordable Affordable Care Act.

Our Nation has over \$18 trillion in debt, and this law adds to it by spending more money we don't have. The cost of coverage subsidies alone is expected to quadruple over the next 10 years, according to the CBO.

The Federal Government is picking up the tab for Medicaid expansion, and it will eventually pass the enormous financial burden on to State budgets. In the last decade alone, Michigan has gone from one in eight residents enrolled in Medicaid to approaching one in four enrolled in this unsustainable government program.

What is more, this law has the effect of throwing a wet blanket on the economy. Small business owners say rising health insurance costs are their biggest concern, and the health insurance tax costs them \$688 per employee. School districts have cut the hours of part-time employees, and businesses can't afford to hire more employees because of the costs of mandated coverage. We have even seen colleges and universities cut back hours for student workers, and now they earn less money to pay for their classes.

Individuals, families, and businesses all face continuing uncertainty over health care coverage and its costs. The administration, alone, has made 28 changes to the law, including delaying mandates, changing verification requirements, pushing back enrollment dates because the Web site wasn't ready, and expanding waivers to deal with the cancelation of millions of health care plans.

Five years after it was signed, the President's health care law is still changing, and last November the Department of Health and Human Services proposed 35 more revisions. It is time to permanently repeal the exces-

sive spending, the economic pain, and the continuing uncertainty caused by this law and replace it with patient-centered alternatives with lower premiums that allow individuals to choose the coverage they want. It is time to empower patients to take control of their health care choices.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, here is what my constituent Laurel wrote me from Wilmette, Illinois:

Thank you. I am tired of all this belly-aching about health care, so I want to share our story. We are small business owners and have a very expensive policy for our two employees, but we have been stuck with that approach because my husband and one of our kids has asthma and are therefore uninsurable.

Our health care broker just sent us all the health care information for the next year, and our yearly costs will go down if we switch to one of the ObamaCare options in Illinois. Although we don't qualify for subsidies, it is cheaper in all scenarios. In fact, if our usage is similar to what it was the last 3 years, our costs go down 20 percent. The policy is better. Everyone in our family is now insurable. My kids who are still under 21 may be able to get dental insurance, and the out-of-pocket maximum is lowered if someone really gets sick. Wow.

She says:

These savings don't include the benefit of the no-deductible checkups and preventive drug benefits, which have already saved us \$1800 this year. Our health care broker and his partner are signing up for ObamaCare options themselves.

She says:

I would like to know what all those Republican grandstanders who have blocked action at every turn and are now wringing their hands have done for me lately.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire of the time remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 6½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from New Jersey has 9 minutes remaining.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER).

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 596, a bill that would fully repeal the Affordable Care Act offered by Mr. BYRNE of Alabama.

Right now, Americans are being forced to buy a government product or pay a penalty. The Constitution mandates freedom, not the purchase of health insurance or any other product.

We all remember this promise: "If you like your health care plan, you can keep it." In 2013, a reported 4.7 million people in 32 States lost their health insurance when their plans were canceled. That is just the beginning. The Congressional Budget Office projects that 7 million more Americans will lose their health-sponsored coverage in 2016.

Americans were promised that with ObamaCare their premiums would be

lower. Instead, premiums have skyrocketed. Some groups have seen their premiums increase by 78 percent. At the same time, household incomes have gone down.

Today, 4 years after the passage of ObamaCare, there are still more than 41 million people without health coverage. There are millions of people out of full-time work and millions more forced into part-time jobs.

ObamaCare must be repealed and replaced. Americans should be allowed to buy the health insurance they want and need. We need market competition between health insurance providers, and people should be able to buy their health insurance across State lines. This would result in more choices for plans and at lower costs.

We need portability so that when a person changes or loses a job, they don't lose their health insurance. We need innovative reforms for Medicaid and reforms that create incentives for controlling costs, promoting healthier lifestyle choices, and reforms that treat people with dignity.

H.R. 596 starts the process of reforming our health care system by repealing ObamaCare. This is the first step toward true affordable health care that puts people back in charge of their health care choices.

□ 1445

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD).

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this bill.

This vote today marks the 56th attempt by House Republicans to dismantle the ACA. If enacted, more than 19 million people who were previously uninsured would lose tax credits and subsidies that make insurance affordable.

Members who voted for this bill are telling the American people that access to affordable, quality health care should be reserved for only those who have the means to afford it. Let me just tell you a very brief story about a man named Carlton Stevens, Jr., from my hometown of Wilson, North Carolina.

Last year was a very challenging year for the Stevens family of five as they found themselves uninsured. As Mr. Stevens and his wife found themselves between jobs and in a new town, they prioritized finding health coverage for their family.

Mr. Stevens visited the Federal Health Insurance Marketplace to search for coverage and was surprised and elated to know that he and his family qualified for a credit of approximately \$800. He and his wife were able to purchase insurance for his entire family for less than \$200.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would deprive families like the Stevens family of affordable health care in a time of need.

I wonder why my Republican friends are doing this again.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the number one health care concern of the American people is cost. The President promised American families that they would see a \$2,500 reduction in premiums. President Obama was wrong.

According to one study from the Manhattan Institute, American families are seeing premium increases on an average of 49 percent.

At this time, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL).

Mr. HILL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 596 which repeals the President's flawed health care law in its entirety and provides the Congress with a clean slate to implement the real, patient-centered health care reform that this Nation needs and deserves.

The majority of Americans are opposed to ObamaCare and its harmful intended or unintended side effects which have increased costs, decreased health care access, and lost jobs, work hours, and wages for many of our hard-working families.

This is an opportunity to recognize the flaws of mandates and a top-down approach to health care and allows us to finally consider ideas that will result in a health care system that empowers and encourages individuals to take control of and responsibility for their health care through the use of tools like health savings accounts and incentives that reward healthy behaviors.

We need targeted, transparent, well thought out reforms that acknowledge the complexity of our health care system, and with the right kind of reforms, we can get the right kind of health care that is affordable and accessible.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR).

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the Affordable Care Act is a great help to American families.

Most Americans have health insurance through their employer. The ACA provides important consumer protections for those families. They cannot end your policy if you get sick, your copayments and premiums have to go to health services and not to profits for insurance companies, and kids aged 26 or younger can stay on your own health insurance plan.

For Americans on Medicare, the ACA is saving you money. In fact, since passage of the ACA, more than 7.9 million people who rely on Medicare have saved almost \$10 billion on prescription drugs. You have new wellness check-ups, and the Affordable Care Act extended the life of the Medicare trust fund for more than a decade.

Finally, before the ACA, many Americans were barred from health insur-

ance because of a previous diagnosis of cancer, diabetes, or something else. The Affordable Care Act has been a lifeline for them because it ended discrimination and created new marketplaces for Americans to shop for the best plan for their families.

In Florida alone, my home State, 1.5 million Floridians have already signed up for a plan in the marketplace in the upcoming year. That is 1.5 million Floridians.

Please, colleagues, don't take this away. Vote "no" on this bill.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JODY B. HICE).

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time, and I rise in strong support of H.R. 596, the legislation that will repeal ObamaCare.

Mr. Speaker, since its passage in 2010, ObamaCare has put us on the path toward a full government takeover of the health care industry. The American people were sold on this by false promises that ObamaCare would lower the costs and increase access to care.

The first and most egregious false promise came when the President himself said:

If you like your health care plan, you'll be able to keep your health care plan, period. No one will take it away, no matter what.

In reality, some 5 million Americans have lost their plans since that time and have suffered needlessly.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, we were promised that premiums would go down; instead, premiums in the individual marketplace have increased by an average of 49 percent across the country. This is one of the main reasons that only 7 percent of Americans believe that ObamaCare will actually reduce the cost of care.

ObamaCare has also been a drag on the economy. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has estimated that this law will reduce the full-time workforce by some 2.5 million people. The American Action Forum reported that small business wages have already decreased by \$22.6 billion a year.

Mr. Speaker, with its \$1 trillion in new taxes and \$2 trillion in new entitlement spending, we must repeal ObamaCare, and H.R. 596 does exactly that.

Additionally, we must replace this law with patient-centered, free market solutions to the problems that exist in our health care system. H.R. 596 takes the important step of directing the committees of jurisdiction to develop legislation that will do just that.

I ask all of my colleagues to support H.R. 596.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE).

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R.

596, a bill that will completely repeal the Affordable Care Act, which was signed into law in 2010 and was declared constitutionally sound by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Affordable Care Act extends health care coverage to all Americans, regardless of their gender, health condition, or ability to pay.

Unlike other Republican repeal efforts, H.R. 596 does have a bit of a new twist. This legislation instructs the appropriate committees to draft a Republican alternative to the Affordable Care Act and directs them to include provisions that will provide people with preexisting conditions access to affordable health coverage and provisions designed to increase the number of insured Americans.

I am not sure where the Republicans have been over the past 5 years, but those two provisions are already in the Affordable Care Act which is already the law of the land. In fact, the number of uninsured Americans has steadily decreased under the Affordable Care Act to a record low of 13.4 percent by the second quarter of 2014, and Gallup's quarterly trends projected that the uninsured rate will continue to drop over all age groups.

The Affordable Care Act is good law. It should not be repealed, and that is why I vehemently oppose H.R. 596. It is another very cynical attempt to take our Nation backward.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would inform the managers that the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) has 1 minute remaining. The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) has 6 minutes remaining.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. SCHRADER).

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, I have to say that I am very surprised to have to be here today. I thought after millions of Americans said loud and clear this past November that they wanted us to work together and find common ground, we could put divisive bills like this behind us.

When I speak to voters in my district in Oregon, none of them ask me to raise taxes on the middle class which, effectively, this bill does. None of them have asked me to let health insurance plans discriminate against women or those with preexisting conditions, something this bill does. I don't know any seniors that want to pay more for prescription drugs, something that will happen if this bill becomes law.

Nobody I speak with wants the most vulnerable children to go without health insurance which will happen if this bill goes into effect, ending bipartisan support for the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Nobody I know wants to see the deficit grow, to pass on more debt to our

future generations, or reduce the solvency of the Medicare trust fund—again, something that will happen if this bill becomes law.

Mr. Speaker, I don't think my constituents are alone in this. Americans want us to stop wasting time and come together and put this partisan nonsense behind us.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill and get our priorities in line.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to my colleague from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in proud support of the Affordable Care Act and the millions of Americans that have received coverage under this law.

I rise today in support of the idea that in this country, the most powerful in the world, every citizen deserves access to quality affordable health care, and I rise today on behalf of the millions of children who get health insurance through the Children's Health Insurance Program which is also at risk today.

Mr. Speaker, one in five children today are on food stamps, 16 million kids under the age of 18. For the first time in 50 years, the majority of U.S. public school students live in poverty. CHIP was designed in the 1990s to try to address these kids and make sure that they had access to health care. Since then, the uninsured rate for children has dropped from 14 percent to 7 percent.

CHIP funding expires later this year and is included in this bill. More than 8 million children will lose access to health insurance. That is 150,000 children in Massachusetts alone.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to hear those 8 million voices and vote "no" on this bill.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS).

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly oppose H.R. 596, a bill to deny access to health care to tens of thousands of Americans with pre-existing conditions.

Americans should know that these same fear-mongering comments were made when Congress created Medicare. Today, we have millions of grandmothers and grandfathers who would not be alive today had Congress abandoned this critical lifesaving law.

I am proud to have supported the Affordable Care Act last year in the San Fernando Valley which I represent. My office helped experts sign up over a thousand families. Family after family sat there, nervous at first, but after realizing that now their family could afford to see a doctor, I personally witnessed tears of joy.

Republicans need to stop playing games with people's lives. The Affordable Care Act saves lives. ObamaCare never existed. ObamaCare is just a form of a lie. Americans need to learn that the Affordable Care Act is not what people call ObamaCare.

Millions of people will be alive today and tomorrow, and we just have to look at history in Congress to know that fear-mongering should not intimidate elected officials.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it is said that insanity is doing something over and over again and expecting a different result. Well, here we go again, the 56th bill to repeal or undermine the Affordable Care Act.

We all understand that the majority needs to give their freshmen Members an opportunity to say that they voted to repeal ObamaCare, so let's call this what it really is: an exercise in futility.

It may make for good talking points in your districts, but it is bad for our country, and it is a waste of time and a waste of tax dollars. You are in charge with the biggest majority in decades, and this is what you decide to do with it?

Folks on my side of the aisle are willing to work with you on things like investing in roads, growing our economy, creating jobs, and even making improvements in the Affordable Care Act.

Our constituents sent us here to get something done, not to pass bills that are never going to become law. So let's do something meaningful. Let's say "no" to this bill and get on to the work of the people.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, might I inquire how many speakers the gentleman from New Jersey has remaining. We are prepared to close, Mr. Speaker, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1500

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, may I ask how much time I have?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Jersey has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I have listened very carefully to what my colleagues said on the other side. They keep saying they are going to come up with an alternative to the Affordable Care Act, and yet not one speaker mentioned an alternative that they have, and that is because it doesn't exist.

As I said before, 4 years ago they came up with a similar repeal bill. They said they were going to instruct the committees to come back with an

alternative, and they never did, and they never will.

The fact of the matter is, if you listen to my colleagues on the Democratic side, they talked about all the positive things that have occurred because of the Affordable Care Act. Millions—almost 20 million people—who didn't have insurance before now have insurance.

Preexisting conditions, out the window. How many people weren't able to get insurance before because they had cancer or they had other preexisting conditions that made it impossible for them to get insurance, and that is not the case anymore?

Kids who are on their parents' policies, seniors who benefited from the fact that now there is no doughnut hole, and they can basically get their prescription drugs. How in the world do my Republican colleagues come here on the floor and know that all these positive things have resulted because of the Affordable Care Act and just in a moment's notice say they are going to simply repeal it and not even have an alternative to come up with at any point?

It is incredible to me that they want to turn the clock back and don't understand that people have benefited greatly from the Affordable Care Act.

Well, the bottom line is that we, as Democrats, are not going to turn the clock back. We are very proud of the fact the Affordable Care Act has accomplished so much to reform the health care system, to deal with preventative care, to make changes to the health care system that are providing good quality care, good benefits at an affordable price.

The President has said that this bill is dead on arrival. He will veto it. He will take out his veto pen.

So let's not waste our time. Fifty-six votes to repeal; I hope we don't see another one. It is simply a waste of time, and I think that my Republican colleagues, hopefully, understand that.

So, if you have some ideas for the future that you want to make improvements, you want to improve quality, you want to improve access, we will listen to them. We are more than willing to work with you on a bipartisan basis.

But we are not going back to the system that existed before where the insurance companies ran the system. We are not giving it back to the insurance companies.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, as I said before, we have several hundred bills, a menu of options to repeal, to replace, some comprehensive, some targeted.

And I would remind the Democrats that ObamaCare cut \$716 billion out of Medicare to fund ObamaCare.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased now to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from

California (Mr. MCCARTHY), our great majority leader.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, today the House will vote on a bill that we have voted on many times in this Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, you want to know why?

The answer is very simple. The law is a disaster. We still can't afford its costs, and the American people still don't want it.

The House, on both sides, is intimately tied to the will of the people. We talk to, we listen to our constituents every day. In our districts, we listen to them at meetings, in the grocery store, at the gas station, and in our houses of worship. And every 2 years our neighbors either send us back to Washington to fight for them or send someone else.

In the most fundamental way, their priorities are our priorities because we directly represent them. When it comes to ObamaCare, the people could not be clearer.

Mr. Speaker, you know what they have said?

They said, We don't want it. We don't want higher premiums. We don't want to be forced to buy all sorts of coverage that we don't need and can't afford.

Mr. Speaker, they have also said, We don't want to lose our doctors, as millions have. We don't want to give control over our health care decisions to Washington bureaucrats. They have simply said, We don't want it.

But for years, the President hasn't listened.

Now, House Republicans have three priorities. We want to increase freedom, promote opportunity, and hold government accountable.

ObamaCare is against all those goals with its outdated, top-down approach. It limits opportunities by destroying the 40-hour workweek and saddling Americans with more costs. It empowers a government that mismanaged the VA and gives them even more control over American health care systems.

We need a new system. We need a system that puts the patients first, one that controls costs through competition and expands coverage by choice, not coercion. That is the system the House is developing right now.

So if you ask why we are voting to repeal this law again, we are doing it for the people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that every Member of this House who has a direct relationship with their district to listen. But, at the end, have the wisdom to listen but the courage to lead and vote "yes."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time has expired for the Energy and Commerce Committee.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY).

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 596, legislation to repeal the President's controversial and expensive health care law, a law that put 159 Federal agencies, commissions, and bureaucracies in between you and your physician.

Mr. Speaker, today the House of Representatives again acts to repeal the costly mistake known as the Affordable Care Act. In the years since the law's passage, too many Americans have discovered the reality behind the President's promises.

Americans lost plans that they liked and wanted to keep. They saw their premiums soar, and their deductibles, and they discovered their family doctor was suddenly out of network and unaffordable.

They saw their hours reduced at work, and hiring slowed as a result of the law's \$1 trillion in new taxes. They realized that, under the law, more work doesn't necessarily mean more pay.

They saw their tax dollars risked on insurance organizations that are now failing. They tried, frustratingly, to navigate the complicated health care site to get help buying what turned out to be more costly coverage. And soon, millions of unsuspecting Americans may learn that errors beyond their control could leave them on the hook to the IRS.

Today's action is not simply opposing the Affordable Care Act. It is about standing up for our families, patients, small businesses, and local health care providers who have been hurt by this law.

The American people deserve better than this. We need to start over, and that begins with the full repeal of the President's health care law.

But we can't just stop there. We also have to continue to advance our own patient-centered solutions to the problems in health care, solutions that actually lower the cost of health care; to make our current system more fair; to protect the most vulnerable; and put our crucial safety net programs on a path to sustainability for the long term.

I am pleased, Mr. Speaker, that this bill will allow us another opportunity to put forward these ideas, and I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, well, the majority leader says we need a new system. This has been for 4 years their new system—a total blank page.

Their problem is that it is working, that health care is working. It is working for these people: 12 million uninsured Americans who got coverage; over 10 million enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP; 3 million young adults, 3

million who are now covered because of their parents' health policy.

It is working. It is working for the 129 million Americans with preexisting health conditions, so many of whom were out in the cold; for 105 million Americans who no longer have a lifetime limit or an annual limit; and for seniors who got the benefit of filling the doughnut hole.

There is some reference here to increased health care costs. It is a lie. Health care costs have been going down. It is a fib. It isn't true.

I think what bothers Republicans most of all is that it is working, and their ideology is blind to success, or they don't want to see it.

We are going to vote "no." What is this, the 56th time? We have lost track of how many times we voted "no."

We are voting "no" because of the millions of people who were left out by our insurance coverage, who now have the decency of health care coverage and the protection of health care coverage.

We are proud of health care reform, so we stand up to say "yes" to it by voting "no."

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK), one of the health care leaders on the Ways and Means Committee.

Mrs. BLACK. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, as a nurse for over 40 years, I saw how decisions in Washington affected the real people. I witnessed the effects of Congress' action on my patients' faces and in their billing statements.

I understand better than most the need for health care reform, but ObamaCare was never the way to do it. Just ask the 16,000 Tennesseans who lost their health insurance through Cover Tennessee, despite the President's promise "if you like what you have, you can keep it," or the 11 million small business employees who CMS says will see their premiums spike because of the law.

The results are in. ObamaCare was a mistake that hurts the very people it pretends to help. And that is why, today, I will vote to repeal this law once and for all.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) who has worked on health care for how many years, Mr. RANGEL?

Mr. RANGEL. A million and one.

Thank you for this opportunity to try to figure out what is going on on the floor today. Normally, Republicans are rational, intelligent people, and that is the reason why they keep talking about ObamaCare.

It is clear to me that we are not voting on ObamaCare. I haven't seen

ObamaCare in any of the papers we have today, so they must be saying that they want to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. That makes it easier to understand what they want to do.

They want to repeal health care, and they want to replace it with, well, they want to—I don't know what they want to do, quite frankly, but I know they want to get rid of this.

I think we have reached the point that we have exhausted the legislative process. I have figured it out. This Senate is prepared to join with them in this insanity. The only thing missing is the President of the United States.

Now, they must have a plan how they are going to pick up two-thirds of this House and two-thirds of the Senate to tell the world: We don't want Americans to have health care.

Now is the time for the spiritual leaders to come in, because I have been reviewing the Bible, and Christians, Jews, everybody says that we have a moral obligation, far beyond our legislative responsibility, to give the sick an opportunity to get well, to allow children the opportunity to breathe.

And I know the concerns for the unborn that we all have. But what about the born, the aged, the disabled?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. RANGEL. So collectively, we all have to—in God we have to trust. This means we have given up on the process—55, 56 times. It is time to trust in God.

So I am calling upon all of those solid voices there that were waiting to see whether sanity could ever come to the well of this House, and I think we have proven today, don't count on us, God. We need your help. And only God can get us out of this rut.

Thank you for the opportunity.

□ 1515

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER), one of the new Members of the House of Representatives.

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. I thank the gentleman from Texas, Representative BRADY, for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the urgent health needs of this Nation. I asked my constituents to share with me how ObamaCare has affected them, and I want to share a few of their stories with you today.

Troy, from Norwood Young America, wrote that his family's premium went up and coverage went down, drastically affecting the cost of his son's hearing aid.

Brian, from Albertville, said his wife's mental health clinic has steadily lost clients due to regulations.

Today, Congress will vote to get rid of this fundamentally flawed and unworkable law, but this cannot be for show. It is not enough for Congress to simply be against ObamaCare. We need to offer alternatives. By offering market-based, consumer-focused reforms, we can find real solutions, and I am committed to working with my colleagues to get it done. It is time to stop playing party politics with the public's health.

Mr. LEVIN. I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington, Dr. McDERMOTT.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I feel like I am telling a story told to children. The story to the children is this:

When President Obama became President, most people didn't live in the house of health. There were 30 million people who were out in the street who had nothing. So President Obama built them a house and said everybody can live in the house of health and have health care.

Their next-door neighbor didn't like the house, complained about the house, said there was everything wrong with the house, and has tried 55 times to blow the house down, just like the Big Bad Wolf in the "Three Little Pigs." This time, they have come with a bulldozer, and they want to knock the house down and put everybody out in the street again.

Now, this would be not so silly if it wasn't for the fact that they have no plans to build anything for the people to live in. They have talked for 5 years: We have plans. We have a committee. We are going to have plans here any day now.

The fact is they have no plan for the people. They simply say to the American people: We want to knock down your house of health. Your preexisting condition will now keep you from health care. Your kids are off before 26. All of this is going to happen because we don't think you should have a house of health in this country.

They have no plan, and they know it, and they are ashamed of it. But they can't stand the fact that Mr. Obama built a house that covered everybody. It is a glorious creation.

Is it perfect? No.

Did they come over with a hammer or paint or something to change it? No.

It was always: Knock that house down.

Folks, vote "no." Keep the house up.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mrs. WALTERS), a businesswoman and former State legislator who understands the harm of the Affordable Care Act.

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, over 4 years ago, ObamaCare was signed into law and sold to the American people on numer-

ous false promises. Americans were promised that premiums for a typical family would go down. The President told Americans, if you like your health care plan, you can keep it, and, if you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor. However, that was not true, and now many Americans are grappling with a very different reality.

As a result of ObamaCare, millions of Americans have seen their health care plans canceled, families are finding that they may not get to keep the doctor that they like, and premiums in the individual market are increasing by 41 percent in the average State.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve better. Instead of putting the Federal Government in the driver's seat of our Nation's health care decisions, we need solutions that will protect the doctor-patient relationship, foster economic growth, and empower patients by giving them the choice and control.

Today, I am pleased to stand in support of H.R. 596, legislation that would not only repeal ObamaCare, but would instruct the House to come forward with a patient-centered, free market alternative.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL), another distinguished member of our committee.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 596.

You would think that if my friends on the other side cobbled together all of the time they have spent trying to undermine the ACA, they should have been able to come up with an alternative for this law, the law they can't find anything good to say about, but I am not holding my breath for that.

While we have been here 55 times before, including my Republican colleagues shutting down the government over ACA—let's not forget that. You shut the place down in trying to stop ACA. Oh, by the way, you don't know how much that cost, the billions of dollars in jobs. But we will overlook that today. Today is different because they are now repealing the law after the major coverage expansion provisions have gone into effect.

Today's vote to repeal the ACA means taking away health insurance for the 19 million Americans who receive coverage under ACA, including 213,000 people from my home State of New Jersey; second, ending the tax credits 85 percent of Americans with coverage through the exchange are using to help offset the premiums and requiring them to pay back the tax credits they already received; and third, among the many reasons, seniors losing the new Medicare benefits the ACA created, such as lower drug costs and free preventive services.

I want to be there when you tell the seniors in your district that are covered under this plan that they don't

have it anymore. I want you to tell them how much it is going to be increased on prescription drugs. You stand there. Don't pontificate on this floor. Go to your district. Tell the people what you are doing.

Before the ACA, many people were paying for plans that didn't provide them with the coverage they needed. The plans they purchased had high out-of-pocket costs and artificially low caps on coverage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

The Chair would remind Members to address their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman 30 seconds.

Mr. PASCRELL. Through the Chair, my friend from Texas—I call him my friend, I think, sincerely—I agree with him that we want results from what we are spending on health care. We want to see the results, results-oriented, absolutely. That is what health care reform and the ACA are all about.

We are removing ourselves from the fee-for-service, which had made patients prisoners of hospitals. The gentleman from Texas agrees with me on that, I believe. Make the ACA better. Help us improve it for a change. The gentleman knows there are good things in this bill and in this law. Help us make it better for the American people.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER), a new Member of Congress and a former State legislator who helped lead the fight against the damage caused by the Affordable Care Act.

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, one of the best things we can do in Congress to create an environment for more good-paying jobs is to repeal ObamaCare.

Under ObamaCare, health insurance premiums have gone up, access to quality care has gone down, and doctors all over this great land are plotting their exit strategies—not to mention the chilling effect this law has had on our economy, resulting in lost jobs all over America.

It is a simple fact that if you are going to get the best product for the lowest possible price, you must have competition and transparency. We have very little of either in the health care sector today, and ObamaCare, with all its rules and mandates, has made it that much worse.

If we want to do right by the American people, we should allow individuals and families to buy insurance across State lines, let small businesses and other groups establish associated health plans so they can pool their resources and have the leverage to buy health insurance at lower rates, and we should let individuals and families set aside money in health savings accounts tax free.

Mr. Speaker, those are just a few of the simple, common sense steps we can take to help drive down costs. The American people know that ObamaCare is not the answer, and those seeking a good-paying job definitely know it. So let's do what is right. Let's repeal this disastrous law and start anew.

Mr. LEVIN. It is now my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY), a member of our committee and also the vice chair of our Caucus.

Mr. CROWLEY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I heard my friend, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK), as she was finishing her remarks and leaving, she said—I somewhat quote—she hopes this repeal of the ACA will, once and for all, be the end of the ACA. "Once and for all."

If they have done it once, they have done it 56 times. This is not one time. It is 56 times they have wanted to repeal the Affordable Care Act—56 times.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle are probably pretty proud of themselves. After all, Joe DiMaggio, he had a 56-game hitting streak, something people say will never be equated again.

But unlike "Joltin' Joe," this one isn't a streak of hits. It is a streak of losses, a streak of strikeouts for the American people. It is a streak of being willing to sacrifice the health and well-being of your constituents just to make a cheap political point.

This majority is apparently ready and eager to actually take away health coverage. As my friend from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) said, try explaining this to your constituents back home. Take away the health coverage that people have purchased and have been using for over a year.

They would make people, particularly seniors, pay back the tax credits that helped them afford the coverage in the first place. They would ask their seniors to go back to pinching pennies to afford prescription drugs and even force them to repay the rebate check they received for their high prescription drug costs. They would put insurance companies back in charge of what kind of health care you can get and when you can get it and how much it is going to cost.

That is not a win to me. That is not something to celebrate. It is something you should all be ashamed of.

Mr. Speaker, you are no Joe DiMaggio. Some streaks put you at the top. This one puts you at the bottom. And, unfortunately, it puts the American people on the bottom as well.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH), a new member of the Ways and Means Committee, who has quickly become a leader on health care issues.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, we have heard the comment numerous

times, "If you like your health care, you can keep it," what the President had said. Mr. Speaker, we know that that was not true. I would like to give you an example of just one of thousands that I have had from my district.

This comes from Frank. When he contacted our office, he said:

My first personal introduction to ObamaCare was a cancellation notice on December 31, 2014.

He said:

I wasn't cancelled for numerous claims or because of my health. I was cancelled because of ObamaCare.

Let me tell you, he lost his health insurance; and this is the change from his current health insurance that he was supposed to keep to now what he has to have. His current policy premium was \$237.86. His new premium is \$531.89, an increase of 123.6 percent. His deductible on his old policy was \$2,500. His new policy deductible is \$6,350. His copay on his prior policy was a zero copay within the network. His new program has a 40 percent pay above his deductible.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. I thank the chairman.

So let's look at it. If you have a \$30,000 medical procedure, under his old insurance plan, he had a \$2,500 deductible. Under this new plan, with his \$6,350 deductible plus the 40 percent on top of it, he is going to be out \$15,810.

This is what my constituent Frank wrote:

ObamaCare is clearly the biggest, most costly lie that has ever been forced upon me by the Federal Government. It should be entitled what it is, the "Most Ridiculously Unaffordable Health Care Act."

Mr. Speaker, that is why I am standing here today with my colleagues asking for a vote on H.R. 596 to repeal the most ridiculously unaffordable health care act.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, how much time is there remaining, please?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan has 4 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Texas has 7 minutes remaining.

Mr. LEVIN. I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1530

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY), a businessowner who has provided health care to his workers and is a leader on the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 596 because I think it is time for everybody that sits in this House to listen to the American people. This is

America's House. This is the House of Representatives. It is not the Republican Party who disapproves of the Affordable Care Act. It is the American people.

Mr. Speaker, it doesn't matter what poll you look at, whether it is Quinnipiac, Rasmussen, CBS, FOX News, Associated Press, Gallup, or Pew Research. Overwhelmingly, Americans are saying resoundingly: We do not like this bill. We disapprove of this bill.

To continue to say that somehow we are taking something from somebody, wait until the tax season hits. I am talking to people back home that do tax preparation. They are already looking at—they are at just day two of tax preparation; and, my goodness, what we were told was a lie.

Mr. Gruber could not have been more truthful when he said:

Look, we relied on the stupidity of the American people. We lied to them to get this passed.

Mr. Speaker, where I am from, you are allowed to make an honest mistake, but you are not allowed to outright lie to people. They will never forgive you for that.

It is time to repeal this horrible piece of legislation that got passed through lies. It didn't get passed through honesty. I think it is very dishonest to sit here today and say that somehow the Republicans are trying to do something to hurt the American people when the American people speak out and a great majority of them disapprove of this law.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PITTENGER), a small business person and a dynamic Member of our House of Representatives.

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Chairman, thank you for yielding the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 596 to repeal the Affordable Care Act. I would ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle: If this ObamaCare is so good, then why am I hearing so much from my constituents that they can't keep the insurance plans that they liked?

Many have seen their premiums skyrocket, and too many that need help have fallen through the cracks because of a flawed system where ObamaCare picks winners and losers at the expense of the American taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, today's vote on repeal is an important first step. We will replace ObamaCare with patient-centered reforms, increasing competition and lowering costs by allowing insurance to be sold across State lines, ensuring portability, and safeguarding individuals with preexisting conditions, all by providing freedom of choice, not more fines and taxes.

Mr. Speaker, ObamaCare is a train wreck. I urge my colleagues to support

today's repeal and join me in working toward a commonsense replacement.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHIO), a veterinarian involved deeply in health care issues.

Mr. YOHIO. I appreciate you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I stand in support of H.R. 596. The ACA was passed not in open, transparent government; it was passed with not one Republican's support behind it.

We hear on the other side how we are repealing it again. I think you ought to take heed to that notice that the American people sent the largest majority of Republicans back to Congress primarily to repeal this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I have seen my own story. My family's policy—my wife's, our kids', and mine—got canceled because of ObamaCare, and through the House exchange as a Member of Congress, my premium went up \$870 extra a month. That is almost \$11,000 extra it is costing me with decreased coverage and increased deductibility, and the price went up. It was a fabrication that the prices would go down.

If this is happening to me, it is happening to everybody around America, which leads to the quality of our lifestyle decreasing, and health care is not improving because the majority of the people getting care through this are on the Medicaid system.

If you look out at the outcome around the world, our Medicaid health system is at the bottom, and that is why we need to repeal this bill and replace it with reforms we have.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, we may have one additional speaker who is not here yet, so I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot about 56, 56 times we have voted to repeal or defund this bill, but think about the hundreds of times this White House and our Democrat colleagues have tried to force tax increases on families and small businesses.

How many hundreds of times have they tried to force global warming mandates that only drive up energy costs? How many hundreds of times did they force red tape down our local businesses so that they can't possibly survive? How many millions of people have been forced into the health care plans they don't want and forced into higher monthly premiums, higher deductibles, and they can't see their doctor or their hospital or their provider?

Mr. Speaker, these numbers matter. We can do better.

Mr. Speaker, we are ready to close, so if the ranking member would like to

proceed, I would reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT).

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, it is hard to conceive of a democratic society in which everyone does not have health security. When you look across the face of the Earth, every industrialized society on the face of the Earth has given health security to their people. They have had their own plan. The Germans had their plan, the Japanese had their plan, the British had their plan, and the Canadians—everybody has had their own plans.

Now, what we are arguing about here today is the President brought a plan to the Congress and tried to work with the other side, but they said: No, no, no, no.

So we passed a bill. Now, there isn't anybody in this business who has done any work in any legislative body who believes that you can write a perfect piece of legislation. You always have to make changes in it. You find things in it that need to be changed, and we have had no help whatsoever of bringing out the kind of changes that would make sense to make this bill work for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, when you get sick, you are not a Democrat. When you get sick, you are not a Republican. You are not in the Tea Party, and you are not on the left. You are just sick, and you want some help. That is why this bill is way beyond partisan politics.

Mr. Speaker, I had a conversation with Bill Frist. About a year and a half ago, he wrote an editorial in which he said: Don't repeal, fix.

I called him up and said: You and I ought to work together and see if we can't work with the Republican caucus. Maybe you can get into them. They won't talk to me about working together.

He said: Well, I will do what I can.

But we never got there. Everybody knows that you do not want to have a situation tomorrow where you have a preexisting condition and you have no health insurance. That is the kind of thing you are creating by repeal. It is just a bad bill. Just put it aside, and let's work on it.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. BRADY, are you ready to close?

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, how much time do we have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 3½ minutes remaining.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BRAT) to speak about health care and the Affordable Care Act.

Mr. BRAT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of repeal. ObamaCare came with many promises, but the American people are

finally getting the bill in the mail, and they don't like what they see.

We were promised lower costs, but we have seen most premiums and deductibles only skyrocket. Almost nine out of 10 people who buy insurance on the ObamaCare exchange need a government subsidy just to afford it.

Mr. Speaker, as I have traveled my district, I have talked with countless small business owners who think of their employees like family, and they already provide health care coverage for their fine workers; but now that ObamaCare is forcing them to buy more expensive insurance, many are having to lay off their own employees or convert them to part time to avoid these skyrocketing costs.

At a time when we should be growing the economy, ObamaCare is forcing businesses to lay off people, cut their hours, and cut off their health care coverage. Health care in America certainly had problems before this law, but ObamaCare has been a cure worse than the disease.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. BRADY, are you ready to close?

Mr. BRADY of Texas. In a moment, sir, yes, sir. So if you would like to close, we will follow.

Mr. LEVIN. And then you will close?

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Yes, sir.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I insert in the RECORD a Statement of Administration Policy.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT
AND BUDGET,

Washington, DC, February 2, 2015.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.R. 596—REPEALING THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

(Rep. Byrne, R-AL, and 48 cosponsors)

The Administration strongly opposes House passage of H.R. 596. The House has now attempted to repeal or undermine the Affordable Care Act more than 50 times. H.R. 596 would take away critical benefits and health care coverage from hard-working middle class families. In addition to taking away Americans' health care security, the bill would increase the deficit, remove policies that have helped slow health care cost growth and improve the quality of care patients receive, and detract from the work the Congress could be doing to further job creation and economic growth.

The Affordable Care Act is not only working, it is fully integrated into an improved American health care system. Discrimination based on pre-existing conditions is a thing of the past. And under the Affordable Care Act, we've seen the slowest growth in health care prices in nearly 50 years, benefiting all Americans.

Repealing the Affordable Care Act would mean that Health Insurance Marketplaces where millions of Americans now compare private insurance plans and get tax credits to purchase them would shut down. Tax credits for small business owners who cover their employees would be taken away. States would lose substantial Federal assistance under Medicaid to provide coverage for the neediest Americans. According to the most

recent projections by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), 27 million Americans are expected to gain coverage due to the law. Repeal will likely result in most of these individuals remaining uninsured or losing their insurance altogether. An estimated 10 million Americans gained coverage during 2014, and repealing the law would erase most of these coverage gains and strip these Americans of the security and peace of mind they now have.

Further, repealing the health care law would have implications far beyond Americans who have or will gain insurance.

More than 250 million Americans with insurance—private insurance, Medicare, and Medicaid—would lose the benefits and protections they receive under the health care law. Insurance companies would no longer have to cover as dependents millions of young adults who have been able to stay on or sign up on their parents' plans. Lifetime limits and restrictive annual limits on coverage could be reimposed. Women could be charged more than men and up to 129 million Americans with pre-existing conditions would be at risk of not being able to access or afford health coverage. Policies that promote efficiency and accountability in health care and health insurance would be erased.

Reforms that strengthen Medicare's long-term finances also would be repealed. Seniors also would lose the more generous prescription drug coverage provided under the health care law, as well as free preventive care, and Medicare's Hospital Insurance Trust Fund would become insolvent years earlier. Moreover, by repealing these reforms to Medicare and other reforms that encourage doctors and hospitals to provide efficient, high-quality care, the legislation would drive up costs and worsen patient care throughout our health care system.

CBO has previously estimated that repealing the health care law would add more than \$100 billion to the deficit over the ten years ending in 2022, and more than \$1 trillion in the following decade. This not only hurts the Government: it hurts State and local economies, job creation, and the Nation's long-term prosperity.

The last thing the Congress should do is reflight old political battles and take a massive step backward by repealing basic protections that provide security for the middle class. Right now, the Congress needs to work together to focus on the economy, helping middle-class families, and creating jobs.

If the President were presented with H.R. 596, he would veto it.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, this came from the President. The President said, when he ran for office, "Yes, we can." He came here and eventually secured a majority to pass a bill to rectify 75 years of inaction, 75 years for Americans without health care by the millions, and so we did it.

Mr. Speaker, the Republicans have said, "We will," but they never have. We have never seen a bill that addressed this issue comprehensively. Now, they are on the run because millions and millions of people have now benefited for a variety of reasons who never had a single hour of health care for themselves or their children. Now, the Republicans say, "We will come up with something." It is too late.

Health care reform is here to stay. We can improve it, but Republicans will never destroy it. The American

people know it is complex, but they know their health needs. We responded. We responded.

That should be and is respected, not the disrespect of coming here 56 times to say "no" when they have never come up with anything.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Frightened—in the days before this health care law was brought to the floor, Democrats were meeting in the White House in secret, cutting special deals, trying to find a way to pass this bill because they were frightened that if they did it in the public, out where the people could see what they were creating, that they would fail.

The night they brought it to the House floor, they were frightened that the American public would know what was in it. They brought it to the floor, and literally no one on this floor knew what was in this bill. They were frightened about what the American public would believe.

Since it has passed, frankly, too many Americans are frightened by what they have been exposed to, which is forced into health care plans. They had good ones in their business, and now, they are forced into ones that cost more, the deductibles have soared, and they can't see their local doctor or go to their local hospital or even pay for medicines for their children because of this health care plan.

Democrats at the time didn't allow a vote on any other alternative—no ideas, no options—because they were frightened the American public could see there is a better way.

The question today, Mr. Speaker, is: Can we do better? Can we do better than this law? Yes. It has helped some but has hurt so many more.

Today is about taking the first step to allowing a better option for American families, providers, and patients by first repealing this controversial and troubling law and then bringing to the floor—directing our committees to bring a better idea to the floor so that the American public has a chance for real, affordable health care that is directed toward them—not Washington—that goes with them from job to job and State to State, home to raise a family or to start that small business, one that is tailored to them, not Washington.

Mr. Speaker, this law is about not top down, but bottom up; and it is long overdue. I support and strongly urge repeal of the health care law and passage of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate by the Ways and Means Committee has expired.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE).

□ 1545

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise today in strong support of H.R. 596.

By now, we have heard all the stories. From canceled plans to higher deductibles to longer wait times at your doctor, ObamaCare is full of broken promises. Everywhere I go in southwest Alabama, I hear a different story about how this law is having a negative impact on families, small businesses, doctors, and hospitals.

The problems aren't just in Alabama. Nationwide studies show that under ObamaCare, individual premiums have gone up by an average of 49 percent and deductibles have skyrocketed for the average American family to the point where many people can't afford to pay their deductibles. How is that affordable?

Even worse, only 7 percent of Americans believe that this health care law will reduce their health care costs. Seven percent—that is astonishing.

I don't believe ObamaCare can be fixed through piecemeal reforms. I think the only way to truly get rid of this harmful law is to repeal ObamaCare in its entirety. For the first time, Republicans now have control of the Senate, and Senate Democrats can no longer stand in the way of having this legislation brought up for a vote.

This also marks the first full repeal vote since the law has been in implementation. Right now, American families are sitting around their kitchen table to do their taxes and realizing yet another area where this law has caused a confusing maze of requirements that must be properly navigated in order to avoid government penalties. And we have been told that millions of Americans will have to pay penalties.

We were told we would like the law once we found out what was in it. The opposite has proven to be true. We were told that we could keep our health care plans and keep our family physicians. That is also not true. The more we learn about this law, the less it makes sense.

Today's vote is not just about getting rid of ObamaCare, it is about charting an appropriate path forward.

My legislation instructs the appropriate House committees to move forward with alternative solutions to improve our health care system based on patient-centered reforms that aren't run by the Federal Government. I look forward to being a part of that process.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to champion this legislation on behalf of families in southwest Alabama and all across America who have been negatively impacted by this law, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 596.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in opposition to H.R. 596.

As the new ranking member on the Committee on Education and the Workforce, I know that protecting access to affordable health care for America's workers and families is a high priority. Despite scare tactics and misinformation, the bottom line is that the Affordable Care Act is working. Perhaps those who want to repeal the Affordable Care Act have a short memory. It is important to remember why the Affordable Care Act was passed in the first place.

Before the ACA, employer-provided coverage was shrinking. More and more employers were dropping coverage altogether. There were months in 2008 and 2009 when 14,000 people a day were losing their health insurance because employers were not providing it and because it was above their ability to pay. From 1999 to 2010, the cost of premiums for employer-provided health insurance increased by 138 percent while workers' earnings only went up around 40 percent. And those who were employed were often locked into their employment for fear of losing their health care insurance because even though they wanted to retire, they couldn't get insurance somewhere else, and so they were stuck in that job.

Every American family with insurance had to pay a hidden tax of approximately \$1,000 per family for the cost of paying for those without insurance who would go to the hospital and not pay, and so when they went to the hospital, they would have to pay a little extra. That little extra was about \$1,000 per year for every family with insurance. This was the reality that American workers and their families faced before the passage of the Affordable Care Act. We should not go backwards.

Today, thanks to the ACA, workers are enjoying the peace of mind that they have options. If employer-provided coverage is not available, they can enter the marketplace. If it is available, they have the security of new consumer protections such as the requirement that at least 80 percent of the premiums be spent on actual health care, not corporate jets and CEO bonuses. And we ended insurance practices such as caps on payments that would only pay so much overall and then you are on your own, or so much for your lifetime and then you are on your own. And cancellations where they could just arbitrarily cancel your insurance after you have paid premiums year after year. You get sick, and they check and just want to cancel your premium. Those abuses can no longer take place.

Employers will also suffer under a repeal. In 2014, premiums for employer-provided health care grew at the lowest rate in 15 years. If the ACA is repealed, many employers could again be charged health-related premiums, so if they have a few sick employees, they

will see their premiums skyrocket. The vast majority of large employers who provide health insurance to their employees may suffer an increase in premiums due to the return of the hidden tax, the cost shifting of uncompensated care.

And when employees leave a job, they are on their own to get insurance, if they can, because there was a prohibition that they could deny people with preexisting conditions. So if you have a preexisting condition and leave your job, who knows what is going to happen.

In addition, small employers would suffer since all small group market reforms, including rating reforms, would disappear. Small employers used to pay 18 percent more in premiums than large businesses, on average. ACA leveled the playing field so now they are paying rates like everybody else. If you repeal the Affordable Care Act, they are up another 18 percent, where it was before.

Now we have heard all of the statistics: over 3 million uninsured young adults have access to health insurance through their parents' policies; 8 million senior citizens in the so-called Medicare doughnut hole have been getting relief and have saved billions. Twelve million more Americans have health insurance because of the Affordable Care Act.

These numbers represent real people, and these real people would lose access to their benefits if the Affordable Care Act is repealed. Those trying to repeal the law should be honest to seniors about what would happen to their free preventive care in the absence of the Affordable Care Act. They should explain to young adults that repealing the law would kick them off their parents' policies. They would have to explain to millions of Americans who only have insurance because of the Affordable Care Act—many for the first time in their lives—why they will now have to go without coverage.

And while the Republican majority continues to talk about repeal, we should be talking about the progress we have already made and how we can continue to move in the right direction. So when the Republicans talk about replacement of legislation, it is important to note that there is no meaningful replacement proposal on the table. Delaying the effective date of this repeal for 180 days does not make a meaningful replacement any more plausible or likely.

This is the 56th attempt to repeal or undermine the Affordable Care Act. This is a distraction, and I hope the Republican majority will refocus efforts on real policy solutions for the American people, American families, and workers.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE),

the majority whip of this House, who has not just traveled around his district talking to people harmed by this law but has traveled around the United States of America.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Alabama for yielding and for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor to repeal the President's health care law.

It was back in 2010 when then-Speaker PELOSI infamously said:

We have to pass the bill so you can find out what's in it.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we know what is in the bill. American people across the country have seen the devastating impacts of the President's health care law. Millions of people have lost the good health care that they had that they liked. We all heard the promise: If you like what you have, you can keep it. The promise was broken to millions of people.

And not only did they lose good health care, but many, many millions of people have seen dramatic increases. They are paying double-digit increases for the health care that they do have. And what is worse, Mr. Speaker, is we have seen that vital doctor-patient relationship violated now by unelected bureaucrats in Washington who have come in between the doctor and the patients to make decisions on people's health care. That is not the way to do reform. That was the old way, the Washington-knows-best way.

There is a better way, and this bill starts that process by first repealing the law in its entirety and then getting the committees of jurisdiction involved, putting an alternative in place with a shot clock of 180 days where we can come up with a real bipartisan alternative. Let's repeal this law, and let's restore the doctor-patient relationship.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS).

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, it is week five of the 114th Congress, and I really feel like that movie "Groundhog Day," where the same day just keeps repeating itself over and over and over again. This is the 56th time that we have been through this particular exercise, repealing the Affordable Care Act here in the House. We get it. Republicans want to repeal the Affordable Care Act. Go ahead and try to get President Obama's signature on that piece of legislation. It ain't going to happen. But here we go again and again and again.

We are considering recycled political gimmicks that everyone here knows deprive the American people of affordable health care and won't create a single job and would increase our deficit by over \$200 billion.

By the way, there is an accounting trick in the Ryan budget. What the Republican budget does is it keeps all of the ObamaCare taxes and gets rid of all

of the benefits. That is the worst of both worlds. The Republicans want you to pay for ObamaCare and not get it. Does that make any sense, Mr. Speaker? We are starting to see the dangers of this strange "Groundhog Day" brand of so-called policymaking.

This is what happens when we abandon regular order. We don't have mark-ups in committee, we don't have hearings—to jam through partisan legislation under a closed process without an opportunity to even suggest what might replace the Affordable Care Act or what kind of health care policy we want to help make health care more affordable in our country.

This bill would leave 27 million Americans out in the cold without health care. What about even more Americans who wouldn't have coverage for preexisting conditions or who wouldn't have access to affordable prescription drugs?

This bill would mean real harm and real hardship for people in my district—couples like Mike and Lynn in Loveland, whose health care cost more than their mortgage before the Affordable Care Act. It cost \$850 a month. But thanks to the Affordable Care Act, they were able to find a plan that costs \$200 a month. Or people like Robin in Eagle County in my district, who could barely afford \$600 a month in health care costs but now, thanks to the Affordable Care Act and the tax credits, pays just \$132 a month.

Another constituent of mine didn't go to the doctor for years because he was uninsured. But because of the Affordable Care Act, he was eligible for the Medicaid expansion. For the first time he received a colonoscopy and doctors discovered and removed a precancerous polyp. Without ACA, that might have become a cancer, costing him his life, not to mention the tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars of taxpayer money for that procedure that were saved thanks to the Affordable Care Act.

We can do better. We can escape this endless loop, this "Groundhog Day," and start talking about real job-creating legislation, improvements to health care that Democrats and Republicans can agree on because they make sense for our country. There are real lives at stake. I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), a new member of the Education and the Workforce Committee and a new Member of this body.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you in support of H.R. 596 for three reasons. First, of all, I am a member of the middle class. Secondly, I am an employer. I was an employer of a small business and had employees. Thirdly, and perhaps most importantly, I am a health care profes-

sional, the only pharmacist in Congress. And I can tell you that the Affordable Care Act, ObamaCare, is destroying health care that I have worked in for over 30 years, and I refuse to step aside and let that happen.

Mr. Speaker, the ACA has increased costs, increased deductibles, and decreased coverage for the middle class. That is not what it was supposed to do.

For employers, it has increased costs and decreased the coverage for their patients and, most importantly, for health care, Mr. Speaker.

What ObamaCare has done is to drive the free market out of health care. You don't see any more independent pharmacies. You don't see any more independent doctors. They are all members of health care systems or hospitals employed by them. There are only three or four major pharmacies now, and we are heading more toward that.

□ 1600

You don't see patients having a say in their drug coverage anymore. Drug therapy is decided not by a pharmacist, not by a doctor, not by the patient, but by insurance companies and government. ObamaCare has to end.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I enter into the RECORD the following letters in opposition: one from the National Committee to Preserve Social Security & Medicare, another from Easter Seals, another from the AFL-CIO, and another from the SEIU.

FEBRUARY 2, 2015.

House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the millions of members and supporters of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, I urge you to oppose H.R. 596, a bill to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Repealing the Affordable Care Act (ACA) would be detrimental to Americans of all ages: It would undercut the ability of marketplace insurance plans to offer affordable health coverage to individuals, including those with pre-existing conditions. Repeal would mean that young adults could no longer count on remaining on their parents' insurance plans until age 26. In addition, the number of uninsured "young seniors," aged 50-64, would increase, leaving them in poorer health by the time they are eligible for Medicare—thereby increasing Medicare's costs.

Repealing the ACA would also eliminate many of that law's provisions that benefit Medicare beneficiaries today, including help with prescription drug costs and preventive screenings and wellness visits with no out-of-pocket costs. In addition, the payment and delivery system reforms that are being implemented due to the ACA are slowing the rate of increase in health spending while improving the care that is being provided, especially care to people with multiple chronic conditions. Slowing the rate of increase in health spending has also lowered costs for beneficiaries—the Part B premium has stayed level for three years in a row—and is extending the solvency of the Part A trust fund.

We oppose H.R. 596 because it interferes with the ability of marketplace insurance plans to offer affordable health coverage, and hurts millions of seniors who benefit from the Medicare improvements contained in the ACA. The National Committee strongly urges you to vote against this anti-senior legislation.

Sincerely,

MAX RICHTMAN,
President and CEO.

FEBRUARY 3, 2015.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: Easter Seals is writing to request that you vote no on H.R. 596, legislation to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). This law provides critical access to appropriate and high quality health care services that is essential for people with disabilities to live, learn and work and play in their communities. Easter Seals is the leading non-profit provider of services for individuals with autism, developmental disabilities, physical and mental disabilities, and other special needs.

One of the most important provisions in the ACA is the policy under which insurance companies can no longer refuse to cover children with disabilities and other pre-existing conditions. This provision came into affect on September 23, 2010. For children served by Easter Seals and their families, this provision can transform a family. Prior to the law, families would lose coverage of their child with cerebral palsy, epilepsy or another condition. The only way that the family could get the services their child needed was to pay out of pocket. For many families, they had no choice but to take out a second mortgage, declare bankruptcy, or have their child go without the services he or she needs to be healthy and strong.

The goal of the health care reform law is to assure that all people have access to quality, affordable health care and long term services and supports that meet their individual needs. It is through these types of changes to the health care system that we can hope to enable all Americans, including people with disabilities and chronic conditions, to be healthy, functional, live as independently as possible and participate in their communities.

Please vote NO on H.R. 596. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

KATHERINE BEH NEAS,
Executive Vice President for Public Affairs.

FEBRUARY 2, 2015.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the AFL-CIO, I urge you to vote against H.R. 596, legislation that will repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA). In pursuing yet another vote against the health reform law, the House Republican leadership persists in its campaign to undermine the coverage expansions of the ACA, erecting barriers that will keep millions of uninsured Americans from accessing coverage under the law.

Based on the latest Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate of the ACA coverage expansions, 19 million U.S. residents would lose coverage in 2015 if the ACA is repealed—people who would lack coverage today if not for the ACA. CBO also estimates that 36 million individuals remain uninsured today, even with the expansion of coverage through the marketplaces and Medicaid.

In large part, millions remain uninsured because a number of governors and state legislatures have refused to pursue an expansion of their Medicaid programs or have pro-

hibited government agencies from providing ACA enrollment assistance to the residents of their states. Twenty-two states have refused to extend Medicaid coverage to lower-income residents, turning away coverage that is almost completely subsidized by the federal government. Other states refuse to provide education and assistance to people who need help negotiating the complex decisions involved in applying for coverage. The Kaiser Family Foundation found that the lack of information about enrollment choices is making it difficult for many individuals to access coverage that is available to them.

This partisan resistance to the ACA coverage expansions at the state level is bolstered by these votes to repeal the ACA in Washington. It is time to break the partisan deadlock on health care reform and to focus on needed changes that will strengthen, not weaken, family health security—reforms that both improve and build upon the ACA.

We can begin improving the ACA to expand access to affordable coverage by eliminating the 40 percent excise tax on health benefits, by basing eligibility for premium subsidies on the costs of family coverage, and by ensuring that new fees intended for commercial insurance issuers will not apply to nonprofit coverage. We hope that bipartisan attention will be focused soon on productive ways of addressing needed modifications to the ACA.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM SAMUEL,
Director, Government Affairs Department.

FEBRUARY 3, 2015.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the 2 million members of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), I urge you to oppose H.R. 596, a bill to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA). H.R. 596 puts millions of working families' financial security and health at risk by eliminating essential consumer protections, access to affordable coverage, and higher quality care made possible by the ACA.

Already, about 100 million Americans are benefiting from the ACA. Prior to the ACA, millions of Americans did not have access to health insurance, or were only able to obtain insurance that was costly but did not provide the coverage they needed. However, the ACA changed that reality. Due to the ACA, no longer are insurance companies allowed to discriminate against women or those with pre-existing conditions by charging them more for coverage or refusing to provide them with coverage at all. As a result of the ACA's closure of the Medicare drug coverage gap, older Americans now have relief from excessive drug costs that forced many to go without medically necessary medications. Furthermore, the ACA promotes preventive care, which helps us all, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, or income, avoid the development of more serious chronic conditions that prevent us from living long and healthy lives. These are just of the few ways that the ACA has bettered the day to day lives of Americans.

Perhaps most significantly, people are getting covered. In fact, 9.5 million consumers have signed up to receive coverage through ACA marketplaces, millions more signed up for Medicaid, and the number of uninsured in America has dropped by 10 million people. No longer do working families have to worry about being one accident or illness away from bankruptcy. We cannot take actions that force people to go without coverage they desperately need.

There is also an untold story of the ACA. The law aims to create a more efficient sys-

tem by promoting quality over quantity of care and reducing waste, fraud, and abuse in our system. The Congressional Budget Office and the Social Security and Medicare Boards of Trustees have found that healthcare spending is slowing at record rates. The ACA includes programs, like those that provide incentives to hospitals to reduce readmissions and encourage care coordination across settings, which aspire to further build on this trend and, most importantly, improve patients' health and experience. A vote for this bill is a vote to reverse all of this progress.

As with every major law, there are ways to improve upon the solid base the ACA provides, however, full repeal is a step backwards for millions of working families. SEIU strongly urges you to oppose H.R. 596. Votes on this legislation may be added to our congressional scorecard, located at www.seiu.org. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Ilene Stein, Assistant Legislative Director, at 202-730-7216 or ilene.stein@seiu.org.

Sincerely,

MARY KAY HENRY,
International President.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BISHOP), another new Member of this body and another new member of the Education and the Workforce Committee, who brings a unique experience to this body.

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, for the past 20 years as a practicing lawyer and businessowner, I have seen firsthand how companies have tried to grow and create more jobs, but they simply can't, due to the strangling grip of ObamaCare's employer mandate.

Small businesses tell the story of how their current plan was canceled and how they were forced by ObamaCare into a health plan that covers less with higher copays and higher deductibles, along with astronomical, unsustainable increases in premiums.

Simply stated, ObamaCare is crushing small businesses across this great country. Despite the urgency of this crisis, the President has decided to dig himself in and promised to veto any commonsense reform, such as removing this employer mandate.

If the White House has decided not to collaborate with Congress to ease the burdens on families and businesses, then the only path we have is full repeal.

Along with that, Mr. Speaker, we need to move forward and develop commonsense health care reform that not only respects families and the doctor-patient relationship, but also considers any and all opportunities to lower skyrocketing health care costs.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting "yes" on H.R. 596.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I enter into the RECORD letters in opposition from the following organizations: the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Diabetes Association, and the American Public Health Association.

FEBRUARY 3, 2015.

*House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The House of Representatives is scheduled to vote on H.R. 596, which would repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). The AAFP urges Congress not to repeal this nearly 5-year-old health care reform law, but rather focus on how the measure can be revised to improve patient care and restrain health system costs.

The ACA addresses several important persistent problems with the nation's delivery of health care. First of all, it has demonstrably improved access to health care. As the most recent Gallup poll of the uninsured shows, the uninsured rate in the fourth quarter of 2014 fell to 12.9 percent, which is the lowest since Gallup began measuring it. By comparison, 17.1 percent were uninsured at the end of 2013. This substantial decline in the uninsured rate in one year has been broadly felt since it was evident in all the demographic categories.

Second, the ACA establishes critical insurance reforms to prevent abuses such as reducing or eliminating coverage due to pre-existing conditions, or setting prohibitively high prices on the individual market based on health status. Third, it encourages innovation in health care delivery through extensive research performed by the CMS Innovation Center. As recently as last week, for example, CMS announced early results of the Comprehensive Primary Care Initiative which demonstrate significant cost reductions in the first year due to investments in primary care. Fourth, the ACA requires both Medicare and private health plans to cover preventive health services (without cost-sharing), which is a proven long-term strategy to improve health while reducing costs.

There are elements of the ACA that cause the AAFP concern, including the poorly constructed Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB). Congress should carefully review these elements with an eye to improving them for patients, for physicians and other providers, and for taxpayers, generally. The AAFP will continue to offer you our support for such efforts. However, in the meantime, it is important to avoid the disruptions and turmoil that repeal of the ACA would cause.

Sincerely,

REID B. BLACKWELDER, MD, FAAFP,
Board Chair.

FEBRUARY 2, 2015.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
*Speaker of the House,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: On behalf of the nearly 30 million Americans with diabetes and the 86 million with prediabetes, the American Diabetes Association is writing to express our opposition to H.R. 596, legislation that would repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA).

For the millions of people with diabetes and those at risk of developing it, the ACA provides access to quality health care that is vital to the prevention and management of diabetes, and in maintaining overall health. The law protects people with diabetes who, prior to the ACA, were discriminated against

because of their disease when they sought health insurance. It also expands access to quality health care and prevention programs needed to curb the current diabetes epidemic and prevent its devastating complications, including blindness, amputation, heart disease and kidney failure.

People with diabetes are benefiting from many provisions in the law, including the elimination of annual and lifetime limits on health insurance coverage, access to free preventive care, lower prescription drug costs for seniors, allowing young adults to stay on their parent's insurance plans, and the development of a successful program aimed at preventing type 2 diabetes.

The Association is committed to working with Members of Congress and government officials on the law's implementation to ensure people with diabetes, and all Americans, have access to the health insurance they need and cannot be discriminated against because of pre-existing conditions. We urge Members of the House to oppose repeal of the Affordable Care Act. Should you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact Amy Wotring, Associate Director, Federal Government Affairs at awotring@diabetes.org or 703-299-2087.

Sincerely,

SHEREEN ARENT,
*Executive Vice President,
Government Affairs & Advocacy.*

FEBRUARY 2, 2015.

*House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the American Public Health Association, which champions the health of all people and all communities by strengthening the profession of public health, sharing the latest research and information, promoting best practices and advocating for public health issues and policies grounded in science, I write in strong opposition to H.R. 596, legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

The ACA is critical to addressing the biggest challenges facing our health system including the rising costs associated with our health care system, uneven quality of care, deaths due to medical errors, discriminatory practices by health insurance providers and the shrinking ranks of the nation's primary care providers. The ACA is helping to shift our health system from one that focuses on treating the sick to one that focuses on keeping people healthy.

Under the law, millions of previously uninsured Americans now have affordable and comprehensive health insurance coverage through the health insurance marketplaces as well as through the expansion of the Medicaid program, significantly reducing the uninsured rate. This year, 9.5 million individuals have already enrolled in coverage through the health insurance marketplaces. Since its enactment, the law has provided 71 million Americans with access to preventive health care services such as vaccines, disease screenings, well-child visits and tobacco cessation counseling without co-pays or deductibles. Thirty seven million seniors have also accessed preventive services without cost through the Medicare program. More than 3 million young adults up to age 26 are able to stay on their parents' health insurance plans and nearly 129 million individuals with pre-existing conditions are protected from insurance coverage denials. In addition, the ACA provides critical mandatory funding through the Prevention and Public Health Fund for community-based prevention and wellness activities including

efforts to control the obesity epidemic, reduce tobacco use and modernize vaccination systems.

Protecting the ACA and working to effectively implement this critical law to protect and improve the health of the American people will remain a top priority for APHA, and we will consider including this vote in our 2015 annual congressional vote record.

We ask you to oppose this and future efforts to repeal the ACA and we look forward to working with you to create the healthiest nation in one generation.

Sincerely,

GEORGES C. BENJAMIN, MD,
Executive Director.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN), another new member of the Education and the Workforce Committee and new Member of this body.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Alabama for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, individuals, families, and businesses alike—in Georgia and across the Nation—agree that ObamaCare is wrong for Americans. Across my district, hardworking Georgians trying to make ends meet have told me their health care premiums have skyrocketed under this law.

Many have learned the plan they liked and were promised they could keep have been canceled, and they have been denied care and access to their doctors.

In addition to hurting America's families, ObamaCare's costly mandates burden small businesses, the bedrock of job creation and entrepreneurship, and have real consequences for their employees facing lower hours and wages.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that the law will lower the number of full-time equivalent workers by 2.5 million. The President's own Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services also found that an estimated two-thirds of small businesses will see their health care premiums go up under ObamaCare.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 596.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY).

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, almost exactly a year ago, the Republican majority held a retreat where other Members met and they set their agenda for 2014. After that retreat, the leadership issued a statement promising, with a solemn promise, that the House Republicans will rally around and pass an alternative to ObamaCare this year.

That is about 4 years after the law passed, but at least you can give them some credit that they were going to move forward in 2014 with an alternative to the Affordable Care Act.

That was last winter, and winter turned to spring, spring turned to summer, summer turned to fall, fall turned

to winter, and we never had a vote in the House on the alternative, the promised alternative to ObamaCare.

Maybe the committees took action, the committees that this proposed bill is lateraling this issue off to. Did we have a committee vote on Education and the Workforce, Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce? No. Did we have hearings on an alternative that was promised by the majority caucus a year ago on an alternative to the Affordable Care Act? No, no hearings, no markup, no vote, no bill.

Here we are today with the majority once again throwing out a promise: Trust us. In 180 days, we will have an alternative to the Affordable Care Act.

Well, Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, in the last year, millions of Americans have moved on. Parents are insuring their kids through the Affordable Care Act up to age 26.

There are Members in the majority who take advantage of that very provision to provide coverage for their children under the Affordable Care Act that they seek to repeal here today.

Millions of seniors see their prescription drug costs cut because of the Affordable Care Act because of the left-over of the Republican prescription drug bill which led this outrageous doughnut hole that threw 100 percent of the cost of medications to seniors who were paying monthly premiums.

Yes, we saw the startup of exchanges, both at the State level—like my State in the State of Connecticut—and the Federal exchange, which have enrolled millions of Americans in affordable plans.

This year, the Affordable Care Act in Connecticut, we had submissions by the insurance companies to participate in 2015. Did we see reduced competition? Did we see less of a free marketplace? No, we saw more competition. We have more insurers who are offering the product through the exchange in 2015 than in 2014.

Did we see rates go up? Mr. Speaker, I am going to enter into the RECORD a record from the Connecticut State Insurance Department which shows that rates went down—down—for individual plans and for small group market plans.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

2014 CONNECTICUT INSURANCE RATE FILINGS FOR ON/OFF EXCHANGE 2015 POLICIES

Individual Market Requested and Approved Changes

Aetna Life Insurance Co.:
—Requested Change: 9.4%
—Approved Change: 4.60%
—Effective 1/1/2015
Celtic Insurance Company:
—Requested Change: 0.00%
—Approved Change: -6.50%
—Effective 1/1/2015
ConnectiCare Benefits, Inc.:
—Requested Change: 12.8%
—Approved Change: 3.10%
—Effective 1/1/2015

ConnectiCare Inc.:
—Requested Change: -21.50%
—Approved Change: -21.50%
—Effective 1/1/2015
ConnectiCare Insurance Co.:
—Requested Change: 1.40%
—Approved Change: 1.30%
—Effective 1/1/2015
UnitedHealthcare Ins. Co.:
—Requested Change: 0.00%
—Approved Change: -9.30%
—Effective 1/1/2015
Golden Rule Insurance Co.:
—Requested Change: 0.00%
—Approved Change: -6.91%
—Effective 1/1/2015
HealthyCT, Inc.:
—Requested Change: -8.60%
—Approved Change: -8.50%
—Effective 1/1/2015
Time Insurance Company:
—Requested Change: 25.00%
—Approved Change: 6.00%
—Effective 1/1/2015
Cigna Health and Life Insurance Company:
—Requested Change: 15.23%
—Approved Change: 8.82%
—Effective 1/1/2015
Anthem Health Plans:
—Requested Change: 12.5%
—Approved Change: -0.10%
—Effective 1/1/2015
UnitedHealthcare Life Insurance Company:
—Requested Change: 0.00%
—Approved Change: -9.20%
—Effective 1/1/2015

Average Requested Change: 3.85%
Average Approved Change: -3.18%
Estimated savings for consumers in Individual Market: \$79,099,427

Small Group Market Requested and Approved Changes

Aetna Life Insurance Co.:
—Requested Change: 5.90%
—Approved Change: 5.90%
—Effective 1/1/2015
Anthem Health Plans:
—Requested Change: 6.00%
—Approved Change: 4.40%
—Effective 1/1/2015
HealthyCT, Inc*:
—Requested Change: -13.40%
—Approved Change: -13.40%
—Effective 1/1/2015
UnitedHealthcare Ins. Co.*:
—Requested Change: 2.50%
—Approved Change: 2.50%
—Effective 1/1/2015
ConnectiCare Inc.:
—Requested Change: -1.40%
—Approved Change: -5.00%
—Effective 1/1/2015
ConnectiCare Insurance Co.*:
—Requested Change: 7.00%
—Approved Change: 7.00%
—Effective 1/1/2015
Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare of CT:
—Requested Change: 2.80%
—Approved Change: -12.00%
—Effective 1/1/2015
HPHC Insurance Co.*:
—Requested Change: -3.40%
—Approved Change: -9.40%
—Effective 1/1/2015
Oxford Health Insurance*:
—Requested Change: 10.20%
—Approved Change: 10.20%
—Effective 1/1/2015
Oxford Health Plans (CT):
—Requested Change: 10.20%
—Approved Change: 9.00%
—Effective 1/1/2015
Average Requested Change: 2.64%

Average Approved Change: 0.08%
*CID has review authority but not approval authority over these filings
Estimated savings for consumers in Small Group Market: \$9,448,203
Estimated savings for combined Individual & Small Group Markets: \$88,547,630

Mr. COURTNEY. The fact of the matter is that this marketplace, which now has more carriers, is now providing lower rates, saving close to \$90 million from last year's rates than the year before.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, what we are being asked to do here today is to stop that progress, to take away that coverage to young adults that today get it through their parents' plans, to take away the prescription drug benefit, to take away from seniors the relief that they are getting for life-saving medications, and to tell those individual and small group plans that are purchasing it—this year, again, we have 70,000 reenrollments of the 75,000 enrolled last year, and we have 30,000 new that have enrolled this year in that plan.

We have cut the uninsured rate in a State like Connecticut that has embraced the law down to 4 percent of its population.

You are telling folks like me to blow it up, get rid of it, and you have no plan, even though your caucus made a promise a year ago to the American people that they would provide a plan, and they never came through with it.

Reject this bill.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DESANTIS), my distinguished colleague.

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues have demonstrated ably the substantive problems with this law: higher costs, canceled coverage, lost doctors.

I would just like to say that ObamaCare has done harm to republican government properly understood. When you go around the country telling people over and over again that they can keep their plans, that they can keep their doctors, and that they will see thousands of dollars in savings on health insurance premiums, all the while you know—or should have known—that those promises were false, I think that damages our political system because, ultimately, representative government requires honest dialogue between elected officials and the citizenry.

It is almost as if this is the Jonathan Gruber law where we want to tell people lies in order to get bills that we would not have passed otherwise. I think that is unacceptable.

These promises made to the American people were false, the American

people were deceived, and I think our representative government and political system have been damaged as a result.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS).

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I rise today in support of the Affordable Care Act.

One year after implementing the health care exchanges, the number of uninsured in this country has decreased dramatically. Implementing the health care exchanges has provided health insurance access to 208,000 individuals in my district, with Charlotte accounting for one of North Carolina's highest number of subsidized health insurance enrollments.

Young adults can now stay on their parents' plans until age 26, resulting in nearly 10,000 young adults retaining health insurance in my district. Seniors in my district have saved \$11.1 million through Medicare part D prescription drug discounts.

The Affordable Care Act has also created 9.6 million private sector jobs. My district's unemployment rate is 13.9 percent, so for me, this is not just about health, but jobs and our economy.

These tangible benefits cannot be ignored. I urge my Republican colleagues to end talks of repeal and instead work with Democrats to strengthen the law.

The Affordable Care Act would have meant a lot to my sister who I often had to take to the emergency room for primary care for sickle cell. She died at age 26, but I know she would have been grateful for the coverage provided by the Affordable Care Act.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN), a new Member of the House, who is himself a dentist.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 596, legislation that I have cosponsored to fully repeal ObamaCare.

My constituents sent me to Washington to repeal this disastrous law, and that is what we are doing today, the number one issue in my district.

As a health care provider myself for 38 years, I have seen firsthand the devastating effects of ObamaCare and how it undermines the doctor-patient relationship.

It is costing us jobs and work hours and has led to millions of Americans losing their health plans that they had and wanted to keep and were promised such. Restoring the patient's right to choose a plan that they want and can afford is just plain common sense.

Our bill does this by repealing ObamaCare and replacing it with free market solutions. We put America on a path toward patient-focused care, rather

than government-directed care. The traditional doctor-patient relationship would be restored.

Let's show the American people that we are listening and rid the Nation of this terrible law and replace it with policies that work.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. STEWART), a colleague of ours and a distinguished veteran.

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my friend, the gentleman from Alabama, for giving me time to express the importance of repealing what has been one of the most destructive laws ever written.

The intent of ObamaCare was to make health care more accessible and more affordable and, in fact, has done exactly the opposite.

I have heard from hundreds of my constituents who tell me how it has impacted their lives. A friend of mine from Bountiful, their premiums have doubled—have doubled. A small business owner in the southern part of my district, who found they could not get insurance at all, their plan was entirely taken away.

This law was built on a foundation of deceptions. We were told: "If you wanted to keep your doctor, you could keep them." We were told: "If you wanted to keep your plan, you could keep it." We were told it would reduce costs by an average of \$2,500 per family.

We now know that all of that is not true and that they knew at the time they passed this law that it was not true.

All of us want to take care of those who have preexisting conditions; all of us want to provide insurance to the uninsured. We can do better.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE), another freshman in this House.

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Mr. NEWHOUSE. Thank you to the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, since its hasty passage in 2010, ObamaCare has been detrimental to American families, businesses, and taxpayers. Americans were promised that they could keep their health care plans and see their premiums decrease. Instead, they have been irreparably harmed by the elimination of their existing health care plans and pushed into a one-size-fits-all health care system—a system that fails to consider individual needs and that eliminates choice of physicians while families are faced with soaring premiums.

The cost of implementing ObamaCare has crippled businesses, hurting the drivers of our economy. Small and large businesses have been forced to pass these increased costs on to their employees, resulting in a decreased workforce, lower wages, and delayed hiring. ObamaCare has hurt economic growth at a time when we can least afford it, damaging our fragile economic recovery.

Put simply, a government-centered approach to health care is not the answer. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER), another freshman Member and a gentleman who brings great experience to his position in this House.

Mr. WALKER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, "middle class economics" is the President's new catchphrase and method to pay lip service to helping American families—more smoke and mirrors.

In November, voters spoke loudly and clearly in sending 58 Members to Washington. I made a promise over these past 2 years that I would come to Washington and stand up. Today, for the first time, I am proud to vote for a full repeal of this law.

The ACA has caused insurance premiums to skyrocket for working families in North Carolina. It continues to weigh on our economy and on our job creators. This law is seriously flawed in the fact that the President's administration has overreached dozens of times in trying to change and fix the law themselves. Yes, the damaging effects of ObamaCare are so ingrained in the fabric of this law that fixing it is not an option. That is why I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 596 for a full repeal.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I believe the gentleman from Alabama is prepared to close.

Mr. BYRNE. I am, and I reserve the balance of my time for closing.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 1¼ minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Thank you, Mr. SCOTT.

Mr. Speaker, this is the 56th time we have gathered on the floor, talking past each other. The legislation that is offered by our Republican friends—a repeal—does not have any alternative. Frankly, everybody knows that it is not going to pass. If it were to be enacted into law, the President would veto it.

The facts don't justify the rhetoric. We have 10 million previously uninsured Americans. We have the lowest

health care spending growth rate in 50 years. Health care premium inflation is growing at historic lows, and Medicare premiums are lower than they were before the ACA was passed, and it held steady for 3 years.

What should we be doing? Instead of trying to make the ACA worse and rail against it and get nowhere, I would suggest that we deal with things that we can agree upon.

I have been working with my colleague Mr. ROE on bipartisan legislation to deal with providers helping with end-of-life care for patients; with Representative ROSKAM, a Medicare Common Access Card, bipartisan legislation to establish a smart card pilot project to eliminate Medicare fraud; with Representative BLACK, a value-based design for better care which would establish a pilot project to test reducing or eliminating cost-sharing for seniors with high-value medications. These are things that we could do this month that would make a difference.

I hope that we stop this charade and get down to cases. The American public deserves our best efforts not to debate but to make health care better and to build on the foundation of the Affordable Care Act.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, I have been listening carefully to the debate today. We have heard a lot from both sides, but at the end of the day, this is not about anybody in this House; this is about the American people. This is about something that is so very fundamentally important to them—their health care.

We took away the health care system that worked for 80 percent of the people of this country to fix a problem that we today know we fix for only 1 percent of the American people. Only 3 million new Americans have gotten on this new health care plan who didn't have health insurance before. That is 1 percent of the American people. We threw out the health care plan that worked for 80 percent of Americans to fix a problem for 1 percent of Americans.

Look what it has done.

It has wrecked lives. I have here from my office a sampling of emails and letters, which don't include the phone calls from people who came up to me in the over 30 town hall meetings I did last year—women with tears in their eyes because they couldn't pay their health insurance, because they couldn't pay the deductibles when they went to the doctor or the hospital; a man who forwent going to get a particular type of surgery he needed because he couldn't pay the deductible. That is what this law has done to the people of America. It has victimized the people of America.

There is no way to fix this law. It is fundamentally flawed. We could go in and fix a problem piecemeal here and find a piecemeal resolution there. We would end up with another Frankenstein. The American people don't want Frankenstein. They don't want Groundhog Day either. They don't want the President to continue to throw stuff at them over and over again that doesn't work. They deserve a health care system that they control with their doctors, picking the health insurance programs that they want, that are not mandated by the Federal Government and that fit into their budgets. It empowers them instead of having their power taken away by some faceless bureaucracy in Washington.

Let's repeal this terrible ObamaCare law. Let's put in place a process that will give us a solution, one that works for people and what they really need. Let's get on with the business that we are here to do in order to make lives better for the American people.

I thank the majority leader, and I thank the Speaker, and I thank the whip for bringing this bill to the floor. I thank them for allowing my bill to be the one to be the package that we use today, and I ask all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on this important bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 596 so the flawed Obamacare program can be reformed in order to focus on patient-centered care.

NANCY PELOSI infamously said "We have to pass the [health care] bill so that you can find out what's in it." Nearly five years later, the verdict is in: Obamacare continues to be a flawed program that created over \$1.8 trillion in new spending. It imposed over \$1 trillion in new taxes, including on those families who make less than \$250,000 a year—violating another promise made by President Obama. In fact, Obamacare's tax increases will be borne primarily by middle class Americans during a time of sluggish economic activity.

Instead of allowing individuals and families to take control of their own healthcare decisions, the health law contained 18 separate tax increases, fees and penalties that imposed mandate after mandate and resulted in over 20,000 pages of new rules and regulations. I believe a far simpler way to fix our broken healthcare system is to give individuals and families control over their own healthcare choices, such as through health savings accounts or incentives to live healthy lifestyles. Investment in prevention and wellness will not only lead to longer lifestyles for Americans but also reduce the overall cost of healthcare.

In my home state of Illinois, we have already seen the effects of Obamacare in effect. According to the Illinois Policy Institute, since 2011, Illinois has lost the equivalent of 66,000 across multiple sectors due to reduced hours or less workers in the workplace due to Obamacare's employer mandate. Illinois families in 101 out of the state's 102 counties are facing, on average, higher premium costs—in

some cases those premiums are nearly 120% higher than they were before Obamacare according to the Manhattan Institute.

Finally, the President's health care law creates a limited religious conscience exemption that limits the exemption to a few select faiths. Legislation such as my EACH Act bill modestly expands the exemption so that more individuals who choose not to seek healthcare will not be fined for violating their religious beliefs.

I am proud to support this important legislation and I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee on solutions to better reform our healthcare system that protect the doctor-patient relationship while also incentivizing more people to take control of their own healthcare.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this 56th Republican attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

We have been down this road before, with the same misleading rhetoric that does not reflect the true benefits of the health reform law.

This legislation is being brought to the Floor in order to give Republican Freshmen a voting opportunity to repeal the ACA, despite the fact that polls have repeatedly shown high satisfaction rates with the newly mandated coverage opportunities under Obamacare, even among Republicans.

My colleagues speaking against the ACA today are not listening to these polls, or to thousands of newly insured individuals in my 40th Congressional District who are thrilled with their new access to health care.

In my district and hundreds of other poor and minority communities across the country, the benefits of expanded coverage and provisions to address health disparities are already changing lives.

ACA opponents are not listening to women from all economic backgrounds who are no longer paying higher premiums because they are female, and who now have prenatal care as a covered benefit.

They are not listening to millions of seniors who love their free preventive services and lower prescription drug costs, or the disabled community that no longer has to live in fear of being denied coverage for pre-existing conditions or because they've reached lifetime limits.

Mr. Speaker, the ACA is working for my constituents, for women and minority communities, and for seniors and people with disabilities.

It is time for my Republican colleagues to listen to these Americans who DO NOT want to lose these health benefits.

This bill is the same misguided legislation Republicans forced through the House in 2011, 2012, and 2013. And like those bills, it has absolutely no chance of passing the Senate or being signed into law by the President.

Let's stop wasting Congressional time and taxpayer's money and find solutions to the other complex issues facing our nation such as creating jobs and strengthening our economy.

I urge my colleagues to vote no on H.R. 596.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 596 a bill to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

This is the 56th attempt by House Republicans to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

After 55 attempts it was my hope that this new Congress would begin its work in a more productive manner. We should be addressing the need to eliminate sequestration, the importance of raising the minimum wage, provide universal access to child care, and the passage of a jobs bill that rebuilds our nation's infrastructure.

Instead we continue to waste precious legislative time on fighting this effort to hurting Americans who need affordable, assessable and available healthcare.

The Affordable Care Act is the law of the land. Instead of attempting to repeal and undermine this law, we should use our time to work together to make improvements where necessary and ensure its smooth implementation.

Many of those most in need of the healthcare coverage provided by the Affordable Care Act live in the Districts of many members on both sides of this argument. Texas, my own state, leads the list of states with the highest percentages of uninsured residents.

Those states with the highest percentage of uninsured base on a report by the Bureau of the Census "Health Insurance Coverage in the United States:

Texas with 22.1 percent, Florida with 20.0 percent, Nevada with 20.7 percent, Georgia with 18.8 percent, Alaska with 18.5 percent, Oklahoma with 17.7 percent, and Arizona with 17.1 percent.

The highest concentration of the uninsured is the poor. The Affordable Care Act provides to states at no cost options for residents to enroll in healthcare programs through Medicaid. Unfortunately, some states like my state of Texas has rejected this important component of the Affordable Care Act for those in the state in most need of healthcare.

Other states that have not adopted the provisions of the law that expand Medicaid include Texas, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, Louisiana, Alaska, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Kansas, Montana, Idaho, Utah, Missouri, Virginia, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming and Maine.

Instead of focusing on protecting and caring for the health of our constituents, we are allowing partisan games to interfere with serving the best interest of our Districts.

There are 20 days before enrollment in the online Marketplaces will begin, the House majority is bringing this bill to deter the implementation of this key provision of the Affordable Care Act.

This latest attempt to prevent implementation of Obamacare would stop any premium tax credits from being provided until the HHS Inspector General Office certifies there is a program in place that "successfully and consistently verifies" household income and coverage requirements for those applying for these credits.

Conveniently, there is no way that this new requirement would be met in a timely fashion because the HHS IG office does not have the resources, staff or expertise to undertake such a certification. Therefore, since the new requirement will likely not be met, the Affordable Care Act will be drastically inhibited.

The impact of the enactment of this GOP bill would be to delay millions of qualified Americans from getting health coverage. The new requirement would deny millions of our hard-working constituents from getting the premium tax credits they are clearly eligible for beginning on January 1, 2014.

This is how the income verification program under the HHS regulations works to hinder the Affordable Care Act.

To get tax credits to make their health insurance affordable, individuals will have to submit their projected annual household income.

All income data submitted through the Marketplaces will be checked with IRS data, Social Security data, and current wage information.

If there is an inconsistency between income projection claims and proven past income, the Marketplaces will require additional documentation from applicants.

In addition, Marketplaces will check employer coverage information from the applicant and their employer against data from the: Office of Personnel Management and the SHOP Marketplaces (where available) as well as other data sources approved by HHS to verify eligibility for the tax credits.

If applicant information and other data do not match, the Marketplaces will ask for further supporting documentation.

Furthermore, all payments of premium tax credits are reconciled by IRS the following year. The income data submitted is reconciled against the actual wages and health coverage information on the individual's income tax return. If there is an inconsistency, the applicant pays back the excess, subject to statutory limit. There is 100% income verification and reconciliation on this back-end.

I cannot understand the continuous rejection by the Republicans against the Affordable Care act when the idea of everyone paying something towards their healthcare was a Republican idea put into practice in the State of Massachusetts by the former Republican presidential candidate, Mitt Romney.

Instead of focusing on the issues that the American people want addressed—we are having the same discussion to repeal the Affordable Care Act in efforts of my colleagues to repeal, obstruct and undermine this law. What is even more frustrating is that while there is so much energy in trying to repeal the Affordable Care Act, there has been no plan or suggestions posed on how to replace it.

I want to once again highlight the benefits of the Affordable Care Act so we can once in for all end the attempts to try and repeal this law that benefits so many Americans. Because of the Affordable Care Act, Americans are already seeing lower costs, better coverage, and patient protections that Republicans want to repeal:

13 million Americans benefited from \$1.1 billion in rebates sent to them from their health insurance companies last year.

105 million Americans have access to free preventive services, including 71 million Americans in private plans and 34 million seniors on Medicare.

Millions of women began receiving free coverage for comprehensive women's preventive services in August 2012.

100 million Americans no longer have a lifetime limit on healthcare coverage.

Nearly 17 million children with pre-existing conditions can no longer be denied coverage by insurers.

6.6 million young-adults up to age 26 have health insurance through their parents' plan, half of whom would be uninsured without this coverage.

6.3 million Seniors in the 'donut hole' have already saved \$6.1 billion on their prescription drugs.

3.2 million Seniors have access to free annual wellness visits under Medicare, and

360,000 small employers have already taken advantage of the Small Business Health Care Tax Credit to provide health insurance to 2 million workers.

Because of the Affordable Care Act 3.8 million people in Texas—including 2.2 million seniors on Medicare now receive preventative care services. Over 7 million Texans no longer have to fear lifetime limits on their healthcare insurance. Texas parents of 300,731 young adults can sleep easier at night knowing that their children can remain on their health insurance until age 26.

The protection provided by this law is a guarantee to 5 million Texas residents that their insurance companies will spend 80 percent of their premium dollars on healthcare, or customers will get a rebate from their insurance company.

In my state, there are 4,029 people who had no insurance because of pre-existing conditions, but today the Affordable Care Act has provided them with access to coverage. The Affordable Care Act means that many Texans are free of worry about having access to healthcare insurance.

However, the list of benefits from the Affordable Care Act is not completed. In 2014, the Affordable Care Act's final provisions will become available to our citizens. Insurance companies will be banned from: discriminating against anyone with a pre-existing condition, charging higher rates based on gender or health status, enforcing lifetime dollar limits, enforcing annual dollar limits on health benefits.

In 2014, access to affordable healthcare for the self employed or those who decide to purchase their own coverage will be easier because of Affordable Insurance Exchanges. There will be a one stop marketplace where consumers can do what Federal employees have done for decades—purchase insurance at reasonable rates from an insurer of their choice. This will assure that health care consumers can get the care that they need from the medical professionals they trust.

This Congress has work that needs to be done, and it has work that should be taken up to restore workers, their families and communities to sound economic health, not play partisan political games.

I urge my Colleagues to put partisan politics aside and join me in voting no on the passage of this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 70, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. DESAULNIER. I am opposed in its current form, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. DeSaulnier moves to recommit the bill H.R. 596 to the Committee on Ways and Means with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Add at the end of the bill the following:

SEC. 4. PROTECTING WOMEN, SENIORS, AND MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES FROM THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF HEALTH REPEAL.

The provisions of this Act shall not take effect unless and until such date that it is certified that such provisions will not result in—

(1) discrimination by health insurance issuers and group health plans on the basis of pre-existing conditions or gender, including in the form of higher premiums for women or loss of benefits such as mammograms, cervical cancer screenings, prenatal care, and commonly prescribed contraception;

(2) higher premiums or out-of-pocket costs for seniors for prescription drugs under prescription drug plans under the Medicare program under part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-101 et seq.); or

(3) a tax increase on middle class families through the loss of subsidies to purchase health insurance coverage.

Mrs. LOVE (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I reserve a point of order against the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A point of order is reserved.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk continued to read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I have listened intently to the comments of my friends on the other side of the aisle, and I must say that it has not been my experience where I come from, but maybe it is a little different with my being from California.

This is the final amendment to the bill, which will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill, as amended, will immediately proceed to final passage.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 596 would eliminate critical benefits and health care coverage from hardworking American families. In addition to taking away Americans' health care security, this bill would increase the deficit, make health care more expensive, and degrade the quality of care that patients are now receiving. If adopted, my motion to recommit would ensure that some of the most important protections of the Affordable Care Act would remain in effect.

Yesterday, as others have mentioned, was Groundhog Day, but, today, we are Bill Murray, living the same votes over and over again—in fact, as has been mentioned, 56 times over and over again.

This motion would protect existing law by continuing to, one, prevent insurance companies from discriminating based on preexisting conditions and gender or cutting health benefits for women; two, prevent increases in Medicare D prescription drug costs for seniors; and three, prevent a tax increase for middle class American families by the taking away of subsidies to purchase health insurance.

Mr. Speaker, I am a former Republican and a small business owner who supports the Affordable Care Act and who has seen the benefits for small business. I have also seen the benefits for the economy and for the 7 million Californians who do not have health insurance. Many individuals who wanted health insurance were unable to obtain it, either because it was too expensive or because they had preexisting conditions, including nearly 126,000 people in my home county in the Bay Area.

One of these individuals in my district is a young woman named Emily. Emily was born with a congenital heart defect, and as a result, she will need regular monitoring and treatment by a cardiologist. Were it not for the Affordable Care Act, Emily would have been left without critical health care and the necessary treatment for the remainder of her young life.

Her situation is not unique. Approximately 130 million other Americans no longer have to worry about being denied health care coverage because of their health status. Additionally, Mr. Speaker, under the Affordable Care Act, almost 8 million seniors have saved nearly \$10 billion on prescription drugs, and under the Affordable Care Act, many people paid less for their insurance in 2014 than in 2013.

Before the law was enacted, health care premiums were increasing exponentially, much faster than college tuition, workers' wages, and inflation. Once the law took effect, premium increases for plans slowed down substantially. Simply, this law is saving Americans money. This year in California, with 2 weeks left to go in open enrollment, more than 273,000 Californians have joined the nearly 1 million covered California customers who were enrolled in 2014. Nearly nine of 10 enrollees received some kind of financial help in 2014, ensuring that Californians can afford the kind of coverage that they need and want.

Repealing the law without including these three protections will cost more than we can afford—\$100 billion over the next 10 years, until 2022, and more than \$1 trillion in the following decade. It would also discriminate against women in the form of higher premiums,

and it would make it impossible for many women to get the care they need.

Mr. Speaker, every American family deserves a plan that covers essential health benefits, like hospital care, emergency care, care for pregnant women, and a plan that won't bankrupt them or this country just because an illness or an accident occurs. Every American family deserves to know that they won't be kicked off their insurance for a preexisting condition or be subjected to lifetime caps that take away their benefits when they need them the most.

Health care, Mr. Speaker, is not a Democrat or a Republican issue; it is an American issue and a human issue. We are here to ensure that every American continues to have access to quality, affordable health care. If we can produce a bill that fulfills the goals set out by the Affordable Care Act, it doesn't matter who wrote or signed the bill. But repealing the Affordable Care Act without including these important protections for hardworking, middle class American families is irresponsible and reckless.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOVE. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The reservation of the point of order is withdrawn.

Mrs. LOVE. Mr. Speaker, I claim the time in opposition to the gentleman's motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Utah is recognized for 5 minutes.

□ 1630

Mrs. LOVE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a few questions of my colleagues as it relates to health care.

Has Congress made health care more accessible and affordable? Has the quality of care improved? No.

Do hardworking families and our children deserve better? Absolutely.

Now is the time to repeal and replace this disaster of a law. This law has hurt more poor and more middle-income families.

I received a letter from a constituent. Mr. Speaker, the letter states:

I wonder if you would like a real-life example of what ObamaCare is doing to families. My daughter and her husband are expecting their second child. They were planning on moving from their small apartment to a small home. Their insurance has doubled under ObamaCare, and they will pay \$500 a month. Their deductible will be \$10,000. They will have to pay each doctor for a phone call plus \$50 copayment. No specialists are covered. They barely are getting by as it is. Because of their insurance costs, there is no chance of getting into a home or even a bigger apartment. How can insurance for everyone be of help if it causes such a financial burden on families? My daughter is so depressed. She isn't even excited about her upcoming child because she is so worried about their future. If we had the means to help, we

would, but we don't. My heart breaks for her. How can Congress help?

Sincerely, Paula.

Now, people talk about tweaking ObamaCare. I ask: How do you tweak that to help that family?

The American people deserve better, Mr. Speaker. Imagine a health care system that is centered in service. Imagine a health care system that is measured by outcomes, not by Washington dictates.

I know that it is hard for some of my colleagues to contemplate, but imagine, if you will, for me, Mr. Speaker, a health care system where dollars and decisions are left with patients, their families, and their doctor. I see an American exceptionalism at work, where families and innovation and compassion drive the highest quality of care.

Members of Congress, Representatives of the people, do not settle. Don't settle for just tweaking a bad program that hurts more than it helps, that controls more than it empowers. There are too many Members of this body that are content with just getting this health care law to be good enough. I am here to tell you that, for the American people, good enough just isn't good enough.

I reject the downward spiral of mediocrity and government takeover of health care. I refuse to pursue the administration's path of fear, blame, and failure. I oppose this motion to recommit a bad health care law.

It is time for us, for this body, to advance the policies and the principles which have lifted more people out of poverty, fueled more freedom, and driven more dreams than any other set of principles in the history of the world. I ask this body to come with me, boldly step forward and unleash that American exceptionalism that produces the health care solutions that this family is worthy of and every hardworking American in this country is worthy of.

May God continue to bless this great, exceptional country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 179, nays 241, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 57]

YEAS—179

Adams
Aguilar
Ashford
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Glyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle (PA)
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne

Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hahn
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Honda
Hoyer
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lieu (CA)
Loeb sack
Lowenthal
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross

NAYS—241

O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascarella
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmuter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul

Ellmers
Emmer
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fox
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie

Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul

NOT VOTING—13

Chu (CA)
Denham
Duckworth
Gutiérrez
Huffman

Lee
Lofgren
Lowey
Nunnelee
Roe (TN)

□ 1657

Messrs. GOSAR, BOST, COFFMAN, SALMON, LUETKEMEYER, ROYCE, and ROSKAM changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mr. SWALWELL of California and Ms. SLAUGHTER changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 239, noes 186, not voting 8, as follows:

McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Wagner
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Ratchcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer

Stutzman
Welch
Young (AK)

□ 1657

Messrs. GOSAR, BOST, COFFMAN, SALMON, LUETKEMEYER, ROYCE, and ROSKAM changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

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A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 239, noes 186, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 58]

AYES—239

Abraham Griffith
Aderholt Grothman
Allen Guinta
Amash Guthrie
Amodei Hanna
Babin Hardy
Barletta Harper
Barr Harris
Barton Hartzler
Benishek Heck (NV)
Bilirakis Hensarling
Bishop (MI) Herrera Beutler
Bishop (UT) Hice (GA)
Black Hill
Blackburn Holding
Blum Hudson
Bost Huelskamp
Boustany Huizenga (MI)
Brady (TX) Hultgren
Brat Hunter
Bridenstine Hurd (TX)
Brooks (AL) Hurt (VA)
Brooks (IN) Issa
Buchanan Jenkins (KS)
Buck Jenkins (WV)
Bucshon Johnson (OH)
Burgess Johnson, Sam
Byrne Jolly
Calvert Jones
Carter (GA) Jordan
Carter (TX) Joyce
Chabot Kelly (PA)
Chaffetz King (IA)
Clawson (FL) King (NY)
Coffman Kinzinger (IL)
Cole Kline
Collins (GA) Knight
Collins (NY) Labrador
Comstock LaMalfa
Conaway Lamborn
Cook Lance
Costello (PA) Latta
Cramer LoBiondo
Crawford Long
Crenshaw Loudermilk
Culberson Love
Curbelo (FL) Lucas
Davis, Rodney Luetkemeyer
Denham Lummis
Dent MacArthur
DeSantis Marchant
DesJarlais Marino
Diaz-Balart Massie
Duffy McCarthy
Duncan (SC) McCaul
Duncan (TN) McClintock
Ellmers McHenry
Emmer McKinley
Farenthold McMorris
Fincher Rodgers
Fitzpatrick McSally
Fleischmann Meadows
Fleming Meehan
Flores Messer
Forbes Mica
Fortenberry Miller (FL)
Foxx Miller (MI)
Franks (AZ) Moolenaar
Frelinghuysen Mooney (WV)
Garrett Mullin
Gibbs Mulvaney
Gibson Murphy (PA)
Gohmert Neugebauer
Goodlatte Newhouse
Gosar Noem
Gowdy Nugent
Granger Nunes
Graves (GA) Olson
Graves (LA) Palazzo
Graves (MO) Palmer

NOES—186

Adams Bonamici
Aguilar Boyle (PA)
Ashford Brady (PA)
Bass Brown (FL)
Beatty Brownley (CA)
Becerra Bustos
Bera Butterfield
Beyer Capps
Bishop (GA) Capuano
Blumenauer Cárdenas

Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scallise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry

Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Deutsch
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Doyle (PA)
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hahn
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)

Chu (CA)
Duckworth
Gutiérrez

Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lieu (CA)
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Lujan, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree

NOT VOTING—8

Lee
Lofgren
Nunnelee
Roe (TN)
Young (AK)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1705

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes on Wednesday, January 28, 2015 through Tuesday, February 3, 2015.

Had I been present on Wednesday, January 28, 2015, I would have voted "yea" on roll call vote 49, and "nay" on roll call vote 50 against final passage of H.R. 351, the LNG Permitting Certainty and Transparency Act.

Had I been present on Monday, February 2, 2015, I would have voted "yea" on roll call vote 51, "yea" on roll call vote 52, and "yea" on roll call vote 53.

On Tuesday, February 3, 2015, I would have voted "nay" on roll call vote 54, "nay" on roll call vote 55, and "nay" on roll call vote 56. I would have voted "yea" on roll call vote 57,

and finally I would have voted "nay" on roll call vote 58 in strong opposition to H.R. 596, the 56th vote to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote today because of a serious illness in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted: Roll Call #57—Nay; Roll Call #58—Yea.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 203. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the conduct of annual evaluations of mental health care and suicide prevention programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 77

Resolved, That the following named Members be and are hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM.—Mr. Welch and Ms. Michelle Lujan Grisham of New Mexico.

(2) COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY.—Mr. Perlmutter and Mr. Tonko.

(3) COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS.—Ms. Adams.

(4) COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS.—Mr. Walz and Mr. McNerney.

Mr. BECERRA (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. MCSALLY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE HOUSE DEMOCRACY PARTNERSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 4(b) of House Resolution 5, One Hundred Fourteenth Congress, and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, of the following Members to the House Democracy Partnership:

Mr. ROSKAM, Illinois, Chairman
 Mr. FORTENBERRY, Nebraska
 Mr. BOUSTANY, Louisiana
 Mr. CONAWAY, Texas
 Mr. BUCHANAN, Florida
 Mr. CRENSHAW, Florida
 Mrs. BROOKS, Indiana
 Mrs. BLACK, Tennessee
 Mr. RIBBLE, Wisconsin
 Mrs. WALORSKI, Indiana
 Mr. ZELDIN, New York

MIDDLE CLASS ECONOMICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, and Members, wow. There are actually people here in the audience and Members.

We have talked a lot about middle class economics, but why? Why is it important? Why did the President raise this issue in his State of the Union? What is this all about?

We are going to spend some time here today working our way through middle class economics, and some of my colleagues may join me, and I asked the Republicans, if they want to join, they could too.

It is okay, Madam Speaker, that they are not listening. But this is really an important issue.

So why is middle class economics important?

What is it all about?

It is really about driving the economy. If you want to create jobs in America, if you want to have economic growth in America, the middle class of America, the great middle class, the millions upon millions of men and women that are working families, they need to grow. And so middle class economics is all about growing the American economy, because that is where demand is created.

We often talk about the job creators, and businesses really create product and they create profit. But it is the middle class that actually creates the growth in the economy by creating the demand. So if we are able to grow the middle class, grow the paychecks, increase the vast number of Americans who are in the middle class, we will create the jobs. So that is why middle class economics is on our agenda.

□ 1715

There are other pieces of this. It leads to higher wages. So when you increase the middle class, you increase the higher wages, creating the demand.

So that is what this is all about. It is about opportunity. It is about growing the ability of the working families in America to make it, to have a shot at education, to have a shot at a home. So that is what we are going to talk about

today in the next 46 minutes, about middle class economics. The President brought this issue to us. We are going to spend some time discussing this.

I notice that our fearless whip, STENY HOYER of Maryland, has joined us.

Mr. HOYER, please, let's get into this conversation.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

The reason I wanted him to yield is because I want to thank him. I don't know that there is any Member of this body or, frankly, the other body who has spent more time talking with the American public to let them know how focused we are on making sure that Americans can Make It In America. And the middle class, of course, is critically important.

I will tell the gentleman from California, he and I have both traveled outside this country—I think I have been to probably 60 nations—and every nation has its rich people, and every nation has its poor people. America's genius and success was posited, however, on the broad middle class that we had, that made America. They are the ones whose work and intellect and creativity and innovative spirit and entrepreneurial energy made America what it is and what it has been.

I want to congratulate the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) for the fidelity that he has shown over the years to this critically important objective of making sure that the middle class, working Americans have the ability to make it and to increase their standard of living over that of their parents. That has always been the genius of our country. It needs to continue to be. And the President, of course, has offered, as the gentleman points out, an agenda that is focused on working men and women in this country, making sure that they have the ability to live quality lives and have their children pursue education and do even better than their parents; and as they do so, their country, this great country of ours, will do better as well.

So I wanted to rise to thank the gentleman for his, as I say, fidelity to this objective, which is, after all, the critical agenda for our country.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I thank you, Mr. HOYER. Nobody has been at this longer than you. You have been working in the Halls of Congress and across this Nation advocating for the middle class.

Both Democrats and Republicans now agree that the middle class in America has stalled out. They have not seen the increase in their paychecks. In fact, in the last couple of years, there has actually been a decrease on the average middle-American paycheck.

So what we are all about and what the President proposed to us in his State of the Union was middle class economics. And it is critically important, if we want to grow the jobs in this Na-

tion, that we have got to pay attention to the middle class and how they can improve themselves, how they can have a higher standard of living, have greater paychecks. In doing so, we will grow this economy. We will be able to deal with the deficit. There are numerous ways in which this can be done.

We need to look for higher wages. Infrastructure is critically important. In the budget that the President just put forth yesterday, there is a major advancement that he is proposing for infrastructure, a 6-year program, over \$600 billion in that 6-year period—\$673 billion building our roads, rebuilding our bridges, our ports, our communication systems. When you do that, you actually are going to grow the economy, and it is the middle class that will have those jobs.

So this is all about growing the middle class, otherwise known as middle class economics. That is what we are going to debate this year.

We are going to spend the next several months as we put together the budget first and then the appropriations and the various pieces of legislation—for example, reauthorizing the surface transportation program. We want to structure that. We, the Democrats, want to structure that in such a way that the principal benefits flow to the working families of America so that they can see greater wages, so that they can see greater opportunities. And there are many, many pieces to this puzzle that we need to pay attention to. So we want to grow American jobs.

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) was here just a moment ago. And he has been talking about this theme of making it in America, which builds on the Buy America laws which have been in effect for more than 40 years. Our taxpayer money must be spent, should be spent on American-made equipment. We will come to this in a little more detail, but these are the fundamental parts of growing American jobs. You make things in America, whether that happens to be a movie or a new app for your iPhone or a train or a plane, whatever it happens to be. Make it in America; and use our taxpayer money to buy American-made equipment.

This one here: a well-educated workforce is fundamental to growing any economy, whether it be in Bangladesh or in the United States, the education of the workforce. If you have a well-educated workforce, your economy will grow.

America used to have the best education system in the world. We are not there anymore. We have fallen way off that power curve. We have got to establish America's position as having the best educated workforce in the entire world.

Now, the President, in his State of the Union and as part of the middle

class economics, spoke to this issue when he talked about community colleges, all Americans being able to get 2 years of education at a community college, perhaps to pick up an AA degree or some skill set, and that it be free. What an important, important element that is in having a well-educated workforce. There are many, many other pieces to this educated workforce, and we will, over the next several weeks and months, be talking about this as we go forward.

Research and development. Well, I am from California, and I represent a major research university, the University of California, Davis. You can just see spreading out from that university new businesses in biotechnology, biomedical, biopharmaceutical. We are seeing energy programs and new companies being created from the research at the universities. This is not just at Davis, California, but certainly Silicon Valley is a prime example of the skill being used all across this Nation, and other research institutions around the Nation. These are the ways in which you grow American jobs.

We talked earlier about infrastructure. We will come back to that.

Trade policies are also critically important. We will be debating the Trans-Pacific Partnership here and the TTIP, the European trade agreement. In those trade agreements, it is vitally important that we don't give away the American jobs. It will be a great debate. Very important. We have seen what happened with NAFTA and other trade agreements when we have simply allowed the offshoring of American jobs.

So these are six pieces of how you grow American jobs.

I notice my colleague from Vermont is here.

If you would care to join us in this conversation, I would be delighted.

Mr. WELCH. Thank you for doing this.

One of the things that we have to recognize in Congress is that policies really make a difference.

Wages have stagnated; people haven't had a raise in 15 or 20 years; and there are a lot of reasons for that. Some of it is globalization. A lot of it has to do with the weakening bargaining power of unions that were so helpful in improving living standards for everyday Americans, not just for the members of the union but for others who benefited by the commitment of unions to good jobs, good wages, and safe working conditions.

There are pressures with globalization that have reduced bargaining power. It has made things cheaper to buy but has really helped contribute to lower wages. The bottom line is that we need policies in order to focus attention, as you are saying, on the middle class and improving their purchasing power, giving them what

the middle class has always had: a wage or a salary where, at the end of the month, they can pay their bills, set aside a little money for college, set aside a little money for a vacation, set aside a little extra money for retirement. That is a basic contract that we should be making.

We have got a variety of things where we have created policies and undercut the capacity of the middle class to sustain itself.

The tax policy is out of control. It is really outrageous when we have been passing these Bush tax cuts that are skewed very heavily toward high-end folks with the notion and the assertion that it will create jobs through trickle-down economics. It hasn't worked.

When we have entered, in some cases, into trade agreements, it didn't take into account the environmental and labor standards that are so essential to having a level playing field. American workers are willing to compete, but it has got to be on a level playing field.

Then basic things that a confident nation always invests in, even in tough times, like education and the future. We grew up, and those ahead of us had the GI Bill. They came back from serving their country and got a free education. But you know what? They paid it back, and then some, with their productivity.

We established Medicare and Social Security that has provided a safety net for older people. We are trying to make inroads now into providing a secure health care system for everybody through the Affordable Care Act, but we have a big challenge in bringing down those costs.

We have an opportunity to invest in, as you were saying, not just the higher education, but job training for people so that they have the skills that we need to compete in a modern economy.

And the infrastructure that you mentioned, how is it that in this country, where we have extraordinary engineers, extraordinary needs, and bipartisan agreement that we have to rebuild our roads and our bridges, extend broadband throughout the country, including in rural areas of Vermont and, by the way, rebuild our schools, rebuild our hospitals, all of these are institutions that are essential to the well-being of local communities that are where the middle-class people live, so I really appreciate your focus on this.

What is frustrating, I think, for America and for a lot of us in Congress is that our focus on policy is how many more tax cuts should we give to folks who don't need them, how much more should we spend on things that don't reward investment and hard work, and for how long are we going to continue this disinvestment in science, in research, in medical research, in infrastructure, and in education.

I am pretty amazed, as I know you are, that young people getting out of

college, on average, have a \$30,000-plus debt. Many have accumulated debts in the range of \$100,000, and a lot of those debts are shared by their parents who have cosigned. They pay higher interest rates. A lot of those parents who have finally paid down their house and were looking forward to maybe taking a 2- or 3-week vacation, maybe a cruise, suddenly find themselves saddled, along with their kids, with these very high monthly payments for education.

So there is a bipartisan desire, I think, to help the middle class, but we are in a debate about what the solutions are. Essentially, one argument is that no taxes, no regulation, will somehow lift all boats. I don't think I have seen evidence that that is the case. Another argument is you have got to make sensible, prudent, disciplined decisions about how and where to invest in the future of this country.

So, Mr. GARAMENDI, I salute you for your advocacy here and for speaking so eloquently on this issue that I think is the issue of our time.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. WELCH, your representation of the State of Vermont is unparalleled. You have been at this for some time, and you have so correctly pointed out all of the various policies that are in law today that hold back the middle class.

You have talked about the tax policy that basically supports those at the very, very top—the one-percenters, the 10 percent—and forces, therefore, the tax burden onto the middle class and the poor. The President is suggesting a shift in that, and we are going to debate that here—and we should. But again, that is one more piece of this middle class economics to grow American jobs. These are all public policy issues, the Make It In America, the Buy America provisions, the education.

You raised something that has been very, very much on my mind. I have kids that have school debt from going to medical school or nursing school or even just to the 4 years, and I often wonder, the great majority of the student debt is actually owned by the Federal Government. I think about 60 percent of the \$1 trillion-plus in student debt is owned by the American public.

□ 1730

We refinance everything. We refinance our credit cards, and we refinance our home, seeking a lower interest rate. I just wonder: Why don't we refinance the student debt?

Mr. WELCH. That is exactly right.

Mr. GARAMENDI. We could borrow money at less than 2 percent now for 10 years, probably 3 or 4 percent for 20 years. Why don't we go out and borrow at 2 percent, refinance that debt, and let them pay 2½ rather than 6, 7, 8, and 9 percent?

Mr. WELCH. If I may, Mr. GARAMENDI, you are so right. One of

the upsides of this really tough economy is that interest rates have gone down, and a lot of folks have been given a little breathing room by being able to reduce their interest rates on their mortgage from 7 or 8 percent down to 3½ percent. That is real money in their pocket.

Mr. GARAMENDI. You bet.

Mr. WELCH. Why not allow students and parents who have cosigned on students loans that same opportunity to save a few bucks? They will pay those loans back.

So I salute you.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Refinance your home; refinance your student debt. It is a bookkeeping procedure at the Federal level. Right now, those students are paying a very, very high interest rate to the U.S. Government, and they are held back. This is a major part of the middle class.

Mr. WELCH. Well, I thank you for your leadership.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. WELCH, thank you for joining us.

Madam Speaker, I am going to carry on here for a few more moments. We are going to talk about a few other things that go into this. That previous placard had Make It In America as one of the principal ways of growing American jobs, and it is really true.

Madam Speaker, I want to give you just two examples of how Make It In America and Buy America creates American jobs—or not. Two bridges, one on the west coast, the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, and one on the east coast—New York, actually—the Tappan Zee Bridge in New York.

This bridge in the San Francisco Bay was supposed to be about a \$3 billion project. It turned out to be over \$6 billion. Instead of buying American steel, they went out and bought Chinese steel. It was supposed to be 10 percent cheaper. It turned out to be far, far more expensive. It became over budget.

It did create 3,000 jobs in China and serious problems with the quality of the steel, the welds, and other problems. Anyway, it wound up almost \$4 billion over budget, more than 100 percent more expensive. That was San Francisco. This is my State. This is a major controversy and, if you will, a major scandal in California.

In New York, the Tappan Zee Bridge is now under construction. It is 100 percent U.S.-made steel. It is coming in at about \$3.9 billion total, under budget, and there were 7,728 American jobs as a direct result of the decision made by New York to buy American, to make it in America.

This is the most clear example that I have been able to find—west coast, east coast—and the east coast is making the right decision of buying American, using the American taxpayer dollars in the case of both the commuters in New York or the commuters in San Francisco Bay, paying their money to China

in the case of San Francisco Bay Bridge, or to American workers and American steel companies, a prime example of why Make It In America is so critically important because it is all about those middle class jobs.

It is about the steelworkers, the ironworkers, and the men and women that are doing the welding that are in the shops and in the steel mill harvesting or mining the coal and the iron ore to make the steel.

Keep this in mind, America: when we talk about Make It In America policies and when we talk about middle class economics, we are talking about bringing it home, keeping it home, and building our own economy.

China can do what they want to do, but let them do it with somebody else's money and not with American taxpayer money, so we are going to push this policy hard.

I want to give you another example, Madam Speaker, and that is that at this moment Amtrak—we know what Amtrak is. It is just the American passenger rail system. Amtrak is requesting a waiver from the Department of Transportation on the Buy America requirements for the purchase of 28 new high-speed rail train sets for the east coast corridor.

Amtrak correctly wants to make the trip between Washington, D.C., and Boston a whole lot faster. To do that, they want to transition to a whole new type of train—not the Acela, which was the last version of high speed. They want to go to a real high-speed system here on the east coast.

However, we are talking about tens of millions of dollars to be spent on these high-speed train sets, 28 of them. They want to waive the Buy America requirements—waive the Buy America requirements.

What happened with the Bay Bridge, the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge when they did that? The jobs went overseas. I am saying: No way, no how, are you going to waive the Buy America requirements. They say: Oh, but you don't understand. America doesn't make high-speed trains.

Yes, that is correct because we have never had them in the United States, and we never will if we waive the Buy America requirements both for the high-speed rail on the east coast or the high-speed rail on the west coast.

No way, no how, Madam Speaker, should we allow American taxpayer money to be spent overseas. Build it in America, make it in America, and hold on to those Buy America requirements. They are legal. They have been in law for nearly half a century. Keep them.

Amtrak, I am sorry, but I have talked to the companies that could manufacture these trains. They say: Of course we can make them in America. It is going to take a little while. We have got to build the factory. We can do it. If it is required, we will do it.

I will give you an example of how it actually happened. In the stimulus bill, the American Recovery Act, there was a provision, some \$700 million for Amtrak to purchase 100 percent American-made locomotives—these are the electric locomotives that will be operating on the east coast corridor, 100 percent American made, \$700 million, about 80 different trains, 80 different locomotives.

Siemens looked at that and said: Hmm, 700 million, that is a lot of money, 80, 90 trains or locomotives, we can do that.

They took their light-rail factory in Sacramento, California, about a mile from my district, a few miles from my home, expanded it, and began the process of making it in America. Those new locomotives are 100 percent American made by a German company operating in the United States.

Don't tell me you can't do it. Don't tell me that you cannot make aluminum frames for these trains, that you can't make wheels and brake systems in the United States. This is the United States. We used to be—and we must be—at the top of the pack. We can be if we bring it home, if we keep it home, and if we make it in America.

Remember. Remember this fiasco in California. Remember what happens when you went to China to buy steel, 100 percent over budget, and a lot of ongoing problems as to the safety of this bridge going forward.

Remember New York. They said they were going to buy American. It comes in under budget with 7,728 jobs in the United States, built by Americans. I am not proud of California in this situation.

Madam Speaker, there are a couple of other things that are on my mind. As I said, why middle class economics? It is about growing the demands. It is about rebuilding the middle class, giving the purchasing power to the middle class, and growing their wages.

Grow the paycheck. Grow the paycheck. Grow the jobs. Grow the paycheck. These are all ways in which we can raise the wage. There is this little #raisethewage, so when you see that out there on your Twitter account, you know what it is about. Grow the paycheck, buy American, education—job training and education.

This is a big one: more than 50 percent of the women in America are working, and they are working at the same job as a man for about 75 percent of the wage. Do you want to grow the wage? Do you want a bigger paycheck for American families?

Then pay attention to the law that has been in effect in the United States since John F. Kennedy signed it in the sixties, and that is equal pay for equal work.

This one down here at the bottom, the men and women at the bottom at the minimum wage. We have been calling for a raise in the minimum wage for months and years here.

If you want to help out the American economy, you raise the minimum wage—we—excuse me, not you, us—Members of Congress and the Senate—raise the minimum wage, and we will see greater purchasing power and a growing economy as a result of that.

You don't lose jobs. The economic studies are clear. You are not going to lose jobs by raising the minimum wage. It hasn't happened in California. The minimum wage went up in California a year ago. We have seen job growth. We didn't see less jobs.

What we are seeing, Madam Speaker, is greater purchasing power by the families of America, fewer people on food stamps, and fewer people on welfare. As you raise the minimum wage, that is what happens, so this is what we call grow the paycheck, raise the wage.

I am going to let education go. We will pick that up later. I want to pick up one of my current challenges. I think anybody that studies American history will know that America was the greatest maritime nation in the world. We would contend with the United Kingdom—England—as to which was the greatest maritime nation, and we surpassed England.

We have lost that. We have seen our maritime industry—our mariners and our ships—decline. We have very, very few ships flying the American flag anymore. All of the cruise ships that are advertised even on the Super Bowl 2 days ago were flagged overseas. They didn't have American crews on them, although all of their passengers seemed to be American—or at least many of them.

What we need to do is to find ways to rebuild the American maritime industry. These are the sailors, the merchant marines, the American mariners, the captains, the sailors, and the engineers.

It is also the shipbuilding. The great shipyards of America are in need of business. We do a lot of naval ships. Madam Speaker, this is a fundamental national security issue. The shipyards in America, the ability to build ships for the Navy and for our domestic trade is critical as a security issue. Obviously, it is critical as a jobs issue. We can do this.

We are in the process of exporting natural gas with liquefied natural gas. A new terminal by the Cheniere company in Texas will need 100 ships or more just for that one terminal. What I am saying is that if we are going to ship a strategic national asset—natural gas in the form of liquefied natural gas—if we are going to export that, then we ought to use that export to secure a second national security issue, and that is our merchant marines and our shipyards.

When this tanker, which happened to have been built in Japan, finds its way to an American port, will it be Amer-

ican sailors? This is a very dangerous thing. You are talking about millions of gallons of natural gas in liquefied form. Will it be American sailors? Will this ship be an American ship?

India wants to buy natural gas from the United States. They have a tender offer out. That tender offer says: We want to buy X gazillion cubic meters of natural gas—good—and three of the ships that transport that must be built in India.

□ 1745

And I say to India: Great. The other six or seven ships must be built in the United States. You want our gas, terrific. Then we want to have the ships built in the United States with American sailors.

This is a fundamental national security issue.

I just noticed that my good friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO), came to join me on the floor, probably because I was praising New York so profusely with the Tappan Zee Bridge. Mr. TONKO, good for New York. Shame on California for building a bridge with Chinese steel.

Mr. TONKO. I thank the gentleman from California for leading us on middle class economics and on infrastructure and on growing the jobs and growing the economy. That can be—must be—our top priority, making certain that the dignity of work and the strength of drawing a paycheck are the American Dream that we want to help individuals and families across this country tether so they can move forward, utilizing their skills and talents and passions in order to be able to maintain a household, raise a family, and provide for the American Dream. It is always a pleasure to join you when we are speaking on these issues so forcefully, and to know there is a solution out there. There is a way to grow this economy, and looking at some of the items mentioned in the budget is important, and we should pay respect to that.

Certainly infrastructure that you just made mention of, and thank you for leading us in a recent motion to recommit to make certain that those who will staff those boats, transporting that cargo of LNG, create American jobs. We need to be very much disciplined in how we create a working agenda for America's families, and that is one step in the process.

But to the greater issue of infrastructure, I would suggest that we are well beyond that deadline when we should have responded to America's needs. We have a very deficient infrastructure. There are many bridges in this country that are rated deficient and weak. There are a number of situations with the grid system that was designed for a monopoly setting, and we now know that we transmit, we deliver electrons not only from region to region, former

monopoly region to monopoly region, but State to State and country to country. It requires an upgrading in investment in our electric utility grid and certainly broadband. For our communication's sake, we need to wire neighborhoods in remote areas in communities across the country to enable us to strengthen the outcome, the commerce end of it all, to give businesses those needs that are so important.

Let me just close with this, because I see our friend, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) has joined us. I believe it is the Ninth District of Ohio.

I recently held a press conference at home after a week of being on the floor here, and it was about the child care and dependent child care credit, tax credit, and it was amazing to hear the real-life stories of parents who struggle, trying to work. They need two incomes and are impacted by the high cost of child care, quality child care. They need that comfort zone to know that as a coparent, in a way, with the given agency that they are in a secure setting, so that they can be productive at work and know that their children are well cared for.

And it brings great benefits. There are social and cognitive and educational skill sets that are introduced into the lives of those toddlers and children that makes them all the more ready for that pre-K to K to elementary setting, so it has great benefits. But when you think about the fact that the average cost is \$10,000 per year for child care, and when toddlers can be as high as \$16,000 and a 5-year old as high as \$12,000 per year, that is an immense cost to families.

So as the President addresses this issue in the budget, he triples that benefit to some \$3,000 per child under 5 per family. For families making as much as \$120,000, they can get that full benefit, and there is a scaled-down benefit for family incomes as high as \$210,000.

So there are efforts here to grow the economy through middle class economics. The middle class has taken it on the chin for far too long. We have seen the growth of this economy post-recession and all of the added wealth that has come since that turnaround, that upward movement that has gone to a relative few in our society. Now it is time to share the wealth with the great numbers of us in the middle class, and that is the engine that runs America.

If you give more purchasing power to the middle-income community, you give it to the working poor, give it to those looking to ascend into the middle class, that will drive a strong economic recovery, even more powerful than what we have seen since the President took office in 2009, when we hit the lowest point in March 2009. From that recession that President Obama inherited, we have done really well. We could have done much better with infrastructure investments, which would

have put many people in the trades to work and where we would have responded with a much stronger outcome for purchasing power for the great many of us in that middle-income community.

So, Mr. GARAMENDI, it is always a pleasure to join with you and our colleagues to make certain that we bring to the public's attention direct assistance that we can provide, items that have been introduced in bill format or included in a proposed budget from the President that can make a difference in the fabric of this community called America, where we can tether that American Dream in more noble and measured terms, and where we can make certain that we not only grow the climate for job production but grow the economy.

So it is within our grasp, but we just have to be bold in our attempt to go forward and to be progressive in our thinking and in our policies.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. TONKO, you have been here on the floor with me many times over the last few years, and we keep beating this drum about American jobs. We now have a policy from the President, middle class economics, that has all of the elements, many of which we have talked about on the floor—the research issue, the education issue, the job training issue, the infrastructure, all of those things—and it is all pulled together in middle class economics.

Another piece of that puzzle is trade policy. If we are going to grow American jobs, as I put this up before—Make It In America, Buy American, education workforce, research, infrastructure, and then this one down here, trade policy.

The gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) has spoken to us on the floor about this issue many times. She is passionate about it. I think she is right about it. We have to be really, really careful as to how we do our international trade programs so that we don't hollow out the great American manufacturing sector, American jobs, whether they are in agriculture or manufacturing, or in other parts of our economy.

Ms. KAPTUR, we would love to hear from you on this issue. I know that you are passionate about it and very well informed.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. GARAMENDI for bringing us together again. He is truly a leader on growing American jobs, all of the way from California, way out on the west coast, to the gentleman from New York's community on the east coast. I commend both of you for your dogged determination to keep expanding the recovery and doing everything we can to help the American people have increasing paychecks and fulfilling work and a good family life where they are able to raise their children and fulfill their dreams, whatever they might be.

I just wanted to come to the floor and talk about America's trade policies for a brief moment and the records. Statistics don't lie, and our trade policies have been costing us more jobs than they have been yielding us for a very long time. The trade policies that have been enacted have actually caused the United States to cumulate since 1976 a staggering number—\$9.5 trillion—in trade deficits. That means more imports coming in than our exports going out. Translating that into lost jobs, foregone jobs, 47.5 million lost jobs in that little over a quarter century.

The American people say: Why do we have a budget deficit?

Well, I will tell you why. When you lose this much productive wealth inside your country to other places, our people start to backslide, and they have been backsliding since the 1980s. Despite our hard work here to try to make a difference, trade policies have an enormous impact on the ability of the American people to maintain a standard of living and to both remain in the middle class or aspire to it and earn their way forward.

It now takes two in a family to earn enough, whereas when I grew up, our father worked and that was enough to support our family—until he became ill, and that is a whole other story. But today, it is so hard for people to have two people working in the family and hold their household together. They are scrimping every week as to where they are going to put their limited incomes.

I just wanted to put this so people start thinking: How did America get in this deep a hole on trade? I believe before we sign any more trade agreements, we ought to go back and fix what is wrong with the current ones. Wouldn't that makes sense?

They promised us with Korea, which is one of the most recent agreements, that we would be exporting 50,000 automobiles over there. It hasn't happened. In fact we have already lost 17,000 additional jobs because of the Korean agreement not being in balance.

So I think we have to be rigorous and ask ourselves: How do we fix this for the sake of the future, not just this generation but the next? I have a long list, and I am going to be coming to the floor many evenings going through this list, talking about companies that we have known in this country and where they have relocated. I know that the workers in those places and the executives who used to run those companies, I know how hard they worked to create great American products, and they didn't deserve the fate they were dealt because of bad trade policies.

Let's look at Huffy Bicycle in Celina, Ohio. Huffy Bicycle used to be known coast to coast. It was made in western Ohio, and it actually became and is currently a Wal-Mart supplier. Unfor-

tunately, well over 1,000 people lost their jobs at Huffy Bicycle in Ohio in the late 1990s—1998—and the plant first moved from Ohio to Missouri, and then it moved from Missouri to Mexico, and then it made its final move from Mexico to China.

So if you look at Huffy Bicycle today, you will see the paint job is not the same. You will see the tires aren't the same. The quality of the metal is not the same. It is not the bicycle that used to be made in Ohio that lasted a lifetime.

So there has been a knockdown, a decrease in quality, that has come with that manufactured product, which is then shipped back here to the United States and sold in different locations. It is kind of sad, really, what happens.

I love chocolate. I used to really like to buy Hershey bars, and I still eat Hershey. But Hershey had always been manufactured in Pennsylvania—in Hershey, Pennsylvania. In fact, when you walked through Hershey, you could smell the chocolate in the streets. It was just absolutely captivating. But if you have noticed, Hershey has changed. The recipe has changed. They will deny it, but a large part of their production was moved to Mexico. They even had to change the wrapper to withstand the warmer temperatures, and the recipe changed, and all of those workers in Hershey, Pennsylvania, in 2011. That happened in 2011. These are brand-name products that we know in our country.

Dell—Dell had been located in the Carolinas, and in 2009 they moved to Mexico, too. So you think about the manufactured products that we have known, and companies like Bank of America that had offices in Cincinnati, Ohio, and Independence, Ohio, they moved production to Mexico too, in 2013. So if people think they are safe in their service job because they are not in manufacturing, they will be very surprised to learn that the service jobs will follow.

How many phone calls have you gotten in your home from a call center located in—and it could be anywhere in the world but here. And I always ask the person from the call center:

Where are you calling from and how much do you earn?

I find that their earnings are so low they can't buy the very product that they are selling over the telephone. What kind of world are we creating?

The markets that exist in other places like Korea, Japan, and China are closed to us. We are racking up these gigantic trade deficits because we can't get our products in there, and the people in those places don't earn enough money to buy some of what we export. So it is really a rather vicious cycle. I am not going to take up much more time except to say that I believe where America went wrong was about 30 years ago.

□ 1800

We should have signed a trade relationship with Europe which shares our political and legal values. They subscribe to a rule of law: "We can do business." Though their markets aren't completely open, they are pretty open, and we could work with them.

Then we should have invited into that structure, which starts with a belief in democracy and representative government, these other countries that are aspiring to be better than they are, but without the political advancement, their economic system will never work for them without the rights the American people have.

We could have invited in Mexico. We could have invited in the CAFTA countries. We could have invited in Korea, et cetera, to that union of democracy-loving republics. We didn't do that.

What worries me over time is, in the end, we might be cashing out our very liberty because, if you look globally at what is happening, you will find in those places that the people are not treated well that are doing this work. Over time, what kind of residue does that leave toward our country and toward those who are their new overlords?

I have walked through some of these places; I have walked through some of these companies. I remember walking through with our mother—God love her—when she was still living, through one company in Mexico.

She said, "MARCY, look at the women's faces," and I did. They were so afraid. They were afraid of their boss. They were afraid of us. They were afraid of losing their work because there was no worker representation. What kind of a world are we contributing to in these other places that most Americans will never visit?

I thank the gentleman. As I see your title there, "Grow American Jobs," I would say, "Grow American democracy. Grow representative government at the same time as we do trade."

I think we really got way out of kilter back in the 1980s when these agreements began to be imbued with the kind of power they had.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Ms. KAPTUR, you are very, very correct about the role of trade policy and hollowing out the American jobs in almost every sector—you mentioned several sectors—and in every one of those, we have seen this happen.

We are going to be engaging in a debate this year about whether we are going to extend trade policies to what is called the Trans-Pacific Partnership and, also, very, very soon, whether we will give away our constitutional obligation to write trade policy, whether we are going to give that away to the administration.

For me, this is extremely important. We have seen this year after year, we have seen this problem, and I do not

want to see a repeat of it in the new legislation.

I would like to just move to a couple of other issues. We have got about 7 minutes left. Perhaps, Mr. TONKO, if you would take a few of those minutes and wrap up, keeping in mind that this is all in the context of middle class economics, how the American family that is struggling to make it in America, how they can do better with a set of policies that we are proposing to the American public—tax policy, infrastructure, educational policy, research—all of these things that are part and parcel of middle class economics.

Mr. TONKO. Thank you, Representative GARAMENDI.

If I could just associate my comments with the representative from Ohio, MARCY KAPTUR talked about the impoverishment factor around the world. These negotiated agreements are much more than just trade barriers and tariffs. They become public policy.

When you lose American jobs, that is only the beginning of the story. We have made a situation very critically tough here, and we have resulted in impoverishing workers around the world, so that is an undoable, unsustainable outcome.

I think back when Ms. KAPTUR spoke of the exodus of jobs and the incremental steps that took them eventually offshore. I think of the entire passageway of the Erie Canal system that drove a westward movement, reached Ohio, and then eventually allowed for the development to the west coast.

You think of that, and many a person, many a worker, tethered the American Dream to those mill towns that were given birth to by that Erie Canal system. That was the empowerment of this Nation—and to think that that whole history has been rejected. A lot of the creative genius came from the immigrant who was working on those assembly lines. We need to remember that history. We must have it speak to us.

This whole idea of inserting public policy into these agreements or, again, circumventing our responsibilities here in the House—people who we represent at home need to ask us: Where are we on fast track? Do we want to give up that congressional responsibility and just do thumbs up or thumbs down on a negotiated agreement?

The other items that I am concerned about are items like the earned income tax credit. That is part of the budget request made by the President. I spoke to a number of people in my district who rely on that and others who aren't even filing for the earned income tax credit and they qualify.

I want people to understand that this is not a tax loophole, this is economic and social justice, where we take folks who perhaps might not even make enough to file a tax return to get an earned income tax credit.

This is one of the greatest anti-poverty agents we have in the budget, so we need to make certain that that earned income tax credit is available when the final budget is completed, and we need to make certain we get the word out.

This is about empowering those who are at the lower strata of income. We want to make certain that programs like the earned income tax credit speak to those who are working. It is encouraging people to work, and it is trying to bring again some economic justice and social justice.

So many of these communities are benefited when we remind people that these tax opportunities are available for them. It empowers the regional economy. So many times, there is poverty clustered in some of our urban cores, and so the social justice that comes with an earned income tax credit is that millions of dollars are now brought back into the community.

On those budgets where our lower strata income qualifying folks are, they are going to spend those dollars, they are not going to bank those dollars. So an earned income tax credit, dependent child care tax credit, these are important items—fair trade, infrastructure improvement, there are a great number of things that we can do to muscle up the outcome here.

It begins in those hallowed halls of government where you can, through these efforts in the halls of government, make policy happen. We need to take heed as to what needs to be done for our middle income community.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. TONKO, I thank you so very, very much.

Ms. KAPTUR, we are in what we call the rapid fire. You have about 2 minutes, then I will wrap it up with another minute, and we are out of time. If you would, please.

Ms. KAPTUR. I appreciate your focus on growing the middle class and helping those who aspire to be in it to be successful in that journey. There is no question that when you have a robust middle class, it creates the demand that then buys the products from the corporations across this country that want to earn dividends, so that they can share those with their shareholders.

Growing the middle class drives our economy and it creates the jobs, and the people who do those jobs really create the company, they make the company work.

It isn't the shareholders who are down there on the lines, although I believe very much in shareholder equity for workers. I wish I could encourage more of it. Wouldn't that be great if they could all have a part of the indexes that the wealthy invest in? Because they certainly have earned it.

Through good jobs with decent wages, through the transportation and infrastructure bill I hope we can pass

this year, which would be one action we could take that would help to give a big boost to this economy from coast to coast, all of that can help lift people's boats across this Nation.

I join in alliance with my two dear colleagues, Congressman TONKO and Congressman GARAMENDI, who are down here all the time. You are such good Representatives from your respective States, fighting on behalf of the American people.

Most of the rest of the place has gone home, but you are on the job. You remind me of members of my family. They always worked overtime.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I want to thank you and Mr. TONKO for joining us, so I have got Ohio and New York. Mr. HOYER was here earlier from Maryland and Mr. WELCH from Vermont. We covered a large part of the United States.

We are all talking about what the President has put forth as a national policy of middle class economics: how we can grow the American economy, why it is so important for the middle class to really succeed, because that creates demand that then America businesses can fulfill in their many, many ways.

I notice that the esteemed chairman of the Rules Committee is here, and I suspect he wants to present us with some information. Mr. SESSIONS, if you are ready—and I will continue on until you are ready.

In the meantime, the elements of the middle class economics, we know why it is important. It builds the demand that the businesses can then fulfill—American business—and so you really create the jobs with that demand.

It also gives us higher wages. You are strengthening the middle class with higher wages.

We talk about infrastructure. We will spend a lot of time talking about infrastructure as we come up to the May deadline where we must renew the infrastructure law, the surface highway transportation.

All of these are pieces of the puzzle.

We are nearly out of time, but I see the esteemed chairman of the Rules Committee.

Mr. Chairman, I yield.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank the gentleman very much, my fellow Eagle Scout from California.

In fact, I did walk on the floor here, and I noticed that Ms. KAPTUR is here, Mr. TONKO is here, and you are having a vigorous discussion which is important with the American people.

I am about to be in receipt of a bill that will come down that will be presented to the floor here in just a minute, so if I keep talking here for just a minute.

Mr. GARAMENDI. If I may interrupt here for a second?

Thank you for the courtesy that you provided to me in the Rules Committee when the liquefied natural gas—the

LNG bill came up and when we talked about how we could use that strategic asset to enhance another strategic asset, the American shipbuilding industry. You were kind.

We had a wonderful discussion in the committee and then again on the floor. It is another way in which we can grow the American economy, by using public policy in this way, and there are many, many other pieces to it.

I think your staff has just arrived with the papers that you need, so I will yield to you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SESSIONS. I would, pending receiving those, which is just about to happen, say to the gentleman that his ideas that he brought to the Rules Committee, in fact, were received well, the ideas about shipping in American ships, building of American ships, the opportunity for American ships to employ people as they transported American products around the world.

We will be ready here in half a second, so anybody who is watching gets high drama.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, I have always looked forward to a dialogue, a bipartisan dialogue, on important issues, and I didn't quite know that we would come to that at this moment while we await your staff bringing down their papers.

In the meantime, I thank my colleagues very much, and I yield back the balance of my time.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 527, SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2015, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 50, UNFUNDED MANDATES INFORMATION AND TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2015

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-14) on the resolution (H. Res. 78) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 527) to amend chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the Regulatory Flexibility Act), to ensure complete analysis of potential impacts on small entities of rules, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 50) to provide for additional safeguards with respect to imposing Federal mandates, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

THE EFFECTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I do appreciate my friend's discussion today. In fact, there is an article I would like to move right into regarding the President's proposal to help middle America by going after corporations.

□ 1815

This is an article of Money News from Newsmax, by Peter Morici. This points out:

Posturing as champion of needed public investments and fairness, President Barack Obama wants new taxes on the overseas earnings of American businesses. That would kill jobs and punish retired Americans. Although special deals permit some corporations to pay low taxes, most pay a heavy burden. The estimated effective U.S. corporate tax rate is about 27 percent and is well above the 20 percent imposed by other industrialized countries.

The United States is virtually alone by taxing the overseas profits of its multinationals when those are repatriated. This has encouraged U.S. firms to invest nearly \$2.1 trillion of their earnings abroad instead of bringing some of that money home to create jobs in America. Now the President wants an immediate 14 percent tax levy on those assets to raise about \$500 billion and to impose a 19 percent tax on future earnings to finance infrastructure investments.

Madam Speaker, we have heard this before, this mantra about how we are going to build infrastructure. If you will just give us, as it was the last time, \$900 billion, we are going to rebuild the infrastructure of America.

What happened?

We got Solyndra, and some Democratic friends got lots and lots of money and grants and all kinds of benefits, and we didn't get the infrastructure we were promised. Every time the President wants to trot out a new program, he throws that in because it worked. Seriously, it worked 6 years ago. Americans bought into it, and the majority here bought into it. Let's give him the money so we can build infrastructure, and we saw that that was a word that was not kept.

There is the point that many have made about the President's new proposals that he brought up in the State of the Union Address to help the middle class, to help the Nation's poor, and we have seen how the middle class has been helped under this President—the middle class has gotten smaller. The gap between the ultra rich and the poor has gotten wider, and we have more poor. We have got more people on food stamps than ever in history, more than anybody could have ever imagined when that program was started, and it continues to be a massive problem for much of America.

There is trouble getting a job. Oh, I know we keep being told that the Cook numbers work well. Gee, the economy is doing so well. But across America, people understand "I am not doing well." If they have been able to keep their jobs, they have not seen their wages keep up like they should have.

At the same time, the administration is trying to convince the middle class and the Nation's poor: "I am taking care of you."

What is actually happening behind the scenes?

We know for at least the first 5, 6 years of this administration and for the first time in our Nation's history, 95 percent of the Nation's income went to the top 1 percent. Before this administration, the Obama administration, that had never, ever happened.

It is tragic when you see the effect that it has on families. It is tragic when you see that people had such hope for this President's helping the poor, not adding to the poor. They had hope for climbing up through the middle class and maybe, one day, having a shot at being wealthy. Unless you are a President or a former President, it is kind of tough to make that kind of move because not everybody gets paid a million bucks or even \$100,000 for giving a speech. So most of America that was suffering before is still suffering. In many cases, it is much worse.

The people who really understand money management are pointing out: wait a minute. If you break down what the President is proposing in order to help, supposedly, the middle class, and if he is going to tax these evil corporations on money they have earned overseas when they have a corporate presence here and there, some of us have been proposing: if you will just eliminate any penalty, then they will bring that money into the United States; they will use that capital here in the United States; jobs will be created, and plants will be expanded; and there will be more people able to join unions of non-government working people because those are the kinds of jobs that would come back. If you lowered the tax on corporations down to where China has it, you would see companies come flooding back into the United States that built their plants in China.

As our good friend Arthur Laffer has pointed out, the rich are the people you are not really able to tax because they will move on you. They will move, and they will change the way they make income. I know people like Democrat Warren Buffett like to say: "Oh, gee. I am willing to pay more taxes." It is one thing to say it. It is another to write the check, and that hasn't happened. If he wanted to pay the same income tax rate that his secretary pays, then he could pay that. Write the check. You don't have to keep it all. It is okay. You can send it to the government if you want to. Unfortunately, when you tax corporations as much as we do in the United States, and when that tax gets passed on to the consumers—because, if it doesn't, they don't stay in business—then it is back to the middle class paying those taxes.

If you start taxing these multinational corporations for money they

have earned in another country and they have paid taxes on in another country—and if you are going to tax it to bring it into the United States—then they are not going to bring it in. If you are going to tax them for even having a presence here, then you will find the presence will go. The jobs that are here in the United States will go. You are going to have trouble ever taxing the multinational corporations, like the richest people in the world, because they will move. They will change the way they do business to avoid that tax. It is the middle class and those amongst the poor who actually pay tax—income tax, that is—who end up taking the biggest hit.

If you want to make taxes fair, let's go to a flat tax across the board. If you make more, you pay more. If you make less, you pay less. I like a deduction for the home mortgage interest, and I like charitable deductions. But, otherwise, let's just drop all of them. If you make more, you pay more. That would be fair.

Instead, if you want to look around to what has really done massive damage to the ability of the middle class and the Nation's poor, particularly African Americans, there has been a tremendous problem getting employed, staying employed, and having higher wages because this administration keeps bringing in people, giving them work permits—people who have come in illegally. Now we know that the big corporations are even given a \$3,000 bonus if they will hire someone who came here illegally, one of the 5 million.

Now, Texas has created most of the jobs that the President stood right here and took credit for. It was rather interesting. I know people in this administration like to make jokes about Texas, but it would have been nice if, when he took credit for creating jobs, that he would have thanked Texas for being the place that really bailed him out and kept him from having to stand up and report a net loss of jobs. So we are glad to help out, not because we are helping the President but because we are helping real people in America.

If he really wants to help the Nation's poor, the working poor, those few who are left in the middle class, he would quit giving people who have come in illegally work permits, which actually incentivizes more people to come in illegally, and then there wouldn't be any need for him to come in and say we have got to raise the minimum wage, because we know—there is no question—when you raise the minimum wage, people who are trying to break into the working of America don't have jobs. People lose their jobs.

For businesses that are barely getting by at a profit, when you force a higher minimum wage, then those people who are brought in at the entry

level naturally don't produce as much as people who have been there a while because it takes a learning curve. But the minimum wage is the entry level if it is even at minimum wage. Most businesses I talk to around east Texas will pay more than the minimum wage even for startup employment. But once you raise the minimum wage, they are going to have to lay somebody off, and somebody is going to have to work harder because they cannot afford, like the government, to be operating in the red—they would go broke—because they don't get to print their own money and create their own monetary system.

I see here another article today. This is from Neil Munro of The Daily Caller: "Obama Quietly Adds 5.46 Million Foreigners to Economy."

That should be great news for the economy, but since there haven't been 5.46 million jobs created in this administration, that means that they are going to take over jobs and that Americans who emigrated legally are going to lose their jobs. When you tack on that you get a \$3,000 bonus under ObamaCare if you hire somebody who came illegally and got one of these work permits—they are not required to have ObamaCare, and so they don't have to provide health insurance; therefore, the companies don't have to pay the \$3,000 penalty—it gives incentives to hire people who came illegally and got the work permits.

Now, we had before our Judiciary Committee today some witnesses, and I greatly appreciated Chairman GOODLATTE for calling the hearing. It was very enlightening. We had a sheriff, a law professor, a couple of people who work on the immigration issue. I didn't realize until the testimony that, when released, about 50 percent of those people who have come here illegally and who have committed a crime commit another crime. I had somebody else explain it to me after the hearing.

If you come here and if you have no respect for the law in the United States, is it any mystery that you are going to be more likely to disregard the criminal laws as you have the immigration laws? Fortunately, everybody doesn't see it that way who emigrates here illegally, but it is a problem.

□ 1830

If you are a 21-year-old store clerk that is just trying to make it, you are not making that much money, but you are trying to make it, you are working tough hours in a thankless job, and unbeknownst to you as a 21-year-old store clerk, the Obama administration—Homeland Security has followed the lead of the President. They have not been deporting people that came illegally, committed crimes, like they should be. So unknown to you, the 21-year-old store clerk, that man who has

committed crimes before and has not been deported because this administration is not following up to the oath that was taken, you are about to have your life taken away from you by someone that should not even be in the country.

I was with another Member of Congress today when staff came and notified him that one of their staff had been hit by another car. It was the fault of the other car, and the people in the other car got out, walked around, and then by the time the officer got there, they complained one of their group couldn't walk, couldn't use their legs. So here comes the ambulance. Who knows. Maybe they have figured out our system well enough to know you just file a lawsuit even though you were at fault for the wreck, file a claim against the insurance company.

But there are people who are here in this country illegally who would like to be here legally, and we ought to help and encourage them to do just that: Come legally; follow the law; make application.

There are those of us whose offices help those who come legally. We have been helping people who have immigrated legally to try to get their spouse into the country, and we find out that actually this administration, by the executive amnesties and decrees, has apparently used the fees that were paid by people who came legally, trying to bring in others legally, trying to do everything right, some paid a higher fee to try to speed up the time with which they could get their spouse or loved one in the country, and with the stroke of the pen this President apparently put those on hold, said: We are going to take those fees that people who were acting legally and within the law paid to get their loved one in, we are going to put their applications on hold because I have got a whole bunch of people over here who entered illegally that I want to come in. I am sure they will vote Democrat when they get the chance, but I need them beholden to the Federal Government, so we are going to bring in these people that didn't believe in following the law, give them amnesty and a work permit, allow a \$3,000 bonus under ObamaCare to businesses that hire them, get rid of their American workers, their legal immigrants, and hire people that came in illegally.

The question arises, and it is a very important question because it has criminal consequences, if anyone within the United States Government, executive branch particularly, takes money that was ordered for one purpose under the law and converts that money's use to another without getting the permission of Congress, without jumping through the hoops that are required to use that money for another purpose and use it for a purpose such as getting a lease in Crystal City so that you can

set up your amnesty mill, you have got a problem, and so do we because you may have violated the law, and it may be a crime.

I am hopeful that we are at the early stages of getting to the bottom of that so we can find out whether somebody broke the law. We know that there are criminal statutes regarding government workers if they use their position, particularly at the IRS, and yet Lois Lerner basically got caught red-handed, took the Fifth Amendment. Even still, the President, the executive branch didn't want to get rid of her, so paid her to stay home for a while. But nobody has been prosecuted, nobody has been pursued out of those laws that were broken in the Internal Revenue Service to go after conservative groups.

No question. We don't know the full extent, but no question, it had to have helped the President in the election of 2012. All you have got to do is keep your opponents from being able to form groups like the Democrats have. Of course, a lot of the Democrats' funding comes from government money that goes through unions and ends up helping Democrats, but these are groups that were raising their own money that they had earned. It wasn't money received from the government. People who actually did build that, they did earn that, and they were wanting to pool their money for political purposes, but the IRS put them on hold for long enough, some of them for years, so that they could not play any role in the 2012 election.

This administration was able to use the laws or the Tax Code and use the IRS in ways Richard Nixon could have only dreamed of. He had an enemies list, but he was not able to carry out the vendetta like some in the IRS appear to have done. So that is here in this country as people are suffering, workers struggling, especially African American minority workers, their unemployment rate so dramatically higher.

I have had people ask me—and I am not really sure of the answer—if President Obama actually should get all the credit for the jobs that have been created in the United States, then why in the world was he creating them all in Texas, most of them in Texas? That just seems a little strange. But I would think his supporters would certainly fall away from supporting someone in the Democratic Party that creates jobs mainly in a very red State. But if that is true and he gets the credit for creating all the jobs in Texas, over a million, then he is to be congratulated on the bipartisan nature of that effort, although the Senate would wonder whether or not he actually participated in that.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, I would like to turn to one of the more horrendous acts that man has inflicted on

man. The Islamic State—and that first word is "Islamic"—released a video that shows, or purports to show, Jordanian pilot al-Kaseasbeh prior to being burned alive. The video released today appears to show him being burned alive.

Some say: How could they do such a thing? It seems to me that if one human being can take a dull knife and jaggedly cut off the head of another human being, he is probably pretty capable of burning another human being alive.

There is evil in this world. Adolf Hitler manifested pure evil. It is the only way he could have been responsible for the mass killings of 6 million Jews in Europe.

It is unbelievable, but when the United States fails to lead, fails to point out the horrors and the ideology behind it and goes to war against those who invoke this kind of evil and push it and use it against human beings, at a time when the United States is called the lone superpower, then the vacuum in the world of power is filled by the most evil among us, and that is what is happening.

It is unbelievable, and yet this is who these radical Islamists are. One story after another in the news about that pilot being burned alive, and yet we come to the story of the President addressing this today, this one entitled, "Obama Comments on Jordanian Pilot Burned Alive, Doesn't Know What 'Ideology' Islamic State Follows." The President is quoted as saying:

I just got word of the video that had been released. Should in fact this video be authentic, it is just one more indication of the viciousness and barbarity of this organization.

He wouldn't even call the organization the Islamic State, which is what they call themselves. The President says:

It, I think, will redouble the vigilance and determination on the part of a global coalition to make sure that they are degraded and ultimately defeated.

It is interesting. The President doesn't say we are going to defeat this radical ideology, this Islamic State, we will defeat them, we will stop them. It brings to mind the response of Winston Churchill. He was making sure everyone knew that Britain was not going to let evil win, that they were going to fight them on the beaches, fight them on the land, fight them in the air, fight them wherever they found them.

Our leader in this current world crisis here in the United States, the position some say is the most powerful leader's position in the world, says:

And it, I think, will redouble the vigilance and determination on the part of the global coalition to make sure that they are degraded and ultimately defeated.

But it doesn't stop there. Our President goes on to say:

It also indicates the degree to which whatever ideology they are operating off of, it is bankrupt.

“Whatever ideology they are operating off of”? It is called the Islamic State.

I have seen amazing prosecutors at work trying to pull together a case. I have seen incredible law enforcement minds at work as they try to put together pieces of the puzzle to figure out some law enforcement mystery, figure out the source of some crime. But I don't think it would take the more brilliant law enforcement officers in our country—so many that I have met and come to appreciate their intellect. I don't think it takes them to figure out what ideology they are out of, because the first piece of the puzzle when we are looking to determine what ideology these evil men are working out of, let's see, what do they call themselves?

□ 1845

We will start with that clue. They call themselves the Islamic State. Well, that would seem to indicate that perhaps the ideology they are out of would be an Islamic ideology. Since these people get real upset if anybody draws a cartoon—for example, about the prophet Muhammad, as they call him—then perhaps it is that people that hold Muhammad as a prophet is another unifying clue to the ideology.

Perhaps since they are willing to kill people, as they did in Afghanistan when Korans were found being burned because they had been defaced by Muslims using them to pass messages—and the proper remedy for defaced Korans is to destroy them like that—but nonetheless, they killed people because they didn't like Americans—people they consider infidels—burning the Korans that were defaced by Muslims.

These seem to be clues that keep bringing us back to the fact that the most evil people in our world today appear to claim radical Islam as their ideology, and I know there are Muslim Brothers who have made clear they want a caliphate.

One of the top advisers in the Homeland Security Department here tweeted out back last August, I believe it was, that the caliphate is inevitable, so people just need to get used to the idea. In fact, as I understand it, he put together a long message in recent days that went on a tear after Christians and, as I understand, basically pointing out that maybe the Islamists should be called evangelical Islamists.

Well, that has a different meaning, and I am sure Mr. Elibiary doesn't quite understand the term “evangelical” because evangelical Christian means you bring peace to the world and you introduce them to knowledge of Jesus Christ. You bring them knowledge of Jesus Christ as a man of peace, and you don't kill them if they don't accept Jesus as their savior.

There have been Christians during different historic times in the world

that were barbarians and deserved to be put to death for being so barbaric, but the current state of the world is that the most evil people right now are not Christians.

One of my Republican friends and I were talking earlier today. I am a Baptist. When a Baptist church, Westboro or any other, does things that are really despicable, we call them out. My friend was Catholic. He said that if the Catholic church does something improper, he calls them out.

We also understand that there is a reluctance among moderate Muslims to stand up and condemn the ideology of radical Islam that is so barbaric because they know that if they do that, they shoot to the top of the hit list of people to be taken out. They understand that.

They become horrific apostates in the eyes of radical Islamists and should be taken out, in the minds that are so marred by this evil radical Islamic thinking that would allow someone to have their head jaggedly cut off or to be put in a cage and set on fire.

To whom much is given, of them much is required. For those who believe the teaching of the Bible, we believe that.

We are going to have the President's National Prayer Breakfast Thursday morning. There should be people from over 140 or 150 countries there, and that is one time I am greatly appreciative of the President's espoused faith. We can put politics aside. We are supposed to. We did last year while I was co-chair. JANICE HAHN was cochair.

We can thank God. Radical Islamists can't put aside their evil ideology because they want to force it upon everyone, and they are not going to rest until they are dead and they take as many of what they call infidels with them as possible.

So it shouldn't have been a big surprise to see this story from Breitbart:

ISIS members marched into a Syrian town Friday demanding that all crosses be removed from the churches or have the buildings be completely destroyed.

That is according to the Assyrian Patriotic Party.

Two trucks carrying 20 armed ISIS members stormed into the predominantly Assyrian town of Tel Hormizd in Hassakeh and forced the residents to remove the cross from the main church tower. Hassakeh, an area made up of five Assyrian villages, is located on the Khabur River.

That is radical Islamic ideology, Mr. Speaker, for those in this town who are not aware; but I guess if you are part of this administration, you shouldn't consider that to be all that radical because this administration, under their watch, with Commander in Chief Barack Obama, had orders given to remove crosses from the chapels on our military installations.

So maybe—is it possible—radical Islamists could just be following the

example that was set by the top commander in our United States military that we want the crosses removed from our chapels?

Well, unfortunately, the radical Islamists in the Middle East go further. They want all Americans dead. They want all Jews dead. They want Israel wiped off the map. They want the United States, as the great Satan, to become a caliphate, paying homage to their choice of leaders, not ours.

That is an affront to the Constitution, and anyone who has taken an oath to support and defend the Constitution should fight shari'a law supplanting our Constitution.

I was also talking today with someone who works with victims in Nigeria. Boko Haram remains not only unapologetic for the death, torture, and suffering that they have caused to Christians in Nigeria, but they are emboldened. No one from the United States with power to stop them has lifted a finger, other than to tweet: “Bring back our girls.”

Having been over there, talking to victims' families—I had it reaffirmed today—the Twitter campaign that was started by this administration against Boko Haram has not been effective. Again, they have been emboldened.

I was advised that there are Christian children in northeast Nigeria who haven't been to school for 2 years because they know that if they do, they will be killed. If they are boys, they will be killed. If they are girls, they will normally be made sex slaves or sold into sex slavery or made into wives who are basically slaves. They are told to convert or be killed.

In meeting with parents, whose hearts are broken, they have heard that the United States is the most powerful country in the world, but they don't know that because they can't understand, if the United States is so powerful—and if it was powerful and good and not evil like Boko Haram—then why wouldn't we lend something more than a tweet to stop the evil.

I also did note that there is a story of French planes helping with intelligence on the Nigerian border. That is encouraging.

The United States does not have to send boots on the ground to Nigeria in order to help defeat Boko Haram. Yes, I understand from people I know and respect in Nigeria that Boko Haram has infiltrated the main government, so it is hard to do anything effectively as the Nigerian Government, with Boko Haram becoming more and more powerful each week.

But because this country has been given so much, if we don't lend a helping hand to stop the most evil entities and people in the world, there will be American lives lost in big numbers in this country, and it is not going to be in the distant future.

In Africa, if Boko Haram takes over Nigeria, as they are well on their way

toward pushing to do, then no Christian and no Jew in all of Africa is safe. In fact, they will seek to help establish that caliphate that the Obama adviser in Homeland Security had tweeted out last summer was inevitable.

Well, if Boko Haram is not stopped, they will be inevitable in Africa. Radical Islam—that ideology the President is not familiar with—that radical Islamism will take over Africa.

God bless the Egyptians. They stood up against the Muslim Brothers. The Muslim Brotherhood, by the way, has been labeled as a terrorist organization.

□ 1900

CAIR is part of the Muslim Brotherhood. Some countries consider CAIR to be a radical Islamic terrorist organization, but not here in America because the President relies on them for advice.

The Muslim Brotherhood, in the United States, has not been labeled a terrorist organization, like it has in our ally, the UAE, Egypt, other places because, here in the United States, the Muslim Brothers' leaders are sought for advice by this administration.

If we don't stand up against radical Islam—as President Bush talked about, I would rather stop it over there than have to stop it here. Well, it is here. There are cells here. There are people who have been radicalized here.

There are people who have been born here, like al-Awlaki, who have their American citizen passport, and they have grown up hating America from wherever they were raised, and they have free access in and out of the United States because their parents, or at least their mother, came here.

I thought a few years ago it would be years before we saw that kind of effect here. But we know al-Awlaki, whom the President blew up with a drone in Yemen, was helpful in radicalizing people here.

Although the President is not familiar with the ideology that was at work at Fort Hood in that act of war at Fort Hood, the act of war in killing a military recruiter in Arkansas, the acts of war that have been taking place as they did in Boston, it is radical Islam.

And yes, you don't have to qualify that. We understand that most Muslims do not believe in radical Islam. We got that. We don't need the qualifier every time something is said about radical Islam. We get it. But radical Islam should be identified for what it is.

It breaks my heart to say it, but it is a fact. If we don't do more to stop radical Islam in the world, there are large numbers of Americans that are going to die that don't have to. It doesn't have to happen.

But we have to have an administration wake up to the danger that faces the world's Christians and Jews, and people who believe in democracy and

who believe in representative government, and not shari'a law; because if we don't act as leaders on the world stage and positively point out, that is radical Islam, and we are going to stop radical Islam—and the moderates of the world understand we are not talking about them. They understand radical Islam is a threat to them and their lives if they stand up against it. They get that.

But I have met moderate Muslims around the world who are willing to lay down their lives because they don't want radical Islamists controlling their country, and they hope, and they do pray, that the United States will wake up and recognize what ideology the President knows not of, and finally see it is radical Islam, and we are going to stop it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

THE MINDLESS, HEARTLESS EVIL OF ISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) for 30 minutes.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, there is nothing that I fear more for America than that, as a country, we might allow ourselves to grow numb to human atrocity in our own country and across the world.

Eight years ago, President George Bush warned that: "To begin withdrawing before our commanders tell us we are ready would mean surrendering the future of Iraq."

He said: "It would mean that we would be risking mass killings on a horrific scale. It would mean increasing the probability that American troops would have to return at some later date to confront an enemy that is even more dangerous."

Mr. Speaker, many of us in Congress warned President Obama, both in a private letter and in open declaration, of the danger that ISIS represented as it began to rise in Iraq.

We also warned the President that negotiating with terrorists by trading high-level Taliban leaders would lead to an increase in terrorists trying to leverage America and the world by taking hostages. Yet, this President ignored this, and so many other commonsense warnings, and atrocity after atrocity has occurred since.

Today, Mr. Speaker, the world watched in abject horror as 26-year old Jordanian pilot, 1st Lieutenant al-Kaseasbeh, who was taken captive by ISIS, was doused in gasoline, placed in a cage, and burned alive.

Mr. Speaker, this horrifying tragedy is the natural end to the timorous policy of appeasing or negotiating with or neglecting to have a just response to this mindless, heartless evil cancer called ISIS.

And the question occurs: When will this President respond decisively to this hellish evil?

Will it take a direct attack on American shopping malls?

Will it take a direct attack on an American grocery store or a school or an American magazine or some other venue where American blood will have to be spilled before this President calls the evil of global jihad for what it is?

It has been a full year since ISIS retook Fallujah and wiped out America's blood-bought gains. It has been a full 7 months since 55 of my colleagues and I beseeched the President to prioritize security and humanitarian support for religious minorities in Iraq, including the Yazidi people, a group that has now been nearly wiped out completely by ISIS.

Mr. Speaker, this administration can no longer claim ignorance. This Nation is at war with Islamist groups like ISIS that support and perpetrate the terrorism of global jihad. Terrorists understand it all too well. The American people understand it all too well, and it is time that this White House begin to understand it as well.

Mr. Speaker, if the Obama administration continues to sit on the sidelines and allows this unspeakable act of terrorism we have all witnessed today to go unanswered, as it has so many times before, we invite that sinister malevolence to our own shores.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. JUDY CHU of California (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, February 4, 2015, at 10 a.m. for morning hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

293. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for General Service Fluorescent Lamps and Incandescent Reflector Lamps [Docket No.: EERE-2011-BT-STD-0006] (RIN: 1904-AC43) received January

28, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

294. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Automatic Commercial Ice Makers [Docket No.: EERE-2010-BT-STD-0037] (RIN: 1904-AC39) received January 28, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

295. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-123, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

296. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-128, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

297. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-080, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

298. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-113, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

299. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-130, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

300. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-137, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

301. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-127, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

302. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-106, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

303. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Secretary's determinations, certifications, and notifications, pursuant to the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act of 2012 (IFCA), sections 1244(c)(1), 1246(a)(1), and 1247(a); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

304. A letter from the Director, Mississippi River Commission, Army, Department of Defense, transmitting a copy of the annual report, in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act, for the Mississippi River Commission covering the calendar year 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

305. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30990; Amdt. No.: 3621] received January 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

proach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30990; Amdt. No.: 3619] received January 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

306. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Previously Eurocopter France) [Docket No.: FAA-2014-1058; Directorate Identifier 2014-SW-065-AD; Amendment 39-18053; AD 2014-26-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

307. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0582; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-065-AD; Amendment 39-18060; AD 2014-26-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

308. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0526; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-141-AD; Amendment 39-18061; AD 2014-26-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

309. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; ATR-GIE Avions de Transport Régional Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0530; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-062-AD; Amendment 39-18057; AD 2014-26-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

310. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0626; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-017-AD; Amendment 39-18058; AD 2014-26-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

311. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30991; Amdt. No.: 3620] received January 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

312. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30992; Amdt. No.: 3621] received January 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Ms. FOXX: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 78. Resolution Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 527) to amend chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the Regulatory Flexibility Act), to ensure complete analysis of potential impacts on small entities of rules, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 50) to provide for additional safeguards with respect to imposing Federal mandates, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-14). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. KLINE (for himself and Mr. ROKITA):

H.R. 5. A bill to support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BARTON (for himself, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SALMON, Mr. PITTINGER, Mr. FLORES, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. CARTER of Texas, and Mr. CRAMER):

H.R. 666. A bill to adapt to changing crude oil market conditions; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. JONES, Mr. AMASH, Mr. REED, Mr. HANNA, Mr. TITUS, Mr. FARR, and Mr. POLIS):

H.R. 667. A bill to authorize Department of Veterans Affairs health care providers to provide recommendations and opinions to veterans regarding participation in State marijuana programs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 668. A bill to make clear that an agency outside of the Department of Health and Human Services may not designate, appoint, or employ special consultants, fellows, or other employees under subsection (f) or (g) of section 207 of the Public Health Service Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FARENTHOLD:

H.R. 669. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to extend the period of time for which a conditional permit to land temporarily may be granted to an alien crewman; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. PALLONE):

H.R. 670. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to extend the Medicaid

rules regarding supplemental needs trusts for Medicaid beneficiaries to trusts established by those beneficiaries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Ms. HAHN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KILMER, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. COHEN, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. TONKO, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CLAY, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. CAPUANO, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. WALZ, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE, Mr. NUNNELEE, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. DEUTCH, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. BEYER, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. PITTS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. TITUS, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. ESTY, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. SIREN, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. MOORE, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. BASS, Mr. FARR, Mr. BERA, Mr. SHERMAN, Mrs. LOVE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. HONDA, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Ms. PLASKETT, and Mr. MCNERNEY):

H.R. 671. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Freedom Riders, collectively, in recognition of their unique contribution to Civil Rights, which inspired a revolutionary movement for equality in interstate travel; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period

to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska (for himself, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mr. LOEBSACK):

H.R. 672. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a five-year extension of the rural community hospital demonstration program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROTHFUS (for himself, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. COOPER, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. BARR, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. RIBBLE, and Mr. DESANTIS):

H.R. 673. A bill to hold the salaries of Members of a House of Congress in escrow if the House of Congress does not agree to a budget resolution or pass regular appropriation bills on a timely basis during a Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. DENHAM (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. NADLER, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 674. A bill to require Amtrak to propose a pet policy that allows passengers to transport domesticated cats and dogs on certain Amtrak trains, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself and Ms. TITUS):

H.R. 675. A bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2015, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. FARR, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HONDA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. POCAN, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. TONKO, Mr. WELCH, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. COHEN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. NORTON, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. MOORE, Mr. RANGEL, and Ms. BASS):

H.R. 676. A bill to provide for comprehensive health insurance coverage for all United States residents, improved health care delivery, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself and Ms. TITUS):

H.R. 677. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments to be made automatically by law each year in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS:

H.R. 678. A bill to promote the use of blended learning in classrooms across America; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 679. A bill to establish a Road Usage Charge Pilot Program to study mileage-based fee systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. FARR, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HAHN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SIREN, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 680. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the excise tax on gasoline, diesel, and kerosene fuels; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CRENSHAW (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. POLIS, Mr. RENACCI, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

H.R. 681. A bill to make certain luggage and travel articles eligible for duty-free treatment under the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 682. A bill to withdraw certain land located in Curry County and Josephine County, Oregon, from all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws, location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and operation under the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. FORBES:

H.R. 683. A bill to prohibit the Internal Revenue Service from hiring new employees to enforce any provision of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act or the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. LEE, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. MOORE, Ms. BASS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. KILMER, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr.

NOLAN, Mr. TAKAI, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Ms. FUDGE):

H.R. 684. A bill to amend the Trademark Act of 1946 regarding the disparagement of Native American persons or peoples through marks that use the term "redskin", and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan (for himself, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. FINCHER):

H.R. 685. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to improve upon the definitions provided for points and fees in connection with a mortgage transaction; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan (for himself, Mr. HIGGINS, and Mr. POSEY):

H.R. 686. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to exempt from registration brokers performing services in connection with the transfer of ownership of smaller privately held companies; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. KING of Iowa (for himself, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. BLUM, Mr. HUELSKAMP, and Mr. YOUNG of Iowa):

H.R. 687. A bill to prevent States and local jurisdictions from interfering with the production and distribution of agricultural products in interstate or foreign commerce; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. LOEBSACK (for himself, Mrs. BUSTOS, and Mr. ASHFORD):

H.R. 688. A bill to reduce the rate of pay for Members of Congress by 10 percent and to eliminate automatic pay adjustments for Members; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. LOFGREN (for herself, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. POE of Texas, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. O'ROURKE):

H.R. 689. A bill to permit periodic public reporting by electronic communications providers and remote computer service providers of certain estimates pertaining to requests or demands by Federal agencies under the provisions of certain surveillance laws where disclosure of such estimates is, or may be, otherwise prohibited by law; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Intelligence (Permanent Select), and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER (for himself and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York):

H.R. 690. A bill to require each agency, in providing notice of a rule making, to include a link to a 100 word plain language summary of the proposed rule; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MATSUI (for herself and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio):

H.R. 691. A bill to promote the provision of telehealth by establishing a Federal standard for telehealth, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK (for himself, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr.

GARRETT, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. OLSON, Mr. BRAT, Mr. YOHIO, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. PEARCE, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. BLUM, Mr. WOODALL, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. BARR, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. STEWART, Mr. FLORES, Mr. YODER, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mr. SALMON):

H.R. 692. A bill to ensure the payment of interest and principal of the debt of the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, and Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia):

H.R. 693. A bill to establish the Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. O'ROURKE (for himself, Mr. CARTER of Texas, and Mr. WILLIAMS):

H.R. 694. A bill to provide that members of the Armed Forces performing hazardous humanitarian services in West Africa to combat the spread of the Ebola virus outbreak shall be entitled to tax benefits in the same manner as if such services were performed in a combat zone; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TIPTON (for himself, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. AMODEI, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. STEWART, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. ISSA, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. COSTA, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. COOK, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. CHAFFETZ):

H.R. 695. A bill to address the bark beetle epidemic, drought, deteriorating forest health conditions, and high risk of wildfires on National Forest System land and land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management by expanding authorities established in the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 to provide emergency measures for high-risk areas identified by such States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WHITFIELD (for himself, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. SHIMKUS, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. NUNES, and Mr. TIBERI):

H.R. 696. A bill to amend part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to exclude customary prompt pay discounts from manufacturers to wholesalers from the average sales price for drugs and biologicals under Medicare, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska (for himself and Mr. PETERSON):

H.R. 697. A bill to amend the African Elephant Conservation Act of 1988 to conserve

elephants while appropriately regulating ivory in the United States; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. PERRY:

H.J. Res. 28. A joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution requiring that each agency and department's funding is justified; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H. Con. Res. 13. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the radical Islamic movement in Afghanistan known as the Taliban should be recognized officially as a foreign terrorist organization by the United States Government; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BECERRA:

H. Res. 77. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SESSIONS:

H. Res. 79. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Rules in the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. GOODLATTE:

H. Res. 80. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on the Judiciary in the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. NUNES (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF):

H. Res. 81. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence in the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. PALAZZO:

H. Res. 82. A resolution calling on schools and State and local educational agencies to recognize that dyslexia has significant educational implications that must be addressed; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. PEARCE (for himself and Mr. SWALWELL of California):

H. Res. 83. A resolution recognizing the security challenges of convening government officials in one specific place and directing the House of Representatives to take appropriate steps so that the House of Representatives can meet in a virtual setting; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, and House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin (for himself and Mr. LEVIN):

H. Res. 84. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Ways and Means in the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. SMITH of Texas:

H. Res. 85. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology in the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. PERLMUTTER introduced a bill (H.R. 698) for the relief of Arturo Hernandez-Garcia; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. KLINE:

H.R. 5.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. BARTON:

H.R. 666.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

"The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign nations . . ."

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 667.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitution of the United States provides clear authority for Congress to pass legislation to provide for the general welfare of the United States. Article I of the Constitution, in detailing Congressional authority, provides that "Congress shall have the Power to provide for the . . . general welfare of the United States. . . ." This legislation is introduced pursuant to that grant of authority.

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 668.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9, clause 7, "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time."

By Mr. FARENTHOLD:

H.R. 669.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Sec 8, Clause 4

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 670.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 14; and including, but not solely limited to the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:

H.R. 671.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 672.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. ROTHFUS:

H.R. 673.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. DENHAM:

H.R. 674.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1 (relating to providing for the common defense and general welfare of the United States) and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

By Mr. ABRAHAM:

H.R. 675.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. CONYERS:

H.R. 676.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. ABRAHAM:

H.R. 677.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS:

H.R. 678.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority in which this bill rests is the power of the Congress to regulate Commerce as enumerated by Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 as applied to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 679.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 680.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1.

By Mr. CRENSHAW:

H.R. 681.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution, commonly referred to as the Commerce Clause. The Commerce Clause states that the Congress shall have power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes. This bill changes U.S. trade

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 682.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).

By Mr. FORBES:

H.R. 683.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8, Clauses 1 and 18

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 684.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan:

H.R. 685.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan:

H.R. 686.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 ("The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States"), 3 ("To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes"), and 18 ("To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof).

By Mr. KING of Iowa:

H.R. 687.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Congress' powers to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian Tribes under Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. LOEBSACK:

H.R. 688.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 6 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Ms. LOFGREN:

H.R. 689.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 690.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18, "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper from carrying into Execution from foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department of Officer thereof."

By Ms. MATSUI:

H.R. 691.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK:

H.R. 692.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 2 of the United States Constitution, which confer on Congress the power to collect and manage revenue for the payment of debts owed by the United States and to borrow money on the credit of the United States.

Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 2 United States Constitution:

"The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imports and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imports and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow money on credit of the United States;"

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 693.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, section 3 of the Constitution of the United States grant Congress authority to make "all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States."

By Mr. O'ROURKE:

H.R. 694.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress "to provide for the common Defence", "to raise and support Armies", "to provide and maintain a Navy" and "to make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces" as enumerated in Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. TIPTON:

H.R. 695.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV Section 3 clause 2 United States Constitution.

By Mr. WHITFIELD:

H.R. 696.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power * * * To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 697.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. PERLMUTTER:

H.R. 698.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. PERRY:

H.J. Res. 28.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article V of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the authority to propose Constitutional amendments

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 20: Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 21: Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 24: Mr. BUCK, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. WENSTRUP, and Mr. SHUSTER.

H.R. 94: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 109: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania and Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.

H.R. 131: Mr. MESSER, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mrs. WALORSKI, and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.

H.R. 139: Mr. BYRNE.

H.R. 143: Mr. KATKO.

H.R. 158: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 167: Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 169: Mr. WALZ and Mr. SHIMKUS.

H.R. 174: Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. FLORES, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. YOHIO, Mr. LATTI, Mr. PEARCE, and Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 188: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BRADY of

Pennsylvania, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 217: Mr. ADERHOLT and Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.

H.R. 228: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 232: Mr. BILIRAKIS and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.

H.R. 249: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.

H.R. 281: Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 287: Mr. ROTHFUS.

H.R. 310: Mr. KLINE and Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 313: Mr. RANGEL, Ms. MOORE, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 317: Mr. BEYER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 370: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 383: Mr. LATTI and Mr. GIBBS.

H.R. 386: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 387: Mr. MACARTHUR.

H.R. 388: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 400: Mr. TROTT and Mr. BERA.

H.R. 408: Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 427: Mrs. ROBY.

H.R. 443: Mr. JOLLY and Mr. DESANTIS.

H.R. 448: Mr. VEASEY and Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 449: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 451: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. LATTI, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. COLE, and Mr. ROKITA.

H.R. 452: Mr. COHEN, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, and Mr. SCHOCK.

H.R. 456: Mr. POCAN, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, and Mr. JOYCE.

H.R. 489: Mr. MESSER.

H.R. 508: Mr. HUFFMAN and Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 525: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 529: Mr. KLINE, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. HILL, and Ms. GRAHAM.

H.R. 531: Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. POCAN, Ms. LEE, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 532: Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 541: Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 546: Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mrs. BUSTOS, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.

H.R. 554: Mr. SALMON.

H.R. 555: Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BOST, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. HARPER, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. COOK.

H.R. 556: Mr. BURGESS.

H.R. 563: Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. TITUS, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 578: Mr. TIBERI, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. McCLINTOCK.

H.R. 581: Mr. BARLETTA, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 583: Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 584: Ms. JENKINS of Kansas and Mr. PALAZZO.

H.R. 588: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 589: Mr. SALMON.

H.R. 592: Mr. JOLLY, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. YARMUTH, and Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 594: Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. MARINO, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. MAC-

ARTHUR, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. BARTON, and Mr. ABRAHAM.

H.R. 595: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.

H.R. 596: Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. ROHR-ABACHER, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. CONAWAY, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, and Mr. JORDAN.

H.R. 601: Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. JONES, Ms. PINGREE, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. EMMER, Mr. LATTI, Mr. LONG, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 608: Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California and Ms. EDWARDS.

H.R. 609: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.

H.R. 612: Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. LUCAS, and Mr. GARRETT.

H.R. 620: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 629: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 630: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 634: Mr. FARR, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. MOORE, Mr. WALZ, and Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California.

H.R. 635: Mr. FARR, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. MOORE, Mr. WALZ, and Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California.

H.R. 636: Mr. BLUM, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, and Mr. DESJARLAIS.

H.R. 637: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania and Mr. REED.

H.R. 638: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey and Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 640: Mr. REED and Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 644: Mr. TIBERI, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 652: Mr. DELANEY and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H.R. 654: Mr. FLORES, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. ISSA, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 661: Mr. KLINE.

H.R. 664: Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. DELAUNO, Mr. FARR, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 665: Mr. GIBSON and Mrs. COMSTOCK.

H. Res. 17: Mr. RIBBLE.

H. Res. 28: Mr. HONDA and Mr. TAKANO.

H. Res. 32: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. CLAY.

H. Res. 54: Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. KUSTER, Mrs. MCCOLLUM, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H. Res. 62: Mr. POCAN.

H. Res. 64: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H. Res. 67: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H. Res. 74: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. TED LIEU of California, and Mr. LANGEVIN.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to have my votes recorded on the House floor on Monday, February 2, 2015. Weather across the Midwest delayed my flight to Washington, DC until after votes had been called. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 361, H.R. 615, and H.R. 623.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, on February 2, 2015, I missed recorded votes #51–53 due to weather-related travel delays.

I would like to reflect how I would have voted if I were present:

On Roll Call #51, I would have voted YEA (Passage of H.R. 361, the Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act).

On Roll Call #52, I would have voted YEA (Passage of H.R. 615, the Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act).

On Roll Call #53, I would have voted YEA (Passage of H.R. 623, the Social Media Working Group Act of 2015).

CONGRATULATING KNOX COLLEGE FOR INCLUSION IN THE 2014 PRESIDENT'S HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICE HONOR ROLL

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, on being part of the 2014 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest federal award that an educational institution can receive for its commitment to community service.

Knox College was one of four finalists in the Economic Opportunity Category of the honor roll. KnoxCorps works with the Galesburg Community Foundation to place students and recent graduates with local nonprofits that help promote economic stability and vitality in Galesburg. One student club on campus, Blessings in a Backpack, collected and distributed food donations to more than 150 school

children throughout the community. Knox College has also partnered with the FISH Food Pantry. The food pantry trains students to design their own service projects to help eliminate food insecurity in their community.

These are just a few of the many ways Knox College has worked diligently to better its surrounding community through innovative programs. This marks the fifth time in six years that Knox has been recognized on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize Knox College for its outstanding commitment to service and thank its students, faculty and alumni for making the Galesburg community a better place.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, inclement weather hindered my travel to Washington on February 2. Consequently I missed several votes in the House of Representatives.

I would like to submit how I intended to vote had I been present:

On Roll Call 51, the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 361, I would have voted YEA.

On Roll Call 52, the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 615, I would have voted YEA.

On Roll Call 53, the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 623, I would have voted YEA.

THE GLOBAL MAGNITSKY HUMAN RIGHTS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT: HOLDING PERPETRATORS ACCOUNTABLE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on Friday my colleague Mr. MCGOVERN and I introduced the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act.

In November of 2012, almost every Member of this House voted for the forerunner of this legislation, the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012, which was included in Public Law 112–208. The 2012 law focused on perpetrators in a single country, Russia, and authorized and required the President to list and sanction individuals who the President determined was responsible for the detention, abuse, and death of Sergei Magnitsky, as well as other gross violations of human rights.

This law sent a strong message of personal responsibility by targeting bad actors, publicly naming and shaming individuals who commit horrific abuses.

My new bill builds on these provisions and expands the law globally. It requires the President to determine when foreign persons are complicit in egregious, internationally recognized human rights abuses or major acts of corruption; and then prohibits them from coming to the United States, remaining in the U.S. if they are already here, or owning property in our country. Further, my bill will require the administration to publish their names in an annual "Global Magnitsky List" unless there is a compelling, national security reason not to.

Mr. Speaker, I think we can all agree that the U.S. should not provide refuge for those who commit human rights abuses. We can and should take away the privilege of U.S. visas that afford a measure of respectability as well as a quick exit for those who worry daily that they may be held accountable for their crimes against their countrymen. This bill will help bring human rights victims some justice, and deny perpetrators the respectability, mobility, and wealth they crave.

Specifically, the bill I introduced Friday expands and strengthens the Magnitsky law in several key ways, and keeps some of its key provisions:

Like the Magnitsky law, it authorizes and requires the President to sanction perpetrators of human rights violations, rather than simply allowing him to do so.

The bill prioritizes violations against people who "seek to expose illegal activity carried out by government officials; or to obtain, exercise, defend, or promote internationally recognized human rights and freedoms, such as the freedoms of religion, expression, association, and assembly, and the rights to a fair trial and democratic elections," but it also allows for the sanctioning of individuals for heinous human rights abuses against other victims.

It requires the President to issue an annual report—on December 10th, Human Rights Day—with the names of persons who have been sanctioned or were removed from sanctions over the previous year, providing Congress and the public with the opportunity to review the implementation and impact of the Magnitsky List and to discuss who is or should be on the List.

If the President decides to include a sanctioned person in the classified section of the annual Global Magnitsky List for national security reasons, he will be required to list their country of citizenship and the number of people sanctioned from each country. This information will give us a better understanding of whether particular countries with many known perpetrators are being overlooked.

As introduced, the Global Magnitsky Act will also require an independent audit by the Government Accountability Office to ensure the provisions are being implemented effectively, efficiently, and as Congress intended.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

I urge my colleagues to help us continue the legacy of Sergei Magnitsky—the brave man for whom this bill is named—and cosponsor this legislation. Murderers and torturers, and their money, are not welcome in this country.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT
COLONEL EARL DEVINE

HON. MARTHA MCSALLY

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Lieutenant Colonel Earl Devine and to congratulate him on his recently awarded title of Greater Sierra Vista Veteran of the Year for 2015.

Earl graduated from Highland High School in New York in 1953. He went on to receive a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from Oklahoma State University in 1958. That same year, Earl was commissioned in the Army and rose to the rank of Captain in Air Defense Artillery, where he commanded a Nike Hercules missile battery.

Earl was then assigned to the US Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MAC-V), serving as an intelligence staff officer and member of the MAC-V defense force during the Tet Offensive. He was then selected to be a test director for the newly activated Modern Army Selected Systems Test, Evaluation, and Review Activity.

Earl was selected as the Operations Officer for the Current Intelligence and Indications Center, North American Air Defense Command and was responsible for threat assessment of foreign missile launches and mission determination of foreign space launches. He completed his active duty as director of administration and logistics for an intelligence organization at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

After military retirement, Earl spent 19 years with the US Army Communications Command and successor organizations receiving numerous sustained superior performance and special act awards.

Mr. Devine has been a member of the Sierra Vista Municipal Property Corporation for over 12 years and served as president for the last four. He is a member of the Southern Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery Foundation, American Veterans (AMVETS), the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the USA Lodge #2065, the Coronado Chapter of MOAA, where he served as Deputy Director for the past 19 years, and the election committee of Post 52 of the American Legion for the past ten years.

The people of Southern Arizona owe him a great deal of gratitude for all he has done for Sierra Vista and the veteran community. Earl's continued efforts to honor the brave men and women who served our country, often in times of its greatest need, are exemplary. He truly embodies the meaning of the word "service" and will have a lasting impact on the community for generations to come.

Through Mr. Devine's efforts to honor those who served, he continues to go above and beyond the call of duty. For that, he has unquestionably earned the title of Greater Sierra Vista Veteran of the Year for 2015.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Colonel Devine for being awarded the Sierra Vista Veteran of the Year and thanking him for his years of exemplary service to our country and Southern Arizona.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 51, had I been present, I would have voted Yes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KATHERINE M. CLARK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, last night I was regrettably detained by a snow storm and missed votes. Had I been present, I would have voted yes on H.R. 361, yes on H.R. 615, and yes on H.R. 623.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 53 I was unable to vote because my flight was cancelled due to inclement weather. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UPDATE,
PROMOTE AND DEVELOP AMERICA'S
TRANSPORTATION ESSENTIALS
ACT OF 2015, AND THE
ROAD USAGE CHARGE PILOT
PROGRAM ACT OF 2015

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing two pieces of legislation to address America's growing infrastructure funding crisis and looming transportation cliff. The reason is simple: America is falling apart and falling behind. The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) rated our infrastructure as a D+ and America, which once had the finest infrastructure in the world, was ranked 25th, behind Barbados and Oman, in 2013. The funding mechanism for our transportation system has been broken for years, and the Highway Trust Fund will run dry in May. On the eve of peak construction season, the U.S. Department of Transportation will be forced to stop reimbursing states for highway and transit projects. The uncertainty is already causing

states and local governments to put off or cancel much-needed maintenance, let alone new investment.

If this sounds familiar, it's because we've been here before. Since the last full six year surface transportation bill expired in 2003, Congress has passed 2 partial authorizations and 23 short-term extensions, most recently in August 2014. The federal gas tax, unchanged since 1993, has locked the Highway Trust Fund in a death spiral, and the search for necessary revenue has derailed a traditionally bipartisan, consensus-driven policy process. Just to maintain current, inadequate transportation funding, Congress has had to borrow more than \$65 billion from the general fund since 2008, in an increasingly desperate search for revenue in all corners of the federal budget.

The gas tax, since it was last raised to 18.4 cents a gallon in 1993, has lost nearly 40% of its purchasing power due to inflation and rising fuel efficiency. If the gas tax had been indexed to inflation in 1993, it would be at nearly 30 cents a gallon. Instead, the gas tax is barely higher in real terms than the first federal gas tax, levied at one cent a gallon in 1932. We're trying to fund 21st Century infrastructure with a Depression Era level of investment. It's no surprise that we face Depression Era consequences.

The Highway Trust Fund will run an annual shortfall of more than \$15 billion after 2017, and unless Congress acts, we face a drop in transportation funding of 30% over the next ten years. The situation is already dire—rough roads alone cost each driver an average of \$324 a year, and the cost of time wasted sitting in traffic will top \$1000 per family by 2020. Further, the American Society of Civil Engineers estimates that our deteriorating infrastructure will restrict our national GDP growth by nearly \$900 billion by 2020.

The case for increasing our investment in infrastructure is clear. A recent S&P Ratings report suggests that every \$1.3 billion invested in infrastructure would add 29,000 jobs, \$2 billion in economic growth, and cut the deficit by \$200 million. Two congressionally authorized commissions, the Simpson Bowles deficit reduction plan, and organizations representing business, labor, environmentalists, car advocates and cyclists, all agree on the solution to solve the Highway Trust Fund crisis and increase transportation investment: raise the federal gas tax.

The UPDATE Act, which I introduced today, would increase federal gas and diesel taxes by a nickel a year, phased in over each of the next three years, and index those taxes to inflation. This would generate \$210 billion over the next ten years, enough to make up the Highway Trust Fund shortfall and increase infrastructure investment by at least \$4 billion a year. It would cost the average driver roughly \$70 a year over the next six years, or less than 20% of what every American is already paying in vehicle maintenance, lost travel time, and carbon pollution.

Increasing the gas tax is the only solution to our growing revenue crisis that is dedicated to transportation spending, sustainable for the long term, and is big enough to do the job. For the first time in years, it's also politically possible. World oil prices have fallen nearly 60%

since June 2014, and prices at the pump were at a six year low last week. More than 12 states are now considering increasing gas taxes, taking advantage of low prices. 8 states acted to raise gas taxes in the last two years, including Wyoming and New Hampshire. A growing number of Senators from both parties and Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI have signaled openness, if not outright support for raising the gas tax.

The UPDATE Act will stabilize the Highway Trust Fund, and make sure that our infrastructure crisis does not worsen. The legislation also affirms the sense of the Congress that by 2024, the gas tax should be repealed and replaced with a more sustainable funding source. My second piece of legislation, the Road Usage Charge Pilot Program Act, provides research funding for states to explore a transition away from the gas tax to a system based on vehicle miles travelled (VMT). Such a Road Usage Charge system would be more fair, a more accurate reflection of road use, and more sustainable for the long term, as fuel efficiency increases and hybrid and electric vehicles rise in popularity. Questions remain about how best to implement such a system, collect revenue, and address privacy concerns. Congress should encourage states to answer these questions through pilot projects. This legislation, instead of tying America's transportation system to the past, paves the way for the future.

Addressing the infrastructure deficit, stabilizing transportation funding, and helping America's all-too-slow economic recovery is critical if we want a livable and economically prosperous country in the years to come. All we need to make it happen is a commitment to build the future together.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR KRISTEN CLARK CASTONGUAY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today I offer congratulations to Major Kristen Clark Castonguay on her recent promotion as an officer in the United States Air Force. A graduate of Neshaminy High School in Langhorne, Bucks County, and Syracuse University, New York, Major Castonguay also holds a master's degree in aerospace engineering from Pennsylvania State University. Kristen's father, David Clark, and her uncle, Terry Clark, an Air Force veteran, inspired her to explore her interest in rockets and space exploration. Major Castonguay believes she was called to serve for the greater good of the country and wanted to be a part of something bigger than herself. She was commissioned as an Air Force officer in 2004 and subsequently served on active duty in various Air Force bases in space propulsion and engineering supervisory positions. Major Castonguay currently teaches Rocket Propulsion and Space System Lab in the aerospace engineering department of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. I gratefully acknowledge Major Kristen Clark Castonguay's dedication and

many contributions to our country. She has set an example of diligence and duty and service for others to follow. Once again, I am pleased to offer my congratulations on her outstanding achievements and wish her continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, on January 28, 2015 I missed recorded votes #49–50 as I was returning from the presidential delegation to India to support this important partnership between our two countries.

I would like to reflect how I would have voted if I were here.

On Roll Call #49 I would have voted yes
On Roll Call #50 I would have voted no

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 51 I had an unavoidable conflict. Had I been present, I would have voted aye.

HOUSTON, TEXAS RECOGNIZES INAUGURAL MISSING PERSONS DAY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, February 3, 2015, we recognize Missing Persons Day in Houston, Texas.

There are few situations harder than when a family member or friend disappears.

We cannot forget each and every person missing from our community.

And help families, law enforcement, and community organizations raise awareness.

Today, we keep the hope alive that young people like Ali Lowitzer will return home.

Today is Ali's 21st birthday.

She went missing almost 5 years ago in April 2010 nearby her home in Spring, Texas.

She got off the bus after school and headed to work.

And she hasn't been heard from since.

Her family will not stop until she is found.

We join them in staying vigilant.

Citizens should report sightings and suspicious activity to law enforcement, Crime Stoppers or the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

All of these groups are partners in solving crimes.

One never knows when a report will end in a missing person returning to their family.

Ali's mother, Jo Ann, and her family are to be commended for raising the profile on this

serious issue in Houston and providing support to other families.

We pray that Ali's mother, father, and brother and all those whose loved ones are missing will soon be reunited as a complete family.

And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during roll call vote numbers 51, 52, and 53 on February 2, 2015, due to a flight cancellation.

I would like to reflect how I would have voted:

On roll call vote no. 51 I would have voted YES.

On roll call vote no. 52 I would have voted YES.

On roll call vote no. 53 I would have voted YES.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS EQUAL ACCESS ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the bipartisan Veterans Equal Access Act along with my colleagues DANA ROHRBACHER, WALTER JONES, JUSTIN AMASH, TOM REED, RICHARD HANNA, DINA TITUS, SAM FARR and JARED POLIS, which will allow Veterans Health Administration physicians to recommend medical marijuana to their patients in states where it is legal.

Twenty-three states and the District of Columbia have passed laws that provide for legal access to medical marijuana. As a result, well over one million patients across the country, including many veterans, now use medical marijuana at the recommendation of their physician to treat conditions ranging from seizures, glaucoma, anxiety, chronic pain, and nausea.

There are also nine states and the District of Columbia that now allow physicians to recommend medical marijuana for the symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS), due to a growing body of anecdotal evidence suggesting that marijuana offers relief when nothing else has.

While outdated federal barriers often prevent the research necessary to develop marijuana into an FDA approved drug, states have heard from their citizens, including veterans suffering from PTS, that marijuana is helping them now, and have adjusted their laws.

Despite this growing state availability of medical marijuana, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) prohibits VA medical providers from completing forms brought by their patients seeking recommendations or opinions regarding participation in a state marijuana program.

The Veterans Equal Access Act would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to authorize physicians and other health care workers employed by the VA to provide recommendations and opinions regarding the participation of a veteran in a state medical marijuana program. This includes authorizing them to fill out any forms involved in the process of recommending medical marijuana.

Veterans should not be forced outside of the VA system to seek a treatment that is legal in their state. VA physicians should not be denied the ability to offer a recommendation they think may meet the needs of their patient. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this effort.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 52, had I been present, I would have voted Yes.

HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE
OF EULESS CITY MANAGER
GARY MCKAMIE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gary McKamie who retired as the Euless City Manager on January 31, 2015. Gary has spent the last 42 years serving the City of Euless, and I am privileged to highlight his astonishing career.

Gary McKamie began his career with the City of Euless in 1973 as a public safety dispatcher. He worked in several positions in the Euless Police Department where he rose through the ranks as a Patrol Officer, Detective, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Assistant Police Chief and, ultimately, as Chief of Police for six years beginning in 1993.

As the Chief of Police, Gary McKamie was instrumental in executing several community projects which included the passage of the criminal tax, establishment of the Citizen's Police Academy, conducting town hall meetings and assisting with the development of the police and courts facility.

In 1999, Gary McKamie became the Deputy City Manager in Euless and served in that capacity for eight years. He was then appointed City Manager in 2007. As City Manager, Gary oversaw major commercial development projects in Euless including Glade Parks and the Riverwalk. Both projects were successfully completed to maintain the charm of the community while protecting the natural scenery that defines Euless. He led significant initiatives to improve water conservation, such as the Reclaimed Water Project, which delivers recycled water for irrigation use in northeast Euless. During his tenure as City Manager, Gary was successful in maintaining a conserv-

ative budget, allowing Euless to remain in a strong financial position.

Gary McKamie and his wife, Paula, have been married for 40 years. They have three sons: Blake, Brant and Blane, and six grandchildren: Kylar, Kaylee, Kelsie, Jaxon, Addie and Annabelle.

Gary McKamie's leadership in Euless will be missed, but his impact on the city will always be remembered. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in thanking Gary McKamie for his 42 years of public service with the City of Euless.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 52 I was unable to vote because my flight was cancelled due to inclement weather. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 52 I had an unavoidable conflict. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 80TH
BIRTHDAY OF MAJOR GENERAL
[RET.] GERALD G. WATSON

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend, Major General (Ret.) Gerald G. Watson, in honor of his 80th birthday.

Watson graduated from Trinity University with a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry. He was designated a distinguished military graduate and received a regular Army commission in the U.S. Army Chemical Corps. He went on to earn a Master of Science in logistics systems analysis from the Air Force Institute of Technology. His military education included the Artillery Officers Basic Course, the Chemical Officers Advanced Course, the Army Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College.

During Watson's extensive military career, he served as the first chemical operations officer in the Military Assistance Command in Vietnam, where he directed the U.S. Air Force "Ranch Hand" operations, involving the chemical defoliation program. Most of his missions were flown in a craft nicknamed "Patches," due to the vessel having endured more than 500 direct hits from enemy ground fire. Under his leadership, the defoliation program suc-

cessfully resulted in over a 90 percent reduction in ambushes from Vietcong forces in South Vietnam.

Watson directed the construction and operation of the first two large scale chemical weapons demilitarization facilities while serving as Commander of Rocky Mountain Arsenal. During this time, 7,000 tons of chemical warfare agents were successfully destroyed.

He oversaw the development of the Army's plan for the destruction of its biological weapons stockpile. Later, he served as Program Manager to see the plans be carried out and the biological weapons sufficiently eliminated.

In the office of the Army's deputy Chief-of-Staff for Operations, Watson spearheaded the re-establishment of the U.S. Army Chemical Corps while acting as Director of the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Operations Division. He also served as the Deputy Inspector General for the U.S. Army, where he contributed greatly to the Army's world-wide readiness.

Following that assignment, Watson was promoted to Brigadier General, and assigned as the Commandant, U.S. Army Chemical School where he was responsible for the development of the U.S. Army Chemical Corps' operational doctrine and material requirements. As Commanding General, he was responsible for the officer and enlisted personnel training activities to include the approval of the first chemical live agent training facility in the free world. During this time, he was responsible for conducting officer and enlisted basic and advanced training for approximately 3,000 officers, 25,000 NCOs and enlisted personnel per year.

Selected to be the Director of the Defense Nuclear Agency in 1989, Watson was responsible for conducting underground nuclear weapons tests to determine the equipment and personnel's survivability and vulnerability to withstand the environment created by nuclear weapons.

Watson served as General Manager and President of Teledyne-Commodore LLC after retiring from active duty. From 1998-2009, he acted as senior advisor to the Vice President for Research at Auburn University. He has served on the Board of Directors of Science Engineering Services, Inc., as well as the Board of Directors of the Community Foundation of Calhoun County. General Watson has also completed his third term as a member of the Vestry of St. Michael's and All Angels in Anniston, Alabama.

Currently, he continues to serve as a senior consultant in a range of issues including domestic preparedness, fuel cell technology, chemical and biological sensors, automotive manufacturing technology and canine olfactory technology. Watson is engaged in support of areas relating to the domestic preparedness of first responders and to acts of terrorism involving weapons of mass destruction.

Although his birthday is on February 19th, a surprise celebration will be held on February 21st at Classic on Noble in Anniston, Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating Major General (Ret.) Gerald Watson on this milestone, and thanking him for his outstanding service to our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to state that I was unable to be in Washington on February 2nd for votes due to inclement weather that impacted travel throughout the Midwest and Northeast.

If I had been able to vote yesterday, I would have voted as follows:

On passage of H.R. 361, the Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act, I would have voted "yea."

On passage of H.R. 615, the Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act, I would have voted "yea."

On passage of H.R. 623, the Social Media Working Group Act of 2015, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, on January 27, 2015, on Roll Call #46 on H. Res. 48, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 351) to provide for expedited approval of exportation of natural gas, and for other purposes, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On January 27, 2015, on Roll Call #47 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 469—Strengthening Child Welfare Response to Trafficking Act of 2015, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On January 27, 2015, on Roll Call #48 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 246—To improve the response to victims of child sex trafficking, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On January 28, 2015, on Roll Call #49 on the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 351, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On January 28, 2015, on Roll Call #50 on Passage of H.R. 351—LNG Permitting Certainty and Transparency Act, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for votes on February 2, 2015 be-

cause of a serious illness in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted:

Roll Call #51—Yea

Roll Call #52—Yea

Roll Call #53—Yea

HONORING THE LIFE OF LUKE
WAGNER ADAMS**HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and service of Luke Wagner Adams. Luke was a beloved member of the Queens community, who recently passed away at 76 years of age.

A longtime Queens resident, Luke settled in Sunnyside as a young man and quickly became one of the community's most well-known activists. One of Luke's enduring legacies was his leadership at the helm of the Gateway Restoration Project, which led to the creation of Sunnyside's most iconic symbol, the Sunnyside Arch. Luke led the charge on a number of additional projects to improve Sunnyside as a prominent member of the Sunnyside Chamber of Commerce, Sunnyside/Woodside Lions Club, Sunnyside Kiwanis Club, and Sunnyside Artists. In recognition of his long list of accomplishments, the Sunnyside Chamber of Commerce and Sunnyside Artists' annual 'Luke Adams Sunnysider of the Year' award was named in his honor.

Luke will forever be known not only for his love for his community, but also for his generosity and selflessness. Luke's loyalty to his friends and community was unmatched, and he was willing to go above and beyond for those who asked him for help. Whether it was raising money for the hungry, being the first to welcome a newcomer to the neighborhood, or ensuring that others who joined him in his civic engagement received proper recognition, Luke was the most humble and genuine person one could come across.

Luke was immensely proud of his community, and dedicated his life to making his neighborhood a better place. Mr. Speaker, Luke's commitment to Queens is, and will continue to be, an inspiration to all of us. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Luke Wagner Adams. May he rest in peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 53, had I been present, I would have voted Yes.

SANTA ANA COLLEGE
CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a special institution in my district, Santa Ana College, which celebrates its 100th year of being a flagship in higher education.

Through innovative teaching methods and a commitment to community involvement, Santa Ana College has proven to be a quality education to the students of Orange County.

Santa Ana College was recently chosen as one of fifteen California Community Colleges to offer a four year degree.

In addition to hosting regular community fairs aimed at providing resources for veterans, Santa Ana College was also rewarded a \$250,000 grant to assist military veterans develop the academic skills needed to succeed in college-level courses.

Santa Ana College does not just boast a high involvement among veterans, but is continuously recognized as one of the top associate degree producers for minorities in the nation.

I would like to congratulate Santa Ana College for 100 years of overall excellence and service to my district.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, on February 2, 2015 I missed recorded votes #51-53 as I was delayed en-route to Washington by inclement weather.

I would like to reflect how I would have voted if I were here:

On Roll Call #51 I would have voted yea.

On Roll Call #52 I would have voted yea.

On Roll Call #53 I would have voted yea.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, on February 2, 2015, I missed several votes due to weather. I missed recorded votes #51-53.

I would like to reflect how I would have voted if I were present.

On Roll Call #51, I would have voted YEA.

On Roll Call #52, I would have voted YEA.

On Roll Call #53, I would have voted YEA.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding three missed votes due to inclement weather on Monday, February 2, 2015. Had I been present for roll call vote number 51, H.R. 361, the Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act, I would have voted "yay." Had I been present for roll call vote number 52, H.R. 615, the Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act, I would have voted "yay." Had I been present for roll call vote number 53, H.R. 623, the Social Media Working Group Act of 2015, I would have voted "yay."

IN RECOGNITION OF SACRAMENTO'S BUSINESS LEADERS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many outstanding Sacramento business leaders being honored at the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce's 120th annual dinner and business awards ceremony. Those being honored are dedicated to the success of the Sacramento Region and have worked tirelessly to advance the region's economic vitality. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring these fine Sacramentans.

Mark Friedman, President of the Fulcrum Property Group, has been named "Sacramentan of the Year." An accomplished businessman, he has led many community oriented projects throughout the region, including the current transformation of Downtown Plaza into the new sports and entertainment complex that will help revitalize the core of our city. He is also a civic leader and an active supporter of the arts and higher education. Mr. Friedman is part of the UC Davis Chancellor's Cabinet for the \$1 Billion Comprehensive Capital Campaign and serves on the boards of the UC Davis School of Education and the M.I.N.D. Institute.

Mary Rotelli, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Teichert, Inc., has been named the "Business Woman of the Year." Ms. Rotelli is very involved in the community and was recently appointed by Governor Brown to the California Public Works Contract Arbitration Committee. She is also a member of the California Transportation Foundation and the National Readymix Concrete Association. Ms. Rotelli helped found the Capital Region Family Business Center, an organization that helps family businesses meet their unique needs.

Eric Stille, President and CEO of Nugget Markets, has been named the "Businessman of the Year." The local, family-owned chain is a grocery industry leader and the company has been recognized as being one of the "100 Best Companies to Work For" by Fortune Magazine.

California Clothing Recyclers, a company that exports used clothing thereby reducing landfills, has been named "Small Business of the Year." Erica Taylor, Vice President and Communications and Community Relations Director for Five Star Bank, who holds leadership positions in various organizations and was one of the Sacramento Business Journal's "Top 40 Under 40" in 2012, has been named "Metro Edge Young Professional of the Year." Emilie Cameron, Senior Public Relations Manager for 3fold Communications, is being recognized for her many philanthropic endeavors as "Volunteer of the Year." Ellie Shaw, President of Shaw Media Consulting, whose company helps guide online communication for small businesses and who is an avid volunteer for the Chamber, is being named "Ambassador of the Year." Warren Smith, President of Sacramento Republic FC, is being honored for his efforts to infuse professional soccer in the Sacramento area with the "Peter McCuen Award for Civic Entrepreneurs." These awards could not go to more deserving Sacramentans.

Dignity Health, Los Rios Community College District, and the Van Vleck Ranch are the inductees into the "Sacramento Business Hall of Fame" for their significant contributions to the Sacramento Region.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize these individuals and businesses for their contributions to the Sacramento Region. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring them for their unwavering commitment to our region.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 53, I had an unavoidable conflict. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, on January 21, 2015, on Roll Call #38 on Ordering the Previous Question for H. Res. 38, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On January 21, 2015, on Roll Call #39 on H. Res. 38, Providing for consideration of H.R. 161, the Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act; and providing for consideration of H.R. 36, the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On January 21, 2015, on Roll Call #40 on the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 161, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On January 21, 2015, on Roll Call #41 on Passage of H.R. 161—Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On January 22, 2015, on Roll Call #42 on Ordering the Previous Question for H. Res. 42, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On January 22, 2015, on Roll Call #43 on H. Res. 42, Providing for consideration of H.R. 7, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act of 2015, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On January 22, 2015, on Roll Call #44 on the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 7, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On January 22, 2015, on Roll Call #45 on Passage of H.R. 7—No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act of 2015, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 51 I was unable to vote because my flight to Washington was cancelled due to inclement weather. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

HONORING FRANK P. MATTHEWS, JR.

HON. BRAD ASHFORD

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Frank P. Matthews, Jr. for his dedication and commitment to improving the Omaha community he has called home for so many years. On Friday, Mr. Matthews was named by St. Cecilia Elementary School as the first recipient of its Bernadette "Bonnie" Pryor Distinguished Alumnus Award for his continued service to the school. Mr. Matthews is the son of the late Frank P. Matthews, the 49th United States Secretary of the Navy from 1949–1951 and United States Ambassador to Ireland from 1951–1952. The late Mr. Matthews installed many admirable values in his son, including service to one's country as well as the importance of giving back. Mr. Matthews took this advice, and following graduation from Creighton Preparatory High School and completion of a correspondence course, served in an Army gunnery unit from 1942–1946. During this time, Mr. Matthews studied Chinese in anticipation of his deployment there; however Japan surrendered, ending the

war. After the war, Mr. Matthews earned a Juris Doctorate from Creighton University Law School. He and his partner Martin Cannon, practiced for many years, in the Matthews and Cannon Law Building. In the 1960's Mr. Matthews pooled together resources so as to buy shares in a new company led by the young Warren Buffett. Having the advantage of early participation, Mr. Matthews has echoed his father's credence of good will by giving back at least half of what he has earned from this investment. Since his retirement at 65, Mr. Matthews has spent the past 30 years with his late wife, Helen, traveling the world and experiencing new things. Throughout this time he has enriched the lives of so many Omahans through his service and commitment to the community. Mr. Speaker it is with great pleasure that I recognize Mr. Frank Matthews for his and his family's achievements and service to our great state and this great country.

RECOGNIZING NANCY CONNER'S 30
YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Nancy Conner's 30 years of committed service to the people of Tullytown Borough.

Tullytown lays on the southern edge of Lower Bucks County along the Delaware River, between Falls and Bristol Townships, and includes part of historic Levittown—the

embodiment of the American dream for families who returned home after World War II. Levittown—and Tullytown—has an important place in our local history, and one that is only strengthened by the individuals that live and work there.

For three decades, Nancy has attended to the needs of her neighbors and community through her service as Council Secretary of Tullytown Borough. Her thoughtful and dedicated work has earned the praise of her peers and added to the success of her hometown.

The continued efforts of involved individuals, like Nancy, make my District of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, a special one to represent.

I thank Nancy for dutifully executing her role as Council Secretary for the last 30 years and wish her all the best in her next 30.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,085,063,837,781.82. We've added \$7,455,417,108,597.12 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.4 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRE-
SERVING ACCESS TO MANUFAC-
TURED HOUSING ACT

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss my bill, the Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing Act. My legislation makes two important changes to regulations that could affect the accessibility of financing options for purchasers of manufactured homes.

Manufactured housing serves as a valuable, affordable housing option for American families all across our nation. Unfortunately, due to CFPB mortgage regulations that do not reflect the unique nature of the manufactured home sales process, access to financing for manufactured homes is in serious jeopardy. My bill would modify the definition of high-cost loans so that manufactured housing loans are not unfairly swept under the high-cost loan designation simply due to their size.

Additionally, the Act will clarify that manufactured housing retailers who are not engaged in financing loans should not be considered mortgage loan originators for purposes of heightened regulation and limitation on activity under the SAFE Act.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House (and Senate) to support me in passing the Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing Act, in order to ensure continued availability of this affordable housing option.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, February 4, 2015

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JOLLY).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 4, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID W. JOLLY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

OPENING OF THE FLORIDA CENTER FOR CYBERSECURITY AT UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROSS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to bring to the attention of my colleagues an important event taking place this Friday in the 15th Congressional District of Florida which I have the privilege to represent.

With the opening of the Florida Center for Cybersecurity on the campus of the University of South Florida, also known as USF, in Tampa this Friday, our State marshals the strength of all of Florida's public universities to respond to our Nation's cybersecurity workforce needs.

The center will help develop the next generation of technology to prevent cyber attacks and provide a resource for Florida businesses to help them prevent and, if necessary, respond to cyber threats.

I want to congratulate the board of governors for our State university system, our Florida State Legislature, and our Florida Governor for recognizing the critical importance of the growing

cyber threat to Florida residents and businessowners throughout the world. These leaders are doing something about that threat by establishing the Florida Center for Cybersecurity.

They recognized that with our growing reliance on Internet connectivity each and every day, cybersecurity becomes increasingly more vital. Cybersecurity reaches every facet of modern life, from national security to personal communication, from data storage to banking security, from health care privacy to transportation safety.

In just 7 short months, the center has enrolled its first 100 students in a special cybersecurity master's degree program. Just last October, the program at USF became only the second in the Nation to be designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance and Cybersecurity.

The center continues to address the serious shortfall in our Nation's cybersecurity workforce by bringing online degree, certificate, and training programs to facilitate industry-recognized specializations to enhance the cybersecurity workforce, mitigate cybersecurity threats, and attract new businesses to Florida and across our great Nation.

Most importantly, the university will reach out to our Nation's heroes who have proudly served in uniform and return to civilian life to allow them to continue to protect our homeland.

Tampa is the perfect home for this new cyber mission with its close proximity to the headquarters of the U.S. Central Command, U.S. Special Operations Command, and the Joint Cyber Command at MacDill Air Force Base.

The Tampa Bay region is also a center for our State's financial and health care industries. National, State, and local businesses—large and small—will benefit from the continuing outreach and educational programs offered by the Florida Center for Cybersecurity at USF.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud USF's energy and innovation in responding to the national and international cyber threat. This is the type of quick and thorough response our Nation needs as we bring together the best our public and private sectors have to offer in protecting our citizens and our businesses from this ongoing threat to our national security, our personal security, and economic security.

Congratulations to USF, and go, Bulls.

AWARE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, one of the areas where Congress has repeatedly come together in a non-partisan fashion to make real progress has been legislation dealing with the protection of animals. This is something that unites us as we have been able to deal with a series of simple, commonsense steps to assure we meet the standard of care.

That is why it was so horrific to read the terrible front-page article in The New York Times on January 20 about the Federal Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center, Nebraska. Moving from the front page to two full pages on the inside were truly grotesque and horrifying examples of animal abuse.

A young cow had its head locked in a cagelike device to keep her immobile while she was repeatedly—you can only describe it as sexually tortured for hours by as many as six bulls being studied for their sexual libido. Her back legs were broken, her body—in the words of one of the observers—was “torn up,” and the cow understandably died from her injuries.

There were other experiments detailed, sheep and pigs, without consideration of animal health impact. It detailed horrifying and often unsuccessful results. At least 6,500 animals were known to have starved to death at this facility, and unknown numbers died from negligence from easily treatable infections, exposure to bad weather, or attacks by predators—all of this at a cost of almost \$200 million of taxpayer money over the last 10 years, resulting in this grotesque abuse of animals.

There is the ability to abuse, neglect, and even torture farm animals because there is no law that requires their protection. There is a loophole in the Animal Welfare Act which exempts farm animals used for research.

Think about it. If you are abusing, neglecting, or even torturing farm animals for agricultural research, you don't have to obey the Animal Welfare Act. It is absolutely unjustified and outrageous.

This week, Congressman MICHAEL FITZPATRICK—my cochair of the Congressional Animal Protection Caucus—and I are introducing the AWARE Act

which would require that in Federal facilities, farm animals used in agricultural research be included in the definition of “animal” under the Animal Welfare Act.

It seems rather simple. It would ensure that these animals are treated like other warmblooded animals in other Federal research facilities. It is time that we step up to stop this horrific abuse. There is no reason that the USDA agricultural research facilities experimenting on farm animals should not be held to the same standards as Federal research facilities that conduct lifesaving disease research with the same kinds of animals.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this AWARE Act, the Animal Welfare and Agricultural Research Endeavors. It is supported by The Humane Society, the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Humane Legislative Fund, and countless people across the country who deeply believe in animal welfare.

This is our job in Congress, and this is a small step that we can quickly make to show that we respond to animal abuse and that the Federal Government will lead by example.

I would urge my colleagues to join Congressman FITZPATRICK and me as members of the Congressional Animal Protection Caucus to work together on behalf of God’s creatures who cannot speak for themselves.

PUERTO RICO STATEHOOD ADMISSION PROCESS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the most forceful and ambitious statehood admission bill for Puerto Rico in U.S. history. The bill, fittingly, has 51 original cosponsors from both parties.

Before I describe the bill, let me explain its background. In 2012, the Puerto Rico government sponsored a referendum in which voters rejected Puerto Rico’s current territory status and expressed a clear preference for statehood.

In the 113th Congress, at my initiative, the President proposed and Congress approved an appropriation of \$2.5 million to fund the first federally sponsored status vote in Puerto Rico’s history. The funding will remain available until it is used by the Puerto Rico government.

While the law does not prescribe the exact format of the ballot, it does establish important conditions; namely, the law provides that the U.S. Department of Justice must certify that the ballot and voter education materials are consistent with U.S. law and policy.

The bipartisan bill I am introducing today flows from and builds upon the

2012 referendum and the Federal appropriation enacted in response to that referendum. In other words, this bill is being filed now because the strategic foundation is firmly in place.

Every action I take is designed to advance the statehood cause because it is beyond dispute that territory status is the main source of Puerto Rico’s grave economic and social problems. My constituents have no interest in symbolic gestures or empty rhetoric. They care only about concrete steps that bring Puerto Rico closer to equality.

My bill would authorize a vote to be held in Puerto Rico within 1 year of the bill’s enactment—that is, by no later than the end of 2017. The ballot would contain a single question: Shall Puerto Rico be admitted as a State of the United States?

To conduct this vote, the Puerto Rico government may use the \$2.5 million that Congress already approved since this format clearly satisfies the conditions of the appropriations law. If a majority of voters affirm their desire for admission, the bill provides for an automatic series of steps to occur.

First, by February 2018, the President would issue a proclamation to begin Puerto Rico’s transition to statehood.

Second, the President would appoint a commission to prepare a report that describes the Federal laws that treat the territory of Puerto Rico differently than the States. The commission would complete the report by July 2018. The congressional committees of jurisdiction could then enact legislation to phase in equal treatment of Puerto Rico during the transition period so the admission process is structured and orderly.

Third, in November 2020, the American citizens of Puerto Rico would vote for President and Vice President, two U.S. Senators, and voting Members of the U.S. House.

Finally, on January 1, 2021, the President would proclaim Puerto Rico to be a State. Puerto Rico’s congressional Representatives would be sworn into office, and Puerto Rico would be treated on equal footing with all other States.

My bill is modeled on the legislation enacted by Congress with respect to Alaska and Hawaii. When Alaska and Hawaii were territories, they each held votes sponsored by their local governments in which voters expressed a desire for statehood. This is also what occurred in Puerto Rico in 2012.

Ultimately, Congress enacted an admission act for Alaska in 1958 and an admission act for Hawaii in 1959. Those acts of Congress provided for admission to occur once a majority of voters in each territory affirmed in a federally sponsored vote that they desired statehood. That is precisely what my bill would do with respect to Puerto Rico.

Every Member of Congress who co-sponsors this bill is standing up for a

powerful, powerful principle, which is this: the people of Puerto Rico are U.S. citizens, they have enriched the life of this Nation for generations, and they have fought and died to defend her.

If a majority of Puerto Rico’s voters affirm their desire in a federally sponsored vote to become a full and equal part of the American family, the will of the people should be honored. Democracy requires no less.

SERVICEMEMBER ASSISTANCE FOR LAWFUL UNDERSTANDING, TREATMENT, AND EDUCATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last week, my fellow Chester County Congressman, PATRICK MEEHAN, introduced the Servicemember Assistance for Lawful Understanding, Treatment, and Education Act, otherwise known as the SALUTE Act.

I want to praise Congressman MEEHAN for his leadership on this issue and speak a little bit about it in support of the SALUTE Act.

□ 1015

It is going to help veterans overcome addictions and PTSD by providing yearly Federal funding for Veterans Treatment Courts. This is an opportunity for all of us to help troubled veterans break free of the cycle and get the help that they need.

It is estimated that one in five veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq will experience a stress-related mental illness. Veterans Treatment Courts assist soldiers who are charged with nonviolent crimes and who are struggling with certain addictions or mental illnesses. Veterans Treatment Courts provide an opportunity for them to get their lives back on the right track and to not spiral down a track of addiction.

Pennsylvania, as you may know, is a hub of veterans courts, as 18 counties have them. In fact, three counties that I represent—Chester, Montgomery, and Berks—have Veterans Treatment Courts, and I have seen firsthand as the Chester County commissioner how impactful and effective they can be. I have witnessed firsthand how important it is to the lives of returning veterans. So I share with you a quote that I received from Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan:

These brave men and women have sacrificed so much to serve our country and protect our freedom. We owe it to them to help them when they return home. Veterans court provides the structure and support to address the unique needs of combat veterans who find themselves in the criminal justice system. It is our duty to thank our veterans by offering help as they readjust to civilian life.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the SALUTE Act, and I want to thank, again, Congressman MEEHAN for introducing it. When the time comes, I encourage my colleagues to full-heartedly support the SALUTE Act. It is commonsense legislation that will help our Nation's heroes.

IN SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT'S FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in full support of President Obama's fiscal year 2016 budget.

It is a budget that is firmly rooted in middle class economics, designed to benefit working families and middle-income Americans. It is a budget that will facilitate access to quality, affordable child care and will dramatically expand prekindergarten education in a way that will allow the children of middle class Americans to get off to a faster start in life.

President Obama's budget, with the full support of House Democrats, will also address wage stagnation. It is designed to put more income—more money—in the pockets of middle class Americans and of those who aspire to be part of the middle class. It will address the fact that, since the early 1970s, the productivity of the American worker has increased consistently, yet middle class wages have remained stagnant. That is a systematic problem that President Obama, Leader PELOSI, and House Democrats are determined to address on behalf of the middle class.

President Obama's budget is also designed to increase the affordability of a college education. We know that Americans right now are burdened with more than \$1 trillion in student loan debt. That type of debt limits the ability of younger Americans to purchase a home, to start a family, to open up a new business, to take a chance. It limits their ability to robustly access the American Dream. President Obama's budget is designed to allow the sons and daughters of the middle class to pursue their dreams in a more meaningful fashion.

When President Obama took office, he inherited an economic train wreck as a result of the Great Recession that was handed to him by the policies of the previous Republican administration. Through the leadership of President Obama, working closely with Democrats in the House and the Senate, we have turned the economy around. We have gotten it back on the right track.

So the question that we in this Congress face today is: Will we continue the policies of middle class economics, which are designed to benefit working families and moderate income Ameri-

cans, or are we going to regress to the policies of trickle-down economics, which have failed middle class Americans time and time again?

I am in my second term. When I first got to the Congress, I assumed that trickle-down economics was dead, doomed by the fact that it has failed over and over again. Apparently, it has been revived.

In its most recent incarnation, House Republicans would like to drop the top tax rate from 39.6 percent on the wealthiest Americans all the way down to 25 percent. Their argument is: "Don't worry, everybody is going to benefit." But that hasn't worked in the past. In fact, I am convinced that middle class economics is far more preferable to trickle-down economics, which, as it relates to the middle class, simply means you may be lucky to get a trickle, but you are guaranteed to stay down. That is what the record says.

Bill Clinton inherited a recession. The top tax rate on high-income earners was 31 percent. He raised it to 39.6 percent, and the purveyors of trickle-down economics predicted economic doom and gloom. What happened when President Clinton focused on the middle class? More than 20 million jobs were created. He then handed over a budget surplus to President Bush and his coconspirators in the Congress, and like drunken sailors, they blew that budget surplus on failed wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and on a tax cut that disproportionately benefited the wealthy and the well off. Did trickle-down economics work when they dropped the top tax rate to 35 percent? No. During the Bush Presidency, 650,000-plus jobs were lost.

President Obama inherited this economic mess, and in partnership with Democrats in the House and in the Senate, he renewed his focus on the middle class. He even raised the top tax rate back up to 39.6 percent. Doom and gloom was predicted, but what happened? The economy is humming. The stock market is way up. Gas prices are way down. The unemployment rate has come down. Economic growth is exceeding all of the competitors across the world.

There is more to be done, but for us to be successful, we have got to abandon the focus on the wealthy and the well off and pursue middle class economics.

JOHN TEDORE, A HERO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. YOUNG) for 5 minutes.

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a native Iowan—John Tedore from West Des Moines—for his service to our great country.

Mr. Tedore was a member of the elite First Special Service Force that be-

came renowned for their missions in Italy and southern France in World War II.

Mr. Tedore was in Washington, D.C., yesterday—in the great Capitol Building here—along with nearly 40 of his fellow veterans, known as the Devil's Brigade, to receive the prestigious Congressional Gold Medal, which is the highest honor Congress can bestow upon civilians. For the men of the Devil's Brigade, this is an honor highly deserved. John Tedore—this hero, this Iowan—stood for all of those who could not be here so that they may never be forgotten for their selfless and heroic service.

We must never forget those who answered the call to serve to protect our rights and our liberties and to make this a safer world for this Nation and the cause of freedom.

To John Tedore and your fellow members of the Devil's Brigade, from a grateful nation and from this grateful Iowan, congratulations on this highest of honors, and God bless you.

THE NEXT AMERICAN CENTURY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak briefly about two aspects of the President's budget that really struck me and a number of my constituents in Philadelphia and Montgomery County as so important.

As a new Member, it has been a special honor to be serving in this Chamber, and I have had a few incredibly special moments that all Americans can identify with. One is the swearing-in of a new Congress, something that dates back to right after our First Congress was sworn in right after the U.S. Constitution was signed in Philadelphia. One of those other moments—a constitutionally mandated moment—is when the President comes to Congress to give a report on the state of the Union from time to time, as the Constitution says.

Sitting right here in this Chamber and hearing President Obama speak about the state of our Union would be exciting in any year, in any circumstance, but it was especially this year because, for the first time in 6 years—after the deepest and darkest recession in almost a century—we have turned the page. After 6 rather difficult years of digging our way out of a ditch, we now can build a foundation to move forward. With that, there were two areas specifically that the President focused on.

One was a universal college education. As the first of my family to go to college, I know I wouldn't have had the opportunities that I have had in life without having a higher education.

I needed a combination of scholarships and student loans and every sort of work-study job imaginable to get there, as well as help from parents and even grandparents. That is a story similar to so many working and middle class Americans, but for too many Americans today the cost of a higher education is simply unaffordable.

The question is: Do you go without it at all even though two-thirds of the jobs by the end of this decade will require some form of a higher education? Do you just forgo a higher education altogether, or do you take on tens of thousands in student loans and then be burdened with paying back that debt upon graduation? Either scenario is far from ideal.

What the President said—and I completely agree—is let's make 2 years of community college universal and free in this country. Now, that may be unthinkable today. 100 years ago, it was unthinkable that a free, fully funded high school education would be universal. Yet, for us, that is the reality today. It would be unthinkable for Americans of my age and even of an older age to imagine a time in which high school was not universal. Let's get there with 2 years of a college education.

The second area the President focused on was the child care tax credit. For so many working families and young families, affording child care is simply unaffordable. We have an opportunity through this budget to change that, to build on the successes of the last 6 years and to finally prepare to make this century the second American Century. Ensuring that we have good, high-quality, affordable child care is vital to this middle class.

The reason the last century was the American Century was that we had the largest and most productive middle class in the world. Access to higher education and access to child care are two necessary ingredients in making sure we have a strong and vibrant middle class in the 21st century.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 28 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Dean Curry, Life Center Church, Tacoma, Washington, offered the following prayer:

Father, what an honor it is to be in Your presence here today. We celebrate this morning what You have done through the United States of America.

We acknowledge the hand of providence in our history and the force of inspiration for our future.

Be with us here now most significantly in our present that we could see what others do not see, that we could do what others fear to do, so that we could change what others are afraid to change.

We are reminded that we are so small and You are so big. Our problems are daunting, and our responsibilities are many. But we look to You today, to Your principles and to Your goodness, that we could be everything You designed for us to be, that we could do everything You planned for us to do, that others may be free.

Today, may every decision made, every plan contemplated, be sprinkled with Your grace and be inspired from Heaven. Change us; change our minds and our hearts that we may change our destiny and the destiny of others both here and around the world.

I pray all of this with respect to all faiths in the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Indiana (Mrs. WALORSKI) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. WALORSKI led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND DEAN CURRY

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. KILMER) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor today's guest chaplain, Reverend Dean Curry, from Tacoma, Washington.

We are blessed to have such a remarkable pastor with us today who is a leading figure in the region that I represent. Reverend Curry's Life Center Church in Tacoma is a vibrant place where folks young and old come for worship.

He knows what it means to give back to your community. Each month, he

brings together civic and elected leaders in Tacoma for a faith breakfast, and volunteers from his church are always helping out those going through hard times.

The motto of his church sums up his work pretty remarkably: "It's all about the people." That is why it is fitting to have Reverend Curry here today. Like the United States House of Representatives, his mission is to serve the people.

Reverend Curry is an example of how we should do more to listen, respect, and understand one another better so we can leave a place for future generations where opportunities are available for everyone.

Reverend Curry has also led humanitarian missions to troubled regions like Iraq and Afghanistan to offer assistance and hope to those suffering through tragedies. He is someone who "walks the walk" when it comes to fighting for equality, religious freedom, and social justice both in his community and around the world.

Whether he is listening to stories in refugee settlements or helping out with a national prayer breakfast, his passion for others shines through, and it is an honor to welcome him today.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLEISCHMANN) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 4, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 4, 2015 at 9:22 a.m.:

Appointment:
Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki).

United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RECOGNIZING THE SAFE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION 60TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to SAFE Federal Credit Union which on January 14 celebrated the 60th anniversary of its Federal charter.

In January 1955, 15 civilian employees at Shaw Air Force Base organized the SAFE Federal Credit Union. Throughout the years, SAFE's membership has expanded to nearly 500 additional groups and eight underserved communities. SAFE, headquartered in Sumter, South Carolina, is now the largest credit union serving the South Carolina Midlands with 108,000 members and \$903 million in assets.

I am grateful for the work of SAFE's employees who have developed a reputation of exemplary service, knowledge, and trust under the leadership of SAFE's CEO and president, Beverly Gagne. They have also been on the cutting edge of fraud prevention which is critical as we address new cyber cases of crime.

With their professionalism in lending practices, members have created many opportunities and prompted thousands of new jobs. I know firsthand as a real estate attorney closing loans for SAFE.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President by his actions never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Our prayers for the people of Jordan as the latest victims of terrorism.

INVESTING IN OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

(Mr. QUIGLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, infrastructure investment is key to growing our economy and creating jobs which is why President Obama committed to a 40 percent increase in infrastructure funding in his budget released this week.

Despite the fact that every billion dollars invested in infrastructure creates 30,000 jobs, over the past 50 years, our investment in infrastructure has shrunk by half. Meanwhile, China is investing four times as much as we do in transportation.

We need these investments in Chicago where we have got a century-old transit system that needs updates to keep up with increased capacity. By the way, the Chicago Transit Authority carries more people in a month than Amtrak does in a year. We also need 1,000 miles of roads to be repaired, and 675 bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete.

Our crumbling infrastructure is slowing economic growth, and without serious long-term investments, we simply will not be able to compete in today's global economy.

The President outlined his 21st century infrastructure plan this week.

Now, it is time for Democrats and Republicans in Congress to work together on the long-term transportation bill the American people are asking for.

MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA BENEFICIARY TRAVEL ACT

(Mrs. WALORSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today after listening to the stories of veterans and their families. It is very apparent the VA is not doing enough to help victims overcome the physical and psychological pain of military sexual trauma.

This week, I introduced H.R. 642, a bill that would make victims of military sexual trauma eligible for VA travel benefits. Those who fight for our freedom have faced enough challenges along the way. Expecting them to pay for their own travel to receive care or treatment for the sexual trauma they endured by serving our country is unfair.

I am grateful today to work with Representative KUSTER, Representative COFFMAN, and Representative RUIZ on this important legislation, and I am hopeful it is a step in the right direction by helping veterans access much-needed care.

I encourage support for H.R. 642.

GO RED FOR WOMEN CAMPAIGN

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Go Red for Women.

More than 600,000 women's lives have been saved from heart disease since Go Red for Women was created in 2004, but heart disease still remains the number one killer for women and men and causes more deaths than all forms of cancer.

As a National Heart Association Board member, one of Columbus, Ohio's first Go Red chairs, and a member of the Congressional Heart Caucus, I rise today to recognize survivors, those battling with heart disease, and those who are fighting and working to find cures and improve treatments.

Today, Members of Congress will stand together, Democrats and Republicans, in red to send a message to the Nation that as colleagues, we can stand and celebrate the American Heart Association and its Go Red for Women campaign.

Mr. Speaker, working together, we will make a difference.

RECOGNIZING BILLY KIRKBRIDE

(Mr. STEWART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to recognize a true American hero, Utah veteran Billy Kirkbride, who was just awarded the Congressional Gold Medal.

Billy joined the Army in 1942, and he was chosen to be part of the unique program called the First Special Service Force which was the forerunner of today's Special Forces. It was here that he became a member of the very elite Devil's Brigade.

The Congressional Gold Medal is awarded to those who have performed amazing feats leaving permanent impacts upon American culture and history. As a former Air Force pilot, I know the sacrifice and the dedication that it takes to become one of America's elite warriors.

It is an honor to stand here today not just before the American people, but before his lovely wife and daughters to pay tribute to the sacrifice and dedication that Billy showed through his service to this great Nation.

He doesn't just represent the strength of the Armed Forces, he represents American values that continue to make our Nation great, and millions of us are grateful for his service.

PASS A VETERANS JOBS BILL

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise on behalf of the many Illinois veterans that I represent and their families to draw attention to the high rate of veteran unemployment in America. After fighting for our Nation, far too many military heroes are being forced to fight for a job here at home.

Despite many veterans having the leadership skills and work ethic that businesses are looking for, the unemployment rate for post-9/11 veterans is 6.9 percent, far higher than the national average of 5.6 percent.

I am committed to reducing veteran unemployment and helping our heroes find quality work. Last week, I released an updated edition of my veterans resource guidebook to help our veterans get the benefits they have earned and employment resources to get them and their families back in the workforce, but we need to do more.

I urge my colleagues to work with me to pass a veterans job bill to put the half million unemployed veterans back to work.

BENEFICIARY TRAVEL FOR VETERANS SEEKING TREATMENT OR CARE FOR MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA

(Mr. COFFMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I join my colleagues as we address one of

the challenges within Veterans Affairs—our goal: ensuring our veterans are provided the best possible care to heal from the wounds associated with being a victim of military sexual trauma.

As has been noted by the Veterans Affairs inspector general, obtaining travel authorization to the most appropriate clinics to address the specialized care required of military sexual trauma victims has been an obstacle. This bill, H.R. 642, will take care of that.

The bottom line is that victims of military sexual assault trauma should be able to obtain the specific care necessary to address their individual needs and not be trapped by a bureaucracy that fails to give them access to treatment because it cannot reconcile how to pay for travel to get to and from a treatment facility.

Please join me and my colleagues as we stand up for veterans who are victims of military sexual trauma and enable them to obtain the treatment that they need.

□ 1215

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET PROPOSAL

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, President Obama's budget proposal for fiscal year 2016 lays out a fiscally responsible plan to invest in our future and makes sure that hardworking Americans are able to benefit from an economy that is finally improving. I am particularly pleased that the President is committed to making strategic investments in our Nation's research and development.

The budget invests \$146 billion for R&D across the Federal Government, which is a 6 percent increase. The budget provides for \$7 billion in clean energy funding throughout the Federal Government and \$2.4 billion to further advance manufacturing technologies. This funding improves our scientific knowledge, creates technologies with widespread benefits, and strengthens U.S.-global competitiveness.

The budget also makes investments in public health, including \$31 billion for the National Institutes of Health, which is a \$1 billion increase over the 2015 level, and \$1.2 billion across several agencies to combat antibiotic resistant bacteria, for advanced precision medicine, and for targeted therapies for patients.

I mention all of these, Mr. Speaker, because I do believe—and every evidence shows—that research investment creates jobs, promotes innovation, and increases economic development. That means more jobs. I hope that the Republicans will support the President's budget.

HAROLD EATMAN

(Mr. PITTENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Harold Eatman of Matthews, North Carolina, who is a 99-year-old brave patriot who volunteered for the 82nd Airborne at the start of World War II because he wanted a tough assignment.

Mr. Eatman is one of the few paratroopers to make all four World War II jumps—into Sicily, Italy, Holland, and Normandy. For his bravery in helping to liberate France from Nazi brutality, the French Government on Tuesday awarded Mr. Eatman the prestigious Legion of Honor medal, an award created by Napoleon.

Mr. Eatman's dedication extends beyond the battlefield. Following his discharge after World War II, he volunteered for another year's Active Duty to help escort the bodies of fallen soldiers as they were returned home.

Please join me in thanking Harold Eatman for his bravery and sacrifice in fighting for freedom—an exemplary example of the Greatest Generation.

MS. WALTER BARBOUR, A TRUE TRAILBLAZER

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a true trailblazer, Ms. Walter Barbour—the first Black woman to serve on the Fort Worth City Council.

Just like many of the constituents I serve, Ms. Barbour was a product of the segregated I.M. Terrell High School in Fort Worth. Ms. Barbour graduated from I.M. Terrell in 1937 and went on to earn her bachelor's degree from Prairie View A&M University and her master's degree from Atlanta University in Georgia.

Ms. Barbour served on the Fort Worth City Council from 1977 to 1979. During her tenure on the council, she advocated for a health clinic that now sits in the Stop Six community, which is where she lived; for summer food programs for low-income children; for recreational facilities for the community; and she cleared the way for the first fire station in the Stop Six-Eastwood area on Ramey Avenue and Edgewood Terrace.

Ms. Barbour is survived by her daughter, Hollie; her son, Robert Barbour, Jr.; as well as two grandchildren.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring a true legend, Ms. Walter Barbour, who broke so many barriers at a time when women and African Americans faced so many obstacles, but she still worked hard to live the American Dream.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET PROPOSAL

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, while I am very proud to represent Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, we woke up on Groundhog Day to a budget proposal that feels like the infinite loop—loaded with the same tax-and-spend policies that have not worked for the President or for the American people.

The President's budget proposal is a hard left U-turn that attempts to undo the three consecutive years of more responsible, less discretionary spending. While Congress only has the power of the purse, this budget altogether ignores our staggering national debt, which is more than \$18.1 trillion.

Despite \$2.1 trillion in proposed tax increases, President Obama's budget never balances—ever. Since 2009, \$7.5 trillion has been added to the national debt, and expenditures amount to more than \$21.1 trillion. The President's budget request recommends adding a staggering additional \$8.5 trillion to the debt.

Mr. Speaker, we need smart budgeting to fund our priorities without doing harm to families, small businesses, and future generations. The American people deserve no less.

THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, this week, President Obama unveiled his fiscal year 2016 budget, which outlines his funding priorities for the year ahead.

This proposal builds on the economic progress we have made by properly focusing on middle class initiatives, and it supports initiatives that create jobs, educate young people, increase access to affordable child care, repair our crumbling roads and bridges, and keep communities safe—all to ensure that the American economy works for everyone and that recovery reaches all Americans.

The President's proposal is a strong starting point for Congress to work together to produce a smart and sensible budget that reflects the priorities of working Americans, that keeps our country safe and our economy growing.

I urge my Republican colleagues to drop their misguided proposals that benefit special interests, that repeal the Affordable Care Act, and that restrict women's health care decisions, and to focus instead on a bipartisan budget agreement that ensures all Americans share in our country's growing recovery and that makes the right investments for our future.

TAXPAYERS RIGHT-TO-KNOW ACT

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I believe the American people deserve to know how their hard-earned tax dollars are spent. That is why I introduced the Taxpayers Right-to-Know Act.

Congress is known for its complex bills, but this one is pretty simple. It requires each Federal agency to provide taxpayers an annual report card of what they are doing with the money they have been given. With a government this large it is no secret we have waste and duplication. By better tracking government spending, we can look back and identify the outdated programs that should be eliminated or streamlined to save money.

As the people's representatives, we are here to be responsible stewards of their tax dollars, and this bipartisan bill is a good start to stopping wasteful spending.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

(Mr. CARNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to pass legislation that limits the role of money in politics. Since the Citizens United decision in 2010, the role of fundraising and spending in political campaigns has gotten even more out of control than it was before.

That is why I introduced a constitutional amendment, H.J. Res. 24, which allows Congress and the States to rein in campaign contributions. It is also why I cosponsored the DISCLOSE Act, the Government By the People Act, and the democracy for all amendment—all designed to limit the influence of money in our political system.

The American people need to know that their elected officials are here to serve them and not big campaign contributors. The overwhelming amount of money spent on campaigns weakens people's faith in our political system.

Mr. Speaker, I urge House leadership to take up legislation to address this issue. We need to change our laws to get money out of politics and to keep our focus where it belongs—doing the right thing for the American people.

SUPPORTING OUR ALLIES

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, with the rise of ISIS—or ISIL—in Syria and Iraq, we have seen the brutality of Islamic extremism to an extent previously unimaginable.

In just the last week, ISIL beheaded two Japanese citizens and revealed that a Jordanian pilot had been burned alive in a cage. This is why it is more critical than ever that we support our moderate allies in the region and praise their efforts to protect religious minorities.

In Egypt, President el-Sisi recently became the first modern leader in the country's history to visit a Coptic Christian church on Christmas Eve. The cathedral he visited had been attacked just 2 years earlier by Islamic extremists. By contrast, in regions controlled by ISIL, groups that have lived in the same community for more than 1,000 years have been killed or have fled for their lives.

We must never forget that the mission of the extremists is not regional but global dominance, and it is aimed at all who refuse to submit to their harsh interpretation of their religion. We must stand together with leaders like the King of Jordan and the President of Egypt, who speak up and act to defeat Islamic extremism, and give them our strong support.

VACCINATIONS

(Mr. FOSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, once again, our country is seeing the dangerous effects of failing to listen to science.

In 2000, the United States had effectively eliminated endemic measles—an effort 40 years in the making—but all of that progress is quickly coming undone, not by an act of nature but by willful ignorance.

Last year, there were 644 cases of measles in the United States—the highest number in 20 years. Already this year, there have been 102 cases in 14 States, including in my home State of Illinois.

This is a dangerous game and one that some elected officials are encouraging. As leaders, it is our duty to inform the public of the truth. For those of us with scientific and medical backgrounds, this duty falls even more seriously.

When you fail to vaccinate, it is not just yourself and your children that you are putting in danger; it is everyone you come into contact with. And when politicians give voice to misinformation and paranoia, they are putting us all at risk.

Measles may not spread as fast as erroneous sound bites and tweets, but they both have the potential to cause a great amount of damage.

I know that many of my colleagues have reminded us that they are not scientists as they use this as an excuse for their advocacy of bad public policy, but it does not take a scientist to realize that opposing vaccines is wrong.

Absent a valid medical reason for exclusion, vaccines are critical for every man, woman, and child in our country—period.

NATIONAL CANCER PREVENTION DAY

(Mr. BENISHEK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the important health care issues surrounding the National Cancer Prevention Day.

This day is an opportunity for health care providers, policymakers, and other community leaders to educate people on the healthy activities and behaviors that can prevent this disease. While we learn more and more every year about how to best treat cancer, more must be done to focus on preventing cases from ever occurring. Today is a reminder to patients to make it their business to learn of activities and behaviors to decrease the incidence of this disease.

As a doctor who treated patients in northern Michigan for over 30 years, I am far too familiar with the devastating impact that cancer has on countless lives every day. I hope that all of my colleagues in the House and the Senate will join me in the 114th Congress to remember the victims of cancer, to honor its survivors, and to do everything in our power to prevent future cases of this disease.

PROVIDING TRAVEL BENEFITS FOR VICTIMS OF MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA

(Ms. KUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to again partner with my colleague JACKIE WALORSKI from Indiana to reintroduce legislation to extend veterans' travel benefits to veterans who are traveling to seek treatment for injuries resulting from sexual trauma in the military.

It is an honor to serve with Mrs. WALORSKI on the Veterans' Affairs Committee—one of the most bipartisan committees in the House—and it is a privilege to work with all of our colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, in service to our Nation's veterans. We must ensure that victims can access the high-quality care that every veteran is guaranteed when he or she joins the military.

The occurrence of sexual trauma in the military is outrageous enough, but it is something our brave servicemen and -women should never be forced to experience. What is even worse is that many survivors of military sexual trauma have trouble accessing the physical and mental health services

they need when they return home because the VA does not provide travel benefits to all victims of MST.

This legislation is a great first step in further protecting the thousands of servicemen and -women who are survivors of military sexual violence. I urge its swift passage.

□ 1230

HONORING ANDY CREWS

(Mr. GUINTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent and friend who was recently named the 2015 Time Magazine Dealer of the Year. Andy Crews, president and CEO of AutoFair, is one of the Nation's most successful auto dealers, with seven stores and 600 employees in the Granite State and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Not only is Andy a natural business leader, he is also an outstanding public servant. He has served in the United States Marine Corps and constantly gives back to the future leaders of our communities.

In addition to donating proceeds of auto sales to help feed the needy around Thanksgiving time, Andy has spearheaded a program to motivate high school seniors in Manchester, New Hampshire, to excel in their classes for a chance to win a car.

Andy also works closely with the New Hampshire community technical colleges to ensure students are receiving the best education and training to become the next generation of trained auto technicians.

It is people like Andy Crews who make me beyond proud to call myself a Granite Stater. His commitment and passion to the auto industry and our communities are beyond deserving of the 2015 Time Magazine Dealer of the Year award, and I wish him continued success.

WE MUST NOT NEGLECT BOKO HARAM

(Ms. WILSON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last April I was horrified when hundreds of girls were kidnapped by Boko Haram in Nigeria because they attended school.

To this day, Boko Haram continues their reign of terror. In early January, thousands of Nigerians were slaughtered by these terrorists; and these attacks continue, with thousands and thousands of civilians killed since then as well.

With all of the attention focused on ISIS and al Qaeda, do not continue to neglect this issue. Mr. Speaker, we can

not and must not forget about the unspeakable horrors being perpetuated by Boko Haram.

Mr. Speaker, Black lives matter. That is why I am supporting the Jubilee Campaign's Education After Escape initiative, which provides scholarships to the young girls that escaped Boko Haram.

I am working to support these brave young girls who, despite the horrors they witnessed, maintain dreams of success. They still want and deserve an education.

Mr. Speaker, we have to support the victims of Boko Haram just like we support the victims of other terrorist groups.

Mr. Speaker, we have to continue to tweet so that the world will know and understand that we are supporting those victims. Tweet #BringBackOurGirls and #JoinRepWilson. Tweet, tweet, tweet.

HONORING CAROL MANNING

(Mr. MCCLINTOCK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, on March 28, the Orange County Alzheimer's Association will honor four individuals for their extraordinary contributions to advancing research and providing care for this debilitating disease. One of them is Carol Manning, and I would like to add my voice to the chorus of praise for her philanthropic work.

I first met Carol 35 years ago. She and Everett were struggling to raise a family and make ends meet, and yet she still made time to volunteer for many civic endeavors. Today, Carol is president and CEO of TMS, Inc., Print Systems, a \$30 million enterprise. And, yes, she and Everett did build that business from scratch with a lot of long hours and hard work and personal sacrifice.

Carol still puts in those long hours, and yet she still makes time for so many worthy causes. Alzheimer's research being just one. On behalf of all of the people whose lives she has made better, I am honored to say thank you, Carol Manning.

MILLIONS OF AMERICANS WAIT PATIENTLY FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mr. SCHRADER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives has had 4 years to bring an immigration bill—any immigration bill—to a vote and yet has failed to do so.

Oregon businesses, labor, farmers, farmworkers, faith-based groups, and human rights advocates have all pa-

tiently waited for comprehensive immigration reform. So have millions of Americans and people all across this Nation as they wait for their legal status to catch up with the realities of their lives as good and productive members of our society. Without comprehensive reforms, Oregon businesses are in peril and Oregon families live in constant fear.

Many of us in the House have offered a bipartisan bill similar to the Senate's with better border enforcement provisions, but hard-line, rightwing extreme provisions have hamstrung any action on these bills.

As a result of the intolerable congressional inaction, the President has issued executive orders to protect folks who have immigrated to this country and been productive members of society and the economy. This executive action merely prioritizes deportations for individuals who harm or pose a threat to our society.

My hope had been that this action would spur comprehensive immigration reform. Instead, House Republicans now play games with the Department of Homeland Security's appropriations and put us all at risk.

It is time to act.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mr. POLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, now is the time for immigration reform. Our Nation is already beginning to see some of the great economic benefits of the DACA and DAPA programs, which I vow to do my best to protect here as we go through the Department of Homeland Security appropriations process.

The true benefits of immigration reform—which, according to the Congressional Budget Office, are over \$200 billion in deficit reduction, finally securing and establishing security on our border, implementing mandatory workplace enforcement to prevent people who are here illegally from undermining the job market for Americans, and creating over 150,000 jobs for American citizens—can only be recognized if this body takes action and passes immigration reform.

We had a bill last session that would have passed the floor of the House, and it already passed the Senate. We begin anew. Rather than living in this Groundhog Day of repetitious repeals of ObamaCare, let's move forward on something that creates economic growth, jobs for Americans, and reduces our deficit. It is called immigration reform.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 527, SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2015, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 50, UNFUNDED MANDATES INFORMATION AND TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2015

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 78 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 78

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 527) to amend chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the Regulatory Flexibility Act), to ensure complete analysis of potential impacts on small entities of rules, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour, with 40 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary and 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Small Business. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-3. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. At any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 50) to provide for addi-

tional safeguards with respect to imposing Federal mandates, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and amendments specified in this section and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. An amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-4, modified by the amendment printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the five-minute rule and shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part C of the report of the Committee on Rules. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such further amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 78 provides for a structured rule providing for consideration of H.R. 50, the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act, and H.R. 527, the Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act.

Mr. Speaker, every year bureaucrats in Washington impose thousands of regulatory mandates on local govern-

ments and small businesses. Those mandates can be costly, stretching city and State budgets and making it harder for American businesses to hire.

The Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act, H.R. 50, will ensure that the people who write these regulations in Washington know exactly what they are asking the American people to pay and whether the cost of compliance might make it harder for family businesses to meet payroll and stay afloat.

H.R. 50 will force Washington to think carefully about regulatory costs before it passes them on to Americans. This bill is about transparency and accountability and is something Democrats and Republicans can all support.

In 1995, Congress passed the bipartisan Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, UMRA, legislation designed to prevent the Federal Government from imposing unfunded mandates onto State and local governments or private businesses without policymakers or the public knowing the cost of such policies.

UMRA's main objective was to force the Federal Government to estimate how much unfunded mandates would cost local governments and businesses and rein in out-of-control mandates. UMRA ensured public awareness of the crushing financial burden of Federal mandates on employers and State and local governments. However, UMRA has not been amended since 1995, and some subtle changes are needed to preserve and improve on the Act's initial purposes.

□ 1245

UMRA was a good bill, but over time, some shortcomings became apparent such that the Clinton and, later, Obama administrations issued executive orders to fix the loopholes within it.

H.R. 50 has bipartisan DNA, Mr. Speaker. It codifies those administrative fixes championed by Presidents Clinton and Obama and promotes good government, accountability, and transparency.

As a testament to this fact, the bill is cosponsored by two of my Democratic colleagues here in the House, Representatives COLLIN PETERSON and LORETTA SANCHEZ. I owe them a debt of gratitude for their efforts in promoting this commonsense bill.

The text of H.R. 50 has passed the House on a bipartisan basis three times in the 112th and 113th Congresses. The bill most recently was favorably reported by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

A common refrain in this business is that "nobody wants to see how the sausage is made," meaning that the process of drafting and passing legislation is so ugly that it would repulse people. In this case, I disagree.

I am extremely proud of this bill, and I am proud of the process by which it

has been advanced in the House. I have had the pleasure of working with colleagues from both sides of the aisle on this measure, and I appreciate their support and counsel.

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 was a model for bipartisanship, and my hope is that this bill leaves a similar legacy. I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of this aisle to support the rule and the underlying bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman, Dr. FOXX, for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I also express through you my wishes for her recovery, and I also appreciate her patriotism in doing her duty to God and country here today despite her respiratory duress. I hope that goes noted, that she is doing a great job representing her party on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule and the underlying bills, the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act and the Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act.

The titles of these bills, while lengthy, seem to suggest that somehow these efforts are designed to increase transparency or help small business. Their actual impact is quite frankly the opposite.

By allowing rules to be written behind closed doors by big businesses and effectively preventing Federal agencies from promoting the national interests as they are supposed to and adding additional bureaucratic red tape and paperwork, these bills represent an assault on the health and safety of our Nation's families and threaten to drown our government in mountains and mountains of unnecessary paperwork.

I think that the release of the President's budget this week shows a contrast between the priorities of both parties' agendas. The President's budget focused on Main Street, offering new ideas for how we can meet the infrastructure needs of our country and reform our corporate tax system to make American businesses more competitive.

Unfortunately, what we continue to see here in this body from the Republicans is a "Groundhog Day" scenario where every day, every week—it is like the movie—we are talking about the same thing over and over again.

We have acted on repealing the Affordable Care Act 56 times in this body. Here, we are back with another set of bills that echo other bills again and again and again.

Now, I understand why many people want to do this once and go through it. People ran on repealing ObamaCare, and people ran on passing these bills. Once they are done, we will see what the other body does.

But to keep coming back, rather than dealing with the critical national priorities, I think simply shows a detachment from reality. That is one of the reasons the public holds this body in such low regard.

The bill that we considered 2 weeks ago added 65 new analytical requirements to the process of rulemaking—more red tape, more hurdles. I think what we are seeing here today is maybe that is not enough red tape. We are now looking at bills that allow big business to weigh in before the public, creating even more hurdles before regulations become public and are implemented.

H.R. 50 would effectively require agencies to consult with the private sector before the public is even made aware of the bill, let alone engaged in the rulemaking. This blocks transparency and handicaps public input.

I agree we want to make sure that business has the opportunity to weigh in, but we want to make sure that every stakeholder in a rulemaking process has the opportunity to weigh in equally.

In my State of Colorado, I would be concerned about the erosion of our protection of our great natural areas like Rocky Mountain National Park which is a protected site. We celebrated its 100th anniversary as a national park just last week.

In those 100 years, the Rocky Mountains have been thriving. If you visit the park today, you can find streams, elk, bighorn sheep, and fields of wildflowers; but if we hadn't designated the park a national treasure and created a comprehensive management plan for its protection, we might very well have lost not only something that relates to our national pride and is beautiful but, frankly, is the economic driver in Estes Park and Grand County for much of the economic activity in and around the National Park.

H.R. 50 would threaten the ability of the National Park Service to create the kind of management plan that the economy has thrived under in my home State of Colorado and in my district. It would essentially create a veto power for legislators and interests that don't believe in the protection of public lands or are willing to threaten the health of our families for enhancement of their bottom line. There is always going to be somebody that objects.

Again, we have a thriving tourism economy relating to Rocky Mountain National Park, but I am sure there is some company somewhere that would have some interest that is countervailing to the interests of job creation in our community, and that is why we need to have a transparent and accessible process of listening to stakeholders in as expeditious a way as possible.

We need a system that allows the Fort Collins native who hikes through

the Rockies every weekend or the New Yorker who visits the snowcapped mountains every spring the ability to participate in protecting those natural resources and the protection of our public health.

We need to listen to the small businesses, the hospitality sector, and the restaurants and lodges that serve our tourism communities, but by allowing an unfair advantage to out-of-State corporate interests, we threaten the very principle that makes us American, the ability to participate in our decisions of government at the level closest to where we are affected.

H.R. 50 is a dangerous precedent for policy. It allows additional red tape to be thrown at government agencies, representing unnecessary delays and costs that prevent us from creating jobs and growing our economy.

We need to move forward with a middle class agenda for our country rather than continuing to live in this Groundhog Day scenario of repetitious bills that don't discuss how to grow our economy or grow the middle class.

Yesterday, this body attempted to repeal the Affordable Care Act for the 56th time. Today, the Republicans are making two attempts at what I consider to be a very similar thing, damage the regulatory process at all costs, which we already did and we are doing again.

They want to see additional red tape and bureaucracy added—whether it is clean air, whether it is clean water, whether it is consumers, whether it is protecting our children—regardless of the particular area with which we operate.

Instead of having a cumulative look at regulations, we should have a look at cumulative impacts of all the legislation that has been brought before this body and how that impacts small businesses and regulations.

Earlier this year, the House passed the Regulatory Accountability Act. That bill alone added 65 new checkpoints to the regulatory process. This bill would prevent transparency and allow big business to weigh in on regulations—before small businesses, before consumers, before other stakeholders—and add an additional tier and red tape to the regulatory process.

We need to move forward with improving our regulatory structure. I don't think there is any disagreement about that. Some of that can be done through executive action and some in a collaborative, bipartisan way to streamline the regulatory process to reduce hurdles for small businesses while meeting the goals of protecting the American public. Unfortunately, these bills do neither of those.

I encourage my colleagues to oppose the rule and the underlying bills.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank my colleague from Colorado for his kind comments about me and my health. I appreciate all condolences.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution also provides for consideration of H.R. 527, the Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2015, which is important legislation to improve the Federal Government's treatment of small businesses.

Ensuring we are providing the best environment possible to small businesses is vital to support a sector which employs nearly half of America's private sector workers and generates 63 percent of new private sector jobs.

As a former owner of a nursery, I know well the joys and trials of running a small business, and I am pleased that the House is considering these vital provisions.

Small businesses do not have the staff or background to identify and comply with ever-growing piles of red tape. Federal regulations disproportionately impact small businesses which led Congress to enact the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

The Regulatory Flexibility Act requires agencies to account better for the impacts of proposed regulations on small businesses and other small entities and to tailor regulations to minimize adverse impacts on these entities.

Unsurprisingly, agencies have failed to comply with these requirements in full. They have taken advantage of loopholes, failed to acknowledge the entirety of impacts for proposed rules, and issued rules that continue to harm small businesses. That failure necessitates our actions this week to consider H.R. 527, the Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act.

This legislation requires Federal agencies to consider the potential "economic impact" of proposed rules on small businesses and nonprofits. It also mandates a 10-year plan to review all rules determined to have "a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities."

That will ensure past regulations will not remain on the books unexamined and able to burden small businesses for decades.

The legislation also expands "regulatory flexibility analysis" requirements which are currently used to explain the reasoning behind a proposed rule, identify duplicative rules, and explain any recordkeeping or other requirements that may be imposed on small businesses or other small entities.

It also requires the Small Business Administration's chief counsel for advocacy to develop interagency rules for conducting flexibility analyses.

These changes will ensure that future regulations are tailored to minimize their impact on small businesses. This will allow small businesses to spend more of their investments and time

hiring new employees and growing their businesses rather than complying with unnecessary burdens from Federal regulations.

H.R. 527 is a simple, commonsense mandate for the executive branch to work together with small businesses and design smarter, less burdensome rules that work for the American people, and I commend it to my colleagues for their support.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to allow for consideration of legislation that would help veterans make it in America by establishing a pilot program to encourage the hiring of veterans in manufacturing jobs.

To discuss our thoughtful proposal, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DELBENE), a leader on veterans issues.

Ms. DELBENE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the previous question so that we can consider my proposal to boost education and job training for our veterans.

Everyone in this Chamber can agree that we have an obligation to care for those who risk their lives and make sacrifices for our freedoms.

Unfortunately, there are too many veterans struggling to find work today, and we are not doing enough to help. Last year, the unemployment rate for post-9/11 veterans stood at more than 7 percent, substantially higher than the national rate; and across all age groups, there were more than 500,000 veterans out of work in 2014.

This is unacceptable. Congress must do more to meet its commitment to these brave men and women. That is why I encourage my colleagues to join me and more than 40 of my colleagues in supporting the Manufacturing Jobs for Veterans Act.

My bill will establish State-based manufacturing employment programs to provide skills training in manufacturing jobs for veterans and service-members who are reentering the workforce.

These pilot programs would support on-the-job training opportunities, apprenticeships, and certification classes for unemployed veterans; and it will encourage manufacturers to recruit, hire, and train our Nation's heroes.

With as many as 600,000 unfilled manufacturing jobs, we have an opportunity to connect employers with a pipeline of skilled, capable workers.

□ 1300

Instead of voting on yet another partisan bill, we should be focused on real solutions that help the American people, grow our economy, and strengthen the middle class. I urge my colleagues

to defeat the previous question so we can take up this important bill and put our veterans back to work.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS).

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that, and I thank my good friend from North Carolina, who, as has already been stated on the floor, is powering through today, standing strong for the values that I think really would not be expressed any differently except to say, Mr. Speaker, that there is critical national interest here.

There is probably today, on the floor, as we talk about these bills—and yes, it is sort of a Groundhog Day, and I will get to that in a moment, because it seems like every time we, from the Republican side of the aisle, want to talk about jobs and kitchen tables and making better improvements for life and getting rid of regulatory burdens that would help or putting controls on government, we are accused of wanting to spoil the environment, kill trees, make flowers not bloom, I mean, whatever it may be, but the issue, that is Groundhog Day.

So if people want a true Groundhog Day analogy, here is the Groundhog Day analogy. The analogy is, when we want to put constraints on government from interfering and getting in the way of its proper role of helping business and helping our country do what it is supposed to do, or we are wanting to control, through government, this process and do so in a way that is detrimental to those moms and dads who get up every day and families and single moms and grandparents and aunts and uncles, all these folks who just simply say, we are not really as overly concerned about what you are doing in Washington, D.C., as I am concerned about what you are doing in Hometown, USA, where I get up every morning.

It has been said many times, Mr. Speaker, already this afternoon, and the issue is, we are putting more burden and red tape on America.

No. What this bill does—and these two bills that I speak in favor of in this rule, these two bills that we are doing, H.R. 50 and H.R. 527—is actually controlling government. Instead of letting it get in the way and put unnecessary or quicker burdens on those again, we are simply saying, Whoa. There is a proper place. There is a proper place for regulation. There is a proper place for a limited government role that our Founders made.

However, when that role steps over and begins to not only burden business but instead the man or woman who wants to get up in the morning and chase a dream of starting a new business, as I once did, when we started a scrapbook store, you know, just to get a little bit of money, we were able to do so.

But others who want to go get a loan, they have to go through the bureaucratic red tape that is now keeping them from starting the small business jobs that employ people on a day-to-day level. We are simply saying, Government, it is time to take a breath. It is time to step back and see the impact that you are having.

Granted, some regulation is good. I will give that to my Democratic colleagues. But overregulation and burdensome regulation tears down our economy.

So if that is the Groundhog Day argument for this week we want to have, I will have it every day of the week. The Members and people who watch this floor can see you have a party that wants to restrict business and jobs and government in such a way that it throttles the economy or a party which is putting forth solutions and will put forward as many times as we have to to remind the American people that it is people and small business and jobs, the everyday Americans who create the jobs in this country, not government.

A business owner that I just recently spoke to had 10 employees, and he said he was getting ready to hire another employee. I said, Well, great. That is great. 10 percent growth. One more employee.

He said, But you have got to understand. I am having to hire somebody, and all they are going to be doing is filling out government paperwork.

In other words, Mr. Speaker, this is not someone who can go out and sell their widget or perform their service. This is someone who will sit in an office and simply make sure that they are complying with the Big Brother overreach of government. That is not job creation. That is burdensome on business.

Let's get them where they can create jobs and go out and sell their product, do their services.

We have a bank in my area. You are talking about unfunded mandates, regulatory rulemaking. A bank in my area, on their regular regulatory inspection, they were waiting for the bank examiners to come, the folks to come in and do their audit.

The problem they had was this: when the government showed up, they had more people coming to inspect their books than they had employed in their main office. And the government agency complained that they did not have enough room for them to do their job.

I am sorry, Mr. Speaker. It is not up to small business to make sure government can do its job. It is up to government to provide the atmosphere so small business can do its job, and that is what we are here about today.

So when we look at this, I urge my colleagues, don't get sidetracked on other issues. Look at it for what it is. It is government getting the constraint, not the American people. It is

protecting the American people from not good legislation, good litigation. It is the stuff that we need to work on.

So, Mr. Speaker, I state these are good bills. Let's state it clearly. Groundhog Day is exactly what it is: for government, or let's let the people live.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to our colleague from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I certainly thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for yielding this time and for her good work on this legislation.

I came to the floor today just to tell you a little bit about why I think this legislation is so very important.

When I first came to Congress many years ago, we had a Democratic Governor of Tennessee, Ned Ray McWherter, and he was a fine Governor. He would have the Tennessee congressional delegation to the Governor's mansion once a year. And he would always start those meetings off—every single year he would say: Please, no more unfunded mandates. Please, no more unfunded mandates.

He said that most of what the State was having to do now were things that were required by the Federal Government, and it was causing the States great financial difficulties, and it was turning what was supposed to be a Federal system that our Founding Fathers envisioned, it was turning it totally upside down.

This bill is a very reasonable, moderate, commonsense effort to make good on the original Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995. All it is trying to do is ensure that Congress and Federal agencies are fully informed about the impact of these Federal mandates.

I urge my colleagues to support this very fine effort to make our system better.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

When you hear the gentleman from Georgia or the gentlewoman from North Carolina talk about the intent behind these bills, they sound great. We all want a streamlined regulatory process and to help make it more efficient.

Unfortunately, when you look at what these bills do, they do the opposite. They add another tier to regulation, with Big Business having a new say in and above what small businesses and community members can do. They add red tape and legal requirements to regulation that don't exist now under statute.

It, again, seems to me like the opposite of trying to get input so our regulations best affect the needs of each community, and we have diverse needs across this country.

My district is 62 percent Federal land, so when decisions are made on Federal land, like a travel management plan, and on where people can bike and where they can hunt and fish, we want to have our say. The last thing we want is some out-of-state corporate interest determining in some process before we even get our say on how these Federal lands are used.

It is absolutely critical that we empower our communities, and this bill does the opposite in the name of adding more bureaucracy and red tape to the regulatory process, presumably, in an attempt to delay or make it less effective than it is.

Now, we value, as Americans, the work that the Clean Water Act does, the Clean Air Act, the EPA, our essential protections around public health. They are very, very important. And I think our colleagues agree that they don't want to take those on head on.

But this bill would prevent some of those very agencies from doing the work that we have charged them to do, keeping our air clean, our water clean, and they need to be able to do that work and involve local impact in making sure that they do it in a way that protects American health and helps grow our economy and create jobs.

We need to make sure that we don't have dumping of industrial waste in the Colorado River, poisoning millions of recreational users. We want to make sure that drilling sites don't use chemical compounds that are toxic or cause birth defects.

We can and we must do better. The march of science moves forward. If there are thoughtful improvements to the regulatory process that will help reduce costs and reduce red tape, rather than add red tape, we are happy to have those discussions. But, unfortunately, these bills fall short of that mark. That is why I oppose the rule and the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment in the RECORD, along with extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. AMODEI). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. POLIS. My colleague, Ms. DELBENE, has offered a concept around a pilot program to encourage the hiring of veterans in manufacturing jobs, the type of middle class agenda that the American public wants this Congress to work on, rather than one that cuts them out of the very rulemaking that is designed to protect us Americans from our health hazards and protect our public lands.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no," defeat the previous question, vote "no" on the rule and the underlying bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Our colleagues on the other side of the aisle know that Republicans are not opposed to regulations. We just want regulations to be done right.

These are modest reforms, supported by Republicans and Democrats alike. Some of these changes merely codify executive orders issued by the last two Democrat Presidents.

Mr. Speaker, as proud as I am of this legislation, I realize its passage today won't be front-page news. I understand that "Lawmakers Band Together to Close Technical Loopholes in UMRRA" isn't exactly a riveting headline. But what we are doing here is important.

In Congress, we often focus our energy and attention on those issues that are most divisive and controversial, and I understand that. There are real, substantive disagreements between the two parties and among the American people.

But Congress must do the hard things. Every now and then, we get an opportunity to do something easy. This should be easy. Reforms in this bill are low-hanging fruit.

Some of my colleagues have suggestions for improvement and have offered amendments to these bills. Great. I welcome their suggestions.

Those amendments will be discussed in an open and transparent process. Not a single proposed amendment to either bill, Democrat or Republican, has been excluded by this rule.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that my colleagues will join me in supporting these sensible bills that will enhance transparency, accountability, and awareness of Federal mandates and improve the Federal Government's treatment of small businesses.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this rule and the underlying bills.

The material previously referred to by Mr. POLIS is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 78 OFFERED BY
MR. POLIS OF COLORADO

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 3. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 344) to provide for the establishment of a pilot program to encourage the employment of veterans in manufacturing positions. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without inter-

vening motion except one motion to recommend with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 4. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 344.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT
IT REALLY MEANS

This vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule. . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous

question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of adoption of the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 242, nays 174, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 59]

YEAS—242

Abraham	Duncan (TN)	Jordan
Aderholt	Ellmers	Joyce
Allen	Emmer	Katko
Amash	Farenthold	Kelly (PA)
Amodei	Fincher	King (IA)
Babin	Fitzpatrick	King (NY)
Barletta	Fleischmann	Kinziger (IL)
Barr	Fleming	Kline
Barton	Flores	Knight
Benishek	Forbes	Labrador
Billirakis	Fortenberry	LaMalfa
Bishop (MI)	Fox	Lamborn
Bishop (UT)	Franks (AZ)	Lance
Black	Frelinghuysen	Latta
Blackburn	Garrett	LoBiondo
Blum	Gibbs	Long
Bost	Gibson	Loudermilk
Boustany	Gohmert	Love
Brady (TX)	Goodlatte	Lucas
Brat	Gosar	Luetkemeyer
Bridenstine	Gowdy	Lummis
Brooks (AL)	Granger	MacArthur
Brooks (IN)	Graves (GA)	Marchant
Buchanan	Graves (LA)	Marino
Buck	Graves (MO)	Massie
Bucshon	Griffith	McCarthy
Burgess	Grothman	McCaul
Byrne	Guinta	McClintock
Calvert	Guthrie	McHenry
Carter (GA)	Hanna	McKinley
Carter (TX)	Hardy	McMorris
Chabot	Harper	Rodgers
Chaffetz	Harris	McSally
Clawson (FL)	Hartzler	Meadows
Coffman	Heck (NV)	Meehan
Cole	Hensarling	Messer
Collins (GA)	Herrera Beutler	Mica
Collins (NY)	Hice (GA)	Miller (FL)
Comstock	Hill	Miller (MI)
Conaway	Holding	Moolenaar
Cook	Hudson	Mooney (WV)
Costello (PA)	Huelskamp	Mullin
Cramer	Huizenga (MI)	Mulvaney
Crawford	Hultgren	Murphy (PA)
Crenshaw	Hunter	Neugebauer
Culberson	Hurd (TX)	Newhouse
Davis, Rodney	Hurt (VA)	Noem
Denham	Issa	Nugent
Dent	Jackson Lee	Nunes
DeSantis	Jenkins (KS)	Olson
DesJarlais	Jenkins (WV)	Palazzo
Diaz-Balart	Johnson (OH)	Palmer
Dold	Johnson, Sam	Paulsen
Duffy	Jolly	Pearce
Duncan (SC)	Jones	Perry

Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Robby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce

NAYS—174

Adams
Aguilar
Ashford
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle (PA)
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster

Chu (CA)
Curbelo (FL)
Duckworth
Frankel (FL)

Russell
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shinkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott

Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Hahn
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Honda
Hoyer
Israel
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Lawrence
Lewis
Lieu (CA)
Lipinski
Loeback
Lowenthal
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maloney
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Norcross
O'Rourke

NOT VOTING—17

Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Huffman
Larson (CT)

Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

Pallone
Pascarelli
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

Lee
Levin
Lofgren

Lowey
Nolan

□ 1339

Mr. SCHIFF changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”
So the previous question was ordered.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 59 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

Stated against:

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 59 had I been present, I would have voted No.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for roll call vote 59. If I had been present for this vote, I would have voted: Nay on roll call vote 59.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent earlier today during roll call vote 59. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on roll call vote 59, the motion on ordering the previous question on the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 50 and H.R. 527.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 243, noes 179, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 60]

AYES—243

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Babin
Barietta
Barr
Barton
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Constock
Conaway
Cook

Costa
Costello (PA)
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Emmer
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)

LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moore (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer

Adams
Aguilar
Ashford
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle (PA)

Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Pittenger
Pitts
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shinkus
Shuster
Simpson

NOES—179

Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Hahn
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lieu (CA)
Lipinski
Loeback
Lowenthal
Lowey

Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maloney
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascarelli
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)

Scott, David	Thompson (CA)	Visclosky
Serrano	Thompson (MS)	Walz
Sewell (AL)	Titus	Wasserman
Sherman	Tonko	Schultz
Sires	Torres	Waters, Maxine
Slaughter	Tsongas	Watson Coleman
Smith (WA)	Van Hollen	Welch
Speier	Vargas	Wilson (FL)
Swalwell (CA)	Veasey	Yarmuth
Takai	Vela	
Takano	Velázquez	

NOT VOTING—11

Benishek	Gutiérrez	Poe (TX)
Chu (CA)	Lee	Roe (TN)
Duckworth	Lofgren	Young (AK)
Grijalva	Nunnelee	

□ 1348

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 60 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted Yes.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 59, ordering the previous question, I inadvertently voted "yes." I would like the RECORD to reflect that I would have voted, appropriately and properly, "no."

UNFUNDED MANDATES INFORMATION AND TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 50.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEWART). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 78 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 50.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. AMODEI) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1352

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 50) to provide for additional safeguards with respect to imposing Federal mandates,

and for other purposes, with Mr. AMODEI in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, this bill was referred to three other committees other than the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. We have been in contact with all of them—Judiciary, Budget, and Rules—and they have agreed to discharge the bill from their committees so that we can consider the bill on the floor today. I include for the RECORD those letters that reflect this understanding between Oversight and Government Reform and the three other committees.

Mr. Chairman, Congress enacted the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act to "curb the practice of imposing unfunded Federal mandates on States and local governments."

Twenty years later, we continue to see burdensome unfunded mandates being imposed on State, local, and tribal governments as well as small businesses. Despite high hopes, UMRA, as it is often referred to, had little effect on agency rulemaking because of its limited coverage and its lack of accountability.

In response, H.R. 50 proposes several key reforms to bring needed transparency to how government sets rules that protect our health, our safety, our welfare, as well as the environment. This legislation does this in several key ways.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 50 requires agencies to consult with the private sector when directly impacted by a proposed rule.

Consult with the private sector. That is a great theme. I love the title of this.

It does actually provide more information, more transparency, and engages those people that are affected by these rules. Requiring agency rulemakers to consult with small business owners will bring needed perspective and common sense to how our rules are made. Small businesses want the government to fully understand how regulations impact their ability to create jobs and promote economic growth. Of course we need rules. Of course there are going to be boundaries. But consulting with the private sector is something that has to happen, and government needs their perspective.

The bill makes independent agencies subject to the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, also known as UMRA. There are hundreds of Federal independent agencies charged with handling respon-

sibilities, such as managing workplace safety and protecting our forests. It is important these entities are accountable to the public when establishing a new rule. H.R. 50 ensures that that will happen.

H.R. 50 requires an UMRA analysis for all final rules. Under current law, an agency can forgo an UMRA analysis by avoiding a notice of proposed rulemaking. GAO reports that 35 percent of major rules are issued without a notice of proposed rulemaking, making it difficult for the public to comment.

In fiscal year 2014, the administration estimated the annual cost of major regulations between \$57 billion and \$84 billion. We must have a better understanding of those costs before passing them on to State, local, and tribal governments as well as the private sector.

The bill strengthens congressional oversight by requiring agencies to look back at specific regulations when requested by Congress. Before a rule is tested, it is difficult to understand its consequences, including its costs and its benefits. President Obama supported retrospective reviews of regulations by issuing an executive order requiring agencies to periodically review significant regulations, in Executive Order 13563, in January 2011. These retrospective reviews result in regulations that are more effective and less burdensome in achieving their objective. Retrospective analysis can and should inform future rules.

H.R. 50 allows judicial review when agencies fail to fully consider the least costly or least burdensome alternative rule. The bill allows the judicial branch to place a stay on rules when the agency fails to complete the required UMRA analysis. This provides an important check on the executive branch.

H.R. 50 codifies the Congressional Budget Office practice of estimating the true cost of a Federal mandate. When a Federal mandate is proposed, CBO ensures its cost estimates include lost profits, costs passed on to consumers, and behavioral changes as the result of a Federal mandate.

When enacted, UMRA created an important step to inform Congress of the potential burdens of regulatory mandates on both government and the private sector. This way, Congress could weigh any potential benefits as well as any potential burdens. By updating this law, we can help ensure that all parties, from government entities to small businesses, understand the true cost of prospective mandates.

I commend the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX). She has poured her heart and soul into this. She believes passionately in this. Her leadership on this bill has brought it to this point today. It has passed three times with bipartisan support in this House, but it is necessary to bring it up

again and to share this bill with a new Senate that is now in place.

I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 50. It is good. It is common sense. It is good for this Nation, and it enjoys bipartisan support.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM,

Washington, DC, January 28, 2015.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On January 27, 2015, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform ordered reported without amendment H.R. 50, the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2015, by a vote of 20 to 13. The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, with an additional referral to the Committee on the Judiciary.

I ask that you allow the Judiciary Committee to be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may be scheduled by the Majority Leader. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on the Judiciary represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and any response in the bill report filed by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, as well as in the Congressional Record during floor consideration, to memorialize our understanding.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

JASON CHAFFETZ,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, January 28, 2015.

Hon. JASON CHAFFETZ,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 50, the "Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2015," which your Committee ordered reported on January 27, 2015.

As a result of your having consulted with the Committee and in order to expedite the House's consideration of H.R. 50, I agree to discharge our Committee from further consideration of this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration. The Judiciary Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 50 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and asks that you support any such request.

I would request that you include a copy of our letters in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM,
Washington, DC, January 28, 2015.

Hon. TOM PRICE,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget, Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On January 27, 2015, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform ordered reported without amendment H.R. 50, the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2015, by a vote of 20 to 13. The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, with an additional referral to the Committee on the Budget.

I ask that you allow the Budget Committee to be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may be scheduled by the Majority Leader. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on the Budget represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and any response in the bill report filed by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, as well as in the Congressional Record during floor consideration, to memorialize our understanding.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

JASON CHAFFETZ,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,
Washington, DC, January 28, 2015.

Hon. JASON CHAFFETZ,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 50, the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2015, which was ordered reported by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on January 27, 2015.

In order to expedite House consideration of H.R. 50, the Committee on the Budget will forgo action on the bill. This is being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation.

I would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the bill report filed by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform as well as in the Congressional Record during floor consideration. We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to working with you as this bill moves through the Congress.

Sincerely,

THOMAS PRICE, M.D.,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM,

Washington, DC, January 29, 2015.

Hon. PETER SESSIONS,
Chairman, Committee on Rules, The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On January 27, 2015, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform ordered reported without amendment H.R. 50, the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2015, by a vote of 20 to 13. The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, with an additional referral to the Committee on Rules.

I ask that you allow the Rules Committee to be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may be scheduled by the Majority Leader. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Rules represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and any response in the bill report filed by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, as well as in the Congressional Record during floor consideration, to memorialize our understanding.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

JASON CHAFFETZ,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON RULES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 29, 2015.

Hon. JASON CHAFFETZ,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: On January 27, 2015, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform ordered reported H.R. 50, the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2015. As you know, the Committee on Rules was granted an additional referral upon the bill's introduction pursuant to the Committee's jurisdiction under rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives over rules and joint rules of the House.

Because of your willingness to consult with my committee regarding this matter, I will waive consideration of the bill by the Rules Committee. By agreeing to waive its consideration of the bill, the Rules Committee does not waive its jurisdiction over H.R. 50. In addition, the Committee on Rules reserves its authority to seek conferees on any provisions of the bill that are within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this legislation. I ask your commitment to support any request by the Committee on Rules for conferees on H.R. 50 or related legislation.

I also request that you include this letter and your response as part of your committee's report on the bill and in the Congressional Record during consideration of the legislation on the House floor. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

PETE SESSIONS.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 50, the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act. This

legislation may be well intended, but it would have unintended consequences that would make the government less efficient and less effective.

I stood here just 4 months ago when the House, for the second time, considered a package of special interest bills, including this one. I said then that the Republican leadership in the House cannot fool the American people by passing the same bad bills over and over again, yet, Mr. Chairman, here we go again.

Yesterday, the House voted to repeal the Affordable Care Act for the 56th time. Today, we are considering an antiregulatory bill the House has considered three times before. Tomorrow, we will consider another antiregulatory bill the House has also passed before.

H.R. 50, the bill we are considering today, would add red tape to the rule-making process in an effort to slow down or halt agency rules.

□ 1600

One thing that is different this time around is that the Congressional Budget Office estimated that H.R. 50 as reported would increase direct spending by \$18 million over the next 10 years. CBO estimates that this increase would primarily impact the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, a bureau that was established to protect our constituents.

The majority inserted a last-minute provision last night after the Rules Committee meeting to address this problem. The majority's fix, however, does nothing to reduce the cost of the bill.

The majority instead inserted language to cut the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's budget by \$36 million in fiscal year 2016. Cutting CFPB's budget by \$36 million while also requiring the agency to comply with significant new requirements is absurd.

On Saturday, *The Huffington Post* published an article titled, "Congress Revives Gingrich-Era Law to Thwart Obama." The article said:

Republicans in Congress aim to revamp an antiregulatory law from the Newt Gingrich era in an effort to paralyze new financial, environmental, and labor rules with a never-ending string of court challenges.

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act was enacted as a part of Newt Gingrich's Contract with America. Even in the context of the extreme agenda of the Contract with America, Congress included several limitations in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

This bill would repeal those limitations. For example, under this bill, agencies would be required to consult with regulated industries on proposed rules before they are even made public.

For example, if the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau planned to propose a new rule to protect consumers from abusive mortgage practices,

banks would get advance access to the rule and the opportunity to shape it before our constituents, the consumers.

I believe that businesses should have the opportunity to provide comments on proposed rules, but they should do it through the normal public comment process just like other stakeholders.

H.R. 50 would also expand judicial review under the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. The statute currently prohibits courts from using its requirements to delay or invalidate a rule. This bill eliminates that restriction which would allow regulated industries to use the law to slow down rulemakings.

This bill also would put independent agencies in jeopardy of political interference. The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act currently exempts independent agencies from its reporting requirements. The bill removes that exemption.

That would mean that the independent regulatory agencies like the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau would have to submit their rules to the Office of Management and Budget for review which could undermine their independence.

Section 12 of the bill would require an agency to perform retrospective review, including an additional cost-benefit analysis of any existing rules if requested by the chairman or ranking member of a committee. It is interesting that we always talk about being able to predict what is going to go on in the business world. This certainly would add a high level of unpredictability.

I will offer an amendment at the appropriate time to strike that provision. These flaws are reason enough to oppose this bill.

The most important reason is that we rely on agency rulemakings to protect our children, protect our workers, protect our economy, and protect our constituents, the folks who sent us here.

That is why the Coalition for Sensible Safeguards—a group of more than 150 good government, labor, scientific, faith, health, and community organizations—sent a letter to the Oversight Committee opposing this bill.

Here is what the letter said: "The costs of deregulation should be obvious by now: the Wall Street economic collapse, various food and product safety recalls, and numerous disasters, including the recent Dan River coal ash spill in North Carolina and the Freedom Industries chemical spill in West Virginia, demonstrate the need for a regulatory system that protects the public, not corporate interests."

Congress should be moving forward to protect the public from harm, not rolling back the clock and weakening important safeguards.

Yesterday, the White House issued a statement opposing this bill.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no," and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, at this time, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina, Dr. FOXX, the prime sponsor of this bill.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman for yielding time and for the leadership he has provided in getting this bill passed out of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

Mr. Chairman, we are going to probably have to say this many times today, but our colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to make this an antiregulation bill. We are not opposed to regulations on our side of the aisle. We are in favor of commonsense rules.

Mr. Chairman, each year, Washington imposes thousands of pages of rules and regulations on America's private sector employers, as well as State and local governments. Buried in those pages are costly Federal mandates that make it harder for businesses to hire and cash-strapped States, counties, and cities to serve their citizens.

As a former State senator, I can testify to the difficulty of balancing the State's budget when there are dozens of complicated, mostly unfunded Federal mandates that must be taken into account.

As a former small business owner, I understand firsthand the concerns that job creators have about how lengthy, confusing rules affect their ability to conduct business and provide jobs and opportunities to their employees.

That is why I introduced H.R. 50, the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act, which we call UMITA, and am proud to see it brought before the House for consideration.

The bill builds upon the bipartisan 1995 Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, also known as UMRA, and will ensure awareness and public disclosure of the cost in dollars and jobs that Federal dictates pose to the economy and local governments.

H.R. 50 does not seek to prevent the Federal Government from regulating; rather, it seeks to ensure that its regulations are deliberative and economically defensible. Asking regulators to consider thoroughly and understand the cost of a rule in addition to its benefits should not be controversial. It is just plain common sense.

Regulators and legislators should know exactly what they are asking the American people to pay and whether the costs of compliance might make it harder for family businesses to meet payroll and stay afloat. No government body, on purpose or accidentally, should skirt public scrutiny when jobs and scarce resources are at stake.

In the nearly 20 years since UMRA's passage, weaknesses in the law have been revealed, weaknesses that some government agencies and independent

regulatory bodies have exploited. UMITA makes independent regulatory agencies subject to UMRA's requirements, ending a two-tier system that allowed regulations to be implemented without the required consideration, scrutiny, or public input.

H.R. 50 recognizes that the Federal Government's reach extends well beyond the taxes it collects and the money it spends. Regulations can advance government initiatives without using tax dollars.

Rather than count expenses for new programs, the government can require the private sector, as well as State and local governments, to pay for Federal initiatives through compliance costs. This bill shines much-needed light on the murky regulatory process and ensures the public has transparent access to proposed rules and regulations.

Both Democrats and Republicans recognize that appropriate regulations don't need to be issued in the dead of night or negotiated behind closed doors. That is why the House has considered and passed this bill three times in the 112th and 113th Congresses.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this commonsense, bipartisan bill.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Government Operations.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Maryland.

I rise today in opposition to H.R. 50, the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act.

This act boasts an Orwellian title that attempts, I think, deception of the public into believing that it is simply an innocuous attempt to enhance transparency for the public and State and local governments while masking the true nature of this act which—make no mistake—is a subversive legislative assault of public health, safety, and environmental protections.

This bill is simply an effort to throw a wrench into the rulemaking process, ensuring that private industry is provided privileges and rights above any other stakeholder in the process.

In many respects, H.R. 50 represents the "Mitt Romney principle" on steroids, for it appears that in the minds of some of my colleagues, not only is it a fact that "corporations are people, my friend," but under this measure, they appear to be embracing an ethos that treats corporations even better than people.

My longstanding principle is that I will never defend the indefensible, and regrettably, this bill provides private corporations with an unfair consultation over every other stakeholder in the regulatory process, and that is indefensible.

Under this bill, Federal agencies would be required to consult with pri-

vate industry "before issuance of a notice of proposed rulemaking," yet it does not afford that same level of protection or consultation to average citizens, consumers, or anybody else who relies on agency rules to preserve and protect their health, welfare, and safety.

There is no justification for enacting an irrational statutory framework that requires the Federal Government to consult with private firms and nobody else—such as a large agribusiness, for example—prior to proposing a rule that could have an impact on that company, yet does not require such consultation on public health with public health experts.

I cannot defend a regulatory framework that would provide big oil companies a guaranteed right to weigh in before any drilling regulation is promulgated to protect the public from big oil spills, such as one we experienced just a few years ago.

To be clear, I strongly support the right of industry to have its voice and to have the opportunity to provide comments on proposed rules. This fosters more informed and high-quality rulemaking, benefiting business and society; indeed, that is why our current administrative procedures mandate that a public comment period be provided prior to the adoption of such rules.

Equally concerning, H.R. 50 would also undermine the critical independence of aptly titled independent regulatory agencies. It is not clear how eliminating the independence of agencies, such as the Consumer Product Safety Commission, by empowering Presidential administrations to play a significant role in shaping the rules for those agencies before they issue them, would in any way address unfunded mandates.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. POE of Texas). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. CONNOLLY. The bottom line is that well-reasoned agency rules have made our air cleaner to breathe, water safer to drink, and our products safer to use. That is a good formula, and we should preserve it.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 1 minute.

It would be inaccurate and inappropriate to suggest that this bill bypasses individuals. To the contrary, the bill says, "and impacted parties within the private sector." The definition of "private sector" under UMRA—the term "private sector" means "all persons or entities in the United States, including individuals."

Any assertion on this floor that this gives unilateral priority to the individual corporations and bypasses the individuals, we are trying to give people who are affected by these rules—we

are trying to give them the opportunity to be heard.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY).

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member for allowing me time.

I rise today to strongly oppose H.R. 50. I consider it a misguided bill that will cost American consumers at least \$18 million over the next 10 years while making it easier for bad actors in certain industries to continue their abusive practices as they attempt to stonewall appropriate regulation.

□ 1415

Make no mistake. H.R. 50 is a frontal assault on the Nation's health, safety, and environmental protections, and it would erect new barriers to give selected industries a built-in advantage to evade or eliminate vital rules that protect the American people.

For instance, this bill would require agencies to consult with private sector entities "as early as possible, before the issuance of a notice of proposed rulemaking, continue through the final rule stage, and be integrated explicitly into the rulemaking process."

Now, I agree that Federal agencies should consult with regulated industries regarding proposed rules, but they should not receive an insider, prewired advantage in the regulating and rule-making process over other stakeholders.

H.R. 50 would also expand judicial review under UMRA and would allow a court to review the inadequacy or failure of an agency to prepare a written statement under UMRA. UMRA currently prohibits courts from using the law to stay, invalidate, or otherwise affect an agency rule. H.R. 50 would eliminate this prohibition.

I thought the majority strongly opposed judicial activism, but perhaps that only applies to protecting voting rights.

We don't have to choose between protecting the health, welfare, and safety of Americans and promoting economic growth, job creation, and innovation. We can do both. H.R. 50 advances neither of these worthy goals, and that is why I urge my colleagues to reject this deeply flawed act that will stack the deck against the American consumer.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JODY B. HICE).

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding his time.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 50, the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act.

The alarming growth of our Federal Government in the last several decades has come at an incredible cost. This is

largely due to lax reporting requirements, and as a result, the American people have largely been left in the dark as to the true cost of this unprecedented growth. For example, we all know that, often, the Federal Government imposes mandates, be it upon the private sector or local or State governments, and, oftentimes, this is without any clearly disclosed cost or impact of those mandates.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 50 will make significant strides to address this looming problem by enacting more strict and clearly defined requirements about how and when agencies need to disclose the cost of these Federal mandates. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH).

Mr. LYNCH. I thank the gentleman from Maryland for yielding and for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 50.

With all due respect to my friend from Utah—and I do respect him; I know he didn't write this bill—there is a common practice here in Congress that you name the bill in a way that describes the opposite of what it will actually do. This is supposed to be an accountability bill, but this bill ought to be named the "Government Gridlock Act" because that is what it will introduce.

While I certainly respect everyone's opinion and position against Big Government—I certainly understand that. You can be against intrusive government. I understand that. But you can't be against a functioning government, and that is what this bill accomplishes.

This bill, as the gentleman did point out, does allow individual taxpayers to sue. Mrs. Gilhooly and Mr. Gilhooly can sue, but so can Exxon and so can JPMorgan Chase attack regulations under this bill. This bill makes the financial ability to sustain a legal challenge as the litmus test on how much justice you get under this bill.

Even though Congress has the ability to pass laws and to direct regulators to come up with regulations, large, well-financed banks and industries like the oil industry will be able to undo the direction of Congress by proffering legal challenges with enormous resources to stop those laws from coming into effect.

A good example is the financial services industry, where we under Dodd-Frank have directed that there be 300 separate rules developed to deal with the problems created by the crisis in 2008. That crisis cost \$20 trillion to the American economy. Yet, under this law, in order to prevent big banks from taking those reckless gambles, we would have to force the regulators to show that the reduction in cost to the American taxpayer justified the regulation against Wall Street.

It misses the point. We are trying to bifurcate the risks created by Wall Street from the taxpayers' requirement to bail them out. This bill ignores that reality. I think we should all oppose it, and I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS).

Mr. MEADOWS. I thank the chairman for his leadership on this bill and for bringing it through regular order. We continue to hear that around here on this particular bill.

Mr. Chairman, before the gentleman from Massachusetts leaves, I think it is important that we address this. As the gentleman would indicate, he is making this out to be all about big banks, but it is really about the small business folks and, truly, about the municipalities. I want to read a few excerpts from the resolution that comes from his home State—from Massachusetts—because they got together, and they said this is a real problem:

"Whereas, the Federal Government has imposed additional requirements, based on incomplete scientific analysis and review, on the cities and towns of Massachusetts." In this resolution, Mr. Chairman, it talks about going further and that, at a minimum, what we should do is provide a "fiscal note included as part of any such proposal."

So it is the towns and the counties across the country and, yes, indeed, from the gentleman—my esteemed friend from Massachusetts—a resolution from his State that talks about the problems that we have with unfunded mandates. Over 850 major pieces of regulation, with impacts of over \$100 million a piece, have failed this basic principle and test, and 75 percent of them never get the analysis that we should be doing at the Federal Government.

We have a responsibility to the local towns and governments but also a responsibility, Mr. Chairman, to farmers. I left a hearing today with the EPA and an unfunded mandate. Who are they consulting with? The Department of Agriculture, not with the farmers from across this great country. They are talking to other bureaucrats. It is time that we bring the private sector in, and I think it is time that we stand alongside them.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE), a new member of our committee.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 50, the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act. Although the intent of this legislation is to, no doubt, provide additional safeguards, it does, in fact, add an additional level of bureaucracy.

It appears to be a good bill. As a former mayor, I fought to ensure that

my city and other cities were not unduly impacted by unfunded Federal mandates. In Michigan, we worked cooperatively with our Federal counterparts on proposed regulations that would generate obligations on local governments. In fact, as a local government official, I supported the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act, as it was a result of multiple years of effort by our State and local government officials to control the burden of many unfunded Federal mandates.

Along with the consequences I have previously mentioned, this bill will also grant corporations special access to information about a rule and an opportunity to submit feedback to an agency before a rule is even proposed. Additionally, the legislation would shut the American people out of this early review. The bill would also require agencies to perform retrospective analysis at the request of any chairman or ranking minority member of any standing or select committee of the House or the Senate. The bill neither improves nor streamlines the regulatory process. It expands agency roles and interjects politics into the process.

The Office of Management and Budget is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act. This bill also expands OMB's role, and it requires them to guarantee that each agency complies with the act's requirements. Independent regulatory agencies will then have to send their rulemaking analyses to OMB.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. The existing Unfunded Mandates Reform Act expressly prohibits courts from using the law to stay, enjoin, invalidate, or otherwise affect an agency rule. H.R. 50 would fundamentally change the law by eliminating this prohibition, allowing regulated industries to abuse this expanded judicial review and tie up rules in litigation for years.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this act, and I request that this body work within the existing safeguards in place.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), the distinguished majority leader.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, there are many parts of government that like to act in secrecy. In particular, many agencies like to hide the true costs of their regulations from the American people. After all, it is easier to add more pages to the Federal Register if nobody is sure exactly what the pricetag is, but that is not the way our democracy

should work. For government to work, it needs to be accountable to the people. To be accountable to the people, government needs to be honest and open with what it is doing.

Washington needs reform, and a good place to start is to make sure that people know the true cost of what Washington is doing—no gimmicks, no hidden fees. That is why I support Representative FOXX's bill, which demands transparency on unfunded mandates.

Mr. Chairman, this bill says a simple thing. It says we trust the people. It says if the bureaucracy is afraid of telling the people how much a regulation costs, then it shouldn't impose the regulation. If bureaucracy isn't following the rules and giving the people the information they need, this bill allows the courts to review the agency—no more hiding. The people have the right to know as much as possible, and Washington has an obligation to tell them.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just want to remind the gentleman before he leaves the Chamber that there is truth here. The truth is that the CBO has already estimated that this bill will cost some \$18 million. There is also truth here with regard to what has happened to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau—the very bureau that this Congress established to protect our consumers on a day-to-day basis—and its losing some \$36 million. That is the transparency.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN).

□ 1430

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Chairman, thank you to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), the ranking member, for this opportunity to speak.

I rise today also in opposition to H.R. 50, the misleadingly named Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2015, which passed out of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on a strictly partisan vote.

This bill neither improves nor streamlines the regulatory process. Instead, this ill-conceived bill is an assault on consumer protections, gives private industry an unfair advantage to weigh in on rules, and erects new, unnecessary barriers in the regulatory process.

H.R. 50 would require agencies to provide the private sector with an unfair advantage to influence proposed regulations. The supporters of this bill claim that it creates parity between the private and the public sectors, but that is simply not true. What it really does is provide the private sector with a sneak peek of proposed rules before they are even made public.

This bill propels regulated private sector entities to the front of the line

while pushing the consumers these laws are designed to protect to the back of the line. It further gums up the regulatory process by allowing opponents to delay or invalidate rules through litigation.

The existing Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 prohibits courts from using the law to stay, enjoin, invalidate, or otherwise affect an agency rule. H.R. 50 would fundamentally change that law by eliminating this prohibition, giving regulated industries the ability to abuse this expanded judicial review and tie up rules in courts for years. For example, Wall Street banks could take agencies to court over Dodd-Frank consumer protection rules that have yet to be finalized.

Most Americans, and certainly most of my constituents that I represent, simply do not have the means to hire lawyers to sue Federal agencies if they are dissatisfied with a Federal regulation, but large corporations do. H.R. 50 would give corporations the ability to sue and to stall regulations they view as unfavorable.

By unnecessarily layering an additional, burdensome judicial review and giving private industry an unfair advantage, this bill shows that it is not working for the consumers, but it is only working for the chosen few.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire of the time left on both sides?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Utah has 15½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Maryland has 9½ minutes remaining.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER).

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Chairman, every day small businesses and local governments are weighed down by Washington's numerous regulations. H.R. 50, the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act, acts to curb the constant rules and regulations that Washington continues to impose on the American people.

This law builds on and improves the bipartisan legislation, the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995, which was enacted to promote transparent decisionmaking and curb unfunded Federal mandates. However, due to loopholes and exemptions, UMRA has failed to keep unfunded mandates off the backs of local governments and taxpayers.

I would like to thank Congresswoman FOXX for introducing this bipartisan legislation to close these gaps, hold Washington accountable, and better protect our fellow Americans.

Importantly, this bill will do three things: one, it will close loopholes that allow agencies and independent regulators to forgo UMRA analysis; two, it enables stakeholders to engage Federal agencies before unfunded mandates are implemented; and three, it holds regu-

lators accountable through the courts and congressional oversight.

I am reminded every day that we were elected to bring change to Washington, and this reform is exactly what needs to be sent to the President's desk.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlelady from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chairman, I thank my good friend from Maryland for yielding me this time.

Mr. Chairman, this bill has a lot of chutzpah even for a probusiness majority. The point of the review and comment regulatory process is to hear from everybody, to pull everybody into the process.

I have experienced how this process worked when I chaired the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. In order to make sure I heard from everyone, I took a process which issued guidelines, which did not come under the Administrative Procedure Act, and put it under the Administrative Procedure Act to make sure I heard from everyone.

In a real sense, I knew, I thought I knew what the public wanted because I was a civil rights lawyer. I was particularly interested in whether the reforms I was instituting would work in practice. So I was more interested, in a real sense, in what the business community said.

I must tell you, Mr. Chairman, in these processes, the business community, small and large, dwarfs the public in the amount of comment that agencies receive.

This bill breaks a cardinal rule by excluding, of all people, the public, while industry gets an advance look at a bill. Understand, it is the industry that is being regulated, industry that has the high-cost lobbyists, the high-cost lawyers that the public does not have.

So what is the point here, Mr. Chairman? It is clear. The point is to get industry in on writing the bill itself and writing it at that stage before the public even gets to know what the bill is. This is not a tilt in favor of the objects of regulations; it is a slide in their favor.

If the point is the usual bipartisan point, to help small businesses—which, by the way, is already a stakeholder—along with other businesses, why pit small businesses against small children and small mortgage holders and small IT users?

Another extraordinary thing I see in this bill is that the court-hating majority, at least in this bill, falls in love with the judiciary by inviting litigation before the rule is final. The courts will just love that. On top of everything else, this bill adds \$18 million over 10 years to agency spending?

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I yield the gentlelady an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. NORTON. \$18 million that this majority certainly will not appropriate.

Small business always have been a bipartisan concern. We have many more of them in our districts than we have large businesses. Small businesses are not who will come to "consult." It is the global multinationals who are applauding this bill as we speak.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, I would like to point to the bill because it keeps getting repeated on this floor that it doesn't include the public, it doesn't include individuals. That is just not true.

On page 12 of the bill:

Agencies shall, to the extent practicable, seek out the views of State, local, and tribal governments, and impacted parties within the private sector.

Definition of private sector: the term "private sector" means all persons or entities in the United States, including individuals.

It sounds like a good rhetorical point to keep saying: Oh, we are leaving out the little guy; we are leaving out the public. It does include the public; it does include the individuals; and when these unfunded mandates are placed upon them, this bill would make sure that they are at least asked about it. That is what we are seeking.

At this time, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS).

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Chairman, the chairman points out very clearly that, indeed, the definition of "private sector" includes individuals. I would also like to go further and talk about small businesses.

We are talking about small businesses and how they are not supported in this. It is troubling, because if that were the case, the National Federation of Independent Businesses, who represents thousands and thousands of small businesses, or the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council, which does the same, would not be endorsing this piece of legislation. So, Mr. Chairman, I want to make sure the record is corrected.

With regards to the \$18 million, that was cleared up in Rules yesterday; the committee was made aware of it. And despite the legislation being identical to last Congress' bill, the CBO had scored it as having a direct spending cost, but this was partly because the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, CFPB, doesn't have the authority to collect the fees. And so we have already addressed that, Mr. Chairman, and I wanted to make sure we cleared up the record.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from California (Ms. WATERS), the ranking member of the Committee on Financial Services.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the time

that has been allotted to me. Thank you very much, Mr. CUMMINGS.

I rise to oppose H.R. 50, an anticonsumer deregulatory bill that would stop rulemaking by our Nation's financial overseers dead in its tracks. In 2008, we witnessed the worst financial crisis since 1929, which halted lending to small businesses, left millions without a home, and pushed countless Americans into personal bankruptcy and ruin, after which my colleagues and I in Congress worked diligently to put in place serious and comprehensive safeguards to prevent another collapse.

Nevertheless, today House Republicans are suffering from selective amnesia when they push this legislation to undo financial reform. Indeed, this bill, H.R. 50, places significant administrative hurdles on our regulators, like the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Certain provisions require our regulators, who are tasked with protecting consumers and investors, to conduct onerous, industry-friendly, cost-benefit analysis and to submit their rules for review to the Office of Management and Budget. This hurts their ability to act independently and in the best interests of the public.

In addition, this bill would arm special interests with a time-tested weapon to delay and kill reform, the opportunity to challenge our cash-strapped regulators in court on every rule. But this is the ultimate point of the bill: to make regulating everything from securities, fraud, payday loans, credit cards, insider trading, and derivatives that much harder.

Most concerning is that Republicans want to pay for the cost of their new burdens by depriving the one regulator charged with protecting our Nation's consumers of tens of millions of dollars.

Mr. Chairman, this is just the latest in a never-ending effort to unravel the important protections for consumers and taxpayers this Congress put in place following the worst crisis in a generation.

With our economy still recovering from the \$14 trillion financial crisis, with families in my own district and probably yours still struggling with foreclosure and unsure how they will be able to make ends meet in retirement, we simply cannot undermine fundamental reforms or the agencies enforcing them.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, I would like to make Mr. CUMMINGS aware that I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close, but I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, I thank my friend for yielding.

I want to echo the comments of Ranking Member WATERS. As a mem-

ber of the Committee on Financial Services, I am particularly concerned with the direction that this bill takes us at a time when, on one hand, many of my colleagues have criticized the agencies charged with implementation of important regulatory reforms, such as Dodd-Frank, charging those agencies with not bringing forth rules in a timely fashion, and then at the same time reducing, through the budget process, the necessary resources to provide those agencies with the tools that they need to move forward on the rulemaking process, and now this, yet another, I think, effort to create another cumbersome step in the process of developing rules intended to implement legislation that was passed here by the United States Congress, law that is on the books.

□ 1445

The rulemaking process already includes a very logical progression of steps which allows for a comprehensive and all-inclusive comment period under the Administrative Procedure Act that allows the kind of substantive input that is specific to the rules being proposed to be provided, to be considered, to modify proposed rules, and then to move forward in an orderly process.

The other concern that I have is that there is language that is troublesome to me in terms of the way cost-benefit analyses would be conducted and considered.

Very often—and there is no better example than in the financial sector—if we limit ourselves to industry-specific costs and benefits, we lose the fact that many of the costs are not borne by those in the industry but those consumers who bear the brunt of their tactics.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chairman, how much time is remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Maryland has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just want to be clear. Many things concern me about this legislation. We need to be very careful about this.

We have a situation here where this is clearly an effort to give Big Business an advantage. All the speakers on our side have talked to that. We can go around saying we don't need regulations, but regulations are very, very important. This President has done a lot with regard to addressing the issue of regulations.

There is something else that is happening here that really bothers me. There was a tremendous effort by the other side when we were trying to get the consumer financial protection bill passed.

After seeing our constituents abused over and over again, we bring about an

agency that would bring them some type of protection, and here, we are taking away money from an agency that already needs money, the very agency that is there to help our constituents. That concerns me.

The other thing that concerns me is that we have an extra layer here. It makes it much more difficult now with regard to rulemaking, and then to have the courts have the ability to delay and basically take away rules is unprecedented. That is something that even Newt Gingrich didn't do.

We need to look at what we are doing and bring a sense of balance, and the other side will say that balance is brought about because private industry is given an opportunity to be involved in the process.

Well, they really do have a tremendous advantage because, as Ms. NORTON said, they are the ones that have the lawyers. They are the ones who have the big money. They are the ones now who will be able to come in before the regulations are even formulated and have their say while the public won't be in that kind of position.

Let's not kid ourselves. We are putting our constituents at a decided disadvantage, no matter how you look at it. This is a triumph for Big Business.

I yield back the balance of my time.
Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The one who is in the power position, the one who has got the resources, the one that has got the attorneys is the government. The government is the one that has got all the cards.

All we are asking for is to allow input from individuals, small businesses, big businesses. If you are going to be affected, isn't it common sense to suggest that maybe they should talk to the people that they are going to put this mandate on? Let's have a discussion, a dialogue, get some input from them?

The name of this bill is very, very accurate, Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act. What are we afraid of, asking them the question: How are you going to be impacted? What is this going to do to the economy?

What I hear from my constituents—and I have heard it from outside of Utah's Third Congressional District—is the Federal Government comes in with its big, heavy hand, and they have no voice, no opportunity. It is just laid upon them.

I appreciate Dr. Foxx and what she is doing. We also hear from State, local, and tribal governments, from small businesses and business organizations that are in support of this bill.

In fiscal year 2014, the administration estimated the annual cost of major regulations was between \$57 billion and \$84 billion. There is room. There is appropriate use of regulations.

To suggest that we are opposed to all regulations is irresponsible.

I think there are good regulations that are in place—they make our country better—but there needs to be a process and a communication and input from individuals that are affected by these regulations.

We have got to understand the costs and how we are passing these unfunded mandates on to State and local governments. This is an important part of the process.

Updating this law, we can ensure all parties, from government entities to small businesses to individuals, understand the true costs of the prospective mandates.

This bill should successfully pass in the House again, and I urge my colleagues to support it. I applaud Dr. Foxx from North Carolina, the prime sponsor of this, for moving this legislation.

I would urge, my colleagues, a “yea” vote on H.R. 50, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

An amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-4, modified by the amendment printed in part B of House Report 114-14, is adopted.

The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the 5-minute rule and shall be considered as read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 50

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is—

(1) to improve the quality of the deliberations of Congress with respect to proposed Federal mandates by—

(A) providing Congress and the public with more complete information about the effects of such mandates; and

(B) ensuring that Congress acts on such mandates only after focused deliberation on their effects; and

(2) to enhance the ability of Congress and the public to identify Federal mandates that may impose undue harm on consumers, workers, employers, small businesses, and State, local, and tribal governments.

SEC. 3. PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE STUDIES ON POLICIES INVOLVING CHANGES IN CONDITIONS OF GRANT AID.

Section 202(g) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 602(g)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) ADDITIONAL STUDIES.—At the request of any Chairman or ranking member of the minority of a Committee of the Senate or the House of

Representatives, the Director shall conduct an assessment comparing the authorized level of funding in a bill or resolution to the prospective costs of carrying out any changes to a condition of Federal assistance being imposed on State, local, or tribal governments participating in the Federal assistance program concerned or, in the case of a bill or joint resolution that authorizes such sums as are necessary, an assessment of an estimated level of funding compared to such costs.”.

SEC. 4. CLARIFYING THE DEFINITION OF DIRECT COSTS TO REFLECT CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE PRACTICE.

Section 421(3) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 658(3)(A)(i)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)(i), by inserting “incur or” before “be required”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by inserting after “to spend” the following: “or could forgo in profits, including costs passed on to consumers or other entities taking into account, to the extent practicable, behavioral changes.”.

SEC. 5. EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS TO INCLUDE REGULATIONS IMPOSED BY INDEPENDENT REGULATORY AGENCIES.

Paragraph (1) of section 421 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 658) is amended by striking “, but does not include independent regulatory agencies” and inserting “, except it does not include the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or the Federal Open Market Committee”.

SEC. 6. AMENDMENTS TO REPLACE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET WITH OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS.

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-4; 2 U.S.C. 1511 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 103(c) (2 U.S.C. 1511(c))—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET” and inserting “OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS”; and

(B) by striking “Director of the Office of Management and Budget” and inserting “Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs”;

(2) in section 205(c) (2 U.S.C. 1535(c))—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “OMB”; and

(B) by striking “Director of the Office of Management and Budget” and inserting “Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs”;

(3) in section 206 (2 U.S.C. 1536), by striking “Director of the Office of Management and Budget” and inserting “Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs”.

SEC. 7. APPLYING SUBSTANTIVE POINT OF ORDER TO PRIVATE SECTOR MANDATES.

Section 425(a)(2) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 658d(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking “Federal intergovernmental mandates” and inserting “Federal mandates”; and

(2) by inserting “or 424(b)(1)” after “section 424(a)(1)”.

SEC. 8. REGULATORY PROCESS AND PRINCIPLES.

Section 201 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1531) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 201. REGULATORY PROCESS AND PRINCIPLES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Each agency shall, unless otherwise expressly prohibited by law, assess the effects of Federal regulatory actions on State, local, and tribal governments and the private sector (other than to the extent that such regulatory actions incorporate requirements specifically set forth in law) in accordance with the following principles:

“(1) Each agency shall identify the problem that it intends to address (including, if applicable, the failures of private markets or public institutions that warrant new agency action) as well as assess the significance of that problem.

“(2) Each agency shall examine whether existing regulations (or other law) have created, or contributed to, the problem that a new regulation is intended to correct and whether those regulations (or other law) should be modified to achieve the intended goal of regulation more effectively.

“(3) Each agency shall identify and assess available alternatives to direct regulation, including providing economic incentives to encourage the desired behavior, such as user fees or marketable permits, or providing information upon which choices can be made by the public.

“(4) If an agency determines that a regulation is the best available method of achieving the regulatory objective, it shall design its regulations in the most cost-effective manner to achieve the regulatory objective. In doing so, each agency shall consider incentives for innovation, consistency, predictability, the costs of enforcement and compliance (to the government, regulated entities, and the public), flexibility, distributive impacts, and equity.

“(5) Each agency shall assess both the costs and the benefits of the intended regulation and, recognizing that some costs and benefits are difficult to quantify, propose or adopt a regulation, unless expressly prohibited by law, only upon a reasoned determination that the benefits of the intended regulation justify its costs.

“(6) Each agency shall base its decisions on the best reasonably obtainable scientific, technical, economic, and other information concerning the need for, and consequences of, the intended regulation.

“(7) Each agency shall identify and assess alternative forms of regulation and shall, to the extent feasible, specify performance objectives, rather than specifying the behavior or manner of compliance that regulated entities must adopt.

“(8) Each agency shall avoid regulations that are inconsistent, incompatible, or duplicative with its other regulations or those of other Federal agencies.

“(9) Each agency shall tailor its regulations to minimize the costs of the cumulative impact of regulations.

“(10) Each agency shall draft its regulations to be simple and easy to understand, with the goal of minimizing the potential for uncertainty and litigation arising from such uncertainty.

“(b) **REGULATORY ACTION DEFINED.**—In this section, the term ‘regulatory action’ means any substantive action by an agency (normally published in the Federal Register) that promulgates or is expected to lead to the promulgation of a final rule or regulation, including advance notices of proposed rulemaking and notices of proposed rulemaking.”.

SEC. 9. EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF STATEMENTS TO ACCOMPANY SIGNIFICANT REGULATORY ACTIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subsection (a) of section 202 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1532) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Unless otherwise expressly prohibited by law, before promulgating any general notice of proposed rulemaking or any final rule, or within six months after promulgating any final rule that was not preceded by a general notice of proposed rulemaking, if the proposed rulemaking or final rule includes a Federal mandate that may result in an annual effect on State, local, or tribal governments, or to the private sector, in the aggregate of \$100,000,000 or more in any 1 year, the agency shall prepare a written statement containing the following:

“(1) The text of the draft proposed rulemaking or final rule, together with a reasonably detailed description of the need for the proposed rulemaking or final rule and an explanation of how the proposed rulemaking or final rule will meet that need.

“(2) An assessment of the potential costs and benefits of the proposed rulemaking or final rule, including an explanation of the manner in which the proposed rulemaking or final rule is consistent with a statutory requirement and avoids undue interference with State, local, and tribal governments in the exercise of their governmental functions.

“(3) A qualitative and quantitative assessment, including the underlying analysis, of benefits anticipated from the proposed rulemaking or final rule (such as the promotion of the efficient functioning of the economy and private markets, the enhancement of health and safety, the protection of the natural environment, and the elimination or reduction of discrimination or bias).

“(4) A qualitative and quantitative assessment, including the underlying analysis, of costs anticipated from the proposed rulemaking or final rule (such as the direct costs both to the Government in administering the final rule and to businesses and others in complying with the final rule, and any adverse effects on the efficient functioning of the economy, private markets (including productivity, employment, and international competitiveness), health, safety, and the natural environment).

“(5) Estimates by the agency, if and to the extent that the agency determines that accurate estimates are reasonably feasible, of—

“(A) the future compliance costs of the Federal mandate; and

“(B) any disproportionate budgetary effects of the Federal mandate upon any particular regions of the Nation or particular State, local, or tribal governments, urban or rural or other types of communities, or particular segments of the private sector.

“(6)(A) A detailed description of the extent of the agency’s prior consultation with the private sector and elected representatives (under section 204) of the affected State, local, and tribal governments.

“(B) A detailed summary of the comments and concerns that were presented by the private sector and State, local, or tribal governments either orally or in writing to the agency.

“(C) A detailed summary of the agency’s evaluation of those comments and concerns.

“(7) A detailed summary of how the agency complied with each of the regulatory principles described in section 201.”.

(b) **REQUIREMENT FOR DETAILED SUMMARY.**—Subsection (b) of section 202 of such Act is amended by inserting “detailed” before “summary”.

SEC. 10. ENHANCED STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION.

Section 204 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1534) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting “**AND PRIVATE SECTOR**” before “**INPUT**”;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by inserting “, and impacted parties within the private sector (including small business),” after “(on their behalf)”; and

(B) by striking “Federal intergovernmental mandates” and inserting “Federal mandates”; and

(3) by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

“(c) **GUIDELINES.**—For appropriate implementation of subsections (a) and (b) consistent with applicable laws and regulations, the following guidelines shall be followed:

“(1) Consultations shall take place as early as possible, before issuance of a notice of proposed

rulemaking, continue through the final rule stage, and be integrated explicitly into the rulemaking process.

“(2) Agencies shall consult with a wide variety of State, local, and tribal officials and impacted parties within the private sector (including small businesses). Geographic, political, and other factors that may differentiate varying points of view should be considered.

“(3) Agencies should estimate benefits and costs to assist with these consultations. The scope of the consultation should reflect the cost and significance of the Federal mandate being considered.

“(4) Agencies shall, to the extent practicable—

“(A) seek out the views of State, local, and tribal governments, and impacted parties within the private sector (including small business), on costs, benefits, and risks; and

“(B) solicit ideas about alternative methods of compliance and potential flexibilities, and input on whether the Federal regulation will harmonize with and not duplicate similar laws in other levels of government.

“(5) Consultations shall address the cumulative impact of regulations on the affected entities.

“(6) Agencies may accept electronic submissions of comments by relevant parties but may not use those comments as the sole method of satisfying the guidelines in this subsection.”.

SEC. 11. NEW AUTHORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS.

Section 208 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1538) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 208. OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS RESPONSIBILITIES.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs shall provide meaningful guidance and oversight so that each agency’s regulations for which a written statement is required under section 202 are consistent with the principles and requirements of this title, as well as other applicable laws, and do not conflict with the policies or actions of another agency. If the Administrator determines that an agency’s regulations for which a written statement is required under section 202 do not comply with such principles and requirements, are not consistent with other applicable laws, or conflict with the policies or actions of another agency, the Administrator shall identify areas of non-compliance, notify the agency, and request that the agency comply before the agency finalizes the regulation concerned.

“(b) **ANNUAL STATEMENTS TO CONGRESS ON AGENCY COMPLIANCE.**—The Director of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs annually shall submit to Congress, including the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives, a written report detailing compliance by each agency with the requirements of this title that relate to regulations for which a written statement is required by section 202, including activities undertaken at the request of the Director to improve compliance, during the preceding reporting period. The report shall also contain an appendix detailing compliance by each agency with section 204.”.

SEC. 12. RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS OF EXISTING FEDERAL REGULATIONS.

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-4; 2 U.S.C. 1511 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 209 as section 210; and

(2) by inserting after section 208 the following new section 209:

“SEC. 209. RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS OF EXISTING FEDERAL REGULATIONS.

“(a) *REQUIREMENT.*—At the request of the chairman or ranking minority member of a standing or select committee of the House of Representatives or the Senate, an agency shall conduct a retrospective analysis of an existing Federal regulation promulgated by an agency.

“(b) *REPORT.*—Each agency conducting a retrospective analysis of existing Federal regulations pursuant to subsection (a) shall submit to the chairman of the relevant committee, Congress, and the Comptroller General a report containing, with respect to each Federal regulation covered by the analysis—

“(1) a copy of the Federal regulation;

“(2) the continued need for the Federal regulation;

“(3) the nature of comments or complaints received concerning the Federal regulation from the public since the Federal regulation was promulgated;

“(4) the extent to which the Federal regulation overlaps, duplicates, or conflicts with other Federal regulations, and, to the extent feasible, with State and local governmental rules;

“(5) the degree to which technology, economic conditions, or other factors have changed in the area affected by the Federal regulation;

“(6) a complete analysis of the retrospective direct costs and benefits of the Federal regulation that considers studies done outside the Federal Government (if any) estimating such costs or benefits; and

“(7) any litigation history challenging the Federal regulation.”.

SEC. 13. EXPANSION OF JUDICIAL REVIEW.

Section 401(a) of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1571(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraphs (1) and (2)(A)—

(A) by striking “sections 202 and 203(a)(1) and (2)” each place it appears and inserting “sections 201, 202, 203(a)(1) and (2), and 205(a) and (b)”; and

(B) by striking “only” each place it appears;

(2) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “section 202” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: “section 202, prepare the written plan under section 203(a)(1) and (2), or comply with section 205(a) and (b), a court may compel the agency to prepare such written statement, prepare such written plan, or comply with such section.”; and

(3) in paragraph (3), by striking “written statement or plan is required” and all that follows through “shall not” and inserting the following: “written statement under section 202, a written plan under section 203(a)(1) and (2), or compliance with sections 201 and 205(a) and (b) is required, the inadequacy or failure to prepare such statement (including the inadequacy or failure to prepare any estimate, analysis, statement, or description), to prepare such written plan, or to comply with such section may”.

SEC. 14. BUREAU FUNDING AUTHORITY.

The Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection may not request, under section 1017 of the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010, during fiscal year 2016 an amount that would result in the total amount requested by the Director during that fiscal year to exceed \$550,000,000.

The Acting CHAIR. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part C of the report. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not

be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. REED

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part C of House Report 114-14.

Mr. REED. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 2, line 1, insert “private property owners,” after “small businesses.”.

Page 10, line 24, strike the closing quotation marks and second period.

Page 10, after line 24, add the following:

“(8) An assessment of the effects that the proposed rulemaking or final rule are expected to have on private property owners, including the use and value of affected property.”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 78, the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. REED. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, private property rights are fundamental to our liberties and freedom as American citizens. These rights are recognized in the Fifth Amendment to our United States Constitution.

The overreaching actions from government on all levels—in particular here, today, the Federal Government and its agencies—is infringing on these rights by limiting property use and impacting property values. This is not right, and we must address this issue.

My amendment is simple, and it is fair. The amendment will require agencies to assess the impact of their governmental actions on private property, including the use and value of that private property.

Mr. Chairman, this will ensure fairness and transparency. Agencies will have to recognize the effects their government action will have on private property once this amendment is approved.

Mr. Chairman, I have heard from constituents in my district and from across America that this government needs to be held in check and, in particular, when it comes to our fundamental freedoms such as private property rights.

At this point in time, Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Utah, Chairman CHAFFETZ, chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate Congressman REED and what he is trying to do here. I think this makes a lot of sense.

His amendment asks agencies to consider the effects of regulatory action upon private property owners. The

amendment furthers the bill’s intent to provide more input from private sector entities and taxpayers affected by these regulations. It thinks of farms and other types of public land issues that we deal with, particularly out West, but across the Nation.

Federal regulators should consider the effects of any regulation on private property owners.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Maryland is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chairman, I am not going to really oppose this amendment. This amendment would add a requirement that agencies evaluate the impacts of a rule on private property owners. I do not object to this requirement in isolation.

The problem is that this amendment adds one more requirement to the layers of red tape this bill already adds to the rulemaking process.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. REED. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member and the chairman for their lack of opposition in support of this amendment.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I would just say, as we care about American citizens across the country, we must stand with them, and we must support their fundamental freedoms that are represented in our Constitution, and that is what this amendment will do.

It is a simple, concise amendment that will just recognize that the government, once and for all, must recognize that it is impacting private property rights in America with its actions and quantify that impact when it comes to the use and value of their private property.

Mr. Chair, I ask my colleagues to support this amendment and the underlying bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. CUMMINGS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part C of House Report 114-14.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Strike section 12.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 78, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chairman, my amendment strikes section 12 of the bill.

Section 12 would require an agency to perform a retrospective analysis of any existing rule any time a committee chairman or ranking member asked for it.

Under this section, any one of nearly 100 Members of Congress could tie an agency up in knots, forcing review after review of any existing rule.

I asked the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service to analyze the constitutionality of this section. CRS provided my staff with a memo that found that section 12 of H.R. 50 raises a serious constitutional question.

CRS evaluated the impact of the Supreme Court's decision in *INS v. Chadha*. In that case, the Court held that Congress can exercise its legislative authority only through bicameral passage of legislation that is then presented to the President.

CRS evaluated whether giving individual Members of Congress the authority to demand agency action would violate that requirement.

Here is what CRS found: "It could be argued that imbuing certain Members with the authority to demand that an agency prepare a report under section 12 is an action of sufficient legislative character and effect as to trigger the bicameralism and presentment requirements of article I."

CRS also found there is a "tenable argument that the provisions of section 12 raise constitutional concerns of the magnitude addressed in *Chadha*."

Congress certainly has a legitimate interest in conducting oversight of agency actions. It is appropriate for House committees to request information about agency rules and how they can be improved, but committees already have the opportunity to conduct that type of oversight.

We don't need to require in legislation that an agency conduct an entirely new cost-benefit analysis for potentially every rule on the books at the whim of individual Members of Congress. CRS notes that Congress could conduct these reviews as part of its oversight prerogative.

CRS goes on to note, however, that if these reviews were considered part of congressional oversight rather than an exercise of legislative authority, they "would leave open significant and unresolved questions regarding the parameters of congressional oversight authority." These questions are significant enough to warrant stripping this section from the bill.

In addition, section 12 would threaten the ability of agencies to carry out their missions. The more time an agency spends responding to demands for rule reviews, the less time it is spending performing the work it is supposed to be doing.

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I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Utah is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, a cost-benefit analysis prior to the implementation of a regulation requires a number of assumptions that make an accurate analysis difficult, if not impossible.

H.R. 50 allows committee chairmen and ranking members to ask for the retrospective reviews of specific regulations.

I think there needs to be a degree of deference and some respect for the idea that it is for committee chairmen and ranking members, both sides of the aisle, not just based on some whim. I think it is offensive to suggest that it be just some whimsical thing.

This allows an important check on any pre-implementation cost-benefit analysis, and these retrospective reviews better clarify the true costs of regulation. Even President Obama supports retrospective reviews and issued an executive order requiring agencies to conduct them.

More importantly, retrospective reviews work. In April of 2014, the GAO issued a report on retrospective reviews at 22 executive agencies. That report found that more than 90 percent of retrospective regulation reviews led the agencies to revise, clarify, or eliminate regulation text—90 percent.

However, the pace of retrospective review is much slower than planned, and the 22 agencies reviewed by the GAO had plans to conduct more than 650 retrospective reviews but had only completed 246 of them as of August of 2013.

As you can see, the agencies are already doing this work. It is good to go back and review. We shouldn't be afraid of that. We should encourage it.

This provision in the bill simply allows Congress to work with agencies to prioritize regulatory areas most important to the American taxpayer. We need to maintain the ability to make such requests, and I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much time we have on this side?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Maryland has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY).

Mr. CONNOLLY. I thank my friend.

Mr. Chairman, I think we do have something to be concerned about with this provision of the bill, and I rise enthusiastically to support Mr. CUM-

MINGS' amendment. He has raised serious issues about the constitutional nature of this provision which could take down the whole bill.

I was working in the United States Senate at the time of the *Chadha* rendering by the Supreme Court, and it is crystal clear. It is crystal clear to me that this retrospective provision, empowering Congress, tantamount to a legislative veto, though we don't call it that, is an encroachment on executive authority, and will be so found by courts.

Therefore, I think it is prudent for this body to adopt the Cummings amendment and clear that constitutional cloud that hangs over H.R. 50.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, that is some good creative thinking right there. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

One of the things that we have to keep in mind, the President is the President. You are talking about 100 Members of Congress, as opposed to the President. The President has done this, and the chairman admits that they are already behind.

So now what we are going to do is bring in a whole new 100 people, at a whim, to say, We don't like something and let's pull it back.

No. I think we are better than that, and I think it does have constitutional problems. I think enough is being done, and I am glad to hear somebody giving the President some credit for something. The fact is that he has been most aggressive in this area.

I don't think that this provision is needed, and I would urge Members to vote in favor of my amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to highlight, again, that when there was a report done by the GAO, they found that 90 percent of retrospective regulation reviews led agencies to revise, clarify, or eliminate regulatory text.

All this does is ask for a report. It doesn't repeal it. It is not going to slow it down. What it does is ask for a report. That is an important process to go through, and when we have gone through it in the past, 90 percent of the time, according to the GAO, it has led to revisions that are important.

It is very difficult to understand what is going to happen on the front end. All we are asking for in this bill is let's consult with the individuals, the property owners, others who are affected, and then, if we need a report, and we are going to limit that to chairmen and ranking members, that is an appropriate thing to do.

What are we afraid of? We are just trying to get transparency to the issue and be able to highlight this.

I worry, when you talk about the numbers of reviews and how far behind, it just shows the massive numbers of regulations that go through this process. We should be able to review those. There are real Americans that are affected by this every day.

I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Maryland will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. CONNOLLY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part C of House Report 114-14.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following new section:

SEC. 14. SUNSET OF UNFUNDED MANDATES REFORM ACT AND CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT AMENDMENTS IF GDP GROWTH FAILS TO INCREASE AT AVERAGE ANNUAL RATE OF 5 PERCENT OR MORE.

(a) SUNSET.—If the real gross domestic product of the United States fails to increase at an average annual rate of 5 percent or more for the first 4 calendar quarters occurring after the date of the enactment of this Act, as determined under subsection (b), then the amendments made by this Act to the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-4; 2 U.S.C. 1511 et seq.) and the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 602 et seq.) are repealed.

(b) DETERMINATION OF GROWTH OF GDP.—For purposes of subsection (a), the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall—

(1) calculate the average annual rate of growth of the real gross domestic product for the first 4 calendar quarters occurring after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) submit to Congress a report containing such calculation and such other information as the Director considers appropriate, not later than 30 days after the end of the 4th calendar quarter occurring after such date of enactment.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 78, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. CONNOLLY. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support this simple, clear amendment to H.R. 50. This

amendment seeks to establish a performance-based sunset mechanism stipulating that, in the event that the average annual rate of real GDP growth remains below 5 percent over the first 4 quarters occurring after the date of enactment, then the statutory changes made by H.R. 50 are repealed because the bill will have been proved to have been ineffective.

This amendment sets up a real world measurement and a sunset mechanism that supporters and opponents, it seems to me, can support, since it features the flexibility to ensure an optimal response to whichever prediction of the impact of H.R. 50, positive or negative, takes place over the year following enactment.

If the Unfunded Mandates Act, by lessening the independence of independent regulatory agencies and strengthening the influence of the private sector in the Federal rulemaking process, does, in fact, spur the economic growth we have heard so much about to at least match the average annual real GDP growth rates achieved during two administrations, the Johnson and Kennedy administrations, and in the last 2 quarters of this administration so far, what is the threat?

What are we afraid of?

However, if it fails to spur the promised economic growth to at least achieve an average annual growth rate of 5 percent over the year following the enactment of the law, then the statutory changes made by H.R. 50 will be repealed.

Five percent is reasonable. It is a reasonable target goal when one considers that, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, real GDP growth under the Obama economy reached 4.6 percent in the second quarter and 5 percent in the fourth.

Why wouldn't we expect H.R. 50 to be able to sustain that growth rate and, indeed, improve on it in the first full year after enactment?

Finally, I would note that, according to the preliminary estimate of the Congressional Budget Office, this amendment would not increase direct spending or reduce revenues, and I strongly urge all of the Members in the body to adopt this commonsense amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Utah is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I thank the gentleman, and I appreciate my colleague from Virginia. I appreciate his tenacity and good work on these issues and on the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

But I do have to suggest that if the economy is struggling, Federal regulators should be extra concerned about imposing undue and unnecessary costs on to the American public and the private sector job creators.

H.R. 50 helps ensure that regulations that impose unfunded mandates on State, local, and tribal governments and the private sector are fully analyzed and considered.

Keep in mind, we are focused here on unfunded mandates. This amendment would repeal this helpful legislation if the GDP rate grows at a rate of less than 5 percent. To me, this is counterproductive.

GDP is a deliberately broad measure of economic growth. The GDP does not reflect the impact a regulatory mandate might have on a State or local government or a portion of the private sector, nor does it reflect the impact of regulations as a whole.

Ultimately, GDP growth is not a substitute for a sensible regulatory analysis and process. I would argue that, regardless of GDP growth or reduction, we need to allow, particularly these local governments, these tribal governments, these private individuals—it is the little guy that has this unfunded mandate thrust upon them that we have to review.

So repealing H.R. 50 if the GDP is failing to grow is contrary to the very purpose of this bill and, therefore, I stand in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY. I would inquire of the Chair how much time remains on this side.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just want to say in response to my friend from Utah, also a neat argument. All of a sudden we are now retreating from the economic rationale for moving beyond unfunded mandates, for getting the hobnail-booted government off the necks of business so jobs can grow and the economy can just take off. Now, that is not really the purpose of this. It is transparency and getting unfunded mandates exposed. I think that is a fairly weak argument and justification for a bad bill.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), the distinguished ranking member.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this commonsense amendment. The legislation we are considering today has been sold by supporters as a jobs bill. Give me a break.

This amendment simply says that if the economy doesn't improve the way the bill's supporters say it will, then the bill will sunset. It is as simple as that. The amendment would leave the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act untouched. This sunset provision would

only impact the changes made by this bill. For those reasons, I strongly support the amendment.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY. In summary, Mr. Chairman, I think this is a commonsense amendment. I think it sets a metric that I would hope my friends on the other side of the aisle would actually embrace so that we can see whether a new piece of legislation is, in fact, working. It would allow the bill to go into place for a whole year before that metric kicks in. I think it is a commonsense amendment that actually gives us a chance to see whether the philosophy undergirding this legislation is, indeed, justified.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chair, how much time remains?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Utah has 3½ minutes remaining.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, to take a metric of the gross domestic product, the entire economy, and then have that be the weighted factor by what may happen to a dairy farmer, for instance, who is out there in Utah or Kansas or Colorado is not the way that we should be determining whether or not H.R. 50 is in place.

If the economy is waning, if the economy is decreasing, if our production overall for our Nation is declining, that may be the very key indicator that we have thrust too many unfunded mandates upon the little guy, the dairy farmer, the person who has got a transmission shop. It could be a whole host of things. It may be upon private property owners. It could be—you name it.

Pretty much in this country, there are mandates that are thrust upon people, and they feel like they have no ability, no understanding why this happens. They don't feel like they have a voice in the process.

So I stand in opposition to this amendment. So, to the overall gross economy, to say that we are just going to repeal that, H.R. 50, and get rid of our ability to ask people to consult, ask the government agencies to consult with local governments, to consult with private individuals, to talk to small businesses, we are going to just get rid of that because the economy is waning?

□ 1515

I would argue that part of the reason our economy hasn't taken off is there are too many unfunded mandates. The government imposes these, and they don't have a full understanding of what is causing these people to not hire more people, to invest more capital.

So I stand in opposition to this. I appreciate the gentleman who offered it, but I stand in opposition to this amendment. I would urge my colleagues a "no" vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in part C of House Report 114–14 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 2 by Mr. CUMMINGS of Maryland.

Amendment No. 3 by Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. CUMMINGS

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 179, noes 245, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 61]

AYES—179

Adams	Connolly	Garamendi
Aguilar	Conyers	Gibson
Bass	Cooper	Graham
Beatty	Courtney	Grayson
Becerra	Crowley	Green, Al
Bera	Cuellar	Green, Gene
Beyer	Cummings	Grijalva
Bishop (GA)	Davis (CA)	Hahn
Blumenauer	Davis, Danny	Hastings
Bonamici	DeFazio	Heck (WA)
Boyle (PA)	DeGette	Higgins
Brady (PA)	Delaney	Himes
Brown (FL)	DeLauro	Hinojosa
Brownley (CA)	DeBene	Honda
Bustos	DeSaulnier	Hoyer
Butterfield	Deutch	Huffman
Capps	Dingell	Israel
Capuano	Doggett	Jackson Lee
Cárdenas	Doyle (PA)	Jeffries
Carney	Edwards	Johnson, E. B.
Carlson (IN)	Ellison	Kaptur
Cartwright	Engel	Keating
Castor (FL)	Eshoo	Kelly (IL)
Castro (TX)	Esty	Kennedy
Cicilline	Farr	Kildee
Clark (MA)	Fattah	Kilmer
Clarke (NY)	Foster	Kind
Clay	Frankel (FL)	Kirkpatrick
Cleaver	Fudge	Kuster
Clyburn	Gabbard	Langevin
Cohen	Gallego	Larsen (WA)

Larson (CT)	Norcross	Sewell (AL)
Lawrence	O'Rourke	Sherman
Levin	Pallone	Sires
Lewis	Pascarell	Slaughter
Lieu (CA)	Payne	Smith (WA)
Lipinski	Pelosi	Speier
Loeback	Perlmutter	Swalwell (CA)
Lowenthal	Peters	Takai
Lowe	Pingree	Takano
Lujan Grisham (NM)	Pocan	Thompson (CA)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)	Polis	Thompson (MS)
Lynch	Price (NC)	Titus
Maloney,	Quigley	Tonko
Carolyn	Rangel	Torres
Maloney, Sean	Rice (NY)	Tsongas
Matsui	Richmond	Van Hollen
McCollum	Roybal-Allard	Vargas
McDermott	Ruiz	Veasey
McGovern	Ruppersberger	Vela
McNerney	Rush	Velázquez
Meeks	Ryan (OH)	Visclosky
Meng	Sánchez, Linda	Walz
Moore	T.	Wasserman
Moulton	Sanchez, Loretta	Schultz
Murphy (FL)	Sarbanes	Waters, Maxine
Nadler	Schakowsky	Watson Coleman
Napolitano	Schiff	Welch
Neal	Schrader	Wilson (FL)
Nolan	Scott (VA)	Yarmuth
	Scott, David	
	Serrano	

NOES—245

Abraham	Fincher	Latta
Aderholt	Fitzpatrick	LoBiondo
Allen	Fleischmann	Long
Amash	Fleming	Loudermilk
Amodel	Flores	Love
Ashford	Forbes	Lucas
Babin	Fortenberry	Luetkemeyer
Barletta	Fox	Lummis
Barr	Franks (AZ)	MacArthur
Barton	Frelinghuysen	Marchant
Benish	Garrett	Marino
Bilirakis	Gibbs	Masie
Bishop (MI)	Gohmert	McCarthy
Bishop (UT)	Goodlatte	McCaul
Black	Gosar	McClintock
Blackburn	Gowdy	McHenry
Blum	Granger	McKinley
Bost	Graves (GA)	McMorris
Boustany	Graves (LA)	Rodgers
Brady (TX)	Graves (MO)	McSally
Brat	Griffith	Meadows
Bridenstine	Grothman	Meehan
Brooks (AL)	Guinta	Messer
Brooks (IN)	Guthrie	Mica
Buchanan	Hanna	Miller (FL)
Buck	Hardy	Miller (MI)
Bucshon	Harper	Moolenaar
Burgess	Harris	Mooney (WV)
Byrne	Hartzler	Mullin
Calvert	Heck (NV)	Mulvaney
Carter (GA)	Hensarling	Murphy (PA)
Carter (TX)	Herrera Beutler	Neugebauer
Chabot	Hice (GA)	Newhouse
Chaffetz	Hill	Noem
Clawson (FL)	Holding	Nugent
Coffman	Hudson	Nunes
Cole	Huelskamp	Olson
Collins (GA)	Huizenga (MI)	Palazzo
Collins (NY)	Hultgren	Palmer
Comstock	Hunter	Paulsen
Conaway	Hurd (TX)	Pearce
Cook	Hurt (VA)	Perry
Costa	Issa	Peterson
Costello (PA)	Jenkins (KS)	Pittenger
Cramer	Jenkins (WV)	Pitts
Crawford	Johnson (OH)	Poe (TX)
Crenshaw	Johnson, Sam	Poliquin
Curbelo (FL)	Jolly	Pompeo
Davis, Rodney	Jones	Posey
Denham	Jordan	Price (GA)
Dent	Joyce	Ratcliffe
DeSantis	Katko	Reed
DesJarlais	Kelly (PA)	Reichert
Diaz-Balart	King (IA)	Renacci
Dold	King (NY)	Ribble
Duffy	Kinzinger (IL)	Rice (SC)
Duncan (SC)	Kline	Rigell
Duncan (TN)	Knight	Roby
Ellmers	Labrador	Rogers (AL)
Emmer	LaMalfa	Rogers (KY)
Farenthold	Lamborn	Rohrabacher
	Lance	Rokita

Rooney (FL)	Sinema	Walker	Himes	Matsui	Sarbanes	Perry	Russell	Turner
Ros-Lehtinen	Smith (MO)	Walorski	Hinojosa	McCollum	Schakowsky	Peterson	Ryan (WI)	Upton
Roskam	Smith (NE)	Walters, Mimi	Honda	McDermott	Schiff	Pittenger	Salmon	Valadao
Ross	Smith (NJ)	Weber (TX)	Hoyer	McGovern	Scott (VA)	Pitts	Sanford	Wagner
Rothfus	Smith (TX)	Webster (FL)	Huffman	McNerney	Scott, David	Poe (TX)	Scalise	Walberg
Rouzer	Stefanik	Wenstrup	Israel	Meeks	Serrano	Poliquin	Schock	Walden
Royce	Stewart	Westerman	Jeffries	Meng	Sewell (AL)	Pompeo	Schrader	Walker
Russell	Stivers	Westmoreland	Johnson (GA)	Moore	Sherman	Posey	Schweikert	Walorski
Ryan (WI)	Stutzman	Whitfield	Johnson, E. B.	Moulton	Sires	Price (GA)	Scott, Austin	Walters, Mimi
Salmon	Thompson (PA)	Williams	Kaptur	Nadler	Slaughter	Ratcliffe	Sensenbrenner	Weber (TX)
Sanford	Thornberry	Wilson (SC)	Keating	Napolitano	Smith (WA)	Reed	Sessions	Webster (FL)
Scalise	Tiberi	Wittman	Kelly (IL)	Neal	Speier	Reichert	Shimkus	Wenstrup
Schock	Tipton	Womack	Kennedy	Nolan	Swalwell (CA)	Renacci	Shuster	Westerman
Schweikert	Trott	Woodall	Kildee	Norcross	Takai	Ribble	Simpson	Westmoreland
Scott, Austin	Turner	Yoder	Kilmer	O'Rourke	Takano	Rice (SC)	Sinema	Whitfield
Sensenbrenner	Upton	Yoho	Kind	Pallone	Thompson (CA)	Rigell	Smith (MO)	Williams
Sessions	Valadao	Young (IA)	Kirkpatrick	Pascrell	Thompson (MS)	Roby	Smith (NE)	Wilson (SC)
Shimkus	Wagner	Young (IN)	Kuster	Payne	Titus	Rogers (AL)	Smith (NJ)	Wittman
Shuster	Walberg	Zeldin	Langevin	Pelosi	Tonko	Rogers (KY)	Smith (TX)	Womack
Simpson	Walden	Zinke	Larsen (WA)	Perlmutter	Torres	Rohrabacher	Stefanik	Woodall
			Larson (CT)	Peters	Tsongas	Rokita	Stewart	Yoder
			Lawrence	Pingree	Van Hollen	Rooney (FL)	Stivers	Yoho
			Levin	Pocan	Vargas	Ros-Lehtinen	Stutzman	Young (IA)
			Lewis	Polis	Veasey	Ross	Thompson (PA)	Young (IN)
			Lieu (CA)	Price (NC)	Vela	Rothfus	Thornberry	Zeldin
			Lipinski	Quigley	Velázquez	Rouzer	Tiberi	Zinke
			Loebsack	Rangel	Visclosky	Royce	Tipton	
			Lowenthal	Rice (NY)	Walz		Trott	
			Lowe	Richmond	Wasserman			
			Lujan Grisham	Roybal-Allard	Babin			
			(NM)	Ruiz	Chu (CA)			
			Luján, Ben Ray	Schultz	Diaz-Balart			
			(NM)	Ruppersberger	Duckworth			
			Lynch	Rush				
			Maloney,	Ryan (OH)				
			Carolyn	Sánchez, Linda				
			Maloney, Sean	T.				
				Sánchez, Loretta				

NOT VOTING—9

Chu (CA)	Johnson (GA)	Nunnelee
Duckworth	Lee	Roe (TN)
Gutiérrez	Lofgren	Young (AK)

□ 1543

Messrs. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, TURNER, HUELSKAMP, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, and Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California and Mr. CLYBURN changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. CONNOLLY

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 173, noes 249, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 62]

AYES—173

Adams	Castro (TX)	Doyle (PA)
Aguilar	Cielline	Edwards
Bass	Clark (MA)	Ellison
Beatty	Clarke (NY)	Engel
Becerra	Clay	Eshoo
Bera	Cleaver	Esty
Beyer	Clyburn	Farr
Bishop (GA)	Cohen	Fattah
Blumenauer	Connolly	Poster
Bonamici	Conyers	Frankel (FL)
Boyle (PA)	Courtney	Fudge
Brady (PA)	Crowley	Gabbard
Brown (FL)	Cummings	Galleo
Brownley (CA)	Davis (CA)	Garamendi
Bustos	Davis, Danny	Graham
Butterfield	DeFazio	Grayson
Capps	DeGette	Green, Al
Capuano	DeLauro	Green, Gene
Cárdenas	DelBene	Grijalva
Carney	DeSaulnier	Hahn
Carson (IN)	Deutch	Hastings
Cartwright	Dingell	Heck (WA)
Castor (FL)	Doggett	Higgins

NOES—249

Dold	Jones
Duffy	Jordan
Duncan (SC)	Joyce
Duncan (TN)	Katko
Ellmers	Kelly (PA)
Emmer	King (IA)
Farenthold	King (NY)
Fincher	Kinzing (IL)
Fitzpatrick	Kline
Fleischmann	Knight
Fleming	Labrador
Flores	LaMalfa
Forbes	Lamborn
Fortenberry	Lance
Fox	Latta
Franks (AZ)	LoBiondo
Frelinghuysen	Long
Garrett	Loudermilk
Gibbs	Love
Gibson	Lucas
Gohmert	Luetkemeyer
Goodlatte	Lummis
Gosar	MacArthur
Gowdy	Marchant
Granger	Marino
Graves (GA)	Massie
Graves (LA)	McCarthy
Graves (MO)	McCaul
Griffith	McClintock
Grothman	McHenry
Guinta	McKinley
Guthrie	McMorris
Hanna	Rodgers
Hardy	McSally
Harper	Meadows
Harris	Meehan
Hartzler	Messer
Heck (NV)	Mica
Hensarling	Miller (FL)
Herrera Beutler	Miller (MI)
Hice (GA)	Moolenaar
Hill	Mooney (WV)
Holding	Mullin
Hudson	Mulvaney
Huelskamp	Murphy (FL)
Huizenga (MI)	Murphy (PA)
Hultgren	Neugebauer
Hunter	Newhouse
Hurd (TX)	Noem
Hurt (VA)	Nugent
Issa	Nunes
Jenkins (KS)	Olson
Jenkins (WV)	Palazzo
Johnson (OH)	Palmer
Johnson, Sam	Paulsen
Jolly	Pearce

NOT VOTING—11

Babin	Gutiérrez	Nunnelee
Chu (CA)	Jackson Lee	Roe (TN)
Diaz-Balart	Lee	Young (AK)
Duckworth	Lofgren	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1548

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama changed his vote from “aye” to “no.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Chair, on roll call no. 62, Connolly Amendment, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted No.

The Acting CHAIR. There being no further amendments, under the rule, the committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WESTMORELAND) having assumed the chair, Mr. POE of Texas, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 50) to provide for additional safeguards with respect to imposing Federal mandates, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 78, he reported the bill, as amended by that resolution, back to the House with a further amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any further amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentlewoman opposed to the bill?

Mrs. BUSTOS. I am opposed in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mrs. Bustos moves to recommit the bill H.R. 50 to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

At the end of the bill, add the following new section:

SEC. 14. STOPPING SEXUAL PREDATORS, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AND RAPE.

This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall not apply to, limit, or restrict any Federal agency mandate or action the purpose of which is to—

(1) protect students and children from a person who has been convicted in any court of a sex offense against a minor;

(2) prevent domestic violence by stopping persons from harassing, stalking, or threatening a spouse, family member, an intimate partner, or the child of an intimate partner;

(3) prevent rape or sexual assault; or

(4) require criminal background checks for school or other employees through a search of the National Crime Information Center, the FBI's Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System, or the National Sex Offender Public Website.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill. It will not delay or kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will proceed immediately to final passage as amended.

This amendment, Mr. Speaker, preserves critical protections against sexual and domestic violence. We must not be so eager to eliminate regulations that we remove important protections that keep our communities, our children, and our families safe from harm.

The underlying bill would essentially stop or bog down all regulation. My amendment would provide exemptions from the bill so there is no interruption in efforts to prevent sexual and domestic violence.

This includes protecting children from convicted sex offenders and preventing domestic violence, including stalking. It also addresses rape and sexual assault and using Federal resources for background checks for school employees.

On a personal note, before I came to Congress, I worked as an investigative news reporter, and my husband has spent his entire 30-year career in law enforcement and now serves as sheriff of Rock Island County, Illinois. Between the two of us, we have come across far too many disturbing and real-life stories of sexual and domestic violence.

I will always remember a case that I covered involving a little boy named Jerry Nelson. He was a small, defenseless child who was murdered in Henry County, Illinois, which is now in the congressional district that I serve. I am going to repeat that last line because if you didn't hear it, I hope you will take a listen here because this is what we are talking about in this amendment.

When I was a news reporter, a case I remember most involved a 3-year-old child named Jerry Nelson. He was small. He was defenseless. He lived in an area called Henry County, Illinois, which is now the central part of the congressional district I serve.

He was beaten. He was abused. He was terribly battered by his mother's boyfriend, and this happened across the Mississippi River where I live but in the State of Iowa.

When Jerry's family moved across the Mississippi River into the State of Illinois, Iowa did not share its case file—despite having investigated this—with the Illinois authorities, and they were not required to do so.

There was no mechanism in place for sharing the information. Jerry's abuser would eventually sexually molest him and then murder him when he was just 3 years old. At that time, why this was so emotional for me is because he was the exact same age as my youngest child who today is 24 years old.

When doctors examined little Jerry Nelson's body, they found more than 20 bruises, a broken clavicle, and brain injuries consistent with falling from a three-story building onto concrete.

My commonsense amendment that I am telling you about right now would help prevent more children like Jerry from becoming victims of heinous crimes and unimaginable trauma. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Utah is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the body, thank the Speaker, and the process by which we did this. This bill came up in regular order in the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. We had a full and complete markup. That was followed by going to the Rules Committee.

Every single amendment that was offered at the Rules Committee was made in order, two Democrat amendments as well as the Republican amendment. We had good and lively debate about those, and we just voted on those amendments. I appreciate that.

From my heart, I will tell you that I look forward to working with the gentlewoman from Illinois and everybody

else in this body to attack and go after—defend the innocent and make sure that we attack domestic violence because it is so prevalent in every aspect of our society, but I would suggest to you that this is the wrong amendment.

What this does, it does not force the Federal Government to actually work with the individuals that are affected. What H.R. 50 does, what this bill does is to make sure that the Federal Government consults with individuals, it consults with small businesses, those that are affected by mandates.

I want the Federal Government—in fact, I would love to codify the idea that the Federal Government in this case and what you offer in the motion shouldn't talk to these people, they should talk to them. We want them to talk to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. They should be the first people that they call. If you want to know what is happening in this country, go talk to the individuals who are affected by this.

What this legislation, H.R. 50, does is to make sure that individuals are asked before; it makes sure that nothing is repealed. We don't get to unilaterally repeal things. I heard the word "repeal."

No, there are reports that we need to access and look at, and so if we truly want to get after domestic violence and these heinous crimes—these awful, hideous crimes—then you want to vote in favor of H.R. 50 and make sure that the Federal Government does go and consult with the victims of crime.

I oppose this motion to recommit and vote in favor of H.R. 50 by Dr. Foxx.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1600

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by a 5-minute vote on the passage of the bill, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 184, noes 239, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 63]

AYES—184

Adams	Beyer	Brown (FL)
Aguilar	Bishop (GA)	Brownley (CA)
Ashford	Blumenauer	Bustos
Beatty	Bonamici	Butterfield
Becerra	Boyle (PA)	Capps
Bera	Brady (PA)	Capuano

Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DeBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle (PA)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hahn
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes

Hinojosa
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lieu (CA)
Lipinski
Loebach
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Lujan, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maloney
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascarell
Payne

Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOES—239

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole

Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Costello (PA)
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Ellmers
Emmer
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson

Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly

Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCauley
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)

Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Rohy
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin

Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOT VOTING—10

Bass
Chu (CA)
Duckworth
Gutiérrez

Lee
Lofgren
Nunnelee
Roe (TN)

Schock
Young (AK)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1606

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

(By unanimous consent, Mrs. LOWEY was allowed to speak out of order.)

MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PRAYER FOR THE VALLALLA, NEW YORK, COMMUTER TRAIN ACCIDENT VICTIMS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND THE COMMUNITY

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday evening, a commuter train struck an automobile at a grade crossing in Vallahalla, New York, resulting in the deaths of six people and many others injured.

I stand on the House floor today with my colleagues to call for a moment of silence to honor those who lost their lives in this tragic accident and offer sincere condolences to the families of the victims, pray for the full recovery of those injured, and thank our first responders for quickly arriving at the scene to help others.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 250, noes 173, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 64]

AYES—250

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Costa
Costello (PA)
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Davis, Rodney
Delaney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Emmer
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson

Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCauley
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)

Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Rohy
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden

Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman

Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall

Yoder
Yoho
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOES—173

Adams
Aguilar
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle (PA)
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi

NOT VOTING—10

Chu (CA)
Conyers
Duckworth
Gutiérrez

Lee
Lofgren
Murphy (PA)
Nunnelee

Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascarell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I inadvertently did not vote during Roll Call #64 on passage of H.R. 50, the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2015. Had I voted, I would have voted "nay."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes on Wednesday, February 4, 2015.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on roll call vote 59, and "nay" on roll call vote 60.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call vote 61, "yea" on roll call vote 62, and "yea" on roll call vote 63.

I would have voted "nay" on roll call vote 64 in strong opposition to H.R. 50, the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2015.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote today because of a serious illness in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted:

Rollcall #59—YEA
Rollcall #60—AYE
Rollcall #61—NO
Rollcall #62—NO
Rollcall #63—NO
Rollcall #64—AYE

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 279

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed from H.R. 279, to amend the Communications Act of 1934.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

CLAY HUNT SAV ACT WILL SAVE
VETERANS' LIVES

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, those who sign up to serve and defend our country deserve our respect and support when they return home. Sadly, there is a crisis in our country when it comes to our veterans' health care. With an average of 22 veterans a day taking their own lives, we are failing them.

That is why Congress took action to pass the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act so as to improve mental health care services and

suicide prevention programs at the VA and at the Department of Defense. By establishing pilot programs to recruit and keep psychiatrists and to establish support networks for veterans, the Clay Hunt SAV Act will help service-members transition to life after the military. The bill is named after Clay Hunt, a brave soldier who served in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Tragically, Clay took his own life when he returned home.

I want to thank my Minnesota colleague, TIM WALZ, for his leadership on this issue, and I encourage the President to quickly sign this legislation into law and get our veterans the support that they deserve.

THE PASSING OF CHARLIE
SIFFORD

(Mr. CLYBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note the passing of a great American.

Golf pioneer Charlie Sifford died last night at the age of 92. Often called the "Jackie Robinson of golf," Sifford wrote in his autobiography, "Just Let Me Play," about his fateful meeting with the man who broke baseball's color barrier:

"He asked me if I was a quitter," Sifford wrote.

"I told him: 'No.'"

"He said: 'If you're not a quitter, you're probably going to experience some things that will make you want to quit.'"

Sifford experienced unspeakable acts of racial abuse, slurs, and threats as he became the first African American to play the PGA Tour.

Born in Charlotte, North Carolina, in 1922, Sifford worked as a caddie and dominated the all-Black United States Golfers Association, winning five straight national titles. He challenged the PGA's Whites-only rule, and, in 1961, they rescinded it. Sifford won the Greater Hartford Open in 1967 and the Los Angeles Open in 1969. He also won the 1975 Senior PGA Championship. In 2004, he became the first African American inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame.

Last year, President Barack Obama awarded Sifford the Medal of Freedom, joining Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer as the only golfers to receive our Nation's highest civilian honor. Tiger Woods, one of the greatest golfers of all time, has often said he may have never taken up the game were it not for the courage, grace, and perseverance of Charlie Sifford.

Mr. Speaker, Charlie Sifford was not a quitter. He was a hero. He was my hero. May he rest in peace.

□ 1615

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 64 had I been present, I would have voted aye.

Stated against:

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

WORLD CANCER DAY

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today is World Cancer Day, a day to recognize the patients, survivors, caregivers, and those who raise awareness on their behalf. Cancer has touched every family and community in some way, and it is their stories that sustain the fight for increased funding for medical research.

According to the World Health Organization, cancer has caused over 8.2 million deaths worldwide. By the end of 2015, more than 1.5 million new cases will have been diagnosed within the United States.

Investing in medical research leads to advanced treatments and cures and has the potential to lower these devastating outcomes. It boosts the economy through job creation and new discoveries, and it allows America to maintain its position as a global leader in the fight for a cure. Yet, in the last decade, funding to the National Institutes of Health has been cut by nearly 25 percent. This is unacceptable. Last week, I reintroduced the Accelerating Biomedical Research Act with Representatives ROSA DELAURO and PETER KING. It is a bill that invests in the fight against horrible disease.

While today we recognize World Cancer Day, the goal must be to celebrate the day when we have a world without cancer.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BUCK). The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1024(a) and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Joint Economic Committee:

Mrs. MALONEY, New York

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL
EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO
THE SITUATION IN OR IN RELATION
TO CÔTE D'IVOIRE—MESSAGE
FROM THE PRESIDENT OF
THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC.
NO. 114-6)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency, unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes

in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13396 of February 7, 2006, with respect to the situation in or in relation to Côte d'Ivoire is to continue in effect beyond February 7, 2015.

The Government of Côte d'Ivoire and its people continue to make significant progress in promotion of democratic, social, and economic development. The United States also supports the advancement of impartial justice in Côte d'Ivoire as well as the Government of Côte d'Ivoire's efforts to prepare for a peaceful, fair, and transparent presidential election in 2015, which will be an important milestone in Côte d'Ivoire's progress. We urge all sides to work for the benefit of the country as a whole by rejecting violence and participating in the electoral process.

While the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and its people continue to make progress toward peace and prosperity, the situation in or in relation to Côte d'Ivoire continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency and related measures blocking the property of certain persons contributing to the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 4, 2015.

A CALL TO ACTION—BORDER
SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I really appreciate the opportunity today to spend some time with my colleagues to highlight an urgent and important issue that, quite frankly, should unite this body in a call to action.

I represent Arizona's Second Congressional District, and that includes 80 miles of the southern border. Today, we are going to be talking about the importance of securing our border both in the south and in the north. My colleague here from New York will be speaking on that matter. We do have Chairman MCCAUL here who will be joining us, but I have just a couple of lead-in comments.

I have spent a lot of time down at the border with our border residents and ranchers, and I can tell you the border is not secure. These people are daily taking risks for their families, for their livelihoods. This is a public safety risk,

and this is a potential national security risk. Although some efforts have been taken, our border is not secure. We now have the opportunity to have a call to action to take the measures that are important in order to secure the border once and for all, which is impacting, again, the residents of my community.

I am grateful that a bipartisan group of Members of Congress came down to visit our southern border just 10 days ago. We had 20 Members, plus myself, so they could see firsthand what our ranchers and border residents are dealing with in Arizona. The group, under the leadership of Chairman MCCAUL, whom I will ask to join us here in a minute, visited the San Diego sector, then came to our Tucson sector, and then moved on to also see the challenges in Texas. We got to see firsthand what is going on in each of these different sectors and to reinforce the fact that this is an urgent matter that we have to address. It should be a bipartisan and uniting issue.

I have got lots of stories to share from the Tucson sector, but I have a number of colleagues who want to join in the conversation. I will first ask Chairman MCCAUL if he would like to join the discussion.

Mr. MCCAUL. Let me thank my colleague from Arizona for her great leadership. I think this House is well served to have the first female pilot who has served in combat.

We thank you for your service, and I can probably tell a few more stories of bravery about you. I am very fortunate to have you on this committee.

Mr. Speaker, this is an issue of grave importance to the Nation. As chairman of Homeland Security, when I go home, it is the number one issue, and the number one question I get back home is: Mr. Chairman, when are you going to secure that border?

I believe we have an opportunity in this Congress to finally get this thing done and to get it done in the right way and the smart way. People say: Why is it so important? In 10 years in the Congress and as a Federal prosecutor prior to that in dealing with this issue, I have seen the scourge of drug cartels, of human trafficking, the poisoning of our kids with drugs, and the potential threat of a terrorist attack in the United States. I don't want that on this Congress' head. We do have an opportunity to act. We have a bill that was passed out of committee, and I think it does several things.

One, it finally directs and tells the Department of Homeland Security how to get this mission done sector by sector. As the gentlewoman knows, Arizona is very different from San Diego and is very different from Texas, which is where we saw 60,000 children crossing last summer. We know that a surge is probably on its way again if we don't act in this Congress soon. We also

know, with the spread of ISIS overseas, that the threat is real.

With the event of the Jordanian's being lit on fire yesterday, it is a wake-up call that we need to act and that we need to act soon in the Congress to protect the American people. This is more than Homeland Security—it is national security. It is really not an immigration issue. This bill is about securing the border in a smart way.

When I was in Afghanistan and Pakistan, I met with General Allen. They didn't really have much of a fence, but I said: "What is your border security with the Pak border?" They pointed to aerostats in the sky that could see for hundreds of miles that we saw on our recent trip down there. With the value of 100 percent visibility to see what is coming in and how to stop it, you can measure success, first of all, but you can respond to the threats in realtime.

□ 1630

In addition, the VADER technology, the radar on the Predator UAVs, is of tremendous value for a smart border. A lot of these assets were actually used in Afghanistan. We have already paid for these assets, and we want to redeploy those to the southwest border.

We also fully fund the National Guard, which to our Governors—particularly my Governor in the great State of Texas—is of vital interest and concern. We allow access to Federal lands for CBP, which, in the past, they have been denied; and we have a U.S. exit system set up—which the 9/11 Commission recommended, and to this day Congress has failed to act on that—to determine who is staying with visas legally and who is overstaying those visas like we saw with the hijackers on 9/11.

At the end of the day, this is an important issue that has to get done. It is no longer time for lipservice; it is time for action on what I consider to be one of the most important Homeland Security issues facing this Nation.

I just want to thank the gentlelady for holding this Special Order. I know we have members of the committee here who have great expertise, both Federal prosecutors, CIA, and other experiences to bring this issue to life. I hope we can do more of this in the future.

The American people know this is an important issue. The problem is the Members of Congress have been tone deaf on this and have not gotten the job done. I would argue to my colleagues who are listening to this and to the American people that now is the time to finally get the job done.

Ms. MCSALLY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I really appreciate your leadership on this issue. I also want to thank you for coming to southern Arizona to my district to see firsthand what our border residents and ranchers are dealing with on a daily basis. I look

forward to working with you on the committee to get this bill across the finish line and getting the strategy and the resources to those in the Border Patrol so that they can actually address the threat.

Mr. MCCAUL. If the gentlelady would just yield on this point, too, this is a bill not built from bureaucrats in Washington, down. This is a bill designed by talking to Border Patrol agents, to the border sheriffs who support this bill, to the ranchers. What a great presentation we received from John Ladd and his father, Jack, in Arizona.

I will never forget, when you had the press conference, John Ladd was saying: You know, for the first time, I have real hope.

They said: Well, Members have come down here before.

He said: Not this many and not of this caliber of leadership, and for the first time I have hope.

I don't want to let those ranchers down. I want to get this job done for the ranchers, the border sheriffs, and the agents who spend day in and day out in very tough conditions.

Ms. MCSALLY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate it.

Would my colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) want to join the conversation?

Mr. PERRY. Absolutely.

I want to also extend my appreciation to you for bringing up this important issue. I think this is going to kind of be a continuing conversation, at least for the next couple weeks, as we move forward into bringing this particular bill and the legislation to the floor.

With that, I was just thinking that in the last couple days I saw the President on TV, and he asked a question: What kind of country do we want to be?

I think you can think of that in a lot of different ways, but regarding the border, the President, while he says that, has preached over the years that he has made our Nation's border more secure than ever. I just remember last year when he was literally saying that, we saw tens of thousands of unaccompanied people coming across the border, and all of America was saying to themselves: What are you talking about? How can you say that?

The Border Patrol wasn't stopping these people. They were greeting these people and bringing them into the country. You are thinking, maybe that is a great thing, but we don't know who they are or what their intentions are, and you have no credibility, Mr. President, when you say that.

His statement is just supported by bloated statistics and a false sense of reality. I think most Americans understand that. As a matter of fact, the GAO recently found that only 44 percent of the southwest border was under

operational control—44 percent. So 56 is just wide open apparently. Listen, that 44 percent, that is based on some best guess or some estimate because, believe it or not, they don't even keep the records.

Now, you know—you know as sure as you are watching this on TV or in the gallery or sitting at home thinking about it—that those Border Patrol agents and those sheriffs are keeping records of the things they do on a daily basis and a nightly basis, drove so many miles, picked up this many people coming across the border.

What happens to that information? Guess what, folks? They don't want us to have it. They don't want the GAO to have it because then we would know that our back door is wide open.

I mean, these gaps on the border lead to higher crime rates and unemployment for American citizens. It is really no more complicated than your own home. Sure, you love your neighbor to your left and your right and the people that adjoin your home to the north and to the south, but that doesn't mean that you leave your doors wide open for them to come in and go as they please at all hours of the day or night.

We want to be a country that is defined by who we are, and it requires protecting. If we are not going to define our country in those ways, why define it by having a border at all? That is what I think the President and many on the other side would propose, that we just abolish the borders. Well, guess what, folks? If we abolish the borders, we don't have any country at all.

I was thinking about another thing I heard recently. Over the last 6 years of the couple million jobs that were created in a downturn economy, almost all of them, statistically, were filled by people that weren't born in this country. Listen, it is great to have people come here and we need to have that policy, a smart policy, but our policy should be what works for America first, and securing our border and doing what works for America is the right thing to do. It is our duty. It is our oath.

Now, people say: Well, why is it so important?

Look at the crime rates. More than 40 percent of all criminal cases initiated by Federal prosecutors were in districts that border Mexico. Is anybody surprised? Do you think that that doesn't correlate to something? That means something, folks. I mean, the Governor of Texas, Rick Perry, stated more than 3,000 homicides were committed by illegal immigrants in the last 6 years.

Now, are we a nation of laws or aren't we? If we are a nation of laws, what does it matter if you have a law that you are not going to enforce? Does it mean anything? The President has not executed the law for biometric exit. That is where we determine who

you are, what you are doing here, and when you leave. Come legally, come across our border, but that is part of securing the border. But when it is time to go, it is time to go. If you want to stay, hey, that is great, but show up and let our government know that you are going to stay a little bit longer and what your purpose is. We don't want you to stay if your purpose is for something other than what it should be.

The Congress has spoken, as a matter of fact, eight times passed a law requiring an exit system at all our ports; yet the executive branch, the one who executes the laws, has decided that is not important. They are just not going to do it.

Folks, this puts us at a huge disadvantage. It makes us unsafe. We are not secure in our homes. We don't have the peace of mind of knowing that we are safe in our homes. We don't have the peace of mind of knowing that the people coming across the border are being screened for maybe diseases or criminal activity.

There is a cost to that. There is a cost in lives. There is a financial cost to that in caring for people that get diseases that we have long eradicated in America that now come across the border unchecked because our border is wide open. That is why it is important to secure the border.

It is important. Congress has spoken. Congress, the representative of the American people, has spoken eight times on this issue, and the President has just said: I can't be bothered. He designates Federal lands, and our own agents can't be on these Federal lands and do their job.

I mean, who thinks that controlling the border and securing the border means being 50 miles off the border? I guarantee you, if you are in the combat zone securing your perimeter, your border—and the gentlelady knows what I am talking about because she has been there herself, as I have been there—you secure your perimeter and you watch your perimeter right on it, not just set up a little fence or draw a line in the sand and then head to the tent and hope nobody crosses it. That doesn't work there, and it doesn't work here. Yet that is what we are doing, and we are espousing it as though it was some kind of policy that is coherent and is realistic. It is not.

Our agents want to do their jobs. They are excited to do the job, they are committed to do the job, and our Federal Government literally is standing in the way and saying: Absolutely, you can't do the job.

We can get some assistance from our State and local, our National Guard, too. I have served on that mission as well. There is a lot of opportunity there to divide the duties and the resources and make this work that is cost effective. There is a lot of expertise from a military standpoint that

can be used legally to help secure our borders, but, here again, the President can't be bothered. Mr. Speaker, it is unconscionable.

We need to keep track of these individuals with radical views. If the President had enacted the biometric requirements that have been required by the United States Congress eight times, maybe the Tsarnaev brothers wouldn't have had the ability to come to Boston and blow up people during the marathon. But we will never know because they just come and go as they darn well please to our country, and we don't ask anything. How is that securing the country? How is that good for America?

Mr. Speaker, thanks again to the gentlelady for hosting this. This is an incredibly important subject that we need to be discussing, and it is great that we have some time on the House floor to discuss this.

I hope what this does is it kind of gets the people that are watching this to say: Huh, maybe there is something to this. Maybe I should call my Representative. What does he or she think? How would he or she vote on such a border bill? Is there something missing in the bill, and is there some reason they wouldn't support the bill, and what is that? What would I like, as an American, to see about my border? Should we be letting anybody that darn well please come across the border unchecked to come into my community and do whatever they would, take my job, harm my family, or do I want something more as an American? Where does my Representative stand?

I think it is a great opportunity to call your Representative, write your Representative, email, talk to his staff and say: What does my Representative think of this?

So I appreciate the opportunity. I appreciate your leadership. I know, I have been to where you live.

Ms. MCSALLY. You know what we are dealing with.

Mr. PERRY. Yes.

I have flown on the Arizona border down there. I have crossed the border in Nogales, and I have been privileged to be there. America is not where it needs to be on this. The Congress is, but we need to pass a bill, and we need the President to execute it.

I thank you very much for the opportunity.

Ms. MCSALLY. Thank you, Mr. PERRY, and thank you for your support, again, of this urgent matter and the bill that we hopefully will be bringing before our colleagues as soon as possible, because every day that goes by is a day that our ranchers and border residents are still dealing with this.

Before I recognize my next colleague here, I just want to paint the picture of what we have seen go on in the different sectors. In the early 1990s, the San Diego sector is really where most

of the illegal activity, the transnational criminal organizations were just at will crossing into the San Diego sector. A lot was done there.

We were visiting it 10 days ago. We got to see the new tactics, the resources, the fencing, the lights, the technology. The agents there are really able to squeeze the activity related in the San Diego sector. These are living organizations, these transnational criminal organizations that are trafficking in our communities and our neighborhoods, so they react. It is like squeezing a balloon.

Guess what happened? They tightened up in San Diego, and that meant that these organizations were now coming in and out of my community. The sector in Tucson put up some fencing and other resources in more populated areas around Nogales, but then that pushed the activity out into the rural areas where the Ladd ranch is that we visited. Mr. Chairman mentioned Jack Ladd, third generation rancher, and John Ladd, fourth generation rancher, with about 10 miles on the border right there. We got to see firsthand what they are dealing with.

These organizations are nimble. They are going to respond and react, and they are going to move. As we create obstacles and we address in certain areas, they are going to move to other areas. What we have seen in the Tucson sector, from fiscal year 1998 up until fiscal year 2012, we have had the highest number of apprehensions. We have had the highest number of assaults in the last couple of years. In the last few years, we have had the highest amount of marijuana seized.

By the way, we don't know what the denominator is, though. Apprehensions is the numerator, but we don't know what the denominator is because our agents do not have full situational awareness. And you can just look at the price of drugs on the street. This is a supply-and-demand issue. If the cost is still low, which it is, it means that we are still not catching a whole lot that is trafficking in and out of these neighborhoods.

So again, the potential for violence is up, and even though the numbers of apprehensions are down in the last few years, those that live on the border—and the Border Patrol has confirmed to me the types of people that are coming—are more the transnational criminal organizations, the traffickers. It is drugs and people coming north and weapons and money coming south, and they have more of a criminal record, and the potential for danger is certainly up.

I do have some stories to share, but I know I have a number of colleagues who want to join the conversation, so I will yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HURD).

What, do you have, 800 miles? I only have 80. You have, I think, 800 in your district.

□ 1645

Mr. HURD of Texas. 820 miles of the border, from San Antonio to El Paso.

I would like to thank the gentlewoman for the time today and also for taking me to your district and seeing that part of the border. Our trip a few weeks ago was great, enlightening to me.

I have spent a lot of time crisscrossing those 820 miles of the border, and it was great to see how the San Diego sector and Tucson and my fellow Texans in McAllen are doing the same thing.

As the gentlewoman knows, I spent 9 years as an undercover officer in the CIA. I chased groups like al Qaeda and the Taliban. I have chased narcotraffickers all over the world, and the threat is increasing, and the threat is sophisticated.

The drug trafficking organizations in Mexico are making \$50 billion a year in the United States. That is a big number. Their tactics, techniques, and procedures are sophisticated, and we need to keep up. It is about moves and countermoves.

What I like about this bill is it empowers our members of Border Patrol to do their job. A lot of people talk about border security. I like to refine it a little bit. Part of it is interdiction, stopping people before they get to the border. It is grabbing them, it is having them in custody, and then it is removal. This bill is focused on this first piece of border security which is interdiction.

We need to make sure that our men and women that are on the border every single day have the tools that they need in order to do their job. It is different in Tucson. It is different in Eagle Pass. It is different in San Diego. What I like about this bill that was developed under the leadership of Chairman MCCAUL is that it gives them that freedom and flexibility.

Having spent a lot of time overseas, I know the disconnect between the field and headquarters, and that is going on right here on our border. We need to make sure that the guys and gals that are on the border have the tools that they need.

This is a sophisticated threat, as you alluded to, using ultralight aircraft to deliver their payload. They are using tactics that intelligence organizations have used all across the world to do denial and deception. We need to make sure we have all the resources—things like the aerostats, things like radar technology, things like UAVs—in order to have that combined picture of the border.

This is something that for 19 months, I talked to folks in the district. I know, like you, this was a very important issue. The American people sent us up here to do our job, and our job is to protect our citizens and to protect our homeland. This bill does it. It is a

strong bill, and I look forward to working over these next few days and weeks in order to make this happen.

Ms. MCSALLY. Thank you, Mr. HURD. Again, thank you for your leadership on this issue as well. It is great to be working together with individuals who have operational experience and understand what it takes to get the job done, so I look forward to working with you.

Mentioning the ultralights, I was with our CBP team for several hours a couple of weekends ago and was actually on a Black Hawk getting an aerial tour of the border. We tried to intercept an ultralight. We had a radar hit. We went over to the area. The challenge there is these things are small specks, and you don't have any sense of what altitude they are flying at.

We looked around. We were eyes in the sky. We were trying to find them. As quickly as we have a last radar hit, they pack up, they are out of there, or they are flying back low over the border, and we can't find them. We don't know what they have dropped and where.

These are some of the challenges that our agents have out there in trying to address this threat. It is a very nimble and sophisticated cartel, transactional criminal organizations that are reacting to us. They are much more nimble than we are.

My colleague, Mr. KATKO from New York, if you want to share your perspectives.

Mr. KATKO. I want to thank the gentlewoman from Arizona for her wonderful career serving our country. You are serving your country in a much different capacity now, but I want to honor you for what you have done for your country in the past. I also want to thank you for taking a leadership role tonight and having this session so we can discuss the border security bill in more detail.

I also want to thank Chairman MCCAUL for his great leadership and his ability and desire to empower the young Congressmen and Congresswomen, such as you and I, to take leadership roles with respect to the Homeland Security Committee.

I talk about the border security bill from a law enforcement perspective. For the last 20 years, before I came to Congress, I was a Federal prosecutor for the United States of America in the Department of Justice.

I started my career in 1994 and, soon thereafter, was sent to the southwest border in El Paso, Texas, as part of the Southwest Border Initiative. Back then, it was just simply to try and stem the incredible tide of drugs coming across the border. When I got there, I was stunned to see how wide open the border was. To my understanding, it remains so to this day.

When I was down there, I was prosecuting cartel-level drug trafficking

cases. We could get on the roof of the U.S. attorney's office and look across the border and see a cartel member's house on a bluff overlooking the United States. It was wide open, and it remains so.

It was dangerous for Border Patrol. It was dangerous for people living along the border. In some respects, it has become even more dangerous for ranchers and law-abiding citizens.

After a few years there and getting great experience and great perspective, I was sent to Puerto Rico to do similar drug trafficking prosecutions and organized crime cases, and I saw a different perspective, that of being 500 nautical miles from Colombia.

My first day in Puerto Rico, the Federal building's parking lot was lined with boats that were seized that were smuggling hundreds of kilos of cocaine at a time across the 500-mile strait from Colombia.

The last 16 years have been in Syracuse, New York, in the northern district of New York, where we have 300 miles of border with our brothers and sisters to the north in Canada.

While it is definitely a different dynamic than being on the southwest border, the fact remains that less than 4 percent of the Canadian border with the United States is secure. It is wide open. It varies from the northern plains in the Central United States to the Northeast, where there are several major cities along the border with the United States, and that brings a different problem.

In the northern district, over the last 16 years, we have dedicated several individual prosecutors to deal with nothing but alien smuggling, illegal entry cases, and major league drug cases on the northern border. We have well-worn smuggling routes in our district, well-worn alien smuggling routes.

In addition to alien smuggling, we have major drug trafficking from the north coming down south, that being hydroponic marijuana. It is a multibillion-dollar a year industry in Canada. That comes south.

It has developed now that cocaine is going north. The Canadian drug traffickers have hooked up with the Mexican cartels, and cocaine is coming north through our district. Guns are going north. Contraband cigarettes are going north. Like I said, many ethnically based alien smuggling rings are in our district.

I say all that to point to the fact that there is a problem on the northern border as well. Everything that is being prescribed in this bill for the southwest border and the southern border is being prescribed for the northern border.

The prescription for the northern border is based on discussions with Border Patrol and the different sectors throughout the northern United States, just like they did in the southwest border in the pieces of legislation regarding that.

It is the first time in 20 years of being a prosecutor that I saw a bill that actually looks like it is addressing the problem altogether, at once, and that is critically important.

While I was running for this office, I made it clear that my opinion is that we need full immigration reform, but any immigration reform has to start with securing our borders. It is foolhardy to do anything other than that.

This is the first step towards immigration reform, and I wholly applaud it. I do not think this bill is unduly burdensome to travelers coming to and from the United States on the northern border. We have many. To the extent there are burdens, we will address those.

I do say that, moving forward, this is the right bill, it is at the right time, and I applaud everyone who is supporting it, and I hope that we can get this passed.

A related bill to that, which I have submitted to Congress and will be considered as early as next week, is a northern border threat assessment.

It has become clear to me that the northern border has not had a threat assessment done in a detailed fashion like it needs to be done, so this bill simply orders a threat assessment to be done and a report back to us to see if there is any additional legislation or funding needed to address concerns along the northern border.

In short, we don't know the extent of the threat in the northern border, and this bill will help us. With those two bills combined—particularly the border security bill—I am confident that we can get a handle on the problems on both sides of the border, north and south.

I applaud you for your efforts. I applaud everyone else who is supporting the bill. I echo the sentiments of my colleagues before me, and I urge the good citizens of the United States to contact their leaders and ask that this bill get passed.

Ms. MCSALLY. Thank you, Mr. KATKO, for your leadership and the great experience you are bringing to Congress. It is wonderful to have a freshman class with people like you. You bring a unique experience. You also remind us it is not just the southern border, so thanks for your great additions to the bill.

Next, I will invite Mr. CARTER from Georgia to join in the conversation.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Thank you very much. Let me begin by complimenting you and applauding your efforts, the gentlewoman from Arizona. Your leadership in this has been invaluable. We appreciate it very much. You have taken a leading role in this.

I also want to compliment and applaud the chairman of Homeland Security, Chairman MCCAUL, for his tenacity in assuring that this gets done.

For most of us, when we go home and we talk about illegal immigration or

we talk about the terrorists or the threat of terrorism or when we talk about drug smuggling, the one thing that our constituents say is: Secure the border. Secure the border.

That is always the first thing they say, regardless of what we are talking about, whether it is illegal immigrants, whether it is terrorism, the threat of terrorism. They always say that first, and it is very important.

Now, I will be quite honest with you. I am from south Georgia, and I don't get out a whole lot. In fact, quite honestly, this is the first time I have ever been to the southwest border. I have never been to California before I went on this trip. I have never been to Arizona. Although I have been to Texas, I have never been to the Rio Grande, so it was an eye-opening experience for me.

Before I went there, I think that I was like most of my constituents and like many Americans. I would watch what is happening on TV, and I would holler at the TV: Build a fence. Build a fence.

Ms. MCSALLY. Right.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Well, after you visited and after you talked to the Border Patrol agents, after you talked to the ranchers, after you talked to the local officials, you realize that in each sector, that is not necessarily the answer—that in certain sectors, yes, a fence is needed, but in other areas, in other sectors, that is not what is needed.

We need more technology. We need boots on the ground. Those are the types of things we need in certain sectors, and that was eye opening. That was one of the takeaways that I had from this trip.

Ms. MCSALLY. I wanted to point to one of the visuals we have here. Again, this is from the area in my sector where you can see we do have a fence, but the area that is cut out here in the middle is where the cartels very quickly come up, and they cut it out, and they are across that border in a minute or 2 minutes, maximum.

I will give some other examples later, but this is just a visual example of the fence delays the activity, as you saw when you came to visit, but it is not the answer to build a fence and then walk away because they are smart, they are resourceful, they are adaptive, and they are very quickly getting through many different types of fencing, both pedestrian and vehicle fences.

Thanks for bringing that up.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Well, thank you. That was the first takeaway I had.

The second takeaway I had from this trip was, for most of us, when we think of the southwestern border, we just think about illegal immigration, but it is much, much more than that.

When you think about the drug cartels that are in Mexico, south of us, when you think about the drug smug-

glers that are bringing those drugs poisoning our children, poisoning families, ruining families, when you think about that, when you think about the terrorism threat we face as a nation, that shows you just how porous our borders are and just how important this issue is.

Again, that is why this bill is so important—because it addresses that. Yes, it addresses fencing, and it calls for fencing where fencing is necessary. It addresses boots on the ground. It helps us to bolster the number of people and the number of agents that we have in certain areas, and we need that. It also takes into consideration technology. It utilizes the resources that we have.

It is a smart bill. It is a good bill. It is a vital bill—a vital bill—to our national security. That is why I am glad I went on the trip. It was very educational, very eye opening to me.

I am supporting this bill. I hope that my colleagues will support this bill. It is essential and vital to our national security.

Again, thank you, the gentlewoman from Arizona, for the work that you are doing, and thank you to Chairman MCCAUL.

Ms. MCSALLY. Again, thank you, Mr. CARTER, for your comments. Again, thanks for coming to visit my community and listening to the residents there that are dealing with this, having that ear and coming back as an advocate and a leader on this issue. Thanks for supporting this bill. I really appreciate it.

Mr. PALMER from Alabama, would you like to join the conversation?

Mr. PALMER. I would. I want to thank the gentlewoman from Arizona for the work you have done on this. I know this has been—I don't want to say a labor of love, but you have an incredible sense of urgency, I think perhaps more than anyone that I have been involved with, a sense of how important this is.

I want to talk a little bit about the fence. Like the gentleman from Georgia, I have been to the border before but not in the context of examining our border security. I am a strong proponent of the fence. I have been all along.

What this trip opened my eyes to is the fact that the fence by itself is not enough. It is an impediment. One of the things that was impressed upon me on this trip was the sophistication of the cartels and the people across the border in breaching our fence and breaching our security.

□ 1700

There is some pretty serious engineering going on here. When we were in San Diego, for instance, we saw where we have double-layer fencing. We have got the metal mat, landing mat fence on the Mexico side. We have got the

high, the heavy gauge fence with the razor wire at the top on the U.S. side.

They are using hardened blades for laser saws. It literally takes 1 minute to cut through there. All along that fence you saw where it was patched and what the border patrol calls doggy doors. They cut it out in three places, push it open, and they are through.

The interesting thing is there, you have got 3 million people in Tijuana on the Mexico side, and you have got 3 million in San Diego. Almost the minute they are through, they are assimilated.

But the thing that is going on there is the cooperation between local law enforcement, the Coast Guard, the Border Patrol, and how diligent they are to be there immediately once that line is breached to interdict that.

They have been so effective at it that they are now pushing these folks offshore. They are using the panga boats now, and the Coast Guard, working with the Border Patrol and local law enforcement, have been so good at interdicting that they are forcing them up the coast of California. That is not the case in Arizona.

What people need to understand is that just building the fence and pulling back and thinking that is going to stop them—I don't care how high we build it, how wide we build it, how many layers we have; if we don't have people in forward operating positions to interdict these people when they are staging to come across, we are not going to stop them.

The picture that you are showing there next to you is the fence in Arizona, and the attention was drawn to where they had cut through the mesh there. That is not the thing that got my attention.

If you will notice there, those are 6-inch I-beams supported by 6-inch channel. That is quarter-inch carbon steel. That is all along that border.

They came along there, with these hardened blades, laser saws, cut through the I-beam, cut through the channel, folded it over, ramped over, and drove trucks over it.

Now, this was not reported in the national media. I am not sure that there was any discussion about it from this administration. It was the local media that picked up on it. The ranchers know about this.

But I think—and you can correct me if I am wrong—but I think they said there have been 47 vehicles that crossed over that. These are pickup trucks loaded with drugs and other items, contraband, whether it is guns or drugs or human trafficking. But that is the issue.

Ms. MCSALLY. If the gentleman will yield, I will elaborate a little bit on that. That was on Mr. Ladd's ranch less than two weeks ago, where we saw that, and they showed where they ramped over.

According to Mr. Ladd, there have been 47 drive-throughs on his ranching area in the last about 2½ years.

That particular case was caught by the Sierra Vista police, which is a town a little bit further inland, because the truck just didn't look right. It was weighed down. Its wheels looked a little funny, and they got about \$600,000 worth of marijuana, 2,000 pounds of marijuana they caught on that vehicle alone. So that is just an example of what is happening.

Mr. PALMER. Well, think about the staging that had to take place for that, that a vehicle that heavy, to be able to cross that fence, obviously—and the interesting thing is they used our own I-beam and channel to support the ramps that would bear that weight for that truck to get over it.

This is not a static situation. Just building the fence is not enough. We have got to have the aerial surveillance, the unmanned aircraft, the aerostats.

Looking into Mexico and seeing the staging that takes place for an operation like that to take place—you have been in the military, you understand this—that if you are going to—it literally looked like a military operation where they cut this down and ramped over it and drove over it.

If we are looking into Mexico and see that, we need people in forward operating bases that can react immediately, not 20 minutes later, not 30 minutes later, because they are already over and gone.

So this has got to be a combination of things. I am fine with the fence. We can build the fence as high and wide and as long as we want to, but we have got to be able to interdict.

We have got to be able to see them staging, because they are not carrying ramping material on their backs for 3 or 4 miles to the fence. This happened fairly close to the fence, and we should have been able to see that and stop it.

The other issue is the morale, and the fact that we don't—that we are not doing anything about catch and release has really hurt the morale, I think, with our law enforcement and with our Border Patrol.

And it definitely has hurt the morale of the ranchers. My heart really goes out to those guys. They have been there through many generations. They have put in their blood, sweat, and tears in this. And it is not just that they love their ranch. They love their country, and it was very evident in what they had to say.

I think it is incumbent upon us, as Members of Congress, to do our duty to protect the border.

And the other thing, again, going back to the morale, it is different in San Diego, it is different in Arizona, it is different in Texas. What we need to do—and I am very, very grateful for the work that is being done to bring alongside this bill an enforcement bill.

We have got to do this, I think, in a way that makes sense to the American people. Build the fence, secure the border, but have the right enforcement that goes along with this, that makes the work that our Border Patrol is doing worthwhile. When they catch the bad guys they need to be able to—there ought to be some consequences for it.

Earlier, Mr. PERRY from Pennsylvania made this point about, when are you forward-deployed in a combat zone, you secure your perimeter. There are consequences if you cross that perimeter a little more lethal than they would be here, but, in all honesty, we have got to do these things together.

I applaud you for the work you are doing. It is extremely important, and I look forward to working with you on this.

Ms. MCSALLY. Thank you, Mr. PALMER. I appreciate it.

Just to elaborate a little bit on what my colleague was talking about, the challenge we have—the men and women in Border Patrol are doing the best they can. They are my constituents as well. I really appreciate them every day putting on the uniform and doing the job they are doing.

But the strategy is not working for those who live in these rural areas near the border, and we need a strategy that pushes our intelligence deeper south of the border, using intelligence-driven operations, so that we can use some of these airborne assets and radars in order to detect the cartel activity, detect the movement, monitor the movement.

Then these forward operating bases are critical. The bill—in consultation with the chairman, they agreed to add in two forward operating bases in Tucson to get the Border Patrol operating right at the border so that we can either prevent the activity or they can very quickly respond to it when they see a breach happening, a challenging response time if they are further inland or in some of the tougher terrain.

So some of the things that I added into an amendment to address this issue are related to the fact that right now they are focused on defense in depth. So sometimes we are seeing mules and traffickers—and I will show a picture here—oftentimes, 30, 40, 50 miles inland.

This is just one example of mules with packs on their backs. So they are trafficking across private property while they are moving into the defense in-depth strategy, and that is just not working.

So we have got to get the Border Patrol closer to the border. I offered an amendment. I am glad the committee agreed to it, to get the Border Patrol closer to the border, have them patrolling on the south side of John Ladd's ranch and not on the north side.

Have those forward operating bases manned to the max extent possible and

also developing a quick reaction capability, so that when we see the activity happening, they can quickly get—especially in these areas of tough terrain—to stop the activity or intercept it as soon as possible when it comes over the border; because this, again, if they are coming through Mr. Ladd's ranch and some of the other ranchers', they don't know who it is. They don't know if they are armed. They don't know what their intentions are, and it puts them at risk on a daily basis.

Mr. PALMER. If the gentlelady would yield, I would like to add one other thing to that.

This bill would allow access through Federal lands, and it has created a huge impediment for Border Patrol in the interdiction of people like this, whether they are coming across on foot or coming across in vehicles, if our Border Patrol do not have access to roads through Federal land. So that is another very important component of this bill.

And then, last thing. Down in Texas we have got this Caruso cane on the banks of the river that basically is a natural hiding place for people who are crossing the river. We have got to allow our Border Patrol to take whatever measures are necessary to eliminate those type of natural hiding places and barriers to interdiction.

So all of this is extremely important. I am glad you put that picture up because I don't think people fully appreciate, when you talk about people bringing drugs across the border, the massive amounts that can cross just on the backs of individuals.

Ms. MCSALLY. Exactly. Thank you, Mr. PALMER.

Now I yield to my colleague from California (Mr. DENHAM).

Mr. DENHAM. I thank the gentlewoman from Arizona for yielding. It was a pleasure to travel to your southern border. I have traveled to the southern border of California many times. And as we saw on the entire border security trip, our entire southern border is very different depending on which State and which area of the State that you are in.

In my home State of California, we saw the jet skis that were coming along the surf that were bringing in a couple of illegal aliens at the time. We have got to be able to address that from a Coast Guard perspective.

And when you have double fencing in those high urban areas, we saw the Vietnam landing strips that, at one time, were a very good piece to add along border security when we had nothing. But now we have got to replace that with new fence that will allow our Border Patrol agents to actually see through and address it when there is a weakened area in that fence.

We have got to go much further. Along the California border we also have a number of mountains and even

cliffs where we have to address the border differently. And in your area, we saw where a truck was able to cut through, while you had a big fence, was able to cut through that fence and actually go across the border into your area, which is why we need the VADER technology.

We saw some of the technology that is being redeployed from Afghanistan, and with that infrared technology, we actually saw individuals coming across the border.

But with the VADER technology, we can actually see 150 miles. So you would see people actually lining up on the border or preparing to bring drugs across.

Now we can actually work with our counterparts in Mexico to actually go and address it from their perspective before it even gets on to American soil.

So there is much more that we can do, both with technology that is coming back from Afghanistan, coming back from Iraq, as well as new technology that will give the American public the assurance that we have the measurements and metrics in place to secure our border.

Part of our challenge right now is not knowing how many people are coming across. If you never know how many people are coming across, you can never address how many you are actually catching, and the metrics are on how many people are actually coming into our country.

If we are going to have a full debate on immigration, we have to first give the American public the sense and the security that we need and deserve, and this bill will do just that.

We have to do it now. We can no longer wait until there is another surge of 50 or 60,000 unaccompanied minors or family units that are coming across the Texas border, where they are just hopping in a boat, going 100 yards, and stepping on American soil and then looking for refuge.

We have to send that message across Central America, across South America, that we are actually sending the message that our borders are secure, and this isn't going to just be an automatic path during the summer months across that river.

Many things we can do. Many things we need to do. This bill will give us the measurements and metrics to secure our border.

Ms. MCSALLY. Thank you, Mr. DENHAM. I appreciate you coming to visit our district to see that firsthand, and I look forward to working with you as well on getting this bill across the finish line.

One thing I think is important for those who are watching to know is we have had a variety of people speak in support of this bill. Often we have different views on some other topics or even what we should be doing as we are addressing some of the other chal-

lenges related to immigration. But we are all in agreement on one thing, which is we need to secure the border; that this is an urgent issue.

Across the spectrum, this is something that unites those of us within the conference, and really should unite this body.

I know my community is a very split district politically, but everyone agrees, whether they are Democrat, Independent or Republican, they want their family to be safe and secure. They want their community to be safe and secure, and this bill does that.

So it is time that we work together to get this thing passed. So thank you, Mr. DENHAM.

I will continue to tell a few stories here from my district that I do want to share.

Mr. PERRY, I yield for just a minute. I do have a number of things I do want to share before we wrap up.

Mr. PERRY. We want to make sure that we get all the information out about this. As I said, the GAO's best estimate, I think, is about 56 percent of the border is not secured.

Another thing to mention about this bill is that we are looking for 100 percent. Now, we understand, just like law enforcement, they don't catch every criminal, and sometimes prisoners escape from prison, but we expect the warden to secure the prison, and the plan is to keep everybody in prison in prison.

But with this bill we expect 100 percent, and it is important to note that the other side would have us diminish that standard.

□ 1715

Right now, GAO is saying that 50 percent of the border is unmonitored and not secured. We actually have people in this Congress saying let's lessen the standard that we have currently right now, and the best we can get is 50-some percent.

I don't know who in their life plans to fail, doesn't plan to exceed and do the maximum. Whether it is showing up for work on time or anything you endeavor in, nobody shoots for below the bar. You shoot for the best. Yet in this endeavor, we have people literally in this Congress who are saying let's actually do less than we can do—actually, let's do less than we are doing right now. So that seems to fly in the face of what every single American, regardless of your positions on other things, feels about securing the border.

Ms. MCSALLY. Thank you so much. I appreciate it, Mr. PERRY.

Again, I have about 10 minutes to wrap up here. I do want to tell some stories related to the level of activity in the district and how it is impacting real people in southern Arizona and their families and the threat that has been increasing.

For those who are not aware, Rob Krentz is a rancher in my district, and

he was killed. He was murdered on his own ranch in 2010. This is as it was reported by The Arizona Republic:

On a breezy spring morning, a red ATV rolled across southeastern Arizona's border badlands beneath the mystical Chiricahua Mountains. A gray-haired rancher in classic cowboy attire—jeans, boots, denim vest, and shirt—was at the wheel, accompanied by his dog, Blue.

Robert Krentz, 58, was checking stock ponds and water lines on the 35,000-acre spread not far from where Apache leader Geronimo surrendered to the U.S. cavalry. The Krentz clan began raising cattle there more than a century ago, shortly before Mexican Revolution leader Pancho Villa prowled nearby. In modern times, the sparsely populated San Bernardino Valley, bordering New Mexico and Sonora, became a magnet for bird watchers and a haven for smugglers.

Krentz pulled to a stop, as he noticed a man apparently injured. The rancher made a garbled radio call to his brother, Phil—something about an illegal alien hurt; call Border Patrol. It was about 10:30 a.m., March 27, 2010.

What happened that morning as shots echoed across the grassy range would roil Arizona politics and fuel the U.S. immigration debate for years to come.

One day earlier, Phil had put Border Patrol agents onto a group of suspected drug runners on the family's land, resulting in eight arrests and the seizure of 200 pounds of marijuana.

After Krentz's broken radio transmission, family members almost immediately launched a search.

And also neighbors. There were other ranchers in the area that started this search, trying to track the killers, and they enlisted help to track the footsteps south.

Rob was found just before midnight, his body lying on the ground with his feet still inside the all-terrain vehicle. Two 9-millimeter slugs had fatally penetrated his lungs. Another bullet wounded his dog, which had to be euthanized. Krentz carried a rifle and pistol in his Polaris Ranger but apparently never got a chance to use them. After being shot, he managed to drive about 1,000 feet before collapsing.

The only immediate sign of an assailant was a set of footprints. Trackers followed them nearly 20 miles south to Mexico, where the trail vanished.

His murderers have never been caught to this day. Rob Krentz' family deals with this grief and deals with the fear of the border not being secured and what is going to happen next to them. This is very real in southern Arizona.

In 2010, Brian Terry, a Border Patrol agent, was also murdered by smugglers in our district.

On December 14, 2010, Border Patrol Agents William Castano, Gabriel Fragoza, Timothy Keller, and Brian Terry demonstrated extreme bravery while facing a lethal threat from a superior number of armed subjects suspected of trafficking drugs in the area.

And I am reading from a citation, where he earned the 2010 Congressional Badge of Bravery.

All four agents were operating as members of a small four-man rural assault element tasked with interdicting armed suspects op-

erating west of the town of Rio Rico, Arizona. This four-man element had occupied a remote interdiction site consisting of rugged, steep, and difficult terrain for a period of 48 hours without relief.

At approximately 11 p.m., the team was alerted to at least five suspects moving into the interdiction zone. Without regard for individual safety, the small team maneuvered into a position to interdict and apprehend the five individuals passing directly in front of them. As the agents identified themselves, suddenly and without warning, the subjects opened fire on them. Placing themselves at great risk of serious physical injury or death, all four agents bravely stood their ground in an attempt to provide vital protection for their teammates.

During the short and horrific gun battle, Agent Brian Terry sustained a fatal injury. Realizing that Agent Terry had been injured, the team, without hesitation, continued to selflessly place themselves in harm's way by attempting to provide lifesaving techniques for Agent Terry and providing perimeter security, preventing the assailants from maneuvering on their position. One of the suspects was wounded during the incident and was ultimately taken into custody.

Brian Terry is a hero. Rob Krentz was on his property when he was murdered. Brian Terry was brutally murdered.

Let me tell you another story, one of rancher Kelly Glenn Kimbro, a fourth generation rancher. I am reading from an email that she sent to me in June, just an incident that she had on her ranch east of Douglas.

A couple of days ago, I was driving from the Malpai Ranch to Douglas on Geronimo Trail. At mile marker 11, I could see motion ahead of me in the road; and as I approached, 13 men formed a barricade with their bodies across the road. I slowed and tried to pass on the right. They moved right. I had locked my doors as I approached and my windows were up.

Knowing that I had to either run over several of them, I stopped. They immediately surrounded my truck. Two fellows stood in front of my truck with their hands on the hood, holding me in place. Several guys started to climb onto the running boards and into the back. One was rummaging around my tools. I was thinking that if he proceeded to break a window that I would possibly use my pistol. I was not sure if I was being hijacked or what.

Think about it. This is a woman alone in her truck, with 13 men stopping her in her trucks.

I put my window down a couple inches and told them to get back. They started talking English. They were frantic to have me take them to the "police." They stated they were from India. I talked them out of my truck and back onto the side of the road, promised them I would, no doubt, call Border Patrol, and they let me leave.

Yep, scared me for a few minutes.

Let me tell you, Kelly Glenn Kimbro is a tough woman. She is a rancher. She is a mountain lion hunter. She is cool under pressure. How would you behave in that circumstance?

The challenge that she has—and she has got an 18-year-old daughter who often drives home alone. They are having to make life-and-death decisions.

How did she know that they were not armed? How did she know what their intentions were? And if she decided to hit the gas and did harm them, then they would be questioning her actions because they were, in fact, unarmed.

This is just the type of circumstances that these people are dealing with, just living in their own homes, just going in and out of their own community, just traveling to the store and going about their business.

There are a couple of other stories.

Gary Thrasher is a rancher and veterinarian who has worked and practiced in Cochise County since 1984. Over the past 30 years, he has seen how border security issues have led to dramatic changes in the county's way of life.

Gary lives about 3 miles from the border. Over the past 4 years, 11 of his ranch family clients have sold out, and that has had a big economic impact on his practice as well. They have just decided to give up. They can't afford to ranch in the area under this danger anymore. Many of those families have just said that they can't deal with the threats and the anxieties of life along the U.S.-Mexico border; and for the ranchers who remain, it has become increasingly hard to find people who want to work on their ranch near a border that is constantly crossed with these transnational criminal organizations.

Another rancher shared, anonymously, that he has got a couple of houses, one 2 miles and one 40 miles from the border, and he has got far more trouble at the house 40 miles from the border. He has had, according to him, 15 to 16 break-ins, home invasions, and one of them was just 3 weeks ago.

One last story from another rancher. He and his son, they said they left the ranch. Someone broke in, stole food, and then they left. The next day, they saw individuals moving north. The son pursued them, and the Border Patrol then captured them. It turned out, according to this rancher, that, after breaking into his ranch, they broke into a hunter's property and stole a weapon. The pistol was ditched before they were caught but connected back to them. Who knows what their intentions were.

This is the challenge that these people have.

The rancher talked with the migrant criminal. And he said he admitted to being a lifetime criminal and a repeat offender. He is just used by these traffickers going back and forth. He was detained for 2 days, and he wasn't charged with weapons charges or multiple entries, and he was sent back to Mexico, again, to probably be used by these transnational criminal organizations.

This is very real to southern Arizona. The transnational criminal organizations are daily trafficking.

There is another photo I have right here, and you can see on the other side of the photo, a number of individuals that are just mules. They are packing drugs, and they are just going through their property.

There are other photos I have here related to some of the ranchers who—there is just no fence. Again, as we talked about earlier, the fence is not the only solution, but fencing will at least delay the activity. This is just one of the rancher's pictures of just a barbed wire fence that is easy to be cut through on foot or with a vehicle.

So I am urging my colleagues to pass this border security bill. I am urging those who are listening to please contact your Members of Congress in the House and the Senate. Let's not play politics with securing our border. Now is the time.

These ranchers have put up with this for decades. They have cooperated with Border Patrol. Border Patrol is doing the best they can, but we have got to change the strategy, and we have got to address this issue. It should be a bipartisan issue and something that unites us. Let's get the job done so we can protect the people of southern Arizona, the people of Texas, the people living in other border communities, and our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the leader for allowing me to be a designee for this moment in time.

I am also very appreciative for this special time. This is Black History Month, and it is a very special month in the life of African Americans. But if the truth be told, it is a special month in the life of all Americans because Black history is American history.

I had the opportunity just a couple of nights ago to appear on the floor with a couple of my colleagues, the Honorable DONALD PAYNE, JR., from New Jersey and the Honorable ROBIN KELLY from Illinois. They were here to have a Special Order hour. I want to compliment them because that Special Order hour, indeed, dealt with a lot of Black history. They talked about 50 years from Selma—where we were, where we are now, and where we are headed. They did such a great job that I thought it appropriate to acknowledge the outstanding effort and the fact that a good number of Members were very supportive of what they did. I am honored to also say that we plan to continue that tonight with this Spe-

cial Order time, and we will talk about Black History Month, but from a slightly different perspective.

We are honored to say that this resolution that we have introduced into Congress—it was introduced on January 6, 2015—this is the ninth time that I have had the pleasure of introducing this resolution, and it has 24 original cosponsors. And I want to thank all of the original cosponsors for being a part of helping this resolution come to the floor for this Special Order time.

We are not here for the purpose of passage, but we are here for the purpose of expressing much about Black history and explaining why this resolution is so important. It is important not only to me and the people in my district, which is, quite frankly, one of the most diverse districts in the country—in my district, the ballot is printed in four languages: English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Chinese. Hence, Black History Month is important to not only the African Americans in my district, but all of the other friends, associates, and constituents that I have in my district. They constantly talk to me about Black History Month. We talked about other aspects of history as well, but tonight we will focus on Black history.

It is important to note that this is the 100th anniversary of the organization that promoted and promulgated Black History Month. This organization, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, founded by the Honorable Carter G. Woodson, is the organization that has carried the torch, the flame of hope for history to be inclusive, and they have done an outstanding job.

There was a time that I can remember in my lifetime, in my history book, when there was little mention of the accomplishments of African Americans in history; and in world history, even less. I remember one of my books proclaimed that the reason there was little mention of the nations, the countries in Africa was because they contributed very little to history. Literally, that was the kind of statement that I had to read as a child.

Well, I am honored that we have come a long way from a point wherein we were rarely included to a point where we are included, but I think not enough yet. My hope is that at some point in time we won't have a Black History Month, we won't have any type of history month other than history on a daily basis, because at that point in time we will have included all persons and all of the great cultures in this country in the history of our great Nation.

□ 1730

Black history does not mean that Black people assume that they are better than anyone else. It just means that they would like to be included in

history because they believe that no one else is better than we are. We are all the same. We are all God's children, and we all bring special talents and special attributes that make this great country the wonderful place that it is.

Tonight, in talking about this century of Black life, history, and culture in this, the United States of America—and we could make it the world—but let's just talk about the United States since the organization the Association for the Study of African American Life and History was founded in the United States—this is the 100th anniversary—I will ask the question and give some examples of why this question is so important.

The question that I pose tonight is with reference to the giants that we know about in history, and we stand on the shoulders of giants—we all do—the shoulders of giants, people who have done great things to make it possible for us to have these great opportunities that we have, people who suffered many of the slings and arrows of life so that others could have a better quality of life. Many of them are well known. We stand on the shoulders tonight of giants.

The question that I pose is: Whose shoulders do the giants stand on? If we stand on the shoulders of giants, whose shoulders do they stand on?

Thurgood Marshall, one of the greatest litigators in the history of the United States of America, won 29 of 32 cases before the Supreme Court. He was a great litigator and went on to become a Justice on the Supreme Court of the United States of America, the first African American, a giant.

I stand on the shoulders of Thurgood Marshall. A good many people in this Congress stand directly on the shoulders of Thurgood Marshall, in that we are here because of some of the litigation that he won before the Supreme Court of the United States of America. We stand on the shoulders of Thurgood Marshall.

On whose shoulders does Thurgood Marshall stand on? Well, the person that probably shaped his legal career more than any other was the honorable Charles Hamilton Houston. Charles Hamilton Houston was a Harvard lawyer. He was a person who was the dean of the law school at Howard University.

He was the person who concluded that the Constitution of the United States of America did not condone "separate but equal," the person who is said to have killed Jim Crow, the person who was a part of all of the lawsuits of the civil rights era from 1930 to 1954, including *Brown v. Board of Education*, the honorable Charles Hamilton Houston. He is the person that cultivated and mentored Thurgood Marshall.

Thurgood Marshall came to Howard University after having been a reject at

the University of Maryland. He tried to get in, and he could not. In a strange sort of way, it compels me to say: Thank God for the University of Maryland because had they not rejected Thurgood Marshall, he would not have come to Howard University.

There is a good likelihood he would not have met Charles Hamilton Houston and, as a result, may not have acquired the intelligence that Charles Hamilton Houston provided a plethora of lawyers about the Constitution as it relates to "separate but equal." It was Thurgood Marshall who became his prize student. Thurgood Marshall, along with Charles Hamilton Houston, became two of the great litigators to bring down Jim Crow.

One of the cases that Thurgood Marshall and Charles Hamilton Houston brought before the Maryland Court of Appeals, the one that stands out more than any other, is the case of *Murray v. Pearson*.

In that case, Murray wanted to get into the University of Maryland as well. Isn't it ironic that Thurgood Marshall, who could not get into the institution and who went to Howard University, had the opportunity to become the understudy, if you will, of the honorable Charles Hamilton Houston? Isn't it ironic that the circle comes back to the University of Maryland with one of his first cases after completing law school?

Thurgood Marshall was the lead counsel, along with the honorable Charles Hamilton Houston, against the University of Maryland to bring about an opportunity for the use of the doctrine of "separate but equal" being attacked with constitutional provisions, and they were successful.

I am proud to know that while Thurgood Marshall is the giant, a Supreme Court Justice, Thurgood Marshall is known far and wide for his legal prowess. He stood on the shoulders of an even greater giant, an unsung hero to some extent. Well, now, we do know much more about Charles Hamilton Houston than previously in previous years.

It is important to note that he is not the person who has received all of the glory, all of the platitudes, and all of the accolades that Thurgood Marshall received, but he was the architect. I am proud to say that Thurgood Marshall stood on the shoulders of a giant.

Let's go on. Let's talk now about another giant of the civil rights-human rights movement, and that was Rosa Parks. Everyone knows the story—most everyone does—about how Rosa Parks decided that she was going to take her seat. Rosa Parks was a giant. She decided to take a seat in what was, at that time, a racist Southern town.

The story is told that Rosa Parks was tired and that she just had to take her seat because she was tired—not true my friends, not true.

Rosa Parks was an officer in the local NAACP. Rosa Parks was a person with great standing and credibility in her community. Rosa Parks had stature. Rosa Parks had the backing of the NAACP. Rosa Parks had people who could get her out of jail.

She had people who could work with her and help to stage, if you will, in the minds of some, this moment in time when she literally decided that she was not going to move back nor stand up so that her seat could be held and had by a person of a different hue.

It was a bold thing to do. It was a very bold thing to do in the South, the segregated South at that time, the segregated South where the Constitution accorded us all of the rights of other citizens, but our friends and neighbors denied us those rights that the Constitution accorded us. This was the segregated South, and this was Rosa Parks. She decided to take that seat, backed by the NAACP and backed by a host of persons who were prepared to work with her and support her.

The truth be told, the honorable Rosa Parks, who is considered by many the "mother of the civil rights movement," the honorable Rosa Parks stands and stood at that time on the shoulders of a giant. She stood on the shoulders of a giant that we rarely hear about and rarely read about.

It is the story of a giant who was but 15 years of age at the time she made her mark, if you will, in history. It is the story of a giant who was arrested 9 months before Rosa Parks for doing the same thing that Rosa Park did. She was a 15-year-old girl, Claudette Colvin. She was the first person arrested under the circumstances comparable to Rosa Parks in Montgomery, Alabama.

She went to jail. Little is known about her. Little is known because it was thought at the time that she was not the ideal person around which to rally. It was thought at the time that a more senior person was needed, a person who had greater standing in the community. She was not that person.

Ah, but here is where history—history—tells the story. She was one of four people to file the lawsuit—the lawsuit—that ultimately ended segregation of the bus line in Montgomery, Alabama.

Although Rosa Parks, Dr. King, and the multitudes marched and protested, they marched and they protested for approximately a year or more, it was not the march or protest that actually brought about the ending of this form of invidious discrimination. It was really the lawsuit, *Browder v. Gayle*. It is important to note that there were four plaintiffs in the lawsuit and that Claudette Colvin was one of those four plaintiffs.

It was that lawsuit that made the difference in the lives of not only those people in Montgomery, but people

across the length and breadth of this country because that was one of the first times that the opinion expressed in *Brown v. Board of Education* was expanded to include public transportation. That was an important, significant event in history.

It was Rosa Parks who received a lot of the credit. I love her, and I think she deserves all the credit she received, but I also think there are these unsung heroes and heroines who have not received their fair share of credit for what they too have done. In fact, they are the shoulders that giants stand on. Claudette Colvin is the giant on whose shoulders Rosa Parks stood on.

Moving to another giant, we all know of Dr. King, and last week and earlier this week, we talked a lot about Selma, and we talked about the march that took place there.

In talking about that march, we talked about how people assembled at a church, and they decided that they were going to march peacefully from Selma to Montgomery. As they proceeded to march, they came to a turning point in history. They came to one of those seminal moments in history that will forever define the life of a country, to be quite candid.

They came to the Edmund Pettus Bridge, and they confronted the constabulary on the other side of the Edmund Pettus Bridge. If you have not gone to the Edmond Pettus Bridge, you should go and see the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

If you understand the times that these persons were living in, you have to realize that these were some brave, courageous, and bold souls to be willing to march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, knowing that the constabulary was on the other side with clubs and on horses.

You have to ask yourself candidly: Would you have confronted what you knew was waiting for you in the form of possible death on the Edmond Pettus Bridge?

The Honorable JOHN LEWIS indicates that he thought he was going to die that day because, when confronted by the constabulary with these clubs, they beat the marchers all the way back to the church.

If you see the movie "Selma," you can get a fair depiction and representation of what happened on the Edmund Pettus Bridge. There will be another march this year across the Edmond Pettus Bridge. For those who are interested, I am Congressman AL GREEN. You can call my office, and we will tell you about it. You might want to join us.

Let's talk about the Edmond Pettus Bridge and this march. Dr. King was not there for Bloody Sunday. There were reasons that compelled him to do some other things in his life. There were other persons there. The Honorable JOHN LEWIS was one of them.

In a sense, when Dr. King came back—or he came to Selma following Bloody Sunday to march, he was standing on the shoulders of those who had already gone before him and confronted this constabulary.

Let's really take a closer look at the history—at the history that we rarely talk about and hear about as it relates to the Edmund Pettus Bridge because there is a person that I conclude is the greatest unsung hero of the civil rights movement who had a hidden hand in the march from Selma to Montgomery.

□ 1745

When they went back to make the final march with Dr. King, as they moved across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, they had a hidden hand that had signed a court order. That court order was signed by the Honorable Frank M. Johnson, a Republican appointee to a Federal court, appointed by the Honorable President Dwight Eisenhower.

Frank M. Johnson signed the order clearing the way for them to march from Selma to Montgomery. And it is interesting to note that he was a contemporary of George Wallace. In fact, they were classmates. He and George Wallace had a constant confrontation, a mild form of confrontation, sometimes it got a little bit more than mild, but they continually battled each other. Frank M. Johnson was so much of an impact on the times that he had to be guarded 24 hours a day. He was a Federal judge unlike any other. In fact, Dr. King said he put the justice in the word "justice," the Honorable Frank M. Johnson.

So the question becomes, on whose shoulders did Dr. King stand on that day when they marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge? On whose shoulders did the marchers stand on? They stood on the shoulders of a hidden hand of the civil rights movement, the Honorable Frank M. Johnson.

Frank M. Johnson integrated schools, he integrated the jury system. He changed the face of the South, and so little is known about this giant on the shoulders of whom many of the great icons of the civil rights movement stood on that day. This is not to demean or diminish—obviously, we can't—the role of Dr. King and the Honorable JOHN LEWIS; this is simply to say there are others whose stories are not told enough, whose stories should be told more.

And on an occasion like this when we want to celebrate Black history, I think we have to acknowledge that there were unsung heroes and heroines on whose shoulders many of the giants stood on. And we also have to acknowledge that many of these unsung heroes and heroines are not of African ancestry. You see, there really is a White side to Black history. Frank M. Johnson is a part of this White side of Black

history. But we also must know that Frank M. Johnson, the great hero that he was, is not in the history that we speak of, is not celebrated to the extent that he should be.

So tonight, I want to say to the family and friends, relatives, those who knew him, we celebrate him tonight. We celebrate the Honorable Charles Hamilton Houston tonight. We celebrate the Honorable Claudette Colvin tonight. These are persons who were in the shadows but who made a difference, and giants stood on their shoulders.

Now to close. Let's go back to the Edmund Pettus Bridge because a significant thing occurred. At the Edmund Pettus Bridge when they marched across, at that time there were five African Americans in Congress; there were four Latino Americans in Congress, Hispanic Americans; and there were three Asian Pacific Islanders in Congress. Now, rather than five African Americans, we have 48. Rather than four Hispanic Members, we have 38. Rather than three Asian Pacific Americans, we have 14. I would also note that there were 14 females in Congress at that time. We now have 104.

Crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge provided the world an opportunity to see the horrors of invidious discrimination, of onerous segregation, the horrors that people, decent God-fearing human beings in the South, had to suffer. And it provided the President of the United States, the Honorable President from the State of Texas, Lyndon Johnson, the opportunity to sign the Civil Rights Act of 1965.

That Civil Rights Act is in no small part why I happen to stand before you in the Congress of the United States of America. I stand on the shoulders of many giants. Many of them are known to us, but there are a good many of them who are not known to us, and I am proud to say that during this time of Black History Month, it is appropriate for us to acknowledge them and celebrate them for what they have done to make it possible for many of us to have the opportunities that we have.

And today, as we look back and we revisit the Special Order hour, "50 Years Ago From Selma: Where Are We and Where Are We Headed?," I must tell you, in concluding, that we are headed back to the future. We are headed back to the future because the Civil Rights Act of 1965, which accorded us the many opportunities that we have today, that Civil Rights Act of 1965, section 4 of it has been eviscerated. And as a result of the evisceration of section 4, we have seen, unfortunately, section 5 of the act lose its potency because without section 4, you don't have a section 5. Section 5 has been emasculated; section 4 eviscerated, section 5 emasculated. Section 5 is there, but it does not have the coverage areas that it is to address. And so

without section 5, we find ourselves back to a point in time wherein we will have to again relitigate the whole question of the right to vote, to a certain extent—very limited—but also in this context the means by which we were able to secure many of the seats in Congress that the 48 Members presently enjoy.

So without that section 5, an effective, potent section 5, we find ourselves with a circumstance where we are looking back now to that future, that future that is going to require us to do some heavy lifting to reinstate section 4 of the Voting Rights Act.

And, as they marched once before, we will march once again this year. My hope is that we will be able to in this Congress come to a bipartisan conclusion that section 4 of the Voting Rights Act is still important to a good many people, and that we will work together to revitalize section 4 of the Voting Rights Act so as to give section 5 the potency it needs to provide the coverage that has been of great benefit to us.

Mr. Speaker, I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to share these thoughts at this moment in time about some of the great heroes and heroines and some of the unsung heroes of the civil rights movement. I thank you, and I thank the leadership for allowing us this time to celebrate Black History Month in these, the great United States of America. God bless you, and God bless our great country.

I yield back the balance of my time.

AMERICA'S NATIONAL CONVERSATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) for 30 minutes.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, first, if my friend, Congressman GREEN, wouldn't mind staying a moment, I would like to offer a few comments on what you said. Unfortunately, I missed the larger body of your talk, but I would like to add a few things, if you don't mind.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. I welcome the opportunity to stand with you, my dear friend. Thank you.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. I think it should be acknowledged that we were elected at the same time.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. We are classmates.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. We are classmates. While we are on different sides of the political aisle, nonetheless I hope that you consider me as much of a friend as I consider you.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. I do. And if I may say, I rarely think of sides of the aisle when you and I are talking. It doesn't become a significant factor in our lives as we converse and we celebrate our friendship.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. I would like to note a couple of things you pointed out in your speech, and then you can move on with your evening. I don't want you to stay through my other comments, but nonetheless, you said a few things. You talked about the important progress that has been made in this country, and I think that is notable. You talked about that particularly difficult period in the 1960s, and you referred to Black History Month as America's history month as well. I think those are all notable comments, and I wanted to tell you that.

In that tough time, something happened to me that I would like to share with you. I was not born in the State that I represent. Nebraska is my home. It is where I have decided to raise my family. It has given me a bounty of opportunity, and I am so privileged to be a Representative from Nebraska. I was born in the Deep South in a State where segregation and racial difficulties were particularly difficult.

When I was in third grade, it was time for my birthday, and we had a birthday party and I invited all of my classmates. This was basically a White, middle class stable school in a stable neighborhood, but there was one African American family, either because of the beginning of desegregation that was taking place at that time or because they lived in proximity, they were at the school. One of the young boys was named Philip Brown. He was not only my classmate, but my friend. So I invited all of the boys, including Philip, to my birthday party. Philip didn't come. And I saw him on the Monday afterward and I asked him, I said: Philip, I didn't see you at my birthday party. Why didn't you come?

He said: I did. They wouldn't let me in.

Now this is an 8-year-old child.

I remember then thinking during the party, my father had come over to me and whispered in my ear, in terms of the time, he said: Jeffrey, is Philip a Black boy?

And I said: Yes, and I didn't think any more about it.

He had to go outside. My father had to go outside and talk to Philip's father because the establishment there, unbeknownst to us, but the establishment didn't let in African American children.

Now, I want to fast-forward, though. I told that story to my little children. I have five daughters, and they are growing up now, but I told this to them a few years ago. To your point about progress being made, they were visibly upset. They said: Daddy, you have to go find Philip. You have to go find him.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. What a wonderful thought.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Because they were deeply touched, wounded, if you will, by this story. How could this happen to a little child?

But I think you rightfully acknowledge that those days are behind us. And through all of the difficulties, toils and struggles that occurred, thankfully they are behind us. And I think what you said is appropriate, that Black History Month ought to also be called America's History Month because these chapters are an important, essential part of our national fabric and our national culture.

Again, I didn't intend to dialogue with you. But I was sitting there thinking of this, and I have never shared that story publicly. But I think the main part of the story is the painful look on my own little children's faces when they heard that, and I think that means good progress.

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. I appreciate you sharing that vignette with me because it is very much heartfelt. It is good to have a person to tell the actual story. If you have read it, you will know of what I speak; if you haven't, I commend it to you—Dr. King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail."

Mr. FORTENBERRY. I am very familiar with it.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. It is one of the greatest pieces of literary history, saving a few holy books, I would say. It is absolutely one of the best stories of what that time was like. Dr. King talks about how he had to explain to his children why they couldn't go to a certain theme park, and how he could see the clouds over their heads as they were saddened by their inability to go to the theme park because of who they were.

I ask people to please read that letter because it really parallels what you are saying tonight here on the floor of the House of Representatives. You are right—we have come a long way from those times. These times are difficult in a different way, however. There is still great work to be done, and you and I can work together to get some of this additional great work done.

But notwithstanding all that I have said tonight, I conclude with this: On a bad day, it is still good to live in the USA.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Amen.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. On a bad day when your spouse wants to leave you, or on a bad day when your puppy wants to bite you, let your puppy bite you and let your spouse leave you, in the United States of America, on a bad day, it is still good to live in the USA.

□ 1800

Mr. FORTENBERRY. I thank you for listening to me and your commentary tonight. Let's continue our robust friendship and our collegiality as we work through differences and difficulties, which are inevitable in a body like this where there are indeed philosophical divides.

There ought to be certain principles that unite us, and I have myself quoted

from Dr. King's letter in the Birmingham jail in other speeches.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Thank you very much.

Mr. POE of Texas. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FORTENBERRY. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank you for yielding. I won't take all of your time.

You and I, our careers have mirrored. We both became lawyers the same year, and we both started at the courthouse in Houston I think the same year—'73, '74, right in there.

Of course, you were on one side, the defendant side, and I was on the prosecution side. We worked before the same judges. You and I both became judges about the same time and then we left the bench at the same time and ran for Congress and joined Mr. FORTENBERRY in the infamous class of 2004 or '5.

I do want to make this comment that things at the courthouse during all that time changed a great deal as to who was at the courthouse in the courtroom representing either the State of Texas or the citizen accused, as you referred to him.

Were you the first African American to practice in the courtroom? Or was it Ned Wade or Ron Mock? Which one of you was it?

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. I was not and probably someone prior to Ned Wade. There were other lawyers who were there long before us.

Mr. POE of Texas. It has changed a great deal. In fact, the judge who took my place is an African American judge at the courthouse in Houston. It is hard looking back on history to realize things were not always that way at the courthouse and the legal profession as they were in many other professions.

I think your accomplishments as an attorney and as a jurist are admirable. They have served the State of Texas quite well, but you fought a lot of battles during that time as well, and I want to thank you for fighting those battles.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Well, thank you.

I know that your time is of the essence, and you have been very generous with me, Mr. FORTENBERRY.

Will the gentleman allow one additional comment? The Honorable TED POE and I have had a friendship for many, many years. He is imminently correct. We were on different sides of the table, literally, in the courtroom, but we never allowed many of the political maneuvers of the time, the political issues of the time, to prevent us from being friends, and we brought that friendship to the Congress of the United States of America.

While there is still great work to be done—even in the courts, there is still great work to be done. There is great work to be done in the area of litigation that still is matriculating through

the courts, but we still have to acknowledge that it is a better time to do it now than to do it then.

We have greater friendships and greater opportunities. On a bad day, it is still good to live in the USA.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. A great expression. Thank you.

Thank you, Judge POE.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Nebraska has 20 minutes remaining.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Before I deviated, I had some other thoughts that I wanted to convey tonight. Mr. Speaker, let me start out with this thought.

It is a high goal, a principle, that I think across this body we all share, and it is this: Americans deserve a smart and effective government. I don't think nor do I think many of us believe that Washington should be mired in mediocrity, nor should we be divided by class or income, but I do think we have to acknowledge several difficult truths.

I think our national conversation should also start here. The reality is we have a tale of two very different economic recoveries. One recovery was working pretty well for transnational corporations, many of which are subsidized indirectly by the state, but the other recovery is not working quite as well for everyone else.

Too many families are facing downward mobility, stagnant wages, and an increased cost of living, and many feel abandoned by a Washington and Wall Street axis. There is an incomplete picture being given, I think, in the dynamics of the statistics that are now being promulgated about the current economy.

Yes, we have some good news. Energy prices have significantly fallen, and that is taking a lot of pressure off a lot of sectors and a lot of individuals. Some recovery is happening.

But as the head of the Gallup organization points out, the recent reports that the unemployment rate has dropped to 5.6 percent are really quite misleading. The Department of Labor doesn't count those who are trapped in unemployment and who have stopped looking.

In fact, the further you unpack these statistics and you look at what is causing the causal relationship here is, unfortunately, we are entering into a period of what I am calling an entrepreneurial winter, where there are more small businesses dying than there are being born; in other words, the net outcome of small business creation is in a negative range for the first time in the history of our country.

The reason this is significant is this is where most jobs come from. Most people in America are working hard

and are looking for their opportunity in small business. We are not talking about larger entities, which have an important role in not only economic recovery and in creating employment for many, but small businesses are where the majority of jobs are created.

It is also where this dynamic of an interdependent economy, a healthy economy, is really born, an opportunity economy, where the benign forces of competition create a certain interdependency between the one who is making a good with their own two hands or their intellect and selling it to another who needs that good and, in turn, reinforcing a social dynamic that is essential to personal well-being and a healthy economy.

Well, how did we get into this position? I think we have to analyze this as well.

Mr. Speaker, I received a phone call last spring, and the gentleman was very, very eager to talk to me, so I called him back. In fact, he was so eager to talk to me that he was actually sitting at the Nebraska spring football game where the white team versus the red team, they play it out.

This is a big deal in Nebraska. Tens of thousands of people actually go to this game. He was sitting in the stands, and he took his time out from watching the Nebraska spring game to talk to me which is a high honor.

He wanted to point out that he was a small business person. He owned and started a heating and air-conditioning business and, until very recently, had five employees. Because he could see what was coming—particularly in health care—he got rid of all of his jobs, and it is just him now.

If you ask the question—and analytics are showing this—as to why small businesses are not taking proper risk going out into the marketplace to create new products and hire people, there are two simple—this is a bit simplistic—but two answers are what come forward. The first is health care, and the second is regulation.

You see, in the name of trying to create an orderly and just and fair economy when Washington overreaches and creates an environment that is setting up the guardrails for proper economic function, if it is too heavyhanded and it is penalizing those who don't have an army of lawyers and accountants and regulatory personnel, that means that the playing field suddenly shifts toward much bigger entities that, in many ways, can become impersonal.

The more Washington imposes regulatory burdens that are affecting the outlook and expectation of small business people, the more they are hesitating to hire.

The second factor is health care. Now, I think we have to have this hard conversation. We have a broken health care law. The Affordable Care Act, as it is called, could be called now the "Unaffordable Care Act."

The law was designed to fix some real cracks in our system that were very evident. People with preexisting conditions or people being priced out of the market were having a very difficult time finding health insurance, and that needs to be addressed, and it needs to be addressed through Washington policy.

But we need a health care system that is focused on decreasing cost and improving health care outcomes while also helping vulnerable persons. What we have gotten now is higher escalating cost, fewer choices, and a dampening effect on the entrepreneurial small business economy—again, where most jobs come from. It is not me saying this. This is what the statistics are bearing out and the research is bearing out; and it is a hard, hard reality.

Instead of just saying "no" to the Affordable Care Act, those of us who have said "no" many times also have a responsibility to find a responsible replacement in public policy for us—again, one that is going to increase competition, improve health care outcomes, give additional choice, while also decreasing cost, and protecting vulnerable persons.

Mr. Speaker, I think Americans deserve the best possible health care outcomes in the world. The question is how do we get there?

Well, from my perspective, a new framework, a new architecture of approach is needed, but it basically expands a policy that we already have.

A long time ago, I had a very significant headache. I was in my twenties. I carried my own health care policy, and it was very expensive, so I had a very high deductible.

Because the headache was particularly severe, I decided: Well, I assume the family physician will probably just send me on to a specialist.

So I called the ear, nose, and throat specialist directly and went and got an appointment. She did an x-ray and said: I can't really tell from the x-ray, so I am going to have to do a CAT scan.

I said: Doctor, is that really necessary? You know, I understand the problem of liability and the need to push the boundaries on testing. Is it really necessary?

She asked me directly, almost kind of indignant, she said: Why are you talking to me about this? I said: Because I am paying for this. My deductible is very, very high. I am actually paying the cost of this test. I just want to know if this is absolutely necessary. Help me to make that decision.

She said: Oh, yes, of course, it is necessary. But now that you said that, I am just looking at your sinuses, so why don't we call places in town that have the machine and see if they will widen the cross section and give you a discount? I said: Great.

In 3 minutes, she had her assistant call. We found a place in town that was

about \$75 cheaper than normal. The doctor got the test that she needed. Perhaps most importantly, in the aggregate, the resource was more properly allocated, all because I had the incentive to ask a simple question because I was actually paying for the test.

Now, we have a policy that encourages health savings accounts. Some Americans have them; some Americans don't. They are not appropriate for every American, particularly Americans who are getting older and at the ending point of their professional careers, because health savings accounts coupled with catastrophic insurance are a very, very proper way, I think, to manage health care when you are younger and in middle life. We ought to be expanding this.

The second point is: How do we get there? Guaranteed access to affordable, quality catastrophic health insurance with health savings accounts.

What you get for that is you are protected. If something really goes wrong, if you are in the hospital in the emergency, you shouldn't be put in the position of asking: Who is the chief anesthesiologist around here? I need to compare prices.

No, in those scenarios, you are protected. But in ordinary health care decisions, in partnership with your doctor—health care provider—making prudential decisions about what is really necessary and what is not, I think this is a mechanism by which we can again significantly empower families to save money, control their first health care dollar cost, and be protected at the same time.

The health savings account is a tax-preferred vehicle whereby money is set aside on a tax-preferred basis and accumulates over time. Now, most people in their lifetimes don't get significantly sick, so there is the opportunity here again for young people to begin to set aside money in this tax-deferred account that actually helps them pay for when ordinary medical expenses arise. Then again, if something really goes wrong, you have catastrophic insurance.

Over time, these accounts would become larger and larger and help supplement retirement, help supplement the Medicare system, strengthening those important retirement security programs.

□ 1815

I think this is a key to reworking our current health care model, not for everyone, but an expansion of this opportunity, I think, is the right architecture in moving forward for the next generation, particularly, so that we guarantee access to affordable, quality health care.

I think we carry forward some important provisions in that no one with a preexisting condition can be denied. I

think the provision whereby children can stay on their parents' health care longer, now until age 26—I actually supported that before the new health care law—is smart policy. We remove caps on insurance, but that doesn't save any money. It just penalizes those who get really sick. We carry those provisions forward, again, to protect persons in a vulnerable circumstance, but we give everyone the access to affordable, quality health insurance.

There is a lot of detail that would go into how you would make that happen—whether or not you would spread that cost over the entire market through regulation or whether you would subsidize it like the government does in other insurance markets, like flood insurance and crop insurance. Nonetheless, I think that is the right framework and architecture for a robust, competitive health insurance marketplace that is going to improve health outcomes, reduce costs, and protect vulnerable persons.

What will we get if we do this? What will we get if we are courageous enough as a body to step forward and say, "Do you know what? We can do better. Americans deserve better than the current arrangement"?

We will get peace of mind for ourselves and for our doctors. I think this would go a long way toward helping resolve the underlying problem here of stagnation in the economy, particularly among those who want to be entrepreneurs—small business persons who are creating jobs, those who have a gift or an idea and who want to take a little risk but who now aren't empowered to do so because of the environment that has been created that has dampened their ability to seize this opportunity. This would be the key to unlocking a healthy economy, one that is focused on opportunity for all.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

THE STALKING GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 30 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, just a few weeks ago, this Chamber was filled with Members of the House of Representatives, and all of us stood up and raised our right hands, and we took an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. It is the same oath the President takes and that others take—the military. We do that for a lot of reasons, but the main reason is that, in this country, the Constitution is paramount to all other law. I agree with that philosophy. The Constitution, I think, is a marvelously written document, as well as the Declaration of Independence, which justified the reason for us to start our own country.

Attached to the Constitution is what is commonly referred to as the Bill of Rights—rights to the people and prohibitions against government intruding on those rights. They call it the "Bill of Rights." There were originally 12, and 10 of them passed. That is why we have 10 instead of 12 under the Bill of Rights. I would like to start and talk about only one of those rights. Since there are only 30 minutes, I am going to talk only about one of those, and it is the Fourth Amendment. Let's go through it together, Mr. Speaker.

The Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution:

"The right of the people"—that is us—"to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated"—that sounds pretty absolute to me—"and no warrants shall issue but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched and the persons or things to be seized."

Now, you don't have to be a legal scholar or a lawyer to understand what this is talking about. It is the right of privacy—that government could go into our homes and our effects and our things and our stuff. It generally cannot do that except under circumstances which require that they go get a warrant.

I used to be a judge. Judge GREEN, who was just in here a while ago, used to be a judge. What that means is the police, generally, go to the judge and say: "Judge"—in a written document with the affidavit that they swear to—"the affidavit states we believe—I believe—that there are," let's say, "drugs—cocaine specifically—in Bobby Oglethorpe's home." Bobby Oglethorpe is a notorious Texas outlaw, so I am going to use him as the one. It describes what they are looking for. They say where it is, and they give the address of where Bobby Oglethorpe lives in Houston. Then I read it to see if it states probable cause.

What does that mean? There are a lot of definitions to it, but, basically, the statement proves, with the affidavit of the peace officer, that there is probable cause to believe that that item is where the police officer says it is, and is drugs, so that would be illegal.

The judge signs the warrant. What that does is it orders the police officer to go to that specific location in a certain timeframe. You can't do it, like, forever. You don't have 6 months to go look for it. It is usually 3 days. You go over there, and you search that address, looking for that specific stuff—cocaine, drugs—that is in the possession of Bobby Oglethorpe. Then the police officer normally would leave a document with the person at the house as to what they seized.

The officer comes back to the judge and says: "Judge, I executed the warrant you gave me to Bobby

Oglethorpe's house, and I brought you back the return on the warrant—what I seized—because I was ordered to go get it.” Then he files the return in the court with the clerk, and that varies from State to State.

Basically, the concept is, before government goes into your house or other things, an independent person—a judge—has got to separate the law—the police—from the citizen and make an independent decision as to whether or not what they are looking for is where it is, or they have not established probable cause. Now, that is a generalization of the whole concept of a warrant.

Why do we even have these things? It goes back to our history, our American history. Everything seems to be based on history, and it is good that we reflect on it.

Back in 1761, America was not a country, it was a colony, made up of 13 Colonies. At that particular time—this is not a new thing about warrants, this is not a new thing—British subjects who lived in England, specifically, had the right to have what was called a “specific warrant” issued against them before they would have to give up the item, as opposed to what I will show you as being a general warrant.

Generally speaking, before a magistrate in England would allow some British subject's home to be searched, the peace officer would have to go to a magistrate and show some specificity as to where the document or the item was, with some type of probable cause, but in coming to the Colonies, that was not true. English magistrates who ruled over the Colonies did not give colonists the same protection as other British subjects back in England. So what would occur is this:

Those colonists, it has been said, were hiding rum, rum that had been brought into the United States—the Colonies—and other things, and they had not paid the tax on the rum. So the British would go to a magistrate and say: “Give us a general warrant to go search,” let's say, “Bobby Oglethorpe's great, great, great-grandfather. We will search his warehouse to find any items that may not have been stamped with the appropriate tax.”

The colonists didn't like that. That is a general warrant. You have got a piece of paper from a magistrate, saying, “Ah, go over there, and look around. See if you can find something that is illegally in the possession of colonists without the Stamp Act on there.” These were called “writs of assistance.” They were called “general warrants.” They are pretty much the same thing. I won't go into the difference of those two individuals.

With the colonists being the type of folks they were in Massachusetts, they took them to court. They took the British Crown to court. Their lawyer was James Otis, and he protested in a courtroom, saying, “Your warrant is

not specific enough. It is too general.” The British judge, magistrate, ruled against the colonists, and there were several businessmen who were being sued in this case.

Now, that may not seem like a big deal, but John Adams, who later became President of the United States, observed all of this, and he said that act was the spark which originated the American Revolution. What is that? It is the act of government invading the privacy of the colonists. He said that sparked the American Revolution, what we now call the “Fourth Amendment,” because the colonists weren't protected from unreasonable searches and seizures. They weren't protected from specific warrants saying specifically what they were looking for in a specific place based on probable cause. The local magistrate would just write out a document, saying, “Go over there and look at this warehouse, and see if you find any,” in this case, “rum that doesn't have the stamp, that doesn't have a tax on there.”

Our history shows that this is an important concept. Now, what does it require?

It requires a specific warrant as opposed to a general warrant. It requires that it be specific as to what you are looking for. It has got to be based upon probable cause. It just doesn't give the police the authority to go into someone's home and look around and see if you find some contraband. You have got to have it based upon probable cause, sworn to, and it is limited in scope, as required under the Fourth Amendment, which we will read again if we have enough time.

The right of privacy was important to our ancestors—it is in the Fourth Amendment—and it is important to Americans today. We are a little unique on this right of privacy. It is really not one of the things that a lot of other countries have. Remember, it is not supposed to be violated by government, our right to be secure in our homes and in our effects.

So here we are in 2015, and where are we?

This morning, somewhere in the United States, somebody woke up and sent out some emails and made a phone call. A person may have had a meeting, so he got his little iPhone out—5 or 6 or whatever it is—and pulled up Google maps to figure out a route to get from where he was to where the meeting was. He took his vehicle or maybe jumped in a cab and checked Facebook if he were in a cab, on the phone, texted his friend, and maybe even played what is now something fun, I guess, for some people—“Candy Crush”—on the iPhone.

After the meeting is over with, this individual may head off to the office, log onto the computer, do a little G-chatting with a friend about where he planned to go for dinner that evening,

and later that evening, he uploads a photograph from supper, as we call it in Texas, on his Instagram. That is, maybe, a typical day for a lot of people.

But, all during that route of the American citizen's, the Federal Government has the ability to stalk that individual every step of the way because of the devices that he is using electronically. Maybe, until last year—until some news came out by the national media—most Americans were unaware that their every move could be tracked by Big Brother. Through the NSA, which I call the “National Spy Agency” now, the government has the ability to read citizens' emails, to read their texts, to know their phone logs, to track the location and travel and movements of citizens, to snoop and collect information about individuals through smartphones, apps, to read G-chats, and to look at private photographs—all unknown to the citizen.

The failure to disclose any of this information until recently is why many Americans now fear government intrusion—I call it government stalking—into our lives. The stalking government has kept its Peeping Tom activities a big secret until, primarily, Edward Snowden told us all about it.

□ 1830

His issue is a different issue, but now we know about it.

So how did we get here? Over the years, technology has rapidly changed and given power-hungry—my opinion—bureaucrats the capability to sift through data and find out more information than ever. Just because they have the physical ability doesn't mean that they have the constitutional right or any right to violate the Fourth Amendment because this protects Americans. The Fourth Amendment doesn't protect government; it protects Americans. It protects citizens.

The government seems to justify the snooping, the Peeping Tom for a couple of reasons. The White House, the administration claims that NSA has no interest in monitoring American citizens; they are just looking for bad guys. Well, I have a hard time believing that. Until evidence came out to the contrary, the NSA, it seems, was snooping and spying on lots of Americans in the name of trying to catch the bad guys.

Furthermore, NSA, when they did a little investigation, they found dozens of instances where their own employees misused intelligence capabilities to spy on people—ex-girlfriends and others. Why? Simply because they had the ability.

So we have learned for years that the NSA has quietly, in my opinion, snooped and spied on millions of Americans without a warrant—and that is the key—and without their knowledge

and without their consent. This is justified for a second reason, based upon the name of national security. It is said we live in terrible times. We do. We have got these terrorists running all over the world, bad guys trying to hurt us, so we at the NSA need to get this information to protect Americans from these bad guys.

Well, let's analyze that just for a moment if we can.

We have heard reports that, well, we have caught a lot of bad guys because of this information that NSA has seized, this megadata. So during a Committee on the Judiciary hearing last year, I asked Deputy Attorney General James Cole this question: How many criminal cases have been filed based upon this massive seizure of information by NSA, collecting information on Americans without the use of a warrant and storing it? And to my knowledge it still exists. How many criminal cases?

He testified: Maybe one. Maybe one.

So this nonsense about we are doing all of this because we have to catch the bad guys, they have got one criminal case that they can talk about. Even if there were more, it does not justify, in my opinion, the massive seizure of data without constitutional safeguards.

Let's read it one more time. "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue"—in this case no warrants at all are issuing—"but upon probable cause supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

That is not what is occurring. It is just massive amounts of information are being seized.

Let me try to describe it this way. Let's go back to Bobby Oglethorpe. Let's say that Bobby Oglethorpe lives close to where I do in Atascocita, Texas, and the police come to me as a judge and say: Judge, we know that Bobby Oglethorpe lives in this ZIP Code here, but we don't know where he lives, and he is no good. He is a criminal, and he is in possession of firearms and drugs, and all kinds of illegal things he has done, but we don't know which house he is in in this particular ZIP Code, so we want to go search all the houses in the ZIP Code and hopefully we will catch him.

No judge in this country would sign a warrant and say: All right. Have at it. Start searching all the houses looking for this one guy with all this bad illegal stuff that he is in possession of.

No judge would do that. Why? Because it violates the Fourth Amendment. Why? Because it is not specific enough. It is a general warrant, like the British were imposing on the Colonies that, as John Adams said, sparked the American Revolution. Wouldn't do that.

Or another example, it is like finding a needle in a haystack. The government wants to seize the whole haystack. They can't do that. They have got to find the needle. They have got to be specific in their warrant. So, in my opinion, based upon the Fourth Amendment, the activity of the NSA, by seizing lots of data, violates the Fourth Amendment of the Constitution.

There are other examples.

So we talked about NSA seizure of data, and to my knowledge, like I said, they still store all this information.

May I inquire of the Speaker how much time I have left?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 12 minutes remaining.

Mr. POE of Texas. Thank you. I appreciate it.

NSA. Let's move on to what is called ECPA. We will talk about the IRS a little bit.

This spring, most Americans are going to be filing taxes, their tax returns, and many Americans, including me, are concerned about the IRS' ability to take information from Americans without their consent or without a warrant. Sometimes that includes emails. So let's talk specifically about the concept of government seizure of emails without consent of the person who sent it or received it and without a warrant.

Current Federal law is that, if somebody has an email within 6 months of when that email was sent, that email, to be obtained by government—not just law enforcement, but any government agency—they have to get a warrant to seize that. But as soon as that 160 days runs, past 160 days, the government doesn't get a warrant because the law doesn't require it. I think in the spirit of the Fourth Amendment, the Fourth Amendment should require that.

Email, what is email? That is an electronic message sent to another person.

Let's go back to regular mail or snail mail, which some people call it. If I write a letter and I seal the envelope and I put the postage on there and I send it, go put it in the mailbox, one of those blue mailboxes, and I drop that in the mailbox, the government does not have the authority to go in that mailbox and take the letter out, read the letter, seize the letter without a warrant.

So it flows through the United States postal system from wherever to wherever, and it lands in somebody else's mailbox. That mail, generally speaking, is protected under the Fourth Amendment, because it violates the Fourth Amendment if government seizes it and goes into the contents without a warrant.

The same should apply to emails. It is communication. It is just done electronically. But the law does not allow—let me say it another way. If emails are over 6 months old, Ameri-

cans should be aware of the fact that government may seize those emails from a private company without your knowledge, without your consent, and without a warrant.

That is why I have introduced, along with Representative ZOE LOFGREN from California, that the law should be that emails are protected, that it is a right of privacy and it is an expectation of privacy for Americans that emails be protected and that government should be getting a warrant before they seize those documents, because it is a violation at least in the spirit of the Fourth Amendment. I hope that that legislation does finally come to the floor and we get a vote on protecting the Fourth Amendment, the right of privacy for Americans when it comes to emails.

The same applies not only just to emails, but under the circumstances, it would apply to geolocation devices that the government knows where you are. I think the government, to keep up with you, needs a warrant to stalk you throughout the United States.

The third thing I wanted to mention in the remaining time is a completely different issue, but it has to do with drones, the right of privacy. We are in the drone age. It is estimated that by 2030 we will have 30,000 drones over the skies of the United States, 30,000 of them.

Drones are a marvelous invention. They are highly technical. They can be very small. You can get one at a local store that you can put in the palm of your hand. No question about it, there are good uses for drones. Right now the law is that the FAA regulates the use of drones throughout the United States. It may permit some; it may not permit, may refuse to permit them. It is a bureaucratic decision by the FAA.

Congress needs to weigh in on the issue of drones and set down constitutional guidelines. People need to know the rules. Law enforcement needs to know the rules, and private citizens need to know the rules about their use of drones. And basically, the Fourth Amendment ought to apply to the use of a drone except with the exigent circumstances that already apply to the Fourth Amendment—high-speed chases, disasters, fires, et cetera—but we need some guidelines on the issue of drones.

Congress has the responsibility to protect the Fourth Amendment of the surveillance of Americans by either law enforcement or by private citizens and develop a standard for both law enforcement and for private citizens to know what the standard is. Yes, there are reasons why we should use them, and the law should allow those, but Congress needs to make the decision, not the FAA.

I have a local sheriff, or the sheriff in Texas where I am from. He generally says he doesn't want to use drones because he doesn't know what the courts

are going to decide down the road as to whether or not that use of a drone was a lawful or unlawful violation of the Fourth Amendment. So rather than wait for the courts to decide if this specific use is or is not a violation of the Fourth Amendment, Congress needs to come up with guidelines about the design and the protection of the Fourth Amendment that drones can only be used in certain circumstances; otherwise, they are not allowed to be used because they violate the Fourth Amendment of the United States.

So those are three issues that have the right of privacy that are being, I think, chilled today because there is more and more government intrusion into all of those areas: into the massive data of phone information, information that is put on your iPhone, for example, that is being seized, can be seized without knowledge, without warrant; the massive amount of emails that can be seized—we really don't know how much is being seized because over 6 months your personal email is not protected by law; government agencies, not just law enforcement, can seize that—and then the skies will have 30,000 of those drones.

There needs to be some regulations within protection of the Fourth Amendment, and we need to work with industry and government to outline what those rules ought to be to protect the Fourth Amendment, protect the right of privacy of individuals to be secure in their homes, in their papers, and their effects from government intervention and government intrusion. Congress should set the standard for what a reasonable expectation of privacy is, especially in those areas that I mentioned and the one regarding drones as well.

So I hope that we see some movement in this legislation. Once again, ZOE LOFGREN and I have introduced legislation, as well as others, to protect the right of individuals to be free from searches of their emails after 6 months without a search warrant. We have that legislation pending as well. Hopefully, we can rein in what I call the stalking government about stalking American citizens.

America is not about keeping up and following every citizen in the United States by government. That is what other countries do. That is what countries like the Soviet Union used to do. That is not what America should be doing, and Congress needs to weigh in on this to protect individuals' right of privacy under the Fourth Amendment, which was the spark, according to John Adams, to the American Revolution, that concept of the Fourth Amendment being violated.

And that is just the way it is.

I yield back the balance of my time.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 30 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentleman very much for the yielded time, and I thank the floor staff and the representatives of the Democratic cloakroom, Republican cloakroom for their courtesies.

I want to join my good friend who was on the floor earlier this evening. I was detained in a diplomatic meeting. I could not join my good friend, Congressman AL GREEN, as he began to commemorate and salute Black History Month.

□ 1845

This is story of a proud people, of Americans who participated in every historic event since the founding of this country and whose ancestors proudly wore the uniform on many occasions, including the uniform in the Civil War and wars beyond.

Tonight, I come to salute both national heroes and local heroes from Houston, Texas, and—in particular—the 18th Congressional District.

This, in fact, is the 39th commemoration of Black History Month, and we celebrate the contributions of African Americans who have contributed to the history and the greatness of our Nation.

We pay tribute to trailblazers, pioneers, and leaders, like many of us know, such as Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall; United States Senator Blanche Kelso Bruce; a U.S. Congresswoman from my congressional district, the Honorable Barbara Jordan, who most recently sat amongst us, retiring from the United States Congress in 1978–79; U.S. Congressman Mickey Leland, who lost his life trying to provide food to hungry people in Ethiopia; astronauts like Dr. Guion Stewart Bluford, Jr., and Mae C. Jemison; Frederick Douglass; Booker T. Washington; James Baldwin; Harriet Tubman; Rosa Parks; Maya Angelou, who taught me at Yale University; Toni Morrison, a premier writer; along with another outstanding writer as well, Gwendolyn Brooks—just to name a few of the countless well-known and unsung heroes whose contributions have helped our Nation become a more perfect union.

The history of the United States has been marked by the great contributions of African American activists, leaders, writers, and artists. As a Member of Congress, I stand on those shoulders.

Their struggles and triumphs made it possible for me to stand here today and continue to fight for their values and really the values embedded in what America is all about: the values of

equality and justice, progress for all, regardless of race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation.

Mr. Speaker, I have two very special giants. They are my mother and father. Mrs. Ivalita "Ivy" Jackson, a vocational nurse, and Mr. Ezra C. Jackson, one of the first African Americans who was welcomed for a short period of time into the growing comic book publishing business during World War II.

That was the entertainment. Many Americans found stories of joy, drama, various superheroes, monsters, and a number of other things in the comic book business.

In New York City, a young man by the name of Ezra Jackson was given the door as the youngest son of my grandmother, Olive Jackson, who had sent three sons off to World War II. My uncles each fought. The youngest son was to stay with his widow mother. In doing so, he found in himself a talent.

Even today, I am very proud to say that his works have been shown in the Smithsonian. He is just an individual, one might say average man—an African American man—who suffered the indignities of discrimination and later found no place in that industry as he was being replaced by White citizens.

I know that their strength—a mother in her tenacity and longstanding work at Booth Memorial Hospital—was the foundation for myself and my brother Michael Jackson and now with many who have come behind. They were beloved parents, and they taught me the value of education, hard work, discipline, perseverance, and caring for others.

I know this is not family night, but I cite my husband, Dr. Elwyn Lee. He became the first tenured African American professor at the University of Houston School of Law.

There are many today that make their pathway standing on the shoulders of others. The most wonderful tribute that I like is to our military veterans who, as I indicated when I started, have fought in every war since the Revolutionary War—how amazing.

These people came first in the bottom of a belly of a slave boat as slaves. They can count their history to every single war, fighting on behalf of the sanctity and the security of our Nation.

I remember joining Congressman JOHN LEWIS and Congressman CHARLES RANGEL, a Korean war veteran, as we were invited to pay tribute to the Tuskegee Airmen and the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, the famed "Triple Nickels."

I was honored to be able to be at that ceremony sponsored by the U.S. Army commemorating the 50th anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Everything that we have gained has been because our soldiers, regardless of their race, religion, or background, were able to put on the uniform. I am

very grateful to say that so many of those who put on the uniform, even when they were treated in an unfair manner in this country, proudly put on that uniform and fought for the Nation.

I am reminded of all of them, Mr. Speaker, because they live amongst us in our communities, and as we have seen in the honoring of the Devils yesterday, we see that they are so proud to wear their uniform. They have fought so hard.

Let me salute all of our veterans and soldiers, and let me be reminded of those from the African American community who went to serve, even as the laws of this Nation did not treat them fairly.

I am well aware of the Tuskegee Airmen because my father-in-law was a Tuskegee Airman, along with his wife, who was one of the supporters. Phillip Ferguson Lee and Ethiopia Lee, now 94 years old, received a Congressional Gold Medal.

Of course, we know the story of the Tuskegee Airmen achieving one of the lowest loss records of all the escort fighter groups and being in constant demand for their services by the Allied bomber units, a record unmatched by any other fighter group.

You know something, Mr. Speaker? These brave men and women, no matter—as I indicated—what race, it is so interesting. They do not tell their story often. That is why I am so glad that the United States Congress over these last years has begun to honor all of these groups so that their story can be told and forever embedded in the history of this Nation.

I want to go on to say that the impressive feats of the Tuskegee Airmen were outstanding and astounding. I believe that their efforts and much of the success of African American soldiers in World War II caused, in 1948, to persuade President Harry Truman to issue his famous Executive Order—which I am so glad he issued—No. 9981, which directed equality of treatment and opportunity in all of the United States Armed Forces and led to the end of racial segregation in the United States military forces.

One person to tell that story in the eloquent way that it has been told is General Colin Powell—or the famous Davis generals, “Chappie” Davis was who was one and well known—but Colin Powell tells that story.

Clearly, these individuals bravely fought for their country, but they show that they had the right stuff. They are American history, and they certainly are a testament to Black history.

Clearly, what began as an experiment to determine whether “colored” soldiers were capable of operating expensive and complex aircraft ended as an unqualified success, based on the experience of the Tuskegee Airmen, whose record included 261 enemy aircraft de-

stroyed, 148 aircraft of the enemy damaged, 15,553 combat sorties, and 1,578 missions over Italy and north Africa.

They also destroyed or damaged over 950 units of ground transportation and escorted more than 200 bombing missions. They proved that “the antidote to racism is excellence in performance,” as retired Lieutenant Colonel Herbert Carter once remarked.

I take joy in this presentation and sharing this with my colleagues. It is Black History Month, but sometimes, we need to remember to say thank you to all Americans who have gone on before us. This month, we happen to be focusing on African Americans.

Who can forget United States Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm and the strong voice that she was for the vulnerable? A lady from Brooklyn, her first appointment in this Congress was to the Agriculture Committee. No, she didn't run away from it. She ran toward it. Her famous statement is: “A tree grows in Brooklyn.” She ran for President. She made history there.

There are others like Harriet Tubman—we call her General Moses—who led slaves to freedom up and down the east coast. She had a sharp tongue and told anybody that was lagging behind: You aren't going to stay behind because, if you did and got caught, all my others who are trying to escape would be captured.

Certainly, Rosa Parks, who was a proud American, had the great fortitude—although a small woman who did tailoring work—to indicate in a way that subjected herself to being put in prison, put in jail, is that: I, too, am an American.

I am so glad that Mae Jemison lives in my community. I obviously represent the city that loves NASA and loves human space exploration. Mae Jemison, the first African American woman to go into space, now has dedicated herself to exposing young people to math, science, engineering, technology, and creating more astronauts for the restored and reinvigorated human space exploration. That is a good thing. That is a very good thing.

I believe we can look to work together in the 50th year of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. I am a member of the United States Congress and the Judiciary Committee, led by a man who made history himself at that time, JOHN CONYERS, who has served in many capacities but has been a chair of the Judiciary Committee, being the first African American to ever chair that committee, but also a man that at every cornerstone of justice has a fight, whether it is sentencing, whether it is prison reform, whether it is dealing with the issues of copyright, whether it is the social justice issues.

Let me say he was the first employer of Rosa Parks outside of her town of Alabama where she made her historic stand in Montgomery, Alabama. She

worked for Congressman JOHN CONYERS.

I mentioned this is the 50th anniversary of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. We all know the story. I knew the story beforehand. I worked for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Right after the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, I knew the names of Hosea Williams and James Orange and Ambassador Andrew Young as those who worked closely with Dr. King. Certainly, Reverend Jesse Jackson had moved up to Operation PUSH.

I say that to say that we know the story that it was the throngs of unnamed persons who pursued a simple right: the right to vote. I believe their heroic efforts have made it part of America's history.

I always believed one vote, one person is not for me. It is not for whether you are White or Hispanic or Asian or African American. It is for America. I truly believe that they made the first step to tell America that a vote should be unfettered for every citizen.

You should not be blocked from voting—and I hope, Mr. Speaker, we will get to that point—not selfishly for one group versus another, but I hope we will get to that point for all of America.

I think in this month of Black history commemoration, I need to give a challenge. That challenge needs to be that we need to pass the Voting Rights Act reauthorization as was crafted in the last Congress and supported by bipartisan Members.

I had the privilege to be one of the original cosponsors. Former Congressman Spencer Bachus was on that bill with me. We had seen each other and marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. He was, of course, a Representative from Alabama. There was no forcing, no pushing.

It was just quiet thought that this was the right thing to do by a number of Republican Members who supported that legislation in the last Congress, including one of the esteemed former chairmen of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. SENSENBRENNER.

□ 1900

But it was all about thinking that it is important not to block anyone from voting. I still think that that is the right thing. I think the premise is right. I think it is premised on the Constitution.

There is no statement about voting in the Constitution, but there are statements of philosophy and rights and liberties, all driven by someone's right to vote for a government that will promote religious freedom, freedom of access, freedom of the press, freedom of speech, the right to a trial by jury, due process.

Certainly, we know the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments were all geared toward the idea of freedom. And you

can only secure freedom, one, by your wonderful men and women who are willing to stand in uniform and fight for us, many who have gone through the ages and shed their blood.

But the other is an active and involved and participatory civic society, and the actions of a civic society are their voice and their votes.

I plead with my colleagues, let us make the vote and the voice real by supporting the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act, written to respond to the United States Supreme Court.

I may have disagreed with the Supreme Court's position on section 5, but, Mr. Speaker, I have a basic internal mechanism that says you adhere to the law. You follow the law. You follow the dictates of the courts as they reach their final answer in the highest Court of the land.

So we went to working on a structure that, in fact, was not pointed but broad, meaning that you would not point out certain States, you would just say that you couldn't violate a person's right to vote.

And the good news is, you had the ability to work yourself out of the coverage of that act. That is a good thing—work yourself out.

Then, if a State—though I don't think it might happen with the diverse States that we have—wants to work its way in, we find a way to correct their laws that might be blocking someone's right to vote. I am going to have the confidence that we are going to take that up and make a difference in the lives of all Americans.

Let me move on to say that I hope my challenge will be accepted, and I hope that we will take the words of Dr. King. I enjoy reading his writings. He was more than, if you will, the civil rights leader. He was a man who thoughtfully crafted words and messages to inspire and give us a road map.

He had these famous words, "Why We Can't Wait," which were found in the 1960s. What a provocative statement. Is he trying to provoke people to violence? Absolutely not.

He was a committed, dedicated servant and disciple of Gandhi's non-violence, and his own internal mechanism of nonviolence. It was in his DNA. He would not provoke any form of violence.

We should know that because, as the story looks back and things happened, if you were part of the SCLC, they were driven, they trained all of their foot soldiers in an absolute commitment to nonviolence. And if you showed any sign that you could not adhere, you would not be part of their efforts.

Dr. King had some famous words that I like. I know and like many of his words, but this one: "Everybody can be great or anybody can serve. You only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love."

Let me also say, Mr. Speaker, it is important when you come up and talk

about great people, that you don't forget home. And I just want to acknowledge some of the great leaders in my community. I can't call all their names, but I do want to acknowledge Reverend F.N. Williams, Sr., one of the founding pastors of the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church. His father was almost the founding father of Acres Homes, one of the great leaders in the 1920s and 30s, and he has carried on his civil rights legacy.

Dr. S.J. Gilbert, Sr., who led the Mount Sinai Baptist Church.

Reverend Crawford W. Kimble, who was the pastor of Barbara Jordan, an erudite man that wrote beautiful words of leadership and challenge.

The late Reverend E. Stanley Branch, in essence, a Republican, who was a leader who brought all people together.

Reverend Dr. William A. Lawson, the founder of the Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, who walked with Dr. King and is the go-to person on issues of, again, marching and fighting nonviolently for justice.

Reverend Johnny Robeson, who was a great leader of the Baptist Ministers Association. And I remember him distinctly not indicating what politics or party it was, but is it right, is it just?

Commissioner El Franco Lee is the first African American Commissioner on the Harris County Commissioners.

Mr. John Bland, one of the Texas Southern University students who marched to desegregate the various lunch counters.

Ms. Ruby Mosley, up in age, who is a fighter for senior citizens and is a mother of Acres Homes.

Ms. Dorothy Hubbard, the late Dorothy Hubbard, who, in fact, worked in my office and instructed me about how you serve and help people.

Ms. Doris Hubbard, one of the first young persons to be active in the Texas Democratic Party and who has been a champion for equality and justice.

Willie Bell Boone, another one who minces no words about fighting to make sure that everyone's voice is heard.

Holly HogoBrooks, who, again, is a great leader as it relates to the civil rights movement and the marching on the counters.

Mr. Deloyd Parker founded this great organization called Shape, that has lifted the boats of inner city children, one by one. And out of that Shape Community Center have come doctors and lawyers, have come scientists and businesspersons. But they all have a heart for service.

"Doll" Carter, Ms. Lenora Carter, with her husband, was the founder of the Forward Times, I believe, the oldest newspaper.

So you can see that Black history is a storytelling history.

And so, as I close my remarks, I have to take a moment of personal privilege

to be able to talk about something that I have enjoyed.

You see, Mr. Speaker, around this time of year, in Houston, we have something called the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. It is eons and decades of years old. It goes back to our traditions as cowboys and cowgirls, and we are not going to let it go.

So every year—we are coming up on it—it is probably going to go for, we say, almost two months that we are legitimately in our cowboy, cowgirl attire.

I was privileged to be honored by the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Black Heritage Committee, which I helped found 20-some years ago because I knew that the Black cowboys and others wanted to be so much a part of it.

I want to pay tribute to Verna Lee "Boots" Booker, who was the first cowgirl, if you will, to be in the Houston rodeo. And I received that award. What a privilege to acknowledge that we are everywhere. She was a competitor, and I believe it was in the barrel competition. But what an exciting night to recall her history.

So we are going to be rodeoing over the next couple of weeks, and I want to pay tribute to all of the trail riders, and particularly, those of African American heritage. They have carried on this tradition.

I want to make mention, I know there are many others, but allow me to make mention of the Prairie View Trail Ride Association, which makes its annual trek to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in Hempstead. They rendezvous with a dozen other caravans at Memorial Park and they join the rodeo.

Mr. Speaker, they stay out on the trail. This is real. They don't get into a hotel and then get on their horses. They ride that trail for 2 and 3 and 4 weeks, and then come down to the rodeo on the day of the big rodeo parade.

The Prairie View Trail Ride was founded in 1957 by James Francies, Jr., Dr. Alfred N. Poindexter, and Myrtis Dightman. I know there are others, but these are those who started.

Their mission was to promote agricultural interest in young Americans and to perpetuate those principles and methods which have come to be regarded as the ideals and traditions of the Western World as well as the Negro Western Heritage.

I am glad that they wanted to perpetuate this great tradition and, particularly, among African Americans.

A good many of the first Black cowboys were born into slavery but later found a better life on the open range.

I know many of us have heard of the Buffalo Soldiers. The Indians called African American soldiers that because of the wooliness of their hair. They were on horses, and they were fighting as well for the viewpoint of that time.

Some Black cowboys took up careers as rodeo performers, or were hired as Federal peace officers in Indian territory.

Our history weaves in and out, and it is a colorful history, and it mentions a number of people. I will mention Daniel W. "80 John" Wallace, who started riding the cattle trails in his adolescence and ultimately worked for cattlemen Winfield Scott and Gus O'Keefe. He put his accumulated savings toward the purchase of a ranch near Loraine, where he acquired more than 1,200 acres—that is a big deal—and 500 to 600 cattle.

We have been ranching for a long time, and Texas has a great tradition.

I want to talk about my friend, Mollie Stevenson, a fourth-generation owner of the Taylor-Stevenson ranch. I would take my children out there. She would have little horses and ponies for them to run and ride. She founded the American Cowboy Museum to honor Black, Indian, and Mexican American cowboys, to be able to embrace everyone.

Weekend rodeos featuring Black cowboys began in the late 1940s and continued to be popular. The contests of the Negro Cowboys Rodeo Association is evident that we have a strong history.

So I think it is important tonight that we salute the long history that we have had in many different areas and be able to say, as I close, again, that there is work yet to be done in the pouring forward of our history, whether it is to reflect on the cowboys who, at times, were poorly fed, underpaid, overworked, deprived of sleep, prone to boredom and loneliness, but they kept on going; or it is to fix the criminal justice system of the 21st century, to be able to recognize that for all the cowboys and the historic persons whose names I have called, Dr. King and his wife, who stood alongside him, Coretta Scott King, that we fix together the criminal justice system, and that we work to find ways to work with law enforcement; but we answer the questions of those grieving mothers, Trayvon Martin's mother, Eric Garner's mother, Sean Bell, Michael Brown, Tamir, and all of them, and we find ways to ensure the wives and family members of law enforcement, that, yes, your husband or wife, as a law enforcement officer, will come home.

Over the years, I have worked with the Federal law enforcement as a member of the House Judiciary Committee. We have always found ways to make their life easier in terms of the quality of life and work and expanded cops on the beat programs, and so now we can come together on training and the grand jury system and prison reform, which are not prone to any one group in America. It is an American issue.

I truly believe that the history of all people, the history of Americans, no matter what their background, is one

of clinging to democracy and the principles of the Bill of Rights, that we all have a decent opportunity to be respected by our law enforcement processes. Whether it is our courts or whether it is our process of trying cases, we all are to be respected.

With that, Mr. Speaker, let me say that I end on the very note that this is a great country, and the history of African Americans has contributed to its greatness. Let us use the richness of their history to cast forward a new lot that will change America for the best as we move forward for justice, equality and freedom.

Mr. Speaker, this February we recognize and celebrate the 39th commemoration of Black History Month.

This month we celebrate the contributions of African Americans to the history of our great nation, and pay tribute to trailblazers, pioneers, heroes, and leaders like Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, U.S. Senator Blanche Kelso Bruce, U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, U.S. Congressman Mickey Leland, Astronaut Dr. Guion Stewart Bluford Jr. and Mae C. Jemison, Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, James Baldwin, Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Gwendolyn Brooks just to name a few of the countless number of well-known and unsung heroes whose contributions have helped our nation become a more perfect union.

The history of the United States has been marked by the great contributions of African American activists, leaders, writers, and artists.

As a member of Congress, I know that I stand on the shoulders of giants whose struggles and triumphs made it possible for me to stand here today and continue the fight for equality, justice, and progress for all, regardless of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation.

The greatest of these giants to me are Mrs. Ivalita "Ivy" Jackson, a vocational nurse, and Mr. Ezra A. Jackson, one of the first African-Americans to succeed in the comic book publishing business.

They were my beloved parents and they taught me the value of education, hard work, discipline, perseverance, and caring for others.

And I am continually inspired by Dr. Elwyn Lee, my husband and the first tenured African American law professor at the University of Houston.

Mr. Speaker, I particularly wish to acknowledge the contributions of African American veterans in defending from foreign aggressors and who by their courageous examples helped transform our nation from a segregated society to a nation committed to the never ending challenge of perfecting our union.

Last year about this time, I was honored to join my colleagues, Congressman JOHN LEWIS and Congressman CHARLES RANGEL, a Korean War veteran, in paying tribute to surviving members of the Tuskegee Airmen and the 555th Parachute Infantry, the famed "Triple Nickels" at a moving ceremony sponsored by the U.S. Army commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

The success of the Tuskegee Airmen in escorting bombers during World War II achieving one of the lowest loss records of all the escort fighter groups, and being in constant demand for their services by the allied bomber units—is a record unmatched by any other fighter group.

So impressive and astounding were the feats of the Tuskegee Airmen that in 1948, it helped persuade President Harry Truman to issue his famous Executive Order No. 9981, which directed equality of treatment and opportunity in all of the United States Armed Forces and led to the end of racial segregation in the U.S. military forces.

It is a source of enormous and enduring pride that my father-in-law, Phillip Ferguson Lee, was one of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Clearly, what began as an experiment to determine whether "colored" soldiers were capable of operating expensive and complex combat aircraft ended as an unqualified success based on the experience of the Tuskegee Airmen, whose record included 261 aircraft destroyed, 148 aircraft damaged, 15,553 combat sorties and 1,578 missions over Italy and North Africa.

They also destroyed or damaged over 950 units of ground transportation and escorted more than 200 bombing missions. They proved that "the antidote to racism is excellence in performance," as retired Lt. Col. Herbert Carter once remarked.

Mr. Speaker, Black History Month is also a time to remember many pioneering women like U.S. Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm; activists Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks; astronaut Mae C. Jemison; authors Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Gwendolyn Brooks; all of whom have each in their own way, whether through courageous activism, cultural contributions, or artistic creativity, forged social and political change, and forever changed our great Nation for the better.

It is also fitting, Mr. Speaker, that in addition to those national leaders whose contributions have made our nation better, we honor also those who have and are making a difference in their local communities.

In my home city of Houston, there are numerous great men and women. They are great because they have heeded the counsel of Dr. King who said: "Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

By that measure, I wish to pay tribute to some of the great men and women of Houston:

1. Rev. F.N. Williams, Sr.
2. Rev. Dr. S.J. Gilbert, Sr.
3. Rev. Crawford W. Kimble
4. Rev. Eldridge Stanley Branch
5. Rev. William A. Lawson
6. Rev. Johnnie Jeffery "J.J." Robeson
7. Mr. El Franco Lee
8. Mr. John Bland
9. Ms. Ruby Moseley
10. Ms. Dorothy Hubbard
11. Ms. Doris Hubbard
12. Ms. Willie Bell Boone
13. Ms. Holly HogoBrooks
14. Mr. Deloyd Parker
15. Ms. Lenora "Doll" Carter

As we celebrate Black History Month, let us pay tribute to those who have come before us,

and pay forward to future generations by addressing what is the number one issue for African American families, and all American families today: preserving the American promise of economic opportunity for all.

Our immediate focus must be job creation, and enacting legislation that will foster and lay the foundation for today's and tomorrow's generation of groundbreaking activists, leaders, scientists, writers and artists to continue contributing to the greatness of America.

We must work to get Americans back to work. We must continue to preserve the American Dream for all.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here in celebration of the heroic and historic acts of African Americans and their indispensable contributions to this great Nation.

It is through our work in creating possibilities for today and future generations that we best honor the accomplishments and legacy of our predecessors.

PRAIRIE VIEW TRAIL RIDE ASSOCIATION

The Prairie View Trail Ride Association makes an annual trek to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in Hempstead.

They then rendezvous with a dozen other caravans at Memorial Park where they will join the rodeo parade in downtown Houston.

The Prairie View Trail Ride Association was founded in 1957 by James Frances Jr., Dr. Alfred N. Poindexter and Myrtis Dightman Sr.

This group's mission statement says: "The purpose of the Prairie View Trail is to promote agricultural interest in young Americans and to perpetuate those principals and methods which have come to be regarded as the ideals and traditions of the Western World as well as the Negro Western Heritage.

PVTR serves as a booster for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and supports Prairie View A&M University in their educational programs."

BLACK COWBOYS OF TEXAS

Black cowboys have been part of Texas history since the early nineteenth century, when they first worked on ranches throughout the state.

A good many of the first black cowboys were born into slavery but later found a better life on the open range, where they experienced less open discrimination than in the city.

After the Civil War many were employed as horsebreakers and for other tasks, but few of them became ranch foremen or managers.

Some black cowboys took up careers as rodeo performers or were hired as federal peace officers in Indian Territory.

Others ultimately owned their own farms and ranches, while a few who followed the lure of the Wild West became gunfighters and outlaws.

Significant numbers of African Americans went on the great cattle drives originating in the Southwest in the late 1800s. Black cowboys predominated in ranching sections of the Coastal Plain between the Sabine and Guadalupe rivers.

A number of them achieved enviable reputations. Bose Ikard, a top hand and drover for rancher Charles Goodnight, also served him as his chief detective and banker.

Daniel W. (80 John) Wallace started riding the cattle trails in his adolescence and ultimately

worked for cattlemen Winfield Scott and Gus O'Keefe. He put his accumulated savings toward the purchase of a ranch near Loraine, where he acquired more than 1,200 acres and 500 to 600 cattle.

He was a member of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association for more than thirty years. William Pickett made his name as one of the most outstanding Wild West rodeo performers in the country and is credited with originating the modern event known as bulldogging. He was inducted into the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in 1971.

Black cowboys have continued to work in the ranching industry throughout the twentieth century, and African Americans who inherited family-owned ranches have attempted to bring public recognition to the contributions of their ancestors.

Mollie Stevenson, a fourth-generation owner of the Taylor-Stevenson Ranch near Houston, founded the American Cowboy Museum to honor black, Indian, and Mexican-American cowboys. Weekend rodeos featuring black cowboys began in the late 1940s and continue to be popular.

These contests owe their existence to the Negro Cowboys Rodeo Association, formed in 1947 by a group of East Texas black businessmen-ranchers and cowboys.

In the early days of Texas, the work of the cowhand was essential to the newly arrived settlers building a life on the frontier.

The story of the Anglo cowboys who worked the ranches of Texas is well known, but much more remains to be discovered about the African American cowhands who worked side-by-side with the vaqueros and Anglo cowboys.

The cowboy learned his craft from the vaqueros of New Spain and Texas when it was the northern territory of Mexico, as well as from the stock raisers of the South.

Such a life was hardly glamorous. Poorly fed, underpaid, overworked, deprived of by snakes or tripped by prairie dog holes.

Work centered on the fall and spring round-ups, when scattered cattle were sleep, and prone to boredom and loneliness, cowboys choked in the dust, were cold at night, and suffered broken bones in falls and spills from horses spooked collected and driven to a place for branding, sorting for market, castrating, and in later years, dipping in vats to prevent tick fever.

African American cowboys, however, also had to survive discrimination, bigotry, and prejudice.

The lives of these cowhands tell a story of skill and grit, as they did what was necessary to gain the trust and respect of those who controlled their destiny.

That meant being the best at roping, bronc busting, taming mustangs, calling the brands, controlling the remuda, or topping off horses.

From scattered courthouse records, writings, and interviews with a few of the African American cowhands who were part of the history of Texas, Sara R. Massey and a host of writers have retrieved the stories of a more diverse cattle industry than has been previously recorded.

Twenty-five writers here recount tales of African Americans such as Peter Martin, who hauled freight and assisted insurgents in a rebellion against the Mexican government while

building a herd of cattle that allowed him to own (through a proxy) rental houses in town.

Bose Ikard, a friend of Charles Goodnight, went on Goodnight's first cattle drive, opening the Goodnight-Loving Trail. Johanna July, a Black Seminole woman, had her own method of taming horses in the Rio Grande for the soldiers at Fort Duncan.

These cowhands, along with others across the state, had an important role that has been too long omitted from most history books.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, February 5, 2015, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

313. A letter from the Chairman, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting the Commission's Buy American Act Report for fiscal year 2014, pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 10a(b), as amended; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

314. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting the Agency's reports containing the September 30, 2014, status of loans and guarantees issued under Section 25(a)(11) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

315. A letter from the Under Secretary for Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report entitled "Russian Sanctions: Licensing Policy for the Crimea Region of Ukraine", pursuant to the Export Administration Act, section 6(f)(2), under the authority conferred by Executive Order 13222, as amended and extended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

316. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning international agreements other than treaties, entered into by the United States, to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

317. A letter from the Administrator, Agency for International Development, transmitting the Fiscal Year 2014 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA) of 1982; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

318. A letter from the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting notification that the Administration complied with the Government in the Sunshine Act for calendar year 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(j); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

319. A letter from the Congressional Relations, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, transmitting the Service's annual

report for Fiscal Year 2014, prepared in accordance with Title II, Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

320. A letter from the Secretary of the Board of Governors, U.S. Postal Service, transmitting the Service's 2014 report to Congress, as required by Section 3686(c) of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

321. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Fiscal Year 2013 Report to Congress on the Funding Requirements for Contract Support Costs, pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 450j-1(c); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

322. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Management Systems for Domestic, Flag, and Supplemental Operations Certificate Holders [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0671; Amendment Nos.: 5-1 and 119-17] (RIN: 2120-AJ86) received January 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

323. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30993; Amdt. No.: 3622] received January 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

324. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30996; Amdt. No.: 3624] received January 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

325. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30995; Amdt. No.: 3623] received January 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

326. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0692; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-024-AD; Amendment 39-18031; AD 2014-23-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

327. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0587; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-219-AD; Amendment 39-18059; AD 2014-26-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

328. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0580; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-081-AD; Amendment 39-18062; AD 2015-01-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

329. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0108; Directorate Identifier 2013-CE-052-AD; Amendment 39-18063; AD 2015-01-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

330. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0927; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-230-AD; Amendment 39-18068; AD 2014-26-53] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

331. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0924; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-228-AD; Amendment 39-18067; AD 2014-25-51] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

332. A letter from the Chairman and Vice Chairman, U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, transmitting notification about a Commission survey regarding cyber threats to U.S. critical infrastructure; jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means, Foreign Affairs, and Armed Services.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. YODER (for himself, Mr. POLIS, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. AMASH, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. BABIN, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. BARR, Mr. BARTON, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mrs. BLACK, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUM, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. CALVERT, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COLE, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. DENT, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. DOLD, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr.

DUNCAN of Tennessee, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. ELLISON, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. EMMER, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. ESTY, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. FARR, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. FLORES, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. GUINTA, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. HANNA, Mr. HARRIS, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. HILL, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. HULTGREEN, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. JONES, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. JOYCE, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. LANCE, Mr. LATTA, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. LONG, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. MARINO, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. McGOVERN, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. MESSER, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. NUNES, Mr. OLSON, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. POSEY, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. REDD, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. SALMON, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. SIMPSON, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. TONKO, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. TURNER, Mr. VALADAO, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. WALKER, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. YOHO, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. RICHMOND, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. SHERMAN, and Ms. PINGREE):

H.R. 699. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to update the privacy protections for electronic communications information that is stored by third-party service providers in order to protect consumer privacy interests while meeting law enforcement needs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas (for himself and Mr. BARTON):

H.R. 700. A bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide for 12-month continuous enrollment of individuals under the Medicaid program and Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WALBERG (for himself and Mr. KILDEE):

H.R. 701. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand access to Coverdell education savings accounts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BARTON (for himself, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SALMON, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. FLORES, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. PEARCE):

H.R. 702. A bill to adapt to changing crude oil market conditions; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOODLATTE (for himself, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. MASSIE, Ms. FOXX, Mr. HANNA, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. DENT, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. COLE, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. STEWART, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. OLSON, Mr. FLORES, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. NUGENT, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. MARCHANT, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. YOHO, and Mr. ROHRBACHER):

H.R. 703. A bill to repeal the renewable fuel program of the Environmental Protection Agency; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GOODLATTE (for himself, Mr. COSTA, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. WELCH, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. DENT, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. COLE, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. HILL, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. WOODALL, Mr. HURT of Virginia, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. HANNA, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona):

H.R. 704. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to eliminate certain requirements under the renewable fuel program, to prohibit the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from approving the introduction into commerce of gasoline that contains greater than 10-volume-percent ethanol, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 705. A bill to amend the authorization in title 49, United States Code, for capital grants for rail line relocation projects; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia (for himself and Mr. MASSIE):

H.R. 706. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent unjust and irrational criminal punishments; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CHAFFETZ (for himself, Mr. GABBARD, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. DENT, Mr. HOLDING, and Mr. FORBES):

H.R. 707. A bill to restore long-standing United States policy that the Wire Act prohibits all forms of Internet gambling, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COOPER, and Mr. DESJARLAIS):

H.R. 708. A bill to prohibit, as an unfair and deceptive act or practice in commerce, the sale or use of certain software to circumvent control measures used by Internet ticket sellers to ensure equitable consumer access to tickets for any given event, and to provide for criminal penalties for such acts; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RENACCI (for himself, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. TIPTON, Mrs. BLACK, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. KLINE, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. FLORES, Mr. LONG, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. ROSS, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. REED, and Mrs. ROBY):

H.R. 709. A bill to provide for the termination of employment of employees of the Internal Revenue Service who take certain official actions for political purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan):

H.R. 710. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to prepare a comprehensive security assessment of the transportation security card program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. BRADY of Texas (for himself and Mr. NEAL):

H.R. 711. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the windfall elimination provision and protect the retirement of public servants; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COLLINS of Georgia (for himself, Mr. YOHO, Mr. LATTA, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. MARINO, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. TROTT):

H.R. 712. A bill to impose certain limitations on consent decrees and settlement agreements by agencies that require the agencies to take regulatory action in accordance with the terms thereof, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BUCSHON:

H.R. 713. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to disallow the refundable portion of the child credit to taxpayers using individual taxpayer identification numbers issued by the Internal Revenue Service; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CAPUANO (for himself, Mr. JONES, and Mr. PETERS):

H.R. 714. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit the conversion of leadership PAC funds to personal use; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. CAPUANO:

H.R. 715. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to give members of the United States Capitol Police the option to delay mandatory retirement until age 60; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. DEUTCH, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. ESTY, Mr. FARR, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MOORE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. TSONGAS, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ):

H.R. 716. A bill to require breast density reporting to physicians and patients by facilities that perform mammograms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. SABLON, Ms. LEE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SPEIER, and Ms. CLARKE of New York):

H.R. 717. A bill to amend section 1111(h)(1)(C)(i) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require that annual State report cards reflect the same race groups as the decennial census of population; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. COHEN, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. LOWENTHAL):

H.R. 718. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 in order to support the community schools model; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. KATKO (for himself, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. SANFORD):

H.R. 719. A bill to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. KATKO (for himself, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. HUDSON, Mrs. TORRES, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California):

H.R. 720. A bill to improve intergovernmental planning for and communication during security incidents at domestic airports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. JENKINS of Kansas (for herself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. LIPINSKI):

H.R. 721. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr.

BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. ROKITA, and Ms. JENKINS of Kansas):

H.R. 722. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for investigative leave requirements for members of the Senior Executive Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. KING of New York (for himself, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. BORDALLO, Mrs. TORRES, and Mr. COLLINS of New York):

H.R. 723. A bill to provide Capitol-flown flags to the immediate family of fire fighters, law enforcement officers, members of rescue squads or ambulance crews, and public safety officers who are killed in the line of duty; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. LANCE (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

H.R. 724. A bill to amend title I of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to impose restrictions on the risk corridor program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LATTA (for himself, Mr. JONES, Mr. MESSER, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. LONG, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee):

H.R. 725. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the estate tax and retain stepped-up basis at death; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. LOFGREN (for herself, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. POE of Texas, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. POLIS, Mr. O'ROURKE, and Mr. NADLER):

H.R. 726. A bill to prohibit Federal agencies from mandating the deployment of vulnerabilities in data security technologies; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PIERLUISI (for himself, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. BEYER, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HOYER, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KIND, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. MARINO, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. MICA, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. POLIS, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. RIBBLE, Ms. ROSS-LEHTINEN, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. TAKAI, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska):

H.R. 727. A bill to set forth the process for Puerto Rico to be admitted as a State of the Union; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER (for himself, Mr. CLAY, Mrs. WAGNER, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. LONG, and Mr. SMITH of Missouri):

H.R. 728. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7050 Highway BB in Cedar Hill, Missouri, as the "Sergeant First Class William B. Woods, Jr. Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 729. A bill to provide for a Medicare demonstration project to evaluate the fiscal impact of covering low vision devices as durable medical equipment under part B of the Medicare program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 730. A bill to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to eliminate Congressional review of newly-passed District laws; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NUGENT (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. LANCE, and Mr. JOLLY):

H.R. 731. A bill to reauthorize and improve the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act of 2004; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUIZ (for himself, Mrs. WALORSKI, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. JOLLY, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. HONDA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. RANGEL):

H.R. 732. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the opportunity for veterans to use video conferencing for hearings before the Board of Veterans' Appeals; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SALMON (for himself, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. LONG, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. POE of Texas):

H.R. 733. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to require households that receive supplemental nutrition assistance benefits to present photographic verification at the time food is purchased with such benefits; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. SCALISE (for himself, Mr. WALDEN, and Ms. ESHOO):

H.R. 734. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to consolidate the reporting obligations of the Federal Communications Commission in order to improve congressional oversight and reduce reporting burdens; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SERRANO (for himself and Mr. RANGEL):

H.R. 735. A bill to lift the trade embargo on Cuba, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to

the Committees on Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, Financial Services, the Judiciary, Oversight and Government Reform, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SERRANO:

H.R. 736. A bill to authorize the appropriation of funds to be used to recruit, hire, and train 100,000 new classroom paraprofessionals in order to improve educational achievement for children; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SERRANO:

H.R. 737. A bill to amend the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the egg, meat, and poultry inspection laws to ensure that consumers receive notification regarding food products produced from crops, livestock, or poultry raised on land on which sewage sludge was applied; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SERRANO (for himself and Mr. RANGEL):

H.R. 738. A bill to waive certain prohibitions with respect to nationals of Cuba coming to the United States to play organized professional baseball; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SERRANO:

H.R. 739. A bill to permit members of the House of Representatives to donate used computer equipment to public elementary and secondary schools designated by the members; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. SERRANO:

H.R. 740. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a business credit relating to the use of clean-fuel and fuel efficient vehicles by businesses within areas designated as nonattainment areas under the Clean Air Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SERRANO:

H.R. 741. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow taxpayers to designate income tax overpayments as contributions to the United States Library Trust Fund; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Mr. BERA,

Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DELANEY, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. ESTY, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HONDA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KILMER, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LOEBACK,

Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California):

H.R. 742. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure that women members of the Armed Forces and their families have access to the contraception they need in order to promote the health and readiness of all members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. STEWART:

H.R. 743. A bill to improve rangeland conditions and restore grazing levels within the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Utah; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Mr. CONYERS):

H.R. 744. A bill to authorize the collection of supplemental payments to increase congressional investments in medical research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WALDEN (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. NUNES, and Mr. NEAL):

H.R. 745. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase access to ambulance services under the Medicare program and to reform payments for such services under such program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KING of New York (for himself, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. COHEN, Mr. HONDA, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO):

H. Con. Res. 14. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that John Arthur "Jack" Johnson should receive a posthumous pardon for the racially motivated conviction in 1913 that diminished the athletic, cultural, and historic significance of Jack Johnson and unduly tarnished his reputation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ISRAEL (for himself, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. DENT, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HANNA, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. BEYER, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. LEE, and Mr. CICILLINE):

H. Res. 86. A resolution expressing support for designation of February 4, 2015, as National Cancer Prevention Day; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia:

H. Res. 87. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on the Budget in the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. ROYCE (for himself and Mr. ENGEL):

H. Res. 88. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Foreign Affairs in the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. VARGAS:

H. Res. 89. A resolution supporting "United States Foreign Service Day" in recognition of the men and women who have served, or are presently serving, in the Foreign Service of the United States, and to honor those in the Foreign Service who have given their lives in the line of duty; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. VARGAS:

H. Res. 90. A resolution recognizing the importance of the United States International Boundary Water Commission (USIBWC) and its recent efforts to address trash, sediment, and water quality issues with their Mexican counterparts, Comisión Internacional de Límites y Aguas (CILA), through a proposed minute; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. POCAN:

H.R. 649.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. YODER:

H.R. 699.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Amendment IV

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 700.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 701.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

Clause 1: The Congress shall have the Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. BARTON:

H.R. 702.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

"The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate commerce with foreign Nations . . ."

By Mr. GOODLATTE:

H.R. 703.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3. Because the federal government has extended Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (the commerce clause) beyond its intended boundaries, it follows that efforts to rein in excessive federal government encroachment in this area can be justified by Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. GOODLATTE:

H.R. 704.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3. Because the federal government has extended Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (the commerce clause) beyond its intended boundaries, it follows that efforts to rein in excessive federal government encroachment in this area can be justified by Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 705.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 706.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. CHAFFETZ:

H.R. 707.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

ARTICLE 1, SECTION 8, CLAUSE 3

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

H.R. 708.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 states that Congress has the power "to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. RENACCI:

H.R. 709.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 710.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1, 3, and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BRADY of Texas:

H.R. 711.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Congress, which grants Congress, "the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, impost, and excises . . ."

By Mr. COLLINS of Georgia:

H.R. 712.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 1 of the United States Constitution, Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, including, but not limited to, Clauses 1, 3, and 18, and Article III of the United States Constitution, Section 2

By Mr. BUCSHON:

H.R. 713.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1.

By Mr. CAPUANO:

H.R. 714.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 3, Clause 1: "The Congress shall have the Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general welfare of the United States;" Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: "The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes."

By Mr. CAPUANO:

H.R. 715.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec.5, Clause 2: "Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings . . ."

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 716.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 717.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 718.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. KATKO:

H.R. 719.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. KATKO:

H.R. 720.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States

By Ms. JENKINS of Kansas:

H.R. 721.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 722.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. I, Sec. 8, cl. 18

By Mr. KING of New York:

H.R. 723.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises,

to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. LANCE:

H.R. 724.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8, Clause 1, of the United States Constitution

This states that "Congress shall have power to . . . lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States."

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 725.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Taxation: Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Ms. LOFGREN:

H.R. 726.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. PIERLUISI:

H.R. 727.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of the Congress to admit new States into the Union and to make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territories of the United States, as enumerated in Section 3 of Article IV of the Constitution.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 728.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 7, "The Congress shall have Power to . . . establish Post Offices and post Roads . . ." In the Constitution, the power possessed by Congress embraces the regulation of the Postal System in the country. Therefore, the proposed legislation in naming a post office would fall under the powers granted to Congress in the Constitution.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 728.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 7, "The Congress shall have Power to . . . establish Post Offices and post Roads . . ." In the Constitution, the power possessed by Congress embraces the regulation of the Postal System in the country. Therefore, the proposed legislation in naming a post office would fall under the powers granted to Congress in the Constitution.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 730.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 17 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. NUGENT:

H.R. 731.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 732.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution, to make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of Congress.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 733.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. SCALISE:

H.R. 734.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. SERRANO:

H.R. 735.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, which gives Congress the power "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations."

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, which gives Congress the power "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers."

By Mr. SERRANO:

H.R. 736.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, which gives Congress the power "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes," Article I Section 8, Clause 1, which give Congress the power to "lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposets and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States," and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, which gives Congress the power "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers."

By Mr. SERRANO:

H.R. 737.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. SERRANO:

H.R. 738.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, which gives Congress the power "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations."

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4, which gives Congress the power "To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization."

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, which gives Congress the power "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers."

By Mr. SERRANO:

H.R. 739.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 2 of section 5 of article I of the Constitution, which states: "Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behaviour, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member."

Additionally, Congress has the power to enact this legislation under Clause 2 of section 3 of article IV of the Constitution, which states that "The Congress shall have

Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State."

By Mr. SERRANO:

H.R. 740.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution, which states that "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises. . ."

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution, which states that Congress shall have the power "to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof."

By Mr. SERRANO:

H.R. 741.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 742.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. STEWART:

H.R. 743.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 8 allows Congress "[to] make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof." Article IV, Section 3

"The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State." Article X

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN:

H.R. 744.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution

Clause 1 of section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution

Clause 18 of section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. WALDEN:

H.R. 745.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, which provides that "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imports and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general Welfare of the United States."

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 25: Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 27: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
H.R. 106: Mr. RIGELL.
H.R. 131: Mr. FINCHER and Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 156: Mr. CRAMER.
H.R. 173: Mr. POSEY and Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
H.R. 201: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 223: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 234: Ms. BROWN of Florida.
H.R. 235: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. RUSSELL, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. KING of Iowa, Ms. MENG, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. HARPER, Mr. JONES, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. LONG, and Mr. DEFAZIO.
H.R. 247: Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 263: Ms. BROWN of Florida.
H.R. 277: Mr. LAMBORN and Mr. BURGESS.
H.R. 283: Mr. SANFORD.
H.R. 304: Mr. SCHIFF and Ms. BASS.
H.R. 340: Mr. ZINKE.
H.R. 352: Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. JONES, and Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
H.R. 379: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.
H.R. 402: Mr. WESTERMAN.
H.R. 429: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.
H.R. 430: Mr. RICHMOND, Miss RICE of New York, and Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 448: Mrs. CAPPS, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, and Mr. O'ROURKE.
H.R. 451: Mr. CALVERT and Mr. ROSKAM.
H.R. 455: MISS RICE of New York.
H.R. 465: Mr. RIBBLE and Mr. GOODLATTE.
H.R. 483: Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 509: Mr. RUSH and MISS RICE of New York.
H.R. 525: Mr. SANFORD and Mr. WHITFIELD.
H.R. 529: Ms. KUSTER, Mr. FORBES, Mr. HECK of Nevada, and Mr. BERA.
H.R. 531: Mrs. BEATTY.
H.R. 537: Mr. PITTENGER.
H.R. 541: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 544: Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 546: Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 551: Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. POCAN, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. McDERMOTT, and Mr. SCHRAEDER.
H.R. 565: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 586: Mr. RUIZ and Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 592: Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. OLSON, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. LONG.
H.R. 594: Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
H.R. 595: Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 598: Mr. PITTENGER and Mr. ROSKAM.
H.R. 599: Mr. KLINE, Mr. DeSANTIS, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. FORBES, Mr. OLSON, and Mr. PAULSEN.
H.R. 608: Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CLAY, Mr. RUSH, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. VEASEY, and Mr. RICHMOND.
H.R. 614: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.

H.R. 622: Mrs. BLACK.

H.R. 631: Mrs. ROBY and Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 641: Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PITTS, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. MACARTHUR, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. POLIS, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. ROSKAM.

H.R. 644: Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 654: Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. PITTENGER, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 662: Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 664: Mr. MASSIE.

H.R. 676: Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 680: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 684: Ms. ESHOO, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 696: Mr. KIND.

H.J. Res. 1: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.

H.J. Res. 2: Mr. HARDY, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. SIMPSON, and Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.

H.J. Res. 9: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

H.J. Res. 14: Mr. SANFORD.

H. Con. Res. 13: Mr. TIPTON, Mr. PITTS, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. BARR, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. CHABOT, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. SESSIONS.

H. Res. 12: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. KILDEE.

H. Res. 24: Mrs. BUSTOS and Ms. KAPTUR.

H. Res. 26: Mr. WESTERMAN.

H. Res. 32: Ms. PLASKETT.

H. Res. 45: Mr. FORBES.

H. Res. 50: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. DeLAURO, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. LANCE, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. RUSH.

H. Res. 54: Mr. RUSH, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. POCAN.

H. Res. 56: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.

H. Res. 67: Ms. SPEIER.

H. Res. 74: Ms. BORDALLO.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered by Representative SCOTT PETERS (CA) or a designee to H.R. 527 the Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2015, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

DELETION OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 279: Mr. RANGEL.

SENATE—Wednesday, February 4, 2015

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Spirit of God, descend on our hearts, for apart from You, life is a tale full of sound and fury signifying nothing.

May our Senators walk in Your ways, keeping Your precepts with such integrity that they will honor You. Lord, incline their hearts to Your wisdom, providing them with the understanding they need to accomplish Your purpose in our world. Let Your mercy protect them from the dangers of this life as they learn to find delight in Your commandments. Keep them ever mindful of the brevity of their days and the greatness of their work.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PAUL). The majority leader is recognized.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to H.R. 240.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 5, H.R. 240, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it was good to see the new Senate come together and pass another bipartisan bill yesterday. It was a win for our Nation's heroes. It was yet another win for the American people. But that was only one of the votes we took because just hours after joining Republicans to do something good for our veterans, Democrats voted to block funding for the Department of Homeland Security. It was enough to give anyone whiplash.

Now Americans are wondering, what could possibly lead Democrats to filibuster Homeland Security funding? The legislation Democrats are filibustering would fund the Department of Homeland Security. It would also protect American democracy from overreach, described by President Obama as "unwise and unfair." That is it. You would think that a bill such as this would pass overwhelmingly. You would think that at least the Democrats would allow the Senate an opportunity to improve the bill if it needs to be improved. But Democrats voted to filibuster the bill outright. They prevented the legislation from even being debated.

Today's Democratic Party seems willing to go to any extreme to protect the kind of Executive overreach President Obama once described as "not how our democracy functions." It would go so far as to block Homeland Security funding and to give the President the opportunity to continue to do what he is doing.

The whole situation is a bit perplexing given what some of our colleagues said just a few weeks ago, given what they said about the overreach President Obama referred to as "ignoring the law." One Democratic Senator said that "the President shouldn't make such significant policy changes on his own." Another Senator claimed he was "concerned about the constitutional separation of powers." He said, "The Constitution doesn't say if the Congress fails to act then the President can do x, y, and z. It just doesn't." A third Democratic Senator had this to say of the President's plan for overreach: "It makes me uncomfortable." Yet all of these Senators voted to shut down debate and block funding for the Department of Homeland Security. Every last Democrat voted to filibuster rather than work across the aisle to address the very issue they claim to be concerned about.

Perhaps today's Democratic Party is so devoted to the right of politicians to engage in action that would, as the President seemed to imply, "violate the law," that it cannot tolerate dissent. But that is no reason to shut down the Department of Homeland Security. That is no reason to prevent the Senate from even debating whether to fund the Department.

So the Democrats' Homeland Security filibuster needs to end now. Democratic Senators who say they are serious about keeping our Nation safe and addressing what President Obama acknowledged as "unwise and unfair" overreach need to prove it.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, yesterday we were informed of another barbaric act by ISIS—literally burning a Jordanian pilot to death in a cage. This follows news reports of beheadings of Japanese citizens, Americans, and so many others. It is an indication of the threat not just to the Middle East but to the world of terrorism in its extreme, as ISIS demonstrates on a regular basis.

It was ironic that the same day we learned this, I visited the Department of Homeland Security and met with the Secretary, Jeh Johnson, and talked about the political strategy of the Republicans when it comes to funding the Department of Homeland Security—the same Department that is responsible for keeping America safe from the threat of terrorism.

You see, the Presiding Officer knows well that when we were here in December passing an omnibus appropriations bill, the House Republicans insisted that one agency be singled out and not properly funded, one agency of our government: the Department of Homeland Security. They funded every other agency of the government to September 30 of this year in a regular appropriations process but refused—the Republicans refused to fund the Department of Homeland Security. Why? They wanted to reserve the right to fight with the President over the issue of immigration. They wanted to reserve the right to object to any Executive action taken by the President related to immigration. Their forum for this objection? The appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security.

Yesterday Secretary Johnson came to our Democratic caucus lunch to explain what it was like to manage a department of our government under a continuing resolution. That is the technical name in our Budget Act for temporary funding. He said it was like driving a car with a gas tank that only held 5 gallons of gasoline and not being sure where the next service station was going to turn up. He said: That is how I am called on now to run the Department of Homeland Security—the Department that we entrust more than any other to keep us safe from terrorism.

Why? Why would the Republicans choose this Department to single out and not properly fund? At a time when we are facing threats of ghastly terrorism in this world that we have not seen, why would the Republicans insist

on making the appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security the forum for their debate with President Obama?

Now the Senator from Kentucky, our majority leader, comes to the floor and says: Well, yesterday the Democrats refused to vote to fund the Department of Homeland Security.

I will make a point for the record here that when the majority leader turns to page 12 of the publication sitting on his desk, the Calendar of Business of the Senate, when he turns to page 12, he should look at line 7 on page 12 of the Calendar of Business of the Senate, and there he will find S. 272, introduced by Senator JEANNE SHAHEEN of New Hampshire and Senator MIKULSKI of Maryland.

Let me read what S. 272 is:

A bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

Read the second time and placed on the calendar on January 28.

This bill will fund the Department of Homeland Security. This bill is a clean appropriations bill.

If you look at the bill Senator MCCONNELL and others have brought to the floor for funding the Department of Homeland Security—I invite the Senator from Kentucky and those who are interested in debate to turn to page 55. Start reading on page 55 the general provisions that were sent to us by the House of Representatives—page after page of riders and restrictions on the appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security.

You see, the House of Representatives said: We will only fund the Department of Homeland Security if we can have our way when it comes to these restrictions on how they spend money.

Well, what is it that is so important to the House Republicans and Senate Republicans that they are willing to risk funding of the Department of Homeland Security? What is it that is holding them up from putting the resources in the hands of Secretary Johnson and this Department that they need to keep America safe? It must be something that is momentous, historic. What is the reason they are taking a stand and leaving America vulnerable? Well, the Republicans clearly must have something that they think is even more threatening to the United States than terrorism. What could it be? Well, it turns out we know, because of riders attached by the House of Representatives. The Republicans in Congress are more fearful of a group known as the DREAMers than they obviously are of the threat of terrorism from these extreme groups.

Who are these DREAMers? Well, I know this issue better than some. Fourteen years ago it came to my attention that there was a serious mis-

carriage of justice taking place in the United States. It turns out that children brought to our country by their parents who were undocumented literally had no country. They grew up in America. They went to school in America. They lived in America. They considered themselves Americans. They pledged allegiance to our flag in their classrooms. They sang our national anthem. They dreamed of their future, only to learn when they were still children that that opportunity was not there for them. You see, they were undocumented. Their parents brought them to America, never filed any papers, and they were undocumented.

It did not seem right to me at the time that a young person—a toddler, an infant—brought to this country would be paying this heavy price with their lives because of any wrongdoing by their parents. So I introduced a bill, the DREAM Act, at the time cosponsored by Senator HATCH of Utah. We said in that bill: If you were brought to America as a child and your parents brought you here and did not file the papers or left you in an undocumented state, but you lived in America, did nothing wrong in America, graduated from high school in America, we would give you a chance. We would give you a chance to step forward if you were willing to either serve in our military or go to college and put you on a path to legalization. That was the DREAM Act. It was introduced 14 years ago. It has never become the law of the land.

In that period of time, of course, thousands of young people have found themselves in this predicament. It was 2½ years ago when I joined 20 other Senators and wrote to President Obama and said: Can you consider an Executive order that would protect these DREAMers from deportation so that they can live in America? And the President, 2½ years ago, did. It was known as DACA, and this program said to these young people, this is your chance. Come forward, register, go through a criminal background check, prove you graduated from high school, and the President, 2½ years ago, said: We won't deport you.

We estimate 2 million young people would be eligible. Six hundred thousand have stepped forward and have been given this protection from deportation.

This is the program that has led the Republicans in the House and Senate to threaten funding for the Department of Homeland Security. The very thought that these young people could stay in America, live in America without fear of deportation, work in America, go to school in America, is so reprehensible to the Republicans in the House and Senate, they are prepared to jeopardize the funding for the Department of Homeland Security, which protects America.

I have come to the floor on more than 50 occasions to tell the story of

these DREAMers, which I will do again this morning.

I ask my Republican colleagues in the House and the Senate to listen to the story of a DREAMer and tell me: Do you believe the person I am about to describe should be deported from America?

His name is Pablo da Silva. He was brought here from Brazil in 2001 when he was 13 years old. Pablo grew up in New Jersey. This is what he said about his childhood:

The same as every other kid growing up in the U.S., I attended middle school, pledged allegiance to the American flag, and sang the National Anthem. As I grew older, I came to understand that one thing about me differed from my classmates. I was undocumented. However, my parents always taught me to see barriers as a measure of perseverance and an opportunity to thrive.

Pablo's dream was to become a doctor. During high school and college, he volunteered at nursing homes every week. He was a member of a group called Doctor Red Nose. That is where he and others would dress up like clowns visiting hospitals and nursing homes to cheer up the patients and health care providers.

Pablo was accepted at Rutgers University, one of our Nation's best. But because Pablo was undocumented, he didn't qualify for any financial assistance. He would have had to pay out-of-State tuition. So he couldn't afford Rutgers. Pablo enrolled in a community college. Because he had taken community college courses when he was in high school, Pablo was able to complete a 2-year associate's degree in only 1 year.

With an associate's degree in hand, Pablo was able to transfer to Kean University in New Jersey. In 2011, Pablo da Silva graduated at the top of his class with a major in biology, summa cum laude. He received an award for the highest grade point average in the biology department. He was on the dean's list every semester of college and a member of the honor society Phi Kappa Phi.

Remember, this is the person whom the Republicans in the House and the Senate want to deport from the United States and refuse to fund the Department of Homeland Security until this DREAMer is deported.

After graduating from college, Pablo da Silva was unable to pursue his dream of becoming a doctor. He couldn't go to medical school as an undocumented person, so he worked in a variety of manual labor jobs.

In 2012, President Obama established DACA, and then Pablo heard something amazing. Loyola University of Chicago was prepared to accept students who had received DACA into its medical school.

Like many States across the country, Illinois has a shortage of physicians in inner city and rural areas. Loyola University's DACA Program is

an opportunity to address this problem.

The State of Illinois has created a DACA loan program. Under this program, Loyola's DACA medical students can receive loans to help cover the cost of medical education. For every year of loans, every year they get loans to go to medical school, these students must work for 1 year in a medically underserved area in my State of Illinois.

It is quite a tradeoff—1 year of medical school for 1 year of professional life as a doctor helping people who have no access to doctors. As a result, an amazing thing happened. Some of the best and brightest students in America have come to Loyola to get a medical education, and they have signed up to stay in Illinois to serve the parts of our State where the people I represent are desperate for a doctor.

Last fall, Pablo da Silva began medical school at Loyola where he is pursuing his dream of becoming a cardiothoracic surgeon. He wrote me a letter and this is what he said about the DACA Program:

DACA has allowed me to fulfill my long-lasting aspiration to pursue a career in medicine. It has truly changed my future and for that I'm truly grateful. I'm eager to contribute my share to the country I call my own.

When you read this letter, you stop and think, how can the Republicans in the House of Representatives and the Senate have made this man their enemy? How can they look at this young man, who has struggled throughout his life to obtain an education—who has overcome the odds, who has volunteered time and again in his community, who is willing to work in underserved medical areas—how can they look at this man and say he is the enemy?

The Republicans in the House and Senate fear Pablo da Silva more than they fear the extremist terrorist groups. They fear this DREAMer, and they are willing to give short-term funding to a Federal agency to make their point.

If the House Republicans and some in the Senate have their way, Pablo da Silva won't be able to finish medical school. He won't become a doctor. And if they have their way and deport him—which is what the House bill calls on us to do—my State is going to be denied a doctor in a medically underserved area.

We are a nation of immigrants. My mother was an immigrant to this country. I believe immigrants have brought so much to America, not just in hard work—and they take the toughest jobs—but also this risk taking that is involved in immigration. They are willing to put it all on the line.

In my case, my grandparents came here with my mom, when she was a little girl, to a country where they barely spoke the language and knew a handful

of people. They made a life, raised a family, and I was lucky to be part of it. And I am honored to stand on the floor of the Senate today.

That is my story, that is my family's story, and that is America's story. That is the story of Pablo da Silva.

Why are the Republicans at war with this young man? Why do they think that stopping his opportunity to go to medical school and serve America is in the best interests of our Nation? It certainly isn't.

Yesterday the Senate assistant majority leader said on the floor that DACA “kicked the people who played by the rules to the back of the line and the people who did not to the front of the line.”

Here is the reality: The President's immigration action simply puts a temporary hold on the deportation of low-priority cases like immigrant students such as Pablo da Silva. It doesn't put the DREAMers or any other undocumented immigrants in the same line as legal immigrants, and it doesn't put any legal immigrants at the back of the line. Only Congress can do that.

Speaking of Congress, it is important to note that in 2013 this Senate passed comprehensive immigration reform with a strong vote of 68 to 32. Republicans and Democrats voted for it.

For the remainder of that Congress, the year 2013 and 2014—more than 1½ years—the Republican House of Representatives refused to allow a vote on the Senate's immigration reform bill, refused to call their own bill, refused to take any action. It was at that moment when the President stepped forward and said: I have to do something with this broken immigration system.

Instead of slowing down the appropriations to the Department of Homeland Security, I wish to remind the majority leader and the Speaker of the obvious. They are in control. They have the majority. They can call immigration issues before the Senate and the House at a moment's notice. We are prepared—prepared—to debate those immigration issues, but we are not prepared to do that, engage in that important debate, at the expense of funding the Department of Homeland Security.

Now we are going to waste a week of the Senate's time—a week when we could pass the Shaheen-Mikulski bill and fund this Department, a week when we could initiate the debate on immigration, a week when the Republicans can come forward with their own immigration ideas, if they have any, other than deporting Pablo da Silva. They can come forward now, but they refuse to.

They want to make this political point with the President, but they do it at the expense of the safety and security of America, and they do it at the expense of DREAMers such as Pablo da Silva.

Every time we have tried to pass comprehensive immigration reform, the Republicans have said no.

Every student of American history can tell us that anti-immigration parties eventually wither and die. We are a nation of immigrants.

There are some on the Republican side who understand that, and they can't really explain why the Grand Old Party, the Republican Party, is turning its back on immigrants in a nation of immigrants. That is their policy. They are so determined to pursue it they are willing to jeopardize the appropriations for one of the most important agencies of our government, the Department of Homeland Security.

The President has used his legal authority to bring some fairness to our broken immigration system. If the Republicans think they can do it better, they have every right as the majority party in the House and the Senate to offer legislation.

But with the Homeland Security Department facing a shutdown in just 3 weeks, we don't have time for these symbolic votes in the House bill on the floor. Turn to page 15, I say to the majority leader, of the Calendar of Business of the Senate, and you will find the answer to your question. You will find the way to fund the Department of Homeland Security in a responsible way.

What the majority leader should do is to swallow his pride, call Mr. BOEHNER and say: Your idea is not going to fly in the Senate. It is time for us to fund this agency. It is time to understand that as resolute as the terrorists are in harming innocent people and threatening America, America should be as resolute in fighting them back.

The first line of defense is the Department of Homeland Security. It is time to fund it. We could do it in a matter of minutes this morning if the majority leader would simply call to the floor this clean appropriations bill.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 12:30 p.m., equally divided, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, since I see no other Members on the floor at this time, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMERICAN CURES ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, 3 weeks ago, scientists at Boston's Northeastern University made an amazing

discovery in a pile of dirt. They found a new antibiotic called teixobactin. This new antibiotic, the first that has been discovered in more than 25 years, holds the potential to kill off a wide variety of disease-causing bacteria. It offers hope for a cure to serious and growing antibiotic resistant diseases.

President Obama noted in his State of the Union Address that antibiotic resistance is one of the world's most pressing public health challenges. In the United States alone, it costs us at least \$20 billion a year and claims 23,000 lives.

A plastic storage crate filled with backyard dirt might seem like an unlikely source for a breakthrough, but that is exactly where these scientists—who were working under a grant from the National Institutes of Health—discovered this potentially lifesaving medical breakthrough.

Scientific breakthroughs are nothing new for the United States of America. In the last century we split the atom, defeated polio, conquered space, created the Internet, and mapped the human genome. All of those historic achievements had something in common with the discovery of teixobactin—they were backed by U.S. Government research funds.

I have people come up to me in Illinois and say: Name one thing this government has ever done. Well, aside from winning a few wars that were critical to the future of mankind, we have done amazing things when it comes to research.

For generations the United States was the unchallenged world leader in support of scientific research, but in recent years our lead has eroded. In 1965 the United States spent 25 percent of our nondefense discretionary budget on research and development—1965, 25 percent; today, 10 percent.

Meanwhile, other countries are stepping up. China has increased research and development funding by 20 percent a year every year from 1999 to 2009. If we stay on course, China will be investing more in research and development as a share of their overall economy than the United States in as soon as 5 years.

The erosion of U.S. funding is particularly troublesome and costly in the area of biomedical research. Thanks to budget cuts, and particularly the sequestration, the U.S. share of global biomedical research funding declined by 13 percent between 2004 and 2012. Lifesaving discoveries are being delayed and young scientists are finding fewer funding opportunities. A decade ago 30 percent of the qualified NIH grant proposals were funded, today it is just 18 percent.

In Illinois researchers regularly tell me how difficult it is to find government support for their medical research. They can spend as much time applying for grants and opening rejection

letters as they do conducting experiments and analyzing data.

There are indications that young researchers are taking their talents to other industries and even other countries. In 1982 18 percent of NIH primary investigators were under the age of 36. In 2011 3 percent of NIH primary investigators were under the age of 36. The young researchers aren't going in to government-sponsored research. Meanwhile, our population is aging, medical conditions from cancer to Alzheimer's are touching more and more lives, and the need for medical breakthroughs has never been greater.

Back in Illinois I had the pleasure of visiting the lab of legendary researcher Dr. Janet Rowley at the University of Chicago. She was an inspiration. I wish I could have met her. Four decades ago, sitting at her dining room table in Hyde Park in Chicago, she had what she called an "oh wow" moment—a flash of insight that transformed the world's understanding of cancer. Until that moment it was generally assumed genetic abnormalities were the result of cancer. Dr. Rowley's work showed it was the other way around; that genetic mutations in fact caused cancer. That revolutionary insight led to targeted drug treatments for previously untreatable cancers. What family—what family on Earth—has not been touched by cancer?

Janet Rowley was working under a small grant from the National Institutes of Health when she made this historic finding. One of the parts of her story I love is when she and her family returned to Chicago in 1962. Janet told the University of Chicago she would like to come back to continue her research with a couple of conditions. She said: I am a mother of four boys. I can only work part time. Second, she wanted a microscope, a desk, and a salary. She asked for \$5,000 a year. To its everlasting credit, the University of Chicago said yes. Ten years later came her "oh wow" moment that changed our understanding of cancer.

One of my deep concerns is this: How many other Janet Rowleys are being lost in America to medical research because they can't get the financial support for the grants they need to move forward? How many medical scientists have been forced to scale back or even abandon vital research because of ill-advised cuts to the National Institutes of Health?

If America is going to remain a world leader in research that does contribute to longer and healthier lives, Federal funding for medical research has to be a national priority. Last week I reintroduced a critical bill. The American Cures Act calls for \$150 billion in Federal research funding to support medical breakthroughs over the next 10 years.

I guarantee we will get more than \$150 billion in payback if we put that

money in medical research. If we can delay the onset of Alzheimer's in this country just by weeks or months, and God willing cure it, think of how much we will save. Last year it cost our Federal Government over \$200 billion to treat Alzheimer's patients.

For researchers making long-term plans, it is not only the amount of funding but its reliability. That is why the American Cures Act would eliminate the year-to-year unpredictability of congressional budgets and politics and set a steady growth rate of 5 percent over 10 years.

Francis Collins, one of the most extraordinary doctors in America, heads up the NIH, and he said: This, Senator, will make a difference.

These funds would go to four institutions: the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Defense health programs, and the VA Medical and Prosthetic Research Program.

The American Cures Act will make funding for lifesaving medical research less political and more predictable.

I thank my colleagues, Senators SHERROD BROWN, AMY KLOBUCHAR, BARBARA BOXER, ED MARKEY, BEN CARDIN, AL FRANKEN, BOB CASEY, and CHUCK SCHUMER, as well as Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO for cosponsoring and sponsoring this legislation. People may have seen the old bumper sticker that said: If you think education is expensive, try ignorance. Well, if you think biomedical research is expensive, try illness.

Medical research is a great investment. Every \$1 we spend generates over \$2 in economic growth. We more than double our investment and that is before counting the value of diseases cured.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, a brilliant epidemiologist who heads the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said of the discovery of teixobactin: "That was a long shot—but it worked."

That was also true with the polio vaccine, discovered 60 years ago by Dr. Jonas Salk, and so many other American cures and breakthroughs that have changed the world. Private industry doesn't fund this sort of basic foundational science. It can't. This kind of science takes patience and time and a lot of investment.

America is blessed with some of the best and most generous medical philanthropies in the world, but they can't fill this funding gap. Only we can do it. It takes our government to fund the science that leads to breakthrough cures. This shouldn't be a partisan issue, and it shouldn't be a low-budget priority. I think it should be the highest.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the American Cures Act to help save lives, restore biomedical research leadership, and strengthen America.

As Jonas Salk, the pioneer of the polio vaccine, would say: "The only way we can lose is if we stop too soon."

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I was very disappointed yesterday that the Senate did not vote to proceed to the consideration of the Homeland Security appropriations bill. I hope we will have an opportunity to reconsider that vote and we will agree to take up the bill.

The need to fund the Department of Homeland Security for the remainder of this fiscal year should not be in question. We know that we are living in a complex world with ever-changing threats to our Nation's security. The Department that we created specifically to combat those threats will operate better and more efficiently with a full-year funding plan that reflects updated spending priorities. I have heard no Senator dispute that.

The leaders of the Homeland Security Subcommittee—both Democrat and Republican—put a great deal of effort into drafting this measure. The bill provides \$10.7 billion for Customs and Border Protection—an increase of \$119 million over fiscal year 2014. This amount will support border infrastructure, technology needs, roads, air and marine assets, and higher levels of personnel, including Border Patrol agents and Customs and Border Patrol officers.

The bill provides nearly \$6 billion for Immigration and Customs Enforcement—an increase of 13 percent.

The bill provides increased funds to identify, apprehend, and remove criminal aliens and provides increases for investigations to help combat human trafficking, cyber crime, child exploitation, and drug smuggling.

The bill provides support for the Secret Service and congressional oversight, including \$25 million to address security needs at the White House complex.

The bill provides more than \$10 billion for the Coast Guard. This includes additional resources to continue the recapitalization of the Coast Guard fleet.

The bill provides funding for the Disaster Relief Fund. When disaster strikes, it is important that the Disaster Relief Fund contain the resources necessary to support an effective response.

The bill also includes House amendments designed to reverse the President's unilateral actions on immigration enforcement. Given the timing and breadth of the President's actions and the challenge to congressional authority those actions represent, it can come as no surprise that they provoked a congressional response.

I am speaking to remind Senators of the urgent and important need we have for the adoption of funding for the Department of Homeland Security and other provisions this bill contains. I urge my colleagues and the leadership to help ensure that we move the Senate in the direction of early passage after thorough consideration of the provisions of this bill, the passage of this bill to protect our national security.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. LEE pertaining to the introduction of S. 356 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. LEE. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, as we continue this debate on funding for the Department of Homeland Security, we face some fundamental questions. Are we going to prioritize the safety and security of the American people or are we going to put the country at risk because of an ideological disagreement? That is the choice we face with this bill.

We can debate immigration. I think Members of the Democratic caucus would be happy to do that. The Senate did that 2 years ago when we passed a comprehensive immigration reform bill with 68 bipartisan votes. But this is not the time for us to have this debate.

We need to fund the Department of Homeland Security now so they can continue to do their work. We can either pass a clean bill that makes critical investments in our Nation's security or we can put our Nation at risk by playing politics with funding for the Department of Homeland Security.

I appreciate what the Appropriations Committee chairman, Senator COCHRAN from Mississippi, did earlier today by coming down and laying out what is

in the funding for the Department of Homeland Security and laying out the important work of the Department of Homeland Security. I believe most of us appreciate the work they do and why it is so important to the safety and security of the country. That is why we need to pass a clean bill to ensure that they are funded for the rest of this year.

For those who are in the Senate Chamber and for those watching at home who have not been following what has gone on here in Washington with this bill, I will provide a little history on how we got to where we are today.

In the closing weeks of the 113th Congress, Senator MIKULSKI, then chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and Congressman ROGERS, chair of the House Appropriations Committee, negotiated spending for the entire government, including the Department of Homeland Security. This was a compromise measure. Not everyone got what they wanted, but the bill funded Homeland Security priorities at levels that would ensure that the Department could fulfill its mission.

Then, sadly, politics came into play. Some Members of the House Republican caucus demanded that the Homeland Security bill be removed from the larger budget because of immigration issues. They didn't like the President's Executive action on immigration. Now the entire Department is funded on a short-term basis through February 27, which is just 23 days from now.

Last month the House of Representatives narrowly passed a bill to fund Homeland Security, but they added politically divisive language that rolls back protections for immigrant children, among other anti-immigrant measures. It also would roll back some of the efforts for surveillance and efforts to address illegal immigrants who are committing crimes when they come into this country.

Because of these controversial immigration riders, President Obama immediately announced that he would veto the House-passed bill. Last week, the entire Democratic caucus of the Senate signed a letter to Majority Leader MCCONNELL urging him to put the security of our Nation first, to put politics aside, and to work with us to pass a clean Homeland Security funding bill without controversial immigration riders attached—to pass a bill the President can sign.

I ask unanimous consent to have the letter from the Senate Democratic caucus printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, January 27, 2015.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Senate Majority Leader, The Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER MCCONNELL: As we rapidly approach the date on which the Department of Homeland Security's funding expires, and as law enforcement officials face major threats to our nation's safety and security, we write with one simple request: work with us to pass a clean bill that funds Homeland Security for the remainder of the fiscal year.

The House bill cannot pass the Senate. Democratic Leader Harry Reid has called for a clean funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security. The President has also made clear that he will veto any bill that expressly limits his authority to exercise prosecutorial discretion on immigration matters. While we agree our current immigration system needs comprehensive reform, including border security enhancements, this appropriations bill is not the place for this debate.

In light of recent events in Paris, Ottawa and Australia, the threat of ISIS and the proliferation of foreign fighters that return home radicalized, DHS funding should not be tied to divisive political issues that could jeopardize this critical funding.

We are now four months into the fiscal year. A series of short-term continuing resolutions to fund DHS should be off the table. Secretary Jeh Johnson has noted that if DHS continues to operate on CRs, counterterrorism efforts will be limited, border security initiatives and grants to state and local law enforcement will go unfunded, and aviation security efforts will be hampered.

Every day, new threats emerge that endanger our citizens at home and our allies abroad. We should not cast doubt on future funding for the Department of Homeland Security at a time when the entire nation should be marshalling collective resources to defend against terrorism. Uncertainty undermines security.

Last December, House and Senate negotiators reached a bipartisan agreement on a bill to fund DHS for the entire fiscal year. The best way to provide certainty and stability for the men and women who fulfill DHS's mission to protect the United States from harm is to immediately schedule a vote so that this compromise bill can become law.

We know that you share our desire to keep our nation safe in these dangerous times, and we thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Shaheen; Richard J. Durbin; Patty Murray; Elizabeth Warren; Edward J. Markey; Dianne Feinstein; Heidi Heitkamp; Barbara A. Mikulski; Charles E. Schumer; Debbie Stabenow; Thomas R. Carper; Tammy Baldwin; Mazie Hirono; Patrick J. Leahy; Angus S. King, Jr.; Mark R. Warner; Richard Blumenthal; Bernard Sanders; Sheldon Whitehouse; Benjamin L. Cardin; Christopher Murphy; Kirsten E. Gillibrand; Jack Reed; Sherrod Brown; Robert Menendez; Christopher A. Coons; Brian Schatz; Ron Wyden; Tim Kaine; Cory A. Booker; Jon Tester; Amy Klobuchar; Claire McCaskill; Gary C. Peters; Al Franken; Barbara Boxer; Tom Udall; Michael F. Bennet; Martin Heinrich; Bill Nelson; Jeff Merkley; Robert P. Casey, Jr.; Joe Manchin, III; Maria Cantwell; Joe Donnelly.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Cloture was not invoked on the House bill. We saw that

yesterday in our vote. It is a bill that cannot become law. There are only 24 days left before funding for the Homeland Security Department expires.

The House bill cannot move forward. So I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to work with us to pass a clean full-year budget, without controversial riders, to fund Homeland Security.

As the ranking member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee, I am ready to work with my colleague Senator HOEVEN, who chairs the Subcommittee on Homeland Security, and the chair and ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, Senator COCHRAN and Senator MIKULSKI, and the entire committee to pass a bill to keep our Nation safe and to avoid disrupting the work of the Department of Homeland Security and to keep this critical agency operating at full strength. In fact, Senator MIKULSKI and I introduced a bill last week, S. 272, which would do exactly that.

We live in dangerous times. Every day new threats emerge that threaten our citizens at home and our allies abroad. The Department of Homeland Security's role in protecting our country from these threats cannot be overstated, and its funding should not be controversial.

Right now the U.S. law enforcement community is on high alert for terror threats after attacks in Sydney, Australia, and Ottawa, Canada, and, of course, the Charlie Hebdo attack in Paris.

Just 2 weeks ago, an Ohio man was arrested when authorities discovered he was plotting to blow up the U.S. Capitol in an ISIS-inspired plan. ISIS has thousands of foreign fighters, including Americans among their ranks, who can return to their home countries to do harm and who say they intend to do that.

We were all horrified yesterday by the news of the courageous Jordanian pilot who was killed in such a barbaric and disgusting way by the Islamic State.

We have recently learned that ISIS plans to take advantage of the Syrian refugee crisis and to move their fighters into Turkey and Europe. These are real threats. They are a clear and present danger to this country, and because they are so real, we need our counterterrorism intelligence community operating at full strength. An essential part of our Nation's counterterrorism and intelligence infrastructure is within the Department of Homeland Security.

As Michael Chertoff, George W. Bush's Secretary of Homeland Security said, "intelligence is not only about spies and satellites."

Intelligence is also about the disciplined daily tasks of collecting and analyzing thousands of reports and investigations that are ongoing all across

our country—from our local and State police, our Border Patrol agents, our port security personnel, and our Coast Guard patrolling our shores.

The Department of Homeland Security takes these thousands of bits of information, sifts out the critical details, coordinates with our foreign intelligence agencies, and gets critical information to our first responders on the ground as quickly as possible. This work is critical to keeping our Nation safe from terrorism.

One of the chief criticisms of the 9/11 report was that we need to improve intelligence information sharing between the intelligence community and our first responders on the ground.

I was Governor on September 11. I know some of the challenges that we had in New Hampshire with that information sharing. Well, that is one of the missions the Department of Homeland Security was created to carry out.

If you talk to Governors and mayors, police chiefs and sheriffs, and the folks on the ground who are responsible for keeping our citizens safe every day, ask them about their fusion centers. Ask them whether they want their law enforcement to go back to the days when all of our intelligence was bottled up in Washington, DC, and our towns and cities were on their own. Of course they don't want to go back to being kept in the dark. There is too much at stake, but that is what could happen if the Department of Homeland Security is not fully functioning.

I wish to point out that we received a letter from the U.S. Conference of Mayors. It is signed by Tom Cochran, CEO and executive director. He sent it to Senators COCHRAN, MIKULSKI, HOEVEN, and SHAHEEN. I will not read the whole letter, but they point out a number of issues which I believe are important in laying out the challenge and why we need to pass a clean funding bill.

Mr. Cochran says:

I write on behalf of the nation's mayors to urge you to expeditiously report out a "clean" bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security for the remainder of the current fiscal year. A fully functioning Department of Homeland Security is critical to the security of our nation, our cities, and our citizens. A Department operating on a short-term continuing resolution, despite its best efforts, faces uncertainty and delays and simply cannot be fully functioning.

He goes on to elaborate a number of the important programs and important work that the Department of Homeland Security does, and I will not read all of that.

I ask unanimous consent that this letter be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE UNITED STATES
CONFERENCE OF MAYORS,
Washington, DC, February 4, 2015.

Hon. THAD COCHRAN, Chairman,
Hon. BARBARA MIKULSKI, Ranking Member,
Committee on Appropriations, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JOHN HOEVEN, Chairman,
Hon. JEANNE SHAHEEN, Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on Homeland Security, Committee
on Appropriations, U.S. Senate, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS COCHRAN, MIKULSKI, HOEVEN, AND SHAHEEN: I write on behalf of the nation's mayors to urge you to expeditiously report out a "clean" bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security for the remainder of the current fiscal year. A fully functioning Department of Homeland Security is critical to the security of our nation, our cities, and our citizens. A Department operating on a short-term continuing resolution, despite its best efforts, faces uncertainty and delays and simply cannot be fully functioning.

Under its current short-term continuing resolution, DHS cannot undertake any new spending initiatives to respond to national needs, including those along the border, or release any grant funding for non-disaster programs. Among the non-disaster programs it funds are the State Homeland Security Grant Program and the Urban Areas Security Initiative, which provide vital resources to our cities to help them prevent and prepare for the threat of a terrorist attack. The Urban Search and Rescue System is a national resource that provides lifesaving aid to disaster-stricken communities both at home and abroad. The Assistance to Firefighter Grant programs help local fire departments meet their baseline readiness needs. Emergency Management Performance Grants help to fund the emergency managers so critical to our preparedness to prevent and respond to disasters when events—man-made and natural—occur.

Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson recently listed just a few of the activities vital to public safety and security that the Department has funded, including new communications equipment for over 80 Los Angeles area public safety agencies, surveillance cameras and environmental sensors used by NYPD to detect in real time potential terrorist activity, upgraded oxygen masks and tanks for over 30 Denver area; and 150 firefighter jobs in Detroit.

The current threat environment is serious, given the terrorist attacks in Paris, Ottawa and Sydney and public calls by terrorist organizations for further attacks on the Western targets. It's vital that Congress provide stable funding for the remainder of the year to the agency charged with keeping all of us safe and secure, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Sincerely,

TOM COCHRAN,
CEO and Executive Director.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I will also point out a letter we received, which again, was addressed to Senator COCHRAN and Senator MIKULSKI.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 3 more minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. This is from emergency managers, and it says:

The nation's local emergency managers urge you to include full-year funding for programs at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that support state and local emergency management programs. These programs are critical to preparing our nation for all hazards including terrorist attacks.

Again, they go on at length, and I ask unanimous consent to have this letter printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
EMERGENCY MANAGERS,
Falls Church, VA, February 4, 2015.

Hon. THAD COCHRAN,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, U.S.
Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. BARBARA MIKULSKI,
Vice Chairwoman, Committee on Appropria-
tions, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN COCHRAN AND VICE CHAIRWOMAN MIKULSKI: The International Association of Emergency Managers—US Council appreciates the work of your committee as you consider the FY 2015 budget for the Department of Homeland Security. The nation's local emergency managers urge you to include full-year funding for programs at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that support state and local emergency management programs. These programs are critical to preparing our nation for all hazards including terrorist attacks.

The Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG), called "the backbone of the nation's emergency management system" in an Appropriations Conference Report, constitutes the only source of direct federal funding for state and local governments to provide basic emergency coordination and planning capabilities including those related to homeland security. The grant is 50-50 cost shared and supports state and local government initiatives for planning, training, exercises, public education, as well as response and recovery coordination during actual events. When a coordinated response is required, it is always a complex undertaking. Local emergency management is core to the coordination and collaboration of multiple agencies, jurisdictions, and sectors.

A recent example of the importance of EMPG is provided by Dr. Russell Decker, Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security for Allen County Ohio.

In the case of our January 10 refinery explosion and fire, EMPG funds made a successful response possible with trained emergency managers and our public safety partners implementing response plans developed and trained through EMPG funding, hazard materials response and air monitoring equipment funded through State Homeland Security Grant Program funds ensured the safety of responders and nearby residents. I'd hate to think what could have been the outcome if that planning, training, and exercising had not occurred. Since many locals rely on EMPG, extended delays can mean staff layoffs or delays in filling vacancies, postponed training exercises, delays in plan revisions and also delays in acquisition of needed equipment for EOCs which could mean increased costs when funds do become available.

The delay in receiving this annual EMPG funding causes uncertainty for local govern-

ments. Some preparedness activities must be put on hold until the reimbursement is assured.

Also important are grant programs such as the State Homeland Security Grant Program and the Urban Areas Security Initiative which help support local government preparations for the continued threat of terrorism. Funding is needed to sustain currently established and critical programs.

We respectfully urge that full year funding be provided for FY 2015 to end the uncertainty.

Sincerely,

JOHN "RUSTY" RUSSELL,
President, Inter-
national Association
of Emergency Man-
agers, U.S. Council.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. There are any number of reasons why we need to pass a clean funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security. We should be working to do that now. We should stop the ideological debate and focus on the risk to this country if we fail to act, the potential risk we would face by passing a continuing resolution, and the risk to this country if we shut down the Department of Homeland Security. None of those options are acceptable.

We need to work together and get this done. I urge my colleagues to do that.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

NET NEUTRALITY

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the importance of the issue of Net neutrality and the importance of it to our innovation economy.

The Internet is a \$638 billion economic force, and according to the McKinsey Global Institute, it supports millions of jobs across our Nation. Setting the right policy for the Internet is critical for the continuation of American job creation in an innovation economy.

Over the next 24 hours, FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler is expected to announce strong Net neutrality standards to support the growth of this innovation economy.

According to news reports, the FCC will establish clear rules of the road to ensure that no content is blocked and that the Internet cannot be divided into fast and slow lanes. This announcement would set a clear framework for the innovation economy and the millions of jobs that depend on it across our Nation. It would make a game-changing milestone for American innovators and consumers because a comprehensive plan would protect consumers while still allowing for flexibility of business growth and investment and making sure that American consumers and innovators are protected.

The Commission is expected to vote on this rule later this month, and I

hope that all of our colleagues will be paying attention to this decision because this decision is not just whether I can download or use Netflix, it is really about equal access to the marketplace. It is about how the future success of these innovators are determined.

Over the last few years, we have been debating the future of the Web, and that is because broadband companies have tried to leverage what is to be established as a two-tier Internet—those with fast lanes because of their ability to pay more and slow lanes for those who can't pay more.

I believe the President did the right thing. He called on the FCC to make the right decision when it comes to the Internet and protecting it from cable companies who want to overcharge or slow down connections. The FCC seems to be willing to make the right call, by protecting consumers and the Internet, under a new order which, just like a utility, would give consumers the ability to be protected from bad service or exorbitant fees. At this point in time, that is what we need to do to protect consumers.

According to the news reports, Chairman Wheeler will announce a plan to use the FCC authority in the most comprehensive way to protect Net neutrality, prohibit pay-to-play fast lanes, prohibit blocking and throttling, require greater transparency for consumers, and apply the rules to wireless broadband so that smart phones are treated just like the browser on your desk.

This plan would cover what is known as the middle mile or Internet traffic or the companies that content providers, such as Netflix, pay to bring traffic to cable companies, such as Comcast, to connect to you, the end user. These important policies will provide certainty to a startup in business, and they will make sure that those products get equal access.

Last month I had a roundtable in Seattle with several startups and experts on Net neutrality, and many of those companies relied on the Internet to transform their ideas into successful businesses. They explained how the debate affects more than just tech companies. They said software is revolutionizing every industry, from retail to health care, everything from the way you pay for your coffee at Starbucks to how you access your own personal health information.

If we allowed a two-tier system to develop, the big guys would have the ability to pay more while the smaller customers would have disruptions. What we have done, hopefully with an announcement today, is to make sure we are putting a stake in the ground to protect consumers.

The CEO of the Washington Technology Industry Association put it best when he said:

We have a multi-trillion dollar evidence base study that says the current rules of the game—which mean open, neutral access to the Internet—work.

I couldn't agree more.

Our innovation economy depends on equal access for all ideas. The proof is in the numbers. Over 6 million U.S. jobs are tied to the Internet. That adds up to a payroll of \$558 billion. In the Seattle metropolitan area alone, from 2009 to 2014, there were 433 different venture capital deals related to Internet companies, totaling nearly \$2.6 billion.

All of this growth in the Internet economy relies on an open Internet. That means no blocking, no throttling of these priorities. That is why I support strong net neutrality rules. They need to be responsible and efficient.

I thank Chairman Wheeler for his leadership in setting up strong rules. I hope this information on the Web continues to be one of our great economic engines and continues job development here in the United States.

A strong net neutrality rule is the best tool in the toolbox for preserving the openness of the Internet today. It will go a long way to help us continue our economic prosperity.

I thank the Presiding Officer, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FLAKE). The Senator from Georgia.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I find it tragically ironic that on the same day the Islamic State tragically took the life and murdered a Jordanian pilot that the U.S. Senate failed to get a 60-vote majority to move to a motion to proceed to debate the most important issue facing the United States of America. I agree with my colleagues who have talked about the dangers of Islamic terrorism, the dangers of porous borders, and all the other dangers we have spoken about, but we can't solve those problems unless we get the bill to the floor and debate it.

I was elected in 2004. The No. 1 issue in my campaign and in the general election was immigration policy in the United States of America. Eleven years later, it is still the biggest domestic issue in the State of Georgia. We still have a porous border and we know how vulnerable we are. It is time we move this bill to the floor and fully debate it.

I know there are differences of opinion. I know each one of us would do it differently. But we are part of a constitutional government to make decisions for our people. We don't need Executive orders dictating what we should do. We need a House and a Senate to come to common ground, we need a President who will sign a bill, and we need a bill to be upheld. We are not going to get there until we have de-

bate on the floor and move forward on a motion to proceed to debate funding for the Department of Homeland Security.

I just left a Committee on Foreign Relations hearing on human trafficking. We talked about the terrors of what is happening in terms of sexual abuse, sexual trafficking, child labor, minority labor—all of those horrors that are taking place. Do my colleagues know where they are taking place in our country? They are taking place on the border of the Southwest, in the Presiding Officer's home State of Arizona, where our border is porous. And because of that, drugs and human beings are trafficked every single day. That should stop.

The No. 1 issue when we debated the Department of Homeland Security bill in 2005 was to put in a trigger to ensure that no changes in immigration law took place until we first secured the border.

The border is still not secure. We are trying. I commend our brave soldiers and the State of Arizona, as well as Fort Huachuca, one of the beacons of the drones that are flying on the border with Mexico to try to identify people coming in, but we haven't done enough.

We should bring the Department of Homeland Security bill to the floor. We should make sure the funding for the Department of Homeland Security is sufficient to secure our border. We will find our differences and we will debate our differences and we will come to common ground. But we can't come to common ground—we can't resolve our Nation's No. 1 domestic problem—unless we agree to bring to the floor the motion to proceed and bring a robust debate to the floor of the U.S. Senate.

I, as one Member of the Senate, ran for this job to be a part of the solution, not someone who would throw up my arms and say we can't solve the problems so I am going to sit on the sidelines. Let's get off of the sidelines. Let's come to the floor of the Senate. Let's vote on the motion to proceed. Let's fully amend and debate the bill. Let's send the President a bill from a unified Congress that says we want a secure border, we want an immigration policy that works, and we want to once again be a government of checks and balances, not a government of Executive orders.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to please notify me at 9 minutes into a 10-minute speech.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator will be so notified.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, we are in the odd situation by which our Democratic colleagues are complaining that we are blocking funding for the Department of Homeland Security when the House has passed a bill that fully funds the Department of Homeland Security. It is sitting at the desk today. The majority leader, Senator McConnell, has moved to proceed to that bill, and they are blocking it. Senator McConnell moved to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed—to just get on the bill—and he has indicated, as he has before, that there would be amendments allowed to the bill. This would be the way to move forward with an appropriations bill in the regular order. So it is unbelievable, really, that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle are trying to contend that the majority Republicans in Congress, in both Houses, are trying to block funding from the Department of Homeland Security when nothing could be farther from the truth.

Look at today's CNN headline. This is on their Web site: "Democrats Block Funding for DHS to Protect Obama's Immigration Orders."

Why are they blocking it? To protect Obama's immigration orders that are contrary to Congress's will, clearly overwhelmingly rejected by the American people, and contrary to law. Why should Congress fund unlawful activities? Why should it fund policies it does not approve of? Why should it fund policies the American people strongly reject? It has no duty to do that.

Congress is not a potted plant. It is not a rubberstamp. Congress has a duty to the people, which is to ensure that the laws of this country are followed, that the American people have defense for the homeland, with funding for the Department of Homeland Security, and they have done that. What they have said is we are not going to fund actions by the Department of Homeland Security that undermine the law. We are not going to approve money that undermines the laws of the United States, and we are not going to allow the President to take money, which was given to the Department of Homeland Security to enforce the law, so he can undermine the law.

What has the President done with his Executive orders? It is a stunning action. He said over 20 times he didn't have the power to do this. He doesn't have the power to do what he did. He just did it because political pressure, I guess, caused him to do so. He is going to provide legal status, not for children, for 5 million people. They will be given Social Security numbers. Constitutional scholars have told us, colleagues, the utilization of the idea of prosecutorial discretion is not appropriate in such a massive way as this.

What I want to tell you is it goes well beyond prosecutorial discretion. The President is going to provide a Social Security number to people who are unlawfully here. He is going to provide a photo ID for people who are unlawfully in America, providing work permits for them, the right to participate in the Medicare and the right to receive checks from the Federal Government in the form of earned income tax credit to the tune of billions of dollars.

One of the first things we do to try to establish a lawful system of immigration is not provide financial benefit to people who come to the United States unlawfully. So this is a problem. I have to say it is a big problem.

My friend and able Member of this Senate, Senator DURBIN, the Democratic whip, assistant minority leader, said this last night, yesterday: "It is incredible to me that we have refused to provide funds the Department of Homeland Security needs to keep America safe." He said: "It is incredible to me that we haven't passed a bill that the House sent over here that fully funds Homeland Security."

I am not blocking the bill. We want to go on the bill. We want to be able to amend the bill to keep America safe. Who is blocking it? It is my Democratic colleagues. Senator DURBIN is the leader of the blocking game. He is the offensive line, the center, I guess, of the offensive line.

Senator DURBIN goes on to say: "There is nothing wrong with a debate over immigration policy."

That is correct. He continues: "In fact, the Republicans, now in the majority control of the House and Senate, could have started the debate weeks ago. They didn't."

Look, we debated Senator DURBIN's vision. It was rejected by Congress, his ideas. Many supported the bill in this body. It didn't come back this fall in part because of their actions on immigration.

President Obama had the choice to go from State to State trying to elect people to pass his immigration bill, but he either didn't do it or it didn't work. The American people do not want this kind of legislation.

My friend Senator DURBIN said further: "Instead, they attached five riders to the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill, and they said: We will not allow that Department to be properly funded unless the President accepts these five immigration riders."

This is just a normal bill that says how the money is going to be spent. It is going to be spent for enforcement, and we are not going to spend money to not enforce the law. It doesn't change. The bill the House has sent to us does not change one lawful immigration policy of America, not one. It is the President who adopted a radical new immigration policy contrary to

law, contrary to the American people's wishes. In fact, quite a number of Democrats urged him not to issue such an order, but he did it anyway. Congress has a duty.

Senator DURBIN talks about the DREAM Act that he offered. It had a chance for passage a number of times. But every time it was carefully read, it was an overreach. It went too far. But the point of which is it was rejected by Congress. Congress didn't pass that.

We need to be clear about who is objecting to what in this body, who wants to fund Homeland Security and who wants to advance a radical, unlawful, unpopular amnesty agenda the American people don't like.

Yesterday on the floor Senator SCHUMER asked if it wasn't possible for the Senate to pass a Department of Homeland Security bill—without language that would ensure the President complies with the Constitution, of course—and then send it back to the House.

Senator SCHUMER is one of our more able Members, for sure, in the Senate, and I respect him and his abilities. But the answer is this: The House-passed DHS bill is the only vehicle because the House of Representatives would blue-slip a bill that originates in the Senate. This is a basic tenet of how a bill becomes law. Article I, section 7, clause 1 of the Constitution states:

All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills.

Over the years, the House of Representatives has asserted, and successfully asserted, that this applied to revenue spending bills as well. According to the Congressional Research Service, as a result, the House customarily originates all "money" bills, including appropriations bills. The Congressional Research Service states:

In practice, the Senate has generally deferred to the House's insistence on originating appropriations.

Indeed, it has generally deferred because they won't move anything that doesn't start over there. They successfully asserted that gray area to their benefit, and perhaps it is consistent with the Constitution.

My staff has been unable to find a single instance where the House took up a Senate-originated appropriations bill in over 100 years, since 1901.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has used 9 minutes.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank the Chair.

Our friends in the House have been unequivocal: The Senate must pass the House bill. Speaker Boehner said, "Senate Republicans and Senate Democrats must stand together with the American people and block the President's actions."

House Appropriations Committee Chairman HAL ROGERS said the Senate, "should pass the bill, which funds a very vital national security agency but

also turns back this blanket amnesty which is illegal and unconstitutional.”

That is where we are. The House has sent over the right bill. It does the right thing. It defends the integrity of the Congress. It defends the wishes of the American people, it defends the policy decision of the Congress of the United States, and prohibits the President from doing what he himself said over 20 different times he did not have the power to do. Professor after professor and historians have said the President doesn't have the power to do it. If the President can do this, if he can execute laws Congress has rejected, what will he be able to do in the future?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 20 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, the good news is the country has made substantial economical progress in the last 6 years since President Bush left office. Instead of losing 800,000 jobs a month as we were during the final months of the Bush administration, we are now creating some 250,000 jobs a month and have seen steady job growth over the last 58 months.

Instead of having a record-breaking \$1.4 trillion deficit as we did when President Bush left office in January 2009, the Federal deficit has been cut by more than two-thirds. Today the 10-year deficit projection is now \$5.5 trillion lower than what the projections were back in 2010.

Six years ago the world's financial system, as we all remember, was on the verge of collapse. Today that is not the case. In fact, some might suggest that Wall Street is doing too well.

While we can take some satisfaction as to what has been accomplished in the last 6 years, one would be very naive not to appreciate there is also a lot of very bad news in our economy, especially for working families.

Most significantly, the simple truth of the matter is the 40-year decline of the American middle class continues. Real unemployment is not 5.6 percent—including those people who have given up looking for work or people who are working part time when they want to work full time—it is over 11 percent. Youth unemployment—something we almost never talk about in this country—is a horrendous 17 percent, and African-American youth unemployment is over 30 percent. It is totally unacceptable.

Real median family income has declined by nearly \$5,000 since 1999. All over this country—in Vermont and in every other State in this country—we have people working longer hours for lower wages. We have husbands and wives working 50, 60 hours a week just to pay the bills. Incredibly, despite huge increases in productivity, in technology, and all of the global economy we hear so much about, the median male worker now earns \$783 less than he did 42 years ago. Let me repeat that. That American male worker right in the middle of the economy now earns, after inflation adjusted for wages, \$783 less than he did 42 years ago. The female worker right in the middle of the economy now makes \$1,300 less than she made in 2007.

When you ask why people are angry, why people are stressed, why people are frustrated, that is exactly why. Further, this country continues to have, shamefully, the highest rate of childhood poverty of any major country on Earth, and 40 million Americans still have zero health insurance.

In the midst of this tragic decline of the American middle class, there is, however, another reality. The wealthiest people and the largest corporations are doing phenomenally well. The result: The United States today has more income and wealth inequality than at any time since the Great Depression. Today the top one-tenth of 1 percent own almost as much wealth as the bottom 90 percent. Let me repeat that because that truly is a startling fact. Today the top one-tenth of 1 percent—which is what this chart talks about—owns almost as much wealth as the bottom 90 percent.

Today 1 family—the Walton family, owners of Walmart—owns more wealth than the bottom 40 percent of the American people, some 120 million Americans.

I don't believe most of our people think this is what the American economy should be about. In fact, this is not an economy for a democracy. This is what oligarchy is all about. One-tenth of 1 percent owning almost as much wealth as the bottom 90 percent, 1 family owning the equivalent of what 131 million Americans own, that is wealth. In terms of income—which is what we make every year—what we have seen in the last number of years since the Wall Street crash is virtually all new income is going to the top 1 percent.

Last year—just as one example—the top 25 hedge fund managers earned more income than 425,000 public school teachers. Does anybody believe that makes sense? Twenty-five hedge fund managers making more income than 425,000 public school teachers. That gap between the very rich and everybody else is growing wider and wider and wider.

The fact is that over the past 40 years, we have witnessed an enormous

transfer of wealth from the middle class to the top 1 percent. In other words, what we are seeing in our economy is the Robin Hood principle in reverse. We are taking from the poor and the working families and transferring that income and wealth to the very wealthy.

From 1985 to 2013 the share of the Nation's wealth going to the middle class has gone down from 36 percent to less than 23 percent. If the middle class had simply maintained the same share of our Nation's wealth as it did 30 years ago, it would have \$10.27 trillion more in cumulative wealth than it does today. Almost \$11 trillion would have stayed with the middle class but has disappeared since 1985.

But while the middle class continues to shrink, while millions of Americans are working longer hours for low wages, while young people cannot afford to go to college or leave school deeply in debt, while too many kids in this country go hungry, we have seen, since 2009, that the top 1 percent has experienced an \$11.5 trillion increase in its wealth. So the top 1 percent in recent years sees an \$11.5 trillion increase in wealth, while in roughly the same period the middle class sees a \$10.7 trillion decrease in wealth.

This \$11.5 trillion transfer of wealth from the middle class to the top 1 percent over a 5-year period is one of the largest such transfers of wealth in our country's history. Here is my point. This is not just a moral issue, although it is a profound moral issue—and Pope Francis, by the way, deserves a lot of credit for talking about this issue all over the world. Are we satisfied as a nation when so few have so much and so many have so little? Are we satisfied with the proliferation of millionaires and billionaires, at the same time as we have millions of children living in poverty? Is that what America is supposed to be about? That is the moral component of this debate.

But this is not just a moral issue. It is also a fundamental economic issue. As we know, 70 percent of our economy is based on consumer spending. When working people do not have enough income, enough disposable income, they are unable to go out and buy goods and services that they would like or that they need. The so-called job creators that my Republican friends often refer to are not the CEOs of the large corporations.

The CEOs of large corporations cannot sell their products or services unless people have the income to buy them. Someone can come up with the greatest product in the world, but if people do not have the money, they are not going to sell that product, they are not going to hire workers to produce that product.

The truth is that the real job creators in this country are those millions of people who every single day go out

and purchase goods and services, but if they do not have adequate income, the entire economy suffers. There was a very interesting article, I believe it was yesterday or today, in the Wall Street Journal, written by Nick Timiraos and Kris Hudson, talking about how a two-tier economy is reshaping the U.S. marketplace.

What they talk about is:

It is a tale of two economies.

Said Glenn Kelman, chief executive of Redfin, a real estate brokerage in Seattle.

There is a high-end market that is absolutely booming. And then there's everyone in the middle class. They don't have much hope of wage growth.

The article continues.

Indeed, such midtier retailers as J.C. Penney, Sears and Target have slumped.

"The consumer has not bounced back with the confidence we were looking for," Macy's chief executive Terry Lundgren told investors last fall.

I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Wall Street Journal, Jan. 28, 2015]
HOW A TWO-TIER ECONOMY IS RESHAPING THE
U.S. MARKETPLACE

(By Nick Timiraos and Kris Hudson)

The advance of wealthy households, while middle- and lower-income Americans struggle, is reshaping markets for everything from housing to clothing to beer.

WOODINVILLE, Wash.—Five years ago, Quadrant Homes churned out starter houses in the Seattle area with an average sales price of \$269,000 and the marketing slogan, "More House, Less Money."

But facing a debt-burdened middle class and rising land prices, Quadrant has since exchanged entry-level buyers for customers free of credit worries and ready to splurge. Its new slogan, "Built Your Way," accompanies homes with vaulted ceilings and gourmet kitchens that last year sold for an average price of \$420,000. "We used a lot of market research to tell us that our old model wasn't going to work," said Ken Krivanec, Quadrant's chief executive.

The emergence of a two-tiered U.S. economy, with wealthy households advancing while middle- and lower-income Americans struggle, is reshaping markets for everything from housing to clothing to groceries to beer.

"It's a tale of two economies," said Glenn Kelman, chief executive of Redfin, a real-estate brokerage in Seattle that operates in 25 states. "There is a high-end market that is absolutely booming. And then there's everyone in the middle class. They don't have much hope of wage growth."

The recession blew holes in the balance sheets of all U.S. households and ended a decadeslong loosening of credit for middle-class borrowers. Now, credit is tight, and incomes have been flat or falling for all but the top 10th of U.S. income earners between 2010 and 2013, according to the Federal Reserve.

American spending patterns after the recession underscore why many U.S. businesses are reorienting to serve higher-income households, said Barry Cynamon, of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. Since 2009, average per household spending among

the top 5% of U.S. income earners—adjusting for inflation—climbed 12% through 2012, the most recent data available. Over the same period, spending by all others fell 1% per household, according to Mr. Cynamon, a visiting scholar at the bank's Center for Household Financial Stability, and Steven Fazzari of Washington University in St. Louis, who published their research findings last year.

The spending rebound following the recession "appears to be largely driven by the consumption at the top," Mr. Cynamon said. He and Mr. Fazzari found the wealthiest 5% of U.S. households accounted for around 30% of consumer spending in 2012, up from 23% in 1992.

Indeed, such midtier retailers as J.C. Penney, Sears and Target have slumped. "The consumer has not bounced back with the confidence we were all looking for," Macy's chief executive Terry Lundgren told investors last fall.

In luxury retail, meanwhile: "Our customers are confident, feel good about the economy in general and their personal balance sheets specifically," said Karen Katz, chief executive of Neiman Marcus Group Ltd., last month. Reported 2014 revenues of \$4.8 billion for the company are up from \$3.6 billion in 2009.

Revenue for such luxury hotel chains as St. Regis and Ritz-Carlton rose 35% last year compared with 2008, according to market research firm STR Inc. Revenues at midscale chains such as Best Western and Ramada were down 1%.

On grocery aisles, the recession and its aftermath boosted sales of economy brands. At the high end, Whole Foods Market Inc. reported record sales per gross square foot last year.

"Demand bifurcated," said Jason Green, chief executive of the Cambridge Group, a growth strategy firm that is part of Nielsen NV. "The familiar stuff my middle-class family had in the pantry, those are under significant pressure."

In the grocery market's middle tier, Safeway Inc., the second-largest supermarket chain in the U.S. was purchased last year by the private-equity group that owns Albertsons, the fifth-largest grocery retailer. Company officials said the deal would allow the companies to reduce costs—and lower prices for customers—as they fend off competition from low-price outlets and high-end stores.

In the cold case, sales of premium lagers are up 16% since 2007 after adjusting for inflation, while sales of economy brands grew 8%, according to research firm Euromonitor International. Sales of midprice beers are down 1%.

The trend hit auto makers some years ago, when BMW AG's former chief executive Helmut Panke described the U.S. market as an hourglass: lots of demand for budget and luxury brands but little in between. Steve Bates, general manager of BMW Seattle for the past 12 years, said new-car sales at his dealership were up 25% last year, while used-car sales were flat. The M4 series, a sporty coupe priced from \$64,000, has been "selling out as soon as it touches the ground," he said.

Then there are consumers like Vicki Oliver, 68 years old, of Temecula, Calif. She bought a used Hyundai Sonata last year to replace a wrecked 1995 Ford Explorer. Ms. Oliver and her husband, a real-estate agent, added onto their home two years ago so her daughter and son-in-law, a general contractor, could move in with their family.

"That was a way to make things work in hard times," Ms. Oliver said. Caribbean

cruises and trips to Florida are now memories. "We haven't done that for years," she said.

The housing market illustrates how weakness among middle-class consumers holds back the U.S. economy. Homes are generally the biggest purchase Americans make. Housing dollars ripple through the economy by triggering spending on appliances, furniture and landscaping.

INEQUALITY IN AMERICA

For the first time, U.S. builders last year sold slightly more homes priced above \$400,000 than those below \$200,000. As a result, the median price of new homes exceeded \$280,000, a record in nominal terms and 2% shy of the 2006 inflation-adjusted peak.

Total sales last year, however, were up just 1% compared with 2013, and more than 50% below their average from 2000 to 2002, before the housing bubble.

New homes are also getting bigger. The median U.S. home was more than 2,400 square feet in the third quarter of 2014, a 20% increase from early 2000 and a 10% increase from the peak of the housing market in 2006.

In Seattle, the median new-home size topped 2,500 square feet last year, a record, according to research firm Metrostudy Inc. Since the market hit bottom in 2011, sales of new homes priced above \$600,000 have tripled, while sales below \$400,000 are down 16%, according to CoreLogic DataQuick. Builders boost profits selling more expensive homes. But less construction overall means fewer new jobs and reduced total spending.

"Over the long haul, I worry that you can't run our housing market, which depends on volume, on affluent buyers alone," said Diane Swonk, chief economist at Mesirow Financial in Chicago.

Young households have been slow to buy homes because of the tough job market. Many would-be buyers can't save enough for a down payment or don't earn enough to qualify for a mortgage. Student debt holds others back.

A typical household, for example, would need around \$60,000 in cash to make a 20% down payment on the median-priced new home in the U.S. To qualify for a mortgage, they would need good credit and to show an annual income of about \$45,000, assuming little other household debt. A government-insured loan in this example could call for an \$11,000 down payment but would require an annual income of \$60,000.

Lisa and Nathan Trione are looking for a house in Denver big enough for their five children. But there is little in their price range: \$250,000 and under.

"You're already intimidated by the process," said Ms. Trione, a 28-year-old paralegal and office manager. "And then you see this huge price, and you say, 'I'm not ready to do that right now.'"

Ms. Trione is paying off debt she incurred while earning her associate degree. She also is trying to raise her credit score, which, she said, fell during a series of early financial missteps.

Well-heeled customers, meanwhile, have their pick of mortgages. At the same time, some banks have pulled back from federally insured loans that allow for smaller down payments.

"We would like to build a smaller, higher-quality and less-volatile business," Marianne Lake, chief financial officer at J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., told investors last year. With fewer potential customers, builders have largely abandoned the entry-level market. "If a builder can make money on something, he'll build it. The problem is that they can't

make money at the entry level," said John Burns, of Irvine, Calif., a consultant to builders.

But rentals, the low-end of the housing market, are booming. Apartment construction has neared its fastest pace since 1989. Two of the nation's largest home builders, Toll Brothers Inc. and Lennar Corp., have both launched multifamily construction divisions, each with around 5,000 units in the pipeline. "We all wished we had a big apartment portfolio through this downturn," said Douglas Yearley, Toll's chief executive, during an earnings call last year.

With sales plunging in 2009, Quadrant called in a research firm that concluded more buyers might materialize if the company built more expensive homes. "When it's data driven, the courage to make a remarkable change is easier than when you're using your gut," said Mr. Krivanec, the company's chief executive.

Quadrant, a unit of TRI Pointe Homes Inc., was finishing seven homes per workday in 2004. They now finish less than two of the more expensive houses a day. But the share of buyers who back out of a deal, typically because they can't get a loan, is down 10% since 2010. To serve more higher-end buyers, Quadrant opened a design studio two years ago that lets buyers choose from dozens of cabinets, countertops, tiles and flooring. Some new buyers spend nearly twice as much on such upgrades, the company said, which adds to the profitability of home sales.

Common design features now include a walk-in closet and bathroom nearly as big as the master bedroom. Kitchens have a walk-in pantry.

On a recent Tuesday afternoon on Little Bear Creek Place, a cul-de-sac in this Seattle suburb, electricians, landscapers and framers worked on some 23 Quadrant home sites.

Nearby, Nick and Adriana Stoll unpacked boxes in their new four-bedroom home. The home is twice the size of the 1,200-square-foot, one-bedroom apartment they rented in nearby Bellevue.

The Stolls customized almost every feature and finish, including hinges on kitchen cabinets that prevent the doors from slamming shut. "I'm typically the kind of consumer where I make a quick decision," Mr. Stoll said. "But when it comes to your home, well, we stared at 100 countertops for an hour."

The Stolls survived the recession and have prospered. Mr. Stoll purchased a Seattle condominium in 2008, the day before learning he was losing his job at Washington Mutual, the thrift sold to J.P. Morgan after it was seized by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

Mr. Stoll changed jobs twice before he was recruited in 2011 to work at a technology company. He broke even on the sale of his condo last year. "Other people encountered problems where maybe it's student loans or credit cards or car payments," he said, "and we have none of that."

The couple put 20% down on their new home, which cost \$579,000. Ms. Stoll works as a client associate for a large financial services company.

Growth in new home sales this year will depend, in part, on whether builders revive their interest in first-time buyers.

Two years ago, D.R. Horton Inc., the nation's largest home builder, launched Emerald Homes, a luxury division. Last year, the company rolled out Express Homes, a division that pioneered no-frills housing for the entry-level market. Mr. Krivanec, Quadrant's CEO, said he doesn't see a return to his company's former model. There are

enough people with good-paying jobs in the area—at Boeing, Amazon and Microsoft—to keep sales going, even it means building fewer homes. "We like where we're at," he said.

Mr. SANDERS. So what we are hearing—basically what this article tells us—is if people's income is going down, they are not going to Macy's, they are not going to Target. Those stores are not hiring workers or are getting rid of workers because the middle class does not have the income it needs.

Here is a very important point. Within President Obama's recent budget—by the way, I think the President's budget is beginning to move us in the right direction—there was a very interesting projection that unfortunately got very little attention. Here is the point: Over the last 50 years GDP growth in the United States of America averaged about 3.2 percent. What the President's budget is suggesting is that more or less over the next 10 years we are going to see 3-percent growth, 3-percent—2.7, 2.5, 2.3. For the rest of the decade, 2.3 percent.

The bottom line is, if we continue along the same type of economic growth we have had over the previous 50 years, unemployment would be substantially lower, people would be paying more taxes, Social Security, among other programs, would be in much stronger shape.

The debate we are going to be having in the Budget Committee—I am the ranking member of the Budget Committee—are two very different philosophies. Our Republican friends believe in more austerity for the middle class and working families. Their goal, over a period of months and years, is to cut Social Security, cut Medicare, cut Medicaid, cut nutrition programs for hungry children, not invest in infrastructure, and then give huge tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires.

In other words, more austerity for the middle class, tax breaks for the wealthy and large corporations. I believe that philosophy is wrong for many reasons, the most important being that if we want to grow the overall economy, if we want to create jobs, we have to put money into the hands of working people. We do not do that by cutting, cutting, cutting, and imposing more austerity on people who already desperately are hurting.

A far more sensible approach is to create the millions of jobs that our country desperately needs by, among other things, investing heavily in our crumbling infrastructure. Last week I introduced legislation that would invest \$1 trillion over a 5-year period into rebuilding our crumbling roads and bridges, rail, airports, water systems, wastewater plants.

If we do that, we make our country more productive, safer, and create up to 13 million jobs, putting money into

the hands of working people. It not only will improve their lives, but they will then go out and spend their money in their communities, creating further economic growth. That is the direction we should be going.

We also have to raise wages. People cannot survive on the starvation minimum wage imposed at the Federal level of \$7.25 an hour. If we raise the minimum wage over a period of years to \$15 an hour, we are going to have billions of dollars go into the hands of people who need it the most, improve their lives, allow them to go out and invest in our economy, spend money and create jobs.

We need pay equity for women workers. It is not acceptable that women are making 78 cents to the dollar for men who are doing the same work. We need to address the scandal of overtime right now, where we have so-called supervisors at McDonald's who work 50, 60 hours a week, but because they are so-called supervisors do not get time and a half.

We need to make college affordable for all of our workers. In a global economy we need the best educated workforce in the world, not the one where people cannot afford a higher education. We need trade policies that benefit working people and not just large multinational corporations, which is why we should defeat the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

So there is a lot of work that needs to be done. But the bottom line is, if we are serious about dealing with the deficit and debt reduction, if we are serious about growing the middle class, we need an agenda which creates jobs, raises wages, makes college affordable, demands that corporate America start investing in this country and not in China.

We need a proworker agenda, not an austerity agenda which will strangle the middle class of this country even more than it is hurting today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Vermont for what he has said. I would note that there are many in our State who agree wholeheartedly. We are not a wealthy State. We are a proud State. We are not a State that believes in such a huge disparity of income. So I thank the Senator for what he said, not only here but when he has made similar remarks around the country.

(The remarks of Mr. LEAHY pertaining to the introduction of S. 356 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND
SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, yesterday our friends across the aisle blocked—filibustered, really—a \$40 billion funding bill that would have paid the funds necessary to keep the Department of Homeland Security running through the rest of this fiscal year. I understand they had some differences over the content of the legislation the House passed, but it is undeniable that the House acted responsibly by passing this appropriations bill, particularly at a time of heightened security concerns not only here at home but around the world.

Of course, the part that I guess confused me the most is our Democratic friends said: Well, we don't want to debate the bill, but what we want is a clean DHS appropriations bill. So they wanted to get to the end of the process without even starting the process, which strikes me as odd.

As I pointed out last week during the Senate debate on the Keystone XL Pipeline, Senator DURBIN from Illinois, the assistant minority leader, spoke very sincerely in support of a process surrounding that bill. We didn't all agree that the Keystone Pipeline should be passed, but we did at least have an open amendment process that allowed everyone to express their point of view and to get votes on amendments, up or down, before concluding that piece of legislation. I think the most notable part of that was that we actually had more votes in the Senate during the 3 weeks we were on the Keystone XL Pipeline than we had all of last year under the previous management.

So it was amazing to me to see that the Democratic leadership—the Senate minority—worked so hard to marshal their caucus together to block debate on this \$40 billion appropriations bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security, especially considering the promise of the Senator from Illinois to continue to work with us to foster an open debate process and an open opportunity on both sides of the aisle to offer good ideas and to put them up for a vote on how to improve legislation.

It was also amazing to see this outcome considering what so many of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle said last fall when the President made his Executive action on immigration.

As I said yesterday—and I want to repeat it again—we are not upset with people who are seeking a better life in the United States. All we are asking for is a legal process. We are very upset with the President violating his oath of office and purporting to make unconstitutional Executive orders. That is the problem. That is what the House is focused on like a laser.

In fact, this President's actions were a stunning display of Executive overreach. You don't have to take my word

for it; take his word for it—at least the first 22 times he talked about it. He said he didn't have the authority to do it 22 different times.

Then there is the view of some of our colleagues in the minority. For example, the senior Senator from West Virginia put it simply last November when he expressed, I think, the feeling of a lot of Democrats when he said, “I wish he wouldn't do it.”

This was echoed also in a very straightforward manner by the very junior Senator from Minnesota, who said, “I have concerns about executive action.” Of course, it is easy to understand why because this is a uniquely legislative responsibility. The President doesn't have authority to make laws on his own—at least that used to be his position.

Then the senior Senator from Missouri said of the President's unilateral action: “How this is coming about makes me uncomfortable, [and] I think it probably makes most Missourians uncomfortable.” Well, the public opinion polls I have seen bear that comment out, that while many people think we do need to fix our broken immigration system, the majority of people in the public opinion polls I have seen disagree with the way the President has tried to act by doing this unilaterally—or purporting to do it unilaterally.

Well, I have good news for Senator MCCASKILL, Senator FRANKEN, and Senator MANCHIN. The House of Representatives has actually passed a piece of legislation that addresses their concerns and should give them some comfort.

The legislation on which we are trying to open debate fully funds, as I said, the Department of Homeland Security while reining in the President's unconstitutional actions. This is one of the tools available to Congress—using these legislative riders on appropriations to in effect express disapproval and defund certain acts by the Executive. That is one of the tools we have available to us.

I will renew my request from yesterday to Senator REID, the Democratic leader, and ask the assistant minority leader to honor his commitment that he made when we were debating the Keystone XL Pipeline. Please work with us to achieve at least debate on the floor, if not some significant legislation. But to just throw a fit and say “We refuse to even start debate on the legislation” strikes me as more of a political move than a legislative solution.

So I would ask my friends on the other side of the aisle, who so boldly stood up to express their concerns with the President's Executive actions only a few short months ago, to again stand up—this time to their own leadership—and to join us in reining in the President's Executive overreach and to not

hold hostage the \$40 billion the House has appropriated to help fund the Department of Homeland Security through the end of the fiscal year, through September 31.

If there are parts of the House bill you don't like—and there are parts of the House bill that I have concerns over and that I hope we have a chance to vote on, but that is the way the House and the Senate are supposed to relate to one another. The House passes legislation, the Senate passes legislation, and if they are different, then they get reconciled in a conference committee or through a ping-pong back-and-forth before they go to the President. But to throw a fit and say “We refuse to do our job of legislating” just because they don't like where we are starting is extraordinarily counterproductive and is an unfortunate return to the dysfunction I believe the voters repudiated in their vote on November 4. So we will see whether there is a different point of view.

I know the majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, will come back to the floor and ask to reconsider the vote from yesterday, and so there will be another opportunity for our friends across the aisle to reconsider their vote blocking even beginning considering this legislation. I hope they will reconsider and join us and try to come up with a consensus solution.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I wish to follow up on what the majority whip has been talking about.

Clearly the country is and should be concerned by the President's unilateral Executive action on immigration. He announced this action on November 20 of last year. The majority whip has already gone down that list of a number of our colleagues on the other side who said this is the wrong way to do this. The House happens to agree. In fact, the House of Representatives has passed legislation that agrees that this is the wrong way to do it and try to come up with a remedy.

Frankly, there is a better remedy. We are not going to find that better remedy if we don't have a debate. We are not going to find that better remedy if we don't come to the floor and say: Here is how we think that bill should be changed.

The action taken last November by the President was clearly Executive overreach. It was an affront, I believe, to the rule of law, and it was an affront to the Constitution. Article II, Section 3 of the Constitution states that the President “shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed.” That is the end of the quote right out of the Constitution. It couldn't be clearer—“shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed.”

That is why we call the President the Executive. The President's job is not to make the law. The President's job is not to rule as a court would on the law. The President's job is to execute the law. The question here is: Does the law matter or not? The question here is: What do we do when the House of Representatives has passed a spending bill that would allow the funding for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for the rest of the fiscal year—between now and September 30—which does try to stop President Obama's Executive amnesty plan?

It appears, if you can believe what you read that people have said, that a substantial majority of the Senate agrees the President shouldn't have done what he did. So what is our obligation to try to undo that? The House has done their part by sending a bill over that does that.

The President himself said 22 times that he didn't have the authority to do what he eventually did. I guess this is one case where I agree with the President 22 times. So if anybody is thinking I don't agree with the President, here are 22 times I agree with the President—the 22 times he said he couldn't do what he eventually decided to do. And what was that? The President said he can't unilaterally change the country's immigration laws.

The President didn't have that authority the 22 times he said he didn't have that authority. He didn't have that authority on November 20, 2014, when he took actions that clearly were designed not to enforce the law, and he doesn't have that authority now. So the House sent a bill over that tries to clarify that the President doesn't have that authority; that the legislative branch of the Federal Government is the House of Representatives and the Senate of the United States. It is not whoever gets to act last.

Occasionally, the President will say: I am going to take Executive action if the Congress doesn't do its job. Well, the key point there is that it is the job of the Congress to pass laws, not the job of the President. If the President wants to repeal the law, if the President wants to change the law, nobody is in a better position than the President of the United States to encourage the Congress and the country to do that. But that doesn't mean the President has the default option, if the Congress doesn't act by some certain date, to just do it himself. That is not in the Constitution. The President is not going to find it there.

I continue to believe the House-passed Department of Homeland Security funding bill is the way to send a message to the President that he can't act unilaterally; that there is a constitutional way to do this. I have not given up on winning over six Democrats in the Senate. Everybody understands the importance of 60 votes in

the Senate. There are 54 Republicans, not 60, but there are more than six Democrats who have said they didn't agree with what the President did. I think in all cases they have said they agree with the funding levels or they would vote for the funding levels for the Department of Homeland Security. It seems to me those two things come together pretty nicely here. They get a chance, by debating this bill, to undo what the President did and to fund the Department of Homeland Security. So there are at least six Democrats who have said those are two different things they are for, and this is a case where we get to do that.

We need to pass this House measure that ensures spending at an important time with critical needs of homeland security, but it also would stop the President's illegal amnesty. We should not let that stand. We don't know where these legislative fights will wind up until we have them. Maybe that is why no Democrat yesterday was willing to have this debate, because maybe they do not know what happens if attention is called to the past positions they have had or the need to fund the Department of Homeland Security. But we don't know how these legislative battles work out if we don't have them. I think we need to have this one.

Leader MCCONNELL said our first choice is to try to pass the House bill. If the law shouldn't be followed, then advocate that it be repealed, advocate that it be changed, but don't advocate that it be ignored. The ignore clause of the Constitution doesn't exist. There is no ability of the Executive to do that.

The United States is a nation founded on the rule of law. With every trade agreement we enter into, with all our relationships with other countries, and with people who come here, we talk about this being a country where you can look at the law and rely on the law itself—no matter what your status. The President is to take care that the laws are faithfully executed. Yet President Obama repeatedly has found ways to circumvent the Congress by picking and choosing which laws he wants to enforce.

Take the case of the overwhelmingly complicated health care law, where the President is picking and choosing what dates the law is to be complied with, even though the law often has very clear other dates. The President said: Well, I think there is a better date. This is a bill of which the President was a major advocate. He had a chance to put the dates in there and didn't.

I recently reintroduced the ENFORCE the Law Act to ensure the President can't just continue to blatantly not do what the law says has to be done. This is a bill I introduced in the last Congress, where it passed the House with a bipartisan vote, but we weren't allowed to vote on it in the Senate. Apparently, there are a num-

ber of my colleagues who think that not only are we no longer allowed to vote on bills, but now it is even a bad idea if we debate a bill. That is what the vote was yesterday—to debate the bill. It wasn't approving anything except to debate the bill. That is what we should be moving towards now so we can fund this part of the government. The President complicated the funding of this agency with his action last November.

The ENFORCE the Law Act permits the Congress, if the Congress believes the President isn't enforcing the law, to go to court—not to wait months and years for an aggrieved citizen to go to court with their own money and say he or she does not believe the government has the authority to do something. This allows the Congress to go to court and to go early and let a judge decide if the law is being enforced as written or not.

The ENFORCE the Law Act would reestablish the proper limits of the executive branch. It would restore checks and balances. It would also provide a defender of citizens who, in their own capacity, don't have to defend or fight the government by themselves if the Congress itself believes the President has taken authority that he doesn't have or is enforcing the law in a way that wasn't intended.

I think we have to stand up for the rule of law. I have joined in a court case supporting the State of Texas. Texas is suing the administration over what they believe are all kinds of added expenses put on them by the President's power grab in deciding on his own which immigration laws would be enforced and which won't be. Senator CORNYN, Senator CRUZ, and I were signatories to this brief filed in December, and 24 House Members joined us, including the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, saying we agree with these States and that many responsibilities have been placed on them because the President of the United States chose not to enforce the law as written.

Twenty-six States have now joined that lawsuit filed by the State of Texas, and I look forward to the conclusion of that suit because I think the judge is likely to decide that, no, there isn't the selectivity of which laws you enforce that the President has applied here, and there are great costs created for States as a result of that.

Every Senator in this Chamber has a constitutional obligation to curb the unilateral Executive overreach. We have a chance to do that with the bill that could be before us. We have a chance to do that with the bill the House has sent over. This whole issue goes to the very heart of the system of checks and balances in our country and reiterates the importance of the Constitution and following the Constitution—adhering to the rule of law.

I would like to see us have a chance to do that, as this Department of Homeland Security funding bill should—and eventually, I am confident, will—come to the floor.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, it is good to follow my good friend, the chairman of the Committee on Rules and Administration, on which I am ranking member. I don't agree with him, but he is a fine man.

Now, I rise to dispel attempts by the other side of the aisle to dodge responsibility for funding the Department of Homeland Security in a responsible way. Here is what is happening. The rightwing of the Republican Party is risking a Department of Homeland Security shutdown to get their way on immigration. They are saying: Take our hard-right stance on immigration or we won't fund national security.

Most Americans don't agree with that view. Most Americans are for a rational immigration policy. A large majority in this body—bipartisan, led by Senator MCCAIN and myself—voted on that in 2013. But we have a small group, led by the junior Senator from Texas, who say: It is our way or we are going to shut down one of the premier agencies dedicated to our security.

As I said when I engaged in a colloquy with my good friend from Texas, our Republican colleagues have the majority. They can debate immigration any time they want. In fact, we welcome that debate. We think the American people are on our side. We are willing to have that debate. We are eager to have that debate but not with a gun put to the head not only of us but of the American people. Do what we, a narrow minority, want or we are going to shut down the Department of Homeland Security—at a time when security is of utmost importance given what has happened around the world and what we just saw happen to the Jordanian pilot yesterday.

This strategy makes no sense. The junior Senator from Texas is leading his party at best into a cul-de-sac, and at worst over a cliff. We are not going to be taken hostage. If my good friend the majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, thinks that by bringing this bill up again and again it is going to change what happened yesterday, it is not. So we are saying to the other side: Now that you have seen the vote, now that you have shown Speaker BOEHNER that we can't pass his bill in the Senate, get real. I say get real, to my friend the majority leader and to the Speaker of the House.

Let's roll up our sleeves, and let's work out a Department of Homeland Security bill and pass it. Let's not hold that agency hostage. Let's not just renew them every couple of months. As the Secretary of DHS said yesterday,

that is like getting a car and only giving it five miles of gas at a time. It just doesn't work. So get real. Let's negotiate a DHS spending bill.

I know our Senator from Maryland, the ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations, and the Senator from New Hampshire, the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Homeland Security of the Committee on Appropriations, are eager to sit down and pass a bill that we can all agree on in terms of funding Homeland Security, and then we can debate immigration. Then we can debate immigration—but no hostage taking and none of this bullying. None of this: If you don't do it my way, I am going to hurt a whole lot of innocent people. That didn't work in 2013 when Republican numbers plummeted after they tried to shut down the government, and it won't work today.

We will not allow a government shutdown. We will not allow hostage-taking. We will ask our colleagues to get reasonable, do things the way they used to be done, debate each issue on the merits. They have the floor. They can debate any issue they want and move forward.

I will say one other thing to my Republican colleagues: The junior Senator from Texas has you tied in a knot. I say that to Speaker BOEHNER as well: Speaker BOEHNER, the junior Senator from Texas has you tied in a knot. Now you are going to have to find a way to untangle it. We will not be bullied. We will not be told we have to negotiate because you seek to hurt innocent people and hurt our security. We will move forward.

So let me suggest the way to go forward: Let's put a good, clean Homeland Security bill on the floor. Let's make America secure. Then, separately, we are happy to debate immigration to the Republican Party's heart's content, but let's stop this govern-by-crisis mentality, especially when national security hangs in the balance.

So I urge Speaker BOEHNER, I urge Senator MCCONNELL to come to their senses, end this wild goose chase and let us vote on a clean bill forthwith.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, I wish to talk about the necessity of having an appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security and the fact that it is being held up over the issue of folks in the House of Representatives who do not want to appropriate money for the actions that the

President has taken in trying to improve a dysfunctional immigration system. Holding up the funding for the Department of Homeland Security appropriations is absolutely ridiculous, in the opinion of this Senator.

The fact is the clock is ticking because the funding runs out in just a couple of weeks—February 27. What does the Department's name imply? Keeping the homeland secure.

In one regard, that means cyber attacks. Doesn't it occur to someone that we have had an extraordinary number of cyber attacks recently? Most everybody will remember Sony. People were attacking us because they wanted to stop the expression of free speech, in this case with regard to a movie the Sony company had produced. Because they got in and got all of the personal data and were manipulating the internal controls of the company with this cyber attack, it is the Department of Homeland Security that is charged. Hopefully, if we can ever pass a cyber security bill that can be signed into law, the portal through which the early warnings will come will be the Department of Homeland Security. By the way, that cost the Sony corporation about \$100 million.

How about what happened to all of the customers of Target: Addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses were taken from 70 million Americans who were customers of Target.

How about Yahoo: Passwords and user names were exposed to cyber attacks.

How about eBay: Users' passwords, because of a cyber attack, had to be changed because they were compromised.

How about a number of major banks, including JPMorgan Chase: Seventy-six million households and seven million small businesses' accounts were affected by the attack.

How about Home Depot: Six million accounts were put at risk.

That ought to be enough to continue the funding of the Department of Homeland Security, but there is a lot more.

Most folks understand that TSA, which checks us as we go through the security at airports, at seaports—TSA is a part of the Department of Homeland Security. Are we going to cut off the funding for TSA—TSA that is now trying to stop the new kind of attacks with nonmetallic explosives?

Remember, because of our intelligence apparatus, working through liaison partners in other countries, about 2 years ago a cartridge in a printer was discovered ultimately going onto an airplane that was bound for the United States—that was a non-metallic explosive. We were fortunate we got that, but they continue.

These folks who are trying to attack us all over the world are trying very ingenious ways to avoid the security,

and we rely on TSA—especially at American airports—to protect us.

We simply in a couple of weeks can't afford for the appropriations to stop.

How about immigration, U.S. Customs and Border Protection: Again, another responsibility of the Department of Homeland Security, and we are going to cut off the funding on what kind of folks are coming across our borders and what kind of folks we are going to be checking and rechecking and what kind of things they are bringing into the borders.

There are a lot of people who want to get into this country to do us harm. That is the responsibility of the Department of Homeland Security.

So it is not only ridiculous to this Senator, it is almost silly. But the problem is it is tragic, and it could be horrendous given the fact that people around the world are trying to harm us as we try to protect ourselves in our national security every day.

This is a debate we should not be having. Unfortunately, it is a condition our politics have come to, and we need to stop that condition.

I leave the Presiding Officer on a happier note. As the Senate goes into recess at the conclusion of my remarks, happily all of the Senators are going to a bipartisan luncheon where we are going to talk about things we can do together. Indeed, that is the happiest thing I have heard today.

Madam President, as I yield the floor, I understand that pursuant to the previous order, the Senate will stand in recess.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:30 p.m., recessed until 2 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. FISCHER).

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the time until 2:45 p.m. be equally divided in the usual form, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I come to the floor in my position as the

vice chair of the Appropriations Committee to urge the Senate to pass a clean Homeland Security appropriations bill.

Yesterday the Senate rejected a procedural vote to take up the House Homeland Security funding bill. This is not about debating the weeds over this bill versus that bill. There are two distinct differences. The House bill has the funding for fiscal year 2015 in it that would take care of every single agency under the Department of Homeland Security to defend and protect the Nation, but at the same time it is loaded with five immigration riders that we call poison pill riders because the President said if legislation to fund Homeland Security passes with these five immigration riders, he will veto the bill.

The President wants to fund an appropriations bill, and so do I. The House Homeland Security bill, if taken up by the Senate, would simply be a delaying tactic. We would talk, we would debate, we would offer lots of amendments on immigration, and after we got lots of amendments on immigration it might go to the President. The President would veto it, and it would come back, and after all is said and done, more would get said than gets done. We have to pass the funding for the protecting of the homeland.

Yesterday the entire world was gripped with poignancy and sorrow about the ghoulish murder of a Jordanian pilot. The threat of terrorism is in the world—attacks by ISIL on people, the possibility of a lone wolf in our own country, a cyber attack in retaliation because we dare fight back against ISIL or because we are willing to challenge some of the other international predators directed at us. We have to protect the United States of America. That is what the Department of Homeland Security does. The Department of Defense protects us over there; the Department of Homeland Security protects us here.

After 9/11—one of the worst days in our country's history—the Congress came together, and we passed legislation to create the Department of Homeland Security so we could take every agency that was involved in protecting the homeland and put them under one umbrella so they could look out for us. Now we need to look out for them. Every day we ask men and women to serve in the Coast Guard, in the Secret Service, in the Border Patrol protecting our borders, in Customs making sure fraudulent products such as counterfeit drugs are not crossing our borders into our country. Now we need to pass that bill. We need to make sure we do not have a shutdown or a slamdown when the funding expires on February 27.

In December when I chaired the committee, in the closing hours of the past Congress, I worked with my sub-

committee chairman, Senator Landrieu, the vice chairman of homeland security, Senator COATS, and we put together a crucial funding bill that totalled \$46 billion to invest in agencies that protect us. It was \$1 billion more—\$1 billion—than the continuing resolution. We could have taken up that bill then, but there was a desire, because of controversy over the President taking Executive actions on immigration, not to do it. So now here we are in February. Now it is our time to fund a clean Homeland Security bill.

Immigration is a serious policy issue. I don't dispute that. It deserves serious debate. But don't add it as a series of riders on the funding bill; rather, let's take up immigration separately.

I remind our colleagues that in the last Congress this Senate passed a comprehensive immigration bill, only to have it die in the House. So we say let's pass our bill again, let's have the House take it up, and let's have a real debate on it, but in the meantime, we will have funded the Homeland Security bill.

This isn't BARB MIKULSKI talking about more government spending. Every past head of the Department of Homeland Security has urged the Senate to pass a separate bill. Tom Ridge, the original chief executive of this agency; Michael Chertoff, who also served under President Bush; and Janet Napolitano are calling for it, and so am I.

Right now our Coast Guard is out there safeguarding our waterways. We in Maryland just love our Coast Guard. We love them because, No. 1, they are always there for search and rescue; No. 2, they are always there to protect our bay. Whether it is against a possible oilspill or drug dealers trying to sneak up the bay, they are there. We also know how brave they were. We all recall how, with helicopters, they went in and rescued people during the horrific Hurricane Katrina, and they do it every day.

Then there is the Secret Service. The Secret Service is in the process of reforming itself. They need to protect the President, the Vice President, the First Families. But you know what—they are also out there being the government G-men, fighting things such as credit card fraud.

Then there are the cyber warriors protecting our critical infrastructure—our banking, our power grid.

Then there is FEMA, which right now is responding to disasters, whether it is a blizzard or a hurricane.

Then there are State and local responders. One of the programs I am so proud of in the Department of Homeland Security is the Fire Grant Program. The Fire Grant Program is a competitive grant program—not an earmarked program, a competitive grant program—where local fire departments, particularly those in our

rural communities, can apply for a grant to buy the necessary equipment they need to protect them so they can protect us.

I know the Presiding Officer is familiar with this in Nebraska. Turnout gear for a firefighter—the respiratory equipment to protect their breathing, the telecommunications, the fire-retardant/repellent material—can cost as much as \$1,000 to \$2,000 per firefighter. They cannot do this with pancake breakfasts. They cannot do it with fish fries and chicken dinners. They need the help of their own government to help them.

So I say let's pass a clean Homeland Security bill. Let's stop terrorist threats. Let's secure our borders. Let's safeguard our waterways. Let's make sure we are protecting our homeland and move to a clean bill.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum and ask unanimous consent that the time be equally divided between the parties.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Thank you, Madam President.

I was very pleased to hear the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, Senator MIKULSKI, who has done such great work on the committee in putting together the bipartisan agreement that was negotiated last December with the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, Congressman ROGERS. That was a bill which, as the Senator pointed out, funded the efforts of the Department of Homeland Security to keep people safe, to address emergencies, to try to protect us from cyber security threats—a whole range of efforts at the Department.

I want Senator MIKULSKI to hear a comment that I understand was made by the House Appropriations Homeland Security Subcommittee chairman JOHN CARTER, who is a Republican from Texas. When he was asked about what the outcome of this debate would be on funding the Department of Homeland Security, his comment was, "Ultimately, there may be a clean bill."

Well, I say to Senator MIKULSKI, if the House Republicans and the chair of the subcommittee in the House are acknowledging that ultimately there may be a clean bill to fund the Department to do what was negotiated by you and Congressman ROGERS last December, doesn't it make sense that we should get a clean bill done as soon as possible so there is certainty for the Department of Homeland Security so

they can continue the planning efforts and they can continue to address the threats to our national security? Shouldn't we just get this done now and stop this ideological fighting and putting at risk people of this country because somebody has an ideological concern about this bill?

Ms. MIKULSKI. First of all, I thank the Senator for bringing Representative CARTER's comments to my attention. I absolutely agree with the Senator's analysis and also with the comments by Representative CARTER. We should have a sense of urgency in passing the Homeland Security bill. The terrorists and the bad guys—whether they are organized crime trying to get across our borders, whether they are the terrorists watching us—they are saying: Hey, they are so busy fighting each other, they don't have time to think about fighting us. They are watching us and laughing at us because while we squabble and quibble and dribble, they are out there plotting against us.

I say to the ranking member of the subcommittee, I do think there is a sense of urgency.

I also wish to comment on the House. When we were working in the closing hours on the actual money part of the bill, I found remarkable bipartisan consensus. Left to our own analysis about how to be wise stewards of the taxpayer dollars for important security investments, there was wide bipartisan agreement. There may have been a different priority here or there, but by and large we knew exactly which public investments to make. And you know what—we did it within the caps, we did it within the allocation, and we got the job done.

We could do this job this afternoon. I feel a great sense of urgency because while the bad guys are plotting against us, we are busy plotting how we can fight each other.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I certainly agree with the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee. I will just point out that in the last 2 days, we have heard from the Conference of Mayors, which has urged us to pass a clean bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security. We have heard from the emergency managers across this country who are concerned about the risks of assistance for disaster relief and for FEMA, and today we got a letter from the National Association of Counties urging the passage of a clean bill to ensure that the safety of our communities can be maintained.

As the Senator said, we should not put these communities at risk, the efforts that are going on across this country to keep the Nation safe, because there are those people who are angry at the President about an Executive action. We can have that debate, but we should have that debate separately. We need to fund the Depart-

ment of Homeland Security now to ensure that there are no risks to our citizens.

I thank Senator MIKULSKI and the Presiding Officer.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FLAKE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, yesterday I spoke about the importance of voting yes to proceed to the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill for 2015, H.R. 240. That motion was unsuccessful. Despite all the voices from the other side of the aisle expressing support for the Department of Homeland Security, they refused to actually proceed to debate the bill.

My friends on the other side of the aisle have expressed concern that the bill is not 100 percent of what they want. In my experience, it is rare for anyone to get 100 percent of what they want when it comes to passing legislation, and that is certainly true when it comes to passing an appropriations bill. I am not talking about a vote on final passage or even a vote on amendments. I am talking about a vote to proceed to the debate on this bill. In addition to having the opportunity to offer amendments, an important part of the debate on a bill is the ability of any Senator to raise a budget point of order.

My counterpart, the distinguished ranking member of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee, has pointed out that there are budget points of order against the bill. But the point I would make is that in order for her to raise the budget point of order, you have to actually proceed to the bill.

I am certainly willing to acknowledge her budget points of order, which she brought up on the floor yesterday, but the point I am making is we have to proceed to the bill in order to debate those budget points of order and, in fact, vote on them.

The minority refuses to move to the bill because they object to the amendments added by the House of Representatives. The House went through its process, and now it is time for the Senate to go through its process. That is how the system works. That is regular order.

Last week, after the consideration of many amendments, we passed the Keystone XL Pipeline bill with a bipartisan vote of 62 Senators. There were rollcall votes on 41 amendments.

Since I introduced the Keystone bill, I would have thought it would have

been great if we could have just passed it with an up-or-down vote, but that is not how the Senate is designed to legislate. Instead, we vote to proceed to a bill so we can debate it, offer amendments, and work to develop consensus.

I am aware that it has been a long time since we had regular order in the Senate. We are not used to bringing a bill to the floor and debating amendments. But instead of embracing regular order, something we were denied in the previous Congress, we can't even proceed to debate and offer amendments on this bill—an important bill that we need to take up and address.

The contents of H.R. 240 represent the bipartisan prerogatives and priorities of Congress. Again, the House went through its process. What we are asking for now is for the Senate to do the same—to go through the process, go to the bill, and do the work we were sent here to do.

I discussed the merits of the bill at length earlier, but I will go through some of the highlights again just to remind my colleagues what is in the bill and why we are here. This bill will support the economic prosperity, public safety, and security of the American people.

This bill provides \$39.67 billion in net discretionary appropriations, plus \$6.4 billion in disaster funding. That includes \$10.7 billion for Customs and Border Protection, CBP, and that is an increase of \$119 million over fiscal year 2014. It supports record levels of personnel, tactical infrastructure technology, and air and marine assets.

The bill provides \$5.96 billion for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE. It maintains a record 34,000 adult detention beds and 3,828 family detention beds.

The bill provides strong support for the Secret Service, an organization that requires congressional oversight, given some of the recent incidents, and is \$81 million above fiscal year 2014 funding.

The bill provides the funding necessary to construct the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, NBAF, in Manhattan, KS.

It provides more than \$10 billion for the Coast Guard, including the 8th National Security Cutter, and takes a serious step to address the near-term, heavy-ice breaker needs with \$8 million for preserving the ship *Polar Ice*.

The bill supports our cyber security efforts, both protecting government operations and working with the private sector to share threat information and protective measures.

Since homeland security is a national effort, the bill provides continued funding for grant programs to State and local firefighters, emergency managers, and law enforcement.

The bill also provides for research and development, TSA's aviation security screening operations, the Federal

Law Enforcement Training Center, and E-Verify, which supports businesses across the United States in hiring legal workers.

Finally, the bill provides a requested \$7 billion for the Disaster Relief Fund to assist with recovery costs for communities when they are hit by natural disasters.

What the bill does not fund is the President's Executive actions. The House bill includes several amendments that are targeted at reversing the President's actions and articulating priorities for immigration enforcement. If that is concerning to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, then allow us to proceed to the bill so we can debate these important issues.

We have returned to regular order in this Chamber, and with that comes the responsibility to debate, offer amendments, and vote on legislation. That is what we are asking to do, and that is what we are calling on our colleagues to do. That is what the American people want us to do. That is what we are here to do.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of proceeding to H.R. 240 so we can do our work.

With that, I yield the floor.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, will my colleague from North Dakota, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Homeland Security, yield for a question?

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I will.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I appreciate the work my colleague has done on this funding bill, and I think we certainly agree on the funding that is in the bill. That is not what the debate we are having is about.

I ask the Senator from North Dakota if he has heard the comments of Chairman JOHN CARTER of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security, a Republican from Texas, who said: "Ultimately, there may be a clean bill."

If the House is acknowledging that ultimately we may have a clean bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security, doesn't it make sense that we would move forward to get this funding done, and we would make sure there is certainty to address the risks facing this country?

We can debate immigration. I don't think there is anybody on the Democratic side who doesn't want to have an immigration debate. We are happy to have it. But we should have that as a separate debate. As the Republican majority knows, they control the debate in the Senate. So they can decide to bring up an immigration bill as soon as we pass funding for the Department of Homeland Security. So I hope, as the House suggests, ultimately there is going to be a clean bill and that we would pass it as soon as possible to provide certainty and then move on to de-

bate the other issues facing this country.

I ask my colleague from North Dakota if he has spoken to the chairman of the House Appropriations Homeland Security Subcommittee, and does he share his view that ultimately there may be a clean bill?

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I am pleased to respond to the question of my counterpart on the Subcommittee on Homeland Security in the Senate, and I want to begin by acknowledging and stating again that I enjoy working with her. We have worked together on other committees and other issues, and I think there will be other issues we will work on together.

I am pleased to have this discussion with her because this is exactly the kind of debate we are asking for. We are asking to proceed to this bill so we can debate and, in fact, offer amendments. So what we are saying is—whether it is our colleagues on the House side or whether it is Members of the Senate—let's follow regular order, have the discussion, have the debate, offer amendments, and see where we end up.

Now, I believe the President's actions exceeded his authority in regard to his Executive order regarding immigration. Let's have that debate. Let's go to the bill so we can actually do the work we were sent here to do, where we discuss, debate, and offer amendments. If my esteemed colleague feels there is an amendment she should offer that would change this bill to bring it in line with the opinions of House Members or other Members of the Senate, then she will have the opportunity to do that, as will her colleagues, as will we. That is the point.

So the answer to the question is: We don't know where we end up if we don't get started. So let's get started. That is what we are saying. Please join with us. Just as in our committee, we will have many committee meetings where we will debate issues and where we will take amendments from our fellow Senators who are on that committee. But we can't do that if we don't bring the bill to the committee and get started. That is what we are asking to do on the Senate floor.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I point out to my colleague that Senator MIKULSKI and I have introduced a clean bill that addresses funding for the Department of Homeland Security.

The fact is we find ourselves in this situation on the appropriations bill because of the riders that were attached by the House of Representatives. Those riders defund immigration directives that were issued by the President last year.

Yesterday, the senior Senator from Texas suggested that Senate Democrats don't want to debate immigration. In fact, we are happy to debate

immigration. In fact, this body, in 2013, passed a comprehensive immigration reform bill with a very strong bipartisan vote.

The debate we are having today is about whether we are going to fund the Department of Homeland Security. The bill that is before us raises concerns about what is in the original clean bill that funds the Department of Homeland Security.

As the Senator from North Dakota and I were just discussing, Senate Republicans control the Senate. If they want to vote on immigration measures, they can bring a bill that would do that to the floor by the end of this week because they control what we consider in the Senate. But the issue that is before us today is whether we are going to fund the Department of Homeland Security. This is an issue that is critical because right now our Nation faces serious national security and terrorism threats.

This bill is not about the President's Executive action; it is about whether we are going to fund the Department of Homeland Security. Since we have heard from so many of our Republican colleagues that they want to discuss immigration and border security, I spent some time yesterday speaking about all of the important investments that a clean, full-year funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security would make in our border security. If we don't pass a clean funding bill, we will fail to make significant upgrades to technology on the border. We will fail to fund expanded enforcement activities for immigration officers. If we are serious about border security, we should support a clean full-year bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I ask unanimous consent to speak for 3 more minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I thank the Chair.

I also think it is instructive at this time to note for the RECORD that included in the Executive actions that Republicans are trying to defund are provisions that increase border security, prioritize enforcement resources, and ensure accountability in our immigration system. The House bill that is before us today defunds—takes away the money—for the new policy of prioritizing criminals and national security threats for removal from the United States. So one of the orders that have been issued by DHS that Republicans want to defund directs law enforcement officers to place top priority on removing national security threats, convicted felons, gang members, and illegal entrants apprehended at the border.

The House bill also defunds increased and strategic border security.

Another one of the memos issued by DHS is on the Southern Border and Approaches Campaign, which establishes three joint task forces to reduce the terrorism risks to the Nation, combat transnational criminal organizations, and prevent the illegal flow of people and goods along our border. So that is another part of this legislation our colleagues want to defund.

It doesn't make sense, if we are concerned about border security, that we would want to pass a bill that includes measures to defund these efforts.

I understand my time has expired. I certainly hope everybody understands what the bill before us, which includes those five House riders, would actually do.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I wish to take a moment to respond to some of the points made by the Senator from New Hampshire. She indicated defunding provisions, but understand that this relates to Executive action undertaken by the President. The very same prioritization in terms of enforcement is funded in the underlying bill for enforcement of immigration law. Those prioritizations are there.

The other point I wish to make is that the Senator speaks about funding the Department of Homeland Security and their desire to fund the Department of Homeland Security. That is exactly what this bill does. This bill fully funds the Department of Homeland Security. There really is consensus between the House and the Senate that it does it very well. That is what this bill does. It funds the Department of Homeland Security.

So they are saying they want to fund the Department of Homeland Security. That is what this bill does, and that is why we have to proceed to it in order to accomplish full-year funding for DHS.

The third point I will make briefly is that the Senator referred to a bill that she is sponsoring with the Senator from Maryland to fund DHS—to fund the Department of Homeland Security—and she wants to proceed to that bill. Well, the way to do that is to vote with us to get on the bill before us—H.R. 240—and then they can offer that as an amendment, and we will debate it and we will have the vote.

So if the Senator from New Hampshire wishes to have the opportunity to debate her legislation and vote on her legislation, then let's vote to invoke cloture on this motion to proceed, let's proceed to the bill, and we will allow our colleagues to offer amendments which we can debate and vote on. We are offering the other side the opportunity to do exactly what they have asked to do.

Most importantly, again, I wish to go back to the point I just made. This bill

fully funds the Department of Homeland Security for the full year, and we are being blocked from going to the bill, debating the bill, allowing amendments on the bill, and getting to the final product for the American people, while working with the House. Remember, we have to produce a product that passes the House, too, to fund the Department of Homeland Security for this country.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to the motion to reconsider the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 240.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 240.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 240, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015.

Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, Richard Burr, Jerry Moran, John Thune, Johnny Isakson, Marco Rubio, Roy Blunt, Pat Roberts, Deb Fischer, John Boozman, David Vitter, Tim Scott, Roger F. Wicker, Richard C. Shelby, Michael B. Enzi, Rand Paul.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 240, an act making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close, upon reconsideration?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 52 Leg.]

YEAS—53

Alexander	Blunt	Capito
Ayotte	Boozman	Cassidy
Barrasso	Burr	Coats

Cochran
Collins
Corker
Cornyn
Cotton
Crapo
Cruz
Daines
Enzi
Ernst
Fischer
Flake
Gardner
Graham
Grassley

Hatch
Hoeven
Inhofe
Isakson
Johnson
Kirk
Lankford
Lee
McCain
McConnell
Moran
Murkowski
Paul
Perdue
Portman

Risch
Roberts
Rounds
Rubio
Sasse
Scott
Sessions
Shelby
Sullivan
Thune
Tillis
Toomey
Vitter
Wicker

NAYS—47

Baldwin
Bennet
Blumenthal
Booker
Boxer
Brown
Cantwell
Cardin
Carper
Casey
Coons
Donnelly
Durbin
Feinstein
Franken
Gillibrand

Heinrich
Heitkamp
Heller
Hirono
Kaine
King
Klobuchar
Leahy
Manchin
Markey
McCaskey
Menendez
Merkley
Mikulski
Murphy
Murray

Nelson
Peters
Reed
Reid
Sanders
Schatz
Schumer
Shaheen
Stabenow
Tester
Udall
Warner
Warren
Whitehouse
Wyden

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TOOMEY). On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 47.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The Senator from Indiana.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Indiana.

THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I wish to make some remarks about the President's budget, which was presented to us on Monday of this week as his annual proposal to Congress.

Given our country's enormous fiscal challenges and the results of the 2014 midterm election, I think there was hope among many of us that the release of this budget would be an opportunity for the President to work with us.

There was a lot of talk about working with Congress, working together. The message from the November 2014 election was that the American people want Congress to get some things done. And by the way, what about the continuing deficit? Are we going to get back to this draconian knife held over our throats, where the budget continues to put us in a position where debt and deficit continue to be the plague which is going to have enormous, negative consequences on the future of this country?

Given these enormous challenges, there was really hope the President

with his last 2 years, would see as part of his legacy an opportunity to work together to put us on a sound fiscal path. But much like the coach of the Seahawks on the 1-yard line, the President chose to make the wrong call.

In this case, in my opinion—and I think the opinion of many—the right call would have been a plan that actually puts us on a path for a balanced budget, addresses a skyrocketing mandatory spending burden and reforms our outdated Tax Code. These are, hopefully, ideas that both Republicans and Democrats could agree on. They would be in our national interest to move forward on. The time is now—with a Democratic President and a Republican Congress—to work together to achieve what Ronald Reagan and Tip O'Neill agreed to and what Bill Clinton and Newt Gingrich agreed to on welfare reform and on a number of other major initiatives that had been undertaken in Congress with support from both parties. They could be addressed.

But instead of pursuing a path of consensus on these issues, the President comes forward with \$2.1 trillion in additional tax increases over the next 10 years. Is there any end to the obsession the President has for raising taxes on the American people?

All the debate at the end of the last cycle—the previous cycle before the last cycle—was over the fiscal cliff. Let's raise taxes on the richest people in America and the high earners, and that will address the problem of taxes. But we never could get to the spending issue.

So if you like government to just keep increasing: Send your tax dollars to Washington, and we will spend it. That seems to be what the President had to say. Rather than looking at the dire consequences of not addressing these long-term problems, the President proposes to spend nearly \$4 trillion in fiscal year 2016, a 7-percent increase from fiscal year 2015 and about \$1 trillion more than what was spent in 2008. The President wants to eliminate the very budget caps that his administration proposed and he signed into law in 2011.

Well, it may be one thing to adjust those budget caps, particularly as it impacts our national defense and national security, but if that was done in conjunction with a larger proposal to address this out-of-control mandatory spending, wasteful spending, and unnecessary spending that is taking place here in Washington, that would be one thing to consider.

But this simply is just more of the same, going in the same direction, proposing unbalanced budgets each year, and adding more and more to our deficit and to our debt.

The President likes to talk about his veto pen and, with the release of this budget, we can only conclude that pen only contains red ink. The President

has taken a pass on the golden opportunity to move forward and work together. Instead, his budget takes us in the same direction we have been going in the past 6 years without any proposal to address it in any kind of serious way. I think it is imperative that we do that.

Just last week, the Congressional Budget Office released its latest economic report and the findings were, once again, very sobering. This non-partisan report warned that under current law our "large and growing federal debt would have serious negative consequences, including increasing federal spending for interest payments; restraining economic growth in the long term; giving policymakers less flexibility to respond to unexpected challenges; and eventually heightening the risk of a fiscal crisis."

The CBO projects that the gross Federal debt is expected to raise another \$10 trillion over the next decade. The report also says that we will spend down almost \$800 billion of the Social Security Trust Fund over the next 10 years.

Ten years from now, it is projected that spending on mandatory programs and interest on the debt will consume almost 94 percent of all Federal revenues, leaving far fewer funds for other important national priorities, such as strengthening our infrastructure, national defense, medical research, education, and any number of issues that could be dealt with on a national basis that would affect the future of this country. But it will not be able to be done because we have not taken these steps. Time is running out to make the tough fiscal choices now so future generations will not be saddled with an even higher burden of debt.

I regret the President has yet to come forward with the serious intent of working with us to deal with one of our country's most challenging and most pressing problems with creative solutions. We will only be able to accomplish the results we need if we work together, as the President has said. But it takes his engagement if we are going to succeed.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. First, Mr. President, I commend my good friend, the Senator from Indiana, for his good work on laying out, with the Senator from Oregon, one approach on reforming the Tax Code and his willingness to look at this issue of our national debt.

Let me echo, at \$18 trillion—he cited some statistics—interest rates go up 1 percent. That is more than \$120 billion a year off the top. That is more than we spend each year on the issues I am going to speak to—the Department of Homeland Security.

The only issue I would raise with my friend is that we do need that grand

bargain. But no one who has looked at this problem hasn't said: You are not going to solve it without revenues being part of the mix. You have to do entitlement reform. But even with the so-called revenues from the fiscal cliff, let me just point out that we brought the country to the brink of unforeseen financial areas.

To raise \$600 billion, well, in the past few years we have had unprecedented one-time revenues from the Federal Reserve north of \$400 billion, \$200 billion-plus that CBO counts as revenue from paybacks of Fannie and Freddie. We do not have the revenue streams. If we can get back to revenue streams from the late 1990s, revenue as a percent of our GDP, when the economy was booming and jobs were being created and there was bipartisan collaboration, I think that, combined with entitlement reform—to make sure Social Security and Medicare are truly sustainable for the next 50 years—there is a path there and I thank the Senator for his work.

Mr. COATS. If I could ask the Senator from Virginia to yield for a response without yielding the floor, and I will yield right back to him.

I wish to say that the perception of the public is that this is a partisan issue. It is not. The Democratic Senator from Virginia has taken a lead in this effort and committed an extraordinary amount of effort—only to come up short.

I have been privileged to work with him and a number of Members from the other side of the aisle together with Republicans, and we see the need to work together on this. We have lacked one thing. We have lacked support from the executive branch. Until we have that, I don't believe we will be able to take serious steps forward in addressing this problem.

But that is not something that can be defined as one party versus another.

Most of us on both sides of this aisle have recognized the disastrous potential consequences of our not taking action. I appreciate the tremendous work the Senator from Virginia has done in leading this effort, and I know we both regret that we haven't achieved success.

I thank the Senator, and I yield back.

Mr. WARNER. I thank the Senator for his comments. We might agree or disagree on the role the President has played, but that still doesn't beg the fact that we need to continue our efforts in this body and in the body down the hall.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, the subject of our debate today is that it is wholly inappropriate that at this moment in time some in Congress are de-

ciding that they are going to hold hostage Homeland Security funding unless they get 100 percent of what they want.

I think immigration reform is a terribly important issue. I was proud to join in one of the broadest, bipartisan votes in the past few years to pass bipartisan immigration reform. I was disappointed when our friends in the House didn't take up that legislation and pass it.

Subsequent to that failure to act on the part of the House, the President has acted—and I believe there are even folks here watching these proceedings now who are beneficiaries of those Executive actions, some of the DREAM-ers.

Now if this body wants to redebate immigration, that is a fair topic, a fair subject. And I, for one, would welcome that full-throated debate again. But it should not—it should not—be tied to a critical part of national homeland security funding.

The remarkable thing is this is actually an area where both parties came to agreement on the size of the budget and the program prioritization. There was an agreement. But instead, extraneous items were added that now some are saying if we don't get these items we are willing to roll the dice or potentially shut down the most essential parts of our government at a time of enormous international and potentially domestic challenge.

All of us, obviously, can come and speak about the unspeakable tragedies we saw reported coming out of the Middle East. We see as well challenges that ISIL presents potentially—not just in that region but to the homeland and in terms of trying to encourage homegrown terrorists. The notion there would be Members of this body or any body who would say it is okay to cut off funding to DHS at this moment in time is remarkable.

The American people—as someone who just went through a refreshing reminder of what they are looking for through my last election process—do not want us to legislate in this way. They want us to get things done. They want us to actually find common ground. And on homeland security we have made the hard choices on where the dollars ought to come from and where they ought to be prioritized.

But if the loudest voices get their way and hold this funding hostage, not only would it make our country more vulnerable to terrorist threats but a DHS shutdown would jeopardize our national security by disrupting other important programs, such as grants to train local law enforcement and to protect our communities. And as many as 240,000 people responsible for frontline security—more than 80 percent of DHS employees—will still have to show up to work—they just won't get paid for it. Many of them in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

This is a threat to the homeland, it is a threat to our law enforcement, it is a threat in terms of our ability to respond to crises with FEMA, and there is threat even without those potential tragedies of the normal course of an American citizen as they pass through airports and other venues. Ultimately, for an agency that has been under some strain, these 240,000 people who are working hard to protect our homeland have to provide for their families.

This is not the way this body should operate. I want to commend the majority for trying to say we will bring back an open process. But the notion that we will have a repeat of what we saw when we self-inflicted damage upon this whole economy when we shut down the government a few years ago because of an unwillingness of a few to compromise—if that is repeated now around homeland security, it would be a dreadful mistake.

TRIBUTE TO FEDERAL EMPLOYEE ANTHONY REGALBUTO

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I come to the floor to continue a tradition that was begun by my esteemed former colleague, the former Senator from Delaware, Ted Kaufman. Senator Kaufman would come to this floor from time to time to celebrate members of the Federal workforce who exemplify excellence in public service. In that tradition I want to honor a great Federal employee: CAPT Anthony Regalbuto.

Captain Regalbuto is a constituent of mine from Burke, VA. He currently serves as the Chief of the U.S. Coast Guard's Office of International and Domestic Port Security. But, in fact, Captain Regalbuto has spent his entire adult life in service to the Coast Guard, with 31 years on active duty and more than 12 years as a civilian—a total of 43 years of service. In this role he has been responsible for addressing the security weaknesses facing our Nation's ports. He has also assisted other countries with improving the safety of their own ports.

More than 90 percent of the imported goods of the United States go through our ports. The security risks facing the ports are many, and workers such as Captain Regalbuto help ensure they remain safe and secure from threats. For our Nation's ports to remain safe, we must ensure our foreign shipping partners follow established international port security requirements. So part of Captain Regalbuto's job is to make sure foreign countries that want to conduct business using U.S. ports adhere to these requirements.

Captain Regalbuto has developed a solution—a model code that countries could use as a guide to strengthen their own laws to improve the security of their ports. He also oversaw the creation of the Maritime Security Risk

Analysis Model. It helps the Coast Guard analyze and address major port security weaknesses by measuring a variety of factors. This risk analysis model has helped the Coast Guard evaluate more than 30,000 potential targets and 100,000 attack scenarios across the country.

Furthermore, this data has helped to efficiently allocate more than \$2.7 billion in grants where they can best help improve port security and get the best bang for the taxpayer dollars.

CAPT Anthony Regalbuto is just one of many Federal employees. He also happens to be a Federal employee who would potentially be affected by Department of Homeland Security funding, which is the current issue on the floor of the Senate.

One of the challenges, even as we move past this particular debate, is to make sure in these tight budget times—going back to the comments of the Senator from Indiana—that we husband our resources. We are going to have to do more with less. One of the things that is terribly important—as someone who has spent more time in business than I have in politics—if you want your workforce to do more, you find ways both psychically, monetarily, and through appropriate review to reward them.

Too often Members come to this floor and sometimes tend to demonize our Federal workforce. Too often over the past few years the Federal workforce is the first to receive the cuts in funding. If we are going to make sure our country remains strong, we want to make sure folks such as Captain Regalbuto keep our ports and keep our homeland safe. We need to recognize their service and, by all means, make sure we don't put in particular the DHS through another ill-fated, politically driven government shutdown.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

(The remarks of Mr. HATCH pertaining to the introduction of S.J. Res. 6 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, the House of Representatives has voted to fully fund homeland security, as the President has requested. It sent a bill

to the Senate that fully funds all the lawful policies and programs in homeland security. The bill will not deny a penny of funding. In fact, it says, spend the money, but on enforcing the laws of the United States. Don't spend money undermining the laws of the United States. Don't spend money in violation of the laws of the United States. Don't spend money in violation of the established policies of Congress, which rejected the President's ideas that he is now executing. And don't spend money in violation of the will of the American people who overwhelmingly oppose the President's unlawful Executive amnesty.

That is what we are talking about today, and my colleagues continue to suggest that somehow Republicans are not funding the Homeland Security Department. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Our colleagues have now voted to block going to the bill. If they don't like some of the provisions that came over from the House, well, let's get on the bill and let's have some relevant amendments and let's vote on it. That is what Congress is about. That is the way we are supposed to do business here.

But our colleagues have gotten spoiled. They think they can block anything and turn around and blame the Republicans for it and that somehow everybody is going to agree with them.

Look, the American people get this. The President is not entitled to spend money to implement a system of immigration that Congress, representing the American people, rejected. If our Democratic colleagues are unhappy, then, as I said, they can offer amendments.

I feel it would be a stunning event if the Senate removes language from a bill that simply restores the separation of powers and prevents the President from overreaching in violating the Constitution. But if they want to bring up amendments that would allow the President to do this activity, let's do it, let's bring it up, and let's vote on it. Perhaps they might win it. But I think it is untenable constitutionally and it is untenable legally, because it is contrary to the law and the will of the American people.

My good friend Senator SCHUMER is one of our able Members of this body. He spoke earlier today and he said: The right wing of the Republican Party is risking a DHS—Department of Homeland Security—shutdown to get their way on immigration. They are saying: Take our hard right stance on immigration, or we won't fund national security.

That is not so, Senator SCHUMER. Give me a break. Come on. You are blocking the bill. The House has voted to fund homeland security. It is on the floor. We need to pass it, and we will

give you an opportunity to offer your amendments if you are not happy with it. It is absolutely not so that they are doing that.

So how is it being reported? Republicans frequently complain they don't get fair reporting in the press, but let's look at this:

U.S. News and World Report, today: "Senate Democrats Block Bill Undoing Immigration Actions." That is the headline, "Undoing Immigration Actions." Those are President Obama's unlawful actions. So they are defending his actions, not defending homeland security.

How about this one, USA Today: "Democrats again block efforts to derail immigration order." The effort would derail the President's unlawful Executive amnesty—but it funds homeland security, as the article makes clear.

Fox News: "Senate Dems nix debate on Homeland Security bill, blocking it, in protest over immigration."

Who is blocking the bill?

Politico: "Democrats filibuster Department of Homeland Security bill."

That is exactly what is happening. The bill has passed the House. It is on the floor. We are trying to bring it up. We are trying to have debate. We are trying to have amendments. And they are blocking the bill—according to Politico, no rightwing publication.

The Washington Post: "Senate Democrats block DHS spending bill targeting Obama's immigration actions."

The Atlantic. This is a good one. For those of us who have been around here a long time, and I think for reporters who cover it, this is really humorous, to have our Democratic colleagues, having complained for years about what Republicans do. This is the headline in the Atlantic: "The New Democratic Obstructionists."

Here is the headline in the New York Times: "Senate Democrats Block Republicans' Homeland Security Bill."

So I would say, colleagues, the American people know better. The media knows better. They know who is blocking this bill. They know that the Congress of the United States—that the House of Representatives and the Senate is not required to fund any program it doesn't like.

It is absolutely not required, and it has a duty not to fund Presidential expenditures that are illegal. The Department of Homeland Security is provided funds to enforce the laws of the United States. The President right now is taking money that was sent to Homeland Security to enforce laws and he is redirecting it and moving it over to a building just across the river in Crystal City, hiring 1,000 persons to process applications of people illegally in the country and to provide them the earned-income tax credit, which is a direct check from the United States of

America, provide them a Social Security number, the right to participate in Social Security, legal status in the country, the right to work in the country, and participation in Medicare, when the law of the United States says if someone is here unlawfully, they cannot work. So that is what this is all about.

I just want to push back. I urge my colleagues—at least seven of my Democratic colleagues have said they oppose President Obama's actions. When do they have a clearer chance to confront that action and demonstrate with conviction that they meant what they said than on this vote?

It allows the bill to come forward. It allows us to have a vote. It allows anybody in the Senate to offer amendments that would be relevant to the bill. I feel strongly about that.

I see the Senator from New York. I think she was in line to speak before I was, and I was able to grab a few minutes. So I would just say this. Colleagues, please review your position on this. Let's move to this bill. Let's fund Homeland Security. Let's discuss and have amendments and vote on the President's Executive order, and the one who wins the votes, so be it. That is the way the Congress of the United States works.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I rise to urge my colleagues to do the right thing and pass a bill that would fully fund the Department of Homeland Security, without the politically driven riders that are the focus of this debate.

Protecting our country from terrorist attacks should be our top priority in Congress and we should not be playing games with Homeland Security funding. That is the least our constituents expect of us. I know that for many of my colleagues the question of immigration is a very contentious one and an important one worthy of debate. We should have that debate without risking the safety of our families by once again putting an immigration bill on the floor of the Senate.

But this funding bill for such a vitally important part of our national security is simply not the place for an ideological debate. If we fail to pass and fund the Department of Homeland Security, the consequences for our safety could potentially be devastating. Take for example the Urban Areas Security Initiative. This is the program that helps our cities pay for things such as surveillance equipment, secure communications systems, training for law enforcement personnel, all in order to increase our security and prevent terrorism. These grants ensure that all of the places terrorists have targeted and will continue to target

are able to effectively prevent those violent acts from happening.

New York City is my home State. It is the No. 1 terror target in the Nation. It relies on the urban security program to keep its millions of residents and tourists safe. It also relies on our Homeland Security network to stop the plans of would-be terrorists.

Since 9/11, New York City has thwarted at least 16 terrorist attacks, and it has done so because of the constant support the Department of Homeland Security provides. If we cannot pass this bill, the Urban Areas Security Initiative and the extensive network of security systems in New York City would lose their funding, and every visitor to an urban area in this country, including right here in Washington, DC, would be less safe.

If we cannot pass this bill, not only would our security suffer, but the inspectors at our ports would not be paid, our security personnel would not be paid, and our Border Patrol agents would not be paid. If we don't pass this bill, then we have failed at our most solemn responsibility, to keep the American people safe.

I urge all my colleagues to please put politics aside, vote to pass a bill free of divisive policy riders and fully fund the Department of Homeland Security.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the rest of my time.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FLAKE). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to pass a clean Homeland Security funding bill for fiscal year 2015. This is an issue of national security, and we cannot allow politics to divert attention from our responsibility as Senators.

The majority in the House sent the Senate a bill with five poison pills that they know will prevent the passage of this legislation. Yesterday and again today, my Senate colleagues and I sent a clear message that these politically divisive immigration provisions have no place in this bill.

I urge my colleagues to dispense with any further delays and allow for an up-or-down vote on the bill as originally drafted.

The Department of Homeland Security funding bill—created in the wake of 9/11, as Senator DUREN reminded us earlier—is not the place to litigate immigration policy; rather, those issues are appropriately addressed in a comprehensive immigration bill, and I hope the House will draft and vote on that type of legislation soon.

The recent executions of the Japanese and Jordanian hostages by the

terrorist group ISIL and the attacks in Paris, Ottawa, and Australia serve as reminders of the very real threat we face.

Each day we delay in providing adequate, reliable resources to the Department of Homeland Security, we undermine the Department's efforts to defend the home front. That is why I am calling on my colleagues to take up and pass a clean bill.

My colleagues on the Appropriations Committee Senator SHAHEEN and Vice Chairwoman MIKULSKI have introduced a clean DHS funding bill that reflects the bipartisan agreement reached between the House and Senate appropriators. This bill funds a wide range of programs that keep Americans safe and secure.

For example, the clean version of this bill funds a host of counterterrorism, intelligence, and security functions; investments in cyber security defense technologies and personnel, investments to detect and protect against biological threats, research and development of nuclear detection technologies, TSA and Coast Guard operations to keep our skies and our waters safe. The clean version also funds \$6 billion in disaster funds to help States, localities, businesses, and individuals rebuild after a natural disaster, staffing nearly 24,000 Customs and Border Protection officers who ensure legitimate travel of individuals who seek to enter the country, and staffing 20,000 Border Patrol agents who protect the 6,000 miles of our land border and 2,000 miles of coastal waters.

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Johnson has been clear that while the Department operates under the current CR, it cannot fund key homeland security initiatives.

A short-term CR would prevent the Department from awarding new disaster preparedness grants that support our local emergency responders. It would delay the hiring of more investigators for cases related to human trafficking and smuggling. It would also prevent the Secret Service from training for the next Presidential election, and the list goes on.

We cannot expect DHS to do long-term strategic planning with short-term funding measures. The Department needs reliable funding to operate efficiently and effectively.

The House majority is unfortunately playing politics with our homeland security because the President has taken an action that every President since the 1950s has taken: He has provided commonsense direction to our immigration enforcement efforts.

The President's Executive actions on immigration are fundamentally aimed at keeping families together, making our communities safer, and using our resources efficiently. It is hard to understand how someone could oppose that.

The President's actions will ensure that our immigration enforcement efforts are used to secure the border, prevent threats to national security, and protect public safety. These should be our top priorities, and I support those efforts, but if Members of the House take issue with them, they should draft and adopt immigration reform, just as the Senate did on a bipartisan basis 18 months ago.

Our path forward is simple: Pass a clean funding bill. If my colleagues want to fix our broken immigration system, then let's take up a bill, but let's not use this critical funding bill to play partisan politics.

The dedicated men and women of the Department of Homeland Security deserve better. The American people deserve better. Let's put aside politics and let's pass a clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LEE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. ALEXANDER pertaining to the submission of S. Res. 67 are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RECOGNIZING THE HENRY CLAY CENTER FOR STATESMANSHIP AND THE KENTUCKY DISTILLERS' ASSOCIATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, last night I had the honor of speaking at a bourbon event hosted by the Henry Clay Center for Statesmanship and the Kentucky Distillers' Association here in Washington, DC. This event was for Kentuckians and by Kentuckians and featured the so-called "Bourbon Barrel of Compromise" that had been delivered from Ashland, the Henry Clay Estate in Lexington, KY. I would ask that my remarks at that event last night be entered into the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[Feb. 3, 2015]

LEADER MCCONNELL'S REMARKS AT BOURBON EVENT

Thank you, Robert [Clay, co-chairman of the Henry Clay Center for Statesmanship].

It's a pleasure to be here to celebrate the spirit of Kentucky—literally. Tonight we honor two of Kentucky's most important gifts to the nation: the drink that is Bourbon whiskey and the revered statesman Henry Clay. I'm glad to be here to talk about both.

There are a lot of good Henry Clay stories, but let me share one of my favorites—a story that demonstrates Clay's sense of humor and quick wit.

On one occasion, a long-winded colleague of Clay's, Alexander Smyth of Virginia, was

giving a speech. He turned to Clay in mid-speech and said disdainfully, "You, sir, speak for the present generation; but I speak for posterity."

Without batting an eye, Clay retorted, "Yes, and you seem resolved to speak until the arrival of your audience."

Taking that wisdom to heart, I will be brief.

I want to thank the Henry Clay Center for Statesmanship and the Kentucky Distillers' Association for hosting this grand event—not only tonight's affair, but shipping a barrel of Bourbon whiskey from Henry Clay's estate in Ashland to Washington, DC, just as the Great Compromiser reportedly often did some two centuries ago.

The history of Bourbon whiskey and the legend of Henry Clay have long been intertwined. It is said that whenever Clay went to Washington, he carried a barrel with him, to "lubricate the wheels of government."

Clay is also credited with writing the first historical recipe for the mint julep and introducing it to the public in this very hotel.

He recorded in his diary his own method for making the cocktail. Clay called for "mellow bourbon, aged in oaken barrels" and also instructed that "the mint leaves, fresh and tender, should be pressed against a coin-silver goblet with the back of a silver spoon."

The historical record also shows that Clay used Bourbon as an aid to legislating. One observer from that era recalls witnessing Clay and fellow Senate great John Calhoun sipping whiskey in the Old Senate Chamber.

Together they would drain their glasses behind the vice president's chair—and Clay, with good humor, would say to Calhoun, "Well, Mr. Senator, I will admit that you have had the better of me today; but I'll be your match tomorrow."

Legend also holds that Clay's oratorical skills were often enhanced by his consumption of Kentucky's favorite beverage. Some have said that it is the lime in the water used to make Kentucky Bourbon that lends both Bourbon whiskey and Clay's oratory their special flare.

Whatever it may be that gives Bourbon whiskey its unique taste, Kentucky is proud to be the birthplace of Bourbon.

The drink itself is named for Bourbon County, where the product first emerged. Kentucky produces 95 percent of the world's Bourbon supply, and Kentucky's iconic Bourbon brands ship more than 30 million gallons of the spirit to 126 countries, making Bourbon the largest export category among all United States distilled spirits.

Bourbon also gives much back to Kentucky. It is a vital part of the state's tourism and economy. Many a visitor to the Commonwealth has traced the famous Kentucky Bourbon Trail. And the industry is responsible for nearly 10,000 jobs in our state.

And both Bourbon and Clay have one thing in common: They excel at bringing people together in a spirit of compromise.

I'd like to think that this Kentucky spirit of compromise lives on in the Senate today. With the new Senate of the 114th Congress, it's great to see some real debate on the floor of the Senate once again.

It's been great to see both sides able to offer amendments once more.

I know many of the Democratic Senators are glad to be able to give more of a voice to their constituents too. I believe they welcome our vision of a Senate where we're doing some real legislating.

A more open Senate presents more opportunities for legislators with serious ideas to

make a mark on the legislative process. It can give members of both parties a real stake in the outcome. And it helps lead, I hope, to greater bipartisan accomplishments down the road.

Just because we have a Republican Congress and a Democrat in the White House doesn't mean we can't deliver for the American people. On the contrary—divided government has frequently been a time to get big things done. That's something Henry Clay would have well understood and appreciated.

Because principled compromise across party lines was very familiar to Henry Clay.

Three times in the early years of the American Republic, the split between North and South threatened to tear the country apart. And three times before the Civil War finally began, Henry Clay kept the nation together, through compromise and negotiation.

Were it not for his leadership, America as we know it may not exist today.

The Henry Clay Center for Statesmanship rightly keeps his spirit of compromise alive today through its education programs for high school and college students. The Center teaches Kentucky's future leaders about Henry Clay and the art of meaningful dialogue and discourse.

It makes me proud as a Kentuckian to see Henry Clay's legacy live on, whether it is through the Clay Center, through the U.S. Senate, or through all of us here today.

It makes me proud as a Kentuckian to see the imprint the Bluegrass State has made on the history of this country. Not only Clay, but famous Kentuckians like Abraham Lincoln, John Sherman Cooper, Alben Barkley, and the recently departed Wendell Ford.

And it makes me proud as a Kentuckian to see how many other Kentucky traditions have made a lasting imprint on our country. Not least of which is the Run for the Roses on the first Saturday of every May.

So thank you for allowing me to be here tonight. And thank you for taking the spirit of Kentucky with you wherever you go.

Good night.

LESSONS FROM THE EBOLA EPIDEMIC

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, not long ago Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea, the World Health Organization, WHO, and the United Nations, and the United States, Great Britain, France, and other countries were frantically trying to bring the Ebola crisis in West Africa under control.

Thousands of people died due to a disastrous failure by WHO's Africa regional representative, serious miscalculations by local officials and global health experts, and a myriad of other problems ranging from weak local health systems that were quickly overwhelmed to a lack of accurate information and cultural practices that helped spread the disease rather than contain it.

But in the past few weeks there has been some good news about progress in stopping Ebola. According to WHO, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea recorded their lowest weekly numbers of new cases in months. The United Nations special envoy on Ebola stated

that the epidemic appears to be slowing down, and the Government of Liberia has set a target of zero new Ebola cases by the end of February.

It is heartening to see that the hard work by Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, and the international community are bringing results. But we are not out of the woods yet and there are important lessons to be learned from the mistakes and lost opportunities in the early response to this disease outbreak.

Ebola pushed governments, international organizations, and the private sector and health care responders into unknown territory, forcing everyone to think and act in new ways. Unfortunately, with the exception of the nongovernmental organization Doctors Without Borders, we were all too slow to recognize this. The initial response missed key opportunities to prevent the crisis from becoming an epidemic, and as a result thousands of people died who might have avoided infection. The symptoms of the initial victims were not recognized as Ebola, signs that the epidemic was spreading rather than receding, as some believed, were misinterpreted, and governments and international organizations did not effectively communicate or coordinate with local communities impacted by the virus, nor were the necessary resources to combat the disease available in-country early enough.

As work was done to overcome these missteps and challenges, the epidemic spread further across borders, as did rumors, and fear increased, people in the affected areas became increasingly distrustful of those who were trying to help, and already scarce health care workers became harder to recruit.

The consequences of not containing the disease in the early stages have been catastrophic. As of January 28, WHO estimates that 8,795 people have died from the Ebola virus, and according to UNICEF's preliminary estimates, as of December 29 at least 3,700 children in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone have lost one or both parents to the disease. The children of those countries have not attended school since mid-2014. While Guinea reopened their schools in mid-January, attendance has remained low. Liberia is preparing to reopen schools in mid-February, and Sierra Leone hopes to reopen its schools by the end of March.

Unemployment and business closures have increased, cross-border trade has plummeted, and there are concerns that food shortages and malnutrition will increase because food stock that would normally be kept for next year is already being eaten.

According to the World Bank's December estimates, the growth in GDP in 2014 for Liberia and Sierra Leone fell by over 60 percent in each country and Guinea's GDP growth in 2014 is down by 89 percent.

Much of our investments in the rebuilding of Liberia and Sierra Leone

since the civil wars there have been obliterated by Ebola. These countries are back at square one.

The world's initial response to the Ebola crisis illustrates how unprepared we are for future global health crises which may be far more devastating and fast spreading than Ebola, if that is possible to imagine.

How can we avoid repeating our mistakes? Are we going to provide our own government agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Agency for International Development and international organizations such as WHO the resources they need? Can we count on them to take the steps to ensure that the right people are in the right places with the authority to make the necessary decisions in a timely manner?

Too often it seems that we have to relearn the same lessons each time for different situations and countries. There are already reports, including a January 19 article in the Washington Post that describes newly built Ebola response centers, paid for by the United States Government, that stand empty or have closed because the number of new Ebola cases has dropped sharply. It is far better to be prepared than unprepared, but we need to reassess the situation and be sure that we are adjusting our response appropriately.

The fiscal year 2015 Consolidated Appropriations Act includes \$2.5 billion for the Department of State and USAID response to the Ebola crisis. As ranking member of the appropriations subcommittee that funds those agencies, I hope they will ensure that we use these funds to avoid past mistakes, by improving flexibility to respond to the crisis as it changes, relying less on international nongovernmental organizations and foreign contractors, and increasing support for building local public health capacity and a sustainable and resilient private sector, increasing awareness and sensitivity to cultural norms of those impacted by the crisis, and improving communication and coordination among local communities, local and national governments, and the international community. These are not new ideas but they emerge time and again.

Finally, we need to be far better prepared for protecting American citizens from contagious diseases that can spread like wildfire from a single health care worker or other infected individual who returns from an affected country. Fortunately, only one death from Ebola occurred in the U.S., but it could have been far worse.

Now is the time to reassess how we should respond domestically and internationally to regional epidemics and prepare accordingly. We cannot afford to waste time and resources making the same mistakes and relearning old lessons.

A RETURN TO DEMOCRACY IN SRI LANKA

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, for hundreds of millions of people around the globe, including in countries whose governments are allies of the United States, democracy and human rights are aspirations that seem beyond reach. According to a recent report by Freedom House, the state of freedom in the world declined in almost every region over the past year. But while we should be deeply concerned by this discouraging trend, we should also recognize where progress is being made.

On January 8, the people of Sri Lanka stunned a repressive government that had been rapidly centralizing power and dismantling democratic institutions. President Mahinda Rajapaksa, who sensed his increasing unpopularity, called a snap election 2 years early hoping to take advantage of his fragmented opposition. However, to his surprise and the surprise of many observers, a broad coalition of Sri Lankans voted to oust his administration and to chart a new course. Rather than balk at forfeiting the chance for an unprecedented third term, President Rajapaksa, under pressure from the international community, stepped down within hours of the election results being published.

This was welcome news. After suffering decades of on-and-off conflict that is estimated to have cost as many as 100,000 lives, only to have the violence replaced by increasing repression and political and ethnic polarization, the peaceful transfer of power has helped breathe life into the hopes of Sri Lankans for reconciliation and a better future. For that hope to become reality, newly elected President Maithripala Sirisena will need to gain the trust of all Sri Lankans, regardless of their ethnicity or political views. In too many countries democracy has been treated as an election rather than a way of governing, but for it to succeed all citizens must have the ability to participate meaningfully. As President Sirisena stated in his inaugural address, what Sri Lanka needs "is not a King, but a real human being".

Of course, democracy alone will not heal Sri Lankan society. No one knows this better than those who lost family, friends, and loved ones in the war with the LTTE, or Tamil Tigers. In the final months of that war, many thousands of civilians died, mostly as a result of shelling by the Sri Lankan military of civilians who had been uprooted by the fighting. The United Nations, the United States, other governments and human rights organizations have long called for thorough, independent investigations and punishment of those responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

While President Sirisena has pledged to launch a domestic inquiry into alleged war crimes, I agree with those

who insist that nothing less than an international investigation, as called for by the U.N. Human Rights Council, will likely suffice to overcome the suspicion and distrust concerning this issue. It would be far better if the government seeks the assistance of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in developing a credible plan for investigating violations of human rights by both sides in the conflict, and holding those responsible accountable.

I am encouraged that President Sirisena has pledged to return the country to a parliamentary democracy with independent police and judicial institutions, and inclusive governance. He has also committed to taking steps to address the cases of those detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, PTA, many of whom are political prisoners like Jeyakumari Balendran. The reviews should be carried out expeditiously. While the release of 572 prisoners at the time of Pope Francis's visit on January 14 was a positive step, it is the cases of political prisoners detained under the PTA that will demonstrate the Sirisena government's commitment to reconciliation. The sooner innocent victims of the Rajapaksa government's repression are freed, the faster Sri Lanka will be able to recover.

Over the years I have spoken in this Chamber in support of independent investigations of war crimes and justice and reconciliation in Sri Lanka. I have met the relatives of victims of the war. President Sirisena's election offers the chance for all Sri Lankans to finally recover from that tragic period by rebuilding their country in a spirit of tolerance, respect, and common purpose.

FIXING NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND: INNOVATION TO BETTER MEET THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of my remarks at the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee hearing yesterday be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

FIXING NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND: INNOVATION TO BETTER MEET THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS

This is the 27th hearing in the last six years about fixing No Child Left Behind or a related elementary and secondary education issue. I hope we are not far from a conclusion—from moving from hearings and discussions to marking up a bill. From the beginning of our work on No Child Left Behind, we concluded it would be better, rather than start from scratch on a new Elementary and Secondary Education Act, to identify the problems in the law and try to fix them. Generally speaking, we agree on the problems, and on several solutions we are not far from reaching consensus. We still have some work to do on accountability. And by accountability, I mean goals, standards, an-

nual tests, disaggregated reporting of test results, and defining success or failure for teachers and schools as well as the consequences of that success or failure. On some of these things, we pretty much agree, like the need for a new goal. On other things, we still have some work to do, like whether or not to keep the 17 annual federal standardized tests.

This morning we are holding a roundtable discussion on "Fixing No Child Left Behind: Innovation to Better Meet the Needs of Students." We aim for this to be different than a hearing. Senator Murray and I will each have a short opening statement and then we will introduce our roundtable of participants. Then we're going to jump right into the conversation, posing two questions to help guide the discussion.

First, what is your state, district, or school doing to implement innovative approaches to improve academic outcomes for students, particularly low-income and at-risk students? Second, how can we improve the federal law to encourage more states, districts, and schools to innovate?

And when I say law, I should also draw attention to the regulations that have followed these laws. For example, every state has to submit a plan to the federal government to receive its share of the \$14.5 billion Title I program distributed to states for low-income children. That's about \$1,300 for every child who lives at or below the federal poverty line. Those Title I applications are reviewed by the Department of Education, as well as by outside experts, before you can spend a dime of that money. In addition, 42 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico are operating under waivers from the out-of-date and unworkable regulations in No Child Left Behind. To receive those waivers, states have to submit waiver applications. In Tennessee, that waiver application was 91 pages long with more than 170 pages of attachments. Since 2012, the state has had to submit eight different updates or amendments to the plan.

In addition to all this, the U.S. Department of Education spends another \$9–10 billion or so on about 90 different programs that are either authorized or funded under No Child Left Behind, with separate application and program requirements. These programs include Promise Neighborhoods and Investing in Innovation.

So are we spending this money in a way that makes it easier or harder for you to innovate and achieve better academic outcomes?

My own view is that the government ought to be an enabler and encourager, rather than a mandator, of innovation. It can do this well. For example, last year Congress overwhelmingly supported reauthorizing the Child Care and Development Block Grant program that gives grants to states that allow parents to receive a voucher for the child care of their choice so they can attend school or go to work.

Seven decades ago the G.I. Bill enabled World War II veterans to attend a college of their choice, helping them become the greatest generation. Today, half our college students have federal grants or loans that follow them to the colleges of their choice, enabling them to buy the surest ticket to a better life and job. About 98 percent of the federal dollars that go to higher education follow the student to the school they attend. In K–12, the only money that follows students to the school they attend is the school lunch program.

Now, I'll turn to Ranking Member Murray for her opening statement and then we'll get the conversation going.

SCHOOL CHOICE

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of my remarks at the Brookings Institution earlier today be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SCHOOL CHOICE

I am delighted to be here, but I should warn you: Based on my track record, I'm probably not your most reliable observer on school choice.

If I take you back to September 1992, I gave a speech at Ashland University in Ohio, and I predicted that by the year 2000 "school choice will not be an issue."

I suggested that an Ashland student writing a thesis in 2000 ought to make the subject parental choice of schools, because by then, I said, "It will be a matter of history."

"Your colleagues will wonder along with you as you examine this strange era when we granted government monopolies control of the most valuable and important enterprises in town, and so many people fought furiously to keep doors to many of the best schools closed to poor children."

"They will ask, how could this have ever happened in America, at a time when the ideas of freedom, choice and opportunity were sweeping the rest of the world?"

My prediction might not have been right, but not because we didn't try.

In 1984, I gave a speech at the University of the South outlining the "deep ruts" into which American K–12 education had fallen. One of those was the lack of school choice for parents.

In 1985, the National Governors Association (NGA) embarked on a project called "Time for Results." We divided into seven task forces, each chaired by a governor, to ask seven of the toughest questions you could ask about American education. One of those questions was, "Why not let parents choose the schools their children attend?" The task force working on that question was chaired by the Democratic governor of Colorado, Richard Lamm, who said then, "You know, it is interesting that America is a land of choices. We have 100 breakfast cereals to choose from, 200 different makes of cars. But in this one educational area . . . we have not done a lot in choice."

Then in 1992, President Bush proposed his "GI Bill for Children," which was a plan to allow states and cities to give \$1,000 annual scholarships in new federal dollars to each child of a middle- and low-income family in a participating state or locality.

Families could spend the scholarships at any lawfully operated school—public, private or religious.

And up to half of the scholarship could be spent on other academic programs, like a Saturday math tutoring program or a summer accelerated language course.

That year, the Carnegie Foundation had reported that 28 percent of our nation's parents would like to send their child to a different school.

Today, that number is even higher—it is, in fact, more than twice as high. A recent 2013 Luntz Global study found that 64 percent of parents said that "if given the financial opportunity," they would send one or all of their children to a different school.

The last 23 years have seen some positive changes in the ability of parents to choose their children's schools.

Today all 50 states and Washington, D.C. offer to some students alternatives to the school they would normally be assigned based on their residence.

Approximately 15 percent of school-age children attend a school other than their school of residence through open-enrollment programs.

Policies in 42 states allow some, or all, parents to send their children to public schools outside their districts.

Of those 42 states—15 states require districts to participate, 23 allow them to participate, and three require it specifically for low-income students and students in failing schools.

In 31 states, parents are allowed to choose among schools within their district.

Of those 31 states—16 states require districts to participate, 10 allow them to participate, and 6 require it for low-income students or students in failing schools 6 states.

More than 2.5 million—or nearly five percent of all public school children—are enrolled in more than 6,000 public charter schools in 42 states and D.C. Typically parents choose to enroll their children in these schools.

In addition, today more than 300,000 children are served by 41 private school choice programs across 19 states, D.C., and Douglas County, Colorado. These programs often give students who meet certain criteria—usually based on income, special needs, or academic performance—an opportunity for a voucher, tax credit program, or education savings account to allow them to attend private schools.

Also, the option for homeschooling is available in all states and parents of about three percent of school-age children choose to homeschool.

Allowing students to choose among schools is not a new idea for the federal government.

Allowing federal dollars to follow students has been a successful strategy in American education for 70 years.

In 1944, the G.I. Bill allowed veterans to choose among colleges, public or private.

Today, about \$136 billion in federal grants and loans continue to follow students to the college or university of their choice.

Just last year, Congress reauthorized the \$2.4 billion Child Care and Development Block Grant program, or CCDBG, which, when combined with other federal and state funding, helps approximately 900,000 families pay for child care of their choice while they work or attend school, mostly through vouchers.

These are among the most successful and popular federal programs—why is it so hard to apply the same sorts of choices to elementary and secondary schools?

What can the federal government do now to expand the opportunity parents have to choose the most appropriate school for their children?

The first is Scholarships for Kids. This is a bill I introduced that would use \$24 billion of the federal dollars we spend each year on K-12 education and allow states to create \$2,100 scholarships to follow 11 million low-income children to any public or private school of their parents' choice.

Also, the discussion draft I've just released to fix No Child Left Behind gives states the option of using \$14.5 billion in Title I money to follow 11 million low income children to the public school they attend.

Most people agree that Title I money, which is supposed to help low-income kids, gets diverted to different schools because of a formula that targets money to districts

based on how much states spend per student. That is largely influenced by teacher salaries.

The simplest way to solve that problem is to let that money follow the child to the school they attend. You could do that to just public schools, which has been the tradition with Title I money, or to private schools, which is what I would prefer.

The second is the CHOICE Act. This is a proposal by Senator Tim Scott to allow about \$11 billion the federal government now spends for children with disabilities to follow those six million children to the schools their parents believe provide the best services.

I think it's important to note that these bills do not require states to do anything—instead they give them the option to have money follow the child.

The third is the DC Opportunity Scholarship Program. Senator Scott's CHOICE Act would also expand the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program that began in 2004 and has provided about 6,000 low-income students in Washington, D.C. with the opportunity to receive a scholarship to attend a private school of their parents' choice. Today, far more parents in the city have applied for the scholarships than have received them.

The fourth is expanding charter schools. In my final year as education secretary under President George H. W. Bush, I wrote every school superintendent in America asking them to try this new idea from Minnesota called "start-from-scratch schools." At the time there were only twelve of them. They were the first charter schools. Today there are more than 6,000.

Charter schools have had strong bipartisan support—including from President Clinton and Secretary Duncan.

We've got in our discussion draft provisions that would streamline and update the existing Charter Schools Program to:

Provide grants to State entities to start new charter schools and to replicate or expand high-quality charter schools.

Provide grants to entities to enhance credit methods to finance charter school facilities.

Provide grants to charter management organizations, like KIPP or Rocketship in my home state of Tennessee, to replicate or expand high-quality charter schools.

Our goal is to grow the federal investment in expanding and replicating high-quality charter schools with a demonstrated record of success, and hold charter schools accountable for their performance.

Other senators also have some good proposals. Senators Paul and Lee both have bills to allow federal dollars from Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to follow low-income children to the public or private school of their parents' choice. Senator Rubio has a bill that creates a new federal tax credit for individual and corporate donations to organizations that provide low-income students with private school scholarships.

As for the future, I think I've learned my lesson—I'm not about to make a prediction.

It looks like it will be a while before school choice will be a matter of history.

But the progress so many have made is impressive—there is plenty of opportunity to do more.

As Ross Perot told me in 1984, "Changing the public schools of Texas was the hardest, meanest, bloodiest thing I've ever tried to do."

Since I'm not going to make a prediction then I'll end with a question—the same one

I asked in 1992: If we trust parents to choose child care for their children, and we trust them to help their children choose a college to attend—and both those systems have been so successful—why do we not also trust them to choose the best elementary or high school for their children?

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

NAVY SPECIAL WARFARE OPERATOR FIRST CLASS WILLIAM MARSTON

Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, I wish to honor the life of William "Blake" Marston, a Navy SEAL from New Hampshire who was tragically killed in the line of duty.

Blake Marston was an extraordinary man who served our Nation with honor, courage, and commitment. His decision to become a Navy SEAL and take risks in training and combat missions alike speaks to his love of country and his dedication to serving his fellow Americans. His ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty leaves all New Hampshire citizens in Blake's debt.

Blake grew up in Bedford, NH, where he excelled as a student athlete and was known by his coaches for being a hard worker and dedicated team member. He loved baseball and was an alpine ski racer. It is clear that Blake was special from an early age. From his involvement in the church youth group, to his mentorship of young athletes, Blake was devoted to helping others.

At Stonehill College, Blake majored in criminal justice and studio arts, and it was during his senior year that he decided that he wanted to become a Navy SEAL—a member of the most elite special forces unit. Blake's athleticism, leadership, and determination provided him with the physical and mental toughness he needed to endure one of the most grueling training experiences in the world in order to become a SEAL. And he succeeded.

Blake's service to our Nation included two tours of duty in Afghanistan. He never let up on his desire to improve and be the best SEAL he could be. Just as he put in the time in his backyard with his dad honing his baseball skills, he also worked tirelessly at being the best that he could be as a defender of our country.

Blake died training to conduct the kinds of missions that keep Americans safe. We owe our freedom and security to Blake and the men and women like him in our armed services.

During the Celebration of Life service held in Blake's honor, his family, friends, and classmates described a young man who was kind, compassionate, thoughtful, and funny—a gentle giant, yet also a highly trained, elite warrior. In describing his devotion to his fellow SEALs, Blake once remarked to his father, "You know, Dad, I can't possibly imagine being in any other profession where I have such respect and love for my teammates."

Blake will be laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, a hero surrounded by his brothers in arms.

My thoughts and prayers are with Blake's parents Nancy and Bill, and sister Emily, who have lost a loving son and brother. May God bless Blake and his family.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING MASTER SERGEANT JAMES WILLIAM HOLT

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, this Saturday, February 7, 2015, members of the Hempstead County community will gather for a memorial service for MSG James William Holt of Hope, AR, who was killed in action in Vietnam in 1968.

The service will take place on the 47th anniversary of Master Sergeant Holt's heroic actions and will coincide with the return of his remains for proper burial.

In the early morning hours of February 7, 1968, the North Vietnamese Army launched a massive, coordinated tank and infantry assault on the Special Forces Camp at Lang Vei that created numerous casualties among the troops defending the base.

As a Special Forces medic, Master Sergeant Holt raced around the compound, while under heavy fire, to administer aid to the wounded and move them to safety. His valiant actions during the assault did not end there.

While not a weapons specialist, Master Sergeant Holt nonetheless was a professional Special Operations soldier who knew how to fire every weapon in that camp accurately and effectively. He was also a decisive leader who took charge of a silent 106 mm recoilless rifle and brought it to life, destroying three enemy tanks before running out of ammunition.

Master Sergeant Holt then supplied himself with light anti-tank weapons and charged into the face of the enemy, single-handedly attacking the tank formation, and allowing time for his brothers-in-arms to fight their way to safety. When two enemy tanks broke through the perimeter, Master Sergeant Holt delivered deadly fire on them, scoring a direct hit on one of the armored vehicles.

The Battle of Lang Vei was a short, but costly battle that could have even worse for American forces if it were not for Master Sergeant Holt's heroics. For his acts of bravery, Master Sergeant Holt was posthumously awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action and the Purple Heart.

I was at the ceremony in 2013 when Master Sergeant Holt was posthumously inducted into the Arkansas Military Veterans Hall of Fame and I wish I could be onhand when the community honors him this weekend. These tributes will help ensure Master

Sergeant Holt's remarkable story of bravery and selfless sacrifice forever lives on.●

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT JUSTIN MAHANA

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Sgt Justin Mahana for his courageous act to help others. After driving from Las Vegas to Lake Havasu, AZ, to help a coworker whose car had broken down, Sergeant Mahana stopped at a gas station to check that his own car was ready for the trip back to Nevada. While there, Sergeant Mahana witnessed a car crash into a median, leading him to investigate the accident and pull the driver out of the car as it lit into flames. It gives me great pleasure to recognize his bravery and his commitment to others both in this moment and throughout his life.

Sergeant Mahana, a 17-year veteran, joined the U.S. Air Force because he wanted to make a difference in the lives of others. His job entails the maintenance and upkeep of military vehicles that are used by pararescuemen when conducting combat search and rescue missions, as well as humanitarian relief operations. Both his commitment to the Air Force, as well as his daily actions, prove his regard for others.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Sergeant Mahana for his courageous contributions to the United States of America and to freedom-loving nations around the world. His service to his country and his bravery earn him a place among the outstanding men and women who have valiantly defended our Nation.

His commitment to helping those around him, as well as serving the country, demonstrates his unwavering selfless character. His actions represent only the greatest of Nevada's values, including a sense of community and an obligation to help others.

As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I recognize that Congress has a responsibility not only to honor these brave individuals who serve our Nation, but also to ensure they are cared for when they return home. I remain committed to upholding this promise for our veterans and servicemembers in Nevada and throughout the Nation.

During his tenure, Sergeant Mahana has demonstrated professionalism, commitment to excellence, and dedication to the highest standards of the Air Force. I am both humbled and honored by his service and am proud to call him a fellow Nevadan. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sgt. Justin Mahana for all of his accomplishments and wish him well in all of his future endeavors.●

REMEMBERING DAVID LEE THOMAS, SR.

• Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to David Lee Thomas, Sr. of Mobile, AL, who passed away on January 22, 2015. He and I were friends for many years. I first got to know him when I was a young Assistant U.S. attorney in Mobile and he was already a proven and respected Federal law officer. He had been hired as the first African-American investigator in the southeast region, with the office of inspector general, U.S. Department of Agriculture. He was investigating fraud by stores and businesses that were buying food stamps for cash or carrying on other unlawful activities. One of the highlights of his career with the OIG was receiving a letter from President Ronald Reagan for solving a fraud case which saved the U.S. Government \$10 million. During that time, we worked a number of cases together. Several went to trial, and he taught me a great deal about law, trials, and how fraud and abuse occur.

David retired from the OIG in 1990, but that retirement lasted all of 6 months. He began working at the Mobile Drug Coalition, and from there he began the second most rewarding career when he became the assistant director of the Mobile County Community Corrections Center. In that role, he established the Court Police Department and helped develop the Mobile County Drug Court Program, which was the first of its kind in Alabama.

David loved his community and was involved in many organizations to make Mobile a better place to live. He was also very active in his church. He was a great law enforcement officer, citizen, friend, and devoted father and grandfather. This Nation has many excellent Federal employees and officials. David was one of the best. His record speaks for itself. I extend my sympathy to his friends and family.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13396 ON FEBRUARY 7, 2006, WITH RESPECT TO THE SITUATION IN OR IN RELATION TO CÔTE D'IVOIRE—PM 4

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency, unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13396 of February 7, 2006, with respect to the situation in or in relation to Côte d'Ivoire is to continue in effect beyond February 7, 2015.

The Government of Côte d'Ivoire and its people continue to make significant progress in promotion of democratic, social, and economic development. The United States also supports the advancement of impartial justice in Côte d'Ivoire as well as the Government of Côte d'Ivoire's efforts to prepare for a peaceful, fair, and transparent presidential election in 2015, which will be an important milestone in Côte d'Ivoire's progress. We urge all sides to work for the benefit of the country as a whole by rejecting violence and participating in the electoral process.

While the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and its people continue to make progress toward peace and prosperity, the situation in or in relation to Côte d'Ivoire continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency and related measures blocking the property of certain persons contributing to the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 4, 2015.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:16 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 596. An act to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health

care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 159. An act to stop exploitation through trafficking; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 181. An act to provide justice for the victims of trafficking; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 285. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a penalty for knowingly selling advertising that offers certain commercial sex acts; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 515. An act to protect children from exploitation, especially sex trafficking in tourism, by providing advance notice of intended travel by registered child-sex offenders outside the United States to the government of the country of destination, requesting foreign governments to notify the United States when a known child-sex offender is seeking to enter the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 596. An act to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-505. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Use By Over-Snow Vehicles (Travel Management Rule)" (RIN0596-AD17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-506. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Irish Potatoes Grown in Colorado; Relaxation of the Handling Regulation for Area No. 3" (Docket No. AMS-FV-14-0092; FV14-948-1 IR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-507. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Revision of the Salable Quantity and Allotment Percentage for Class 3 (Native) Spearmint Oil for the 2014-2015 Marketing Year" (Docket No. AMS-FV-13-0087;

FV14-985-1B IR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-508. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oranges and Grapefruit Grown in Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas; Decreased Assessment Rate" (Docket No. AMS-FV-14-0054; FV14-906-3 FIR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-509. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Poly(oxy-1,2-ethanediyl), a-(3-carboxy-1-oxosulfo-propyl)-w-hydroxy-, (C10-C16) - alkyl ethers, disodium salts; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9920-44) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-510. A communication from the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Agency's proposed fiscal year 2016 budget; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-511. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Commuted Traveltime; Correction" (Docket No. APHIS-2004-0108) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 3, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-512. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Importation of Two Hybrids of Unshu Orange From the Republic of Korea Into the Continental United States" ((RIN0579-AD87) (Docket No. APHIS-2013-0085)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 30, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-513. A communication from the Chair of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, reports entitled "Report of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission: Legislative Proposals," "Report of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission: Interim Report," and Report of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission: Final Report"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-514. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-515. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of major general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-516. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on

the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13441 with respect to Lebanon; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-517. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2014-0002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 3, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-518. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2014-0002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-519. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Libya that was originally declared in Executive Order 13566 of February 25, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-520. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13348 of July 22, 2004, relative to the former Liberian regime of Charles Taylor; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-521. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to transnational criminal organizations that was declared in Executive Order 13581 of July 24, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-522. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2014-0002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 28, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-523. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "U.S.-India Bilateral Understanding: Additional Revisions to the U.S. Export and Re-export Controls Under the Export Administration Regulations" (RIN0694-AF72) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 28, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-524. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Brucellosis Class Free States Certified Brucellosis-Free Herds; Revisions to Testing and Certification Requirements" ((RIN0579-AD22) (Docket No. APHIS-2009-0083)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 3, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-525. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regula-

tion and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Technical Amendments: Transfer of Office Functions" (RIN1992-AA47) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-526. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Automatic Ice Makers" ((RIN1904-AC39) (Docket No. EERE-2010-BT-STD-0037)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 30, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-527. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for General Service Fluorescent Lamps and Incandescent Reflector Lamps" ((RIN1904-AC39) (Docket No. EERE-2011-BT-STD-0006)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 30, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-528. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances" ((RIN2070-AB27) (FRL No. 9919-68)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-529. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Polyvinyl Chloride and Copolymers Production Area Sources Wastewater Limit Withdrawal" ((RIN2060-AS45) (FRL No. 9921-80-OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-530. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Idaho and Oregon: Negative Declarations" (FRL No. 9922-34-Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-531. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Mexico; Albuquerque/Bernalillo County; Revisions to Emissions Inventory Requirements, and General Provisions" (FRL No. 9922-25-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-532. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive

Study: Resilient Adaptation to Increasing Risk"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-533. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0626)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-534. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; ATR-GIE Avions de Transport Regional Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0530)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-535. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0526)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-536. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0582)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-537. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Previously Eurocopter France)" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-1058)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-538. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (20); Amdt. No. 3619" (RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-539. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (75); Amdt. No. 3621" (RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-540. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of

Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (19); Amdt. No. 3620" (RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-541. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (108); Amdt. No. 3622" (RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-542. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Aviation Training Device Credit for Pilot Certification; Withdrawal" (RIN2120-AK62) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-543. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Management Systems for Domestic, Flag, and Supplemental Operations Certificate Holders" (RIN2120-AJ86) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-544. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's Office of Inspector General's Semi-annual Report to Congress and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation Management's Response for the period from April 1, 2014, through September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-545. A communication from the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "U.S. Department of Homeland Security Annual Performance Report for Fiscal Years 2014-2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-546. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-590, "Education Licensure Commission Temporary Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-547. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-591, "Wage Theft Prevention Correction and Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-548. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-589, "Early Learning Quality Improvement Network Temporary Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-549. A communication from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmit-

ting, pursuant to law, the Annual Performance Plan for the Office of Government Ethics for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-550. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-80; Small Entity Compliance Guide" (FAC 2005-80) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 3, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-551. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Technical Amendments" (FAC 2005-80) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 3, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-552. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Ending Trafficking in Persons" ((RIN9000-AM55) (FAC 2005-80)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 3, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-553. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Management and Oversight of the Acquisition of Services" ((RIN9000-AM84) (FAC 2005-80)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 3, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-554. A communication from the Director, Employee Services, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prevailing Rate Systems: Redefinition of the Fort Wayne-Marion, IN, and Detroit, MI, Appropriated Fund Federal Wage System Wage Areas" (RIN3206-AN06) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-555. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-592, "District Government Certificate of Good Standing Filing Requirement Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-556. A communication from the Chairman of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Buy American Act Report for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-557. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-501, "Paint Stewardship Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-558. A communication from the Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to mileage reimbursement rates for Federal employees who use privately owned

vehicles while on official travel; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-559. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary for Management, Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 28, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-560. A communication from the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's annual report concerning its compliance with the Sunshine Act for calendar year 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-561. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-80; Introduction" (FAC 2005-80) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-562. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (33); Amdt. No. 3624" (RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-563. A communication from the Chair of the Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Panel's annual report for 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-564. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Annual Report of the Maritime Administration (MARAD) for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-565. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Anchorage Regulations; Port of New York" ((RIN1625-AA01) (Docket No. USCG-2013-0018)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 28, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-566. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries Off West Coast States; List of Authorized Fisheries and Gear" (RIN0648-BD67) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-567. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Telemarketing Sales Rule Fees" (RIN3084-AA98) received in the

Office of the President of the Senate on January 28, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-568. A communication from the Trial Attorney, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Highway-Rail Crossing Inventory Reporting Requirements" (RIN2130-AC26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-569. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Office of the Medicare Ombudsman 2013 Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-570. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "List of Automatic Changes" (Rev. Proc. 2015-14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-571. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Section 5000A National Average Premium for a Bronze Level of Coverage (2015)" (Rev. Proc. 2015-15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-572. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Procedures to Change a Method of Accounting for Federal Income Tax Purposes" (Rev. Proc. 2015-13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-573. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Biodiesel and Alternative Fuels; Claims for 2014; Excise Tax" (Notice 2015-3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-574. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Application for Recognition as a 501(c) (29) Organization" ((RIN1545-BK64) (TD 9709)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-575. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Applicable Federal Rates—February 2015" (Rev. Rul. 2015-3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-576. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country (OSS-2015-0096); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-577. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-

Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country (OSS-2015-0097); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-578. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country (OSS-2015-0098); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-579. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary for Management, Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 28, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-580. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior (Indian Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year 2013 Report to Congress Pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 450j-1(c) on the Funding Requirements for Contract Support Costs"; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-581. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Agency, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedules of Controlled Substances: Temporary Placement of Three Synthetic Cannabinoids into Schedule I" (Docket No. DEA-402) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 30, 2015; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-582. A communication from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report of the Proceedings of the Judicial Conference of the United States" for the September 2014 session; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-583. A communication from the Chief Executive Officer, Corporation for National and Community Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's fiscal year 2016 Congressional Budget Justification; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-584. A communication from the Inspector General of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Congressional Budget Justification for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-585. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-113); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-586. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-128); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-587. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-123); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-588. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to

law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-080); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-589. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2015-0004—2015-0010); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-590. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-130); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ALEXANDER, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, without amendment:

S. 227. A bill to strengthen the Federal education research system to make research and evaluations more timely and relevant to State and local needs in order to increase student achievement.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 356. A bill to improve the provisions relating to the privacy of electronic communications; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 357. A bill to amend title 11 of the United States Code to require the public disclosure by trusts established under section 524(g) of such title, of quarterly reports that contain detailed information regarding the receipt and disposition of claims for injuries based on exposure to asbestos, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. REID, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. TESTER, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. FRANKEN, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 358. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure that women members of the Armed Forces and their families have access to the contraception they need in order to promote the health and readiness of all members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 359. A bill to amend title I of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to impose restrictions on the risk corridor program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. RISCH):

S. 360. A bill to authorize an additional district judgeship for the district of Idaho; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 361. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to sell certain Federal lands in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming, previously identified as suitable for disposal, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COATS, Mr. SCOTT, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 362. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for investigative leave requirements with respect to Senior Executive Service employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 363. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to aid gifted and talented and high-ability learners by empowering the Nation's teachers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 364. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend tax incentives to certain live theatrical performances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. LEE):

S. 365. A bill to improve rangeland conditions and restore grazing levels within the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Utah; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. UDALL, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KING, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. WARREN, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. KAINE, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 366. A bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. UDALL, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 367. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that return information from tax-exempt organizations be made available in a searchable format and to provide the disclosure of the identity of contributors to certain tax-exempt organizations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 368. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to require that the Director of the Bureau of Prisons ensure that each chief executive officer of a Federal penal or correctional institution provides a secure storage area located outside of the secure perimeter of the Federal penal or correctional institution for firearms carried by certain em-

ployees of the Bureau of Prisons, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 369. A bill to enhance pre- and post-adoptive support services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 370. A bill to require breast density reporting to physicians and patients by facilities that perform mammograms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 371. A bill to remove a limitation on a prohibition relating to permits for discharges incidental to normal operation of vessels; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. 372. A bill to ensure access to certain information for financial services industry regulators, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. NELSON):

S. 373. A bill to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. AYOTTE):

S. 374. A bill to amend the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to extend the requirement of the Secretary to furnish hospital care and medical services through non-Department of Veterans Affairs entities to veterans residing in certain locations; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KIRK, Mr. CARPER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. CASEY, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. COONS, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KING, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 375. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a reduced rate of excise tax on beer produced domestically by certain qualifying producers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 376. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude payments received under the Work Colleges Program from gross income, including payments made from institutional funds; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. LEAHY, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 377. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase access to ambulance services under the Medicare pro-

gram and to reform payments for such services under such program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. HATCH, Mr. PAUL, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. LEE, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. GARDNER):

S. 378. A bill to impose certain limitations on consent decrees and settlement agreements by agencies that require the agencies to take regulatory action in accordance with the terms thereof, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. LEE, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. WICKER, Mr. VITTER, Mr. HELLER, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. THUNE, Mr. KIRK, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. RISCH, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BURR, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. COATS, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. COTTON, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. CORKER, Mr. PAUL, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. SASSE):

S.J. Res. 6. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to balancing the budget; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S.J. Res. 7. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to clarify the authority of Congress and the States to regulate corporations, limited liability companies, and other corporate entities established by the laws of any State, the United States, or any foreign state; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Res. 65. A resolution supporting efforts to bring an end to violence perpetrated by Boko Haram, and urging the Government of Nigeria to conduct transparent, peaceful, and credible elections; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. Res. 66. A resolution expressing support for the designation of February 12, 2015, as "Darwin Day" and recognizing the importance of science in the betterment of humanity; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mr. LEE):

S. Res. 67. A resolution amending rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate to revise the number of affirmative votes required to end debate on nominations; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. Res. 68. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the January

24, 2015, attacks carried out by Russian-backed rebels on the civilian population in Mariupol, Ukraine, and the provision of lethal and non-lethal military assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 149

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 149, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices.

S. 165

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 165, a bill to extend and enhance prohibitions and limitations with respect to the transfer or release of individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and for other purposes.

S. 168

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 168, a bill to codify and modify regulatory requirements of Federal agencies.

S. 182

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 182, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to prohibit Federal education mandates, and for other purposes.

S. 209

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 209, a bill to amend the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act of 2005, and for other purposes.

S. 257

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 257, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to physician supervision of therapeutic hospital outpatient services.

S. 258

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 258, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services.

S. 269

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as co-

sponsors of S. 269, a bill to expand sanctions imposed with respect to Iran and to impose additional sanctions with respect to Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 271

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 271, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 289

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 289, a bill to prioritize funding for an expanded and sustained national investment in biomedical research.

S. 291

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 291, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for extensions of detention of certain aliens ordered removed, and for other purposes.

S. 301

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) were added as cosponsors of S. 301, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

S. 316

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors of S. 316, a bill to amend the charter school program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

S. 334

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 334, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions.

S. 338

At the request of Mr. BURR, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S. 338, a bill to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

S.J. RES. 1

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from North Caro-

lina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 1, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to limiting the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve.

S. RES. 63

At the request of Mr. KING, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 63, a resolution congratulating the New England Patriots on their victory in Super Bowl XLIX.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 356. A bill to improve the provisions relating to the privacy of electronic communications; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, the Electronic Communications Privacy Act was first enacted in 1986. I would ask my colleagues, what were you doing in 1986? Mr. President, 1986 was a long time ago. In 1986 I was in the ninth grade. This was an age when not everyone had a personal computer. My family didn't have a computer. Most of the people I knew who had a computer had something like the Commodore VIC-20, which was a very small computer with very little processing power compared to what we have today. But this law, the Electronic Communications Privacy Act—or ECPA, as it is sometimes known—was and still is an important law with an increasingly important objective; that is, to ensure that government agencies respect the Fourth Amendment in accessing an individual's electronic communications.

In the nearly three decades since ECPA became law, technology has advanced rapidly, dramatically, far beyond the capacity of this particular law, ECPA, to keep up. The prevalence of email and the low cost of electronic data storage have made what were once robust protections vastly insufficient to ensure that citizens' rights are protected with respect to their electronic communications, such as email.

There is no reason we should still be operating under a law written in the analog age when we are living in a digital world. This is a little bit like operating with a DOS-based operating system in the age of much more sophisticated software systems that help us interact relatively seamlessly with our computers. That is why Senator LEAHY and I have come together to craft this truly bipartisan piece of legislation which would modernize ECPA and bring constitutional protections against worthless searches and seizures into harmony with the technological realities of the 21st century.

The Lee-Leahy ECPA Amendments Act of 2015 would prohibit electronic

communications or remote computing service providers—such as Gmail or Facebook or Twitter, for example—from voluntarily disclosing the contents of customer emails or other communications. It eliminates the ambiguous and outdated 180-day rule that some government agencies believe grants them warrantless access to the content of older emails. That is any emails older than the very young age of 180 days old. Instead, all requests for the content of electronic communications would require a search warrant—a search warrant required by the Fourth Amendment, a search warrant based on probable cause—and law enforcement agencies would be required to notify within 10 days any persons whose email accounts were searched, subject to some logical and narrow exceptions, of course.

This legislation is also carefully crafted so that it would not impede the ability of law enforcement agencies to conduct legitimate investigative activities consistent with the Fourth Amendment.

I am pleased to say that our bill enjoys very broad support from the technology industry, from privacy advocates, constitutional scholars, and policy groups on both ends of the ideological spectrum in America.

The Lee-Leahy ECPA Amendments Act of 2015 is truly bipartisan in nature. The Senate bill, in addition to Senators LEAHY and myself as the principal sponsors, also has six additional cosponsors. We have Republican Senators CORNYN, MORAN, and GARDNER and Democratic Senators SHAHEEN, MERKLEY, and BLUMENTHAL. I hope and expect that we will have a lot of additional Senators of both political parties who will join us in this effort. The House version of this bill has 228 additional cosponsors—a very critical majority.

By working together as a Democrat from Vermont and a Republican from Utah, we hope all Senators will join with us to pass this meaningful, bipartisan legislation that would benefit all Americans. Congress should pass ECPA reform this year, and President Obama should sign these important privacy reforms into law.

I will end this discussion as I began. What were you doing in 1986? As it relates to your interaction with the digital world with computers, I would imagine that even though your life might be in many respects similar to what it was in 1986, it is very different in the way you interact with computers, with technology, with the online world, which basically no one was even aware of in 1986. Since 1986 the world has changed. We need to change the world to keep up with the times. We need to change the law to hold in place those protections that have been in our Constitution since 1791 to make sure the privacy rights of the American people are respected.

I encourage each of my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I want to talk about privacy because privacy is not a partisan issue. It never has been, and never should be. Remember, 30 years ago I was in the minority. The Republicans were in the majority and controlled the Senate. It was then that I worked with my colleagues and led the effort to write the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, ECPA.

It required a lot of education because back then, electronic mail was an emerging technology. The World Wide Web was unimaginable. Electronic data storage was astronomically expensive. No one could have envisioned the way mobile technologies would transform our lives. Yet fortunately many of us in Congress had the foresight to anticipate that these new electronic communications would also need privacy protections.

That was 30 years ago. Look at what has changed since then. Now three decades later, that law is out of date. So today the Senator from Utah, Mr. LEE, and I are reintroducing the Electronic Communications Privacy Act Amendments Act of 2015. We want to bring this law into the 21st century. Our legislation is very straightforward. It ensures that the private information that we Americans electronically store in the cloud gets the same protections as the private information we Americans physically store at home. As it did in 1986, I hope the Senate will come together on a bipartisan basis to support these commonsense protections.

All of us have an expectation that the things we store in our house are private. If law enforcement wants access to them, they have to get the proper search warrants. Today, there seems to be an idea that if they are stored electronically, these rules should not apply.

I believe they should.

The bill Senator LEE and I introduced today protects Americans' digital privacy—in their emails and all the other files and photographs they store in the cloud. It promotes cloud computing and other new technologies by building consumer trust. And it also provides law enforcement agencies with the tools they need to ensure public safety.

I would remind my colleagues that several years ago the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit found that email was fully protected by the Fourth Amendment. It said that “the Fourth Amendment must keep pace with the inexorable march of technological progress, or its guarantees will wither and perish.” This bill takes up that challenge.

Obviously we have technologies today that nobody would have dreamed of just a couple of generations ago. But we have a Constitution that has protected this country for well over 200

years, and we hope it will protect it for hundreds of years into the future. We need to make sure our laws keep up with the protections we Americans expect from our Constitution.

First and most importantly, the bill enshrines in statute the fundamental Fourth Amendment warrant requirement for email, texts, and other electronic data. It requires that the government have a criminal search warrant based on possible cause to obtain the stored content of Americans' email and other electronic communications from third-party providers. This ensures that email communications have the same protections as phone calls and private documents stored in your home.

However, the bill's warrant requirement contains an important exception to address emergency circumstances. It explicitly states that it does not affect current authorities under the Wiretap Act or the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. And it ensures that law enforcement can continue to investigate corporate wrongdoing by using grand jury subpoenas to obtain emails directly from corporate entities when held on their internal systems.

The second major component of the bill requires law enforcement agencies to promptly notify individuals when the government has obtained their emails through their service providers, but permits a delay of that notice to protect the integrity of ongoing investigations—no different from what we do in other law enforcement matters. The bill would also require service providers to notify the government three days before they inform a customer that the provider disclosed their information to the government.

This is not a Republican or Democratic issue, nor is it liberal or conservative. In fact, Senator LEE and I would note that we have a broad coalition of more than 50 privacy, civil liberties, civil rights, and technology industry groups and leaders from across the political spectrum who have endorsed this reform effort. Support spans from the Heritage Foundation and Americans for Tax Reform, to the Center for Democracy and Technology and the ACLU.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the January 22, 2015, coalition letter in support of the bill.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

JANUARY 22, 2015.

Hon. CHARLES GRASSLEY,
Chairman,
Senate Judiciary Committee.
Hon. PATRICK J. LEAHY,
Ranking Member,
Senate Judiciary Committee.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GRASSLEY AND RANKING MEMBER LEAHY: We, the undersigned companies and organizations, are writing to urge speedy consideration of Sen. Leahy's and

Sen. Lee's ECPA Amendments Act that we expect will be introduced in the coming weeks. The bill would update the Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA) to provide stronger protection to sensitive personal and proprietary communications stored in "the cloud." The legislation was considered and adopted by a voice vote in the Committee in the 113th Congress.

ECPA, which sets standards for government access to private communications, is critically important to businesses, government investigators and ordinary citizens. Though the law was forward-looking when enacted in 1986, technology has advanced dramatically and ECPA has been outpaced. Courts have issued inconsistent interpretations of the law, creating uncertainty for service providers, for law enforcement agencies, and for the hundreds of millions of Americans who use the Internet in their personal and professional lives. Moreover, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in *US v. Warshak* has held that a provision of ECPA allowing the government to obtain a person's email without a warrant is unconstitutional.

The ECPA Amendments Act would update ECPA in one key respect, making it clear that, except in emergencies or under other existing exceptions, the government must obtain a warrant in order to compel a service provider to disclose the content of emails, texts or other private material stored by the service provider on behalf of its users.

This standard would provide greater privacy protections and create a more level playing field for technology. It would cure the constitutional defect identified by the Sixth Circuit. It would allow law enforcement officials to obtain electronic communications in all appropriate cases while protecting Americans' constitutional rights. Notably, the Department of Justice and FBI already follow the warrant-for-content rule. It would provide certainty for American businesses developing innovative new services and competing in a global marketplace. It would implement a core principle supported by Digital Due Process, www.digitaldueprocess.org, a broad coalition of companies, privacy groups, think tanks, academics and other groups.—

This legislation has seemingly been held up by only one issue—an effort to allow civil regulators to demand, without a warrant, the content of customer documents and communications directly from third party service providers. This should not be permitted. Such warrantless access would expand government power; government regulators currently cannot compel service providers to disclose their customers' communications. It would prejudice the innovative services that all stakeholders support, and would create one procedure for data stored locally and a different one for data stored in the cloud.

Because of all its benefits, there is an extraordinary consensus around ECPA reform—one unmatched by any other technology and privacy issue. Successful passage of ECPA reform sends a powerful message—Congress can act swiftly on crucial, widely supported, bipartisan legislation. Failure to enact reform sends an equally powerful message—that privacy protections are lacking in law enforcement access to user information and that constitutional values are imperiled in a digital world.

For all these reasons, we strongly urge all members of the Senate Judiciary Committee to support the ECPA Amendments Act.

Sincerely,

ACT—The App Association, Adobe, Amazon, American Association of Law Libraries,

American Booksellers for Free Expression, American Civil Liberties Union, American Library Association, Americans for Tax Reform and Digital Liberty, AOL, Apple, Association of Research Libraries, Automattic, Autonet Mobile, Brennan Center for Justice, BSA | The Software Alliance, Center for Financial Privacy and Human Rights, Center for Democracy & Technology, Center for National Security Studies, Cisco, Competitive Enterprise Institute, Computer & Communications Industry Association, Consumer Action, Council for Citizens Against Government Waste, Data Foundry, Deluxe Corporation, Demand Progress, Direct Marketing Association, Discovery Institute, Distributed Computing Industry Association (DCIA).

Dropbox, eBay, Electronic Frontier Foundation, Engine, Evernote, Facebook, First Amendment Coalition, Foursquare, FreedomWorks, Future of Privacy Forum, Gen Opp, Golden Frog, Google, Hewlett-Packard, Information Technology Industry Council (ITI), Internet Association, Internet Infrastructure Coalition (I2Coalition), Intuit, Less Government, Liberty Coalition, LinkedIn, NetChoice, New America's Open Technology Institute, Newspaper Association of America, Oracle, Personal, R Street, ServInt, SIIA: Software & Information Industry Association, Snapchat, Sonic, Taxpayers Protection Alliance, TechFreedom, TechNet, The Constitution Project, The Federation of Genealogical Societies, Tumblr, Twitter, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Venture Politics, Yahoo.

Mr. LEAHY. I am also pleased that Senators SHAHEEN, MORAN, CORNYN, MERKLEY, GARDNER, and BLUMENTHAL have joined this effort with Senator LEE and I. I commend them because we do have an opportunity this year to make progress on bipartisan, common-sense legislation to protect the privacy of Americans' email and update our laws to keep pace with technology. And I also congratulate our House partners, Representatives YODER and POLIS, who are introducing this legislation today in the House of Representatives with 228 cosponsors from both parties.

In the last Congress, the Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously supported this bill, Republicans and Democrats alike. We have continued the hard work of building a broad bipartisan coalition in support of this bill. Now is the time to act swiftly to bring our privacy protections into the digital age.

I will continue to work with Senator LEE, Senator CORNYN, Senator MORAN, Senator SHAHEEN, Senator MERKLEY, Senator GARDNER, and Senator BLUMENTHAL on this issue because while I am proud to have them as cosponsors, I am also proud that we are doing the right thing

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 370. A bill to require breast density reporting to physicians and patients by

facilities that perform mammograms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, even though we have made great strides in the treatment and diagnosis of breast cancer, this disease continues to be the second leading cause of death for women in the United States.

When women receive their mammography report and it comes out normal, they usually move on with their day thinking everything is just fine. This may be the case, but for women with dense breast tissue this "normal" report doesn't capture the whole picture. This is because cancer may still be present and missed on their mammogram because it is obscured by dense breast tissue.

It is vital for women to be told this simple, yet potentially life-saving, information about their own health so they can discuss with their doctor if additional screening makes sense for them. That could be the difference between catching breast cancer early and surviving, or waiting until it's too late because you were never told your full medical information.

Even though there is a risk for cancer being missed, when women receive their mammogram report there is currently no federal requirement to include notice that they have dense breast tissue. This is the case even though the radiologist makes that determination upon reading the mammogram.

This bill is a simple solution. It requires that women be informed on the mammogram report, that they already receive, if they have dense breast tissue, and that they may want to talk with their doctor if they have questions and if they might benefit from additional screening. Withholding this kind of medical information from women just doesn't make any sense.

This bill doesn't change any state laws. It sets a minimum Federal standard, so any state that wants to have additional reporting requirements may do so. The bill also requires the Department of Health and Human Services to focus on research and improved screening for patients with dense breast tissue. Early detection is the key to beating cancer. Every patient deserves access to their own information, especially when it may be what saves their life.

I want to thank Senator AYOTTE for working with me on this bill. I urge my colleagues to join us, and Senators GILLIBRAND, BOXER, HEITKAMP, BALDWIN, BROWN, MIKULSKI, STABENOW, CAPITO, SHAHEEN, CASEY, HIRONO, MCCASKILL, and WARREN in cosponsoring the Breast Density and Mammography Reporting Act. This bill is supported by organizations including the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Are You Dense Advocacy, Breast Cancer Fund, and Susan G. Komen.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on this important issue.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KIRK, Mr. CARPER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. CASEY, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. COONS, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KING, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 375. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a reduced rate of excise tax on beer produced domestically by certain qualifying producers; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to rise today with my friend and colleague, the senior Senator from Maine, Senator COLLINS, to re-introduce the Small Brewer Reinvestment & Expanding Workforce Act of 2015, otherwise known as the Small BREW Act. Our esteemed former colleague, Senator Kerry, now Secretary of State, introduced this bill in the 112th Congress. I was honored to take up the mantle in the 113th Congress.

The Small BREW Act of 2015 would reduce the excise tax on America's craft brewers. Under current Federal law, brewers producing 2 million or fewer barrels annually pay \$7 per barrel on the first 60,000 barrels they brew, and \$18 per barrel on every barrel thereafter, one barrel = 31 gallons. The Small BREW Act would create a new excise tax rate structure that helps start-up and small breweries and reflects the evolution of the craft brewing industry. The rate for the smallest packaging breweries and brewpubs would be \$3.50 per barrel on the first 60,000 barrels. For production between 60,001 and 2 million barrels, the rate would be \$16.00 per barrel. Thereafter, the rate would be \$18.00 per barrel. Breweries with an annual production of 6 million barrels or less would qualify for these recalibrated tax rates.

The small brewer threshold and tax rate were established in 1976 and have never been updated. Since then, the largest multinational producer of beer has increased its annual production from 45 million barrels to 97 million barrels domestically and 325 million barrels globally. To put the matter in perspective, the biggest domestic craft brewer produces 2.7 million barrels of beer annually. Raising the ceiling that defines small breweries from 2 million barrels to 6 million barrels more accurately reflects the intent of the original differentiation between large and small brewers in the U.S. Because of differences in economies of scale, small brewers have higher costs for raw materials, production, packaging, and

market entry compared to larger, well-established multi-national competitors. Adjusting the excise tax rate would provide small brewers with an additional \$67 million each year they could use to start or expand their businesses on a local, regional, or national scale.

This past November, the Joint Committee on Taxation, JCT, estimated the bill would cost \$253 million through 2019 and \$641 million over 10 years. A March 2013 study on the costs and benefits of the Small BREW Act bill which then-Harvard University economist John Friedman prepared on behalf of the Brewers Association, BA, indicates that the bill would directly reduce the excise tax revenue the Federal Government collects by \$67.0 million the first year after enactment. But Professor Friedman notes that such a loss would be offset in large part by \$49.1 million in new payroll and income taxes collected on increased economic activity. Professor Friedman believes that demand for craft beer will continue to increase and the Federal Government would collect an additional \$1.1 million in excise taxes from the increased sales. The net revenue loss, therefore, would be \$16.9 million the first year after enactment. The total net revenue loss over 5 years would be \$95.9 million. The bill would lead to the creation of 5,230 new jobs in the first 12–18 months after passage and the cost of each new job in foregone revenue would be just \$3,300.

While some people may think this is a bill about beer, it is really about jobs. Blue collar jobs and white collar jobs. Small brewers are small business owners in communities in each and every State across the country. Roughly 75 percent of Americans now live within 10 miles of a brewery. Nationally, small and independent brewers employ over 110,000 full- and part-time employees, generate more than \$3 billion in wages and benefits, and pay more than \$2.3 billion in business, personal and consumption taxes, according to the BA. As the craft beer industry grows so, too, does the demand for American-grown barley and hops and American-made brewing, bottling, canning, and other equipment. That demand creates more good jobs.

Maryland is home to 43 craft brewers, up from 34 in 2013, with 24 more in the planning stages. The existing breweries and brew-pubs employ roughly 600 people who were directly involved in producing craft beer in the State last year, and another 700 to 1,400 part-time workers including brew-pub restaurant staff and associated employees. In 2012, the Brewers Association determined that the economic impact of the craft brewing industry on the State was \$455 million and that the industry created a total of 5,422 “full-time equivalent”, FTE, jobs in Maryland, including indirect and induced jobs, paying over \$185

million in wages. Based on 2013 production figures, the Small BREW Act would provide Maryland's small brewers with roughly \$570,000 to reinvest in their growing businesses and hire more workers.

Small brewers have been anchors of local communities and America's economy since the start of our history. Indeed, there is a Mayflower document published in 1622 that explains why the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock which states, “For we could not now take time for further search or consideration: our victuals being much spent, especially our beer.” Presidents from George Washington to Barack Obama have been homebrewers. Going back much further, the oldest extant recipe is for beer. And many people would argue that our thirst for beer is what drove man from being a hunter-gatherer to a crop cultivator since the earliest domesticated cereal grains were various types of barley better suited for beer production than making bread. Saint Arnulf of Metz, also known as St. Arnold, who lived from roughly 582 to 640 AD, is known as the “Patron Saint of Brewers” because he recognized that beer, which is boiled first, contains alcohol and is slightly acidic, was much safer to consume than water. French chemist and microbiologist Louis Pasteur, 1822–1895, who discovered yeast and propounded the germ theory that is the basis of so much of modern medicine, worked for breweries for much of his career. The pH scale, the standard measurement of acidity, was developed by the head of Carlsberg Laboratory's Chemical Department in 1909. Dr Soren Sorensen, 1868–1939, developed the pH scale during his pioneering research into proteins, amino acids and enzymes—the basis of today's protein chemistry. So it is fair to say that civilization and beer go hand-in-hand.

In addition to making high-quality beers, craft brewers such as Maryland's Flying Dog, Union Craft, Ruddy Duck, Baying Hound, Heavy Seas, and The Brewers Art create jobs and reinvest their profits back into their local economies. The Federal Government needs to be investing in industries that invest in America and create real jobs here at home. With more than 3,200 small and independent breweries and brew-pubs currently operating in the United States—and many more being planned—now is the time to take meaningful action to help them and our economy grow. An article in today's New York Times entitled “Betting on the Growth of Microbreweries” quotes BA economist Dr. Bart Watson as saying, “Brewery after brewery is looking for ways to grow because when you talk to these companies, the biggest constraint is capacity. They're selling beer as fast as they can make it.” Let us help them grow.

I am proud to announce that Senators BALDWIN, BLUMENTHAL, CANTWELL, CARPER, CASEY, COCHRAN, COONS,

HEINRICH, HIRONO, KING, KIRK, KLOBUCHAR, LEAHY, MARKEY, MENENDEZ, MERKLEY, MIKULSKI, MURKOWSKI, MURPHY, PORTMAN, SANDERS, SCHUMER, and WYDEN have all signed on as original co-sponsors of the Small BREW Act, and I encourage the rest of my Senate colleagues to consider joining us in this worthwhile legislative endeavor.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 375

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Small Brewer Reinvestment and Expanding Workforce Act” or as the “Small BREW Act”.

SEC. 2. REDUCED RATE OF EXCISE TAX ON BEER PRODUCED DOMESTICALLY BY CERTAIN QUALIFYING PRODUCERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 5051(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively, and

(2) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following new subparagraphs:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a brewer who produces not more than 6,000,000 barrels of beer during the calendar year, the per barrel rate of tax imposed by this section shall be—

“(i) \$3.50 on the first 60,000 qualified barrels of production, and

“(ii) \$16 on the first 1,940,000 qualified barrels of production to which clause (i) does not apply.

“(B) QUALIFIED BARRELS OF PRODUCTION.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘qualified barrels of production’ means, with respect to any brewer for any calendar year, the number of barrels of beer which are removed in such year for consumption or sale and which have been brewed or produced by such brewer at qualified breweries in the United States.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Subparagraph (C) of section 5051(a)(2) of such Code, as redesignated by this section, is amended—

(A) by striking “2,000,000 barrel quantity” and inserting “6,000,000 barrel quantity”, and

(B) by striking “60,000 barrel quantity” and inserting “60,000 and 1,940,000 barrel quantities”.

(2) Subparagraph (D) of such section, as so redesignated, is amended by striking “2,000,000 barrels” and inserting “6,000,000 barrels”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to beer removed during calendar years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself,
Mr. BLUNT, Mr. CRUZ, Mr.
HATCH, Mr. PAUL, Mr. CORNYN,
Mr. RUBIO, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs.
FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. LEE,
Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. GARDNER):

S. 378. A bill to impose certain limitations on consent decrees and settlement agreements by agencies that require the agencies to take regulatory

action in accordance with the terms thereof, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce an important piece of regulatory reform legislation.

A study released this past fall by the National Association of Manufacturers estimates that U.S. Federal Government regulations imposed over \$2 trillion in compliance costs on American businesses in 2012. This is an amount equal to 12 percent of our Nation's GDP.

The study also demonstrated—and this should come as no surprise—that the cost of complying with all those regulations falls disproportionately on small businesses. Small manufacturing firms, in particular, grapple with regulatory compliance costs that are more than three times those felt by the average company in the United States.

It is no wonder why many American businesses are shuttering or moving their entire operation overseas. And how many folks dreamed of starting a small business but ultimately decided against taking the risk because of the overwhelming burden and uncertainty of our regulatory state?

We have to do better.

Small businesses are fed up with excessive Federal regulation, and they are making sure we know about it. A November 2014 survey conducted by the National Federation of Independent Business asked small business owners across the country to rank the ten most pressing problems they face. Overwhelmingly, the top two answers from small business owners were taxes and complying with government red tape. I am happy to say that this Congress intends to confront these issues head-on.

The Federal Government needs to do everything possible to promote an environment that will allow private sector employers to create jobs. To accomplish that, common sense would tell us that the government needs to remove barriers to job creation rather than put up new ones.

Unfortunately, the Obama administration has proven time and again that it would rather push forward with its interest-driven regulatory agenda than ease the heavy burden upon our economy and our entrepreneurs.

To make matters worse, this administration is pursuing new regulations through litigation tactics that take an end-run around the laws enacted by Congress to ensure transparency and accountability in the regulatory process. This strategy has come to be known as sue-and-settle, and regulators have been using it to speed up rulemaking and to keep the public, industries, and even the States away from the table when regulatory decisions are negotiated behind closed doors.

Sue-and-settle cases typically follow a similar pattern. First, an interest

group files a lawsuit against a Federal agency, claiming that the agency has failed to take a certain regulatory action by a statutory deadline. Through the complaint, the interest group seeks to compel the agency to take action by a new, often-rushed deadline. The plaintiff-interest group frequently will be one that shares a common regulatory and policy agenda with the agency that it sues, such as when an environmental group sues the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA.

Next, the agency and interest group enter into friendly negotiations to produce either a settlement agreement or consent decree behind closed doors that commits the agency to satisfying the interest group's demands. The agreement is then entered by a court, binding executive discretion to undertake a regulatory action. And noticeably absent from these negotiations are the very parties who will likely be most impacted by the new regulation.

Sue-and-settle tactics by advocacy groups and complicit government agencies have severe consequences on transparency, public accountability, and ultimately on the quality of the resulting public policy.

Such tactics undermine congressional intent by shutting out affected parties, such as industries and even the States that are charged with implementing new regulations.

The Administrative Procedure Act, APA, which has been characterized as the citizens' “regulatory bill of rights,” was enacted to ensure transparency and public accountability in our Federal rulemaking process. A central aspect of the APA is the notice-and-comment process, which requires agencies to notify the public of proposed regulations and to respond to comments submitted by interested parties.

Rulemaking driven by sue-and-settle tactics, however, frequently results in reprioritized agency agendas and truncated deadlines for regulatory action. This renders the notice-and-comment requirements of the APA a mere formality, depriving regulated entities, the States and the public of sufficient time to have any meaningful input on the final rules. The resulting regulatory action is driven not by the public interest, but by special interest priorities, and often comes as a complete surprise to those most affected by it.

Sue-and-settle litigation also helps agencies avoid accountability. Instead of having to answer to the public for controversial regulations and policy decisions, agency officials are able to simply point to a court order entering the agreement and maintain that they were required to take action under its terms.

Further, the abuse of consent decrees as a method for taking regulatory action can have lasting negative impact on the ability of future administrations to adapt the Federal regulatory

scheme to changing circumstances. Not only does this raise serious concerns about bad public policy; it also puts into question the constitutional impact of one administration's actions binding the hands of its successors.

Sue-and-settle, and the consequences that come with such tactics, is not a new phenomenon. Evidence of sue-and-settle tactics and closed-door rule-making can be found in nearly every administration over the previous few decades.

But there has been an alarming increase in sue-and-settle tactics under the Obama administration. A study by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce shows that just during President Obama's first term, 60 Clean Air Act lawsuits against the EPA were resolved through consent decrees or settlement agreements, an increase from 28 during President George W. Bush's second term.

Since 2009, sue-and-settle cases against the EPA have imposed at least \$13 billion in annual regulatory costs.

In November 2010, environmental advocacy groups filed a complaint against the EPA under the Clean Water Act to compel the agency to revise wastewater regulations. Interestingly, the same day that the complaint was filed, the plaintiff-advocacy groups filed a proposed consent decree already signed by the EPA and requiring prompt regulatory action. As is characteristic of sue-and-settle cases, potentially affected parties were kept out of the lawsuit and negotiations. Such a scenario should raise serious concerns over how truly adversarial these lawsuits really are.

In another case, environmental advocacy groups filed suit against the EPA to compel the agency to issue new air quality standards for pollutants from coal and oil-fired power plants. The plaintiff-advocacy groups alleged that the EPA had violated its statutory duty to issue new standards.

An industry group intervened in the case to represent utility companies but was ultimately left out of subsequent negotiations between the plaintiffs and the EPA, which resulted in a consent decree. The industry group challenged the consent decree on numerous grounds, including the rulemaking timeframe established under the decree which was arguably too short to allow the public to participate fully in the rulemaking process.

Nevertheless, the court approved and entered the consent decree, with the judge concluding that "[s]hould haste make waste, the resulting regulations will be subject to successful challenge. . . If EPA needs more time to get it right, it can seek more time."

The resulting rule, despite its opaque promulgation, was estimated by the EPA to cost \$9.6 billion annually by 2015. And according to estimates by the American Coalition for Clean Coal

Electricity, the rule promulgated under the consent decree would contribute to a loss of 1.44 million jobs in the U.S. between 2013 and 2020.

The EPA could have done things right the first time by crafting a sensible, workable rule that protects the environment without causing unnecessary job losses or higher electricity prices for hard-working American families. But as a result of backroom, sue-and-settle tactics, we were left with a controversial regulation that fails to properly take into account the impact on affected parties and that remains the subject of litigation to this day.

The EPA, it seems, has turned a blind eye to the calls for more transparency and public accountability in our Federal rulemaking process. In February 2014, EPA's General Counsel issued a statement declaring:

The sue and settle rhetoric, strategically mislabeled by its proponents, is an often-repeated but a wholly invented accusation that gets no more true with frequent retelling.

I think many would take issue with that assessment. In fact, the Environmental Council of the States, or ECOS—a national non-profit, non-partisan association made up of State and territorial environmental agency leaders—adopted a resolution entitled "The Need for Reform and State Participation in EPA's Consent Decrees which Settle Citizen Suits," stating, among other things:

[S]tate environmental agencies are not always notified of citizen suits that allege U.S. EPA's failure to perform its nondiscretionary duties, are often not parties to these citizen suits, and are usually not provided with an opportunity to participate in the negotiation of agreements to settle citizen suits[.]

ECOS further resolved that:

[G]reater transparency of citizen suit settlement agreements is needed for the public to understand the impact of these agreements on the administration of environmental programs[.]

I agree.

Clearly, the EPA has no intention of acknowledging the use or consequences of sue-and-settle tactics. And unfortunately, I think this sentiment is shared by other executive branch agencies today.

That is why today I am introducing the Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act of 2015. Senators BLUNT, HATCH, CRUZ, PAUL, CORNYN, RUBIO, INHOFE, FISCHER, FLAKE, LEE, CAPITO and GARDNER are cosponsors of this important bill, and I thank them for their support.

In the House, Representative DOUG COLLINS of Georgia is introducing a companion bill.

By enacting reasonable, pro-accountability measures, the Sunshine bill aims to address many of the problems I have outlined so far.

This bill provides for greater transparency by shedding light on sue-and-settle tactics. It requires agencies to

publish sue-and-settle complaints and notices of intent-to-sue in a readily accessible manner.

The bill requires agencies to publish proposed consent decrees and settlement agreements at least 60 days before they can be filed with a court. This provides a valuable opportunity for affected parties to weigh-in, which will increase public accountability in the rulemaking process. It will also prevent those scenarios where lawsuits are filed on the same day as previously negotiated agreements, a practice that effectively blocks any meaningful participation by affected parties.

The bill also makes it easier for affected parties such as States and business owners to take part in both the lawsuit and settlement negotiations to ensure that their interests are properly represented. It requires the Attorney General or, if appropriate, the head of the defendant-agency, to certify to the court that he or she has personally approved certain proposed consent decrees or settlement agreements that, for example, convert a discretionary authority of an agency into a non-discretionary duty to act. It requires that courts consider whether the terms of a proposed agreement are contrary to the public interest.

The bill promotes greater transparency by requiring agencies to publicly post and report to Congress information on sue-and-settle complaints, consent decrees and settlement agreements.

Finally, the bill resolves key constitutional concerns by making it easier for succeeding administrations to modify the effect of a prior administration's consent decrees. It does so by providing for de novo review of motions to modify existing consent decrees due to changed circumstances.

The Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act will shed light on the problem. It will help rein in backroom rulemaking, encourage the appropriate use of consent decrees and settlements, and reinforce the procedures laid out decades ago to ensure a transparent and accountable regulatory process.

I urge my colleagues to work with me and support this important legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 378

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the terms “agency” and “agency action” have the meanings given those terms under section 551 of title 5, United States Code;

(2) the term “covered civil action” means a civil action—

(A) seeking to compel agency action;

(B) alleging that the agency is unlawfully withholding or unreasonably delaying an agency action relating to a regulatory action that would affect the rights of—

(i) private persons other than the person bringing the action; or

(ii) a State, local, or tribal government; and

(C) brought under—

(i) chapter 7 of title 5, United States Code; or

(ii) any other statute authorizing such an action;

(3) the term “covered consent decree” means—

(A) a consent decree entered into in a covered civil action; and

(B) any other consent decree that requires agency action relating to a regulatory action that affects the rights of—

(i) private persons other than the person bringing the action; or

(ii) a State, local, or tribal government;

(4) the term “covered consent decree or settlement agreement” means a covered consent decree and a covered settlement agreement; and

(5) the term “covered settlement agreement” means—

(A) a settlement agreement entered into in a covered civil action; and

(B) any other settlement agreement that requires agency action relating to a regulatory action that affects the rights of—

(i) private persons other than the person bringing the action; or

(ii) a State, local, or tribal government.

SEC. 3. COVERED CONSENT DECREE AND SETTLEMENT REFORM.

(a) PLEADINGS AND PRELIMINARY MATTERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In any covered civil action, the agency against which the covered civil action is brought shall publish the notice of intent to sue and the complaint in a readily accessible manner, including by making the notice of intent to sue and the complaint available online not later than 15 days after receiving service of the notice of intent to sue or complaint, respectively.

(2) ENTRY OF A COVERED CONSENT DECREE OR SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.—A party may not make a motion for entry of a covered consent decree or to dismiss a civil action pursuant to a covered settlement agreement until after the end of proceedings in accordance with paragraph (1) and subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2) of subsection (d) or subsection (d)(3)(A), whichever is later.

(b) INTERVENTION.—

(1) REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION.—In considering a motion to intervene in a covered civil action or a civil action in which a covered consent decree or settlement agreement has been proposed that is filed by a person who alleges that the agency action in dispute would affect the person, the court shall presume, subject to rebuttal, that the interests of the person would not be represented adequately by the existing parties to the action.

(2) STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS.—In considering a motion to intervene in a covered civil action or a civil action in which a covered consent decree or settlement agreement has been proposed that is filed by a State, local, or tribal gov-

ernment, the court shall take due account of whether the movant—

(A) administers jointly with an agency that is a defendant in the action the statutory provisions that give rise to the regulatory action to which the action relates; or

(B) administers an authority under State, local, or tribal law that would be preempted by the regulatory action to which the action relates.

(c) SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS.—Efforts to settle a covered civil action or otherwise reach an agreement on a covered consent decree or settlement agreement shall—

(1) be conducted pursuant to the mediation or alternative dispute resolution program of the court or by a district judge other than the presiding judge, magistrate judge, or special master, as determined appropriate by the presiding judge; and

(2) include any party that intervenes in the action.

(d) PUBLICATION OF AND COMMENT ON COVERED CONSENT DECREES OR SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days before the date on which a covered consent decree or settlement agreement is filed with a court, the agency seeking to enter the covered consent decree or settlement agreement shall publish in the Federal Register and online—

(A) the proposed covered consent decree or settlement agreement; and

(B) a statement providing—

(i) the statutory basis for the covered consent decree or settlement agreement; and

(ii) a description of the terms of the covered consent decree or settlement agreement, including whether it provides for the award of attorneys’ fees or costs and, if so, the basis for including the award.

(2) PUBLIC COMMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An agency seeking to enter a covered consent decree or settlement agreement shall accept public comment during the period described in paragraph (1) on any issue relating to the matters alleged in the complaint in the applicable civil action or addressed or affected by the proposed covered consent decree or settlement agreement.

(B) RESPONSE TO COMMENTS.—An agency shall respond to any comment received under subparagraph (A).

(C) SUBMISSIONS TO COURT.—When moving that the court enter a proposed covered consent decree or settlement agreement or for dismissal pursuant to a proposed covered consent decree or settlement agreement, an agency shall—

(i) inform the court of the statutory basis for the proposed covered consent decree or settlement agreement and its terms;

(ii) submit to the court a summary of the comments received under subparagraph (A) and the response of the agency to the comments;

(iii) submit to the court a certified index of the administrative record of the notice and comment proceeding; and

(iv) make the administrative record described in clause (iii) fully accessible to the court.

(D) INCLUSION IN RECORD.—The court shall include in the court record for a civil action the certified index of the administrative record submitted by an agency under subparagraph (C)(iii) and any documents listed in the index which any party or amicus curiae appearing before the court in the action submits to the court.

(3) PUBLIC HEARINGS PERMITTED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—After providing notice in the Federal Register and online, an agency

may hold a public hearing regarding whether to enter into a proposed covered consent decree or settlement agreement.

(B) RECORD.—If an agency holds a public hearing under subparagraph (A)—

(i) the agency shall—

(I) submit to the court a summary of the proceedings;

(II) submit to the court a certified index of the hearing record; and

(III) provide access to the hearing record to the court; and

(ii) the full hearing record shall be included in the court record.

(4) MANDATORY DEADLINES.—If a proposed covered consent decree or settlement agreement requires an agency action by a date certain, the agency shall, when moving for entry of the covered consent decree or settlement agreement or dismissal based on the covered consent decree or settlement agreement, inform the court of—

(A) any required regulatory action the agency has not taken that the covered consent decree or settlement agreement does not address;

(B) how the covered consent decree or settlement agreement, if approved, would affect the discharge of the duties described in subparagraph (A); and

(C) why the effects of the covered consent decree or settlement agreement on the manner in which the agency discharges its duties is in the public interest.

(e) SUBMISSION BY THE GOVERNMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For any proposed covered consent decree or settlement agreement that contains a term described in paragraph (2), the Attorney General or, if the matter is being litigated independently by an agency, the head of the agency shall submit to the court a certification that the Attorney General or head of the agency approves the proposed covered consent decree or settlement agreement. The Attorney General or head of the agency shall personally sign any certification submitted under this paragraph.

(2) TERMS.—A term described in this paragraph is—

(A) in the case of a covered consent decree, a term that—

(i) converts into a nondiscretionary duty a discretionary authority of an agency to propose, promulgate, revise, or amend regulations;

(ii) commits an agency to expend funds that have not been appropriated and that have not been budgeted for the regulatory action in question;

(iii) commits an agency to seek a particular appropriation or budget authorization;

(iv) divests an agency of discretion committed to the agency by statute or the Constitution of the United States, without regard to whether the discretion was granted to respond to changing circumstances, to make policy or managerial choices, or to protect the rights of third parties; or

(v) otherwise affords relief that the court could not enter under its own authority upon a final judgment in the civil action; or

(B) in the case of a covered settlement agreement, a term—

(i) that provides a remedy for a failure by the agency to comply with the terms of the covered settlement agreement other than the revival of the civil action resolved by the covered settlement agreement; and

(ii) that—

(I) interferes with the authority of an agency to revise, amend, or issue rules under the procedures set forth in chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, or any other statute

or Executive order prescribing rulemaking procedures for a rulemaking that is the subject of the covered settlement agreement;

(II) commits the agency to expend funds that have not been appropriated and that have not been budgeted for the regulatory action in question; or

(III) for such a covered settlement agreement that commits the agency to exercise in a particular way discretion which was committed to the agency by statute or the Constitution of the United States to respond to changing circumstances, to make policy or managerial choices, or to protect the rights of third parties.

(f) REVIEW BY COURT.—

(1) AMICUS.—A court considering a proposed covered consent decree or settlement agreement shall presume, subject to rebuttal, that it is proper to allow amicus participation relating to the covered consent decree or settlement agreement by any person who filed public comments or participated in a public hearing on the covered consent decree or settlement agreement under paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (d).

(2) REVIEW OF DEADLINES.—

(A) PROPOSED COVERED CONSENT DECREES.—For a proposed covered consent decree, a court shall not approve the covered consent decree unless the proposed covered consent decree allows sufficient time and incorporates adequate procedures for the agency to comply with chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, and other applicable statutes that govern rulemaking and, unless contrary to the public interest, the provisions of any Executive order that governs rulemaking.

(B) PROPOSED COVERED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS.—For a proposed covered settlement agreement, a court shall ensure that the covered settlement agreement allows sufficient time and incorporates adequate procedures for the agency to comply with chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, and other applicable statutes that govern rulemaking and, unless contrary to the public interest, the provisions of any Executive order that governs rulemaking.

(g) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Each agency shall submit to Congress an annual report that, for the year covered by the report, includes—

(1) the number, identity, and content of covered civil actions brought against and covered consent decree or settlement agreements entered against or into by the agency; and

(2) a description of the statutory basis for—

(A) each covered consent decree or settlement agreement entered against or into by the agency; and

(B) any award of attorneys fees or costs in a civil action resolved by a covered consent decree or settlement agreement entered against or into by the agency.

SEC. 4. MOTIONS TO MODIFY CONSENT DECREES.

If an agency moves a court to modify a covered consent decree or settlement agreement and the basis of the motion is that the terms of the covered consent decree or settlement agreement are no longer fully in the public interest due to the obligations of the agency to fulfill other duties or due to changed facts and circumstances, the court shall review the motion and the covered consent decree or settlement agreement *de novo*.

SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall apply to—

(1) any covered civil action filed on or after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) any covered consent decree or settlement agreement proposed to a court on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. LEE, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. WICKER, Mr. VITTER, Mr. HELLER, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. THUNE, Mr. KIRK, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. RISCH, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BURR, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. COATS, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. COTTON, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. CORKER, Mr. PAUL, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. SASSE):

S.J. Res. 6. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to balancing the budget; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I am introducing a resolution proposing a constitutional amendment to require that Congress and the President handle the American people's money more responsibly and balance the Nation's debt and budget. Like the last two Congresses, the entire Republican Conference has cosponsored this proposal.

I know the Constitution sets a high threshold for Congress to propose an amendment, but it is critical we do so for three reasons:

First, piling up more debt year after year is imposing greater and greater harm to our economy and to our society. Last week, Congressional Budget Office Director Douglas Elmendorf testified before the House Budget Committee, noting that the national debt is expected to swell by another \$7.6 trillion—trillion with a T—over the next 10 years. He said:

Such large and growing national debt would have serious negative consequences, including increasing Federal spending for interest payments; restraining economic growth in the long term; giving policymakers less flexibility to respond to unexpected challenges; and eventually heightening the risk of a fiscal crisis.

He is the Director of the Federal budget office and he said that on January 21, 2015. Just think about that. And he is a Democrat. He has been a very good budget director, as far as I am concerned, and I have enjoyed looking at his analyses over the years.

Our Nation is on an unsustainable path and we simply cannot wait any longer to make responsible decisions for our future.

Second, Washington will not keep our fiscal house in order unless required to do so by the Constitution. Congress has pretended that good in-

tentions alone would keep our checkbook balanced. Congress has tried putting limits in place by legislation or other rules. Congress has stuck its head in the sand or at other times cried that the sky would fall if we really did get our fiscal act together. Over many decades we have demonstrated that nothing short of a constitutional requirement will work.

Third, the American people have the right to set rules for how Washington handles their money. The Constitution is a rulebook for government and it belongs to the American people. Proposing an amendment does not add it to the Constitution but only sends it to the States for debate and consideration. And while it takes two-thirds of Congress to propose an amendment to the Constitution, it takes three-fourths of the States to ratify it. That high level of national consensus may or may not exist, but the American people deserve the opportunity to find out.

On June 7, 1979, nearly 36 years ago, I stood on this floor when I introduced Senate Joint Resolution 86, my first balanced budget amendment. In today's dollars the budget deficit that year was \$95 billion and the national debt was \$2.6 trillion, which was about 30 percent of our gross domestic product. I said then that only in Washington could this situation be described as anything less than obscene.

The more things change, the more they stay the same. I concede a few things have changed since 1979. For example, the deficit for the current fiscal year is six times higher than it was in 1979, and the national debt is seven times as large. To put that number in perspective, the national debt is now larger than our entire economy.

The situation is not only getting worse, it is getting worse faster than ever. More than 40 percent of the national debt accumulated since our founding has piled up under President Obama, and he has 2 more years in office. While those things have changed, and changed for the worse, the choice before us remains the same.

Some of my colleagues might disagree with the CBO Director and think that piling up trillions and trillions of dollars in debt is no big deal; that these are just numbers in the air with no impact on the real world. Perhaps they think our large and growing national debt won't have any negative consequences, won't impede economic growth, won't restrain policymakers' flexibility to respond to challenges, and won't heighten the risk of the fiscal crisis. Some of my colleagues might believe we have no obligation to handle the American people's money responsibly or perhaps they believe this money belongs to government and not the American people at all.

Some of my colleagues might insist, despite decades of demonstrated failure, that Congress can somehow get its

fiscal act together on its own. One definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.

Some of my colleagues might say the American people should not be able to set fiscal rules for the government they elect. Perhaps they think the Federal Government should control the Constitution, not the other way around.

I say to my colleagues who think those things: I can understand why you would oppose sending this balanced budget amendment to the States for consideration.

But now a word to my other colleagues: If you think this growing mountain of debt is dangerous and must be stopped, if you believe we have exhausted every other means of stopping it, and if you say the American people have the right to decide how their government should operate, then I invite you to support this joint resolution, S.J. Res. 6.

The Senate has on four separate occasions voted on a balanced budget amendment since I introduced that proposal in 1979. You can see it on this chart. We actually passed one in 1982 when the national debt was \$2.5 trillion. But the House, controlled by Democrats at the time, did not take it up.

The Senate voted on another balanced budget amendment in 1994 when the national debt was \$6.9 trillion. It fell a few votes short.

Three years later, when the national debt was \$7.9 trillion, we came within a single vote of passage in 1997.

And in 2011, the fourth from the left there on the chart, we voted on the last balanced budget amendment I introduced. At that time, the national debt had grown to \$15.1 trillion, and it is almost \$3 trillion higher today.

CBO tells us not only that the national debt will swell by an additional \$7.6 trillion in the next 10 years, but that interest on that debt will be a larger and larger portion of the budget. The low interest rates we see today, after all, will not last forever.

CBO warns that, on our current path, interest costs alone will quadruple from \$200 billion today to nearly \$800 billion in 10 years. In only 6 years, if we do not change course, spending on interest will surpass either defense or nondefense spending. Every dollar spent to service debt cannot be spent protecting our country or helping our citizens. This is the fiscal equivalent of fiddling while Rome burns. The debt keeps growing, the danger keeps building, while Congress keeps pretending and stalling.

What if we had sent a balanced budget amendment to the States in the 1970s, 1980s, or even 1990s? How different would the budget process be today?

When I spoke here in June 1979, I offered two additional reasons for adopting a balanced budget amendment.

First, I said a fixed spending ceiling “requires that Congress think in order of budget priorities.”

Second, I said:

In my mind, a balanced budget or spending limitation amendment offers the potential to impose new limits upon the National Government, replacing those that have largely been eroded over the years.

That is why the American people have never been able to use their Constitution to set fiscal rules for Washington—because doing so would set limits the national government does not want. But our liberty depends on setting and enforcing such limits.

I will repeat what I said here in 1979:

This is certainly not a trivial objective. Rather, it goes to the heart of what our system of government is going to be in the future.

That is the choice before us, and before the American people.

I have to say that if we look at the current budget, it is a fraud the President has submitted. It is pathetic. And even with that current budget, saying they are going to save us money, we are about a half trillion dollars in debt—in further debt, I might add. It is piling up in irreducible ways. It is something we have to do something about. We can no longer sit around and pretend that, somehow, Congress is going to take care of it, when Congress doesn't have the will to take care of it. A balanced budget amendment is an important part of changing that.

I will speak later on the actual amendment and what it says and what it means and how it will work. I believe it is an appropriate way of bringing this country under control and getting us to live within our means. It will take time even if we start today. But we are not starting today.

This administration cannot get anywhere near what it wants in this budget without a huge tax increase. We have had tax increase after tax increase after tax increase, and it never makes a dip in the Federal debt. We have to wake up around here and start doing some things right, or this country—the greatest country in the world—will not be able to remain so. But it has to.

If we look at the rest of the world—we are in terrible shape throughout the rest of the world. There is no other country in this world that can lead like ours can—except for evil. There are countries that can really lead, but they would lead for evil. We have got to stop that. And the only way we can is to have a nation that lives within its means, does what is right, and balances its budget. It is going to take years, if we pass this amendment, to balance the budget. If the amendment gets passed and then is supported by three-quarters of the States—38 States—this amendment will do the job.

Whatever we do, it is going to be tough. But that is better than a prof-

ligacy that is continuing to go along under all kinds of phony arguments that, when we look back on them, are really phony. They act as though they are really trying to do something about this, while spending us into bankruptcy, and more and more causing us to not be able to live within our means.

We have got to change this, and I am convinced the only way we will is with a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. It is the only way we can find enough people in this country who respect the Constitution to cause the result that we live—or at least start living—within our means.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 65—SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO BRING AN END TO VIOLENCE PERPETRATED BY BOKO HARAM, AND URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA TO CONDUCT TRANSPARENT, PEACEFUL, AND CREDIBLE ELECTIONS

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 65

Whereas Nigeria is the most populous nation in Africa, with the largest economy;

Whereas the Governments of the United States and Nigeria have had a strong bilateral relationship, and Nigeria has been a valued partner of the United States since its transition to civilian rule;

Whereas the Government of Nigeria is currently confronted with threats to internal security by terrorists, insurgents, and communal violence that have caused considerable population displacement, and at the same time must administer transparent and peaceful elections with a credible outcome;

Whereas the government and those who aspire to hold office in Nigeria must demonstrate the political will to address both of these challenges in a responsible way, including by ensuring full enfranchisement, with particular emphasis on developing a means for enfranchisement for the hundreds of thousands displaced by violence;

Whereas the members of Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad, commonly known as Boko Haram, have terrorized the people of Nigeria with increasing violence since 2009, targeting military, government, and civilian sites in Nigeria, including schools, mosques, churches, markets, villages, and agricultural centers, and killing thousands and abducting hundreds of civilians in Nigeria and the surrounding countries;

Whereas the Department of State named several individuals linked to Boko Haram, including its leader, Abubakar Shekau, as Specially Designated Global Terrorists in 2012, and designated Boko Haram as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) in November 2013;

Whereas, in May 2014, the United Nations Security Council added Boko Haram to its al

Qaeda sanctions list, and on January 19, 2015, the United Nations Security Council issued a presidential statement condemning the recent escalation of attacks in northeastern Nigeria and surrounding countries and expressing concern that the situation was undermining peace and security in West and Central Africa;

Whereas the over 200 school girls abducted by Boko Haram on April 14, 2014, from the Government Girls Secondary School in the northeastern state of Borno, whose kidnapping sparked domestic and international outrage spawning the Twitter campaign #BringBackOurGirls, are still missing;

Whereas the militant group is an increasing menace to the countries along Nigeria's northeastern border, prompting the African Union, the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the European Union, and the United Nations Security Council to recognize that there must be a regional response;

Whereas the United States Government has stepped forward to offer assistance through intelligence sharing, bilateral and international sanctioning of Boko Haram leaders, counterterrorism assistance through the Global Security Contingency Fund program for countries in the region to counter the militant group, and humanitarian services to populations affected by and vulnerable to Boko Haram violence;

Whereas Boko Haram emerged partially as a response to underdevelopment in northeastern Nigeria, and inequality, elite impunity, and alleged human rights abuses by security forces may be fueling anti-government sentiment;

Whereas it is clear that a military approach alone will not eliminate the threat of Boko Haram, and gross human rights abuses and atrocities by security forces causes insecurity and mistrust among the civilian population;

Whereas it is imperative that the Government of Nigeria implement a comprehensive, civilian security focused plan that prioritizes protecting civilians and also addresses legitimate political and economic grievances of citizens in northern Nigeria;

Whereas Nigeria is scheduled to hold national elections in February 2015, and the elections appear to be the most closely contested in Nigeria since the return to civilian rule;

Whereas election-related violence has occurred in Nigeria in successive elections, including in 2011, when nearly 800 people died in clashes following the presidential election;

Whereas President Goodluck Ebele Azikiwe Jonathan, General Muhammadu Buhari, and other presidential candidates pledged to reverse this trend by signing the "Abuja Accord" on January 14, 2015, in which they committed themselves and their campaigns to refraining from public statements that incite violence, to running issue-based campaigns that do not seek to divide citizens along religious or ethnic lines, and to supporting the impartial conduct of the electoral commission and the security services;

Whereas Secretary of State John Kerry visited Nigeria on January 25, 2015, to emphasize the importance of ensuring the upcoming elections are peaceful, nonviolent, and credible;

Whereas tensions in the country remain high, and either electoral fraud or violence could undermine the credibility of the upcoming election;

Whereas the people of Nigeria aspire for a fair, competently executed, and secure electoral process, as well as an outcome that can be accepted peacefully by all citizens; and

Whereas it is in the best interest of the United States to maintain close ties with a politically stable, democratic and economically sound Nigeria: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns Boko Haram for its violent attacks, particularly the indiscriminate targeting of civilians, especially women and girls, and the use of children as fighters and suicide bombers;

(2) stands with—

(A) the people of Nigeria in their right to live free from fear or intimidation by state or nonstate actors, regardless of their ethnic, religious, or regional affiliation;

(B) the people of Cameroon, Chad, and Niger who are increasingly at risk of becoming victims of Boko Haram's violence; and

(C) the international community in its efforts to defeat Boko Haram;

(3) supports the Abuja Accord, and calls on candidates, party officials, and adherents of all political movements to comply with the code of conduct spelled out therein, by refraining from any rhetoric or action that seeks to demonize or delegitimize opponents, sow division among Nigerians, or otherwise inflame tensions;

(4) condemns any and all abuses of civilians by security forces of the Government of Nigeria;

(5) urges the Government of Nigeria—

(A) to conduct timely, credible, transparent, and peaceful elections;

(B) to refrain from using security services for political purposes in connection with the elections;

(C) to prioritize the safety and security of Nigerians vulnerable to Boko Haram attacks;

(D) to implement a comprehensive, civilian security focused response to defeat Boko Haram that addresses political and economic grievances of citizens in the north;

(E) to improve the capacity and conduct of Nigeria's security forces, including respect for human rights, and take steps to hold accountable through a transparent process those members of the security forces responsible for abuses;

(F) to recognize that security forces are intended to protect the safety and security of all citizens equally; and

(G) to cooperate with regional and international partners to defeat Boko Haram;

(6) urges all Nigerians to engage in the electoral process, to insist on full enfranchisement, and to reject inflammatory or divisive rhetoric or actions; and

(7) reaffirms that the people of the United States will continue to stand with the people of Nigeria in support of peace and democracy.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I am here today to speak to the troubling situation in Nigeria, one of our strongest allies in Africa since its transition from military dictatorship to civilian rule over a decade ago.

Nigeria is currently facing two grave threats to its stability. First, the country is preparing to vote next month in the most closely contested presidential election in recent history, but there is a very real danger of prolonged violence across Nigeria and mass casualties if the election results are not deemed credible.

Second, in the last 2 months, Boko Haram, infamous for kidnapping over 200 schoolgirls in Chibok in 2014, has stepped up its murderous scorched-

earth campaign, killing thousands of innocent civilians, gaining control over an increasing amount of territory in the northeastern portion of the country, and threatening to disrupt elections.

It is in the face of these dual challenges, that I, along with Senators ISAKSON, SHAHEEN, BOOZMAN and COONS, have submitted a resolution which calls on Nigerian leaders to step up to the plate and show real leadership in prioritizing the safety and security of Nigerians in the elections and doing everything possible to combat Boko Haram.

For over 5 years, Boko Haram has shocked the conscience of the world and terrorized Nigerian citizens of all religions and ethnic groups. It has targeted schools, mosques, churches, markets, villages and agricultural centers with a wave of kidnappings, killings and suicide bombs. Boko Haram terrorists have abducted hundreds, including the Chibok girls, who to this day remain missing; and has killed thousands—by some accounts over 6,000 last year alone and, since 2009, more than a million have been displaced.

In January, Boko Haram staged a 4 day assault on the northeastern town of Baga, abducting civilians, and forcing thousands to flee. Eyewitnesses claim as many as 2000 dead, though the government disputes this number. Satellite photographs show disturbing images of towns burned and razed. What began as a localized insurgency that targeted the military and government has grown into a sub-regional menace. Boko Haram has metastasized, effectively denying the government control over a significant swathe of territory in the three most affected states of northeast Nigeria, and undertaking bold incursions into neighboring countries. The Nigerian government's response has been ineffective at best. At worst, the actions of the security forces, who have been accused of alarming excesses, may have exacerbated the problem. These are things the Nigerian government must acknowledge and address if they want to end the reign of Boko Haram in communities most affected by the terrorist group.

The international community, the African Union, European Union, the Lake Chad Basin Commission, and United Nations Security Council—have all recognized that there must be a regional response to Boko Haram. On January 26, AU Commission Chairwoman Dlamini Zuma said that Boko Haram is a threat to the whole continent. Just days ago, the AU Peace and Security Council approved a 7500 strong regional force to combat the group. Recent U.S. efforts to provide assistance have been unilaterally rebuffed. Clearly, the international community is concerned and engaged. What is not so clear is the commitment

of the Nigerian government to a thoughtful strategy of engagement.

During my meeting with President Jonathan at last year's African Leaders' Summit, I urged him to implement a comprehensive approach to address the Boko Haram insurgency—one that addresses both the security threat as well as the legitimate grievances of local communities. At the end of the day, Nigerian officials must come to terms with the fact that a military solution alone will not solve the problem. To date, the government does not appear to have formulated a comprehensive strategy, and as a result, the insurgency continues to gain momentum.

Against this backdrop of government inaction and Boko Haram's unspeakable terrorism raging in the north, presidential elections are scheduled for February 14. For the first time since Nigeria transitioned from military rule to democracy in 1999, a unified opposition party will challenge the ruling People's Democratic Party, PDP. This election will test the strength of an electoral process that has been marred by violence. In 2011, more than 800 people were killed in clashes that followed what international observers deemed to be the most free, fair, and best-administered elections to date.

Despite the history of electoral violence, the Nigerian Government has yet to implement reforms recommended by the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC. INEC itself has taken a number of steps to improve the legitimacy of the voting process, including conducting widespread voter registration programs and introducing biometric voter identification cards. INEC is engaged in a valiant effort to distribute permanent voter cards in time for next month's elections, and we should continue to support such efforts until the job is done to protect the legitimacy and integrity of the elections.

National Security Advisor Sambo Dasuki has said the voter card distribution is too slow, and recently suggested that the elections be postponed. I think this suggestion has understandably raised suspicion and skepticism as to his motives and those of the PDP given that the race between President Jonathan and his challenger, Muhammadu Buhari, is by all accounts close to a dead heat. It is true, however, that increasing violence in three northern states threatens to disenfranchise a significant number of voters. And it is unclear how those who have been internally displaced will be given the opportunity to vote. In my view, there must be an effort to develop a consensus about how these twin challenges should be addressed or Nigerians may well dispute the results.

The two leading presidential candidates have made a public commitment to non-violence during the elections. They should be commended for

their verbal assurances, and they should be held responsible if they renege. As Secretary Kerry said in Lagos at the end of last month, "the international community is paying very close attention to this election."

Nigeria has the largest economy and is the most populous country in Africa. So goes, Nigeria, so goes West Africa. We cannot, from a strategic standpoint, afford for it to fail. That is why the international community must continue to urge Nigerian political leaders to listen to all voices, regardless of ethnic, religious, or regional affiliation, and to safeguard the right of the Nigerian people to shape their own destiny.

SENATE RESOLUTION 66—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF FEBRUARY 12, 2015, AS "DARWIN DAY" AND RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF SCIENCE IN THE BETTERMENT OF HUMANITY

Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 66

Whereas Charles Darwin developed the theory of evolution by the mechanism of natural selection, which, together with the monumental amount of scientific evidence Charles Darwin compiled to support the theory, provides humanity with a logical and intellectually compelling explanation for the diversity of life on Earth;

Whereas the validity of the theory of evolution by natural selection developed by Charles Darwin is further strongly supported by the modern understanding of the science of genetics;

Whereas it has been the human curiosity and ingenuity exemplified by Charles Darwin that has promoted new scientific discoveries that have helped humanity solve many problems and improve living conditions;

Whereas the advancement of science must be protected from those unconcerned with the adverse impacts of global warming and climate change;

Whereas the teaching of creationism in some public schools compromises the scientific and academic integrity of the education systems of the United States;

Whereas Charles Darwin is a worthy symbol of scientific advancement on which to focus and around which to build a global celebration of science and humanity intended to promote a common bond among all the people of the Earth; and

Whereas February 12, 2015, is the anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin in 1809 and would be an appropriate date to designate as "Darwin Day": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of "Darwin Day"; and

(2) recognizes Charles Darwin as a worthy symbol on which to celebrate the achievements of reason, science, and the advancement of human knowledge.

SENATE RESOLUTION 67—AMENDING RULE XXII OF THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE TO REVISE THE NUMBER OF AFFIRMATIVE VOTES REQUIRED TO END DEBATE ON NOMINATIONS

Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mr. LEE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 67

Resolved,

SECTION 1. CLOTURE RULE.

The second undesignated subparagraph of paragraph 2 of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by striking "And if that question" and all that follows through "disposed of," and inserting the following: "If the question is decided in the affirmative in the case of a nomination on the Executive Calendar by a majority of the Senators duly chosen and sworn; in the case of a measure or motion to amend the Senate rules by two-thirds of the Senators present and voting; and in the case of any other measure, motion, or matter, by three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn, then the foregoing measure, motion or matter pending before the Senate, or the unfinished business, upon which the question was decided in the affirmative shall be the unfinished business to the exclusion of all other business until disposed of."

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I am especially pleased to see that the Senator from Utah is presiding this afternoon because I come to the floor today to offer a resolution which is his inspiration, really, and on which I am pleased to be working with him.

Simply put, this is a resolution to establish a majority vote on Presidential nominations. This would establish by rule the Senate tradition of approving Presidential nominations by a simple majority vote. The rules change we propose would establish by rule this tradition of approving Presidential nominations of Cabinet Members and judges by a simple majority vote, which existed from the time Thomas Jefferson wrote the rules in 1789 until 2003, when Democrats began filibustering Federal Circuit Court of Appeals nominees.

Most importantly, it would change the rules in the right way, through a two-thirds vote, which is what the existing rules of the Senate provide. Unfortunately, on November 21, 2013, Democrats broke the Senate rules without even attempting to get the 67 votes required to change the rules, which caused former Senator Carl Levin, a Democrat from Michigan, to say at the time, quoting former Senator Arthur Vandenberg of Michigan, that "if a majority of the Senate can change its rules at any time, there are no rules." We are the Nation's rule-making body. If we cannot follow our own rules, how can we expect the American people to show respect for and follow the rules we help to create?

The proposal Senator LEE and I have made will be considered by the Senate

Committee on Rules and Administration, according to the Senator from Missouri, Senator BLUNT, the chairman of the Rules Committee. It would ultimately require a two-thirds vote of the Senate to change the Senate rules. This all has to do with the so-called nuclear option.

If I might say an additional word about the so-called nuclear option, I came to the Senate in 2003, which was when our Democratic friends decided they would use cloture, which requires 60 votes to cut off debate, as a way of denying a Presidential nomination on a Federal circuit judge. It had never in the history of the Senate been used before in that way. Cloture had been used twice, I believe, based on my research, to deny a sub-Cabinet member a position in the 1990s, but that was the first time it had ever been used on any such position with the exception of Abe Fortas.

It is important, given all the misinformation that has been spread about the nuclear option, to know what the facts are. The tradition has always been in the Senate that Presidential nominations deserved an up-or-down, 51-majority vote. That has basically been the tradition. Even with the most controversial nominations, such as that of Clarence Thomas, the Supreme Court Justice—I believe the vote was 52 to 48—there never was a suggestion that someone might use cloture to require it to be 60 votes. Cloture didn't apply to nominations until 1949, so it was never used between the time Jefferson wrote the rules at the beginning of the Senate and 1949.

It was first used in 1968, but not really. President Johnson was trying to save face for Abe Fortas, his friend who was a Supreme Court Justice. He had nominated him for Chief Justice. A problem came out, and President Johnson engineered a 45-to-43 cloture vote, which Fortas "won."

That is really the only exception in the whole history of the Senate until 2003, when the Senate said it is going to take 60 votes to confirm a Presidential nomination for a judge rather than the traditional 51.

I have talked to several of my colleagues on the other side about this issue. They are fairly straightforward about why they did it. They thought President George W. Bush's nominees were "too conservative."

I knew some of those judges—Judge Pickering of Mississippi, for example. He put his children into a public school in Mississippi in the 1960s, and he was being accused of being a segregationist when he was actually leading the charge in his State of Mississippi to desegregate the public schools.

William Pryor of Alabama was a law clerk for Judge John Minor Wisdom. I know the distinguished Senator from Utah, who was a Supreme Court law clerk, knows of Judge Wisdom. He was

regarded by everyone as one of the finest Federal circuit judges in the country. He had the greatest respect for William Pryor. He would have been shocked to hear what was said about him at the time.

It was a shocking thing to me to arrive in the Senate in 2003 and find my friends on the other side of the aisle for the first time in Senate history saying it would take 60 votes to confirm President Bush's judges. I strongly objected to that. I even suggested that if a few Senators on this side and a few Senators on that side would work together, we could break the stalemate. A Gang of 14 was created. It did break the stalemate, but as a result, five judges nominated by George W. Bush were not confirmed because the other side decided they didn't like their philosophical views. So instead of a 51-vote margin, they required 60, and so they weren't confirmed.

This is the tally in the history of the Senate. The number of Supreme Court nominees in the history of our country who have ever had their nomination denied by filibuster, by a cloture vote, is zero, with the exception of the Fortas nomination, if you want to count that. Not a single one. Supreme Court nominations are among the most controversial nominations ever before the Senate.

The number of Cabinet members who have ever had their nominations denied by a filibuster, by requiring 60 votes in the history of the Senate—zero. Not one. Not an Obama nominee. Not a Clinton nominee. Not a Bush nominee. Zero. Not one.

Let's go to district judges. There has been a lot of talk about district judges and how difficult it was for President Obama to have district judges confirmed. There is no truth to that whatsoever. I was in the Senate; I know that. I will give an example. There was an effort to deny a seat to a judge from the State of Rhode Island by 60 votes, a judge whom I didn't support, but I and a group of other Republicans made sure we did not use cloture to deny a seat to a President's district judge nominee for the first time in history, and so we did not.

So the number of Federal district judges in the history of the United States who have ever had their nomination denied by a filibuster, by the 60-vote cloture rule, is zero.

So Supreme Court Justices, except for Fortas, Cabinet members, district judges—zero. Filibusters have not been widely used in the history of this Senate to deny a President his nomination. However, there are other problems that nominations have.

I was nominated once. I came to be nominated to be the Secretary of the Department of Education. A Senator from Ohio, Senator Metzenbaum, put a so-called secret hold on my nomination and held me up for 3 months, but then

when I came to the floor, I was confirmed. We have abolished those kinds of secret holds. We have made changes in the rules to make it easier for the President's nominees to be confirmed.

There have been seven sub-Cabinet members, including John Bolton—three Republicans and four Democrats—who have had their nominations rejected because of a cloture vote, all since 1994. So no Cabinet members, no Supreme Court Justices, no district judges, seven sub-Cabinet members.

What is the score on circuit judges? This is what brought up the fuss in 2003 when the Democrats filibustered 10 nominations because they were too conservative. As I mentioned earlier, five were confirmed and five were rejected as part of the compromise. Since that time, Republicans have rejected two Democrats. So the score is the Democrats have rejected five Federal Circuit judges and Republicans rejected two. Republicans actually rejected three others, but that led to the events of November 21, 2013, when the Democrats broke the rules to change the rules.

It would be as if in a Super Bowl or in a playoff game, let's say, Seattle gained 9 yards and they needed 10, so they changed the rules because they were the home team and said that is a first down. No one would have any respect for the game if they did that, and no one will have any respect for the Senate if we keep doing that, which is the point Senator LEE and I would like to make because the tradition of the Senate has always been to give to a President the prerogative of allowing his nominations to be confirmed by 51 votes or a simple majority of Senators duly chosen and sworn. We propose to change the rule to reflect the tradition of the Senate.

Some say: Well, why don't you do to them what they did to you?

I don't think that is a very good way to live your life. I mean, if the Democrats did the wrong thing, if they brought the Senate to its knees, if they made the Senate into a place that doesn't follow its own rules, then we should do that to them? No. I think what we should do is replace bad behavior with good behavior, and good behavior means we adopt changes to the rules in the way the rules require, which is, in effect, 67 votes or two-thirds of the Senators present and voting.

So we will be offering our resolution, as we do today. We will be offering it in the Senate Rules Committee. We hope the Senate Rules Committee will approve it and report it to the floor. We hope Senator MCCONNELL will find time on the floor to bring it up. We hope that 67 of our colleagues will agree with it. We will show the country that we know how to follow our own rules and that we know how to take the tradition of the Senate, which has

been there since Thomas Jefferson wrote the rules, with very few exceptions, to make sure that Presidential nominees are entitled to an up-or-down vote by a majority of the Senate. That has been the rule, that has been the tradition, and that should be the rule, and the rules should be changed in the way that rules are supposed to be changed.

There is one other issue I wish to mention without going into any length about it. What happened in the Senate on November 21, 2013, was the lowest point in the Senate that I have seen. The majority decided that because it didn't have the votes to put three judges—liberal judges—on the DC Court of Appeals, it would break the rules to change the rules, and it just put them there anyway. It pretended that the reason it did that was because President Obama couldn't get his nominees confirmed.

Well, on every Senator's desk is an Executive Calendar. Everyone who can be confirmed has been reported by a committee to the floor and is listed on the Executive Calendar. There is only one way to get on this calendar—there was only one way on November 21, 2013, and that was for a Democratic majority in a committee to report a nominee to the floor of the Senate. That was the only way you could get there. Republicans couldn't do it; only the Democrats could. So on November 21, 2013 the calendar was filled only with people the Democratic majority had approved of.

There was only one way for anyone to get off the Executive Calendar and onto the floor of the Senate to be confirmed, and that was for the Democratic leader, the majority leader, to move to do that. We can't object to that. We have to vote on it. There is no motion to proceed with a nomination; he can bring it up anytime he wants to.

The change was made that there was a big backlog of people on this calendar. Well, here are the facts, and anyone who doubts it can look at the Executive Calendar for November 21, 2013, and they will see what the backlog was. There were 78 regular order nominations on November 21, 2013. Fifty-four of those nominees had been on the calendar less than 3 weeks. Sixteen had been on the calendar between 3 and 9 weeks. Eight had been on the calendar for more than 9 weeks.

There was an informal agreement between the floor staffs that 40 of the uncontroversial nominees on this calendar—40 of the 78—could be confirmed before the Senate left at the end of the week.

Let me use a specific example—district judges. We hear a lot about district judges. We had changed the rules at the request of the majority leader to make it easier to confirm district judges. We basically said that there could only be 2 hours of debate on a

district judge and the majority could give back 1 of those hours.

On the date the Democrats said there was a big backlog, there were 13 district judges on the calendar. Those were the only ones who could have been brought up by the majority leader. One had been waiting for more than 9 weeks. Four had been waiting for between 3 and 9 weeks. Eight had been waiting for less than 3 weeks. But the important point is that we could have confirmed them all over the weekend. All the majority leader had to do was to move the nomination of each of the 13, wait an intervening day, and then if they did that on Thursday, the intervening day would be Friday, and then we would come back on Monday and we would have 1 hour of debate for each of those nominations. So there was no excuse. There was no backlog.

The Washington Post and the Congressional Research Service said that President Obama's nominees were moving through the Senate at about the same speed that President Clinton and President George W. Bush's nominees had been at that time in their terms. That is what the Congressional Research Service and the Washington Post said.

The calendar speaks the truth about the absence of a backlog. And I was involved three times in working to change the rules to make it easier to do Presidential nominations. It was nothing more than a power grab. So our friends should just admit that and admit that it was the wrong thing to do for the Senate. A lot of Senators weren't here then.

The resolution Senator LEE and I have proposed gives the Senate a chance to abandon bad behavior and begin to adopt good behavior, to take a tradition of the Senate that has been followed almost without exception since 1789 and make it the order of the day and to do it the way the Senate rules say it should be done—with 67 votes.

In closing, let me simply say that I appreciate the fact that I am able to work on this with Senator LEE. This legislation developed really from a conversation and a suggestion he made to me on the floor of this Senate. I thought about it, and I said: I think you may be right about that. We worked together, and because of his background in the law and his experience in the Supreme Court, his leadership on this issue has been invaluable.

I thank the Senator for his suggestions, I thank him for his leadership, and I look forward to working with him when it comes before the Senate Rules Committee. I hope we can persuade our fellow Senators in a bipartisan way that a good way to begin this year would be to begin to change the rules the right way and to reject the bad behavior and bad habits of the last session of Congress.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I wish to speak briefly in support of this resolution. First of all, I wish to thank my distinguished colleague, the senior Senator from Tennessee, for his leadership in introducing this legislation. The Senator from Tennessee has shown great leadership on this issue. With his mastery of the Senate rules, his familiarity with the procedures of the Senate, the Senate's history, and his love for the Senate as an institution, the sponsor of this measure understands and appreciates the importance of maintaining order in the Senate. It is to this issue I would like to speak briefly.

When the Senate made this change in November of 2013, what happened was all of a sudden we had a split—a split that occurred between on the one hand the wording of the rule itself that governs cloture, on the other hand the precedent by which the Senate purports to be governed. So separate and apart from what the history tells us—from how often the Senate either has or hasn't used cloture on the Executive Calendar—there is this separate distinction that has now arisen.

The cloture rule says it takes three-fifths—a vote of three-fifths of the Senators—to bring end to debate on a particular matter. The rule itself makes no distinction between the Executive Calendar and the legislative calendar. It makes no distinction between ordinary legislative business where we are legislating and making law on the one hand and on the other we are meeting to decide whether to confirm a Presidential nominee. The rule doesn't distinguish, but the precedent now does.

When our colleagues on other side of the aisle voted in November 2013, appealing the ruling of the Chair, they reversed the precedent. They acted contrary to the language of the rule itself. This creates a certain amount of uncertainty, and that uncertainty I think needs to be resolved. We don't want to operate in an environment in which we have the rule saying one thing and the Senate precedent saying another thing.

So it was out of a certain amount of practical necessity that we looked to this as an alternative. In order to bring Senate practice back into harmony with the rules of the Senate, the best way we could come up with to do that would be to change the language of the rule.

Of course to change the language of the rule it takes 67 votes. While we are not certain what is going to happen, this is perhaps the only thing we could think of that could possibly get 67 votes—67 Senators saying yes, we can do that.

So it is very important that we have rules that are clear—rules that will apply regardless of who is in the White House, regardless of which party happens to control the majority of the

seats in this body. If, after all, we are making the rules that would govern the country, if, after all, we are being asked to confirm Presidential nominees to high positions, we need to be following our own rules.

We have to remember also that one of the things we have prided ourselves on, one of the things that has distinguished the Senate from other legislative bodies—we call ourselves the world's greatest deliberative legislative body—is because from the very beginning this has been the kind of place where in theory we will continue to debate things as long as basically any one Member wants to continue to debate. Cloture is an exception to that. Cloture allows for three-fifths of the Senators present to decide it is time to bring the debate to an end, even if a minority of Senators want to continue. But it requires a supermajority.

There are many reasons to do this, but one of the reasons I think is important to point out is because it protects the right of each Senator to continue to offer improvements, to point out flaws and offer potential improvements to legislation—the amendment process. The amendment process is itself of course different in the context of legislation than it is in the context of a Presidential nominee.

I am personally not aware of any means by which one can amend a nominee. I am not aware of any process by which one can confirm a Presidential nominee's right hand but not his left.

I support this change. I think this change is important for this body and for the continuity of the Senate rules and I am grateful to the senior Senator from Tennessee for his efforts in this regard, which I wholeheartedly support.

SENATE RESOLUTION 68—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE JANUARY 24, 2015, ATTACKS CARRIED OUT BY RUSSIAN-BACKED REBELS ON THE CIVILIAN POPULATION IN MARIUPOL, UKRAINE, AND THE PROVISION OF LETHAL AND NON-LETHAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO UKRAINE

Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 68

Whereas Russian-backed rebels continue to expand their campaign in Ukraine, which has already claimed more than 5,000 lives and generated an estimated 1,500,000 refugees and internally displaced persons;

Whereas, on January 23, 2015, Russian rebels pulled out of peace talks with Western leaders;

Whereas, on January 24, 2015, the Ukrainian port city of Mariupol received rocket fire from territory in the Donetsk region controlled by rebels;

Whereas, on January 24, 2015, Alexander Zakharchenko, leader of the Russian-backed

rebel Donetsk People's Republic, publicly announced that his troops had launched an offensive against Mariupol;

Whereas Mariupol is strategically located on the Sea of Azov and is a sea link between Russian-occupied Crimea and Russia, and could be used to form part of a land bridge between Crimea and Russia;

Whereas the indiscriminate attack on Mariupol killed 30 people, including 2 children, and wounded 102 in markets, homes, and schools;

Whereas any group that fires rockets knowingly into a civilian population is committing war crimes and is in violation of international humanitarian law;

Whereas, even after the Russian Federation and the Russian-backed rebels signed a ceasefire agreement called the Minsk Protocol in September 2014, NATO's Supreme Allied Commander, General Philip Breedlove, reported in November 2014 the movement of "Russian troops, Russian artillery, Russian air defense systems, and Russian combat troops" into Ukraine;

Whereas, on January 24, 2015, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg stated, "For several months we have seen the presence of Russian forces in eastern Ukraine, as well as a substantial increase in Russian heavy equipment such as tanks, artillery, and advanced air defense systems. Russian troops in eastern Ukraine are supporting offensive operations with command and control systems, air defense systems with advanced surface-to-air missiles, unmanned aerial systems, advanced multiple rocket launcher systems, and electronic warfare systems.";

Whereas, on January 25, 2015, after Russian-backed rebels attacked Mariupol, European Council President Donald Tusk wrote, "Once again appeasement encourages the aggressor to greater acts of violence; time to step up our policy based on cold facts, not illusions.";

Whereas, on November 19, 2014, at a Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate confirmation hearing, Deputy National Security Adviser Anthony Blinken stated that the provision of defensive lethal assistance to the Government of Ukraine "remains on the table. It's something we're looking at.";

Whereas the Ukraine Freedom Support Act (Public Law 113-272), which was passed by Congress unanimously and signed into law by the President on December 18, 2014, states that it is the policy of the United States to further assist the Government of Ukraine in restoring its sovereignty and its territorial integrity to deter the Government of the Russian Federation from further destabilizing and invading Ukraine and other independent countries in Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia; and

Whereas the Ukraine Freedom Support Act authorizes \$350,000,000 in fiscal years 2015–2017 for the President to provide the Government of Ukraine with defense articles, defense services, and military training for the purpose of countering offensive weapons and reestablishing the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, including anti-tank and anti-armor weapons; crew weapons and ammunition; counter-artillery radars; fire control and guidance equipment; surveillance drones; and secure command and communications equipment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the attack on Mariupol by Russian-backed rebels;

(2) urges the President to provide lethal and non-lethal military assistance to

Ukraine as unanimously supported by Congress in the Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-272);

(3) calls on the United States, its European allies, and the international community to continue to apply economic and other forms of pressure on the Russian Federation, especially in the form of sanctions, if the Government of the Russian Federation continues to refuse to cease its aggression in Ukraine;

(4) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to immediately end its support for the rebels in eastern Ukraine, allow Ukraine to regain control of its internationally-recognized borders, and withdraw its military presence in eastern Ukraine; and

(5) expresses solidarity with the people of Ukraine regarding the humanitarian crisis in their country and the destruction caused by the military, financial, and ideological support of the Government of the Russian Federation for the rebels in eastern Ukraine.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 249. Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 240, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 249. Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 240, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY AND EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Secretary of Homeland Security, as authorized by section 102 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 112), and executive management of the Department of Homeland Security, as authorized by law, \$132,573,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$45,000 shall be for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That all official costs associated with the use of government aircraft by Department of Homeland Security personnel to support official travel of the Secretary and the Deputy Secretary shall be paid from amounts made available for the Immediate Office of the Secretary and the Immediate Office of the Deputy Secretary: *Provided further*, That not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Committees on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, a comprehensive plan for implementation of the biometric entry and exit data system required under section 7208 of the Intelligence

Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (8 U.S.C. 1365b), including the estimated costs for implementation.

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR
MANAGEMENT

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Management, as authorized by sections 701 through 705 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 341 through 345), \$187,503,000, of which not to exceed \$2,250 shall be for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided*, That of the total amount made available under this heading, \$4,493,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016, solely for the alteration and improvement of facilities, tenant improvements, and relocation costs to consolidate Department headquarters operations at the Nebraska Avenue Complex; and \$6,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016, for the Human Resources Information Technology program: *Provided further*, That the Under Secretary for Management shall include in the President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2016, submitted pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, a Comprehensive Acquisition Status Report, which shall include the information required under the heading "Office of the Under Secretary for Management" under title I of division D of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112-74), and shall submit quarterly updates to such report not later than 45 days after the completion of each quarter.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, as authorized by section 103 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 113), \$52,020,000: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, at the time the President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2016 is submitted pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, the Future Years Homeland Security Program, as authorized by section 874 of Public Law 107-296 (6 U.S.C. 454).

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Chief Information Officer, as authorized by section 103 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 113), and Department-wide technology investments, \$288,122,000; of which \$99,028,000 shall be available for salaries and expenses; and of which \$189,094,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016, shall be available for development and acquisition of information technology equipment, software, services, and related activities for the Department of Homeland Security.

ANALYSIS AND OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses for intelligence analysis and operations coordination activities, as authorized by title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 121 et seq.), \$255,804,000; of which not to exceed \$3,825 shall be for official reception and representation expenses; and of which \$102,479,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), \$118,617,000; of which not to exceed \$300,000 may be used for certain confidential operational expenses, including the payment of informants, to be expended at the direction of the Inspector General.

TITLE II
SECURITY, ENFORCEMENT, AND
INVESTIGATIONS
UNITED STATES CUSTOMS AND BORDER
PROTECTION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for enforcement of laws relating to border security, immigration, customs, agricultural inspections and regulatory activities related to plant and animal imports, and transportation of unaccompanied minor aliens; purchase and lease of up to 7,500 (6,500 for replacement only) police-type vehicles; and contracting with individuals for personal services abroad; \$8,459,657,000; of which \$3,274,000 shall be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund for administrative expenses related to the collection of the Harbor Maintenance Fee pursuant to section 9505(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 9505(c)(3)) and notwithstanding section 1511(e)(1) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 551(e)(1)); of which \$30,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2016, solely for the purpose of hiring, training, and equipping United States Customs and Border Protection officers at ports of entry; of which not to exceed \$34,425 shall be for official reception and representation expenses; of which such sums as become available in the Customs User Fee Account, except sums subject to section 13031(f)(3) of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (19 U.S.C. 58c(f)(3)), shall be derived from that account; of which not to exceed \$150,000 shall be available for payment for rental space in connection with preclearance operations; and of which not to exceed \$1,000,000 shall be for awards of compensation to informants, to be accounted for solely under the certificate of the Secretary of Homeland Security: *Provided*, That for fiscal year 2015, the overtime limitation prescribed in section 5(c)(1) of the Act of February 13, 1911 (19 U.S.C. 267(c)(1)) shall be \$35,000; and notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds appropriated by this Act shall be available to compensate any employee of United States Customs and Border Protection for overtime, from whatever source, in an amount that exceeds such limitation, except in individual cases determined by the Secretary of Homeland Security, or the designee of the Secretary, to be necessary for national security purposes, to prevent excessive costs, or in cases of immigration emergencies: *Provided further*, That the Border Patrol shall maintain an active duty presence of not less than 21,370 full-time equivalent agents protecting the borders of the United States in the fiscal year.

AUTOMATION MODERNIZATION

For necessary expenses for United States Customs and Border Protection for operation and improvement of automated systems, including salaries and expenses, \$808,169,000; of which \$46,075,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2017; and of which not less than \$140,970,000 shall be for the development of the Automated Commercial Environment.

BORDER SECURITY FENCING, INFRASTRUCTURE,
AND TECHNOLOGY

For expenses for border security fencing, infrastructure, and technology, \$382,466,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017.

AIR AND MARINE OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses for the operations, maintenance, and procurement of marine vessels, aircraft, unmanned aircraft systems, the Air and Marine Operations Center, and

other related equipment of the air and marine program, including salaries and expenses, operational training, and mission-related travel, the operations of which include the following: the interdiction of narcotics and other goods; the provision of support to Federal, State, and local agencies in the enforcement or administration of laws enforced by the Department of Homeland Security; and, at the discretion of the Secretary of Homeland Security, the provision of assistance to Federal, State, and local agencies in other law enforcement and emergency humanitarian efforts; \$750,469,000; of which \$299,800,000 shall be available for salaries and expenses; and of which \$450,669,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That no aircraft or other related equipment, with the exception of aircraft that are one of a kind and have been identified as excess to United States Customs and Border Protection requirements and aircraft that have been damaged beyond repair, shall be transferred to any other Federal agency, department, or office outside of the Department of Homeland Security during fiscal year 2015 without prior notice to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives: *Provided further*, That funding made available under this heading shall be available for customs expenses when necessary to maintain or to temporarily increase operations in Puerto Rico: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Homeland Security shall report to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, on any changes to the 5-year strategic plan for the air and marine program required under the heading "Air and Marine Interdiction, Operations, and Maintenance" in Public Law 112-74.

CONSTRUCTION AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

For necessary expenses to plan, acquire, construct, renovate, equip, furnish, operate, manage, and maintain buildings, facilities, and related infrastructure necessary for the administration and enforcement of the laws relating to customs, immigration, and border security, \$288,821,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019.

UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS
ENFORCEMENT

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for enforcement of immigration and customs laws, detention and removals, and investigations, including intellectual property rights and overseas vetted units operations; and purchase and lease of up to 3,790 (2,350 for replacement only) police-type vehicles; \$5,932,756,000; of which not to exceed \$10,000,000 shall be available until expended for conducting special operations under section 3131 of the Customs Enforcement Act of 1986 (19 U.S.C. 2081); of which not to exceed \$11,475 shall be for official reception and representation expenses; of which not to exceed \$2,000,000 shall be for awards of compensation to informants, to be accounted for solely under the certificate of the Secretary of Homeland Security; of which not less than \$305,000 shall be for promotion of public awareness of the child pornography tipline and activities to counter child exploitation; of which not less than \$5,400,000 shall be used to facilitate agreements consistent with section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1357(g)); of which not to exceed \$40,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, is for maintenance, construction, and leasehold improvements at owned and leased facilities; and of which not to exceed \$11,216,000

shall be available to fund or reimburse other Federal agencies for the costs associated with the care, maintenance, and repatriation of smuggled aliens unlawfully present in the United States: *Provided*, That none of the funds made available under this heading shall be available to compensate any employee for overtime in an annual amount in excess of \$35,000, except that the Secretary of Homeland Security, or the designee of the Secretary, may waive that amount as necessary for national security purposes and in cases of immigration emergencies: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided, \$15,770,000 shall be for activities to enforce laws against forced child labor, of which not to exceed \$6,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That of the total amount available, not less than \$1,600,000,000 shall be available to identify aliens convicted of a crime who may be deportable, and to remove them from the United States once they are judged deportable: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Homeland Security shall prioritize the identification and removal of aliens convicted of a crime by the severity of that crime: *Provided further*, That funding made available under this heading shall maintain a level of not less than 34,000 detention beds through September 30, 2015: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided, not less than \$3,431,444,000 is for detention, enforcement, and removal operations, including transportation of unaccompanied minor aliens: *Provided further*, That of the amount provided for Custody Operations in the previous proviso, \$45,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided for the Visa Security Program and international investigations, \$43,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided further*, That not less than \$15,000,000 shall be available for investigation of intellectual property rights violations, including operation of the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided under this heading may be used to continue a delegation of law enforcement authority authorized under section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1357(g)) if the Department of Homeland Security Inspector General determines that the terms of the agreement governing the delegation of authority have been materially violated: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided under this heading may be used to continue any contract for the provision of detention services if the two most recent overall performance evaluations received by the contracted facility are less than "adequate" or the equivalent median score in any subsequent performance evaluation system: *Provided further*, That nothing under this heading shall prevent United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement from exercising those authorities provided under immigration laws (as defined in section 101(a)(17) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17))) during priority operations pertaining to aliens convicted of a crime: *Provided further*, That without regard to the limitation as to time and condition of section 503(d) of this Act, the Secretary may propose to reprogram and transfer funds within and into this appropriation necessary to ensure the detention of aliens prioritized for removal.

AUTOMATION MODERNIZATION

For expenses of immigration and customs enforcement automated systems, \$26,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017.

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION AVIATION SECURITY

For necessary expenses of the Transportation Security Administration related to providing civil aviation security services pursuant to the Aviation and Transportation Security Act (Public Law 107-71; 115 Stat. 597; 49 U.S.C. 40101 note), \$5,639,095,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016; of which not to exceed \$7,650 shall be for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided*, That any award to deploy explosives detection systems shall be based on risk, the airport's current reliance on other screening solutions, lobby congestion resulting in increased security concerns, high injury rates, airport readiness, and increased cost effectiveness: *Provided further*, That security service fees authorized under section 44940 of title 49, United States Code, shall be credited to this appropriation as offsetting collections and shall be available only for aviation security: *Provided further*, That the sum appropriated under this heading from the general fund shall be reduced on a dollar-for-dollar basis as such offsetting collections are received during fiscal year 2015 so as to result in a final fiscal year appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than \$3,574,095,000: *Provided further*, That the fees deposited under this heading in fiscal year 2013 and sequestered pursuant to section 251A of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901a), that are currently unavailable for obligation, are hereby permanently cancelled: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 44923 of title 49, United States Code, for fiscal year 2015, any funds in the Aviation Security Capital Fund established by section 44923(h) of title 49, United States Code, may be used for the procurement and installation of explosives detection systems or for the issuance of other transaction agreements for the purpose of funding projects described in section 44923(a) of such title: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, mobile explosives detection equipment purchased and deployed using funds made available under this heading may be moved and redeployed to meet evolving passenger and baggage screening security priorities at airports: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available in this Act may be used for any recruiting or hiring of personnel into the Transportation Security Administration that would cause the agency to exceed a staffing level of 45,000 full-time equivalent screeners: *Provided further*, That the preceding proviso shall not apply to personnel hired as part-time employees: *Provided further*, That not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives a detailed report on—

- (1) the Department of Homeland Security efforts and resources being devoted to develop more advanced integrated passenger screening technologies for the most effective security of passengers and baggage at the lowest possible operating and acquisition costs, including projected funding levels for each fiscal year for the next 5 years or until project completion, whichever is earlier;
- (2) how the Transportation Security Administration is deploying its existing passenger and baggage screener workforce in the most cost effective manner; and
- (3) labor savings from the deployment of improved technologies for passenger and baggage screening and how those savings are

being used to offset security costs or reinvested to address security vulnerabilities:

Provided further, That not later than April 15, 2015, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, a semiannual report updating information on a strategy to increase the number of air passengers eligible for expedited screening, including:

- (1) specific benchmarks and performance measures to increase participation in Pre-Check by air carriers, airports, and passengers;
- (2) options to facilitate direct application for enrollment in Pre-Check through the Transportation Security Administration's Web site, airports, and other enrollment locations;
- (3) use of third parties to pre-screen passengers for expedited screening;
- (4) inclusion of populations already vetted by the Transportation Security Administration and other trusted populations as eligible for expedited screening;
- (5) resource implications of expedited passenger screening resulting from the use of risk-based security methods; and
- (6) the total number and percentage of passengers using Pre-Check lanes who:
 - (A) have enrolled in Pre-Check since Transportation Security Administration enrollment centers were established;
 - (B) enrolled using the Transportation Security Administration's Pre-Check application Web site;
 - (C) were enrolled as frequent flyers of a participating airline;
 - (D) utilized Pre-Check as a result of their enrollment in a Trusted Traveler program of United States Customs and Border Protection;
 - (E) were selectively identified to participate in expedited screening through the use of Managed Inclusion in fiscal year 2014; and
 - (F) are enrolled in all other Pre-Check categories:

Provided further, That Members of the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate, including the leadership; the heads of Federal agencies and commissions, including the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Under Secretaries, and Assistant Secretaries of the Department of Homeland Security; the United States Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General, Assistant Attorneys General, and the United States Attorneys; and senior members of the Executive Office of the President, including the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, shall not be exempt from Federal passenger and baggage screening.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY

For necessary expenses of the Transportation Security Administration related to surface transportation security activities, \$123,749,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016.

INTELLIGENCE AND VETTING

For necessary expenses for the development and implementation of intelligence and vetting activities, \$219,166,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016.

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY SUPPORT

For necessary expenses of the Transportation Security Administration related to transportation security support pursuant to the Aviation and Transportation Security Act (Public Law 107-71; 115 Stat. 597; 49 U.S.C. 40101 note), \$917,226,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*,

That not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives—

(1) a report providing evidence demonstrating that behavioral indicators can be used to identify passengers who may pose a threat to aviation security and the plans that will be put into place to collect additional performance data; and

(2) a report addressing each of the recommendations outlined in the report entitled “TSA Needs Additional Information Before Procuring Next-Generation Systems”, published by the Government Accountability Office on March 31, 2014, and describing the steps the Transportation Security Administration is taking to implement acquisition best practices, increase industry engagement, and improve transparency with regard to technology acquisition programs:

Provided further, That of the funds provided under this heading, \$25,000,000 shall be withheld from obligation for Headquarters Administration until the submission of the reports required by paragraphs (1) and (2) of the preceding proviso.

COAST GUARD OPERATING EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the operation and maintenance of the Coast Guard, not otherwise provided for; purchase or lease of not to exceed 25 passenger motor vehicles, which shall be for replacement only; purchase or lease of small boats for contingent and emergent requirements (at a unit cost of no more than \$700,000) and repairs and service-life replacements, not to exceed a total of \$31,000,000; purchase or lease of boats necessary for overseas deployments and activities; minor shore construction projects not exceeding \$1,000,000 in total cost on any location; payments pursuant to section 156 of Public Law 97-377 (42 U.S.C. 402 note; 96 Stat. 1920); and recreation and welfare; \$7,043,318,000, of which \$553,000,000 shall be for defense-related activities, of which \$213,000,000 is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 and shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress; of which \$24,500,000 shall be derived from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund to carry out the purposes of section 1012(a)(5) of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2712(a)(5)); and of which not to exceed \$15,300 shall be for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided*, That none of the funds made available by this Act shall be for expenses incurred for recreational vessels under section 12114 of title 46, United States Code, except to the extent fees are collected from owners of yachts and credited to this appropriation: *Provided further*, That to the extent fees are insufficient to pay expenses of recreational vessel documentation under such section 12114, and there is a backlog of recreational vessel applications, then personnel performing non-recreational vessel documentation functions under subchapter II of chapter 121 of title 46, United States Code, may perform documentation under section 12114: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided under this heading, \$85,000,000 shall be withheld from obligation for Coast Guard Headquarters Directorates until a future-years capital investment plan for fiscal years 2016 through

2020, as specified under the heading “Coast Guard, Acquisition, Construction, and Improvements” of this Act, is submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism may be allocated by program, project, and activity, notwithstanding section 503 of this Act: *Provided further*, That, without regard to the limitation as to time and condition of section 503(d) of this Act, after June 30, up to \$10,000,000 may be reprogrammed to or from Military Pay and Allowances in accordance with subsections (a), (b), and (c) of section 503.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND RESTORATION

For necessary expenses to carry out the environmental compliance and restoration functions of the Coast Guard under chapter 19 of title 14, United States Code, \$13,197,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019.

RESERVE TRAINING

For necessary expenses of the Coast Guard Reserve, as authorized by law; operations and maintenance of the Coast Guard reserve program; personnel and training costs; and equipment and services; \$114,572,000.

ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, AND IMPROVEMENTS

For necessary expenses of acquisition, construction, renovation, and improvement of aids to navigation, shore facilities, vessels, and aircraft, including equipment related thereto; and maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment; as authorized by law; \$1,225,223,000; of which \$20,000,000 shall be derived from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund to carry out the purposes of section 1012(a)(5) of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2712(a)(5)); and of which the following amounts shall be available until September 30, 2019 (except as subsequently specified): \$6,000,000 for military family housing; \$824,347,000 to acquire, effect major repairs to, renovate, or improve vessels, small boats, and related equipment; \$180,000,000 to acquire, effect major repairs to, renovate, or improve aircraft or increase aviation capability; \$59,300,000 for other acquisition programs; \$40,580,000 for shore facilities and aids to navigation, including facilities at Department of Defense installations used by the Coast Guard; and \$114,996,000, to remain available until September 30, 2015, for personnel compensation and benefits and related costs: *Provided*, That the funds provided by this Act shall be immediately available and allotted to contract for the production of the eighth National Security Cutter notwithstanding the availability of funds for post-production costs: *Provided further*, That the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, at the time the President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2016 is submitted pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, a future-years capital investment plan for the Coast Guard that identifies for each requested capital asset—

(1) the proposed appropriations included in that budget;

(2) the total estimated cost of completion, including and clearly delineating the costs of associated major acquisition systems infrastructure and transition to operations;

(3) projected funding levels for each fiscal year for the next 5 fiscal years or until acquisition program baseline or project completion, whichever is earlier;

(4) an estimated completion date at the projected funding levels; and

(5) a current acquisition program baseline for each capital asset, as applicable, that—

(A) includes the total acquisition cost of each asset, subdivided by fiscal year and including a detailed description of the purpose of the proposed funding levels for each fiscal year, including for each fiscal year funds requested for design, pre-acquisition activities, production, structural modifications, missionization, post-delivery, and transition to operations costs;

(B) includes a detailed project schedule through completion, subdivided by fiscal year, that details—

(i) quantities planned for each fiscal year; and

(ii) major acquisition and project events, including development of operational requirements, contracting actions, design reviews, production, delivery, test and evaluation, and transition to operations, including necessary training, shore infrastructure, and logistics;

(C) notes and explains any deviations in cost, performance parameters, schedule, or estimated date of completion from the original acquisition program baseline and the most recent baseline approved by the Department of Homeland Security's Acquisition Review Board, if applicable;

(D) aligns the acquisition of each asset to mission requirements by defining existing capabilities of comparable legacy assets, identifying known capability gaps between such existing capabilities and stated mission requirements, and explaining how the acquisition of each asset will address such known capability gaps;

(E) defines life-cycle costs for each asset and the date of the estimate on which such costs are based, including all associated costs of major acquisitions systems infrastructure and transition to operations, delineated by purpose and fiscal year for the projected service life of the asset;

(F) includes the earned value management system summary schedule performance index and cost performance index for each asset, if applicable; and

(G) includes a phase-out and decommissioning schedule delineated by fiscal year for each existing legacy asset that each asset is intended to replace or recapitalize:

Provided further, That the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall ensure that amounts specified in the future-years capital investment plan are consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with proposed appropriations necessary to support the programs, projects, and activities of the Coast Guard in the President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2016, submitted pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code: *Provided further*, That any inconsistencies between the capital investment plan and proposed appropriations shall be identified and justified: *Provided further*, That the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall not delay the submission of the capital investment plan referred to by the preceding provisos: *Provided further*, That the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall have no more than a single period of 10 consecutive business days to review the capital investment plan prior to submission: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Homeland Security shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the

House of Representatives, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives one day after the capital investment plan is submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for review and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives when such review is completed: *Provided further*, That subsections (a) and (b) of section 6402 of Public Law 110-28 shall hereafter apply with respect to the amounts made available under this heading.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION

For necessary expenses for applied scientific research, development, test, and evaluation; and for maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment; as authorized by law; \$17,892,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, of which \$500,000 shall be derived from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund to carry out the purposes of section 1012(a)(5) of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2712(a)(5)): *Provided*, That there may be credited to and used for the purposes of this appropriation funds received from State and local governments, other public authorities, private sources, and foreign countries for expenses incurred for research, development, testing, and evaluation.

RETIRED PAY

For retired pay, including the payment of obligations otherwise chargeable to lapsed appropriations for this purpose, payments under the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection and Survivor Benefits Plans, payment for career status bonuses, concurrent receipts, and combat-related special compensation under the National Defense Authorization Act, and payments for medical care of retired personnel and their dependents under chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, \$1,450,626,000, to remain available until expended.

UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the United States Secret Service, including purchase of not to exceed 652 vehicles for police-type use for replacement only; hire of passenger motor vehicles; purchase of motorcycles made in the United States; hire of aircraft; services of expert witnesses at such rates as may be determined by the Director of the United States Secret Service; rental of buildings in the District of Columbia, and fencing, lighting, guard booths, and other facilities on private or other property not in Government ownership or control, as may be necessary to perform protective functions; payment of per diem or subsistence allowances to employees in cases in which a protective assignment on the actual day or days of the visit of a protectee requires an employee to work 16 hours per day or to remain overnight at a post of duty; conduct of and participation in firearms matches; presentation of awards; travel of United States Secret Service employees on protective missions without regard to the limitations on such expenditures in this or any other Act if approval is obtained in advance from the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives; research and development; grants to conduct behavioral

research in support of protective research and operations; and payment in advance for commercial accommodations as may be necessary to perform protective functions; \$1,615,860,000; of which not to exceed \$19,125 shall be for official reception and representation expenses; of which not to exceed \$100,000 shall be to provide technical assistance and equipment to foreign law enforcement organizations in counterfeit investigations; of which \$2,366,000 shall be for forensic and related support of investigations of missing and exploited children; of which \$6,000,000 shall be for a grant for activities related to investigations of missing and exploited children and shall remain available until September 30, 2016; and of which not less than \$12,000,000 shall be for activities related to training in electronic crimes investigations and forensics: *Provided*, That \$18,000,000 for protective travel shall remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided further*, That \$4,500,000 for National Special Security Events shall remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided further*, That the United States Secret Service is authorized to obligate funds in anticipation of reimbursements from Federal agencies and entities, as defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code, for personnel receiving training sponsored by the James J. Rowley Training Center, except that total obligations at the end of the fiscal year shall not exceed total budgetary resources available under this heading at the end of the fiscal year: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this heading shall be available to compensate any employee for overtime in an annual amount in excess of \$35,000, except that the Secretary of Homeland Security, or the designee of the Secretary, may waive that amount as necessary for national security purposes: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available to the United States Secret Service by this Act or by previous appropriations Acts may be made available for the protection of the head of a Federal agency other than the Secretary of Homeland Security: *Provided further*, That the Director of the United States Secret Service may enter into an agreement to provide such protection on a fully reimbursable basis: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available to the United States Secret Service by this Act or by previous appropriations Acts may be obligated for the purpose of opening a new permanent domestic or overseas office or location unless the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives are notified 15 days in advance of such obligation: *Provided further*, That not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the United States Secret Service shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, a report providing evidence that the United States Secret Service has sufficiently reviewed its professional standards of conduct; and has issued new guidance and procedures for the conduct of employees when engaged in overseas operations and protective missions, consistent with the critical missions of, and the unique position of public trust occupied by, the United States Secret Service: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided under this heading, \$10,000,000 shall be withheld from obligation for Headquarters, Management and Administration until such report is submitted: *Provided further*, That for purposes of section 503(b) of this Act, \$15,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, may be transferred between Protection of Persons and Facilities and Domestic Field Operations.

ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, IMPROVEMENTS, AND RELATED EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for acquisition, construction, repair, alteration, and improvement of physical and technological infrastructure, \$49,935,000; of which \$5,380,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019, shall be for acquisition, construction, improvement, and maintenance of the James J. Rowley Training Center; and of which \$44,555,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, shall be for Information Integration and Technology Transformation program execution.

TITLE III

PROTECTION, PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY

NATIONAL PROTECTION AND PROGRAMS DIRECTORATE

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

For salaries and expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for the National Protection and Programs Directorate, support for operations, and information technology, \$61,651,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$3,825 shall be for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That the President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2016, submitted pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, shall be detailed by office, and by program, project, and activity level, for the National Protection and Programs Directorate.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION AND INFORMATION SECURITY

For necessary expenses for infrastructure protection and information security programs and activities, as authorized by title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 121 et seq.), \$1,188,679,000, of which \$225,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That if, due to delays in contract actions, the National Protection and Programs Directorate will not fully obligate funds for Federal Network Security or for Network Security Deployment program, project, and activities as provided in the accompanying statement and section 548 of this Act, such funds may be applied to Next Generation Networks program, project, and activities, notwithstanding section 503 of this Act.

FEDERAL PROTECTIVE SERVICE

The revenues and collections of security fees credited to this account shall be available until expended for necessary expenses related to the protection of federally owned and leased buildings and for the operations of the Federal Protective Service: *Provided*, That the Director of the Federal Protective Service shall submit at the time the President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2016 is submitted pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, a strategic human capital plan that aligns fee collections to personnel requirements based on a current threat assessment.

OFFICE OF BIOMETRIC IDENTITY MANAGEMENT

For necessary expenses for the Office of Biometric Identity Management, as authorized by section 7208 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (8 U.S.C. 1365b), \$252,056,000: *Provided*, That of the total amount made available under this heading, \$122,150,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2017.

OFFICE OF HEALTH AFFAIRS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Health Affairs, \$129,358,000; of which \$26,148,000 is for salaries and expenses and \$86,891,000 is for BioWatch operations: *Provided*, That of the amount made available

under this heading, \$16,319,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016, for bio-surveillance, chemical defense, medical and health planning and coordination, and workforce health protection: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$2,250 shall be for official reception and representation expenses.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, \$934,396,000, including activities authorized by the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.), the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), the Cerro Grande Fire Assistance Act of 2000 (division C, title I, 114 Stat. 583), the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7701 et seq.), the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. App. 2061 et seq.), sections 107 and 303 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 404, 405), Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), the National Dam Safety Program Act (33 U.S.C. 467 et seq.), the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.), the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-53), the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.), the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-295; 120 Stat. 1394), the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-141, 126 Stat. 916), and the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-89): *Provided*, That not to exceed \$2,250 shall be for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That of the total amount made available under this heading, \$35,180,000 shall be for the Urban Search and Rescue Response System, of which none is available for Federal Emergency Management Agency administrative costs: *Provided further*, That of the total amount made available under this heading, \$30,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016, for capital improvements and other expenses related to continuity of operations at the Mount Weather Emergency Operations Center: *Provided further*, That of the total amount made available, \$3,400,000 shall be for the Office of National Capital Region Coordination: *Provided further*, That of the total amount made available under this heading, not less than \$4,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016, for expenses related to modernization of automated systems.

STATE AND LOCAL PROGRAMS

For grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other activities, \$1,500,000,000, which shall be allocated as follows:

(1) \$467,000,000 shall be for the State Homeland Security Grant Program under section 2004 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 605), of which not less than \$55,000,000 shall be for Operation Stonegarden: *Provided*, That notwithstanding subsection (c)(4) of such section 2004, for fiscal year 2015, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico shall make available to local and tribal governments amounts provided to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico under this paragraph in accordance with subsection (c)(1) of such section 2004.

(2) \$600,000,000 shall be for the Urban Area Security Initiative under section 2003 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 604), of which not less than \$13,000,000 shall be for organizations (as described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of

such code) determined by the Secretary of Homeland Security to be at high risk of a terrorist attack.

(3) \$100,000,000 shall be for Public Transportation Security Assistance, Railroad Security Assistance, and Over-the-Road Bus Security Assistance under sections 1406, 1513, and 1532 of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-53; 6 U.S.C. 1135, 1163, and 1182), of which not less than \$10,000,000 shall be for Amtrak security and \$3,000,000 shall be for Over-the-Road Bus Security: *Provided*, That such public transportation security assistance shall be provided directly to public transportation agencies.

(4) \$100,000,000 shall be for Port Security Grants in accordance with 46 U.S.C. 70107.

(5) \$233,000,000 shall be to sustain current operations for training, exercises, technical assistance, and other programs, of which \$162,991,000 shall be for training of State, local, and tribal emergency response providers:

Provided, That for grants under paragraphs (1) through (4), applications for grants shall be made available to eligible applicants not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, that eligible applicants shall submit applications not later than 80 days after the grant announcement, and the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall act within 65 days after the receipt of an application: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 2008(a)(11) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 609(a)(11)) or any other provision of law, a grantee may not use more than 5 percent of the amount of a grant made available under this heading for expenses directly related to administration of the grant: *Provided further*, That for grants under paragraphs (1) and (2), the installation of communications towers is not considered construction of a building or other physical facility: *Provided further*, That grantees shall provide reports on their use of funds, as determined necessary by the Secretary of Homeland Security: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 509 of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency may use the funds provided in paragraph (5) to acquire real property for the purpose of establishing or appropriately extending the security buffer zones around Federal Emergency Management Agency training facilities.

FIREFIGHTER ASSISTANCE GRANTS

For grants for programs authorized by the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.), \$680,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016, of which \$340,000,000 shall be available to carry out section 33 of that Act (15 U.S.C. 2229) and \$340,000,000 shall be available to carry out section 34 of that Act (15 U.S.C. 2229a).

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE
GRANTS

For emergency management performance grants, as authorized by the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.), the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7701 et seq.), and Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), \$350,000,000.

RADIOLOGICAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
PROGRAM

The aggregate charges assessed during fiscal year 2015, as authorized in title III of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Inde-

pendent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999 (42 U.S.C. 5196e), shall not be less than 100 percent of the amounts anticipated by the Department of Homeland Security necessary for its radiological emergency preparedness program for the next fiscal year: *Provided*, That the methodology for assessment and collection of fees shall be fair and equitable and shall reflect costs of providing such services, including administrative costs of collecting such fees: *Provided further*, That fees received under this heading shall be deposited in this account as offsetting collections and will become available for authorized purposes on October 1, 2015, and remain available until expended.

UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses of the United States Fire Administration and for other purposes, as authorized by the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.) and the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.), \$44,000,000.

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses in carrying out the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), \$7,033,464,494, to remain available until expended, of which \$24,000,000 shall be transferred to the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General for audits and investigations related to disasters: *Provided*, That the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives the following reports, including a specific description of the methodology and the source data used in developing such reports:

(1) An estimate of the following amounts shall be submitted for the budget year at the time that the President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2016 is submitted pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code:

(A) The unobligated balance of funds to be carried over from the prior fiscal year to the budget year;

(B) the unobligated balance of funds to be carried over from the budget year to the budget year plus 1;

(C) the amount of obligations for non-catastrophic events for the budget year;

(D) the amount of obligations for the budget year for catastrophic events delineated by event and by State;

(E) the total amount that has been previously obligated or will be required for catastrophic events delineated by event and by State for all prior years, the current year, the budget year, the budget year plus 1, the budget year plus 2, and the budget year plus 3 and beyond;

(F) the amount of previously obligated funds that will be recovered for the budget year;

(G) the amount that will be required for obligations for emergencies, as described in section 102(1) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122(1)), major disasters, as described in section 102(2) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122(2)), fire management assistance grants, as described in section 420 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5187), surge activities, and disaster readiness and support activities; and

(H) the amount required for activities not covered under section 251(b)(2)(D)(iii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(D)(iii); Public Law 99-177);

(2) an estimate or actual amounts, if available, of the following for the current fiscal year shall be submitted not later than the fifth day of each month, and shall be published by the Administrator on the Agency's Web site not later than the fifth day of each month:

(A) A summary of the amount of appropriations made available by source, the transfers executed, the previously allocated funds recovered, and the commitments, allocations, and obligations made;

(B) a table of disaster relief activity delineated by month, including—

(i) the beginning and ending balances;

(ii) the total obligations to include amounts obligated for fire assistance, emergencies, surge, and disaster support activities;

(iii) the obligations for catastrophic events delineated by event and by State; and

(iv) the amount of previously obligated funds that are recovered;

(C) a summary of allocations, obligations, and expenditures for catastrophic events delineated by event;

(D) in addition, for a disaster declaration related to Hurricane Sandy, the cost of the following categories of spending: public assistance, individual assistance, mitigation, administrative, operations, and any other relevant category (including emergency measures and disaster resources); and

(E) the date on which funds appropriated will be exhausted:

Provided further, That the Administrator shall publish on the Agency's Web site not later than 5 days after an award of a public assistance grant under section 406 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5172) the specifics of the grant award: *Provided further*, That for any mission assignment or mission assignment task order to another Federal department or agency regarding a major disaster, not later than 5 days after the issuance of the mission assignment or task order, the Administrator shall publish on the Agency's website the following: the name of the impacted State and the disaster declaration for such State, the assigned agency, the assistance requested, a description of the disaster, the total cost estimate, and the amount obligated: *Provided further*, That not later than 10 days after the last day of each month until the mission assignment or task order is completed and closed out, the Administrator shall update any changes to the total cost estimate and the amount obligated: *Provided further*, That of the amount provided under this heading, \$6,437,792,622 shall be for major disasters declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.): *Provided further*, That the amount in the preceding proviso is designated by the Congress as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

FLOOD HAZARD MAPPING AND RISK ANALYSIS PROGRAM

For necessary expenses, including administrative costs, under section 1360 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4101), and under sections 100215, 100216, 100226, 100230, and 100246 of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, (Public Law 112-141, 126 Stat. 916), \$100,000,000, and such additional sums as may be provided by State and local governments or other political subdivisions for cost-shared mapping activities under section 1360(f)(2) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 4101(f)(2)), to remain available until expended.

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE FUND

For activities under the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.), the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.), the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (subtitle A of title II of division F of Public Law 112-141; 126 Stat. 916), and the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-89; 128 Stat. 1020), \$179,294,000, which shall remain available until September 30, 2016, and shall be derived from offsetting amounts collected under section 1308(d) of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4015(d)); which is available for salaries and expenses associated with flood mitigation and flood insurance operations; and floodplain management and additional amounts for flood mapping: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$23,759,000 shall be available for salaries and expenses associated with flood mitigation and flood insurance operations and \$155,535,000 shall be available for flood plain management and flood mapping: *Provided further*, That any additional fees collected pursuant to section 1308(d) of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4015(d)) shall be credited as an offsetting collection to this account, to be available for flood plain management and flood mapping: *Provided further*, That in fiscal year 2015, no funds shall be available from the National Flood Insurance Fund under section 1310 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4017) in excess of:

(1) \$136,000,000 for operating expenses;

(2) \$1,139,000,000 for commissions and taxes of agents;

(3) such sums as are necessary for interest on Treasury borrowings; and

(4) \$150,000,000, which shall remain available until expended, for flood mitigation actions and for flood mitigation assistance under section 1366 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4104c), notwithstanding sections 1366(e) and 1310(a)(7) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 4104c(e), 4017):

Provided further, That the amounts collected under section 102 of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4012a) and section 1366(e) of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 shall be deposited in the National Flood Insurance Fund to supplement other amounts specified as available for section 1366 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, notwithstanding section 102(f)(8), section 1366(e), and paragraphs (1) through (3) of section 1367(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 4012a(f)(8), 4104c(e), 4104d(b)(1)–(3)): *Provided further*, That total administrative costs shall not exceed 4 percent of the total appropriation: *Provided further*, That \$5,000,000 is available to carry out section 24 of the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 (42 U.S.C. 4033).

NATIONAL PREDISASTER MITIGATION FUND

For the predisaster mitigation grant program under section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133), \$25,000,000, to remain available until expended.

EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER

To carry out the emergency food and shelter program pursuant to title III of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11331 et seq.), \$120,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That total administrative costs shall not exceed 3.5 percent of the total amount made available under this heading.

TITLE IV

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING, AND SERVICES

UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES

For necessary expenses for citizenship and immigration services, \$124,435,000 for the E-Verify Program, as described in section 403(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note), to assist United States employers with maintaining a legal workforce: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds otherwise made available to United States Citizenship and Immigration Services may be used to acquire, operate, equip, and dispose of up to 5 vehicles, for replacement only, for areas where the Administrator of General Services does not provide vehicles for lease: *Provided further*, That the Director of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services may authorize employees who are assigned to those areas to use such vehicles to travel between the employees' residences and places of employment.

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, including materials and support costs of Federal law enforcement basic training; the purchase of not to exceed 117 vehicles for police-type use and hire of passenger motor vehicles; expenses for student athletic and related activities; the conduct of and participation in firearms matches and presentation of awards; public awareness and enhancement of community support of law enforcement training; room and board for student interns; a flat monthly reimbursement to employees authorized to use personal mobile phones for official duties; and services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; \$230,497,000, of which up to \$54,154,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016, for materials and support costs of Federal law enforcement basic training; of which \$300,000 shall remain available until expended to be distributed to Federal law enforcement agencies for expenses incurred participating in training accreditation; and of which not to exceed \$7,180 shall be for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided*, That the Center is authorized to obligate funds in anticipation of reimbursements from agencies receiving training sponsored by the Center, except that total obligations at the end of the fiscal year shall not exceed total budgetary resources available at the end of the fiscal year: *Provided further*, That section 1202(a) of Public Law 107-206 (42 U.S.C. 3771 note), as amended under this heading in division F of Public Law 113-76, is further amended by striking "December 31, 2016" and inserting "December 31, 2017": *Provided further*, That the Director of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center shall schedule basic or advanced law enforcement training, or both, at all four training facilities under the control of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center to ensure that such training facilities are operated at the highest capacity throughout the fiscal year: *Provided further*, That the Federal Law Enforcement Training Accreditation Board, including representatives from the Federal law enforcement community and non-Federal accreditation experts involved in law enforcement training, shall lead the Federal law enforcement training accreditation process to continue the implementation of measuring and

assessing the quality and effectiveness of Federal law enforcement training programs, facilities, and instructors.

ACQUISITIONS, CONSTRUCTION, IMPROVEMENTS, AND RELATED EXPENSES

For acquisition of necessary additional real property and facilities, construction, and ongoing maintenance, facility improvements, and related expenses of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, \$27,841,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided*, That the Center is authorized to accept reimbursement to this appropriation from government agencies requesting the construction of special use facilities.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

For salaries and expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Science and Technology and for management and administration of programs and activities, as authorized by title III of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 181 et seq.), \$129,993,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$7,650 shall be for official reception and representation expenses.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, ACQUISITION, AND OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses for science and technology research, including advanced research projects, development, test and evaluation, acquisition, and operations as authorized by title III of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 181 et seq.), and the purchase or lease of not to exceed 5 vehicles, \$973,915,000; of which \$538,926,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2017; and of which \$434,989,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019, solely for operation and construction of laboratory facilities: *Provided*, That of the funds provided for the operation and construction of laboratory facilities under this heading, \$300,000,000 shall be for construction of the National Bio- and Agro-defense Facility.

DOMESTIC NUCLEAR DETECTION OFFICE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

For salaries and expenses of the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, as authorized by title XIX of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 591 et seq.), for management and administration of programs and activities, \$37,339,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$2,250 shall be for official reception and representation expenses.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses for radiological and nuclear research, development, testing, evaluation, and operations, \$197,900,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017.

SYSTEMS ACQUISITION

For necessary expenses for the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office acquisition and deployment of radiological detection systems in accordance with the global nuclear detection architecture, \$72,603,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017.

TITLE V GENERAL PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 501. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 502. Subject to the requirements of section 503 of this Act, the unexpended balances of prior appropriations provided for activities in this Act may be transferred to appropriation accounts for such activities es-

tablished pursuant to this Act, may be merged with funds in the applicable established accounts, and thereafter may be accounted for as one fund for the same time period as originally enacted.

SEC. 503. (a) None of the funds provided by this Act, provided by previous appropriations Acts to the agencies in or transferred to the Department of Homeland Security that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2015, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury of the United States derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that:

- (1) creates a new program, project, or activity;
- (2) eliminates a program, project, office, or activity;
- (3) increases funds for any program, project, or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted by the Congress;
- (4) proposes to use funds directed for a specific activity by either of the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate or the House of Representatives for a different purpose; or
- (5) contracts out any function or activity for which funding levels were requested for Federal full-time equivalents in the object classification tables contained in the fiscal year 2015 Budget Appendix for the Department of Homeland Security, as modified by the report accompanying this Act, unless the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives are notified 15 days in advance of such reprogramming of funds.

(b) None of the funds provided by this Act, provided by previous appropriations Acts to the agencies in or transferred to the Department of Homeland Security that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2015, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury of the United States derived by the collection of fees or proceeds available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure for programs, projects, or activities through a reprogramming of funds in excess of \$5,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, that:

- (1) augments existing programs, projects, or activities;
- (2) reduces by 10 percent funding for any existing program, project, or activity;
- (3) reduces by 10 percent the numbers of personnel approved by the Congress; or
- (4) results from any general savings from a reduction in personnel that would result in a change in existing programs, projects, or activities as approved by the Congress, unless the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives are notified 15 days in advance of such reprogramming of funds.

(c) Not to exceed 5 percent of any appropriation made available for the current fiscal year for the Department of Homeland Security by this Act or provided by previous appropriations Acts may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation, except as otherwise specifically provided, shall be increased by more than 10 percent by such transfers: *Provided*, That any transfer under this section shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under subsection (b) and shall not be available for obligation unless the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives are notified 15 days in advance of such transfer.

(d) Notwithstanding subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this section, no funds shall be re-

programmed within or transferred between appropriations based upon an initial notification provided after June 30, except in extraordinary circumstances that imminently threaten the safety of human life or the protection of property.

(e) The notification thresholds and procedures set forth in this section shall apply to any use of deobligated balances of funds provided in previous Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Acts.

SEC. 504. The Department of Homeland Security Working Capital Fund, established pursuant to section 403 of Public Law 103-356 (31 U.S.C. 501 note), shall continue operations as a permanent working capital fund for fiscal year 2015: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Homeland Security may be used to make payments to the Working Capital Fund, except for the activities and amounts allowed in the President's fiscal year 2015 budget: *Provided further*, That funds provided to the Working Capital Fund shall be available for obligation until expended to carry out the purposes of the Working Capital Fund: *Provided further*, That all departmental components shall be charged only for direct usage of each Working Capital Fund service: *Provided further*, That funds provided to the Working Capital Fund shall be used only for purposes consistent with the contributing component: *Provided further*, That the Working Capital Fund shall be paid in advance or reimbursed at rates which will return the full cost of each service: *Provided further*, That the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and House of Representatives shall be notified of any activity added to or removed from the fund: *Provided further*, That the Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit a quarterly execution report with activity level detail, not later than 30 days after the end of each quarter.

SEC. 505. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, not to exceed 50 percent of unobligated balances remaining available at the end of fiscal year 2015, as recorded in the financial records at the time of a reprogramming request, but not later than June 30, 2016, from appropriations for salaries and expenses for fiscal year 2015 in this Act shall remain available through September 30, 2016, in the account and for the purposes for which the appropriations were provided: *Provided*, That prior to the obligation of such funds, a request shall be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives for approval in accordance with section 503 of this Act.

SEC. 506. Funds made available by this Act for intelligence activities are deemed to be specifically authorized by the Congress for purposes of section 504 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 414) during fiscal year 2015 until the enactment of an Act authorizing intelligence activities for fiscal year 2015.

SEC. 507. (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c), none of the funds made available by this Act may be used to—

(1) make or award a grant allocation, grant, contract, other transaction agreement, or task or delivery order on a Department of Homeland Security multiple award contract, or to issue a letter of intent totaling in excess of \$1,000,000;

(2) award a task or delivery order requiring an obligation of funds in an amount greater than \$10,000,000 from multi-year Department of Homeland Security funds;

(3) make a sole-source grant award; or

(4) announce publicly the intention to make or award items under paragraph (1),

(2), or (3) including a contract covered by the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

(b) The Secretary of Homeland Security may waive the prohibition under subsection (a) if the Secretary notifies the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives at least 3 full business days in advance of making an award or issuing a letter as described in that subsection.

(c) If the Secretary of Homeland Security determines that compliance with this section would pose a substantial risk to human life, health, or safety, an award may be made without notification, and the Secretary shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives not later than 5 full business days after such an award is made or letter issued.

(d) A notification under this section—

(1) may not involve funds that are not available for obligation; and

(2) shall include the amount of the award; the fiscal year for which the funds for the award were appropriated; the type of contract; and the account from which the funds are being drawn.

(e) The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall brief the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives 5 full business days in advance of announcing publicly the intention of making an award under “State and Local Programs”.

SEC. 508. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no agency shall purchase, construct, or lease any additional facilities, except within or contiguous to existing locations, to be used for the purpose of conducting Federal law enforcement training without the advance approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, except that the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center is authorized to obtain the temporary use of additional facilities by lease, contract, or other agreement for training that cannot be accommodated in existing Center facilities.

SEC. 509. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used for expenses for any construction, repair, alteration, or acquisition project for which a prospectus otherwise required under chapter 33 of title 40, United States Code, has not been approved, except that necessary funds may be expended for each project for required expenses for the development of a proposed prospectus.

SEC. 510. (a) Sections 520, 522, and 530 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2008 (division E of Public Law 110-161; 121 Stat. 2073 and 2074) shall apply with respect to funds made available in this Act in the same manner as such sections applied to funds made available in that Act.

(b) The third proviso of section 537 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2006 (6 U.S.C. 114), shall not apply with respect to funds made available in this Act.

SEC. 511. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used in contravention of the applicable provisions of the Buy American Act. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the term “Buy American Act” means chapter 83 of title 41, United States Code.

SEC. 512. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to amend the oath of allegiance required by section 337 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1448).

SEC. 513. Not later than 30 days after the last day of each month, the Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Homeland Security

shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives a monthly budget and staffing report for that month that includes total obligations of the Department for that month for the fiscal year at the appropriation and program, project, and activity levels, by the source year of the appropriation. Total obligations for staffing shall also be provided by subcategory of on-board and funded full-time equivalent staffing levels, respectively, and the report shall specify the number of, and total obligations for, contract employees for each office of the Department.

SEC. 514. Except as provided in section 44945 of title 49, United States Code, funds appropriated or transferred to Transportation Security Administration “Aviation Security”, “Administration”, and “Transportation Security Support” for fiscal years 2004 and 2005 that are recovered or deobligated shall be available only for the procurement or installation of explosives detection systems, air cargo, baggage, and checkpoint screening systems, subject to notification: *Provided*, That semiannual reports shall be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives on any funds that are recovered or deobligated.

SEC. 515. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to process or approve a competition under Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76 for services provided by employees (including employees serving on a temporary or term basis) of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services of the Department of Homeland Security who are known as Immigration Information Officers, Contact Representatives, Investigative Assistants, or Immigration Services Officers.

SEC. 516. Any funds appropriated to “Coast Guard, Acquisition, Construction, and Improvements” for fiscal years 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006 for the 110-123 foot patrol boat conversion that are recovered, collected, or otherwise received as the result of negotiation, mediation, or litigation, shall be available until expended for the Fast Response Cutter program.

SEC. 517. The functions of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center instructor staff shall be classified as inherently governmental for the purpose of the Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act of 1998 (31 U.S.C. 501 note).

SEC. 518. (a) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a report not later than October 15, 2015, to the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security listing all grants and contracts awarded by any means other than full and open competition during fiscal year 2015.

(b) The Inspector General shall review the report required by subsection (a) to assess Departmental compliance with applicable laws and regulations and report the results of that review to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives not later than February 15, 2016.

SEC. 519. None of the funds provided by this or previous appropriations Acts shall be used to fund any position designated as a Principal Federal Official (or the successor thereto) for any Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) declared disasters or emergencies unless—

(1) the responsibilities of the Principal Federal Official do not include operational functions related to incident management, including coordination of operations, and are

consistent with the requirements of section 509(c) and sections 503(c)(3) and 503(c)(4)(A) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 319(c) and 313(c)(3) and 313(c)(4)(A)) and section 302 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5143);

(2) not later than 10 business days after the latter of the date on which the Secretary of Homeland Security appoints the Principal Federal Official and the date on which the President issues a declaration under section 401 or section 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170 and 5191, respectively), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a notification of the appointment of the Principal Federal Official and a description of the responsibilities of such Official and how such responsibilities are consistent with paragraph (1) to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(3) not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide a report specifying timeframes and milestones regarding the update of operations, planning and policy documents, and training and exercise protocols, to ensure consistency with paragraph (1) of this section.

SEC. 520. None of the funds provided or otherwise made available in this Act shall be available to carry out section 872 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 452).

SEC. 521. Funds made available in this Act may be used to alter operations within the Civil Engineering Program of the Coast Guard nationwide, including civil engineering units, facilities design and construction centers, maintenance and logistics commands, and the Coast Guard Academy, except that none of the funds provided in this Act may be used to reduce operations within any Civil Engineering Unit unless specifically authorized by a statute enacted after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 522. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to grant an immigration benefit unless the results of background checks required by law to be completed prior to the granting of the benefit have been received by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, and the results do not preclude the granting of the benefit.

SEC. 523. Section 831 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 391) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “Until September 30, 2014,” and inserting “Until September 30, 2015,”; and

(2) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “September 30, 2014,” and inserting “September 30, 2015.”

SEC. 524. The Secretary of Homeland Security shall require that all contracts of the Department of Homeland Security that provide award fees link such fees to successful acquisition outcomes (which outcomes shall be specified in terms of cost, schedule, and performance).

SEC. 525. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds provided in this or any other Act shall be used to approve a waiver of the navigation and vessel inspection laws pursuant to 46 U.S.C. 501(b) for the transportation of crude oil distributed from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve until the Secretary of Homeland Security, after consultation with the Secretaries of

the Departments of Energy and Transportation and representatives from the United States flag maritime industry, takes adequate measures to ensure the use of United States flag vessels: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives within 2 business days of any request for waivers of navigation and vessel-inspection laws pursuant to 46 U.S.C. 501(b).

SEC. 526. None of the funds made available in this Act for United States Customs and Border Protection may be used to prevent an individual not in the business of importing a prescription drug (within the meaning of section 801(g) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act) from importing a prescription drug from Canada that complies with the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act: *Provided*, That this section shall apply only to individuals transporting on their person a personal-use quantity of the prescription drug, not to exceed a 90-day supply: *Provided further*, That the prescription drug may not be—

(1) a controlled substance, as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802); or

(2) a biological product, as defined in section 351 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262).

SEC. 527. None of the funds in this Act shall be used to reduce the United States Coast Guard's Operations Systems Center mission or its government-employed or contract staff levels.

SEC. 528. The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives of any proposed transfers of funds available under section 9703.1(g)(4)(B) of title 31, United States Code (as added by Public Law 102-393) from the Department of the Treasury Forfeiture Fund to any agency within the Department of Homeland Security: *Provided*, That none of the funds identified for such a transfer may be obligated until the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives approve the proposed transfers.

SEC. 529. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for planning, testing, piloting, or developing a national identification card.

SEC. 530. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to conduct, or to implement the results of, a competition under Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76 for activities performed with respect to the Coast Guard National Vessel Documentation Center.

SEC. 531. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except as provided in subsection (b), and 30 days after the date on which the President determines whether to declare a major disaster because of an event and any appeal is completed, the Administrator shall publish on the Web site of the Federal Emergency Management Agency a report regarding that decision that shall summarize damage assessment information used to determine whether to declare a major disaster.

(b) The Administrator may redact from a report under subsection (a) any data that the Administrator determines would compromise national security.

(c) In this section—

(1) the term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and

(2) the term “major disaster” has the meaning given that term in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122).

SEC. 532. Any official that is required by this Act to report or to certify to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives may not delegate such authority to perform that act unless specifically authorized herein.

SEC. 533. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this or any other Act may be used to transfer, release, or assist in the transfer or release to or within the United States, its territories, or possessions Khalid Sheikh Mohammed or any other detainee who—

(1) is not a United States citizen or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is or was held on or after June 24, 2009, at the United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, by the Department of Defense.

SEC. 534. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for first-class travel by the employees of agencies funded by this Act in contravention of sections 301-10.122 through 301-10.124 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 535. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to employ workers described in section 274A(h)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(h)(3)).

SEC. 536. (a) Any company that collects or retains personal information directly from any individual who participates in the Registered Traveler or successor program of the Transportation Security Administration shall hereafter safeguard and dispose of such information in accordance with the requirements in—

(1) the National Institute for Standards and Technology Special Publication 800-30, entitled “Risk Management Guide for Information Technology Systems”;;

(2) the National Institute for Standards and Technology Special Publication 800-53, Revision 3, entitled “Recommended Security Controls for Federal Information Systems and Organizations”;; and

(3) any supplemental standards established by the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration (referred to in this section as the “Administrator”).

(b) The airport authority or air carrier operator that sponsors the company under the Registered Traveler program shall hereafter be known as the “Sponsoring Entity”.

(c) The Administrator shall hereafter require any company covered by subsection (a) to provide, not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, to the Sponsoring Entity written certification that the procedures used by the company to safeguard and dispose of information are in compliance with the requirements under subsection (a). Such certification shall include a description of the procedures used by the company to comply with such requirements.

SEC. 537. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to pay award or incentive fees for contractor performance that has been judged to be below satisfactory performance or performance that does not meet the basic requirements of a contract.

SEC. 538. In developing any process to screen aviation passengers and crews for

transportation or national security purposes, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure that all such processes take into consideration such passengers' and crews' privacy and civil liberties consistent with applicable laws, regulations, and guidance.

SEC. 539. (a) Notwithstanding section 1356(n) of title 8, United States Code, of the funds deposited into the Immigration Examinations Fee Account, \$10,000,000 may be allocated by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services in fiscal year 2015 for the purpose of providing an immigrant integration grants program.

(b) None of the funds made available to United States Citizenship and Immigration Services for grants for immigrant integration may be used to provide services to aliens who have not been lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

SEC. 540. For an additional amount for the “Office of the Under Secretary for Management”, \$48,600,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses to plan, acquire, design, construct, renovate, remediate, equip, furnish, improve infrastructure, and occupy buildings and facilities for the department headquarters consolidation project and associated mission support consolidation: *Provided*, That the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives shall receive an expenditure plan not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Act detailing the allocation of these funds.

SEC. 541. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Homeland Security to enter into any Federal contract unless such contract is entered into in accordance with the requirements of subtitle I of title 41, United States Code, or chapter 137 of title 10, United States Code, and the Federal Acquisition Regulation, unless such contract is otherwise authorized by statute to be entered into without regard to the above referenced statutes.

SEC. 542. (a) For an additional amount for financial systems modernization, \$34,072,000 to remain available until September 30, 2016.

(b) Funds made available in subsection (a) for financial systems modernization may be transferred by the Secretary of Homeland Security between appropriations for the same purpose, notwithstanding section 503 of this Act.

(c) No transfer described in subsection (b) shall occur until 15 days after the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives are notified of such transfer.

SEC. 543. Notwithstanding the 10 percent limitation contained in section 503(c) of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security may transfer to the fund established by 8 U.S.C. 1101 note, up to \$20,000,000 from appropriations available to the Department of Homeland Security: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives 5 days in advance of such transfer.

SEC. 544. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the Secretary of Homeland Security determines that specific United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement Service Processing Centers or other United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement owned detention facilities no longer meet the mission need, the Secretary is authorized to dispose of individual Service Processing Centers or other United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement owned detention facilities by directing the

Administrator of General Services to sell all real and related personal property which support Service Processing Centers or other United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement owned detention facilities, subject to such terms and conditions as necessary to protect Government interests and meet program requirements: *Provided*, That the proceeds, net of the costs of sale incurred by the General Services Administration and United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, shall be deposited as offsetting collections into a separate account that shall be available, subject to appropriation, until expended for other real property capital asset needs of existing United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement assets, excluding daily operations and maintenance costs, as the Secretary deems appropriate: *Provided further*, That any sale or collocation of federally owned detention facilities shall not result in the maintenance of fewer than 34,000 detention beds: *Provided further*, That the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives shall be notified 15 days prior to the announcement of any proposed sale or collocation.

SEC. 545. The Commissioner of United States Customs and Border Protection and the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement shall, with respect to fiscal years 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018, submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, at the time that the President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2016 is submitted pursuant to the requirements of section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, the information required in the multi-year investment and management plans required, respectively, under the headings "U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Salaries and Expenses" under title II of division D of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112-74); "U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Border Security Fencing, Infrastructure, and Technology" under such title; and section 568 of such Act.

SEC. 546. The Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure enforcement of all immigration laws (as defined in section 101(a)(17) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17))).

SEC. 547. (a) Of the amounts made available by this Act for "National Protection and Programs Directorate, Infrastructure Protection and Information Security", \$140,525,000 for the Federal Network Security program, project, and activity shall be used to deploy on Federal systems technology to improve the information security of agency information systems covered by section 3543(a) of title 44, United States Code: *Provided*, That funds made available under this section shall be used to assist and support Government-wide and agency-specific efforts to provide adequate, risk-based, and cost-effective cybersecurity to address escalating and rapidly evolving threats to information security, including the acquisition and operation of a continuous monitoring and diagnostics program, in collaboration with departments and agencies, that includes equipment, software, and Department of Homeland Security supplied services: *Provided further*, That continuous monitoring and diagnostics software procured by the funds made available by this section shall not transmit to the Department of Homeland Security any personally identifiable information or content of network communications of other agencies' users: *Provided further*, That such software shall be installed,

maintained, and operated in accordance with all applicable privacy laws and agency-specific policies regarding network content.

(b) Funds made available under this section may not be used to supplant funds provided for any such system within an agency budget.

(c) Not later than July 1, 2015, the heads of all Federal agencies shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives expenditure plans for necessary cybersecurity improvements to address known vulnerabilities to information systems described in subsection (a).

(d) Not later than October 1, 2015, and semiannually thereafter, the head of each Federal agency shall submit to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget a report on the execution of the expenditure plan for that agency required by subsection (c): *Provided*, That the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall summarize such execution reports and annually submit such summaries to Congress in conjunction with the annual progress report on implementation of the E-Government Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-347), as required by section 3606 of title 44, United States Code.

(e) This section shall not apply to the legislative and judicial branches of the Federal Government and shall apply to all Federal agencies within the executive branch except for the Department of Defense, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

SEC. 548. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 549. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by a Federal law enforcement officer to facilitate the transfer of an operable firearm to an individual if the Federal law enforcement officer knows or suspects that the individual is an agent of a drug cartel unless law enforcement personnel of the United States continuously monitor or control the firearm at all times.

SEC. 550. None of the funds provided in this or any other Act may be obligated to implement the National Preparedness Grant Program or any other successor grant programs unless explicitly authorized by Congress.

SEC. 551. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to provide funding for the position of Public Advocate, or a successor position, within United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

SEC. 552. (a) Section 559 of division F of Public Law 113-76 is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (f)(2)(B) is amended by adding at the end: "Such transfer shall not be required for personal property, including furniture, fixtures, and equipment."; and

(2) Subsection (e)(3)(b) is amended by inserting after "payment of overtime" the following: "and the salaries, training and benefits of individuals employed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection to support U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers in performing law enforcement functions at ports of entry, including primary and secondary processing of passengers".

(b) Section 560(g) of division D of Public Law 113-6 is amended by inserting after "payment of overtime" the following: "and

the salaries, training and benefits of individuals employed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection to support U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers in performing law enforcement functions at ports of entry, including primary and secondary processing of passengers".

(c) The Commissioner of United States Customs and Border Protection may modify a reimbursable fee agreement in effect as of the date of enactment of this Act to include costs specified in this section.

SEC. 553. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to pay for the travel to or attendance of more than 50 employees of a single component of the Department of Homeland Security, who are stationed in the United States, at a single international conference unless the Secretary of Homeland Security, or a designee, determines that such attendance is in the national interest and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives within at least 10 days of that determination and the basis for that determination: *Provided*, That for purposes of this section the term "international conference" shall mean a conference occurring outside of the United States attended by representatives of the United States Government and of foreign governments, international organizations, or nongovernmental organizations.

SEC. 554. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to reimburse any Federal department or agency for its participation in a National Special Security Event.

SEC. 555. With the exception of countries with preclearance facilities in service prior to 2013, none of the funds made available in this Act may be used for new United States Customs and Border Protection air preclearance agreements entering into force after February 1, 2014, unless—

(1) the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State, has certified to Congress that air preclearance operations at the airport provide a homeland or national security benefit to the United States;

(2) United States passenger air carriers are not precluded from operating at existing preclearance locations; and

(3) a United States passenger air carrier is operating at all airports contemplated for establishment of new air preclearance operations.

SEC. 556. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used by the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration to implement, administer, or enforce, in abrogation of the responsibility described in section 44903(n)(1) of title 49, United States Code, any requirement that airport operators provide airport-financed staffing to monitor exit points from the sterile area of any airport at which the Transportation Security Administration provided such monitoring as of December 1, 2013.

SEC. 557. In making grants under the heading "Firefighter Assistance Grants", the Secretary may grant waivers from the requirements in subsections (a)(1)(A), (a)(1)(B), (a)(1)(E), (c)(1), (c)(2), and (c)(4) of section 34 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229a).

SEC. 558. (a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall not—

(1) establish, collect, or otherwise impose any new border crossing fee on individuals crossing the Southern border or the Northern border at a land port of entry; or

(2) conduct any study relating to the imposition of a border crossing fee.

(b) **BORDER CROSSING FEE DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “border crossing fee” means a fee that every pedestrian, cyclist, and driver and passenger of a private motor vehicle is required to pay for the privilege of crossing the Southern border or the Northern border at a land port of entry.

SEC. 559. The administrative law judge annuitants participating in the Senior Administrative Law Judge Program managed by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management under section 3323 of title 5, United States Code, shall be available on a temporary reemployment basis to conduct arbitrations of disputes arising from delivery of assistance under the Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance Program.

SEC. 560. As authorized by section 601(b) of the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act (Public Law 112-42) fees collected from passengers arriving from Canada, Mexico, or an adjacent island pursuant to section 13031(a)(5) of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (19 U.S.C. 58c(a)(5)) shall be available until expended.

SEC. 561. None of the funds appropriated by this or any other Act shall be used to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel who prepare or submit appropriations language as part of the President's budget submission to the Congress of the United States for programs under the jurisdiction of the Appropriations Subcommittees on the Department of Homeland Security that assumes revenues or reflects a reduction from the previous year due to user fees proposals that have not been enacted into law prior to the submission of the budget unless such budget submission identifies which additional spending reductions should occur in the event the user fees proposals are not enacted prior to the date of the convening of a committee of conference for the fiscal year 2016 appropriations Act.

SEC. 562. (a) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Congress, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, beginning at the time the President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2017 is submitted pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, a comprehensive report on the purchase and usage of weapons, subdivided by weapon type. The report shall include—

(1) the quantity of weapons in inventory at the end of the preceding calendar year, and the amount of weapons, subdivided by weapon type, included in the budget request for each relevant component or agency in the Department of Homeland Security;

(2) a description of how such quantity and purchase aligns to each component or agency's mission requirements for certification, qualification, training, and operations; and

(3) details on all contracting practices applied by the Department of Homeland Security, including comparative details regarding other contracting options with respect to cost and availability.

(b) The reports required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in an appropriate format in order to ensure the safety of law enforcement personnel.

SEC. 563. None of the funds made available by this Act shall be used for the environmental remediation of the Coast Guard's LORAN support in Wildwood/Lower Township, New Jersey.

SEC. 564. None of the funds made available to the Department of Homeland Security by this or any other Act may be obligated for any structural pay reform that affects more

than 100 full-time equivalent employee positions or costs more than \$5,000,000 in a single year before the end of the 30-day period beginning on the date on which the Secretary of Homeland Security submits to Congress a notification that includes—

(1) the number of full-time equivalent employee positions affected by such change;

(2) funding required for such change for the current year and through the Future Years Homeland Security Program;

(3) justification for such change; and

(4) an analysis of compensation alternatives to such change that were considered by the Department.

SEC. 565. (a) Any agency receiving funds made available in this Act, shall, subject to subsections (b) and (c), post on the public Web site of that agency any report required to be submitted by the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives in this Act, upon the determination by the head of the agency that it shall serve the national interest.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a report if—

(1) the public posting of the report compromises homeland or national security; or

(2) the report contains proprietary information.

(c) The head of the agency posting such report shall do so only after such report has been made available to the requesting Committee or Committees of Congress for no less than 45 days except as otherwise specified in law.

SEC. 566. Section 605 of division E of Public Law 110-161 (6 U.S.C. 1404) is hereby repealed.

SEC. 567. The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency may transfer up to \$95,000,000 in unobligated balances made available for the appropriations account for “Federal Emergency Management Agency, Disaster Assistance Direct Loan Program” under section 2(a) of the Community Disaster Loan Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-88; 119 Stat. 2061) or under chapter 5 of title I of division B of the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 110-329; 122 Stat. 3592) to the appropriations account for “Federal Emergency Management Agency, Disaster Relief Fund”. Amounts transferred to such account under this section shall be available for any authorized purpose of such account.

SEC. 568. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, Gerardo Ismael Hernandez, a Transportation Security Officer employed by the Transportation Security Administration who died as the direct result of an injury sustained in the line of duty on November 1, 2013, at the Los Angeles International Airport, shall be deemed to have been a public safety officer for the purposes of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Street Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3711 et seq.).

SEC. 569. The Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Homeland Security shall ensure the congressional budget justifications accompanying the President's budget proposal for the Department of Homeland Security, submitted pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, include estimates of the number of unaccompanied alien children anticipated to be apprehended in the budget year and the number of agent or officer hours required to process, manage, and care for such children: *Provided*, That such materials shall also include estimates of all other associated costs for each relevant Departmental component, including but not limited to personnel; equipment; supplies; facilities; managerial, tech-

nical, and advisory services; medical treatment; and all costs associated with transporting such children from one Departmental component to another or from a Departmental component to another Federal agency.

SEC. 570. Notwithstanding section 404 or 420 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c and 5187), until September 30, 2015, the President may provide hazard mitigation assistance in accordance with such section 404 in any area in which assistance was provided under such section 420.

SEC. 571. That without regard to the limitation as to time and condition of section 503(d) of this Act, the Secretary may propose to reprogram within and transfer funds into “U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Salaries and Expenses” and “U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Salaries and Expenses” as necessary to ensure the care and transportation of unaccompanied alien children.

SEC. 572. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, grants awarded to States along the Southwest Border of the United States under sections 2003 or 2004 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 604 and 605) using funds provided under the heading “Federal Emergency Management Agency, State and Local Programs” in division F of Public Law 113-76 or division D of Public Law 113-6 may be used by recipients or sub-recipients for costs, or reimbursement of costs, related to providing humanitarian relief to unaccompanied alien children and alien adults accompanied by an alien minor where they are encountered after entering the United States, provided that such costs were incurred during the award period of performance.

(RESCISSIONS)

SEC. 573. Of the funds appropriated to the Department of Homeland Security, the following funds are hereby rescinded from the following accounts and programs in the specified amounts: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-177):

(1) \$5,000,000 from unobligated prior year balances from “U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Border Security, Fencing, Infrastructure, and Technology”;

(2) \$8,000,000 from Public Law 113-76 under the heading “U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Air and Marine Operations” in division F of such Act;

(3) \$10,000,000 from unobligated prior year balances from “U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Construction and Facilities Management”;

(4) \$15,300,000 from “Transportation Security Administration, Aviation Security” account 70x0550;

(5) \$187,000,000 from Public Law 113-76 under the heading “Transportation Security Administration, Aviation Security”;

(6) \$2,550,000 from Public Law 112-10 under the heading “Coast Guard, Acquisition, Construction, and Improvements”;

(7) \$12,095,000 from Public Law 112-74 under the heading “Coast Guard, Acquisition, Construction, and Improvements”;

(8) \$16,349,000 from Public Law 113-6 under the heading “Coast Guard, Acquisition, Construction, and Improvements”;

(9) \$30,643,000 from Public Law 113-76 under the heading “Coast Guard, Acquisition, Construction, and Improvements”;

(10) \$24,000,000 from “Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Predisaster Mitigation Fund” account 70x0716; and

(11) \$16,627,000 from “Science and Technology, Research, Development, Acquisition, and Operations” account 70x0800.

(RESCISSION)

SEC. 574. From the unobligated balances made available in the Department of the Treasury Forfeiture Fund established by section 9703 of title 31, United States Code, (added by section 638 of Public Law 102-393), \$175,000,000 shall be rescinded.

(RESCISSIONS)

SEC. 575. Of the funds transferred to the Department of Homeland Security when it was created in 2003, the following funds are hereby rescinded from the following accounts and programs in the specified amounts:

(1) \$1,317,018 from “U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Salaries and Expenses”;

(2) \$57,998 from “Coast Guard, Acquisition, Construction, and Improvements”;

(3) \$17,597 from “Federal Emergency Management Agency, Office of Domestic Preparedness”;

(4) \$82,926 from “Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Predisaster Mitigation Fund”.

SEC. 576. The following unobligated balances made available to the Department of Homeland Security pursuant to section 505 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2014 (Public Law 113-76) are rescinded:

(1) \$463,404 from “Office of the Secretary and Executive Management”;

(2) \$47,023 from “Office of the Under Secretary for Management”;

(3) \$29,852 from “Office of the Chief Financial Officer”;

(4) \$16,346 from “Office of the Chief Information Officer”;

(5) \$816,384 from “Analysis and Operations”;

(6) \$158,931 from “Office of Inspector General”;

(7) \$635,153 from “U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Salaries and Expenses”;

(8) \$65,195 from “U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Automation Modernization”;

(9) \$96,177 from “U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Air and Marine Operations”;

(10) \$2,368,902 from “U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Salaries and Expenses”;

(11) \$600,000 from “Transportation Security Administration, Federal Air Marshals”;

(12) \$3,096,521 from “Coast Guard, Operating Expenses”;

(13) \$208,654 from “Coast Guard, Reserve Training”;

(14) \$1,722,319 from “Coast Guard, Acquisition, Construction, and Improvements”;

(15) \$1,256,900 from “United States Secret Service, Salaries and Expenses”;

(16) \$107,432 from “National Protection and Programs Directorate, Management and Administration”;

(17) \$679,212 from “National Protection and Programs Directorate, Infrastructure Protection and Information Security”;

(18) \$26,169 from “Office of Biometric Identity Management”;

(19) \$37,201 from “Office of Health Affairs”;

(20) \$818,184 from “Federal Emergency Management Agency, Salaries and Expenses”;

(21) \$447,280 from “Federal Emergency Management Agency, State and Local Programs”;

(22) \$98,841 from “Federal Emergency Management Agency, United States Fire Administration”;

(23) \$448,073 from “United States Citizenship and Immigration Services”;

(24) \$519,503 from “Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Salaries and Expenses”;

(25) \$500,005 from “Science and Technology, Management and Administration”;

(26) \$68,910 from “Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, Management and Administration”.

(RESCISSION)

SEC. 577. Of the unobligated balances made available to “Federal Emergency Management Agency, Disaster Relief Fund”, \$375,000,000 shall be rescinded: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended: *Provided further*, That no amounts may be rescinded from the amounts that were designated by the Congress as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 578. The explanatory statement regarding this Act, printed in the House of Representatives section of the Congressional Record, on or about January 13, 2015, by the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations of the House, shall have the same effect with respect to the allocation of funds and implementation of this Act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a committee of conference.

SEC. 579. (a) No funds, resources, or fees made available to the Secretary of Homeland Security, or to any other official of a Federal agency, by this Act or any other Act for any fiscal year, including any deposits into the “Immigration Examinations Fee Account” established under section 286(m) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356(m)), may be used to implement, administer, enforce, or carry out (including through the issuance of any regulations) any of the policy changes set forth in the following memoranda (or any substantially similar policy changes issued or taken on or after January 9, 2015, whether set forth in memorandum, Executive order, regulation, directive, or by other action):

(1) The memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled “Southern Border and Approaches Campaign” dated November 20, 2014.

(2) The memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled “Policies for the Apprehension, Detention and Removal of Undocumented Immigrants” dated November 20, 2014.

(3) The memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled “Secure Communities” dated November 20, 2014.

(4) The memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled “Exercising Prosecutorial Discretion with Respect to Individuals Who Came to the United States as Children and with Respect to Certain Individuals Who Are the Parents of U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents” dated November 20, 2014.

(5) The memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled “Expansion of the Provisional Waiver Program” dated November 20, 2014.

(6) The memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled “Policies Supporting U.S. High-Skilled Businesses and Workers” dated November 20, 2014.

(7) The memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled “Families of U.S. Armed Forces Members and Enlistees” dated November 20, 2014.

(8) The memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled “Directive to Provide Consistency Regarding Advance Parole” dated November 20, 2014.

(9) The memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled “Policies to Promote and Increase Access to U.S. Citizenship” dated November 20, 2014.

(10) The memorandum from the President entitled “Modernizing and Streamlining the U.S. Immigrant Visa System for the 21st Century” dated November 21, 2014.

(11) The memorandum from the President entitled “Creating Welcoming Communities and Fully Integrating Immigrants and Refugees” dated November 21, 2014.

(b) The memoranda referred to in subsection (a) (or any substantially similar policy changes issued or taken on or after January 9, 2015, whether set forth in memorandum, Executive order, regulation, directive, or by other action) have no statutory or constitutional basis and therefore have no legal effect.

(c) No funds or fees made available to the Secretary of Homeland Security, or to any other official of a Federal agency, by this Act or any other Act for any fiscal year, including any deposits into the “Immigration Examinations Fee Account” established under section 286(m) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356(m)), may be used to grant any Federal benefit to any alien pursuant to any of the policy changes set forth in the memoranda referred to in subsection (a) (or any substantially similar policy changes issued or taken on or after January 9, 2015, whether set forth in memorandum, Executive order, regulation, directive, or by other action).

(d) The budgetary effects of this section shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(e) Notwithstanding Rule 3 of the Budget Scorekeeping Guidelines set forth in the joint explanatory statement of the committee of conference accompanying Conference Report 105-217 and section 250(c)(8) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the budgetary effects of this section shall not be estimated—

(1) for purposes of section 251 of the such Act; and

(2) for purposes of paragraph 4(C) of section 3 of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 as being included in an appropriation Act.

SEC. 580. (a) No funds or fees made available to the Secretary of Homeland Security by this Act or any other Act for any fiscal year may be used to implement, administer, enforce, or carry out (including through the issuance of any regulations) any policy relating to the apprehension, detention, or removal of aliens that does not treat any alien convicted of any offense involving domestic violence, sexual abuse, child molestation, or child exploitation as within the categories of aliens subject to the Department of Homeland Security’s highest civil immigration enforcement priorities.

(b) The budgetary effects of this section shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(c) Notwithstanding Rule 3 of the Budget Scorekeeping Guidelines set forth in the joint explanatory statement of the committee of conference accompanying Conference Report 105-217 and section 250(c)(8) of

the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the budgetary effects of this section shall not be estimated—

(1) for purposes of section 251 of the such Act; and

(2) for purposes of paragraph 4(C) of section 3 of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 as being included in an appropriation Act.

SEC. 581. (a) The Congress finds that—

(1) under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), many individuals and businesses are required to purchase health insurance coverage for themselves and their employees;

(2) individuals who were unlawfully present in the United States who have been granted deferred action under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program undertaken by the Executive Branch and who then receive work authorization are exempt from these requirements;

(3) many United States employers hiring United States citizens or individuals legally present in the United States are required to either offer those persons affordable health insurance or pay a penalty of approximately \$3,000 per employee per year; and

(4) an employer does not have to provide insurance, or in many instances pay a penalty, if they hire individuals who were not lawfully present but who have been granted deferred action under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program and work authorization.

(b) It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) this disparate treatment has the unacceptable effect of discouraging the hiring of United States citizens and those in a lawful immigration status in the United States; and

(2) the Executive Branch should refrain from pursuing policies, such as granting deferred action under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program and work authorization to unlawfully present individuals, that disadvantage the hiring of United States citizens and those in a lawful immigration status in the United States.

SEC. 582. It is the sense of the Congress that the Director of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) should—

(1) stop putting the interests of aliens who are unlawfully present in the United States ahead of the interests of aliens who are following proper immigration laws and procedures by adjudicating petitions and applications for immigration benefits submitted by aliens unlawfully present in the United States. When USCIS adjudicators and resources are used to adjudicate petitions and applications for aliens who are unlawfully present, the time it takes to process petitions and applications submitted by other aliens is significantly increased and a backlog is created. In addition, it is unfair to use the fees paid by other aliens to cover the costs of adjudicating petitions and applications for aliens unlawfully present in the United States; and

(2) use the funds available under existing law to improve services and increase the efficiency of the immigration benefits application process for aliens abroad or who are lawfully present in the United States.

This Act may be cited as the “Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2015”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 4, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 4, at 10 a.m. in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled, “Building a More Secure Cyber Future: Examining Private Sector Experience with NIST Framework.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 4, at 2:30 p.m. in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a subcommittee hearing entitled, “The Impacts of Vessel Discharge Regulations on Our Shipping and Fishing Industries.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet for a joint hearing with the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee during the session of the Senate on February 4, 2015 at 10 a.m., in room HVC-210 of the Capitol Visitor Center, to conduct a hearing entitled “Impacts of the Proposed Waters of the United States Rule on State and Local Governments.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 4, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-215 Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled, “The President’s Budget for Fiscal Year 2016.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 4, 2015, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Ending Modern Slavery: What is the Best way Forward?”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 4, 2015, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Deferred Action on Immigration: Implications and Unanswered Questions.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 4, 2015, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 4, 2015, at 2:00 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 4, 2015, in room SD-562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Broken Trust: Combating Financial Exploitation of Vulnerable Seniors.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALEXANDER). The majority leader.

CONGRATULATING THE NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS ON THEIR VICTORY IN SUPER BOWL XLIX

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee be discharged from consideration of S. Res. 63 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 63) congratulating the New England Patriots on their victory in Super Bowl XLIX.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 63) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of February 3, 2015, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

AUTHORIZING USE OF THE CAPITOL ROTUNDA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 12, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 12) authorizing the use of the rotunda of the United States Capitol for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal to Jack Nicklaus.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 12) was agreed to.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 596

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 596) to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I now ask for its second reading and, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2015

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 5, 2015; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of pro-

ceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day. I further ask that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 240, with the time until 11:30 a.m. equally divided in the usual form, and that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the cloture vote and the motion to proceed to H.R. 240 be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LEE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the cloture vote on the motion to proceed will occur at 11:30 a.m. tomorrow morning.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator STABENOW and Senator SESSIONS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Alabama.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, we are in an odd world. Our Democratic colleagues continue to have the gall to suggest and state that the Republicans are blocking funding for homeland security in America when nothing could be further from the truth.

I guess they have gotten away with blaming Republicans for blocking things, so they just keep on saying it. But the House has fully funded all the legal policies and programs within Homeland Security, and they sent the bill over here.

What did they do? They simply said: You can't take money out of homeland security enforcement for immigration and border security, and spend it on activities that violate the law, that undermine immigration law, that in fact are contrary to immigration law—that the President has said he intends to do no matter what Congress does, no matter what the American people want. He says he is going to do it anyway. They simply say we are not going to fund that.

So it comes over to pass. It fully funds the Department of Homeland Security. It doesn't change any of the laws in Homeland Security—and they say this is being obstructed by the Republicans.

But look. What does the media say about it? How is it being reported?

Here is Politico: "Democrats filibuster Department of Homeland Secu-

rity bill." That was yesterday. And that is exactly what is happening. They are filibustering the bill and saying Republicans are blocking it, when all that the Republicans are saying is: Let's get on the bill. We can't even get on the bill so amendments can be offered because they are filibustering the motion to proceed to the bill, blocking us even getting on the legislation so amendments can be offered.

If they are not happy with anything in the bill—the language the House put in or anything else—they can offer amendments to deal with it and strike it out.

That is what Politico said.

How about the New York Times. They are always favoring Democratic immigration policies. This is their headline: "Senate Democrats Block Republicans' Homeland Security Bill." Isn't that true? That is exactly true.

How about the Atlantic. I think this is almost amusing: "The New Democratic Obstructionists." That is the headline in their publication.

So I would push back at this. Are we through the looking glass? Are we down the rabbit hole into never-never land? Where are we?

My good friend Senator SCHUMER, one of our able advocates here—and I really admire him. But this is what he said earlier today:

The right wing of the Republican party is risking a D.H.S., a Department of Homeland Security, shutdown to get their way on immigration.

This is how Senator SCHUMER framed it:

They're saying take our hard right stance on immigration or we won't fund national security.

He goes on to say:

We think the American people are on our side. We're willing to have that debate.

Well, why don't we have it? Why don't we bring the bill up and let's have the debate if he wants to offer amendments contrary to what the House did?

But remember, the House didn't do anything but say we are going to spend money on all the programs in Homeland Security. It didn't defund any of them. It didn't change any of those rules.

So, is it really true? Do only right-wing Republicans want to end the President's unlawful actions? No, no, no. That is not what the truth is.

Why don't I share with our colleagues here what many of our Democratic Senators have said about the President's unlawful action. Here is what the junior Senator from Indiana said:

It is clear the immigration system in this country is broken, and only Congress has the ability to change the law to fix it . . . I am as frustrated as anyone that Congress is not doing its job, but the President shouldn't make such significant policy changes on his own.

That was just November last year.

The senior Senator from Missouri said:

Our immigration system is broken, and I support a comprehensive plan to fix it, but executive orders aren't the way to do it.

The senior Senator from West Virginia:

I disagree with the President's decision to use executive action to make changes to our immigration system.

The junior Senator from North Dakota:

I'm disappointed the president decided to use executive action at this time on this issue. . . . It's Congress' job to pass legislation and deal with issues of this magnitude.

Isn't that true.

The junior Senator from Maine:

I also have constitutional concerns about where prosecutorial discretion ends and unconstitutional executive authority begins.

Well, I share that thought.

The junior Senator from Minnesota:

I have concerns about executive action. . . . This is a job for Congress.

The senior Senator from Virginia:

. . . the best way to get a comprehensive solution is to take this through the legislative process.

So are those right-wingers? Are those people who can't be trusted to put the public interest first? Are they exaggerating? Are they somehow all in error to question the power of the Presidency to execute this policy?

No, and I will cite one more national leader that is well known. I would cite President Obama himself, who on 20 different occasions said he did not have power to do what he now has done. So Congress is not passing any new law. Congress is not passing any new power. Congress is simply saying: Mr. President, you cannot create new laws and fund new programs that are contrary to existing law, in violation of existing law, and in violation of the wishes of the American people and the decided actions of Congress itself.

Remember all these ideas were presented to Congress, and Congress rejected them. They were elected to represent the people of the United States of America, and they rejected these policies. So why should Congress fund the President, who goes and does what they now reject?

Well, Senator SCHUMER says he believes the American people are on his side, or "our side," the obstructionist side, the side that is blocking Homeland Security.

Let's look at the polling data. This is a poll from Paragon Insights. The question to the American people was: Should you focus on bettering work situations for Americans? Should that be our focus and not immigration advancements or expansion. Among Democrats, 64 percent said yes. Among Independents, 75 percent said yes.

What about this: Do you believe providing amnesty encourages illegal im-

migration? Democrats, 63 percent. Is that part of the great rightwing conspiracy? How about Independents—68 percent; Republicans, 88 percent.

How about this: Do you believe illegal immigrants take jobs from vulnerable citizens? Democrats, 57 percent; Independents, 73 percent.

How about this one: Do you believe amnesty is disastrous and unconstitutional? Democrats, 53 percent; Independents, 70 percent.

How about the question that illegal immigrants take jobs from vulnerable citizens. What do Hispanics say about that? Mr. President, 65 percent of Hispanics agree with that.

What about the question that providing amnesty encourages illegal immigration? We all know that it does, and 63 percent of Hispanics agree with that. What about the question: Amnesty will hollow out the middle class. We had a lot of talk about what to do with the middle class. Ask the middle class what they think for a change. Will amnesty hollow out the middle class? Independents—not Republicans, not Democrats, not rightwingers—73 percent agree; 62 percent of Hispanics agree with that statement.

This idea somehow that the American people support blocking the Homeland Security bill to protect the President's unlawful Executive amnesty, that the American people support the Democrats in doing that is not true. The data shows that, and that is consistent with my understanding.

How about this question in a poll by Kellyanne Conway's polling company, a nationwide survey: "President Obama recently said that he may go around Congress and take executive action on immigration policy." This was done back in August of last year. "Which do you support more: President Obama changing immigration policy on his own, or President Obama working with Congress to change immigration policy?" Well, 74 percent said he should work with Congress. Only 21 percent said he should do it on his own.

How about Independents? How about the Independents—not conservative rightwingers? What do they view as to whether the President should work with Congress and pass a law in the orderly business according to legitimate processes or do it on his own? Among Independents, 81 percent said he should work with Congress, and only 14 percent say he should do it on his own.

So this idea that somehow the American people are all in support of President Obama's outrageous actions, which he himself 20 times said he had no power to do but did anyway, is just false. It is not true, and it is not true the Republicans are blocking the Homeland Security bill, either. The Democrats are filibustering the bill, not allowing it to come to the floor so even an amendment can be voted on.

What do our colleagues do? They seem to think that if they say the Re-

publicans are causing it to happen, then the media will accept it. But the media is not accepting this, and nobody is accepting this. And I hope the Democratic colleagues who openly question this policy will re-evaluate where they stand and think back.

Isn't this the thing to do? Let's move to the bill, and then we can debate all the language and all the issues that are relevant and see where we go from there—not just block the bill. So I would urge colleagues to think that through and change their view from what they have been doing, which is supporting unanimously a filibuster.

Now there is some simple Paragon Insights polling data. It asked a simple policy question without reference to Republicans and Democrats or President Obama. What did they find in their poll, by a 50-point measure?

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TILLIS). The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. SESSIONS. I ask unanimous consent for 2 additional minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. I didn't know we had a time limit.

By a 50-point margin voters want to pass legislation making it harder to hire workers now illegally in the country—71 to 21. They want us to protect American workers, to make it harder for businesses to hire people unlawfully in the country. We are not doing any of that. The President has given an Executive order that provides 5 million people with work authorizations, Social Security cards, Social Security numbers, and the right to take any job in America when we have a shortage of jobs in America.

Female voters support this action by a 3-to-1 margin. Hispanic voters support the measure by a 19-point margin, 56 to 37 percent. I would say blue-collar voters, people who go to work every day, strongly oppose the President's action by more than a 3-to-1 margin. One in three Obama voters opposes his Executive action, overall.

We are not going to stop. President Obama does not have the authority to do this. It is a challenge institutionally to this body. No matter what you feel about amnesty or providing benefits for people here unlawfully, it is Congress's job, and we have to face up to it and wrestle with it.

Some say that if we don't approve it, then we are not facing up to it. I don't agree. I think it is worth discussing and voting on it. So far Congress has rejected the President's ideas of how it should be handled. I think they will continue to do so. The American people overwhelmingly want the Congress to defend their interests, to defend their right to work, to defend their declining wages, and to do something about the wages that are declining, to do something about the difficulty their children have in finding a decent job—even

college graduates. We don't have a shortage of workers in this country; we have a shortage of jobs in this country. That is absolutely clear.

We can do this country a great service, and we can do the struggling, hurting middle-class workers a great service if we slow down a bit in this unlawful immigration flow. We have a generous lawful flow. Let's end the lawlessness and protect them, and maybe their wages will begin to rise, for a change, instead of falling, as they have done for a decade.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Thank you, Mr. President. First, let me say to my friend from Alabama, I couldn't agree more that we need to focus on jobs. There is no question about it.

I couldn't agree more that we need to have a legal immigration system that works and that protects Americans first, in terms of jobs, people who are here legally, whether it is those working in agriculture, whether it is those working in manufacturing or any other part of our economy. We can very quickly, if the new majority wants to, bring an immigration bill and address it. I think there are 68 of us, if I remember right, who voted for a pretty big bipartisan effort last year, a major effort to actually fix a very broken system. There were important protections in there for American workers. It is something that would have been incredibly important to get done and to put those prohibitions in. So this is not about that.

It is very simple. The majority could very quickly pass the funding for Homeland Security to keep us safe and immediately go to the issue of immigration, and I would support it wholeheartedly, as would colleagues on this side of the aisle.

Here is what we don't support: holding the security of our country hostage while others debate policy, frankly, that was already agreed to by the majority of the Senate last year. Regardless of your feelings about the immigration policies, if you ask folks at this time, when terror threats are all around us, do they want games being played with the funding of our homeland security, the answer would be no—a resounding no.

So let's get on with the business in a bipartisan way of funding our national security effort, and then let's immediately go to a vigorous and important debate about immigration. I would agree that should be done as soon as possible.

Since the attacks of 9/11 in 2001, we have had a Department of Homeland Security that we organized and put together to play a critical role in protecting America against acts of terror. Make no mistake, as I said, we have

terrorist threats all around us, yet, unfortunately, our Republican colleagues are willing to shut down our Homeland Security Department to make a political point.

Yesterday ISIS released a video showing the horrendous burning of a Jordanian pilot. It was unbelievable. But while that is happening, the Senate can't pass a Homeland Security funding bill. We need to pass a Homeland Security bill. Colleagues who are fighting about immigration are willing to shut down Homeland Security in order to make a point with the President.

This past weekend ISIS beheaded a Japanese contractor. Yet Republicans are willing to shut down Homeland Security to make a point. Last week at a hotel in Libya an American was killed in an attack by ISIS. Yet colleagues on the other side of the aisle are willing to shut down Homeland Security in order to make a political point. Last month 11 people were killed in a terrorist strike against America's oldest ally, France. Yet Republicans are willing to shut down Homeland Security.

In November, a Canadian soldier was killed in an attack near the Canadian Parliament, just 60 miles from the U.S. border. Michigan is on that northern border. Yet Republicans are willing to shut down Homeland Security. In fact, we heard Republicans in the House say it wouldn't be that big of a deal to shut down Homeland Security. Really? Anybody who reads the paper or watches the news can see what is happening every day around us, and Republicans in the House say it wouldn't be a problem to shut down Homeland Security? That is stunning.

Detroit, MI, has the busiest northern border crossing in the country. It is the busiest northern border crossing for commerce, products, and people. We rely on our Customs and Border Patrol every single day. Customs and border security, airport security, and police and firefighters are on the frontlines every day protecting us. Let's not forget about the Coast Guard. All those folks are on the frontlines protecting our families in America. That is what we are debating.

Do we want to play games with that? Do we want to hold Homeland Security hostage because of a debate with the President on another issue or do we fund Homeland Security and then have that debate? We can do it immediately—the same day. We could fund Homeland Security and then the Republican leader could immediately call up any bill he wants on immigration and then have that debate. Unfortunately—with terrorist threats all around us—Republicans are willing to shut down Homeland Security.

Boko Haram is gaining strength in West Africa and hoping to inspire attacks against Americans. We know what they have done. Yet here we are

debating whether Homeland Security is going to be shut down.

In the months to come, we will need all of the hard-working men and women who work in every part of that agency to be full speed so they can protect us. Unless Republican colleagues are willing to support a spending bill and get that done right away, we are going to see the Department of Homeland Security management and headquarters stop functioning. Some 30,000 employees will be furloughed. People will be asked to work without pay—talk about jobs for people.

In Detroit alone—and all over Michigan—we get firefighter grants. The budget has already started, and we have 150 firefighters in the city of Detroit alone whose ongoing funding has been stalled. We have firefighters all across Michigan. We have very important law enforcement grants all over Michigan that at the moment are on hold and can't go forward.

We are talking about disrupting programs used to detect weapons of mass destruction and the training of local law enforcement officers who are on the frontlines of our defense. This makes no sense.

It would be one thing if Republican colleagues were in the minority and they felt the only way we could have the debate they want to have is to tie the two together, but that is not the case. Republican colleagues are in the majority. We can pass Homeland Security together—100 to 0—and then get on to whatever immigration debate the majority wants to have or whatever else they would like to debate. We don't have to hold the Homeland Security funding hostage in order to do it.

This past August our Defense Secretary said of ISIS:

They are as sophisticated and well-funded as any group we have seen. They're beyond just a terrorist group.

When we think about it, we are talking about a well-funded terrorist group at the same time we are debating whether to fund our Homeland Security agencies that keep us safe from ISIS and other terrorist threats.

I implore Republican colleagues to join with us, regardless of the passion on this other issue. We can debate it. It can be addressed.

There are Republican majorities in the House and Senate that can debate the President's actions or debate anything for that matter, but we can certainly debate immigration at any moment. We do not have to hold the funding for the national defense of our homeland hostage to do it.

I encourage my colleagues to get on to the business of passing the funding.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:06 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, February 5, 2015, at 10:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

THE JUDICIARY

WAVERLY D. CRENSHAW, JR., OF TENNESSEE, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE, VICE WILLIAM JOSEPH HAYNES, JR., RETIRED.

LAWRENCE JOSEPH VILARDO, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE RICHARD J. ARCARA, RETIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

EILEEN MAURA DECKER, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE ANDRE BIROTTE, JR., RESIGNED.

JOHN W. HUBER, OF UTAH, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF UTAH FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE DAVID B. BARLOW, RESIGNED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. NINA M. ARMAGNO
BRIG. GEN. JOHN D. BANSEMER
BRIG. GEN. CASEY D. BLAKE
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL T. BREWER
BRIG. GEN. ANTHONY J. COTTON
BRIG. GEN. CLINTON E. CROSIER
BRIG. GEN. THOMAS H. DEALE
BRIG. GEN. TIMOTHY G. FAY
BRIG. GEN. TIMOTHY S. GREEN
BRIG. GEN. JOSEPH T. GUASTELLA, JR.
BRIG. GEN. DAVID A. HARRIS
BRIG. GEN. JAMES B. HECKER
BRIG. GEN. SCOTT A. HOWELL
BRIG. GEN. JAMES C. JOHNSON
BRIG. GEN. MARK D. KELLY
BRIG. GEN. MATTHEW H. MOLLOY
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL D. ROTHSTEIN
BRIG. GEN. KEVIN B. SCHNEIDER
BRIG. GEN. BARRE R. SEGUIN
BRIG. GEN. THOMAS J. SHARPY
BRIG. GEN. JAMES C. SLIFE
BRIG. GEN. SCOTT F. SMITH
BRIG. GEN. GIOVANNI K. TUCK
BRIG. GEN. GLEN D. VANHERCK
BRIG. GEN. JAMES C. VECHERY
BRIG. GEN. SARAH E. ZABEL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. RANDALL REED

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. CHRISTOPHER A. COFFELT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. JEFFREY A. KRUSE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. ABEL BARRIENTES
BRIG. GEN. BRIAN E. DOMINGUEZ
BRIG. GEN. JOHN C. FLOURNOY, JR.
BRIG. GEN. KATHRYN J. JOHNSON
BRIG. GEN. KENNETH D. LEWIS, JR.
BRIG. GEN. MARK L. LOEBEN
BRIG. GEN. VINCENT M. MANCUSO
BRIG. GEN. RONALD B. MILLER
BRIG. GEN. KAREN A. RIZZUTI
BRIG. GEN. RICHARD W. SCOBEE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. RANDALL R. BALL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. DIXIE A. MORROW

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. LEONARD W. ISABELLE, JR.
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL T. MCGUIRE
BRIG. GEN. SAMI D. SAID

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. JAY N. SELANDERS

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. TODD M. AUDET

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. ARTHUR E. JACKMAN, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. VITO E. ADDABBO
COL. THOMAS L. AYERS
COL. MAUREEN G. BANAVIGE
COL. DENNIS T. BEATTY
COL. JAMES N. COOMBES II
COL. CHRISTIAN G. FUNK
COL. JAY S. GOLDSTEIN
COL. HUBERT C. HEGTVEDT
COL. JOHN A. HICKOK
COL. FARRIS C. HILL
COL. JOHN M. HILLYER
COL. CRAIG L. LAPAVE
COL. PAMELA J. LINCOLN
COL. LINDA M. MARSH
COL. STEVEN R. ROSENMEIER
COL. STAN A. SHELEY
COL. PATRICK M. WADE
COL. JOHN B. WILLIAMS

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. JOHNNY S. LIZAMA
COL. THOMAS W. RYAN
COL. SCOTT A. YOUNG

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. BRIAN J. MENNES

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be major

JEFFREY B. KRUTOY

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING REIMAN'S HARLEY-DAVIDSON IN KEWANEE, ILLINOIS FOR THEIR SERVICE TO OUR SERVICE MEMBERS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reiman's Harley-Davidson in Kewanee, Illinois, for going above and beyond to serve the men and women who so bravely serve our country.

These business owners have a policy to waive storage fees for the motorcycles of deployed service members.

In their own words, they say 'It is our honor to keep your bike safe and secure while you provide us with our freedoms. We hope you return to us safe and sound. Until that time, we will store your bike at no charge to you. This is our way of saying 'Thank You' for your service to our country.'

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to represent such a remarkable company, and I want to once again thank them for their continued efforts to honor the men and women of the United States Armed Forces.

HONORING THE CAREER OF BILL CRAVER

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and accomplishments of a distinguished member of the Western New York community, Bill Craver on the occasion of his retirement after a remarkable career.

Mr. Craver has served our community working for the Buffalo Sewer Authority for over 31 years. Mr. Craver began working for the Buffalo Sewer Authority on June 6th, 1983 as a Millwright. Less than a year later he was promoted to Machinist. Prior to serving the City of Buffalo, Mr. Craver had worked at Van Nott Machinery, Buffalo Color and the Ford Stamping Plant, where he is held in high regard by his co-workers.

At the age of 92, Mr. Craver holds the title of the oldest active employee in the New York State Retirement System and oldest employee in the Buffalo Sewer System, a record that will undoubtedly be difficult to top.

Mr. Craver is a veteran of the United States and an honored recipient of the Bronze Star for his service in the Second World War. During World War II, he served in Okinawa and the Philippines, where his most gloried accomplishment was shooting down two enemy aircrafts off shore of Okinawa on April 15, 1945.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor the amazing accomplishments of Bill Craver during his career and for his service as a decorated Veteran of WWII. I am pleased to join his family members, colleagues and friends in congratulating him on his retirement. Mr. Craver has earned a great deal of respect from his colleagues and friends and has certainly earned my sincere respect and admiration for his integrity, commitment, and impressive work ethic. I wish Mr. Craver continued happiness and contentment in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. GRANT GREIDER ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize my constituent, Mr. Grant Greider, in celebration of his 100th birthday.

Born in Middle Paxton Township, Pennsylvania, Mr. Greider was the fifth of ten children born to Grant and Elizabeth Greider. Some of Grant's earliest memories include traveling to Broad Street Market in Harrisburg, where he and his mother sold butter, cup cheese, and baked bean sandwiches. After graduating from Halifax High School in 1935, he married Ruth Deibler, and they had six children together. Ruth and Grant were married for 76 years until Ruth's passing in 2011. In 1945, Mr. Greider moved his family to a farm in Jackson Township. To this day, Mr. Greider still helps his son, Randy, operate the farm. Mr. Greider was an employee of the Pennsylvania Railroad for 39 years, where he worked alongside his father and three older brothers. He recalls first earning an hourly wage of 45 cents as a laborer. After many years of hard work, he was proud to see his salary increase to \$7.50 an hour, right before his retirement in 1979. To this day, he still collects his hard-earned railroad pension. Additionally, Mr. Greider has held several elected offices in Jackson Township, including Township Supervisor and Judge of Elections. As an avid participant in the democratic process, he has proudly voted in every election since turning 21 in 1936.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize Mr. Greider on this important milestone, and to thank him for his time spent serving our local community. His commitment to family, hard work, Pennsylvania, and our nation is exemplary, and I wish him a happy and healthy 100th birthday celebration in the company of his family and friends.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, last week I regret that I was unable to cast my vote against H.R. 351, the Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act. Had I voted, I would have voted NO on H.R. 351, in order to protect the environment and our natural resources.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF CODIE PETERS

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks to commemorate the life of Codie Carter Peters who passed away January 25, 2015.

Mrs. Peters was a pillar in the Charlottesville community. She was a successful actress and small business owner and a loving mother and grandmother. Active and passionate about politics, she served for six years in the Albemarle-Charlottesville Republican Women's League, two of them as its president.

Codie Peters lived her life with an intense dedication to the persons and causes she loved. Whether she was asserting her opinion on an issue of national importance or speaking of her beautiful family, the twinkle in her eyes was always present. Codie relished sharing with all what she had in abundance: a love of family, a love of life, and a love of country. Her delight in her commitment to her husband, Steve, was infectious; they were partners in everything, from tending to their family to their public service in politics.

Codie Peters will long be remembered for her dedication and her passion. She was predeceased by her parents and is survived and fondly remembered by her husband, Steven L. Peters; her daughter, Katherine J. Peters; her son-in-law, William A. Finn; and her two grandchildren, Bennett Grace and William Patrick Finn.

My thoughts remain with the Peters family, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have known Codie Peters and to remember the wonderful life she led.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING THE TOWN OF
YOUNTVILLE**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Town of Yountville, California on the 50th anniversary of its incorporation. The Town of Yountville has developed a reputation for culinary excellence, distinguished lodging, fine wines and renowned retail businesses, which is especially impressive considering that the town has less than 3,000 residents.

Yountville's rich history dates back to 1831, when George Yount settled in Napa Valley. In 1836 Mr. Yount obtained the first land grant from the Mexican government awarded to a United States citizen in Northern California. By 1855, a surveyor had laid out the town's borders and Mr. Yount decided to call this town Sebastopol. Given that there was another town by the name of Sebastopol nearby, the town was renamed Yountville two years after Mr. Yount's death in 1867 in honor of its founder and his invaluable contributions to the town's beginning, which included planting the first grape vines in Napa Valley.

On February 4, 1965, the City of Yountville was officially incorporated and in 1982 changed its name to Town of Yountville. Over the past 50 years the town has grown to almost 3,000 residents. Today the town is home to many award-winning restaurants, such as The French Laundry which boasts a Three-Star Michelin rating, and which contributes to the town's reputation as the "Culinary Capital of the Napa Valley". In addition to the town's rich culinary history, Yountville's wine, retail, and lodging industries attract tourists from around the world to this small town known as the "Heart of Napa Valley"™.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize the Town of Yountville, California on the 50th anniversary of its incorporation. Yountville is a treasured part of our Napa Valley and I look forward to seeing the town continue to prosper over the next 50 years.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,099,042,237,253.89. We've added \$7,472,165,188,340.81 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.4 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

CELEBRATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MORRIS COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Morris County Historical Society, located in Morristown, Morris County, New Jersey, as it celebrates its 70th Anniversary.

The Morris County Historical Society, also known as the MCHS, seeks to preserve, exhibit, and actively enhance its collections of historical items relating to Morris County, predominantly during the Victorian period of American history. The MCHS believes in providing Morris County with a place in which its residents may learn about the County's interesting history. Through various exhibits, ranging from Victorian Architecture & Design Display to the Women's Suffrage Movement in NJ Display, the MCHS offers interactive programs that are both engaging and insightful.

The MCHS is housed in Acorn Hall, named after the two-centuries-old red oak formerly located on the property. Built in 1853, Acorn Hall continues to retain its original interior design characteristics and furnishings. In the Hall, the carpeting, wall covering, and decorative paint techniques mirror the original decorative selections implemented by the Hall's longest tenured owners, Augustus and Mary Crane. These aesthetical aspects of the Hall help visitors understand what exactly life was like during the mid-19th century.

Among the multiple programs and activities that the MCHS offers, its internship and volunteer program offers those individuals interested in maintaining some of Morris County's most prized artifacts is rewarding for a diverse group of people. Ranging from college students to senior citizens, the MCHS welcomes all individuals who care about Morris County's historical significance. The internship opportunity is especially valuable for college students as it often offers college credit to interns for semester-long projects. The MCHS values these volunteers and interns by offering them free admittance to the Acorn Hall and invitations to members-only events.

For members of the public, the MCHS offers guided tours of Acorn Hall. During these tours, MCHS tour guides help depict life during the Victorian era, and offer insightful explanations about the various artifacts housed in Acorn Hall. Though these tours generally last an hour, the experience leaves a long lasting impression. Also, after touring Acorn Hall, viewers can swing by the Oakleaf Gift Shop and browse through various historical books describing the role Morris County played in the Revolutionary War or the development of the Morristown Green.

I commend the members of the MCHS, its officers, and its Board of Directors, especially Director Amy Curry, for their dedication to promoting Morris County's rich history. Our society has consistently demonstrated a dedication and commitment to preserving priceless artifacts for Morris County residents to enjoy for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Morris County Historical Society, as it celebrates its 70th Anniversary.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF EU-
LESS POLICE OFFICER TONY
BURNETT**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize retiring Senior Corporal Tony Burnett for his 25 years of public service as a Euless Police Officer.

Tony Burnett began his career in public safety as a North Hills Mall security officer. In 1990, Tony's aspiration to join law enforcement was achieved when Euless Police Department hired him as Public Service Officer in the role as a jailer. Tony worked in that capacity for over three years until he was promoted to Police Officer. Throughout Tony's career, he continued to strive towards excellence which was acknowledged through the department with a promotion to Corporal in 1996 and Senior Corporal in 2008. In his leadership roles, Tony has supervised Patrol, Criminal Investigations and the Neighborhood Patrol Officers Unit.

Tony Burnett's commitment to public safety encouraged him to undergo extensive training as a patrol officer, criminal investigator, and department police trainer. His training earned him the following certifications: Basic Police Certification in 1993, Intermediate Police Certification in 1997, Advanced Police Certification in 1999, and Master Police Certification in 2004. In 1995, Tony received his Police Officer Instructor License and his DARE Officer Certification. In total, Tony received over 1,700 hours of in-service training. Tony has also taught over 1,200 hours of police training in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, and he is highly recognized by the region's law enforcement community as an outstanding instructor.

Aside from his police training, Tony Burnett has also earned a Bachelor's Degree from Columbia College and a Master's Degree in Criminology from the University of Texas at Arlington.

Tony Burnett has led a distinguished career in the Euless Police Department where he received over 80 police commendations for professionalism and service to the community. He has also been nominated for numerous department awards which include Rookie of the Year Award in 1993, Civic Achievement Award in 1998, Distinguished Service Award in 2005, and Police Officer of the Year in 2006.

Tony Burnett and his wife Melissa of 20 years have two children, Jacob and Andrew. Tony graduated from Richland High School in North Richland Hills, Texas, in 1989.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in thanking Tony Burnett for his years of public service as a Euless Police Officer.

PROTECTING WITH INTEGRITY

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Victor Peschke of the Sugar Land Fire Department for being selected by the department and the Sugar Land Citizen's Fire Academy Alumni Association for the Fire-fighter of the Year Award. This award recognizes his exemplary character and actions in protecting our communities.

Peschke's firefighting career now spans six years. Since he joined the service of the Sugar Land Fire Department in 2011, he has honorably safeguarded the community and strengthened our public safety system. Peschke is not just a leader whose hard work and attitude others admire; he is a leader who inspires those who serve with him. Our communities are safer because of folks like Victor.

I commend Victor Peschke for his exemplary service to his community. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional of Texas, congratulations again to Victor for being honored with Sugar Land's Fire-fighter of the Year Award.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Paperwork Reduction Act, to eliminate the wasteful congressional review process for legislation passed by the District of Columbia Council and to align longtime congressional practice and the law. The congressional review process for D.C. bills is ignored by Congress providing it no benefit, but imposes substantial costs (in time and money) on the District. Congress has almost always used the appropriations process rather than the disapproval process and entirely abandoned the congressional review process as its mechanism for overturning D.C. legislation twenty-three years ago, and only used it three times before that, preferring riders on D.C. appropriation bills instead. Yet Congress still requires the D.C. Council to use Kafkaesque make-work procedures to comply with the abandoned congressional review process established by the Home Rule Act of 1973.

Our bill would eliminate the congressional review process for legislation passed by the D.C. Council. However, Congress would lose no authority it currently exercises because, even upon enactment of this bill, Congress would retain its authority under clause 17 of section 8 of article I of the U.S. Constitution to amend or overturn any D.C. legislation at any time.

The congressional review process (30 days for civil bills and 60 days for criminal bills) includes those days when either house of Con-

gress is in session, delaying D.C. bills from becoming law, often for many months. The delay forces the D.C. Council to pass most bills several times, using a cumbersome and complicated process to ensure that the operations of this large and rapidly changing city continue uninterrupted, avoiding a lapse of the bill before it becomes final. The review period, based on legislative, not calendar, days means, for example, that a 30-day period usually lasts three calendar months and often much longer because of congressional recesses. The congressional review period for a bill that changed the word "handicap" to "disability" lasted nine months. The Council estimates that 50–65 percent of the bills the Council passes could be eliminated if the review period did not exist. To ensure that a bill becomes law, the Council often must pass the same legislation in three forms—emergency (in effect for 90 days), temporary (in effect for 225 days) and permanent. Moreover, the Council has to carefully track the days the House and Senate are in session for each D.C. bill it passes to avoid gaps and to determine when the bills have taken effect. The Council estimates that it could save 5,000 employee-hours and 160,000 sheets of paper per two-year legislative Council period if the review period were eliminated. House Majority Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY addressed the issue of saving such resources by eliminating the amount of paperwork sent to Congress when he proposed a cut in the number of reports that federal agencies are required to submit to Congress. Our bill is a perfect candidate because it eliminates a paperwork process that repeats itself without interruption.

My bill would do no more than align the Home Rule Act with congressional practice over the last twenty-three years. Of the more than 5,000 legislative acts transmitted to Congress since the Home Rule Act, only three resolutions disapproving D.C. legislation have been enacted—in 1979, 1981, and 1991—and two of those mistakenly involved federal interests in the Height Act and the location of chanceries. Placing a congressional hold on 5,000 D.C. bills has not only proven unnecessary, but has imposed fruitless costs on the D.C. government, residents and businesses. District residents and businesses are also placed on hold because they have no certainty when D.C. bills, from taxes to regulations, will take effect, making it difficult to plan. Instead of using the congressional review process to overturn D.C. legislation, Congress has preferred to use appropriation riders. Therefore, it is particularly unfair to require the D.C. Council to engage in a labor-intensive and costly process that Congress has itself long abandoned. My bill would only eliminate the automatic hold placed on D.C. legislation and the need for the D.C. Council to use a process initially passed for the convenience of Congress, but that Congress has since eliminated in all but law. This bill would promote efficiency and cost savings for Congress, the District, its residents, and businesses without reducing congressional oversight, and would carry out a policy stressed by Congress of eliminating needless paperwork and make-work redundancy.

I urge my colleagues to support this good-government measure.

HONORING DOMINICAN HERITAGE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the rich culture and heritage of Dominicans, during the month of Carnival, the most important period of religious celebration in the Dominican Republic. Dominicans are dedicated members of our communities and have contributed so much to our country. This month, we take the opportunity to acknowledge and applaud their service to our nation and their many great achievements.

Dominicans in our nation have been motivated by the value of hard work and the bonds of family—the same pillars that have formed the foundation of our society for over 230 years. From Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez, the first Dominican-American to serve in the Cabinet, to Pedro Martinez, a former pitcher for the New York Mets who was recently elected to the Hall of Fame, Dominicans are trailblazers who strengthen America's diverse cultural heritage.

Dominicans are one of the fastest growing Hispanic groups in America. 1.5 million people of Dominican descent currently live in the United States. With over 700,000 people, Dominicans are the largest Hispanic group in New York City. I am honored to serve a congressional district with a significant Dominican population. They bring vibrant and rich cultural and economic contributions to every neighborhood in my district, from Washington Heights to Inwood.

I am fortunate to have many excellent organizations, in my district, that promote Dominican culture and empower Dominicans living in Manhattan and the Bronx. The Dominican Women's Development Center, New York Dominican Officers' Organization, Dominican Medical Association, National Dominican Women's Caucus, Community Association of Progressive Dominicans, Alianza Dominicana, Dominican Bar Association, Association of Dominican Classical Artists, Dominican Cultural Civic Center, Mirabal Sisters Cultural and Community Center all help strengthen their communities and improve the lives of Dominicans in New York.

Like so many generations of immigrants, Dominicans have fought tirelessly to achieve the American Dream. They come to this great nation seeking a home, a place to raise their families, and a community that will nurture their dreams. From the initial wave of Dominican migration in the 1960s to the most recent arrivals of today, Dominicans have graced our nation with their culture and traditions. Their contributions are integral to the success of our great nation and to strengthening the American fabric.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 51; 52; 53 H.R. 361, the Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act; H.R. 623, the Social Media Working Group Act; H.R. 615, the Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act.

Due to inclement weather, I was not present for the vote series on Monday, February 2, 2015.

Had I been present, I would have voted AYE.

RENEWABLE FUEL STANDARD
(RFS) REFORM ACT**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues Representatives PETER WELCH, STEVE WOMACK and JIM COSTA as we introduce the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) Reform Act, a common sense solution to ensure that renewable fuels compete fairly in the marketplace and avoid causing unintended and negative consequences for American consumers.

The federal government's creation of an artificial market for the ethanol industry has quite frankly triggered a domino effect that is hurting our nation's consumers, energy users, livestock producers, food manufacturers, retailers, and natural resources. Renewable fuels play an important role in our all-of-the-above energy policy, but should compete fairly in the marketplace and not be the beneficiary of an anti-competitive government mandate.

American families and businesses should not have to shoulder the high cost of an unworkable federal ethanol mandate through the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the heightened 2017 RFS requirements would increase the amount of total U.S. food expenditures by \$3.5 billion. At the same time, the Department of Energy shows a decrease in fuel mileage—triggering increasing energy costs and lasting impacts on the environment.

The RFS mandates that 36 billion gallons of renewable fuels be part of our nation's fuel supply by 2022. However, in 2014 nearly 40 percent of the U.S. corn crop was used for ethanol production. This is more than the amount of corn used to feed livestock and poultry in the United States.

This is a kitchen table issue—this unworkable policy impacts every American family trying to make financial decisions. From food costs to wear and tear on the family car and other equipment many families use, the RFS means added costs and less money for other purchases.

The RFS debate is no longer just a debate about fuel or food. It is also a debate about jobs, small business, economic growth, and freedom.

The RFS is also hurting—not helping—to preserve our natural resources. The EPA has provided evidence that shows ethanol produced 33 percent more emissions in 2012 than gasoline. The RFS is impacting the quality of life for all Americans. The nation has hit the “blend wall” or the point at which we can no longer blend ethanol into gasoline at levels safe for all engines.

This Congress is the time for RFS reform. The momentum around this issue continues to grow. Last year, we found that more than 218 Members of Congress were on record—either by cosponsoring legislation or signing letters—expressing concerns about the current policy.

The support from various stakeholders also continues to expand as the RFS Reform Act is endorsed by a broad spectrum of groups representing livestock, small engines, taxpayers, restaurants, boats, food manufacturing, environmental issues, and food aid. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of the Renewable Fuel Standard Reform Act to address the increasing costs of this broken federal policy impacting our nation's citizens.

RECOGNIZING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE NEW YORK STATE
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
(NYSAC)**HON. TOM REED**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 90th Anniversary of the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC).

NYSAC was established by a group of committed local leaders in 1925 for the purposes of training county officials and advocating for the needs of local governments. Since that time, the organization has become the only statewide association representing the interests of New York's 62 counties, including the five boroughs of New York City.

NYSAC advocates for the interests of taxpayers and county officials at the state and federal levels of government. In addition, the association provides its members with training, educational resources, and information relating to public policy.

Despite the tremendous diversity found in New York, NYSAC has consistently and effectively promoted the best interests of all its members, from the urban areas downstate to the rural and suburban areas of my congressional district. I commend NYSAC on its ability to combine such different perspectives into a single unified mission that serves the interests of each county.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere pleasure to congratulate NYSAC on 90 years of excellent service to the counties, citizens, and officials of the State of New York. The professionalism and commitment displayed by the association's staff have ensured the effective management and delivery of county services. I salute NYSAC for a job well done, and extend my best wishes for continued success in the future.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY
OF PLAID HOUSE, INC.**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Plaid House, Inc. located in Morristown, New Jersey as it celebrates its 40th Anniversary.

Over the last forty years, Plaid House has stayed true to its mission of providing residential and counseling services to adolescents in northern New Jersey. Since its foundation, the members of Plaid House, Inc. have worked tirelessly to improve the lives of so many young adults, as evidenced by the impact its programs have had on the community.

In December of 1970, Katherine Merck was asked by the Morris County Probation Office if she would be willing to take a seventeen year old girl into her home for the holidays. The local residential treatment center would be closed due to the holidays, and the judge had decreed that the girl, despite lacking a criminal history, would be placed in Clinton State Prison for Women if an alternative could not be found. Upon taking the young woman into her home, Kate learned from the young woman about the numerous girls from the community that were often left without a place to live. So, she decided to start a group home for girls in Morris County, and within a few years, the Plaid House group home opened its doors.

The goal of the Plaid House group home is to provide a complete living experience and therapeutic environment for troubled adolescent girls. The residents of the Plaid House group home are placed there by the Department of Children and Families. The girls can range in age from fourteen to eighteen years old and are accepted from anywhere in New Jersey. Girls are enrolled in local school and encouraged to involve themselves in the community through afterschool programs, working, and volunteering. The group home staff provides a varied schedule throughout the week including recreational and educational activities. All girls regularly participate in individual and group counseling, provided both on site by the Program Manager and off site by therapists in community agencies.

When it opened its doors in 1975, Plaid House group home began with a capacity for five girls and was staffed by two houseparents. Since then, the number of girls at the home has expanded to ten, with supervision increasing to a team of full-time staff working twenty-four hours a day to serve these girls. The group home even underwent an expansion construction project in 2003 to provide much needed additional space and improve the quality of living for its residents.

Plaid House, Inc. also offers Thenen House, which opened in 1989, to provide a supervised transitional living program to young women who have outgrown group homes, but have been assessed as being unable to return home. The residents are young women of ages from sixteen to twenty, who are under the supervision of Child Protection and Permanency and need assistance in preparing for independence. Here the residents are required

to participate in a full-time educational and employment program, helping them to develop practical skills, establish emotional independence, and learn budgeting techniques; the budgeting program demands that the women save fifty percent of their wages, which will be returned to them when they leave the program.

Plaid House's Aftercare Program provides counseling to adolescent males and females who have been discharged by Child Protection and Permanency from residential placements or foster care. The goal of the program is to help these young adults transition successfully from out of home placement into the community, whether they are returning to their homes or moving out to live on their own. In addition, Their Aging Out Program serves male and female clients of ages fifteen to twenty who are under the supervision of Child Protection and Permanency and currently in out of home placement. The young adults participate in life skills training, presented in weekly workshops, which follow a curriculum including employment skills, money management, career planning, further education, communication, and problem solving. Each participant completes a skills assessment at the beginning and end of the program to measure the progress made from training.

Since the opening of their group home forty years ago, Plaid House has moved hundreds of young adults through their programs. Though the organization has undergone various changes and improvements since its inception, their commitment to providing these adolescents with opportunities for success has remained constant.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Plaid House, Inc, its dedicated staff and Board of Directors as it celebrates its 40th Anniversary.

“HONOR, COURAGE, COMMITMENT”

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brice Kolle for being named the December 2014 Cadet of the Month by the Marine Military Academy. Kolle, a freshman at the Marine Military Academy, hails from my hometown of Sugar Land in TX-22. This esteemed award recognizes his exemplary character, leadership, academic achievement, and esprit de corps while serving in the preparatory school's band.

Kolle's superb attitude and dedication to his studies will continue to serve him well at the Marine Military Academy and beyond. Receiving this honor, speaks to Kolle's dedication to uphold academy's mission and values.

I commend Brice Kolle for his outstanding leadership and development of character thus far in his academic career. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Kolle for being named the Marine Military Academy's Cadet of the Month for the Leath-erneck Band for December 2014.

RECOGNIZING THE LEGACY OF RICHARD NAMEY

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of Richard “Rick” Ellis Namey, who died of a heart attack on February 26 at the age of 66. Rick wasn't a man defined by one title, one line of work, or one talent. He was many things: successful concert promoter, advertising genius, pitchman, standup comic, author, screenwriter, and political activist. Friends and family say one thing is certain; he didn't do anything halfway. With every endeavor, he went all out.

Rick was born in Baltimore on February 12, 1949. The oldest son of Albert and Salam Namey, his father met his mother while traveling abroad in Beirut, Lebanon. An aerospace engineer, Albert took a job with Martin Marietta and the family moved to Orlando when Rick was 10.

Rick began pursuing his ambitions while attending Winter Park High School and Sanford Naval Academy. At age 16, he won a teen disc jockey competition on WLOF-AM and began managing local bands like Mr. Banana and the Bunch and Marshmallow Steamshovel. He was also a performer.

Rick's first business venture was a coffee shop called The Hobbit in Daytona Beach, which catered to the hippie crowd, followed by The Purple Door in Bithlo. His success booking national acts like Bob Seger and the Silver Bullet Band for events at the Tangerine Bowl and the Daytona International Speedway led him to start Cosmic Productions. Rick was part of the promotional team for Woodstock and appears in a documentary about the 1969 music festival.

Rick took ideas and turned them into reality, even if they failed. During the Summer of Love, he started a business selling love beads. He had an importer, stringer, and packager and he was going to make thousands—until it was revealed the ink on his product was poisonous. Despite some setbacks, Rick's many successes were featured in an Orlando Sentinel article when he was just 23.

An active participant in the civil rights movement, Rick attended rallies and worked on presidential campaigns including McGovern/Eagleton and Carter/Mondale. Though Central Florida was always his home and he worked hard to promote it, he often rubbed elbows with the rich and famous. Old photos show Rick and the Carter family at home watching the Kentucky Derby in the 1970s.

The list of Rick's accomplishments is long. Rick and his brother, Charles, started two of Orlando's first black pop radio stations—WORJ and WORL—and Kissimmee's first tourist channel. Rick had a nationally syndicated radio show with Hugh Rodham, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's brother. He also served as interim manager for the Backstreet Boys and cut an album of Vietnam War protest songs.

Through his company, Stuyvesant Corporation, Rick wrote hundreds of TV and radio ads

including “Mr. Stereo and Video,” “Mad Max,” “Cheese Wars” and “Sounds Unlimited.” Many of his ads garnered him national Addy Awards for creative excellence.

Rick was most proud of his screenwriting, which included Lake Wobegone Boys with Garrison Keiler, and Matt Merlin, a story about a kid wizard. Universal Studios optioned Matt Merlin well before Harry Potter took the world by storm.

He was also the author of several published non-fiction books including Fodor's Disney Like A Pro, Orlando Like A Pro, and Buy This Book and Make Me Rich, a political satire. His most recent book, Casey's Ghost, chronicled his brief stint as the ghost writer for Casey Anthony, who was acquitted of the 2008 murder of her daughter Caylee in a trial televised worldwide.

Mr. Namey was a longtime member of Mensa. In recent years, he spent his time volunteering for local Democratic candidates and rallying for liberal causes. His ideas never stopped, his opinions grew stronger with age, and his love for his family was unparalleled.

I am humbled to honor the memory, life, and outstanding achievements of Richard Namey.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for roll call votes 54–58 due to a family emergency.

Had I been present, I would have voted no on #54, no on #55, no on #56, yes on #57, and no on #58.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Rotary Club of Jefferson Township, New Jersey, as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

The Rotary Club of Jefferson Township dedicates itself to bettering the township through the completion of communal projects. This organization seeks to improve the local community with the goal of ensuring that the Jefferson Township region is a wonderful place in which to live, work and raise a family. The greater Jefferson Township area benefits immensely from this organization's dedication to its neighbors and friends.

Since 1965, the Rotary Club of Jefferson Township has devoted its time and energy to facilitating projects for the benefit of the community. From distributing dictionaries to third graders to financing the construction of four vocational schools in Romania, this organization's members continuously find ways to help

those people in need of assistance. Whenever an opportunity arises to help others, like participating in End Polio Now, Rotary Club members always seem to be the first volunteers to respond.

Recently, this organization began several new projects in order to support members of the Jefferson Township community. On December 6th and 7th, the Rotary Club participated in the Sparta Christmas Bazaar by selling desserts and candies to help fund its operations. The Rotary Club also sold Gertrude Hawk chocolate bars to fund its third grader dictionary distribution project. This organization is also participating in "Walkfest 2015," a Sunday morning event where participants walk in Waterloo Village, located in Byram, New Jersey. During this fundraising event, participants may donate money to various organizations, including the Rotary Club, and have the opportunity to receive prizes.

The Rotary Club of Jefferson also believes in a rich cultural experience for students. To ensure that students from Jefferson Township expand their education outside of the classroom, the Rotary Club funds a Japanese Summer Exchange Program. In this program, American students spend three weeks on the island of Shikoku, while Japanese students spend three weeks in Northern New Jersey. Those students in Shikoku live with Japanese families and encounter Japanese culture, cuisine and customs. Those students visiting New Jersey live with families affiliated with the Rotary Club, and attend excursions to New York City. This program is yet another instance of the Rotary Club's commitment to students' educational experience.

To celebrate 50 successful years of offering assistance to those in need, the Rotary Club of Jefferson Township is holding an anniversary dinner on Tuesday, February 24th at the Casa Bianca Restaurant in Oak Ridge, New Jersey. At this celebration, the Rotary Club will host buffet-style culinary offerings, as well as a cash bar. In honor of its dedication to 50 years of service, the Rotary Club will present its 2015 Citizen Year Award to Alice and Bela Szigethy.

I commend the members of the Rotary Club of Jefferson Township, especially Alice and Bela Szigethy, for their dedication to improving the Jefferson Township area. The club has consistently demonstrated a dedication and commitment to improving the community and successfully completing numerous communal projects.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Rotary Club of Jefferson, its members and Board of Directors as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

HONORING THE CHEERLEADING TEAM FROM THOMAS W. KELLY HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the cheerleading team from Thomas W. Kelly High School in Benton, Mis-

souri. At the National Cheerleaders Association Championship this year they took home the first place trophy, earning their first National Championship. They earned this by working hard and setting their eyes on the prize early on. During their practices they focused on quality, not quantity and the team would come together and give it their all to perfect their routines.

Last October, the cheerleading team proudly took home the title of Class 2A Large State Champion, but they did not stop there. They traveled to St. Charles for the National Championship to compete with schools from all over the country.

During the competition, the Kelly High School cheerleading team competed against schools more than ten times the size of their own. This may have seemed daunting to some, but the team came prepared and represented Scott County admirably.

This is the first National Championship trophy for the cheerleaders of Thomas W. Kelly High School, but I do not see it being their last. It is my privilege to recognize their achievements and hard work before the House of Representatives.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST RUSSIAN ORTHODOX GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the parish of Saint John the Baptist Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church, located in Little Falls, New Jersey as it celebrates its 100th Anniversary.

The parish of Saint John the Baptist Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church has been an active part of the Little Falls community since its founding in 1915. Through its weekly masses, education center, and cultural celebrations, the church greatly reflects and celebrates its culture which has been rooted in the church by its founders, while still taking on new members in the present day.

Saint John's was the product of two migrations: one from Europe prior to 1915 and one from Pennsylvania about a decade later. The original church was built in 1915 as a place for the Orthodox faithful to embrace their history, culture, and religion. In 1917, the church established a Russian School Program for the youth. Over the years, the Orthodox population in the area grew, as did the church itself. In 1952, the architectural firm S.E. Greydanus & Son was hired to construct the new building. The project began on June 24, 1952. During the construction period, services were held at the Signac Public School and the Signac Fire House. Less than one year later, the project was completed and the first service was held in the new building on April 2, 1953. From 1957 through 1970, the church continued to purchase new land and build additions. Its final project, an education-recreation center, was completed on April 17, 1970.

The Parish of Saint John's has been helping the Orthodox community celebrate and prac-

tice their religion and beliefs. The church has also done much more; with the construction of its education center it has been able to offer programs such as a youth recreation center Sunday school, and much more to help educate the youth of the Orthodox community. The Sunday school teaches the youth about their religion and what it means to be an Orthodox Christian. Additionally, Saint John the Baptist Church invites all of those who wish to practice and understand their Orthodox beliefs to join them.

For Saint John the Baptist's Centennial Celebration, I commend all of the pastors and committees of the Parish. Since its founding, Saint John's has been supported by the people of Little Falls; this is one of the main reasons why the parish is still a big part of the community. After 100 years of outstanding service to the Township of Little Falls, I commend and congratulate Saint John the Baptist Church for all of its hard work and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Parish of Saint John the Baptist Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church, as it celebrates its 100th Anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE DEMONSTRATION OF COVERAGE FOR LOW VISION DEVICES ACT OF 2015

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is estimated that more than 60 million Americans are at risk of serious vision loss—a number expected to increase as the baby boomer generation ages. Along with my colleague Rep. GUS BILIRAKIS, I am proud to reintroduce legislation to support Americans with limited or impaired vision. For someone with a visual impairment, reading a book or crossing the street could be blurred or distorted even with the help of glasses or contact lenses. In many cases a physician can prescribe magnifiers or special optical devices to help an individual remain independent. While there are a wide variety of options to help people with low vision, currently, there is an exclusion from Medicare coverage for devices that include a lens to aid vision or provide magnification of images for impaired vision. Ultimately, not having these assistance devices could shift more individuals from independent living to care facilities or nursing homes.

To understand the impact of covering these devices for America's seniors, we are introducing the Medicare Demonstration of Coverage for Low Vision Devices Act of 2015. This legislation would create a five-year national demonstration project administered by the Department of Health and Human Services to evaluate the economic impact of allowing reimbursement for certain low vision devices under the Social Security Act. Coverage of such devices could help Medicare beneficiaries with low vision lead healthy, safe, and independent lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for roll call votes 51–53 due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted yes on #51, yes on #52, and yes on #53.

CONGRATULATING DOROTHY KREUTER ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated public servant in my Congressional District, Officer Dorothy Kreuter of the Doylestown Township Police Department. Last month, Officer Kreuter celebrated her retirement after serving 26 years with the department—an accomplishment for which we are all grateful.

Officer Kreuter was the first female officer in the Doylestown Township Police Department. Since joining the force, she faithfully devoted her life to protecting the health, safety and well-being of the constituents in the Central Bucks community. No matter the call, Officer Kreuter carried out her many responsibilities with a sense of skill and professionalism that was critical to the department's success over several decades. The integrity she displayed for her job, and sense of duty is unmatched.

Officer Kreuter is a trusted friend to many on the Police Department, and many in our community. I along with the residents of the 8th Congressional District wish her the best of luck in her retirement, and appreciate her many years of service and unwavering commitment to duty.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees

to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 5, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 10

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine global challenges and the United States national security strategy.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine regulatory relief for community banks and credit unions.

SD-538

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security
To hold hearings to examine keeping goods moving.

SR-253

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine tax reform, focusing on lessons Congress can learn from the Tax Reform Act of 1986.

SD-215

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the reemergence of vaccine-preventable diseases, focusing on exploring the public health successes and challenges.

SD-106

FEBRUARY 11

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the situation in Afghanistan.

SH-216

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Environmental Protection Agen-

cy's (EPA) proposed carbon dioxide emissions rules from new, modified, and existing power plants.

SD-406

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the National Labor Relations Board's (NLRB) new election rule, focusing on employers and employees.

SD-430

10 a.m.

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine Social Security disability trust fund insolvency.

SD-608

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the Internet.

SR-253

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) 2015 list of high risk government programs.

SD-342

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine ending modern day slavery, focusing on the role of United States leadership.

SD-419

FEBRUARY 12

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Energy.

SD-366

FEBRUARY 24

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of the Interior.

SD-366

FEBRUARY 26

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Forest Service.

SD-366

SENATE—Thursday, February 5, 2015

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who transforms common days into transfiguring and redemptive moments, may we honor Your Name.

Make our lawmakers great enough for these momentous times as they seek to live worthy of Your great Name. May Your precepts keep them from life's pitfalls, guiding them through the darkness to a safe haven. Cleanse the fountains of their hearts from all that defiles so that they may be fit vessels to be used for Your glory.

Lord, because of Your unfailing love, we are determined to walk on the path You choose. Let Your peace be within us as Your Spirit inspires us to glorify You in our thoughts, words, and actions.

We pray in Your wonderful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROUNDS). The majority leader is recognized.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to H.R. 240.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 5, H.R. 240, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 596

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 596) to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, and for other purposes.

Mr. McCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday Democrats voted once again to protect politicians by blocking Homeland Security funding. I do not understand why they would want to block the Senate from even debating a bill to fund Homeland Security. It really does not make sense. You would think our Democratic friends would at least want to give the Senate an opportunity to make improvements to the bill, if they want to make such improvements. Why would our friends want to stand tall for the ability of politicians to do things President Obama himself has described as “unwise and unfair”? Why would our friends go to the mat to protect the political class from the consequences of “overreach” that President Obama himself has referred to as “ignoring the law”?

Well, here is the good news. There is a way forward. There is a way to end this Democratic filibuster. All it requires is a little common sense and a little Democratic courage. Remember, several Democrats previously indicated unease with the idea of overreaching in ways President Obama has seemed to imply would “violate the law.” So now is the time to back up those words. Now is the time for our friends on the other side of good conscience to vote with us to break this party’s filibuster of Homeland Security funding and help us protect American democracy.

I ask unanimous consent that the motion to proceed to H.R. 240 be agreed to and that it be in order for the managers or their designees to offer amendments in alternating fashion, with the majority manager or his designee being recognized to offer the first amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, there is bipartisan objection to the request by the majority leader. It is worth our spending a minute or two hearing what Republican Senators have had to say in the last few hours.

JOHN MCCAIN, the senior Senator from Arizona: Is that the definition of insanity, voting on the same bill over and over again?

JIM INHOFE: I think three is enough. There is a division within the conference on this.

JEFF FLAKE of Arizona: We can go through the motions, sure, but I don’t think we are fooling anybody.

Another Republican Senator: I wish we could take no for an answer and figure out the next step.

Well, what has happened in the last 30 hours? We knew 30 hours ago about ISIS. We have watched their brutality, killing thousands and thousands of innocent people, going back, I guess, in memory to the days we thought would never exist again: Tamerlane killing thousands and thousands of people those many centuries ago, Genghis Khan killing thousands and thousands of innocent people. ISIS has been doing this, but they have also added some things that we have watched not because we wanted to but because they forced us to: beheadings. Somebody kneels down in front of them, and they cut off their head with a knife. They film that and send it around the world for us to watch.

But what happened 30 hours ago? The brutality we thought had reached its pinnacle got worse. What ISIS did approximately 30 hours ago is put a Jordanian pilot in a cage—a cage—dump flammable liquid over that cage, and then film that man being burned alive for 22 minutes. We have been forced to watch that. Yes, ISIS is awful. The worst. Uncivilized. But that is what we are dealing with. We are dealing with that. Now Republicans forced an entirely unnecessary debate.

All the papers—not only the Nevada papers, but pick up the New York Times, pick up the Washington Post, and you will see a picture of a young woman from Nevada. Her name is Blanca Gamez. A young woman now, she came to the United States as a baby—a baby. Because of the direction taken by the President of the United States, this young woman and hundreds of thousands of others who dreamed of being able to lead a different life are now leading a different life. Blanca has gotten two college degrees. She is going to law school next year. She works. She pays taxes. Why in the world are Republicans afraid of Blanca Gamez? Why?

It has been said by MARTIN HEINRICH and by CLAIRE MCCASKILL that it appears Republicans in the Senate are more afraid of the DREAMers than they are of ISIS. Well, I know the

chairman of the Subcommittee on Homeland Security, as it relates to appropriations, came to the floor yesterday and talked about regular order. I say to my friend that regular order in the Senate has a number of different connotations. One of them is clear, so clear, and that is why JOHN MCCAIN spoke out, JEFF FLAKE, JIM INHOFE, and others spoke out, because in the Senate we need to fund our different subcommittees on appropriations. We have done that, except Homeland Security.

We have these terrorist acts all over the world taking place right now. We saw it in Canada. We saw it in Australia, all over the European Union, in Paris. All over. We have had so many frightening things happen. We in the United States of America are in a position where we are not going to fund Homeland Security because of Blanca Gamez.

We would love to debate immigration. We have done it here on the Senate floor before. It was a wonderful bipartisan debate. We are willing to do it again.

I am going to offer a consent request. I am going to object to my friend's consent request. That is on the record. I am going to make my own consent request. I am going to make a consent request that seems to me to be pretty good.

I ask unanimous consent that following the enactment of the text of S. 272, which is the Homeland Security Appropriations Act for this year, 2015, at a time to be determined by Senator MCCONNELL, after consultation with me, but no later than Monday, March 16, the Senate proceed to the consideration of the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act, as passed by the Senate by a vote of 68 to 32 on June 27, 2013, the text of which is at the desk. That is my consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is an objection to the request of the majority leader.

Is there an objection to the request of the Democratic leader?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, just a correction to my good friend the majority leader. There is no Republican opposition to the consent request that the Democratic leader objected to. It is clear on our side. It would allow us to have a fair amendment process. If there are differences with the House, regular order has a remedy. It is called going to conference. None of this is possible while the Democrats continue filibustering even getting on the bill. So therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, let me again state words I did not make up. JOHN MCCAIN—he is actually para-

phrasing what Albert Einstein said: The definition of insanity is someone who keeps doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.

That is what JOHN MCCAIN said. Is that the definition of insanity—voting on the same bill over and over again and expecting a different result?

JIM INHOFE: I think three is enough.

JEFF FLAKE: We can go through the motions, sure, but I don't think we are fooling anybody.

Another Republican said: I wish we could take no for an answer.

There is bipartisan support to move forward on a freestanding bill that sends Homeland Security funding directly to the President. We want to do that. That is what should be done. That is regular order.

If the Presiding Officer and the rest of the Republicans want to come and debate immigration, we are willing to do that. That is what my consent request calls for.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, as my good friend the Democratic leader reminded me for 8 years, the majority leader always gets the last word. So let me say again that the consent request that I offered, to which the Democratic leader objected, was unanimously approved on our side. What it would do would be to set up an order for amendments, rotating from side to side, which is exactly the open amendment process the Democratic leader seems to feel somehow we are preventing. That is exactly what I offered. I am not going to propound it again, but I will just lay out what it said: to offer amendments in an alternating fashion, with the majority manager or his designee being recognized to offer the first amendment. We would go back and forth and back and forth. So that is about as open as I can imagine. And there were no objections to it on the Republican side. Regardless of how Members who are being quoted by the Democratic leader may have observed the overall process for going forward, there is no objection over here to having amendments on both sides, alternating from one side to another.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader.

Mr. REID. The American people are crying out that we defend our homeland. They are doing it around the rest of the world, why shouldn't we? That is what this is all about.

If they want to debate immigration, go ahead and debate immigration but not on the back of Homeland Security, leaving it totally naked and not giving us the ability to do what needs to be done to protect our homeland.

Mr. MCCONNELL. There is a bipartisan desire to fund the Department of Homeland Security, and I am sure we will resolve this sometime in the next few weeks.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

Under the previous order, the time until 11:30 a.m. will be equally divided in the usual form.

The assistant Democratic leader.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the Calendar of Business has been put on the desk of Senators. The Calendar of Business makes reference on page 12 to S. 272.

That is a bill that has been introduced by Senator SHAHEEN of New Hampshire, who is on the floor and is the ranking member of the Appropriations subcommittee responsible for the Department of Homeland Security, as well as Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI of Maryland, who is the ranking Democrat on the Appropriations Committee.

On page 128 is the answer to our dilemma. This solves our problem.

S. 272 is a bill that is going to fund the Department of Homeland Security for the remainder of this year. This Department that we count on every minute of every day to protect America will receive all the funds they need and they will receive them almost immediately because there is no debate between the House and the Senate about how much to send the Department. The debate comes down to all the other extraneous matters which the House Republicans added to this bill.

So if we are looking for a solution to the problem, I thank the Senator from New Hampshire and the Senator from Maryland. We have page 12, S. 272.

What the Senate heard just a few moments ago from our Democratic leader is something none of us will ever get out of our minds. Imagine—imagine—this Jordanian pilot captured by ISIS, put in a cage, covered with flammable fluids, liquids. They started a fire and burned him to death.

The King of Jordan was visiting the Capitol when that horrible news came out and rushed back to be with his countrymen. He has now vowed that Jordan, which has played a judicial role in trying to find peace in the Middle East, is now dedicated to stopping ISIS even more.

So if ISIS thought they were going to break the resolve of the King of Jordan and the Jordanian people, exactly the opposite occurred. If ISIS is resolute in their barbarity, we need to be resolute in protecting our country. To think that we are caught up in this political debate over immigration, the President's actions, and not funding the Department of Homeland Security is disgraceful.

The Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security came to our lunch just 1 or 2 days ago and he said: Trying to operate this Department, the Department of Homeland Security, with

this temporary funding is like trying to drive a car with a gas tank that only holds 5 gallons and you don't know where the next gas station is going to be.

That is what he is up against. So the Department of Homeland Security is unable to fund critical, necessary investments.

So what is the issue? What is the political issue that is so important to the Republicans that they would stop the funding for the Department of Homeland Security? Well, I will say what the lead issue is. The lead issue is DREAMers.

Fourteen years ago I introduced the DREAM Act that said if you were brought to America as a child—a toddler, an infant, a small child by your family—and they didn't file the papers so you could be legal in America, and you knew grew up in this country and had no serious problems in your background, graduated from high school and wanted to be part of America, we would give you a chance. You would get a chance at the dream. Oh, you have to go on to school beyond high school or enlist in our military, and we will put you on the path to legal status. We couldn't pass that despite 14 years of efforts. It would pass in the Senate, not in the House, and so forth.

Finally, President Obama stepped up 2½ years ago and said: OK. There are about 2 million young people in America—just like this—brought to the country when they were kids, and now they want a chance to work here, to live here, and to even go to school here without fear of deportation.

He created something called DACA. The DACA Program allowed them to register, pay their fees, and be protected from deportation—600,000 signed up, 35,000 in the State of Illinois.

They signed up so they could get protection from deportation. The House Republicans and the Republicans in the Senate have insisted we deport these young people. I wish to give the story of one of these young people very quickly because I know there are other Senators seeking recognition.

This is Everardo Arias. He was brought to the United States from Mexico in 1997 at the age of 7. He grew up in Costa Mesa, CA. He was an outstanding student in school. He dreamed of being a doctor. It was not until he applied to college that he realized his immigration status made that next to impossible. He was accepted at the University of California, Riverside, but because he was undocumented he didn't qualify for a penny of Federal assistance to get through school.

When he was a sophomore, he met with a counselor to ask him: How am I going to get to medical school? The counselor told him: You can't go to medical school. You are undocumented in the United States of America.

He didn't give up. He did not give up. In 2012 he graduated from the Univer-

sity of California, Riverside, with a chemistry major and research honors. Then a miracle occurred. President Obama issued an Executive order called DACA and Everardo Arias was given a chance to sign up for protection with this Presidential order and he did.

After he received this DACA protection, Everardo worked for 1 year as a mentor for at-risk kids in his own hometown of Costa Mesa. The following year, through AmeriCorps, Everardo worked as a health educator with seven local clinics, volunteering and working through AmeriCorps with some of the poorest people in his community.

During his year as a health educator, he decided now, with the protection of DACA, to apply to go to medical school. Everardo Arias is in his first year at Loyola University in Chicago, Stritch School of Medicine. He is one of seven protected by DACA who had a chance to go to school, but there is a catch. Loyola University said: You can go to medical school here, but for every year you are in medical school, you have to promise to give 1 year of your professional life working with the poorest people in my home State of Illinois, in small towns and rural areas as well as big cities, and he agreed to it.

He has a giving, caring heart. He agreed to it, to finish medical school, and to give the years of service necessary to the poorest people in my State.

Why do the Republicans want to deport Everardo Arias. Why do they want to take this outstanding individual who has struggled and succeeded in life, who knows no other country but America, and deport him to Mexico?

Will we be a better nation if this young man is not a doctor? Will we be a better country if he is not given a chance to give back?

This is what he wrote to me in a letter about this DACA Program which the Republicans want to abolish. Everardo wrote:

DACA changed my life. It opened the door to the future ahead of me. If it weren't for DACA I would not be here and I probably would not have pursued medicine. I'm blessed to have the opportunity to do what I love to do and to give back to the country that has given me so much.

We are a nation of immigrants. Immigrants have come to this country and made it what it is. We should never forget that. This is the latest generation of immigrants who want to give back to America and make us a stronger nation. Why the Republicans are opposed to giving them that opportunity, I cannot understand. They clearly have not met these young men and women. If they did, their feelings would change.

So let's debate. Let's have the debate on DACA but not at the expense of the appropriations for this Department.

Page 12 of the Senate Calendar, S. 272, offered by Senator SHAHEEN and Senator MIKULSKI is our answer, a clean bill to fund America to protect against terrorism and, as the Democratic leader suggested, then start the debate on immigration. That is the right thing to do for our country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RUBIO). The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, in light of the eloquent remarks from the assistant Democratic leader who is my friend, I hope he will listen carefully to the proposal I am about to outline.

In just over 3 weeks the law that funds the Department of Homeland Security will expire, jeopardizing the Department's ability to carry out its critical mission. Legislation to provide funding to the Department throughout the remainder of this fiscal year has passed the House and is awaiting action in the Senate, but progress has stalled. The Democrats have blocked it from even being considered because it is not a clean bill.

On my side of the aisle House Republicans have insisted that provisions remain in the bill directing the administration to spend no funds implementing a series of Presidential orders issued over the past few years.

The Senate has held two votes this week to try to begin debate on this bill, both of which have failed on near-party lines. Thus, we have reached an impasse.

In an attempt to find a path forward, yesterday I filed an amendment in the nature of a substitute that would accomplish three goals. First, it would ensure that the Department of Homeland Security is fully funded to perform its vital mission to protect our people. Second, it would allow the Senate to go on record in strong opposition to the President's extraordinarily broad immigration Executive order issued last November. Third, it would protect the DREAMers whom Senator DURBIN just talked about.

I wish to go back to the November Executive order. This particular Executive order represents a misuse of the President's authority that threatens to undermine the separation of powers doctrine in our Constitution. As the President himself has said more than 20 times, he does not have the authority to expand the law in this manner. He made the exact point in remarks of July 2011 when he said:

I swore an oath to uphold the laws on the books. . . . Now, I know some people want me to bypass Congress and change the laws on my own. . . . But that's not how our system works. That's not how our democracy functions. That's not how our Constitution is written.

The President was exactly right when he stated that reality. The substitute I proposed would block the sweeping 2014 Executive order, but it

does not overturn the more limited Executive orders from past years.

Specifically, my amendment would not undo the 2012 deferred action program that allowed DREAMers, young people brought to the United States by their parents years ago, to receive legal status as long as they meet certain requirements.

The House bill includes a controversial amendment, which I do not support, that would invalidate this 2012 program retroactively.

My substitute accomplishes my third goal of protecting these children who have grown up here, who speak English, have clean criminal records, and often know no other country. They did not make the choice to come to America. That decision was made by their parent or parents.

My substitute amendment, therefore, is straightforward. First, the amendment mirrors the underlying bill with respect to the funding levels provided to the Department of Homeland Security so it can carry out its functions. Ironically, there is no dispute over those funding levels. Second, it strikes the House provision restricting the expenditure of funds to implement the DREAMers Program that I described and that Senator DURBIN just commented on.

And third, it retains the House prohibition on expenditures to fund the President's unauthorized action on immigration announced in November of last year.

Now, let me make clear that Congress should consider comprehensive immigration reform. The fact that there are now an estimated 11 million illegal immigrants in the United States is irrefutable evidence that our immigration and border security systems are badly broken. That is why I supported the bipartisan immigration reform bill that passed the Senate in 2013.

While I was disappointed that immigration reform legislation of some sort did not become law, I reject the notion that its failure can serve as the justification for the action taken by the President last November. He cannot do by Executive fiat what Congress refused to pass, regardless of the wisdom of Congress's decision. Such unilateral action is contrary to how our constitutional system is supposed to work, and it risks undermining the separation of powers doctrine, which is central to our constitutional framework.

Our Constitution vests the power to make law in the legislative branch—with Congress—not with the President. To the President it assigns the obligation to take care that the laws are faithfully executed. That was the rule used by the Supreme Court in 1952 in the famous *Youngstown Sheet & Tube* case that overturned President Truman's Executive Order nationalizing the steel industry to prevent a strike during the Korean War.

As the Court explained, the President's power to faithfully execute the laws does not make him a lawmaker. The Court said:

(T)he Constitution limits his functions in the lawmaking process to the recommending of laws that he thinks wise and the vetoing of laws he thinks bad.

In other words, the President is not free to pick and choose among laws, enforcing the ones that he likes and ignoring the ones that he doesn't.

The President is fully aware of this fact. He has often made the point that he could go no further than to protect the DREAMers. Here is what he said:

Congress has said "here is the law" when it comes to those who are undocumented. . . . What we can do is to carve out the DREAM Act, saying young people who have basically grown up here are Americans that we should welcome. . . . But if we start broadening that, then essentially I would be ignoring the law in a way that I think would be very difficult to defend legally. So that's not an option.

Those are the President's own words. The action taken by the President in November is a direct contradiction to his own statements. By acting unilaterally, ironically, the President is making it less likely that Congress will act to pass comprehensive reforms. He is undermining the efforts of those of us who favor immigration reform by diverting energy and attention from that goal.

I urge my colleagues to give consideration to the proposed compromise that I filed as a substitute yesterday. It will ensure that the men and women on the front lines of the Department of Homeland Security can do their vitally important jobs, it will overturn the President's misuse of his Executive authority last November, and it will protect the legal status of children brought to this country by their parents years ago.

Mr. President, I believe I have put forth a reasonable, constructive compromise that could get us out of this impasse that is such a disservice to so many. I hope my colleagues will join together and support the substitute I have proposed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first I want to compliment once again my colleague, the senior Senator from Maine. She is always looking for a compromise. She is always looking to try to work in a constructive way. While I don't appreciate the results she has asked for—which I will talk about in a second—I always appreciate her efforts.

We have a very simple position here. It is a position that is logical. It is a position that even Republicans, as Leader REID has mentioned, have talked about: Pass a clean homeland security bill and then go to the floor and debate amendments. Debate the amendment of Senator COLLINS, debate

the amendment of Senator CRUZ, and debate any immigration amendments you want.

To repeat, we will not be held hostage. The American people don't want a gun to their head, particularly when it involves security, to debate immigration. We know that. We know what the junior Senator from Texas is doing. Everyone on the other side knows it; and, of course, we are not going to go along.

So my dear friend from Maine comes up with a new solution. It is still hostage taking because it is attached to funding the Homeland Security bill. We are now only debating the size of the ransom. We will not do it. We are not going to be pressured, be bullied into doing this or that immigration reform as a price to funding Homeland Security.

Homeland Security is too vital to America. It is too vital to our country. It is not the way legislating should work. My dear colleagues on the other side should have learned this lesson a year and a half ago when they threatened to shut down the government unless they got their way. No matter how deeply they feel about the substance, they lose.

The junior Senator from Texas is leading his Republican colleagues at best into a cul-de-sac and at worst over a cliff, and I don't think they want to follow. But the House is in a box and says: Show us the Senate won't pass the bill. Well, we won't. We are not into hostage taking, we are not into being bullied, and we are not into legislating with a gun to our heads. And my guess is the White House would not support anything like this either.

So I say to my dear Republican friends, go back to the drawing board. You control the Senate. You are in charge. It is your responsibility to find a way out of this. Our way is simple, as Leader REID outlined. First, pass a clean Homeland Security bill to protect our security, and then place on the floor immigration. We welcome the debate. We welcome the debate on the amendment of Senator CRUZ. We welcome debate on the amendment of Senator COLLINS—but not as a hostage taker. Again, all Senator COLLINS is doing is saying what the size of the ransom is, but we are still doing hostage taking.

I yield the floor.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I wish to encourage the Senate to start debate on H.R. 240, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2015. I am puzzled by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who insist on blocking debate on this bill, particularly after many of those individuals criticized the majority for spending 3 weeks on the Keystone XL bill.

This body has a constitutional obligation to consider appropriations bills. As a member of the Senate Homeland

Security and Government Affairs Committee, I understand the important role that the Department of Homeland Security plays in protecting our Nation at its borders and in our communities. As the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, I also understand the substantial amount of resources it takes to fund Customs and Border Protection, FEMA, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Coast Guard, and TSA.

It was not all that long ago, President Obama criticized Congressional Republicans by saying it was time to, "get out of the habit of governing by crisis." Well, here we are just shy of a month before funding for the Department of Homeland Security expires. This bill has already passed the House with substantial support and now the Senate has the time to debate it, amend it, and pass it. However, nobody will get a chance to offer amendments unless our colleagues join us in allowing debate to begin on this bill.

I also believe President Obama acted unconstitutionally with his Executive actions on immigration last year. A number of my colleagues feel the same way and this bill is an opportunity for the Senate to debate and fix this administration's failure to enforce the law.

I do not buy the arguments that the Senate should consider its own bill to fund the Department. I would like to take this time to remind my colleagues that the Constitution requires revenue and spending bills to originate in the House. Why not call up the House bill and then offer our own amendments?

It is important that the Senate continue the regular order that rejuvenated this body with the start of the 114th Congress. I have long spoken on the merits of considering bills, amending bills, and passing bills under regular order. It is a process that our constituents demand and it is one that makes the Senate a healthier institution.

I for one do not wish to play chicken with the Department that keeps our skies safe, protects our borders and enforces a substantial body of Federal law. This is why I encourage my colleagues to move forward with debate on this bill at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, how much time remains on this side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 10½ minutes.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask to be notified after 7 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair will so notify the Senator.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, the key part of the President's unlawful executive amnesty, the overwhelming majority of it that actually is involved in the House bill, deals with adults and providing them work permits. It is not

about the young people, as has been discussed. It involves 4 million-plus people.

We have talked at length about the President's executive action and how he is unlawfully, unconstitutionally making law—Senator COLLINS laid that out—when only Congress can make law. We have shown that the law he has created is law that he proposed and that Congress specifically rejected. We have shown that the President himself has at least 20 times said he does not have the power to take this action, rightly declaring he is not an emperor—those are his words—and that Congress makes laws.

So now Senator MCCONNELL has moved to bring up the House-passed legislation that fully funds all lawful aspects of the Department of Homeland Security and all its lawful actions to protect the homeland. But the legislation has a provision in it that simply bars the President from spending any money to execute his unlawful Executive directions. It stops the Department of Homeland Security from outlaw activities. This is a matter of great constitutional importance.

It is, in addition, a matter of great importance to working Americans. What the President is doing is giving lawful status to over 4 million adults—persons who entered our country against the law or came in and overstayed their time. These persons, under current law, cannot be hired by any business or employer, but the President wants them to work anyway.

Congress considered and rejected this plan. The result is that the President's plan will be a further kick in the teeth to down and struggling American workers. The facts are clear. I am not seeing them disputed.

Median family income since the recession of 2007 to 2009 has declined by almost \$5,000. This is a catastrophic event. This is unbelievable damage to America's middle-class workers. Such a decline is unprecedented since the Great Depression 80 years ago. While some say jobs and wages are recovering and we can stop worrying about that, the facts show otherwise. In addition to depressed incomes, America has the lowest percentage of persons in their working years who are actually working in nearly 40 years.

So consider this. There were huge worker layoffs during the 2009 recession, and many more had their hours reduced as a result of ObamaCare and other events.

There are other factors that combine to reveal that job and wage conditions are much worse than the unemployment rates would indicate.

Despite these problems—a slow economy, job-killing automation, and low wages—the President is carrying out his unlawful plan rejected by Congress that we give 5 million persons unlawfully here legal status—a Social Secu-

rity number, a photo ID, and the right to take any job that may be available in America. The President's policies are in perfect accord with those of his nominee for Attorney General, Loretta Lynch. When I asked her this simple question last week, I got a surprising answer.

Question:

Who has more right to a job in this country? A lawful immigrant who's here, or citizen—or a person who entered the country unlawfully?

Answer:

I believe that the right and the obligation to work is one that's shared by everyone in this country regardless of how they came here. And certainly, if someone is here, regardless of status, I would prefer that they would be participating in the workplace than not participating in the workplace.

That is the testimony last week by the chief law enforcement officer in the land who is supposed to be enforcing the laws of the country. That is her view of who should be working: Regardless of how you came here, you are entitled to work and apparently take any job in America.

This was a moment of inadvertent candor. She tried to modify that later, I acknowledge, but essentially all she said was: Well, I don't think anybody should work except those the President says should work—and that would include the 5 million who are here unlawfully.

Let's be clear. These 5 million persons, with their new government-issued documents, will be able to apply for and take any of the few jobs now available in the economy. Sadly, the problem in America is not too few workers, but too few jobs. Last year, the administration celebrated the creation of over 2 million jobs. The President's actions would create from unlawful immigration over twice that many workers in one single amnesty act. Millions more Americans who lost jobs during the recession still haven't found work today.

Is this the right thing to do? I don't think so, and neither do the American people—by a wide margin. But, arrogantly, the President refuses to listen to the legitimate concerns of hurting Americans. He dismisses them, and supported by his palace guards in the Senate who blocked legislation—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama has used 7 minutes.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank the Chair, and will wrap up and save some time for Senator HOEVEN.

He pushes on to advance the interests of immigration activists, political consultants lusting after votes for the next election, and big business interests lusting after low wage labor. Businesses, who have become so transnational that their interests and those of the American workers are often incompatible.

President Obama supports these business interests. But I ask: Who represents the interests of dutiful American citizens and the lawful immigrant who followed the rules? Who is speaking out for their interests? They are the ones who are forgotten.

I am going to make a prediction: Their voices are going to be heard. No longer, in secret, will the legitimate wishes of good and decent Americans be denied. The people's voice will be heard. The day of the special-interest operatives, tone-deaf politicians, and those who would allow this—their voices will end. This time, the American people will get what they rightly demand—the protection of the laws already on the books. They will force the political class to end the massive lawlessness, and to produce an immigration system that serves the national interests, not the special interests. They will force these self-interested forces out of the seats of power and demand policies that protect their wages, their jobs, their national security, and their government budgets.

I thank the Chair. I appreciate the opportunity to speak on this, and I hope, when we vote soon, our colleagues will recognize it is time to consider the opportunities Senator COLLINS has said will be provided here—to have amendments and to go forth and do the right thing for the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I thank my colleagues, both from Alabama and from Maine, for coming down to the floor and saying: Let's do the work of the Senate. Let's advance to this Department of Homeland Security bill, let's offer amendments, let's have the debate. Let's fund the Department.

But let's make sure we do it in the right way, and where we protect the checks and balances built into this government by our forefathers.

For the last few days I have come to the floor to call attention to the importance of voting "yes" on the motion to proceed to the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill for 2015—H.R. 240.

I wish that weren't the case. I had hoped that by now we would be much closer to passing a funding bill for the Department; that the Senate would have proceeded to the DHS appropriations bill, and that we could begin the process of debate, of considering amendments, and of developing consensus—of getting our work done.

Yet here we are on the third day, just trying to proceed to funding the Department of Homeland Security—a Department that everyone agrees is vital.

That is what this bill does: It funds the Department fully and completely, and it does it in the right way by enforcing the law.

I don't have to tell my colleagues that the defining attributes of the Senate come from the Senators' ability to debate and to amend legislation. Debate and amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for another 3 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I certainly want to give my colleague time to finish his remarks. I just want to make sure there would be an opportunity for me to also speak before the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator will be advised there is 9 minutes 54 seconds remaining.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. That is fine. Thank you.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I would be willing to defer in the order too if my colleague from New Hampshire prefers to go, and I can follow; either way.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HOEVEN. I wish to thank the Senator from the great State of New Hampshire.

Debate and amendment. Debate and amendment. That is what we are talking about.

We are talking about going to this bill that funds the Department of Homeland Security and having the debate and offering amendments. That is what I am asking for. That is what we need in order to address the issues such as the one that my good friend and colleague from New Hampshire raised on Tuesday. She is the ranking member on the Appropriations Subcommittee of the Department of Homeland Security. She made a request in terms of a parliamentary point of order—budget point of order—and she made the inquiry. It is a valid point of order, one that can and should be debated, and we should have the opportunity to vote on it. But we can't vote on it unless we proceed to the bill. So let's proceed to the bill. Let's have that debate. Bring up the point of order, and let's have a vote. And let's have amendments. That is how we do our work in the Senate.

But despite the best efforts of Republicans to provide that opportunity for debate by proceeding to this bill to move forward, we are met with no's from the other side of the aisle. In essence, we are being filibustered—a tactic that was decried as obstructionist in the previous Congress.

In case my friends on the other side of the aisle think this is going unnoticed, they should check the headlines. Look no further than an article from CNN on Tuesday: "Democrats block funding for DHS to protect Obama immigration orders."

Or the Washington Times: "Democrats filibuster DHS spending bill, block GOP on amnesty debate."

These headlines speak to a central flaw in the arguments of those who say we need a DHS bill, but then vote against this Senate proceeding to that very bill.

On the one hand, they are saying we need a bill, but they won't go to the funding bill that is here before us. That is exactly what we are voting and trying to do, is to proceed to the DHS funding bill—with an amendment process, with open debate.

Yesterday, one of my colleagues from the other side of the aisle stated that if the Senate takes up H.R. 240, the homeland security appropriations bill, it would simply be a delaying tactic.

Well, how can moving to the bill that directly addresses the DHS funding issue constitute delay? In order to pass the DHS funding bill, we have to be allowed to proceed to the bill. The truth, of course, is the delay is in fact coming from those who won't allow us to take up the bill, debate it, and consider amendments and pass it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's 3 minutes have expired.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I yield to my colleague.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, in a few minutes the Senate is going to have yet another procedural vote on the Department of Homeland Security funding bill.

The bill before us, the House-passed version of the funding bill, can't become law. We have already heard the President reaffirm yesterday that he is going to veto the House-passed bill before us. That means we could face a shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security.

At this point, given the threats from terrorism, given the work that is done by the Department of Homeland Security, that is not a tenable position to begin.

Let me say, I very much appreciate the efforts of my colleague from my neighboring State of Maine, the senior Senator from Maine, Senator COLLINS. But the amendment she has put forward still raises some serious concerns about the impact on our security, because it includes language that would defund all of the Department of Homeland Security directives from November 20, 2014. So it would defund those provisions that direct law enforcement officers to place top priority on national security threats, convicted felons, gang members, illegal entrants apprehended at the border. It also defunds the southern border and approaches campaign which establishes three joint task forces to reduce the terrorism risk to the Nation. And, as she has indicated, it defunds the deferred action programs.

While she suggested that it would allow the 2012 Executive action that refers to the DREAMers to stay in place,

it raises serious questions about whether USCIS could effectively process renewals of those DREAMers—such as the young man whom Senator DURBIN spoke so eloquently about—so who knows what the court action could be on that.

While I appreciate the effort, I don't think it adequately addresses the concerns we have in the Democratic caucus, that we need to pass a clean bill. We need to have a separate debate about immigration.

The Presiding Officer worked very hard 2 years ago to help us get a comprehensive immigration reform bill that most of us didn't agree with everything in it, but most of us supported. We are happy to have that debate, but what we need now is a clean bill—one that allows the funding for the Department of Homeland Security to go forward.

I noticed on the news this morning, one of the issues that is at risk in this debate over whether we are going to support funding for the Department and the security of this Nation versus an ideological objection to the President—this morning one of the lead items on the news had to do with the cyber security breach at Anthem, the second largest health insurance company in the country. I happen to have my health insurance through Anthem, so I paid particular attention to this.

But one of the things that is in this clean bill that was agreed to last December by Senator MIKULSKI and Congressman ROGERS was funding for the cyber security center within the Department of Homeland Security to address the next-generation threat to our cyber networks.

That is critical funding we need if we are going to intercept the kinds of breaches we saw with Anthem and heard about this morning. Yet that funding is at risk because there is not agreement to get a clean bill done to fund the Department of Homeland Security.

What we have heard from almost everybody who has spoken is: We agree we should fund the Department of Homeland Security; we agree to the dollar levels that are in that bill; we agree to making sure the safety and security of this country should be paramount. We have heard a number of our colleagues from the other side of the aisle and from the House who have said ultimately this is about getting a clean bill. So we should do that now. We should provide certainty, we should get this done, and we should stop having an ideological debate about whether we are going to support immigration and the President, or whether we are going to support the safety and security of this Nation.

I think we should all be able to agree that the safety and security of America comes first. We should get this clean bill done, and then we can go on and debate immigration reform.

Mr. President, how much time do I have left?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 1 minute 20 seconds.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I think it is worth noting some of the great work done by the Department of Homeland Security, which interfaces with the American people more than any other department.

Every day Customs and Border Protection processes nearly 1 million travelers entering the United States and seizes 19,000 pounds of illegal drugs between the ports of entry. The Transportation Security Administration—the people who work at our airports—screen 2 million passengers and their baggage. The Coast Guard patrols 3.4 million square miles of U.S. waterways and conducts 54 search and rescue missions that save lives annually.

Every day FEMA provides \$3.7 million in Federal disaster grants to individuals and households and provides \$22 million to States and local communities for disaster response and recovery. Every day the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center trains 8,000 officers from across the country. This work is just too important for our security to be delayed or disrupted because of ideological reasons concerning immigration reform.

We need to pass a clean, full-year Homeland Security funding bill. We need to pass it without controversial riders, and I hope we will do that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is expired.

CLOTURE MOTION

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 240, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015.

Mitch McConnell, Thad Cochran, Tom Cotton, Roger F. Wicker, David Vitter, Jerry Moran, Daniel Coats, Michael B. Enzi, Mike Crapo, Bill Cassidy, John Boozman, John Thune, Tim Scott, John Hoeven, James Lankford, Jeff Sessions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 240, an act making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 53 Leg.]

YEAS—52

Alexander	Ernst	Perdue
Ayotte	Fischer	Portman
Barrasso	Flake	Risch
Blunt	Gardner	Roberts
Boozman	Graham	Rounds
Burr	Grassley	Rubio
Capito	Hatch	Sasse
Cassidy	Hoeven	Scott
Coats	Inhofe	Sessions
Cochran	Isakson	Shelby
Collins	Johnson	Sullivan
Corker	Kirk	Thune
Cornyn	Lankford	Tillis
Cotton	Lee	Toomey
Crapo	McCain	Vitter
Cruz	Moran	Wicker
Daines	Murkowski	
Enzi	Paul	

NAYS—47

Baldwin	Heitkamp	Nelson
Bennet	Heller	Peters
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Kaine	Reid
Brown	King	Sanders
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schatz
Cardin	Leahy	Schumer
Carper	Manchin	Shaheen
Casey	Markey	Stabenow
Coons	McCaskill	Tester
Donnelly	McConnell	Udall
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Feinstein	Merkley	Warren
Franken	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murphy	Wyden
Heinrich	Murray	

NOT VOTING—1

Boxer

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 47.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I enter a motion to reconsider the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, Republicans in the Senate are ready to begin debating the bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security. But in order to do that, we must first vote to proceed to the bill, and Democrats have blocked us from doing that. They have done that yet again today.

This is simply a procedural vote, but it is a very important procedural vote. It is a threshold vote, without which other votes cannot and will not occur.

Voting yes on a motion to proceed to this bill doesn't mean you support the bill. Regardless of which way you vote, it doesn't signal which way you lean on the underlying merits of this bill. It doesn't mean you support this or that amendment. It simply means you are willing to engage in an open, transparent, and public debate about the future of Homeland Security and about

making sure the Department charged with this task is funded.

Why would our friends across the aisle be afraid of that? Some may argue that they voted against proceeding to this bill somehow because they support funding Homeland Security, but that is not true. This bill funds Homeland Security. Why then are my friends on the other side of the aisle voting against proceeding to this bill?

Well, the difference that might be found is that many of them also support the President's incredibly unpopular and controversial action to grant amnesty to 5 million illegals who are here illegally inside the United States, individuals who will now be eligible for work permits and in some cases entitlement benefits. But the American people do not support that. They certainly do not support the action the President took and the way he did it. They oppose the way President Obama went around Congress. They oppose the fact that President Obama ignored the law. They oppose the damage this policy will do to American workers who are already struggling to find work and remain employed. They oppose the crisis this kind of action is creating and will continue to create at the border, as we saw last summer with so many children making that dangerous trip to get into the country and to do it the wrong way, to get here illegally.

Now that the American people have put Republicans in charge, in the majority, in the Senate, we are trying to keep our promise to them, to do what they sent us here to do, and to hold a vote on President Obama's action in this regard. But the Democrats seem to be reluctant to take that vote. They seem to not want to take it. Perhaps they are afraid of it; I do not know. Maybe that is why they refuse to even begin consideration of this bill, plain and simple. This effort to try to hide from the American people is embarrassing, and it is wrong.

My friends across the aisle may say that they have an alternative bill and that we should pass their alternative bill immediately. There are at least two problems with this approach.

First, that may have been the way the Senate functioned under the previous majority—writing bills in back rooms, waiting until the last minute to make bills public, then filling the tree, which means making it impossible for anyone to amend the bill once it gets to the floor, having virtually no debate, and then ramming the bill through without any input from the American people, without adequate debate here, without virtually any debate here. That is not the way the Senate is supposed to work. That is not the way the Senate does work and will continue to work under the Republican majority.

Second, traditionally appropriations bills do not start in the Senate. In fact,

the House has not considered a Senate-originated appropriations bill for over 100 years—since at least 1901, the period for which these kinds of records are readily available. Unfortunately for them, the bill the Democrats want is not supported in the House. Why? Well, precisely because it is not supported by the American people.

It is time to stop delaying democracy. It is time to stop hiding from the American people. It is time to fund the Department of Homeland Security. It is time to have this debate and this discussion about the President's actions—actions that many people regard as unlawful, actions that people have different feelings about as far as the underlying policies but that the overwhelming majority of the American people look at and say: Look, even if I like the underlying policy here, I do not like the way the President did it.

If the President does not like the law, he needs to change the law. The way to change the law under our constitutional system is to go to Congress and to get something passed through Congress. Ours is not a government of one; ours is a government in which we have two entities within Congress that are charged with making the law. The President cannot act alone.

So my plea to my colleagues, particularly those across the aisle, is let's have a vote and then let's have a debate. When we have a vote and we have a debate, we will get to the point where we can fund the Department of Homeland Security and keep our Nation safe. We should not be keeping these important programs—we should not be holding them back simply out of a desire to protect the President and his actions that are outside the law.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Hawaii.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Ms. HIRONO. Madam President, I rise to urge my colleagues to pass a clean appropriations bill that funds the Department of Homeland Security, DHS. Listening to my friend the Senator from Utah, it is very clear that the Republicans' position on this bill that is before us today is totally dependent on their assertion that the President's recent actions on immigration are illegal. Democrats do not concur with that. In fact, I thought illegality of any actions should be determined by courts of law. What the President did recently is no different

from like Presidential actions taken by Presidents Reagan and Bush, I might add. So we must fund DHS and resist the temptation to govern through manufactured crises and political games. Our national security is at stake.

Surely my colleagues remember when DHS was created in direct response to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Just 11 days after 9/11, DHS started to take shape. President George W. Bush named Gov. Tom Ridge to lead an office to oversee and coordinate a comprehensive and national strategy to safeguard our country against terrorism and respond to any future attacks.

DHS's mission is to protect our homeland, as its name makes perfectly clear. DHS is responsible for border security and immigration enforcement. It is tasked with keeping our airports safe through TSA, with emergency management response through FEMA, and protecting our coasts through the Coast Guard.

As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, I know how important the work DHS does is in keeping our Nation safe. Let's take a step back and remember why DHS was created in the first place and what their mission is. Why should we play politics with the Department that exists to protect America?

DHS's funding runs out at the end of this month. The clock is ticking. The nearly 200,000 who work for DHS do not want us spending valuable time scoring political points; they want the certainty that their important work will be funded by Congress. If the Department is not funded by the end of the month, we probably will once again resort to passing a continuing resolution to keep the Department going. A continuing resolution is only a stopgap; it is a waste of time and money.

DHS Secretary Johnson said: Operating in a stop-and-go cycle of continuing resolutions is like trying to drive a car across the country on no more than 5 gallons of gas at a time and without knowing the distance to the next gas station.

Of the nearly 200,000 DHS employees across the country, 2,000 are based in Hawaii. Nobody will get paid if DHS gets shut down. Some will be furloughed, while many others will be forced, as essential employees, to continue showing up for work without pay. We count on the Coast Guard, the TSA, Customs, and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services—which are all part of the DHS—to be on the job every day.

Some of my Republican colleagues insist that before we fund the critical work of Homeland Security, we must first undo the President's common-sense immigration actions that helped millions of families across the country. The House bill before us holds DHS

funding hostage to make political points against the President. This is a manufactured standoff.

The House bill attacks undocumented persons who have American-born children. Those are U.S. citizen children. The President's actions enabled these families to step out of the shadows, pass background checks, pay their taxes, and work in the open without the daily threat of deportation.

The House bill attacks DREAMers, the students who have been helped through the DACA problem for nearly 3 years. Just yesterday President Obama met with six DREAMers in the Oval Office who represent some of the very best our country has to offer. The House bill says to these DREAMers: You, too, like the parents of U.S.-born children, should live under the daily threat of deportation. There are 600,000 DREAMers in the DACA Program throughout the country.

The House bill reverses longstanding enforcement priorities and directives that DHS has implemented. These directives tell immigration enforcement officers to focus on the bad guys rather than on the moms, the dads, and other contributing members of our communities. The House bill, in removing all administrative discretion on who should be deported, in effect says that all 12 million undocumented persons in our country can be deported. This is totally unrealistic and unnecessary.

I stand with my colleagues who are ready and willing to come together to pass bipartisan immigration reform. We did that last Congress with 68 bipartisan votes. As Republican Senator HELLER said recently, the House bill that is before us "only includes language that complicates the process of finding a solution when it comes to immigration reform."

This House bill emphasizes a policy of mass deportation that would harm our economy, costing trillions in economic loss, not to mention the devastating impact on the people. Economists have told us that comprehensive immigration reform will provide an enormous boost to our economy, helping all workers across the country.

The House bill does not reform our system. The House bill does not help millions of students and families come out of the shadows. It does not provide more resources to our hard-working Border Patrol agents. It does not help those who have been stuck in our visa backlog for decades.

Rather than debating comprehensive immigration reform, the House has once again ducked the issue, this time holding DHS hostage so that a small minority of their colleagues can have their way. This is like "Groundhog Day"—a repeat scenario that brings us continuing resolutions to keep government going in a stop-and-go fashion and indeed a scenario that brought us the government shutdown in 2013. We

do not have to keep repeating failed scenarios. Let's bring a clean DHS funding bill to the floor. Let's get that done and then move on to a debate on comprehensive immigration reform that is long overdue.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

IMMIGRANT INVESTOR PROGRAM

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, 2 days ago ABC ran a story on its "Nightline" program that brought to light issues with the immigrant investor program. This program is also known as EB-5. This immigration program was created by Congress in 1990. It was created to stimulate the U.S. economy through job creation and capital investment by foreign investors. In 1992 Congress further added the regional center component that allows participants to pool dollars for foreign investors.

The story on "Nightline" detailed how visas and green cards are for sale for more than \$500,000. It also highlighted how spies and terrorists can use the program to enter the country, risking our national security and undermining the real intent of the program.

For the past few years, whistleblowers have come to me about the fraud, abuse, and national security problems with that program.

A December 2013 audit of the EB-5 program conducted by the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General substantiated several of these concerns. The OIG report concluded that the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is unable to demonstrate the benefits of foreign investment into the U.S. economy—in other words, questioning whether the original intent of the program was being accomplished.

Specifically, the Office of the Inspector General found that the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services could not validate whether the EB-5 program actually created 49,000 jobs.

In addition, a 2013 internal memorandum from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations noted that "the nature of indirect job growth is problematic."

Allow me, please, to discuss the fraud issues related to the program.

The EB-5 program requires a foreign national to invest \$1 million in order to obtain a visa. However, there is a lower threshold for projects that are in high unemployment or rural areas.

Investors have exploited this loophole. As noted in press reports, some metropolitan areas are drawing their own maps or gerrymandering in order to meet this low threshold. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services ignores the problem and doesn't question it.

Additionally, there are serious concerns that the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services does not adequately verify the documentation and the source of funds from investors.

Adjudicators do not thoroughly check how an investor has received \$500,000 and whether the funds are even legitimate.

Finally, I wish to elaborate what is probably more important, the national security concerns. Remember, the Federal Government's No. 1 responsibility is the national security of this country.

In regard to those national security concerns, in 2012, several agencies came together to draft a forensic assessment of financial flows relating to the EB-5 Regional Center Program, and the Department of Homeland Security Office of Intelligence and Analysis produced an intelligence report of the program's vulnerabilities. The same ICE memorandum that highlighted its issues with regional centers also identified seven main areas of vulnerability within the EB-5 program. I won't go into all seven of them, but I wish to use four as an example.

No. 1, export-sensitive technology and economic espionage;

No. 2, use by foreign government agents and espionage;

No. 3, use by terrorists; and,

No. 4, illicit financing and money laundering.

Let me make it very clear that this ICE memorandum identified seven areas of vulnerability and I just gave us four dealing with sensitive technology and economic espionage, use by foreign government agents and espionage, use by terrorists, and illicit financing and money laundering.

I know I repeated that, but the EB-5 program is being undercut by people who don't mind hurting the national security of our country.

So to be repetitive on an important point, there are numerous national security concerns. That is why, in my September 2014 "Dear Colleague" letter, I invited my colleagues—all of them—to review classified information on this program.

Today I renew this invitation and urge Senators and those staff who have clearances to view these documents to do so in the Office of Senate Security.

I will be sending another copy of that "Dear Colleague" letter, which contains the document numbers to access the material at the Office of Senate Security.

Summing up, we have whistleblower allegations supported by documentation. We have findings by the Office of the Inspector General. We have classified information about attempts to exploit the vulnerabilities of the program and, finally, we have numerous press reports that highlight the fraud and the abuse.

So I think it is time Congress asks whether this program is worth the national security risks posed and whether

this program can be fixed to accomplish the goals that were set out in 1990.

The EB-5 program will require reauthorization by the end of fiscal year 2015 and I want my colleagues to know that I will be demanding reform before this is done, or in conjunction with any renewal.

I do believe that if changes are made, the EB-5 program could benefit the U.S. economy as originally intended by Congress in 1990.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I come today to support legislation to fully fund the Department of Homeland Security, without any extraneous or politically controversial policy riders.

Let me be clear. The immigration provisions that are approved in the House are bill killers. We have now had three votes on cloture. The votes have held steady. It is clear the votes are not here to pass a bill out of the Senate with the riders attached to it.

I just want to speak of the importance of the Department of Homeland Security because I was in the Senate when the Department was developed. It is a combination of 22 agencies. It has over 200,000 employees. Over the years it has become more and more vital to efforts to prevent terrorist attacks on this country.

So how, you might ask? TSA, a member of that Department, funded by that Department, screens airline passengers within the United States, while Customs and Border Protection screens passenger data of travelers entering the country. So it is irresponsible to endanger these missions in the wake of terrorist attacks in Paris, Ottawa, Sydney, and elsewhere.

Secondly, DHS plays a critical role in responding to natural disasters. Resources and personnel from FEMA, which is funded through DHS, are vital in times of flooding, earthquakes, hurricanes, wildfires, and other disasters.

Third, DHS also guards against cyber warfare through network security, electronic crimes investigations, and State and local cybercrime training. So it is hard to fathom delaying \$861 million for cyber security the same day we learn about the massive cyber attack against Anthem Blue Cross.

A number of key national security programs unrelated to immigration

would also be in danger. These include the Federal Air Marshal Service, the Secret Service, the Transportation Security Administration, and DHS intelligence activities.

Ironically, blocking this bill over immigration riders would also delay increased funding for border patrols and more manpower to combat human smuggling and trafficking, which so many Members of this Congress want.

Holding up this bill will also delay and reduce more than \$2.5 billion in grants for State and local law enforcement agencies and emergency responders. This puts our country in jeopardy. These grants help with transit and port security, firefighter assistance, and State homeland security.

Make no mistake, the Department of Homeland Security is very active in securing our borders and deporting dangerous individuals.

It has a wonderful Secretary. I think every Member of this body appreciates Jeh Johnson and knows the role he played with managing the sudden influx of children into our country on the southern border. We know of his effectiveness in bringing together what has been a very ungainly combination of 22 agencies into a smoothly run entity. This must be very disappointing to him.

In fiscal year 2014, Immigration and Customs Enforcement deported 315,943 people, focusing its efforts on removing criminals, and the agency was successful in that goal. Fifty-six percent of those removed last year had been convicted of crimes. That is 177,960 fewer criminals on our streets. I would say good job.

Rather than holding DHS and our national security hostage, I urge my colleagues to support the bill introduced by Senators MIKULSKI and SHAHEEN to provide full funding for DHS at levels necessary to do its job. We can't keep funding this agency with short-term continuing resolutions. It doesn't make sense. We certainly can't keep threatening to shut it down.

Yesterday in our joint meeting I had an opportunity to say what this body was like when I came to it. I think I can say with certainty this wouldn't have happened 20 years ago. We would have recognized the importance of the agency and told people to come back with another bill at another time.

The importance of getting some regular order in our appropriations bills is important because we are not getting regular appropriations bills passed. This is so important that I think everyone thought it wouldn't be disturbed. Instead, these policy riders are stuck on it, and the people who put them on know they are offensive to just about half of this body and it is going to present a major challenge to get a bill passed.

Let me talk a little bit about the issue; that is, the five riders that Re-

publicans want to add to the bill. The goal of the riders, I think—and I think everyone would agree with this—is to unravel temporary actions President Obama has taken in an effort to make sense of what is, we all admit, a broken immigration system.

These actions, I would note, wouldn't have been necessary if the House had voted on the bipartisan Senate immigration reform bill that passed in 2013 by a vote of 68 to 32—68 to 32. It was the product of months of intense negotiations and hearings.

I remember it well. There were eight bipartisan Members who negotiated a bill to put before the Judiciary Committee. I am a member of the Judiciary Committee. The Judiciary Committee debated the bill for weeks. A total of some 300 amendments were filed, with 212 amendments in committee that were considered, half of which were Republican, and 136 amendments were adopted.

The House refused to even debate this bill, which in my view—and I have been here a long time—has been the result of one of the most profound bipartisan efforts on a big bill in the last 20 years. The House even refused to recognize it by a debate, let alone a vote, let alone passing something, some part of the bill, so there could be a conference and differences reconciled.

Now the House comes to us by putting what they know are going to be highly problematic riders on what is an absolutely crucial appropriations bill. This is the kind of thing I tried to say yesterday. It just doesn't make sense to me.

It would not have happened some time ago. People would not have tried to force their will through on an important bill when they knew they didn't have the votes. If three votes on cloture don't show that, I don't know what really will.

The Presiding Officer knows this as well as I do. But the root of the problem is that we have more than 11 million unauthorized immigrants in our country, and Congress only provides enough funding to deport around 400,000 people a year. Clearly we can't deport everybody. So choices have to be made.

So do we focus limited enforcement resources on real threats, such as criminals and terrorists? I say yes. Or, do we spread our resources thin, treating murderers the same way we treat school children who have been in the country for years? I say no. I stand firmly with the President in the belief that we must focus on actual threats and we must prioritize.

One of the temporary programs that the other side seeks to eliminate is known as the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. I hate acronyms, but the acronym is DACA.

This program allows law-abiding individuals brought to the United States as children to remain here without fear

of being deported from the only home they have ever known. They can stay for 3-year increments as long as they don't break the law. Republicans want to scrap this program and place these individuals into the same category as dangerous criminals.

In California, my State, that would mean 450,000 young people who were brought to the United States as children, who have lived nowhere else, would immediately be eligible for deportation.

The House riders also seek to remove protections for parents of United States citizens and permanent residents, including 1.1 million parents in California. That would have the effect of breaking up many families that have lived here for years.

I personally know of it happening in San Diego, when, in the middle of the night, immigration officers came into a home, picked up the parents and deported them, leaving the three children in the home. The parents had been here, they were working, they had paid their taxes, and now the children were left. Fortunately, as I understand that incident, relatives were able to come because the children were born here, and they helped to take care of them. But we can imagine the cases where there was no one to help. So this clearly has an effect of breaking up many families that may have lived here for years.

So let me be clear. The political—I really believe they are political—riders weighing down this appropriations bill are not designed to fix our immigration system but rather to weaken it—and with the goal of embarrassing the President. We should not do that on any bill—let alone a bill as important as this one.

It is not just Senate Democrats who think these riders are bad policy. Sixty-two percent of Americans in last month's January poll supported "an Executive Order that would allow some illegal immigrants already in the United States to stay here temporarily and apply for a work permit if certain requirements are met." So 62 percent of the people said yes to that question. That is precisely what the President has done.

A combined 69 percent of Americans supported an immigration policy that lets unauthorized immigrants remain in the United States, 54 percent supported a path to citizenship, and another 15 percent supported legal status but no path to citizenship.

So to the extent we get our guidance from the American people rather than from this or that political party, we can see what the view of Americans are on this. I think it is because we have had this issue debated in this forum several times. This isn't the first big immigration bill. It is the second in about the last 6 or 8 years that has come out of committee, come to the

floor with an agreement, and fallen apart. And it had been negotiated in a bipartisan manner.

So then to have this bill that we passed go to the House, and the House would have a legitimate chance to make any amendments they might want to make—rather than put this rider on this bill—and pass over to us a bill which could then go to conference and we could work on around a table—the way business should be done—to come together to present what we can agree upon in both Houses to pass into law.

That is the process here, and that is one of the really big changes in this body over recent history. We always tried to follow regular order. Appropriations bills in regular order now are really nonexistent. It is really too bad because it weakens the committee structure, it weakens the institution as a whole, it makes us beholden to a few, and it doesn't do the people's business. And, as I said yesterday, it is one of the reasons why our favorability rating as a Congress is something near 16 percent favorable.

So I say, please, let's take these policy riders off. Let's learn from the experience. Let's pass this bill. It is a new Congress. I recognize the bill has to be reintroduced, but the immigration bill certainly can be reintroduced. We have had a lot of experience in working it, and we can do it once again. Then perhaps the House would be willing to look at it, to debate it, and maybe even then to give us the respect of voting on it.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. MANCHIN pertaining to the introduction of S. 405 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate for up to 20 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Budget Committee, this afternoon I would like to discuss an issue of very serious concern to tens of millions of Americans; that is, the Republican effort to cut Social Security disability insurance benefits

and perhaps benefits for Social Security retirees. In my view and in the view of seniors throughout the State of Vermont, this is a very bad idea.

As you know, on the very first day of the new Congress, House Republicans passed a rule—later adopted by the full House—which would prevent the common practice of rebalancing funds from the Social Security retirement program to the Social Security disability program. This rule adopted by the Republicans in the House would lay the groundwork for a 19-percent cut in disability benefits next year.

President Obama, in his budget, did exactly what has been done on 11 separate occasions in the past, always—and here is the point I want to make time and time again and why this is a manufactured crisis—this has been done 11 times in the past, always in a noncontroversial way, and that is to rebalance the funds between the two programs. This is not a big deal. The Republicans are manufacturing a crisis where none exists. Time and time again, Democratic Presidents and Republican Presidents, with absolutely no controversy, have done what President Obama has proposed. This was done in 1968 under President Johnson; in 1970 under President Nixon; in 1978, 1979, and 1980 under President Carter; in 1982, 1983, 1984, and 1987 under President Ronald Reagan; in 1994, 1996, 1997, 2000, and beyond under President Bill Clinton. In other words, this is a totally noncontroversial process that has been done time and time again under Republican Presidents and Democratic Presidents.

What the President is suggesting today is that we reallocate funds from the senior retirement fund to the disability fund. But interestingly enough, of the 11 times the funds were reallocated, it turns out that on five occasions it was money going from the disability fund to temporarily help out the retirement fund.

There are some people who sadly are trying to divide the senior population from the disability population. What they are saying in a way that is untruthful and unfair is that by reallocating money into the disability fund, we are taking funding away from seniors and the retirement fund. This is absolutely untrue because, as I have indicated, on 11 occasions we have seen this reallocation, and sometimes, in fact, it comes from the disability fund to help the retirement fund.

I am very happy to tell you that virtually every senior organization in America—organizations representing tens of millions of senior citizens—has made it clear that we must reallocate funds, we must prevent a cut in disability benefits, and we must do what has been done time and time again.

Let me briefly read a letter from the AARP. The AARP is the largest senior organization in America. This letter

was written on July 22, 2014. It went to chairman RON WYDEN and ranking member ORRIN HATCH of the Finance Committee. What the letter says:

As the largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization representing the interests of Americans age 50 and older and their families, we write in advance of the Committee's legislative hearing on the Social Security Disability Insurance program (SSDI) to express our support for Social Security, including its disability insurance functions, and our support of rebalancing payroll taxes to ensure the earned benefits of 11 million disabled Americans and their families are not reduced or put at risk.

Once again, AARP: We "support the rebalancing of payroll taxes to ensure the earned benefits of 11 million disabled Americans and their families are not reduced or put at risk."

I ask unanimous consent that letter be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

AARP,

Washington, DC, July 22, 2014.

Hon. RON WYDEN,
Chairman, Committee on Finance,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.
Hon. ORRIN HATCH,
Ranking Member, Committee on Finance,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN WYDEN AND SENATOR HATCH: As the largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization representing the interests of Americans age 50 and older and their families, we write in advance of the Committee's legislative hearing on the Social Security Disability Insurance program (SSDI) to express our support for Social Security, including its disability insurance functions, and our support of rebalancing payroll taxes to ensure the earned benefits of 11 million disabled Americans and their families are not reduced or put at risk. AARP recognizes the need to address the overall funding shortfall facing Social Security in the next 20 years, and we stand ready to engage with Congress, our members and other Americans on ways to strengthen Social Security, now and in the future. But, we also recognize that without rebalancing in the near-term, SSDI beneficiaries are at risk of significant benefit cuts. This is of particular concern to older workers who are most likely to rely heavily on SSDI in part because of higher rates of chronic illness and disability at older ages.

Income support in the event of a disability is a critical lifeline for millions of American families. Congress wisely added disability insurance protection to the Social Security system in 1956, under President Eisenhower, and has since then modified and improved the program many times. It should be noted that since the creation of the SSDI program in 1956, the United States workforce has more than doubled from 62 million to over 140 million workers, and women today represent half of the workforce and almost half of the SSDI beneficiaries.

By law, Social Security maintains two trust funds—the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and the Disability Insurance (DI) trust funds—and they operate independently. Congress has faced shortfalls in both the OASI and DI trust funds many times in the past. Most recently, in 1994, Congress rebalanced the allocation of Social Security payroll taxes between the OASI trust and the DI trust, estimating the rebalancing

would adequately fund SSDI benefits for approximately 20 years. Congress forecast accurately, as the Social Security Trustees estimate that the payroll taxes allocated to the Disability Insurance trust fund will cease being adequate to pay full benefits in late 2016. After that, according to the Social Security Actuaries as of 2013, "[p]rojected revenue from non-interest income specified for the DI program is sufficient to support 80 percent of program cost after trust fund depletion in 2016, increasing slightly to 81 percent of program cost in 2087." CBO maintains similar projections.

Many experts, including the Congressional Budget Office, have estimated the shortfall is largely due to: (1) general population growth, (2) women's entrance into the labor force and consequent eligibility for SSDI benefits, (3) the increase in the Social Security normal retirement age from 65 to 67, and (4) the aging of the Baby Boom population leading to a higher percentage of older people vulnerable to illness and disability. All of these factors also contribute to other challenges in the SSDI program.

One of the most significant challenges facing the SSDI program is the unacceptably long delay in processing applications of disabled workers who have earned the right to their benefits. A large and growing backlog both at the initial claims and appeals level has caused lengthy delays and imposes severe hardships on disabled workers and their families. AARP has long urged an increase in funding to meet the increase in the administrative workload. We also recognize that the SSDI program needs greater program integrity efforts both over initial eligibility approvals and continuing disability reviews. AARP has been among the staunchest advocates requesting program integrity funding; we regret that in recent years this funding has been cut, reducing the Social Security Administration's ability to maximize integrity efforts.

The Committee's upcoming hearing is a welcome opportunity to examine the resources that will be needed to ensure the continuing success of the SSDI program. We believe SSDI program reforms and improvements can be identified that would both improve the fairness of the process for disabled claimants and encourage greater work participation for those who have limited ability to work. We support and will continue to urge that Congress provide adequate resources for the Social Security Administration to conduct timely initial and continuing disability reviews. But, the highest priority in the near term is to ensure that SSDI beneficiaries—most of whom are older Americans—are not at risk of a 20% benefit cut in the very near future. To prevent any imminent reductions in SSDI benefits, we urge you to rebalance the allocation of Social Security payroll taxes between the OASI trust and the DI trust, as Congress has done with success in the past.

Because of SSDI, millions of disabled Americans are able to live their lives with dignity and support their families. We look forward to continuing to work with you and the other members of the Committee to ensure that all aspects of the Social Security program remain strong for future generations of American workers and their families. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me, or have your staff contact Michele Varnhagen on our Government Affairs staff.

Sincerely,

JOYCE ROGERS,
Senior Vice President,
Government Affairs.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, it is not just the AARP that holds that view. It is dozens and dozens of senior organizations all across the country. Let me read very briefly from a letter written by the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations, dated October 9, 2014. It is a letter that goes to the President—to President Obama. What it says is:

We urge you to include a non-controversial, commonsense legislative adjustment in your 2016 budget for Congress to temporarily reallocate the Social Security payroll contributions to address the anticipated shortfall in the Social Security Disability Insurance (DI) program. We also strongly urge you to reject proposals to cut Social Security benefits, coverage, or eligibility.

That is the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations.

I ask unanimous consent that letter also be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF AGING ORGANIZATIONS, DEBRA B. WHITMAN,
CHAIR,

Washington, DC, October 9, 2014.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT OBAMA: On behalf of the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO), a coalition of national not-for-profit organizations representing over 60 million older Americans, we write to ask you to maintain a vital part of our Social Security system in your 2016 budget proposal. We urge you to include a non-controversial, commonsense legislative adjustment in your 2016 budget for Congress to temporarily reallocate the Social Security payroll contributions to address the anticipated shortfall in the Social Security Disability Insurance (DI) program. We also strongly urge you to reject proposals to cut Social Security benefits, coverage, or eligibility.

Social Security's Disability Insurance (DI) fund reserves are projected to be depleted in 2016, at which point revenue coming into the system would cover only 80% of benefits. This projected shortfall is not a surprise and Congress should rebalance income across the Social Security Trust Funds, as it has done 11 times before, to cover the anticipated shortfall. As Treasury Secretary Lew stated in July, "it's going to be important for there to be legislation that does reallocate the payroll tax to support the disability fund."

A modest, temporary reallocation of part of Social Security's 6.2% tax rate from the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) fund to the DI fund would put both funds on an equal footing. Congress has rebalanced tax rates between the two funds 11 times since the DI trust fund was established in 1956. About half the time Congress increased the share going to the OASI fund and about half the time it increased the share for DI. Congress has never failed to act when it was necessary to rebalance the two funds, and it has consistently done so in a bipartisan basis. It is time to do so again, and can be done today without compromising the ability of the overall Social Security program to pay full benefits from both trust funds for the next 20 years.

When Congress acted to rebalance the two funds in 1994, it was clear it would have to take action again in 2016. The 1995 Social Security Trustees Report showed that the DI

reserves would be depleted in 2016, primarily due to a rapid, but temporary, increase in the number of DI beneficiaries as baby boomers passed through their 50s and early 60s when the risk of disability is greatest.

The typical DI beneficiary is in his or her late 50s. Seventy percent are over age 50, and 30 percent are 60 or older. These beneficiaries depend on Social Security for a significant portion of their income. Without benefits, fifty-five percent of families with a disabled worker would have incomes below the poverty line. And, since the benefits they receive continue as they grow older, the DI program helps to ensure that these disabled workers don't fall into poverty as they age.

Another factor that has led to an increase in the number of DI beneficiaries is a rise in the full retirement age. When DI beneficiaries reach Social Security's full retirement age, they begin receiving Social Security retirement benefits rather than DI. The increase in the full retirement age to 66 has delayed that conversion. In December 2013, more than 450,000 people between ages 65 and 66—over 5 percent of DI beneficiaries—collected DI benefits. Under the rules in place until 2003, they would have received retirement benefits instead. This is just one example of how closely the retirement and disability components of Social Security are interwoven.

The growth in DI is leveling off as boomers enter retirement and shift to OASI benefits. The need to rebalance by 2016 reflects a long-anticipated, but temporary, shift in the funding requirements of the two funds. Rebalancing would not affect the long-term financing of the combined Social Security system, which would remain solvent through 2033. Rebalancing can and should be done without cutting benefits or narrowing coverage or eligibility. This sensible action will give policymakers ample time to strengthen Social Security for the long-term.

For these reasons, the undersigned organizations urge you to include a legislative proposal to rebalance the Social Security funds in your 2016 budget, and to exclude proposals to cut Social Security benefits, coverage or eligibility.

Sincerely,

AFL-CIO, AFSCME Retirees, Alliance for Retired Americans, American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), American Foundation for the Blind (AFB), American Postal Workers Union Retirees (APWU), American Society on Aging (ASA), Asociacion Nacional Pro Personas Mayores (ANPPM)/National Association for Hispanic Elderly, Association For Gerontology and Human Development in Historically Black Colleges and Universities (AGHDHBCU), Association of Jewish Aging Services (AJAS), B'nai B'rith International, Caring Across Generations, Center for Elder Care and Advanced Illness—Altarum Institute.

Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc., Easter Seals, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA), National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), National Adult Day Services Association (NADSA), National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA), National Alliance for Caregiving, National Association for Home Care & Hospice, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), National Association of Retired and Senior Volunteer Program Directors, Inc. (NARSVPD), National Association of Social Workers (NASW), National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Inc. (NCBA), National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medi-

care (NCPSSM), National Senior Citizens Law Center (NSCLC), National Senior Corps Association (NSCA), OWL—The Voice for Women 40+, Pension Rights Center, Volunteers of America, Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW).

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, let me be very clear and say that this fight—what some of us see on our TV screens and what we hear from some politicians—the simple truth is that Social Security is not going broke. Social Security is not going broke. Today, Social Security has a \$2.8 trillion surplus in its trust fund and can pay out all benefits to all beneficiaries, the elderly and the disabled, for the next 18 years.

This is not the opinion of Senator BERNIE SANDERS. This is the opinion of the Social Security Administration in their latest report. There is and can be no debate about these simple facts. If we rebalance funds, as President Obama and many others have proposed, all benefits—retiree benefits for our older Americans and disabled benefits for disabled Americans—would be paid out for the next 18 years—the next 18 years.

So people who come before you and say Social Security is going broke, they are simply not telling the truth. While this 18-year period makes it clear that we do not have an imminent crisis with regard to Social Security, I do agree with those who want to make sure Social Security is solvent for a lot longer than 18 years, for our kids and for our grandchildren.

Frankly, when we talk about the long-term solvency of Social Security, and that of course includes disability insurance as well, there are two basic approaches we can take for those who want to extend Social Security for many decades. One approach is what many of my Republican colleagues are talking about. What they are saying, in essence, is that in order to save Social Security we have to cut Social Security. Some are talking about a so-called chained CPI, which would mean a cut in cost-of-living adjustments, some are talking about raising the retirement age, at which point seniors will be able to get benefits, and some in fact are talking about privatizing Social Security and giving that program over to Wall Street. That is one approach. That is one way we could deal with Social Security and the future of the program. Needless to say that is an approach I very strongly disagree with.

The other approach, an approach which is widely supported in poll after poll by the American people, extends Social Security and protects Social Security in a very different way than many Republicans are proposing; that is, it addresses the issue that right now, as most Americans know, there is a cap on the income that is subject to the Social Security payroll tax.

That cap is now at \$118,500; in other words, one individual makes \$11.8 million a year but only pays 6.2 percent on

the first \$118,500 he earns. The second individual makes \$118,500 and pays Social Security taxes on all of that income. That, I think most Americans believe, is patently unfair.

I have introduced legislation in the past, and I am now working with other Senators who have introduced similar types of legislation which eliminates the cap on income subject to the Social Security payroll tax. My own view is we should apply the Social Security payroll tax to income above \$250,000.

If we do that, if we go down that very simple and fair route of asking very wealthy individuals—the top 1 percent, the top 1½ percent—to contribute more into the Social Security trust fund, the fact is we could extend Social Security for decades, disability benefits for decades, and in fact we would have enough money to expand benefits, not cut them.

On March 19, 2013, in response to a letter I wrote to the Social Security Chief Actuary, he wrote back and he told us that taking the approach my legislation lays out, raising the cap on taxable income starting at \$250,000, would extend the life of Social Security past the year 2060.

So for anybody to come on this floor and say in order to save Social Security we have to cut benefits, at a time when millions of senior citizens in this country are struggling to pay for the medicine they need, to keep warm in the winter, to buy the food they need, people out there living on \$13,000, \$14,000 a year—and there are some who say we have to cut Social Security—let me go on record and say I strongly disagree.

The far better and far fairer approach is to lift the cap on taxable income and start at \$250,000. So if we are serious about extending the life of Social Security, if we are serious about not cutting disability benefits, there is a path forward. Yes, it does ask the people on top to contribute a little bit more. I know that with all of the lobbyists and all the campaign contributions coming in here that sometimes becomes tough, but it is the right thing to do.

Let's stand with the millions of seniors who are struggling to stay alive economically in these tough times, rather than wealthy campaign contributors.

I ask unanimous consent that the March 19, 2013, letter from the Chief Actuary of the Social Security Administration be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ACTUARY,
Baltimore, MD, March 19, 2013.

Hon. BERNIE SANDERS,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR SANDERS: I am writing in response to your request for estimates of the financial effects on Social Security of a proposal to apply the Social Security payroll

tax to earned income over \$250,000 beginning in 2014. The estimates and analysis provided in this letter reflect the intent, as discussed with Warren Gunnels of your staff, of S. 500, "Keeping Our Social Security Promises Act," which you introduced on March 7, 2013.

We estimate that enactment of this Bill would extend full solvency of the OASDI program for an additional 28 years, with the projected depletion of combined OASI and DI Trust Fund reserves moving from 2033 under current law to 2061 under the proposal. All estimates are based on the intermediate assumptions of the 2012 Trustees Report. The estimates presented reflect the combined efforts of many in our office, but particularly Alice Wade, Christopher Chaplain, Dan Nickerson, Kyle Burkhalter, Katie Sutton, and William Piet. A detailed description of our understanding of the intent of the Bill is included immediately below.

The intent of this proposal is identical to the Bill you introduced in September 2011 and H.R. 797 introduced in the House of Representatives in February 2011 by Mr. DeFazio. Our earlier estimates for both of these Bills, reflecting baseline assumptions from the 2011 and 2010 Trustees Reports, respectively, are available at <http://www.ssa.gov/OACT/solvency/index.html>.

S. 500 would modify the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to subject a worker's OASDI covered earnings in excess of \$250,000 in any calendar year after 2013 to the combined OASDI payroll tax rate of 12.4 percent. This is the same tax rate that is applied, under current law, to OASDI covered earnings up to the contribution and benefit base (\$113,700 for 2013). Under present law, the contribution and benefit base is scheduled to increase in the future based on increases in the average wage in the U.S. economy. However, the threshold of \$250,000 would be constant after 2014 until the contribution and benefit base exceeds this level (in the year 2033), at which point the threshold would be set equal to the contribution and benefit base for that and all subsequent years. Earnings subject to tax above the threshold would not be included in earnings credited for the purpose of OASDI benefit computation.

All wages and self-employment earnings in OASDI covered employment during a given year would be reflected in the determination of earnings above the threshold. For workers with more than one employer (including self employment) for a given year, total tax liability for the year would be computed as if all earnings had been received from a single employer for the year, but in no case would any employee or employer pay less tax than they would under current law. To the extent adjustments of payroll tax liability are needed for a given year, employees would make such adjustments on their income tax filing forms. SSA would contact employers regarding any additional tax liability due to multiple jobs for employees during the year.

The balance of this letter provides summary and detailed estimates of the effects of enactment of the proposal.

SUMMARY OF EFFECTS ON ACTUARIAL STATUS

Figure 1 illustrates the expected change in the combined Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and Disability Insurance (DI) Trust Fund reserves, expressed as a percent of annual program cost, assuming enactment of this Bill. Assuming enactment, the OASDI program would be expected to be fully solvent for an additional 28 years, under the intermediate assumptions of the 2012 Trustees Report.

The level of reserves for the theoretical combined OASI and DI Trust Funds would

decline from 340 percent of annual program cost at the beginning of 2012 until these reserves would become depleted in 2061 (28 years later than projected depletion under current law). At the time of reserve depletion in 2061, the program would be able to pay about 91 percent of then scheduled benefits with continuing taxes (under current law, 75 percent of scheduled benefits are projected to be payable in 2033 after depletion). By 2086, 88 percent of benefits scheduled under the proposal would be payable compared to 73 percent of scheduled benefits payable under present law.

Enactment of this Bill would eliminate about 80 percent of the long-range OASDI actuarial deficit of 2.67 percent of taxable payroll under current law, lowering the OASDI actuarial deficit to 0.55 percent of payroll for the long-range period.

Figure 2 illustrates annual projected levels of cost, expenditures, and non-interest income as a percent of the current-law taxable payroll. The projected levels of cost reflect the full cost of scheduled benefits under both present law and the proposal. After trust fund reserve depletion, projected expenditures under current law and under the proposal include only amounts payable from projected tax revenues (non-interest income), which are less than projected cost.

Figure 2 shows that the estimated cost of the OASDI program would be very slightly reduced under this proposal. A slight decrease in benefits is projected to follow from a small decrease in the proportion of employee compensation that would be paid in the form of wages under the current-law contribution and benefit base. This small reduction in wages as a percentage of employee compensation reflects the assumed behavioral response of employees and employers to the additional payroll taxes under the proposal.

It is also useful to consider the projected cost and income for the OASDI program expressed as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The graph illustrates these levels under both present law and this proposal.

DETAILED FINANCIAL RESULTS

Benefit Illustrations

Benefit illustrations are not provided for the proposal because benefit levels would not be materially changed from the scheduled benefit levels under current law.

Trust Fund Operations

Table 1 shows the annual cost and income rates, annual balances, and trust fund ratios (reserves as percent of annual program cost) for OASDI assuming enactment of the proposal. This table also shows the change from present law in these cost rates, income rates, and balances. Included at the bottom of this table are summarized rates for the 75-year (long-range) period.

Table 1 indicates that the OASDI program is projected to be solvent for an additional 28 years assuming enactment of the proposal. The year in which the combined reserves of the OASI and DI Trust Funds are projected to deplete would change from 2033 under current law to 2061 under the proposal. Even after depletion of the trust fund reserves, however, the actuarial status of the program is improved as continuing income would be sufficient to pay a higher percentage of scheduled benefits than under current law. Under current law, 75 percent of benefits are projected to be payable at trust fund reserve depletion in 2033, declining to 73 percent payable by 2086. Under this proposal, 100 percent of the scheduled benefits would be fully pay-

able through 2060, and 91 percent would be payable at trust fund reserve depletion in 2061, declining to 88 percent payable by 2086.

The actuarial deficit for the OASDI program over the 75-year projection period is reduced by 2.12 percent of taxable payroll, from an actuarial deficit of 2.67 percent of payroll under current law to an actuarial deficit estimated at 0.55 percent of taxable payroll under the proposal.

We project annual balances (annual income rate minus annual cost rate) to become positive for years 2014 through 2021 under the proposal and to be negative thereafter. Annual deficits (negative annual balances) after 2028 are projected to be smaller than the deficits projected under current law by more than 2 percentage points through 2086.

Program Transfers and Asset Reserves

Column 4 of Table 1a provides a projection of the level of reserves for the theoretical combined OASI and DI Trust Funds under the proposal, expressed in present value dollars discounted to January 1, 2012. The table indicates that the proposal includes no new specified transfers of general revenue to the trust funds. For purpose of comparison, the OASDI Trust Fund reserves, expressed in present value dollars, are also shown for the current-law Social Security program both without the added general fund transfers (if any) provided under the proposal (column 6) and with the proposal added transfers (column 7). Note that negative values in columns 4, 6, and 7 represent the "unfunded obligation" for the program through the year. The unfunded obligation is the present value of the shortfall of revenue needed to pay full scheduled benefits on a timely basis from the date of trust fund reserve depletion to the end of the indicated year. Gross Domestic Product (GDP), expressed in present value dollars, is shown in column 5 for comparison with other values in the table.

Effect on the Federal Budget

Table 1b shows the projected effect, in present value discounted dollars, on the Federal budget (unified-budget and on-budget) cash flows and balances, assuming enactment of proposal. Table 1b.n provides the estimated nominal dollar effect of enactment of the proposal on the annual budget balances for years 2012 through 2022. All values in these tables represent the amount of the change from the level projected under current law.

The effect of the proposal on unified budget cash flow (column 3) is expected to be positive starting for 2014, reflecting the application of the payroll tax to earnings above the current-law taxable maximum amount.

Column 4 of Table 1b indicates that the projected effect of implementing this Bill is a reduction, starting in 2014, of the Federal debt held by the public, reaching about \$7.2 trillion in present value by 2086. Column 5 provides the projected effect of the proposal on the annual unified budget balances, including both the cash flow effect in column 3 and the additional interest on the accumulated debt indicated in column 4. Columns 6 and 7 indicate that the proposal would have no expected direct effects on the on-budget cash flow, or on the total Federal debt, in the future.

It is important to note that these estimates are based on the intermediate assumptions of the 2012 Trustees Report and thus are not consistent with estimates made by the Office of Budget and Management or the Congressional Budget Office based on their assumptions.

Annual Trust Fund Operations as a
Percentage of GDP

Table 1c provides annual cost, annual expenditures (on a payable basis), and annual tax income for the OASDI program expressed as a percentage of GDP. These values are shown for both present law and assuming enactment of the Bill. Showing the annual trust fund flows as a percent of GDP provides an additional perspective on these trust fund operations in relation to the total value of goods and services produced in the United States. The relationship between income and cost is similar when expressed as a percent of GDP to that when expressed as a percent of taxable payroll (see Table 1).

Effects on Trust Fund Reserves and
Unfunded Obligations

Table 1d provides estimates of the changes due to the proposal in the level of projected trust fund reserves under present law and, for years after trust fund exhaustion, the level of unfunded obligations under present law. All values in the table are expressed in present-value discounted dollars. For the 75-year long-range period as a whole, the present-law unfunded obligation of \$8.6 trillion in present value is reduced to an unfunded obligation of \$1.4 trillion in present value. This change is the combination of the following:

A \$7.1 trillion increase in revenue from applying the payroll tax to covered earnings above the present-law contribution and benefit base (column 2), less

A \$0.1 trillion reduction in cost from the behavioral response to additional payroll tax, causing a small decrease in the share of employee compensation that is received in wages, and thus a small decrease in total benefits (column 3).

We hope these estimates will be helpful. Please let me know if we may provide further assistance.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN C. GOSS,
Chief Actuary.

Mr. SANDERS. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). The Senator from North Carolina.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
S. 338

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise to tell my colleagues that shortly I intend to ask unanimous consent to call up S. 338, but prior to that I would like to say a few things about it. S. 338 was introduced by myself, Senator BENNET, and Senator AYOTTE. What it would do is permanently authorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund. It would also guarantee that a small portion of any appropriated money goes toward maintaining access for those who use our public lands, the American people.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is essential to making public lands public, by securing recreational areas, particularly where opportunities for sportsmen and others to access existing public lands are limited or precluded. As I am sure the Presiding Officer is aware, this program expires on September 30 and we can no longer wait to reauthorize what I believe is dollar for dollar one of the most effective government programs we have.

This is an investment that rivals any Wall Street honey of a deal that I have ever heard of. Every \$1 spent has roughly \$4 rates of return in either matching funds or money contributed back into our economy. This is an economic driver. The bait and the tackle shop, the outdoor apparel equipment store, the guide service, the mom-and-pop lodge, these are all local jobs. They cannot be outsourced. I realize this town does not take care of—it does not care much about budgets or responsible spending, but the simple truth is this program is a trust fund codified by law—by law—every year. No less than \$900 million in royalties are paid by energy companies drilling for oil and gas on the Outer Continental Shelf. They are put into this fund—royalties off of energy exploration, something Congress when they in their infinite wisdom set up this program said they were a good thing.

Every year no less than \$900 million in royalties are paid and go into this fund. The money is intended to, one, protect areas around national parks, rivers, and lakes. I note to my colleagues not “create” national parks, to “protect”; two, to provide buffers for national forests and national wildlife refuges from development; three, to provide matching grants for State and local parks and recreation projects. In fiscal year 2013, the Department of the Interior collected more than \$29 billion from offshore production. How much of that went to LWCF—\$306 million. That is barely one-third of the amount deposited at the Treasury Department for this purpose. Talk about highway robbery.

I can point to numerous years where this has been the case. Over the life of the program more than \$18 billion of land and water conservation funding has been diverted into the general fund to pay for programs other than what they were intended to be there for. This is a covenant with the American people that we have broken time and time and time again. It needs to stop.

My colleagues, this is not a land grab. It is not a land grab program as some have suggested it is. I would suggest to everyone it is a land solution. It is a tool. The LWCF goes toward the purchase of inholdings, those pieces of property that are inside a protected piece that is valuable for the future. The only reason there are inholdings is that they were not available when that tract was put together. It is used to buy property adjacent to existing boundaries and can help solve management problems rather than add to them.

I wish to give my colleagues one example: Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge in the great State of Kentucky. Acquisition of the tract there completed a connection between the refuge lands and the Clarks River. Previously, access to the river required excessive

hiking because there was no approved vehicle access.

These access issues also limited the refuge's ability to provide environmental education and interpretation programs. Now the site provides access to the river for school groups, their transportation, and allows refuge staff to provide hands-on environmental instruction to students.

We went from a situation where you can only walk to this land to an acquisition by a conservation component funded by royalties of oil and gas exploration, and now vehicles can actually ride on it. School children can go there and go through transitional education for the purposes of understanding why this is so valuable to protect.

Most lands acquired with LWCF funds are within the existing boundaries of a Federal park, refuge, forest or other recreational areas. Much of the rest is used for conservation easements and State grants, which do not add to Federal management costs.

Let me state that again. When we allow this process to take place, we actually reduced the burden on Federal agencies from a standpoint of their management responsibilities with Federal dollars.

These partnerships through LWCF easements are a win-win. They keep ranchers and farmers on their land while maintaining wildlife habitat and open spaces. Strategic LWCF purchases can defuse conflicts with private landowners by securing permanent access for sportsmen.

With changing land use and ownership patterns, areas that were once open and usable are now either blocked or cut off. Public lands are often sometimes inherently sequestered from roads and towns by narrow pieces of private-ownership land. LWCF funds bring together sportsmen and willing sellers with the intent of open access for everyone.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is a down payment. It is a down payment on an investment that sustains the American way of life. The best part, I say to my colleagues, is that it is paid for.

I am not here to suggest that I want to tackle the pittance that the fund receives and how much it was promised. I am only here today, along with my colleague from Colorado, to call up the bill to permanently authorize this program so that we don't go through this exercise every time that reauthorization is needed.

In a country that continues to explore for energy—and I hope we continue and become self-sufficient—let's use the portion of the resources that we can to fuel the beach renourishment, to rebuild the dunes, to buy those inholdings to get buffer zones around those treasures we try to protect. As we do that, let's open it up to

American sportsmen to hunt, to fish, to use. That is what LWCF is about.

Let's start acting as if the agreement we made with the American people 50 years ago actually means something. Let's authorize permanently the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. 338; that there be up to 1 hour equally divided in the usual form; that following the use or yielding back of that time, the bill be read a third time, and the Senate vote on passage of the bill with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, the Land and Water Conservation Fund is used for a number of purposes, although the primary purpose involves the acquisition of new Federal land. Funding the acquisition of new Federal land at a time when Federal agencies can barely take care of the land they already have does raise some rather significant questions that need to be addressed.

The Department of Interior faces a combined maintenance backlog of over \$20 billion—\$13 billion in our National Park Service alone. We struggle with ways to fund the Payment in Lieu of Taxes Program, the intent of which was to mitigate the burden of Federal land to local communities where there is an abundance of Federal land that can't be taxed.

Coming from a State that is dominated by Federal land ownership—two-thirds of the land in Utah is controlled by Federal agencies. Any new Federal land ownership must be examined with a healthy degree of skepticism. There are many issues that need to be considered and debated before we reauthorize any program that would potentially expand the Federal Government's land holdings.

I certainly support opening our public lands for recreation, including for purposes related to hunting and fishing, and I believe that the Land and Water Conservation Fund could also be used to mitigate the negative impacts of Federal regulations on private property such as listings under the Endangered Species Act.

But reform isn't likely to happen. In fact, reform may well be impossible if we allow this bill to pass as is without going through the proper procedures. This bill should be subject to debate and amendment, first at the committee level and then on the floor of the Senate.

That is what needs to happen, and on that basis I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. I thank my friend from North Carolina for his efforts, and I wish to echo a lot of the points he already made so well, especially about how we stand here today having this fair, reasonable, unanimous consent request that the Senator from North Carolina has asked for, as we stand here today when essentially what we are talking about is a promise that has been broken by this Congress to the American people for 50 years.

I thank, through the Chair, my colleague from North Carolina for trying to rectify that.

I am disappointed that our unanimous consent request was objected to, but I know this measure has plenty of support. As he mentioned, we led an amendment on the floor last week with the exact same text of the bill that we are discussing today. When the dust settled, that amendment received 59 votes, but I have a hunch that it would comfortably clear the 60-vote threshold were it to be considered again. And it should be considered again.

The measure is simple. As Senator BURR said, it simply reauthorizes the Land and Water Conservation Fund and ensures that a dedicated portion of LWCF funds go to provide new access for our Nation's sports men and women.

As most in this body know, LWCF is one of the country's best conservation programs. It provides \$900 million annually to preserve our public lands and increase access to them. Not only do we need to pass this bill to reauthorize the program, but we need to ensure that we dedicate full and mandatory funding to the initiative, as Congress intended when we created the program in 1964.

Historically, LWCF resources have been used for all types of projects, ranging from building city parks to purchasing small parcels of isolated land from willing sellers and all the way to preserving our Nation's historic battlefields.

In Colorado, we have used LWCF for a wide variety of projects beyond traditional conservation. For example, LWCF was of critical importance to our State following a major natural disaster in 1976. That year an intense rainstorm caused massive flooding around Colorado's Big Thompson River. The flood claimed the lives of 145 Coloradans and caused more than \$35 million in damages.

Once the horrible tragedy passed, the community had to rebuild. Rather than constructing houses back in the flood plain, Larimer County turned to LWCF to acquire the affected land and compensated the families whose homes were destroyed.

Those flood plains are now home to four new county parks—popular destinations for birdwatchers, anglers, and family picnics—instead of vulnerable structures. When another huge flood

hit in the fall of 2013, the rivers ran black and eventually surged over their banks, as we can see from this photo I have in the Chamber.

Luckily, the flood plains, protected by LWCF and the creativity of our local folks, saw much less damage this time. The floodwaters inundated the open, undeveloped spaces instead of destroying homes and businesses, and Larimer County avoided about \$16 million in estimated property damages.

It is incredible to think that an LWCF investment of just over \$1 million in 1976 saved us more than 15 times that amount in 2013.

Beyond the example from Larimer County, communities all across Colorado have used LWCF to preserve sensitive landscapes and to help their local economies. This past summer, we completed a huge LWCF project in the San Juan National Forest near the town of Ophir. I spoke briefly about this project last week, and I will mention it again today because the work of the town of Ophir and the people of Ophir, along with their partners, the Trust for Public Land, were truly remarkable.

If memory serves, it is a project that took 12 years from start to finish. It had to be done in phases. LWCF funds were used to acquire several old mining claims above town, preserving the scenic beauty and ensuring that the area will remain undeveloped forever.

In this picture, if you ignore the center with these people in front of me, we can see how beautiful it is. This is a picture of the newly preserved landscape in Ophir. A group of us gathered to celebrate the accomplishment this past summer.

Most of these mountain communities get huge portions of their revenue and business from recreation and tourism. It is for some of these reasons that the town felt the Land and Water Conservation Fund literally helped secure their economic future.

This is a small, rural community in my home State. It is far away from this floor. LWCF has made a huge difference for Ophir.

These are two stories from Colorado, but I know they have been replicated thousands of times across the country and in all 50 States. Those stories and accomplishments alone make this bill worth supporting.

As I mentioned earlier, Congress wrote and passed LWCF in 1964, and it is beyond time to reauthorize it. Senator BURR has shown great leadership in crafting a bill to do just that.

Conservation policies—from LWCF to farm bill easement programs, from wilderness to national parks—are important to the American people. The American people support this work. Protecting our land and water is part of our everyday lives in Colorado, and I know our State is not the only one.

Conserved lands and wide-open spaces are a huge economic driver across the

country, a huge part of our culture. They are who we are in the West. We should do right by the American people and reauthorize this program as soon as possible. Then we ought to work together to ensure that LWCF gets the full and mandatory funding going forward that was promised 50 years ago by Congress.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING AMBASSADOR ROBERT E. WHITE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, on January 13 of this year, our country lost one of its most courageous diplomats—Ambassador Robert E. White. Ambassador White was 88 years old.

I knew Bob White, who graduated from my alma mater, Saint Michael's College in Vermont, in 1952, just 9 years before I did. But I would have admired him greatly no matter what college he went to because he had the qualities every American diplomat should possess—outstanding intellect, unimpeachable integrity, great courage, and a devotion to the ideals and values of this country.

In the 1980s, during the civil war in El Salvador, the United States—in what most historians now know was a tragic mistake—steadfastly supported the Salvadoran Army despite abundant evidence that some of its elite units were operating as death squads, arbitrarily arresting, torturing, and murdering civilians suspected of supporting the FMLN rebels.

Unlike some other U.S. officials who turned blind eyes to the heinous crimes that were being committed in the name of fighting communism, Ambassador White refused to remain silent. He publicly condemned the Salvadoran military and their rightwing backers who were implicated in atrocities such as the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero, who just days ago was put on the path to sainthood by Pope Francis, and the massacre of four American churchwomen.

For speaking out on behalf of the victims of those crimes, Bob White paid dearly. He was ridiculed by some in Congress and he was summarily removed from his job by then-Secretary of State Alexander Haig.

A January 15 obituary in the Washington Post describes Bob's life and career. As I was reading it, I could not help but wonder how things might have turned out differently if the powers-that-be during the 1980s had listened to

him. My wife Marcelle and I talked about that. We asked ourselves: How many lives might have been saved if the Reagan administration, instead of firing Bob in 1981, had recognized the truth of what he was saying and supported negotiations to end the war in El Salvador.

Instead, the war dragged on for another decade, costing the lives of tens of thousands of people, mostly civilians. The tide only started to turn in 1989 after the cold-blooded murder of the six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter, at the University of Central America. It was a horrific crime that top-ranking army officers tried to cover up.

It was thanks to the late Congressman Joe Moakley and his then-staff aide, now Congressman JIM MCGOVERN, Bill Woodward, and Salvadoran investigator Leonel Gomez, whom I also came to know and respect, that the plot was uncovered and the killers identified.

During this time I talked often with Bob and I learned even more about those who were involved. After talking with him I went to El Salvador. The Salvadoran officials wanted me to see how they were investigating what had happened. They knew I had prosecuted murder cases, and they arranged for me to meet with the country's chief investigator. As he described the so-called investigation it just confirmed Ambassador White's suspicions. I told the Salvadoran investigator, and I told the press who were there, that they were conducting an obvious cover-up. Anybody who saw what they were calling an investigation would realize what they were doing.

As I left El Salvador, it was so obvious that rather than shamelessly removing Ambassador White from his post how much better things might have been if the State Department had recognized him for the true patriot he was and treated him as an example of what other U.S. diplomats should emulate.

Bob didn't stop when he left the Foreign Service. He went on to head the Center for International Policy where he continued his advocacy for human rights, defending the ideals and championing the causes he believed in right up to his death.

I like to think that all of our Foreign Service Officers aspire to follow in the footsteps of Ambassador Robert White. I hope they will learn from his example. If they do, the United States will be better served and the world will be a better place.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the Washington Post obituary, and an article about Ambassador White by Margaret O'Brien Steinfels in Commonweal magazine.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, Jan. 15, 2015]

ROBERT E. WHITE, WHO CRITICIZED POLICY ON EL SALVADOR AS U.S. AMBASSADOR, DIES AT 88

(By Pamela Constable)

In 1980, when El Salvador was erupting in guerrilla war and military violence, the Carter administration sent a little-known Foreign Service officer into the maelstrom as its new ambassador, hoping he could help the U.S.-backed government there find a reformist middle ground and prevent a full-scale revolution.

Instead, Robert E. White became a controversial and outspoken critic of assassinations and massacres being carried out by American-trained military units and private right-wing death squads. His views cost him his diplomatic career but earned him the respect of many Salvadorans and, ultimately, the vindication of history.

Mr. White, who had previously served as U.S. ambassador to Paraguay, died Jan. 14 at a hospice in Arlington, Va. He was 88. The cause was bladder and prostate cancer, said a daughter, Claire White.

His brief tenure in San Salvador was marked by atrocities that became synonymous with right-wing violence during an era of ideological conflicts in Central America: the assassination of Catholic Archbishop Oscar Romero in March 1980 while he was saying Mass in the national cathedral, and the abduction and killing that December of four American women church workers: Maryknoll sisters Ita Ford and Maura Clark, Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel and lay missionary Jean Donovan.

Mr. White, who once said he was inspired to join the Foreign Service by a "quotient of idealism," worked to promote human rights, economic reforms and political negotiations between leftist rebels and El Salvador's civil-military junta. But he soon found himself at loggerheads with the rightist military and land-owning establishment, which had powerful allies in Washington and Miami.

Unable to keep silent as security abuses mounted, Mr. White began denouncing them in diplomatic cables, then in interviews and congressional testimony. He famously called rightist political leader Roberto D'Aubuisson a "pathological killer" and charged that he had orchestrated the execution of Romero.

Mr. White also accused the Salvadoran national guard of murdering the Maryknoll women—two of whom he had dined with the night before their disappearance. He was there when the women's bodies were dug up, and he was quoted as vowing angrily, "This time the bastards won't get away with it."

"Bob was transformed by those events, especially the killings of the Maryknolls, from a diplomatic functionary into a person whose ethical and moral convictions conflicted with his job," said Francisco Altschul, the current Salvadoran ambassador to the United States, who was a leftist political activist at the time. "It took a lot of courage and integrity to say what he did and to face the consequences."

Mr. White's outspoken posture drew praise from human rights groups but death threats in El Salvador. His wife once described being warned by her security guard in their affluent San Salvador enclave that "your neighbors would like to kill you."

The ambassador also faced strong opposition from powerful Washington hawks including Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), who had been annoyed with Mr. White's earlier human rights activism in Paraguay and compared his posting to El Salvador to "a torch tossed in a pool of oil."

By 1981, after the election of Ronald Reagan as president ushered in a new era of anticommunist fervor in Washington, Mr. White's days as ambassador were numbered. After coming into conflict with Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr., Mr. White was removed from his post less than two weeks after Reagan took office. He soon retired from the Foreign Service after a 25-year career, claiming that he had been forced out for political reasons.

"In El Salvador, Bob believed the authoritarian regime was morally repugnant and needed to change, but he worked very hard to avoid the escalation of war and negotiate a solution," said William M. LeoGrande, a professor at American University and author of "Our Own Backyard: The United States in Central America, 1977-1992."

"The tragedy was that U.S. policy changed, El Salvador became a Cold War proxy, and another decade of conflict followed," LeoGrande said.

Once free of the constraints of diplomacy, Mr. White spent much of the next three decades speaking his mind on U.S. policy and official abuses in Latin America, while holding a series of jobs, including a professorship at Simmons College in Massachusetts and a senior associate position at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington.

He was a sarcastic critic of Washington's Cold War-era policies in Latin America, particularly what he called the "primitive anti-communism" that produced the U.S. embargo against Fidel Castro's Cuba and support for hemispheric dictators such as Gen. Augusto Pinochet in Chile and Gen. Alfredo Stroessner in Paraguay. He accused the Reagan administration in 1984 of covering up its knowledge of D'Aubuisson's role in the Romero assassination. Administration officials denied the allegations.

In 1989, Mr. White was named president of the Center for International Policy, a liberal think tank in Washington, and held that position at the time of his death. He also visited numerous countries, from Haiti to Afghanistan, with delegations to monitor elections and human rights.

Robert Edward White was born Sept. 21, 1926, in Melrose, Mass. He served in the Navy as a radio operator in the Pacific during World War II. He attended Saint Michael's College in Vermont on the G.I. Bill, graduating in 1952, and completed a master's degree in 1954 at Tufts University's Fletcher School in Medford, Mass.

He joined the Foreign Service in 1955 and served in a variety of positions related to Latin America. He was posted in Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras and Nicaragua, served as regional director of the Peace Corps and was a U.S. representative to the Organization of American States. He was ambassador to Paraguay from 1977 to 1980, when he was transferred to El Salvador.

Survivors include his wife of 59 years, Maryanne Cahill White of Alexandria, Va.; three children, Chris White of Manassas, Va., Claire White of Cambridge, Mass., and Mary Lou White of Evanston, Ill.; a brother, David White of Alexandria; and three grandchildren.

A son, Kevin White, died in 2009; a daughter, Laura White, died in 2014.

Mr. White always described himself as a diplomat and a democrat rather than a leftist or moral zealot.

"I don't go out looking for windmills to joust," he told an interviewer from *Commonweal* magazine in 2001. "And the idea that I'm some sort of martyr? Well, I'm not."

He argued that to avoid ending up on the wrong side of history or in Vietnam-style military quagmires, the United States needed to seek negotiated solutions to all conflicts, maintain a moral component in its dealings with all regimes and respect the will of local populations.

"The military dictators of the world fear democracy more than anything else," he told the *Fletcher Forum*, a publication of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, in 1981. "U.S. policy toward Latin America can be summed up in three words: fear of revolution. Because we feared revolution, we consistently opposed the forces of change while uncritically supporting dictatorships and small economic elites. We blinked at repression and participated in the perversion of democracy throughout the hemisphere."

[From *Commonweal* Magazine, Jan. 19, 2015]

ROBERT E. WHITE, 1926-2015

(By Margaret O'Brien Steinfels)

Robert White, who spent a quarter century in the U.S. Foreign Service and was ambassador to El Salvador at the beginning of its civil war, seems never to have forgotten anything. Among the things he never forgot were the murders of Jean Donovan and Sisters Dorothy Kazel, Maura Clarke, and Ita Ford. White was present when their bodies were recovered from shallow graves on December 4, 1980. He returned to the embassy as angry as his wife, MaryAnne, had ever seen him. It changed him, she told me in 2001, when I interviewed her for a profile of Bob I wrote for *Commonweal*. Indeed, his refusal to cover up Salvadoran military involvement in their murders—and those of thousands of Salvadorans, including Archbishop Oscar Romero—led to his resignation from the Foreign Service in 1981. He continued his work for democratic reforms and human rights in the Caribbean and Latin America at the Carnegie Endowment for Peace and the Center for International Policy.

Bob, who died on January 13 at the age of eighty-eight, was a great interviewer; in 2001 I left his Washington office with tapes full of details. He could summon conversations from years past and recount policy details lost in the fog of diplomatic maneuvering. Not only did he remember names and details of long-past events, he was also forthcoming in his analysis of U.S. foreign policy. He had joined the Foreign Service in 1955; after President John Kennedy announced the "Alliance for Progress," he requested assignment in Latin America. Designed to encourage democracy and human rights, the new policy was a turn away from, as White put it, doing the work of "the colonial office." That derogatory title summed up the tangled political and economic relationship between the U.S. and its neighbors to the South. Even when support in Washington faltered after Kennedy's assassination, White tried to keep the policies of the Alliance in play. Full-blown Cold War policies had returned in 1968 with Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger, coloring White's years in Honduras, Nicaragua, Columbia, Paraguay, and El Salvador. While serving as U.S. representative to the Organization of American States, he faced down Kissinger, whose statements supporting Pinochet were contrary to U.S. policy. This brought White to the edge of dismissal; he won the battle and stayed on to serve in his final post, El Salvador.

A long history of interventions and exploitation of the continent's natural resources made the United States the imperial power that both democratic reformers and Marxists loved to hate. White saw in the reformers the

path to more democratic governments and respect for human rights. Washington, focused on Soviet threats and Fidel Castro's support for guerrillas, increasingly favored the dictators and caudillos. Secret agreements were struck between U.S. military and intelligence agencies and their Latin counterparts. This often put the Department of State, though the official representative of the United States, on the margins of both policy and practices. Jimmy Carter's victory in 1976 pressed U.S. policy once again into a human rights agenda; that ended with Ronald Reagan's election in 1980.

White had long found himself the middleman in many of the struggles between Latin American governments and reformers as well as with his own government. His job was to work with each country's political leaders, notwithstanding their anti-democratic policies. While they might tolerate his cajoling and plain speaking about land reform, fair elections, and human rights, they usually had a U.S. military representative or CIA agent to turn to for direct contact with Washington (often someone on the ambassador's own embassy staff). At the same time, White made it his business to seek out and get to know sympathetic academics, journalists, labor leaders, clergy, and reformers in the Christian Democratic tradition. He understood the central role the Catholic Church, especially its cardinals and bishops, played among the social and political elites. His friendship with some and parrying with others gave him behind-the-scenes influence; his attendance at Mass could be the occasion for a pointed homily on topics a prelate might otherwise avoid. If White was regarded with suspicion and contempt, especially by Salvadoran politicians and military, his reputation among Americans (and American Catholics) opposed to their endemic violence and abuse was hardly better. The U.S. ambassador was seen to be compromised by his position and not to be trusted.

After his resignation, White more than any U.S. official exposed the hidden ties between U.S. military and intelligence and their Latin American counterparts. He testified against Salvadoran military for their complicity in torture and murder, especially of the American churchwomen. He never ceased pressing for better political and economic conditions in Latin America, termination of sanctions against Cuba, and an end to human rights abuses not only by dictatorships but also by democracies. Bob's work as an ambassador—from the United States at its best—never really ended.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, for the second time in 2 days our friends across the aisle have killed important funding for the Department of Homeland Security, a bill worth about \$40 billion that

was passed by the House of Representatives and sent over for the Senate to consider.

I continue to be amazed, watching Member after Member across the aisle come down here and vote to block this important piece of legislation, and then, in the same breath, accuse the majority of threatening to shut down the government. It strikes me as surreal. They are the ones filibustering the funding for the Department of Homeland Security, and they are claiming we are trying to shut down the government.

I know it is sometimes hard to explain what happens in the Halls of Congress and Washington, DC, but my folks back home can't understand how they can block something and then claim they are for it—and then the people who are actually advocating for the passage of this funding, claiming somehow we are going to shut down the government. It just doesn't make any sense, and it is the kind of double talk I think people have come to despise and associate with Washington, DC, and Congress.

That is one reason voters so overwhelmingly repudiated the status quo on November 4 and said: We want new management, and we don't want business as usual in Washington, DC.

Speaking of saying one thing and doing another, on this side of the aisle we pointed out some of the tough talk from some of our friends on the other side of the aisle, Senate Democrats, last fall when the President made clear he intended to follow through on a series of unilateral immigration actions that he, himself, on 22 different occasions had said he did not have the authority to take.

Indeed, it is my view this is unconstitutional. He can't pass or make a new law without following the constitutional pathway, which requires Congress to consider it, vote on it—both Houses—and then send it to the President for signature. For the President just simply to make it up out of whole cloth is dangerous, to say the least.

I guess if the President doesn't like any other aspect of our laws, this President—or any future President—might claim the sole authority to change it without following the procedures laid out in the U.S. Constitution.

I know what the President did last fall in this Executive action on immigration makes a number of our colleagues across the aisle uncomfortable because they are quoted in the newspaper as saying so. But now somehow in this mind meld going on, on the minority side, they now are walking in lockstep, voting against proceeding to consider this Homeland Security appropriations bill, even though, by my count, at least seven Democrats expressed deep concern with the President's unconstitutional action.

Here is what the Senator from West Virginia said, talking about the President:

I wish he wouldn't do it.

The junior Senator from Minnesota said:

I have concerns about executive action.

The same kind of concerns I have just expressed.

The senior Senator from Missouri felt the same way, saying about the President's unilateral action:

How this is coming about makes me uncomfortable, [and] I think it probably makes most Missourians uncomfortable.

It made the President of the United States uncomfortable, so uncomfortable on 22 occasions he said he couldn't do it—and then he did it.

It makes me extremely uncomfortable, too, and it certainly makes the vast majority of the people I represent back in Texas uncomfortable as well.

We are a nation of laws. I know we say that all the time, but it is one of the things that distinguishes us from so much of the rest of the world where, no matter who you are—whether you are the President of the United States or the most humble person in the country—the rules apply to you equally. That is what it says over the top of the Supreme Court Building. Look at the front of the building. It says, "Equal Justice Under Law."

The idea that the President can—after 22 times saying he didn't have the authority—become a law unto himself and try to get away with it is just unprecedented and it is dangerous.

Despite the fact that many of our colleagues on the Democratic side have said what the President did made them feel uncomfortable, they apparently lost their sense of discomfort when they voted in lockstep to block this funding bill.

In order to justify their filibuster, a number of Senate Democrats have said: I don't like the bill the House sent over because it has some things in it that I don't like. I like the funding, but I don't like the spending restrictions.

I know the Presiding Officer understands as well that we can't change a piece of legislation in the Senate unless we vote to get on the bill. It is the same thing as saying you can't finish a journey until you start it, and our friends across the aisle are unwilling to even start that journey.

To state the obvious, if our friends in the minority would like to change the Department of Homeland Security funding bill, they ought to stop blocking it from being debated and amend it. If they have ideas, let's bring them to the floor.

One of the things that has distinguished this 114th Congress from the way things ran last year is we have actually had an open amendment process. Indeed, we found out in the first month of this year and this new Congress that

we had more votes than all of last year combined.

So there is going to be an opportunity for anybody with a better idea to come down and get a vote. But this whole idea of saying, I am not even going to participate in the process and—worse than that—I am going to block a funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security because I don't like what is in it is just—well, it is just impossible to explain.

We know some of our colleagues on the other side are using this to play games because they basically have admitted it.

Just yesterday in the Huffington Post, the senior Senator from New York, a member of the leadership of his own party, said that "it is really fun to be in the minority." That strikes me as extraordinarily cynical because we were not sent to play games, particularly with matters as important as homeland security. That is not what the American people sent us to do, and that is certainly not what they ratified or what they voted for on November 4.

They rejected business as usual in Washington, DC, and they said: Let's do something different, and we may not necessarily endorse everything that Republicans stand for, but, boy, we are sure going to give them a chance to show that they can do better than the management in the 113th Congress.

I think we began to make some positive steps in the right direction, particularly with passing important legislation.

We passed three important pieces of legislation in the 114th Congress: the veterans suicide bill that we voted on earlier this week, we have passed the terrorism risk insurance bill, and we passed, as the Presiding Officer knows, a very important piece of legislation to our economy and job creation and energy security known as the Keystone XL Pipeline. That is not bad. That is not bad.

We would like to do what I think falls in the category of governance 101, something that is pretty basic. We have to pay to keep the government functioning and particularly the Department of Homeland Security.

I know our friends on the other side of the aisle say: We don't like the bill the way it is, and we don't like the tools that are being used by the majority party to rein in the President's Executive action. Well, I am not going to make any apology for that because what the President did was unconstitutional. It was illegal. He has no authority to do that on his own. Again, it is not just me saying that. It is not just my opinion. It is his opinion. How cynical. How cynical.

I guess he figures he is going to get away with it, and our friends on the other side of the aisle are going to be the enablers, to enable the President to

get away with something he said he didn't have the authority to do on 22 times.

I sure wouldn't want the folks back home to see me in that same light. I would have a hard time explaining to my constituents back home, saying, yes, I am helping the President do something that he said was illegal and he didn't have the authority to do, and we are going to play games by blocking important funding for the Department of Homeland Security in order to facilitate him getting away with it.

That is a cynical game and it is dangerous, particularly in the threat environment we are living in.

So I come to the floor for the third time this week to ask our colleagues on the other side of the aisle—especially those who have boldly stood up to their own President, a member of their own party, the leader of their own party, a few short months ago—to ask them to stand up again and to tell the President and to tell their own leadership that we want to have a Senate that actually works, where the minority and the majority get to participate through an open amendment process. But we are going to respect the Constitution, we are going to respect this institution and, yes, we are going to respect the role of the Presidency under our Constitution enough to rein in this President's overreach, and we are not going to jeopardize funding for the Department of Homeland Security and allow that to be held hostage to the President's unconstitutional act.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, earlier this week we learned about the young Jordanian pilot who was horrifically burned alive in a cage at the hands of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, ISIL. This is the same group that haunts us with images of beheadings and mass murders week after week and enslaves women into servitude. It is the same group that recently declared it is determined to "reach America."

My friends, we live in a world that is scary. And it is not just ISIL. It is the lone wolves who gather ammunition and equipment and carefully draft plans to attack us where we work, such as the attack we saw last year in Ottawa and last month in Paris, as well as the individual from Ohio who was planning to attack the Capitol right here in Washington, DC.

It is pandemics such as Ebola. It is the criminals trying to traffic illegal

drugs and human beings across our borders and through our ports of entry. It is those individuals trying to sabotage our airplanes and our trains. It is those people trying to attack our computer networks and critical infrastructure.

But thanks in large part to the work of the Department of Homeland Security and its employees, Americans are safe—at least a lot safer than we otherwise would be. Our airplanes and our airports are protected 24/7. Our borders and our ports throughout our country are secure. Trafficking of illegal drugs and human beings is better controlled, and our critical infrastructure networks are better protected.

For anybody who thinks it makes sense to put the Department of Homeland Security out of business, to put it on the sidelines at this point in time in this world in which we live, I ask: Have we lost our minds? I hope not. I hope not. Yet today, here in the Congress, we are locked in a political debate about whether we fund that very agency that is charged with keeping Americans safe—those who live here with us—from the Islamic State and any other number of additional threats. That is irresponsible and shameful behavior. In order for the Department of Homeland Security to officially and effectively carry out its critical role in combating the multiple and ever-changing threats our country faces, the Department needs fiscal certainty and the full support of this Congress.

Throughout this week I joined nearly half of my Senate colleagues to reject the House funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security, H.R. 240, which contains riders that block the President's recent immigration actions. Many of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle have significant concerns with these amendments, and the President has promised he would veto this bill if these amendments were not stripped from it.

My colleagues' insistence that we accept these House amendments is jeopardizing timely enactment of a vital and bipartisan Homeland Security funding bill and threatens to prolong the crippling budget uncertainty the Department of Homeland Security has been operating under since last year.

On top of that, according to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, this House bill with the amendments would increase deficits over the next 10 years by a total of \$7.5 billion. Instead of helping our Nation move forward with our economic recovery and our deficit reduction, this bill would move us backwards.

I understand why some of our colleagues are upset about the President's immigration policies. We can and we should have a debate about those concerns. We started the process just yesterday in the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, where I serve as ranking member.

Let me remind my colleagues that we wouldn't even be here having this conversation today or at that hearing yesterday if Congress had finished the job we began some 2 years ago in the Senate, right here on this floor. As most of my colleagues in this Chamber will recall, two-thirds of the Senate came together in 2013. We passed by a wide margin a comprehensive immigration reform bill. Was it perfect? No, but we took significant steps to fix our badly broken and outdated immigration system and to enhance the security of our borders.

At the same time, the bill would have reduced our budget deficit by nearly \$1 trillion—\$1 trillion—over the next 20 years, according to the Congressional Budget Office. Let me repeat that. Comprehensive immigration reform adopted here by a two-thirds vote would reduce our deficit by nearly \$1 trillion over the next 20 years. We demonstrated almost 2 years ago that we can debate our Nation's immigration policies in a thoughtful way in the Senate, and, I think, over in the House. There is no reason why we can't do it again. We need to have this debate on the Senate floor as we did last Congress.

We need to have this debate in committees as we did in the last Congress. We need to have this debate in our towns and States across America as we did in the last Congress. But we should not have this debate while we are deciding the fate of the budget of the Nation's most critical national security agency, the Department of Homeland Security.

I am not the only one who thinks so. All three former Department of Homeland Security Secretaries—Republicans Tom Ridge and Michael Chertoff and Democrat Janet Napolitano—wrote to the Republican leadership last week and this is what they said:

We do not question your desire to have a larger debate about the Nation's immigration laws. However, we cannot emphasize enough that the DHS's responsibilities are much broader than its responsibility to oversee the federal immigration agencies and to protect our borders. . . . And funding for the entire agency should not be put in jeopardy by the debate about immigration.

The Washington Post's editorial board has also weighed in. Last week, here is what they wrote:

If congressional Republicans want to attack those—

Talking about immigration—actions responsibly, with discrete legislation, they are free to try. . . . However, it is another thing to wield their frustration over immigration as a cudgel, holding hostage an entire department of government that is critical to the nation's security. That is as irresponsible as it is politically ill-advised.

I could not agree more. We need to focus now on doing the job we were sent here to do—to provide the funding necessary to keep America safe in an ever more dangerous world. Once we

have done that, we should engage in an urgent debate on how to amend America's immigration policies for the 21st century.

If we choose instead to continue down this irresponsible path toward a shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security, we will actually put America at greater risk. Why would we do that? Why would we do that?

If we allow the Department of Homeland Security to shut down, here is what is going to happen—a few things that will happen. First of all, over 50,000 TSA security screeners keeping terrorists off of airplanes are going to go without pay. We want them to do their jobs, but we are just not going to pay them for it. Over 40,000 Customs and Border Protection officers needed to keep our borders secure are going to go without pay, too. We want them to do their jobs. We are not going to pay them, either.

In addition, over 13,000 Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, enforcing our immigration laws and combatting human and drug trafficking, are going to go without pay too. We want them to do their jobs. We are not going to pay them, either. Essentially, a large part of our Federal homeland security personnel would be working on an IOU. Now you say: How is that fair? How is that fair? Well, it is not. Even if we avoid a shutdown but continue to keep the Department on a continuing resolution, we prevent the men and women who work there from doing their jobs as effectively and as efficiently as they can.

For example, we will not be able to replace obsolete surveillance technology along the high-risk areas of our border with Mexico. Our Nation will have significantly fewer resources to respond to any future surges of unaccompanied minors along the Southwest border. Morale will continue to degrade at the Department, which already ranks dead last for morale among other major Federal agencies. This is not how we want to be treated. It is no way for us to treat the men and women who are working around the clock to keep us safe.

It is also an egregious waste of money. As we have learned over the years, crisis budgeting costs taxpayers millions of dollars. This latest situation is no exception. Employee hiring and research efforts at the Department would come to a halt. The contracts for a variety of security projects would be stalled and would need to be renegotiated, in all likelihood at a higher cost to taxpayers.

For example, a continuing resolution would delay a \$600 million contract to build a national security cutter that the Coast Guard urgently needs—keep it from being awarded. This cutter is critical to stopping the illegal trafficking off of our shores and ports of entry, including illegal immigration

and drug and human trafficking. That is just one example.

As any business owner would tell us, this is not the way to run a business. It is certainly no way to run a vital national security agency of the United States.

So how are we going to remedy this situation? Fortunately, we have a solution sitting right in front of us, the bill that Senators MIKULSKI and SHAHEEN have introduced. It is S. 272. It is a clean fiscal year 2015 appropriations bill, which both Democrats and Republicans agreed to just this past December, 2 months ago. This measure provides the stable full-year funding that the Department of Homeland Security and our national security need without demanding a ransom.

In closing, I want to urge, as strongly as I can, my colleagues in this Chamber, in this body, to join me in doing the right thing. Support passage of this clean full-year appropriations legislation for the Department of Homeland Security. Reject the amendments approved by the House. Once we have done that, let's begin a fulsome and badly needed debate that will enable us to hammer out a thoughtful, 21st century immigration policy for America, a policy that is fair, a policy that will significantly reduce our Nation's budget deficit, and a policy that will strengthen the economic recovery in this country that is now underway.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, the Affordable Care Act is working. It is working better, frankly, than many of us who were there at its inception believed it would at this early stage in its implementation. The numbers are pretty hard to argue with. You have got now upwards of 10 million people who are on either private insurance with tax credits to help them get that coverage, or are on Medicaid through different State plans.

That is a big deal, because in just about 1 year, we have reduced the number of people without insurance by 25 percent in this country. In my State of Connecticut, which probably has the best-run exchange in the country, we have actually reduced the number of people without insurance by 50 percent.

Better news is the quality is getting better. Some of the measurements we most closely watch to decide whether people are getting better care—things such as hospital-acquired infections and readmission rates after surgery—are going down. That is really good news. Of course, maybe the best news of all is the taxpayers are saving money, an extraordinary leveling off of health care inflation.

Health care spending never goes down from year to year. We used to

have 7-percent to 8-percent increases in spending on an annual basis. We are now seeing 2-percent or 3-percent increases. In fact, the lowest rate of increase since we started tracking health care spending happened in this last year. Federal taxpayers are saving, on average, \$1,000 per Medicare beneficiary compared to what the Congressional Budget Office thought we would be spending when we passed the Affordable Care Act.

That does not mean we do not have a lot of work to do. But it does mean the conversation we should be having today is about perfecting the Affordable Care Act, making it work even better, not repealing the Affordable Care Act.

It is not just me. I have been down to the floor over and over again to make this case, that the numbers simply do not lie. The press, universally, perhaps, reporting on this overwhelming avalanche of data, tells us that the Affordable Care Act is working. I literally in the 5 minutes before I came to the floor did a quick search to see what people were saying. New York magazine: "Four new studies. ObamaCare is working incredibly well."

Forbes: "More solid proof that ObamaCare is working."

Washington Post: "Despite the critics, ObamaCare works."

Business Insider: "Major new study says ObamaCare is working."

Rolling Stone: "ObamaCare: It's working."

I could do a full 10 minutes just on the headlines that tell you the Affordable Care Act is working. But instead of talking about making it work better, today we are talking again about repealing it. The House took, I think, their 56th vote to repeal all or part of the bill. This morning several of our colleagues unveiled a proposal to replace the Affordable Care Act.

Now I give my colleagues credit. It has been 5 years. This is the first time we have seen even a memo on what would be this replacement we have been hearing a lot about. But it is still a memo, as far as I can tell. We do not have any legislative text or any CBO score. But I wanted to come to the floor and talk for a minute about what this replacement would mean.

The replacement memo we looked at this morning, offered by two of our Senate colleagues and one of our House colleagues, all really thoughtful legislators on this issue—I want to give them credit for putting this on the table. It would really mean the retraction of health care coverage for millions of Americans. People who have finally been able to afford health care because of the Affordable Care Act now would go back onto the rolls of the uninsured.

Why? Well, for two major reasons. Their plan reduces the number of people who would be eligible for the subsidies by millions, and then greatly reduces the amount of the subsidy. They

admit that is the best way to get coverage, so we are not arguing any longer, at least, over whether providing tax credits in order for people to buy private insurance is the right way to go about expanding coverage. They want to lessen the amount of money we are providing in tax credits, meaning a lot less people are going to get insured. So you would have millions and millions of people who would go back onto the rolls of the uninsured, people who would once again be at the mercy of insurance companies, would lose everything, their house, their savings, their car, just because their kid got sick.

But the second thing it does is really puts insurance companies back in charge of our health care. It gets rid of the prohibition on gender rating, which is a complicated way of saying that in the old system, insurance companies charged women more just because they were women. The Affordable Care Act does not allow that any longer. But that is what we would go back to under this alternative. It used to be that insurance companies would say: You are only going to get a certain amount of insurance per year and then we cut you off. Well, for a family I know in Simsbury, CT, whose son has a fairly rare blood disorder, that meant they had to pull out of their savings every year in order to afford his expensive drugs. That discriminatory treatment would come back.

While the bill tries to address the issue of preexisting conditions, it seems to say that you would have a one-time chance to get on an affordable care policy if you had a preexisting condition. But if you did not sign up in that opening moment, in that special offer, then you would not be able to sign up later on. So if you got sick later on, it would be too late for you, or if you lost your coverage at any point, like, on average, 89 million Americans have over the last 3 years, you would not get the chance to have insurance with a preexisting condition at the same rate as people without preexisting conditions.

What this bill is about is people paying more and getting less. It is about going back to the day when people could not afford health care and they lost everything simply because they or a loved one, a spouse or a child, got sick. Never mind the fact that some of the pieces I thought we all agreed on are repealed in this proposal. The doughnut hole is an outrage, the idea that seniors who are trying to buy prescription drugs on Medicare get a little bit of coverage, then no coverage, then a lot of coverage. Middle-income seniors cannot afford that gap in coverage.

Well, the Affordable Care Act effectively eliminates the doughnut hole. That has saved seniors \$11 billion since 2010. This memo we have seen from the Republican side would apparently get rid of those savings, putting the dough-

nut hole back, putting millions of seniors back on the hook for all of these costs when they lose coverage. This effort to replace the Affordable Care Act is a giant step backwards for millions of American families.

Here is the conversation we should be having: We should be talking about how to make this law work even better. It is a major concession, frankly, from the Republicans that tax credits are the appropriate way to get people more insurance. It is a concession that we should be at least addressing the issue of discrimination against sick people. But the protection they are offering is minimal, and the expense that would be passed on to seniors, families, hard-working Americans is immense.

So I am looking forward to seeing this introduced as a piece of legislation. I am looking forward to seeing the CBO score on it. Clearly the American people do not want us to have this debate over repeal any longer. They are sick and tired of it. They want us to be talking about creating jobs, protecting this country, making college more affordable, and making small, meaningful changes to the Affordable Care Act to make it work even better.

The data does not lie. The numbers do not lie. The increasing stories of people all across this country who are benefitting from the Affordable Care Act do not lie. The Affordable Care Act is working. We should stop having this tired debate over repealing it and replacing it with something that is much lesser coverage for much more cost and invest in a conversation about how to make sure the good news continues about the Affordable Care Act working for millions of Americans.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I am disappointed that earlier today once again our Democratic colleagues have—like the palace guard protecting the White House—blocked and filibustered moving to the Homeland Security bill—a bill that the House has passed and that would fully fund every lawful program of Homeland Security.

The House has passed a bill that funds Homeland Security, they have sent it to the Senate, and the Democrats are refusing to let it come to the floor to even be debated. They are filibustering a motion to proceed to the bill, where amendments can be offered.

Senator MCCONNELL has said we will have amendments. Senator COLLINS has already reached out with amendments she thinks have bipartisan support. That is the way the process in the Senate is supposed to work. That is what we should do.

Amazingly and incredibly, our Democratic colleagues say that the Republicans want to shut down Homeland Security and that the Democrats are trying to keep that from happening. They claim Republicans have put riders on the bill. But I would say that I think, if there is any logic left in this body, that the riders were put on Homeland Security unilaterally and unlawfully by the President of the United States. He put those riders on Homeland Security when—after Congress refused to pass his amnesty bill that had in it the right to work for people who are illegally in the country—he gave legal status to people illegally in the country; he gave them a Social Security card with a photo ID—he wants to provide all of them with that and let them participate in Social Security and Medicare. That is what the President wants to do. All of those things fall outside the law governing Homeland Security and all of the items and programs that are involved in that homeland security process. This amnesty is outside of it. In fact, amnesty is not pro-homeland security, it is anti-homeland security. It is anti-law. It rewards people who have violated the law. It is going to create a mechanism where these people who get these photo IDs will have the ability to take any job in America, and nobody is going to check them in any effective way. In fact, it is quite clear that the Administration doesn't even intend to have personal interviews with them because the Administration doesn't have the time or the people. But they are spending money out of the lawful part of Homeland Security to create an office across the river in Crystal City, and they are hiring 1,000 people to process these individuals.

So Congress simply said: Mr. President, we oppose that. We won't approve that process. You said 20 times it is not lawful for you to grant amnesty, but you have changed your mind and you are going to do it anyway. So we are going to fund all the programs of Homeland Security just like last year—with some increase, I suppose—but we are not going to fund this office across the river to make people lawful who, under the law, are unlawful. That is what the bill is.

So my Democratic colleagues say that somehow this doesn't fund Homeland Security and that Congress has no right to decide what it funds and doesn't fund. But it is a fundamental power of the people's elected representatives to control the purse strings, to decide what gets funded and what does not get funded. Congress can fund programs that it doesn't like as a matter

of policy or it could defund those programs, and it could defund programs it believes are illegal.

As a matter of fact, I would say Congress has an absolute duty to refuse to fund programs set up by the President of the United States that he would like to carry out if Congress believes those programs are unlawful. So that is where we are.

It is beyond my comprehension that our friends on the other side—at least seven have said in clear statements that they oppose the President's Executive amnesty, and they are now voting unanimously to not go to the bill and even allow it to be considered.

Now, one thing is not being considered enough. This amnesty is more than prosecutorial discretion. The President of the United States is giving work authorizations to more than 4 million people, and for the most part they are adults. Almost all of them are adults. Even the so-called DACA proportion—many of them are in their thirties. So this is an adult job legalization program. And we talked about why Congress didn't approve and it didn't pass, and why the President shouldn't carry out on his own that which Congress has rejected and for which he has no lawful basis.

But let's go further. Let's ask on behalf of the American people, the American working people, is this a good idea? Is it a good idea at this time of low wages—a time when the percentage of Americans in the working population who are actually working and have jobs is at the lowest it has been since the 1970s? Is this the right time to advance another 5 million people into the job market—a time when we admit 1 million lawful immigrants to the United States a year? I believe we have 700,000 guest workers from abroad working in America on top of that, and we're adding another 5 million who can take any job in the economy?

Frankly, the problem, colleagues, is not that we have a shortage of workers in America; the problem is we have a shortage of jobs and we have the lowest workforce participation that we have had in a long time.

Gallup recently noted that if someone works just a few hours a week, they are counted as an employee. People used to work 40 hours—overtime maybe—now they work 10 hours a week, and they are counted as an employee. If you are an engineer working at a fast food restaurant, you are counted as employed. So there are a whole bunch of factors that they know are out there that are causing the American people to be very concerned about their futures, even though politicians in Washington are saying things are so great.

Wages fell in December—I think the last full month for which we have the data—5 cents an hour. So it is not getting much better. That is not disput-

able data. We want wages to go up, not down.

So I think this is all important, and it is time for Congress to understand whom we represent and whom our focus should be on. We want to treat people who come to America well. We want to give them every lawful benefit when they immigrate to America properly. And people who enter unlawfully need to be treated humanely and processed properly, and the laws need to be enforced. We don't want to mistreat those people.

But what is it that is critical? What is critical is that we know whom we represent. We represent lawful immigrants and citizens of the United States of America. Our duty is to them. We should establish an immigration policy that serves their interests.

Years ago a witness before the Judiciary Committee told that committee—and I was a member—that, 'well, if your policy is to do what is best for poor people around the world, it is almost always the right thing to let them come to America. If they get in trouble health-wise, the hospitals will take care of them. Their children get a free education. If they get in trouble otherwise, this country helps them.'

But what we have to decide is what is a good policy for the United States of America and how to execute the national interests, not special interests.

Let me point this out. The numbers are stunning, colleagues, and we are going to have to learn these numbers. I am going to insist that we know what we are doing as we go forward with the ever-expanding programs to bring in more workers from abroad.

One of the more remarkable but least-reported trends in our economy is the disproportionate share of jobs being filled by foreign workers. Most people do not understand this. The following is new data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics—not my opinion; these numbers come straight from BLS tables. I challenge my colleagues, if these numbers are wrong, tell us they are wrong. It comes right off the BLS table. I don't think they are disputable. I don't think anybody is disputing them.

The total number of persons employed in the United States has increased by 1 million since 2007. Frankly, that is not many jobs at all over that number of years. It sounds like a lot, but it is not many. So we have had a total increase of 1 million jobs since 2007, but during this same time the number of jobs for U.S.-born workers—citizens—declined by 1 million.

How is that possible? During this same time the number of foreign workers with jobs increased by 2 million. So that is where the net gain occurred. This means that all net employment gains since the recession have gone to workers brought in from abroad.

How many workers should we be bringing into America? Shouldn't we ask how the economy is doing? We are having the slowest recovery since the Great Depression 80 years ago. Shouldn't we ask questions about that? How many people are on food stamps and welfare and all kinds of aid programs? How many people have claimed disability?

During this same time—get this, colleagues—the population of Americans 16 and older increased by 11 million, but one-fifth of a million fewer Americans are employed.

Here is a chart that will reflect some of this data. This reflects that natives—people born in the country—accounted for two-thirds of the increase in the working-age population. It is a myth we are having declining birth rates to the extent we have fewer people coming into the working ages. That is not so. Since 2000 we have added increases of 16.8 million working age people, but all the employment gains went to immigrants from 2000 to 2014.

I was surprised at this. I knew we were having issues with this, and people have shared that with me, but I did not realize the numbers were this stark.

Let's look at this. This is the change in the working age on these two parts of the chart. We have an increase in immigrants from 2000 to 2014 by 8.8 million people, while the native population in their working ages increased by 16.8 million people—twice the number of working age immigrants, basically. But where did the jobs go, the few jobs we have been creating as we are recovering from the recession? We created 5.7 million jobs since 2000 that went to the immigrant population—this 8.8 million—and the native population showed a decline of 100,000 jobs. So even though we had a 16.8 million increase in that working-age group, we had a decline in native-born workers actually working.

I would say those are stunning numbers, and it calls on us to reevaluate our policies. We are not against immigration. I am not saying we should end immigration, I am saying it is time for us to review our immigration policies, as any sensible, sane nation would do. It is time to do that.

The President's policy goes in exactly the opposite direction. By overwhelming polling data, Americans—including Hispanics—agree that amnesty has created more of an illegal immigration flow, and yet this amnesty rewards 5 million people for what they did illegally.

Let's look at a little more of the reality of how this plays out in the world. Here is a dramatic article in Computerworld about the big power company in California—Southern California Edison. What have they done recently? Information technology workers at Southern California Edison are

being laid off and replaced by workers from India. Some employees are training their H-1B visa-holding replacements, and many have already lost their jobs. The employees are upset and they say they can't understand how H-1B guest workers can be used to replace them since they are already doing the job now.

Apparently, Southern California Edison—a power company rooted in the United States of America—is converting, laying off, and terminating the employment of people who have been with them for a number of years. Southern California Edison is transitioning those positions to foreign employees who have come in under the H-1B visa program for the sole purpose of taking a job. They are not coming under the immigration policy where they would move from green card into permanent residence and into citizenship. They come solely for a limited period of time to take a job, and they work for less pay too often.

This is what one person said:

"They are bringing in people with a couple of years' experience to replace us and then we have to train them," said one long-time IT worker. "It's demoralizing and in a way I kind of felt betrayed by the company."

I bet he did. Continuing to quote from the article:

SCE, Southern California's largest utility—

Which is a quasi-almost-government entity under the regulatory powers of the State—

has confirmed the layoffs and the hiring of Infosys, based in Bangalore, and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) in Mumbai. They are two of the largest users of H-1B visas.

Apparently what happens is these companies sign up workers in—in this case—India, and they call up the big power company and say: Look, we have all these young people who have an education, and your salaries are real generous to them, they like your salaries, and we will just send them over on H-1B visas. They can stay 3 years and then return to their country and you can get rid of all those American workers. Maybe you will not have to pay such high retirement or health care benefits.

The article goes on to say:

Computerworld interviewed, separately, four affected SCE IT employees. They agreed to talk on the condition that their names not be used. The IT employees at SCE are "beyond furious," said a second IT worker. The H-1B program "was supposed to be for projects and jobs that American workers could not fill," this worker said. "But we're doing our job. It's not like they are bringing in these guys for new positions that nobody can fill."

It goes on to say:

"Not one of these jobs being filled by India was a job that an Edison employee wasn't already performing," he said.

It goes on to talk about this. Professor Ron Hira, who studied this in

great depth and has written about this problem for some time, made some comments on it too:

The SCE outsourcing "is one more case, in a long line of them, of injustice where American workers are being replaced by H-1B's," said Ron Hira, a public policy professor at Howard University, and a researcher on off-shore outsourcing. Adding to the injustice, American workers are being forced to do 'knowledge transfer,' an ugly euphemism for being forced to train their foreign replacements."

He goes on to say:

"Americans should be outraged that most of our politicians have sat idly by while outsourcing firms have hijacked the guest worker programs."

So the guest worker program is supposed to help businesses. If they can't get people to work, then they can apply to this program, which has some limits. Yet the President proposes doubling the number of people who can come in with H-1B visas to work. He wants to double that number. He has been demanding that. But Mr. Hira said:

The majority of the H-1B program is now being used to replace Americans and to facilitate offshoring of high wage jobs.

So this is a pretty thorough article in Computerworld, and it is a growing problem in the high-tech industry.

Professor Hal Salzman, who is a sociologist and public policy professor at the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University, wrote about this last September. This is not something new. This has been understood for some time. This is what he says in U.S. News and World Report:

All credible research finds the same evidence about the STEM workforce: ample supply, stagnant wages and, by industry accounts, thousands of applicants for any advertised job. The real concern should be about the dim employment prospects for our best STEM graduates.

Who are STEM graduates? Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. We have been telling our children they can have good jobs. Parents have borrowed money, invested in the college savings plans; students have borrowed money themselves to get degrees in STEM fields, and now we find STEM salaries are flat since 2000—that only 40 percent of STEM graduates are actually working in STEM jobs.

This is what Professor Salzman and five others said in an op-ed in USA Today, condemning what we are doing in America today:

Average wages in the IT industry are the same as those that prevailed when Bill Clinton was President, despite industry cries of a shortage. Overall, U.S. colleges produced twice the number of STEM graduates than annually find jobs in those fields.

We have to think about how to get our people, our children, our constituents into good-paying jobs. I wish there were more of them. I wish there weren't enough jobs and we had to import workers, but it is not so.

The Salzman article goes on:

... the growth of STEM shortage claims is driven by heavy industry funding for lobbyists and think tanks. Their goal is government intervention in the market under the guise of solving national economic problems. The highly profitable IT industry, for example, is devoting millions to convince Congress and the White House to provide it with more low-cost, foreign guest workers instead of trying to attract and retain employees from an ample domestic labor pool of native and immigrant citizens and permanent residents. Guest workers currently make up two-thirds of all new IT hires, but employers are demanding further increases. If such lobbying efforts succeed, firms will have enough guest workers to last for at least 100 percent of their new hiring and can continue to legally substitute these younger workers for current employees holding down wages for both them and new hires. ... the Census Bureau reports that only about one in four STEM bachelor's degree holders has a STEM job, and Microsoft plans to downsize by 18,000 workers over the next year.

Microsoft signed a letter to the President and Congress just a few months ago demanding more foreign workers in the same week they announced laying off 18,000 workers, and this is a pattern throughout the industry. They are lobbying for more and more while they are laying off workers.

Here is a statement our office obtained from a union representative at IBM:

On January 28, 2015, IBM embarked on another of its regular "resource actions" or job cuts at sites and divisions around the U.S. Although IBM won't say how many employees were notified that their employment was being terminated, the Alliance@IBM estimates the number at around 5,000.

I continue to read from their statement:

This has been almost a quarterly experience for IBM employees. One of the biggest drivers of the job cuts is off shoring and bringing in guest workers from other countries.

So they are laying off Americans and bringing in people from abroad.

The statement goes on to say:

The terminating of regular IBM U.S. employees while keeping H-1b visa or L1 visa workers on the payroll has been ongoing at IBM for years.

As one worker stated in an email to the Alliance just this past week:

"Received 'RA' notice (termination notice) yesterday. ... I was told last October that I was being replaced by an IBM India Landed Resource. ..."

That is a guest worker.

Another employee e-mailed:

"I would estimate that of the 20 people in my IBM department, at least 80% were immigrants on Visa's working on a so called government contract."

They were working on a government contract. They were bringing foreign workers.

And it goes on.

Here is an article in the Engineering Journal about IBM: "Massive Worldwide Layoff Underway At IBM."

Look, I am not saying a company can't lay off and be more efficient. The

business market changes, and they are just not able to stay in business if they are paying people to do work that doesn't exist. I understand that.

What I am saying is that at the same time they are laying off people, they are demanding the right to bring in more foreign workers, further driving down wages.

Here is what this article says:

Project Chrome, a massive layoff that IBM is pretending is not a massive layoff, is under way. First reported by Robert X. Cringely in *Forbes*, about 26 percent of the company's global workforce is being shown the door. At more than 100,000 people, that makes it the largest mass layoff at any U.S. corporation in at least 20 years.

So these groups have all come together in a lobbying group, Compete America, the Alliance for a Competitive Workforce. IBM is one of them. I think Hewlett-Packard laid off 12,000 not too long ago; they are part of it. Microsoft, laying off 18,000, is part of it—demanding more guest workers.

Cringely wrote that notices have started going out, and most of the hundred thousand-plus will likely be gone by the end of February.

How does it impact us? Does it impact Americans?

Alliance@IBM, the IBM employees' union, says it has so far collected reports of 5,000 jobs eliminated, including 250 in Boulder, Colo., 150 in Columbia, Missouri, and 202 in Dubuque, Iowa. Layoffs in Littleton, Mass., are reportedly "massive," but no specific numbers have been published.

Here is a story in timesunion.com about Governor Cuomo in New York. His program of IT work in New York is being outsourced by IBM.

... IBM has brought hundreds of workers from India to fill jobs in Albany for which—in theory—plenty of Americans are qualified.

Walt Disney World's information technology department laid off 500 workers, while Disney's profit margin has gone up and the stock price is rising.

We are going to be talking about this for some time. We need to ask ourselves: What is in the interest of American workers at a time when we are laying off large numbers of workers—skilled and unskilled? I have been talking about skilled.

Do we really need massive increases in foreign workers? Do we need to pass legislation that would double the number of guest workers that come into the country at this time? I think not.

I appreciate the opportunity to share these thoughts. I see my colleague.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. I ask unanimous consent to engage in a colloquy with Senator COLLINS not to exceed 20 minutes.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SMALL BREW ACT

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I am very pleased that Senator COLLINS and

I have introduced legislation known as the Small Brewer Reinvestment and Expanding Workforce Act, S. 375. The two of us have led the effort to try to help the craft brewing industry. The craft beer industry is composed of small businesses that have used their ingenuity to create beers that are becoming very, very popular.

It is interesting that when we developed the excise tax on beer, I don't think we thought of the craft beer industry at the time. The craft beer industry, as I said, generally consists of small businesses who are struggling to find capital in order to expand. The current law imposes an excise tax on the first 60,000 barrels at \$7 per barrel for breweries that produce 2 million or fewer barrels annually. The Small BREW Act would modify that, by increasing the threshold to 6 million barrels. Under the bill, brewers producing 6 million or fewer barrels each year would pay \$3.50 per barrel on the first 60,000 barrels, and \$16 per barrel on their annual production between 60,001 and 2 million barrels. So the Small BREW Act would reduce the amount they pay in federal excise taxes.

I wish to take a moment and then yield to my colleague to explain the rationale as to why we have introduced this legislation.

As I said a moment ago, when we imposed the excise tax on beer, I believe we thought about the big companies and that we wanted to have taxes on distilled spirits, wine, and beer as an excise tax.

When we take a look at the craft breweries, they are really burdened by this tax. They are creating jobs, they are creating a different product, and they are creating new markets for beer in this country. I wish to share some of these numbers because I think they are pretty impressive.

In 1989 there were 247 breweries in the entire United States. Today there are over 3,200 small and independent breweries and brew pubs in the United States that employ over 110,000 Americans. So this has been a real growth industry. Here are jobs that can't be outsourced, and they have created a better product, a better way of doing business. But the challenge is that they are really strapped for capital. It is not easy for them to invest in the type of equipment necessary to expand their capacity.

Brewers Association CEO Bob Pease said last month in testimony submitted to the House Ways and Means Committee:

America's small brewers are quintessentially small Main Street manufacturers. They typically employ 10 to 100 workers, and many began as home brewers before devoting themselves full time to the brewing industry.

I think that the No. 1 problem for craft brewers trying to expand their capacity is access to sufficient capital.

An article in yesterday's New York Times entitled "Betting on the Growth of Microbreweries" quotes Brewers Association economist Dr. Bart Watson:

Brewery after brewery is looking for ways to grow because when you talk to these companies, the biggest constraint is capacity. They're selling beer as fast as they can make it.

I recently visited Heavy Seas Brewery in Baltimore. Now, I know this brewery quite well because I helped Hugh Sisson, the owner and CEO, tap the very first keg he produced in a microbrewery when he was doing this basically as a hobby. Well, he has expanded his operations a couple of times now, and it wasn't easy to do this. He has invested a lot of money, and he has hired additional people, creating more jobs in Baltimore. Hugh hired 8 people in 2013, another 10 last year, and he expects to hire at least 6 more people this year. These are good jobs. But he needs the capital, and the relief provided by this act would allow him to be able to do this.

So Senator COLLINS and I wanted to bring attention to this legislation which provides some very modest relief from the excise taxes I mentioned earlier. It would reduce the \$7 per barrel on the first 60,000 barrels to \$3.50 and establish a new rate of \$16 per barrel after that up to 2 million barrels for breweries producing up to 6 million barrels annually.

It doesn't seem like much, but that would be the difference in making the investment to expand the microbrewery and hire another 6, 8 or 10 people or to start another brewery, to create the excitement in a community that comes with these brew pubs, which I think all of us would agree should not be subject to a special tax which prevents them from expanding.

This is an important business in my community. It is a growing business in Baltimore. It is a growing business around the country. I hope we all would want to help these small businesses.

In this Congress I have assumed a new role as the ranking Democrat on the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee. We are going to be looking for ways in which we can help small businesses in our country because we know that small businesses are the growth engine for innovation and change and good jobs.

So if we can help the microbreweries, if we can pass this legislation, we will help small businesses, and we will help economic growth in our communities.

I am pleased that Senator COLLINS and I are joined by 23 of our colleagues. Between all of us, 25 percent of the Senate has already cosponsored S. 375. We hope we will be able to find a way to move this legislation early this year so we can help economic growth.

In Maryland we are currently home to 43 craft breweries—from 34 in

2013—and 24 more are in the planning stages. I have been to many of these craft breweries. I enjoy their product, but, more importantly, I enjoy their entrepreneurial spirit, which they have been able to show in a growth industry in our country and of which we all can be proud.

Mr. President, I yield the floor to Senator COLLINS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, Maine and Maryland have in common not only delicious seafood but also fine craft beers.

I am delighted to join my friend and colleague Senator CARDIN in support of the legislation that we have introduced, S. 375, the Small Brewer Reinvestment and Expanding Workforce Act, or Small BREW Act.

The title is more than just a clever acronym. It is a statement of what our bipartisan bill really is all about. This is a jobs bill, and those covered by the bill are small businesses, entrepreneurs who are taking risks and creating jobs in communities around the country.

We often talk in this Chamber about what we can do to help create the environment that encourages job creation. Our bill is one such practical means where we can spur the creation of new jobs as well as great products.

In Maine, we are proud to boast that our State is now home to more than 60 breweries that produce more than 200 different brands. Maine beer is shipped around the country and has developed a real following among connoisseurs who have come to appreciate its quality and craftsmanship. This, in turn, has led to new tourism opportunities as visitors are drawn to our State to sample our delicious Maine craft beers. As the craft beer industry grows, so too does demand for American-grown barley and hops and American-made brewing, bottling, canning, and other equipment. Beyond creating delicious beer, these breweries are creating jobs. That is the whole rationale behind the bill we have introduced.

In Maine alone, our craft breweries employ more than 1,400 people. That is an extraordinary number of jobs. As the Senator from Maryland has pointed out, these are jobs that are going to stay right here in America. They are not going to be outsourced. These are small businesses in our communities that are hiring people and making a difference.

Nationally small and independent brewers employ more than 110,000 full- and part-time employees, generating more than \$3 billion in wages and benefits, and pay more than \$2.3 billion in business, personal, and consumption taxes, according to the Brewers Association.

What could we do to encourage even more employment in this area? The answer is to reduce the Federal excise tax

on small craft brewers, and that is exactly what our bill would do. It would free up capital so these small business owners can reinvest in their companies and create more jobs.

Under the current law, as Senator CARDIN has pointed out, these small businesses pay \$7 per barrel in Federal excise tax on the first 60,000 barrels they brew and \$18 per barrel on every barrel thereafter. The Small BREW Act would reduce these rates to \$3.50 on the first 60,000 barrels and \$16 for production between 60,000 and 2 million barrels. Thereafter, the rate would remain at \$18 per barrel.

We know from the economic analysis that has been done that such a change would have a significant positive economic impact. A June 2013 study prepared by a professor, then at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, estimated that our bill would increase economic activity by \$1 billion over 5 years, create more than 5,000 new jobs in the first year to 18 months after passage, and create approximately 400 new jobs annually thereafter.

Again, I want to repeat, this is a jobs bill, and I am proud to sponsor it with my friend Senator CARDIN. I am also delighted that we have the support of such a large number of colleagues on both sides of the aisle, including my colleague from Maine, Senator KING.

I urge all of our colleagues to take a look at this bill. If you want to do something that is concrete and we know will create more jobs for a growing industry that is carving out a niche in so many States across this Nation, then work with us to achieve passage of the Small BREW Act.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I thank Senator COLLINS not only for her leadership but for also pointing out something very important here: This is a jobs bill. The passage of this bill will create more jobs. We know that because we know that craft breweries are strapped for capital. Every dollar they save here will be reinvested and create more jobs because they don't have the capacity to meet the current demand for their beers. If they could produce more beer today, they would sell more beer, but they don't have the capital to make the investments.

Senator COLLINS is absolutely right when she says this is a jobs bill that will create more jobs.

It also creates a lot of indirect jobs. I was pleased Senator COLLINS pointed out that many of the ingredients the craft breweries use come from the community. They are helping local farmers and local industries grow, which are also generally small businesses. So as they grow, they help other small businesses grow.

One interesting fact is we are now starting to see an increase in craft beer

exports. There is a real desire for our craft brews outside of the United States. It is a relatively new phenomenon, but exports grew by 49 percent in 2013. We exported 283,000 barrels in 2013, and I expect we will see those numbers greatly increase.

This chart shows some of the Maryland craft breweries. They are becoming well known outside of my State of Maryland. I already mentioned Heavy Seas, and Flying Dog is another brewery I had a chance to visit. There are many other breweries, including some with names that are synonymous with my State, such as Raven Beer, Ellicott Mills Brewing Company, Eastern Shore, and Antietam. These are companies and brand names that are now becoming better known because they are producing a great product and people really do like to encourage this type of industry.

I thank Senator COLLINS and our 23 cosponsors. I see Senator KING is on the floor, and I thank the Senator for his help on this bill. I hope we will have an opportunity to show, in a bipartisan fashion, that we can pass legislation to help job growth here in the United States.

With that, I yield the floor to my colleague from Maine.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, first I wish to associate myself with the comments of the Senator from Maryland and my senior colleague from Maine. I know this industry is growing in Maine. It is entrepreneurial, exciting, energetic, and they are adding jobs and only want to continue to grow.

I think this bill makes total sense. It is a way we can express support for the entrepreneurial and innovative growth of businesses in all of our States. I am delighted to be able to join and essentially add my encouragement and support to your work on this bill. Since it is a bipartisan bill, I hope we can move it through this body in a reasonably short period of time.

CYBER SECURITY

Mr. KING. Mr. President, there are two items I want to touch on today. One is bad news and the other is good news. This week we learned there was a data breach of 80 million people's records—300,000 in Maine—at Anthem. Fortunately the data breach did not include credit card numbers, but it did include Social Security numbers. This news comes about a month after Sony.

What is it going to take for this body, for this Congress, for this city, to act to protect us against these threats? We keep getting warning shots, and we keep ignoring them.

I am going to have to go home this weekend, and 300,000 people in Maine are going to say: What have you done to keep this from happening? Am I

really going to be able to say: Well, it is complicated; we have four committees of jurisdiction and it is very difficult for us to make these decisions and it takes some time? That is not good enough.

The intelligence committee reported out a bill last July. We had a bill on the floor here in the fall. It is time for us to act. We keep getting warned, and we keep not doing anything.

I can't justify it. There is no excuse for us not taking steps—concrete steps—to protect this country against cyber attacks. They keep happening.

My regional representatives in Maine have surveyed both small businesses and health care facilities, and all of them either have been attacked or are concerned about attacks. Whether it is from a foreign country or whether it is from garden-variety criminals, the point is this is a major threat facing this country, and it is one we have within our power—we can't control it, but we can at least work together to try to prevent it and to minimize the damage. It is beyond time—way beyond time—for us to take action on this subject.

I hope my colleagues on all the relevant committees can come together in the next several months—before the summer—to take action to deal with this problem. There is no excuse, particularly given the continuous warnings we are having, for not dealing with the issue of the cyber threat to this country.

This week it is Anthem. A few weeks ago it was Sony. What is going to happen when it is the gas pipeline system, when it is the financial system, when it is the New York Stock Exchange, when people's bank accounts disappear overnight? It is time for us to act, and it is time for us to act promptly.

MEDICAL RESEARCH

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I also come to the floor today with some good news. It comes as no surprise that our debates here in the Senate focus generally on challenges, such as the one I just outlined, that face the United States. After all, that is our task and it is our fundamental responsibility to identify our Nation's problems and work together to find solutions.

But too often—and I am sure everyone in this body realizes—the bad news gets more attention than the good news. The old saying is, bad news gets halfway around the world before good news gets its shoes tied. The problems we face should not, I believe, drown out the accomplishments of our citizens as we go about our work every day here in the United States.

I think we should take a little time every now and then to reflect on the great things that are happening all over America, and in my case in Maine. There are stories of perseverance, inno-

vation, individual accomplishments, and community effort. It is in that spirit that I rise today with good news from my home State of Maine.

I will spend a few minutes talking about Dr. Ed Bilsky and the impressive work he and a dedicated team of scientists, physicians, and students have been doing at one of my favorite schools, the University of New England in Biddeford, ME, to better understand and treat chronic pain.

Dr. Bilsky was recently named a member of the Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives, a group of neuroscientists who work together to advance public education about the progress and benefits of brain research and to provide information on the brain in a way that is understandable and accessible for those of us who don't have a Ph.D. in neuroscience.

His inclusion in this group is recognition of his terrific work to advance our understanding of chronic pain. It is also a reflection of the prominent role he and his colleagues are playing in a critical national effort to address this problem. Chronic pain—and that means pain that persists for days, weeks, and months at a time—can be absolutely debilitating for people in Maine and around the country and is responsible for more than \$500 billion a year—\$½ trillion a year—in direct and indirect medical costs.

Periodically in my life I have experienced back pain, and when it persists for a period of time, it changes everything. It changes your mood, it changes your attitude, it changes your ability to get anything done, to focus on the work at hand. There are people in this country who are suffering—the estimate is 100 million people suffer chronic pain at some point in their lives. That is why the work done at the University of New England Center for the Study of Pain and Sensory Function, where Dr. Bilsky is one of the leaders, is so important.

This center is built around a core group of scientists, educators, health care professionals, whose research at the University of New England is focused on understanding the neurobiology of pain. How does it happen? How is it caused? What can we do about it?

Faculty and students work together to study the causes of chronic pain and apply this knowledge to preventing and better treating this very challenging and very prevalent condition. Projects include working to develop new kinds of nonopioid painkillers. That is a big deal because of all of the side effects and dangers of opioid painkillers which we are experiencing in our society. To develop nonopioid painkillers would be a tremendous boon to this country, those which don't have the side effects of opioids. They are also studying the genes and proteins that can turn acute pain into chronic pain and trying to

find out the genetic and chromosomal basis of this terrible problem.

As with any success story, certain key events, people, and investments have made this research community what it is today. The recruitment of key faculty scientists, such as Dr. Bilsky and his codirector Dr. Ian Meng, in the early 2000s was pivotal to this effort. The addition of complementary research-driven faculty and administrators as well as the launch at the university of the Center for Excellence in the Neurosciences continue to move this project forward.

I should mention here the leadership of Daniel Ripich, the president of the University of New England, who is a true visionary and a great leader in the advancement of science and medicine as well as the mission of this great university.

The NIH took notice, awarding the university a 5-year, \$10 million grant in 2012 to create the Center for the Study of Pain and Sensory Function, focusing on the neurobiology of pain. As is often the case, that Federal investment in research, which I believe is one of the most important and valuable investments the Federal Government can make, has been critical to the growth of these research opportunities and projects and has helped to attract further Federal and private investment.

The importance of cooperation and collaboration in a project such as this cannot be overstated. Dr. Bilsky and his colleagues have developed in-State and national networks for collaborative research, training, and public advocacy. They have partnered with clinicians, other researchers, the private sector, community leaders, and schools throughout Maine and the country to not only further their research and advance the bodies of knowledge relating to chronic pain, but also to maximize the positive impact of that research by applying it in their communities. This improves the lives of our citizens by helping them understand the causes and potential treatments for their pain.

Any university's primary mission is to educate, and Dr. Bilsky and his colleagues have taken their important work into the surrounding community. They have developed a vibrant and award-winning K-12 outreach program led by Dr. Mike Burman that focuses on brain safety and brain awareness. This innovative approach to STEM education has been recognized by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. This program engages more than 3,000 local kids each year and inspires kids to enter STEM-related careers, which is one of the most important objectives we can encourage in this country.

The research has also helped to spur economic development in Maine. Faculty members work in partnership with local biotech and pharmaceutical companies, helping the private sector with

local research and development they may otherwise be unable to afford. This cooperation has helped Maine companies grow and create jobs. It is a win-win for everyone involved. It has built the reputation of the University of New England, and it draws positive attention to the State of Maine and, most importantly, it helps change lives.

If my colleagues can't tell, I am very proud of this work done in my State. As we go about our work here in this body, it is important, I believe, every now and then to recognize the success stories at home. We might even learn a thing or two from them.

With that positive thought, I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING RICHARD "DICK" RICHARDS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I am grateful for this opportunity to pay tribute to a respected political leader, a cherished friend, and an exceptional human being—Richard "Dick" Richards. A native of Ogden, UT, Dick touched the lives of many and was deeply respected for his wisdom, his no-nonsense approach, and his remarkable integrity.

When I first considered running for the Senate in 1976, Dick was serving as the Utah Republican Party chairman. At the time, I was a political novice, but Dick's early encouragement and counsel were instrumental in my candidacy and subsequent victory. I will always be grateful for his invaluable support during my first term as a Senator.

Dick and I shared a great admiration and respect for President Ronald Reagan. We were both early supporters who campaigned tirelessly to help get President Reagan elected in 1980. In President Reagan, we saw a leader who shared our conservative values and our willingness to take a stand on hard issues. Impressed with Reagan's integrity, Dick and I put our whole heart and energy into campaigning for this great man.

For many years, Dick and President Reagan shared a close friendship based on mutual love and respect. During the campaign, President Reagan noted Dick's political savvy and leadership skills and later tapped him to head the National Republican Committee from 1981–82. As chairman, Dick raised the Republican Party's profile and fought

passionately for conservative principles across all levels of government. His leadership on the national stage set a course for many more years of campaign activity and advisory roles in Utah and across the Nation.

Capping Dick's successful career in politics was his tireless help in establishing the Richard Richards Institute for Ethics at his alma mater, Weber State University. The institute is carrying on Dick's legacy to inspire future leaders to enter politics and government and lead with integrity and strength. In his book, "Climbing the Political Ladder, One Rung at a Time," Dick discusses the virtues of civic engagement and encourages youth to become actively involved in the political process.

Dick's public accomplishments were numerous, but his most significant achievements were personal. His greatest source of pride was his loving partnership with his wife Annette, their 5 children, 11 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren. He deeply cared for each of them and always made family his top priority.

Dick also donated countless hours of service to his community and his faith. He served in many important leadership positions in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and was always generous with his time.

Dick Richards was a truly remarkable man who led by example, hard work, and a desire to do what is right. His impact on Utah will be felt for generations to come. Elaine and I send our deepest condolences to his beautiful wife Annette, whose loyal companionship and counsel sustained Dick throughout his career. May God's love embrace Annette and her family with peace and comfort during this difficult time.

RECOGNIZING THE BOYD GAMING CORPORATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the 40th anniversary of the Boyd Gaming Corporation, a leader in today's gaming industry that is respected in Nevada and across the Nation.

Boyd Gaming Corporation was founded in 1975, but the legacy of the company began in 1941, when Sam Boyd moved his family to Las Vegas, NV. Sam started his career as a table dealer and quickly gained experience by working his way across the Silver State through an array of jobs in the gaming industry. By 1952, he had saved enough money to purchase a small stake in the legendary Sahara Hotel and Casino. Sam's small stake in the Sahara eventually led to him becoming the general manager of the Mint, which was a hotel and casino in downtown Las Vegas.

Sam's son, Bill, has been a force in gaming in Nevada and throughout the

United States. Bill is an accomplished lawyer, and now, an accomplished businessman. I am happy to call him a friend. Bill first partnered with Sam and others in acquiring a stake in the Eldorado Casino, but it was not until New Year's Day 1975 that the father and son partnership became the Boyd Gaming Corporation. The corporation's first major project was the California Hotel and Casino in downtown Las Vegas, which quickly became a success.

In 1979, Boyd Gaming opened "Sam's Town" on a 13 acre lot off Boulder Highway. The project carried the name of one of its founders, Sam Boyd, and for the first time, provided Las Vegas locals with a full-scale resort. While their California Hotel and Casino property was inspiring innovative marketing strategies, across town at the Sam's Town property, the corporation was providing an entirely new experience to local Nevadans.

Since then, Boyd Gaming has grown into a large corporation with 22 properties across the country, and enjoyed tremendous success. Throughout their history, Boyd Gaming has remained deeply rooted in its Nevadan history and has been guided by the principles of family and integrity first laid out by Sam Boyd. As an inductee in the Gaming Hall of Fame, Sam will always be remembered as one of the most influential businessmen and innovators in Las Vegas gaming history. I remember Sam not only for his entrepreneurship and business sense, but also as a friend who championed diversity among his employees, and would go out of his way to give back to the community.

I am honored to congratulate Boyd Gaming Corporation on reaching this milestone and I wish the corporation, and the Boyd family the best on all future endeavors.

SAFE FOOD ACT OF 2015

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the issue that impacts the lives of every American—food safety.

In 1997, I introduced a bill to consolidate at one agency the Federal oversight of food safety, and I have introduced that bill seven times, including most recently just last week. So I found it heartening to see the President's proposal to consolidate most of those responsibilities into one agency as part of the fiscal year 2016 budget.

Today, 15 different Federal agencies have food safety responsibilities. This patchwork of oversight makes it harder to focus on the highest risks in our food system and makes foodborne illness outbreaks more difficult to manage. President Obama's budget puts in motion a plan to create the efficiencies we have been talking about since 1997.

The President's plan would create a single new agency within the Department of Health and Human Services.

That agency would have primary responsibility for food safety inspections, as well as enforcement, applied research, and outbreak response and mitigation. And the proposed agency would be the Federal point for coordinating with State and local entities and food safety stakeholders. This is an important step toward creating a single food agency.

I first got involved in updating our food safety system in response to a letter from constituent. The letter shared the story of a mother purchasing, cooking, and serving her 6-year-old son a hamburger. Very few foods are more basic in America than hamburger, but on this day that hamburger was contaminated with *E. coli*. This simple hamburger ended up taking her son's life. This story, as sad as it is, is only one of many. Each year, 48 million Americans become sick as a result of foodborne illnesses. That is one in every six people. Mr. President, 128,000 of those will be so sick they will need hospitalization, and 3,000 of those will not survive their illnesses.

While we have made significant reforms to our food safety system with passage of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act—which will improve our food safety—we have still not solved this problem.

Recently, the *New Yorker* ran an article called "A Bug in the System." The story details the experience of Rick Schiller, who had contracted a form of the salmonella bacterium, known as Salmonella Heidelberg. The condition led to multiple days in the hospital. After his release, he was contacted by the Centers for Disease Control, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture collected some chicken from his freezer as a potential source for the foodborne illness. More than a year later, he had not heard back from the investigator and he still wasn't sure that it was the chicken that almost killed him.

This *New Yorker* article highlights problems that have been identified by the Government Accountability Office, the National Research Council, and the Institute of Medicine for decades. Simply determining which of 15 Federal agencies is responsible for inspection of a particular food can leave the average citizen scratching their head.

In the current regulatory regime, a pepperoni pizza—because it contains meat—has ingredients that will be inspected three times before the product hits the grocery store freezer. A vegetarian pizza produced at the same facility, however, will probably not undergo any inspection.

For eggs, it is even more scrambled. If it is a fresh egg, it is inspected by U.S. Department of Agriculture. But if that egg is part of premade product like a breakfast biscuit, it is the Food and Drug Administration. It just does not make sense. The experts said it,

the data reflects it, and we can be left with only one conclusion.

The fragmented nature of our food safety system has left us more vulnerable to risk of foodborne illness and too often forced consumers to go it alone in the case of outbreak. I agree with the President that it is time for a new governmentwide approach. I would like to take it a step further and establish a single food safety agency.

The Safe Food Act I introduced last week would transfer and consolidate food safety authorities for inspections, enforcement, labeling, and research into a single food safety agency. That will allow us to prioritize system-wide food safety goals and targets. With a single food safety agency, food producers and manufacturers will just have a single Federal regulatory structure.

An egg is an egg is an egg and will be regulated by the same agency regardless of how you cook, process, or serve it. This should make it easier for those in the food industry to comply with food safety laws, even if those laws are no less stringent. The bill also modernizes certain aspects of our federal food safety laws to protect and improve public health.

Specifically, the bill would authorize mandatory recall for all foods. Today, it is easier to recall toys than tainted meat. The bill requires facilities to use risk-based analysis to identify and protect against potential hazards at their facility. The bill will authorize performance standards for pathogens like salmonella and campylobacter and for the first time authorize the agency to prevent products that are not meeting those standards from entering the market. The bill will provide for full traceback of foods to better identify and stop the outbreak at its source. Finally, the bill provides a single point of contact for families harmed by foodborne illness to turn to for answers.

This new agency will help those families navigate the differing Federal, State, and local food safety agencies to get the answers they deserve. It is bad enough to suffer severe illness or lose a loved one to foodborne illness; you should not have to spend months going from agency to agency trying to get as simple an answer to a question like, Did this chicken make me sick?

This is not the only approach to creating an agency with the primary responsibilities for overseeing and directing food safety, but we think it will help close existing gaps in our food safety system, reduce the likelihood of foodborne illness, clarify our inspection regimes for industry, and provide more clear assistance to people made sick by foodborne illness.

In closing, I want to take a moment to thank some of my colleagues. I would like to thank Senators FEINSTEIN, BLUMENTHAL, and GILLIBRAND

for joining me in introducing this bill, and I stand ready to work with any Member on either side of the aisle who wants to tackle this issue.

I commend the administration for embracing this idea of consolidating oversight of food safety. I hope it doesn't take another serious foodborne outbreak before we decide to act.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF LINCOLN COLLEGE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise to honor the 150th anniversary for Lincoln College in Lincoln, IL. One hundred fifty years ago tomorrow, the Illinois General Assembly granted a charter establishing the new college, originally known as Lincoln University. Just 6 days later, on President Abraham Lincoln's 56th birthday, ground was broken for University Hall, a building still in use today. Lincoln University was the first institution to be named for Abraham Lincoln and the only during his lifetime. The first commencement in 1868 included a total of three students—two men and one woman. Lincoln College has come a long way.

This year, Lincoln College enrolled about 640 students, and 90 percent of those who graduate will continue their education at a 4-year university. Lincoln College now has campuses in Lincoln and Normal, IL, with a tradition of personal education. By providing a low faculty to student ratio, Lincoln College offers individualized attention that makes the difference between failure and success for many students. The school provides a springboard for students who go on to continue their education and helps students find good paying jobs.

Lincoln College offers more than just great student services and academic programs that are second to none. Lincoln College fields a number of varsity sports teams that have won national championships, hosts a speaker series, and maintains Civil War era artifacts at the Lincoln Heritage Museum.

I thank President John Blackburn for his leadership at Lincoln College and congratulate the institution on 150 years of providing Illinois students with a quality affordable education.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CALIFORNIA CASUALTIES

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to 12 servicemembers from California or based in California who have died while serving our country in Operation Enduring Freedom and in Operation Inherent Resolve since I last entered names into the RECORD.

CW2 Edward Balli, 42, of Monterey, CA, died January 20, 2014, in Kandahar

Province, Afghanistan, of wounds from small arms fire when he was attacked by insurgents. Chief Warrant Officer Balli was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, U.S. Army Europe, Vilseck, Germany.

SPC Daniela Rojas, 19, of Los Angeles, CA, died May 3, 2014, in Homburg, Germany, due to a noncombat related illness. Specialist Rojas was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, CO.

CW2 Deric M. Rasmussen, 33, of Oceanside, CA, died May 11, 2014, in Mazar-e Sharif, Afghanistan, as the result of a noncombat incident. Chief Warrant Officer Rasmussen was assigned to the Company C, 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, Fort Hood, TX.

SPC Adrian M. Perkins, 19, of Pine Valley, CA, died May 17, 2014, in Amman, Jordan, from a noncombat related injury. Specialist Perkins was assigned to 1st Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, CO.

SPC Terry J. Hurne, 34, of Merced, CA, died June 9, 2014, in Logar Province, Afghanistan, from a noncombat related incident. Specialist Hurne was assigned to the 710th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, NY.

SSG Scott R. Studenmund, 24, of Pasadena, CA, died June 9, 2014, in Gaza Village, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered while engaged in a combat operation. Staff Sergeant Studenmund was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group, Fort Campbell, KY.

Sgt Thomas Z. Spitzer, 23, of New Braunfels, TX, died June 25, 2014 while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. Sergeant Spitzer was assigned to 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, CA.

PFC Keith M. Williams, 19, of Visalia, CA, died July 24, 2014 in Mirugol Kalay, Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when the enemy attacked his vehicle with an improvised explosive device. Private First Class Williams was assigned to 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, CO.

SGT Christopher W. Mulalley, 26, of Eureka, CA, died August 22, 2014 in Gardez, Afghanistan, as the result of a noncombat related incident. Sergeant Mulalley was assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, TX.

Cpl Jordan L. Spears, 21, of Memphis, IN, was lost at sea October 1, 2014 while conducting flight operations in the North Arabian Gulf. Corporal Spears was assigned to Marine Medium

Tiltrotor Squadron-163, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, CA.

LCpl Sean P. Neal, 19, of Riverside, CA, died October 23, 2014, in Baghdad, Iraq, from a noncombat related incident. Lance Corporal Neal was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force, Crisis Response, Central Command, whose headquarters element deploys from Camp Pendleton, CA.

CDR Christopher E. Kalafut, 49, of Oceanside, CA, died October 24, 2014, in Doha, Qatar, of a noncombat related incident at Al Udeid Air Base. Commander Kalafut was assigned to Naval Amphibious Liaison Element, Combined Forces Air Component Center, U.S. Central Command.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING LORETTA'S AUTHENTIC PRALINES

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, small businesses across the country have the unique opportunity to put their special stamp on the traditions that mark their communities. In honor of Black History Month, I would like to recognize Loretta Harrison, owner and operator of a successful New Orleans-based praline company. Through the hardships of starting a business to persevering and even expanding through one of the most tragic natural disasters to hit the United States, this small business has gone above and beyond the past 35 years to carry the tradition of this special treat to the people of New Orleans. It is my pleasure to recognize Loretta's Authentic Pralines as this week's Small Business of the Week.

Before she felt the calling to bring her family's special praline recipe to her community, Loretta—who serves as president and CEO—worked as a medical librarian at Louisiana State University. Pralines are a common Louisiana dessert, with roots that go all the way back to the original French settlers. They are made of ingredients that are plentiful to the region, which include an intricate mix of sugar, butter, cream, and pecans. Through Loretta's hard work and determination, what started as a praline stand at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival has now grown into a storefront in both the Marigny and the French Market. Not only does Loretta's Pralines serve a wide variety of signature pralines, but it has expanded the menu to include other delicious desserts, such as king cakes, coconut macaroons, fudge, and oatmeal raisin cookies. The store in the Marigny also doubles as a café for breakfast and lunch, serving sweet and savory favorites like sweet potato pancakes and shrimp and grits.

Apart from the legacy of being some of the best pralines in New Orleans, which is no easy feat, Loretta's Pralines is known for its strength and support during the rebuilding of the city after Hurricane Katrina. With the blessing of minimal damage to her store, Loretta recognized that there was an important void in her community that she immediately stepped in to fill. By temporarily changing the business model from a sweet shop to a restaurant, Loretta was able to feed the volunteers, workers, and reporters who were helping to rebuild the city she knew and loved. Loretta's Pralines also became a sort of haven for those whose lives had changed dramatically, a familiar meeting place as part of a larger community during the recovery. This act of benevolence in the midst of the hardship cemented Loretta's Pralines as a New Orleans institution.

Small business owners like Loretta Harrison are what make our State truly unique—indeed, we would not be the same without their examples of courage and kindness. I am honored to recognize a small business that has shown compassion during the devastating times, as well as ingenuity and success in expanding their business across the city. Congratulations again to Loretta's Authentic Pralines. I wish you all the best and more in the future.●

RECOGNIZING ED HUNTER

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, today, I rise to honor Ed Hunter, on the occasion of his retirement as the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Washington office.

Ed has had a long career in public service. He has served the Nation for over 40 years at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC. He began his career at the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics in 1975 while he was still a student at the University of Maryland.

In this role, Ed helped establish a national health information infrastructure that is critical to making evidence-based public health policy. He, along with two of his colleagues, conceived and edited "Health Statistics: Shaping Policy and Practice to Improve the Population's Health," the first textbook to cover the development, use, and improvement of health statistics.

In his work on data policy, Ed created and led a cross agency committee to develop recommendations on the health data collection program of the entire Federal Government. His efforts have led to greater efficiency, increased emphasis on statistical rigor, and greater data usability. When you read a health statistic in a newspaper article, it is more trustworthy because of Ed Hunter.

Most recently, as the Director of the CDC's Washington office, Ed has been essential in keeping Members of Congress and their staffs informed about urgent public health crises and communicating critical public health information. From ricin in the halls of Congress to Ebola on the other side of the world, Ed helped us make policy decisions based on sound science.

Today, I want to recognize Ed for his 40 years at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, for his dedication to public service, and for a lifetime of work that has truly made a difference in the health of our Nation and around the world. On behalf of the U.S. Congress, your fellow statesmen in Maryland, and a grateful nation, I want to thank Ed for all of the important work he has done and wish him the very best in his next phase of life.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:31 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 50. An act to provide for additional safeguards with respect to imposing Federal mandates, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1024(a), and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the Joint Economic Committee: Mrs. MALONEY of New York.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 50. An act to provide for additional safeguards with respect to imposing Federal mandates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 596. An act to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 405. A bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. COCHRAN, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled "Further Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for Fiscal Year 2015" (Rept. No. 114-2).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. GRASSLEY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Michael P. Botticelli, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy.

Jeanne E. Davidson, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. KING, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. FRANKEN, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 379. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand and modify the credit for employee health insurance expenses of small employers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 380. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exemption from the tax on early distributions for certain Bureau of Prisons correctional officers who retire before age 55, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 381. A bill to improve the response to missing children and victims of child sex trafficking; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. AYOTTE (for herself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 382. A bill to eliminate the automatic inflation increases for discretionary programs built into the baseline projections and require budget estimates to be compared with prior year's level; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. RUSCH):

S. 383. A bill to provide for Indian trust asset management reform, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. GARDNER):

S. 384. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to facilitate water leasing and water transfers to promote conservation and efficiency; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. ISAKSON, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Ms. AYOTTE):

S. 385. A bill to provide for a biennial appropriations process with the exception of defense spending and to enhance oversight and the performance of the Federal Government; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 386. A bill to limit the authority of States to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. 387. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to use the definitions in section 40125 of title 49, United States Code, in determining whether an unmanned aircraft conducting aeronautical research flights qualifies for public aircraft status under that section, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 388. A bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to require humane treatment of animals by Federal Government facilities; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. HIRONO:

S. 389. A bill to amend section 1111(h)(1)(C)(i) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require that annual State report cards reflect the same race groups as the decennial census of population; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 390. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to ensure that amounts in the land and water conservation fund are made available for projects to provide recreational public access, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. HATCH, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. HELLER, Mr. LEE, Mr. RUSCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. SCOTT):

S. 391. A bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DONNELLY (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 392. A bill to combat heroin and methamphetamine trafficking across the Southern border of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REID (for Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 393. A bill to designate the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in the State of California, and for other purposes;

to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. HELLER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. VITTER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 394. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the 15-year recovery period for qualified leasehold improvement property, qualified restaurant property, and qualified retail improvement property; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 395. A bill to implement a demonstration project under titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to examine the costs and benefits of providing payments for comprehensive coordinated health care services provided by purpose-built, continuing care retirement communities to Medicare beneficiaries; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 396. A bill to establish the Proprietary Education Oversight Coordination Committee; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MCCAIN:

S. 397. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a temporary dividends received deduction for dividends received from a controlled foreign corporation; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. KING, Mr. TESTER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 398. A bill to amend the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Programs Enhancement Act of 2001 and title 38, United States Code, to require the provision of chiropractic care and services to veterans at all Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers and to expand access to such care and services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. FISCHER:

S. 399. A bill to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to increase transparency in Federal budgeting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. COATS (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 400. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide notice to charities and other nonprofit organizations before their tax-exempt status is automatically revoked; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 401. A bill to amend rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to improve attorney accountability, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FRANKEN:

S. 402. A bill to establish a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Master Teacher Corps program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 403. A bill to revise the authorized route of the North Country National Scenic Trail in northeastern Minnesota and to extend the trail into Vermont to connect with the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. VITTER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. COATS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. ENZI, Mr. MORAN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. PAUL, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 404. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. RISCH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 405. A bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 406. A bill to waive and repay certain debts relating to assistance provided to individuals and households; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CARPER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REED, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. KAINE):

S. 407. A bill to regulate large capacity ammunition feeding devices; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 408. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules for tax-exempt enterprise zone facility bonds and to extend the tax incentives for empowerment zones; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BURR (for himself and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 409. A bill to amend the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act to require the Secretary of Defense to inform the Attorney General of persons required to register as sex offenders; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. THUNE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. KING, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. Res. 69. A resolution calling for the protection of religious minority rights and freedoms worldwide; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. Res. 70. A resolution designating February 2015 as "National Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Awareness Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. WARNER, Mr. COONS, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. Res. 71. A resolution designating the week of February 8 through February 14, 2015, as "Internet Governance Awareness Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. Con. Res. 3. A concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha I; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 28

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 28, a bill to limit the use of cluster munitions.

S. 36

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 36, a bill to address the continued threat posed by dangerous synthetic drugs by amending the Controlled Substances Act relating to controlled substance analogues.

S. 40

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 40, a bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to promulgate regulations that prohibit certain preferential treatment or prioritization of Internet traffic.

S. 149

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 149, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices.

S. 164

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 164, a bill to increase the rates of pay under the General Schedule and other statutory pay systems and for prevailing rate employees by 3.8 percent, and for other purposes.

S. 166

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 166, a bill to stop exploitation through trafficking.

S. 178

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 178, a bill to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

S. 182

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 182, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to prohibit Federal education mandates, and for other purposes.

S. 192

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr.

GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 192, a bill to reauthorize the Older Americans Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

S. 209

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 209, a bill to amend the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act of 2005, and for other purposes.

S. 257

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 257, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to physician supervision of therapeutic hospital outpatient services.

S. 259

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 259, a bill to modify the efficiency standards for grid-enabled water heaters.

S. 271

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 271, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 272

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 272, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

S. 275

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 275, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of home as a site of care for infusion therapy under the Medicare program.

S. 282

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 282, a bill to provide taxpayers with an annual report disclosing the cost and performance of Government programs and areas of duplication among them, and for other purposes.

S. 295

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Arkansas

(Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 295, a bill to amend section 2259 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 299

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 299, a bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 301

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 301, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

S. 308

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 308, a bill to reauthorize 21st century community learning centers, and for other purposes.

S. 309

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 309, a bill to prohibit earmarks.

S. 316

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) were added as cosponsors of S. 316, a bill to amend the charter school program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

S. 355

At the request of Mr. Kaine, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 355, a bill to support the provision of safe relationship behavior education and training.

S. RES. 40

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 40, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding efforts by the United States and others to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 396. A bill to establish the Proprietary Education Oversight Coordination Committee; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 396

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Proprietary Education Oversight Coordination Improvement Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) EXECUTIVE OFFICER.—The term "executive officer", with respect to a proprietary institution of higher education that is a publicly traded corporation, means—

(A) the president of such corporation;

(B) a vice president of such corporation who is in charge of a principal business unit, division, or function of such corporation, such as sales, administration, or finance; or

(C) any other officer or person who performs a policy making function for such corporation.

(2) FEDERAL EDUCATION ASSISTANCE.—The term "Federal education assistance" means any Federal financial assistance provided under any Federal law through a grant, a contract, a subsidy, a loan, a guarantee, an insurance, or any other means to a proprietary institution of higher education, including Federal financial assistance that is disbursed or delivered to such institution, on behalf of a student, or to a student to be used to attend such institution, except that such term shall not include any monthly housing stipend provided under chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code.

(3) PRIVATE EDUCATION LOAN.—The term "private education loan"—

(A) means a loan provided by a private educational lender (as defined in section 140(a) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1650(a))) that—

(i) is not made, insured, or guaranteed under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.);

(ii) is issued expressly for postsecondary educational expenses to a borrower, regardless of whether the loan is provided through the educational institution that the subject student attends or directly to the borrower from the private educational lender (as so defined); and

(iii) is not made, insured, or guaranteed under title VII or title VIII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292 et seq. and 296 et seq.); and

(B) does not include an extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, a reverse mortgage transaction, a residential mortgage transaction, or any other loan that is secured by real property or a dwelling.

(4) PROPRIETARY INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term "proprietary institution of higher education" has the meaning given the term in section 102(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(b)).

(5) RECRUITING AND MARKETING ACTIVITIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the term "recruiting and marketing activities" means activities that consist of the following:

(i) Advertising and promotion activities, including paid announcements in newspapers, magazines, radio, television, billboards, electronic media, naming rights, or any other public medium of communication, including paying for displays or promotions at job fairs, military installations, or college recruiting events.

(ii) Efforts to identify and attract prospective students, either directly or through a contractor or other third party, including contact concerning a prospective student's potential enrollment or application for a grant, a loan, or work assistance under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) or participation in preadmission or advising activities, including—

(I) paying employees responsible for overseeing enrollment and for contacting potential students in-person, by phone, by email, or by other internet communications regarding enrollment; and

(II) soliciting an individual to provide contact information to an institution of higher education, including through websites established for such purpose and funds paid to third parties for such purpose.

(iii) Such other activities as the Secretary of Education may prescribe, including paying for promotion or sponsorship of education or military-related associations.

(B) EXCEPTIONS.—Any activity that is required as a condition of receipt of funds by an institution under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.), is specifically authorized under such title, or is otherwise specified by the Secretary of Education, shall not be considered to be a recruiting and marketing activity under subparagraph (A).

(6) STATE APPROVAL AGENCY.—The term “State approval agency” means any State agency that determines whether an institution of higher education is legally authorized within such State to provide a program of education beyond secondary education.

(7) VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION.—The term “veterans service organization” means an organization recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the representation of veterans under section 5902 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a committee to be known as the “Proprietary Education Oversight Coordination Committee” (referred to in this Act as the “Committee”) and to be composed of the head (or the designee of such head) of each of the following Federal entities:

- (1) The Department of Education.
- (2) The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.
- (3) The Department of Justice.
- (4) The Securities and Exchange Commission.
- (5) The Department of Defense.
- (6) The Department of Veterans Affairs.
- (7) The Federal Trade Commission.
- (8) The Department of Labor.
- (9) The Internal Revenue Service.
- (10) At the discretion of the President, any other relevant Federal agency or department.

(b) PURPOSES.—The Committee shall have the following purposes:

(1) Coordinate Federal oversight of proprietary institutions of higher education to—

(A) improve enforcement of applicable Federal laws and regulations;

(B) increase accountability of proprietary institutions of higher education to students and taxpayers; and

(C) ensure the promotion of quality education programs.

(2) Coordinate Federal activities to protect students from unfair, deceptive, abusive, unethical, fraudulent, or predatory practices, policies, or procedures of proprietary institutions of higher education.

(3) Encourage information sharing among agencies related to Federal investigations,

audits, or inquiries of proprietary institutions of higher education.

(4) Increase coordination and cooperation between Federal and State agencies, including State Attorneys General and State approval agencies, with respect to improving oversight and accountability of proprietary institutions of higher education.

(5) Develop best practices and consistency among Federal and State agencies in the dissemination of consumer information regarding proprietary institutions of higher education to ensure that students, parents, and other stakeholders have easy access to such information.

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) DESIGNEES.—For any designee described in subsection (a), the head of the member entity shall appoint a high-level official who exercises significant decision making authority for the oversight or investigatory activities and responsibilities related to proprietary institutions of higher education of the respective Federal entity of such head.

(2) CHAIRPERSON.—The Secretary of Education or the designee of such Secretary shall serve as the Chairperson of the Committee.

(3) COMMITTEE SUPPORT.—The head of each entity described in subsection (a) shall ensure appropriate staff and officials of such entity are available to support the Committee-related work of such entity.

SEC. 4. MEETINGS.

(a) COMMITTEE MEETINGS.—The members of the Committee shall meet regularly, but not less than once during each quarter of each fiscal year, to carry out the purposes described in section 3(b).

(b) MEETINGS WITH STATE AGENCIES AND STAKEHOLDERS.—The Committee shall meet not less than once each fiscal year, and shall otherwise interact regularly, with State Attorneys General, State approval agencies, veterans service organizations, and consumer advocates to carry out the purposes described in section 3(b).

SEC. 5. REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall submit a report each year to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, and any other committee of Congress that the Committee determines appropriate.

(b) PUBLIC ACCESS.—The report described in subsection (a) shall be made available to the public in a manner that is easily accessible to parents, students, and other stakeholders, in accordance with the best practices developed under section 3(b)(5).

(c) CONTENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The report shall include—

(A) an accounting of any action (as defined in paragraph (3)) taken by the Federal Government, any member entity of the Committee, or a State—

(i) to enforce Federal or State laws and regulations applicable to proprietary institutions of higher education;

(ii) to hold proprietary institutions of higher education accountable to students and taxpayers; and

(iii) to promote quality education programs;

(B) a summary of complaints against each proprietary institution of higher education received by any member entity of the Committee;

(C) the data described in paragraph (2) and any other data relevant to proprietary institutions of higher education that the Committee determines appropriate; and

(D) recommendations of the Committee for such legislative and administrative actions

as the Committee determines are necessary to—

(i) improve enforcement of applicable Federal laws;

(ii) increase accountability of proprietary institutions of higher education to students and taxpayers; and

(iii) ensure the promotion of quality education programs.

(2) DATA.—

(A) INDUSTRY-WIDE DATA.—The report shall include data on all proprietary institutions of higher education that consists of information regarding—

(i) the total amount of Federal education assistance that proprietary institutions of higher education received for the previous academic year, and the percentage of the total amount of Federal education assistance provided to institutions of higher education (as defined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)) for such previous academic year that reflects such total amount of Federal education assistance provided to proprietary institutions of higher education for such previous academic year;

(ii) the total amount of Federal education assistance that proprietary institutions of higher education received for the previous academic year, disaggregated by—

(I) educational assistance in the form of a loan provided under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.);

(II) educational assistance in the form of a grant provided under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.);

(III) educational assistance provided under chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code;

(IV) assistance for tuition and expenses under section 2007 of title 10, United States Code;

(V) assistance provided under section 1784a of title 10, United States Code; and

(VI) Federal education assistance not described in subclauses (I) through (V);

(iii) the percentage of the total amount of Federal education assistance provided to institutions of higher education (as defined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)) for such previous academic year for each of the programs described in subclauses (I) through (VI) of clause (ii) that reflects such total amount of Federal education assistance provided to proprietary institutions of higher education for such previous academic year for each of such programs;

(iv) the average retention and graduation rates for students pursuing a degree at proprietary institutions of higher education;

(v) the average cohort default rate (as defined in section 435(m) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1085(m)) for proprietary institutions of higher education, and an annual list of cohort default rates (as so defined) for all proprietary institutions of higher education;

(vi) for careers requiring the passage of a licensing examination—

(I) the passage rate of individuals who attended a proprietary institution of higher education taking such examination to pursue such a career; and

(II) the passage rate of all individuals taking such exam to pursue such a career; and

(vii) the use of private education loans at proprietary institutions of higher education that includes—

(I) an estimate of the total number of such loans; and

(II) information on the average debt, default rate, and interest rate of such loans.

(B) DATA ON PUBLICLY TRADED CORPORATIONS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The report shall include data on proprietary institutions of higher education that are publicly traded corporations, consisting of information on—

(I) any pre-tax profit of such proprietary institutions of higher education—

(aa) reported as a total amount and an average percent of revenue for all such proprietary institutions of higher education; and

(bb) reported for each such proprietary institution of higher education;

(II) revenue for such proprietary institutions of higher education spent on recruiting and marketing activities, student instruction, and student support services, reported—

(aa) as a total amount and an average percent of revenue for all such proprietary institutions of higher education; and

(bb) for each such proprietary institution of higher education;

(III) total compensation packages of the executive officers of each such proprietary institution of higher education;

(IV) a list of institutional loan programs offered by each such proprietary institution of higher education that includes information on the default and interest rates of such programs; and

(V) the data described in clauses (ii) and (iii).

(ii) DISAGGREGATED BY OWNERSHIP.—The report shall include data on proprietary institutions of higher education that are publicly traded corporations, disaggregated by corporate or parent entity, brand name, and campus, consisting of—

(I) the total cost of attendance for each program at each such proprietary institution of higher education, and information comparing such total cost for each such program to—

(aa) the total cost of attendance for each program at each public institution of higher education; and

(bb) the average total cost of attendance for each program at all institutions of higher education, including such institutions that are public and such institutions that are private;

(II) total enrollment, disaggregated by—

(aa) individuals enrolled in programs taken online; and

(bb) individuals enrolled in programs that are not taken online;

(III) the average retention and graduation rates for students pursuing a degree at such proprietary institutions of higher education;

(IV) the percentage of students enrolled in such proprietary institutions of higher education who complete a program of such an institution within—

(aa) the standard period of completion for such program; and

(bb) a period that is 150 percent of such standard period of completion;

(V) the total cost of attendance for each program at such proprietary institutions of higher education;

(VI) the average cohort default rate, as defined in section 435(m) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1085(m)), for such proprietary institutions of higher education, and an annual list of cohort default rates (as so defined) for all proprietary institutions of higher education;

(VII) the median educational debt incurred by students who complete a program at such a proprietary institution of higher education;

(VIII) the median educational debt incurred by students who start but do not complete a program at such a proprietary institution of higher education;

(IX) the job placement rate for students who complete a program at such a proprietary institution of higher education and the type of employment obtained by such students;

(X) for careers requiring the passage of a licensing examination, the rate of individuals who attended such a proprietary institution of higher education and passed such an examination; and

(XI) the number of complaints from students enrolled in such proprietary institutions of higher education who have submitted a complaint to any member entity of the Committee.

(iii) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS ASSISTANCE.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—To the extent practicable, the report shall provide information on the data described in clause (ii) for individuals using, to pay for the costs of attending such a proprietary institution of higher education, Federal education assistance provided under—

(aa) chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code;

(bb) section 2007 of title 10, United States Code; and

(cc) section 1784a of title 10, United States Code.

(II) REVENUE.—The report shall provide information on the revenue of proprietary institutions of higher education that are publicly traded corporations that is derived from the Federal education assistance described in subclause (I).

(C) COMPARISON DATA.—To the extent practicable, the report shall provide information comparing the data described in subparagraph (B) for proprietary institutions of higher education that are publicly traded corporations with such data for public institutions of higher education disaggregated by State.

(3) ACCOUNTING OF ANY ACTION.—For the purposes of paragraph (1)(A), the term “any action” shall include—

(A) a complaint filed by a Federal or State agency in a local, State, Federal, or tribal court;

(B) an administrative proceeding by a Federal or State agency involving noncompliance of any applicable law or regulation; or

(C) any other review, audit, or administrative process by any Federal or State agency that results in a penalty, suspension, or termination from any Federal or State program.

SEC. 6. FOR-PROFIT COLLEGE WARNING LIST FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Each academic year, the Committee shall publish a list to be known as the “For-Profit College Warning List for Parents and Students” to be comprised of proprietary institutions of higher education—

(1) that have engaged in illegal activity during the previous academic year as determined by a Federal or State court;

(2) that have entered into a settlement resulting in a monetary payment;

(3) that have had any higher education program withdrawn or suspended; or

(4) for which the Committee has sufficient evidence of widespread or systemic unfair, deceptive, abusive, unethical, fraudulent, or predatory practices, policies, or procedures that pose a threat to the academic success, financial security, or general best interest of students.

(b) DETERMINATIONS.—In making a determination pursuant to subsection (a)(4), the Committee may consider evidence that includes the following:

(1) Any consumer complaint collected by any member entity of the Committee.

(2) Any complaint filed by a Federal or State agency in a Federal, State, local, or tribal court.

(3) Any administrative proceeding by a Federal or State agency involving noncompliance of any applicable law or regulation.

(4) Any other review, audit, or administrative process by any Federal or State agency that results in a penalty, suspension, or termination from any Federal or State program.

(5) Data or information submitted by a proprietary institution of higher education to any accrediting agency or association recognized by the Secretary of Education pursuant to section 496 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1099b) or the findings or adverse actions of any such accrediting agency or association.

(6) Information submitted by a proprietary institution of higher education to any member entity of the Committee.

(7) Any other evidence that the Committee determines relevant in making a determination pursuant to subsection (a)(4).

(c) PUBLICATION.—Not later than July 1 of each fiscal year, the Committee shall publish the list under subsection (a) prominently and in a manner that is easily accessible to parents, students, and other stakeholders, in accordance with any best practices developed under section 3(b)(5).

By Mr. MCCAIN:

S. 397. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a temporary dividends received deduction for dividends received from a controlled foreign corporation; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today I introduce the Foreign Earnings Reinvestment Act that would generate the flow of an estimated \$1.9 trillion back into the American economy by temporarily allowing companies to return profits earned overseas to the U.S. at a reduced tax rate. It is no secret that one of the primary reasons why this money is laying idle and doing nothing to spur job creation is due to the fact that our Nation has the highest corporate tax rate in the free world at 35 percent. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, OECD, when you add in additional State and local taxes the combined corporate rate jumps to a staggering 39.1 percent. Whereas, the average combined corporate tax rate for the rest of the developed world, excluding the U.S. is around 25 percent.

Congress has long debated tax reform and has failed to act. It is my hope that, under a Republican controlled Congress, we will be able to move forward with tax reform, which includes lowering both the personal and corporate tax rate and eliminating tax loopholes. If we are not going to act on behalf of the American taxpayer than we need to make available temporary tax incentives to bring this money back home providing a much needed boost to our economy.

The Foreign Earnings Reinvestment Act would encourage American companies to bring overseas earnings back to the United States and creates strong incentives for those firms to invest these earnings in U.S. employees.

Specifically, the bill would temporarily reduce the current 35 percent corporate rate to an 8.75 percent effective rate on foreign earnings brought back to the United States. If companies are able to show that they are expanding their payroll by 10 percent through net job creation or higher payroll, the bill would allow these corporations to obtain up to a 5.25 percent effective repatriation rate. In addition, the bill discourages U.S. companies from reducing employment by including in a company's gross income calculation of \$75,000 per full-time position that is eliminated.

This common sense legislation will drive the roughly \$1.9 trillion currently parked overseas back here to the United States, boosting our economy and spurring job creation.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 401. A bill to amend rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to improve attorney accountability, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There be no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 401

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. ATTORNEY ACCOUNTABILITY.

(a) SANCTIONS UNDER RULE 11.—Rule 11(c) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "may" and inserting "shall";

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking "Rule 5" and all that follows through "motion." and inserting "rule 5."; and

(3) in paragraph (4), by striking "situated" and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting "situated, and to compensate the parties that were injured by such conduct. Subject to the limitations in paragraph (5), the sanction shall consist of an order to pay to the party or parties the amount of the reasonable expenses incurred as a direct result of the violation, including reasonable attorneys' fees and costs. The court may also impose additional appropriate sanctions, such as striking the pleadings, dismissing the suit, or other directives of a nonmonetary nature, or, if warranted for effective deterrence, an order directing payment of a penalty into the court."

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act or an amendment made by this Act shall be construed to bar or impede the assertion or development of new claims, defenses, or remedies under Federal, State, or local laws, including civil rights laws, or under the Constitution of the United States.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. RISCH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 405. A bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; read the first time.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I am here on the floor today with my friend and colleague from the State of Idaho to speak in support of legislation we have just dropped today; that is, the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2015. I have introduced it today, along with the prime cosponsor, Senator HEINRICH from New Mexico.

I think it is important to recognize that this bipartisan bill is supported with original cosponsors, including the Senator from Idaho, Mr. RISCH, Senator MANCHIN, Senator FISCHER, and Senator HEITKAMP, as well as myself and Senator HEINRICH. I wish to acknowledge the role of Senator HEINRICH in this and his staff for working with us to revise and reintroduce this important bill. I would also like to acknowledge the great work the bipartisan leadership of the Senate's Sportsmen's Caucus has done on this issue, led ably by my friend from Idaho. I think it is important to recognize the groundwork, the leg work that went into the development of this bill and the work the caucus did in doing so. So I thank my colleagues for all of their good, hard work.

We are here today to not only announce this reintroduction—because this is now the third Congress we have tried to advance the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act—but also to really kind of re-up the conversation about its importance and really to urge the Senate to come together to pass legislation such as we are talking about today.

We have sportsmen all over the country. I come from a big State that is wide open, and people come to Alaska to hunt and to fish. They never want to leave, and that is fine. That is how my husband came to Alaska—it was the lure of sport fishing on the Kenai River. So many of our military are on assignment to Alaska, and they end up staying because of the hunting and fishing and other recreational opportunities Alaska offers. It is not just places such as Alaska and Idaho that offer great outdoors opportunities; it is all over the country, from big cities to small towns, North and South.

For so many of us, hunting is a tradition that is passed down from generation to generation. Certainly my family is evidence of that. I think it is important to recognize that while we talk about hunting and fishing as being the best known recreational opportunities, we also include with this legislation enthusiasts who go outside to go boating and so many of the other outdoor activities.

We speak often on this floor about jobs and economic opportunities and

what they bring to our Nation, the important role they play. Sportsmen and sportswomen really are economic contributors when we think about their role. Back in 2013 there were approximately 37 million people who hunted or fished in America. That is roughly equal to the entire population of the State of California. Those numbers are always on the rise. Again, when we have strong numbers, we also have strong economic impacts. Sports men and women spent roughly \$90 billion in 2013. Those numbers have probably risen since then. Those dollars go not only to the gear and equipment, which is what we would expect, but also to the travel industry, to the hospitality industry, and to so many other sectors of the economy.

Spending by sports men and women also aids our conservation efforts. Excise taxes on fishing and hunting and shooting equipment, motorboat fuel, as well as the fees for licenses and stamps are all dedicated to State fish and wildlife management and conservation. These folks care deeply about the environment and conservation, and that is why these excise taxes are in place to take care of our natural resources. Since their establishment, the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs have contributed over \$14.5 billion to conservation.

I mentioned Alaska and its role as kind of a magnet for those who like to hunt and fish. In my State alone, we have over 125,000 individuals who engage in hunting every year. It has created more than \$439 million in retail sales and \$195 million in salaries and wages. In Alaska, we bring in over \$53 million to the State and local governments each year. We had a big holiday a year or so ago when Cabela's opened its doors. It was as though we had finally arrived on the scene. All of our sportsmen—hunters and fishermen—were loving it.

On the fishing side, when we think about the economic impact in my State, it is even more impressive. Last year over 460,000 people bought fishing licenses to take part in some of the best fishing in the world. It brought about \$1.4 billion to Alaska's economy. These are huge contributors to our tax base, to our economy, and they are key to who we are as a State.

Our Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2015 that we are introducing today builds on the efforts of last year. Last year's bill saw 46 Members of this Chamber coming together to support it. We have taken all of the provisions from the previous bill except for two that were enacted in other legislation and then we have added some additional bipartisan provisions. We have Senator HEINRICH's revised HUNT Act. We have a couple of others that are new to the bill. All told, these measures increase access to provide greater opportunities for sports men and women to enjoy our public lands.

There are a lot of different components in the bill. I know my colleague from Idaho will speak to several of them. I wish to highlight a couple that I think are important in this discussion.

First is a bill I have championed for several years now called the Recreational Fishing and Hunting Heritage and Opportunities Act. It protects recreational hunting and fishing on our BLM and our National Forest Service lands while reaffirming other prior congressional actions enacted to protect hunting and wildlife conservation. So the bill we have introduced—again, this is the same one we have had previously—requires BLM and Forest Service lands to be open to hunting, to recreational fishing, or recreational shooting as a matter of law unless the managing agency acts to close lands to such activity. So it is open unless otherwise closed. Leaving lands open unless closed means that agencies need not take action then to open them up to hunting and fishing. Agencies are still permitted to close or put restrictions on land for a number of purposes, such as resource conservation and public safety. But on the whole this is really an affirmation that sportsmen and sportswomen are welcome on our public lands. Isn't that what our public lands are supposed to be all about, which is being able to access them?

The Hunting, Fishing, and Recreational Shooting Protection Act has again been included in this bill. This was introduced previously by Senators THUNE and KLOBUCHAR as a standalone bill, but its language is very important to many of us and to nearly all the sportsmen's groups we have heard from.

We also have provisions in the bill that deal with some of the efforts to limit ammunition and fishing tackle by some organizations. I think we know that if we can't access, if we can't afford traditional ammunition and fishing tackle, it makes it pretty tough to go out and enjoy these opportunities.

We have good pieces in here relating to conservation priorities, including the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

I again the Sportsmen's Caucus and Senator HEINRICH as the prime Democratic lead on this bill. My hope is that we will be able to build this coalition on the floor and get even beyond the number 46, which is what we had last go-around with this legislation.

I think we will have good discussion within the committee and here on the Senate floor. My hope is that the third time is going to be the charm for this sportsmen's legislation. It is important to us, it is important to our economy, and it is an issue which I am certainly willing to take aim at. Sorry for the pun.

With that, I yield to my friend from Idaho.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise today also in support of the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2015. I am honored to be here today with Senator MURKOWSKI. Idahoans and Alaskans have a lot in common when it comes to outdoor sporting activities, including hunting and fishing. Senator CRAPO and I were honored to host Senator MURKOWSKI in Idaho. Although we don't have the acres Alaska has, we certainly have that diverse environment for hunting and fishing in many different areas of the State that support and will continue to support both fishing and game.

This bill is cosponsored by a bipartisan team of Senators who are committed to advancing the agenda of sportsmen and sportswomen. Senators MURKOWSKI and HEINRICH, along with the leaders of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus—myself and Senator MANCHIN as the co-chairmen and Senator FISCHER and Senator HEITKAMP as the co-vice chairmen—make up the largest bipartisan caucus in Congress, and we have diligently labored to craft this bipartisan legislation that is supported by a broad coalition of sportsmen's groups. Indeed, we have worked on it substantially more since the first of the year. Last year we labored over it at great length and were not able to get it across the finish line, but we are cautiously optimistic this year that we have hit that right spot where we actually can get this across the finish line this year.

One provision of this package will encourage States to create and maintain public shooting ranges. This will promote gun safety by providing a venue to teach young adults about firearms. These public ranges can also serve as a place to hold hunter education classes and can be used as facilities to train police forces.

This bill will also allow any legal gun owner to carry a firearm on land administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This provision will require the Army Corps to conform their regulations to align with local laws related to firearms. I wish to thank my colleague from Idaho, Senator MIKE CRAPO, for his hard work and leadership on this particular issue. I know the sportsmen of Idaho and across the country are pleased to know that this legislation will allow firearms on Army Corps land and that it is included in this bipartisan sportsmen's package.

This bill will also reauthorize the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act, a program that enables the Bureau of Land Management to sell public land for community development and other projects. This land-for-land approach creates jobs and generates funding for the BLM to acquire critical inholdings from willing sellers.

I am also proud to include a provision supported by my colleague from Wyoming, Senator MIKE ENZI, to allow archery equipment to be transported and possessed in national parks. Archery is one of the fastest growing sports in America. It should not be illegal to carry a bow in a national park.

I am happy to work with my colleagues to include this important provision in this Sportsmen's Act. Whether you hunt or fish to put food on the table or for sport or to pass down a tradition to your family or for game-management purposes, there is something in this bill for you.

With more than half a million sportsmen and sportswomen in the State of Idaho, this legislation will ensure they can continue to access their favorite hunting or fishing sport. In fact, the number of people who hunt each year in Idaho would fill Boise State Broncos stadium more than 6½ times. Most of you are familiar with that stadium since it is the only stadium in America that has blue turf, and most everyone has seen that.

For those of us who hunt and fish, it is difficult to put into words why this legislation is so important. I ask everyone I talk to about these issues to encourage and teach youngsters about hunting and fishing. In Idaho this last year 14,000 kids purchased a junior fishing license, and approximately 14,000 purchased a junior hunting license. These numbers could be higher, and they should be higher. It is important to teach and mentor these future generations—those coming behind us—about hunting and fishing and to hand down this culture to them. Hunting and fishing give us a great reason to be in the great outdoors, a great reason to hand down traditions, and a great reason to support the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2015.

I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to work with this bipartisan coalition we put together, to cosponsor and to work with us to pass this legislation.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I am pleased today to join my colleagues from Alaska and New Mexico in introducing the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act.

In North Dakota, hunting and fishing are a huge part of our lives. We have opening day circled on our calendars like we do birthdays and anniversaries. It was in North Dakota where America's conservationist President, Theodore Roosevelt, fell in love with our State and recognized the need to preserve our Nation's fish and game for future generations. As President Roosevelt once said:

The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased and not impaired in value. Conservation means development as much as it does protection.

It is an honor to be able to help introduce this important legislation and

continue to advance voluntary conservation measures that have kept our State a world-class destination for hunters and fishermen.

This bill would continue programs such as the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation which have successful track records of working with non-profits, State and local governments and private landowners to promote voluntary conservation of fish and game habitat.

It also includes a number of provisions that will enable our hunters and fishers to access the lands their tax dollars pay to maintain. Additionally, it would set aside funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for improving recreational access to Federal lands. It would also direct agencies to identify high-priority Federal hunting and fishing lands where there is currently no access and work to provide access to sportsmen.

One section of the bill is particularly important to my State—enabling greater use of funds for public shooting ranges. We have a number of extremely popular target ranges in North Dakota and, with the great influx in population to the area, they have been under considerable stress. One such range in the city of Watford City has had to shut down as the city expanded around it. This bill would allow North Dakota Game and Fish to work with the city to move and reopen the range and provide a safe place for hunters to practice their skills.

I want to thank Senators MURKOWSKI and HEINRICH, as well as Senators RISCH, MANCHIN, and FISHER for being excellent partners through the Sportsmen's Caucus to introduce this bipartisan bill. I look forward to working with them to bring this bill to the floor and sending it to the President to become law.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act. I am pleased to join my colleague in introducing this legislation.

I am grateful for the opportunity to work with my colleagues on legislation that will promote our country's hunting, fishing, and conservation heritage.

This bill does a lot of good things. It prevents antihunting groups from restricting sportsmen's ammunition choices, which would unnecessarily drive up hunting costs, impede participation in shooting sports, and consequently decrease conservation funding.

The Sportsmen's Act provides States with more flexibility to build and maintain public shooting ranges in order to provide Americans with more opportunities to engage in recreational and competitive shooting activities. The legislation also expands and enhances hunting and fishing opportunities on Federal lands by establishing a more open policy for access to recreational activities on our public lands.

I am especially encouraged by the fact that this bill contains provisions I have championed that would increase transparency regarding the judgment fund. It has the potential to help our efforts to track taxpayer-funded litigation that impacts our public lands policies.

As my colleagues may or may not know, the judgment fund is administered by the Treasury Department and is used to pay certain court judgments and settlements against the Federal Government. Essentially, this fund acts as an unlimited amount of money that is set aside to pay for Federal Government liability. It is not subject to the annual appropriations process, and, even more remarkably, the Treasury Department has no reporting requirements, so these funds are paid out with very little oversight or scrutiny.

This is no small matter, as the judgment fund disburses billions of dollars in payments every year. Because the Treasury Department has no binding reporting requirements, few public details exist about where these funds are going and why.

The Public Lands Council has decried the lack of oversight of the judgment fund by stating:

Certain groups continuously sue the federal government, and [the] Treasury simply writes a check to foot the bill without providing Members of Congress and the American taxpayers basic information about the payment.

This kind of litigation can have a big impact on sportsmen and others who enjoy multiple uses of Federal lands. This is because the government is permitted to blindly fund lawsuits by activist groups who use the court as a backdoor to policy making.

A recent report from the GAO found that cases filed against the EPA have shown a pattern of these groups working in unison with big law firms to sue under the same statutes in order to push their political agenda through the courts.

The legislation I introduced this week with Senator GARDNER, known as the Judgment Fund Transparency Act, will bring these cases to light. That bill has been included as a provision to the Sportsmen's Act and will provide even greater transparency and accountability.

I am proud to be a vice chair of the Sportsmen's Caucus, and I look forward to continuing our work to advance these important legislative measures.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss our truly bipartisan sportsmen's bill. This is a bipartisan bill which has been worked on for quite some time, and I think its time has come. They say Paul Masson's wine's time has come. It has. We have Senators LISA MURKOWSKI from Alaska, MARK HEINRICH from New Mexico, JIM RISCH from Idaho, myself from West

Virginia, HEIDI HEITKAMP from North Dakota, and DEB FISCHER from Nebraska. It is balanced. I think we will find total support hopefully on both sides.

Let me talk about the bill and what it does. It is good for sportsmen, hunters, and lovers of the outdoors. This is a bill which shows that Democrats and Republicans can truly come together and work together. The bill should be a model for how we can make things work here in Washington, and we hope the country will be watching.

West Virginia has more than 1.6 million acres of public land open to hunting. In a State that is our size, if they flatten the State, it would be bigger than Texas. But with all the mountains and hills and everything, it is an absolutely wonderful and beautiful place to grow up and live and hunt and enjoy the outdoors.

We have a year-round fishing season with more than 20,000 miles of streams and more than 100 public fishing lakes. In 2011 West Virginia saw more than 400,000 hunters and sportsmen supporting more than 12,000 jobs—400,000 hunters supporting 12,000 West Virginia jobs. These sportsmen spent \$870 million on hunting and fishing in West Virginia and generated \$81 million in State and local taxes. That is an industry within itself. In a small State such as ours, we are very appreciative of every job and every dollar that helps us provide a better quality of life.

Let me tell you about growing up in West Virginia. It was funny. I had a conversation on the floor of the Senate with some of my colleagues, and we were talking about many issues. We started talking about how we grew up and this and that, and he said: You know, Joe, I grew up in a community in a part of the city where I never knew anybody who owned a gun.

I was thinking how much he missed. That means he had never been hunting. No one ever taught him how to shoot and be safe—the safety things we should learn. I kept thinking about that. I thought to myself and I told him: You know something, I grew up in a town where I didn't know anybody who didn't have a gun. It is just the cultures we have.

If this bill helps introduce people to the love of the outdoors, to the sporting, whether it is just shooting from the standpoint of targets or sports shooting or actually hunting and basically the game—it is very nutritional and very healthy. Venison is a big staple of the diet in West Virginia. It is very good quality meat and very low in fat, very high in protein and fiber. It is great.

You start learning about gun safety. My father was not a hunter. My father never got into it. My grandfather was not a hunter. My uncles were very much involved. But my dad made sure we had a sporting club in the little

town, a little coal mining town, and the people who were very astute in this basically took all of us under their wing. They would teach us how to shoot. They would teach us the safety. They would teach us how to respect where we—if we are going to shoot something, we should be able to harvest the game or know somebody who would use it for nutritional values. Don't waste a thing. But also go out in the woods and enjoy the beauty God gave us. I look back on those days.

Then I took my grandson hunting the first time. First of all, I couldn't believe how good his eyesight was and how good he could shoot. It is something that now he is fixated on, and he does a great job, and I am so happy to see him. My son loves fishing, and I take him with me all the time. It is a family tradition. We do it once a year. We do a whole family trip where everybody goes.

This bill, the Sportsmen's Act of 2015, does so many things all over America. It really helps us promote and continue to promote the love of the outdoors, the love of hunting, the love of fishing, basically of sports shooting, competitive sports shooting, pleasurable sports shooting, learning the safety of a gun, what we should and should not do, learning to respect others around us, making sure safety is the first and foremost thing we do.

I hope this bill gets very quick action, very favorable action. We can start out this new year, if you will, on something that is truly overwhelmingly a bipartisan bill. I am sure there will be people who have something they might object to in any piece of legislation. They will have to work hard to find something in this bill they can object to because I think it is put together the right way, in a bipartisan way. It is good for America.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 69—CALLING FOR THE PROTECTION OF RELIGIOUS MINORITY RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS WORLDWIDE

Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. THUNE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. KING, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. LANKFORD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 69

Whereas it is a human right for all peoples to enjoy the fundamental freedom of religion, and the United States remains committed to promoting and protecting those that have been marginalized and persecuted because of their faith;

Whereas Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes that "everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in com-

munity with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship, and observance";

Whereas the freedom to worship by minority religious communities worldwide has come under repeated and deadly attack, and often religious minorities are regarded as enemies of the state;

Whereas the freedom to proselytize by minority religious communities has also come under repeated and deadly attack in recent years through so-called blasphemy laws and anti-conversion laws that are punishable by fines, imprisonment, and death;

Whereas, on November 1, 2010, the deadliest ever recorded attack on Iraqi Christians occurred at the Sayidat al-Nejat Catholic Cathedral located in central Baghdad, where militants stormed the church and detonated 2 suicide vests filled with ball bearings, killing 58, including 2 priests, and wounding 78 parishioners;

Whereas, in November 2010, Aasia Bibi, a Christian mother of five, was fined \$1,100 and sentenced to death by hanging for blasphemy, becoming the first woman condemned to death on blasphemy charges in Pakistan, and remains jailed today appealing her sentence;

Whereas, on December 29, 2011, the Shia religious leader Tajul Muluk's Islamic boarding school in Madura Island, Indonesia was burned down in an arson attack by 300 anti-Shi'ite protestors, causing 500 Shia residents to flee from their homes, and on January 1, 2012, the Indonesian Ulema Council issued a fatwa against his teachings, leading to blasphemy charges and the arrest of Muluk on April 12, 2012, in Sampang, where he remains in prison;

Whereas, on July 28, 2012, Saeed Abedini, a Christian pastor with dual Iranian and United States citizenship, was arrested on charges solely based on his Christian faith, convicted, and sentenced to eight years in a brutal Iranian prison where he remains today;

Whereas, on October 17, 2013, 10 bombs exploded in the minority Shi'ite districts of Baghdad, killing 44 people, including 6 children, and on that same day a suicide bomber drove into a village in the northern province of Nineveh, killing 15 Shabaks, who are mainly Shi'ites and are viewed as apostates by extreme Sunni Islamists;

Whereas, on November 16, 2013, Zhang Shaojie, a member of Three-Self church and pastor of the government-sanctioned Nanle County Christian Church, China, was arrested, fined \$16,000, and given a 12 year prison sentence for "gathering a crowd to disrupt the public order," in what is believed to be retaliation for his advocacy on behalf of his congregation and community;

Whereas, on May 15, 2014, a Sudanese Christian woman, Meriam Ibrahim, was imprisoned and sentenced to death by hanging for allegedly committing apostasy from Islam and faced constant pressure to renounce her faith of Christianity while in prison, and only after immediate and sustained pressure by the United States Senate and the Department of State was she released and allowed to leave the country, settling in New Hampshire with her husband and two children;

Whereas, on November 10, 2014, a young Christian Pakistani couple, Shama Bibi and Sajjad Maseeh, who was four months pregnant with her fifth child, were brutally beaten by a mob in Punjab Province, had their legs broken so they could not flee, and were locked in a brick kiln to burn to death while a crowd of 1,200 watched for alleged blasphemy of the desecration of a Koran;

Whereas, since 2010, the Nigerian terrorist organization Boko Haram, which translates to "western education is a sin," has destroyed more than 1,000 churches across Nigeria, abducted hundreds of Christians to forcibly convert to Islam, and in increasingly violent attacks beginning in 2014, has killed more than 1,700 Christians;

Whereas, according to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, over 15,000 people in North Korea are presently incarcerated in prison labor camps for attempting to practice their religion and face constant abuse in attempts to force them to renounce their faith;

Whereas, since the beginning of its reign of terror, ISIL has sought to destroy any person of faith that does not embrace their own perverted interpretation of Islam, leading to the destruction of Jonah's tomb in Mosul, the destruction of Sunni shrines and mosques in Ninevah, the destruction of Christian churches in Syria, and the slaughter of anyone who resists their teachings; and

Whereas seven Indian states have so-called "anti-conversion" apostasy laws that require officials to assess the legality of conversions, and fine and/or imprison those responsible for the conversions if it is determined to be illegal: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) remains committed to protecting the human right and the fundamental freedom of religion, especially those of religious minorities;

(2) recognizes that government policies prohibiting the freedom of thought and religion are designed to harass and intimidate religious groups; and

(3) urges in the strongest terms that the United States Government lead the international effort in calling for the repeal of all existing apostasy and blasphemy laws.

SENATE RESOLUTION 70—DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 2015 AS "NATIONAL CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING AWARENESS MONTH"

Mr. SCHUMER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 70

Whereas carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that is produced whenever any fuel, such as natural gas, propane, gasoline, oil, kerosene, wood, or charcoal, is burned;

Whereas devices that produce carbon monoxide include cars, boats, gasoline engines, stoves, and heating systems, and carbon monoxide produced from these sources can build up in enclosed or semi-enclosed spaces;

Whereas carbon monoxide is often referred to as the "silent killer" because it is colorless, odorless, tasteless, and nonirritating, and ignoring early stages of carbon monoxide poisoning may cause unconsciousness and continual exposure to danger;

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, each year in the United States, carbon monoxide poisoning kills more than 400 individuals and sends approximately 20,000 individuals to emergency rooms;

Whereas when people breathe in carbon monoxide, the poisonous gas enters the bloodstream and prevents adequate intake of oxygen, which can damage tissues and result in death;

Whereas given their common preexisting medical conditions, individuals older than

age 65 are particularly vulnerable to carbon monoxide poisoning;

Whereas for most individuals who suffer from carbon monoxide poisoning, the early signs of exposure to low concentrations of carbon monoxide include mild headaches and breathlessness upon moderate exercise;

Whereas sustained or increased exposure to carbon monoxide can lead to flu-like symptoms, including severe headaches, dizziness, tiredness, nausea, confusion, irritability, and impaired judgment, memory, and coordination;

Whereas breathing in low concentrations of carbon monoxide can cause long-term health damage, even after exposure to the gas ends;

Whereas most cases of carbon monoxide exposure occur during the winter months of December, January, and February when oil and gas heaters are more heavily in use;

Whereas on January 17, 2009, Amanda J. Hansen, a junior and member of the swim team at West Seneca West High School, in West Seneca, New York, passed away from carbon monoxide poisoning while sleeping near a faulty basement boiler during a sleepover party;

Whereas Amanda J. Hansen loved Spanish, was a member of the Spanish Honor Society at West Seneca West High School, and wanted to eventually teach Spanish;

Whereas Amanda J. Hansen hoped to attend college at the University of North Carolina;

Whereas responding to tragedy, Ken and Kim Hansen established the Amanda Hansen Foundation to honor their daughter by raising money for a scholarship fund and spreading awareness about the dangers of carbon monoxide and the importance of taking safety measures, such as using carbon monoxide detectors in residences;

Whereas the Amanda Hansen Foundation works with lawmakers and local communities to educate the public on the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning;

Whereas the Amanda Hansen Foundation raises money for purchasing carbon monoxide detectors for individuals who cannot afford them and has given away 17,000 carbon monoxide detectors;

Whereas the Amanda Hansen Foundation and Ken and Kim Hansen through their work with the Foundation collaborate with other national organizations to ensure that carbon monoxide detectors are as ubiquitous as possible;

Whereas the Hansen family fought in 2010 for the passage of "Amanda's Law", a law that mandates the installation of carbon monoxide detectors in new and existing residences with fuel burning appliances and the replacement of such detectors every 5 years;

Whereas the Amanda Hansen Foundation has paid to replace furnaces in the Buffalo, New York area with furnaces that are safer and more energy efficient; and

Whereas in memory of their daughter, the Hansen family has worked tirelessly to make New York and the rest of the United States a safer place: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates February 2015 as "National Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Awareness Month".

SENATE RESOLUTION 71—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 8 THROUGH FEBRUARY 14, 2015, AS "INTERNET GOVERNANCE AWARENESS WEEK"

Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. WARNER, Mr. COONS, and Mr.

INHOFE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 71

Whereas the United States remains committed to the multistakeholder model of Internet governance, in which the private sector works in collaboration with civil society, governments, and technical experts in a consensus fashion;

Whereas the United States has, through its stewardship of key Internet domain name functions, maintained an important role in the protection of the Internet as presently constituted;

Whereas on March 14, 2014, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (referred to in this preamble as the "NTIA") announced its intent to transition these key Internet domain name functions to the global multistakeholder community;

Whereas the transition process demonstrates that the United States supports and is committed to the multistakeholder model of Internet governance;

Whereas the NTIA has asked the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (referred to in this preamble as "ICANN") to convene global stakeholders to develop a proposal to transition the current role played by the NTIA in the coordination of the Internet's domain name system (referred to in this preamble as the "DNS");

Whereas the NTIA has stated that there is no deadline for the transition, and that the transition proposal must have broad community support and must—

(1) support and enhance the multistakeholder model;

(2) maintain the security, stability, and resiliency of the Internet DNS;

(3) meet the needs and expectations of the global customers and partners of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority; and

(4) maintain the openness of the Internet;

Whereas the NTIA has also stated that it will not accept a proposal that replaces the NTIA with a government-led or an inter-governmental organization, a position that is consistent with S. Con. Res. 50 (112th Congress), a concurrent resolution that was unanimously passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives in 2012 and supported "the consistent and unequivocal policy of the United States to promote a global Internet free from government control and preserve and advance the successful multistakeholder model that governs the Internet today";

Whereas ICANN will be holding its next global meeting, ICANN 52, in Singapore between February 8 and February 12, 2015; and

Whereas designating the week of February 8 through February 14, 2015, as "Internet Governance Awareness Week" will encourage the participants at ICANN 52 to focus on developing key ICANN accountability principles for the protection of the global Internet: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The Senate designates the week of February 8 through February 14, 2015, as "Internet Governance Awareness Week" to—

(1) increase public awareness regarding the March 14, 2014 announcement by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (referred to in this resolving clause as the "NTIA") declaring the intention of the NTIA to transition the stewardship of the functions of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority to the global multistakeholder community;

(2) encourage public education about the importance of this transition process; and

(3) call the attention of the participants at the next global meeting of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (referred to in this resolving clause as "ICANN") to the importance of designing accountability and governance reforms to best prepare ICANN for executing the responsibilities that it may receive under any transition of the stewardship of the functions of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority, including reforms that would—

(A) insist that the domain name system continues to function as part of a secure, stable, resilient, single, decentralized, open, and interoperable Internet;

(B) ensure a form of stewardship and accountability that is based on the separation of the functions of policy-making, policy implementation, and, as needed, independent adjudication or arbitration for dispute resolution;

(C) limit and maintain ICANN authority to matters that pertain to the coordination of Internet unique identifiers, and limit each function to those rights, responsibilities, and authorities that have been explicitly assigned;

(D) protect ICANN from undue influence or capture by one or more governments or multilateral or intergovernmental organizations, or a single set of other commercial or noncommercial stakeholders;

(E) maintain the commitment of ICANN for final action regarding key policy decisions to demonstrate broad support by the community of ICANN stakeholders;

(F) reinforce and expand transparency and accountability measures to ensure community access to ICANN documents and records; and

(G) ensure that, prior to the execution of the transition of the stewardship of the functions of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority, each of the foregoing elements of such proposal is adopted and made effective by ICANN through incorporation in its articles of incorporation and by-laws, as needed, and subject to independent adjudication or arbitration for dispute resolution, as appropriate.

SEC. 2. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this resolution shall be construed as congressional approval of any proposal by ICANN to transition the stewardship of the functions of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority to the global multistakeholder community.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 3—AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER FOR AN EVENT TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OF KING KAMEHAMEHA I

Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Ms. HIRONO) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. CON. RES. 3

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR EVENT TO CELEBRATE BIRTHDAY OF KING KAMEHAMEHA.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used for an event on June 7, 2015, to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha I.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the conduct of the event described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 5, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to hold a meeting during the session of the Senate on February 5, 2015, at 10 a.m. in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a subcommittee hearing entitled "Getting it Right on Data Breach and Notification Legislation in the 114th Congress".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 5, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "The President's Budget for Fiscal Year 2016."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 5, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled "Who's the Boss? The 'Joint Employer' Standard and Business Ownership."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on February 5, 2015, at 10:30 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 5, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Laura Sherman, a fellow in my office, be given floor privileges for the remainder of this session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Susan Corbin, Jill Mueller, Paul Babiarz, and Charles Carithers, detailees to the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, be granted the privileges of the floor for the remainder of the first session of the 114th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 5 p.m. on Monday, February 9, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 10, the nomination of Michael P. Botticelli to be Director of National Drug Control Policy. I further ask that there be 30 minutes of debate equally divided on the nomination, and that following the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote on confirmation, and that if the nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

INTERNET GOVERNANCE AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 71, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 71) designating the week of February 8 through February 14, 2015, as "Internet Governance Awareness Week."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 71) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 405

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 405) to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I now ask for a second reading and, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 99-93, as amended by Public Law 99-151, appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control: the Honorable CHUCK GRASSLEY of Iowa, Chairman.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2015

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m. on Monday, February 9; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that the Senate then be in a period of morning business, equally divided, until 5 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each. I further ask that at 5 p.m. the Senate proceed to executive session under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2015, AT 3 P.M.

Mr. MCCONNELL. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:58 p.m., adjourned until Monday, February 9, 2015, at 3 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

JESSIE HILL ROBERSON, OF ALABAMA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 18, 2018. (RE-APPOINTMENT)

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

CHRISTOPHER A. HART, OF COLORADO, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS, VICE DEBORAH A. P. HERSMAN, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

MARIA CANCIAN, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FAMILY SUPPORT, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE CARMEN R. NAZARIO.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CASSANDRA Q. BUTTS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENI-

POTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS.

STAFFORD FITZGERALD HANEY, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENI-POTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA.

NANCY BIKOFF PETTTT, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA.

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

BENIGNO T. RAZON, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

DONNA L. SMOAK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

FABIO O. AUSTRIA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

MELISSA C. AUSTIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

SHAWN D. WILKERSON, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

BUDD E. BERGLOFF

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, February 5, 2015

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of all creation, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

In the midst of cold winds and uncertain and sometimes disastrous weather patterns, the consistent warm rays of light fall upon the good and the bad, the believers and unbelievers alike. Gradually, the days are already growing longer but, like the movement of Your grace, often unnoticed.

Lord, You are ever present, especially to those most in need. Show Your mercy to the weakest among us, the children, the poor, the elderly, the homeless. And on this National Day of Prayer, may all Your people be mindful of these anawim among us.

Send Your spirit upon the Members of this people's House, that they might be inspired to do what they are able, to care for those whom You have favored from biblical times, the powerless and most vulnerable.

Bless us this day and every day. May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KILDEE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 5 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

TALIBAN

(Mr. MCKINLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, on January 28, the White House refused to recognize the Taliban as a terrorist group, calling them an "armed insurgency" instead. What part of terrorism don't they understand?

Under Federal law, a "terrorist organization" must meet three criteria: be foreign, be engaged in terrorist activity and intimidation, and threaten the security of the United States of America.

The Department of the Treasury and the National Counterterrorism Center define the Taliban as a "terrorist organization," but the White House refuses to do so. Common sense says, if we can't call our enemy what they are, then how can we fight them?

Mr. Speaker, my resolution is simple. It urges the administration to publicly recognize the Taliban as a terrorist organization. We could use a little straight talk around here.

I ask for your support of House Concurrent Resolution 13.

PUT AMERICA BACK TO WORK

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, instead of taking action for bigger paychecks for Americans or rebuilding America's crumbling infrastructure, House Republicans yesterday introduced legislation to repeal and undermine the Affordable Care Act.

This legislation would undermine fundamental guarantees under the ACA that you can no longer lose or be denied coverage due to a preexisting condition. This latest proposal would put coverage for things like maternity care up to the whim of the States. It would include a tax hike on working families and would leave millions uninsured without any coverage at all.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a serious proposal, and more than 2,000 days after President Obama signed the Affordable Care Act, Republicans still lack a serious alternative.

Thanks to the ACA, uninsured rates are at a record low and hardworking families can afford health care, but Republicans continue their obsession with stripping protections from affordable coverage.

This is the wrong direction for our country. We should be working on putting America back to work.

OBAMACARE REPEAL

(Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, what a wonderful opportunity to set the record straight.

I rise today to applaud my colleagues in the House for passing H.R. 596 on Tuesday which repeals ObamaCare in its entirety. This bill also instructs committees to pass solutions that are patient-centered, free market alternatives because ObamaCare is unaffordable.

I hear it when I am at my son's football games or when I go to the grocery stores: it is important to Americans that Members up here in Washington are listening to and fighting for them on this issue because the President refuses to.

Today, in Thomas County, in south Georgia, a \$3,500 deductible will cost a 25-year-old \$333 a month, and it will cost a 60-year-old \$900 a month. \$900 for a \$3,500 deductible, that is more like a mortgage payment where I come from. This is the solution that according to the President—the Democrats—that is affordable? Well, it is not affordable, and it is hurting people.

I am proud to cochair a task force of conservative Members who are working towards a patient-centered, free market alternative that respects the freedom of the American citizens.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KYLE LONG

(Mr. DESAULNIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Kyle Ean Long who was born in Sacramento on June 14, 1987, and died on January 10, 2015, at the all too young age of 27.

The son of James and Tina Long was born and raised in Sacramento, California, attended local public schools, and was a graduate of Sacramento State University. I became familiar with Kyle when he came to work for me as an intern, quickly rising to a legislative aide in my previous position as a Member of the California State Senate.

Kyle's passion for public policy and his enthusiasm for bringing people together made him a highly effective legislative staffer. During his tenure in the State senate, Kyle successfully steered bills through the legislative process in California that helped to

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

provide counseling services for rape victims, prohibited pesticides at school sites and child care facilities, and provided school supplies for homeless children.

In addition to being an important member of the California State family, Kyle was a beloved friend, family member, and a member of the broader Sacramento community. He died when he went to his local gym in the morning to start his daily exercise regimen, had a heart attack, and passed away at the all too early age of 27.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the extraordinary but all too brief life of Kyle Long.

FIRE IN EDGEWATER

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, a five-alarm fire ripped through 240 apartments in Edgewater, New Jersey. The fire completely destroyed the complex and displaced nearly 1,000 residents. You could see and smell the flames and ashes for miles around.

I rise today to extend my sympathies to the families and recognize and honor the brave men and women of the Edgewater Volunteer Fire Department who responded to this devastating blaze, as well as over 500 first responders from 35 municipalities who came to Edgewater, rescued victims, and battled flames that blazed for 7 hours.

Under the leadership of Fire Chief Tom Jacobson, firefighters rescued people from three floors and miraculously managed to prevent any loss of life or severe injuries.

Thanks to the quick response by the American Red Cross and other aid organizations, the more than 1,000 displaced people were able to take refuge in the Edgewater Community Center.

On behalf of my constituents, Mr. Speaker, in Edgewater, I want to once again extend my gratitude to all the first responders who answer to the call every day and helped prevent further damage in this particular travesty.

SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on H.R. 527.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 78 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in

the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 527.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 0910

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 527) to amend chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the Regulatory Flexibility Act), to ensure complete analysis of potential impacts on small entities of rules, and for other purposes, with Mr. WESTMORELAND in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall not exceed 1 hour, with 40 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary and 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Small Business.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MARINO) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 20 minutes. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) and the gentleman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MARINO).

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Good morning, Mr. CONYERS. It is good to see you.

Six long years into the Obama administration, and notwithstanding some fleeting, recent signs, jobs have yet to recover from the recession. Wages also have not recovered, and the rate of new business startups has not recovered as well.

Instead, permanent exits from the labor force are at historical levels. Real wages have fallen. Dependency on government assistance has increased. Our economy is failing to give enough hardworking Americans the confidence they need to start new small businesses and create new jobs.

At the root of our problem are, more than anything else, the endless drain to Washington of hard-earned income that working people and small businesses need to turn things around in their homes and communities and Washington's endless placement of regulatory roadblocks in the path of opportunity and growth.

That regulatory burden hits small businesses especially hard. Small businesses generate 63 percent of net new private sector jobs and employ nearly half of America's private sector work-

ers; yet they have to pay significantly more to comply with Federal regulations than do larger employers.

Poll after poll has demonstrated that the level of Federal regulations coming from Washington is at the top of the list of obstacles faced by America's small businesses, our top job creators.

This is not fair, and it is exactly the wrong burden to place on small businesses as this Nation struggles to produce a true jobs and wages recovery. Congress can and should act to free small businesses of the burdens and waste associated with excessive Federal regulations so that more jobs will be available to Americans trying to make a better life for themselves and their families.

That is why prompt passage of the Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act is so important. This legislation will, for the first time in nearly 20 years, overhaul the laws that govern how Federal regulators should consider—and minimize—the adverse impacts of new regulations on small businesses.

Primarily, the bill reinforces the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 and the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996. It only requires agencies to do what current law tries to achieve and what common sense dictates should be done.

□ 0915

However, current law is beset by loopholes, and those loopholes must be closed. That is what the Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act, at long last, does.

For example, the bill mandates that all agencies, not just the current few, work with small business review panels early in the rulemaking process for major rules, before agencies become entrenched in their proposed paths, to help small businesses better and more effectively point out to agencies what is the best path. The bill also requires agencies to assess not just the direct effects of new regulation on small businesses but also indirect effects, which often can be substantial.

The bill also, for the first time, authorizes the Small Business Administration's Chief Counsel for Advocacy to be the one consistent authority on regulatory flexibility requirements the law imposes on all agencies. This will, at long last, curb the agencies' tendencies to interpret the law to suit their own individual whims and will force agencies to focus on the common needs of small business.

The minute this bill becomes law, what will start to happen?

Small businesses will have a real chance to be heard before agencies, effectively, make up their minds. Agencies will have better information upon which to tailor their regulations to reduce unnecessary burdens on small businesses. Agencies will have fewer

opportunities to escape requirements to hear those businesses and gather that better information, and small businesses will be freer than they have been in decades to devote their resources to what they do best—create the new jobs, products, and services that can drive the economy forward to true and lasting recovery.

The Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act recognizes that economic growth ultimately depends on job creators, not regulators. It represents a critical means to convert the recognition into reality.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, February 3, 2015.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 527, the Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2015.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Matthew Pickford.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS W. ELMENDORF,
Director.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST
ESTIMATE

H.R. 527, SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY
FLEXIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2015

Summary: H.R. 527 would amend the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) to expand the number of rules covered by the RFA and to require agencies to perform additional analysis of regulations that affect small businesses. The legislation also would provide new authorities to the Small Business Administration's (SBA's) Office of Advocacy to intervene and provide support for agency rulemaking. Finally, H.R. 527 would require the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to report on the implementation of the legislation.

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 527 would cost \$55 million over the 2015–2020 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary funds. Enacting the bill could affect direct spending by agencies not funded through annual appropriations; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. CBO esti-

mates, however, that any net increase in spending by those agencies would not be significant. Enacting H.R. 527 would not affect revenues.

H.R. 527 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

If any federal agencies increase their mandatory fees to offset the costs of implementing the additional analysis required by the bill, H.R. 527 would increase the cost of an existing mandate on private entities to pay those fees. CBO expects that if such mandatory fees are increased as a result of the bill, the additional cost of the mandate in any one year would fall well below the annual threshold established in UMRA for private-sector mandates (\$154 million in 2015, adjusted annually for inflation).

Estimated Cost to the Federal Government: The estimated budgetary effect of H.R. 527 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 370 (commerce and housing credit), 800 (general government), and all budget functions that include funding for agencies that issue regulations affecting small businesses.

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Estimated Authorization Level	3	9	12	12	12	12
Estimated Outlays	2	7	10	12	12	12
						60
						55

Basis of Estimate: For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted in fiscal year 2015, that the necessary amounts will be appropriated each year, and that spending will follow historical patterns for similar activities.

CBO is unaware of any comprehensive information on the current level of spending for regulatory activities governmentwide. However, according to the Congressional Research Service, federal agencies issue 3,000 to 4,000 final rules each year. Most rules, regardless of size, are promulgated by the Departments of Transportation, Homeland Security, and Commerce, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Most major rules (those with an estimated economic impact on the economy of more than \$100 million per year) are issued by the Departments of Health and Human Services and Agriculture, and EPA.

H.R. 527 would broaden the definition of a "rule" for rulemaking purposes to include agency guidance documents and policy statements. The bill also would expand the scope of the regulatory analysis for proposed and final rules to include an examination of indirect economic effects on small businesses and a more detailed analysis of the possible economic consequences of the rule for small businesses. The legislation defines indirect economic effects as any impact that is reasonably foreseeable. The legislation also would require agencies to prepare reports on the cumulative economic impact on small businesses of new and existing regulations.

Implementing H.R. 527 would increase the amount of regulatory analysis that agencies would need to prepare, and it would expand the role of the SBA's Office of Advocacy and the Office of Management and Budget's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) in the rulemaking process. Finally, the legislation would require more federal agencies to use panels of experts to evaluate regulations and to prepare reports on the

economic impact of proposed regulations on small business.

Information from OIRA, SBA, and some federal agencies indicates that the new requirements would increase the cost to issue a few hundred of the thousands of federal regulations issued annually. Based on that information, CBO estimates that administrative costs in some regulatory agencies, the SBA's Office of Advocacy, and OIRA would eventually increase by a total of about \$12 million annually, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. We expect that it would take about three years to reach that level of effort. The GAO report on the impact of the legislation of the Office of Advocacy would cost less than \$500,000 to complete, subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Pay-As-You-Go considerations: The Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 establishes budget-reporting and enforcement procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or revenues. Enacting H.R. 527 could affect direct spending by agencies not funded through annual appropriations; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. CBO estimates, however, that any net increase in spending by those agencies would not be significant.

Intergovernmental and private-sector impact: H.R. 527 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

If any federal agencies increase their mandatory fees to offset the costs of implementing the additional analysis required by the bill, H.R. 527 would increase the cost of an existing mandate on private entities to pay those fees. CBO expects that if such mandatory fees are increased as a result of the bill, the additional cost of the mandate in any one year would fall well below the annual threshold established in UMRA for pri-

rate-sector mandates (\$154 million in 2015, adjusted annually for inflation).

Estimate prepared by: Federal Spending: Matthew Pickford and Susan Willie; Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Melissa Merrell; Impact on the Private Sector: Paige Piper/Bach.

Estimate approved by: Theresa A. Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS,
Washington, DC, January 29, 2015.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE: I am writing to you concerning the bill H.R. 527, the Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2015. The legislation falls within Rule X(q) jurisdiction of the Committee on Small Business.

In the interest of permitting the Committee on the Judiciary to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this important bill, I am willing to waive the right of the Committee on Small Business to sequential referral. I do so with the understanding that by waiving consideration of the bill the Committee on Small Business does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill which fall within its Rule X(q) jurisdiction. I request that you urge the Speaker to name members of this Committee to any conference committee which is named to consider the legislation.

Please place this letter into the committee report on H.R. 527 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure

on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this issue and others between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

STEVE CHABOT,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, January 29, 2015.

Hon. STEVE CHABOT,
Chairman, House Committee on Small Business,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CHABOT, Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 527, the "Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2015." As you noted, the Committee on Small Business was granted an additional referral of the bill.

I am most appreciative of your decision to discharge the Committee on Small Business from further consideration of H.R. 527 so that it could proceed expeditiously to the House floor. I acknowledge that although you waived formal consideration of the bill, the Committee on Small Business is in no way waiving its jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in those provisions of the bill that fall within your Rule X jurisdiction. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees on any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will include a copy of our letters in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 527.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 527, the Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act, threatens to substantially undermine agencies' abilities to effectively regulate areas such as consumer health and product safety, environmental protections, workplace safety, and financial industry misconduct.

Under the guise of protecting small businesses from allegedly burdensome regulatory requirements, this bill is just another attempt to prevent regulatory agencies from promulgating regulations that promote and protect the health and safety of Americans, overwhelm regulatory agencies with unnecessary and costly analysis, and give well-financed businesses and antiregulatory organizations even more opportunities to thwart the rule-making process.

This explains why the administration has threatened to veto this legislation, stating that the bill would seriously undermine the ability of agencies to execute their statutory mandates and would impede the ability of agencies to provide the public with basic protections.

It also explains why many of the Nation's leading consumer, labor, and environmental organizations have expressed similar concerns about this "dangerous" measure, including the AFL-CIO, the American Lung Association, the Consumer Federation of America, the Consumers Union, the

Natural Resources Defense Council, Public Citizen, the United Auto Workers, and the National Women's Law Center.

One of my principal concerns about this bill is that it could jeopardize America's health and safety. Our Federal agencies are charged with promulgating regulations that impact virtually every aspect of our lives, including the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, the cars we drive, and even the toys we give our children.

Small businesses, like all businesses, provide services and goods that also affect our lives. It makes no difference to a victim who breathes contaminated air or who drinks poisoned water whether the hazards were caused by a small or a large business. The far-reaching legislation before us today would undermine the ability of Federal agencies to quickly respond to emergent health and safety concerns.

Section 5 of the bill, for example, repeals the authority under the current law that allows an agency to waive or delay the initial analysis required under the Regulatory Flexibility Act in response to an emergency that makes timely compliance impracticable. So, if there is a widespread E. coli outbreak or an imminent environmental disaster that could be quickly addressed through regulation, this bill says: Don't worry. Don't rush. Let's have the Chief Counsel for Advocacy decide.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I hear constantly when we are on the floor with bills, which sometimes are bipartisan and sometimes are not, that the President says he is going to veto them. I hope that is not the case, because when it comes to saying that the President is going to veto and his actually doing it, they are two different things. I hope the President works with us on this.

Again, we extend our hand across the aisle here and to the other side of the Capitol to simply say to the regulators that this bill does not want to regulate the regulators. It wants the regulators to use common sense and to get input from the American people—the middle class—and from the people who create jobs, the small businesses, to see what they have to say.

I worked in a factory before I went to college and law school, and I worked my way up to mid-level management. When we did things, I brought in everyone—the people who even worked the machinery. We talked about things, and we resolved many, many things, but we got input from everyone.

As far as letters from people who support the bill, I have a list of 159 names and businesses. This is dated February 3, 2015, from A to Z—from the Adhesive and Sealant Council to woodworking

machinery associations. All of these 159 small businesses support this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, today I rise in opposition to H.R. 527, the Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act.

I oppose this legislation, which would paralyze agency rulemaking through unworkable, complex requirements while aggrandizing the powers of the Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy with broad authority to act as the gatekeeper of our Nation's regulatory system.

H.R. 527 would allow for large, regulated industries to manipulate the regulatory system in their favor while delaying or blocking critical safeguards to safeguard our Nation's food supply, environment, and workforce.

That is why the American Sustainable Business Council, a coalition of partner organizations representing over 200,000 businesses and more than 325,000 business professionals, opposes this legislation. This coalition notes that H.R. 527 would erode "the operational capacity of regulatory agencies to do their jobs," allowing for "the largest firms to further dominate the marketplace." In other words, H.R. 527 is a thinly-veiled handout to large corporations.

Mr. Chairman, Americans support smart regulation across party lines but not deregulation. Over 70 percent of Americans support strong rules to ensure an open Internet. By a 2-1 margin, Americans across the political spectrum support rules to address climate change by limiting emissions from coal-fired plants. Sixty percent of Americans support the strict regulation of financial institutions, tougher enforcement, and remain deeply concerned about dangerous financial practices.

These are the same rules in the crosshairs of the radical deregulatory agenda of my Republican colleagues.

Dangerous policies like H.R. 527 echo the same laissez-faire rhetoric of deregulation that led to the Great Depression and the Great Recession. H.R. 527 is more of the same. Another handout for the largest corporate interests, that is what this is. It is another bill designed to deregulate industries instead of to promote actual governance in order to deceive Americans through fuzzy math and untried and unfounded rhetoric.

Mr. Chairman, we need real solutions to help real people. We need legislation that creates middle class security and opportunity, and we need sensible regulations that protect American families from financial ruin, that encourage competition, and that bring predatory financial practices to an end.

We need legislation that brings the United States in conformity with the rest of the world's employment policies by guaranteeing paid sick leave and parental leave—I should say the world's industrialized economies' employment practices. According to the Rutgers Center for Women and Work, paid family leave increases wages for women with children while saving the Federal Government funds that would otherwise be allocated to assistance programs.

We need legislation that increases our global competitiveness by creating an affordable higher education. Strong evidence from a Department of Education report roundly demonstrates that investing in our education system expands job opportunities, boosts America's competitiveness, and supports the kind of income mobility that is fundamental to a growing economy.

In other words, what we need is actual governance that helps middle class families, that grows the economy, and that promotes international competitiveness.

What we don't need is yet another de-regulatory bill that would increase complexity in our regulatory system while placing a finger on the scales in favor of corporations and against the public interest. I ask that my colleagues oppose H.R. 527.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I have been doing some research over these couple of days. This administration alone has implemented over 75,000 pages of new regulations. I just read some figures earlier on this morning that, if we get rid of this ridiculous regulation—and I am not saying all regulation; we do need oversight regulation—almost \$1 trillion a year will be added to the economy and almost 1 million people will be added to work on a yearly basis. This is just excellent stuff.

I want to give you an example from my district, Pennsylvania's 10th District. I live in a little village called Cogan Station outside of Williamsport, which is the home of Little League World Series Baseball. I live in the middle of five farms, and I have been there for 15 years.

Pursuant to the Navigable Waters Act, the Army Corps of Engineers and the EPA have said that, if it rains and if a puddle forms on the farm—in an attempt for this administration to get more control over our lives—because of the Navigable Waters Act, the EPA and the Army Corps have control now over that farm and can shut it down.

□ 0930

Now, I have been there for 15 years in the middle of these five farms, and I have yet to see as much as a rowboat go through. So this is just an example of how ridiculous this legislation can get.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Chair, I have the distinct honor to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. HUELSKAMP), my good friend, to speak on behalf of us.

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Chair, here in Washington, D.C., I believe we have too many people working on K Street looking out for Wall Street when we should be, instead, fighting for Main Street. It is our Main Street businesses, our small businesses, that are the heart and soul of our economy and without which there will be no economic recovery.

America has slogged through 6 years of a lackluster economy in part because our hardworking small business men and women are strangled by this administration's overregulation. During my 267 town hall meetings throughout my district in the last 4 years, the number one complaint is this: there is too much regulation on small business from faceless, nameless bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., who don't understand the needs of rural America.

It is time for some red tape relief. It is time for some regulatory certainty. It is time to free up Main Street so they can kick-start our economy and get America back to work. As an active member of the Committee on Small Business, I encourage my colleagues to join me and millions and millions of small business entrepreneurs all across America and pass this bill today.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to continue our discussion on this side.

Another problem with this bill, my colleagues, is that it will waste millions of taxpayer dollars by forcing agencies to redirect their scarce resources to meet the bill's burdensome compliance requirements. Section 6 of the bill, for example, would require agencies to review not only all rules currently in effect, but, in addition, all guidance documents in effect as of the bill's date of enactment. Now, we are talking about thousands of pages of regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations and several hundred thousand guidance documents.

So, what is to be gained by that?

Thus, it is no wonder that the Congressional Budget Office estimated that it would cost \$45 million over a 5-year period to implement the new requirements imposed under a substantively similar bill considered in the last Congress. Rather than burdening agencies responsible for protecting our health and safety, we should be exploring constructive ways to help small business comply with these regulations.

Finally, this bill will do little to help small businesses, while simultaneously

giving corporate interests increased control over the rulemaking process. The bill's expansion in section 8 of judicial review to include challenges to the adequacy of regulatory flexibility analysis would open the door to endless litigation by well-funded antiregulatory business interests who could challenge agency compliance with the legislation's numerous vague, speculative, and cumbersome analytical and other requirements.

I think we get the drift here, where they are going and where they are coming from. I share my colleagues' belief that small business plays an important role in our economy, but this bill does nothing to alleviate the burden, the purported burden on small entities of complying with Federal regulations. In fact, it includes no provision that offers assistance to small entities, whether through subsidies, government-guaranteed loans, preferential tax treatment for small firms, or fully funded compliance assistance offices. Instead, the bill merely aggrandizes the power of the professional lobbying class in Washington, creating opportunities for a well-funded business interest to intervene in the process.

This is a very harmful bill that puts the health and safety of all Americans at risk, while adding nothing to the efficiency or cost-effectiveness of agency rulemaking. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to oppose this dangerous legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I understand the responsibility of having oversight over any business, but let me give you a couple of examples, again, from my district where a small community bank, who is the primary lender of small businesses, instead of hiring more tellers to expand the business and provide better service for their small business clients, had to hire three people just to review and keep up with regulatory reform that applies to large national and international banks who are lending hundreds of millions of dollars.

That is not the case with smalltown banks. They are lending money to the young man and woman who got a job, saved some money, want to buy a car, and have to go to the bank and say: Can you lend me \$10,000? The paperwork that the bank has to go through to do that is costing jobs and costing our economy.

I just got a call yesterday from one of my constituents. The Amish in my district were putting a roof on a small barn they had. OSHA stopped by and shut it down and fined the Amish because they didn't have helmets on. They only had their straw hats. So he put them out of work for a couple of weeks. They had to pay a fine, and then they have to go buy helmets to put a small roof on a small barn.

I have a constituent from my district who has a little grocery store, and he just had a shipment of bread delivered. It just so happened that an inspector was there, and the bread was brought in through the dock door and set next to, inside the dock door. He was fined because the bread, which is wrapped and on racks, was sitting too close to the dock door.

These are the types of regulation to which we are referring that crush jobs and are killing this economy. One of the inspectors was asked: Why are you doing this?

The inspector simply said, and according to my constituent, arrogantly said: Because I can.

That is no way for an employee of the United States Government to be talking to someone who helps pay his wages.

So with that, Mr. Chair, this is a good piece of legislation. This is common sense, and this is very simple. Let's make the regulators do more with less. There are no agencies or departments in the Federal Government that can tell me that they are running as efficiently as they possibly can.

My good friend, the ranking member, said it is going to cost a great deal to have this rule, this legislation, implemented and the departments and agencies follow the rule. No. You know what the departments and agencies have to do? They have to do just exactly what small business operators throughout this country do: do more with less, and put in a good, hard day's work.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of this bill, H.R. 527, the Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2015.

I want to thank Chairman GOODLATTE as well as Chairman MARINO for the opportunity to work with them on this important piece of legislation.

Small businesses are critical to this country's success. They provide a means for millions of workers and their families to attain the American Dream. They employ one out of every two private sector workers and create two of every three new private sector jobs.

There are over 926,000 small businesses in my home State of Ohio. Small firms rarely have in-house legal departments or regulatory compliance experts on staff. Often, it is the small business owner, the individual running the business and meeting payroll, who also must keep up with regulations and the payment of taxes.

Small manufacturers, retailers, and construction firms want to comply with the law. However, when they divert resources to costly regulatory compliance, they cannot hire workers

or start new projects or make other job creation investments.

If there is a way to find less expensive means to achieving regulatory objectives of our agencies, small businesses could protect the environment and workers and still create the good middle class jobs that this country needs.

There is such a law, the Regulatory Flexibility Act, or RFA, which requires agencies to understand the costs to small businesses and find less costly alternatives while meeting the regulatory missions required by statute. However, despite admonitions by multiple Presidents, including the current one, agencies continue to ignore the RFA.

The bill before us today, H.R. 527, the Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2015, addresses a goal shared by virtually all Republicans and some Democrats and will ensure that agencies no longer ignore the law and craft more cost-effective regulations. The bill will force agencies to analyze both direct and reasonably foreseeable indirect effects of their rules, just as they are required to do when promulgating major regulations that affect the environment under the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA.

□ 0945

The bill provides for early input in the regulatory process so that agencies do not craft regulations that are so cost prohibitive that small businesses cannot comply, and seeks to ensure consistent application of the RFA by all agencies through regulations written by the Chief Counsel for Advocacy, a process first used to ensure that all agencies performed adequate environmental impact statements under NEPA.

Even with the additional procedures, nothing in H.R. 527 will prevent an agency from issuing a regulation. H.R. 527, to paraphrase President Ronald Reagan, simply requires that agencies know before they regulate. Common sense.

H.R. 527 will ensure that agencies adopt commonsense regulations that achieve their objectives while reducing unnecessary burdens on our best job creators, which are small businesses. About 70 percent of the jobs that are created in our economy nowadays are created by small businesses, after all. That is why the legislation has bipartisan support, and over 150 associations representing the full range of small businesses support passage of this legislation.

Mr. Chair, to fully understand how the bill will work, it is important the committee report filed by the gentleman from Virginia be read together with the committee report on the predecessor bill, H.R. 2542 filed in the 113th Congress by my predecessor as chairman of the Committee on Small Business, the gentleman from Missouri, Mr. GRAVES.

With that, I urge my colleagues to support this very good legislation, I believe, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Reducing the costs of regulations is a very important issue for small businesses, and it is an issue that is always on their minds. Complicated rules and duplicative requirements can create burdens for small firms across a wide range of industries. Unchecked regulations can reduce companies' profitability, causing them to reduce employment and, in the worst cases, even go out of business.

It is for these very reasons that President Barack Obama has taken strong actions. He has issued several broad-based executive orders on rule-making. Most importantly, he instructed agencies to conduct retrospective review of their regulations. These reviews have resulted in near-term cost savings to the U.S. economy of \$10 billion.

He has always required agencies to estimate the costs and benefits of regulations, consider less burdensome alternatives, and incorporate those that are affected by regulations into the rule-making process.

Taken together, these efforts are helping to rein in regulatory costs, while ensuring that agencies can carry out their mission. It is against this backdrop that we are considering the bill before us today.

Too often on the House floor legislation is painted as either being totally perfect or completely awful. With this bill, neither of these characterizations is appropriate. In fact, on many fronts, H.R. 527 contains several very positive provisions and will make a real difference for small businesses.

Many of these provisions were contained in legislation that passed out of the Small Business Committee when I was the chair. Together with current Chairman CHABOT, who was then the ranking member, we passed a regulatory reform bill unanimously out of our committee.

For instance, the bill makes the agency's reg flex analyses more detailed so that they cannot simply overlook their obligations to small businesses. It also gives "real teeth" to periodic regulatory look-backs, which require agencies to review outdated regulations that remain on the books. Agencies will also be required to evaluate the entire impact of their regulations, something that is long overdue. And it cannot go without mention that the bill brings the IRS under the purview of the RFA. This is a real improvement for small firms, who will undoubtedly benefit from greater scrutiny of complex and burdensome tax rules. These are all constructive changes that will bring real relief to small businesses.

With that said, Mr. Chairman, there are other items in this legislation that leave you scratching your head. Adding so many new agencies to the panel process is a recipe for disaster. Such a dramatic change will require new bureaucratic processes, more staff, and more paperwork.

It must be ironic for my colleagues on the other side of the aisle that this bill attempts to reduce Federal regulation by dramatically expanding the role and scope of government.

It also applies *reg flex* to land management plans, something I have never heard small businesses complain about in my 17 years on the committee. Doing so will enable corporate interests to more readily challenge land use decisions, which could have adverse consequences for the environmental stewardship of public lands. The reality is that the RFA was just not intended to cover these types of actions, and it should not do so going forward.

Another head-scratcher is the creation of another office of size standard within the Small Business Administration. The SBA already has one and does not need two. There is simply no reason to create this bureaucratic duplication. I think both sides of the aisle would agree that, during a time of fiscal constraint, we do not need to be wasting money on a new office when it already exists in the very same agency.

Finally, it is important to note that the Office of Advocacy's footprint has traditionally been minimal, with a budget of \$9 million and 46 employees. According to CBO, its budget would have to potentially double to handle the new responsibilities of H.R. 527.

CBO also notes that the private sector could also face increased costs. Federal agencies will likely charge the private sector higher fees to carry out the new responsibilities under this bill.

Simply put, now is not the time to make costly statutory leaps when smaller steps are more appropriate.

It is important to remember that tinkering with our regulatory system will not turn the economy around and create jobs that we need in our communities. In order to make real inroads, we need to, instead, provide businesses with the capital they need to start up and grow through affordable lending and getting more customers through their doors. The best way to achieve that is by increasing the Federal minimum wage.

In the end, legislation such as this detracts us from the real task at hand: creating real jobs through substantive pro-growth policies.

So in conclusion, there are some good and some not so good things in this bill. I want to acknowledge the effort by the bill's managers, but in the end, it is not something that I can support, given the imposition of too many questionable policies. However, I want to thank Chairman CHABOT for always

being open to discussions, and I look forward to continuing our dialogue on this legislation.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. KNIGHT), who is a new member of the Committee on Small Business.

Mr. KNIGHT. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 527, to grant long-overdue relief from Federal regulations for small business owners.

This issue is especially important to me as a Representative from California. As of 2012, California had more small businesses and employees than any other State, according to the Small Business Association.

As I understand it, this act does not stop regulation. It just asks for some common sense. When we are looking at small business, all we want is for them to make money, morally and ethically, so that they can expand, so that they can hire, so that they can produce for our country. Well, this is a step in the right direction. Analyzing direct and indirect impacts is something that we should want from our government, federally and statewide.

Many Americans just want to work. The best way Congress can help is cutting some of the burdensome red tape and letting job creators do what they do best—and maybe letting us get out of the way.

Instead of making small businesses spend thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours trying to understand and comply with regulations that might not help, we should let them focus on getting Americans back to work.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HARDY), who is also a new member of the Committee on Small Business.

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Chairman, I rise to voice my support for this bipartisan effort to ensure that small businesses and their employees are not overburdened by regulations.

As a former business owner, I know how government intrusion and over-regulation can increase costs, decrease efficiency, and ultimately harm hard-working individuals and their families. These taxpayers deserve a responsive government that is efficient, effective, and accountable to them.

As we fight for an environment more favorable to job creation, Federal agencies cannot be allowed to bypass their obligation to measure the direct and indirect economic effects regulations have on businesses. Ultimately, these businesses—the economic engines of our communities—should have the freedom to pursue safe, responsible opportunities unhampered by burdensome rulemaking and red tape.

As a result, communities and businesses, like those represented by the

Nevada Manufacturers Association, will thrive. That is why, Mr. Chairman, I stand alongside my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to cosponsor this bill.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CURBELO), who is also a new member of the Small Business Committee.

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. I thank the chairman for being a strong advocate for our Nation's emerging entrepreneurs. I look forward to serving under your leadership on the Small Business Committee.

Mr. Chairman, our local businesses employ our friends and neighbors, helping them pay their bills and provide a better life for themselves and their families.

When we talk about helping our local businesses, it is not just about the entrepreneurs. It is also about helping the workers that depend on them for their paychecks. It is not just about strengthening Main Street; it is also about keeping our neighbors strong and prosperous. We should never forget the vital role that our local businesses play in our communities.

The Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act upholds this commitment. Current law requires an analysis to determine if a new rule could have "significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities." Unfortunately, our government agencies have failed to comply with the law's spirit.

Among its provisions, the underlying legislation targets loopholes agencies use to avoid Regulatory Flexibility Act requirements. It also requires agencies to include assessments on the cumulative impacts a new rule may have on small businesses.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CHABOT. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. I thank the gentleman.

Now is the time for us to focus on creating well-paying jobs for our communities. I urge my colleagues to vote for passage.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Since its enactment in 1980, the Regulatory Flexibility Act has reduced the burden of Federal rules on small businesses. It has evolved over time to include new tools, expanding its purview, and making a real difference for entrepreneurs across the country.

With this important role in mind, the legislation before us makes some essential changes, such as requiring more robust reviews of existing regulations and ensuring that new rules are more thoroughly examined. This improvement will give small firms a greater voice, while reducing the compliance

costs they face in so many facets of their business; however, in other areas, the bill goes too far.

At a time of mountainous deficits and growing taxpayer anger at how tone-deaf Congress has become, H.R. 527 will dramatically expand the Federal bureaucracy at a cost of nearly \$60 million.

□ 1000

It also turns the SBA's Office of Advocacy into another superregulator, giving it unprecedented authority to issue regulations and greatly increase its role into judicial proceedings.

Mr. Chairman, I don't want people to think that I do not appreciate the fine work that the Office of Advocacy does on behalf of small businesses, but what this bill does is setting them up for failure.

And with all these new powers, it does nothing to pay for it. Instead, it leaves taxpayers with just another bill.

While it is important to empower small businesses, this is not the best and most cost-effective way to do it. In fact, there is no clear estimate of how much savings small businesses will actually receive as a result of this legislation.

The truth is, there are better ways to accomplish these very objectives but without the extravagance of this legislation.

Mr. Chairman, I urge a "no" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume to close.

Mr. Chairman, too often, agencies craft one-size-fits-all regulations that do not account for the impact on small businesses. It is our job to remember that what affects small businesses also affects families that depend on those small businesses.

Agencies can still achieve their regulatory objectives while creating smarter, more narrowly-tailored regulations that are sensitive to small businesses.

Some claim that agencies are already doing what the RFA requires—outreach to small business and assessment of economic impacts. If that is the case, agencies should have no problem meeting the new requirements of this legislation. It simply ensures that agencies comply with the letter and spirit of the RFA, as President Obama stated in a memorandum to agencies on January 18, 2011.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 527, the Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act.

Madam Chair, for too long, small businesses have had to conform to a "one size fits all" approach. The intent of the original law, which was passed in 1980, was to lessen the burden on small businesses when conforming to regulatory issues.

Since that time Federal Agencies have abused certain loopholes in the codes, to enforce often arbitrary costs to those businesses. These additional expenditures are far too often the difference between a small business thriving or going under.

I know that in the Territory of American Samoa, our local economy is absolutely dependent upon small businesses and their success. This legislation will enable those who own small businesses across the nation and the territories to have a greater degree of certainty when planning for the future of their business, by allowing for input into the regulatory process from the business owners themselves. This legislation will also require those rule making agencies to regularly review the regulations that are already on the books and what impact they are having on small businesses.

Madam Chair, I want to thank Chairman CHABOT and the Small Business Committee staff for their hard work in bringing this bill to the floor, and I firmly voice my support for H.R. 527, the Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act and urge my colleagues in the House to also support this important measure.

The Acting CHAIR (Ms. JENKINS of Kansas). All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of an amendment under the 5-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-3. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 527

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION AND EXPANSION OF RULES COVERED BY THE REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ACT.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Paragraph (2) of section 601 of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"(2) *RULE.*—The term 'rule' has the meaning given such term in section 551(4) of this title, except that such term does not include a rule pertaining to the protection of the rights of and benefits for veterans or a rule of particular (and not general) applicability relating to rates, wages, corporate or financial structures or reorganizations thereof, prices, facilities, appliances, services, or allowances therefor or to valuations, costs or accounting, or practices relating to such rates, wages, structures, prices, appliances, services, or allowances."

(b) *INCLUSION OF RULES WITH INDIRECT EFFECTS.*—Section 601 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(9) *ECONOMIC IMPACT.*—The term 'economic impact' means, with respect to a proposed or final rule—

"(A) any direct economic effect on small entities of such rule; and

"(B) any indirect economic effect (including compliance costs and effects on revenue) on small entities which is reasonably foreseeable and results from such rule (without regard to whether small entities will be directly regulated by the rule)."

(c) *INCLUSION OF RULES WITH BENEFICIAL EFFECTS.*—

(1) *INITIAL REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ANALYSIS.*—Subsection (c) of section 603 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking the first sentence and inserting "Each initial regulatory flexibility analysis shall also contain a detailed description of alternatives to the proposed rule which minimize any adverse significant economic impact or maximize any beneficial significant economic impact on small entities."

(2) *FINAL REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ANALYSIS.*—The first paragraph (6) of section 604(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking "minimize the significant economic impact" and inserting "minimize the adverse significant economic impact or maximize the beneficial significant economic impact".

(d) *INCLUSION OF RULES AFFECTING TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.*—Paragraph (5) of section 601 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting "and tribal organizations (as defined in section 4(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b(l))), after "special districts,".

(e) *INCLUSION OF LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS AND FORMAL RULEMAKING.*—

(1) *INITIAL REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ANALYSIS.*—Subsection (a) of section 603 of title 5, United States Code, is amended in the first sentence—

(A) by striking "or" after "proposed rule,"; and

(B) by inserting "or publishes a revision or amendment to a land management plan," after "United States,".

(2) *FINAL REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ANALYSIS.*—Subsection (a) of section 604 of title 5, United States Code, is amended in the first sentence—

(A) by striking "or" after "proposed rulemaking,"; and

(B) by inserting "or adopts a revision or amendment to a land management plan," after "section 603(a),".

(3) *LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN DEFINED.*—Section 601 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(10) *LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN.*—

"(A) *IN GENERAL.*—The term 'land management plan' means—

"(i) any plan developed by the Secretary of Agriculture under section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604); and

"(ii) any plan developed by the Secretary of the Interior under section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712).

"(B) *REVISION.*—The term 'revision' means any change to a land management plan which—

"(i) in the case of a plan described in subparagraph (A)(i), is made under section 6(f)(5) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604(f)(5)); or

"(ii) in the case of a plan described in subparagraph (A)(ii), is made under section 1610.5-6 of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

"(C) *AMENDMENT.*—The term 'amendment' means any change to a land management plan which—

"(i) in the case of a plan described in subparagraph (A)(i), is made under section 6(f)(4) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C.

1604(f)(4)) and with respect to which the Secretary of Agriculture prepares a statement described in section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)); or

“(ii) in the case of a plan described in subparagraph (A)(ii), is made under section 1610.5-5 of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation) and with respect to which the Secretary of the Interior prepares a statement described in section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)).”.

(f) **INCLUSION OF CERTAIN INTERPRETIVE RULES INVOLVING THE INTERNAL REVENUE LAWS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subsection (a) of section 603 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting “or a recordkeeping requirement, and without regard to whether such requirement is imposed by statute or regulation.”.

(2) **COLLECTION OF INFORMATION.**—Paragraph (7) of section 601 of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(7) **COLLECTION OF INFORMATION.**—The term ‘collection of information’ has the meaning given such term in section 3502(3) of title 44.”.

(3) **RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENT.**—Paragraph (8) of section 601 of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(8) **RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENT.**—The term ‘recordkeeping requirement’ has the meaning given such term in section 3502(13) of title 44.”.

(g) **DEFINITION OF SMALL ORGANIZATION.**—Paragraph (4) of section 601 of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(4) **SMALL ORGANIZATION.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term ‘small organization’ means any not-for-profit enterprise which, as of the issuance of the notice of proposed rulemaking—

“(i) in the case of an enterprise which is described by a classification code of the North American Industrial Classification System, does not exceed the size standard established by the Administrator of the Small Business Administration pursuant to section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632) for small business concerns described by such classification code; and

“(ii) in the case of any other enterprise, has a net worth that does not exceed \$7,000,000 and has not more than 500 employees.

“(B) **LOCAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS.**—In the case of any local labor organization, subparagraph (A) shall be applied without regard to any national or international organization of which such local labor organization is a part.

“(C) **AGENCY DEFINITIONS.**—Subparagraphs (A) and (B) shall not apply to the extent that an agency, after consultation with the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration and after opportunity for public comment, establishes one or more definitions for such term which are appropriate to the activities of the agency and publishes such definitions in the Federal Register.”.

SEC. 3. EXPANSION OF REPORT OF REGULATORY AGENDA.

Section 602 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “, and” at the end and inserting “;”;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) a brief description of the sector of the North American Industrial Classification System that is primarily affected by any rule which the agency expects to propose or promulgate which is likely to have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities; and”;

(2) in subsection (c), to read as follows:

“(c) Each agency shall prominently display a plain language summary of the information contained in the regulatory flexibility agenda published under subsection (a) on its website within 3 days of its publication in the Federal Register. The Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration shall compile and prominently display a plain language summary of the regulatory agendas referenced in subsection (a) for each agency on its website within 3 days of their publication in the Federal Register.”.

SEC. 4. REQUIREMENTS PROVIDING FOR MORE DETAILED ANALYSES.

(a) **INITIAL REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ANALYSIS.**—Subsection (b) of section 603 of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(b) Each initial regulatory flexibility analysis required under this section shall contain a detailed statement—

“(1) describing the reasons why action by the agency is being considered;

“(2) describing the objectives of, and legal basis for, the proposed rule;

“(3) estimating the number and type of small entities to which the proposed rule will apply;

“(4) describing the projected reporting, recordkeeping, and other compliance requirements of the proposed rule, including an estimate of the classes of small entities which will be subject to the requirement and the type of professional skills necessary for preparation of the report and record;

“(5) describing all relevant Federal rules which may duplicate, overlap, or conflict with the proposed rule, or the reasons why such a description could not be provided;

“(6) estimating the additional cumulative economic impact of the proposed rule on small entities beyond that already imposed on the class of small entities by the agency or why such an estimate is not available;

“(7) describing any disproportionate economic impact on small entities or a specific class of small entities; and

“(8) describing any impairment of the ability of small entities to have access to credit.”.

(b) **FINAL REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ANALYSIS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 604(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (4), by striking “an explanation” and inserting “a detailed explanation”;

(B) in each of paragraphs (4), (5), and the first paragraph (6), by inserting “detailed” before “description”;

(C) in the second paragraph (6), by striking the period and inserting “; and”;

(D) by redesignating the second paragraph (6) as paragraph (7); and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) a detailed description of any disproportionate economic impact on small entities or a specific class of small entities.”.

(2) **INCLUSION OF RESPONSE TO COMMENTS ON CERTIFICATION OF PROPOSED RULE.**—Paragraph (2) of section 604(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting “(or certification of the proposed rule under section 605(b))” after “initial regulatory flexibility analysis”.

(3) **PUBLICATION OF ANALYSIS ON WEBSITE.**—Subsection (b) of section 604 of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(b) The agency shall make copies of the final regulatory flexibility analysis available to the public, including placement of the entire analysis on the agency’s website, and shall publish in the Federal Register the final regulatory flexibility analysis, or a summary thereof which includes the telephone number, mailing address, and link to the website where the complete analysis may be obtained.”.

(c) **CROSS-REFERENCES TO OTHER ANALYSES.**—Subsection (a) of section 605 of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(a) A Federal agency shall be treated as satisfying any requirement regarding the content of an agenda or regulatory flexibility analysis under section 602, 603, or 604, if such agency provides in such agenda or analysis a cross-reference to the specific portion of another agenda or analysis which is required by any other law and which satisfies such requirement.”.

(d) **CERTIFICATIONS.**—Subsection (b) of section 605 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting “detailed” before “statement” the first place it appears; and

(2) by inserting “and legal” after “factual”.

(e) **QUANTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.**—Section 607 of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§607. Quantification requirements

“In complying with sections 603 and 604, an agency shall provide—

“(1) a quantifiable or numerical description of the effects of the proposed or final rule and alternatives to the proposed or final rule; or

“(2) a more general descriptive statement and a detailed statement explaining why quantification is not practicable or reliable.”.

SEC. 5. REPEAL OF WAIVER AND DELAY AUTHORITY; ADDITIONAL POWERS OF THE CHIEF COUNSEL FOR ADVOCACY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 608 is amended to read as follows:

“§608. Additional powers of Chief Counsel for Advocacy

“(a)(1) Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration shall, after opportunity for notice and comment under section 553, issue rules governing agency compliance with this chapter. The Chief Counsel may modify or amend such rules after notice and comment under section 553. This chapter (other than this subsection) shall not apply with respect to the issuance, modification, and amendment of rules under this paragraph.

“(2) An agency shall not issue rules which supplement the rules issued under subsection (a) unless such agency has first consulted with the Chief Counsel for Advocacy to ensure that such supplemental rules comply with this chapter and the rules issued under paragraph (1).

“(b) Notwithstanding any other law, the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration may intervene in any agency adjudication (unless such agency is authorized to impose a fine or penalty under such adjudication), and may inform the agency of the impact that any decision on the record may have on small entities. The Chief Counsel shall not initiate an appeal with respect to any adjudication in which the Chief Counsel intervenes under this subsection.

“(c) The Chief Counsel for Advocacy may file comments in response to any agency notice requesting comment, regardless of whether the agency is required to file a general notice of proposed rulemaking under section 553.”.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) Section 611(a)(1) of such title is amended by striking “608(b)”,

(2) Section 611(a)(2) of such title is amended by striking “608(b)”,

(3) Section 611(a)(3) of such title is amended—

(A) by striking subparagraph (B); and

(B) by striking “(3)(A) A small entity” and inserting the following:

“(3) A small entity”.

SEC. 6. PROCEDURES FOR GATHERING COMMENTS.

Section 609 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (b) and all that follows through the end of the section and inserting the following:

“(b)(1) Prior to publication of any proposed rule described in subsection (e), an agency making such rule shall notify the Chief Counsel for

Advocacy of the Small Business Administration and provide the Chief Counsel with—

“(A) all materials prepared or utilized by the agency in making the proposed rule, including the draft of the proposed rule; and

“(B) information on the potential adverse and beneficial economic impacts of the proposed rule on small entities and the type of small entities that might be affected.

“(2) An agency shall not be required under paragraph (1) to provide the exact language of any draft if the rule—

“(A) relates to the internal revenue laws of the United States; or

“(B) is proposed by an independent regulatory agency (as defined in section 3502(5) of title 44).

“(c) Not later than 15 days after the receipt of such materials and information under subsection (b), the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration shall—

“(1) identify small entities or representatives of small entities or a combination of both for the purpose of obtaining advice, input, and recommendations from those persons about the potential economic impacts of the proposed rule and the compliance of the agency with section 603; and

“(2) convene a review panel consisting of an employee from the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, an employee from the agency making the rule, and in the case of an agency other than an independent regulatory agency (as defined in section 3502(5) of title 44), an employee from the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget to review the materials and information provided to the Chief Counsel under subsection (b).

“(d)(1) Not later than 60 days after the review panel described in subsection (c)(2) is convened, the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration shall, after consultation with the members of such panel, submit a report to the agency and, in the case of an agency other than an independent regulatory agency (as defined in section 3502(5) of title 44), the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget.

“(2) Such report shall include an assessment of the economic impact of the proposed rule on small entities, including an assessment of the proposed rule's impact on the cost that small entities pay for energy, an assessment of the proposed rule's impact on start-up costs for small entities, and a discussion of any alternatives that will minimize adverse significant economic impacts or maximize beneficial significant economic impacts on small entities.

“(3) Such report shall become part of the rule-making record. In the publication of the proposed rule, the agency shall explain what actions, if any, the agency took in response to such report.

“(e) A proposed rule is described by this subsection if the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget, the head of the agency (or the delegatee of the head of the agency), or an independent regulatory agency determines that the proposed rule is likely to result in—

“(1) an annual effect on the economy of \$100,000,000 or more;

“(2) a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, State, or local governments, tribal organizations, or geographic regions;

“(3) significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or on the ability of United States-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises in domestic and export markets; or

“(4) a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

“(f) Upon application by the agency, the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration may waive the requirements of subsections (b) through (e) if the Chief Counsel determines that compliance with the requirements of such subsections are impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest.

“(g) A small entity or a representative of a small entity may submit a request that the agency provide a copy of the report prepared under subsection (d) and all materials and information provided to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration under subsection (b). The agency receiving such request shall provide the report, materials and information to the requesting small entity or representative of a small entity not later than 10 business days after receiving such request, except that the agency shall not disclose any information that is prohibited from disclosure to the public pursuant to section 552(b) of this title.”

SEC. 7. PERIODIC REVIEW OF RULES.

Section 610 of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§610. Periodic review of rules

“(a) Not later than 180 days after the enactment of this section, each agency shall publish in the Federal Register and place on its website a plan for the periodic review of rules issued by the agency which the head of the agency determines have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. Such determination shall be made without regard to whether the agency performed an analysis under section 604. The purpose of the review shall be to determine whether such rules should be continued without change, or should be amended or rescinded, consistent with the stated objectives of applicable statutes, to minimize any adverse significant economic impacts or maximize any beneficial significant economic impacts on a substantial number of small entities. Such plan may be amended by the agency at any time by publishing the revision in the Federal Register and subsequently placing the amended plan on the agency's website.

“(b) The plan shall provide for the review of all such agency rules existing on the date of the enactment of this section within 10 years of the date of publication of the plan in the Federal Register and for review of rules adopted after the date of enactment of this section within 10 years after the publication of the final rule in the Federal Register. If the head of the agency determines that completion of the review of existing rules is not feasible by the established date, the head of the agency shall so certify in a statement published in the Federal Register and may extend the review for not longer than 2 years after publication of notice of extension in the Federal Register. Such certification and notice shall be sent to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration and the Congress.

“(c) The plan shall include a section that details how an agency will conduct outreach to and meaningfully include small businesses (including small business concerns owned and controlled by women, small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans, and small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals (as such terms are defined in the Small Business Act)) for the purposes of carrying out this section. The agency shall include in this section a plan for how the agency will contact small businesses and gather their input on existing agency rules.

“(d) Each agency shall annually submit a report regarding the results of its review pursuant to such plan to the Congress, the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, and, in the case of agencies other than independent regulatory agencies (as defined in

section 3502(5) of title 44) to the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget. Such report shall include the identification of any rule with respect to which the head of the agency made a determination described in paragraph (5) or (6) of subsection (e) and a detailed explanation of the reasons for such determination.

“(e) In reviewing a rule pursuant to subsections (a) through (d), the agency shall amend or rescind the rule to minimize any adverse significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities or disproportionate economic impact on a specific class of small entities, or maximize any beneficial significant economic impact of the rule on a substantial number of small entities to the greatest extent possible, consistent with the stated objectives of applicable statutes. In amending or rescinding the rule, the agency shall consider the following factors:

“(1) The continued need for the rule.

“(2) The nature of complaints received by the agency from small entities concerning the rule.

“(3) Comments by the Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman and the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration.

“(4) The complexity of the rule.

“(5) The extent to which the rule overlaps, duplicates, or conflicts with other Federal rules and, unless the head of the agency determines it to be infeasible, State, territorial, and local rules.

“(6) The contribution of the rule to the cumulative economic impact of all Federal rules on the class of small entities affected by the rule, unless the head of the agency determines that such calculations cannot be made and reports that determination in the annual report required under subsection (d).

“(7) The length of time since the rule has been evaluated or the degree to which technology, economic conditions, or other factors have changed in the area affected by the rule.

“(f) Each year, each agency shall publish in the Federal Register and on its website a list of rules to be reviewed pursuant to such plan. The agency shall include in the publication a solicitation of public comments on any further inclusions or exclusions of rules from the list, and shall respond to such comments. Such publication shall include a brief description of the rule, the reason why the agency determined that it has a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities (without regard to whether it had prepared a final regulatory flexibility analysis for the rule), and request comments from the public, the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, and the Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman concerning the enforcement of the rule.”

SEC. 8. JUDICIAL REVIEW OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ACT AVAILABLE AFTER PUBLICATION OF THE FINAL RULE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 611(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “final agency action” and inserting “such rule”.

(b) JURISDICTION.—Paragraph (2) of such section is amended by inserting “(or which would have such jurisdiction if publication of the final rule constituted final agency action)” after “provision of law.”

(c) TIME FOR BRINGING ACTION.—Paragraph (3) of such section is amended—

(1) by striking “final agency action” and inserting “publication of the final rule”; and

(2) by inserting “, in the case of a rule for which the date of final agency action is the same date as the publication of the final rule,” after “except that”.

(d) INTERVENTION BY CHIEF COUNSEL FOR ADVOCACY.—Subsection (b) of section 612 of title 5,

United States Code, is amended by inserting before the first period “or agency compliance with section 601, 603, 604, 605(b), 609, or 610”.

SEC. 9. JURISDICTION OF COURT OF APPEALS OVER RULES IMPLEMENTING THE REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ACT.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 2342 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (6), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (7) the following new paragraph:

“(8) all final rules under section 608(a) of title 5.”.

(b) *CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.*—Paragraph (3) of section 2341 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(F) the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, when the final rule is under section 608(a) of title 5.”.

(c) *AUTHORIZATION TO INTERVENE AND COMMENT ON AGENCY COMPLIANCE WITH ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE.*—Subsection (b) of section 612 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting “chapter 5, and chapter 7,” after “this chapter,”.

SEC. 10. ESTABLISHMENT AND APPROVAL OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN SIZE STANDARDS BY CHIEF COUNSEL FOR ADVOCACY.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Subparagraph (A) of section 3(a)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a)(2)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

“(A) *IN GENERAL.*—In addition to the criteria specified in paragraph (1)—

“(i) the Administrator may specify detailed definitions or standards by which a business concern may be determined to be a small business concern for purposes of this Act or the Small Business Investment Act of 1958; and

“(ii) the Chief Counsel for Advocacy may specify such definitions or standards for purposes of any other Act.”.

(b) *APPROVAL BY CHIEF COUNSEL.*—Clause (iii) of section 3(a)(2)(C) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a)(2)(C)(iii)) is amended to read as follows:

“(iii) except in the case of a size standard prescribed by the Administrator, is approved by the Chief Counsel for Advocacy.”.

(c) *INDUSTRY VARIATION.*—Paragraph (3) of section 3(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a)(3)) is amended—

(1) by inserting “or Chief Counsel for Advocacy, as appropriate” before “shall ensure”; and

(2) by inserting “or Chief Counsel for Advocacy” before the period at the end.

(d) *JUDICIAL REVIEW OF SIZE STANDARDS APPROVED BY CHIEF COUNSEL.*—Section 3(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(9) *JUDICIAL REVIEW OF STANDARDS APPROVED BY CHIEF COUNSEL.*—In the case of an action for judicial review of a rule which includes a definition or standard approved by the Chief Counsel for Advocacy under this subsection, the party seeking such review shall be entitled to join the Chief Counsel as a party in such action.”.

SEC. 11. CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.

(a) *DEFINITIONS.*—Section 601 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period; and

(B) by striking “(1) the term” and inserting the following:

“(1) *AGENCY.*—The term”;

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period; and

(B) by striking “(3) the term” and inserting the following:

“(3) *SMALL BUSINESS.*—The term”;

(3) in paragraph (5)—

(A) by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period; and

(B) by striking “(5) the term” and inserting the following:

“(5) *SMALL GOVERNMENTAL JURISDICTION.*—The term”;

(4) in paragraph (6)—

(A) by striking “; and” and inserting a period; and

(B) by striking “(6) the term” and inserting the following:

“(6) *SMALL ENTITY.*—The term”.

(b) *INCORPORATIONS BY REFERENCE AND CERTIFICATIONS.*—The heading of section 605 of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 605. Incorporations by reference and certifications”.

(c) *TABLE OF SECTIONS.*—The table of sections for chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) By striking the item relating to section 605 and inserting the following new item:

“605. Incorporations by reference and certifications.”.

(2) By striking the item relating to section 607 and inserting the following new item:

“607. Quantification requirements.”.

(3) By striking the item relating to section 608 and inserting the following:

“608. Additional powers of Chief Counsel for Advocacy.”.

(d) *OTHER CLERICAL AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 6.*—Chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code, is amended in section 603(d)—

(1) by striking paragraph (2);

(2) by striking “(1) For a covered agency,” and inserting “For a covered agency.”;

(3) by striking “(A) any” and inserting “(1) any”;

(4) by striking “(B) any” and inserting “(2) any”; and

(5) by striking “(C) advice” and inserting “(3) advice”.

SEC. 12. AGENCY PREPARATION OF GUIDES.

Section 212(a)(5) of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (5 U.S.C. 601 note) is amended to read as follows:

“(5) *AGENCY PREPARATION OF GUIDES.*—The agency shall, in its sole discretion, taking into account the subject matter of the rule and the language of relevant statutes, ensure that the guide is written using sufficiently plain language likely to be understood by affected small entities. Agencies may prepare separate guides covering groups or classes of similarly affected small entities and may cooperate with associations of small entities to distribute such guides. In developing guides, agencies shall solicit input from affected small entities or associations of affected small entities. An agency may prepare guides and apply this section with respect to a rule or a group of related rules.”.

SEC. 13. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.

Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall complete and publish a study that examines whether the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration has the capacity and resources to carry out the duties of the Chief Counsel under this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

The Acting CHAIR. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part A of House Report 114-14. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. PETERS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part A of House Report 114-14.

Mr. PETERS. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 1, line 11, strike “a rule” and all that follows through “a rule” on line 13 and insert the following: “—

“(A) a rule pertaining to the protection of the rights of and benefits for veterans or part 232 of title 32 of the Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on July 1, 2014) or any successor provisions thereto; or

“(B) a rule”.

Page 11, insert after line 14 (and redesignate succeeding subparagraphs accordingly) the following:

(C) in the first paragraph (6), by striking “; and” at the end;

Page 13, line 21, insert after “Section 608” the following: “of title 5, United States Code.”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 78, the gentleman from California (Mr. PETERS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. PETERS. Madam Chair, my amendment is very straightforward and has a singular goal of making sure that we are not making our Active Duty servicemembers more vulnerable to predatory lending.

Members of our Armed Services make sacrifices every day to protect our country from harm and to defend our freedoms, and it is our responsibility here in Congress to ensure that these men and women are protected from scams and predatory lenders that seek to exploit their service.

Sadly, it has become clear that the nature of military service makes our men and women in uniform the ideal targets for predatory loans that carry exorbitant interest rates.

San Diego, part of which I represent, is home to the largest concentration of military forces in the world. More than 100,000 Active Duty servicemembers call the region home. Predatory lending is an acute problem in my district and in the region and continues to hurt too many families.

Despite passage of the Military Lending Act of 2007 to eliminate this type of

predatory lending, which too often leaves servicemembers and their families with crippling amounts of debt, there are a number of loopholes that these bad-acting lenders have continued to exploit.

These reprehensible predators are trapping servicemembers and their families in a cycle of debt that can be extremely difficult to overcome, and it is our responsibility, and we are able to act.

A bipartisan and bicameral effort has been made to call on the Department of Defense to issue rules that close the loopholes and ensure our Active Duty personnel do not fall victim to predatory practices that leave them financially strapped.

This amendment would keep regulations on predatory lenders so that we are maintaining a watchful eye on those companies that are exploiting those who have sacrificed so much for our safety, even as we move to reform and streamline the regulatory processes on businesses that are playing by the rules.

I want to thank Chairman GOODLATTE of the Judiciary Committee and Chairman CHABOT of the Small Business Committee for working with me over the past few days on this amendment, and for their commitment to working on a bipartisan basis to protect our servicemembers.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this amendment.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, but I will speak in favor of the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank the gentleman for offering this amendment, and I think this is a good example of the way bipartisanship should work. The gentleman offered, I think, a very constructive amendment. We committed that our staffs and the Members would work together on the gentleman's amendment, and most of us have agreed with the amendment and do support it now, so we thank him for his leadership on this amendment.

We strongly support our servicemembers and veterans. Our Nation owes them an enormous debt and the utmost respect.

In the last Congress an amendment was added to this legislation to allow rules that protect the rights and benefits of veterans to bypass the RFA process. That amendment is carried forward in today's legislation.

The legislation, however, does not yet place on the same plane rules written to protect Active Duty service-

members from predatory lending. This amendment reconciles that difference, and so we again commend the gentleman for offering it.

In addition, the amendment makes a very small number of technical corrections to the text of the bill. In each of these ways, the amendment improves the bill. I would urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

Madam Chair, I yield whatever time he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MARINO).

Mr. MARINO. Madam Chair, I just simply want to say that I support this legislation. I tell my children on a weekly basis—they can recite it verbatim—that if it were not for our veterans, if it were not for our military personnel and our servicemembers that are working now, my children wouldn't have what they have today. So I want to reinforce that.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. PETERS).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair understands that amendment No. 2 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. CONYERS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part A of House Report 114-14.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Beginning on page 13, line 18, strike section 5 (and redesignate provisions accordingly).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 78, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chairman, my amendment would preserve the ability of agencies to quickly respond to emergencies that threaten America's health and safety by striking one of the most pernicious elements of this legislation.

Section 5 of H.R. 527 contains one of the bill's most problematic provisions. As drafted, it could undermine the ability of agencies to quickly respond to emergent health and safety risks.

So this section repeals the authority under current law that allows an agency to waive or delay the initial analysis required under the Regulatory Flexibility Act "in response to an emergency that makes compliance or timely compliance impracticable."

Rather than leave this critical exception under current law in place, section 5 replaces it with a provision empow-

ering the Chief Counsel for Advocacy to issue regulations about how agencies, in general, should comply with the act, without any provision allowing agencies to respond to emergencies through expedited rulemakings.

Thus, if there is a looming national pandemic or environmental disaster that could be avoided or mitigated through regulation, the bill prevents agencies from responding to such emergencies without first having to go through the arduous and time-consuming task of review and analysis.

For example, last year, OSHA issued guidance to assist hospitals in preparing to provide inpatient care for Ebola patients.

H.R. 527, however, would have significantly delayed this process. This is because the legislation broadly applies to both rules and interim guidance, requiring agencies to undertake a burdensome analysis and review process prior to issuing even interim guidance.

And because H.R. 527 eliminates the emergency exception, there would have been no way for OSHA to quickly act in the face of a possible Ebola outbreak.

This amendment would simply preserve the critical emergency exception under current law so that agencies can quickly respond to emergencies without being hampered or second-guessed by others.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. TIPTON). The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Chairman, one of the key failings of existing law is that it allows different agencies to interpret differently the terms of the Regulatory Flexibility Act and Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act. This allows agencies to find loopholes at their pleasure and evade the requirements of the law.

The bill remedies this defect by granting the Small Business Administration's Office of Chief Counsel for Advocacy authority to write regulations to govern all agencies' compliance with the RFA and SBREFA.

The bill also grants the Office of Chief Counsel authority to intervene—the key word there, "intervene"—in agency adjudications and offer comments in agency notice-and-comment proceedings. These reforms will, at last, assure consistent compliance with the RFA and the SBREFA across the entire Federal Government.

The amendment would defeat the purpose and restore to the agencies their ability to find loopholes to suit their whims. America's small business creators deserve better than that.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

So if there is a looming environmental disaster or a national pandemic like Ebola that could be mitigated through regulation, this bill says: "Don't worry, don't rush. Let's have the Office of Advocacy decide."

And what is this Office of Advocacy?

Well, it is an office that is woefully ill-equipped to fulfill its current responsibilities. So I urge support for the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS).

The amendment was rejected.

□ 1015

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. SCHRADER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in part A of House Report 114-14.

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add, at the end of the bill, the following:

SEC. 14. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the provisions of this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) EXCEPTION.—In the case of any rule that the Director of the Office of Management and Budget determines would result in net job creation, the amendments made by this Act shall not take effect, and the provisions of law amended, as in effect on the day prior to the effective date of this Act, shall remain in effect.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 78, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. SCHRADER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Chair, on many fronts, H.R. 527 does a very good job strengthening requirements that agencies review regulations that are already on the books, with stronger analyses about how these regulations impact small businesses. Ensuring that agencies are operated in an efficient manner has never been so important. This means that efforts must be made to limit programs that tend to duplicate one another.

Now, unfortunately, section 10 of this legislation creates a duplicative program, using resources twice at the SBA. It further grows the convoluted aspects of the Federal Government's regulatory processes.

To approve a size standard has been the province of the SBA administrative office. It requires expertise and analytical resources, which the Office of Ad-

vocacy will now have to acquire. This will duplicate similar resources maintained by the SBA's office of size standards. It seems very redundant to create another office to do the same thing that a current office already does. The Chief Counsel for Advocacy for President Reagan testified in 2011 before the Small Business Committee that Advocacy should not take on the new responsibilities outlined in this very legislation.

My amendment is simple. It would strike this duplicative section and keep all the regulatory flexibility reforms that are in the bill. Eliminating this provision from the bill will not have any effect on the size standard process or on small businesses. It will be business as usual. What it does do is saves taxpayers from footing the bill for two identical size standard offices.

For these reasons, I urge Members to vote "yes" on this amendment, which is a vote to reduce waste and unnecessary duplication at the SBA. Reducing government complexity should be a bipartisan effort.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Chair, this amendment proposes to strike section 10 from the bill, which gives the Small Business Administration's Chief Counsel for Advocacy authority to approve small business size standards for the purposes of any act other than the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958. That includes, of course, authority to approve size standards for the purposes of the RFA.

This makes sense, since the Chief Counsel for Advocacy, not the Small Business administrator, is charged with overseeing agency compliance with the RFA; and the Chief Counsel exercises that authority independently from the SBA administrator.

The theory of the amendment is that, under section 10, a new size standards office, duplicative of the SBA administrator's own size standards office, will be created. But that is just not the case.

The SBA administrator will retain the authority to set size standards under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958. But alternative size standards for the purposes of RFA compliance are a different matter, and under existing law, agencies must consult with the Chief Counsel for Advocacy with regard to those alternative size standards.

To authorize the Chief Counsel for Advocacy to actually approve size standards about which it already must be consulted is simply to formalize an existing reality, not to create a duplicative function or a duplicative office. Stated differently, it is erroneous to think that the Office of Advocacy will

have to establish a new office of size standards to do what the Office of Advocacy already essentially does. Therefore, I would urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment.

And just in summary, I would reiterate that 70 percent of the jobs that are created in this economy today are created by small businesses. They are overregulated. The RFA was basically set up to avoid the impact on small businesses by all these regulations that are being imposed upon them.

For small businesses, it is much more expensive for them to comply than it is for larger corporations who have lots of staff. They have attorneys. They have accountants and everything else. If you are a small business owner, it can be the death of that business. And it is not just that business that goes down the drain, but those jobs do, too. That affects families all over this country all the time.

The purpose of this legislation is to improve the Regulatory Flexibility Act, and that is why virtually all Republicans and many Democrats also have endorsed and supported this legislation in the past and do this time.

There is something like 160 different companies and agencies around the country that are supportive, and I just wanted to name a few of those:

The American Dental Association; the Farm Bureau; the Trucking Association; Associated Builders and Contractors; the credit unions; the National Association of Manufacturers; the Realtors; the National Federation of Independent Business, NFIB, which is the principal organization that advocates on behalf of small businesses in this country; the National Restaurant Association; the Retail Federation; the independent drivers; the Chamber; and on and on. Obviously, I don't have time to read them all.

This is good legislation. I would urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. SCHRADER).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. JOHNSON OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in part A of House Report 114-14.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 26, beginning on line 9, strike section 10, and redesignate succeeding sections accordingly.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 78, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my amendment, which would exempt from H.R. 527 all rules that the Office of Management and Budget determines would result in net job creation.

Under President Obama, our country has rebounded from the Great Recession, creating 11 million new jobs over 5 years, and unemployment is falling at the fastest rate in three decades. Consumer and business spending have catalyzed the fastest gross domestic product growth since 2003. My amendment would ensure that this meteoric growth and progress continues.

Contrary to my Republican colleagues' assertion that regulations kill jobs, a wealth of unimpeachable, bipartisan evidence has repeatedly and effectively debunked this claim. Studies by both the San Francisco and New York Federal Reserve found that there is zero correlation between job growth and regulations and that there is no evidence showing that increased regulations and taxes have any effect on the unemployment rate.

And the evidence that regulations harm the economy? The only evidence relied on for the absurd figures repeated by the proponents of this bill derive from a study roundly disproven by the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service, which found that the study's cost figures were cherry-picked, inaccurate, based on evidence from decades ago, and without contemporary value.

I have also heard my Republican colleagues repeatedly claim that regulations have a \$15,000 regulatory burden on every American family. Consequently, The Washington Post awarded this claim, "Two Pinocchio's," on January 14, arguing that this absurd figure has "serious methodological problems—even the report admits it is 'not scientific' and 'back of the envelope'—and we fear these caveats are being forgotten as it is repeated in Capitol Hill news conferences and then in news reports," and sometimes even on this floor.

Mr. Chair, the economy and job growth are growing at its fastest pace in years on the back of sound economic policy and sensible regulations. Despite this growth, it is clear that many continue to struggle to live comfortably on their income, pay their bills on time, or set aside for retirement. Americans work harder than ever, thanks to corporations maximizing profits through a "streamlined work-

force." Meanwhile, the world's top 1 percent will soon control half of the world's wealth as the compensation of corporate executives balloons ever-higher.

The same corporations that are continuing to show record profit margins are also pushing deregulation and fewer taxes because they have a "myopic obsession with short-term profits at the expense of long-term value creation," according to Henry Blodget, the CEO of Business Insider.

It is also clear that, despite its incredible workplace productivity, wages have stagnated. We do need to fix that, but unfortunately, deregulation does not do so.

Last Congress, Republicans blocked Democratic legislation that would increase the Federal minimum wage by less than \$3, lifting countless full-time workers out of poverty, while saving the Federal Government trillions in annual safety net costs.

Fortunately, for Americans, minimum wage increases have gone into effect in 20 States this month alone, bringing the minimum wage in 29 States above the Federal minimum wage, but yet this Congress refuses to take up legislation to increase the Federal minimum wage. Perhaps my Republican colleagues will heed the calls of workers across the country for a living wage. This bill does not do that.

I ask that my colleagues support my amendment, which does protect jobs.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Chair, I share and welcome the gentleman's concerns about the impacts of regulations on jobs, but the right way to address that concern is to join me in supporting this bill.

At the heart of the bill are reforms to make sure agencies better identify the potential jobs impact of new rules; that includes not only identifying and minimizing the adverse jobs impact, but maximizing positive job benefits. It is right there in subsection 2(c) on page 3 of the bill.

If the gentleman wants to maximize job creation, the way to do it is to make sure the provisions designed to maximize job benefits apply to all rules, including those that OMB believes will result in net job creation.

Why stop at just helping to create a net increase in jobs, which could mean as little as just one net job? Why not make sure agencies always work with small businesses under the bill's provisions to help create the most new jobs possible and prevent the destruction of the most jobs possible? Isn't that what makes sense as the Nation tries to recover from the jobs depression?

Further, why create a carve-out from the bill that gives the executive branch

an incentive to manipulate its jobs impact analyses to avoid the requirements of the bill rather than comply with them?

I would also like to bring to the Chair's attention, this administration highly overinflates—or underinflates, whatever side you are looking at—the unemployment rate.

□ 1030

In the unemployment rate, they are not taking into account the almost 1 million people that are not looking for work, and that is normally taken into consideration. They are also taking into account as a person being employed as this example: a person who mows his neighbor's lawn for 20 bucks because he doesn't have a job. That is considered, according to this administration, a job.

Multiple reports clearly prove that the cost of Federal regulation to the U.S. economy, manufacturing, and small business, and Ten Thousand Commandments, these are reports from just last year, and they give the accurate account of the unemployment rate.

My good colleague on the other side of the aisle refers to a report from 2010. We should be referring to the latest reports as I hold them in my hand.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. BYRNE). It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in part A of House Report 114-14.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add, at the end of the bill, the following:

SEC. 14. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the provisions of this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) EXCEPTION.—In the case of a rule proposed, issued, or made by the Food and Drug Administration relating to consumer safety, including any rule made under the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act, the amendments made by this Act shall not take effect, and the provisions of law amended, as in effect on the day prior to the effective date of this Act, shall remain in effect.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 78, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, let me thank the chairman; thank the

mover of this legislation; my ranking member, Mr. JOHNSON; and my ranking member of the full committee, Mr. CONYERS, for their leadership and for bringing us together around a universal concept.

We all are promoting jobs, Mr. Chairman. Not one of us on this floor wants to in any way undermine jobs. We want people to work, and we want small businesses to have the opportunity to thrive.

What I am talking about is the reality of protecting the American people when it comes to unique issues of health care. I am not going to cite the name of this individual, but what I am going to do is to read just a paragraph from Al Kamen, K-a-m-e-n, "In the Loop":

"As a matter of fact, I think this is one where I think I can illustrate the point," he recalled telling her. "I don't have any problem with Starbucks if they choose to opt out of this policy as long as they post a sign that says, 'We don't require our employees to wash their hands after leaving the restroom.' The market will take care of this. It is one example."

Now, I have a different perspective, and so my amendment under this legislation asks to make an exception for rules that are dealing with consumer safety, saving lives.

My amendment makes an exception for rules from the Food and Drug Administration, commonly known as the FDA. This bill, H.R. 527, seeks to reform the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 and 1996 which attempted to require agencies to account better for the impact of proposed regulations on small businesses, other small entities, and to tailor final regulations to minimize adverse impacts on these entities like the Food and Drug Administration.

Yes, small business can be a single franchise of a McDonald's or Burger King or Starbucks, many of them doing quite well. It could be a number of them under one businessowner. But, in fact, they do deal with the public.

This bill continues to expand the reach and scope of the Regulatory Flexibility Act and would only add to already unnecessary and lengthy regulatory delays, increased meddling by regulated industries, and encourage gratuitous court challenges.

The Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Act adds a host of new analytical requirements for agency policy actions, including rulemakings and guidance documents, that might affect a large number of small businesses, even if that is indirect.

Because the bill defines indirect effects broadly, it would mandate costly and wasteful new analyses that could be applied to virtually any action and agency attempt to make a better life for Americans, no matter how tenuous the connection to business interests.

Again, can we imagine not being able to regulate or interfere with some

small business that says you do not have to wash your hands in a restaurant? It is shocking to me.

Mr. Chairman, when I wrote this amendment, I had in mind one of the new issues that we have been facing, and that is the story of CRE, which is a disease that is being found on endoscopes, that has been found in a particular hospital in the far West.

This disease, this rare bacteria, was likely spread through specialized endoscopes that have been cleaned according to manufacturer's directions but still had some form of deadly germs. Are we suggesting that it is not an emergency to regulate or to keep or to be able to suggest that there needs to be a better cleaning process?

This is just the latest example of a life-threatening disease which is calling out for action from the government, and the CDC and the FDA should not have their hands tied.

In fact, the Houston Chronicle reported last week that these problems of dirty endoscopes have been tied to superbug infections in cities like Chicago and Pittsburgh in recent years. Although the bacteria weren't exactly the same, the situation raises new questions about the design, this infection, and regulation of the devices.

Mr. Chairman, let me tell you that our economy is doing fine, not for every single American, but it has a marked improvement. Jobs are increasing, and unemployment is under 5 percent.

I would only say that this legislation needs an addition from this amendment, and I hope my colleagues will accept the Jackson Lee amendment. It is a commonsense amendment that speaks to the health and care of the American public.

Mr. Chairman, I ask for support of the Jackson Lee amendment.

Mr. Chair, thank you for this opportunity to briefly explain my amendment. My amendment makes an exception for rules from the Food and Drug Administration, commonly known as the FDA.

This bill, H.R. 527, seek to reform the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 and the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, which attempted to require agencies to account better for the impacts of proposed regulations on small businesses and other small entities and to tailor final regulations to minimize adverse impacts on these entities like the Food and Drug Administration.

In reality, the Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Act expands the reach and scope of the Regulatory Flexibility Act and would only add to already unnecessary and lengthy regulatory delays, increase meddling by regulated industries, and encourage gratuitous court challenges.

The Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Act adds a host of new analytical requirements for agency policy actions—including rulemakings and guidance documents—that might affect a large number of small businesses, even if that effect is "indirect."

And because the bill defines "indirect effects" broadly, it would mandate costly and wasteful new analyses that could be applied to virtually any action an agency attempts to undertake, no matter how tenuous the connection to small business interests.

And according to the American Sustainable Business Council, this bill would open the door for regulated industries to manipulate the regulatory process in their favor.

This undue influence would paralyze the regulatory process, creating uncertainty in the marketplace and stifling competition and innovation from small- and medium-sized entities.

When I wrote this amendment I had in mind the rare bacteria like that known as carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae, commonly known as CRE. This rare bacteria is being transmitted to patients even though the tools had been cleaned according to manufacturers' directions but still harbored the potentially deadly germs.

This is just the latest example of a life-threatening disease which is calling out for action from the government—and the CDC and the FDA should not have their hands tied.

The Houston Chronicle reported in a story last week:

The Seattle outbreak appears to be among the worst so far in the U.S., where problems with dirty endoscopes have been tied to superbug infections in Chicago and Pittsburgh in recent years. Although the bacteria weren't exactly the same, the situation raises new questions about the design, disinfection and REGULATION of the devices, critics charge.

The bill reforms the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 and the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, which attempted to require agencies to account better for the impacts of proposed regulations on small businesses and other small entities and to tailor final regulations to minimize adverse impacts on these entities like the Food and Drug Administration.

Mr. Chair, the economy is doing fine now, not for every single American but it has seen a marked improvement from 2008. A bill like H.R. 527 only serves to gum-up the wheels of government and business collaboration by creating new and confusing rules.

When added to the existing gauntlet of procedural and analytical requirements that agencies must already navigate in order to implement laws, SBRFIA's new requirements would serve only to further "ossify" rulemaking and make it nearly impossible for agencies to fulfill their congressionally mandated mission of protecting the public and responding to emerging health and environmental dangers.

The Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act also ties the hands of agencies like the FDA by forcing them to delay actions until new analyses are completed. Under current law, an agency can continue to promulgate a regulation before it has finished the regulatory flexibility analysis, if the agency head believes its mission or the law calls for more immediate action.

The SBRFIA would eliminate these commonsense procedures. Imagine if emergency regulations to protect miners had to be delayed until the agency could finish this onerous and highly speculative analysis—lives could be lost and people could be needlessly

injured. Or the FDA needed to issue a rule impacting the safety of dairy products. Lives are at stake.

Let me be quick to add that I specifically I oppose H.R. 527 because: (1) it is based on a faulty study; (2) taken as a whole, it will severely undermine Federal agency rulemaking, thereby threatening public health and safety; (3) it fails to address shortcomings in current law; (4) it offers no real assistance to small businesses in complying with regulations; and (5) it imposes additional duties on agencies while failing to provide any additional resources to agencies.

I urge an aye vote for the Jackson Lee amendment exempting FDA rules and add common sense to this legislation.

[From the Houston Chronicle, Jan. 22, 2015]

SEATTLE (AP).—A multidrug-resistant superbug has sickened dozens of people at a Seattle hospital, spread from patient-to-patient through contaminated equipment.

The Seattle Times reports (<http://is.gd/m4JVhK>) investigators found the rare bacteria known as CRE—carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae—was likely spread through specialized endoscopes that had been cleaned according to manufacturers' directions but still had some of the deadly germs.

Virginia Mason Medical Center officials say they've changed their cleaning protocol for the devices, even though federal officials found no problem with their infection-control practices.

Doctors say 11 of the at least 35 patients infected at the hospital died, but it's not clear what role, if any, the infection played in their deaths.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Chairman, this amendment proposes to carve out an exception to the bill for Food and Drug Administration rules related to consumer safety. I am all for consumer safety. All of us support the protection of consumer safety, but it is my fervent hope that all of us also support small business jobs and want to protect them.

That, of course, was the point of the Regulatory Flexibility Act in the first place, to continue to allow agencies like the FDA to protect consumers but, at the same time, to start accounting for and avoiding—where possible—adverse impacts on small businesses.

If agencies had faithfully done what they were supposed to do under the Regulatory Flexibility Act, then we wouldn't be here today, but they haven't; instead, they have routinely tried to evade that law. That has to stop.

Small businesses create jobs, and jobs are the key to economic recovery. To help small businesses to create jobs, we need to reduce—not increase—the regulatory burden on small businesses.

The FDA is a major regulatory agency, and it is not exempt from the RFA as it currently stands. Now is not the

time to start walking back the RFA's requirements. This amendment simply is not consistent with the spirit of small business—the Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act—or the needs of today's small business job creators.

If the gentlelady's concern is to make sure that the law allows the FDA to issue new emergency rules to protect consumer safety, then let me assure her, there is no need to worry. Subsection 553(b)(3)(B) of the APA already allows agencies to dispense with notice and comment for good cause.

Since the RFA only applies in notice and comment rulemakings, a fact the bill does not change, nothing will hinder the FDA from issuing emergency rules if the bill is enacted.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment.

At this time, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), our leader.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I recently read a headline about the President's budget. Do you know what it said? "Budget proposal is Obama's map back to Big Government." Think about that for a moment. There used to be a time, Mr. Chairman, in the White House where they said, "The era of Big Government is over." Now, it is as if we are heading back in time.

Everyone knows why the era of Big Government should be over. It is because Big Government has big costs. Mr. Chairman, large, inefficient programs cost a lot of money which mean higher taxes and more debt, but there are other costs to Big Government, too. As government grows, so does bureaucracy; and more bureaucracy means more regulations.

These regulations—tens of thousands of pages—get put on the backs of every single individual in business that works hard and tries to get by. In fact, for small businesses, regulations add almost \$1,000 per employee per month—think of that, \$1,000 per employee per month. That makes it much harder for our economy to grow and for small businesses to create jobs.

America needs a full-scale regulatory reform, so that bureaucracy is held accountable for all these costs. I know that is a big goal, but Representative CHABOT's bill is a step realizing that goal.

This bill forces agencies to consider the least costly options for getting something done, just like every American has to do in a tough economy, and it makes agencies actually have to think about the impact the regulations have on small businesses.

Mr. Chairman, President Clinton said, "The era of Big Government is over." It should be over. America simply cannot afford to tie down small businesses and hardworking people with more red tape, so let's take a step forward.

Let's move forward, ending the era of Big Government, and vote "yes" on the bill.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in part A of House Report 114-14 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 4 by Mr. SCHRADER of Oregon.

Amendment No. 6 by Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. SCHRADER

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. SCHRADER) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 184, noes 234, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 65]

AYES—184

Adams	Cicilline	Doggett
Aguilar	Clark (MA)	Doyle (PA)
Ashford	Clarke (NY)	Edwards
Bass	Clay	Ellison
Beatty	Cleaver	Eshoo
Becerra	Clyburn	Esty
Bera	Cohen	Farr
Beyer	Connolly	Fattah
Bishop (GA)	Conyers	Foster
Blumenauer	Cooper	Frankel (FL)
Bonamici	Costa	Fudge
Boyle (PA)	Courtney	Gabbard
Brady (PA)	Crowley	Gallego
Brown (FL)	Cuellar	Garamendi
Brownley (CA)	Cummings	Gibson
Bustos	Davis (CA)	Graham
Butterfield	Davis, Danny	Grayson
Capps	DeFazio	Green, Al
Capuano	DeGette	Green, Gene
Cárdenas	Delaney	Grijalva
Carney	DeLauro	Hahn
Carson (IN)	DeBene	Hastings
Cartwright	DeSaulnier	Heck (WA)
Castor (FL)	Deutch	Higgins
Castro (TX)	Dingell	Himes

Hinojosa	McCollum	Sanchez, Loretta	Price (GA)	Schweikert	Walberg	Courtney	Kildee	Price (NC)
Honda	McDermott	Sarbanes	Ratcliffe	Scott, Austin	Walden	Crowley	Kilmer	Quigley
Hoyer	McGovern	Schakowsky	Reed	Sensenbrenner	Walker	Cummings	Kind	Rangel
Huffman	McNerney	Schiff	Reichert	Sessions	Walorski	Davis (CA)	Kirkpatrick	Rice (NY)
Israel	Meeks	Schrader	Renacci	Shimkus	Walters, Mimi	Davis, Danny	Kuster	Richmond
Jackson Lee	Meng	Scott (VA)	Rice (SC)	Shuster	Weber (TX)	DeGette	Langevin	Roybal-Allard
Jeffries	Moore	Scott, David	Roby	Simpson	Webster (FL)	DeLauro	Ruiz	Ruiz
Johnson (GA)	Moulton	Serrano	Rogers (AL)	Smith (MO)	Wenstrup	DeBene	Larson (CT)	Ruppersberger
Johnson, E. B.	Murphy (FL)	Sewell (AL)	Rogers (KY)	Smith (NE)	Westerman	DeSaulnier	Lawrence	Rush
Kaptur	Nadler	Sherman	Rohrabacher	Smith (NJ)	Westmoreland	Deutch	Levin	Ryan (OH)
Keating	Napolitano	Sinema	Rokita	Smith (TX)	Whitfield	Dingell	Lewis	Sánchez, Linda
Kelly (IL)	Neal	Sires	Rooney (FL)	Stefanik	Williams	Doggett	Lieu (CA)	T.
Kennedy	Nolan	Slaughter	Ros-Lehtinen	Stewart	Wilson (SC)	Doyle (PA)	Lipinski	Sanchez, Loretta
Kildee	Norcross	Smith (WA)	Roskam	Stivers	Wittman	Edwards	Loeb sack	Sarbanes
Kilmer	O'Rourke	Speier	Ross	Stutzman	Ellison	Lowenthal	Lowey	Schakowsky
Kind	Pallone	Swalwell (CA)	Rothfus	Thompson (PA)	Eshoo	Maloney, Carolyn	Scott (VA)	Schiff
Kirkpatrick	Pascarell	Takai	Rouzer	Thornberry	Woodall	Esty	Lujan Grisham (NM)	Scott, David
Kuster	Payne	Takano	Royce	Tiberi	Yoder	Farr	Luján, Ben Ray (NM)	Serrano
Langevin	Perlmutter	Thompson (CA)	Russell	Tipton	Young (IA)	Fattah	Foster	Sewell (AL)
Larsen (WA)	Peters	Thompson (MS)	Ryan (WI)	Trott	Young (IN)	Frankel (FL)	Lynch	Sherman
Larson (CT)	Peterson	Titus	Salmon	Turner	Zeldin	Fudge	Maloney, Carolyn	Slaughter
Lawrence	Pingree	Tonko	Sanford	Upton	Zinke	Gabbard	Maloney, Sean	Smith (WA)
Levin	Pocan	Torres	Scalise	Valadao		Gallego	Matsui	Speier
Lewis	Polis	Tsongas	Schock	Wagner		Garamendi	McCollum	Swalwell (CA)
Lieu (CA)	Price (NC)	Van Hollen				Graham	McDermott	Takai
Lipinski	Quigley	Vargas	Aderholt	Engel	Meehan	Grayson	McGovern	Takano
Loeb sack	Rangel	Veasey	Chu (CA)	Gutiérrez	Nunnelee	Green, Al	McNerney	Thompson (CA)
Lowenthal	Ribble	Vela	Collins (GA)	Lee	Pelosi	Green, Gene	Meeks	Thompson (MS)
Lowey	Rice (NY)	Velázquez	Duckworth	Lofgren	Roe (TN)	Grijalva	Meng	Titus
Lujan Grisham (NM)	Richmond	Visclosky	Emmer	Loudermilk	Young (AK)	Hahn	Moore	Tonko
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)	Rigell	Walz				Hastings	Moulton	Torres
Lynch	Roybal-Allard	Wasserman				Higgins	Murphy (FL)	Tsongas
Maloney, Carolyn	Ruiz	Schultz				Himes	Nadler	Van Hollen
Maloney, Sean	Ruppersberger	Waters, Maxine				Hinojosa	Napolitano	Vargas
Matsui	Rush	Watson Coleman				Honda	Neal	Veasey
	Ryan (OH)	Welch				Hoyer	Nolan	Vela
	Sánchez, Linda T.	Wilson (FL)				Huffman	Norcross	Velázquez
		Yarmuth				Israel	O'Rourke	Visclosky
						Jackson Lee	Pallone	Walz
						Jeffries	Pascarell	Wasserman
						Johnson (GA)	Payne	Schultz
						Johnson, E. B.	Pelosi	Waters, Maxine
						Kaptur	Perlmutter	Watson Coleman
						Keating	Pingree	Welch
						Kelly (IL)	Pocan	Wilson (FL)
						Kennedy	Polis	Yarmuth

NOES—234

Abraham	Ellmers	King (IA)
Allen	Farenthold	King (NY)
Amash	Fincher	Kinzinger (IL)
Amodei	Fitzpatrick	Kline
Babin	Fleischmann	Knight
Barletta	Fleming	Labrador
Barr	Flores	LaMalfa
Barton	Forbes	Lamborn
Benishek	Fortenberry	Lance
Bilirakis	Fox	Latta
Bishop (MI)	Franks (AZ)	LoBiondo
Bishop (UT)	Frelinghuysen	Long
Black	Garrett	Love
Blackburn	Gibbs	Lucas
Blum	Gohmert	Luetkemeyer
Bost	Goodlatte	Lummis
Boustany	Gosar	MacArthur
Brady (TX)	Gowdy	Marchant
Brat	Granger	Marino
Bridenstine	Graves (GA)	Massie
Brooks (AL)	Graves (LA)	McCarthy
Brooks (IN)	Graves (MO)	McCaul
Buchanan	Griffith	McClintock
Buck	Grothman	McHenry
Bucshon	Guinta	McKinley
Burgess	Guthrie	McMorris
Byrne	Hanna	Rodgers
Calvert	Hardy	McSally
Carter (GA)	Harper	Meadows
Carter (TX)	Harris	Messer
Chabot	Hartzler	Mica
Chaffetz	Heck (NV)	Miller (FL)
Clawson (FL)	Hensarling	Miller (MI)
Coffman	Herrera Beutler	Moolenaar
Cole	Hice (GA)	Mooney (WV)
Collins (NY)	Hill	Mullin
Comstock	Holding	Mulvaney
Conaway	Hudson	Murphy (PA)
Cook	Huelskamp	Neugebauer
Costello (PA)	Huizenga (MI)	Newhouse
Cramer	Hultgren	Noem
Crawford	Hunter	Nugent
Crenshaw	Hurd (TX)	Nunes
Culberson	Hurt (VA)	Olson
Curbelo (FL)	Issa	Palazzo
Davis, Rodney	Jenkins (KS)	Palmer
Denham	Jenkins (WV)	Paulsen
Dent	Johnson (OH)	Pearce
DeSantis	Johnson, Sam	Perry
DesJarlais	Jolly	Pittenger
Diaz-Balart	Jones	Pitts
Dold	Jordan	Poe (TX)
Duffy	Joyce	Poliquin
Duncan (SC)	Katko	Pompeo
Duncan (TN)	Kelly (PA)	Posey

NOT VOTING—15

Engel	Meehan
Gutiérrez	Nunnelee
Lee	Pelosi
Lofgren	Roe (TN)
Loudermilk	Young (AK)

□ 1111

Messrs. BOST, HANNA, DUNCAN of South Carolina, and ROKITA changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama changed her vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Chair, on rollcall No. 65 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Chair, on rollcall No. 65 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 172, noes 248, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 66]

AYES—172

Adams	Brady (PA)	Castor (FL)
Agullar	Brown (FL)	Castro (TX)
Bass	Brownley (CA)	Cicilline
Beatty	Bustos	Clark (MA)
Becerra	Butterfield	Clarke (NY)
Bera	Capps	Clay
Beyer	Capuano	Cleaver
Bishop (GA)	Cárdenas	Clyburn
Blumenauer	Carney	Cohen
Bonamici	Carson (IN)	Connolly
Boyle (PA)	Cartwright	Conyers

NOES—248

Abraham	Crenshaw	Harper
Allen	Cuellar	Harris
Amash	Culberson	Hartzler
Amodei	Curbelo (FL)	Heck (NV)
Ashford	Davis, Rodney	Hensarling
Babin	DeFazio	Herrera Beutler
Barletta	Denham	Hice (GA)
Barr	Dent	Hill
Barton	DeSantis	Holding
Benishek	DesJarlais	Hudson
Bilirakis	Diaz-Balart	Huelskamp
Bishop (MI)	Dold	Huizenga (MI)
Bishop (UT)	Duffy	Hultgren
Black	Duncan (SC)	Hunter
Blackburn	Duncan (TN)	Hurd (TX)
Blum	Ellmers	Hurt (VA)
Bost	Emmer	Issa
Boustany	Farenthold	Jenkins (KS)
Brady (TX)	Fincher	Jenkins (WV)
Brat	Fitzpatrick	Johnson (OH)
Bridenstine	Fleischmann	Johnson, Sam
Brooks (AL)	Fleming	Jolly
Brooks (IN)	Forbes	Jones
Buchanan	Fortenberry	Jordan
Buck	Fox	Joyce
Bucshon	Franks (AZ)	Katko
Burgess	Frelinghuysen	Kelly (PA)
Byrne	Garrett	King (IA)
Calvert	Gibbs	King (NY)
Carter (GA)	Gibson	Kinzinger (IL)
Carter (TX)	Gohmert	Kline
Chabot	Goodlatte	Knight
Chaffetz	Gosar	Labrador
Clawson (FL)	Gowdy	LaMalfa
Coffman	Granger	Lamborn
Cole	Graves (GA)	Lance
Collins (NY)	Graves (LA)	Latta
Comstock	Graves (MO)	LoBiondo
Conaway	Griffith	Long
Cook	Grothman	Loudermilk
Cooper	Guinta	Love
Costa	Guthrie	Lucas
Costello (PA)	Hanna	Luetkemeyer
Cramer	Hardy	Lummis
Crawford		MacArthur

Marchant	Pompeo	Smith (NE)
Marino	Posey	Smith (NJ)
Massie	Price (GA)	Smith (TX)
McCarthy	Ratcliffe	Stefanik
McCaul	Reed	Stewart
McClintock	Reichert	Stivers
McHenry	Renacci	Stutzman
McKinley	Ribble	Thompson (PA)
McMorris	Rice (SC)	Thornberry
Rodgers	Rigell	Tiberi
McSally	Roby	Tipton
Meadows	Rogers (AL)	Trott
Meehan	Rogers (KY)	Turner
Messer	Rohrabacher	Upton
Mica	Rokita	Valadao
Miller (FL)	Rooney (FL)	Wagner
Miller (MI)	Ros-Lehtinen	Walberg
Moolenaar	Roskam	Walden
Mooney (WV)	Ross	Walker
Mullin	Rothfus	Walorski
Mulvaney	Rouzer	Walters, Mimi
Murphy (PA)	Royce	Weber (TX)
Neugebauer	Russell	Webster (FL)
Newhouse	Ryan (WI)	Wenstrup
Noem	Salmon	Westerman
Nugent	Sanford	Westmoreland
Nunes	Scalise	Whitfield
Olson	Schock	Williams
Palazzo	Schrader	Wilson (SC)
Palmer	Schweikert	Wittman
Paulsen	Scott, Austin	Womack
Pearce	Sensenbrenner	Woodall
Perry	Sessions	Yoder
Peterson	Shimkus	Yoho
Pittenger	Shuster	Young (IA)
Pitts	Simpson	Young (IN)
Poe (TX)	Sinema	Zeldin
Poliquin	Smith (MO)	Zinke

NOT VOTING—13

Aderholt	Engel	Peters
Chu (CA)	Gutiérrez	Roe (TN)
Collins (GA)	Lee	Young (AK)
Delaney	Lofgren	
Duckworth	Nunnelee	

□ 1116

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Chair, I was unable to cast my vote on rollcall No. 66 today due to congressional business. Had I been present to vote, I would have voted "aye".

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) having assumed the chair, Mr. BYRNE, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 527) to amend chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the Regulatory Flexibility Act), to ensure complete analysis of potential impacts on small entities of rules, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 78, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole?

If not, the question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. DEUTCH. I am opposed to the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Deutch moves to recommit the bill H.R. 527 to the Committee on the Judiciary with instructions to report the same to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Add, at the end of the bill, the following:

SEC. 14. PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act do not apply in the case of any rule that stops the proliferation, spread, or development of nuclear weapons, including to North Korea and Iran.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill. It won't kill the bill, and it won't send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will proceed to final passage, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 527, the Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act, would mire the rule-making process in an endless agency analytical and procedural review. This bill would require agencies to engage in speculative analysis on the "indirect economic effect" of a proposed rule.

Critical rules that protect the health and safety of our communities, that protect the environment in which we live, and that respond to disasters or pandemics would be stuck in this bill's imposed layers of bureaucratic review, and there would be no relief under this bill for rules that are needed to address an ongoing emergency. Indeed, in the event of an emergency, agencies would be required to conduct a lengthy and time-consuming analysis even of a rule that would protect citizens from harm.

Now a note to my friends on the other side of the aisle. Putting the words "small business" in the title of a bill does not magically make it a bill good for small business or good for our national security. Facts are stubborn things, and the fact is that this bill is dangerous to American national security. However, my amendment can change this.

Mr. Speaker, this amendment would ensure the safety and security of the

American people. It would ensure that they would not be hindered by additional bureaucratic procedures by ensuring that this act would not apply to any rule that stops the proliferation, spread, or development of nuclear weapons.

The United States has long worked to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons worldwide. We have worked to help nations achieve nuclear power without the domestic capabilities to produce weapons-grade uranium. We have worked with the international community to enact United Nations Security Council resolutions to prohibit rogue regimes from procuring materials that could be used for the development of nuclear weapons. This includes a robust sanctions regime aimed at Iran.

Our own Commerce Department has developed detailed procurement regulations to prevent dual use materials from falling into the wrong hands. We have enacted punishing sanctions through the Treasury Department on those who aid in the procurement of materials used for nuclear weapons programs.

Now, let me be absolutely clear about the most important national security threat facing the United States and our allies: a nuclear-armed Iran. All of us here are watching the negotiations closely, and we hope for a diplomatic and negotiated end to the Iranian nuclear weapons program. That is everyone's priority.

However, we must prepare for the possibility that Iran rejects diplomacy. If Iran walks away from the talks, Congress and the President have been clear that we will want to immediately and urgently impose new sanctions. We will need new, fast-moving, antiproliferation actions, and we will have to put immediate pressure on this rejectionist regime.

This bill, in its current form, prevents that. Our national security and that of our allies depends on our agencies acting fast and efficiently. In no uncertain terms, the majority's bill puts our national security at risk.

The proliferation of nuclear weapons will not be stopped by adding new layers of bureaucracy. Iran's sponsorship of terrorist groups is no secret. It openly ships missiles and rockets to Hezbollah and Hamas—designated terrorist organizations that launch attacks on civilians—in direct violation of international law. Now Iran and North Korea are working together, sparking vital proliferation worries. The Ayatollah has declared the two nations share common enemies, and we already know that Iran and North Korea have cooperated on ballistic missiles.

So I would ask my colleagues to imagine a scenario in which Iran walks away from the talks and takes its nuclear program deeper underground,

where Iran's activities are sealed and where an arms race is sparked in the region. When it comes to nuclear proliferation and the safety of the United States and international security, the U.S. must have a responsibility to act quickly. Congress cannot—and Congress should not—make it more difficult for our government to act to keep our people safe.

Mr. Speaker, the safety of Americans is too important to tie up in Washington politics. Just this week, Russia announced that it would no longer comply with the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, which was specifically designed to ensure the security of existing nuclear stockpiles.

Do we really want, I ask my colleagues, to risk the safety and security of the United States and that of our allies around the world by hindering our ability to halt the dangerous and destabilizing spread of nuclear weapons because an agency must justify the costs or waste resources and time in conducting a costly analysis of alternative ways to eliminate or streamline new regulations? Do we want to hold up regulations, I ask my colleagues, that will help to keep us safe?

All this amendment does is simply protect the American people from the threat of nuclear proliferation. On this, we should be able to come together. I urge my colleagues to support this motion.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, this motion to recommit presents the perfect opportunity for my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to turn the page. Six long years into the Obama administration, our constituents feel trapped in a job depression. This bill offers one of the best chances we have to really start to turn things around for our constituents.

The bill contains clear, commonsense reforms that will take Washington's regulatory boot off the neck of small businesses in all of our districts so they can create the new jobs our constituents need. The bill contains numerous Democrat-sponsored amendments, making it a truly bipartisan product.

The bill, with bipartisan support, has already passed the House three times in the past two Congresses only to die an obstructionist death at the hands of the former Senate majority leader, who, by the way, the voters threw out of the majority last November. We now have a chance to pass the bill again at the very start of this Congress and to send it over to a Senate that will actually consider it. We should all seize this opportunity.

But what would this motion to recommit do?

It would, once again, inflict on the American people the ways of obstruction. It would block the bill from passage. It would prevent the bill from promptly reaching the Senate and helping to create new jobs for our constituents.

Let's all make this a vote to end the obstruction. With this vote, help this Congress turn the page the voters sent us here to turn. Vote against this motion to recommit. Vote for this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by a 5-minute vote on the passage of the bill, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 182, noes 240, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 67]

AYES—182

Adams	DeSaulnier	Larsen (WA)	Richmond	Sewell (AL)	Van Hollen
Agullar	Deutch	Larson (CT)	Roybal-Allard	Sherman	Vargas
Ashford	Dingell	Lawrence	Ruiz	Sinema	Veasey
Bass	Doggett	Levin	Ruppersberger	Sires	Vela
Beatty	Doyle (PA)	Lewis	Rush	Slaughter	Velázquez
Becerra	Edwards	Lieu (CA)	Ryan (OH)	Smith (WA)	Visclosky
Bera	Ellison	Lipinski	Sánchez, Linda T.	Speier	Walz
Beyer	Eshoo	Loeb	Sanchez, Loretta	Swalwell (CA)	Wasserman
Bishop (GA)	Esty	Lowenthal	Sarbanes	Takai	Schultz
Blumenauer	Farr	Lowe	Schakowsky	Takano	Waters, Maxine
Bonamici	Fattah	Lujan Grisham (NM)	Schiff	Thompson (CA)	Watson Coleman
Boyle (PA)	Foster	Luján, Ben Ray (NM)	Schrader	Thompson (MS)	Welch
Brady (PA)	Frankel (FL)	Maloney, Carolyn	Scott (VA)	Titus	Wilson (FL)
Brown (FL)	Fudge	Maloney, Sean	Scott, David	Tonko	Yarmuth
Brownley (CA)	Gabbard	Matsui	Serrano	Torres	
Bustos	Gallagher	McCollum		Tsongas	
Butterfield	Garamendi	McGovern			
Capps	Graham	McNerney			
Capuano	Grayson	Meeks			
Cárdenas	Green, Al	Meng			
Carney	Green, Gene	Moore			
Carson (IN)	Grijalva	Moulton			
Cartwright	Hahn	Murphy (FL)			
Castor (FL)	Hastings	Nadler			
Castro (TX)	Heck (WA)	Napolitano			
Cicilline	Higgins	Neal			
Clark (MA)	Himes	Nolan			
Clarke (NY)	Hinojosa	Norcross			
Clay	Honda	O'Rourke			
Cleaver	Hoyer	Pallone			
Clyburn	Huffman	Pascarella			
Cohen	Israel	Payne			
Connolly	Jackson Lee	Pelosi			
Conyers	Jeffries	Perlmutter			
Cooper	Johnson (GA)	Peters			
Costa	Johnson, E. B.	Peterson			
Courtney	Jones	Pingree			
Crowley	Kaptur	Pocan			
Cuellar	Keating	Polis			
Cummings	Kelly (IL)	Price (NC)			
Davis (CA)	Kennedy	Quigley			
Davis, Danny	Kildee	Rangel			
DeFazio	Kilmer	Rice (NY)			
DeGette	Kind				
Delaney	Kirkpatrick				
DeLauro	Kuster				
DelBene	Langevin				

NOES—240

Abraham	Graves (GA)	Noem
Aderholt	Graves (LA)	Nugent
Allen	Graves (MO)	Nunes
Amash	Griffith	Olson
Amodel	Grothman	Palazzo
Babin	Guinta	Palmer
Barletta	Guthrie	Paulsen
Barr	Hanna	Pearce
Barton	Hardy	Perry
Benishek	Harper	Pittenger
Bilirakis	Harris	Pitts
Bishop (MI)	Hartzler	Poe (TX)
Bishop (UT)	Heck (NV)	Poliquin
Black	Hensarling	Pompeo
Blackburn	Herrera Beutler	Posey
Blum	Hice (GA)	Price (GA)
Bost	Hill	Ratcliffe
Boustany	Holding	Reed
Brady (TX)	Hudson	Reichert
Brat	Huelskamp	Renacci
Bridenstine	Huizenga (MI)	Ribble
Brooks (AL)	Hultgren	Rice (SC)
Brooks (IN)	Hunter	Rigell
Buchanan	Hurd (TX)	Roby
Buck	Hurt (VA)	Rogers (AL)
Bucshon	Issa	Rogers (KY)
Burgess	Jenkins (KS)	Rohrabacher
Byrne	Jenkins (WV)	Rokita
Calvert	Johnson (OH)	Rooney (FL)
Carter (GA)	Johnson, Sam	Ros-Lehtinen
Carter (TX)	Jolly	Roskam
Chabot	Jordan	Ross
Chaffetz	Joyce	Rothfus
Clawson (FL)	Katko	Rouzer
Coffman	Kelly (PA)	Royce
Cole	King (IA)	Russell
Collins (NY)	King (NY)	Ryan (WI)
Comstock	Kinzinger (IL)	Salmon
Conaway	Kline	Sanford
Cook	Knight	Scalise
Costello (PA)	Labrador	Schock
Cramer	LaMalfa	Schweikert
Crawford	Lamborn	Scott, Austin
Crenshaw	Lance	Sensenbrenner
Culberson	Latta	Sessions
Curbelo (FL)	LoBiondo	Shimkus
Davis, Rodney	Long	Shuster
Dent	Loudermilk	Simpson
DeSantis	Love	Smith (MO)
DesJarlais	Lucas	Smith (NE)
Diaz-Balart	Luetkemeyer	Smith (NJ)
Dold	Lummis	Smith (TX)
Duffy	MacArthur	Stefanik
Duncan (SC)	Marchant	Stewart
Duncan (TN)	Marino	Stivers
Ellmers	Massie	Stutzman
Emmer	McCarthy	Thompson (PA)
Farenthold	McCaul	Thornberry
Fincher	McClintock	Tiberi
Fitzpatrick	McHenry	Tipton
Fleischmann	McKinley	Trott
Fleming	McMorris	Turner
Flores	Rodgers	Upton
Forbes	McSally	Valadao
Fortenberry	Meadows	Wagner
Fox	Meehan	Walberg
Frank (AZ)	Messer	Walden
Frelinghuysen	Mica	Walker
Garrett	Miller (FL)	Walorski
Gibbs	Miller (MI)	Walters, Mimi
Gibson	Moolenaar	Weber (TX)
Gohmert	Mooney (WV)	Webster (FL)
Goodlatte	Mullin	Wenstrup
Gosar	Mulvaney	Westerman
Gowdy	Murphy (PA)	Westmoreland
Granger	Neugebauer	Whitfield
	Newhouse	Williams

Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall

NOT VOTING—11

Chu (CA)
Collins (GA)
Duckworth
Engel

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1135

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 260, noes 163, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 68]

AYES—260

Abraham
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishkek
Bera
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar

Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
Delaney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Emmer
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fox
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler

Hice (GA)
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (PA)
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCauley
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers

McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Ratcliffe
Reed

Adams
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Beyer
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeGette
DeLauro
DeBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle (PA)
Edwards
Ellison
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Grayson

NOES—163

Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hahn
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lieu (CA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan

Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOT VOTING—10

Chu (CA)
Collins (GA)
Duckworth
Engel

Gutiérrez
Lee
Lofgren
Nunnelee

Roe (TN)
Young (AK)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1143

Mrs. DINGELL changed her vote from “aye” to “no.”

Mr. GROTHMAN changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote today because of a serious illness in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted: Rollcall No. 65—no; rollcall No. 66—no; rollcall No. 67—no; rollcall No. 68—aye.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 12. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the United States Capitol for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal to Jack Nicklaus.

□ 1145

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, because I was detained on congressional business yesterday, I inadvertently missed a vote on rollcall No. 62, the amendment offered by Mr. CONNOLLY. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on that.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise for the purpose of inquiring of the majority leader, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), the schedule for the week to come, and I yield to my friend, Mr. MCCARTHY.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, no votes are expected in the House.

On Tuesday, the House will meet at noon for morning-hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for morning-hour and noon for legislative business.

On Friday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business. Last votes of the week are expected around noon.

Mr. Speaker, the House will consider a number of suspensions next week, a complete list of which will be announced by close of business tomorrow.

In addition, the House will consider S. 1, the Senate Keystone bill. After 6 years of waiting, this bipartisan bill, which will create more than 40,000 jobs, will finally be placed on the President's desk. I do sincerely hope he considers his longstanding veto threat and sides with the American people by signing this important jobs bill.

Mr. Speaker, the House will also consider two critical tax packages next week that will provide much-needed certainty for Americans and small businesses.

H.R. 644, the Fighting Hunger Incentive Act, sponsored by Representative TOM REED, will make charitable giving tax provisions permanent. This will also include provisions authored by Representatives ERIK PAULSEN, AARON SCHOCK, and MIKE KELLY.

Together, this package will make a real difference in the lives of Americans by encouraging donations of property for conservation and enhancing deductions for food contributions for those in need.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the House will consider H.R. 636, America's Small Business Tax Relief Act, sponsored by Representative PAT TIBERI, with additional provisions authored by Representative DAVE REICHERT.

This bill is essential to creating stability for our Nation's best job creators, small businesses, by making increased expensing permanent.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the information he has given us. I have some questions on that information, but before getting to the bills that we are going to consider next week, I note the absence of the Homeland Security bill.

That continues to, unfortunately, be mired in controversy, Mr. Speaker. It is a bill that I would remind our Members, Mr. Speaker—and I know the majority leader knows this—has been agreed to, essentially.

There really is no controversy with respect to the funding of the Homeland Security Department. There are no amendments being offered to change the numbers or anything of that nature.

There is, however, the holding hostage, Mr. Speaker, of this bill for the purposes of overturning the President's actions which, in our view, he was forced to take because of the inaction of this body after over a year of even considering the comprehensive immigration reform bill that the Senate passed by over 60 votes, with almost two-thirds of the Senate, Republicans and Democrats, voting for that bill.

Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned and the American people are concerned

that a bill which is so critically important for the defense of our borders, for the security of our country, and the security of our people is languishing, notwithstanding the fact that we have agreement on the underlying bill. There is no disagreement in my view.

The Homeland Security bill, Mr. Speaker, in my opinion, would pass with over 400 votes if it were brought to this floor, but for the fact that it is being held hostage to force the President to do something that the Senate clearly has indicated they are not going to approve.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge the majority leader to bring to the floor a clean bill. By clean, I mean the Republican-reported bill—not our bill, but a compromise bill—a Republican-reported bill in December, conferenced—conference may overstate it because it was the four leaders, Republicans and Democrats meeting—and they brought out of that meeting to this floor a Homeland Security bill that could pass overwhelmingly.

Every day that we delay puts us closer to the February 27 deadline that was set in December for the funding of this bill, taken out of the omnibus appropriation bill that we passed, put on a short-term leash, putting our homeland security at risk.

Mr. Speaker and Mr. Majority Leader, I would ask you: Is there any plan at some point in time to say we are not going to snatch defeat from the jaws of compromise?

The leader knows. The leader is very astute. He understands this body very well and knows full well that the underlying bill has consensus.

If there is anything that is frustrating the American people, it is that when we have something that we agree upon, we turn it into something that we can't agree on.

I yield to my friend, Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of telling me what his view is as to when we are going to be able to pass an appropriation bill to ensure that the Homeland Security Department can operate in an effective, efficient manner to protect America and Americans.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I share the gentleman's frustration. Knowing the timeline of dealing with funding of Homeland Security, Republicans want to make sure it is funded. That is why we took up legislation. I agree with the gentleman. Why is it being held hostage by the Democrats in the Senate?

As my good friend knows, the Senate has changed hands. In watching what has happened on Keystone, you get open debate. I know you didn't have amendments for the last number of years, but now, you have the opportunity.

If people disagree with the House bill, all they have to do is take the bill up.

As my good friend knows, what is happening in the Senate day after day is the Senate Democrats are voting now to allow the bill to come up. If you disagree with the bill, you can't offer amendments, you can't change the bill.

I would say to my friend: I share your frustration. I think our direction should be at the Senate Democrats and getting them to allow the bill to come up because nobody wants Homeland Security not to be funded. That is why we took the bill up very early, so the Senate could have time.

It is unfortunate that they play these actions in a time and place—as you said, the American people want to see this done, and we want to see it done in a bipartisan manner as well.

Mr. HOYER. I appreciate the gentleman's comments, Mr. Speaker, but, frankly, the American people ought not to be confused. There is a bipartisan agreement. We did not send, however, the bipartisan-agreed bill to the Senate.

We did, as we so often do, add to a bipartisan agreement something that does not have agreement, and that undermines the ability of this Congress to work on behalf of the American people in an effective way.

Very frankly, Mr. Speaker, the majority leader knows that. He knows it because I have had discussions with him. He knows it because, publicly, the President has said, Democrats have said: We don't agree with the provision you're adding to something that has been agreed upon in a bipartisan fashion by the Senate and by the House.

The majority leader knows full well that if we sent a clean bill that has already been agreed upon by the Appropriations Committee in the House, by the Appropriations Committee in the Senate, by Republicans and Democrats on the Appropriations Committee in the House and by Republicans and Democrats on the Appropriations Committee in the United States Senate, already agreed to—now, let me, Mr. Speaker, read you some comments by someone who I had a great opportunity to serve with in this Congress.

Secretary Tom Ridge—the first Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, a Republican—and Michael Chertoff, who was also a Republican Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, joined with Secretary—now president—Napolitano. The president wanted great educational institutions in our country; she was then Secretary and former Governor of Arizona.

All three of them said:

Funding for the entire agency should not be put in jeopardy by the debate about immigration.

Again, I remind you that this is Secretary Ridge, former Republican Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the former Republican Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security; and Michael Chertoff, former

Republican Secretary of the Homeland Security Department; as well as Secretary Napolitano.

They said:

It is imperative that we ensure that the Department of Homeland Security is ready, willing, and able to protect the American people. To that end, we urge you not to risk funding for the operations that protect every American and pass a clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill.

I agree with Secretary Ridge. I agree with Secretary Chertoff.

When my friend says, "Oh, it's the Senate," I disagree with my friend. It is the Senate who has not passed a bill. Of course, complaining about the 60-vote requirement after having required the most number of cloture votes in history in the last Congress by the current majority leader of the United States Senate when he was minority leader is a little difficult to understand. I choose my words carefully on that.

The fact of the matter is we are putting at risk the security of the American people. We have seen in Canada, we have seen in France, and we have seen in the Middle East horrific terrorist acts. This Department was created to prevent such acts.

By God's grace and their work, America has been very fortunate since September 11, 2001.

□ 1200

The Secretaries are saying don't put that at risk.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would urge once again not only the majority leader but the majority party in this House to accept the fact that we do not have agreement on immigration.

I accept the fact that they believe the President has acted incorrectly. What I do not accept, Mr. Speaker, is that they are holding hostage the budget for the Department of Homeland Security in order to make their point on immigration. I would hope that the majority leader would urge his side of the aisle to not do that.

I close on this particular issue with this quote. When asked what was going to happen when time ran out on February 27 on this funding of the Department of Homeland Security, JOHN MCCAIN, former Presidential candidate on the Republican side of the aisle, former Republican Member of this body and now the Republican chairman of the Armed Services Committee in the United States Senate, said this when asked what was going to happen on February 27. He said: "Your guess is as good as mine."

What do you think our adversaries think when, on the Department of Homeland Security, the chairman of the Armed Services Committee says: "Your guess is as good as mine"?

He goes on and says this: "I believe in one fundamental principle; that is, we cannot shut down the Department of Homeland Security."

Unfortunately, the Republican whip, my friend, observed that, well, we maybe just can do that.

Now, the theory is, Mr. Speaker, that because it is funded out of fees and because they are critically important employees, that we won't shut down the Department in one sense. But in another sense, we will preclude it from being empowered by the bipartisan bill passed out of the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee, and which we considered in December, to perform its duties.

I will yield to my friend, Mr. Speaker, if he wants to make an additional comment. If not, I will go on to some of the other legislation that needs discussion.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding because I listened a long time.

Mr. HOYER. I appreciate it.

Mr. MCCARTHY. But you also very well know, the votes in the Senate that just took place for the last 2 days were to bring the bill up. And that quote you gave from JOHN MCCAIN? He is frustrated because he would like to get on to the bill.

There are two different Chambers. If it is, as you say, a strong bipartisan vote over there, the only people holding up bringing this bill to the floor are the Senate Democrats. It is unfair to claim anything other.

They have denied for 2 days straight. If they want to make an amendment, if they want to change the bill—but they deny the American people the chance to even bring the bill up.

So let's be honest with the American people on where we are because nobody on this side of the aisle wants Homeland Security in any trouble.

We passed the bill early. We sent it to the Senate early. For 2 days in a row, the majority has asked to allow the bill to come to the floor, and for 2 days straight, the Democrats have said "no," not even to debate it. That, to me, is unacceptable.

If you have a difference of opinion, you debate the opinion. But to deny the American public the chance to have that debate, that is unacceptable, and I will not stand for it.

Mr. HOYER. I am glad to hear the majority leader will not stand for it. Over a year ago, the United States Senate passed, overwhelmingly, a comprehensive immigration reform bill. The reason they are holding hostage the Department of Homeland Security, Mr. Speaker, is because they don't agree.

But the majority leader has just said, Bring it to the floor. Let us vote. Let us offer amendments. We have asked that the Senate bill on immigration reform—which the House Republicans apparently don't agree with but on which the overwhelming majority of Americans in polling are saying yes, they agree with it.

So the majority leader complains about a bill not being brought to the floor. The minimum wage bill is a very, very important bill that the overwhelming majority of Americans support. In five States on which it was on the ballot, it was passed, in some red States and, yes, some blue States, mostly red States, by the way, and there is a refusal to bring it to the floor.

So, Mr. Speaker, when I hear the majority leader complain about not letting that bill come to the floor, the majority leader knows, and everybody in this body knows, that if that bill should squeak by the Senate, it would be vetoed by the President. And I guarantee the majority leader, that veto would be sustained here.

I would remind him the reason the Secretaries say bring a clean bill to the floor, your Secretaries, as well as one of mine on our side of the aisle, the reason they say that is because they know that what I say is absolutely correct.

So, Mr. Speaker, I tell the majority leader, who is my friend and whom I have great respect for, that complaining about not bringing bills to the floor, we all need to look in the mirror, because if the issue is comprehensive immigration reform and you don't like what the President is doing, bring a bill to the floor.

Show us what you want to do. Let us vote on it. Send it to the Senate, see what they do, and then if they pass it, send it to the President.

But don't hold hostage the Department of Homeland Security. Don't put Americans at risk. Don't turn a bipartisan consensus agreement into partisan gridlock, which the Americans hate, and which puts them at risk.

I will go on to other matters, unless the majority leader would like me to yield to him one more time.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I would ask that you yield.

Mr. HOYER. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman.

We were talking about looking into the mirror. Twenty-two times the President said he did not have the power to take the action that he did. From the time he said that to the time he took that action, what changed? The Constitution did not.

I will remind the gentleman, because he was at the lunch that I was at with the President. I reminded the President, after the election but prior to being sworn in, we had this discussion with him, with Senate and House leaders.

The President had the opportunity, when you were majority leader, he was President, and the Democrats controlled the Senate, to deal with immigration. They did not.

We asked the President: Would you even give us 1 day in the majority to deal with it? He did not.

So when we look into the mirror, I will gladly look into the mirror because I think the idea should win at the end of the day.

But if the Senate Democrats will not even allow you to bring the bill up to debate, I think it is very hard for your argument to stand ground.

This is a time that we want to make sure Homeland Security is funded. We took the bill up early. Just as the Constitution says, the House has their position, the Senate can have theirs. It doesn't say whatever the Senate says they can and cannot do we should just follow. No, we should lead, and we have. And I look forward to solving this problem before the 27th.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman.

Is the gentleman prepared to bring a comprehensive immigration bill to the floor?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding. And if you looked at our committees, we are working on it, just as we say this body should. It should go through committee, have debate on both sides, and be open.

I believe this immigration system is broken, and I think that is the process we should take, not the action that the President took.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that information, but I would observe that we have spent the first 4 weeks considering an awful lot of legislation that didn't go to committee at all—no hearings, came right to the floor through the Rules Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I am confounded by the representative of the majority party complaining about what the Senate Democrats have done and saying we are not for this bill when, more than at any other time in history, his party did that in the last Congress.

Mr. Speaker, there are other pieces of legislation I am concerned about. Let me ask the leader, if I can, with respect to the apparently seven bills which the Ways and Means Committee has considered, are those bills going to be considered, Mr. Leader, *seriatim*, one by one? Or is the expectation, as apparently I think I am reading in the comments you made, going to be packaged? And if so, does the gentleman know how many bills are going to be in which package and how many packages there are going to be?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

As the gentleman brought up about how we bring the bills to the floor, the gentleman remembers that there was a bipartisan agreement toward the end of last year with the Senate and with the House. It gave greater certainty, and it was going to be into one package.

Unfortunately, the White House disagreed, so we did not get that work done. In essence, it got stopped, saying it was too big.

Our intention next week is to bring them up individually, have the opportunity for the debate, listening to the White House. Whether they want a bill too big, too small, I am just trying to get the American public moving forward, so I took that advice and did it individually.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that comment and the information.

There are six or seven bills. Does that mean we will consider each one of those individually?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. No, they will be in the two packages.

Mr. HOYER. In the two packages.

I know that it is usually the practice in both bodies, or in both parties, not to have open to amendment. Is that your expectation, that neither of the packages will be open to an amendment?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for asking. You asked a question similar to this last week.

It is always my intention to yield to the Rules Committee their jurisdiction to decide on the format of the bill coming to the floor and the number of amendments, whether it has a structured rule or an open rule. That is their job, and as soon as they make that decision, I will notify all.

Mr. HOYER. Same question, same answer.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Consistency.

Mr. HOYER. When I get an answer, I will stop asking. How about that, Mr. Speaker?

In terms of the deficit, I know your side is very concerned about the deficit. My side is very concerned about the deficit, and I certainly am very concerned about the deficit, as the gentleman knows. I have worked in a lot of ways to try to bring this down.

One of my propositions is that we need to pay for things. Whether we spend money or reduce revenues, we need to offset that.

Does the gentleman know whether there is any intention to offset that so we do not exacerbate, make the deficit worse?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I know you are concerned with the deficit. I am very concerned, especially with this administration adding more debt than all the other Presidents combined. That is why we are trying to spur the economy.

I firmly believe that if government takes less, that is more in the hands of the public, and they are able to spend, and more revenue will come in, and history has shown that.

So I firmly believe that our actions taking place will actually bring greater revenue, greater job creation, and help lower the deficit.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman. I can't help but observe, however, that

this President inherited the deepest recession that you and I have experienced in our lifetime and, as a result, we had to respond to that. We responded to it vigorously.

Unfortunately, it made the debt worse, but what it also did was grow our economy better and faster than any other economy on Earth. We now have an economy that is growing, creating jobs, 58 months solid.

We have increased, however, the debt by about 70 percent—too much. I will tell my friend, he may not know this. That is a percentage of GDP that—under Ronald Reagan, who could have vetoed every spending bill, the debt increased by 189 percent, almost three times as much.

Now, in real dollar figures, it is easy to say that, like saying \$7.25 is much higher than the minimum wage of 1968, when actually it is reduced to 46 percent of its purchasing power.

So the numbers, *per se*, but as a percentage of our wealth, as a country, this President has increased the debt, having to respond to the deepest recession since the Depression, almost about a third of what Ronald Reagan saw in his Presidency, the increase of our debt as a percentage of the GDP.

□ 1215

I would tell my friend, Mr. Speaker, that we ought to come together, work together to make sure that this country is on and remains on a fiscally sustainable path, and I look forward to working with him toward that end.

But if we pass tax bills, as we did in 1981, 2001, and 2003, and pretend they are going to pay for themselves, it doesn't happen. We know it doesn't happen. And we look at it, and it doesn't happen.

Frankly, many of us on this side are for a number of the bills that are going to be in these packages. Some of us will be constrained to vote "no" because we don't want to make the deficit worse.

If the gentleman has a comment, I will yield to him.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

This has been the slowest recovery. If you compare the recession during Ronald Reagan's time and how fast we came out of it, there is no comparison.

The participation rate in America today is 62.7 percent, the lowest it has been since 1978. When you give up on participating, you give up on your future; you give up on your dreams. That is not an economy that we want.

When you look at the tax package that we are bringing forward, charitable contributions, maybe people on your side of the aisle think government should solve that problem. I see charitable contributions back home in my own community solving a lot of problems locally very fast and very direct. And I think these are things that could be bipartisan, so I look forward to it.

As you talk about the deficit, yes, I want to work on it. I looked at the President's budget. I do not believe government needs an 11 percent increase. That is how much new in taxes that he would give to the Federal Government. I think people keeping that would be better. And I think that lowering how we spend our money here in Washington would go a long way, and I welcome the opportunity to work with you on that.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman.

Just so that the American people are clear on the record, Mr. Speaker, Ronald Reagan, about whom the gentleman spoke, didn't get to 5.6 percent unemployment until his eighth year as President of the United States. And he did not confront nearly as deep a recession as this President inherited from his predecessor, in which 4 million people had lost their job in 2008 and 878,000 people lost their job when he took office in 2009. So it has been a tough time.

But the good news is—not the bad news—that we have increased our economy faster, better, and more sustainably than any other country on Earth. That is good news, and we ought to tell the American people that is good news.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2015

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 1 p.m. on Monday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RATCLIFFE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

HONORING DANIEL REID SIMPSON

(Mr. MEADOWS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Daniel Reid Simpson. Unfortunately, on January 24 of this year, he lost a courageous battle with Lewy body dementia and went on to meet his Maker.

Senator Simpson, as many of us knew him, was a father, and a husband to Mary Alice for some 63 years. He served the State of North Carolina in the State senate for six terms.

It was not just his service to our great State that made this man truly a remarkable example of a community servant. One of his proudest accomplishments, as he would tell it, was introducing the bill and shepherding it through the State legislature to set up Western Piedmont Community College.

Additionally, he helped set up the Glen Alpine Recreation Foundation. In

2007, they honored him for that work by naming the field the "Simpson Field," for not only the recognition of his great work for the kids of that community who wanted to play baseball and football, but also for his lifelong commitment to the folks of Burke County.

Senator Simpson also served in the military. He fought with MacArthur's forces in the Philippines and served in the occupation forces in Japan.

Not only was he of service to our great State and our great country, but he was of service to Burke County and to his family. So it is with sadness, but certainly with great honor, that I remember his life.

Our prayers are with his wife, his three children, and all of his family at this time.

REFORM OUR TRADE POLICIES

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the millions of high-quality jobs this Nation has outsourced over the last quarter century because of flawed free trade deals. These job-killing deals, like NAFTA, have been incredibly harmful to the American economy, racking up a massive, massive trade deficit of \$9.5 trillion. And they have failed to live up to the promise of creating jobs. Instead, they have wiped out good jobs, high-paying jobs across our country.

Take Motorola Solutions, for example, which shut down plants all over our country, from California to Florida. Motorola shut down those operations and moved production to China, to South America, to Eastern Europe.

Take Walgreens, which has outsourced its information technology operations to Mexico, to India, leaving its Illinois employees jobless.

Meanwhile, 6 years after the recession, Ohio and 14 other States have job markets that have not yet recovered from the number of jobs during the recession. Hundreds, thousands, millions of quality, good-paying manufacturing jobs have not returned. Citizens of these States, like Ohio, are fighting for honest employment.

Since 1976, America has literally outsourced 47.5 million good jobs. We have a budget deficit because we have a \$9.5 trillion trade deficit.

We must support job seekers. More lopsided trade deals are not the answer. We simply have to reform our trade policies.

IN MEMORY OF FRED STOLLEY

(Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a great man and a great soldier.

In 2013, I had the honor of meeting Fred Stolley and presenting him with the Soldier's Medal, the highest honor a servicemember can receive for an act of valor in a noncombat situation.

Private First Class Stolley proudly served his country during World War II; and in 1944, he saved a fellow soldier from drowning. Stolley's commanding officer wrote a commendation letter praising him for saving the soldier who was twice his size and deeply troubled by the devastating news of losing his brother in combat.

After the war ended, Stolley returned home to Decatur, Illinois. He worked nights, weekends, and, between classes, building houses and hauling water to graduate from my alma mater, Millikin University, with a degree in business.

Out of respect for the soldier he saved, Stolley never requested a medal to recognize his act of heroism, but 70 years later, my office was able to present him with the medal in front of his family and friends.

This week, we lost a hero. Fred Stolley passed away at the age of 90.

It is because of people like him and all of our men and women in uniform that we are able to enjoy the freedoms that we have today.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends as they lay him to rest in Decatur this afternoon.

LEAH CHASE, THE QUEEN OF CREOLE CUISINE

(Mr. RICHMOND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in the spirit of Black History Month to honor Leah Chase, also known as the "Queen of Creole Cuisine," a renowned chef, author, and a civil rights icon in New Orleans.

As executive chef at her historic restaurant, Dooky Chase's, she has served luminaries such as Duke Ellington, Thurgood Marshall, President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama, among countless others.

In 1946, she married local musician Edgar "Dooky" Chase, Jr., whose family owned a small street corner stand.

At a time when New Orleans was starkly divided by segregation, Dooky Chase's Restaurant was one of the few places where groups of mixed races could gather publicly. As a result, the restaurant became a central hub for leaders of the civil rights movement to meet and discuss strategy.

Of course these types of gatherings were highly illegal, but due to the immense popularity of Dooky Chase's, there would have been a public uproar had law enforcement interrupted business. Leah took full advantage of this and hosted Black voter registration campaigns, NAACP meetings, and

countless other gatherings, and fed them well.

To this day, people from across the world are blessed by Mrs. Chase's warmth, hospitality, and, of course, her cooking. She has received countless awards, has been immortalized in song by Ray Charles, and inspired Disney's first African American princess, but she remains rooted in her ministry and committed to service.

This month, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor some of the people who have paved the way for my generation and some of the people whose shoulders I stand on. So today, I congratulate and commemorate Leah Chase.

FEDERAL REGULATIONS BURDEN SMALL BUSINESSES

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, small businesses, the backbone of our economy, continue to be unfairly saddled by one-size-fits-all regulations. Most small businesses do not have the capacity to retain in-house legal or compliance departments, and unfortunately, many agencies often neglect their duties of assessing how new regulations may impact small businesses. There is also a pattern of Federal agencies providing inadequate analyses of the long-term economic costs of the rules that they propose.

Despite the President's promise in January of 2011 to "eliminate excessive and unjustified burdens on small businesses," very little has been done by this administration.

Yesterday, the House passed H.R. 50, the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2015, which would require greater transparency of the Federal Government costs associated with unfunded mandates. I joined my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to approve a commonsense solution to reducing cost by improving transparency, awareness, and accountability in our Federal agencies. Just moments ago, the House passed H.R. 527, which would require better economic analyses of direct and indirect costs on small businesses.

I thank my colleagues in both parties for supporting these commonsense reforms.

TERRITORIAL VOTING RIGHTS

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, this month, as we pay homage to the many achievements and contributions to our great Nation by African American men and women, and earlier this week my

colleagues spoke on this floor commemorating the 50th anniversary of the march on Selma and the subsequent passage of the Voting Rights Act, I want to call to the attention of my colleagues here in Congress that there are still American citizens today that do not have equal voting rights—some 4 million citizens, to be exact. These are citizens and residents of America's island territories: the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, and Northern Mariana Islands.

These overseas U.S. territories have been part of the United States for over 115 years. That is more than half as long as there has been a U.S. Constitution.

Our service has gone above and beyond, giving this great Nation even its very banking system, through fellow Virgin Islander Alexander Hamilton. Our service has gone even to having the highest rate of military service in the United States, with some 7 percent higher than other areas, the national average, in casualties in Afghanistan and Iraq.

I implore this Congress and urge them to pass the Voting Rights Act, and also to extend those rights to its U.S. citizens abroad.

□ 1230

RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DAVID NORTHERN, SR.

(Mr. DOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the leadership and accomplishments of David Northern, Sr. He is a resident of Grayslake and a good friend. On January 25, Mr. Northern was presented with the Most Influential African American of Lake County Award for 2015.

I have known David for several years in his role as a community leader and as the executive director and chief executive officer of the Lake County Housing Authority. Under David's leadership, the housing authority has become a more effective, people-centered, and collaborative agency.

He and his team have found a balance allowing them to successfully serve those in need of housing while also being mindful to the fiscal effects on the county as a whole.

David is a kind and genuine person who feels a personal responsibility to his community. For David Northern, building a strong community is not just his job, but his passion.

I want to congratulate David on his well-deserved award and say that it is an honor to call him my friend and to recognize his contributions to the people of Lake County.

MATTERS OF GRAVE CONCERN TO AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to have a discussion with my fellow colleagues and with those people throughout the United States who are watching this and reading this in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The issue I wish to discuss is a matter of grave concern to me and I believe to the American people as well.

I came here 26 years ago. Prior to my arrival in the United States Congress, I had served 7 years in the Reagan White House. I was a speechwriter to President Reagan, and I was a special assistant to the President, which was a designated rank at the White House.

I recall what it was like in the time leading up to Ronald Reagan's election, and I recall specifically how Ronald Reagan dealt with the great challenges he faced. Before Ronald Reagan came to the White House, America was in retreat.

There was a sense of pessimism throughout our country. Our economy was topsy-turvy. There were high levels of inflation and high levels of unemployment. Our country was in jeopardy. Our country felt a danger because while we were in retreat, communism—Soviet communism—was on the offensive throughout the world.

Well, Ronald Reagan, in 8 short years, turned that situation totally around. He turned the economy around, and he turned around the spirit of the people. We went from being pessimistic to being the most optimistic and forward-looking people in the world. Yes, he helped the economy, but foremost, Ronald Reagan ended the cold war.

Mr. Speaker, I am 67 years old. During my life, most of us felt that some day, we would be at war with the Soviet Union—a shooting war—and that it might take the lives of millions of people. We were told to hide under our desk when we were young and cover up our heads in case there was a nuclear attack on our country.

Ronald Reagan expanded the United States military. Many times, when people look back and they understand the success that we had in ending the cold war, they believe that it was due to the increase in the size of our military.

Let me note that did play a factor because it was a deterrent factor, and it was a factor that awed many people in the developing world, as well as our enemies in the communist world, but that is not what switched and that is not what changed our retreat in the cold war to a great victory and the bringing down of the Berlin Wall.

What changed it was a change in strategy that Ronald Reagan initiated during the time that he was President. He was a strong leader. We came into the White House and people asked: What is your strategy for dealing with the Soviet threat to our freedom and the peace of the world? He said: The strategy is very simple. We win, and they lose.

That is what he set out. The guidelines that he set out for us who worked for him in the White House and throughout the administration were that our goal was to be that the United States would win the cold war and the Soviet Union would lose.

Well, during that time period, Ronald Reagan did not deploy American troops overseas like people think that he did. Yes, he expanded our military power, but he made very few deployments—major deployments—of American troops.

In fact, in one deployment which he made to Beirut, where he sent thousands of marines to Beirut, I personally was arguing against it in the White House and went around finding out what it was all about.

After a few short weeks, it turned into a fiasco. It turned into a tragedy, as well as a fiasco, I might add. 300 Americans, marines and sailors, lost their lives when their headquarters was blown up—their bunker, you might say. Their barracks in Beirut was blown up.

Ronald Reagan's advisers at that time advised him to send in tens of thousands of more American troopers, send in the entire 2nd Marine Division and show these terrorists they can't kill marines and get away with it.

Ronald Reagan made his best decision as President at that time not to make such a huge, major deployment of troops into Beirut; otherwise, we would have been in a quagmire for the rest of his administration. They would have been there, stuck in this war zone in Beirut, a no-win situation. Reagan knew that.

He also knew when he told us, No, we are going to get out of there as soon as we can rather than get stuck in the quagmire, he initiated another policy, a security policy based on a different doctrine from sending American troops to garrison in the world or sending American troops to fight other people's battles.

What it was, was Ronald Reagan initiated the Reagan Doctrine. The Reagan Doctrine was basically to recognize that the enemy of our enemy was our friend and to do everything we could to identify our friends around the world who would help us defeat the Soviet Union.

The Reagan Doctrine had us helping people in Nicaragua who were fighting against the Sandinista dictatorship which was allied with the Soviet Union. It was in Africa where you had

Cuban troops being confronted by insurgency movements that we supported that were pro-democracy, or at least anti-Soviet, and in Afghanistan where the Soviet Army itself was being confronted.

The doctrine supported those who were struggling for freedom against oppression. We helped people in Europe, the Lech Walesas and the various leaders throughout Eastern Europe who organized resistance against the Soviet domination of their countries. Whether it was Poland or Czechoslovakia or Hungary, they received covert support from President Reagan.

Reagan wanted, yes, to defeat the Soviet Union, and that is what we did. We did it in a way by helping those who were on the front lines, struggling against what we saw as an evil—that is, a government in Russia that was controlled by an atheistic theory that an atheist dictatorship imposed upon people could reestablish new values among human beings and, thus, create a whole new world.

That monstrous philosophy—monstrous because it had monstrous implications in terms of human freedom, but also in the control and slaughter of those people who did not agree with that vision—that had to be defeated because it threatened the entire world.

By the time Ronald Reagan was finished with his Presidency and the leadership that he provided to the free world and all those who were struggling against communism, we succeeded. The Berlin Wall came down. This was done because of great leadership and a great strategy on the part of this man.

Today, we look at a totally different world from the world that Reagan left us. Unlike the world that he inherited from his predecessor, President Carter, Reagan left us a world where the upward trend toward our civilization was undeniable, that it looked like we could have generations of peace and that our enemies respected us to the point that they would not put us in jeopardy because it would be putting themselves in jeopardy. Reagan gave us chances for peace, prosperity, and freedom throughout the world.

Today, we face a totally different world. It is a frightening world. We have, today, an adversary that is every bit as evil, potentially harmful, and destructive to the people of the world as what we faced when Ronald Reagan came to the Presidency at the height of the cold war.

Yes, everything was dangerous at that time, and Reagan gave us peace and security. Today, we are facing evil and danger as even before in the cold war, but perhaps we can compare this even to the evil and danger that America and the Western world faced in the early thirties and the late twenties when nazism and fascism raised its ugly head.

What happened? During that time period, had we and the Western Allies been able to deal with Adolf Hitler, perhaps there would not have been this huge conflagration of World War II which took the lives of hundreds of millions of people.

But they did not deal with that as Ronald Reagan dealt with communism when he became President, and Hitler and the fascist threat eventually, with their aggression, put the free world and those other people who sought a better world in such a spot that war erupted and World War II, that great conflagration, happened. It was avoidable.

Well, today, we face a similar threat. We face an evil that, as I say, is every bit as dangerous as the evil that was faced by Reagan and faced before World War II.

It is a radical Islamic philosophy that will slaughter people in the West without thinking twice about it or, what is even worse, will slaughter people in great numbers in the West after strategizing of how to do it more effectively—not only slaughtering Christians and other non-Muslims, but this evil force is seeking to dominate that part of the world in which the majority of people are of the Islamic faith.

This radical Islamic terrorist evil murders more Muslims than, indeed, they murder Christians, although they have been very aggressive in their murder of Christians in a very demonstrable way, in a way that would try to intimidate the Christian world and the non-Muslim world, but we have brave and courageous people within the Muslim world.

We must not let ourselves be brought to the point that the radical Islamic movement wants us to be in, and that is to alienate the rest of the billion of Muslims who occupy this planet and make them our enemy.

Like Ronald Reagan, we must seek out our friends throughout the world who are struggling against radical Islamic terrorism and dictatorship and make sure that we back them up, so they will have a chance to defeat this threat and this ongoing murder and chaos that is engulfing their own countries.

Today, we have such heroes overseas. Let us note, in the last 6 years, this threat has grown, has gone from miniscule to being a threat that, if we do not deal with it, could erupt into the same type of global conflagration that we saw in World War II and perhaps—or at best—would leave us with a war, with a global split in the world like happened under communism that we defeated under Ronald Reagan.

□ 1245

Yes, we could see, if this threat of radical Islam is not confronted with American leadership, 10 years down the road, there could be a massive conflagration that would encompass, for

example, what would happen if we do lose total control and things go totally out of control into the gulf areas, in the Persian Gulf and in the Arab world. If that part of the world becomes dominant, if the dominant force in that part of the world becomes this radical Islamic philosophy, it will then move to the “stans.” It will then move to the great parts of Africa and of Central Asia, and that will tip the balance of power in this planet and will lead to the type of global conflagration that all of us want to avoid and to prevent.

But we must have the type of decisive leadership and the type of actual commitment to winning this battle against the radical Islamic dictatorship that these people are trying to superimpose upon the world. We need the strong commitment that we saw under Ronald Reagan. We need that, and we do not have it. We do not have the leadership we need or the type of chaos that is now erupting in the Arab world would not be happening.

What is happening in this chaos that we see is this rise of ISIL, a group of people who are so committed to establishing a Muslim dictatorship throughout their part of the world and throughout Africa and, yes, even throughout the rest of the world where other non-Muslim communities live. These people are dedicated to terrorizing the world into submission to their authority, and they see their authority as coming from their radical version of God, through their radical version of Islam.

Again, most Muslims deny and reject that type of Islam. But let us not forget, let us not ignore the fact that this radical philosophy is based on their interpretation of Islam. That it is a religious fanaticism that could, just like communism was a religious fanaticism—it was an atheism fanaticism. And we have seen Christian fanaticisms in the past, and they did great damage and cost the lives of great numbers of people in their day. This radical fanaticism, unless we defeat it now, will perhaps drag the entire planet into a World War II-like conflagration. How do we stop that? How was Ronald Reagan able to stop the rise of communism, the Soviet expansionism that he faced when he took office and, in 7 or 8 short years, managed to turn that around and defeat that very enemy?

First, he had the commitment to defeat it. And I will say today that I don't believe our President has the commitment to defeat and destroy radical Islamic terrorism and the radical Islamic dictatorship that these fanatics would superimpose upon us. Instead, I think our President believes, in good faith, that he can reach an accommodation with these folks, with these fanatics, that an accommodation can be reached and that we should try to prove to them that we are not their enemy.

Well, they know they are our enemy because they get their word from God, not from the President of the United States. That is what they believe. They see these overtures, the fanatic radicals like in the Taliban, they see it as a weakness, and it only encourages the radical Islamic movement for our President to try to reach accommodation or to say pleasant things to them without being aggressive, with seeming to be unwilling to actually draw a line in the sand.

Our President, as most people know, has trouble even uttering the words “Islamic terrorism” in one sentence. We are not going to be successful in defeating this threat that would murder us by the millions of people if they get the chance if our President is not even willing to utter the words “Islamic terrorism” in the same sentence.

We have a President that, after our Ambassador was murdered in Benghazi, tried to foist off on the American people the false story that our Ambassador was killed because a demonstration against a movie that insulted Islam got out of control and the demonstrators killed our Ambassador. For weeks, this President himself participated in spreading that lie.

Now, what message does it give us? First of all, my gosh, our President isn't going to tell us the truth about radical Islam. But what did the Muslim terrorists think? At that moment, the Muslim terrorists were thinking: My goodness, we have a guy that is so weak that he can't even condemn us and condemn the killing of his own Ambassador by our movement. This emboldened them.

And that is why, we heard early on support for various “reform movements,” and we all hoped that the Arab Spring would be a reform movement. Instead, our President, unlike Ronald Reagan, who sought to help those people who were the most aggressive opponents of Soviet communism, this President has tried to seek out those people in the Muslim Brotherhood and elsewhere and reach an accommodation with them.

That is why today we see enormous chaos and the rise of a radical, fanatic Islamic movement, ISIL, that will burn people alive, that will recruit people throughout the West to murder people in a newspaper, like we just saw in Paris, for drawing a cartoon that in some way made fun of their beliefs, as if people aren't free to make fun of other people's beliefs. No, they think it is all right to murder those people, and that is less civil—that is not even a sin, that is a mandate, as compared to murdering unarmed people.

An unarmed cartoonist, newspaper cartoonist in France and his colleagues, a policeman who happened to be a Muslim, laying there helpless on the ground, and they murdered him outright. This is fanaticism. This is

part of a fanatic, radical Islamic movement that has to be stopped. They will not stop at killing one policeman who happens to be a Muslim on the ground. They will murder millions of others if they get the chance. They are trying to establish themselves throughout the Arab world right now. We need to make sure we stand by our friends.

Yet, unlike Ronald Reagan, and there was no doubt he was standing behind our friends who opposed Soviet communism, but what are we projecting to those people who are standing firm against this fanatic, radical Islamic movement that would put an Islamic dictatorship on the people? What are we telling our friends who are standing up against that?

Well, how about President el-Sisi of Egypt? El-Sisi was a general who stepped in at a time when Egypt could have gone either way. We had a radical Islamic movement going there. Yes, there was an elected President, and he broke his word to his own people in trying to institute a caliphate in Egypt. They rose up against him in an aggressive shout from the people of Egypt, saying: We will not let our country become an Islamic caliphate. This is Egypt. We believe in a democratic government here, and we believe in an Egyptian government—not some radical, fanatic Arab government that was superimposed on them by members of some Muslim Brotherhood that operates behind the scenes.

Well, we almost lost Egypt. And if Egypt would fall today or would have fallen then, there would be no chance of stopping this fanatic movement that threatens the world and threatens especially other Muslim countries. There would have been no chance at all. President el-Sisi is a courageous man who has stepped forward, and our President took a long time and is still taking a long time in getting solidly behind the effort to prevent Egypt from becoming a bastion of fanatic Islamic radicalism that would threaten the world.

General el-Sisi, I visited him a year ago, and he expressed: My goodness, we bought all of these helicopters from the United States, and we need them now because there is an insurgency going on with radicals out in the Sinai desert. We need these helicopters. And it took forever for our administration, this government, to provide them the spare parts, the spare parts for that effort. They have jumped through hoops. We were doing them a favor. No, we should look at these people as doing us a favor. They are on the front lines battling this.

And President el-Sisi just recently did something that all Americans and peace-loving people throughout the world should applaud, and that is he went directly to Muslim groups in Egypt and spoke to them and spoke on the record saying we have got to

cleanse ourselves from this fanaticism in which we are intolerant of other people's religions, these people who would murder other people and commit acts of terrorism. President el-Sisi, that was courageous of him. We need other leaders to follow in his footsteps.

Has our administration done anything to congratulate President el-Sisi in making that incredible stand? What type of things have we done to prove that we are behind him in this effort? He also did something else. President el-Sisi was the first President of Egypt ever to visit a Coptic church, a Christian church in Egypt. Yet this administration has been just so-so when it comes to el-Sisi. Yes, we have not undermined him, but we have not given him support, which would have been a signal to all of the other leaders there to stand firm and America will stand behind you.

We have people like, for instance, the King of Jordan, who was only here just a few days ago, and what happened? A Jordanian pilot was put into a cage and burned to death as a public spectacle. A Jordanian pilot. Why did they do that? Why did these fanatics do that? Because they meant to terrorize the people of the world, terrorize the people of Africa, terrorize other people who would stand up against them. And what was Abdullah's reaction to that? He left his meetings in the United States and flew back to Jordan. It is now being said that he personally flew a bombing mission against the ISIL people who burned that man alive. Now there is a leader, and we should be backing him up.

But what do we hear just in the paper the other day? That Jordan is having difficulty in getting the supplies of weapons and arms that they need to make sure that they can stand firm against ISIL and this horrible, radical fanatic movement that is sweeping through their part of the world.

Ronald Reagan knew that we needed to support great leaders who would help us end the cold war. We will bring about war if leaders like King Abdullah in Jordan and President el-Sisi in Egypt—if people think we won't get behind them, how can we count on others to take that stand.

How about the Kurds up in northern Iraq? They are the ones bearing the burden, bearing the brunt of all of the fighting that is going on now in Iraq. The other people, when we tried to work things through Baghdad and tried to accommodate leaders who were halfheartedly in this battle and really weren't committed, what happened? We gave them enormous amounts of military equipment that ended up in the hands of radicals, ended up being used as vehicles and guns to destroy and kill people who want the type of world that we want to live in, which is a world of tolerance and freedom and peace and prosperity, not radical, fanatic Muslim dictatorship.

□ 1300

Instead, the Kurds have stood firm. The Kurds are the one group in Iraq that have stood firm and are the one group that has received the least support from the United States as compared to the others.

Now, Baghdad, which wants to put their thumb down on the Kurds, we are going along with a demand with those people that all our aid that goes to the Kurds goes to Baghdad first. That is recognizing the people who are not really on our side, their power, over the people who are on our side.

In fact, there was a meeting in London just in the last few days—I guess it was last week—to determine what would go on in Iraq. The United States was, of course, maybe not sitting at the table, but helped organize this and were part of the process of trying to get this meeting together. We didn't even insist that the Kurds were there. The Kurds weren't even at the table.

This is a betrayal of the people who are on the front lines fighting the big fight of today against radical Islamic terrorism. We betrayed them. This is horrible.

What kind of message does that send to other people around the world who have to stand up against this onslaught of radical fanatic Islamic terrorist dictatorship that would be superimposed on them?

We have got to make sure that these people understand—whether it is Abdullah—or how about the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, for example? Here is a man who is so strong in his conviction and leadership in that part of the world to try to stop this terrible threat. Yes, he is treated well. We should be honoring him.

Our administration should be leading the efforts to take the Abdullahs and the Crown Prince there in Abu Dhabi and President el-Sisi. These people deserve demonstrable support, not just sort of halfheartedly getting behind them.

What about, for example, even Qatar today? Qatar is trying to make a decision as to what to do in the face of this. For example, they permit us to have airstrikes against ISIL—this radical Islamic group up in Iraq—they are permitting us to use an air base in Qatar to launch those attacks, but we should make sure people understand and are grateful to them for it and be demonstrable about it.

Part of it is, yes, stand up with your friends. If somebody does something good, like Qatar has just done and wants to go back—and, by the way, has taken some steps in the right direction after taking some steps in the wrong direction—they lost faith in us, I believe, and now, they are coming back in our direction. We should encourage that.

The other half of the equation is we need to be tough on the guys who are

our enemies, who are going the wrong way, who are supporting radical Islamic fanatic terrorism, like, for example, Pakistan.

We are still giving billions of dollars over a 10-year period to Pakistan. We are giving hundreds of millions of dollars of military equipment and foreign aid to a country that is, yes, supporting the Taliban.

Almost all of the people that we have lost in Afghanistan can be traced back to terrorists who are using Pakistan as a home base, but not only as a home base, the ISI have been actively involved in helping these fanatic terrorists that our people were up against in Afghanistan.

How do we know that? Well, we do know that it is known, but maybe just the fact that they were giving safe haven to Osama Bin Laden—the murderer of 3,000 Americans on 9/11—they gave safe haven to this man. This was, "Oh, we didn't know." No one believes that. They knew.

Now, to add insult to injury, they have taken the doctor who gave us the location of Osama Bin Laden and helped us bring Osama Bin Laden to justice, that doctor, Dr. Afridi, is now languishing in a dungeon, in a 10-by-10-foot cell in Pakistan.

That act by Pakistan is a hostile act to the United States, and for us to walk away and ignore it is to encourage others to treat us in the same way.

We must be tough on our enemies and friends to our friends. Is that a difficult formula? Is that too difficult for people to understand?

We are losing today because I believe this President has been treating our enemies better than he has been treating our friends in many cases, in terms of willing to reach out to them. We should be reaching out and trying to do everything we can to help the friendly countries rather than reaching out to seek accommodations with these evil countries.

Nowhere is that better demonstrated than the announcement that we had secretly negotiated a deal with Fidel Castro's regime in Cuba—secretly negotiated. Congress didn't know what was going on, and now, he has announced by edict his executive orders.

Here is a President—maybe he likes Castro a little bit because Castro, after all, he could rule with edicts, just like our President now likes to rule with edicts, rather than go through what we call your regular order as seeking the legislative branch and seeking compromises and establishing policy in that way.

Instead, this President reversed 50 years of American policy towards Cuba on his own rather than coming here to Congress and working out something with us and trying to find what was the best way and opening up Cuba to having the beginning of an economic relationship and having Americans go freely there and then to come to the United States.

Well, he did that, and there were no concessions, none, that the Cubans made for this President to give up that 50 years, 50 years of "this is what our policy is, you are going to have to do this—free elections, opposition parties, et cetera—then we will recognize you." This President gave it up and no concessions on the other side.

Now, by the way, what message does that send to all these other countries? Again, it is not just Cuba. What message does that send to all these other countries when we complain about human rights or we try to set a standard, some standard, that will, indeed, take that country in the right direction?

We end up giving up a 50-year policy with no concessions; thus every little petty dictator in the world or, even worse, every group that is out there who is trying to decide whether or not to go with radical Islamist terrorism or not, they know they can make whatever decision they want and eventually the United States is going to cave in because we are projecting weakness.

As I say, the one thing Ronald Reagan did that was terrific was to rebuild our military, and it did—it created a sense of awe, but it was a sense of strength. He used that sense of strength, but it was his strategy in helping those people throughout the world who are our friends and the friends of things we believed in and the enemy of our enemies. That is what worked. We are sending the wrong message to the people who will be the enemy of our enemies.

We are undermining by not providing positive and forceful support for those people who are standing up—the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and these others and Abdullah and Jordan and President el-Sisi in Egypt—by not demonstrably standing with them, we send the wrong message throughout the world. That is why things are falling apart. That is why things are not going in the right direction.

This isn't we just happen to live in a time when things are chaotic. That is not the case. Just like Ronald Reagan didn't just live in the times when there was a Soviet communist threat that was undermining the peace of the world. That didn't just happen. It was the basis of things that, yes, what they did, but also our response to that threat.

Today, this administration, I believe, has led us down a path that has created the chaos that we now see, created a situation where you have a radical fanatic Islamic dictatorship movement that not only tries to take over and dominate the Islamic part of the world, but is threatening terrorist acts and has engaged in terrorist acts.

We will have more and more bombings like we saw at the Boston Marathon. We will have more and more terrorist actions taken in Western Europe

as we saw in Paris or in Africa, unless we step forward and let the world know that we are strong, we are strong in our commitment, and we stand by those who will help us in this battle.

I recently visited New York City, and I had not been there for a long time. I had never gone to the 9/11 Memorial. I visited the 9/11 Memorial, and I would advise anyone who has not been there to go there.

This is a memorial to the 3,000 Americans who died on 9/11, most of them there at the World Trade Center in those two great towers that were brought down on that day. You should go. Anyone hearing my voice—my colleagues, others—should go and see this.

They have managed to get a picture of almost every one of the victims who died that day. Many, of course, were firemen and policemen who, when the airplane struck that building, instead of running away and rushing away, they ran towards the building, they ran there to see what they could do to help, and they gave their lives, these heroic people.

We have to have a government as heroic as our own people if we are going to triumph over the people that slaughtered those people today. They slaughtered them in 9/11, and they will slaughter them today.

I looked at those pictures of those 3,000 people—and I was in the government when that happened, and I worked with Reagan before that, but on 9/11, we had been here a long time, and we are all part of this.

We owe it to the people of the United States, all of us on both sides of the aisle and in the executive branch and whoever else who is the government of this country, we owe it to our people to make sure we are doing the right thing—and I looked into their faces, and I brought my children with me to see this, and I said: Look, all of those people, do you know what they are telling us? They are telling us, to me and to all of us here in this body, you let us down, you let us down.

Don't do it again. Don't let there be another wall in another city with 20,000 pictures on it because they have got some sort of dirty bomb or something. These people that we are facing today are capable of that.

I am not arguing for major deployments of military units overseas, occupation, garrison in the world, like we did for too long, and I do not think it was right for us to go into Iraq in the first place.

I do argue that when we find people on our side, like Ronald Reagan did, we need to have a strong military, and we need to make sure that the world respects us.

Then we need to have stands and activities and actions that win their respect, them knowing that we stand with those people who will stand firm against this threat to the world.

Otherwise, some day, there could be another World War II-like thing 10 years down the road when we say: Why didn't you stop that fanatic Hitler when he was just walking around, goose-stepping around in these towns in Germany when he could have been stopped? Why didn't you stop him then?

Then there was hundreds of millions of people. This could lead to that type of conflagration.

One thing we know, unless we stop this radical movement there now, they will find ways of killing thousands of Americans, and there will be other walls, with other pictures, saying: Why didn't you do something?

I call on my colleagues now to seriously look at this challenge that we face. My negative comments about what I believe is the President not dealing with this situation in the right way is something that I am saying from the heart, and I am not doing this for political reasons.

□ 1315

Let me just say today that we see examples of where we need to take stands. We need to make sure, for example, that the nouveau regime in Iran is facing a President of the United States and an American Government that are making demands that they do not use this system that they are developing now. They have signed a treaty saying they would not have a nuclear weapon. We should hold them to that treaty, and we should be helping the people in Iran, who are struggling against that nouveau regime. I do not say we should attack Iran with American military might. We should be supportive, and we should have been so all along.

There were demonstrators in the streets of Tehran, and there was no message. There was no message at all of support from our government at that time. That was one of the first things this President did—he refrained from helping and supporting those young activists for democracy in Iran. The Baloch people are fighting against the corruption and oppression of the Pakistani Government, which is dominated by these radicals. We should be helping the Baloch, who can also be active in Iran, I might say.

There are options that we can have throughout the world today—actions both in terms of policy and in terms of actually helping people struggle for freedom—that will ensure the peace of the world 10 years down the road, as Ronald Reagan did when he took over. He left us a better world. We need to take the steps now to make sure that, when we leave this body, when we leave Congress—and whoever becomes President the next time around—that we leave this government so that our people have a greater chance for freedom, a greater chance to live in peace. We

need to make sure that our people can live in peace and prosperity.

Those pictures on the wall at the 9/11 Memorial shout out to us: Do your duty. You didn't do it. You let us down. Don't do it again. Make sure the American people are safe. You have a challenge now. Meet that challenge. Stand firm. Stand strong behind those who are with you.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

SILENCING A PRESCIENT VOICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WESTERMAN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) for 30 minutes.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, we have heard a great deal about protocol this past week, and it all centers around the invitation by the Speaker of this House to the Prime Minister of Israel to come and speak to the body, as he has done twice before.

It is worth pointing out, Mr. Speaker, that Bibi Netanyahu is one of the most prescient voices that we have in the entire world to address some of the subjects and some of the dangers that face the United States of America, and yet this administration is caught up in a conundrum over protocol.

While it might be worth reminding this administration that ours is a government made up of three equal branches, it is even more important to remind this administration that, when Iran is pursuing a nuclear weapons capability with which to threaten the peace and security of the entire world, when ISIS and groups like it are slaughtering people the world over, when ISIS is crucifying and killing and torturing people in Iraq—when they are burning their prisoners alive in cages—this administration is caught up in protocol. Mr. Speaker, that is a profound distortion of priority.

Ironically, this administration, for all of its talk of protocol, not only violated protocol when it traded five Taliban leaders for Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl, but it broke the law itself. This administration has repeatedly sought to unconstitutionally usurp the powers of the legislative branch by brash fiat. It chooses to listen to these mysterious voices of those who did not vote in our Nation's election. Its constitutional overreach is evidenced by Cuba, immigration, ObamaCare, and a number of others.

Let us put that litany aside for a moment and just consider the arrogance of this administration as it comes now to proclaim that the Speaker of this House has somehow broken protocol by inviting the Prime Minister of our most vital ally on Earth to speak on this floor.

Worse, Mr. Speaker, it has sought to go after and silence the guest speaker,

himself. In hearing the visceral rhetoric of this White House, one would think our Speaker had invited the prime minister of an enemy nation instead of one of our best friends on the planet. Unfortunately, this administration's claims of breached protocol are an attempt to overshadow the real elephant in the room, and truth itself.

The actual outrage here is not about the Israeli elections, as some might say. It is not about the doomed diplomatic overtures of this administration. The real crisis and the real threat is a nuclear-capable Iran, and Prime Minister Netanyahu—with the greatest credentials on Earth related to this threat—in coming to speak to all of us is acting as a trusted ally should act. I hope this administration and this Congress and the American people will listen to him very carefully.

The true problem here, Mr. Speaker, is that an outspoken enemy of our Nation, one that is, indeed, the leading state sponsor of global Islamic terrorism, is actively pursuing nuclear weapons that could create the gravest of threats to the United States, Israel, and the entire free world.

How quickly we forget that Iran considers the United States of America the "Great Satan." How quickly we forget that last year, on November 4, Iran, once again, celebrated "Death to America Day," commemorating the 1979 seizure of the United States Embassy. How quickly we forget that "death to America" is the rallying cry of Hezbollah, which has been backed by Iran, and it launched attacks on Israel just last week, killing and wounding good men.

How quickly we forget that one of Iran's stated goals is "wiping Israel off the map." How quickly we forget that Iran collaborates with anti-U.S. regimes in South America and is actively seeking to exploit our borders and, of course, this administration's complete inattention to them. How quickly we forget that Iran continues to cooperate with North Korea in the development of long-range missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads to the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, is this administration so naive or, worse, so arrogant as to believe that we can have any type of credible, diplomatic agreement with the leadership of such a regime?

I think it is embarrassing, Mr. Speaker, to the United States of America that this supposed breach of protocol has somehow permitted this administration through anonymous, yet somehow authoritative, sources to politically threaten the elected leader of our only democratic ally in the region—calling him names in the media and being vindictive in its every interaction with him. None of this salve for the administration's wounded ego has furthered the interests of the United States one iota. Ultimately, it has only

diminished America's national security and Israel's right to defend herself.

Mr. Speaker, there are, unfortunately, only three things that will prevent Iran from eventually gaining nuclear weapons: one is a fundamental change of the regime in Iran; two is a direct military action to destroy their capability to build a nuclear weapons capability; or, finally, Mr. Speaker, it is the conviction in the minds of the jihadist leadership in Iran that military action will occur if that capability is not dismantled.

Mr. Speaker, indifference, cowardice, diplomacy—call it what you will, but in the end, ignorance, whether intentional or unintentional, is not a viable alternative to the truth. Along with so many others in this body and, really, in America, itself, I have every conviction that when Prime Minister Netanyahu speaks on the threat that Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons and its sponsorship of terrorism pose to global security, he will be speaking the truth. Once again, for the sake of America, for Israel, and for the free world, I pray that we all listen very carefully.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE FAIRNESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MACARTHUR) for 30 minutes.

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, on October 29 of 2012, Super Storm Sandy battered the coast of my State, New Jersey, leaving behind a wake of devastation and interrupting the lives of many, many thousands of people in our communities.

We are still recovering from this. It was the second-costliest hurricane in United States history. Yet, out of that destruction, our communities came together. Neighbors took each other in, people looked after each other, families started over, small businesses slowly started to rebuild, and there was hope again in New Jersey. My heart goes out still to the many friends and neighbors who are still trying to put their lives back together again.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government has had a vital role in our recovery. Disaster assistance came through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA. Nearly 183,000 disaster victims were awarded \$1.3 billion in disaster assistance—money to rebuild homes or to find new ones, money to help people get their lives back again. That is why it is so upsetting for these victims to now, 2 years later, be receiving letters from FEMA demanding the repayment of those aid grants. I am referring to a process called "recoupment," and it goes like this:

FEMA receives an application for aid. It makes a determination, it gives a grant, and it later changes its mind. It could be for fraud or applicant error, in which case FEMA has my full support, but sometimes FEMA just changes its mind. The application is correct. An examiner evaluates the claim, makes the payment, and then, later, a supervisor can change his mind and say: "We don't think you got this one right," and a letter goes out months—even years—later, demanding repayment.

Mr. Speaker, I worked for 30 years in the insurance industry. I started as a claims adjuster. I had the privilege at the end of my career of running a large insurance service company, and sometimes errors did get made. Sometimes a supervisor disagreed because there was just a difference of opinion. I might have even made a few errors myself. But in the private sector, companies can't just reach out and demand those funds back again and, in the case of the Federal Government, demand with an "or else." An "or else" from the long arm of the Federal Government is a serious matter, indeed—wage garnishment or worse.

Mr. Speaker, by October 31 of 2014—2 years after Sandy—1,200 of my fellow New Jerseyans had received letters demanding that \$8 million be returned to the Federal Government. These are people who used these funds to rebuild their homes, to find new places to live, to repair what was broken, to replace the clothes on their backs, and begin again. Now the government wants to take it back. It is a terrible blow to these dear people, our fellow citizens, whose lives were overwhelmed in just a few short hours. It is something that could happen to every one of us.

That is why I have introduced the Disaster Assistance Fairness and Accountability Act of 2015. Like it says in the title, it is about bringing fairness and accountability back to this process, and it does it, Mr. Speaker, in a few simple ways.

First, fairness. It allows FEMA to recoup funds if there is an applicant error or if there is fraud, but not if FEMA just changes its determination on an application that was accurate and later just subjects itself to a change of opinion.

□ 1330

It applies the same standard to FEMA that applies to the private sector, and it is fundamentally fair.

Accountability. My proposed act requires FEMA to prove that the applicant was guilty of error or fraud instead of the other way around. It shifts the burden of proof from the individual to the government, which is where it should be. Only at FEMA are you guilty until proven innocent. That is fundamentally un-American and something my bill will change. Where there

is fraud or applicant error, FEMA has full authority to recover funds so that the hardworking taxpayers of our country are getting a fair shake as well.

Lastly, the bill is reasonable. It imposes a 3-year statute of limitations on FEMA for these recoupment actions. Now there is no limit. They can reach in many years after if they choose to. Nearly every other law in the United States is subject to a statute of limitations, and this should be no different.

Mr. Speaker, there are many ways that we can help the survivors of Superstorm Sandy, and they need and deserve our help. This bill is just a start, but this bill will also help victims of future disasters.

I think one of our most important responsibilities as legislators is to listen to our constituents and to find ways that we can improve this government on their behalf. This is an important step in that direction. I am hopeful that we can work together, Republicans and Democrats, and bring this bill to a successful vote to bring some fairness and accountability back to this one small part of the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of a death in the family.

PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE RULES

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY FOR THE 114TH CONGRESS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, February 5, 2015.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives, The Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to House Rule XI, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology adopted its rules for the 114th Congress on January 27, 2015, and I submit them now for publication in the Congressional Record.

Sincerely,

LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman.

RULE I. GENERAL

(a) Application of Rules.

(1) The Rules of the House of Representatives ("House Rules") are the rules of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and its Subcommittees with the specific additions thereto contained in these rules.

(2) Except where the term "Subcommittee" is specifically referred to, the following rules shall apply to the Committee and its Subcommittees as well as to the respective Chairs and Ranking Minority Members.

(b) Other Procedures. The Chair may establish such other procedures and take such actions as may be necessary to carry out these rules or to facilitate the effective operation of the Committee.

(c) Use of Hearing Rooms. In consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, the Chair of the Committee shall establish guidelines for the use of Committee hearing rooms.

RULE II. REGULAR, ADDITIONAL, AND SPECIAL MEETINGS

(a) Regular Meetings. The regular meeting day of the Committee for the conduct of its business shall be on the first Thursday of each month, if the House is in session. If the House is not in session on that day, then the Committee shall meet on the next Thursday of such month on which the House is in session, or at another practicable time as determined by the Chair.

(1) A regular meeting of the Committee may be dispensed with if, in the judgment of the Chair, there is no need for the meeting.

(2) The Chair may call and convene, as he considers necessary and in accordance with the notice requirements contained in these rules, additional meetings of the Committee for the consideration of any bill or resolution pending before the Committee or for the conduct of other Committee business.

(b) Bills and Subjects to be Considered.

(1) The Chair shall announce the date, place, and subject matter of any Committee meeting, which may not commence earlier than the third day on which Members have notice thereof, unless the Chair, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, or the Committee by majority vote with a quorum present for the transaction of business, determines there is good cause to begin the meeting sooner, in which case the Chair shall make the announcement at the earliest possible date.

(2) At least 48 hours prior to the commencement of a meeting for the markup of legislation, the Chair shall cause the text of such legislation to be made publicly available in electronic form.

(3) To the maximum extent practicable, amendments to a measure or matter shall be submitted in writing or electronically to the designee of both the Chair and Ranking Minority Member at least 24 hours prior to the consideration of the measure or matter, and the Chair may oppose any amendment not so submitted.

(c) Open Meetings.

(1) Meetings for the transaction of business and hearings of the Committee shall be open to the public or closed in accordance with the House Rules.

(2) Any Member who is not a Member of the Committee (or any Committee Member who is not a Member of the Subcommittee) may have the privilege of nonparticipatory attendance at Committee or Subcommittee hearings or meetings in accordance with clause 2(g)(2) of House Rule XI. Such Member may not:

- i. vote on any matter;
- ii. be counted for the purpose of establishing a quorum;
- iii. participate in questioning a witness under the 5-Minute Rule, unless permitted to do so by the Chair;
- iv. raise points of order; or
- v. offer amendments or motions.

(d) Quorums. A majority of the Committee shall form a quorum, except that two Members shall constitute a quorum for taking testimony and receiving evidence, and one third of the Members shall form a quorum for taking any action other than for which

the presence of a majority of the Committee is otherwise required. If the Chair is not present at any meeting of the Committee or Subcommittee, the Vice Chair on the Committee who is present shall preside at the meeting, unless another Member of the Committee is designated by the Chair.

(e) Postponement of Proceedings.

(1) Pursuant to clause 2(h)(4) of House Rule XI, the Chair may postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving a measure or matter or on adopting an amendment. The Chair may resume proceedings on a postponed vote at any time after reasonable notice.

(2) When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

(f) Time for Statements and Debate.

(1) Insofar as is practicable, the Chair, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, shall limit the total time of opening statements by Members at a Committee meeting to no more than ten minutes, the time to be divided equally between the Chair and Ranking Minority Member. When requested, ex officio Members of any Subcommittee shall also be recognized at a Subcommittee hearing for five minutes each to present an opening statement.

(2) The time any one Member may address the Committee on any bill, amendment, motion, or other matter under consideration by the Committee will be limited to five minutes, and then only when the Member has been recognized by the Chair. This time limit may be waived by the Chair pursuant to unanimous consent.

(g) Requests for Recorded Vote. A record vote of the Committee shall be provided on any question before the Committee upon the request of one-fifth of the Members present.

(h) Transcripts. Transcripts of markups shall be recorded and may be published in the same manner as hearings before the Committee. Transcripts shall be included as part of the legislative report unless waived by the Chair of the Committee.

(i) Motion to Go to Conference. Without further action of the Committee, the Chair is authorized to offer a motion under clause 1 of House Rule XXII whenever the Chair considers it appropriate.

RULE III. HEARINGS

(a) Notice of Hearings.

(1) The Chair shall publicly announce the date, place, and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted by the Committee on any measure or matter at least one week before the commencement of that hearing. If the Chair, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, determines there is good cause to begin the hearing sooner, or if the Committee so determines by majority vote, a quorum being present for the transaction of business, the Chair shall make the announcement at the earliest possible date.

(2) The Chair shall publicly announce a list of witnesses to testify at a hearing as soon as a complete list of witnesses, including those to be called by the minority, is compiled. When practicable, the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member will seek to have a complete list of witnesses compiled at or as soon as practicable after the time that the hearing is publicly announced.

(b) Witnesses.

(1) Insofar as is practicable, no later than 48 hours in advance of his or her appearance, each witness who is to appear before the Committee shall file, in printed copy and in

electronic form, a written statement of his or her proposed testimony and a curriculum vitae.

(2) Each witness shall limit his or her presentation to a five minute summary, however additional time may be granted by the Chair when appropriate.

(3) The Chair, or any Member of the Committee designated by the Chair, may administer oaths to witnesses before the Committee.

(4) Whenever any hearing is conducted by the Committee on any measure or matter, the Minority Members of the Committee shall be entitled, upon request to the Chair by a majority of them before the completion of the hearing, to call witnesses selected by the Minority to testify with respect to the measure or matter during at least one day of hearing thereon.

(5) In the case of a witness appearing in a nongovernmental capacity, a written statement of proposed testimony shall include a curriculum vitae and a disclosure of any Federal grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts, or contracts or payments originating with a foreign government, received during the current calendar year or either of the two previous calendar years by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness and related to the subject matter of the hearing. The disclosure shall include the amount and source of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof), cooperative agreement, or contract (or subcontract thereof) related to the subject matter of the hearing; and the amount and country of origin of any payment or contract related to the subject matter of the hearing originating with a foreign government. Such statements, with appropriate redactions to protect the privacy or security of the witness, shall be made publicly available in electronic form not later than one day after the witness appears.

(c) Questioning of Witnesses.

(1) The right to interrogate a witness before the Committee shall alternate between Majority and Minority Members of the Committee. Each Member shall be limited to five minutes in the interrogation of witnesses. No Member may be recognized for a second period of interrogation until each Member present, who wishes to be recognized, has been recognized at least once.

(2) Notwithstanding clause 1, upon a motion the Chair, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, may:

i. Designate a specified number of Members of the Committee from each party to question a witness for a period of time equally divided between the majority party and the minority party, not to exceed one hour in the aggregate; or

ii. Designate staff from each party to question a witness for a period of time equally divided between the majority party and the minority party, not to exceed one hour in the aggregate.

(3) Members of the Committee have two weeks from the date of a hearing to submit additional questions in writing for the record to be answered by witnesses who have appeared in person. The letters of transmittal and any responses thereto shall be included in the hearing record.

(d) Claims of Privilege. Claims of common-law privileges made by witnesses in hearings, or by interviewees or deponents in investigations or inquiries, are applicable only at the discretion of the Chair, subject to appeal to the Committee.

(e) Publication of Transcripts. The transcripts of those hearings conducted by the Committee, when it is decided they will be

printed, shall be published in substantially verbatim form, with the material requested for the record inserted at that place requested, or at the end of the record, as appropriate. Individuals, including Members, whose comments are to be published as part of a Committee document shall be given the opportunity to verify the accuracy of the transcription in advance of publication. Any requests by those Members, staff, or witnesses to correct any errors other than errors in the transcript, or disputed errors in transcription, shall be appended to the record, and the appropriate place where the change is requested will be footnoted. Prior to approval by the Chair of hearings conducted jointly with another Congressional Committee, a memorandum of understanding shall be prepared which incorporates an agreement for the publication of the transcript.

(f) Pertinence of Testimony. At the discretion of the Committee, brief and pertinent statements may be submitted in writing for inclusion in the record. The Committee is the sole judge of the pertinence of testimony and evidence adduced at its hearing.

RULE IV. REPORTS

(a) Bills and resolutions approved by the Committee shall be reported by the Chair pursuant to clauses 2-4 of House Rule XIII.

(b) A proposed investigative or oversight report shall be considered as read if it has been available to the Members of the Committee for at least 24 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays except when the House is in session on such days).

(c) Every investigative or oversight report shall be approved by a majority vote of the Committee at a meeting at which a quorum is present. If at the time of approval of such a report a Member of the Committee gives notice of intent to file supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views that Member shall be entitled to file such views.

(d) Only those investigative or oversight reports approved by a majority vote of the Committee may be ordered printed, unless otherwise required by House Rules.

RULE V. BROADCASTING

(a) Whenever a meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation or a hearing is open to the public, that meeting or hearing shall be open to coverage by television, radio, and still photography in accordance with clause 4 of House Rule XI.

(b) To the maximum extent practicable, the Committee shall provide audio and visual coverage of each hearing or meeting for the transaction of business in a manner that allows the public to easily listen to and view the proceedings, and maintain the recordings of such coverage in a manner that is easily accessible to the public. Operation and use of any Committee internet broadcast system shall be fair and nonpartisan, and in accordance with clauses 4(b) and (f) of House Rule XI and all other applicable rules of the Committee and the House.

RULE VI. SUBCOMMITTEES

(a) Committee Jurisdiction. The Committee shall have jurisdiction over such matters as determined by the Chair.

(b) Subcommittees and Jurisdiction. There shall be five standing Subcommittees of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, with jurisdictions as follows:

(1) Subcommittee on Energy. Shall have jurisdiction over the following subject matters: all matters relating to energy research, development, and demonstration projects therefor; commercial application of energy technology; Department of Energy research,

development, and demonstration programs; Department of Energy laboratories; Department of Energy science activities; energy supply activities; nuclear, solar, and renewable energy, and other advanced energy technologies; uranium supply and enrichment, and Department of Energy waste management; fossil energy research and development; clean coal technology; energy conservation research and development, including building performance, alternate fuels, distributed power systems, and industrial process improvements; pipeline research, development, and demonstration projects; energy standards; other appropriate matters as referred by the Chair; and relevant oversight.

(2) Subcommittee on Environment. Shall have jurisdiction over the following subject matters: all matters relating to environmental research; Environmental Protection Agency research and development; environmental standards; climate change research and development; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, including all activities related to weather, weather services, climate, the atmosphere, marine fisheries, and oceanic research; risk assessment activities; scientific issues related to environmental policy, including climate change; remote sensing data related to climate change at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA); earth science activities conducted by the NASA; other appropriate matters as referred by the Chair; and relevant oversight.

(3) Subcommittee on Research and Technology. Shall have jurisdiction over the following subject matters: all matters relating to science policy and science education; the Office of Science and Technology Policy; all scientific research, and scientific and engineering resources (including human resources); all matters relating to science, technology, engineering and mathematics education; intergovernmental mechanisms for research, development, and demonstration and cross-cutting programs; international scientific cooperation; National Science Foundation; university research policy, including infrastructure and overhead; university research partnerships, including those with industry; science scholarships; computing, communications, networking, and information technology; research and development relating to health, biomedical, and nutritional programs; research, development, and demonstration relating to nanoscience, nanoengineering, and nanotechnology; agricultural, geological, biological and life sciences research; materials research, development, demonstration, and policy; all matters relating to competitiveness, technology, standards, and innovation; standardization of weights and measures, including technical standards, standardization, and conformity assessment; measurement, including the metric system of measurement; the Technology Administration of the Department of Commerce; the National Institute of Standards and Technology; the National Technical Information Service; competitiveness, including small business competitiveness; tax, antitrust, regulatory and other legal and governmental policies related to technological development and commercialization; technology transfer, including civilian use of defense technologies; patent and intellectual property policy; international technology trade; research, development, and demonstration activities of the Department of Transportation; surface and water transportation research, development, and demonstration programs; earthquake

programs and fire research programs, including those related to wildfire proliferation research and prevention; biotechnology policy; research, development, demonstration, and standards-related activities of the Department of Homeland Security; Small Business Innovation Research and Technology Transfer; voting technologies and standards; other appropriate matters as referred by the Chair; and relevant oversight.

(4) Subcommittee on Space. Shall have jurisdiction over the following subject matters: all matters relating to astronomical and aeronautical research and development; national space policy, including access to space; sub-orbital access and applications; National Aeronautics and Space Administration and its contractor and government-operated labs; space commercialization, including commercial space activities relating to the Department of Transportation and the Department of Commerce; exploration and use of outer space; international space cooperation; the National Space Council; space applications, space communications and related matters; Earth remote sensing policy; civil aviation research, development, and demonstration; research, development, and demonstration programs of the Federal Aviation Administration; space law; other appropriate matters as referred by the Chair; and relevant oversight.

(5) Subcommittee on Oversight. Shall have general and special investigative authority on all matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee.

(c) Composition of Subcommittees.

(1) The Chair shall assign Members to the Subcommittees. Minority party assignments shall be made only with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member. The Chair shall determine the ratio of Majority Members to Minority Members of each Subcommittee; provided that the ratio of Majority Members to Minority Members on each Subcommittee (excluding any ex officio Member) shall be no less favorable to the majority party than the ratio for the Committee.

(2) The Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall be ex officio Members of each Subcommittee to which such Chair or Ranking Minority Member has not been assigned by the Chair. They are not authorized to vote on Subcommittee matters. Unless they are regular Members of the Subcommittee, they shall not be counted in determining a Subcommittee quorum other than a quorum for taking testimony.

(d) Referral to Subcommittees. The Chair shall expeditiously refer all legislation and other matters referred to the Committee to the Subcommittee or Subcommittees of appropriate jurisdiction, unless the Chair deems consideration is to be by the Committee. Subcommittee Chairs may make requests for referral of specific matters to their Subcommittee if they believe Subcommittee jurisdictions so warrant.

(e) Subcommittee Procedures and Reports.

(1) Subcommittee Chairs shall set meeting dates with the concurrence of the Chair and after consultation with the other Subcommittee Chairs with a view toward avoiding simultaneous scheduling of Subcommittee meetings or hearings wherever possible. No Subcommittee may meet or hold a hearing at the same time as a meeting or hearing of the Committee without authorization from the Chair.

(2) Each Subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive testimony or evidence, mark up legislation, and report to the Committee on all matters referred to it.

For matters within its jurisdiction, each Subcommittee is authorized to conduct legislative, investigative, forecasting, and general oversight hearings; to conduct inquiries into the future; and to undertake budget impact studies.

(3) Each Subcommittee shall provide the Committee with copies of such records of votes taken in the Subcommittee and such other records with respect to the Subcommittee as the Chair of the Committee deems necessary to ensure compliance with the House Rules.

(4) After ordering a measure or matter reported, a Subcommittee shall issue a report in such form as the Chair shall specify. To the maximum extent practicable, reports and recommendations of a Subcommittee shall not be considered by the Committee until after the intervention of 48 hours from the time the report is submitted and made available to the Committee. Printed hearings thereon shall be made available, if feasible, to the Committee, except that this Rule may be waived at the discretion of the Chair after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member.

RULE VII. VICE CHAIRS

(a) The Chair of the Committee shall designate a Member of the majority party to serve as Vice Chair of the Committee, and shall designate a Majority Member of each Subcommittee to serve as Vice Chair of the Subcommittee. Vice Chairs of the Committee and each Subcommittee serve at the pleasure of the Chair, who may at any time terminate his designation of a Member as Vice Chair and designate a different Member of the majority party to serve as Vice Chair of the Committee or relevant Subcommittee.

(b) The Chair may assign duties, privileges, and responsibilities to the Vice Chairs of the Committee or the various Subcommittees.

RULE VIII. OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

(a) The Committee shall review and study, on a continuing basis, the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of those laws, or parts of laws, the subject matter of which is within its jurisdiction, including all laws, programs, and Government activities relating to nonmilitary research and development in accordance with House Rule X.

(b) Not later than February 15th of the first session of the 114th Congress, the Committee shall meet in open session, with a quorum present, to adopt its oversight plan for submission to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on House Administration in accordance with the provisions of clause 2(d) of House Rule X.

(c) Any investigation undertaken in the name of the Committee shall be approved by the Chair. Nothing in this subsection shall be interpreted to infringe on a Subcommittee's authority to conduct general oversight of matters within its jurisdiction, short of undertaking an investigation.

RULE IX. SUBPOENAS

The power to authorize and issue subpoenas is delegated to the Chair as provided for under clause 2(m)(3)(A)(i) of House Rule XI.

RULE X. DEPOSITION AUTHORITY

The Chair may authorize the staff of the Committee to conduct depositions pursuant to section 3(b) of House Resolution 5, 114th Congress, and subject to any regulations issued pursuant thereto.

RULE XI. COMMITTEE RECORDS

(a) The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use in accordance with House Rule VII.

(b) The Chair shall notify the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee of any decision, pursuant to clauses 3(b)(3) or 4(b) of House Rule VII, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination on the written request of any Member of the Committee.

RULE XII. OFFICIAL COMMITTEE WEBSITE

The Chair shall maintain an official Committee website for the purpose of furthering the Committee's legislative and oversight responsibilities, including communicating information about the Committee's activities to Committee Members and other Members of the House. The Ranking Minority Member of the Committee may maintain a similar website for the same purpose, including communicating information about the activities of the minority to Committee Members and other Members of the House.

RULE XIII. COMMITTEE BUDGET

From the amount provided to the Committee in the primary expense resolution adopted by the House of Representatives in the 114th Congress, the Chair shall designate one-third of the budget, after adjustment for the salaries of the shared administrative functions for the Clerk, Printer and Financial Administrator, under the direction of the Ranking Minority Member for the purposes of minority staff, travel expenses of minority staff and Members, and all other minority office expenses.

RULE XIV. AMENDMENTS TO COMMITTEE RULES

The rules of the Committee may be modified, amended or repealed, in the same manner and method as prescribed for the adoption of committee rules in clause 2 of House Rule XI, but only if written notice of the proposed change has been provided to each such Member at least 3 days before the time of the meeting at which the vote on the change occurs. Any such change in the rules of the Committee shall be published in the Congressional Record within 30 calendar days after their approval.

PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE RULES

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE 114TH CONGRESS
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, February 2, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to clause 2(a) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and clause (b) of rule I of the Rules of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I submit the Rules of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for the 114th Congress for publication in the Congressional Record. On January 27, 2015, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure met in open session and adopted these Committee Rules by voice vote with a quorum present.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

RULE I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

(a) APPLICABILITY OF HOUSE RULES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Rules of the House are the rules of the Committee and its subcommittees so far as applicable, except that a motion to recess from day to day, and a motion to dispense with the first reading (in full) of a bill or resolution, if printed copies are available, are non-debatable privileged motions in the Committee and its subcommittees.

(2) SUBCOMMITTEES.—Each subcommittee is part of the Committee, and is subject to the authority and direction of the Committee and its rules so far as applicable.

(3) INCORPORATION OF HOUSE RULE ON COMMITTEE PROCEDURE.—Rule XI of the Rules of the House, which pertains entirely to Committee procedure, is incorporated and made a part of the rules of the Committee to the extent applicable. Pursuant to clause 2(a)(3) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, the Chairman of the Committee is authorized to offer a motion under clause 1 of Rule XXII of the Rules of the House whenever the Chairman considers it appropriate.

(b) PUBLICATION OF RULES.—Pursuant to clause 2(a) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, the Committee's rules shall be publicly available in electronic form and published in the Congressional Record not later than 30 days after the Chairman is elected in each odd-numbered year.

(c) VICE CHAIRMAN.—The Chairman shall appoint a vice chairman of the Committee and of each subcommittee. If the Chairman of the Committee or subcommittee is not present at any meeting of the Committee or subcommittee, as the case may be, the vice chairman shall preside. If the vice chairman is not present, the ranking member of the majority party on the Committee or subcommittee who is present shall preside at that meeting.

RULE II. REGULAR, ADDITIONAL, AND SPECIAL MEETINGS

(a) REGULAR MEETINGS.—Regular meetings of the Committee shall be held on the first Wednesday of every month to transact its business unless such day is a holiday, or the House is in recess or is adjourned, in which case the Chairman shall determine the regular meeting day of the Committee for that month. A regular meeting of the Committee may be dispensed with if, in the judgment of the Chairman, there is no need for the meeting. This paragraph shall not apply to meetings of any subcommittee.

(b) ADDITIONAL MEETINGS.—The Chairman may call and convene, as he or she considers necessary, additional meetings of the Committee for the consideration of any bill or resolution pending before the Committee or for the conduct of other committee business. The Committee shall meet for such purpose pursuant to the call of the Chairman.

(c) SPECIAL MEETINGS.—If at least three members of the Committee desire that a special meeting of the Committee be called by the Chairman, those members may file in the offices of the Committee their written request to the Chairman for that special meeting. Such request shall specify the measure or matter to be considered. Immediately upon the filing of the request, the clerk of the Committee shall notify the Chairman of the filing of the request. If, within 3 calendar days after the filing of the request, the Chairman does not call the requested special meeting to be held within 7 calendar days after the filing of the request, a majority of the members of the Committee may file in the offices of the Committee their written notice that a special meeting of the Committee will be held, specifying the date and hour thereof, and the measure or matter to

be considered at that special meeting. The Committee shall meet on that date and hour. Immediately upon the filing of the notice, the clerk of the Committee shall notify all members of the Committee that such meeting will be held and inform them of its date and hour and the measure or matter to be considered; and only the measure or matter specified in that notice may be considered at that special meeting. Such notice shall also be made publicly available in electronic form and shall be deemed to satisfy paragraph (d)(1).

(d) NOTICE.—

(1) MINIMUM NOTICE PERIOD.—Pursuant to clause 2(g)(3) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, the Chairman shall make a public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of a Committee or subcommittee meeting, which may not commence earlier than the third day on which members have notice thereof.

(2) CHANGES IN MEETING TIMES.—A meeting may commence sooner than announced if the Chairman, with concurrence of the ranking minority member, determines there is good cause to begin the meeting sooner or the Committee or subcommittee so determines by majority vote, a quorum being present for the transaction of business. The Chairman shall make a public announcement of the meeting time change at the earliest possible opportunity.

(3) NOTIFICATION OF DAILY DIGEST CLERK.—The clerk of the Committee shall notify the Daily Digest Clerk of the Congressional Record as soon as possible after a public announcement of a time change for a Committee or subcommittee meeting is made under this paragraph.

(e) PROHIBITION ON SITTING DURING JOINT SESSION.—The Committee may not sit during a joint session of the House and Senate or during a recess when a joint meeting of the House and Senate is in progress.

RULE III. MEETINGS AND HEARINGS GENERALLY

(a) MINIMUM PERIOD FOR AVAILABILITY OF COMMITTEE MARKUP TEXT.—Pursuant to clause 2(g)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, the Chairman shall make publicly available, in electronic form, the text of any legislation to be marked up at least 24 hours prior to the commencement of a meeting for the markup of legislation, or at the time of a meeting announcement under paragraph (d)(2) of Committee Rule II if made within 24 hours before such meeting.

(b) OPEN MEETINGS.—Each meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, and each hearing of the Committee or a subcommittee shall be open to the public, except as provided by clause 2(g) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House.

(c) MEETINGS TO BEGIN PROMPTLY.—Each meeting or hearing of the Committee shall begin promptly at the time so stipulated in the public announcement of the meeting or hearing.

(d) ADDRESSING THE COMMITTEE.—Except as provided under paragraph (e) of Committee Rule VI, a Committee member may address the Committee or a subcommittee on any bill, motion, or other matter under consideration—

(1) only when recognized by the Chairman for that purpose; and

(2) only for 5 minutes, or for a period of time designated by the Chairman with concurrence of the ranking minority member, until such time as each member of the Committee or subcommittee who so desires has had an opportunity to address the Committee or subcommittee.

A member shall be limited in his or her remarks to the subject matter under consideration. The Chairman shall enforce this paragraph.

(e) **PARTICIPATION OF MEMBERS IN SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS AND HEARINGS.**—All members of the Committee who are not members of a particular subcommittee may, by unanimous consent of the members of such subcommittee, participate in any subcommittee meeting or hearing. However, a member who is not a member of the subcommittee may not vote on any matter before the subcommittee, be counted for purposes of establishing a quorum, or raise points of order.

(f) **BROADCASTING.**—Whenever a meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, or a hearing is open to the public, that meeting or hearing shall be open to coverage by television, radio, and still photography in accordance with clause 4 of Rule XI of the Rules of the House. Operation and use of any Committee Internet broadcast system shall be fair and non-partisan and in accordance with clause 4(b) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House and all other applicable rules of the Committee and the House. Further, pursuant to clause 2(e)(5) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, the Committee shall provide audio and video coverage of each hearing or meeting for the transaction of business in a manner that allows the public to easily listen to and view the proceedings. The Committee shall also maintain the recordings of such coverage in a manner that is easily accessible to the public.

(g) **ACCESS TO THE DAIS AND LOUNGES.**—Access to the hearing rooms' daises and to the lounges adjacent to the Committee hearing rooms shall be limited to Members of Congress and employees of Congress during a meeting or hearing of the Committee unless specifically permitted by the Chairman or ranking minority member.

(h) **USE OF CELLULAR TELEPHONES.**—The use of cellular telephones in the Committee hearing room is prohibited during a meeting or hearing of the Committee.

(i) **AVAILABILITY OF TEXT OF AMENDMENTS IN ELECTRONIC FORM.**—Pursuant to clause 2(e) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, not later than 24 hours after the adoption of any amendment to a measure or matter considered by the Committee, the Chairman shall cause the text of the amendment to be made publicly available in electronic form.

RULE IV. POWER TO SIT AND ACT; POWER TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS; OATHS; SUBPOENA POWER

(a) **AUTHORITY TO SIT AND ACT.**—For the purpose of carrying out any of its functions and duties under Rules X and XI of the Rules of the House, the Committee and each of its subcommittees, is authorized (subject to paragraph (d)(1))—

(1) to sit and act at such times and places within the United States whether the House is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned and to hold such hearings; and

(2) to require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memorandums, papers, and documents, as it deems necessary.

(b) **AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Committee is authorized at any time to conduct such investigations and studies as it may consider necessary or appropriate in the exercise of its responsibilities under Rule X of the Rules of the House and (subject to the adoption of ex-

pense resolutions as required by Rule X, clause 6 of the Rules of the House) to incur expenses (including travel expenses) in connection therewith.

(2) **MAJOR INVESTIGATIONS BY SUBCOMMITTEES.**—A subcommittee may not begin a major investigation without approval of a majority of such subcommittee.

(c) **OATHS.**—The Chairman, or any member designated by the Chairman, may administer oaths to any witness.

(d) **ISSUANCE OF SUBPOENAS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A subpoena may be issued by the Committee or subcommittee under paragraph (a)(2) in the conduct of any investigation or activity or series of investigations or activities, only when authorized by a majority of the members voting, a majority being present. Such authorized subpoenas shall be signed by the Chairman of the Committee or by any member designated by the Committee. If a specific request for a subpoena has not been previously rejected by either the Committee or subcommittee, the Chairman of the Committee, after consultation with the ranking minority member of the Committee, may authorize and issue a subpoena under paragraph (a)(2) in the conduct of any investigation or activity or series of investigations or activities, and such subpoena shall for all purposes be deemed a subpoena issued by the Committee. As soon as practicable after a subpoena is issued under this rule, the Chairman shall notify all members of the Committee of such action.

(2) **ENFORCEMENT.**—Compliance with any subpoena issued by the Committee or subcommittee under paragraph (a)(2) may be enforced only as authorized or directed by the House.

(e) **EXPENSES OF SUBPOENAED WITNESSES.**—Each witness who has been subpoenaed, upon the completion of his or her testimony before the Committee or any subcommittee, may report to the offices of the Committee, and there sign appropriate vouchers for travel allowances and attendance fees. If hearings are held in cities other than Washington, D.C., the witness may contact the counsel of the Committee, or his or her representative, before leaving the hearing room.

RULE V. QUORUMS AND RECORD VOTES; POSTPONEMENT OF VOTES

(a) **WORKING QUORUM.**—One-third of the members of the Committee or a subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for taking any action other than the closing of a meeting pursuant to clauses 2(g) and 2(k)(5) of rule XI of the Rules of the House, the authorizing of a subpoena pursuant to paragraph (d) of Committee Rule IV, the reporting of a measure or recommendation pursuant to paragraph (b)(1) of Committee Rule VII, and the actions described in paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of this rule.

(b) **QUORUM FOR REPORTING.**—A majority of the members of the Committee or a subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for the reporting of a measure or recommendation.

(c) **APPROVAL OF CERTAIN MATTERS.**—A majority of the members of the Committee or a subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for approval of a resolution concerning any of the following actions:

(1) A prospectus for construction, alteration, purchase or acquisition of a public building or the lease of space as required by section 3307 of title 40, United States Code.

(2) Survey investigation of a proposed project for navigation, flood control, and other purposes by the Corps of Engineers (section 4 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of March 4, 1913, 33 U.S.C. 542).

(3) Construction of a water resources development project by the Corps of Engineers

with an estimated Federal cost not exceeding \$15,000,000 (section 201 of the Flood Control Act of 1965).

(4) Deletion of water quality storage in a Federal reservoir project where the benefits attributable to water quality are 15 percent or more but not greater than 25 percent of the total project benefits (section 65 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974).

(5) Authorization of a Natural Resources Conservation Service watershed project involving any single structure of more than 4,000 acre feet of total capacity (section 2 of P.L. 566, 83rd Congress).

(d) **QUORUM FOR TAKING TESTIMONY.**—Two members of the Committee or subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of taking testimony and receiving evidence.

(e) **RECORD VOTES.**—A record vote may be demanded by one-fifth of the members present.

(f) **POSTPONEMENT OF VOTES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In accordance with clause 2(h)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, the Chairman of the Committee or a subcommittee, after consultation with the ranking minority member of the Committee or subcommittee, may—

(A) postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving a measure or matter or on adopting an amendment; and

(B) resume proceedings on a postponed question at any time after reasonable notice.

(2) **RESUMPTION OF PROCEEDINGS.**—When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

(g) **AVAILABILITY OF RECORD VOTES IN ELECTRONIC FORM.**—Pursuant to clause 2(e)(1)(B)(i) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, the Chairman shall make the result of any record vote publicly available for inspection at reasonable times in the offices of the Committee and in electronic form within 48 hours of such record vote.

RULE VI. HEARING PROCEDURES

(a) **ANNOUNCEMENT OF HEARING.**—

(1) **MINIMUM NOTICE PERIOD.**—Pursuant to clause 2(g)(3) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, the Chairman shall make a public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of a Committee or subcommittee hearing, which may not commence earlier than the one week after such notice.

(2) **CHANGES IN HEARING TIMES.**—A hearing may commence sooner than announced if the Chairman, with concurrence of the ranking minority member, determines there is good cause to begin the hearing sooner or the Committee so determines by majority vote, a quorum being present for the transaction of business. The Chairman shall make a public announcement of the hearing time change at the earliest possible opportunity.

(3) **NOTIFICATION OF DAILY DIGEST CLERK.**—The clerk of the Committee shall notify the Daily Digest Clerk of the Congressional Record as soon as possible after a public announcement of a time change for a Committee or subcommittee hearing is made under this paragraph.

(b) **WRITTEN STATEMENT; ORAL TESTIMONY.**—

(1) **FILING OF STATEMENT.**—So far as practicable, each witness who is to appear before the Committee or a subcommittee shall file with the clerk of the Committee or subcommittee, at least 2 working days before the day of his or her appearance, a written statement of proposed testimony. The Chairman, with the concurrence of the ranking

minority member, may take the following actions for failure to comply with this requirement: (A) exclude such witness' written testimony from the hearing record; (B) bar such witness' oral presentation of the testimony; or (C) both (A) and (B). Each witness shall limit his or her oral presentation to a summary of the written statement.

(2) **TRUTH IN TESTIMONY INFORMATION.**—Pursuant to clause 2(g)(5) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, in the case of a witness appearing in a nongovernmental capacity, a written statement of proposed testimony shall include a curriculum vitae and a disclosure of the amount and source of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof), or the amount and country of origin of any contract or payment originating with a foreign government, received during the current calendar year or either of the two previous calendar years by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness and related to the subject matter of the hearing.

(3) **AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION IN ELECTRONIC FORM.**—Statements filed under this paragraph, with appropriate redaction to protect the privacy of the witness, shall be made publicly available in electronic form not later than one day after the witness appears.

(c) **MINORITY WITNESSES.**—When any hearing is conducted by the Committee or any subcommittee upon any measure or matter, the minority party members on the Committee or subcommittee shall be entitled, upon request to the Chairman by a majority of those minority members before the completion of such hearing, to call witnesses selected by the minority to testify with respect to that measure or matter during at least one day of hearing thereon.

(d) **SUMMARY OF SUBJECT MATTER.**—Upon announcement of a hearing, to the extent practicable, the Committee shall make available immediately to all members of the Committee a concise summary of the subject matter (including legislative reports and other material) under consideration. In addition, upon announcement of a hearing and subsequently as they are received, the Chairman shall make available to the members of the Committee any official reports from departments and agencies on such matter.

(e) **OPENING STATEMENTS; QUESTIONING OF WITNESSES.**—

(1) **Opening statements.**—

(A) **CHAIRMAN AND RANKING MEMBER.**—At a hearing of the Full Committee, the Chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee shall each be entitled to present an oral opening statement of five minutes. At a hearing of a subcommittee, the Chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee and the Chairman and ranking minority member of the subcommittee shall each be entitled to present an opening statement for five minutes.

(B) **OTHER MEMBERS.**—At a hearing of the Full Committee or a subcommittee, other members of the Committee or subcommittee, as appropriate, may submit written opening statements for the record. The Chairman presiding over the hearing may permit oral opening statements by other members of the Committee or subcommittee, as appropriate, with the concurrence of the ranking minority member.

(2) **QUESTIONING OF WITNESS.**—The questioning of witnesses in Committee and subcommittee hearings shall be initiated by the Chairman, followed by the ranking minority member and all other members alternating between the majority and minority parties.

In recognizing members to question witnesses in this fashion, the Chairman shall take into consideration the ratio of the majority to minority members present and shall establish the order of recognition for questioning in such a manner as not to disadvantage the members of the majority nor the members of the minority. The Chairman may accomplish this by recognizing two majority members for each minority member recognized.

(f) **PROCEDURES FOR QUESTIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A Committee member may question a witness at a hearing—

(A) only when recognized by the Chairman for that purpose; and

(B) subject to subparagraphs (2) and (3), only for 5 minutes until such time as each member of the Committee or subcommittee who so desires has had an opportunity to question the witness.

A member shall be limited in his or her remarks to the subject matter under consideration. The Chairman shall enforce this subparagraph.

(2) **EXTENDED QUESTIONING OF WITNESSES BY MEMBERS.**—The Chairman of the Committee or a subcommittee, with the concurrence of the ranking minority member, or the Committee or subcommittee by motion, may permit a specified number of its members to question a witness for longer than 5 minutes. The time for extended questioning of a witness under this subdivision shall be equal for the majority party and minority party and may not exceed one hour in the aggregate.

(3) **EXTENDED QUESTIONING OF WITNESSES BY STAFF.**—The Chairman of the Committee or a subcommittee, with the concurrence of the ranking minority member, or the Committee or subcommittee by motion, may permit Committee staff for its majority and minority party members to question a witness for equal specified periods. The time for extended questioning of a witness under this subdivision shall be equal for the majority party and minority party and may not exceed one hour in the aggregate.

(4) **RIGHT TO QUESTION WITNESSES FOLLOWING EXTENDED QUESTIONING.**—Nothing in subparagraph (2) or (3) affects the right of a member (other than a member designated under subparagraph (2)) to question a witness for 5 minutes in accordance with subparagraph (1)(B) after the questioning permitted under subparagraph (2) or (3).

(g) **ADDITIONAL HEARING PROCEDURES.**—Clause 2(k) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House (relating to additional rules for hearings) applies to hearings of the Committee and its subcommittees.

RULE VII. PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING BILLS, RESOLUTIONS, AND REPORTS

(a) **FILING OF REPORTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Chairman of the Committee shall report promptly to the House any measure or matter approved by the Committee and take necessary steps to bring the measure or matter to a vote.

(2) **REQUESTS FOR REPORTING.**—The report of the Committee on a measure or matter which has been approved by the Committee shall be filed within 7 calendar days (exclusive of days on which the House is not in session) after the day on which there has been filed with the clerk of the Committee a written request, signed by a majority of the members of the Committee, for the reporting of that measure or matter. Upon the filing of any such request, the clerk of the Committee shall transmit immediately to the Chairman of the Committee notice of the filing of that request.

(b) **QUORUM; RECORD VOTES.**—

(1) **QUORUM.**—No measure, matter, or recommendation shall be reported from the Committee unless a majority of the Committee was actually present.

(2) **RECORD VOTES.**—With respect to each record vote on a motion to report any measure or matter of a public character, and on any amendment offered to the measure or matter, the total number of votes cast for and against, and the names of those members voting for and against, shall be included in the Committee report on the measure or matter.

(c) **REQUIRED MATTERS.**—The report of the Committee on a measure or matter which has been approved by the Committee shall include the items required to be included by clauses 2(c) and 3 of Rule XIII of the Rules of the House.

(d) **ADDITIONAL VIEWS.**—If, at the time of approval of any measure or matter by the Committee, any member of the Committee gives notice of intention to file supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views, all members shall be entitled to not less than two additional calendar days after the day of such notice (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) in which to file such written and signed views in accordance with clause 2(1) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House.

(e) **ACTIVITIES REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than January 2 of each odd numbered year, the Committee shall submit to the House a report on the activities of the Committee.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—The report shall include—

(A) separate sections summarizing the legislative and oversight activities of the Committee under Rules X and XI of the Rules of the House during the Congress;

(B) a summary of the oversight plans submitted by the Committee under clause 2(d) of Rule X of the Rules of the House;

(C) a summary of the actions taken and recommendations made with respect to the oversight plans specified in subdivision (B);

(D) a summary of any additional oversight activities undertaken by the Committee and any recommendations made or actions taken thereon; and

(E) a delineation of any hearings held pursuant to clauses 2(n), (o), or (p) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House.

(3) **FILING.**—After an adjournment sine die of the last regular session of a Congress, or after December 15 of an even numbered year, whichever occurs first, the Chairman may file the report described in subparagraph (1) with the Clerk of the House at any time and without approval of the Committee, provided that—

(A) a copy of the report has been available to each member of the Committee for at least seven calendar days; and

(B) the report includes any supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views submitted by a member of the Committee.

(f) **OTHER COMMITTEE MATERIALS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—All Committee and subcommittee prints, reports, documents, or other materials, not otherwise provided for under this rule, that purport to express publicly the views of the Committee or any of its subcommittees or members of the Committee or its subcommittees shall be approved by the Committee or the subcommittee prior to printing and distribution and any member shall be given an opportunity to have views included as part of such material prior to printing, release, and distribution in accordance with paragraph (d) of this rule.

(2) **DOCUMENTS CONTAINING VIEWS OTHER THAN MEMBER VIEWS.**—A Committee or subcommittee document containing views other

than those of members of the Committee or subcommittee shall not be published without approval of the Committee or subcommittee.

(3) **DISCLAIMER.**—All Committee or subcommittee reports printed pursuant to legislative study or investigation and not approved by a majority vote of the Committee or subcommittee, as appropriate, shall contain the following disclaimer on the cover of such report: "This report has not been officially adopted by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (or pertinent subcommittee thereof) and may not therefore necessarily reflect the views of its members."

(4) **COMPILATIONS OF LAWS.**—To the maximum extent practicable, the Committee shall publish a compilation of laws under the jurisdiction of each subcommittee.

(g) **AVAILABILITY OF PUBLICATIONS.**—Pursuant to clause 2(e)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, the Committee shall make its publications available in electronic form to the maximum extent feasible.

RULE VIII. ESTABLISHMENT OF SUBCOMMITTEES; SIZE AND PARTY RATIOS

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There shall be 6 standing subcommittees. These subcommittees, with the following sizes (including delegates) and majority/minority ratios, are:

(1) Subcommittee on Aviation (35 Members: 20 Majority and 15 Minority).

(2) Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation (17 Members: 10 Majority and 7 Minority).

(3) Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management (17 Members: 10 Majority and 7 Minority).

(4) Subcommittee on Highways and Transit (49 Members: 28 Majority and 21 Minority).

(5) Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials (31 Members: 18 Majority and 13 Minority).

(6) Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment (31 Members: 18 Majority and 13 Minority).

(b) **EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.**—The Chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee shall serve as ex officio voting members on each subcommittee.

(c) **RATIOS.**—On each subcommittee there shall be a ratio of majority party members to minority party members which shall be no less favorable to the majority party than the ratio for the Full Committee. In calculating the ratio of majority party members to minority party members, there shall be included the ex officio members of the subcommittees.

RULE IX. POWERS AND DUTIES OF SUBCOMMITTEES

(a) **AUTHORITY TO SIT.**—Each subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive evidence, and report to the Full Committee on all matters referred to it or under its jurisdiction. Subcommittee chairmen shall set dates for hearings and meetings of their respective subcommittees after consultation with the Chairman and other subcommittee chairmen with a view toward avoiding simultaneous scheduling of Full Committee and subcommittee meetings or hearings whenever possible.

(b) **CONSIDERATION BY COMMITTEE.**—Each bill, resolution, or other matter favorably reported by a subcommittee shall automatically be placed upon the agenda of the Committee. Any such matter reported by a subcommittee shall not be considered by the Committee unless it has been delivered to the offices of all members of the Committee at least 48 hours before the meeting, unless

the Chairman determines that the matter is of such urgency that it should be given early consideration. Where practicable, such matters shall be accompanied by a comparison with present law and a section-by-section analysis.

RULE X. REFERRAL OF LEGISLATION TO SUBCOMMITTEES

(a) **GENERAL REQUIREMENT.**—Except where the Chairman of the Committee determines, in consultation with the majority members of the Committee, that consideration is to be by the Full Committee, each bill, resolution, investigation, or other matter which relates to a subject listed under the jurisdiction of any subcommittee established in Committee Rule VIII referred to or initiated by the Full Committee shall be referred by the Chairman to all subcommittees of appropriate jurisdiction within two weeks. All bills shall be referred to the subcommittee of proper jurisdiction without regard to whether the author is or is not a member of the subcommittee.

(b) **RECALL FROM SUBCOMMITTEE.**—A bill, resolution, or other matter referred to a subcommittee in accordance with this rule may be recalled therefrom at any time by a vote of a majority of the members of the Committee voting, a quorum being present, for the Committee's direct consideration or for reference to another subcommittee.

(c) **MULTIPLE REFERRALS.**—In carrying out this rule with respect to any matter, the Chairman may refer the matter simultaneously to two or more subcommittees for concurrent consideration or for consideration in sequence (subject to appropriate time limitations in the case of any subcommittee after the first), or divide the matter into two or more parts (reflecting different subjects and jurisdictions) and refer each such part to a different subcommittee, or make such other provisions as he or she considers appropriate.

RULE XI. RECOMMENDATION OF CONFEREES

The Chairman of the Committee shall recommend to the Speaker as conferees the names of those members (1) of the majority party selected by the Chairman, and (2) of the minority party selected by the ranking minority member of the Committee. Recommendations of conferees to the Speaker shall provide a ratio of majority party members to minority party members which shall be no less favorable to the majority party than the ratio for the Committee.

RULE XII. OVERSIGHT

(a) **PURPOSE.**—The Committee shall carry out oversight responsibilities as provided in this rule in order to assist the House in—

(1) its analysis, appraisal, and evaluation of—

(A) the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of the laws enacted by the Congress; or

(B) conditions and circumstances which may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation; and

(2) its formulation, consideration, and enactment of such modifications or changes in those laws, and of such additional legislation, as may be necessary or appropriate.

(b) **OVERSIGHT PLAN.**—Not later than February 15 of the first session of each Congress, the Committee shall adopt its oversight plan for that Congress in accordance with clause 2(d)(1) of Rule X of the Rules of the House.

(c) **REVIEW OF LAWS AND PROGRAMS.**—The Committee and the appropriate subcommittees shall cooperatively review and study, on a continuing basis, the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of those

laws, or parts of laws, the subject matter of which is within the jurisdiction of the Committee, and the organization and operation of the Federal agencies and entities having responsibilities in or for the administration and execution thereof, in order to determine whether such laws and the programs thereunder are being implemented and carried out in accordance with the intent of the Congress and whether such programs should be continued, curtailed, or eliminated. In addition, the Committee and the appropriate subcommittees shall cooperatively review and study any conditions or circumstances which may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation within the jurisdiction of the Committee (whether or not any bill or resolution has been introduced with respect thereto), and shall on a continuing basis undertake future research and forecasting on matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee.

(d) **REVIEW OF TAX POLICIES.**—The Committee and the appropriate subcommittees shall cooperatively review and study on a continuing basis the impact or probable impact of tax policies affecting subjects within the jurisdiction of the Committee.

RULE XIII. REVIEW OF CONTINUING PROGRAMS; BUDGET ACT PROVISIONS

(a) **ENSURING ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS.**—The Committee shall, in its consideration of all bills and joint resolutions of a public character within its jurisdiction, ensure that appropriations for continuing programs and activities of the Federal Government and the District of Columbia government will be made annually to the maximum extent feasible and consistent with the nature, requirements, and objectives of the programs and activities involved.

(b) **REVIEW OF MULTI-YEAR APPROPRIATIONS.**—The Committee shall review, from time to time, each continuing program within its jurisdiction for which appropriations are not made annually in order to ascertain whether such program could be modified so that appropriations therefore would be made annually.

(c) **VIEWS AND ESTIMATES.**—In accordance with clause 4(f)(1) of Rule X of the Rules of the House, the Committee shall submit to the Committee on the Budget—

(1) its views and estimates with respect to all matters to be set forth in the concurrent resolution on the budget for the ensuing fiscal year which are within its jurisdiction or functions; and

(2) an estimate of the total amount of new budget authority, and budget outlays resulting therefrom, to be provided or authorized in all bills and resolutions within its jurisdiction which it intends to be effective during that fiscal year.

(d) **BUDGET ALLOCATIONS.**—As soon as practicable after a concurrent resolution on the budget for any fiscal year is agreed to, the Committee (after consulting with the appropriate committee or committees of the Senate) shall subdivide any allocations made to it in the joint explanatory statement accompanying the conference report on such resolution, and promptly report such subdivisions to the House, in the manner provided by section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

(e) **RECONCILIATION.**—Whenever the Committee is directed in a concurrent resolution on the budget to determine and recommend changes in laws, bills, or resolutions under the reconciliation process, it shall promptly make such determination and recommendations, and report a reconciliation bill or resolution (or both) to the House or submit such

recommendations to the Committee on the Budget, in accordance with the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

RULE XIV. RECORDS

(a) **KEEPING OF RECORDS.**—The Committee shall keep a complete record of all Committee action which shall include—

(1) in the case of any meeting or hearing transcripts, a substantially verbatim account of remarks actually made during the proceedings, subject only to technical, grammatical, and typographical corrections authorized by the person making the remarks involved; and

(2) a record of the votes on any question on which a record vote is taken.

(b) **PUBLIC INSPECTION.**—The result of each such record vote shall be made available by the Committee for inspection by the public at reasonable times in the offices of the Committee. Information so available for public inspection shall include a description of the amendment, motion, order, or other proposition and the name of each member voting for and each member voting against such amendment, motion, order, or proposition, and the names of those members present but not voting.

(c) **PROPERTY OF THE HOUSE.**—All Committee records (including hearings, data, charts, and files) shall be kept separate and distinct from the congressional office records of the member serving as Chairman of the Committee; and such records shall be the property of the House and all members of the House shall have access thereto.

(d) **AVAILABILITY OF ARCHIVED RECORDS.**—The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use in accordance with Rule VII of the Rules of the House. The Chairman shall notify the ranking minority member of the Committee of any decision, pursuant to clause 3(b)(3) or clause 4(b) of such rule, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination on written request of any member of the Committee.

(e) **AUTHORITY TO PRINT.**—The Committee is authorized to have printed and bound testimony and other data presented at hearings held by the Committee. All costs of stenographic services and transcripts in connection with any meeting or hearing of the Committee shall be paid as provided in clause 1(c) of Rule XI of the House.

RULE XV. COMMITTEE BUDGETS

(a) **BIENNIAL BUDGET.**—The Chairman, in consultation with the chairman of each subcommittee, the majority members of the Committee, and the minority members of the Committee, shall, for each Congress, prepare a consolidated Committee budget. Such budget shall include necessary amounts for staff personnel, necessary travel, investigation, and other expenses of the Committee.

(b) **ADDITIONAL EXPENSES.**—Authorization for the payment of additional or unforeseen Committee expenses may be procured by one or more additional expense resolutions processed in the same manner as set out herein.

(c) **TRAVEL REQUESTS.**—The Chairman or any chairman of a subcommittee may initiate necessary travel requests as provided in Committee Rule XVII within the limits of the consolidated budget as approved by the House and the Chairman may execute necessary vouchers thereof.

(d) **MONTHLY REPORTS.**—Once monthly, the Chairman shall submit to the Committee on House Administration, in writing, a full and detailed accounting of all expenditures made

during the period since the last such accounting from the amount budgeted to the Committee. Such report shall show the amount and purpose of such expenditure and the budget to which such expenditure is attributed. A copy of such monthly report shall be available in the Committee office for review by members of the Committee.

RULE XVI. COMMITTEE STAFF

(a) **APPOINTMENT BY CHAIRMAN.**—The Chairman shall appoint and determine the remuneration of, and may remove, the employees of the Committee not assigned to the minority. The staff of the Committee not assigned to the minority shall be under the general supervision and direction of the Chairman, who shall establish and assign the duties and responsibilities of such staff members and delegate such authority as he or she determines appropriate.

(b) **APPOINTMENT BY RANKING MINORITY MEMBER.**—The ranking minority member of the Committee shall appoint and determine the remuneration of, and may remove, the staff assigned to the minority within the budget approved for such purposes. The staff assigned to the minority shall be under the general supervision and direction of the ranking minority member of the Committee who may delegate such authority as he or she determines appropriate.

(c) **INTENTION REGARDING STAFF.**—It is intended that the skills and experience of all members of the Committee staff shall be available to all members of the Committee.

RULE XVII. TRAVEL OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

(a) **APPROVAL.**—Consistent with the primary expense resolution and such additional expense resolutions as may have been approved, the provisions of this rule shall govern travel of Committee members and staff. Travel to be reimbursed from funds set aside for the Committee for any member or any staff member shall be paid only upon the prior authorization of the Chairman. Travel shall be authorized by the Chairman for any member and any staff member in connection with the attendance of hearings conducted by the Committee or any subcommittee and meetings, conferences, and investigations which involve activities or subject matter under the general jurisdiction of the Committee. Before such authorization is given there shall be submitted to the Chairman in writing the following:

- (1) The purpose of the travel.
- (2) The dates during which the travel is to be made and the date or dates of the event for which the travel is being made.
- (3) The location of the event for which the travel is to be made.
- (4) The names of members and staff seeking authorization.

(b) **SUBCOMMITTEE TRAVEL.**—In the case of travel of members and staff of a subcommittee to hearings, meetings, conferences, and investigations involving activities or subject matter under the legislative assignment of such subcommittee, prior authorization must be obtained from the subcommittee chairman and the Chairman. Such prior authorization shall be given by the Chairman only upon the representation by the chairman of such subcommittee in writing setting forth those items enumerated in subparagraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4) of paragraph (a) and that there has been a compliance where applicable with Committee Rule VI.

(c) **TRAVEL OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In the case of travel outside the United States of members and staff of the Committee or of a subcommittee for

the purpose of conducting hearings, investigations, studies, or attending meetings and conferences involving activities or subject matter under the legislative assignment of the Committee or pertinent subcommittee, prior authorization must be obtained from the Chairman, or, in the case of a subcommittee from the subcommittee chairman and the Chairman. Before such authorization is given there shall be submitted to the Chairman, in writing, a request for such authorization. Each request, which shall be filed in a manner that allows for a reasonable period of time for review before such travel is scheduled to begin, shall include the following:

- (A) The purpose of the travel.
- (B) The dates during which the travel will occur.
- (C) The names of the countries to be visited and the length of time to be spent in each.
- (D) An agenda of anticipated activities for each country for which travel is authorized together with a description of the purpose to be served and the areas of Committee jurisdiction involved.

(E) The names of members and staff for whom authorization is sought.

(2) **INITIATION OF REQUESTS.**—Requests for travel outside the United States may be initiated by the Chairman or the chairman of a subcommittee (except that individuals may submit a request to the Chairman for the purpose of attending a conference or meeting) and shall be limited to members and permanent employees of the Committee.

(d) **REPORTS BY MEMBERS AND STAFF.**—Within 15 legislative days from the conclusion of any hearing, investigation, study, meeting, or conference for which travel has been authorized pursuant to this rule, each member and staff member involved in such travel shall submit a written report to the Chairman covering the activities and other pertinent observations or information gained as a result of such travel.

(e) **APPLICABILITY OF LAWS, RULES, POLICIES.**—Members and staff of the Committee performing authorized travel on official business shall be governed by applicable laws, resolutions, or regulations of the House and of the Committee on House Administration pertaining to such travel, and by the travel policy of the Committee.

RULE XVIII. COMMITTEE PANELS

(a) **DESIGNATION.**—In accordance with clause 5(b)(2)(C) of Rule X of the Rules of the House, the Chairman of the Committee, with the concurrence of the ranking minority member, may designate a panel of the Committee consisting of members of the Committee to inquire into and take testimony on a matter or matters that fall within the jurisdiction of more than one subcommittee and to report to the Committee.

(b) **DURATION.**—No panel designated under paragraph (a) shall continue in existence for more than six months after the date of the designation.

(c) **PARTY RATIOS AND APPOINTMENT.**—The ratio of majority members to minority members on a panel designated under paragraph (a) shall be as close as practicable to the ratio of the Full Committee. All majority members of the panels shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Committee, and all minority members shall be appointed by the ranking minority member of the Committee. The Chairman of the Committee shall choose one of the majority members so appointed to serve as Chairman of the panel. The ranking minority member of the Committee shall similarly choose the ranking minority member of the panel.

(d) **EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.**—The Chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee may serve as ex-officio members of a panel designated under paragraph (a). The Chairman and ranking minority member are authorized to vote on matters that arise before the panel and shall be counted to satisfy the quorum requirement for any purpose.

(e) **JURISDICTION.**—No panel designated under paragraph (a) shall have legislative jurisdiction.

(f) **APPLICABILITY OF COMMITTEE RULES.**—A panel designated under paragraph (a) shall be subject to all Committee Rules herein.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, February 9, 2015, at 1 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

333. A letter from the Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities (HSACU) (RIN: 0524-AA39) received January 28, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

334. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-80; Introduction [Docket No.: FAR 2014-0051, Sequence No. 8] received January 29, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

335. A letter from the Chair, Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission, transmitting the Commission's final report and legislative proposals, pursuant to Public Law 112-239, section 374(f)(6), as amended; to the Committee on Armed Services.

336. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (Northampton County, VA, et al.) [Docket ID: FEMA-2014-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8369] received January 29, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

337. A letter from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits received January 28, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

338. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Mexico; Albuquerque/Bernalillo County; Revisions to Emissions Inventory Requirements, and General Provisions [EPA-R06-OAR-2008-0636; FRL-9922-25-Region 6] received February 2, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

339. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule; notice of administrative change — Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Idaho and Oregon; Negative Declarations [EPA-R10-OAR-2013-0567; FRL-9922-34-Region 10] received February 2, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

340. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Polyvinyl Chloride and Copolymers Production Area Sources Wastewater Limit Withdrawal [EPA-HQ-OAR-2002-0037; FRL-9921-80-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AS45) received February 28, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

341. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Poly(oxy-1,2-ethanediyl), a-(3-carboxy-1-oxosulfo)propyl)-w-hydroxy-, (C10-C16)-alkyl ethers, sodium salts; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0514; FRL-9920-44] received February 2, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

342. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2014-0714; FRL-9919-68] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received February 2, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

343. A letter from the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, transmitting the twenty-sixth quarterly report to the Congress on Afghanistan Reconstruction, pursuant to Public Law 110-181, section 1229; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

344. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS Office of Protected Resources, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Final Rule to Revise the Code of Federal Regulations for Species Under the Jurisdiction of the National Marine Fisheries Service; Correction [Docket No.: 130501429-4999-03] (RIN: 0648-XC659) received January 28, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

345. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Groundfish Fishery; Fishing Year 2014; Interim Gulf of Maine Code Management Measures; Correction [Docket No.: 141002822-4999-02] (RIN: 0648-BE56) received January 28, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

346. A letter from the Rules Administrator, Office of General Counsel, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Smoking/No Smoking Areas [BOP Docket No.: 1140-F] (RIN: 1120-AB42) received January 28, 2015,

pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

347. A letter from the Director, National Legislative Division, American Legion, transmitting a financial statement and independent audit of The American Legion, proceedings of the 96th Annual National Convention of the American Legion, held in Charlotte, North Carolina from August 22-28, 2014, and a report on the Organization's activities for the year preceding the convention; (H. Doc. No. 114-7); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and ordered to be printed.

348. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Biodiesel and Alternative Fuels; Claims for 2014; Excise Tax [Notice 2015-3] received February 2, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

349. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Procedures to change a method of accounting for federal income tax purposes (Revenue Procedure 2015-13) received February 2, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

350. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Determination of Issue Price in the Case of Certain Debt Instruments Issued for Property (Rev. Rul. 2015-3) received February 2, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

351. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Application for Recognition as a 501(c)(29) Organization [TD 9709] (RIN: 1545-BK64) received February 2, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

352. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — List of automatic changes (Rev. Proc. 2015-14) received February 2, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. GOODLATTE (for himself, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. ISSA, Mr. NADLER, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FORBES, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. MARINO, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 9. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, and the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act to make improvements and technical corrections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Ms. SLAUGHTER):

H.R. 746. A bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to require humane treatment of animals by Federal Government facilities; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 747. A bill to establish the Proprietary Education Oversight Coordination Committee; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself and Ms. TITUS):

H.R. 748. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide additional educational assistance under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to certain eligible individuals; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SHUSTER (for himself, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. DENHAM, and Mr. CAPUANO):

H.R. 749. A bill to reauthorize Federal support for passenger rail programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MCHENRY (for himself and Ms. MENG):

H.R. 750. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the amount excluded from gross income for employer-provided dependent care assistance; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. COOK, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. SALMON, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. BABIN, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. STEWART, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. BLUM, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Ms. KUSTER, and Mr. MCKINLEY):

H.R. 751. A bill to require the Secretary of State to offer rewards for information on the kidnapping and murder of James Foley, Peter Kassig, Steven Sotloff, or the kidnapping and murder of any other citizen of the United States by a foreign terrorist organization; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. ESTY (for herself, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. HIMES, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. BASS, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. CAPPS, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CARNEY, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FARR, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HAHN, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HOYER, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. KEATING, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. PRICE of

North Carolina, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RANGEL, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SRES, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKAI, Mr. TONKO, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. PETERS):

H.R. 752. A bill to prohibit the transfer or possession of large capacity ammunition feeding devices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina (for himself and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee):

H.R. 753. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue regulations to improve the tracking of aircraft in flight, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself and Ms. SLAUGHTER):

H.R. 754. A bill to amend the weighted child count used to determine targeted grant amounts and education finance incentive grant amounts for local educational agencies under title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. ROBY:

H.R. 755. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to prohibit Federal mandates, direction, or control, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. DELANEY, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. ESTY, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HONDA, Mr. JOYCE, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LANCE, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PETERS, Mr. POCAN, Mr. POLIS, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SIRE, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. TONKO, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VELA, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. STEWART, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 756. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to provide for the dissemination of information regarding available Federal programs relating to energy efficiency projects for schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ROYCE (for himself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SALMON, and Mr. KEATING):

H.R. 757. A bill to improve the enforcement of sanctions against the Government of North Korea, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, the Judiciary, Financial Services, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SMITH of Texas (for himself, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Mr. CHABOT):

H.R. 758. A bill to amend Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to improve

attorney accountability, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CHAFFETZ (for himself, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. GOWDY, and Mr. JEFFRIES):

H.R. 759. A bill to enhance public safety by improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the Federal prison system with offender risk and needs assessment, individual risk reduction incentives and rewards, and risk and recidivism reduction; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CHAFFETZ (for himself and Mr. JEFFRIES):

H.R. 760. A bill to rename the Bureau of Prisons as the Bureau of Corrections; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 761. A bill to designate the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in the State of California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. DELBENE (for herself, Mr. KIND, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. CARNEY):

H.R. 762. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand and modify the credit for employee health insurance expenses of small employers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LOBIONDO:

H.R. 763. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program under which eligible veterans may elect to receive hospital care and medical services at non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. SLAUGHTER (for herself, Mr. JONES, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. NADLER, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. TONKO, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. GALLEGO, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. LEE, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H.R. 764. A bill to enhance reciprocal market access for United States domestic producers in the negotiating process of bilateral, regional, and multilateral trade agreements; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. NEAL):

H.R. 765. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the 15-year recovery period for qualified leasehold improvement property, qualified restaurant property, and qualified retail improvement property; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER (for himself, Mr. HASTINGS, and Mr. STIVERS):

H.R. 766. A bill to provide requirements for the appropriate Federal banking agencies when requesting or ordering a depository institution to terminate a specific customer account, to provide for additional requirements related to subpoenas issued under the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. WOMACK (for himself, Mr. KIND, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. MARINO, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. BOST, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr.

GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. BUCK, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. AMODEI, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. WELCH, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MOORE, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. SMITH of Missouri):

H.R. 767. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform and reset the excise tax on beer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California (for herself, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. LEE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. HONDA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. NADLER, Ms. MOORE, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. MEEKS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. LEWIS):

H.R. 768. A bill to provide for an effective HIV/AIDS program in Federal prisons; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MESSER (for himself, Mr. KLINE, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. SALMON, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. BYRNE, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. BUCSHON, and Mr. PALAZZO):

H.R. 769. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt certain educational institutions from the employer health insurance mandate, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MULLIN (for himself and Mr. BUCSHON):

H.R. 770. A bill to reauthorize the Impact Aid Program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. DEGETTE (for herself, Mr. REED, and Mr. WHITFIELD):

H.R. 771. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act in order to strengthen rules applied in case of competition for diabetic testing strips, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee (for himself and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina):

H.R. 772. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue regulations to improve flight recorder and aircraft crash location requirements on certain commercial passenger aircraft in accordance with new International Civil Aviation Organization flight recorder standards; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. YOHO (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. JONES, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. OLSON, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H.R. 773. A bill to repeal programs under the Department of Education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the

Committees on Small Business, and Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BORDALLO (for herself, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. DEFazio, and Mr. GARAMENDI):

H.R. 774. A bill to strengthen enforcement mechanisms to stop illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, to amend the Tuna Conventions Act of 1950 to implement the Antigua Convention, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BOUSTANY (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. HONDA, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. MEEHAN, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. LONG, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. HARPER, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. BURGESS, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. WAGNER, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. TURNER, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. COLE, Mr. OLSON, and Mr. NOLAN):

H.R. 775. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BOUSTANY (for himself, Mr. KIND, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. VEASEY, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, and Mr. BUCSHON):

H.R. 776. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to create alternative sanctions for technical noncompliance with the Stark rule under Medicare, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida (for herself, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. TONKO, Mr. YARMUTH, and Mr. RUZ):

H.R. 777. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide funding for the National Institutes of Health; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in ad-

dition to the Committees on the Budget, and Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 778. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to redistribute Federal funds that would otherwise be made available to States that do not provide for the Medicaid expansion in accordance with the Affordable Care Act to those States electing to provide those Medicaid benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself and Mr. BEYER):

H.R. 779. A bill to authorize project development for projects to extend Metrorail service in Northern Virginia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself and Mr. BEYER):

H.R. 780. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for offsetting certain past-due local tax debts against income tax overpayments; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. BEYER, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 781. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for qualified conservation contributions which include National Scenic Trails; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 782. A bill to eliminate the sequestration under section 251A of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. CROWLEY (for himself and Ms. JACKSON LEE):

H.R. 783. A bill to address the urgent need for a Federal strategy to ensure that individuals who encounter minors at risk of female genital mutilation are fully prepared to take action to prevent the practice, and individuals who have been subjected to female genital mutilation can seek necessary services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. TONKO, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. HIMES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. ELLISON, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. ESTY, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. RUSH, Ms. LEE, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. WELCH,

Mr. VARGAS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. SIRE, Mr. KEATING, Mr. WALZ, Ms. TITUS, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. NORTON, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 784. A bill to reinstate overnight delivery standards for market-dominant products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. EDWARDS (for herself, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. RANGEL):

H.R. 785. A bill to repeal the revised annuity employee and further revised annuity employee categories within the Federal Employees Retirement System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. ELLMERS (for herself and Mr. BUTTERFIELD):

H.R. 786. A bill to improve access, certainty, and innovation with respect to vaccines; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself and Mr. GARRETT):

H.R. 787. A bill to assess the State by State impact of Federal taxation and spending; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona:

H.R. 788. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a temporary dividends received deduction for dividends received from a controlled foreign corporation; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GIBSON (for himself, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. KATKO, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BARLETTA, and Ms. STEFANIK):

H.R. 789. A bill to provide for research with respect to Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GRIFFITH (for himself and Mr. HANNA):

H.R. 790. A bill to allow the manufacture, importation, distribution, and sale of investigational drugs and devices intended for use by terminally ill patients who execute an informed consent document, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 791. A bill to prohibit the unauthorized remote shut down of a cellular phone; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 792. A bill to provide for no net increase in the total acreage of certain Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, or the Forest Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GRIFFITH (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 793. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure equal access of Medicare beneficiaries to community pharmacies in underserved areas as network pharmacies under Medicare prescription drug coverage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, and Mr. SWALWELL of California):

H.R. 794. A bill to establish a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Master Teacher Corps program; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan:

H.R. 795. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make publicly available on the official Medicare Internet site Medicare payment rates for frequently reimbursed hospital inpatient procedures, hospital outpatient procedures, and physicians' services; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MATSUI (for herself, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. BERA):

H.R. 796. A bill to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the design, planning, and construction of the South Sacramento County Agriculture and Habitat Lands Water Recycling Project in Sacramento County, California; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MEEKS (for himself and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 797. A bill to authorize the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to waive certain debts owed to the United States related to disaster assistance distributed to individuals and households in error, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MEEKS:

H.R. 798. A bill to amend the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 to prohibit the flying of unmanned recreational aircraft near commercial airports; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. NOLAN (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. WALZ, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. PAULSEN, and Ms. MCCOLLUM):

H.R. 799. A bill to revise the authorized route of the North Country National Scenic

Trail in northeastern Minnesota and to extend the trail into Vermont to connect with the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. O'ROURKE (for himself, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. COOK, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California):

H.R. 800. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide veterans the option of using an alternative appeals process to more quickly determine claims for disability compensation; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. NADLER, Mr. SIRE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. NORCROSS, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. PAYNE, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 801. A bill to waive and repay certain debts relating to assistance provided to individuals and households; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ROGERS of Alabama (for himself and Mr. LOESACK):

H.R. 802. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to develop and implement a plan to provide chiropractic health care services and benefits for certain new beneficiaries as part of the TRICARE program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. JONES, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. YOHIO, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. COLE, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GARRETT, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. CURELO of Florida, Mr. JORDAN, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. LATTA, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. MESSER, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. AMASH, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. WESTERMAN, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, and Mr. ROONEY of Florida):

H.R. 803. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin (for himself and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 804. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase access to Medicare data; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SHIMKUS (for himself, Mr. BARTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. LANCE, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. NUGENT, Mr.

BUCHSHON, Mr. KLINE, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. LATTI, and Mr. LONG):

H.R. 805. A bill to prohibit the National Telecommunications and Information Administration from relinquishing responsibility over the Internet domain name system until the Comptroller General of the United States submits to Congress a report on the role of the NTIA with respect to such system; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California:

H.R. 806. A bill to provide for a land exchange involving a parcel of real property under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Army on the site of the former Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Vallejo, California; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 807. A bill to designate a peak in the State of Nevada as Maude Frazier Mountain; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LANCE:

H. Con. Res. 15. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States Postal Service should issue a commemorative postage stamp honoring Admiral Ben Moreell and that the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee should recommend to the Postmaster General that such a stamp be issued; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. DELAUNO, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. GUINIA, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. ESTY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. NEAL):

H. Res. 91. A resolution congratulating the New England Patriots on their victory in Super Bowl XLIX; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself, Ms. DELAUNO, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. BORDALLO, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. VELA, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. COHEN, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. HIMES, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. ADAMS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. SABLON, Ms. HAHN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. COSTA, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. SIREN, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. LEE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. TONKO, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. BASS, Mr. LOEBACK, Mr. KILMER, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Mr. PETERS):

H. Res. 92. A resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of Project Head Start; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. KUSTER (for herself, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. WALZ):

H. Res. 93. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to prohibit the regulations promulgated by the Speaker to carry out the rule prohibiting admission to the Hall of the House by former House officials with business before Congress from providing an exemption for admission to the Hall for ceremonial or educational functions; to the Committee on Rules.

By Ms. MENG:

H. Res. 94. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a commemorative postage stamp should be issued in honor of the Chinese railroad workers from 1865 to 1869, and that the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee should recommend to the Postmaster General that such a stamp be issued; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. VARGAS:

H. Res. 95. A resolution recognizing the importance of transformative breakthroughs in biomedicine, biotechnology, and life sciences in the diagnosis, management, curing, and treatment of illness and the existence of a "Valley of Death" in biotechnology and life sciences funding that stifles innovation and impedes translational medical research; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H. Res. 96. A resolution honoring the life of Trayvon Martin, urging the repeal of Stand Your Ground laws, and calling on the United States Government to address the crisis of racial profiling; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, private bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 808. A bill to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to James Megellas, formerly of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and currently of Colleyville, Texas, for acts of valor on January 28, 1945, during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. UPTON:

H.R. 809. A bill for the relief of Ibrahim Parlak; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. GOODLATTE:

H.R. 9.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 8 of section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 746.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 747.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have Power To . . . make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

ARTICLE I, SECTION 8, CLAUSE 18

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 748.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

the bill is authorized by Congress' power to "provide for the common Defense and general Welfare—of the United States" pursuant to Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SHUSTER:

H.R. 749.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 3 (related to regulation of Commerce among the several States).

By Mr. MCHENRY:

H.R. 750.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 751.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (The Congress shall have the Power to . . . provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States); Article I, Section 8, Clause 11 (To . . . make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water); and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof).

With regard to Clause 1, the bill's intent is to offer cash incentives to individuals who will help in the fight against foreign terrorist organizations. Therefore, the bill will yield additional security to the United States. With regard to Clause 11, the bill creates new legal frameworks and incentives, or "Rules", by which the United States may make "Captures on Land". With regard to Clause 18, the bill provides specific language, means, and authorizations to carry out the missions set forth in Clauses 1 and 11.

By Ms. ESTY:

H.R. 752.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:

H.R. 753.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution provides Congress with the authority to "regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes."

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 754.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18; and including, but not solely limited to the 14th Amendment.

By Mrs. ROBY:

H.R. 755.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 756.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 (relating to the power of Congress to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.)

By Mr. ROYCE:

H.R. 757.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. SMITH of Texas:

H.R. 758.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this legislation is based is found in Article I, Section 8, Clause 9; Article III, Section 1, Clause 1; and Article III, Section 2, Clause 2 of the Constitution, which grant Congress authority over federal courts.

By Mr. CHAFFETZ:

H.R. 759.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 1, 3, and 18

By Mr. CHAFFETZ:

H.R. 760.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 3 and 18

By Mr. THOMPSON of California:

H.R. 761.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I; Sec. I

By Ms. DELBENE:

H.R. 762.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LOBIONDO:

H.R. 763.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. SLAUGHTER:

H.R. 764.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 3 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 765.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 766.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce in and among the states, as enumerate in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause, of the United States

Constitution, and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1, which grants Congress the ability to make laws necessary to carry out that power. Additionally, Article I, Section 7, Clause 2 of the Constitution allows for every bill passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate and signed by the President to be made law; and therefore it implicitly allows Congress to amend any bill that has been passed by both chambers and signed into law by the President.

By Mr. WOMACK:

H.R. 767.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California:

H.R. 768.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution.

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution, and Amendment VIII to the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. MESSER:

H.R. 769.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, which empowers Congress, in part, to "lay and collect Taxes" and "provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States. . ." The bill will exempt certain educational institutions from taxes imposed by public Law 111-148, as amended. Congress has the power to repeal such taxes and provide for the general welfare of those who have been and will be harmed by their imposition.

By Mr. MULLIN:

H.R. 770.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts, and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Ms. DEGETTE:

H.R. 771.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 3 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee:

H.R. 772.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. YOHO:

H.R. 773.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Amendment X The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

By Ms. BORDALLO:

H.R. 774.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BOUSTANY:

H.R. 775.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BOUSTANY:

H.R. 776.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:

H.R. 777.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 778.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 779.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 780.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution which provides Congress with the power to lay and collect taxes and regulate commerce among the several states.

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 781.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of section 8 or article I of the Constitution, and clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. CONYERS:

H.R. 782.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 provides that Congress has the authority "to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. CROWLEY:

H.R. 783.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 784.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. EDWARDS:

H.R. 785.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress is authorized to enact this legislation under the Commerce Clause, Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, "to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes." Additionally, Congress has the authority to enact this legislation pursuant to the Preamble of the Constitution, "to promote the general welfare."

By Mrs. ELLMERS:

H.R. 786.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Commerce Clause: Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution gives Congress the power "to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 787.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec.8, To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona:

H.R. 788.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. GIBSON:

H.R. 789.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause I, of section 8, of article I.

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 790.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 791.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 792.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 793.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 794.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan:

H.R. 795.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution—To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

By Ms. MATSUI:

H.R. 796.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill.

By Mr. MEEKS:

H.R. 797.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 enumerates the legislative powers which include:

To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by the Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Mr. MEEKS:

H.R. 798.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 enumerates the legislative powers which include:

To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the

foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by the Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Mr. NOLAN:

H.R. 799.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill.

By Mr. O'ROURKE:

H.R. 800.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have the power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Officer thereof.

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 801.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. ROGERS of Alabama:

H.R. 802.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The power of Congress to make rules to provide for the common defense, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN:

H.R. 803.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin:

H.R. 804.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution

By Mr. SHIMKUS:

H.R. 805

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California:

H.R. 806.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 18240 of title 10, United States Code

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 807.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 808.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 14 of Section 8 of Article I

By Mr. UPTON:

H.R. 809.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, clause 4 of the Constitution provides that Congress shall have power to "establish a uniform rule of Naturalization".

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 59: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 67: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 69: Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. NORTON, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 131: Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. COLLINS of New York, and Mr. BISHOP of Michigan.

H.R. 156: Mr. CHABOT.

H.R. 187: Mr. DOLD.

H.R. 197: Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. BEATTY, Mrs. BUSTOS, and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 214: Mr. KILDEE, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. TONKO, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 220: Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 243: Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 249: Ms. MOORE and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 284: Mr. PITTENGER and Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 289: Mr. JOYCE.

H.R. 308: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 310: Mr. OLSON and Mr. PITTENGER.

H.R. 314: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 344: Mr. HIGGINS.

H.R. 360: Mr. NOLAN.

H.R. 362: Ms. NORTON and Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 366: Mr. JONES, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. POCAN, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 381: Mr. GRAYSON.

H.R. 383: Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 387: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 400: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. SIREN, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. ZELDIN, and Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 401: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. HARRIS, and Mr. BARR.

H.R. 414: Mr. PITTENGER.

H.R. 416: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 431: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H.R. 453: Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 457: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 485: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

H.R. 494: Mr. VISCLOSKEY.

H.R. 495: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 519: Mr. CHABOT.

H.R. 529: Mr. POE of Texas and Mr. NUNES.

H.R. 532: Ms. DUCKWORTH and Ms. ADAMS.

H.R. 540: Mr. COHEN and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

H.R. 546: Mr. OLSON, Mr. LONG, Mr. KIND, and Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 551: Ms. PINGREE, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 559: Mr. MACARTHUR.

H.R. 560: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 572: Mr. NOLAN.

H.R. 578: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. WILLIAMS.

H.R. 581: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. HARTZLER, and Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 590: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 594: Mr. MCHENRY and Mr. MESSER.

- H.R. 598: Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 601: Mr. HILL, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. GRAHAM, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. PAULSEN, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 609: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 636: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. KLINE, and Mrs. BUSTOS.
H.R. 638: Mr. THORNBERRY.
H.R. 641: Mr. WILLIAMS and Mr. SIMPSON.
H.R. 642: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.R. 644: Mr. PAULSEN and Mr. NUNES.
H.R. 662: Mr. DENHAM.
H.R. 663: Mr. HANNA, Mr. GRIFFITH, and Mr. SHUSTER.
H.R. 665: Mr. POSEY.
H.R. 670: Mr. HARPER and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 674: Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Ms. MENG.
H.R. 676: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 699: Mr. HENSARLING and Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 703: Mr. SMITH of Texas and Mr. JORDAN.
H.R. 704: Mr. PITTS.
H.R. 732: Mr. TAKAI and Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 733: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, and Mr. LABRADOR.
H.R. 742: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.J. Res. 1: Mr. JORDAN.
H.J. Res. 2: Mr. JORDAN and Mr. COLE.
H. Con. Res. 13: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. MILLER of Florida, and Mr. GOSAR.
H. Res. 14: Mr. CAPUANO.
H. Res. 28: Mr. QUIGLEY and Mr. VISCLOSKEY.
H. Res. 54: Mr. KING of New York, Mr. HONDA, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. SIMPSON.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SAINT TIMOTHY COMMUNITY
CHURCH EXPANSION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I congratulate Saint Timothy Community Church in Gary, Indiana, as its congregation and church leaders join together to celebrate the opening of a new addition to the church, the Reverend Dr. Robert E. Lowery Ministry Center. The congregation, along with Senior Pastor Reverend Dr. Alfred Johnson, Assistant Pastor Reverend R.E. Robinson, the church staff, and the board of trustees led by President Greg Jones, will be celebrating the opening of the center with a dedication service led by Reverend Johnson on Sunday, February 8, 2015.

Saint Timothy Community Church was organized in 1926 and has continued to prosper throughout the years. With the deterioration of the existing fellowship hall, church leaders, board members, and parishioners agreed that it was time for a new addition to the church. In order to meet the needs of the growing congregation, the new Reverend Dr. Robert E. Lowery Ministry Center offers church members a variety of amenities geared toward innovative spiritual programs. The new community center houses seven classrooms, a nursery, small meeting rooms, a study area, a full service kitchen, and a banquet hall that seats up to 300 people. The center will also be used for a variety of events and will be available for use by community organizations.

The new center is dedicated to the memory of Reverend Dr. Robert E. Lowery, who ministered to Saint Timothy Community Church for 49 years. Dr. Lowery was a very well-respected and loved pastor, who earned the admiration of many citizens and community organizations throughout Northwest Indiana. His ministry was not only within the church but extended to hospitals, nursing homes, and on the streets. Dr. Lowery's remarkable contributions to Saint Timothy Community Church and to the people of Northwest Indiana and beyond are worthy of our deepest appreciation. His legacy serves as an inspiration to us all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Saint Timothy's Community Church and its congregation as they celebrate the opening of the Reverend Dr. Robert E. Lowery Ministry Center. For their commitment to service, and for touching the lives of countless individuals, the church leaders, parishioners, and board members are worthy of the blessings that have been bestowed upon them.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF LINCOLN COLLEGE

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mark the 150th anniversary of Lincoln College in Lincoln, Illinois, which is celebrating the creation of its charter on February 8th, 2015. Lincoln College is a private liberal arts college established in 1865 to fill the need for an institution of higher learning in central Illinois.

Lincoln College now has campuses in both Lincoln and Normal, Illinois. Lincoln College's mission is to uniquely empower students to realize their full potential. The College's dedicated faculty and exceptional student services produces graduates who are prepared to meet the challenges of today's 21st century economy. The students and alumni of Lincoln College truly live the school motto of "Experience Outstanding" through their academic performance, professional achievements, and commitment to improving their communities.

Over the last 150 years, Lincoln College has become an integral part of the Central Illinois higher education community. I am honored to represent an institution with such an outstanding track record in academic, sporting, and leadership achievements, and I am proud to rise today to congratulate them on their sesquicentennial celebration.

NATIONAL FILTRATION WEEK 2015
(APRIL 26–MAY 2, 2015)

HON. ROBERT PITTENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

WHEREAS, pollution and contamination prevention are at the heart of national government policy and at all levels of government in communities, businesses and public awareness; and

WHEREAS, filtration, separation and coalescing processes have been developed to meet the changing needs of all concerned parties for a cleaner and healthier environment; and

WHEREAS, the need for a healthier environment is inherent to enrich and shape our way of life and address issues across a broad spectrum of issues in everyday life; and

WHEREAS, the filtration, separations and coalescing industry consists of highly trained and skilled tech-savvy practitioners and professionals who constantly provide solutions to the industry's most critical un-met needs; and

WHEREAS, the industry offers training programs for industry R&D, product development

and engineering personnel, it equally seeks to inform and provide insight, access and in-depth training to end-users seeking an improved environment and quality control to satisfy their needs; and

WHEREAS, liquid, air and coalescing industry workers, companies and supporters across America are celebrating National Filtration Week,

Now, I encourage all suppliers and users of filtration, separation and coalescing technologies in the power generation industry to take advantage of opportunities these technologies offer.

REMEMBERING JOSEPHINE
"JOSIE" BETRAS

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of Josephine "Josie" Betras who passed away peacefully on Sunday, February 1, in the presence of her family at the Saint Elizabeth Health Center in Youngstown, Ohio. Josie was born on January 20, 1926 to her loving parents John and Ida Zidian. As a lifelong resident of the Mahoning Valley, Josie attended East High School, and shortly after her graduation she worked alongside her father at the family's business, the John Zidian Grocery Store.

In 1951, Josie married her husband, Joseph Betras. The two were married for 48 wonderful years and as a devoted wife she supported and encouraged him to pursue his political interest. With her help Joseph built a successful law practice, served as a Mahoning County Court Judge, and a Boardman Township Trustee. Aside from being a dedicated wife Josie believed in the importance of being civically engaged. As a result she became an active member of the Mahoning County Bar Auxiliary, the Lebanese Syrian Club, and the Mahoning County Democratic Party's Central Committee. She also volunteered for the Mahoning County Board of Elections, Saint Marons Church, and Saint Marks Ladies Society in Liberty, Ohio.

Josie and Joseph committed their lives to their family and were the proud parents of two sons, Daryl and David. Her children, grandchildren, and loved ones were her favorite topic of conversation and her greatest source of pride and joy. Josie was a matriarch in our community who delighted in entertaining guests with her glorious Lebanese feasts and I will forever cherish the times we have shared over the years.

Preceded in death by her husband Joseph; parents John and Ida; brothers John, Joseph, and Charles; and her sister Freda, Josie's warm and sweet spirit will continue to live on

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

through the many hearts and families she has touched. Josie is survived by her sons: Daryl and David; her brother Ron; her three grandchildren Joseph, Rosie, and Alexander; and a number of nieces and nephews. Our community is a much better place to call home because of Josie's timeless memory and she will be deeply missed.

HONORING ANDREW CUNNINGHAM

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Andrew Cunningham. Andrew is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 708, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Andrew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Andrew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Andrew has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Andrew Cunningham for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Black History Month and to pay tribute to two important African Americans from Alabama's First Congressional District.

While researching the history of some of my predecessors, I discovered that two of the earliest African Americans to serve in Congress actually represented the First Congressional District. Mr. Benjamin S. Turner served in the House of Representatives from 1871 to 1873, and Mr. Jeremiah Haralson served in the House from 1875 to 1877. I believe it is very fitting that we take time to recognize the lasting impact these individuals had on our area, but more importantly the influence they had on our nation.

Both Mr. Turner and Mr. Haralson were born into slavery and not provided a quality education. These men did not let slavery stop them from becoming educated, as both men worked hard to self-educate. After being freed from slavery, Mr. Turner and Mr. Haralson followed different paths to Congress. Mr. Turner became a successful businessman in south Alabama and was elected tax collector and councilman in Dallas County, Alabama. Mr. Haralson worked as a farmer and a minister

before being elected to the Alabama State House of Representatives and later the Alabama State Senate. Both men would go on to represent the First Congressional District in Congress as Republicans, the same seat I now hold.

Mr. Speaker, these men serve as a great example and an important reminder about our nation's history. These men remind us of the great American ideal that each and every person, regardless of the color of their skin, should have an opportunity to achieve their dreams. Thanks to the dedication and persistence of men like Mr. Turner and Mr. Haralson, today there are 46 black lawmakers serving in the 114th Congress, including the first-ever female, black Republican.

So during Black History Month, I encourage all Americans to take time to reflect on the past because looking to the past is the only true way to really understand common humanity. Let us remember the impact of Representatives Turner and Haralson and the countless other African Americans from Southwest Alabama who have made a lasting impact on our cities, states, and country.

HONORING LOGAN RODGERS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Logan Rodgers. Logan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 708, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Logan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Logan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Logan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Logan Rodgers for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EVAN H. JENKINS

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 51, due to inclement weather, I was unable to vote on H.R. 361, Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

TRIBUTE TO MARJORIE ANN SHARP

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Marjorie Ann Sharp, a woman of great faith and an instrumental leader in Indiana's Wayne County Council.

Marjorie was a loving and devoted wife to her husband of 62 years, Karl. Together, they were the proud parents of three children, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. They were also my friends. As active members of the Central United Methodist Church, Marjorie and her family valued their faith and were diligent leaders within the Richmond community. She served for an impressive 16 years on the Wayne County Council and, furthermore, became the first female to serve as President of the County Council.

Today, it is my privilege to honor the life of Marjorie Ann Sharp. My thoughts and prayers go out to Marjorie's family during this difficult time. May God comfort those close to her with His peace and strength.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AWARE ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, along with my colleague and co-chair of the Congressional Animal Protection Caucus, MIKE FITZPATRICK, I am pleased to introduce the Animal Welfare in Agricultural Research Endeavors, or AWARE Act. This bill would ensure that farm animals used in agricultural research at federal research facilities are included in the definition of "animal" under the Animal Welfare Act.

A January 20, 2015 front page article in the New York Times, "U.S. Research Lab Lets Livestock Suffer in Quest for Profit: Animal Welfare at Risk in Experiments for Meat Industry," examined horrendous abuses at the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center, Nebraska. In the last 30 years, over half a million animals have been housed at the center. The center's experiments have included experiments to increase the number of twin births in cows and expand the litter size of pigs, without consideration of animal health impacts, and trying to breed "easy care" lambs that are born in open fields without human assistance—all with horrifying, and often unsuccessful results.

At least 6,500 animals are known to have starved to death at this facility alone. Unknown numbers have died from negligence such as easily treatable infections, exposure to bad weather, or attacks by predators. In just the last 10 years, this single center has cost nearly \$200 million with taxpayers footing the bill for this shocking abuse of animals.

Appallingly, these animals are not currently protected under federal law. While the Animal

Welfare Act ensures that certain minimum standards of humane care are required for federal and private research facilities, there is an exemption for farm animals "used or intended for use for improving animal nutrition, breeding, management, or production efficiency, or for improving the quality of food or fiber"—from those basic protections. As a result, federal facilities like the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center don't have to obey the Animal Welfare Act.

This is how we are introducing the AWARE Act, which would close this loophole at federal research facilities. It is time that we step up to stop this horrible misuse of taxpayer funds. There is no reason that USDA agricultural research facilities experimenting on farm animals should not be held to the same standard as federal research facilities that conduct life-saving disease research with the same kinds of animals.

This is a small step that this Congress can take quickly to show that we respond to animal abuse and that the federal government will lead by example.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,098,502,229,899.75. We've added \$7,471,625,180,986.67 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.4 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

CELEBRATING THE 70TH BIRTHDAY OF JAMES GOODE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the seventieth birthday of one of my distinguished and active constituents, James Goode of Farmers Branch, Texas.

James has been a strong and hardworking member of this community for many decades. He has been an active role model and his eagerness to be involved has resonated throughout the area. He is Chairman of the Board of the Farmers Branch Chamber of Commerce, President of Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District Board of Trustees, and is active in his church are just a few examples of his involvement among his peers. James is someone who sets out and makes a positive difference in everyone's life around him.

James also served our country in the Navy for four years and earned his B.S. in electrical engineering from the University of Texas-Ar-

lington before settling down in Farmers Branch. His political involvement and strong engagement in the community provides a commendable example to others in the 24th district. As president of the school board, he exercises positive influence over the local education system and his reliable leadership style has helped many and will help the coming generations of children learn and excel to the best of their ability.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the seventieth birthday of one of my most engaged constituents, Mr. James Goode. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating this milestone in his remarkable life.

HONORING LOGAN GARTON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Logan Garton. Logan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 708, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Logan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Logan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Logan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Logan Garton for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EVAN H. JENKINS

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 52 due to inclement weather, I was unable to vote on H.R. 615, Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

THE PEOPLE'S PRESIDENT TURNS 104

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Liberals loathed him. Conservatives idolized him. The middle overwhelmingly loved him. He charmed America. His knack to connect was unmistak-

able. And although many have tried to replicate his charisma and appeal, no one has ever come close to being Ronald Reagan.

He made us laugh when we didn't think we could, or should. He always had a way to comfort us in the midst of tragedy. He could disarm the press with a one-liner; and get a chuckle from even his fiercest opponents.

The first time I saw Ronald Reagan was at the 1968 Republican Convention in Miami Beach. Much to the dismay of my dyed-in-the-wool Democrat grandmother, I was there as a proud Texas College Republican delegate.

He lost the nomination to Nixon, but I was sold on Reagan from that moment on.

Of course, I instantly liked him for his automobile of choice—a jeep. I drove the same kind and still do. He appealed to me and other renegade conservatives my age, particularly those of us in the yellow-dog South, because we were a herd without a shepherd. Back then, it was taboo to be a Republican in Texas. But then, along came Reagan. We were Reagan Republicans.

Reagan cut the class warfare. He transformed the country-club GOP image, and brought conservatism out of the shadows. It was cool to be a conservative. He represented what Americans wanted Democrats and Republicans alike. He wasn't the Grand Old Party leader; he was the people's president.

Reagan's tenure in the White House saw some of the most historic events in our country and the world. His line, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall," will probably resonate for time immemorial.

Although criticized by his foes for being a Hollywood actor, Reagan masterfully engineered a feat that so-called political experts had little confidence could be accomplished: the end of the Cold War.

Within minutes of his swearing in, news broke in one of the most widely followed situations of that time. President Reagan announced the Iran hostage crisis was over. The Americans were coming home. Make no mistake the significance of his election was an intimidating and influential factor in their release.

When the entire country was devastated by the Challenger tragedy, Reagan addressed a grieving nation by giving one of his most memorable and touching speeches. His ability to heal the brokenhearted was more than an admired political attribute. He never talked above the people, always to the people. It was what made him one of us. He just got it.

And of course, there is his most beloved legacy. He single handedly made the jelly bean a national treasure.

Reagan never took himself too seriously. Even when his own life was on the line, the leader of the free world was cracking jokes. On his way into emergency surgery after the 1981 assassination attempt, he looked up at the surgeons and said, "I hope you are all Republicans."

While he was a one-of-a-kind politician the Everyman of our time. He was a pull yourself up by the boot straps kind of guy.

From union halls to country clubs, everyone felt like Reagan was one of them. Being an American meant something to him. He was unabashedly unapologetic for our country's success.

He was the great defender of capitalism. Reaganomics was hailed ingenious by the

supply-side, pro-growth economists and harshly criticized as voodoo by the big government crowd.

Reagan proved that lower taxes and leaner government stimulates growth, spurs private enterprise, inspires harder work and enables more savings and investment.

In the midst of another presidential election, Americans find themselves wondering where our next Ronald Reagan is. The American people got it then, and they want it back now.

As we celebrate the 104th birthday of President Reagan this Friday (or the 65th anniversary of his 39th birthday; he never missed a chance to poke fun at his own age), we should learn from The Great Communicator.

And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for roll call votes 59–64 due to a family emergency.

Had I been present, I would have voted no on #59, no on #60, no on #56, yes on #61, yes on #62, yes on #63, and no on #64.

HONORING TIM WEBB AND JUSTIN WOOTEN

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I submit remarks in honor of Mr. Tim Webb and Mr. Justin Wooten, communications officers at the Galax Police Department's dispatch center, and also in recognition of the important work of all emergency dispatchers.

On December 29, 2014, Mr. Webb was working his routine shift when he took an incoming call from Cheri Grable and her daughter Melissa, who were caring for 17-month-old Aidan Paul Walker, Melissa's son. Aidan had been running a slight fever, but it took a sudden, dramatic spike, which caused him to convulse violently. Aidan stopped breathing, and his eyes rolled back into his head.

Mr. Webb's partner at the dispatch center, Mr. Justin Wooten, dispatched the call and fielded other duties so Mr. Webb could assist Cheri and Melissa with young Aidan.

However, the nearest ambulance was nearly 20 minutes from their home. When it was made clear that neither Cheri nor Melissa were trained in CPR, Mr. Webb—who is a certified CPR instructor and had worked for Laurel and Pipers Gap rescue squads for 20 years—walked Cheri through performing CPR and helping Aidan breathe again. As noted by WSL's Bethany Teague, this is especially notable because the Galax Police Department does not have emergency medical dispatch certification, so dispatchers like Mr. Webb typically are not allowed to provide CPR instructions over the phone.

"I never have done CPR on anybody," Cheri told the Galax Gazette. "[A]nd [Mr. Webb] told me what to do, and I did it, and the baby came back to life."

Aidan began breathing about a minute into the CPR. But Mr. Webb stayed with them over the phone, checking the boy's pulse and keeping Cheri and Melissa calm. About 18 minutes after the dispatch call, the ambulance arrived and EMTs took Aidan on board. He was taken to Northern Hospital in Surry County, North Carolina for further treatment.

Galax Police Chief Rick Clark said of Mr. Webb, "He did an exceptional job. He deserves to be recognized. In my mind he's a hero."

However, Mr. Webb wishes to share his recognition with his partner that day, Mr. Wooten. Mr. Webb said, "Without him, this couldn't have been a success. Without Justin taking care of other calls while this was going on . . . if one person had tried to handle this call, dispatch and handle radio traffic as well . . . I just don't know that it could have been done. Within the first 15 seconds, he had it dispatched. And he's only worked with me a year. For someone with that level of experience—he really deserves a pat on the back."

This isn't the only recognition Mr. Webb has received for his work. Last spring, he and other 911 dispatchers received an award from the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials' Virginia Chapter for their efforts in regards to the tragic 2013 Easter Sunday car accident on Interstate 77, which involved more than 90 vehicles.

The efforts of communications officers such as Mr. Webb, Mr. Wooten, and other emergency workers may go largely unrecognized, but their actions and service to the community are to be commended. I am honored to pay tribute to Mr. Webb, Mr. Wooten, and others like them. Please join me in thanking Mr. Webb, Mr. Wooten, and others for all that they have done and continue to do for the people of this great nation.

175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHARTER FOR SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the charter for Southwestern University in Georgetown, TX. The Lone Star State's first institution of higher education and Texas' leading undergraduate liberal arts and sciences university, Southwestern has progressed from its early pioneering roots to become a vibrant and diverse center of growth and potential.

By fostering a liberal arts community whose values and actions encourage contributions toward the well-being of humanity, Southwestern reflects the best values of Central Texas. Southwestern offers small classes and numerous collaborative undergraduate research opportunities. Over 1,500 students enjoy the warm, small-town feel of historic Georgetown as well as the close proximity of Austin with its

vibrant, innovative, and creative culture. Outside the classroom, students are civically engaged and volunteer in the community at more than twice the national average. Half of all students study abroad and most take advantage of leadership, service, and activism opportunities in Southwestern's 90+ student organizations.

Engaging minds remains at the forefront of the university's mission. Southwestern professors balance the highest level of scholarship with a serious dedication to teaching and collaboration with our students. The university has been recognized as a leading institution of higher learning. Both U.S. News & World Report and USA Today College rank Southwestern University the top national liberal arts colleges in Texas. Southwestern is consistently recognized as one of 40 colleges in the publication Colleges That Change Lives.

I'm proud that Southwestern University calls my congressional district home. For 175 years, this great college has been transforming lives and preparing our nation's next generation of leaders for success. I wish Southwestern University only the best as it continues its proud mission of scholarly excellence.

INTRODUCTION OF H. RES. 92, RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PROJECT HEAD START

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and deep appreciation for the opportunities this great nation affords to its citizens that I rise to announce that joined by more than 65 co-sponsors, I have today introduced H. Res. 92, a resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of Project Head Start, one of the signal achievements of the Great Society and boldest initiatives launched by the nation in the War on Poverty.

Launched in the White House Rose Garden on May 18, 1965, by President Lyndon Baines Johnson, the aim of Project Head Start was bold and audacious in its scope and design.

As President Johnson stated in announcing the opening of a new front in the War on Poverty with the launch of Project Head Start:

"We set out to make certain that poverty's children would not be forevermore poverty's captives. . . .

"This means that nearly half the preschool children of poverty will get a head start on their future. . . .

"These children will receive preschool training to prepare them for regular school in September. . . .

"They will get medical and dental attention that they badly need, and parents will receive counseling on improving the home environment."

Conceived as an eight-week summer program designed to provide pre-school training not just to prepare 5 and 6 year-olds to enter regular school the following September, but also to give nearly half the preschool children living in poverty "a head start on their future."

At its launch, the Head Start Program, administered by the Office of Economic Opportunity and wonderfully and skillfully led by its Director, Sargent Shriver, consisted of 2,500 projects, covering 11,000 Child Development Centers, serving about 530,000 poor children in every state of the Union.

Mr. Speaker, President Johnson recognized that the bleak future waiting for children trapped in poverty was not a phenomenon concentrated in the inner-cities of the large urban cities of the North but could be found in every region in every state in the nation.

That is why the Head Start Program was launched not as a mere demonstration project limited to a handful of counties, but as a program national in scope serving every city, suburb, and rural area in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to providing preschool training to prepare poor children to enter regular school and help put them on an even footing with their classmates as they enter school, the Head Start Program had an even higher aim and nobler purpose: to assist children prepare for the challenges they will face in life and to combat poverty's great weapons—hunger and malnutrition; illness and poor health; ignorance and cultural deprivation.

Project Head Start was from the start a national undertaking, utilizing the services of 41,000 professionals, including teachers, doctors, dentists, nurses, nutritionists, employing more than 47,000 persons, who were assisted by more than 500,000 volunteers.

Based on its initial success as a summer program, the following year, in 1966, Head Start was funded as a primarily part day, 9 month program, largely through existing community action programs.

In later years, the Head Start Program would be expanded to serve children with disabilities, Native Americans, homeless children, and to provide bilingual and bicultural migrant and seasonal programs serving 6,000 children in 21 states.

Today, the Head Start Program serves nearly a million poor children, including:

160,829 enrolled in Early Head Start for 3-year olds;

910,833 enrolled in Head Start;

20,627 American Indian/Alaska Native children enrolled in Head Start;

4,722 American Indian/Alaska Native children enrolled in Early Head Start;

32,082 children of migrant or seasonal workers enrolled in Head Start; and

40,853 homeless children enrolled in Head Start.

Additionally, Head Start Program serves 136,120 children with disabilities, 15,632 pregnant women, and provides services to 771,840 families.

In my home state of Texas, the Head Start Program serves 661,000 poor children under the age of 5, including 2,471 homeless children, 8,370 children with disabilities, and provides services to 53,333 families.

And in my home city of Houston, a remarkable organization called AVANCE has been serving the needs of low-income children and families since its founding in 1973.

AVANCE offers Head Start, Early Head Start, Parenting, Healthy Marriage, Fatherhood, and other programs designed to prepare

and help low-income children, students, and families reach their potential.

Mr. Speaker, not only has the Head Start Program been a great benefit to its direct beneficiaries, it has provided substantial economic and social benefits to the nation as a whole.

Research studies have shown that for each dollar invested, the Head Start program yields a rate of return on investment (ROI) of 7–9 percent and the program is responsible for the direct creation of 236,591 jobs, with an average annual salary of about \$31,000 for Head Start teachers with baccalaureate degrees.

Mr. Speaker, another societal benefit of the Head Start Program is the improved health of the children and families it serves.

Research has shown that the mortality rates for 5- to 9-year-old children who had attended Head Start are 33–50% lower than the rates for comparable children not enrolled in Head Start.

Moreover, Head Start children are less likely to fall victim to childhood obesity and are at least 8% more likely to have had their immunizations than children who did not attend preschool.

Mr. Speaker, the Head Start Program has been an unqualified success for the more than 31 million children and parents it has served since its inception in 1965.

And so it is that we can look back with pride on the 50 year record of this bold and innovative program.

But we cannot yet be satisfied because our work is not done and will not be done until every eligible child is afforded the opportunity to get a head start in life the program provides.

Today, only 42 percent of eligible low-income preschoolers are actually served by Head Start and less than 4 percent are in Early Head Start.

But we should not let the fact that we have more work to do to strengthen the Head Start Program detract from the joy and happiness we are justified in deriving from its half century of success and its vindication of our optimistic belief in the capacity of Americans to solve pressing national problems when people of goodwill work together in the spirit of cooperation rather than conflict.

The record of the Head Start Program shows that it can be done and that President Johnson was right—the Head Start Program was and is “one of the most constructive, and one of the most sensible, and also one of the most exciting programs that this Nation has ever undertaken.”

And its reward for this bold act is the collective service and contributions to the betterment of society made by the 31 million children that have been served by the program over the past 50 years.

I invite all Members of the House to join me in sponsoring the resolution celebrating the 50 year record of success of the Head Start Program and urge the Speaker to schedule H. Res. 92 for floor debate and vote at the earliest possible time so that the House may have the opportunity to pass the resolution on or before the May 18, 2015 anniversary date.

I thank all of my colleagues who joined me as original cosponsors of H. Res. 92, and I also wish to express my thanks and apprecia-

tion to Chelsea Ukoha and Gregory Berry of my staff for their exceptional efforts and work on this wonderful tribute to a program that has contributed so much to the richness and vitality of our country.

REINTRODUCING THE LENA HORNE RECOGNITION ACT OF 2015

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Lena Horne Recognition Act of 2015, which would award the Congressional Gold Medal to the late, renowned singer, actress, and Civil Rights icon, Ms. Lena Mary Calhoun Horne.

As an African American woman born in 1917, Ms. Horne, who passed away in 2010, was truly a woman of firsts, having pioneered the way for many men and women of color through her work in Jazz, film, and the Civil Rights movement. She began her career in the chorus line at Harlem's famed Cotton Club before moving on to record dozens of musical tracks and playing roles in movies and musicals.

As a young woman, Lena drew much fame from her beauty and talent, yet found many roadblocks in her personal success due to the hyper-racialized nature of show business at the time. However, this adversity would not limit her, and presented a platform for her increasing support of and action in the Civil Rights movement.

The first to do so, Lena signed a long term contract with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM) and embarked on a career in Hollywood, as her celebrity had been noticed by many, despite the color of her skin. She was also the first African American woman to be nominated for a Tony Award. However, again, she found road blocks in her professional life, due to state-law restrictions in on-screen interracial relationships as well as the need to have her roles edited out for Jim Crow abiding viewers. Blacklisted during the period of McCarthyism in the 1950s, Ms. Horne still recorded what would become the best-selling album by a female singer in RCA Victor's history in 1957.

From music and film, Lena had built a substantial fan base, and by the 1960s, at the peak of the Civil Rights movement, she became a staple on Television. She had become so renowned in popular culture despite her race that she appeared on shows such as the Dean Martin Show and Ed Sullivan Show. In 1970, Horne co-starred with well known actor, Harry Belafonte, on a show for ABC donning their names—“Harry and Lena.” She would go on to play herself on The Muppet Show, Sesame Street, and Sanford and Son. In 1981, Lena then received two Grammy awards and a special Tony award for her cast recording of her Broadway show, Lena Horne: The Lady and Her Music. In 1989, she received a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.

Amongst her many awards, Ms. Horne was the recipient of the Kennedy Center honor for lifetime contribution to the arts in 1984. She received two stars on the Hollywood Walk of

Fame—for her work in both motion pictures and recording—in addition to a footprint on the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site. Lena always fought back when opportunities presented themselves.

For example, during World War II, Lena had been slated to perform for segregated troops of U.S. servicemen. She was appalled to find that African American servicemen had been seated behind German prisoners of war, and refused to partake unless she could sing before an integrated group. As a compromise, Lena left the stage and sang directly in front of her African American counterparts, with the German prisoners of war to her rear.

Lena notably remained committed to bettering lives of the underserved and under-represented for the entirety of her life. An active participant in the movement, Lena met President John F. Kennedy shortly before his assassination, marched in the March on Washington, and ultimately performed and spoke on behalf of the NAACP, SNCC, and National Council of Negro Women. Also notable is the work that she engaged in with Former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt to pass anti-lynching laws. Lena was awarded the Spingarn Medal from the NAACP in 1983.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in support of honoring Lena Horne posthumously with a Congressional Gold Medal, for her outstanding contributions to American culture and the Civil Rights Movement. A beautiful person inside-out, Lena willed her talent, intelligence, and fame to fight against discrimination, traversing her career on a road filled with pot holes full of racial bias and degradation. Lena represents the very best of American ideals and signifies the true purpose of the American Dream.

HONORING CAPTAIN JEREMY W. POWELL, TECHNICAL SERGEANT MARK B. CORNETT, TECHNICAL SERGEANT BENJAMIN G. JACOBS, TECHNICAL SERGEANT JAMES J. JUNIPER, STAFF SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER D. RECTOR, HONOREES IN THE PORTRAITS IN COURAGE

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Captain Jeremy W. Powell, Technical Sergeant Mark B. Cornett, Technical Sergeant Benjamin G. Jacobs, Technical Sergeant James J. Juniper, and Staff Sergeant Christopher D. Rector who were included in the newest volume of the U.S. Air Force's Portraits in Courage.

Portraits in Courage highlight United States Air Force Airmen whose stories exemplify what it means to serve our country. These stories feature Airmen who "remind us that our core values are more than slogans."

On October 8, 2013, Captain Jeremy W. Powell, Staff Sergeant Christopher D. Rector, (then) Staff Sergeant Mark B. Cornett, (then) Staff Sergeant Benjamin G. Jacobs, and Tech-

nical Sergeant James J. Juniper were flying a routine mission when they responded to assist the evacuation of wounded coalition's troops. Under heavy fire, Captain Powell and his crew provided cover to the wounded unit. During the firefight, Technical Sergeant Juniper, who was manning the Mi-17 helicopter's M240 machinegun, was seriously wounded. (Then) Staff Sergeant Cornett and (then) Staff Sergeant Jacobs came to the aide of Technical Sergeant Juniper who was bleeding and unconscious on the aircraft's cabin floor.

Despite an extremely hostile environment and continual exposure to enemy fire, the advisors' aircraft remained overhead long enough to provide their wingmen the cover they needed to evacuate critically-wounded Afghans. The crew then retreated into safe airspace and made their way eighty miles to the nearest coalition base. Upon arrival, the crew learned that medical vehicles were unavailable. As such, (then) Staff Sergeant Jacobs and (then) Staff Sergeant Cornett were forced to commandeer a truck to rush Technical Sergeant Juniper to the nearest medical zone.

As a strong supporter of the United States Air Force, I am proud to represent the servicemen and women at Fairchild Air Force Base in Eastern Washington. Not only do these servicemen and women and their families make daily sacrifices to keep our nation safe, but they are integral members of our community.

So today, I rise to recognize Captain Jeremy W. Powell, Technical Sergeant Mark B. Cornett, Technical Sergeant Benjamin G. Jacobs, Technical Sergeant James J. Juniper, and Staff Sergeant Christopher D. Rector upon their inclusion in this year's Portraits in Courage. The outstanding heroism displayed deserves great recognition by the entire United States, the nation they have so selflessly served.

THE PASSING OF JAMES P. MCINTYRE

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember a lifelong Rhode Islander who dedicated his life to his country and to his family. James McIntyre leaves behind eight children, 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, and I have no doubt that his absence will be felt by them every day.

James served this nation in the Korean War, and after leaving the U.S. Army, he went on to become a longtime surveyor for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He never hesitated to lend a hand to family or friends. He was always eager to tackle a project, earning him a reputation as the resident handyman, and the first one to call when something needed fixing. His generosity of spirit was extended to his friends at the Knights of Columbus, and to all who asked.

I have had the honor of working with James's daughter, Nancy Beattie, for more than 20 years. Nancy is my director of constituent services and one of the kindest, most generous and genuine people that I have ever

met. She works tirelessly on behalf of my constituents, and is a living representation of the values that James instilled in his family. My deepest condolences go out to Nancy and to James's loving wife of 61 years, Margaret McIntyre, and I know my colleagues will join me in extending our sympathy to the entire McIntyre family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EVAN H. JENKINS

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 53 due to inclement weather, I was unable to vote on H.R. 623, Social Media Working Group Act. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT ANNIVERSARY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today on February 5, 2015, we celebrate the 22nd anniversary of the Family and Medical Leave Act, a family-friendly workplace policy that has benefited millions of American families. Since its passage in 1993, this landmark law has been used 200 million times by men and women across the nation. These individuals and their families have benefited from up to 12 weeks of unpaid job protected leave to care for a new child, sick family member, or a loved one recovering from a serious health condition.

While we celebrate this anniversary we must also recognize that after more than two decades our nation's family leave policies have not kept pace with changes to America's families and workforce. FMLA provides unpaid leave, which means families must choose between foregoing a paycheck and caring for a loved one. Most families today no longer have a stay-at-home parent to care for a new child, and even before the economic crisis, few could afford to go without pay for any length of time.

We need new policies that show that we truly value America's families. That is why I recently introduced the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act, legislation that provides federal employees with 6 weeks of paid leave following the birth, adoption, or fostering of a child. The Federal government is our nation's largest employer and as such should be leading the way on family-friendly workplace policy. By extending paid parental leave for new parents this bill helps diminish the risk of real economic hardship for the 2 million federal employees following the birth or adoption of a child.

I urge my colleagues to pass legislation that brings our country forward to the 21st century and reflects the realities of our nation's workforce.

A BILL TO STRENGTHEN EN-
FORCEMENT MECHANISMS TO
STOP IUU FISHING

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I re-introduce legislation to strengthen enforcement mechanisms to stop illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, which threatens the economic and social infrastructure of fishing communities and industry. Moreover, IUU fishing is a matter of national security for the United States and our allies across the globe, especially in the Asia-Pacific region.

The United States has become a world leader in sustainable management of marine fisheries, in great part due to the Magnuson-Stevens Act. In other parts of the world, how-

ever, poor fisheries management is more common, and stocks are overharvested—the direct result of IUU fishing.

IUU fishing is not only a matter of economic security and food sustainability. It is also a matter of national and regional security for the U.S. and our allies. IUU fishing is closely associated with various trafficking activities that are highly likely to operate from the same foreign vessels that engage in IUU fishing activities. IUU fishing has become a significant issue that has caused conflicts between countries and threatens regional stability such as that in the Asia-Pacific region.

Countries like Australia, Palau and now even Papua New Guinea have led the way in combating IUU fishing, and we must take immediate and forceful action as well. The bipartisan bill I am introducing today, the Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Act of 2015, along with my colleague from Alaska, Mr. YOUNG, would provide the

Coast Guard and NOAA with much-needed tools to fight illegal fishing. It would also implement the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate IUU fishing, a treaty ratified by the Senate last year that would set international standards for denying port entry and services to vessels that have engaged in illegal fishing.

This bill is the product of extensive negotiations between Democratic and Republican staff in the last Congress, and is supported by a broad coalition that includes the U.S. State Department, fishing industry interests, and conservation groups. The bill I introduce today is identical to language that passed the House Committee on Natural Resources by unanimous consent on September 18, 2014. I thank Mr. YOUNG and his staff for working with us on this legislation, and I look forward to bill becoming law and enhancing our ability to address the harmful effects of IUU fishing.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, February 9, 2015

The House met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS).

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

Mr. SCHIFF, California
Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ, California
Ms. DUCKWORTH, Illinois

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 9, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ANDY HARRIS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

In this Chamber, where the people's House gathers, we pause to offer You gratitude for the gift of this good land on which we live, for this great Nation which You have inspired in developing over so many years. Continue to inspire the American people that through the difficulties of these days we might keep liberty and justice alive in our Nation and in the world.

Give to us and all people a vivid sense of Your presence, that we may learn to understand each other, to respect each other, to work with each other, to live with each other, and to do good to each other. So shall we make our Nation great in goodness, and good in its greatness.

On this day we also ask Your blessing of peace and consolation upon the family of Representative ALAN NUNNELEE of the First District of Mississippi, who is being laid to rest this day. Bless as well the Members of this House, his staff, and all who mourn him. May he rest in peace.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 3, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 3, 2015 at 11:07 a.m.:

Appointment:
National Council on Disability.
With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE 2012 TERRORIST ATTACK IN BENGHAZI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 5, 114th Congress, and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, of the following Members to the Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi:

Mr. CUMMINGS, Maryland
Mr. SMITH, Washington

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the passing of the gentleman from the State of Mississippi, Mr. NUNNELEE, the whole number of the House is 433.

PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE RULES

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION FOR THE 114TH CONGRESS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, DC, February 6, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: Pursuant to clause 2(a)(2) of House Rule XI, I hereby submit the Rules of the Committee on House Administration for publication in the Congressional Record. The Rules were adopted by the Committee in its organizational meeting.

Sincerely,

CANDICE S. MILLER,
Chairman.

RULE NO. 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

(a) The Rules of the House are the rules of the Committee so far as applicable, except that a motion to recess from day to day is a privileged motion in the Committee.

(b) The Committee is authorized at any time to conduct such investigations and studies as it may consider necessary or appropriate in the exercise of its responsibilities under House Rule X and, subject to the adoption of expense resolutions as required by House Rule X, clause 6, to incur expenses (including travel expenses) in connection therewith.

(c) The Committee is authorized to have printed and bound testimony and other data presented at hearings held by the Committee, and to make such information available to the public. All costs of stenographic services and transcripts in connection with any meeting or hearing of the Committee shall be paid from the appropriate House account.

(d) The Committee shall submit to the House, not later than January 2 of each odd-numbered year, a report on the activities of the committee under House Rules X and XI.

(e) The Committee's rules shall be made publicly available in electronic form and published in the Congressional Record not later than 30 days after the Committee is elected in each odd-numbered year.

RULE NO. 2

REGULAR AND SPECIAL MEETINGS

(a) The regular meeting date of the Committee on House Administration shall be the

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

second Wednesday of every month when the House is in session in accordance with Clause 2(b) of House Rule XI. If the House is not in session on the second Wednesday of a month, the regular meeting date shall be the third Wednesday of that month. Additional meetings may be called by the Chair of the Committee as she or he may deem necessary or at the request of a majority of the members of the Committee in accordance with Clause 2(c) of House Rule XI. The determination of the business to be considered at each meeting shall be made by the Chair subject to Clause 2(c) of House Rule XI. A regularly scheduled meeting may be dispensed with if, in the judgment of the Chair, there is no need for the meeting.

(b) If the Chair is not present at any meeting of the Committee, the ranking member of the majority party who is present shall preside at the meeting.

(c) The Chair, in the case of meetings to be conducted by the Committee shall make public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of any meeting to be conducted on any measure or matter. Such meeting shall not commence earlier than the third day on which members have notice thereof. If the Chair, with the concurrence of the ranking minority member, determines that there is good cause to begin the meeting sooner, or if the Committee so determines by majority vote, a quorum being present, the Chair shall make the announcement at the earliest possible date. The announcement shall promptly be made publicly available in electronic form and published in the Daily Digest.

(d) The Chair, in the case of meetings to be conducted by the Committee shall make available on the Committee's web site the text of any legislation to be marked up at a meeting at least 24 hours before such meeting (or at the time of an announcement made within 24 hours of such meeting). This requirement shall also apply to any resolution or regulation to be considered at a meeting.

RULE NO. 3

OPEN MEETINGS

As required by Clause 2(g), of House Rule XI, each meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation of the Committee shall be open to the public except when the Committee in open session and with a quorum present determines by record vote that all or part of the remainder of the meeting on that day shall be closed to the public because disclosure of matters to be considered would endanger national security, would compromise sensitive law enforcement information, or would tend to defame, degrade or incriminate any person, or otherwise would violate any law or rule of the House. Provided, however, that no person other than members of the Committee, and such congressional staff and such other persons as the Committee may authorize, shall be present in any business or markup session which has been closed to the public. To the maximum extent practicable, the Chair shall cause to be provided audio and video coverage of each hearing or meeting that allows the public to easily listen to and view the proceedings and maintain the recordings of such coverage in a manner that is easily accessible to the public.

RULE NO. 4

RECORDS AND ROLLCALLS

(a)(1) A record vote shall be held if requested by any member of the Committee.

(2) The result of each record vote in any meeting of the Committee shall be made available for inspection by the public at rea-

sonable times at the Committee offices, including a description of the amendment, motion, order or other proposition; the name of each member voting for and against; and the members present but not voting.

(3) The Chairman shall make the record of the votes on any question on which a record vote is demanded available on the Committee's website not later than 48 hours after such vote is taken (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays). Such record shall include a description of the amendment, motion, order, or other proposition, the name of each member voting for and each member voting against such amendment, motion, order, or proposition, and the names of those members of the Committee present but not voting.

(4) The Chairman shall make available on the Committee's website not later than 24 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) after the adoption of any amendment to a measure or matter the text of such amendment. (b)(1) Subject to subparagraph (2), the Chairman may postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving any measure or matter or adopting an amendment. The Chair may resume proceedings on a postponed request at any time.

(2) In exercising postponement authority under subparagraph (1), the Chairman shall take all reasonable steps necessary to notify members on the resumption of proceedings on any postponed record vote.

(3) When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

(c) All Committee hearings, records, data, charts, and files shall be kept separate and distinct from the congressional office records of the member serving as Chair; and such records shall be the property of the House and all members of the House shall have access thereto.

(d) House records of the Committee which are at the National Archives shall be made available pursuant to House Rule VII. The Chairman shall notify the ranking minority member of any decision to withhold a record pursuant to the rule, and shall present the matter to the Committee upon written request of any Committee member.

(e) To the maximum extent feasible, the Committee shall make its publications available in electronic form.

RULE NO. 5

PROXIES

No vote by any member in the Committee may be cast by proxy.

RULE NO. 6

POWER TO SIT AND ACT; SUBPOENA POWER

(a) For the purpose of carrying out any of its functions and duties under House Rules X and XI, the Committee is authorized (subject to subparagraph (b)(1) of this paragraph)—

(1) to sit and act at such times and places within the United States, whether the House is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned, and to hold such hearings; and

(2) to require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memorandums, papers, documents and other materials as it deems necessary, including materials in electronic form. The Chair, or any member designated by the Chair, may administer oaths to any witness.

(b)(1) A subpoena may be authorized and issued by the Committee in the conduct of

any investigation or series of investigations or activities, only when authorized by a majority of the members voting, a majority being present. The power to authorize and issue subpoenas under subparagraph (a)(2) may be delegated to the Chair pursuant to such rules and under such limitations as the Committee may prescribe. Authorized subpoenas shall be signed by the Chair or by any member designated by the Committee, and may be served by any person designated by the Chair or such member.

(2) Compliance with any subpoena issued by the Committee may be enforced only as authorized or directed by the House.

RULE NO. 7

QUORUMS

No measure or recommendation shall be reported to the House unless a majority of the Committee is actually present. For the purposes of taking any action other than reporting any measure, issuance of a subpoena, closing meetings, promulgating Committee orders, or changing the rules of the Committee, one-third of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum. For purposes of taking testimony and receiving evidence, two members shall constitute a quorum.

RULE NO. 8

AMENDMENTS

Any amendment offered to any pending legislation before the Committee must be made available in written form when requested by any member of the Committee. If such amendment is not available in written form when requested, the Chair will allow an appropriate period of time for the provision thereof.

RULE NO. 9

HEARING PROCEDURES

(a) The Chair, in the case of hearings to be conducted by the Committee shall make public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted on any measure or matter at least one (1) week before the commencement of that hearing. If the Chair, with the concurrence of the ranking minority member, determines that there is good cause to begin the hearing sooner, or if the Committee so determines by majority vote, a quorum being present, the Chair shall make the announcement at the earliest possible date. The clerk of the Committee shall promptly notify the Daily Digest Clerk of the Congressional Record as soon as possible after such public announcement is made.

(b) Unless excused by the Chair, each witness who is to appear before the Committee shall file with the clerk of the Committee, at least 48 hours in advance of his or her appearance, a written statement of his or her proposed testimony and shall limit his or her oral presentation to a summary of his or her statement.

(c) When any hearing is conducted by the Committee upon any measure or matter, the minority party members on the Committee shall be entitled, upon request to the Chair by a majority of those minority members before the completion of such hearing, to call witnesses selected by the minority to testify with respect to that measure or matter during at least one day of hearings thereon.

(d) Reserved.

(e) Committee members may question witnesses only when they have been recognized by the Chair for that purpose, and only for a 5-minute period until all members present have had an opportunity to question a witness. The 5-minute period for questioning a

witness by any one member can be extended as provided by House Rules. The questioning of a witness in Committee hearings shall be initiated by the Chair, followed by the ranking minority member and all other members alternating between the majority and minority. In recognizing members to question witnesses in this fashion, the Chair shall take into consideration the ratio of the majority to minority members present and shall establish the order of recognition for questioning in such a manner as not to disadvantage the members of the majority. The Chair may accomplish this by recognizing two majority members for each minority member recognized.

(f) The following additional rules shall apply to hearings of the Committee as applicable:

(1) The Chair at a hearing shall announce in an opening statement the subject of the investigation.

(2) A copy of the Committee rules and this clause shall be made available to each witness as provided by clause 2(k)(2) of Rule XI.

(3) Witnesses at hearings may be accompanied by their own counsel for the purpose of advising them concerning their constitutional rights.

(4) The Chair may punish breaches of order and decorum, and of professional ethics on the part of counsel, by censure and exclusion from the hearings; and the Committee may cite the offender to the House for contempt.

(5) If the Committee determines that evidence or testimony at a hearing may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person, it shall—

(A) afford such person an opportunity voluntarily to appear as a witness;

(B) receive such evidence or testimony in executive session; and

(C) receive and dispose of requests from such person to subpoena additional witnesses.

(6) Except as provided in subparagraph (f)(5), the Chair shall receive and the Committee shall dispose of requests to subpoena additional witnesses.

(7) No evidence or testimony taken in executive session may be released or used in public sessions without the consent of the Committee.

(8) In the discretion of the Committee, witnesses may submit brief and pertinent sworn statements in writing for inclusion in the record. The Committee is the sole judge of the pertinence of testimony and evidence adduced at its hearing.

(9) A witness may obtain a transcript copy of his testimony given at a public session or, if given at an executive session, when authorized by the Committee.

RULE NO. 10

PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING MEASURES OR MATTERS

(a)(1) It shall be the duty of the Chair to report or cause to be reported promptly to the House any measure approved by the Committee and to take or cause to be taken necessary steps to bring the matter to a vote.

(2) In any event, the report of the Committee on a measure which has been approved by the Committee shall be filed within 7 calendar days (exclusive of days on which the House is not in session) after the day on which there has been filed with the clerk of the Committee a written request, signed by a majority of the members of the Committee, for the reporting of that measure. Upon the filing of any such request, the clerk of the Committee shall transmit immediately to the Chair notice of the filing of that request.

(b)(1) No measure or recommendation shall be reported to the House unless a majority of the Committee is actually present.

(2) With respect to each record vote on a motion to report any measure or matter of a public character, and on any amendment offered to the measure or matter, the total number of votes cast for and against, and the names of those members voting for and against, shall be included in the Committee report on the measure or matter.

(c) The report of the Committee on a measure or matter which has been approved by the Committee shall include the matters required by Clause 3(c) of Rule XIII of the Rules of the House.

(d) If, at the time any measure or matter is ordered reported by the Committee, any member of the Committee gives notice of intention to file supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views, that member shall be entitled to not less than two additional calendar days after the day of such notice, commencing on the day on which the measure or matter(s) was approved, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, in which to file such views, in writing and signed by that member, with the clerk of the Committee. All such views so filed by one or more members of the Committee shall be included within, and shall be a part of, the report filed by the Committee with respect to that measure or matter. The report of the Committee upon that measure or matter shall be printed in a single volume which—

(1) shall include all supplemental, minority, additional or dissenting views, in the form submitted, by the time of the filing of the report, and

(2) shall bear upon its cover a recital that any such supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views (and any material submitted under subparagraph (c)) are included as part of the report. This subparagraph does not preclude—

(A) the immediate filing or printing of a Committee report unless timely request for the opportunity to file supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views has been made as provided by paragraph (c); or

(B) the filing of any supplemental report upon any measure or matter which may be required for the correction of any technical error in a previous report made by the Committee upon that measure or matter.

(3) shall, when appropriate, contain the documents required by Clause 3(e) of Rule XIII of the Rules of the House.

(e) The Chair, following consultation with the ranking minority member, is directed to offer a motion under clause 1 of Rule XXII of the Rules of the House, relating to going to conference with the Senate, whenever the Chair considers it appropriate.

(f) If hearings have been held on any such measure or matter so reported, the Committee shall make every reasonable effort to have such hearings published and available to the members of the House prior to the consideration of such measure or matter in the House.

(g) The Chair may designate any majority member of the Committee to act as “floor manager” of a bill or resolution during its consideration in the House.

RULE NO. 11

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT

The Committee shall conduct oversight of matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee in accordance with House Rule X, clause 2 and clause 4. Not later than February 15 of the first session of a Congress, the Committee shall, in a meeting that is open to the public and with a quorum

present, adopt its oversight plan for that Congress in accordance with House Rule X, clause 2(d).

RULE NO. 12

REVIEW OF CONTINUING PROGRAMS; BUDGET ACT PROVISIONS

(a) The Committee shall, in its consideration of all bills and joint resolutions of a public character within its jurisdiction, ensure that appropriation for continuing programs and activities of the Federal Government will be made annually to the maximum extent feasible and consistent with the nature, requirement, and objectives of the programs and activities involved. For the purposes of this paragraph a Government agency includes the organizational units of government listed in Clause 4(e) of Rule X of House Rules.

(b) The Committee shall review, from time to time, each continuing program within its jurisdiction for which appropriations are not made annually in order to ascertain whether such program could be modified so that appropriations therefore would be made annually.

(c) The Committee shall, on or before February 25 of each year, submit to the Committee on the Budget (1) its views and estimates with respect to all matters to be set forth in the concurrent resolution on the budget for the ensuing fiscal year which are within its jurisdiction or functions, and (2) an estimate of the total amounts of new budget authority, and budget outlays resulting therefrom, to be provided or authorized in all bills and resolutions within its jurisdiction which it intends to be effective during that fiscal year.

(d) As soon as practicable after a concurrent resolution on the budget for any fiscal year is agreed to, the Committee (after consulting with the appropriate committee or committees of the Senate) shall subdivide any allocation made to it in the joint explanatory statement accompanying the conference report on such resolution, and promptly report such subdivisions to the House, in the manner provided by section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

(e) Whenever the Committee is directed in a concurrent resolution on the budget to determine and recommend changes in laws, bills, or resolutions under the reconciliation process it shall promptly make such determination and recommendations, and report a reconciliation bill or resolution (or both) to the House or submit such recommendations to the Committee on the Budget, in accordance with the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

RULE NO. 13

BROADCASTING OF COMMITTEE HEARINGS AND MEETINGS

Whenever any hearing or meeting conducted by the Committee is open to the public, those proceedings shall be open to coverage by television, radio, and still photography, as provided in Clause 4 of House Rule XI, subject to the limitations therein. Operation and use of any Committee Internet broadcast system shall be fair and nonpartisan and in accordance with Clause 4(b) of rule XI and all other applicable rules of the Committee and the House.

RULE NO. 14

COMMITTEE STAFF

The staff of the Committee on House Administration shall be appointed as follows:

(a) The staff shall be appointed by the Chair except as provided in paragraph (b), and may be removed by the Chair, and shall

work under the general supervision and direction of the Chair;

(b) All staff provided to the minority party members of the Committee shall be appointed by the ranking minority member, and may be removed by the ranking minority member of the Committee, and shall work under the general supervision and direction of such member;

(c) The appointment of all professional staff shall be subject to the approval of the Committee as provided by, and subject to the provisions of, clause 9 of Rule X of the Rules of the House;

(d) The Chair shall fix the compensation of all staff of the Committee, after consultation with the ranking minority member regarding any minority party staff, within the budget approved for such purposes for the Committee.

RULE NO. 15

TRAVEL OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

(a) Consistent with the primary expense resolution and such additional expense resolutions as may have been approved, the provisions of this rule shall govern travel of Committee members and staff. Travel for any member or any staff member shall be paid only upon the prior authorization of the Chair or her or his designee. Travel may be authorized by the Chair for any member and any staff member in connection with the attendance at hearings conducted by the Committee and meetings, conferences, and investigations which involve activities or subject matter under the general jurisdiction of the Committee. Before such authorization is given there shall be submitted to the Chair in writing the following:

- (1) The purpose of the travel;
- (2) The dates during which the travel will occur;
- (3) The locations to be visited and the length of time to be spent in each; and
- (4) The names of members and staff seeking authorization.

(b)(1) In the case of travel outside the United States of members and staff of the Committee for the purpose of conducting hearings, investigations, studies, or attending meetings and conferences involving activities or subject matter under the legislative assignment of the committee, prior authorization must be obtained from the Chair. Before such authorization is given, there shall be submitted to the Chair, in writing, a request for such authorization. Each request, which shall be filed in a manner that allows for a reasonable period of time for review before such travel is scheduled to begin, shall include the following:

- (A) the purpose of the travel;
- (B) the dates during which the travel will occur;
- (C) the names of the countries to be visited and the length of time to be spent in each;
- (D) an agenda of anticipated activities for each country for which travel is authorized together with a description of the purpose to be served and the areas of committee jurisdiction involved; and
- (E) the names of members and staff for whom authorization is sought.

(2) At the conclusion of any hearing, investigation, study, meeting or conference for which travel outside the United States has been authorized pursuant to this rule, members and staff attending meetings or conferences shall submit a written report to the Chair covering the activities and other pertinent observations or information gained as a result of such travel.

(c) Members and staff of the Committee performing authorized travel on official busi-

ness shall be governed by applicable laws, resolutions, or regulations of the House and of the Committee on House Administration pertaining to such travel.

RULE NO. 16

Reserved.

RULE NO. 17

Reserved.

RULE NO. 18

OTHER PROCEDURES AND REGULATIONS

The Chair may establish such other procedures and take such actions as may be necessary to carry out the foregoing rules or to facilitate the effective operation of the committee.

RULE NO. 19

DESIGNATION OF CLERK OF THE COMMITTEE

For the purposes of these rules and the Rules of the House of Representatives, the staff director of the Committee shall act as the clerk of the Committee.

PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE RULES

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM FOR THE 114TH CONGRESS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM,

Washington, DC, February 5, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to clause 2(a)(2) of House Rule XI, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform adopted its rules for the 114th Congress on January 27, 2015, and I submit them now for publication in the Congressional Record.

Sincerely,

JASON CHAFFETZ,
Chairman.

RULE 1—APPLICATION OF RULES

Except where the terms "full committee" and "subcommittee" are specifically referred to, the following rules shall apply to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and its subcommittees as well as to the respective chairs and ranking minority members.

RULE 2—MEETINGS

The regular meetings of the full committee shall be held on the second Thursday of each month at 10 a.m., when the House is in session. The chairman is authorized to dispense with a regular meeting or to change the date thereof, and to call and convene additional meetings, when circumstances warrant. A special meeting of the committee may be requested by members of the committee pursuant to the provisions of House Rule XI, clause 2(c)(2). Subcommittees shall meet at the call of the subcommittee chairs. Every member of the committee, unless prevented by unusual circumstances, shall be provided with a memorandum at least three calendar days before each meeting or hearing explaining: (1) the purpose of the meeting or hearing; and (2) the names, titles, background and reasons for appearance of any witnesses. The ranking minority member shall be responsible for providing the same information on witnesses whom the minority may request.

RULE 3—QUORUMS

(a) A majority of the members of the committee shall form a quorum, except that two members shall constitute a quorum for tak-

ing testimony and receiving evidence, and one third of the members shall form a quorum for taking any action other than for which the presence of a majority of the committee is otherwise required. If the chairman is not present at any meeting of the committee or subcommittee, the ranking member of the majority party on the committee who is present shall preside at that meeting.

(b) The chairman of the full committee may, at the request of a subcommittee chair, make a temporary assignment of any member of the full committee to such subcommittee for the purpose of constituting a quorum at and participating in any public hearing by such subcommittee to be held outside of Washington, DC. Members appointed to such temporary positions shall not be voting members. The chairman shall give reasonable notice of such temporary assignment to the ranking minority members of the committee.

RULE 4—COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) Bills and resolutions approved by the full committee shall be reported by the chairman pursuant to House Rule XIII, clauses 2-4.

(b) A proposed investigative or oversight report shall not be considered in the committee unless the proposed report has been available to the members of the committee for at least three calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, unless the House is in session on such days) before consideration of such proposed report in the committee. If hearings have been held on the matter reported upon, every reasonable effort shall be made to have such hearings printed and available to the members of the committee before the consideration of the proposed report in the committee.

(c) Every investigative or oversight report shall be approved by a majority vote of the committee at a meeting at which a quorum is present. If at the time of approval of such a report a member of the committee gives notice of intent to file supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views that member shall be entitled to file such views following House Rule XI, clause 2(1) and Rule XIII, clause 3(a)(1).

(d) Only those investigative or oversight reports approved by a majority vote of the committee may be ordered printed, unless otherwise required by the Rules of the House of Representatives.

RULE 5—RECORD VOTES

(a) A record vote of the members may be had upon the request of any member upon approval of a one-fifth vote of the members present.

(b) Pursuant to House Rule XI, clause 2(h)(4), the chairman is authorized to postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving a measure or matter or on adopting an amendment and to resume proceedings on a postponed question at any time after reasonable notice. When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed. After consultation with the ranking minority member, the chairman shall take reasonable steps to notify members on the resumption of proceedings on any postponed record vote.

RULE 6—SUBCOMMITTEES; REFERRALS

(a) There shall be six standing subcommittees with appropriate party ratios. The chairman shall assign members to the subcommittees. Minority party assignments

shall be made only with the concurrence of the ranking minority member. The subcommittees shall have the following fixed jurisdictions:

(1) The Subcommittee on Government Operations—Legislative and oversight jurisdiction over government management and accounting measures; the economy, efficiency, and management of government operations and activities; procurement; federal property; public information, including the Freedom of Information Act and Federal Advisory Committee Act; federal records (including the National Archives and Records Administration and the Presidential Records Act); federal civil service; the U.S. Postal Service; the Census Bureau; and the District of Columbia. The Subcommittee also has legislative jurisdiction over drug policy and the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

(2) The Subcommittee on National Security—Oversight jurisdiction over national security, homeland security, foreign operations, immigration, defense, and criminal justice.

(3) The Subcommittee on Healthcare, Benefits, and Administrative Rules—Oversight jurisdiction over health care policy, administration, and programs; regulatory affairs; government-wide rules and regulations; Social Security; and the administration and solvency of benefit and entitlement programs.

(4) The Subcommittee on the Interior—Oversight jurisdiction over food and drug safety, energy policy, public lands, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of the Interior.

(5) The Subcommittee on Information Technology—Oversight jurisdiction over information security management, cybersecurity, information technology policy and procurement, emerging technologies, intellectual property, telecommunications, and privacy.

(6) The Subcommittee on Transportation and Public Assets—Oversight jurisdiction over federal real property, the General Services Administration, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Transportation Security Administration, and the Department of Transportation.

(b) Bills, resolutions, and other matters shall be expeditiously referred by the chairman to subcommittees for consideration or investigation in accordance with their fixed jurisdictions. Where the subject matter of the referral involves the jurisdiction of more than one subcommittee or does not fall within any previously assigned jurisdiction, the chairman shall refer the matter as he may deem advisable. Bills, resolutions, and other matters referred to subcommittees may be re-referred or discharged by the chairman when, in his judgment, the subcommittee is not able to complete its work or cannot reach agreement therein.

(c) The chairman and the ranking minority member of the full committee shall be ex officio members of all subcommittees. They are authorized to vote on subcommittee matters; but, unless they are regular members of the subcommittee, they shall not be counted in determining a subcommittee quorum other than a quorum for taking testimony.

RULE 7—SUBCOMMITTEE SCHEDULING

(a) Each subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive testimony, mark up legislation, and report to the full committee on any measure or matter referred to it.

(b) No subcommittee may meet or hold a hearing at the same time as a meeting or hearing of the full committee.

(c) The chair of each subcommittee shall set hearing and meeting dates only with the approval of the full committee chairman with a view toward assuring the availability of meeting rooms and avoiding simultaneous scheduling of committee meetings or hearings.

(d) Each subcommittee chair shall notify the chairman of any hearing plans at least two weeks before the date of commencement of the hearings, including the date, place, subject matter, and the names of witnesses, willing and unwilling, who would be called to testify, including, to the extent the chair is advised thereof, witnesses whom the minority members may request.

RULE 8—STAFF

(a) Except as otherwise provided by House Rule X, clauses 6, 7 and 9, the chairman of the full committee shall have the authority to hire and discharge employees of the professional and clerical staff of the committee.

(b) Except as otherwise provided by House Rule X, clauses 6, 7 and 9, the staff of the committee shall be subject to the direction of the chairman of the full committee and shall perform such duties as he or she may assign.

RULE 9—HEARINGS

(a) A committee member may question witnesses only when recognized by the chairman for that purpose. In accordance with House Rule XI, clause 2(j)(2), the five-minute rule shall apply during the questioning of witnesses in a hearing. The chairman shall, so far as practicable, recognize alternately based on seniority of those majority and minority members present at the time the hearing was called to order and others based on their arrival at the hearing. After that, additional time may be extended at the direction of the chairman.

(b) The chairman, or the committee by motion, may permit a specified number of majority and minority members to question a witness for a specified, total period that is equal for each side and not longer than thirty minutes for each side.

(c) The chairman, or the committee by motion, may permit committee staff of the majority and minority to question a witness for a specified, total period that is equal for each side and not longer than thirty minutes for each side.

(d) Nothing in paragraph (b) or (c) affects the rights of a member (other than a member designated under paragraph (b)) to question a witness for 5 minutes in accordance with paragraph (a). In any extended questioning permitted under paragraph (b) or (c), the chairman shall determine how to allocate the time permitted for extended questioning by majority members or majority committee staff, and the ranking minority member shall determine how to allocate the time permitted for extended questioning by minority members or minority committee staff.

(e) Hearings shall be conducted according to the procedures in House Rule XI, clause 2(k). All questions put to witnesses before the committee shall be relevant to the subject matter before the Committee for consideration, and the chairman shall rule on the relevance of any questions put to the witnesses.

(f) Witnesses appearing before the committee shall so far as practicable, submit written statements at least 24 hours before their appearance. Witnesses appearing in a non-governmental capacity shall include a curriculum vitae and a disclosure of the amount and source (by agency and program)

of each federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof), as well as the amount and source of payments or contracts originating from foreign governments, insofar as they relate to the subject matter of the hearing, received during the current fiscal year or either of the two previous fiscal years, by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness.

(g) The chairman or any member designated by the chairman may administer oaths to any witness before the committee. All witnesses appearing in hearings may be administered the following oath by the chairman or his designee prior to receiving the testimony: "Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the testimony that you are about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?"

(h) To the maximum extent practicable, amendments to a measure or matter shall be submitted in writing or electronically to the designee of both the chairman and ranking minority member at least 24 hours prior to the consideration of the measure or matter. The chairman may use his discretion to give priority to amendments submitted in advance.

RULE 10—COMMITTEE RECORDS, OPEN MEETINGS, TRANSPARENCY

(a) The committee staff shall maintain in the committee offices a complete record of committee actions from the current Congress including a record of the roll call votes taken at committee business meetings. The original records, or true copies thereof, as appropriate, shall be available for public inspection whenever the committee offices are open for public business. The staff shall assure that such original records are preserved with no unauthorized alteration, additions, or defacement.

(b) A stenographic record of all testimony shall be kept of public hearings and shall be made available on such conditions as the chairman may prescribe.

(c) Meetings for the transaction of business and hearings of the committee shall be open to the public or closed in accordance with the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(d) The chairman of the full committee shall maintain an official website on behalf of the committee for the purpose of furthering the committee's legislative and oversight responsibilities, including communicating information about the committee's activities to committee members and other members of the House. To the greatest extent practicable, the chairman shall ensure that committee records are made available on the committee's official website in appropriate formats.

(e) The ranking minority member of the full committee is authorized to maintain a similar official website on behalf of the committee minority for the same purpose, including communicating information about the activities of the minority to committee members and other members of the House.

RULE 11—AUDIO AND VISUAL COVERAGE OF COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

(a) An open meeting or hearing of the committee may be covered, in whole or in part, by television broadcast, radio broadcast, internet broadcast, and still photography, unless closed subject to the provisions of House Rules. Any such coverage shall conform to the provisions of House Rule XI, clause 4.

(b) Use of the Committee Broadcast System shall be fair and nonpartisan, and in accordance with House Rule XI, clause 4(b), and all other applicable rules of the House of

Representatives and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Members of the committee shall have prompt access to a copy of coverage by the Committee Broadcast System, to the extent that such coverage is maintained.

(c) Personnel providing coverage of an open meeting or hearing of the committee by internet broadcast, other than through the Committee Broadcast System shall be currently accredited to the Radio and Television Correspondents' Galleries. If the Committee Broadcast System is not available, the chairman may, with the concurrence of the ranking minority member, direct staff to provide coverage in a manner that is fair and nonpartisan and in accordance with House Rule XI, clause 4.

RULE 12—ADDITIONAL DUTIES OF CHAIRMAN

The chairman of the full committee shall:

(a) Make available to other committees the findings and recommendations resulting from the investigations of the committee as required by House Rule X, clause 4(c)(2);

(b) Direct such review and studies on the impact or probable impact of tax policies affecting subjects within the committee's jurisdiction as required by House Rule X, clause 2(c);

(c) Submit to the Committee on the Budget views and estimates required by House Rule X, clause 4(f), and to file reports with the House as required by the Congressional Budget Act;

(d) Authorize and issue subpoenas as provided in House Rule XI, clause 2(m), in the conduct of any investigation or activity or series of investigations or activities within the jurisdiction of the Committee;

(e) Prepare, after consultation with the ranking minority member, a budget for the Committee;

(f) Make any necessary technical and conforming changes to legislation reported by the committee upon unanimous consent; and

(g) Offer motions under clause 1 of Rule XXII of the Rules of the House (motion to request or agree to a conference) whenever the chairman considers it appropriate.

RULE 13—CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

(a) The determination of the subject matter of commemorative stamps and new semi-postal issues is properly for consideration by the Postmaster General and the committee will not give consideration to legislative proposals specifying the subject matter of commemorative stamps and new semi-postal issues. It is suggested that recommendations for the subject matter of stamps be submitted to the Postmaster General.

(b) The consideration of bills designating facilities of the United States Postal Service shall be conducted so as to minimize the time spent on such matters by the committee and the House of Representatives.

(c) The chairman shall not request to have scheduled any resolution for consideration under suspension of the Rules, which expresses appreciation, commendations, congratulates, celebrates, recognizes the accomplishments of, or celebrates the anniversary of, an entity, event, group, individual, institution, team or government program; or acknowledges or recognizes a period of time for such purposes.

RULE 14—PANELS AND TASK FORCES

(a) The chairman of the full committee is authorized to appoint panels or task forces to carry out the duties and functions of the committee.

(b) The chairman and ranking minority member of the full committee may serve as

ex-officio members of each panel or task force.

(c) The chairman of any panel or task force shall be appointed by the chairman of the full committee. The ranking minority member of the full committee shall select a ranking minority member for each panel or task force.

(d) The House and committee rules applicable to subcommittee meetings, hearings, recommendations, and reports shall apply to the meetings, hearings, recommendations, and reports of panels and task forces.

(e) No panel or task force so appointed shall continue in existence for more than six months. A panel or task force so appointed may, upon the expiration of six months, be reappointed by the chairman.

RULE 15—DEPOSITION AUTHORITY

(a) The chairman of the full committee, upon consultation with the ranking minority member of the full committee, may order the taking of depositions, under oath and pursuant to notice or subpoena.

(b) Notices for the taking of depositions shall specify the date, time, and place of examination (if other than within the committee offices). Depositions shall be taken under oath administered by a member or a person otherwise authorized to administer oaths.

(c) Consultation with the ranking minority member shall include three business days notice before any deposition is taken. All members shall also receive three business days notice that a deposition has been scheduled.

(d) Witnesses may be accompanied at a deposition by counsel to advise them of their rights. No one may be present at depositions except members, committee staff designated by the chairman or ranking minority member of the full committee, an official reporter, the witness, and the witness's counsel. Observers or counsel for other persons, or for agencies under investigation, may not attend.

(e) At least one member of the committee shall be present at each deposition taken by the committee, unless the witness to be deposed agrees in writing to waive this requirement.

(f) A deposition shall be conducted by any member or staff attorney designated by the chairman or ranking minority member. When depositions are conducted by committee staff attorneys, there shall be no more than two committee staff attorneys permitted to question a witness per round. One of the committee staff attorneys shall be designated by the chairman and the other by the ranking minority member. Other committee staff members designated by the chairman or ranking minority member may attend, but may not pose questions to the witness.

(g) Questions in the deposition shall be propounded in rounds, alternating between the majority and minority. A single round shall not exceed 60 minutes per side, unless the members or staff attorneys conducting the deposition agree to a different length of questioning. In each round, a member or committee staff attorney designated by the chairman shall ask questions first, and the member or committee staff attorney designated by the ranking minority member shall ask questions second.

(h) Any objection made during a deposition must be stated concisely and in a non-argumentative and non-suggestive manner. The witness may refuse to answer a question only to preserve a privilege. When the witness has objected and refused to answer a question to preserve a privilege, the full

committee chairman may rule on any such objection after the deposition has adjourned. If the chairman overrules any such objection and thereby orders a witness to answer any question to which a privilege objection was lodged, such ruling shall be filed with the clerk of the committee and shall be provided to the members and the witness no less than three days before the reconvened deposition. If a member of the committee appeals in writing the ruling of the chairman, the appeal shall be preserved for committee consideration. A deponent who refuses to answer a question after being directed to answer by the chairman in writing may be subject to sanction, except that no sanctions may be imposed if the ruling of the chairman is reversed on appeal.

(i) Committee staff shall ensure that the testimony is either transcribed or electronically recorded or both. If a witness's testimony is transcribed, the witness or the witness's counsel shall be afforded an opportunity to review a copy. No later than five days thereafter, the witness may submit suggested changes to the chairman. Committee staff may make any typographical and technical changes. Substantive changes, modifications, clarifications, or amendments to the deposition transcript submitted by the witness must be accompanied by a letter signed by the witness requesting the changes and a statement of the witness's reasons for each proposed change. Any substantive changes, modifications, clarifications, or amendments shall be included as an appendix to the transcript conditioned upon the witness signing the transcript.

(j) The individual administering the oath, if other than a member, shall certify on the transcript that the witness was duly sworn. The transcriber shall certify that the transcript is a true record of the testimony, and the transcript shall be filed, together with any electronic recording, with the clerk of the Committee in Washington, DC. Depositions shall be considered to have been taken in Washington, DC, as well as the location actually taken once filed there with the clerk of the Committee for the Committee's use. The chairman and the ranking minority member of the full committee shall be provided with a copy of the transcripts of the deposition at the same time.

(k) The chairman and ranking minority member of the full committee shall consult regarding the release of depositions. If either objects in writing to a proposed release of a deposition or a portion thereof, the matter shall be promptly referred to the full committee for resolution.

(l) A witness shall not be required to testify unless the witness has been provided with a copy of the committee's rules.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the House stands adjourned until noon tomorrow for morning-hour debate.

There was no objection.

Thereupon (at 1 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, February 10, 2015, at noon for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

353. A letter from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Animal Welfare; Retail Pet Stores and Licensing Exemptions; Technical Amendment [Docket No.: APHIS-2011-0003] (RIN: 0579-AD57) received January 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

354. A letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization for Colonel Michael J. Tarsa, United States Army, to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

355. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (New Castle County, DE, et al.) [Docket ID: FEMA-2014-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8365] received February 2, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

356. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (Anne Arundel County, MD, et al.) [Docket ID: FEMA-2014-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8367] received January 29, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

357. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Revisions to Annual Return/Report — Multiple-Employer Plans (RIN: 1210-AB66) received January 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

358. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Environment, Health, Safety and Security, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Technical Amendments: Transfer of Office Functions (RIN: 1992-AA47) received February 2, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

359. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources and Chief Financial Officer, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Fiscal Year 2014 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA) of 1982; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

360. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting consistent with the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, adopted by the Senate of the United States on April 24, 1997, and Executive Order 13346 of July 8, 2004, a certification for calendar year 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

361. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning international agreements other than treaties, entered into by the United States, to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

362. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National

Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Lebanon that was declared in Executive Order 13441 of August 1, 2007; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

363. A letter from the Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting the Board's report "The Impact of Recruitment Strategy on Fair and Open Competition for Federal Jobs", pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 1204(a)(3); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

364. A letter from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting the Office's Explanatory Notes, Annual Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report for Fiscal Year 2016; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

365. A letter from the Chief Administrative Officer, transmitting a quarterly report of receipts and expenditures of appropriations and other funds for the period October 1, 2014, through December 31, 2014, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 104a; Public Law 88-454; (H. Doc. No. 114—8); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

366. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zones; Dignitary Arrival/Departure and United Nations Meetings, New York, NY [Docket No.: USCG-2013-1009] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received January 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

367. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Blue Water Resort and Casino Southwest Showdown 4; Parker, AZ [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0990] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

368. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Eastport Breakwater Terminal, Eastport, Maine [USCG-2014-1037] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

369. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulated Navigation Areas and Limited Access Areas; Waterway Management of Apra Harbor, Guam [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0935] (RIN: 1625-AA00, 1625-AA11, and 1625-AA87) received January 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

370. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Regulated Navigation Area; Sarah Mildred Long Bridge Replacement, Portsmouth, NH [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0554] (RIN: 1625-AA11) received January 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

371. A letter from the Chair, Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Panel's Annual Report for 2014, pursuant to Public Law 109-155, section 106(b); to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

372. A letter from the Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for WTO and Multilateral Affairs, Office of the United States Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President, transmitting the Administration's Annual Report on Subsidies Enforcement, pursuant to the Statement of Administrative Action of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 629. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the reduced recognition period for built-in gains of S corporations; with an amendment (Rept. 114-15). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 630. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent certain rules regarding basis adjustments to stock of S corporations making charitable contributions of property; with an amendment (Rept. 114-16). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 641. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions; with an amendment (Rept. 114-17). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 644. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory; with an amendment (Rept. 114-18). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 640. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the tax rate for excise tax on investment income of private foundations; with an amendment (Rept. 114-19, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 637. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the rule allowing certain tax-free distributions from individual retirement accounts for charitable purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-20, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 636. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-21, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, Committee on the Budget discharged from further consideration. H.R. 636 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, Committee on the Budget discharged

from further consideration. H.R. 637 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, Committee on the Budget discharged from further consideration. H.R. 640 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. PALAZZO (for himself, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama):

H.R. 810. A bill to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana (for himself and Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California):

H.R. 811. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide notice to charities and other nonprofit organizations before their tax-exempt status is automatically revoked; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SIMPSON (for himself, Mr. COLE, and Mr. HECK of Washington):

H.R. 812. A bill to provide for Indian trust asset management reform, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. BERA, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. MCNERNEY):

H.R. 813. A bill to supplement the Secretary of the Army's existing authorities to review the operations of reservoirs; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. JOLLY:

H.R. 814. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide additional aggravating factors for the imposition of the death penalty based on the status of the victim; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LONG (for himself, Mr. SCHRAEDER, Mr. BURGESS, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. OLSON, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. PETERS, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

H.R. 815. A bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to preserve consumer and employer access to licensed independent insurance producers; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia (for himself, Mr. JORDAN, Mrs. NOEM, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mrs. WAGNER, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. JONES, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. GOMERT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. HARRIS, Mr.

BOUSTANY, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. BUCK, Mr. SALMON, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. PITTINGER, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. HARPER, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. OLSON, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. LATTA, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mrs. LOVE, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H.R. 816. A bill to implement equal protection under the 14th article of amendment to the Constitution for the right to life of each born and preborn human person; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NUNES (for himself, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. COOK, and Mr. DEFAZIO):

H.R. 817. A bill to suspend the implementation of zip code reclassifications for Medicare payment for ambulance services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROSKAM (for himself, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. BERA, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. COOPER, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. HANNA, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. KIND, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. OLSON, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. WOMACK):

H.R. 818. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to curb waste, fraud, and abuse in the Medicare and Medicaid programs; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 819. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to use the definitions in section 40125 of title 49, United States Code, in determining whether an unmanned aircraft conducting aeronautical research flights qualifies for public aircraft status under that section, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. KLINE (for himself and Mr. ROE of Tennessee):

H.J. Res. 29. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to representation case procedures; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CHAFFETZ:

H. Res. 97. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. PALAZZO:

H.R. 810.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes; and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 811.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have the Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debt and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 812.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, which grants Congress the power to regulate Commerce with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 813.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Office thereof.

By Mr. JOLLY:

H.R. 814.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1, Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution which reads: "The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises, to pay the Debts, and provide for the common Defense and General Welfare of the United States; but all Duties and Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States."

By Mr. LONG:

H.R. 815.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States. Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution, which states "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia:

H.R. 816.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This legislation makes clear that human life begins at the moment of conception and, therefore, the unborn are entitled to the same rights and protections afforded to all American citizens under the U.S. Constitution. In affirming human life begins at conception, the unborn are granted the right to due process under Section 1 of the 14th Amendment which explicitly states, "No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

The Life at Conception Act allows for constitutional protection for the unborn that they not "be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law" afforded under the 5th Amendment.

By Mr. NUNES:

H.R. 817.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution

By Mr. ROSKAM:

H.R. 818.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 states The Congress shall have Power To provide . . . for the . . . general Welfare of the United States.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 819.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. KLINE:

H.J. Res. 29.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 24: Mr. TROTT, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. OLSON, and Mr. BISHOP of Michigan.

H.R. 91: Ms. ADAMS.

H.R. 156: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 167: Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 199: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 210: Mr. CURBELO of Florida and Mr. KATKO.

H.R. 217: Mr. POMPEO and Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin.

H.R. 224: Ms. CLARKE of New York and Ms. ESTY.

H.R. 230: Mr. NUGENT.

H.R. 235: Mr. BRADY of Texas and Mr. HECK of Nevada.

H.R. 258: Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 270: Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. STEWART, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

H.R. 284: Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. KING of Iowa.

H.R. 317: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 333: Ms. PINGREE, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 381: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California and Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 408: Mr. SCHRADER and Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 429: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 524: Mr. WOMACK, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. FORBES, and Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 525: Mr. BENISHEK.

H.R. 528: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio and Mr. KLINE.

H.R. 539: Mr. POLIS and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 555: Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. HUELSKAMP.

H.R. 581: Mr. HIGGINS.

H.R. 583: Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 599: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H.R. 609: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 619: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 636: Mr. EMMER.

H.R. 654: Mr. KING of New York, Mr. ROSS, Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia, and Mr. STEWART.

H.R. 681: Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 699: Mr. BUTTERFIELD and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 732: Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 763: Mr. CRAMER and Mr. JONES.

H.R. 782: Mr. RANGEL and Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California.

H.R. 784: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. HONDA, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mr. VEASEY.

H.R. 804: Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. POCAN, and Ms. MOORE.

H. Res. 15: Mr. MCGOVERN.

SENATE—Monday, February 9, 2015

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Our Father, be with us not only in great moments of experience but also during life's mundane tasks.

Through the power of Your Spirit, may our Senators mount up with wings like eagles, running without weariness and walking without fainting. Lord, give them the wisdom to be patient with others, ever lenient to their faults and ever prompt to appreciate their virtues. Rule in their hearts, keeping them from sin and sustaining their loved ones in all of their tomorrows. Surround them with the shield of Your favor, as You provide them with a future and a hope, accomplishing in their lives more than they can ask or imagine.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip is recognized.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I move to proceed to H.R. 240.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 5, H.R. 240, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 405

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 405) to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. CORNYN. I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the American people can get their news in various fashions, whether it is a blog, the nightly news or in a newspaper. They are very concerned. They are concerned about the threat of global terrorism. And why shouldn't they be? Look at what they see.

We see ISIS has murdered tens of thousands of people. One need only to look back at those thousands of Yazidi people who are trapped in the mountains in Iraq. We saw it play on day after day. These people were fleeing for their lives and many of them didn't make it.

We have watched not only tens of thousands murdered, but we have watched them behead people. Just a few days ago we watched them put a man in a cage, set the cage on fire, and burn him alive. They are so void of any respectability; they are so uncivilized. They filmed 22 minutes of that man suffering the utmost torture until he died—22 minutes of torture.

We look around the world, and in Paris 20 people are dead of a terrorist attack. People are dead in Belgium thwarting that terrorist attack. In Ottawa, Canada, at the Parliament terrorists attacked. In Sydney, Australia, there was an attack in a restaurant.

It seems that no matter what the day is, there is another act of terror that we have to be aware of. We have watched, with some dismay, at the terror that is coming. ISIS has bragged that they are coming our way.

We have our national security agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security, which has protected us from attacks to this point. Now we are 18 days away from having no money for the Department of Homeland Security—18 days. But that is a false number because we are out of session for about 10 of those 18 days. So really, after this week, we are down to less than 1 week to protect our homeland.

Jeh Johnson, the Secretary of Homeland Security, was on national TV yesterday warning the American people of

what we face. He went through what his agency does, what they do to protect our homeland. That agency was established during the Presidency of George W. Bush. It happened after 9/11. We consolidated 22 different agencies into something that is more workable. Jeh Johnson has done a very, very good job.

There is border protection, the Coast Guard, and they have responsibilities for preventing cyber attacks. There is rarely a day that goes by when there isn't some cyber attack. Which one is big that day? We had Sony play out, and we had Anthem just a few days ago.

Republicans are hellbent on playing chicken with our national security.

Jeh Johnson said yesterday he would have to furlough as many as 30,000 people if the Republicans decided to do a continuing resolution, which would be at last year's numbers. It would prevent the Department of Homeland Security from funding any new grants. These are grants that help our country, grants for dogs sniffing out all kinds of bad things. These grants fund counterterrorism task force units. A very big one is waiting to be established in Arizona.

In Las Vegas we have an urban area security initiative. We have 50 million people who come to Las Vegas each year. We need help to make sure local agencies can respond where they have to.

Why are we concerned about these grants? We are concerned because it is what helps local government be ready for these attacks when and if they come.

But the Republicans have come to the conclusion that they are far more afraid of these people—some of whom were here last week—the DREAMers. They dreamed of having a country they could relate to. They came to America as babies. It was the only country they even knew. It was a country where they saluted the flag for many years, and President Obama gave them respectability.

A woman who was here and I talked about last week is a young woman from Las Vegas. Her name is Blanca Gamez. She is a wonderful, wonderful woman. She has two degrees, and she is going to law school next year. She works, and she pays taxes. But it appears that the Republicans are more afraid of her than they are of ISIS—these people who behead people and they burn people in cages.

We cannot allow this to go on the way it is headed. These grants help local firefighters. The DHS directives

target criminals instead of families. Republicans, I guess, want us to target these families rather than criminals.

Why are Republicans putting our country at risk?

This isn't some liberal cabal that is talking about this. Let's take, for example, one of the most conservative publications in America, the Wall Street Journal. They wrote a featured opinion piece today about Republican Members of Congress.

The Wall Street Journal says the Republicans' reckless strategy is doomed to fail. Even the very conservative editors of that newspaper said today that Republicans' reckless scheme is destined for—what is in their words—“a spectacular crack-up.” These are a few things of what they say in the article.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the February 9, 2015, opinion article from the Wall Street Journal entitled: “Can the GOP Change?”

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Wall Street Journal Editorial,
Feb. 8, 2015]

CAN THE GOP CHANGE?

The immigration defeat reveals a larger problem in Congress.

Republicans in Congress are off to a less than flying start after a month in power, dividing their own conference more than Democrats. Take the response to President Obama's immigration order, which seems headed for failure if not a more spectacular crack-up.

That decree last November awarded work permits and de facto legal status to millions of undocumented aliens and dismayed members of both parties, whatever their immigration views. A Congressional resolution to vindicate the rule of law and the Constitution's limits on executive power was defensible, and even necessary, but this message has long ago been lost in translation.

The Republican leadership funded the rest of the government in December's budget deal but isolated the Department of Homeland Security that enforces immigration law. DHS funding runs out this month, and the GOP has now marched itself into another box canyon.

The specific White House abuse was claiming prosecutorial discretion to exempt whole classes of aliens from deportation, dumping the historical norm of case-by-case scrutiny. A GOP sniper shot at this legal overreach would have forced Democrats to go on record, picked up a few supporters, and perhaps even imposed some accountability on Mr. Obama.

But that wasn't enough for immigration restrictionists, who wanted a larger brawl, and they browbeat GOP leaders into adding needless policy amendments. The House reached back to rescind Mr. Obama's enforcement memos from 2011 that instructed Homeland Security to prioritize deportations of illegals with criminal backgrounds. That is legitimate prosecutorial discretion, and in opposing it Republicans are undermining their crime-fighting credentials.

The House even adopted a provision to roll back Mr. Obama's 2012 order deferring deportation for young adults brought to the U.S. illegally as children by their parents—the so-

called dreamers. The GOP lost 26 of its own Members on that one, passing it with only 218 votes.

The overall \$40 billion DHS spending bill passed with these riders, 236-191, but with 10 Republicans joining all but two Democrats in opposition. This lack of GOP unity reduced the chances that Senate Democrats would feel any political pressure to go along.

And, lo, on Thursday the House bill failed for the third time to gain the 60 votes needed to overcome the third Democratic filibuster in three days. Swing-state Democrats like Indiana's Joe Donnelly and North Dakota's Heidi Heitkamp aren't worried because they have more than enough material to portray Republicans as the immigration extremists.

Whatever their view of Mr. Obama's order, why would Democrats vote to deport people who were brought here as kids through no fault of their own? Mr. Obama issued a veto threat to legislation that will never get to his desk, and he must be delighted that Republicans are fighting with each other rather than with him.

Restrictionists like Sens. Ted Cruz and Jeff Sessions are offering their familiar advice to fight harder and hold firm against “executive amnesty,” but as usual their strategy for victory is nowhere to be found. So Republicans are now heading toward the same cul de sac that they did on the ObamaCare government shutdown.

If Homeland Security funding lapses on Feb. 27, the agency will be pushed into a partial shutdown even as the terrorist threat is at the forefront of public attention with the Charlie Hebdo and Islamic State murders. Imagine if the Transportation Security Administration, a unit of DHS, fails to intercept an Islamic State agent en route to Detroit.

So Republicans are facing what is likely to be another embarrassing political retreat and more intra-party recriminations. The GOP's restrictionist wing will blame the leadership for a failure they share responsibility for, and the rest of America will wonder anew about the gang that couldn't shoot straight.

The restrictionist caucus can protest all it wants, but it can't change 54 Senate votes into 60 without persuading some Democrats. It's time to find another strategy. Our advice on immigration is to promote discrete bills that solve specific problems such as green cards for math-science-tech graduates, more H-1B visas, a guest-worker program for agriculture, targeted enforcement and legal status for the dreamers. Democrats would be hard-pressed to oppose them and it would put the onus back on Mr. Obama. But if that's too much for the GOP, then move on from immigration to something else.

It's not too soon to say that the fate of the GOP majority is on the line. Precious weeks are wasting, and the combination of weak House leadership and a rump minority unwilling to compromise is playing into Democratic hands. This is no way to run a Congressional majority, and the only winners of GOP dysfunction will be Mr. Obama, Nancy Pelosi and Hillary Clinton.

Mr. REID. I will read parts of the article:

If Homeland Security funding lapses on Feb. 27, the agency will be pushed into a partial shutdown even as the terrorist threat is at the forefront of public attention with the Charlie Hebdo and Islamic State murders. Imagine if the Transportation Security Administration, a unit of DHS, fails to intercept an Islamic State agent en route to Detroit.

So Republicans are facing what is likely to be another embarrassing political retreat and more intra-party recriminations. The GOP's restrictionist wing will blame the leadership for a failure they share responsibility for, and the rest of America will wonder anew about the gang that couldn't shoot straight.

This is about as serious as anything could be. We need to fund this agency which is so vitally important to our country. We need to pass a clean bill—the bipartisan bill that Speaker BOEHNER and the majority leader agreed to in November—and give the American people the protection they deserve. Anything less is not good, is a disaster for our country, and really is very, very bad to protect our homeland.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with the time equally divided until 5 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, last Wednesday, President Obama made a statement that is troubling to me. I think those of us who believe in Executive leadership and honest leadership, where leaders talk directly to the people about the serious problems we face, have to be troubled by this trend with this administration. Sometimes it makes me fear for the future of the Republic. He accused Republicans of “defunding the very operations that are involved in making sure we've got strong border security.” He said Republicans are blocking funding of that. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The House of Representatives—the Republican House—has passed a bill with \$40 billion, funding fully, as basically the President requested, all the agencies in the Department of Homeland Security. It has one little catch to it; it bars the President from taking money from the Department of Homeland Security that is supposed to be used to enforce the law and using that to grant amnesty and to undermine the

law. The House bill is not in any way undermining the security of the United States of America, the ability for Homeland Security to protect us from terrorists. In fact, it strengthens that ability because it keeps the money there and uses it for those purposes, whereas right now the President is spending over \$100 million to create a structure across the river that would hire 1,000 new people in Homeland Security to process amnesty applications for people who violated the law and to give them the right to have earned income tax credit benefits, a Social Security card, the ability to take any job in the American economy that maybe an unemployed American would like to have or a recent immigrant with a green card would like to have. No, this person who entered the country now unlawfully gets to take that job under this policy. Congress did not fund that. But it funded the laws of the agency. The President, as he said himself 20 times, had no power to do this.

So what is happening now in the Senate, colleagues? Our Democratic colleagues now unanimously, it appears, are blocking even moving to the bill that funds Homeland Security. So I ask, with all sincerity, how can it be said that the Republicans are failing to fund the operations making sure we have strong border security? How can that be made a statement by the President of the United States?

I think we need to keep talking about that. We should not allow these modern-age politicians to go to the American people with false stories about what is happening. The Democratic Members of this Senate are systematically blocking the bill we would like to see come to the floor that fully funds Homeland Security. They have been given the right, as Senator MCCONNELL has repeatedly stated—which Senator REID never did—they have been given the right to offer any amendments they would like that are relevant and germane to the bill. So I would say this is a most serious thing with me, and I believe the American people need to understand it.

The House bill will not deny a single penny of funding for legitimate lawful operations of Homeland Security. It will be spent on enforcing the law, enforcing the Immigration and Nationality Act that was actually passed by Congress.

What the President is attempting to do is to create and execute a law Congress rejected. He asked the House to pass this law and the House said, no, they did not agree with this policy and rejected it. So he is executing it anyway.

Senate Republicans have attempted to move the bill to the floor three times, and each time it has been blocked by our Democratic colleagues because the bill does not fund the President's unlawful Executive am-

nesty that he admitted 20 separate times he did not have the power to do.

Congress, colleagues, is supposed to spend the taxpayers' money wisely. Congress should not fund any program, no matter how much the President wants it, that they believe is bad policy. More importantly, more clearly, no Senator should vote to fund a Presidential policy that violates the law, that violates the Constitution, that distorts the relationship between the Congress, which makes laws, and the President, who is supposed to execute only the laws Congress makes. So that is where we are at this point.

The President is not entitled to spend taxpayer money to implement a system of immigration that Congress has rejected. An article in yesterday's Washington Times is further indication of where we are in this world of politics. It was reported that the Department of Homeland Security is spending taxpayer money to set up hotlines for illegal immigrants to call in to with any complaints they may have about immigration law enforcement officers if they think the officers have violated their "rights" under President Obama's Executive amnesty—not violating their rights under law—but the President has told them this and sent out this message to the stakeholder groups.

Now who are the stakeholder groups? I suppose they are the activist groups. That is how they refer to them: stakeholders. So they send out this message: If you are not happy with the way the Federal agency is executing my policy but indeed those agencies are attempting to enforce the law as written, then you have a "right" to call in to this hotline, and I will get on them, and I will see that they do it.

So how do the officers feel about this? National Border Patrol Council vice president Shawn Moran said this in a response. First, let me tell you, the Border Patrol officers in the USCIS—the Citizenship and Immigration Services officers—have opposed the President's Executive amnesty. Their association has laid out how it will make the problem worse, it will increase the risk of terrorist attacks, and otherwise further degrade the integrity of our legal system. They have been clear about this. We ought to listen to them. They enforce that law repeatedly. That is their duty. They have opposed bills that they think may look good on the surface but once they have read them and found out the bill will not work effectively, they speak out against that, which is very helpful, and I am glad they do.

Well, this is what Mr. Moran said:

Instead of supporting our agents, this administration had decided it is more important to find new ways to solicit complaints and invite ridicule against them.

The American people have to know that the Obama administration's dere-

liction of duty relating to our immigration system did not begin with this recent decree. From the day he took office, the President has relentlessly and systematically, colleagues, friends, the American people, dismantled immigration enforcement. It is far more serious than you would imagine.

My office has compiled a 49-page baseline timeline of nearly 200 specific entries and events that occurred since 2009 detailing how the law of the United States has been undermined by directives and orders from the President of the United States. It is step by step. This one person alone, the President, has acted against the will of the American people and undermined the law in America.

Just briefly, I will mention the first event that came to my mind. When he took office in early 2009, I believe in the State of Washington, the officers, doing their duty, enforcing the law that says a business cannot hire somebody unlawfully in America, investigated a business in Washington, discovered quite a number of people unlawfully in America, and were to commence action against the business for violating plain law that is still on the books and has not been repealed. And what happened? Immediately, the President intervened. He told them: No. Do not do this. And he told the activist groups—the La Razas and the other activist groups that were engaged in pushing him on this issue—essentially, he told them: Look, I am going to honor the promise I made to you during the campaign—that is the way I would interpret it—not to allow this kind of lawful activity to happen in the future.

So from day one, the law officers of our country got a clear message. What was the message? If you go out and enforce the law, you will get in trouble. If you do not say anything and do not do anything and stay back and lay back and not enforce the law, everything will be OK. That began the situation.

Here are just some of the highlights that I circled and looked at.

This was the Bellingham, WA, case I just mentioned, detaining 28 illegal immigrants who were using false, fake Social Security documents.

On January 29, 2009, in April of 2009, and June of 2009, the Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano delays the E-Verify deadlines. E-Verify is a system by which businesses are supposed to check a person's Social Security Number to find out if it is valid before they hire them. Many times we know people have used false Social Security Numbers to get work. She delayed that. Then she delayed it again in April, and delayed it again in June.

In June of 2010, the ICE union—the Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers—they are three basic groups:

the ICE group, there is the Border Patrol group, and the Citizenship and Immigration Services group that processes the paperwork. The ICE union cast a unanimous vote of “no confidence” in the agency Homeland Security leadership, including ICE Director John Morton and Assistant Director Phyllis Coven, citing “the growing dissatisfaction and concern among ICE employees” that they “have abandoned the Agency’s”—ICE’s—“core mission of enforcing United States Immigration Laws and providing for public safety, and have instead directed their attention to campaigning for programs and policies related to amnesty.”

He said the policy of this government—not what we as sworn officers are supposed to be enforcing, but the policy of our leaders is to spend all their time campaigning for policies related to amnesty and undermining enforcement.

ICE officers went so far, colleagues, as to file a lawsuit in Federal court contending they were being ordered to violate the law by their supervisors. A judge expressed sympathy for them but eventually decided they didn’t have standing to proceed with the case, but I think it is still on appeal.

In 2011, at a roundtable with amnesty advocates, President Obama admitted his deportation statistics were misleading. Indeed, they have been. They claim they have increased deportation, but that is totally incorrect. They finally had to admit it.

In February of 2012 President Obama slashed the budget for the 287(g) Program, a program that I helped advocate for and moved forward when I came to the Senate 10 years ago. It simply says the Federal Government will work with State and local law enforcement officers to train them in the things they can legally do to help the Federal officers enforce the law. It is a perfectly sensible program, and it is very popular. A number of States have taken quite a step toward it. It was working in an effective way, and they canceled it after he took office.

They announced the delay in the biometric entry-exit visa system in February of last year. An inspector general audit revealed declines in workplace enforcement of substantial amounts as a direct result of White House policies, and they admit the Obama administration manipulated deportation data.

In March of last year a new report revealed that the ICE officers—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has consumed 10 minutes.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank the Chair, and I ask unanimous consent for 1 additional minute to wrap up.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. It was revealed that ICE released 68,000 convicted criminals in 2013. These are convicted criminals.

In May of last year the Deputy Chief of Border Patrol revealed that the bor-

der surge was incentivized by the administration’s policies.

As I said, there are 49 pages of this.

I would point out that we are ready to bring the bill to the floor and allow amendments to the legislation passed by the House that fully funds Homeland Security and ensures that the money is spent for enforcement and not to dismantle the law.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

BOTTICELLI NOMINATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, Senator ALEXANDER and Senator ENZI are here on the floor. I want to briefly address the nominee we will be voting on this afternoon and then turn to the matter the three of us wish to address.

Today the Senate is going to vote on the nomination of Michael Botticelli to be the next Director of National Drug Control Policy. I look forward to working with our Nation’s next drug czar just as I have with previous drug czars.

Drug abuse is a serious problem in my home State. Kentucky is the fifth highest prescribing State when it comes to pain killers, and we have the Nation’s third highest drug overdose mortality rate, with many deaths driven by prescription pain killers.

Heroin abuse is also a problem in the Bluegrass State. Heroin deaths accounted for 32 percent of the drug overdoses back in 2013, and they continue to climb. The epicenter of the heroin problem is located in the northern region across the river from Cincinnati, although I am hearing more and more from constituents that drug abuse is rising in other parts of the Commonwealth as well.

All told, the Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy reports that about 1,000 Kentuckians lose their lives overdosing on drugs every year, which is more than we lose in fatal car crashes.

There is another reason I am pleased to welcome prior drug czar Gil Kerlikowski to tour Kentucky. We had him there a couple of years ago to take a closeup look at the problems we face. He visited Louisville, Lexington, London, and Pikeville—four communities, both urban and rural, across the State. He met with Kentuckians who worked to tackle this issue from every single angle—public health officials, medical professionals, law enforcement officials, drug courts, members of the business community, and Kentuckians involved with prevention. The drug czar’s visit helped focus more Federal attention and Federal resources on this issue, and in a time of strained budgets, the extra attention and those extra resources are particularly important.

I am also pleased to report that Mr. Botticelli plans to visit Eastern Kentucky soon. He also plans, at my invi-

tation, to visit Northern Kentucky this spring. Visits such as these help ensure continued Federal focus on Kentucky’s drug problem, and I look forward to working with the next drug czar to move closer to the day when drug abuse is no longer ravaging our families and our communities.

(The remarks of Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. ENZI pertaining to the introduction of S.J. Res. 8 are printed in today’s RECORD under “Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.”)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, I rise to speak in support of Michael Botticelli in our effort today to confirm him as Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

The State of Massachusetts, like too many other regions of this Nation, is being ravaged by the scourge of prescription drug and heroin addiction that is breaking apart families and burying communities under a mountain of despair. Massachusetts experienced 114 deaths in December, and that doesn’t count our biggest cities, such as Boston and Worcester and Springfield.

Drug overdose deaths fueled by prescription pain killers now claim more lives than car accidents nationwide. Approximately 100 Americans die from an overdose every day.

As a Senator from Massachusetts, I have a deep appreciation and respect for Michael Botticelli’s accomplishments addressing addiction during his nearly two decades serving in the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. He is a public health and drug policy pioneer, and he lived in my hometown of Malden, MA, while he did this job.

Immediately prior to joining the Office of National Drug Control Policy as Deputy Director, Mr. Botticelli was the director of the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. While he was there, he pioneered innovative, effective approaches to substance abuse challenges. He was responsible for launching a program that expanded treatment and recovery opportunities in local community health centers, including a focus on providing a continuum of care for those suffering with substance use disorders. Mr. Botticelli also expanded innovative and nationally recognized prevention strategies. He established and implemented evidence-based jail diversion programs, reentry services for those leaving State and county correctional facilities, and overdose prevention programs.

Although there is always more work to be done, it is because of Mr. Botticelli’s efforts and the legacy he left behind that Massachusetts is in many ways a national leader in addressing the prescription and heroin abuse epidemic.

Mr. Botticelli has been very public about his personal history of struggling with an alcohol use disorder as a young professional and seeking help that has led him into long-term recovery. He recently celebrated 26 years of sobriety, and I applaud him for that.

Mr. Botticelli's personal life experiences have provided him a unique perspective on the epidemic facing our Nation. When he joined me at a recent roundtable I convened in Boston about this crisis, he spoke about it in human terms. He reminded us that there is a family, a loved one, a friend, or a child behind each and every one of these statistics. His openness about his own struggles and his path to recovery helped shed much needed light on the issue of addiction, which has lurked too long in the shadows of shame and stigma. I think his story helps others to seek treatment and begin a life of recovery. He truly is leading by his own personal example.

The drug problems facing our country have changed dramatically since the Office of National Drug Control Policy was created in 1988. Mr. Botticelli has an excellent understanding of the mission of this office, the changing needs of the addiction community, and the urgency for solutions to halting the rise of substance use disorders in this country. I believe he is going to make a superlative Director, bringing his strong heart, keen mind, and Malden, MA, roots to the Office of National Drug Control Policy. I am honored to speak in support of his nomination on the floor today and look forward to working with him in the years to come. I recommend in the strongest possible terms Michael Botticelli for the Office of Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

UKRAINE ASSISTANCE

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, I wish to speak about the Ukraine. Lord knows the President of the United States has enough on his plate, and he is trying to make the right decisions about what to do in giving assistance to the Ukrainian people and to the Ukrainian army to hold off Vladimir Putin's troops that are masquerading as rebels but, in fact, are bringing in Russian equipment and Russian soldiers who put on different uniforms. It is because of that that I think the wise choice would be for the United States to give lethal armaments to the Ukrainian people.

I was there in August. I spoke with all the members of the government—the Prime Minister, the Defense Minister, the Foreign Minister, the head of their Defense Council. At the time, I was surprised that they did not ask for

lethal assistance but instead wanted up-to-the-minute intelligence, which was so important, and training. If my memory serves me correctly, in the Defense bill we provided about \$350 million for that assistance. But the question of lethal armaments so that they can withstand the Russian tanks—if we want them to be successful—is exceptionally important in this Senator's mind and point of view.

There is another reason. Mrs. Merkel is in town today, and her position is that she does not want Europe to provide lethal assistance. Well, Germany, of course, is not sharing a geographic line with the former Soviet Union, now Russia, and Germany is not feeling the heat, even though a major component and member of NATO, like so many of the other NATO members farther to the east.

Some of the Baltic States—Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania—have substantial Russian populations. They are frightened of the realistic possibility of Putin, who has successfully taken a Russian-speaking part of Ukraine—namely, Crimea, which fell into his hand like a ripe plum—now moving on other parts of eastern Ukraine to establish a land bridge down to Crimea. What they fear is that suddenly the Russian army will amass on their border and use as a pretext, as Putin has done in eastern Ukraine, the coming in and rescuing and protecting of the Russian-speaking elements of those particular countries, particularly in the Baltics. There is a huge percentage of the population in Estonia that is Russian, likewise in Latvia and also Lithuania.

I met with the President of Lithuania, a woman whom a lot of people refer to in very admiring terms as a tough cookie, and that is apparent when you meet her. But the concerns about the Russian aggression are clearly there. They are very concerned that if eastern Ukraine falls, they will be next.

I think that is another reason that these courageous people who, after the break up of the Soviet Union, had so many years of corruption and bad government—now having thrown off the shackles of corruption, having a new government after all of those protests in the center of the capital city of Ukraine—I think it is incumbent upon us to help that little country defend itself against Russian aggression. When a Russian tank is bearing down on you, you need something that can penetrate the steel armor of that tank in order to stop that tank and all the other tanks from advancing.

I will stop right there and shift gears.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, the clock is ticking at the Department of

Homeland Security, and we are about to run out of money. We will run out of money at the end of this month. If we get into a situation where the Department that is tasked with the protection of national security here at home does not have the funding to protect our borders, to protect the central location that directs our defense against cyber attacks, to protect us as we get on airplanes through TSA, and to patrol the waters of the coastal United States through our Coast Guard—if we don't have the money appropriated, then that, to this Senator, is inexcusable.

This is all over a dispute about immigration because some people want to have it their way and only their way, and therefore, they cannot stand that the President has the legal authority to issue an Executive order. That is not the way to protect ourselves against all of these adversaries.

When I came to Washington as a young Congressman many moons ago, it was very clearly understood that partisan politics stopped at the water's edge. When it came to matters of national security, there were no partisan politics. When it came to matters of foreign policy, there were no partisan politics. Oh my, how times have changed. Now, with the injection of ideological politics, it is time for us to move on.

DISCOVERY SATELLITE

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, the third and last subject I wish to address is the launch of a major spacecraft/satellite which will be for the interest of the United States and the free world. Hopefully, that will take place tomorrow evening around 6 p.m.

I was at the Cape last night thinking that the Discovery satellite was going to be launched atop a Falcon rocket on pad 40 at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. All systems were go, save for the radar system on the eastern test range of the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center. The radar system went down, and they obviously cannot launch a rocket if they can't track it precisely, just in case it were to err from its course and had to be destroyed. So it was postponed. It has now been rescheduled for tomorrow night at approximately 6 p.m.

Why is this important? It is important because there are three major instruments. There are many more, but I will only mention three. No. 1, it will constantly aim an instrument at the Sun so when there is an additional solar explosion, which is a nuclear explosion on the face of the Sun, and all that additional radiation starts coming in what is known as solar wind to the United States, we can prepare for that nuclear radiation and save our satellites, save certain electrical grid systems, and warn pilots who are flying a

route over the poles where the magnetic field of the Earth does not protect and repel against the nuclear radiation coming from the Sun, which is extremely important to commercial satellites, commercial systems on the ground, and is especially important to our military warning satellites.

We are fortunate there is a satellite that was put up in the late 1990s. Its acronym is ACE. It had a design life of 5 years, which would have been the early 2000s. This little satellite keeps producing. It measures the solar wind, or nuclear radiation, coming from the Sun about every 40 minutes. It was supposed to have been dead years ago. It is still perking.

This satellite will replace it and will warn us of a nuclear blast—not every 40 minutes but much more rapidly, like every 1 or 2 minutes, which will give us the ability to save our systems on the ground and in orbit. That is one instrument.

Now, since this payload will be at a neutrally buoyant point where the Earth's gravitational pull stops and the Sun's gravitational pull stops—called the Lagrangian Point No. 1, or L-1, between the Earth and the Sun—which is a little less than 1 million miles from the Earth, and because the gravitational pull of the Sun is much greater—it is about 92 million miles from the Sun—it will stay there and constantly look at the Sun in one direction, and in the other direction it looks at the Earth.

These are the other two instruments. One instrument will constantly measure the heat coming from the Sun that is being absorbed by the Earth, and that instrument then also measures the amount of heat that is reflected off of the Earth and radiated back out into space.

So if you want to measure exactly how the Earth is heating up, you get this very precise measurement of what is being absorbed minus what is being radiated back out into space, and you will know exactly how much heat the Earth is absorbing and how this planet is heating up.

The final instrument is one that was conceived of by then-Vice President Al Gore, who at my invitation was there yesterday. I don't know if he is going to be able to stay over until tomorrow to see the launch.

What Al Gore knew was that 42 years ago was the last time we had a full sunlit picture of the Earth. It was by the Apollo 17 astronauts on the face of the moon. They got the Earth just at the exact time. They were able to photograph one-half of the Earth, which was lit by the Sun behind the astronauts on the moon. That was the last time we had a full, live picture of the Earth.

We have had many other pictures, but what they are is a strip here and a snippet there, and they are all stitched together—even though they were taken

at different times—to make a composite of what the Earth looks like.

What the satellite Discovery will do, as its camera looks straight back at Earth, taking about 13 photographs in a 24-hour period, since the satellite is between the Earth and the Sun, it is able to look back with the telephoto lens and it will always see the sunlit side of the entire side of the Earth as it rotates on its axis every 24 hours and as it rotates around the Sun every 365 days. That will give us a new perspective of the overview effect of what this home that we call planet Earth is and what it looks like on a daily basis every 2 hours.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, the Keystone legislation is likely to move to the President's desk this week after the House takes it up, and he will veto it. The votes are not there to override a veto, either in the Senate or the House. Legislation has a natural lifecycle, and this piece of legislation is reaching the end of its lifecycle. This debate is almost over.

So where are we when it comes to American energy policy? The debate that occurred on Keystone was no doubt an important one, but it was exactly upside down. Congress and the media treated the Keystone bill as if it would settle American energy policy once and for all, when in fact it was and is a tiny sliver of debate. American energy policy is not defined by one project or one piece of infrastructure, however contentious it may be.

In order to have a real energy conversation, we have to agree on the facts, and this body cannot be the only place where there is a lack of consensus on the basic facts. That is why Senator WHITEHOUSE's amendment, my amendment, Senator HOEVEN's amendment, and those of many others were so important.

Last month's climate votes were illuminating and encouraging. First, Senator WHITEHOUSE's language, which simply stated that climate change was not a hoax, received a nearly unanimous vote. Believe it or not, that is progress. My amendment, which stated that climate change is real, caused by humans, and has real and significant impacts, received a bare majority of the votes, with five Republicans supporting it. Senator HOEVEN's amendment had similar language, as well as some pro-Keystone language, and it attracted a dozen or so Republican votes.

What is the significance of all of this? It is very simple. Without acknowledging the problem, we cannot even begin to work on it. The wall of denial has begun to crack. So now we have a majority—and depending on

how it is phrased, even a potential supermajority—in the Senate saying that climate change is real.

Now, most every serious person in public life either admits the basic facts of climate change or is on their way to getting there, and that is a good thing. Now the question is: What should we do? Given our regional differences, ideological differences, and the partisan divide, what comes next?

Later this year or next, we will see efforts to repeal a number of important environmental rules, especially the administration's clean power plan, which will regulate carbon pollution from existing and new powerplants, but that too is highly unlikely to result in anything other than a Presidential veto.

So are there any areas for potential common ground?

I think we saw real glimmers of hope and possibility during the Keystone debate. Several of my Republican colleagues made the argument during the debate on Keystone that while climate change is a real problem, we must be aware of how energy costs influence economic activity.

I could not agree more. We don't hear this often from folks on my side of the debate, but price matters. No climate policy is a real solution unless it strengthens both the national and global economies. As we pursue clean energy, we must understand its impacts on consumers—especially individuals and families in lower income communities—as well as businesses. We miss an opportunity to find common ground if we move too quickly past the questions of cost and the social and economic context in which this transition is going to occur.

We can contend with these challenges in Congress through a legislative solution. We can create incentives, create market-based mechanisms, look at regional differences, and fund R&D to help develop new and less-expensive solutions. EPA certainly has the authority and the obligation under the law to regulate carbon and other greenhouse gases. I support the President's Clean Power Plan because carbon pollution is real and it ought to be regulated under the Clean Air Act. If we want to be more comprehensive and if we want to be more nuanced and more flexible and more responsive to communities, we need a bill. Structured properly, a bill has the advantage of creating economically efficient solutions that can reduce carbon pollution from a much wider range of sources. That is why a well-designed fee on carbon is critical for our economy and our environment.

I understand the politics are nearly impossible right now, but if we think about our ability as legislators to remunerate communities struggling during a transition, to ameliorate certain economic challenges, we may agree that legislating provides us the tools to achieve greater pollution reductions at

a much lower social and economic cost. So once the Clean Power Plan is established, once it is litigated, and once it is full-on reality, I believe there may be room for compromise.

One more point on the issue of price. We have to do our calculations on an all-in basis. That includes tax expenditures, environmental damage, health impacts, and other so-called externalities. There is plenty of good research which indicates that clean energy technology is already competitive with fossil fuel technology when all costs are added in. Additionally, the cost of solar, wind, and energy efficiency is dropping precipitously and in many places is competing successfully in the free market, even before we consider the costs of pollution.

We will have a couple of battles that are unavoidable—on the Clean Power Plan and likely another run at Keystone—but there are a couple of areas that in my view don't have to be a battle. They are energy efficiency and energy research.

We ought to start with the Shaheen-Portman energy efficiency legislation. I have little doubt that Democrats would support this as a stand-alone bill. Energy efficiency is just common sense, and the energy experts remind us of an idea our mothers and fathers taught us growing up: waste not, want not. In other words, the straightest line toward saving money for people, businesses, and institutions is to help them adopt the latest energy efficiency practices and technologies.

Even this has unfortunately become a partisan issue in the last several Congresses with people worried that light bulb efficiency standards were part of some Orwellian plot. But that is not what these Department of Energy standards do, and it is not what Shaheen-Portman does.

At its core, energy efficiency is simply this: Use less but get the same result. Using less means paying less. Getting the same result means not having to sacrifice our way of life. The idea is not to ask people to do without, the idea is to just get more for our money. It is an old-school, conservative idea. Of course the Shaheen-Portman bill doesn't cost the taxpayers a dime, and projections are that it will create nearly 200,000 jobs.

I also think there is a lot of room for good bipartisan work in advanced technology research in the energy space—the kind the Department of Energy did for the State of Hawaii in developing a grid system that can accommodate unprecedented levels of intermittent renewable energy, the kind that made major advances in hydraulic fracturing, the kind that has helped the price of solar panels drop 80 percent since 2008, the kind that is making breakthroughs in battery storage, which has fallen in price by 40 percent since 2010, and the kind that is working on carbon capture and sequestration.

America must lead on energy, and that requires us to do the kind of basic research that private companies can eventually use. A relatively small increase in research funding—both on the fossil and renewable side—has been shown to make an enormous impact on our economy. Investments in renewable and fossil fuel electricity generation, distribution, and transmission systems, grid stability and security, and fuel systems will enable America to lead in energy for decades to come.

These are the kinds of investments we would see in a comprehensive energy bill. I was so encouraged last week that the chairwoman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, the Senator from Alaska, has indicated her desire to pursue comprehensive legislation this Congress. The Senator from Alaska is a very skilled bipartisan legislator, and I am looking forward to working with her on these issues. I am especially encouraged by her openness to climate provisions as part of that bill, something she mentioned as recently as last week. Just as she has listened to the concerns I and others have raised about climate change during the Keystone debate, so should we listen to her call for reliable, affordable, clean, and diverse energy supplies.

Several energy proposals contained within the President's fiscal year budget could become a part of a bipartisan bill, including ideas to more fully promote carbon capture and sequestration technologies and protect coal workers and their communities as we transition. The concerns of communities that have coal-based economies are real and legitimate and I believe any true climate solution must prioritize solutions for every American. The President recognized that and proposed \$55 million next year to help affected communities diversify their economies, offer job training, and ensure a good transition.

This will require compromise. It will require those of us on the left to concede that fossil fuels aren't going to disappear instantaneously, and it will require those on the right to recognize that investing in clean energy technologies doesn't necessarily mean picking winners and losers. We have wind energy in nearly all States—in fact, more in Republican than in Democratic States—and we have tea party members everywhere who love the freedom and liberty that distributed generation—rooftop solar—offers. We also have clean energy progressives, including myself, who understand that we have to deal with the energy system we have, not the one we wish we had.

The areas I have mentioned are not the only opportunities for bipartisan compromise, but we do need to start a dialogue, either on the floor, in committees or in informal discussions, about what we can actually do. As we consider a policy solution, let's ask the following questions: Can it be enacted

into law? Will it advance American energy security? Will it strengthen the economy and provide economic growth? Will it reduce pollution?

There are a few areas where we are going to fight—there is no avoiding it—and that is OK. But there is, for the first time since I arrived, a glimmer of hope that we may be able to find common ground on some of these issues and begin a serious discussion about tackling American energy policy and climate change.

I yield the floor.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, this is the first time I have come to the floor to speak on this issue while the Senator from Iowa has been presiding. Over the last 2 years, since the mass tragedy in my State, in Sandy Hook, CT, I have come to the floor once every week or so to give voice to victims of gun violence all across this country. I have told the story of the beautiful 6- and 7-year-olds as well as the teachers and professionals who were killed that day.

The fact is that every day across this country there are two to three Sandy Hooks that happen. There are 86 people killed by guns every day in this country, 2,600 a month, and over 30,000 a year. The statistics, unfortunately, have not compelled this body to action. We have done nothing—zero—about this national tragedy since Sandy Hook. That is a stain upon the conscience of this body that is impossible to erase. My hope is that by coming to the floor and speaking about who these people actually are, maybe it will prompt us to have a conversation about how we can make sure these numbers aren't eliminated; they are never going to go away but to make sure they are lower, that they are less than these numbers, the highest in the developed world.

Let me speak first about an extraordinary young man, 44 years old, who was killed on January 20—just about 2 weeks ago—in Boston, MA. His name was Dr. Michael Davidson. He was shot by a gunman who walked into Brigham and Women's Hospital. The gunman was the relative of someone who had been under the care of Dr. Davidson who clearly had some major illness that prompted him to think he could solve his grief by shooting the doctor who had cared for his loved one. Dr.

Davidson was known at Brigham and Women's Hospital for his gentle way with patients and their families and his willingness to operate on the most delicate hearts. He used to lie awake at night worrying about his patients. He was always receiving letters about the great care he provided. He wanted to be a cardiovascular surgeon from the time he was a little boy, which is a pretty exceptional thing. As renowned as he was as a physician, what he truly will be remembered for was for being a father to three children, and he and his wife were waiting for their fourth to arrive, due this April.

At his funeral nearly 1,000 people were there to hear his wife say:

By now, you've all heard that my husband, Michael Davidson, was a superb physician. Perhaps, most importantly, he cared immensely for his patients and their families. That is why the fact that a patient's family member would take Michael away from us makes it all the more devastating.

A brilliant surgeon and a wonderful father taken away from us at age 44 in Boston, MA.

Everyone by now has heard the story from December 20, where two New York City police officers were killed by a mentally ill man who drove to New York with the intention of killing police officers. Wenjian Liu had been in this country almost 20 years to the day—an American dream story personified. His family came to this country from China to seek a better life. He came here on Christmas Eve, 1994. He wanted to be a police officer because he wanted to give back to his community. Liu once said:

I know that being a cop is dangerous but I must do it. If I don't do it and you don't do it, then who is going to do it?

It is that kind of commitment that was shown by him that day by the very fact that he was in the car. He wasn't scheduled to work, but he volunteered to work a fill-in shift when a fellow officer was late. That is just how he was.

Rafael Ramos, otherwise known as Ralph Ramos, was in that car as well. He wanted to be a police officer so badly that when he was preparing to join the police academy, he took a petition door to door throughout his whole neighborhood asking for his neighbors to testify to his character. He is remembered as a good police officer but also as someone who shoveled all the sidewalks in his neighborhood, took his two boys to a nearby park over and over to play basketball, always with a smile on his face. He was hours away from becoming a lay chaplain. One of his dreams was to go into the ministry. He is remembered by friends and family as someone committed to his family, committed to his job, but also committed to his faith.

These two police officers were killed by a man named Ismaaiyl Brinsley. He was a deeply mentally ill man, someone who had tried to commit suicide

and who had become completely isolated from his family and from his peers. When I read his story, it struck me as not completely dissimilar from the story in Newtown, CT, Adam Lanza. Adam Lanza was a deeply troubled, deeply mentally ill young man who became isolated from his peers and from his family. We can't completely understand what caused him to do what he did that day, nor what Mr. Brinsley was thinking in his head when he drove to New York to carry out those heinous murders.

What we know is we have largely abandoned the mentally ill in this country. We lock them up in prisons rather than treating their underlying illnesses. Over the course of the last half a decade, 4,000 inpatient psychiatric beds have been closed all across this country, forcing more of the mentally ill out on the streets and into prison and into crisis. You know, the Federal law authorizing the funding we send to mental health work in this country—SAMHSA, that is the agency—has not been reauthorized in a decade. We haven't even debated mental health policy on the floor of this Senate for a decade. No wonder we have a system that is in crisis.

It means in the absence of Federal leadership, private organizations are stepping up to the plate. Sandy Hook promised—the group of parents of many of those children who were killed has taken up a cause called No One Eats Alone. It is a wonderful cause in which students in high school, middle school, and elementary school cafeterias are asked to seek out one or two children who often eat alone, who are socially isolated at school, and to reach out and do small things such as sitting with them during lunch to remove some sense of social isolation that comes often with children who bring mental illness or learning disabilities to school.

That effort is admirable, and it will make a difference. But it speaks to the fact those groups have to step in and do things such as the No One Eats Alone campaign because Congress isn't stepping up to the plate and doing anything about these numbers: 31,000 a year, 2,600 a month, 86 a day. You know what my feelings are on this. I don't think it is just about mental health programming and funding. I think it is ridiculous 90 percent of Americans think you should have to go through a background check in order to buy a gun, yet we still won't move forward with expanded background checks, and the majority of Americans think that dangerous assault weapons should be for the police and for our military and not be able to get into the hands of young, troubled men such as Adam Lanza to be used in mass murder.

In the absence over the next 2 years of our ability to come to an agreement on changing our gun laws so they re-

flect where the vast majority of the American public is, let's at least take on the mental health crisis in this country. Let's at least decide we are going to plus-up resources for community mental health providers. We are going to rebuild inpatient capacity. We are going to recognize that as angry as we are at people such as Ismaaiyl Brinsley and of young men such as Adam Lanza, there is a story there of neglect that if we address we can lower these numbers even without changes over the next 2 years in our—I would argue—very backward national background check laws.

I thank you for listening and some of my colleagues for being on the floor today. I know we have a number of people who want to speak. I will continue to come to the floor so my colleagues can hear the stories of people such as Officer Ramos, Officer Liu, and heroes such as Dr. Michael Davidson so that maybe the voices of these victims can prompt us to action.

I yield the floor.

AUTHORIZATION ON USE OF MILITARY FORCE

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, along with Senator HATCH, we have a concern we want to share with this body. One of the reasons I do is because I had planned to go ahead and introduce the bill having to do with the AUMF. In fact, I actually had introduced it a year ago, but I understand now we are coming into an agreement and Senator HATCH and I stand together to speak about the need for the new AUMF, authorization for use of military force, against the terrorist organization known as ISIS or ISIL, or whatever you want to call it, in order to answer any legal question as to the authority the President has to defend the American people and demonstrate our commitment to the global coalition in defeating this radical Islamic organization.

I have always contended the President had this authority anyway. In fact, I can remember a year ago he said he did. I now understand the President will be sending to Congress his own version of the AUMF this week. I will read it with interest.

Over the past 6 months, ISIS, or ISIL, has expanded its control in Iraq and Syria. They continue to recruit followers worldwide. We saw just the other day what happened when we had the King of Jordan here and we had the opportunity to be with him when he got the very sad news of what happened to his F-16 pilot being burned alive. It happened to be with him in Syria just a month before that. I am talking about with the King of Jordan.

We know firsthand what is going on. It is my hope the President's proposed AUMF will include all the authorities needed to execute his strategy to stop

ISIS and the President provides Congress with that strategy as part of any approval for an AUMF.

The President's proposed AUMF should not contain restrictions on U.S. forces or time or geographic limitations. An AUMF should authorize the use of all necessary and appropriate force anywhere where ISIS or any successor organization is operating until we accomplish our strategy.

At the State of the Union speech last month, President Obama specifically said—and I am quoting now:

I call on this Congress to show the world that we are united in this mission by passing a resolution to authorize the use of force against ISIL. We need that authority.

That was a quote from his State of the Union Message. Quite frankly, he had already stated before he had that authority. I am not going to argue about that. Let's just make sure to eliminate all doubts.

Subsequent official White House statements have called for a "right-sized, modernized AUMF...it would send a powerful signal to the citizens of this country, the citizens of our allies, and to our enemies."

It was on January 23 that the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Dempsey said—and I am going to quote General Dempsey's entire quote because I think he is the No. 1 guy. He is the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the one who should be the best qualified to make these decisions.

He said:

I think in the crafting of the AUMF, all options should be on the table, and then we can debate whether we want to use them. But the authorization should be there...In particular, it shouldn't constrain activities geographically, because ISIL knows no boundaries, [and] doesn't recognize any boundaries—in fact it's their intention to erase all boundaries to their benefit. Constraints on time, or a "sunset clause," I just don't think it's necessary. I think the nation should speak of its intent to confront this radical ideological barbaric group and leave the option until we can deal with it.

That is all a quote from General Martin Dempsey, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. I think we need to listen to it. I don't think the immediate need for an AUMF could be put more clearly or succinctly than General Dempsey's words, and it is my hope he was intimately involved in the drafting of the administration's AUMF.

It is my understanding we will see this tomorrow. Again, I, along with many colleagues—including my good friend from Utah—look forward to reading President Obama's AUMF. We have to get rid of this monster.

With that, I yield to my good friend from Utah.

NATIONAL SECURITY CHALLENGES

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

MR. HATCH. Madam President, today I rise with my friend, the senior

Senator from Oklahoma, to discuss some of the most pressing national security issues the Senate is poised to confront. These matters include the confirmation of Ashton Carter as Secretary of Defense, whose nomination I strongly support; and Senator AYOTTE's Guantanamo Bay detainee transfer bill, of which I am a cosponsor. Indeed, I applaud the expeditious consideration of Senator AYOTTE's bill in the Armed Services Committee under the leadership of Senator MCCAIN.

These moves come at a critically important time as we continue to witness the spectacles of barbarism perpetrated by the so-called Islamic State, or ISIS—aid workers and journalists gruesomely beheaded; Christians tortured and murdered for refusing to convert; and most recently, a captured coalition pilot burned alive.

These acts are just a glimpse of the undiluted savagery unleashed by this terrorist organization on the large swath of territory in Iraq and Syria that it controls. Even beyond its horrific human rights violations, the Islamic State threatens to destabilize the entire Middle East and it is attempting to undo all that was accomplished by our servicemembers in 8 years of blood and sacrifice in Iraq.

Most troubling of all, the Islamic State serves as a safe haven for terrorist training and planning, similar to Afghanistan prior to the September 11 attacks. With the Islamic State's stated intention to "raise the flag of Allah in the White House" and kill "hundreds of millions" in a worldwide "religious cleansing," there can be no doubt this organization poses a clear and present danger to the national security of the United States and to our allies, not only in the Middle East but throughout the world. Accordingly, we must fight and defeat this dangerous terrorist organization.

It is therefore incumbent upon us as legislators to ensure we provide all the tools necessary for defeating the enemy. Personally, I agree with the Obama administration's previous determination that the President has ample powers to conduct operations against the Islamic State under article II of the Constitution as well as the existing authorizations for the use of military force passed by Congress in 2001 against Al Qaeda and the Taliban in 2002 for Iraq. Nevertheless, I agree with the President that Congress should authorize the use of force against the Islamic State, not only to put to rest any legal questions about the President's power to use force, but also to demonstrate to the world America's resolve in this fight against terror.

If we are to pass a new authorization for use of military force, it is critically important to ensure that this new law is properly crafted. It will define

against whom and under what conditions our Nation may direct its national might.

Therefore, Senator INHOFE and I feel compelled to propose general principles that we believe should guide this effort, especially since it appears the President will send his own draft to Congress shortly. Senator INHOFE and I are offering these thoughts with no intention to undermine careful consideration of the President's proposal by the Senate's national security committees.

Furthermore, we do not at all wish to complicate the efforts to reach consensus by laying down demands. Far from it. Rather, our intent is to facilitate the legislative process by outlining some of the elements we believe to be most crucial for ensuring the success of our servicemembers as they confront this great evil.

First, the authorization should clearly articulate that the executive branch is authorized to use force—employed in accordance with the law of armed conflict—against the Islamic State.

Second, the authorization should be flexible enough to be utilized not only against the Islamic State as it appears today, but also in whatever form the organization takes going forward. This flexibility should also include the authority to use force against organizations that are associated with or materially supporting the Islamic State.

Finally, and most importantly, the authorization should not impose any artificial and unnecessary limitations—such as those based on time, geography, and type of force—that could interfere with our strategic objective of defeating the Islamic State.

Unfortunately, many have suggested including such artificial limitations on the use of force in a future authorization. Specifically, many have discussed prohibiting the use of ground forces as well as providing an expiration date for the authorization. These are restrictions the Islamic State could use to its advantage. If we are telling the Islamic State upfront we will not use ground forces, will they not tailor their strategy around that fact? If we advertise when the authorization expires at an arbitrary date and time, will they not hunker down and wait for that date? Why would we not only unilaterally impose limitations as to which types of tools and tactics our servicemembers can use, but then also broadcast those limitations to the enemy?

Indeed, we believe that Congress and the President should heed the advice of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Martin Dempsey, who stated in an interview on January 23, 2015, that:

I think in the crafting of the AUMF, all options should be on the table, and then we can debate whether we want to use them. But the authorization should be there. . . . In particular, it shouldn't constrain activities geographically, because ISIL knows no boundaries [and] doesn't recognize any boundaries—in fact it's their intention to erase all

boundaries to their benefit. . . . Constraints on time, or a "sunset clause," I just don't think it's necessary. I think the nation should speak of its intent to confront this radical ideological barbaric group and leave the option until we can deal with it.

Senators INHOFE and I could not agree more. We hope the Congress will enact a new authorization based on the principles we are outlining here today. I want to thank him. I hope our colleagues will take this seriously and hopefully we can turn this mess around.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF MICHAEL P. BOTTICELLI TO BE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Michael P. Botticelli, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 30 minutes of debate equally divided.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Millions of American families are struggling with an unrelenting addiction to controlled substances. This is nothing new and that is the unfortunate part about it. But after decades of taking the wrong path toward treating drug abuse, it appears that we are finally in the midst of a fundamental shift in the way we are going to focus and approach this issue.

For years we simply considered drug abuse as a crime, to be dealt with by police, prosecutors, and prisons. There

is now, however, a near consensus that addiction must be viewed as a public health issue. This requires coordinated investments in prevention and treatment. Law enforcement agencies would rather not arrest the same offenders over and over without dealing with the underlying addiction. Treating that addiction—rather than just punishing the addict—is often the more effective, more humane, and less costly approach.

There is perhaps no greater advocate for this shift in thinking than Michael Botticelli. Throughout his career in public health he has worked to bridge gaps between law enforcement, health care, and education providers. As acting director for the Office of National Drug Control Policy, ONDCP, he has made clear that we cannot "incarcerate addiction out of people." While law enforcement will always play a vital role in protecting citizens from drug-related crime, Mr. Botticelli recognizes that addiction is a disease—one that can be successfully prevented and treated using the same evidence-based approach we use for other public health challenges.

Mr. Botticelli's nomination was reported out of the Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously by voice vote last year and again last week. I am pleased that he continued to receive strong, bipartisan support from the full Senate here today. As director of ONDCP, Mr. Botticelli will help to coordinate drug-control activities across the Federal Government. This includes critical efforts such as administering funding for Drug-Free Communities grants and High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas. It is no small task. Just last week, the President requested over \$12 billion for demand reduction programs. This represents the largest commitment to treating and preventing drug addiction in our Nation's history, and it is badly needed.

Much of the country is now confronting a rising challenge: addiction to heroin and powerful painkillers. My home State of Vermont has not been spared, and it has attracted much attention for its struggles with opioid abuse. In fact, the film "The Hungry Heart" provides a powerful portrayal of the damage this addiction has inflicted on Vermont families. I was honored to host a screening of this moving film with Michael Botticelli last May.

However in many ways, Vermont is ahead of the Nation. We in Vermont long ago recognized the problem and began developing new approaches to address it. Dedicated Vermonters working in the traditional roles of prevention, treatment, and law enforcement came together around common goals and shared strategies. These community partnerships have produced innovative and successful programs such as the Rapid Intervention Community Court in Burlington, and Project VI-

SION in Rutland. Last year, the Judiciary Committee held a hearing in Vermont on this issue. As a lifelong Vermonter, what hit me is how everybody came together for this hearing—Republicans, Democrats, Independents, law enforcement, defense counsels, clergy, teachers, medical professionals, parents and often those who have been abusers. We all realize there is no single answer, but we can do it better than we have for decades.

First responders are saving the lives of addicts throughout the State by carrying naloxone. This will save their life instead of some who would die of an overdose. Evidence-based prevention and treatment services have been extended to all corners of Vermont, and barriers to recovery have been significantly reduced. That is the most important part.

These are all strategies that the ONDCP promotes. Mr. Botticelli understands that success requires an increased commitment to early intervention and education, treatment, and smart criminal justice policies. While the scope of the challenge is immense, Mr. Botticelli has us going in the right direction. Having listened to him, having talked to him, I am really hopeful he will help get us ahead of addiction, and help end the misery it inflicts on individuals, families, and our communities. I urge my fellow Senators to vote for his immediate confirmation.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I wish to express my strong support for Michael Botticelli as nominee to be the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Mr. Botticelli has more than two decades of experience supporting those who have been affected by substance use and abuse.

Prior to joining the Office of National Drug Control Policy in 2012, when he was confirmed as the Deputy Director, Mr. Botticelli served as the director of the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

While there, he expanded prevention, treatment, and recovery services, and worked to implement evidence-based programs, including a youth treatment system, early intervention and treatment programs, and overdose prevention programs.

During Mr. Botticelli's tenure as director of the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services, he confronted the issues of heroin and prescription drug abuse head-on and worked to ensure that police officers in Quincy, MA were trained and equipped to resuscitate overdose victims using naloxone, an emergency opioid overdose reversal medication.

Since October 2010, Quincy police officers have administered naloxone 220 times, almost always resulting in successful overdose reversal. This program has been replicated in communities throughout the country.

As chairman of the Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control, I had the opportunity to work closely with Mr. Botticelli during his time as Deputy Director and Acting Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Most recently, Mr. Botticelli testified at a hearing I chaired to address America's addiction to prescription opioids and heroin, where he emphasized the need for increased prescriber education to reduce prescription drug abuse and expanded access to naloxone nationwide.

In addition, Mr. Botticelli has committed to working with my office to address the import, manufacture, and distribution of dangerous synthetic drugs, which take far too many lives, far too early. At a previous hearing on the topic, he provided valuable insight into the threat that synthetic drugs pose and it is my hope that we can continue to work together as the Senate considers legislation to address this threat.

Mr. Botticelli has also been very clear about the fact that marijuana remains illegal under the Federal Controlled Substances Act, and has done much to disavow the notion that marijuana is harmless.

As a person in recovery himself, Mr. Botticelli brings a unique perspective to the Office of National Drug Control Policy. I believe this perspective will enable him to successfully implement a national drug control strategy that recognizes the need for both supply and demand reduction and appropriately incorporates an effective public health approach that is coupled with law enforcement efforts.

I look forward to continuing to work with Mr. Botticelli as he leads the Office of National Drug Control Policy in implementing a whole of government approach to combatting illegal and illicit drug use.

I believe Michael Botticelli will serve with distinction as the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, and I urge my colleagues to confirm his nomination.

Mr. LEAHY. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Michael P. Botticelli, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy?

Mr. ENZI. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 92, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 54 Ex.]

YEAS—92

Alexander	Feinstein	Murphy
Ayotte	Fischer	Murray
Baldwin	Flake	Nelson
Barrasso	Franken	Paul
Bennet	Gardner	Perdue
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	Peters
Blunt	Graham	Portman
Booker	Grassley	Reed
Boozman	Hatch	Reid
Boxer	Heinrich	Risch
Brown	Heitkamp	Rounds
Burr	Heller	Rubio
Cantwell	Hirono	Sanders
Capito	Inhofe	Sasse
Cardin	Isakson	Schatz
Carper	Johnson	Schumer
Casey	Kaine	Scott
Cassidy	King	Sessions
Coats	Kirk	Shaheen
Collins	Klobuchar	Shelby
Cooms	Lankford	Stabenow
Corker	Leahy	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Tester
Cotton	Manchin	Thune
Crapo	Markey	Tillis
Cruz	McCaskill	Udall
Daines	McConnell	Warner
Donnelly	Menendez	Warren
Durbin	Merkley	Whitehouse
Enzi	Mikulski	Wyden
Ernst	Murkowski	

NOT VOTING—8

Cochran	Moran	Vitter
Hoeven	Roberts	Wicker
McCain	Toomey	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

The majority leader.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CELEBRATING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today in celebration of the Lunar New Year, an important and festive holiday for people of Asian and Pacific Islander heritage around the world. Lunar New Year celebrations not only sustain important cultural traditions that have been practiced for centuries, but also provide a moment to reflect upon the many contributions made by the Asian and Pacific Islander community in Nevada and across the globe.

In my home State of Nevada, the Asian American community is among the fastest growing in the United States. From 2000 to 2010, the Asian American population in Nevada more than doubled. Chinese Americans, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders have greatly enriched Nevada's history and culture, and I am pleased to stand today in recognition of these communities as they prepare for the upcoming festivities.

This year, families and communities in Nevada and across the world will welcome the Year of the Sheep, and I offer my warmest wishes for peace and prosperity in the coming year.

WHO'S THE BOSS? THE "JOINT EMPLOYER" STANDARD, AMERICAN SMALL BUSINESSES AND EMPLOYMENT GROWTH

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of my remarks at the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee hearing last week be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

WHO'S THE BOSS? THE "JOINT EMPLOYER" STANDARD, AMERICAN SMALL BUSINESSES AND EMPLOYMENT GROWTH

This morning we are having a hearing about who qualifies as a joint employer in the National Labor Relations Board's view.

This hearing this morning is about a pending National Labor Relations Board decision that could destroy a small business opportunity for more than 700,000 Americans. These men and women are franchisees. They operate health clubs, barber shops, auto parts shops, child care centers, neighborhood restaurants, music stores, cleaning services, and much more. They use the brand name of companies like Planet Fitness, Merry Maids or Panera Bread. They may work 12 hours a day serving customers, meeting a payroll, dealing with government regulations, paying taxes, and trying to make a profit.

We live at a time when Democrats and Republicans bemoan the fact that it's getting harder and harder to climb the economic ladder of success in our country. Successfully operating a franchise business is today one of the most important ways to do that. Why would the pending decision by the National Labor Relations Board threaten this very American way of life, knocking the ladder out from under hundreds of thousands of Americans? The board and its General Counsel are pursuing a change to what is called

the "joint employer" standard. This standard, or test, has since 1984 required that for a business to be considered a joint employer, it must hold direct control over the terms and conditions of a worker's employment—to decide that, the NLRB looks at who hires and fires, sets work hours, picks uniforms, issues directions to employees, determines compensation, handles day to day supervision, and conducts recordkeeping.

Under the changes the NLRB is now considering, it would take just indirect control over the employees' terms and conditions of employment, or even unexercised potential to control working conditions, or where "industrial realities" otherwise made it essential to meaningful collective bargaining.

So what could this mean for these more than 700,000 franchisees and employers? These franchise companies will find it much more practical to own all their stores and restaurants and day care centers themselves. There will be many more company-owned outposts, rather than franchisee-owned small businesses.

Franchisees tell me they expect "franchisors would be compelled to try to establish control over staffing decisions and daily operations. . . . franchisees would lose their independence and become de facto employees of the franchisor."

This case doesn't just affect franchisees, it will affect every business that uses a subcontractor or contracts out for any service. That includes most of the 5.7 million businesses under NLRB jurisdiction in America—because most businesses contract for some service.

Consider a local bicycle shop that contracts out its cleaning service under a cost plus provision, in which the cleaner is paid for all of its expenses to a certain limit, plus a profit. If this arrangement is interpreted to create "indirect control" or have "unexercised potential" over working conditions—they could trigger joint employer obligations. Same thing with a local restaurant that outsources all of its baked goods under a contract that includes penalties for being late or delivering substandard goods—it could be considered a joint employer of the bakery employees.

What does it mean to be a joint employer?

First, you are required to engage in collective bargaining, and are on the hook for all of the agreements made in collective bargaining, such as salaries, healthcare coverage, and pension obligations. It often takes weeks or months of an employer's time and hefty legal costs to negotiate agreements.

Being considered a joint employer also eliminates protection from what are called "secondary boycotts." Current law does not allow a union to boycott companies that do business with their employer in an attempt to apply to pressure to their employer. If the secondary company is instead deemed a joint employer, the union will be able to picket and boycott.

Imagine being an employer and having these legal, financial and time burdens placed upon you by a union representing employees you have no real control over.

Let me give another example—we have several large auto manufacturing plants in my home state of Tennessee. Let's say one of those plants has a few thousand employees, but thousands of other workers come in and out of the plant's gates every day to provide goods and services the facility needs to operate.

These workers are employed and directly controlled by subcontractors that provide security, supply auto parts, and staff the com-

pany lunch room. If the NLRB goes down this road, the plant owner could be forced to sit at dozens of different collective bargaining tables—and be responsible for another employer's obligations.

So the manufacturer would likely take as much "in house" as it can—and if that move comes at the cost of efficiency and innovation the plant could be relocated elsewhere. This example is especially concerning to me because more than 100,000 Tennesseans are employed in the auto manufacturing industry.

As for the subcontractors, they would be losing huge clients, which would in turn jeopardize more jobs and threaten these businesses' futures.

Most business owners are people who wanted to run their own business, be their own boss, and live their dream of providing a much-needed service in their community.

This pending decision would ruin that dream for many.

WEST JEFFERSON, NORTH CAROLINA

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to the town of West Jefferson, NC. Today, February 9 is the 100th anniversary of the charter of this historical town that has become a vibrant community attracting tourists, artists, entrepreneurs, retirees and young families.

Development of rural farmland into a town resulted from extending a railroad line into it. Construction of roadbeds and trestles for the steel rails took place in 1914, and depots were created as loading spots. When people of this area learned that the railroad was coming, speculators made investments in villages that would be affected. A new village was also created. The West Jefferson Land Company mapped a farming area in a valley between two mountains and sold lots for commercial and residential uses. Developers and their purchasers were ready when the first train arrived. The West Jefferson depot was central and most prominent. As part of its official recognition by the State Legislature in 1915, the town acquired for its governance a mayor and aldermen.

Passenger service was added by the railroad company and enjoyed by many. Then, as the years went by, personal automobiles, paved roads, freight trucks and passenger buses created new transportation options. There were no more large tracts of virgin timber to be harvested. Railroad operation declined in profitability and the end came in 1977. The rails were taken up and trains became a romantic memory for the people of West Jefferson. Trains remain today as images which we see in the local history museum diorama and in some of the beautiful murals on downtown buildings. Murals, galleries, studios and dynamic programs now identify West Jefferson as an arts community, enhancing its image as a desirable place in which to live.

The town of West Jefferson has received many accolades for its business

and family-friendly environment, low cost of living, lively rebirth of its downtown district, and many other aspects. I join the fine people of West Jefferson as its citizens and leaders celebrate this historic 100th anniversary.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO GENE BESS

• Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I wish to honor Coach Gene Bess of Three Rivers College in Poplar Bluff, MO. As a coach for Three Rivers College, Gene has had an amazing career that has spanned four decades. During that time, he has maintained a winning percentage of 78 percent with an average of 27 wins per year. He has not had a losing season since becoming Three Rivers College's head coach in 1971.

Coach Bess has led the Three Rivers College Raiders to 17 tournament appearances in the National Junior College Athletic Association, NJCAA tournament, where his career record is 41-19. The Raiders have reached the Final Four of the NJCAA tournament nine times, while winning national championships in 1979 and 1992.

Gene has been recognized as the NJCAA Coach of the Year twice, the Regional Coach of the Year on 18 occasions, and the Midwest Community College Athletic Conference Coach of the Year 19 times. He is a member of the Poplar Bluff Sports Hall of Fame, the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame, and the NJCAA Hall of Fame.

Coach Bess is one of the best basketball coaches to ever blow a whistle in college basketball, and this month, he became the first college basketball coach ever to reach 1,200 victories. This is a tremendous feat for a coach in any sport, at any level.

Prior to his record-setting career at Three Rivers College, Coach Bess had a very successful record at the high school level when coaching at Lesterville, Anniston, and Oran. Over a 12-year period, these Bess-era teams won over 250 games, ending in appropriate fashion with his Oran team playing for the Missouri Class M State Championship. Oran lost that game 76-74, yet the Bess legacy was only beginning.

The leadership and dedication that Gene Bess demonstrates as a basketball coach, does not stop on the court. Instead, it translates into his personal and public life. He has been married for nearly 54 years and is a deacon at the First Baptist Church of Poplar Bluff. He and his wife Nelda have two children, Janell Hartmann and Brian, one of the Raiders' assistant coaches, and four grandchildren. Faith and family always come before his work, and this is just one secret to his success.

I ask that all of my colleagues join me in congratulating Coach Bess and

the Three Rivers Raiders on this rare milestone of 1,200 victories, a record that is unsurpassed at any level.●

TRIBUTE TO HELENE GALEN

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I wish to take this opportunity to recognize my great friend and an extraordinary philanthropist in my State, Helene Galen, who was honored over the weekend with the Desert AIDS Project's "100 Women Award." Helene's immense contributions throughout California—especially in her beloved Coachella Valley—have left a legacy that will benefit the people of our State for decades to come.

She has worked tirelessly to fight child abuse through the Barbara Sinatra Children's Center for almost 30 years. Her strong support for Jewish Family Service of the Desert has provided critical social services to seniors, children and families throughout the area. A devoted advocate for people living with HIV and AIDS, she has been a leader of the Desert AIDS Project's "100 Women" program, which supports women and children affected by HIV and AIDS with food, housing and life-saving health care.

Whenever Helene sees an unmet need, she doesn't wait for someone else to step up. She jumps in with all her heart and all her passion. She led the effort to build a new performing arts center and theater at Rancho Mirage High School, which will ensure that generations of young people can pursue their dreams. A longtime member of the University of Southern California School of Fine Arts' Board of Councilors, Helene and her late husband, Louis, were the driving force behind the construction of USC's Galen Center, an arena that opened in 2006 and has provided the community an incredible venue for sporting events, concerts, and school activities.

A former executive in the retail industry, Helene has used her financial savvy and management experience to benefit a host of charities and institutions. She has served on the boards of the Eisenhower Medical Center, the Palm Springs Art Museum, the McCallum Theatre, and the Palm Springs International Film Festival.

A devoted mother and grandmother, Helene truly embodies the saying in the Jewish tradition, "Whoever saves a life, it is as if that person has saved the whole world." Without a doubt, Helene's work has saved countless lives, and her impact will be felt in California for many years to come.●

RECOGNIZING THE ENERGY INNOVATION LABORATORY

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I wish to commend the Idaho National Lab's Energy Innovation Laboratory, EIL, for the facility's selection as the 2014 Best

Green Project in the Nation by the Engineering News-Record.

The recent award is among the growing list of recognitions the EIL is receiving for the innovative work at the lab. Engineering News-Record also recognized EIL as the Best Overall Inter-mountain Project for the States of Idaho, Utah and Montana. Additionally, EIL won the 2014 Go Beyond Award for the team's work to reduce the lab's environmental impacts. The lab is also among fewer than 5 percent of U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, LEED, registry research labs to be Platinum-certified.

EIL was completed in 2013 following the outstanding work of the EIL project team, led by Reed Miller of Ormond Builders and Kath Williams, the LEED coordinator, and in collaboration with INL's Project Management Office, Supply Chain Management and Campus Development Office. The new laboratory provides space for INL researchers to develop solutions to national energy challenges in advanced clean energy and related environmental science while also consolidating some of INL's research and development. I commend all those on the project team—including Ormond Builders Inc.; INL; Plan One/Architects; REL Facilities, LLC; Engineering System Solutions; and others—for their collaborative and conscientious work to establish this exceptional research facility that is mindful of our environment.

Energy efficiencies at the facility have resulted in its energy use being nearly half that of other conventionally-designed laboratories. In addition to its impressive energy savings, the facility's design also reduces its water usage. Nearly all of the construction waste was recycled, reused or repurposed, and one-third of the facility was constructed using recycled materials.

Idahoans are leading the way in developing technological and scientific advancements that are beneficial around the world. The exceptional research and development being conducted at the Idaho National Laboratory is an asset to our State and Nation. I commend all those on the EIL project team for their forward-thinking work. Congratulations on receiving this award. I look forward to continuing to follow your success.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. OLIVIA J. HOOKER

● Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Dr. Olivia J. Hooker, a leader whose commitment to service has lifted the lives of many Americans. As the first African American woman to serve in Active Duty in the U.S. Coast Guard, and as a survivor of the Tulsa Race Riots and founder of

the Tulsa Race Riot Commission, Dr. Hooker is a pioneer and role model for all to follow. I am especially proud to recognize Dr. Hooker on her centennial birthday.

During this momentous occasion, we celebrate the legacy of Dr. Olivia J. Hooker, whose strength and spirit have enriched our society.

Dr. Hooker was born in Oklahoma in 1915. In 1921, her community in Tulsa was destroyed in the worst race riot in United States history. The Tulsa Race Riot caused over 300 fatalities, as well as the burning of over 1,000 homes and businesses.

Following the riot, Dr. Hooker helped found the Tulsa Race Riot Commission. The commission served to draft recommendations for restitution. The advocacy of Dr. Hooker and her allies led them to testify before the Oklahoma State Legislature and U.S. Congress.

Dr. Hooker attended The Ohio State University after her family moved to Columbus, OH. After earning a bachelor's degree, Dr. Hooker applied to join the Navy, but was denied because of her race. Dr. Hooker then applied to join the Coast Guard, and became the first African American female to serve there. In 1942, Federal legislation created the U.S. Coast Guard Women's Reserve—the program known as SPAR. Dr. Hooker separated from the Coast Guard at the rank of petty officer 2nd class, with a Good Conduct Medal.

Dr. Hooker went on to earn her master's degree from Teachers College at Columbia University, and then a doctorate in psychology from the University of Rochester. Dr. Hooker had a long, remarkable career as a professor in New York. After retiring at the age of 87, she continues to inspire and support women joining the military, and believes our country prospers because of its diversity.

Dr. Hooker broke barriers in our Nation. Her story inspires many people who have faced adversity and discrimination. Dr. Hooker's legacy, accomplishments, and spirit will live on in our Nation.●

RECOGNIZING JON PONDER

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Jon Ponder for his tireless effort in giving others hope for a brighter future. Mr. Ponder has dedicated many years to helping adults exiting various segments of the judicial system successfully reenter the workforce and their local communities, as well as rekindle relationships with their families. He has contributed greatly to the city of Las Vegas by founding HOPE for Prisoners, Inc., HOPE, which gives ex-offenders the support necessary to reduce the likelihood of returning to prison.

Mr. Ponder stands as a shining example of someone who has devoted his life to the betterment of others. He founded HOPE in January of 2012 and has

since worked to create a strong program to successfully streamline men and women back into society. The program has graduated over 800 people through its leadership workshop who have gone on to successfully obtain full-time jobs. As founder and CEO, Mr. Ponder has contributed greatly to the success of the program.

HOPE services 12 agencies and offers life-skills training, work-readiness training, and job-development opportunities, encouraging those in the program to work hard to become a positive, contributing member of the community. Mr. Ponder has taken his own life experiences and used them in a positive manner to truly transform the lives of others. His ambition to help others is invaluable. He recently received the Leadership Award from the International Church of Las Vegas, a well-deserved honor for all of his hard work.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Mr. Ponder for his selfless contributions to the Las Vegas community and the individuals that have benefited from HOPE. His service to Nevada places him among the outstanding men and women of the State.

Today, I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in recognizing Mr. Ponder and his work for HOPE, a program with a mission that is both noble and necessary. I am honored to acknowledge Mr. Ponder and his tireless efforts to give others a second chance in Nevada. Giving these men and women the skills to allow them to change their circumstances is admirable, and I wish the program the best of luck in all of its future endeavors.●

REMEMBERING HENRY LEE FIELDS

● Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate a Georgia first responder, public servant and leader, Chief Henry Lee Fields, who passed away on December 28, 2014.

Chief Fields was born to Eddie Lee and Dorothea Johnson Fields on July 13, 1944, in Dougherty County, GA. He worked hard to graduate from Monroe High School in 1963, and attended Newark Community College before returning home in 1964 and working as an auto mechanic. He and his wife Dorothy Fields had two daughters, Rosalind and Wynne, and he was in the automotive field when he applied for a job at the fire department and found his true calling.

Chief Fields worked his way up the ladder and, in 1991, became the first African-American to serve as chief of the Albany Fire Department in Albany, GA.

During that time, Chief Fields also served in the role of emergency management director, and was confronted with two major floods that devastated the area in 1994 and 1998.

Chief Fields retired in 2000 after touching many lives through his fire safety efforts and through his church, Jordan Grove Missionary Baptist, where he served in many roles.

The Albany Fire Department headquarters appropriately lowered their flags to half-mast during the memorial service for Chief Fields.

Henry Fields was an inspirational leader and his years of service to his community will not be forgotten.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. NORMAN FRANCIS

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I wish to honor Dr. Norman Francis, president of Xavier University of Louisiana and grand marshal for the 2015 Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club Coronation Ball.

Dr. Francis was born in Lafayette, LA, to the son of a barber and a stay-home mother who valued education and hard work. After Dr. Francis graduated from St. Paul High School in 1948, he was awarded a scholarship to Xavier University, America's only historically black Catholic university, where he excelled academically. In 1953, he enrolled in Loyola University New Orleans from which he earned his juris doctorate in 1955. After this, he spent 2 years in the U.S. Army before returning to New Orleans.

In 1968, Dr. Francis was named president of Xavier University. He was the first African American man to lead Xavier, and he is currently the longest-sitting university president in the United States. As both a student and eventual administrator, Dr. Francis has been at Xavier for more than five decades. He is credited with being the catalyst for nearly every new building constructed on the campus during the past four decades.

Under Dr. Francis' leadership, Xavier continues to rank first nationally in the number of African American students earning undergraduate degrees in the biology and the life sciences, chemistry, physics, and pharmacy. Since 1993, Xavier has also continued to rank first nationally for African American students being accepted into medical schools.

Dr. Francis has received numerous honorary degrees from other universities and prestigious awards in recognition of his leadership in higher education and for unselfish service to New Orleans and to our Nation. In 2006, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President George W. Bush. Dr. Francis served as chairman of the Louisiana Recovery Authority following the devastation from Hurricane Katrina and Rita, and he was a leader in the efforts to rebuild the lives of those affected by the storms. In the aftermath of these storms, one publication called Dr. Francis a "quiet hero." This is a great way to describe a man who has done so much for his univer-

sity, his community, his State, and his Nation.

I am pleased to join with the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club in honoring grand marshal Dr. Norman Francis.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 527. An act to amend chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the Regulatory Flexibility Act), to ensure complete analysis of potential impacts on small entities of rules, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 527. An act to amend chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the Regulatory Flexibility Act), to ensure complete analysis of potential impacts on small entities of rules, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 405. A bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-591. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "OMB Report to the Congress on the Joint Committee Reductions for Fiscal Year 2016"; to the Committees on the Budget; and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-592. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "OMB Sequestration Preview Report to the President and Congress for Fiscal Year 2016"; to the Committees on the Budget; and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-593. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Difenoconazole; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9920-98) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-594. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Flutriafol; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9922-06) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-595. A communication from the Under Secretary for Rural Development, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rural Development Regulations—Update to FmHA References and to Census References" (RIN0570-AA30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-596. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Russian Sanctions: Licensing Policy for the Crimea Region of Ukraine" (RIN0694-AG43) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 3, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-597. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Unverified List (UVL)" (RIN0694-AG35) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-598. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Norway; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-599. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to the United Arab Emirates; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-600. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Community Planning and Development, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Housing Trust Fund" (RIN2506-AC30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 5, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-601. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Homeland Defense and Global Security), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to assistance provided by the Department of Defense (DoD) for sporting events during calendar year 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-602. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress On Repair of Naval Vessels in Foreign Shipyards"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-603. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedures for Fluorescent Lamp Ballasts" (RIN1904-AB99)

(Docket No. EERE-2009-BT-TP-0016)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 5, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-604. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to sections 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-120); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-605. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Annual Funding Notice for Defined Benefit Plans" (RIN1210-AB18) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 3, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-606. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Mother and Infant Home Visiting Program Evaluation: Early Findings on the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-607. A communication from the Director, Office of Communications and Legislative Affairs, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Annual Sunshine Act Report for 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-608. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014 and the Management Response for the period ending September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-609. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-610. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Bureau of Prisons' compliance with the privatization requirements of the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-611. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Bureau of Competition, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revised Jurisdictional Thresholds for Section 8 of the Clayton Act" (FR Doc. 2015-00929) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-612. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Bureau of Competition, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revised Jurisdictional Thresholds for Section 7a of the Clayton Act" (FR Doc. 2015-00933) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-613. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Uninformed Services Employment and Reemploy-

ment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) Quarterly Report to Congress; First Quarter of Fiscal Year 2015"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-614. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Washington; Redesignation to Attainment for the Tacoma-Pierce County Nonattainment Area and Approval of Associated Maintenance Plan for the 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Matter Standard" (FRL No. 9922-81-Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-615. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New Mexico; Transportation Conformity and Conformity of General Federal Actions" (FRL No. 9922-73-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-616. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; North Carolina; Inspection and Maintenance Program Updates" (FRL No. 9922-42-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-617. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision to the Arizona State Implementation Plan; Nogales Nonattainment Area; Fine Particulate Matter Emissions Inventories" (FRL No. 9922-74-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-618. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Placer County Air Pollution Control District and San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District" (FRL No. 9921-37-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-619. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Clean Air Act Section 110 Submission Requirements for State Implementation Plans and Notice of Availability of an Option for Electronic Reporting" (RIN2060-AS20) (FRL No. 9922-54-Region OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-620. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulation of Fuels and Fuel Additives: Extension of the Reformulated Gasoline Program to Maine's Southern Counties"

((RIN2060-AS19) (FRL No. 9921-82-OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-621. A communication from the Under Secretary for Policy, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the National Transportation Safety Board's 2015 Most Wanted List; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-622. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Federal Railroad Administrator, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 5, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-623. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries Off West Coast States; Modifications of the West Coast Commercial and Recreational Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Actions No. 24 through No. 44" (RIN0648-XD547) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-624. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher/Processors Using Trawl Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XD713) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-625. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Inseason Adjustment to the 2015 Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pollock, Atka Mackerel, and Pacific Cod Total Allowable Catch Amounts" (RIN0648-XD688) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-626. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Vessel Monitoring Systems; Requirements for Enhanced Mobile Transceiver Unit and Mobile Communication Service Type-Approval" (RIN0648-BD02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-627. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act Provisions; American Lobster Fishery" (RIN0648-BD45) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-628. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of

Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0924)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-629. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0927)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-630. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0925)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-631. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2009-0108)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-632. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0580)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-633. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0587)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-634. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; PILATUS Aircraft Ltd. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0770)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-635. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0692)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-636. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to

law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (36); Amdt. No. 3623" (RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-637. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Using Hook-and-Line Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XD654) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. GRASSLEY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. 295. A bill to amend section 2259 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 337. A bill to improve the Freedom of Information Act.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. UDALL (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 410. A bill to strengthen Indian education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 411. A bill to authorize the approval of natural gas pipelines and establish deadlines and expedite permits for certain natural gas gathering lines on Federal land and Indian land; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MIKULSKI:

S. 412. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to encourage and support parent, family, and community involvement in schools, to provide needed integrated services and comprehensive supports to children for the ultimate goal of assisting students to stay in school, become successful learners, improve their academic achievement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 413. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny tax deductions for corporate regulatory violations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 414. A bill to provide for conservation, enhanced recreation opportunities, and development of renewable energy in the California Desert Conservation Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 415. A bill to amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in order to limit the penalties to a State that does not meet its maintenance of effort level of funding to a one-time penalty, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. UDALL:

S. 416. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to promote the education of expectant and parenting students; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 417. A bill to encourage spectrum licenses to make unused spectrum available for use by rural and smaller carriers in order to expand wireless coverage; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. UDALL:

S. 418. A bill to support and encourage the health and well-being of elementary school and secondary school students by enhancing school physical education and health education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 419. A bill to assist coordination among science, technology, engineering, and mathematics efforts in the States, to strengthen the capacity of elementary schools, middle schools, and secondary schools to prepare students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BURR, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. COATS, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. KIRK, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. THUNE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CORKER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. HELLER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. PAUL, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. VITTER, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. CRUZ):

S.J. Res. 8. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to representation case procedures; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SHELBY:

S.J. Res. 9. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States which requires (except during time of war and subject to suspension by Congress) that the total amount of money expended by the United States during any fiscal year not exceed the amount of certain revenue received by the United States during such fiscal year and not exceed 20 percent of the gross domestic product of the United States during the previous calendar year; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 85

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 85, a bill to amend the Higher

Education Act of 1965 to establish a simplified income-driven repayment plan, and for other purposes.

S. 111

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 111, a bill to prohibit a Federal agency from establishing or implementing a policy that discourages or prohibits the selection of a resort or vacation destination as the location for a conference or event, and for other purposes.

S. 113

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 113, a bill to ensure that Federal Register notices submitted to the Bureau of Land Management are reviewed in a timely manner.

S. 140

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 140, a bill to combat human trafficking.

S. 141

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 141, a bill to repeal the provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act providing for the Independent Payment Advisory Board.

S. 149

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 149, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices.

S. 164

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 164, a bill to increase the rates of pay under the General Schedule and other statutory pay systems and for prevailing rate employees by 3.8 percent, and for other purposes.

S. 166

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 166, a bill to stop exploitation through trafficking.

S. 178

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 178, a bill to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

S. 183

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 183, a bill to repeal the annual fee on health insurance providers enacted by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 192

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 192, a bill to reauthorize the Older Americans Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

S. 197

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 197, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to award grants to States to improve delivery of high-quality assessments, and for other purposes.

S. 223

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 223, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a pilot program on awarding grants for provision of furniture, household items, and other assistance to homeless veterans to facilitate their transition into permanent housing, and for other purposes.

S. 235

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 235, a bill to provide for wildfire suppression operations, and for other purposes.

S. 265

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 265, a bill to expand opportunity through greater choice in education, and for other purposes.

S. 269

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 269, a bill to expand sanctions imposed with respect to Iran and to impose additional sanctions with respect to Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 283

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 283, a bill to prohibit the Internal Revenue Service from modifying the standard for determining whether an organization is operated exclusively for the promotion of social welfare for purposes of section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

S. 299

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 299, a bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 301

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Maryland

(Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 301, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

S. 309

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 309, a bill to prohibit earmarks.

S. 316

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 316, a bill to amend the charter school program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

S. 327

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 327, a bill to provide for auditable financial statements for the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 335

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 335, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve 529 plans.

S. 337

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 337, a bill to improve the Freedom of Information Act.

S. 352

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 352, a bill to amend section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an additional religious exemption from the individual health coverage mandate, and for other purposes.

S. 356

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 356, a bill to improve the provisions relating to the privacy of electronic communications.

S. 373

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 373, a bill to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel.

S. 384

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of

S. 384, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to facilitate water leasing and water transfers to promote conservation and efficiency.

S. 386

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 386, a bill to limit the authority of States to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States.

S. 394

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 394, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the 15-year recovery period for qualified leasehold improvement property, qualified restaurant property, and qualified retail improvement property.

S. 402

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 402, a bill to establish a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Master Teacher Corps program.

S. 404

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 404, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions.

S. RES. 40

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 40, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding efforts by the United States and others to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon.

S. RES. 69

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 69, a resolution calling for the protection of religious minority rights and freedoms worldwide.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 413. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny tax deductions for corporate regulatory violations; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am reintroducing, along with Senator

GRASSLEY, the Government Settlement Transparency and Reform Act. This bill aims to end the subsidization of illegal corporate behavior by taxpayers by closing a loophole that allows corporations to reap tax benefits from payments made to the government stemming from settling corporate misdeeds.

Corporations accused of illegal activity routinely settle legal disputes with the government out of court because it allows both the company and the government to avoid the time, expense, and uncertainty of going to trial. Under Federal law, money paid to settle corporate civil or criminal penalties is not deductible. But under the tax code, offending companies may often write off any portion of a settlement that is not paid directly to the government as a penalty or fine for violation of the law. Corporations exploit this provision by later characterizing settlement penalties as restitution and a tax-deductible business expense.

I think most would agree that, for example, a corporation should not come to an agreement with the government to pay \$500 million in criminal or civil fines and then when they file their taxes count those very fines as a business expense and take a tax windfall. Corporations that do this are effectively using taxpayer dollars to subsidize their illegal behavior. In 2005, the Government Accountability Office found that of the 34 companies and \$1 billion in settlements they examined, 20 companies took a tax deduction for some or all of the money it paid to the government. Those settlements were silent on whether that \$1 billion to the government counted as penalties or restitution. According to GAO, in two of those settlements, company representatives said they made a mistake in deducting civil penalty payments totaling \$1.9 million and said they would amend their tax returns.

To address these practices, the Reed-Grassley bill would amend 162(f) of the tax code and require the government and the settling party to reach pre-filing agreements on how the settlement payments should be treated for tax purposes. Our bill also clarifies the rules about what settlement payments are punitive and therefore non-deductible. Furthermore, it increases transparency by requiring the government to file a return at the time of settlement to accurately reflect the tax treatment of the amounts that will be paid by the offending party.

Last Congress it was estimated that over a ten-year budget window this legislation would raise \$218 million in revenue.

With this legislation we can close this tax loophole that flies in the face of sensible and fair tax policy. The tax code should not be used to subsidize illegal activity by corporations. Indeed,

when a fine is levied, that fine should not be construed as a legitimate business expense. Instead, it should be paid in full, with no tax deduction taken.

I want to thank Senator GRASSLEY for working with me again on this legislation. He has long championed closing this loophole. I urge our colleagues to join us by cosponsoring this legislation and seeking its passage.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 414. A bill to provide for conservation, enhanced recreation opportunities, and development of renewable energy in the California Desert Conservation Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I am introducing the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act, a piece of legislation that serves as an update to the historic California Desert Protection Act of 1994.

This bill reflects our attempt to achieve consensus among the various uses of desert land and the many stakeholders involved. This bill is bipartisan and it charts a commonsense path forward for the California desert.

It protects additional desert land. It helps manage my State's natural resources. It balances competing interests. It includes provisions on recreation and renewable energy development.

Overall, it ensures that the California desert will remain what it is today: a true American treasure.

This bill has been a long time in the making.

Only three months after I was sworn in as Senator, in January 1993, I introduced the Desert Protection Act. I picked up where my predecessors left off, and President Clinton signed the bill into law in October 1994.

This law was the largest land conservation designation in the continental United States:

It protected or increased existing protection for 9.6 million acres of desert land.

It established the iconic national parks of Joshua Tree and Death Valley, as well as the Mojave National Preserve.

It helped save habitats for endangered species.

It continues to attract millions of tourists to southern California—a boon for the economy.

It has ensured that the beautiful landscapes will be enjoyed for generations.

I recently visited the desert to celebrate the 20-year anniversary of that legislation becoming law. I was once again reminded how stunning the special land is. Simply put, it is an icon of the American West.

I became even more convinced: now is the time to do even more.

This is why I am introducing new legislation—to build upon the legacy of 1994.

The bill I am introducing today has a simple goal: to help manage California's desert resources with a well-planned approach that balances conservation, recreation, energy production and other needs.

This bill is first and foremost a bipartisan bill. It brings so many groups together:

Environmental groups; State and local governments; the off-road community; cattle ranchers; mining interests; the Defense Department; energy companies; California's public utility companies; and many others.

To account for all the uses of the desert, this whole effort was based on an attempt to find consensus. We have worked very hard over the years to build that consensus.

We have consulted these stakeholders over the past 6 years. We have had thousands of hours of discussions. They have provided invaluable input and I am grateful for all of them coming to the table.

The cornerstone of the legislation is the creation of two new national monuments:

First is the Mojave Trails National Monument, which would encompass 965,000 acres. Of that, 196,000 acres is Caetellus lands, the areas acquired or donated to the Federal Government between 1999 and 2004 with the purpose of conserving land for the American public.

It should be noted that this donated land, which stretches from the Mexican border to San Bernardino county, was the largest land donation to the U.S. Government in the continental United States. But recently, the aim to conserve it was threatened by the development of some solar energy projects. That is why this bill is necessary: to ensure that the intention of those generous donors, to protect this land in perpetuity, is actually realized.

The second monument designation is the Sand to Snow National Monument. This would be made up of 135,000 acres of land from the desert floor in the Coachella Valley to the top of Mount San Gorgonio.

The Mojave Trails National Monument is essential as it contains important wildlife corridors and habitats. The Sand to Snow National Monument, likewise, would be one of the most environmentally diverse monuments in the country, including habitat for 240 species of migrating and breeding birds.

The bill has many other conservation provisions including: designating six BLM wilderness areas, covering 250,000 acres of land, designating 77 miles along 4 waterways as Wild and Scenic River; adding land to the Death Valley National Park, 39,000 acres, Mojave National Preserve, 22,000 acres, and Joshua Tree National Park, 4,500 acres.

Conserving pristine desert land such as this is most definitely in the interests of our country. The California desert is a very special place and it deserves to stay that way.

The bill also designates five existing BLM Off-Highway Vehicle Areas, covering approximately 142,000 acres of desert, as permanent Off-Highway Vehicle, OHV, recreation areas.

As has been stated, the desert has many uses, and motorists have long used the area for recreation. These provisions give off-highway enthusiasts the certainty they need. Their use of the desert will be protected as much as conservation areas are.

In fact, in this regard we have had success in recent years. Congressman PAUL COOK and I brokered an agreement for the mixed use of Johnson Valley, which was the subject of debate between the Marine Corps and off-road vehicle enthusiasts. We brought the parties together and reached a compromise. We made clear what land was for off-roading, what land was for Marine Corps training only and what land was to be shared.

This model of compromise should be instructive. When the parties come together, as they have in the case of this bill, we can achieve an equitable and fair distribution of the land.

Another use of the desert land that we must take into account is renewable energy.

Let me be clear: developing cleaner energy is important for California's economy and for our efforts to fight global warming.

But I also feel strongly that we must be very careful where these facilities are located.

Balancing conservation, development and other uses is possible, we just need to come up with the right solutions. Thankfully, some of these compromises are already in place.

In April 2009 there were 28 solar and wind energy proposals on lands proposed to be included in the Mojave Trails National Monument, including sites on former Caetellus lands intended for permanent conservation.

I visited some of those sites at the time, including one particularly beautiful area known as the Broadwell Valley, where thousands of acres of pristine lands were proposed for development. Seeing it first hand, I quickly came to the conclusion that those lands were simply not the right place for renewable energy development.

Since then, 26 of the 28 applications have been withdrawn. So what happened in the nearly 6 years since then?

First, the Energy and Interior Departments developed new solar energy zones. These zones allow projects to be developed on lands least likely to harm plant and wildlife species, and allow projects to be completed faster and with fewer conflicts. This is a smart compromise.

Second, California has worked closely with Federal agencies to develop the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan. This blueprint will help identify pristine lands that warrant protection and direct energy projects elsewhere.

Today, none of the land proposed for renewable development or transmission as part of these initiatives conflicts with the conservation proposed in this bill.

This is a fair balancing of priorities, and I think it provides a clear path forward.

The bill I am introducing also takes additional action to help promote responsible renewable energy development.

Specifically, the bill requires the Interior Department to exchange approximately 370,000 acres of small, isolated parcels of State land for Federal land. By swapping state land that is often surrounded by wilderness and national parks for other federal land, these exchanges will provide California with sites for renewable energy production, recreation or other uses.

I strongly urge my colleagues to take a good look at this legislation. I hope they understand that the many stakeholders involved have made their voices heard. The text of this legislation represents a consensus effort.

Most importantly, I hope they recognize the simple fact that desert conservation has never been a partisan issue.

Over the years, legislators have come together across party lines to preserve this great piece of land.

Given our past success, I am hopeful this Congress will take this legislation up and move it forward. It is the right thing to do, and the California desert needs it.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BURR, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. COATS, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. KIRK, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. THUNE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CORKER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. HELLER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. PAUL, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. VITTER, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. CRUZ):

S.J. Res. 8. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to representation case procedures; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, recently the Senate has had a lot of discussion about partisan overreach. We have talked about an administration that seems to view democracy as what it can get away with, not what it can work cooperatively to achieve. It is worrying for our country, and we keep seeing more examples of it.

Consider the administration's effort to weaken workers' rights. This administration's appointees on the National Labor Relations Board released their so-called ambush rule back in December. It is designed with one purpose in mind: to fatten the wallets of powerful political bosses by weakening the rights of middle-class workers.

Republicans believe a worker has a right to make her own informed choices about joining a union. We don't think powerful political bosses should attempt to make that decision for her, but that is just what this rule aims to achieve. These bosses think they can enrich their own coffers if they can deny workers real opportunities to weigh the pros and cons of joining a union. For instance, in an era of stagnant wages, does a worker want to see her paycheck shrink so a political boss can attend more campaign fundraisers? Republicans think that is a choice for the worker to make. Does a worker want to give up her right to demand better pay or a promotion that she deserves and cede those decisions to a distant political organization?

Republicans think she has a right to make those choices for herself and she has a right to make them in an informed way, but the administration's ambush rule would dramatically weaken her ability to do so. In many cases it wouldn't even allow her more than a handful of days to weigh the pros and cons of such a costly and important decision. It is really not fair. And it is not just me saying that; consider the words of John F. Kennedy. Here is what he had to say about it. "There should be at least a 30-day interval" for union elections, he said. He noted that these 30 days represent a safeguard against "rushing employees into an election where they are unfamiliar with the issues." Kennedy was right.

There is another important issue at stake here too. Just as Republicans think a worker has a right to make her own informed choices, Republicans also think her personal information is none of the business of powerful political bosses. But the administration's ambush rule would allow those bosses to access things such as her email address and cell number without—without—her permission. It also would allow those bosses to track her, to know exactly when and where she is working—again, without her permission. She can't opt out and she can't unsubscribe. This is really chilling. This is really extreme.

What about the men and women who rise early every day to fulfill their

dreams, the men and women who provide so many opportunities for others to fulfill theirs? This ambush rule is also aimed at preventing someone with a small business of her own from even having a real conversation with her employees about the cost and the benefits of joining a union. The ambush rule would give extraordinary power to political bosses on the outside, while shutting her voice down—the one person who probably knows more about and cares more about her employees than anyone else. After years spent building a dream and caring about the men and women who helped her get there, this rule is an insult—an insult—to entrepreneurs like her.

Moreover, it is not the men and women on the assembly line who are demanding the ambush rule. There is no demand for this coming up with the workforce in America. So who is demanding it? It is the powerful political bosses who worry that more and more workers are making an informed choice not to join a union. Those bosses are worried about what informed choices could mean for them—less money, less power.

So this far-reaching rule—the so-called Mt. Everest of regulations—is not the result of the administration seeking out the best policy; it is just another example of the administration seeing what it can get away with. It is a brazen attempt to enrich powerful political friends of the White House by weakening workers' rights. It is not fair for workers, and it is not right for our country.

My good friends the Senators from Tennessee and Wyoming are here on the floor to explain what Congress plans to do to stand up for basic fairness in the workplace. They are going to talk about this latest example of partisan executive overreach—the kind of overreach that is coming to define the Obama administration—and what Congress plans to do next.

Madam President, I see the Senator from Tennessee is on his feet, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I thank the Chair for the recognition and the majority leader for his remarks and his leadership. I am also glad to be here with the Senator from Wyoming, who over the years has been the leading Republican Senator on the issue of ambush elections.

We are here today, as the majority leader said, to introduce a Congressional Review Act resolution to stop a new National Labor Relations Board rule. I would like to speak about that for a few minutes and then let the Senator from Wyoming continue.

Last December the NLRB issued a final rule that shortened the timeline between when pro-union organizers ask an employer for a secret ballot election

and when the election actually takes place. I refer to this as an ambush election because it forces a union election before an employer has a chance to figure out what is going on. Even worse, it jeopardizes employees' privacy by requiring employers to turn over personal employee information—including email addresses, phone numbers, shift hours, and locations—to union organizers.

The effect of this resolution will be to permit the majority leader to bring this resolution to the floor after the congressional recess. There will be 10 hours of debate. The resolution cannot be amended, and it needs a majority vote to pass. The House of Representatives is following a similar procedure. Both Houses must vote on it. If it passes both Houses, the President can sign or veto the resolution. If the President decides to veto, it would take 67 votes to override. If the NLRB's new ambush election rule is disapproved, the Board cannot issue a substantially similar rule without congressional approval.

Today, more than 95 percent of union elections occur within 56 days after a petition is filed, but under this new rule elections could take place in as few as 11 days after a petition is filed. This rule will harm employers and employees alike, and here is how.

If you are an employer who gets ambushed—in other words, a union election happens before you really know what is going on—on day 1 you get a faxed copy of an election petition that has been filed at your local NLRB regional office stating that 30 percent of your employees support a union. The union may have already been quietly trying to organize for months without your knowledge. Your employees have been able to hear only the union's pitch.

By day 2 or 3 of this process, you must publicly post an election notice in your workplace and post it online as well if you communicate with your employees electronically.

By noon on day 7, you must file with the NLRB what is called a statement of position. This is a comprehensive, written legal document in which an employer sets out legal positions and claims. Under this new NLRB rule, you, the employer, waive your rights to use any legal arguments not raised in the document. On day 7, you must also present the union and the NLRB with a list of prospective voters as well as their job classifications, shift hours, and work locations.

On day 8, a pre-election hearing is held at the NLRB regional office, and an election date is set.

By day 10, the employer must present the union with a list of employee names, personal email addresses, personal cell phone numbers, and home addresses.

Day 11 is the earliest day on which the NLRB could conduct the election

under the new rule. The union has the power to postpone an election by an additional 10 days at this point, but the employer has no corresponding power.

Under this new NLRB rule, before the hearing on day 8 an employer will have less than 1 week to figure out what an election petition is, find legal representation—many employers don't have a labor lawyer as a matter of course—determine legal positions on the relevant issues, learn what statements and actions the law permits and prohibits, gather information required by the NLRB, communicate with employees about the decision they are making, and correct any misstatements and falsehoods employees may be hearing from union organizers. Making even the slightest mistake in the lead-up to an election can result in the NLRB setting aside the results and ordering a rerun election or, worse, the Board could require an employer to automatically bargain with the union.

But it is the employees who stand to lose the most under this new rule. First, because of this ambush election, employees may only hear half the story about what unionizing may mean for them and for their workplace. When a workplace is unionized—especially in a State that does not have a right-to-work law—employees have their dues money taken out of every paycheck, whether they like it or not. Employees lose the ability to deal directly with their employer to address concerns, or ask for a promotion or raise, and instead have to work through the union.

Important considerations, such as which of their fellow employees will be included in the bargaining unit, will no longer be determined before the election. As the two dissenting members of the NLRB put it: Employees will be asked to "vote now, understand later."

Second, employees lose their privacy because the final rule we seek to overturn requires employers to hand over employees' personal email addresses, cell phone numbers, shift locations, and job classifications, even if the employee has made it clear he does not want to be contacted by union organizers.

This rule appears to be a solution in search of a problem. Only 4.3 percent of union elections occur more than 56 days after the petition is filed. The current median number of days between when the petition is filed and the election is held is just 38 days.

These figures are well within the NLRB's own goals for timely elections. Unions won 64 percent of elections in 2013. In recent years, the union win rate has actually been going up. So what is the problem?

The majority leader said it very well when he referred to a 1959 debate over amendments to the National Labor Relations Act. Then-Senator John F. Kennedy warned against rushing employees into a union election. Senator Kennedy said:

There should be at least a 30-day interval between the request for an election and the holding of the election...in which both parties can present their viewpoints.

The 30-day waiting period is an additional safeguard against rushing employees into an election where they are unfamiliar with the issues.

It is clear to see this rule is wrong. That is why Senator ENZI, Senator MCCONNELL, and I are asking the Senate to disapprove the rule and prohibit the National Labor Relations Board from issuing any substantially similar rule.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Tennessee, Mr. ALEXANDER, for his comments.

I don't think I have ever heard it put quite as concisely or the timeline explained quite as well as he did. I hope people are paying attention. I hope people take a look at the journal and see exactly how short a timeframe that is for both the employer and the employees.

So I rise to support the resolution of disapproval that would repeal the National Labor Relations Board's ambush election rule.

I again thank my friend Senator ALEXANDER for his leadership as the chairman of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee and for leading this effort to prevent yet more misguided Federal regulation that will hurt American businesses and employees.

Unfortunately this isn't the first time we have had to fight this rule from the NLRB. When I led the Congressional Review Act resolution to stop this rule in 2012, I truly appreciated Senator ALEXANDER's support and am proud to support him now. I didn't have the votes to pass the resolution in 2012, but we have had some elections and some changes in the Senate since then.

The rule the National Labor Relations Board has proposed would be a tremendous burden on employers, especially small businesses. If this rule goes into effect, it will mean employers will barely have time to meet their preelection legal obligations. It will mean employees will be rushed into an election without time to study and consider what the unionization would mean for them, for their workplace, and for their community. Also, Big Labor will be able to force elections through in order to boost revenue from union dues and increase the influence of Big Labor.

Our economy is already grappling with Federal rules and regulations that hold back businesses. This rule from

the National Labor Relations Board will be yet another break, slowing down our economy at a time when we need to encourage employers and businesses to grow. It would be especially harmful to small businesses, which are the backbone of our economy and the most important factor in maintaining our fragile economic growth.

Small businesses that don't have human resource departments and more particularly don't have in-house legal counsel already face a significant burden when they have to navigate union elections. This rule would only make it harder. This rule would hurt businesses for the sole purpose of helping unions that don't need it.

Union elections are supposed to be held in a timely and fair manner, which is what the current system achieves. The average time between filing an election petition, as has been mentioned, and holding the vote is 38 days, and nearly all elections happen within 2 months.

That process allows employers to understand their rights and meet their legal obligations. It allows employees to educate themselves about what unionization means for them personally and for their work, and it ensures that union elections will be a fair opportunity for workers to decide whether to organize.

Under the current system there is a 25-day waiting period between the setting of an election and the actual secret ballot election. That window of time is crucial. Employers use that time to understand their rights and restrictions in the process and to meet their legal obligations.

The union election process is not simple, nor is it straightforward for employees. There are numerous places where a well-meaning employer working to meet their obligations could misstep and face heavy penalties from the National Labor Relations Board.

Employers also use this time to communicate with their employees about the decision they are making and to clear up misstatements, rumors or falsehoods that have been going around.

The time between petitioning for election and voting is also used for parties to study decisions by hearing officers or the National Labor Relations Board's regional director and ask for clarification or review.

Under the National Labor Relations Board's rule, all the opportunities for anyone involved with the process to understand their legal obligations, to exercise their rights, to study or debate the arguments for or against unionization or even to learn about the issue would be squeezed into as little as 14 days.

Is it fair for an employee to only have 10 days to learn how his or her vote will affect the rest of their time with that employer—we have to re-

member they are going to be working during that time probably—or how much money membership in a union is going to cost them or what it means for their ability to negotiate directly with their employer for raises or other benefits or concerns or any of the countless other issues an employee might want to approach his or her employer about?

Under current law, both parties are able to raise issues about the election at a preelection hearing, covering such issues as which employees should be included in the bargaining unit and whether particular employees are actually supervisors.

Under the new regulation, parties will be barred from raising these questions until after the election. Employees will be forced to vote without knowing which other employees will actually be in the bargaining unit with them. This is important information that weighs heavily in most employees' votes.

Under current law, when either party raises preelection issues, they are allowed to submit evidence and testimony, and file post-hearing briefs for the hearing officer to consider, and then they have 14 days in which to appeal decisions made with respect to that election.

Under the new regulation, the hearing officer is given the broad discretion to bar all evidence and testimony unrelated to the question of representation and all post-election briefs and no appeals or requests for stays are allowed. This could be quite a disadvantage for employees as well as employers.

What this all adds up to is an extremely small window of time for filing the petition to the actual election, little opportunity for employers to learn their rights or communicate with their employees their rights, and less opportunities for employees to research the union and the ramifications of forming the union.

The NLRB is ensuring that the odds are stacked against the employees and the businesses. This vote is an opportunity to tell the National Labor Relations Board to reverse course.

I hope this resolution will convince the National Labor Relations Board to pull back from this disastrous rule and encourage them to focus on their statutory mission rather than overturning decades of settled practice that ensures that this process is held in a timely manner and that there is a fair opportunity for all sides to understand, to participate, and to exercise their rights.

The NLRB's purpose is to enforce the National Labor Relations Act, which is a carefully balanced law that has only rarely been changed. When changes have occurred, they have been the result of careful negotiations, with input from stakeholders and thoughtful debate.

The NLRB is attempting a sneak attack through the rulemaking process. This is an ambush on the National Labor Relations Act to set up ambush elections.

The National Labor Relations Board is an agency that has historically issued very few regulations. Most of the questions that come up under the law are handled through the decisions of the Board. Board decisions often do change the enforcement of the law significantly, but they are issued in response to an actual dispute and a question of law.

In contrast, the ambush election is not a response to a real problem because the current election process for certifying whether employees want to form a union is not broken. The rule was not carefully negotiated by stakeholders, it was not made with careful debate, and there was no attempt to reach a consensus.

In the late 1950s Congress worked to pass the Landrieu-Griffin Act, which protected the rights of both rank-and-file union members and their employees. This was a carefully constructed piece of legislation that came out of a special committee to study the issue, that heard from more than 1,500 witnesses over 3 years. And Congress debated the issue of how long a period of time there should be between the request for an election and the actual election coming up during those negotiations.

My colleagues may be surprised to learn—although they wouldn't if they were listening to the previous two speeches—that it was Senator John F. Kennedy who argued vigorously for a 30-day waiting period prior to the election. He said:

There should be at least a 30 day interval between a request for an election and the holding of an election . . . in which both parties can present their viewpoints. . . . The 30 day waiting period is an additional safeguard against rushing employees into an election where they are unfamiliar with the issues.

Again, that was a quote by Senator John F. Kennedy, speaking directly to the need for fairness to employees. The 30-day waiting period provision he supported did not ultimately become part of the law, and obviously it is not a law today. Instead, the NLRB adopted the practice of a 25-day waiting period in almost every case.

This caution about the need for employees to have a chance to become familiar with the issues is just as true today. Employees who are not aware of the organizing activity at their worksites and even those who are need to have an opportunity to learn about the union they may join. They will want to research the union to ensure it has no signs of corruption. They will want to know how other worksites have fared with this union and whether they can believe the promises the union organizers may be extending. Employees

should have every chance to understand the impact of unionization. Four decades ago Senators recognized that employees deserved the opportunity to gather this and all other relevant information before casting their votes. Unfortunately, the NLRB is choosing to ignore this caution, and rank-and-file employees will suffer.

This situation is exactly what the Congressional Review Act was intended for. When an agency goes too far and tries to impose rules and regulations that are unnecessary or harmful—in this case, both—the Congressional Review Act gives Congress an expedited process for repealing that regulation. It is a process that cannot be held up and cannot be stalled or put off to ensure that Congress can act when it needs to stop an out-of-control agency.

By any measure, the current law and certification system for union elections ensures that the process is fair for all parties and that all parties have the opportunity to exercise their rights and to fully understand the implications. The National Labor Relations Board has not made the case that elections are being held up or stalled. They

cannot make the case because the data doesn't support it. I want to repeat. The National Labor Relations Board has not made the case that elections are being held up or stalled. They cannot make that case because the data doesn't support it. There is no need for this rule, which is just a handout to Big Labor, which relies on pushing unions forward before businesses and employees have a chance to study and understand the full effects.

This resolution will preserve the fairness and swift resolution of claims which occur under current law. It will not disadvantage unions or roll back any rights. It is important to say that again because there is going to be a lot of misinformation about what this resolution does. This resolution does not disadvantage unions or roll back any union rights. What it does is it ensures that small business employers and employees in America are not unfairly disadvantaged by a burdensome process and that employees are not misled with insufficient or incorrect information during the union election process.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 1 additional minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ENZI. Under a successful Congressional Review Act disapproval, the agency in question is prohibited from issuing any substantially similar regulation. That means the National Labor Relations Board could not just reissue this regulation again and again, as they have currently done.

I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution to ensure that the National Labor Relations Board understands that this rule is a no-go and that we will stand up to ensure a fair process.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I wish to make a unanimous consent request that Lt. Col. Anthony McCarty, a defense fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of this year.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FOREIGN TRAVEL FINANCIAL REPORTS

In accordance with the appropriate provisions of law, the Secretary of the Senate herewith submits the following reports for standing committees of the Senate, certain joint committees of the Congress, delegations and groups, and select and special committees of the Senate, relating to expenses incurred in the performance of authorized foreign travel:

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2014

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Debbie Stabenow:									
Senegal	franc		376.00						376.00
Tanzania	shilling		751.50						751.50
Ethiopia	birr		984.00						984.00
Italy	euro		1,093.57						1,093.57
Senator Amy Klobuchar:									
Senegal	franc		461.75						461.75
Tanzania	shilling		575.10						575.10
Ethiopia	birr		810.52						810.52
Italy	euro		878.58						878.58
Senator Heidi Heitkamp:									
Senegal	franc		238.95						238.95
Tanzania	shilling		484.90						484.90
Ethiopia	birr		1,026.50						1,026.50
Italy	euro		1,115.60						1,115.60
Christopher Adamo:									
Senegal	franc		476.00						476.00
Tanzania	shilling		851.50						851.50
Ethiopia	birr		1,084.00						1,084.00
Italy	euro		1,043.57						1,043.57
Anne Brewster-Stanski:									
Senegal	franc		376.00						376.00
Tanzania	shilling		751.50						751.50
Ethiopia	birr		955.00						955.00
Italy	euro		1,093.57						1,093.57
Jacqlyn Schneider:									
Senegal	franc		403.00						403.00
Tanzania	shilling		814.50						814.50
Ethiopia	birr		1,073.00						1,073.00
Italy	euro		1,101.57						1,101.57
Joseph Shultz:									
Senegal	franc		476.00						476.00
Tanzania	shilling		851.50						851.50
Ethiopia	birr		1,084.00						1,084.00
Italy	euro		943.57						943.57
Brigit Helgen:									
Senegal	franc		544.02						544.02
Tanzania	shilling		897.45						897.45
Ethiopia	birr		468.10						468.10
Italy	euro		897.04						897.04
Delegation Expenses: *									
Senegal	franc						2,862.55		2,862.55
Tanzania	shilling						18,861.79		18,861.79
Ethiopia	birr						25,938.60		25,938.60

February 9, 2015

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CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2014—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Italy	euro						3,285.21		3,285.21
Total			24,981.86				50,948.15		75,930.01

* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR DEBBIE STABENOW,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, Dec. 31, 2014.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2014

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Shannon Hines:									
France	Euro		1,664.00		270.00				1,934.00
Hungary	Forint		500.61		27.13				527.74
United States	Dollar				10,630.40				10,630.40
Tim Rieser:									
Cuba	Peso		506.00						506.00
United States	Dollar				1,127.00		20.00		1,147.00
Paul Grove:									
Dem. Rep. Congo	Franc		1,043.00						1,043.00
Kenya	Shilling		1,080.00		1,560.00				2,640.00
United States	Dollar				4,816.40				4,816.40
Adam Yezerski:									
Dem. Rep. Congo	Franc		1,093.00						1,093.00
Kenya	Shilling		1,130.00		1,560.00				2,690.00
United States	Dollar				4,816.40				4,816.40
Delegation Expenses: *									
Kenya	Shilling				1,213.50		51.32		1,264.82
Total			7,016.61		26,020.83		71.32		33,108.76

* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR BARBARA A. MIKULSKI,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, Jan. 23, 2015.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2014

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Mike Kuiken:									
United States	Dollar				13,046.00				13,046.00
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		736.09						736.09
Afghanistan	Afghani		20.50						20.50
Mike Noblet:									
United States	Dollar		4.00		13,140.00				13,144.00
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		163.00				410.00		573.00
Adam Barker:									
United States	Dollar				13,046.00				13,046.00
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		445.83						445.83
Afghanistan	Afghani		20.50						20.50
Tom Goffus:									
United States	Dollar				13,046.00				13,046.00
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		445.83						445.83
Afghanistan	Afghani		20.50						20.50
Delegation Expenses: *									
United Arab Emirates	Dirham				211.23				211.23
Senator Tim Kaine:									
United States	Dollar				13,050.77				13,050.77
India	Rupee		1,184.85						1,184.85
Afghanistan	Afghani		69.00						69.00
Pakistan	Rupee		104.00						104.00
Qatar	Riyal		164.00						164.00
Karen Courington:									
United States	Dollar				12,970.40				12,970.40
India	Rupee		1,253.42						1,253.42
Afghanistan	Afghani		69.00						69.00
Pakistan	Rupee		224.00						224.00
Qatar	Riyal		164.00						164.00
Senator Angus King:									
United States	Dollar				14,604.72				14,604.72
India	Rupee		876.95				72.20		949.15
Afghanistan	Afghani		69.00						69.00
Pakistan	Rupee		94.00				10.00		104.00
Qatar	Riyal		164.00						164.00
Stephen Smith:									
United States	Dollar				14,604.72				14,604.72
India	Rupee		876.95		50.44		96.58		1,023.97
Afghanistan	Afghani		69.00						69.00
Pakistan	Rupee		94.00				10.00		104.00
Qatar	Riyal		164.00						164.00
Delegation Expenses: *									
India	Rupee						561.73		561.73
Pakistan	Rupee						132.45		132.45

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2014—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Qatar	Riyal						59.31		59.31
Senator James Inhofe:									
United States	Dollar				11,644.80				11,644.80
Ukraine	Hryvnia		421.01						421.01
Jordan	Dinar		191.00						191.00
Germany	Euro		391.09						391.09
Tom Goffus:									
United States	Dollar				11,644.80				11,644.80
Ukraine	Hryvnia		421.01						421.01
Jordan	Dinar		191.00						191.00
Germany	Euro		391.09						391.09
Delegation Expenses: *									
Ukraine	Hryvnia						200.44		200.44
Jordan	Dinar				196.08		362.58		558.66
Germany	Euro						1,619.01		1,619.01
Lithuania	Euro						356.91		356.91
Senator John McCain:									
Canada	Dollar		611.42						611.42
Christian Brose:									
Canada	Dollar		675.57						675.57
Elizabeth O'Bagy:									
Canada	Dollar		649.77						649.77
Senator Ted Cruz:									
Canada	Dollar		604.41						604.41
Victoria Coates:									
Canada	Dollar		677.57						677.57
Senator Tim Kaine:									
Canada	Dollar		587.17						587.17
Karen Courington:									
Canada	Dollar		600.01						600.01
Mary Naylor:									
Canada	Dollar		590.76						590.76
Delegation Expenses: *									
Canada	Dollar				371.87		9,185.61		9,557.48
Jonathan Epstein:									
United States	Dollar				8,098.00				8,098.00
Turkey	Lira		200.00						200.00
Delegation Expenses: *									
Turkey	Lira						8.51		8.51
Senator John McCain:									
United States	Dollar				16,336.52				16,336.52
Turkey	Lira		129.00						129.00
Elizabeth O'Bagy:									
United States	Dollar				14,333.43				14,333.43
Afghanistan	Afghani		112.00						112.00
Iraq	Dinar		61.00						61.00
Turkey	Lira		140.10						140.10
Delegation Expenses: *									
Afghanistan	Afghani		156.00						156.00
United Arab Emirates	Dhram						286.90		286.90
Iraq	Dinar				33,000.00				33,000.00
Turkey	Lira						20,596.00		20,596.00
Total			15,297.50		203,395.78		33,968.23		252,661.51

* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Jan. 30, 2015.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 30, 2014

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Elizabeth Warren:									
Israel	Shekel		2,695.19						2,695.19
Jordan	Dinar		368.86						368.86
United States	Dollar				8,964.52				8,964.52
Jonathan Donenberg:									
Israel	Shekel		2,664.89						2,664.89
Jordan	Dinar		357.90						357.90
United States	Dollar				7,504.02				7,504.02
Total			6,086.84		16,468.54				22,555.38

SENATOR TIM JOHNSON,
Chairman, Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs,
Dec. 18, 2014.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2014

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Kusai Merchant:									
Peru	Sole		754.00				3,041.50		3,795.50
United States	Dollar				1,000.93				1,000.93

February 9, 2015

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CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2014—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Total			754.00		1,000.93		3,041.50		4,796.43

SENATOR PATTY MURRAY,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget, Dec. 31, 2014.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2014

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Ellen Doneski:									
United States	Dollar				19,109.90				19,109.90
South Korea	Won		2,308.88						2,308.88
John Branscome:									
United States	Dollar				19,112.90				19,112.90
South Korea	Won		2,442.88						2,442.88
Total			4,751.76		38,222.80				42,974.56

SENATOR JOHN THUNE,
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation,
Jan. 29, 2015.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2014

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Lisa Murkowski:									
United States	Dollar				3,638.90				3,638.90
Iceland	Krona		589.17						589.17
Isaac Edwards:									
United States	Dollar				2,182.00				2,182.00
Iceland	Krona		855.55						855.55
Delegation Expenses:									
Iceland	Krona					651.57			651.57
Total			1,444.72		5,820.90		651.57		7,917.19

SENATOR MARY L. LANDRIEU,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Dec. 17, 2014.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2014

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Joseph Mendelson:									
United States	Dollar				3,550.34				3,550.34
Peru	Nuevo Sol		3,448.00						3,448.00
Emily Enderle:									
United States	Dollar				1,105.84				1,105.84
Peru	Nuevo Sol		3,086.00						3,086.00
Total			6,534.00		4,656.18				11,190.18

SENATOR JAMES M. INHOFE,
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works, Jan. 23, 2015.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2014

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Jayne White:									
Australia	Dollar		2,412.29						2,412.29
United States	Dollar				17,822.80				17,822.80
Elissa Alben:									
Australia	Dollar		2,961.84						2,961.84
United States	Dollar				17,822.80				17,822.80
Everett Eissenstat:									
Australia	Dollar		2,856.91						2,856.91
United States	Dollar				17,822.80				17,822.80
Shane Warren:									
Australia	Dollar		2,917.70						2,917.70

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2014—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
United States	Dollar				17,822.80				17,822.80
Delegation Expenses: *									
United States	Dollar					1,057.00			1,057.00
Tyler Brace:									
Ukraine	Hryvnia		1,802.21						1,802.21
United States	Dollar				8,762.70				8,762.70
Delegation Expenses: *									
United States	Dollar					365.70			365.70
Jason Park:									
China	Renminbi		1,162.22						1,162.22
United States	Dollar				20,238.30				20,238.30
Shane Warren:									
China	Renminbi		1,165.97						1,165.97
United States	Dollar				20,238.30				20,238.30
Delegation Expenses: *									
United States	Dollar					1,240.47			1,240.47
Senator Pat Roberts:									
Kuwait	Dinar		297.28						297.28
United States	Dollar				22,480.90				22,480.90
Theda Khrestin:									
Kuwait	Dinar		346.28						346.28
United States	Dollar				22,480.90				22,480.90
Delegation Expenses: *									
Iraq	Dinar					22,917.70			22,917.70
Total			15,922.70		165,492.30		25,580.87		206,995.87

* Delegation expenses include transportation, embassy overtime and other official expenses in accordance with the responsibilities of the host country.

SENATOR RON WYDEN,
Chairman, Committee on Finance, Jan. 13, 2015.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2014

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator John Barrasso:									
Canada	Dollar		594.99						594.99
Delegation Expenses: *									
Canada	Dollar					804.16			804.16
Senator John Barrasso:									
Qatar	Riyal		231.00						231.00
United States	Dollar				10,361.10				10,361.10
Charles Ziegler:									
Qatar	Riyal		231.00						231.00
United States	Dollar				9,966.00				9,966.00
Delegation Expenses: *									
Qatar	Riyal					283.27			283.27
Senator Christopher Coons:									
Liberia	Dollar		682.50						682.50
United States	Dollar				10,287.80				10,287.80
Vali Sanmugalingan:									
Liberia	Dollar		700.50						700.50
United States	Dollar				10,287.80				10,287.80
Delegation Expenses: *									
Liberia	Dollar					2,500.73			2,500.73
Senator Jeff Flake:									
Cuba	Dollar		849.00						849.00
United States	Dollar				1,094.20				1,094.20
Chandler Morse:									
Cuba	Dollar		849.00						849.00
United States	Dollar				923.20				923.20
Senator Tom Udall:									
Cuba	Dollar		849.00						849.00
United States	Dollar				918.20				918.20
Matthew Padilla:									
Cuba	Dollar		849.00						849.00
United States	Dollar				918.20				918.20
Senator Christopher Murphy:									
Serbia	Euro		823.00						823.00
Montenegro	Euro		335.00						335.00
Kosovo	Euro		195.00						195.00
Albania	Lek		364.00						364.00
Croatia	Kuna		282.00						282.00
United States	Dollar				10,640.10				10,640.10
Jessica Elledge:									
Serbia	Euro		823.00						823.00
Montenegro	Euro		335.00						335.00
Kosovo	Euro		195.00						195.00
Albania	Lek		364.00						364.00
Croatia	Kuna		282.00						282.00
United States	Dollar				11,917.50				11,917.50
Delegation Expenses: *									
Serbia	Euro					1,416.00			1,416.00
Montenegro	Euro					1,130.00			1,130.00
Kosovo	Euro					1,329.57			1,329.57
Albania	Lek					1,711.00			1,711.00
Croatia	Kuna					826.00			826.00
Sergio Aguirre:									
India	Rupee		1,253.42						1,253.42
Afghanistan	Dollar		69.00						69.00
Pakistan	Rupee		104.00						104.00
Qatar	Riyal		5.55						5.55
United States	Dollar				12,970.40				12,970.40

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CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2014—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Delegation Expenses: *									
India	Rupee						374.48		374.48
Pakistan	Rupee						88.30		88.30
Qatar	Riyal						39.54		39.54
Viviana Bovo:									
Colombia	Peso		345.81						345.81
United States	Dollar				3,871.00				3,871.00
Ana Unruh Cohen:									
Peru	Nuevo Sol		2,852.00						2,852.00
United States	Dollar				2,729.94				2,729.94
Hal Connolly:									
Peru	Nuevo Sol		2,180.00						2,180.00
United States	Dollar				2,719.94				2,719.94
Jesse Young:									
Peru	Nuevo Sol		2,844.00						2,844.00
United States	Dollar				1,035.94				1,035.94
Michael Gallagher:									
Turkey	Lira		335.21						335.21
Saudi Arabia	Riyal		1,301.00						1,301.00
Qatar	Riyal		451.90						451.90
United States	Dollar				4,262.00				4,262.00
Dana Stroul:									
Turkey	Lira		249.00						249.00
Saudi Arabia	Riyal		1,025.25						1,025.25
Qatar	Riyal		829.66						829.66
United States	Dollar				3,969.40				3,969.40
Delegation Expenses: *									
Turkey	Lira						113.37		113.37
Saudi Arabia	Riyal						1,134.68		1,134.68
Qatar	Riyal						102.97		102.97
Jodi Herman:									
Austria	Euro		683.65						683.65
France	Euro		489.78						489.78
United States	Dollar				2,267.70				2,267.70
Lowell Schwartz:									
Austria	Euro		671.26						671.26
France	Euro		617.65						617.65
United States	Dollar				2,232.70				2,232.70
Delegation Expenses: *									
Austria	Euro						845.06		845.06
France	Euro						990.00		990.00
Chris Homan:									
Indonesia	Rupiah		412.27						412.27
Vietnam	Dong		294.60						294.60
South Korea	Won		308.18						308.18
United States	Dollar				8,118.41				8,118.41
Delegation Expenses: *									
Vietnam	Dong						14.40		14.40
South Korea	Won						616.99		616.99
Damian Murphy:									
Bangladesh	Taka		695.00						695.00
Nepal	Rupee		813.59						813.59
United States	Dollar				5,439.17				5,439.17
Charlotte Oldham-Moore:									
Bangladesh	Taka		695.00						695.00
Nepal	Rupee		813.59						813.59
United States	Dollar				5,439.17				5,439.17
Stacie Oliver:									
Turkey	Lira		316.21						316.21
Kuwait	Dinar		350.24						350.24
Jordan	Dinar		445.25						445.25
Egypt	Pound		725.31						725.31
Germany	Euro		341.66						341.66
United States	Dollar				3,528.70				3,528.70
Delegation Expenses: *									
Kuwait	Dinar						205.86		205.86
Jordan	Dinar						190.22		190.22
Egypt	Pound						164.00		164.00
Germany	Euro						11.32		11.32
Chris Socha:									
Poland	Zloty		600.00						600.00
United States	Dollar				3,596.70				3,596.70
Daniel Vajdich:									
Montenegro	Euro		285.00						285.00
Moldova	Leu		1,014.00						1,014.00
United States	Dollar				3,956.00				3,956.00
Delegation Expenses: *									
Montenegro	Euro						144.00		144.00
Moldova	Leu						138.70		138.70
Brandon Yoder:									
Honduras	Lempira		714.00						714.00
United States	Dollar				1,059.20				1,059.20
Delegation Expenses: *									
Honduras	Lempira						394.00		394.00
Totals:			34,966.03		134,510.57		15,568.62		185,045.22

* Delegation expenses included payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR BOB CORKER,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, Jan. 28, 2014.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2014

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Robert Casey:									
Norway	Kroner		163.96						163.96
Caitlin Garen:									
Norway	Kroner		306.74						306.74
Delegation Expenses: *									
Norway	Kroner						713.26		713.26
Total			470.70				713.26		1,183.96

* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR LAMAR ALEXANDER,
Chairman, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions,
Jan. 26, 2015.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 30, 2014

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Jim Catella:									
India	Dollar		670.00						670.00
Afghanistan	Dollar		56.00						56.00
Pakistan	Dollar		180.00						180.00
Doha	Dollar		164.00						164.00
Senator Marco Rubio:									
Colombia	Dollar		155.00		4,139.70				4,294.70
Brian Walsh:									
Colombia	Dollar		155.00		4,139.70				4,294.70
Total			1,380.00		8,279.40				9,659.40

SENATOR DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
Chairman, Committee on Intelligence, Dec. 23, 2014.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2014

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
David Killion:									
Germany	Euro		1,307.55						1,307.55
United States	Dollar				12,130.50				12,130.50
Switzerland	Franc		2,663.44						2,663.44
United States	Dollar				11,905.70				11,905.70
Erika Schlager:									
Poland	Zloty		3,216.00						3,216.00
Austria	Euro		417.00						417.00
United States	Dollar				4,794.50				4,794.50
Switzerland	Franc		2,663.44						2,663.44
United States	Dollar				2,000.30				2,000.30
Mischa Thompson:									
Germany	Euro		1,985.00						1,985.00
United States	Dollar				1,797.60				1,797.60
Alex Johnson:									
Poland	Zloty		3,637.04						3,637.04
United States	Dollar				759.37				759.37
Germany	Euro		1,286.63						1,286.63
United States	Dollar				960.50				960.50
Switzerland	Franc		2,219.53						2,219.53
United States	Dollar				1,156.10				1,156.10
Austria	Euro		23,300.78						23,300.78
United States	Dollar				1,074.90				1,074.90
Robert Hand:									
Switzerland	Franc		1,632.72						1,632.72
Boznia and Herzegov	Mark		1,372.00						1,372.00
United States	Dollar				3,359.70				3,359.70
Orest Deychakiwsky:									
Ukraine	Hryvnia		1,765.00						1,765.00
United States	Dollar				1,692.40				1,692.40
Allison Hollabaugh:									
Austria	Euro		807.50						807.50
United States	Dollar				1,750.50				1,750.50
Shelly Han:									
Moldova	Leu		1,156.00						1,156.00
Germany	Euro		298.58						298.58
United States	Dollar				4,331.20				4,331.20
David Kostelancik:									
Switzerland	Franc		1,951.44						1,951.44
United States	Dollar				4,714.30				4,714.30
Janice Helwig:									
Switzerland	Franc		2,489.44						2,489.44
United States	Dollar				12,654.30				12,654.30
Poland	Zloty		3,492.08						3,492.08
United States	Dollar				3,048.50				3,048.50

Total 57,661.17 68,130.37 125,791.54

SENATOR BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Chairman, Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe,
Jan. 14, 2015.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), THE REPUBLICAN LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 30, 2014

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Thomas Hawkins:									
Turkey	Dollar		284.00				32.75		316.75
Saudi Arabia	Dollar		505.00				233.00		738.00
Kuwait	Dollar		386.28				125.00		511.28
Total			1,175.28				390.75		1,566.03

SENATOR MITCH MCCONNELL,
The Republican Leader, Jan. 30, 2015.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—READING OF WASHINGTON'S FAREWELL ADDRESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the resolution of the Senate of January 24, 1901, the traditional reading of Washington's Farewell Address take place on Monday, February 23, following the prayer and pledge; further, that Senator HOEVEN be recognized to deliver the address.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 10, 2015

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, February 10; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 12:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, and that the first hour be equally divided, with the Democrats controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half. I further ask that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow the for weekly conference meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Reserving the right to object, may I have one sentence to observe that there appears as yet to be no Republican plan whatsoever to answer the energy chairman's question on climate change—what do we do—and with that noted, I do not object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I would just say to my friend from Rhode Island that the

Senator knows we just finished a lengthy floor consideration of the Keystone bill, with an open amendment process on this and other energy-related topics. The Senate voted on several amendments on climate change, including two from the Senator from Rhode Island, which is more opportunities to vote on these amendments than during the entire 113th Congress.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, may I say how much I appreciate the open amendment process.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator BROWN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it so ordered.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to the order of the Senate of January 24, 1901, as modified by the order of February 9, 2015, appoints the Senator from North Dakota, Mr. HOEVEN, to read Washington's Farewell Address on Monday, February 23, 2015.

The Senator from Ohio is recognized.

PRIORITY REGISTRATION FOR
VETERANS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, this week we celebrate Salute to Veterans Week to honor all those who have

served our Nation in uniform and their families who sacrificed so much for our country.

This week is a particularly appropriate time for us to reflect on the importance of fulfilling our commitment to all veterans. Just as we invest in and train our men and women during their military service, we must make the same investments when they return to our communities, hang up their uniforms, and embark on the next phase of their lives. This institution always seems to be willing to vote for money so we can send people to war, but is a bit less generous in taking care of those veterans when they return home. That should stop.

This morning I visited Eastern Gateway Community College in Youngstown and met with local veterans, including community college graduate Lisa Thomas. She graduated last May and is now pursuing a 4-year degree—after getting a 2-year degree—at Franklin University using her GI benefits.

Community colleges like Eastern Gateway are an important way we provide our veterans with the necessary skills to find decent-paying jobs. They serve as pipelines for veterans so they can attend 4-year universities.

The GI bill's education benefits are critical to investing in returning servicemembers. They help the veterans who have returned from war to learn new skills, and as a result these men and women have helped to build our middle class and led to our Nation's dominance in the second half of the 20th century and into this century. But veterans, as some find out unwittingly, have a limited amount of time before their GI benefits expire.

At crowded colleges, general education requirements and prerequisites often fill up quickly, and it can take several semesters for that veteran to secure a spot. Waiting for a spot in a required course is a luxury many veterans don't have because those veterans' benefits could expire. If student veterans are unable to finish their degrees before these benefits expire, they

may end up being forced to pay thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket tuition and fees. The veterans who served our Nation without delay should not face delays in getting their education.

Many colleges and universities—Youngstown State, which is the same place where the Eastern Gateway campus in Youngstown is located, is where many Eastern Gateway students complete their degrees. They offer veterans priority registration so they can get the courses they need before their benefits run out.

All of our colleges and universities—2-year, 4-year, public and private—need to follow Youngstown State's lead. If student athletes have priority registration, we can surely extend that privilege to those who have served our Nation. That is why in the coming months I will introduce legislation to ensure that all veterans, all service-members, and their qualifying dependents can use their GI benefits to their full potential and be guaranteed priority registration. Our veterans have earned these benefits, and we must ensure that all of our veterans, such as Lisa Thomas, are able to take full advantage of those benefits for themselves and for their families. It is our duty to ensure that when veterans return home, they have the education

and training and access to jobs they need to fulfill their potential. We have a duty to ensure that those returning from service to our Nation get the care they need when they come home.

As the first Ohioan to serve a full term on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I have worked to ease the VA backlog and put in place a better system. The shortage of care providers has been especially pressing for veterans struggling with a brain injury—the so-called invisible injuries.

When our country went into Iraq a dozen years ago, our leader said that this will be a short war. Our country, our government, our administration, and our Congress failed to scale up veterans hospitals and veterans care and increase the capacity, and we now find it is too small. That is the importance of making sure we do this right.

Nearly 300,000 veterans in this country struggle with post-traumatic distress. Out of an estimated 300,000 traumatic brain injuries, there are 25,000 cases of mild traumatic brain injuries. These cases are hard to diagnose and document since there is often a lack of visible evidence.

Without proper care, each year some 8,000 veterans take their own lives—154 a week, 22 veterans a day commit suicide. What a tragedy. Last week I was proud to stand with my colleagues in

this body in support of the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act. I look forward to President Obama signing that bill later this week. It is our duty to take an active role in increasing veterans' access to quality mental health care, and the Clay Hunt Act will help ensure that those who put their lives on the line for us have a lifetime of their own upon returning home. We have a sacred trust between our government and those who protect us all.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:20 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, February 10, 2015, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate February 9, 2015:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MICHAEL P. BOTTICELLI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 9, 2015

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, from Monday, February 2, 2015 to Thursday, February 5, 2015 I had to remain in California and was unable to vote.

Had I been present on the House floor on Monday, February 2, 2015, I would have voted "aye" on roll call No. 51, H.R. 361, the Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act. I would have also voted "aye" on roll call No. 52, H.R. 615, the Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act and "aye" on roll call No. 53, H.R. 623, the Social Media Working Group Act of 2015.

On Tuesday, February 3, 2015, I would have voted "nay" on roll call No. 54, H. Res. 70, On Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule Providing for Consideration of H.R. 596, To Repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, and "nay" on roll call No. 55, H. Res. 70, the Rule Providing for Consideration of H.R. 596. I would have also voted "aye" on roll call No. 56, on Approving the Journal, and "aye" on roll call No. 57, on the Democratic Motion to Recommit on H.R. 596 with Instructions. I would have voted "nay" on roll call No. 58, on Passage of H.R. 596.

On Wednesday, February 4, 2015, I would have voted "nay" on roll call No. 59, Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 50, the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2015, and H.R. 527, the Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2015, and "nay" on roll call No. 60, H. Res. 78, the Rule Providing for Consideration of H.R. 50 and H.R. 527. I would have also voted "aye" on roll call No. 61, H.R. 50, the Cummings of Maryland Part C Amendment No. 2, and "aye" on roll call No. 62, H.R. 50, the Connolly of Virginia Part C Amendment No. 3. I would have also voted "aye" on roll call No. 63, the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 50 with Instructions, and "nay" on roll call No. 64, on Passage of H.R. 50.

On Thursday, February 5, 2015, I would have voted "aye" on roll call No. 65, H.R. 527, the Schrader of Oregon Part A Amendment No. 4, and "aye" on roll call No. 66, H.R. 527, the Jackson Lee of Texas Part A Amendment No. 6. I would have also voted "aye" on roll call No. 67, on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 527 with Instructions, and "nay" on roll call No. 68, on Passage of H.R. 527.

REINTRODUCING THE LENA HORNE
RECOGNITION ACT OF 2015

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 9, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Lena Horne Recognition Act of 2015, which would award the Congressional Gold Medal to the late, renowned singer, actress, and Civil Rights icon, Ms. Lena Mary Calhoun Horne.

As an African American woman born in 1917, Ms. Horne, who passed away in 2010, was truly a woman of firsts, having pioneered the way for many men and women of color through her work in Jazz, film, and the Civil Rights movement. She began her career in the chorus line at Harlem's famed Cotton Club before moving on to record dozens of musical tracks and playing roles in movies and musicals.

As a young woman, Lena drew much fame from her beauty and talent, yet found many roadblocks in her personal success due to the hyper-racialized nature of show business at the time. However, this adversity would not limit her, and presented a platform for her increasing support of and action in the Civil Rights movement.

The first to do so, Lena signed a long term contract with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM) and embarked on a career in Hollywood, as her celebrity had been noticed by many, despite the color of her skin. She was also the first African American woman to be nominated for a Tony Award. However, again, she found road blocks in her professional life, due to state-law restrictions in on-screen interracial relationships as well as the need to have her roles edited out for Jim Crow abiding viewers. Blacklisted during the period of McCarthyism in the 1950s, Ms. Horne still recorded what would become the best-selling album by a female singer in RCA Victor's history in 1957.

From music and film, Lena had built a substantial fan base, and by the 1960s, at the peak of the Civil Rights movement, she became a staple on television. She had become so renowned in popular culture despite her race that she appeared on shows such as the Dean Martin Show and Ed Sullivan Show. In 1970, Horne co-starred with well known actor, Harry Belafonte, on a show for ABC donning their names—"Harry and Lena." She would go on to play herself on The Muppet Show, Sesame Street, and Sanford and Son. In 1981, Lena then received two Grammy awards and a special Tony award for her cast recording of her Broadway show, Lena Horne: The Lady and Her Music. In 1989, she received a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.

Amongst her many awards, Ms. Horne was the recipient of the Kennedy Center honor for lifetime contribution to the arts in 1984. She

received two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame—for her work in both motion pictures and recording—in addition to a footprint on the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site. Lena always fought back when opportunities presented themselves.

For example, during World War II, Lena had been slated to perform for segregated troops of U.S. servicemen. She was appalled to find that African American servicemen had been seated behind German prisoners of war, and refused to partake unless she could sing before an integrated group. As a compromise, Lena left the stage and sang directly in front of her African American counterparts, with the German prisoners of war to her rear.

Lena notably remained committed to bettering lives of the underserved and underrepresented for the entirety of her life. An active participant in the movement, Lena met President John F. Kennedy shortly before his assassination, marched in the March on Washington, and ultimately performed and spoke on behalf of the NAACP, SNCC, and National Council of Negro Women. Also notable is the work that she engaged in with former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt to pass anti-lynching laws. Lena was awarded the Spingarn Medal from the NAACP in 1983.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in support of honoring Lena Horne posthumously with a Congressional Gold Medal, for her outstanding contributions to American culture and the Civil Rights Movement. A beautiful person inside and out, Lena willed her talent, intelligence, and fame to fight against discrimination, traversing her career on a road filled with potholes full of racial bias and degradation. Lena represents the very best of American ideals and signifies the true purpose of the American Dream.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. AZIZAH
AL-HIBRI'S LIFETIME OF SUP-
PORT AND ADVOCACY ON BE-
HALF OF HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 9, 2015

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Azizah al-Hibri, a distinguished women's and human rights advocate, on receiving the prestigious ACCESS Purple Rose Award. As a Member of Congress it is both my privilege and honor to recognize Dr. al-Hibri for her many years of service and contributions which have enriched and strengthened our community.

Dr. al-Hibri is the Founder and Chair of KARAMAH: Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights. KARAMAH is a nonprofit organization committed to promoting human rights

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

throughout the globe, especially focusing on gender equity, religious freedom and civil rights in the United States. KARAMAH translates as "dignity" in Arabic and the stated vision of the organization is "Dignity for All." In 1993, Dr. al-Hibri, then a law professor and noted Islamic scholar at the University of Richmond, was inspired by the verse which reads: "We have given dignity to the Children of Adam." With faithful commitment to the idea that this verse establishes the fact that human dignity is bestowed upon all human beings, Dr. al-Hibri has committed herself to advancing this understanding of the unalienable rights of women, a cause she continues to champion today.

Dr. al-Hibri has dedicated her life to education, legal outreach and advocacy. Among her many accomplishments, Dr. al-Hibri is a Fulbright scholar and is the founding editor of the journal *Hypatia*, which is dedicated to Feminist philosophy, particularly as it relates to Muslim women. Recognizing the national importance of her voice and contributions, in 2011 President Obama appointed Dr. al-Hibri to U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, a truly deserved honor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Dr. al-Hibri for her many contributions to our community and her leadership in advancing Human Rights. I wish her many more years of health, happiness, and productive advocacy.

HONORING THE LIFE OF THOMAS W. BIRMINGHAM

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 9, 2015

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague Mr. LAMALFA to pay tribute to the life of Thomas "Tom" Birmingham, who passed away on January 8, 2015 at the age of 93. Tom was an extraordinary person, and he will always be remembered as a man who lived his life with purpose and great dedication to his students, family, friends and community.

Tom was born on March 21, 1922 to Thomas and Nell Birmingham in Red Bluff, California. He spent much of his childhood living in various northern California towns, as his father's career as a Highway Patrolman required. It was while living with his family in Westwood, California that Tom developed many life-long friendships and his happiest childhood memories. He graduated from Clarksburg High School in Clarksburg, California, now called Delta High School, in 1940.

World War II interrupted Tom's first attempt at attending college. He left school to join the United States Navy. In the Navy, Tom was assigned to Bombing Squadron Nineteen which flew off of the USS *Lexington*. Mr. Birmingham proudly served our country as an aviator, and was awarded an Air Medal and a Distinguished Flying Cross for his actions on October 25, 1944 during the Battle of Leyte Gulf. Tom was extremely proud of his service and of the men with whom he served on board the *Lexington*.

Mr. Birmingham continued his education after the War. He enrolled at San Jose State

College and graduated in 1950. While at university, Tom competed in numerous track events including the high hurdle and the triple jump, known at the time as the "hop, skip, jump." A talented, athletic individual, Mr. Birmingham garnered the reputation of a world class athlete. In addition to his skills on the track field, Tom was an avid skier, becoming one of the first instructors at the Mt. Shasta Herald Ski School.

It was while Tom studied at San Jose State College that he met the love of his life, Lulu Archer. Tom and Lulu were married in 1951 and stayed in the bay area for another year while Tom completed his teaching credential. Lulu truly was Tom's one and only. Later the same year, Tom and Lulu moved to Yreka, California where they grew their family with the addition of three children, Kate, Thomas, and John.

In Yreka, Mr. Birmingham accepted a teaching and coaching position at Yreka High School. As a teacher of art and history, Mr. Birmingham was able to motivate students and develop an excitement in them for learning and personal development. Additionally, coaching track and basketball allowed Tom to form lasting bonds with his students, many of whom he kept in contact throughout his life.

Following a distinguished 31 years at Yreka High School, Mr. Birmingham retired in 1983. Upon his retirement, Tom and Lulu made it a priority to travel together. He also accepted the responsibility of taking care of his wife in the latter stages of her illness. Several years after her passing in 1987, Tom chose to relocate to Redding, California to be closer to family, specifically his beloved grandchildren. Throughout his life, his hobbies included hunting, fishing, and, in retirement, restoring old cars.

Tom's friendliness and honest nature built many lasting friendships during his lifetime. His long and remarkable life is fondly remembered by colleagues, students, friends and family. Tom leaves behind his three children; Kate, Thomas, John, their spouses, and his grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join Mr. LAMALFA and me in saying farewell to a man from the greatest generation, Mr. Thomas W. Birmingham. His genuine character and his loving commitment to his family and community will be greatly missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 9, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for roll call votes 65–68 due to a family emergency.

Had I been present, I would have voted yes on #65, yes on #66, yes on #67, and no on #68.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4,

1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, February 10, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 11

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the situation in Afghanistan.

SH-216

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed carbon dioxide emissions rules from new, modified, and existing power plants.

SD-406

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the National Labor Relations Board's (NLRB) new election rule, focusing on employers and employees.

SD-430

10 a.m.

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine Social Security disability trust fund insolvency.

SD-608

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the Internet.

SR-253

Committee on Finance

Business meeting to markup an original bill relating to access and administration of the U.S. Tax Court; an original bill to remove alcohol bonding requirements for certain taxpayers; an original bill relating to modifications to alternative tax for certain small insurance companies; an original bill to modify the excise tax on cider; an original bill to truncate the collection period for taxpayers hospitalized for combat zone injuries; an original bill to provide special rules concerning charitable contributions to, and public charity status of, agricultural research organizations; an original bill to provide an exception to the private foundation excess business holdings rules for certain philanthropic business holdings; an original bill to clarify a special rules for certain governmental plans; an original bill to modify the treatment of income received under student work-learning-service programs; an

original bill for a waste-heat-to-power investment tax credit; an original bill to allow enrolled agents who meet certain requirements to use specified designations; an original bill relating to real estate investment trusts (REITs), regulated investment companies (RICs) and the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act (FIRPTA); an original bill to exclude from gross income certain compensation received by public safety officers and their dependents; an original bill to convert the tax on liquefied natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas to an energy equivalent basis; an original bill to require the Internal Revenue Service to notify exempt organizations before revoking exempt status for failing to file information returns; an original bill to exclude from gross income certain clean coal power grants; and an original bill to create a military spouse job continuity credit.

SD-215

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) 2015 list of high risk government programs.

SD-342

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine ending modern day slavery, focusing on the role of United States leadership.

SD-419

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of the Interior.

SD-192

2:45 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To receive a closed briefing on worldwide nuclear capabilities.

SVC-217

3 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Personnel

To hold hearings to examine the retirement and compensation proposals of

the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission.

SD-G50

FEBRUARY 12

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the situation in Afghanistan; to be immediately followed by a closed hearing in SVC-217.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To resume hearings to examine regulatory relief for community banks and credit unions.

SD-538

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Energy.

SD-366

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Loretta E. Lynch, of New York, to be Attorney General, Daniel Henry Marti, of Virginia, to be Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, Executive Office of the President, Michelle K. Lee, of California, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Alfred H. Bennett, George C. Hanks, Jr., and Jose Rolando Olvera, Jr., each to be a United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, Jill N. Parrish, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah, and Nancy B. Firestone, of Virginia, Thomas L. Halkowski, of Pennsylvania, Patricia M. McCarthy, of Maryland, Jeri Kaylene Somers, of Virginia, and Armando Omar Bonilla, of the District of Columbia, each to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

SD-226

Committee on Rules and Administration

Business meeting to markup the Omnibus Budget resolution for Senate committees for the period March 1, 2015, through February 28, 2017, and an original resolution to amend Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

SR-301

12 noon

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to markup S. Res. 65, supporting efforts to bring an end to violence perpetrated by Boko Haram, and urging the Government of Nigeria to conduct transparent, peaceful, and credible elections, and an original resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the January 24, 2015, attacks carried out by Russian-backed rebels on the civilian population in Mariupol, Ukraine, and the provision of lethal and non-lethal military assistance to Ukraine.

S-116

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Closed business meeting to markup S. 165, to extend and enhance prohibitions and limitations with respect to the transfer or release of individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

SVC-217

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-216

FEBRUARY 24

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of the Interior.

SD-366

FEBRUARY 26

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Forest Service.

SD-366

MARCH 25

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine ballistic missile defense programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

SENATE—Tuesday, February 10, 2015

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Holy God, You make the clouds Your chariot and walk upon the wind. We see Your works in the rising of the Sun and in its setting. For the beauty of the Earth and the glory of the skies, we give You praise.

Today, make our lawmakers heirs of peace, demonstrating that they are Your children as they strive to do Your work on Earth. May they take pleasure in doing Your will, knowing that by so doing they are fulfilling Your purposes in our world.

Lord, You are never far from us but often we are far from You, so show us Your ways and teach us your paths. Thank You that Your mercy is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who come to You with reverence. May Your glory endure forever.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The majority leader is recognized.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to H.R. 240.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 5, H.R. 240, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

OBAMACARE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, many Americans have already started the process of filling out their tax returns. It is a stressful time of year, but thanks to ObamaCare many are sure to find it even more stressful. Part of this

is because of ObamaCare's \$1 trillion-plus in tax increases.

If you have health insurance ObamaCare has a tax for that. If you don't have health insurance, ObamaCare has a tax for that too. Whether government bureaucrats deem your coverage generous or not generous enough, ObamaCare has a tax for you.

Some of these taxes are paid by consumers directly. Others are passed along in the form of higher premiums, increased costs, and lost opportunities, but many fall on the shoulders of the middle class.

There is more to the issue, too, because ObamaCare has done what many thought impossible, it has made a mind-numbingly complex Tax Code even more so.

For the first time, the government will be asking on our tax returns if we had health insurance for every month of last year. If someone didn't—well, you guessed it—ObamaCare has a tax for that, too, but this is only a portion of the cost and complexity ObamaCare threatens to impose on millions this tax season.

This is how one health law expert put it:

It will be very easy to find people who are unhappy with [ObamaCare's] . . . new tax obligations—people who have to pay a penalty, who have to wait forever to get through to somebody at the I.R.S. or have to pay back a lot of money because of overpayments of premium tax credits.

This is from an expert who supports ObamaCare.

The truth is ObamaCare is a law that just keeps on giving, giving headaches to the middle class. It meant millions of cancellation notices, it meant higher costs for many, and now this.

Remember, too, the IRS, the same agency charged with processing our tax returns, is now in charge of implementing vast sections of ObamaCare. The same agency that spent so much time trying to silence free speech—the same agency that awarded bonuses to employees who owed back taxes—is an agency charged with enforcing ObamaCare's web of complexity.

Americans are right to question the IRS's competence to handle so much sensitive information. We just received another reminder of that recently.

One of the Obama administration's own inspectors general released a damning report of this troubled agency. The report found that the IRS recently rehired hundreds of individuals who had left the agency under clouds of misconduct.

It took back individuals who had engaged in sexual harassment, criminal

misconduct, and fraud and on at least one occasion ignored case file notes that warned "Do not rehire."

The tax collector for America even rehired people who willfully failed to file their tax returns.

I know the chairman of the Finance Committee plans to dig into issues such as these. He wants answers. We all do. The American people deserve them. They are tired of seeing a government that has lost focus on them, and they are tired of enduring ObamaCare's growing list of failed promises.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

NECESSARY ABSENCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am not going to be able to be here the rest of the week. More than likely I have a personal matter I have to deal with.

TRIBUTE TO KATHIE ALVAREZ

Mr. President, I wish to take a minute to talk about somebody whom I have worked with for 30 years in the Senate, and that is Kathie Alvarez, who has done such a great job of calculating our votes, tabulating our votes, and just being somebody who is always here.

We have had a great relationship. I know nothing about her politics. I just know something about her personality, which is warm. She has a great sense of humor, and I am going to miss her a great deal.

I wish her the very best. She has now worked in the Senate for some 30 years. For everyone who has had any dealings with her, which is everyone serving in the Senate, I am sure their experiences have been just like mine, a very pleasant experience.

Again, I wish her the very best in the future, whatever that might be, and someday if she needs a letter of recommendation or something, I would be happy to give her one.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. President, during the past 6 years of the Obama administration there have been 12 million jobs created. Remember when President Obama took office—because of the Bush administration and their activities—we were losing 800,000 jobs a month. So I think it speaks well of what has taken place over the past 6 years to be able to talk about creating 12 million private sector jobs. Not everyone has benefited from these jobs, but a lot of people have.

We in Nevada wish we were doing much better, but we are doing much better than we were. In fact, in Nevada the unemployment rate fell to its lowest level since 2008 last month, but

these are private sector jobs. If we had just a little bit of help with public sector jobs, we would be back to the Clinton years. The economy would be on fire.

The Environment and Public Works Committee is the "Environment and Public Works" Committee. The senior Senator from Oklahoma has been one of the leaders on that committee for a long time. He and I disagree greatly with what he does and what he believes dealing with the environment part of that committee.

But we have significant agreement on the other part of that committee, the public sector—environment and public works. He has been out front talking about the need to do something with the highway bill, to create these jobs which are good for the economy.

I know he and Senator BOXER are working to do something with a new highway bill, and I am behind them. I hope they can work something out. It would be so important if we could do something to help the public sector, and no place is better to go than to do something with infrastructure.

We have a \$3 trillion deficit with infrastructure in this country: bridges collapsing, bridges in a state of disrepair, and of course highways. Most highways in America get a C-minus grade at best. So there are a lot of things we can do to help the economy and do something to take all of the pressure off the private sector.

Unemployment is down 5.7 percent. The stock market, all three of them, are at alltime highs. Manufacturing is doing quite well.

The automobile industry—we struggled when the great General Motors was going bankrupt, Chrysler was going bankrupt, and Ford was hanging on. We stepped forward and said we have to do something about saving one of America's great industries; and we did that.

Quite frankly, we received so much criticism from the Republicans. They were willing to let the automobile sector go bankrupt. We started Cash for Clunkers, we did all kinds of things, and now these companies are thriving and rightfully so.

The automobile industry has rebounded, and that is an understatement. A number of economies are on the right track. I state, for the second time this morning, does that mean everyone has benefited? The answer is no, but a lot of us have benefited.

But throughout all of this, in America—this great country of ours—the rich are getting richer, the poor are getting poorer, the middle class is being squeezed, and that we have to recognize.

Let's talk about the economy, 12 million private sector jobs. Could we do better? The answer is yes. It would have been great had we not been thwarted, stopped because of a number

of filibusters. We would have a minimum wage for the entire country. We weren't able to get that done. That would be great for the middle class.

It would be good if we could do something about the largest debt America has. It is not credit cards, it is student loan debt. I have admiration for the senior Senator from Illinois as to what he has done about student debt. He has spoken out that some of the things going on in our country dealing with education are absolutely wrong. But one thing that is wrong is we are placing a burden on these young men and women who are going to college and their families.

There are many things we should have done that we didn't do to help the middle class, including equal pay for equal work, but that didn't happen. We need to look at what has happened with the Republicans dealing with the economy. They are doing things that are not helping.

Look at the Politico paper today. They talk about what the Republicans are doing with these riders on the money to fund Homeland Security. At a bare minimum that would increase the debt some \$30 billion.

We can say that for each DREAMer—there is about 600,000 of them—the Republicans want to deport every one of these DREAMers. The average cost of deporting these people is \$10,000 each. Do the math—\$10,000 times 600,000, that would all go toward increasing the debt.

So shutting down the Department of Homeland Security is where we are headed, and it is such a shame—or having a continuing resolution. Each of these would be a disaster for our economy. If Republicans refuse to fund Homeland Security, tens of thousands of employees that Secretary Johnson is in charge of would have to be furloughed. He says up to 30,000. Others would be ordered to come to work and not be paid.

The Republicans are saying, well, we may not close down. We may fund it, but we may do it at last year's levels, which would be a disaster for the States. There are programs Secretary Johnson funds that are so important to States: Terrorism centers; there is a great big one in Arizona that is waiting to be funded. If we have a CR, a continuing resolution, it will not be funded. We have programs relating to K9 units within police departments that are so important to local governments, State governments, and they would not be funded.

Secretary Johnson laid out on all the TV shows this past weekend about what would happen if we didn't fund the Department of Homeland Security or what would happen if we had to go with a continuing resolution.

SAFER grants, even with firefighters, are so tremendously important for States such as Nevada and around the rest of the country.

So, my Republican colleagues, who now have a huge majority here in Congress, why don't you work to improve the economy, not hurt the economy? Let's pass a clean bill and send it to the President. America deserves a safe homeland. Even conservative newspapers such as the Wall Street Journal criticized the Republicans yesterday about what they are doing with homeland security and what they failed to do with immigration. They have been so critical of the Republicans. The Republicans have a huge majority, and as the Wall Street Journal said yesterday, why don't they use it to the advantage of the American people, which they haven't done.

Would the Chair announce the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 12:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the first hour equally divided, and with the Democrats controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half.

The assistant Democratic leader.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it is only 17 days until the Department of Homeland Security of the United States of America runs out of funding—the Department of Homeland Security.

This is the Department we created after 9/11. We said: America needs to be safer. We have to put in place safeguards to make sure 9/11 never happens again. We created a new department, and it was done on a bipartisan basis. Joe Lieberman, a Democrat from Connecticut serving in the Senate, joined with SUSAN COLLINS, the Republican from Maine, on our side of the rotunda with like-minded people on the other side, and they crafted this new Department. They brought together 22 different agencies. They tried their best to achieve efficiency, to eliminate duplication, to save money but have a mission that would be accomplished in keeping America safe.

If you think about the departments of government, of course the Department of Defense comes to mind immediately when it comes to our safety, but not far behind is the Department of Homeland Security. So it was December when the Republicans of the House of Representatives, given a choice of funding the government for this year,

decided they would pick out one department and not fund it on a regular basis. They decided that one department would be funded on what they call a continuing resolution, which means kind of grabbing last year's budget and trying to make it work this year. Now, what was that one department the Republicans decided needed to be handled differently and not properly funded? The Department of Homeland Security. That Department, in 17 days, will run out of money again.

What are they thinking? What is happening in those closed-door meetings when Speaker BOEHNER and the House Republicans or Majority Leader MCCONNELL and the Senate Republicans sit down and plot their strategy? Is there anyone in that room who says: You know, I think we may have picked the wrong department not to fund.

The Department of Homeland Security is one we think about instantly when we see the terrible things done by ISIS, these terrorists of extremism, and pray to God they are never visited on the United States and that this awful group comes to an untimely ending as quickly as possible. Yet this Department, Homeland Security, has been the target of the Republicans to really execute a political ploy, a political strategy. Here is what they said: The way to get the President's attention on immigration is to refuse to fund the Department of Homeland Security. Well, they not only have the President's attention, but they have the attention of the United States of America. People are asking: What are the congressional Republicans thinking?

In fact, the latest inquiry, just referred to by the Democratic leader, was an editorial yesterday in—of all things—the Wall Street Journal. The article is entitled: "Can the GOP Change?" It basically challenges the whole strategy of jeopardizing the funding for the Department of Homeland Security in order to make the point that they disagree with the President on immigration.

What we have offered, what the Wall Street Journal suggests is to have a debate on immigration but not at the expense of funding the Department of Homeland Security. That is what they have called for.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the February 9, 2015, Wall Street Journal article be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of these remarks.

So what are these immigration provisions that have the Republicans in such a rage that they are willing to jeopardize the funding of the Department of Homeland Security? One of them relates to a bill I introduced 14 years ago—the DREAM Act. Over the span of 14 years, though, this has not become the law of the land. It has become shorthand for a challenge we

have with our broken immigration system. Here is the challenge: There were infants, toddlers, and small children brought to the United States by their parents many years ago. They were not documented. They grew up in this country, and they went to school in this country. They speak English. They have dreams about what they will do with their future, but being undocumented they are unable to realize those dreams.

The DREAM Act said if they have a clean criminal record, have graduated from high school, are willing to serve in our military or go on to college, we will give them a path to legalization in America. These are young people who know no other country. These are young people raised in America, educated in our educational system—at the expense of our taxpayers, I might add. They have been successful in life and want to continue to be a part of America. They only know one flag—the one they pledge allegiance to every morning in their classroom, which is the same one we on the Senate Floor. They only know one national anthem. Yet they are being told by the Republicans they should leave.

How many are there? We estimate 2 million across our country. There are 600,000 who have signed up for President Obama's protection program, called DACA, which says that on a 2-year basis they will not be deported. What the Republicans have said is: We want to deport these DREAMers—2 million of them—and let's start with the 600,000 who have stepped up for protection from deportation. So they are risking funding the Department of Homeland Security in order to make their point that DREAMers have to go.

Well, let's at least take a look at one of these DREAMers and understand the kind of people we are talking about. This is Johana Mejias. Johana was brought to the United States from Venezuela when she was a child. She grew up in Boulder, CO. She played on her high school softball team. She played viola in the orchestra and dreamed of becoming a doctor. Here is what Johana said about her childhood:

I've become a Boulderite in all aspects of that word. That town, with those beautiful mountains, is truly my home.

In 2011 Johana graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder with a double major. I am going to try to describe her major, but as a liberal arts lawyer I may get lost in some of these scientific terms. Here was Johana's major at the University of Colorado: molecular, cellular, and developmental biology, and psychology-neuroscience.

Johana finished at the University of Colorado without any government assistance because she is undocumented. She made it through these challenging majors, graduating with this double major. Her dream? To become a doctor. It was a dream she thought might

never come to be because she is undocumented. She literally has no country. Then something happened. In 2012 President Barack Obama signed an Executive order called DACA, and Johana heard there was actually a medical school that was willing to admit students who qualified under this DACA protection—Loyola University Stritch College of Medicine in the city of Chicago. She couldn't believe it, and she applied quickly. Johana was accepted because she is an extraordinarily bright and promising young medical student.

Like many States across the country, my home State of Illinois faces a shortage of physicians in some communities. Loyola University decided if a DACA-protected young graduate is willing to come here and qualifies in the competitive field of admissions to medical school, they can come to Loyola medical school if they promise to give 1 year of service after they are doctors for every year of medical school, and if they promise to go to an underserved area in the inner city or rural areas where there are not enough doctors. Johana signed up for that. She said it was worth it. She would give 1 year of her life for each year of medical school if she was just given a chance to become a doctor.

This DACA loan program we have created is one that allows these students to receive the loans they need to finish at Loyola medical school. Last fall Johana began medical school at Loyola. I was there on one of her first days, and I met her. She is even more impressive than anything I could say in this speech. After she graduates, she has agreed to stay in my State of Illinois to help people who need a doctor.

Here is what she wrote to me in a letter about her life experience:

When the year 2012 came along, my life changed. My dreams of becoming a doctor became a possibility again because of DACA. I was now able to apply to medical internship programs, take the medical school intern exam, and apply to medical school, all because of my DACA status. DACA has defined my path. DACA has relit a fire within to succeed and continue to pursue my dreams.

Isn't that an amazing story—that a young girl would come here, realize she was undocumented, fight her way through for a bachelor's degree in these challenging subjects, continuing to keep alive the dream that maybe, just maybe something would happen to give her a chance to become a doctor? Then the President signs this Executive order, and now she is in medical school.

Because this medical school is in Chicago, my State is going to benefit when she becomes a doctor because she will go to one of my down-State communities that is begging for a doctor. She will go to one of the inner-city neighborhoods in Chicago and serve people who are struggling to get basic medical care.

What an amazing story—an amazing story that will come to a bitter end if the Republicans have their way on this bill.

The Republican answer to Johana is: After all of your life's work, after all of your dreams are fulfilled, leave—leave America. They are prepared to deport her and 600,000 others just like her. They think America will be a better nation if we get rid of someone like Johana. What are they thinking?

They are challenging the very funding of the Department of Homeland Security with this strategy of deporting the DREAMers. It doesn't make any sense. Whether you are conservative or liberal, this makes no sense—to spend \$9,000 to deport her instead of finding \$9,000 to help her finish medical school and be part of America's future.

We are a nation of immigrants. My mother was an immigrant to this country, and I stand on the floor of the Senate proudly representing the State of Illinois. That is my story. That is my family's story. That is America's story.

Those who have devised a strategy—what I consider to be a divisive, negative, hateful strategy—toward young people such as her are not thinking clearly about who we are as Americans. We are a nation of immigrants. People from all across this world have had the courage to pick up and come to America, to work some of the toughest, dirtiest, hardest jobs so their kids, such as Johana, would have a chance for a better future. That story has been repeated over and over millions of times. Republicans, with their strategy, their anti-immigration strategy, would kill that dream, kill that story.

I hope we have the good sense to fund the Department of Homeland Security. If there is going to be a debate about the DREAMers and their future, count me in. I want to be part of it. I want to come to the floor and tell these stories about real lives affected by these political decisions, and I trust in the outcome in the Senate. But don't stop the funding for the Department of Homeland Security in the meantime. Let us make sure we are committed to our heritage as a nation of immigrants and to our future where young people like Johana can be a bright part of tomorrow for so many needy people across America.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Wall Street Journal, Feb. 9, 2015]

CAN THE GOP CHANGE?

Republicans in Congress are off to a less than flying start after a month in power, dividing their own conference more than Democrats. Take the response to President Obama's immigration order, which seems headed for failure if not a more spectacular crack-up.

That decree last November awarded work permits and de facto legal status to millions of undocumented aliens and dismayed members of both parties, whatever their immigra-

tion views. A Congressional resolution to vindicate the rule of law and the Constitution's limits on executive power was defensible, and even necessary, but this message has long ago been lost in translation.

The Republican leadership funded the rest of the government in December's budget deal but isolated the Department of Homeland Security that enforces immigration law. DHS funding runs out this month, and the GOP has now marched itself into another box canyon.

The specific White House abuse was claiming prosecutorial discretion to exempt whole classes of aliens from deportation, dumping the historical norm of case-by-case scrutiny. A GOP sniper shot at this legal overreach would have forced Democrats to go on record, picked up a few supporters, and perhaps even imposed some accountability on Mr. Obama.

But that wasn't enough for immigration restrictionists, who wanted a larger brawl, and they browbeat GOP leaders into adding needless policy amendments. The House reached back to rescind Mr. Obama's enforcement memos from 2011 that instructed Homeland Security to prioritize deportations of illegals with criminal backgrounds. That is legitimate prosecutorial discretion, and in opposing it Republicans are undermining their crime-fighting credentials.

The House even adopted a provision to roll back Mr. Obama's 2012 order deferring deportation for young adults brought to the U.S. illegally as children by their parents—the so-called dreamers. The GOP lost 26 of its own Members on that one, passing it with only 218 votes.

The overall \$40 billion DHS spending bill passed with these riders, 236-191, but with 10 Republicans joining all but two Democrats in opposition. This lack of GOP unity reduced the chances that Senate Democrats would feel any political pressure to go along.

And, lo, on Thursday the House bill failed for the third time to gain the 60 votes needed to overcome the third Democratic filibuster in three days. Swing-state Democrats like Indiana's Joe Donnelly and North Dakota's Heidi Heitkamp aren't worried because they have more than enough material to portray Republicans as the immigration extremists.

Whatever their view of Mr. Obama's order, why would Democrats vote to deport people who were brought here as kids through no fault of their own? Mr. Obama issued a veto threat to legislation that will never get to his desk, and he must be delighted that Republicans are fighting with each other rather than with him.

Restrictionists like Sens. Ted Cruz and Jeff Sessions are offering their familiar advice to fight harder and hold firm against "executive amnesty," but as usual their strategy for victory is nowhere to be found. So Republicans are now heading toward the same cul de sac that they did on the ObamaCare government shutdown.

If Homeland Security funding lapses on Feb. 27, the agency will be pushed into a partial shutdown even as the terrorist threat is at the forefront of public attention with the Charlie Hebdo and Islamic State murders. Imagine if the Transportation Security Administration, a unit of DHS, fails to intercept an Islamic State agent en route to Detroit.

So Republicans are facing what is likely to be another embarrassing political retreat and more intra-party recriminations. The GOP's restrictionist wing will blame the leadership for a failure they share responsibility for, and the rest of America will won-

der anew about the gang that couldn't shoot straight.

The restrictionist caucus can protest all it wants, but it can't change 54 Senate votes into 60 without persuading some Democrats. It's time to find another strategy. Our advice on immigration is to promote discrete bills that solve specific problems such as green cards for math-science-tech graduates, more H-1B visas, a guest-worker program for agriculture, targeted enforcement and legal status for the dreamers. Democrats would be hard-pressed to oppose them and it would put the onus back on Mr. Obama. But if that's too much for the GOP, then move on from immigration to something else.

It's not too soon to say that the fate of the GOP majority is on the line. Precious weeks are wasting, and the combination of weak House leadership and a rump minority unwilling to compromise is playing into Democratic hands. This is no way to run a Congressional majority, and the only winners of GOP dysfunction will be Mr. Obama, Nancy Pelosi and Hillary Clinton.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, we continue to debate the Affordable Care Act. The Affordable Care Act, of course, is the effort we passed in the Senate to try to make America a better place for those who need health insurance.

Our goal was accessibility, to make sure more and more people would have access to affordable health care. Our goals tried to transform health care into something that was more preventive, something that reduced the likelihood that someone would be hospitalized or have a serious disease. Our goal was to try to make certain we created incentives within the practice of medicine—for quality care, not the most expensive care. And we have achieved many of those goals in the first year.

Some 10 million Americans now have access to health insurance through the Affordable Care Program, and yet the Republicans in the House, as late as last week, for the 56th time voted to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Now we might ask ourselves: What do they want to replace it with? They surely wouldn't just walk away from it. And the answer is: They don't have a replacement. They are so determined to kill this program. I will say to their credit that two Republican Senators have stepped up and said: Here is what we would suggest as an alternative. I will acknowledge they are the first, I believe, after all these years, to actually step up with a proposal. But it is important for us to take a close look at this proposal.

This new plan which the Republicans offered does not offer the same protection when it comes to insuring people with preexisting conditions. Does anyone know a person in their family or a friend with a preexisting medical condition? Everybody's hand ought to go up because we all do. Everybody has somebody in their family with some history—a history that, in the old

days, would disqualify them from health insurance or end up with premiums they couldn't afford. The new Republican approach to replace the current protection of people with pre-existing conditions doesn't give the same opportunity for health insurance for those people. That, to me, is a fatal flaw.

Secondly, we decided we would make prescription drugs under Medicare for seniors more affordable. We used to have something called the doughnut hole. It cost seniors over \$1,000 a year to pay for their prescription drugs. We started closing that doughnut hole, and it saves on average in Illinois, for every senior citizen, \$780 a year. So that is \$780 for these seniors to have in their savings, in their checkbook. The new Republican approach, the Hatch-Burr program, eliminates that and we go back to the doughnut hole. We go back to this debt.

Sadly, it doesn't provide the Medicaid coverage which people in low-income categories need. Take a close look at Medicaid. The vast majority of people receiving Medicaid benefits in America are children and pregnant moms. When we cut back on Medicaid, as this Hatch-Burr proposal does, we do it at their expense. But the largest number in terms of dollars spent who receive these benefits are those in nursing homes who are broke.

Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, keep them alive. When we cut back on Medicaid, cut back on reimbursements to the nursing home, the obvious question is: What is going to happen to grandma? What is going to happen to mom?

So when they start cutting back on Medicaid, look long and hard. The people whom we are protecting on Medicaid Programs are some of the most vulnerable in America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I was listening to what the Senator from Illinois was saying. I could not say it as well as he did, but I agree with every single word he said and I suspect that Vermonters, Republicans and Democrats alike, agree with what he said.

LYNCH NOMINATION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, almost 2 weeks ago the Attorney General nominee, Loretta Lynch, came before the Senate Judiciary Committee and testified for nearly 8 hours. As one who has heard Attorneys General nominees testify for the past 40 years, I cannot think of anybody who did a better job. She was clear and concise. She is a prosecutor's prosecutor. She has also responded to more than 600 written questions. Many of them have absolutely nothing to do with whether she is qualified for the job or not. But peo-

ple felt they had to send in these questions for whatever reason—and she responded to them all, whether they were relevant or not. And when she is confirmed, she will be the first African-American woman to serve as the Attorney General of the United States in our Nation's history. A majority of members of the committee, both Republican and Democratic, have said they intend to support her confirmation. I am confident she has the votes to be confirmed by the full Senate.

But as of today it has been 94 days since the President announced the nomination of Ms. Lynch. Her nomination has been pending longer than any modern Attorney General nominee. We should all be able to agree that confirming the top law enforcement position should be an urgent priority of the Senate. At a time when we face all kinds of threats from terrorists—both outside our borders and within our borders—we should all be united in confirming an Attorney General nominee like Loretta Lynch. She has the experience of successfully prosecuting numerous terrorists, people who others said we should be afraid to prosecute and that we should lock them up in Guantanamo in case they are not convicted. Ms. Lynch has obtained those convictions and those terrorist are locked away in Federal prisons right now.

This Thursday, the Senate Judiciary Committee has the opportunity to vote on her nomination. I have heard that even though she has already waited longer than any other modern Attorney General nominee to be confirmed, some Republicans are considering delaying the important vote for her for two more weeks. Under our committee rule, they have the right to do so. But I urge them not to do so.

Loretta Lynch's qualifications are beyond reproach. She has been confirmed by the Senate twice before to serve as the top federal prosecutor based in Brooklyn, NY, one of the most significant prosecutors' offices in this country. Incidentally, she was confirmed both times unanimously. Under her leadership, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York has brought terrorists to justice, obtained convictions against both Republicans and Democrats in public corruption cases, and fought tirelessly against violent crime and financial fraud. It would be hard to find any prosecutor in this country in any administration who has a better record than she does, and her record shows that as Attorney General, Ms. Lynch will effectively, fairly, and independently enforce the law.

Now, thinking back to 2007 when Michael Mukasey was nominated by President Bush to serve as Attorney General. Now, President Bush was in the end of his term as President. The Democrats had taken over the major-

ity in the Senate that year. I served as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. President Bush talked to me and said: we need, of course, an Attorney General. I agreed. And I knew that like Ms. Lynch, Mr. Mukasey had been confirmed before by the Senate, and I also knew that this was coming toward the end of the Bush Presidency. Now, ultimately I voted against Mr. Mukasey because of his responses relating to questions on torture. But even though I was going to vote against him, I proceeded with his nomination in a very prompt manner.

It took just 53 days from the announcement of Mr. Mukasey's nomination to his confirmation. It has been 94 days for Ms. Lynch. Her nomination is needlessly on track to take more than twice the amount of time it took a Democratic-led Senate to confirm President Bush's nominee. After Mr. Mukasey's hearing, Senate Democrats could have held his nomination over in committee, but we did not. In fact, I had to hold a special markup to report his nomination out of committee as soon as possible. And he was confirmed 2 days later. Republicans should extend the same courtesy to expedite Ms. Lynch's nomination, as we did to Mr. Mukasey's.

Last week the Secretary of Defense nominee testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee—last week—and his nomination will be reported to the floor today. His nomination is expected to be confirmed by the end of the week. Now, I agree the Defense Secretary is a critically important position to fill, and I will vote for him. But so is the Nation's top law enforcement officer. I urge Senate Republicans to allow a vote on Ms. Lynch's nomination before we adjourn for a week-long recess. Please, don't treat her differently than we treated Mr. Mukasey. We were able to give him an expedited procedure. She has already waited much longer than he did. Don't make her wait even longer.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING DARN TOUGH SOCKS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, in Vermont, small businesses are the foundation of our State's economy. They spur economic growth and create jobs. One such place is Darn Tough Socks—which sounds like a very small place, but it is not. They decided we should have upscale brand quality socks with a lifetime guarantee, produced in America, and not—like so

many other things—have to be exported from other companies. They have done a huge amount of charity work in our State. But they are also one who shows that jobs can be created in America and can thrive in America.

As I said, in Vermont, small businesses are the foundation of our State's economy, and are incubators of innovation that spur economic growth, create jobs, and promote the quality that is known as the Vermont Brand. I am proud of the many Vermont success stories that often start out as a family business—sometimes located in an old farm house or tool shed—and mature into world-class operations that support and benefit the communities in which they operate. Our Nation's economy is growing, but in today's fast-changing business environments, the status quo is no longer enough. Darn Tough Vermont in Northfield, VT, is one such business that is not just surviving, but is thriving, in part because of its evolution in today's global marketplace, but most importantly, because of the dedicated workers that help the business grow. Darn Tough, a brand launched from its parent company, Cabot Hosiery Mills, exemplifies Vermonters' spirit of entrepreneurship, creativity, perseverance, and old fashioned hard work.

Darn Tough's President and CEO Ric Cabot grew up thinking about socks. After all, Ric's grandfather and father succeeded in partnering their Vermont private-label sock company with national outlet stores. For a while, Cabot Hosiery Mills enjoyed growing sales, but 10 years ago, the mill saw their sales take a considerable hit, as their customers shifted business overseas. Ric stepped in to help his family navigate the uncertainty that lay ahead. The solution to their problem was a long process that led to the establishment of Darn Tough, an upscale brand of quality socks with a lifetime guarantee. Like so many other businesses, the Cabots did not move jobs offshore; they maintained the Cabot promise of quality while ensuring future employment to over 150 Vermonters. It is because of their belief in their product, and a nimble business approach, that a 36-year-old company has kept its doors open and continues to create jobs for Vermonters. Their most recent announcement that they intend to expand their Northfield, VT, mill by 100,000 square feet will result in an additional 50 jobs to the Northfield area.

Darn Tough, its leadership and its employees, are part of the fabric of the community. Most recently, the company donated complimentary socks for participants in the 20th anniversary of the Penguin Plunge, a fundraiser for the Special Olympics Vermont athletes who will compete in this year's winter games, for participants who raise \$520 or more. This is just another example of how Vermont businesses give back, even in the toughest of times.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that an article from the Vermont Digger, dated February 8, 2015, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Vermont Digger, Feb. 8, 2015]

DARN TOUGH SOCK FACTORY EXPANSION WILL ADD 250 TO 300 JOBS IN NORTHFIELD

(By C.B. Hall)

For Northfield, the news couldn't be better. Cabot Hosiery Mills, which has been making its Darn Tough wool socks since 2003, announced this month it is embarking on an expansion that will add 100,000 square feet—more than two acres—to its plant by the end of 2016.

CEO and president Ric Cabot expects the new facility will add 250 to 300 new jobs to the mill's payroll over the next five years. One new manufacturing position typically creates 1.6 additional local jobs in the service sector, according to the federal Advanced Manufacturing National Program Office, meaning that those new positions will translate into as many as 780 new jobs for the community as a whole. The expansion will make Cabot the town's second-largest employer, after Norwich University.

Cabot Hosiery sales have increased by 60 percent in each of the past five years.

The addition to the plant, which will nearly triple the current square footage of the factory, will "meet and get out ahead of customer demand," Cabot says.

The new space will be attached to the present facility, and will be designed so that more space can be added in the future. "Right now we're looking out five to six years," he says.

While other companies have outsourced manufacturing overseas, Cabot Hosiery kept its operations in Vermont and went after the high end sock market.

"There isn't one thing that makes us successful," Cabot says. "I'm the third generation in my family in the sock business. There's socks in the blood."

Ric Cabot's father, Marc Cabot, launched the firm in 1978, vowing that "knitting is going to come back to New England," according to a trade press article still hanging on the plant lobby's wall.

"Up until 2003 we were making socks for other people, like Gap and Banana Republic," Ric Cabot continues the story.

When the big retailers began to buy socks from offshore companies demand plummeted. Cabot says in the early 2000s the hosiery mill almost went out of business. The company reduced the workforce and cut health insurance and 401(k) plans for workers. The plant operated four days a week.

"I took it upon myself to come up with something unique, something different, something that we could sell [and] I came up with Darn Tough. I gave away 3,500 pairs at the Vermont City Marathon and people liked them."

A dozen years later, Cabot hails Northfield as "the sock capital of the world." The brand name for a new line of socks he developed—Darn Tough Vermont—not only refers to the quality of the Merino wool used in the socks, but also "to coming through the hardships [of the early 2000s]—to having to climb out of the hole we were in. The deck was beginning to be stacked against the domestic manufacturer."

In his view, the company has thrived on adversity. "The harder it is, the tougher it is, the better it is. If it's easy, what's the

point?" Today he estimates Chinese socks are worn by 60 to 75 percent of the nation's population, while the rest of the hosiery sold in the U.S. comes from Mexico, Honduras, Vietnam, or Canada. Domestic production accounts for less than 10 percent of the trade, and U.S. sock manufacturers number fewer than 50, he says. Cabot operates the only sock mill in New England.

"The ones that are left have focused on quality, a premium product, with price not the driving factor in the sale." That puts Cabot Hosiery in a narrow market niche of the sort that has also sustained Vermont enterprises like Wall Goldfinger, or Morrisville stove manufacturer Hearthstone, or even the state's craft brewers.

"Nobody ever outsourced anything for the quality," he says.

Sheep in Australia, New Zealand and the U.S. Southwest supply 100 percent of Cabot's wool, while the socks are sold in national and international markets. In this global business environment, the Darn Tough brand projects a clear pride of place in its advertising slogan "still Made In Vermont, USA."

Cabot's expansion is especially welcome news in the town of Northfield, which is reeling from job losses.

Jeff Schulz, Northfield's town manager, says "the town's had some challenges."

Wall Goldfinger, the high-end furniture company that employed 45 workers in Northfield, moved to Randolph in 2012 rather than cope with the possibility of flooding out again. Wall Goldfinger's plant floor was damaged by floodwaters from the Dog River during Tropical Storm Irene in August 2011.

The local economy will lose another 55 to 60 jobs when Northfield Savings Bank, a local fixture since the 19th century, moves its corporate headquarters to Berlin in four months.

Jane Kolodinsky, who chairs the Department of Community Development and Applied Economics at the University of Vermont, is optimistic about Northfield's prospects.

"The fact that they do have a university there, that is definitely going to be a help," she says. "Then, with Cabot Hosiery, you're going to have two stable employers. You've got enough to support some sort of economic base for the community."

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, for the past week Democrats in the Senate have been filibustering a bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security for the remainder of the fiscal year. They object to the bill because it does not fund President Obama's Executive overreach on immigration—despite the fact that the President spent years declaring he didn't have the constitutional authority to grant amnesty.

Quoting what the President told an audience on July 25, 2011:

Believe me, the idea of doing things on my own is very tempting, I promise you. Not just on immigration reform. But that's not how our system works. That's not how our democracy functions. That is not how our Constitution is written.

On January 30, 2013, the President stated, "I am not a king. . . . I am required to follow the law."

That same day he said:

If this was an issue I could do unilaterally, I would have done it a long time ago. . . . The way our system works is Congress has to pass legislation. I then get an opportunity to sign it and implement it.

Well, President Obama was right. The Constitution does not give the President authority to make laws. It is Congress's job to make laws, and it is the President's job to execute them. Clearly, based on these statements, the President knows that. He has reiterated that sentiment more than 20 times over the past few years. Yet a few months ago he decided to ignore the law and the Constitution in an attempt to make immigration law by Executive fiat. How can he possibly justify that?

Members of his own party were troubled by that decision.

"I have to be honest, how this is coming about makes me uncomfortable," said a colleague from the State of Missouri back in November.

The junior Senator from Indiana said that "the President shouldn't make such significant policy changes on his own."

The junior Senator from Minnesota admitted, "I have concerns about executive action."

"I also frankly am concerned about the constitutional separation of powers," said the Independent Senator from the State of Maine.

Many Democrats here in the Senate Chamber, as well as an Independent, have expressed their reservations and their concerns about how the President has proceeded. Democrats are right to be concerned, which makes it particularly troubling that Democrats are now trying to shut down the Department of Homeland Security to protect the President's overreach because, make no mistake, Democrats are refusing to fund the Department of Homeland Security unless funding is provided for the President's unconstitutional attempt to make his own immigration laws.

If Democrats don't like this bill, they should vote to debate the measure and offer amendments to fix the parts they don't like. Republicans are ready and willing to entertain Democrats' amendments. In fact, the Republican leader has offered to let Democrats alternate amendments with Republicans on a one-to-one basis. An open debate is what the Senate is known for on a big issue. If Democrats want to fund ac-

tions that even they have admitted are troubling, they are welcome to offer an amendment to provide that funding. They have that opportunity.

What we are talking about is the Republican leader, Senator McConnell, offering an open process—something that we have talked about since we became the majority, something that we were denied in the last session of Congress when we were in the minority. We have the opportunity to have an open debate, offer amendments, and vote on those amendments. That is precisely what majority leader Senator McConnell has put forward. He has given Democrats that option.

Let's put the bill on the floor. We will have a chance to offer amendments. If Democrats don't like what is in the bill, they will have an opportunity to offer amendments, have that debate, and vote.

Democrats need to stop their obstruction and move forward on this bill. Blocking all funding to the Department of Homeland Security is not a responsible solution, especially when the Democrats are blocking the bill solely to protect Presidential actions that the President himself has admitted are unconstitutional and outside the scope of his authority.

We can end all this gridlock that is existing right now on the Senate floor simply by the Democrats allowing us to get on this bill and end the filibuster. Give us an opportunity to debate and offer amendments. Let's have that debate—a debate that is clearly important to a lot of people across this country and certainly a lot of people here in the Chamber of the Senate. We are going to be denied that opportunity if the current filibuster and current blocking of even getting on that legislation continues by the Democrats.

FOREIGN POLICY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I would also like to take a few minutes today to discuss the President's foreign policy or lack thereof. "Lack thereof" seems to be the most accurate description of the President's lead-from-behind foreign policy. Whether it is a Russian proxy war in Ukraine or the use of chemical weapons in Syria, the President is slow to respond and unclear about American goals even when he does.

Months after the ascension of ISIS—a terrorist organization so radical that even Al Qaeda considers it to be too extreme—the President still hasn't laid out a strategy for combating this threat. ISIS represents a horrifying new nadir in the annals of terrorism. There is apparently no act of brutality this organization rejects. Yet a clear plan for defeating ISIS has yet to be articulated.

This week the President is finally supposed to send Congress an author-

ization for the use of military force against ISIS. I look forward to examining that authorization. Since ISIS first emerged, the President has had the authority he needs to go after this terrorist group, but I think seeking additional authorization from Congress is wise, and I hope it will help define his strategy for combating this enemy and supporting our partners in this fight.

America clearly cannot fix all the world's problems, but we can help. We can build a coalition, and we can lead. We can give our commanders in the field the tools they need to meet our clear and growing threats.

Six years of indecision, mistakes, and Presidential irresolution has diminished America's image with our allies. The triumph of the President's political calculus over clear military and diplomatic objectives has made the world less safe, not more. Now more than ever we need a clearly articulated foreign policy from the President and the commitment to back it up.

Later this week we will consider the nomination of Ash Carter to be Secretary of Defense. Dr. Carter seems to be a very capable individual, and I believe he will serve our country well. But changing personnel alone won't fix the President's foreign policy problems. Even a very capable Secretary of Defense cannot succeed if his hands are tied by the lack of a coherent strategy from the President.

As crises multiply around the world, the President needs to provide the leadership that is required from our Commander in Chief. Whether it is defeating ISIS, standing up to Russia, or confronting Iran's nuclear ambition, it is high time we saw the leadership from our President that our country needs and deserves.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FLAKE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, funding for the Department of Homeland Security runs out in 17 days. Rather than working with Democrats to pass a clean Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill, many Republicans are prioritizing politics over our national security.

With threats emerging every day both at home and abroad, casting doubt on future funding for the Department of Homeland Security is a terrible idea. Shutting down DHS has real

consequences, especially in border States such as New Mexico. A DHS shutdown would threaten public safety, hinder interstate commerce, hurt our economy, and jeopardize critical funding for State, local, and tribal government activities.

Some of my Republican colleagues are willing to let these consequences happen because they have an immigration policy disagreement with the President. That is no way to govern, and it is not real leadership.

As a border State, New Mexico plays a critical role in protecting our homeland. DHS Customs and Border Protection agents and officers at New Mexico's two ports of entry at Columbus and Santa Teresa are responsible for maintaining our security and for screening vehicles and would-be crossers. These public servants put in long hours in order to keep all of us safe. They apprehend drug smugglers, human traffickers, and gang members. They also play a direct role in facilitating critical trade and interstate commerce between the United States and Mexico. That impacts our economy in New Mexico, particularly in Hidalgo, Luna, and Dona Ana Counties.

New Mexico is a growing international trade center and the Columbus and Santa Teresa ports of entry are key to growing the diversity of my State's economy.

Recently, a House Republican said that if we run out of DHS funding, "it's not the end of the world." I disagree, and so do many of my constituents.

Let me be clear about what a DHS shutdown would mean for New Mexico. It would impact our Southeast Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Artesia. This facility trains our Customs and Border Protection agents and officers. It would also compromise sheriff and city police departments across the State who use DHS funding to increase personnel and purchase equipment. Moreover, DHS helps fund some of our most important security programs such as the New Mexico All Source Intelligence Center, a public safety partnership based out of Santa Fe that is designed to collect, analyze, and disseminate intelligence.

A shutdown would also risk important DHS grant funding for New Mexico at the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. This agency works closely with DHS to aid communities after natural disasters. In times of crisis, DHS works hand-in-glove with the State of New Mexico.

For example, last year severe thunderstorms and floods caused disruption of oil and gas development, agricultural losses, and extensive damage to critical infrastructure across New Mexico, hitting counties such as Colfax, Eddy, Lea, Lincoln, Otero, San Miguel, Santa Fe, and Sierra.

FEMA, an agency under DHS, worked collaboratively to help these commu-

nities rebuild and recover. In fact, since 2002, New Mexico has received more than \$238 million in DHS grant funds. These resources provide statewide hazard mitigation assistance and help repair damaged roads, bridges, and low-water crossings after these disasters.

As current cabinet secretary-designate for the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Mitchell Jay puts it, a DHS shutdown would:

... have a very negative effect. We'll lose our grant funding for local and State emergency managers. We fund a portion of their salaries through DHS grants, and we can't, nor can the counties and municipalities, afford to absorb those costs at this time. ... We can't afford to lose our emergency managers, they're key representatives in our communities who help develop mitigation plans for all types of emergencies. They're our first line of defense should any emergencies occur at the local level.

These examples are just a glimpse at the security, economic, and emergency risks of allowing DHS funding to expire.

Former Department of Homeland Security Secretaries Tom Ridge, Michael Chertoff, and Janet Napolitano joined in a bipartisan call for Congress to act swiftly and remove uncertainty from an agency in charge of keeping us safe.

A Department of Homeland Security shutdown would also either furlough DHS employees or require many of them to work without a paycheck. That means men and women who work tirelessly to keep our Nation safe would have to live with the uncertainty of whether they are able to support their families.

DHS workers don't deserve that. They shouldn't be collateral damage in an ongoing ideological battle here in Washington, DC. I would like to believe a debate such as this would be about the merits of DHS funding and the DHS funding bill, but unfortunately that is not the case. This debate is about Republicans picking a political fight with the President over an immigration system we all recognize is broken. As a way to vent their frustrations, Republicans are unfairly targeting undocumented students known as DREAMers. At times such as this, one is forced to wonder if some on the far right fear DREAMers more than ISIL. But we are not a country that kicks out our best and brightest students. We are not a nation that separates families.

I have met many DREAMers over the past 10 years in New Mexico. They are smart, they are hardworking, and most of them don't know how to be anything but an American. They grew up here, and they want to give back. I have heard their stories. I have read their letters.

For example, there is a bright young New Mexican named Yuri. Her family emigrated from Mexico to the United States when she was 2 years old. As a

student at Highland High School in my neighborhood in Albuquerque, Yuri volunteered in our community. She served as student body president. She graduated in the top 10 percent of her class, and she received the 2013 Sandia National Laboratories scholarship.

In 2013, she was approved for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals—known as DACA—and is currently studying chemical engineering at the University of New Mexico. She wants to use her degree to enter the medical field.

Less than 2 years ago, after much debate and compromise, the Senate passed a bipartisan immigration reform bill. That bill would have modernized our immigration system to meet the needs of our economy. It would have provided an accountable pathway to earn citizenship for the undocumented workers currently living in the shadows in our country. It would have dramatically strengthened security at our borders.

Accountable immigration reform received 68 votes in this body and demonstrated the kind of legislation and the kind of leadership that is possible when we work together. The American people are frustrated with the gridlock here in Washington, DC. Frankly, I don't blame them. We need pragmatic solutions to fix our immigration system, but withholding DHS funding and jeopardizing our national security is not a solution. In fact, I would say it is emblematic of what is broken. Instead of focusing on deporting some of our country's brightest students, I would urge my Republican colleagues in the House and in the Senate to direct their attention to the real threats our country faces—the gang members, the drug traffickers, the cyber hackers, and the terrorists. Let's work together to make sure the Department of Homeland Security is adequately funded.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise to urge the Senate to take up a clean Homeland Security appropriations bill and pass it without further delay. I know we have had several votes on the floor on proceeding to the bill, but I would urge the leadership to make it clear that we stand on record for a clean Homeland Security appropriations bill.

We have an obligation to protect the American people. Given the terrorist threat we face both at home and abroad, it is irresponsible to continue to fund the Department of Homeland Security with short-term budgets and bring them to the edge of an agency

shutdown. We also should not force hard-working Federal workers to stand in the crossfire between Congress and the President.

Providing the resources our Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers need to carry out their vital around-the-clock mission should not be caught up in partisan political disagreements. We need a clean appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security.

We face a dangerous world today in light of recent terrorist attacks throughout Europe, Asia, and North America, and the ongoing threat of ISIS. I know I express the views of all Members of the Senate in expressing our deep condolences and prayers for the Kayla Mueller family as we learn today of her fate at the hands of ISIS. ISIS is actively recruiting foreign fighters, who are being radicalized and then returned to their home countries, including countries in Europe and North America.

We need to fully fund without further delay, uncertainty, or another short-term budget the critical homeland security, law enforcement, and intelligence activities and programs of the Department of Homeland Security.

Mr. President, we are now 4 months into the fiscal year. One-third of the fiscal year is already over for the Department of Homeland Security. We should not keep funding DHS on short-term budgets. No agency or private business, for that matter, can effectively implement a budget and carry out its mission under this type of financial tightrope. How would you like to run a business not knowing whether your budget is going to be there starting March 1? How do you plan? How do you make commitments for the year to carry out your mission when you don't know whether you are going to have the budget support starting March 1 or whether it is going to be continued on a continuing resolution, whether you are going to have to go through a government shutdown or whether you are going to have a budget? You can't run an agency that way.

DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson has stated that if Congress continues to fund his agency on short-term budgets, it will harm its mission and programs at the agency. We created the Department of Homeland Security in response to the devastating attacks on our country on September 11.

For example, short-term funding may limit more aggressive counterterrorism efforts, weaken our cyber security protections against hackers trying to corrupt or steal our data, delay enhancements to aviation security, slow down new border security initiatives, and defer new grants to State and local law enforcement. DHS may have to delay or postpone contract awards and new acquisitions, which also hurts small businesses and our economy.

DHS will have to scale back employee training and postpone the hiring of new personnel.

We have broad bipartisan support on almost all aspects of this \$40 billion Homeland Security funding measure. This legislation funds critical agencies, including the Coast Guard; the Transportation Security Administration, TSA; the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA; the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office; and the Secret Service, just to mention a few of the agencies that come under the Department of Homeland Security.

Three former heads of the Department of Homeland Security, both under Democratic and Republican administrations, recently wrote a letter to Congress urging us to pass a clean Homeland Security appropriations bill and avoid another short-term funding measure or, worse yet, a government shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security at the end of February.

Let me quote from a part of the letter from former Homeland Security Secretaries Ridge, Chertoff, and Napolitano, again representing both Democratic and Republican administrations:

[W]e write to you today to respectfully request that you consider decoupling critical legislation to fund DHS in FY '15 from a legislative response to President Obama's executive action on immigration . . . The President has said very publicly that he will "oppose any legislative effort to undermine the executive actions that he" has taken on immigration. Therefore, by tethering a bill to fund DHS in FY 2015 to a legislative response to the President's executive action on immigration, the likelihood of a DHS shutdown increases.

The letter continues:

We do not question your desire to have a larger debate about the nation's immigration laws. However, we cannot emphasize enough that DHS's responsibilities are much broader than its responsibility to oversee the Federal immigration agencies and to protect our borders. And funding for the entire agency should not be put in jeopardy by the debate about immigration . . . It is imperative that we ensure that DHS is ready, willing and able to protect the American people. To that end, we urge you not to risk funding for the operations that protect every American and to pass a clean DHS funding bill.

That is from a letter from three former Secretaries of the Department of Homeland Security who worked for both Democratic and Republican administrations.

Mr. President, what if Congress allows DHS funding to lapse on February 27? That is the end of the current funding resolution. We would then ask critical frontline personnel, such as Border Patrol agents and air marshals, to work without pay. That is insulting to those law enforcement officers who are putting their lives on the line to keep Americans safe every day. That is insulting to the families of those law enforcement officers who depend on a steady paycheck to make ends meet.

And that is insulting to the American people, who deserve nothing less than world-class service from government officials.

I must tell you that we have gone through government shutdowns before. It hurts people, no question about it. But guess who gets hurt the most. The taxpayers of this country. It ends up costing us more. We don't save taxpayer dollars. It ends up costing more, jeopardizing the mission, and putting individual families at risk.

Let me cite one example that many of our States and localities know very well. It is the Emergency Management Grant Program. Many local fire, police, and emergency management officials rely on funding from the Homeland Security Grant Program, which provides funds to States, territories, and other local governments to prevent, protect against, and respond to potential terrorist attacks and other hazards. This is a program local governments rely upon. They do not know whether they are going to get any of these funds after March 1. How do they plan? Local officials as well rely on funding from FEMA's emergency management performance grants. These grants help them to prepare for the unexpected, whether it is a natural disaster or some type of terrorist activity. It allows them to be prepared. We require this training, and it is 50 percent Federal funds and 50 percent local funds. How do they make arrangements to set up this training if they do not know whether the Federal funds are going to be there?

I can speak for the State of Maryland. We have a very tough budget. Our Governor is trying to figure out how he is going to make ends meet. He doesn't have the resources to advance the Federal share. That is no way for us to work in federalism with our local governments when we have a partnership to keep everyone safe.

I can mention many other programs that are in jeopardy of not being funded if we don't pass a clean bill, but let me just in conclusion address the issue of immigration.

Due to many extraneous amendments that were added by the House to the Homeland Security appropriations bill, we have this challenge here in the Senate. The President has made it clear he will veto any bill that expressly limits his authority to exercise prosecutorial discretion on immigration matters.

While we agree that our current immigration system needs comprehensive reform, including border security enhancements, this appropriations bill is not the place for that debate. No matter what side of this debate you are on, most of us agree that the American immigration system is badly broken. Comprehensive immigration reform is long overdue. We need a balanced immigration system that is fair.

My strong preference is that Congress send the President a comprehensive immigration reform bill that he can sign into law. This would provide a more thorough and more permanent solution than Executive action. The Senate passed a bipartisan bill in the last Congress, and I am sure we can do so again. My hope is that the House will take it up soon so we can come together in a bipartisan way, reconcile our differences, and pass comprehensive immigration reform as a separate bill.

Funding for the Department of Homeland Security expires Friday, February 27, which is now less than 3 weeks away. We are not scheduled to be in session one of those weeks because of the district work period. The Senate should act now to pass a clean Homeland Security bill and send it to the President without further delay. That is in the best interest of the American people.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). The Senator from Texas.

PRISON REFORM

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, as tempted as I am to respond to my good friend from Maryland about the ongoing Democratic filibuster of the Homeland Security funding, I want to spend just a few minutes talking about a topic where there is broad and growing consensus, where both parties have found common ground, and I am talking about the issue of reforming America's prison system.

Pretty much everyone agrees that our prisons are dangerously overcrowded. I think there are roughly 215,000 inmates in Federal custody. And everyone pretty much agrees that by and large people who are in prison are someday going to get out of prison. That, of course, brings about the concern about repeat crimes or recidivism and the fact that it is way too high. I think in many instances it is because we have simply not done enough or maybe have even given up on helping transition people who actually want to transition to a more productive life and providing them with the tools they need to do so.

The hard part about dealing with what I have just described is we have to come up with a solution that addresses these problems without jeopardizing public safety. That, obviously, is a given. It is a challenge, to be sure, but it makes it even more important to find bipartisan consensus and to actually accomplish what we can.

It is in this vein that my colleague from Rhode Island, Senator WHITEHOUSE, and I have joined together to introduce a piece of legislation we call the Corrections Oversight, Recidivism Reduction, and Eliminating Costs for

Taxpayers in Our National System Act—or CORRECTIONS Act—to reform our Federal prison system. That is quite an acronym. It is a mouthful to be sure. But the point is, this is real meaningful reform of our prison system at the Federal level.

Before I describe the specifics of the CORRECTIONS Act, I am going to tell a brief story the Presiding Officer is very familiar with of the success in that laboratory of democracy known as the State of Texas.

Not too long ago Texas lawmakers confronted a problem similar to what I have described here at the national level. We had not only growing budgets for prison construction, we had overcrowded prisons and a high rate of criminal recidivism.

At some point the thought occurred to a group of people that just building more prisons wasn't necessarily the answer. It certainly wouldn't fix the problem on the back end that I described, of people who would eventually get out of prison not being prepared to reenter civil society. But we tried a different approach in Texas: scrapping prison construction plans and instead funding a series of recidivism reduction programs aimed at helping low-risk offenders turn their lives around and become productive members of society and, just as important, not become residents of our prison system once again. These programs are not all that novel. They are well known—things such as drug rehabilitation, educational classes, job training, faith-based initiatives, and something as simple as prison work programs.

In Texas we gave qualified inmates the option of earning credits and completing a portion of their sentence in lower levels of custody—home confinement, halfway houses, community supervision—which is dramatically cheaper than the big-box prisons that are very expensive.

The results speak for themselves. Between 2007 and 2012 our State's overall incarceration rate fell almost 10 percent—9.4 percent—our total crime rate dropped 16 percent, and taxpayers saved more than \$2 billion.

Again, the Presiding Officer knows as well, Texas has a certain reputation when it comes to crime. We are not soft on crime. We are tough on crime. We believe if you do the crime, you should do the time. But I think what we have come up with is a model that can be used at the national level.

Senator WHITEHOUSE this morning, in a press conference we did together, talked about how similar initiatives that took place in Rhode Island produced similar results. But I think one of the keys to this is the recidivism reduction programs because these have proven successful for medium-risk and low-risk inmates and delivered positive results.

This bill would also make a number of other reforms. I guess perhaps the

most important, and the first one I will mention, is a risk assessment program, regular risk assessments for inmates, to determine whether they are a low, medium or high risk of recidivism. Indeed, we would not allow high-risk inmates to participate in this program of earning good time credit toward less restrictive custody, but they could, if they were motivated enough to change their status from high risk to medium risk. They could then begin that. So the incentives are clearly there.

These assessments would assign prisoners to appropriate programming to ensure the system is working efficiently and effectively. In other words, if someone has a mental health issue, obviously they would be directed in a particular way. If somebody doesn't have employable job skills, obviously that would call for some training program so they could acquire those kinds of skills. People who have drug and alcohol problems obviously could be directed toward something that could help them learn to free themselves from those challenges.

To me, one of the great things about this particular approach is that it operates on incentives. As an incentive, lower risk offenders who successfully complete their programs would earn up to 25 percent of their remaining sentence in home confinement or a halfway house.

To be clear, these earned time credits would be available only to inmates who have been vetted by the Bureau of Prisons and classified as low-risk offenders. The Nation's most violent offenders would be excluded from earning any credit under this legislation. During these budget-constrained times, it is important to point out that this bill would not involve any additional spending. Instead, it would rely on job programs and partnerships of faith-based groups and nonprofits, and the reinvestment potentially of the savings generated by transitioning lower risk offenders to less restrictive forms of custody.

If it works as it has at the State level, it is going to save money because we will be building fewer prisons. Indeed, in Texas I believe we have actually shuttered three existing prison units because we simply don't need them because of this new approach.

Make no mistake, though, the prisoners eligible for these program are all people who eventually will get out of prison anyway. What we are trying to do is make sure the very high risk of repeating and recidivism would go down by better preparing them to reenter society. Our goal would be to make it less likely that they would commit new crimes and wind up behind bars again.

So the hope and expectation is this bill would go a long way toward improving public safety, it would save taxpayers money, and it would ease

some of the burden on our Federal prisons just like we experienced in Texas.

This bill, at a time when we seem to be very divided on a number of topics, is a consensus piece of legislation. It was voted out of the Judiciary Committee late last year by an overwhelming vote. I think those who expressed some reservations at the time just wanted more opportunity to talk about it and learn more about it, and perhaps they had other ideas they wanted to consider adding to it.

In addition to Senator WHITEHOUSE, there have been a number of colleagues who have been very interested in criminal justice reform, and this is just one place, one starting point, which I think enjoys perhaps the broadest consensus. But I don't think we ought to be afraid of the larger discussion that a number of our colleagues, including the Presiding Officer, have talked about—things such as mandatory minimums, sentencing reforms; the overcriminalization of our regulatory regime, where people who inadvertently violate some regulation find themselves actually accused of a crime.

I think all of these are fair game, but I think the most important thing for us to do is to start—start somewhere—where there is a broad consensus. Let's get done what we can get done, and let's not let the perfect be the enemy of the good.

I think if we can establish, both from the Judiciary Committee and then on the floor of the Senate, that we are capable of moving bipartisan legislation such as this forward and sending it to the President for his signature, hopefully we will start a growing trend of doing that, and this will be the beginning, and not the end, of our discussions and hopefully our productivity when it comes to criminal justice reform.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I come to the floor, and I have been trying to get time to do this, because I stand here in amazement that after the Republicans took over on January 6—after they won big in November and they took over the Senate on January 6—it took them 1 month to threaten a government shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security. Unbelievable. It took them 1 month to get into a situation where we are threatened

with a shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security. It is unbelievable to me because we know the threat of terrorism that is all around us, and playing politics with this is absolutely uncalled for.

Why did they do that? They did that because the President under his authority said we shouldn't deport immigrants who were raised in America. That is what they didn't like.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be able to speak for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. BOXER. With terrorists all around us, Republicans are playing politics with the critical funding for the Department of Homeland Security and threatening a shutdown. It took them exactly a month in power to do that because they didn't like the fact that the President, who is in line with Presidents of both parties, issued an Executive order. By the way, President Obama has issued the fewest number of Executive orders in the history of any President. I never heard one Republican complain when Ronald Reagan did a number of Executive orders or George Bush did Executive orders, all on immigration. And I have those, for the record. But they didn't like this. I guess they would rather deport these DREAMers.

One of my colleagues said they are more scared of the DREAMers than they are of ISIL—a joke. What are they afraid of? Some child who was brought here at 3 years of age, went to school, is holding down a job, doing great? Those are the people the President's Executive order is affecting. They are in my State, they are in Texas, they are in Arizona, they are all over the country. If there is anyone swept up in that who is not a good citizen, they don't get to have this benefit, which, by the way, does not include citizenship. It just says action on your deportation is deferred.

I would say to anyone within the sound of my voice, if anyone from your family ever came here from another country, think about what they are doing. Think about what they are doing.

It will cost billions of dollars to deport these students. Then, by the way, they don't take up an immigration bill. If the status quo prevails, you are talking about deporting 11 million people. You have got to be kidding. We had an independent analysis done by USC which shows how important it is to resolve this immigration issue, and what a boon it is to our society if we do so.

Well, the Republicans are stomping their feet. They never said anything when Ronald Reagan issued an Executive order on immigration. They never said anything when George Herbert Walker Bush did it. They never said anything before. But when this Presi-

dent does something that I think is very wise to make sure we keep these young people here, they threaten to shut down the Department of Homeland Security.

Now let's talk about what that means. You would stop command-and-control activities at the Department of Homeland Security headquarters. You disrupt important programs that protect weapons of mass destruction and train local law enforcement. You force critical frontline personnel such as Border Patrol agents to work without pay.

Now maybe my colleagues would like to work without pay. Go for it. Most of us need our pay to live. Imagine the Border Patrol agents and TSA agents who work every day to support their families—they don't get paid.

It would jeopardize the safety of my constituency. During the last fiscal year California received over \$200 million in crucial grant money that enabled State and local authorities to respond to national security threats and prepare for natural disasters. The Republicans are putting this crucial funding in jeopardy.

Let's be clear: Even if they back off their threat to shut down the government by shutting down Homeland Security, if they back off and say, well, let's just fund it at last year's level, let me tell you, we will not see those safety grants.

Last year, Texas, for example, received \$105 million from these grants. You cannot go home and tell your Governor, too bad, we are stepping out. You step up. It doesn't work like this. We are one Nation under God. We have to protect our people.

I will tell you what else is threatened. Even if they back down and let the government stay open but they fund it at last year's level, firefighting grants such as the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants Program would be delayed. These programs are vital to California. We have a nearly year-round fire season. Last year California firefighters received \$20 million in fire grants that allowed fire departments all over our State to purchase necessary equipment.

Let me tell you, I have been to fire scenes I will never forget where we have lost firefighters. They need equipment that saves their lives. They are so great, but the wind changes and they find themselves in a canyon, and if they don't have the right equipment—horrific results.

We also received \$50 million in SAFER grants last year that allowed fire departments to hire and train firefighters. Sometimes you are in a situation and if you haven't been trained on how to respond, it puts your life and other lives in jeopardy.

Other States such as Ohio received a total of \$33 million in fire and safety grants last year.

I have to say, this kind of threat, after what we saw the last time Republicans threatened a shutdown, makes no sense at all. We need a clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill. When I say that, I hope people understand I don't mean scouring the bill. What I mean is keep extraneous issues off the bill. We all have our pet peeves. Listen, a lot of people don't like the fact that the DREAMers are staying here. They want to deport them. Introduce the bill to deport the DREAMers, bring it to the floor—have at it.

I will talk about what it would have been like for me, whose mother was born in Europe, and it took her a while to get her naturalization papers, if she was ripped out of my life. You know, I thought we had family values around here. We need a clean bill.

If you want to deport all the undocumented people—11 million—who are living in your communities and a lot of times fearful, that is a position you can defend. Defend it. Explain why we should spend billions deporting these people. Put up your solution. Don't try to kill a bill by holding it hostage to your demands.

We had an immigration bill this past year. It was terrific, it was bipartisan. Let's go for it. Let's go for it again. Let's have a debate. Oh, no. They are in power for 30 days and they are already threatening a government shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security. I tell you, this is no way to run the greatest Nation in the world.

These programs are critically important and are we going to turn our back on those who keep us safe?

TSA officers would not be paid during a DHS shutdown. The agency that seized a record 2,212 firearms last year from passengers' carry-on luggage (of which 83% were loaded)—would be doing their important work keeping the traveling public safe without pay.

And communities that are relying on federal FEMA funding to help them get back on their feet, after disasters have shattered their lives, will have to wait to be reimbursed during a shutdown.

California emergency officials expect slowdowns in ongoing disaster recovery operations like the RIM Fire and Napa Earthquake.

By failing to pass a clean DHS funding bill, we're putting the safety of our cities and our citizens at risk. The United States Conference of Mayors agrees—they are urging us to pass a clean DHS bill to keep our cities functioning.

Unless Republicans stop catering to their extreme Tea Party wing, critical programs that protect us from terrorists will be undermined or frozen just weeks after the horrifying attack in Paris and evidence that our enemies are willing and able to launch cyberattacks against us.

Republicans would rather tear families apart than provide critical funding for the homeland security infrastructure that was built following 9/11. It's clear that Republicans hate DREAMers more than they hate ISIS.

The Republicans' extreme anti-immigrant amendments would have a chilling effect on the Latino community, instill fear of deportation for victims of domestic and sexual violence, and subject DREAMers, who are peacefully contributing to our economy and community, to deportation and exploitation. These are young men and women who have been living in the U.S. since they were children and came here by no fault of their own. They consider themselves just as much a part of the fabric of their communities—and this country—as their classmates and peers.

Specifically, the Republican amendments would prevent the implementation of President Obama's DACA initiatives, which would enable many unlawfully present young people who came to the United States as children to apply for "deferred action," a temporary relief from removal not permanent immigration status—and work authorization.

It would also prevent the implementation of President Obama's DAPA initiative, which would enable the parents of U.S. citizens or green card holders who have lived here for years to apply for deferred action and work authorization as long as they pay fees, have not been convicted of a serious crime, and submit to a background check.

It would prevent ICE from using its expertise to set immigration enforcement priorities, to focus on the most serious public safety threats, as it has done for years.

It would put domestic violence survivors in danger by taking away their ability to stay in the United States and obtain the help that they need and ensure that the perpetrators of this violence are punished.

DACA and DAPA will strengthen community policing, improve community safety, and help more immigrant women come forward sooner to protect their children and themselves from domestic violence. Immigration law already provides abused women an opportunity to apply for protection. Why would we want to potentially curtail these protections from the women and children who need them the most?

Specifically, President Obama's Executive Actions on Immigration will improve California's economy with an \$11.7 billion increase in GDP over the next 10 years, by giving California a boost in productivity from up to 1.5 million more people who could pay taxes and contribute to the state's economy.

This will increase the average wages of U.S. born workers across the country by \$170 a year and raise the Na-

tion's gross domestic product by up to \$90 billion over the next decade by expanding the labor force and giving immigrant workers the flexibility to seek new jobs.

Let's come together. We had a really good meeting of the minds in a lovely setting last week, and a lunch. We agreed these differences are not personal and it is fine that we have them. I don't mind. That is healthy in a society. We want to have differing views. That is what makes everyone in our country feel represented. The fact that I have certain views and the Presiding Officer may have a different view is fine. What isn't fine, in my view, is using your views to hold the Department of Homeland Security funding hostage. Too much is at stake.

This Chamber is empty. We are not doing a darn thing. We even have Republicans on our side and saying, no, this is not the right way to go.

Why don't we do this: Why don't we fund the Department of Homeland Security—it went through the entire process—and then make an absolute commitment, which the Republicans have the ability to do, to take up immigration reform. Then let's debate it. Let's hear why some of my friends on the other side want to deport the DREAMers. Let's find out why they don't want to do much about keeping families together. That is fine. Let's debate it. Let's move on. But let's not hold hostage the Department of Homeland Security funding to some ideological debate on immigration, which should stand on its own and have the focus it deserves.

Frankly, I hope we will begin with these unanimous consent requests—I won't do it today because I haven't warned anybody I want to—but fulfill the Department of Homeland Security and then immediately go to immigration reform where we can hash it out and become the deliberative body we are supposed to be.

Nobody is here. We are not doing anything right now, because we are stopped dead because of this dispute that has nothing to do with homeland security, in my view.

The American people agree across the board on this. You shouldn't attach irrelevant legislative matters on a funding bill. They have a funding bill. They have a job to do. In this case it is protecting Americans from terror, OK? That is over here, and over here is a very legitimate debate on immigration policy, and one that deserves the full time of this United States Senate.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a document entitled "Executive Grants of Temporary Immigration Relief, 1956–Present" be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

EXECUTIVE GRANTS OF TEMPORARY
IMMIGRATION RELIEF, 1956–PRESENT

1956 (Eisenhower) Paroled orphans for military families who wanted to adopt them; 1956–1958 (Eisenhower) Paroled Hungarians who escaped the Soviets; 1959–1972 (Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon) Paroled Cuban asylum seekers who fled the Cuban revolution; 1962–1965 (Kennedy, Johnson) Paroled Chinese who fled Hong Kong; 1975–1979 (Ford, Carter) Paroled Indochinese from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos; 1976 (Ford) Extended Voluntary Departure for Lebanese; 1977 (Carter) Temporarily suspended expulsion of immigrants who were being deported because of an error by the State Department; 1977–1982 (Carter, Reagan) Extended Voluntary Departure for Ethiopians; 1977–1980 (Carter) Paroled Soviet refugees; 1978 (Carter) Extended Voluntary Departure for Ugandans; 1979 (Carter) Extended Voluntary Departure for Nicaraguans; 1979 (Carter) Extended Voluntary Departure for Iranians; 1980 (Carter) Extended Voluntary Departure for Afghans; 1980 (Carter) Paroled Cubans and Haitians during the Mariel boatlift.

1981–1987 (Reagan) Extended Voluntary Departure for Polish after martial law declared in Poland; 1987 (Reagan) Directed the Immigration and Naturalization Service not to deport Nicaraguans and to grant them work authorizations if they demonstrated a well-founded fear of persecution, even if they had been denied asylum; 1987 (Reagan) Deferred deportation for unauthorized children of noncitizens who applied to legalize; 1989 (Bush Sr.) Deferred deportation for Chinese nationals following Tiananmen Square; 1989 (Bush Sr.) Paroled Soviets and Indochinese, even though they were denied refugee status; 1990 (Bush Sr.) Formalized Deferred Enforced Departure for Chinese nationals following Tiananmen Square; 1990 (Bush Sr.) Deferred deportation of unauthorized spouses and children of those legalized under the immigration reform law; 1991 (Bush Sr.) Deferred deportation of Persian Gulf evacuees after the Kuwait invasion; 1992 (Bush Sr., Clinton) Deferred deportation of some El Salvadorans, even though their Temporary Protective Status had expired; 1994 (Clinton) Paroled Cubans into the U.S.; 1997 (Clinton) Deferred deportation for Haitians in the U.S. that were here prior to 1995; 1997 (Clinton) Deferred deportation to noncitizens who might gain relief under the Violence Against Women Act.

1998 (Clinton) Suspended deportations to El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua after Hurricane Mitch; 1999 (Clinton) Deferred deportation for Liberians; 2002 (G.W. Bush) Expedited naturalization for green card holders who enlisted in the military; 2005 (G.W. Bush) Deferred deportation for foreign academic students affected by Hurricane Katrina; 2006 (G.W. Bush) Enabled Cuban doctors conscripted abroad to apply for parole at U.S. embassies; 2007 (G.W. Bush) Deferred deportation for Liberians whose Temporary Protective Status had expired; 2009 (Obama) Deferred deportation for Liberians; 2009 (Obama) Extended deferred deportation to widows and widowers of U.S. citizens and their unmarried children under 21; 2010 (Obama) Allowed parole-in-place to spouses, parents and children of U.S. citizen members of the military; 2010 (Obama) Paroled Haitian orphans being adopted by U.S. citizens; 2011 (Obama) Extended deferred deportation to Liberians; 2012 (Obama) Deferred action for childhood arrivals (DACA); 2013 (Obama) Revised parole-in-place policy to spouses, parents and children of members of the military; 2014 (Obama) Expedited fam-

ily reunification for certain eligible Haitian family members (HFRP).

Mrs. BOXER. With that, I yield back my time.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING
BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:42 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. PORTMAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 20 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DISABILITY INSURANCE TRUST
FUND

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the impending exhaustion of the disability trust fund administered by the Social Security Administration.

The Social Security system contains two important programs. One is the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance—or OASI—Program, often referred to as the retirement program. That program provides income to insured workers and their families at retirement or death, based on their payroll tax contributions to the OASI trust fund. The other is the disability insurance—or DI—program, which provides income to insured workers who suffer from a disabling condition, based on their payroll tax contributions to the DI trust fund. Unfortunately, both trust funds face trillions of dollars in unfunded obligations.

Each trust fund is legally distinct, although they have been commingled in the past into an imaginary fund labeled the “OASDI trust fund” or mingled with the General Fund.

Reserves in the DI trust fund are projected to be exhausted sometime late in calendar year 2016, after which beneficiaries face benefit cuts of around 20 percent. The DI program alone faces unfunded obligations over the next 75 years of more than \$1.2 trillion. Reserves in the OASI trust fund are projected to be exhausted in 2034, after which retirees and their survivors face benefit cuts of around 25 percent. The

retirement program alone faces unfunded obligations of around \$9.4 trillion over the next 75 years.

Financial operations of the OASI and DI trust funds are overseen by a board of trustees composed of six members. Four of them serve based on their positions in the Federal Government, and two are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

Currently, Treasury Secretary Lew, Labor Secretary Perez, HHS Secretary Burwell, and Social Security’s Acting Commissioner Colvin serve on the board. This is not what anyone would consider a band of fiscal hawks. Yet, in their most recent report, these trustees—who are, once again, high-ranking officials in the Obama administration—urged Congress to take action “as soon as possible to address the DI program’s financial imbalance.” Those are pretty clear words. Those are not the words of any Republican trying to manufacture a crisis. They are not the words of any Republican trying to hold anyone or anything hostage, as some of my friends on the other side have claimed. Rather, they come from Obama administration officials who, in their roles as trustees, are forced to acknowledge reality.

I want to take this opportunity to once again urge the administration and my colleagues—particularly those on the other side of the aisle—to begin to work with me to find solutions that will at least begin to chip away at the known financial imbalances in the DI trust fund so that we can prevent the coming benefit cuts.

Last year, in a Finance Committee hearing on the DI program, I made clear my willingness to work with anyone in Congress or the administration to examine options and ideas about the DI program before the DI trust fund becomes exhausted. Indeed, I have been trying for years to get the administration to engage on this issue. Unfortunately, to date I have heard nothing from the administration and very little from my friends on the other side of the aisle about this issue. What I have heard is fearmongering about supposed Republican plans to slash benefits or engineer a false crisis or hold beneficiaries hostage. I am not exaggerating; those are the very words they have used.

In budget after budget, the President has all but ignored Social Security in general and the DI program in particular. The President’s budgets generally only include calls for more administrative funding for the Social Security Administration or the occasional idea for an experimental trial.

After years of my asking the administration to engage on the DI program’s financial challenges, the President quietly inserted his policy position on DI just recently. With his fiscal year 2016 budget, we finally learned that the President supports a “stand-

alone reallocation" of incoming tax receipts away from the retirement trust fund over to the disability insurance trust fund. Oddly, one of the objectives appears to be to make a reallocation so that both the disability and the retirement trust funds become exhausted in the same future year, which, according to the budget, is 2033.

Needless to say, having a joint trust fund exhaustion as a target does not solve any fundamental financial problem facing the long-run financial challenges of Social Security. Moreover, it takes away any urgency for Congress to improve the disability program now, before it becomes harder to do so down the road.

By stand-alone reallocation, the administration means that it wants to shift funds from the retirement fund to the DI fund with no accompanying policy changes of any kind—no change in overall payroll taxes, no change in benefits, no substantive changes in program integrity aside from the persistent call for more mandatory administrative funds, not even a study.

There have recently been many misconceptions and misstatements about the idea of a reallocation in general and a stand-alone reallocation in particular.

The last time Congress made a reallocation from the retirement trust fund to the DI trust fund was in 1994. At that time, Social Security trustees wrote the following about the reallocation and the DI trust fund:

While the Congress acted this past year to restore its short-term financial balance, this necessary action should be viewed as only providing time and opportunity to design and implement substantive reforms that can lead to long-term financial stability. . . .

Unfortunately, those reforms never came. And now, also unfortunately, the President wants to tell the American people the same story: Punt now to provide time for later action.

In addition, the financial challenges facing Social Security are very different from past trust fund account reshuffling, including the one in 1994. The public trustees of the Social Security trust fund wrote just last year:

The present situation is very different from that of 1994. . . . The DI Trust Fund's impending reserve depletion signals that the time has arrived for reforms that strengthen the financing outlooks for OASI and DI alike.

Some of my friends on the other side of the aisle say that we have had many reallocations between the DI and OASI trust funds in the past and that it is just ordinary housekeeping or a technical change. It is something we do all the time, they say, so there is nothing really to see here.

True, there have been trust fund reallocations in the past—sometimes from OASI to DI, sometimes the other way around, sometimes with overall payroll tax rate changes and sometimes not. But there has never—let me

repeat that: never—been a stand-alone reallocation from the retirement to the disability trust fund.

Most people who would dispute this talk about the reallocation of 1994, which I mentioned earlier, but if the 1994 reallocation is somehow to be considered a model of ordinary housekeeping that we should repeat today, I think it is a bad model for the reasons I just identified. Following that model, we would defer action until later, all the while claiming that real changes were on the horizon. And following that model, we would continue to do nothing to place Social Security on a more stable financial footing.

Moreover, thinking of reallocation as just a normal way of doing business raises many questions: Why was a separate DI trust fund set up to begin with? Why do we even call them trust funds if they are merely fungible accounting devices? Why not merge the OASI and DI funds and call them the singular Social Security trust fund? More generally, given the recent stimulus-inspired mingling of General Fund revenues with the OASI and DI trust funds, why have Social Security trust funds at all? And if historical reallocations are to be used to guide what we should do today, then perhaps the recent reallocations from the General Fund to both the OASI and DI trust funds, having been the most recent historical reallocation episodes, should be the most prominent precedents.

When circumstances make us focus on the solvency of any trust fund, there are two options. Option one: We can face up to the known financial challenges, examine what can be done about them in a bipartisan way, and try to enact solutions. Option two: We can kick the proverbial can further down the road by taking the most expedient route to reshuffle resources temporarily in order to get the problem out of the way in the short term.

Unfortunately, the President and his allies here in Congress seem to prefer the latter—to kick the can down the road, the kick-the-can strategy. This is especially disappointing given what the President said about Social Security when he took office in 2009. At that time, the President said about Social Security:

What we have done is kicked this can down the road. We are now at the end of the road and are not in a position to kick it any further. We have to signal seriousness in this by making sure some of the hard decisions are made under my watch, not someone else's.

Well, the President has been on his watch for 6 years now, and if we look at his administration's proposed solution to the coming DI trust fund exhaustion, he seems more than content to push any hard decisions off until his term is over. President Obama now not only wants to kick the can down the road, but he also wants to do it in a way that has never been done before.

Elementary budget arithmetic makes clear that you simply cannot strengthen the financial outlooks for our two Social Security programs and their trust funds simply by shifting resources from one to the other. Indeed, Director Elmendorf of the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office recently said: "If you want to help both programs you're not going to accomplish that by just moving money around between them."

Rather than engaging in yet another unnecessary partisan battle, we need to take this opportunity to work together to see what can be done in a bipartisan way to address the impending exhaustion of reserves in the DI trust fund. Once again, I urge the administration and my friends on the other side of the aisle to work with me on this issue.

Mr. President, I will have more to say on this issue in coming days. For now, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

REMEMBERING KAYLA MUELLER

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I wish to take this opportunity to express sorrow—both mine and that of the people of Arizona—at the news that one of our own, Kayla Mueller of Prescott, has died at the hands of ISIL.

Kayla's entire adult life—cut short at the tender age of 26—had been dedicated to the service of others and the ending of suffering.

When she was taken hostage in 2013, Kayla was leaving a Doctors Without Borders hospital in Syria. She had been in the region working with Syrian refugees.

Kayla once said that what inspired her work was that she found "God in the suffering eyes reflected in mine. If this is how you are revealed to me, this is how I will forever seek you."

Regardless of the exact circumstances surrounding Kayla's death, the fact remains that had ISIL militants not kidnapped this young woman, she would still be with us today. Her death can and should be laid squarely at their feet. It is yet another example of this group's mindless, alarming savagery.

The best action Congress can now take is to authorize a mission against ISIL and to let our allies and our adversaries know we mean business and that we are united in our resolve.

We should remember Kayla not for her death but for her life and for her devotion to the highest calling: dedication to the service of others.

Our deepest, heartfelt condolences go out to Kayla's family and her loved ones in Prescott and elsewhere around the State and the country.

BARRY GOLDWATER STATUE DEDICATION

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I rise to speak about an Arizona original—

former Senator and Presidential candidate Barry Goldwater.

Senator Goldwater was no stranger to this Senate floor, having served five terms in this body and having been his party's Presidential nominee in 1964. By the end of his time here, Goldwater was an elder statesman and the go-to guy on national security, having chaired the Committee on Armed Services and the Select Committee on Intelligence and having reorganized the Pentagon structure with the Goldwater-Nichols Act. He was also respected for his unapologetic fiscal conservatism. Goldwater was probably best known for his staunch defense of personal liberty and for reviving and redefining what it means to be conservative.

While he may have lost the election in 1964 to Lyndon Johnson, he laid the groundwork for the Republican Party's future and the eventual resurgence under Ronald Reagan.

As columnist George Will once noted, it took 16 years to count the votes from 1964, and Goldwater won.

For many of us, he was a role model. Before I came to Congress, I was honored to serve as the executive director of the Goldwater Institute, an Arizona organization that bears his name and his philosophy.

Born before Arizona was even a State, Goldwater, as did so many great men, honed his passionate interests in the nonpolitical world around him. He was an avid, published photographer. In fact, Goldwater's estate contained some 15,000 photographs, many of them of Arizona landscapes and the people he loved so much.

He also occasionally took his camera to social events, once even snapping President Kennedy at the White House. Kennedy inscribed the photo, "For Barry Goldwater, whom I urge to follow the career for which he has shown such talent—photography."

In addition to being a conservative warrior, Goldwater was an actual warrior, having flown supply missions over "the hump" in World War II and retiring as a major general in the U.S. Air Force Reserve. He believed in peace through strength.

Barry Goldwater was plainspoken. He was stubborn. He was patriotic. He was independent. In short, Goldwater embodied the very spirit of Arizona.

Tomorrow—at long last—Barry Goldwater will be honored with a statue in the Capitol, representing his beloved Arizona. Goldwater may have once described himself as "the most underdog underdog there is," but I can't think of a more deserving recipient nor of a more fitting representative of our State.

Well done, Barry Goldwater.

I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UKRAINE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it is ironic that the Senator from Ohio is presiding because I am going to speak about the situation in Ukraine.

For the record, the Senator from Ohio, Mr. PORTMAN, the current Presiding Officer, and I have now initiated a bipartisan caucus in the Senate concerned with the future of Ukraine, and my remarks will address that during the next minute or two.

We are approaching the 1-year anniversary of a dark chapter in modern history, the forcible Russian seizure of sovereign territory in Ukraine. Perhaps the world shouldn't have been surprised by Russian President Putin's brazen attack on well-established international norms. We have seen this movie before when it comes to Mr. Putin, in Georgia in 2008, using military force to seize the territories of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

What we are facing in Ukraine is a threat to the foundation of European security agreements and norms of the last several decades. We are facing the use of military force by Putin to undermine a democratic sovereign nation's aspirations to join the international democratic community. These ugly threats and actions by Putin must not go unchallenged.

That is why this week I wrote a bipartisan letter, along with the Presiding Officer, Senator PORTMAN, as well as Senators BROWN, BARRASSO, BLUMENTHAL, and others to President Obama urging the United States and NATO to work together to ensure Ukraine has the defensive capabilities and equipment to halt and reverse further Russian aggression.

Thousands have been killed, thousands more displaced. A civilian airliner was shot down, murdering hundreds of innocent people, and nationalistic fervor and Soviet-style propaganda have been used to further rob the Russian and Ukrainian people of their own political freedoms.

Let's recall how we got to this awful situation. In March of last year, Russian President Putin used manipulation and military might to annex the sovereign region of Crimea—not because Ukraine was about to join NATO, not because Ukraine was about to join the European Union, not because Ukraine was about to cut economic or historical ties to Russia, even if it did sign an association agreement with the European Union, and not because Russian-speaking Ukrainians were in any danger.

No, Putin took this brazen and destabilizing action because he needed to rally nationalist sentiment in his own country for his own political survival—to protect his own kleptocracy. He did so because he needed a war to distract Russians from the frustrations they had over a weak national economy, domestic political repression, the elimination of Russia's free press and civic organizations, and increasing Russian exasperation with the heavyhanded rule of Mr. Putin.

He did so because his ally and former Ukrainian President Yanukovich was democratically removed from office by a unanimous vote of the Ukrainian Parliament after he squandered negotiations for closer trade ties with the European Union and then presided over the murder of more than 100 of his own citizens. Apparently Putin did so because he felt aggrieved by the West.

Instead of inspiring his own people to share the many talents and accomplishments of the Russian nation as part of the larger global community, Putin has spread a message of victimhood and the West is really still the enemy.

What a waste. What an insult to the proud and talented Russian people. Putin's tactics are from the old Soviet playbook, tired and dated tactics of propaganda, military power, and domestic repression.

The resulting destruction and human misery in Ukraine has been significant and has been increasing by the day. Thirteen innocent Ukrainian citizens, including pensioners and little children, were killed in a horrific bus attack last month in Volnovakha.

The city of Mariupol recently came under shelling, killing 30 and injuring another 100 civilians—part of a likely attempt to militarily seize another strategic coastal area.

Ukrainian Government forces and civilians have come under mounting fire in the strategic city of Debaltseve, where residents are fleeing by the busload. Russian heavy weapons and military personnel continue to brazenly flow into eastern Ukraine, despite Putin's refusal to acknowledge the obvious. Nearly 750,000 Ukrainian citizens are now living as displaced persons within their own country because of this offensive action by the Russians.

The World Health Organization estimates that 5 million Ukrainians living in areas where the fighting is fiercest are in dire need of basic health care services. People trapped in the cities of Luhansk and Donetsk are essentially without any medical assistance. The Ukrainian officials say January was one of the bloodiest months in eastern Ukraine since the conflict started. All the while, Russia and its proxies in eastern Ukraine continue to balk at peace talks and even deny their military actions.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the United States and Europe

have worked to strengthen ties with Russia, to help it become a partner in the global community. Of course, our interests didn't always overlap, and there were disagreements. That is the nature of any international relationship. But to whip up anti-Western propaganda on state-controlled media and insult Russian people—they deserve more.

The West didn't lock up Western opposition leaders whose only so-called crime was to disagree with Putin. The West didn't shut down all the independent media in Russia to deny the Russian people a free flow of ideas. The West didn't shut down Russian groups whose sole purpose was to ensure fair elections. The West didn't conduct a Russian Presidential election in 2012 that was loaded with fraud and irregularity. The West didn't create a system of corruption around Putin that enriches a lucky few oligarchs and tarnishes Russia's economy and international reputation. The West certainly didn't focus on creating false enemies, both domestic and international, to distract from the real work of diversifying Russia's economy.

Let me be clear. The West did not cause the protests in Ukraine, in the Kiev, Maidan Square. The protesters were Ukrainians fed up with endless corruption and political malfeasance. I met with several of those leaders in Ukraine, and I can assure everyone they were Ukrainian patriots, not Western proxies.

While I have been giving the speech, my friend and colleague Senator MCCAIN has come to the floor, with whom I visited Ukraine several months ago. He was there during the Maidan demonstrations and has firsthand knowledge of how this was a home-grown effort to bring real change to Ukraine. I am glad to see him on the floor at this moment.

New York Times columnist and Pulitzer Prize winner Tom Friedman called what is happening in Ukraine under Putin "the ugliest geopolitical mugging happening in the world today."

Perhaps you have seen the recent excellent episode of the PBS "Frontline" documentary entitled "Putin's Way." It meticulously laid out the web of corruption and destruction around Putin's rise to power. It showed how each contrived crisis at home has been used to consolidate Putin's grip on power, and it left little doubt the lengths Putin will go to to protect the web of corruption that is ensuring his future. What a waste.

I commend the President for working with our European allies to impose severe economic sanctions on Russia for its actions in Ukraine. These sanctions have some impact. In fact, Russia's credit rating is now reduced to junk bond status. But Putin and his proxies have only doubled down, launching new

offensives in eastern Ukraine, leading to more death and human misery.

I have concluded, and I believe the Senator reached a similar conclusion because of a letter we cowrote this week, that the United States has to do more to protect the Ukrainian people. I know it is a debating point with some of our European allies as to whether we are escalating the conflict. But to leave Ukraine poorly prepared to defend its own territory—to leave the civilians in Ukraine so open to the aggression of the Russian invaders—is wrong. We can provide lethal defensive weapons to help the Ukrainians defend their own homeland, their own country, from this Russian invasion. I think we should, and I encourage the administration to move forward. I have reached the conclusion we eventually have to deal with this bully with force. Force must be met with force. We must give the Ukrainian people the means to defend themselves and to build a modern democratic nation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona is recognized.

REMEMBERING KAYLA JEAN MUELLER

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I rise today to mourn the tragic death of 26-year-old humanitarian aid worker Kayla Jean Mueller of Prescott, AZ, who had been held by ISIL terrorists in Syria since August of 2013.

I am heartbroken for the Mueller family at the loss of their beautiful, beloved Kayla. The thoughts and prayers of the people of her home State of Arizona, our country, and the civilized world are with the Mueller family at this terrible hour.

I want to take the time today to share a bit of Kayla's story. This wonderful young woman represented the best of us. She had a remarkable impact on the lives of so many people who never had the honor of meeting her, and her story will forever be an inspiration to us.

Kayla attended high school at Tri-City College Prep in Prescott, AZ, where she was recognized as a National Young Leader and received the President's Award For Academic Excellence in 2007, the Yavapai County Community Foundation Youth Philanthropist of the Year Award in 2005, and the Gold Presidential Volunteer Award in 2007 for her volunteer efforts with Youth Count, AmeriCorps, America's Promise, Open Inn for troubled youth, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and other organizations.

After graduating from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff in 2009, Kayla committed her life to helping people in need around the world—first in India, then Israel, the Palestinian territories, and back home in Prescott where she volunteered at an HIV-AIDS

clinic, and a women's shelter. But it was the conflict in Syria that drew Kayla's greatest interest and, again, sparked her desire to help those in need. In a YouTube video she made in October 2011, as the Syrian civil war was just beginning, Kayla said:

I am in solidarity with the Syrian people. I reject the brutality and killing that the Syrian authorities are committing against the Syrian people. Because silence is participation in this crime, I declare my participation in the Syrian sit-in on YouTube.

In December 2012, Kayla traveled to the Turkish-Syrian border where she worked for months helping the thousands of Syrian refugees whose lives were torn apart by the humanitarian catastrophe created by Bashar al-Assad and the Syrian civil war.

According to her family, Kayla found this work heartbreaking but compelling. She was extremely devoted to the people of Syria and their struggle. Kayla explained to her family her call to service this way. She said:

I find God in the suffering eyes reflected in mine. If this is how you are revealed to me, this is how I will forever seek you. I will always seek God. Some people find God in church. Some people find God in nature. Some people find God in love; I find God in suffering. I've known for some time what my life's work is, using my hands as tools to relieve suffering.

When Kayla traveled back home to visit her family in Arizona in May of 2013, she spoke about her experiences at the Prescott Kiwanis Club where her father was a member. After recalling helping a Syrian man, whose wife had been murdered, to reunite with a 6-year-old relative he was desperately searching for after their refugee camp was bombed, Kayla said:

This story is not rare in Syria. This is the reality for Syrians two and a half years on. When Syrians hear I'm an American, they ask, "Where is the world?" All I can do is cry with them, because I don't know.

After spending time with the refugees, Kayla told the Kiwanis Club she was totally drawn in, and that she "can't do enough" to help. She recalled stories of children being hurt by unexploded bombs, women forced into early marriages, elementary schools targeted for bombing by the Syrian regime, and people living in caves to escape the bombing.

Kayla went on. She said:

Syrians are dying by the thousands, and they're fighting just to talk about the rights we have. . . . For as long as I live, I will not let this suffering be normal. [I will not let this be] something we just accept. It's important to stop and realize what we have, why we have it and how privileged we are. And from that place, start caring and get a lot done.

She described part of her work helping the Syrian children in the refugee camps—including drawing, painting, and playing with the children, many of whom were badly scarred physically and psychologically by the war.

She said:

We give and get joy from playing with these children. Half the 1.5 million refugees the U.N. has registered are children. In the chaos of waking up in the middle of the night and being shelled, we're hearing of more children being separated from their families by accident.

Asked by Kiwanis members what her recommendations for addressing the conflict were, Kayla said, "A no-fly zone over refugee camps would be number one."

Kayla also believed if the terrible reality of the conflict were better known to Americans, our Nation would be more heavily engaged. "The people of the United States would see that something needs to be done," she said.

Today the Mueller family released a letter written to them by Kayla in the spring of 2014. I want to read a bit of it to give a sense of this young woman, her deep faith in God, her profound love for her family, and her remarkable strength in the face of grave danger.

She wrote: I remember mom always telling me that all in all, in the end the only one you really have is God. I have come to a place in experience where, in every sense of the word, I have surrendered myself to our Creator because literally there was no one else. By God and by your prayers, I have felt tenderly cradled in free fall. I have been shown in darkness and light and have learned that even in prison one can be free. I am grateful. I have to see that there is good in every situation; sometimes we just have to look for it. I pray each day that, if nothing else, you have felt a certain closeness and surrender to God as well and have formed a bond of love and support amongst one another. I miss you all as if it had been a decade of forced separation.

Kayla closed with these words: The thought of your pain is the source of my own. Simultaneously, the hope of our reunion is the source of my strength. Please be patient. Give your pain to God. I know you would want me to remain strong. That is exactly what I am doing. Do not fear for me; continue to pray, as will I. By God's will we will be together soon. All my everything, Kayla.

In a statement today, the Mueller family reflected on Kayla's life and their commitment to work every day to honor her legacy:

Kayla was a compassionate and devoted humanitarian. She dedicated the whole of her young life to helping those in need of freedom, justice and peace. Kayla was drawn to help those displaced by the Syrian civil war. She first traveled to Turkey in December 2012 to provide humanitarian aid to Syrian refugees. She told us of the great joy she took in helping Syrian children and their families. We are so proud of the person Kayla was and the work she did while she was here with us. She lived with purpose and we will work every day to honor her legacy. Our hearts are breaking for our only daughter, but we will continue on in peace, dignity and love for her.

On behalf of the people of Arizona and the Congress of the United States,

I express our deepest condolences to Kayla's parents, Marsha and Carl Mueller, her loving family, and many friends. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Kayla devoted her young life to helping people in need around the world, to healing the sick, and bringing light to some of the darkest and most desperate places on Earth. She will never be forgotten.

I ask unanimous consent that the letter written by Kayla during her imprisonment to her family be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Everyone, If you are receiving this letter it means I am still detained but my cell mates (starting from 11/2/2014) have been released. I have asked them to contact you + send you this letter. It's hard to know what to say. Please know that I am in a safe location, completely unharmed + healthy (put on weight in fact); I have been treated w/ the utmost respect + kindness. I wanted to write you all a well thought out letter (but I didn't know if my cell mates would be leaving in the coming days or the coming months restricting my time but primarily) I could only but write the letter a paragraph at a time, just the thought of you all sends me into a fit of tears. If you could say I have "suffered" at all throughout this whole experience it is only in knowing how much suffering I have put you all through; I will never ask you to forgive me as I do not deserve forgiveness. I remember mom always telling me that all in all in the end the only one you really have is God. I have come to a place in experience where, in every sense of the word, I have surrendered myself to our creator b/c literally there was no else . . . + by God + by your prayers I have felt tenderly cradled in freefall. I have been shown in darkness, light + have learned that even in prison, one can be free. I am grateful. I have come to see that there is good in every situation, sometimes we just have to look for it. I pray each each day that if nothing else, you have felt a certain closeness + surrender to God as well + have formed a bond of love + support amongst one another . . . I miss you all as if it has been a decade of forced separation. I have had many a long hour to think, to think of all the things I will do w/ Lex, our first family camping trip, the first meeting @ the airport. I have had many hours to think how only in your absence have I finally @ 25 years old come to realize your place in my life. The gift that is each one of you + the person I could + could not be if you were not a part of my life, my family, my support. I DO NOT want the negotiations for my release to be your duty, if there is any other option take it, even if it takes more time. This should never have become your burden. I have asked these women to support you; please seek their advice. If you have not done so already, [REDACTED] can contact [REDACTED] who may have a certain level of experience with these people. None of us could have known it would be this long but know I am also fighting from my side in the ways I am able + I have a lot of fight left inside of me. I am not breaking down + I will not give in no matter how long it takes. I wrote a song some months ago that says, "The part of me that pains the most also gets me out of bed, w/out your hope there would be nothing left . . ." aka—The thought of your pain is the source of my

own, simultaneously the hope of our reunion is the source of my strength. Please be patient, give your pain to God. I know you would want me to remain strong. That is exactly what I am doing. Do not fear for me, continue to pray as will I + by God's will we will be together soon.

All my everything,

KAYLA.

Mr. MCCAIN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, can the Chair tell me what the status of the floor is and how much time I have to speak.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is in morning business with 20-minute grants.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I thank the Chair.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, despite the fact that we are just days away from the Department of Homeland Security shutting down, we don't yet have an agreement to fund a clean bill to keep the Department of Homeland Security operating. Unfortunately, we haven't heard from the majority that there is interest in addressing this issue this week. I think that is very unfortunate.

We are ready to work to pass a clean full-year bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security, and last week we actually asked unanimous consent to take up and pass the clean bill that Senator MIKULSKI and I introduced to fund the Department for the rest of the year and to then have votes on immigration matters. I think we are happy to debate immigration, but we don't believe we should do it on the bill that would fund the Department of Homeland Security. Unfortunately, that unanimous consent was rejected.

Now, we could pass a clean bill this afternoon, and we should. We should stop playing politics with our national security. In just a few days, with our Nation dealing with real and dangerous terror threats, some Members of Congress have suggested we should shut down the Department of Homeland Security. Because of their extreme opposition to the President's Executive actions on immigration, they are willing to put at risk the security and safety of this country. So I have come to the floor today to talk about why we need to put politics aside for the security of our Nation and why we need to pass a full-year funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security.

A short-term budget, which is what some Members of Congress are discussing, should be off the table. A short-term budget, a continuing resolution, or a CR, means the government is on autopilot, and that is extraordinarily bad for business and for security. We need to pass a full-year bill.

If the Department of Homeland Security operates under a short-term budget, grants to protect our cities and our Nation's ports from terror attacks would be halted, grants to police and firefighters won't be awarded, contracts and acquisitions would be postponed, hiring would be delayed, and employee training would be scaled back.

Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson recently said:

As long as this Department continues to operate on a CR, we are prevented from funding key homeland security initiatives. These include funding for new grants to state and local law enforcement, additional border security resources, and additional Secret Service resources. Other core missions, such as aviation security and protection of federal installations and personnel, are also hampered.

A little while ago, Senator BOOKER and I held a conference call with Mayor Anisse Parker of Houston, TX, Mayor Michael Nutter of Philadelphia, and New York City Deputy Commissioner of Intelligence and Counterterrorism John Miller. They talked about how very real and dangerous the consequences would be for cities if we don't fund Homeland Security. Our big cities and our major urban areas are unfortunately top targets for terrorists, and if we don't pass a full-year funding bill for DHS, a grant program specifically designed to help cities plan, prepare for, and defend against possible attacks will be halted.

One of the things that Deputy Commissioner Miller talked about is the fact that there have been 16 plots that have been thwarted against New York City, and that was done, to a great extent, by programs funded through the Department of Homeland Security. At risk is nearly \$600 million in funding to keep our cities safe that will be put on hold. Without those resources, cities and the millions who live there are at risk; and that is not to mention all of the other small communities around this country that are at risk. That is just unacceptable.

Now, Mayor Nutter, from Philadelphia, talked about how they are not able to train first responders because the funding is uncertain. They do not know if we are going to get a bill, and so they do not know if they can continue to train. He said they do not have reimbursement for their fusion centers if we don't get a funding bill for Homeland Security. He said: It is not right to put the heavy burden on those on the front lines, those first responders who are there in cases of emergency.

Mayor Parker from Houston talked about her employees at the police de-

partment, at the public health agency, and the Department of Homeland Security employees who are affected by our failure to get a funding bill. She said right now they are dealing with measles in the city of Houston, and it is very important they have public health workers who can go out and deal with that epidemic. Yet those health employees are going to be at risk if we don't get a clean funding bill. She also mentioned the three airports they operate and one of the busiest ports in the world, and those are at risk if we can't get a funding bill.

Our major commercial ports are also targets for terrorism attacks. If we don't pass a full-year funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security, the Port Security Grant Program will be put on hold, meaning nearly \$100 million won't be allocated to keep our ports safe throughout the Nation.

One of those programs where we will see a gap is in radiation detection. One of the things our investigators do, as they are looking at making sure our ports are secure, is to check for radiation, for nuclear materials that might be coming in to this country. Yet they won't have the instruments, the equipment they need to do that if we don't get a clean funding bill.

Deputy Commissioner Miller talked about, as I said, the 16 terrorist plots against New York City that have been thwarted. But he also pointed out that at virtually every major New York City event when they do the security, whether it is the New York marathon or New Year's Eve in New York City, the security that protects those events is funded in whole or in part by Department of Homeland Security programs.

A short-term budget for the Department of Homeland Security would mean there are no new grants for police and firefighters in every State in the country. I don't mean that is a new program. I mean the grant funding doesn't turn over each year. That means our firefighters in New Hampshire won't be able to apply for SAFER grants again to make sure we have the force we need.

I heard from our Laconia police chief in New Hampshire last week, and he talked about what the impact would be if they can't get that funding from the Department of Homeland Security. He told a story about how they had been able to save a young man, 22 years old, who was snowmobiling and who went through Lake Winnisquam in New Hampshire. The reason they were able to save his life was because they had four firefighters they could put into water-resistant suits and send them out, because they had additional funding through a SAFER grant, giving them the ability both to train those firefighters and to make sure there was somebody else there directing them and taking that call. So there are very real impacts if we fail to get this funding done.

In the last 2 years, New Hampshire alone has received more than \$7 million in grants to provide training for more than 3,800 first responders across our State and another \$6 million over that same period to help hire more firefighters—firefighters such as those in Laconia who saved that 22-year-old young man. Nearly 300 police officers in New Hampshire have been given live-action training for active-shooter situations in recent years. We were also able to train and equip the State police bomb squad and the Nashua bomb squad—Nashua is the second largest city in New Hampshire—through those DHS resources.

A short-term budget, a continuing resolution for the Department of Homeland Security puts all of these critical support programs in jeopardy, and that is why we are hearing from communities across the country. That is why last week we got letters from the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National Association of Counties, the International Association of Emergency Managers, and the International Association of Firefighters, all calling on Congress to pass a clean, full-year funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security. They understand that our failing to do that would be disastrous.

Three previous Department of Homeland Security Secretaries, two Republicans and one Democrat, did the same last week. Then on Sunday the Wall Street Journal wrote an editorial. I ask unanimous consent that editorial be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Wall Street Journal, Feb. 8, 2015]

CAN THE GOP CHANGE?

Republicans in Congress are off to a less than flying start after a month in power, dividing their own conference more than Democrats. Take the response to President Obama's immigration order, which seems headed for failure if not a more spectacular crack-up.

That decree last November awarded work permits and de facto legal status to millions of undocumented aliens and dismayed members of both parties, whatever their immigration views. A Congressional resolution to vindicate the rule of law and the Constitution's limits on executive power was defensible, and even necessary, but this message has long ago been lost in translation.

The Republican leadership funded the rest of the government in December's budget deal but isolated the Department of Homeland Security that enforces immigration law. DHS funding runs out this month, and the GOP has now marched itself into another box canyon.

The specific White House abuse was claiming prosecutorial discretion to exempt whole classes of aliens from deportation, dumping the historical norm of case-by-case scrutiny. A GOP sniper shot at this legal overreach would have forced Democrats to go on record, picked up a few supporters, and perhaps even imposed some accountability on Mr. Obama.

But that wasn't enough for immigration restrictionists, who wanted a larger brawl, and they browbeat GOP leaders into adding needless policy amendments. The House reached back to rescind Mr. Obama's enforcement memos from 2011 that instructed Homeland Security to prioritize deportations of illegals with criminal backgrounds. That is legitimate prosecutorial discretion, and in opposing it Republicans are undermining their crime-fighting credentials.

The House even adopted a provision to roll back Mr. Obama's 2012 order deferring deportation for young adults brought to the U.S. illegally as children by their parents—the so-called dreamers. The GOP lost 26 of its own Members on that one, passing it with only 218 votes.

The overall \$40 billion DHS spending bill passed with these riders, 236–191, but with 10 Republicans joining all but two Democrats in opposition. This lack of GOP unity reduced the chances that Senate Democrats would feel any political pressure to go along.

And, lo, on Thursday the House bill failed for the third time to gain the 60 votes needed to overcome the third Democratic filibuster in three days. Swing-state Democrats like Indiana's Joe Donnelly and North Dakota's Heidi Heitkamp aren't worried because they have more than enough material to portray Republicans as the immigration extremists.

Whatever their view of Mr. Obama's order, why would Democrats vote to deport people who were brought here as kids through no fault of their own? Mr. Obama issued a veto threat to legislation that will never get to his desk, and he must be delighted that Republicans are fighting with each other rather than with him.

Restrictionists like Sens. Ted Cruz and Jeff Sessions are offering their familiar advice to fight harder and hold firm against “executive amnesty,” but as usual their strategy for victory is nowhere to be found. So Republicans are now heading toward the same cul de sac that they did on the ObamaCare government shutdown.

If Homeland Security funding lapses on Feb. 27, the agency will be pushed into a partial shutdown even as the terrorist threat is at the forefront of public attention with the Charlie Hebdo and Islamic State murders. Imagine if the Transportation Security Administration, a unit of DHS, fails to intercept an Islamic State agent en route to Detroit.

So Republicans are facing what is likely to be another embarrassing political retreat and more intra-party recriminations. The GOP's restrictionist wing will blame the leadership for a failure they share responsibility for, and the rest of America will wonder anew about the gang that couldn't shoot straight.

The restrictionist caucus can protest all it wants, but it can't change 54 Senate votes into 60 without persuading some Democrats. It's time to find another strategy. Our advice on immigration is to promote discrete bills that solve specific problems such as green cards for math-science-tech graduates, more H-1B visas, a guest-worker program for agriculture, targeted enforcement and legal status for the dreamers. Democrats would be hard-pressed to oppose them and it would put the onus back on Mr. Obama. But if that's too much for the GOP, then move on from immigration to something else.

It's not too soon to say that the fate of the GOP majority is on the line. Precious weeks are wasting, and the combination of weak House leadership and a rump minority unwilling to compromise is playing into Demo-

cratic hands. This is no way to run a Congressional majority, and the only winners of GOP dysfunction will be Mr. Obama, Nancy Pelosi and Hillary Clinton.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. The Wall Street Journal wrote:

DHS funding runs out this month, and the GOP has now marched itself into another box canyon. If Homeland Security funding lapses on February 27, the agency will be pushed into a partial shutdown even as the terrorist threat is at the forefront of public attention with the Charlie Hebdo and Islamic State murders. Imagine if the Transportation Security Administration, a unit of DHS, fails to intercept an Islamic State agent en route to Detroit?

Well, the Wall Street Journal is right. These are dangerous times. Our Nation is on high alert for terror threats after the attacks in Paris and Ottawa and Sydney that have shocked the world in recent months. We don't have the luxury of playing politics with Homeland Security funding. We are trying to keep pace with threats that can occur at any time, anywhere, with little or no warning. We have to be prepared.

It is not just security grant programs for State and local first responders that would get shortchanged if we fail to pass a full-year bill. Border security, maritime security, and nuclear detection activities would be underfunded as well.

Under a short-term budget, Immigration and Customs will not have the funding they need to meet their legal mandate to have 34,000 detention beds in place for immigration detainees.

Under a short-term budget, there is no additional funding for ICE—Immigration and Customs—to hire additional investigators for anti-trafficking and smuggling cases to combat the influx of unaccompanied children at the southern border.

Under a short-term budget, there is no funding to address Secret Service weaknesses identified by the independent Protective Mission Panel in response to the White House fence-jumping incident.

Under a short-term budget, aging nuclear weapon detection equipment will not be replaced, causing gaps that could allow our enemies to smuggle a nuclear device or dirty bomb into the country.

A short-term budget would delay upgrades to infrastructure that allow for emergency communications among first responders.

A short-term budget would delay the contract for the Coast Guard's eighth national security cutter—a cutter we need for maritime security. Life-extending maintenance work on the important 140-foot icebreaking tugs, 225-foot oceangoing buoy tenders, and the Coast Guard's training vessel would be scaled back. The deep freeze on the Great Lakes in 2014 cost the shipping industry \$705 million and 3,800 jobs. Upgrading the Coast Guard's 140-foot

icebreaking fleet is critical to dealing with these conditions.

A short-term budget would prevent Customs and Border Protection from awarding contracts for new remote video surveillance systems to detect border crossings and track threats.

Funding DHS should not be controversial. Playing politics and threatening to cut off critical programs that protect the country from terror attacks would result in consequences we can't afford. We should work together to pass a full-year, clean funding bill to continue the important work the Department of Homeland Security does every day to keep Americans safe.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

UKRAINE

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, each time I have taken to the floor to comment on the Ukrainian crisis which I have done often the situation in that hard pressed country is worse. Today we see renewed and even more violent Russian aggression ripping off more ragged bites of Ukrainian territory.

Now, ten months after Russia's invasion of its neighbor, we are again seeing calls for more assistance to Ukraine, including providing weapons that would better enable the Ukrainians to defend themselves. But still the White House dithers—baffled again by the complexities of a world that pleads for leadership. Once again we are absent not just leading from behind, which is bad enough, but in many cases not leading at all, and the world continues to look to us for guidance and for support in dealing with some of these crises.

The plight of Ukraine, torn to bits by Russian aggression, is among many foreign policy problems that have been aggravated by U.S. policy failures. Those failures have come from a White House isolated in a wasteland of confusion. The Obama administration has no coherent strategy for dealing with the world other than, in a now famous paraphrase, “Don't do stupid stuff”—whatever that means. But not doing anything is stupid stuff, and a lot of times that is exactly what is coming out of the White House nothing.

At the same time, we in Congress need to look at ourselves. We must concede that Congress also has failed to grapple with these pressing issues particularly over the last ten months relative to Ukraine. We also have failed to live up to our constitutional responsibilities. We, too, have failed to offer or compel solutions when congressional action could have helped.

One way in which we can correct that record is by giving the Ukrainian crisis our renewed attention. I am happy to say, under Republican leadership, despite what we have been prevented

from doing in the past ten months, we are now in a position to begin doing just that.

Why Ukraine, and why does it deserve our full attention? For the first time since the Second World War, a European state has invaded and annexed the territory of a neighbor. This outrageous contravention of every possible standard of state behavior in the modern world passed by without a response that could have reversed the outrage and without the reaction that might forestall it being repeated in other states bordering on Russia. We will see what happens.

Vladimir Putin's ruthless ambitions have been backed by a massive Soviet style propaganda campaign that continues to include outrageous, bald faced lying by the President of Russia and his most senior Russian officials. They continue to deny what has been obvious to the world and documented, verified facts about Russian troops and equipment flowing into Ukraine and the obvious intentions of further territorial expansion.

Joseph Goebbels, Hitler's propaganda chief, invented the "big lie" theory that Putin is using to great effect. Hitler famously said that many people tell small lies, but few have the guts to tell really big ones, and when they do and the lies are repeated over and over, they become a new truth. Tragically, I believe we are at that stage in the Ukraine crisis.

At the onset of this crisis, I drafted and introduced a resolution supporting the territorial integrity of the Ukraine and condemning Russian aggression. Later, I created and introduced the Crimea Annexation Non recognition Act and the Russian Weapons Embargo Act. I also cosponsored the Russian Aggression Prevention Act and the Ukraine Freedom Support Act. Unfortunately, none of these measures emerged from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee during the previous session of Congress, all stymied by the committee's prior leadership. The only measure that did pass the Senate was one I coauthored and sponsored with Senator DURBIN, a resolution condemning illegal Russian aggression in Ukraine. So the Senate's record of legislative inaction does not show a Senate that has dealt effectively with this international crisis.

It is more difficult to criticize the administration for being ineffective when we in the Senate have also failed to pass almost any meaningful legislation to provide the executive branch with the advice and guidance it so obviously requires. I trust the record will improve this year and that change will begin immediately. I believe this is happening, and we will see that on this floor shortly.

In the meantime, the civil war in Ukraine continues and, until last week, almost beneath the radar. With re-

newed vigor, separatists, newly armed and reinforced by Russia, are waging latest and continuing battles for territory in eastern Ukraine. There is little pretense at even trying to disguise the involvement of Putin's Russia in these renewed attacks. At least 6,000 people have been killed by combat in Ukraine, more than 1,000 of them since the latest so called cease fire allegedly took effect. At least half a million people are internal refugees.

But the even greater ongoing tragedy is the geopolitical catastrophe. A newly aggressive Russia, driven by destructive delusions of nationalistic destiny, poses a threat to the stability of the region and to Europe itself. This is a completely self-evident reality for our allies on Russia's periphery, including those such as Poland and the Baltic States, who in the past have been crushed into nonexistence by Russian aggression.

If we in Congress together with the executive branch and if the United States together with our European allies cannot respond to Putin's Russia in a way that stops this dangerous aggression, then he will have won. Putin is counting on the force of his troops and his propaganda machine to create a fait accompli to which we will have little or no reply. He is counting on our distraction and exhaustion to give him a free pass. He is counting on the political complexity of our democracy to obstruct sound policymaking. And he is counting on us to falter just at the moment when his violent aggression is paying off and his people are prepared for more.

I am speaking today to urge the Senate to work quickly to change Putin's calculations about the costs he and his nation will suffer should Russia not return to rational, responsible modern state behavior. Leading in this manner will not be easy. Yes, we are besieged with foreign policy issues. Yes, providing the needed Senate response and meaningful legislative proposals is difficult. Yes, ultimately the final responsibility and leadership rests with the President. But the Senate historically has been instrumental in developing and influencing U.S. foreign policy. At this critical time, we must do so again, and we must do so again particularly because so little comes our way from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MAINE COMMUNITY HEALTH OPTIONS

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I rise to speak about a little-discussed aspect of the Affordable Care Act. Before touching on the main subject, I should point out that I think as of tonight there will be more than 11 million Americans who will have already signed up for health care coverage under the Affordable Care Act so far this year. Of course, the deadline is coming up next week, and this weekend there could be a very large influx of newly insured Americans, which I think is an occurrence we should all feel very proud of and should celebrate.

I wish to speak about a part of the Affordable Care Act that gets very little mention, very little discussion, and very little controversy. It is a provision that enables local organizations within a State to form cooperative insurance entities, to form nonprofits, to provide insurance to their citizens. Today I wish to speak about one of those—and one of the most successful in the country—the Maine Community Health Options program.

It is a story of an opportunity. It is a story of a vision. It is a story of an idea. It is a story of risk taking. It is a story of creative and dedicated Maine professionals who were willing to take a risk and try to implement a new idea. It is one of the health insurance co-ops, as I mentioned, that was established by the Affordable Care Act. The Affordable Care Act provided the opportunity to develop something new and different in health insurance—a company where purchasers of health insurance also become members and then elect other members to serve on the board of directors of their insurance company.

Kevin Lewis and Robert Hillman, two of the founders, saw an opportunity in the ACA to develop this idea they knew was needed to address the challenges of health care coverage for Maine citizens. Working with a group of people in Maine who shared their concerns about health care, they built Maine Community Health Options based on this vision of meeting Maine's people's health insurance needs in a direct and hands-on way.

Would it work? Nobody knew. When the enrollment opened last year, their goal, their hope, their vision was for 15,000 signups. By the time the dust settled at the deadline last spring, they had 40,000 signups. Eighty-three percent of the marketplace signups in Maine had signed up with this fledgling company. This year, I am told, as of today they have over 60,000 signups.

I did a tour of their offices recently in Lewiston, ME, and we talked about this phenomenon of all the signups that came unexpectedly. It reminded me of a TV commercial we all saw a few years ago where these young people start an Internet startup. They see the sales orders coming in, and they are

happy. Then they start to come in even faster, and they get even more excited. Then they start to come in even faster, and they look at each other and say, what do we do now? These people in Maine experienced exactly that. Great, it is working. A few more. Wow, that is great. Then it went crazy. They all shook their heads. When we talked about this in Lewiston a few weeks ago, they said that is exactly the way it felt.

This sounds simple and straightforward, and it wasn't. When those 40,000 folks were signing up and the systems were challenged, Maine Community Health Options faced those issues head-on. They figured out where the problems were, addressed them, and communicated to members quickly and directly. That is really the Maine way.

The explosion of growth of this little company from zero to 60,000 is a jobs story as well. Maine Community Health Options now employs over 130 people and has even contracted with a local call center in Maine to provide additional customer support during this enrollment period. Even their chosen location is a good-news story. It is a great news story for New England and for Maine because they are in an old textile mill. The textile industry flourished in New England up through the 1950s but then left these beautiful old mills in Lewiston, ME. One of these mills—first one floor and now two floors—is being repurposed for this 21st century project of bringing health insurance to the people of Maine. It is humming with activity, new jobs, and people supporting their families.

It is also a local control story. Maine Community Health Options recently held elections for the board—a board that has to be made up of 51 percent of their individuals who are members who are elected by other members. In other words, the people who use the products and who buy the health insurance are actually making decisions about how those products should be designed. They are responsible to the folks who elect them—like us.

The structure of the organization is only part of the story. I think this is very important. They are also focused on the business of health—individual health and community health. They are focused on prevention.

The cheapest medical intervention of all of this is the one that never occurs, because people have preventive care that keeps them from more serious chronic care. They have a chronic illness support program and a tobacco cessation program which are both designed to make it easier and cheaper for members to manage chronic care or stop smoking. That is how we are going to save money in the health care system. They have a behavioral health partnership creating a nearly seamless transition for members in need of

short-term mental health services, with no copay for the first three visits. They are doing community outreach. They recognize many people who have never had health insurance coverage before don't fully understand how to use it. Their community outreach effort includes informational presentations on health care for members and nonmembers alike.

Another part of the good-news story is Maine Community Health Options has just expanded its coverage into New Hampshire and is providing a new health care option for the people of New Hampshire. Whereas last year, as I understand it, New Hampshire only had one option on their exchange, now I think they have at least two, and perhaps three or four, one of which I commend to the Presiding Officer is based in Lewiston, ME.

Finally—and I think this is very important—what has this done for rates? I think we have lost sight of this in the last couple of years. For many years, one of the problems in health care in this country was the exaggerated inflation of health care costs—5, 6, 7, 8 percent a year was not unusual in the late 1990s and the early first decade of this century. That was the typical, somewhat expected inflation in the rates of health care costs—in the cost of health care and, therefore, in insurance rates.

Maine Community Health Options not only has reduced its already competitive rates, reduced its rates by 1 percent this year, but that competitive pressure, we believe, has also brought pressure to reduce rates for other providers and other carriers in Maine.

This is a great news story. This is people who saw an opportunity created by the Affordable Care Act to create a new kind of health insurance company that is owned and run by its members, that is delivering health care, quality health care insurance coverage, to the people of Maine and now the people of New Hampshire, that is helping to control costs, and I think most importantly is taking an active role in assisting its members in improving their own health. Of course, this is about cost. Of course, it is about access. Of course, it is about all the mechanics of health insurance. But in the end, if the result is healthier people, people who need the intervention of the health care system less frequently, that is a huge win for those individuals, for our State, for our region, and for our country.

I come to the floor today just to share some good news about an aspect of the Affordable Care Act that is absolutely working, and it is making a huge difference in the lives of thousands, tens of thousands, of Maine people. Better health coverage, better health at a lower cost—what is not to like about that formula?

I am very proud of what these entrepreneurial individuals in Maine have

undertaken and the success they have enjoyed so far. I look forward to working with them as they continue the project that has meant so much to my people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. AYOTTE). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

OUR SOUTHERN BORDER AND IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, last weekend—this past weekend—I was privileged to visit our Nation's border with Mexico. Not my first visit but maybe the most productive, most informative visit I have had. I had the opportunity, as a member of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, on which the Presiding Officer serves, to visit our Nation's border with Mexico from—really from California, from the Pacific all of the way across the southern part of our country, almost to the Gulf of Mexico.

I did not cover every square inch of it or every mile of that border, but we had a chance to look up close and personal, if you will, to see what we are doing and what we have been doing in California, in parts of Arizona, in parts of Texas. As we all know, those are some big States. But we have been there enough, talked to enough smart people, went with our colleagues, this time with the chairman of our committee now, RON JOHNSON from Wisconsin, and with BEN SASSE, the new Member from Nebraska. I am grateful to them for including a former chairman of the committee and my staff. I thought it was very productive. I learned a lot. I thought I already knew a lot going down there, but I came back even better informed. I hope they felt that way as well.

We had some discussions going and coming about the President's Executive orders with respect to the status of some of the undocumented folks in our country. I know there is a fair amount of heartburn on the part of our Republican colleagues that the President may have acted inappropriately. We understand that unhappiness. My hope is that we will not take that unhappiness out on the Department of Homeland Security whose employees are working hard to try to do their jobs, to protect us from all kinds of dangers, not just on the borders of our country with Mexico or Canada but all kinds of threats around the world.

My hope is that at the end of the day we will use this dustup, if you will, this disagreement with the President's actions to provide a sense of urgency to

take up and debate again comprehensive immigration reform—not next year but this year, not this fall, not this summer but the beginning of this year, now or very close to now.

One of the things we have learned in terms of our own work on the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is immigration reform done well—and I do not know how the Presiding Officer voted. I voted for it. I was not crazy about it. My guess is she probably voted for it as well. But was it perfect? No, not by any stretch of the imagination. Was it better than nothing? It sure was. Are there some things I would like to change? You bet there are.

My hope is that we do immigration reform again, hopefully soon, and that we will have the opportunity to keep what is good and valuable in that legislation and change the things that are not. But among the things on the positive side that came out of that legislation is, one, the bill, supported by two-thirds of the Senate a year and a half ago, does a couple of things.

How does it affect gross domestic product? How does it affect our economy? It grows it by about 5 percent over the next 20 years. That is a pretty good little stimulus to help make sure the economic recovery continues. So that is something to have us keep in mind.

The other immigration reform question a lot of people back home in Delaware asked me was, Immigration reform, isn't that going to cost us a lot? Isn't it going to make the budget deficit bigger?

The Congressional Budget Office, which is neither Democratic nor Republican, has actually studied that, drilled down on that, and here is what they have concluded. The immigration reform, imperfect though it was, that we passed a year and a half ago with strong bipartisan support, would actually reduce our budget deficit over the next 10 years by \$200 billion and further reduce our budget deficit over the next 10 years after that by \$700 billion. Add those together, it is \$900 billion in deficit reduction.

We are at a time when, as our Presiding Officer knows, we still have all the deficits down by two-thirds from where it was 5 or 6 years ago. It is still higher than we want it to be. There are actually a number of things we can do to continue to drive it down closer to zero, where we would like it to be. I know I would like that. I know the Presiding Officer feels that way too.

One of the things we had in the immigration reform bill, as I recall, was some provisions dealing with guest worker programs. What I have heard in my visits to Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, my visit to the border, a lot of the people—it is primarily those three countries from which the greatest numbers of people are coming

across the border in South Texas—that is where they are coming from. Are there still Mexicans who come into the United States? Yes. Legally and illegally? Yes.

Last year I am told almost as many Mexicans were going back into Mexico from the United States as are coming into the United States from Mexico. The origin of the illegal immigration is Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador. People say: Why would anybody allow their 7-, 8-, 9-, 10-year-old daughter or son to literally leave in the arms of a coyote on a train—not on a passenger train but on the top of a train—and try to travel 1,500 miles with all kinds of threats to their life and limb? Why would anybody do that?

Having been in those countries—Honduras is the murder capital of the world, and I have seen in that country and in Guatemala and El Salvador police who do not police, prosecutors who do not prosecute, judges who do not administer justice, correctional systems that do not try to correct the behavior.

The school system in Honduras is a great example. Kids in Honduras go from—I know the Presiding Officer has young children. Our boys are through school out into the world. But in schools in Honduras, public schools, they go from grade 1 to grade 6. About half the kids actually make it to grade 6. Of the ones who make it to grade 6, only about half of them can read at grade 6 level. As to the ones who actually make it through grade 6, only 5 percent of them can do sixth grade math. That is a problem.

Several years ago when Hurricane Richard came through Honduras, it wiped out half of their secondary roads. In that country, they have electricity costs which are two or three times what they are in the countries to the south of them and to the north of them. Most of the electricity is created by petroleum. It is expensive. What they need to do is use natural gas, bring it down from Mexico, be able to convert that into electricity and build a grid that helps distribute that electricity.

The other thing they need in that part of the world—as a former attorney general, our Presiding Officer knows well how important this is—is to restore the rule of law. In visiting the three countries—Honduras, I will use again as an example. Until last year, I think their murder rate was about 95 per 100,000 people. That was their murder rate. It was the murder capital of the world.

A number of businesses were shut down by extortion because small business people in Honduras got tired of being extorted basically from gangs who said: Give me money. If not, I will kill you. Small business owners gave up—15,000 of them. Fifteen thousand small businesses that were there 3, 4, 5 years ago closed.

The conscription of gang members—the Presiding Officer I think has heard me tell this story. But we heard this from one of the folks in Catholic Charities in Southern Delaware, in Sussex County, Georgetown, where we have some Guatemalan population from way back—they worked in the poultry industry, some of them—and some of the unaccompanied minors who have come to Southern Delaware, not thousands of them but maybe 100 or more.

One of the stories was told to us by the folks who are trying to provide some help for those young kids. There is a story. It is from Honduras. A 15-year-old boy was conscripted to join a gang. He was told by the gangs: We want you to join the gang.

He said: I don't want to join the gang.

A week or two later they came back and said: We want you to join our gang.

He said: I'm not interested in joining the gang.

A little bit later they came back and said: If you don't join this gang, our gang, we're going to kill somebody in your family.

He joined the gang, and later on he found out about his initiation and what he would have to do as part of his initiation into the gang that he did not want to join.

Part of the initiation was—he had a 13-year-old sister—he had to rape his 13-year-old sister. Within a week or two that 15-year-old boy and 13-year-old sister were on their way north with a coyote to get out of that country and ultimately ended up in the southern part of our State.

People say to me: Well, why would all those people risk their lives? Can you imagine letting your kids go or my kids go? I cannot imagine that, what has happened, again and again and again. Part of what was reiterated to me on this trip is it is all well and good that we continue to strengthen our borders. We spent a fortune, one-quarter of a trillion dollars in the last 10 years to strengthen our borders with Mexico. Are they stronger? You bet they are. Are they totally impervious? No, they are not. Are there things we could do to make them stronger, more stalwart? Of course there are.

One of the great things about the codel that I was privileged to join Chairman JOHNSON and Senator SASSE on is we basically learned—had reinforced to us those things that were working. Let's find out what is working, do more of that, and find out what is not working and do less of that.

One of the things we have to do is not just continue to address the symptoms of the problem—people trying to come across the border. God knows we need to do that. We can. We can do it more smartly, more cost-effectively. The other thing we need to do is to get at the underlying root causes. The reason people are coming up, risking life and

limb to get through Mexico to get to the United States, is because of the lack of hope, lack of economic opportunity, the corruption they faced in their lives for a number of years.

What are some of the things we learned that are working? The Department of Homeland Security folks with whom we met at the border, folks working at the border, Border Patrol, people in aircrafts, helicopters, Homeland Security folks on watercraft, and the people who are running the centers for minors, people who have been detained and are being held—and some will be returned; most of the adults will be returned; for folks with criminal records, almost all of them will be returned to their native countries—but I saw some remarkable work. We saw remarkable work being done by employees at the Department of Homeland Security. Coast Guard people are doing it. All kinds of folks are involved in it—ICE, Border Patrol, folks who are working at these very busy land crossings where we have billions of dollars' worth of commerce going through these borders from the United States into Mexico. We have a bunch of them across the southern part of our Nation. Mexico is a huge trading partner with us and we with them. One of my takeaways is, How do we continue to move that commerce, move that commerce to benefit us, create jobs here and frankly in Mexico as well? How do we do that in a way that makes sure we are doing a good job stopping the human trafficking from coming across our borders, and at the same time make sure the illegal drugs, not just marijuana but especially the cocaine and the heroin that folks are trying to get across our borders by water, by air, by land gets stopped.

There is a real tension here, and I thought we came back with great ideas of how to do a better job of meeting both responsibilities—the stuff we want to keep out of our country, including people out of the country who are illegal. We can do that. We need to do a better job—I think we are doing a better job—and also at the same time make sure the flow of commerce continues unimpeded.

The legislation that was passed about 18 months or so ago with strong bipartisan support sought to double, I believe, as I recall, the number of people who work in the Border Patrol doing some of the border security work. We already have about 20,000 people there. I think we have another maybe 20,000 or so who are working the ports of entry to try to make sure we are stopping bad people, bad things, including diseases, insects, and all kinds of things that hurt our agriculture economy to try to stop that from getting through.

The bill we had said we ought to basically double the number of people who are working on the border for security.

Do we need some more people? Yes, we especially need them at the ports of entry.

What we truly need though is some technology. I call them force multipliers. I am a big believer in drones. I spent a lot of time in my life in Navy P-3 aircraft. One of the joys of the weekend for me was to be on a Navy P-3 aircraft—the kinds of airplanes I flew on as a mission commander, a naval flight officer on Active Duty, and later as a reservist. I retired as a Navy captain, I think in 1991, but to actually be on a P-3 aircraft again and to take an aircraft that is much older than you and not as old as I, to see that aircraft reconfigured—actually the wings and insides are new as well, the avionics up front—and to see the changes in the equipment that we have, there is better radar, and there is an ability to put that aircraft out over water and to pick up the bad guys whether they are in cigarette boats or a submersible with a periscope poking out of the water.

There are also helicopters to see what we can do as we patrol the Rio Grande River—very low altitudes, twisting and turning and actually finding some people trying to get across.

To look at the drugs and try to understand what our capabilities are with the drones, I think they are terrific. Are we getting full bang for our bucks? No, we are not. The inspector general from the Department of Homeland Security has issued—not that long ago—a finding that was very critical of the effectiveness of the drones.

I am convinced there is a great potential there. I am determined. I am sure working with Democrats and Republicans and our committee in the Senate and hopefully the House and certainly with the administration. We need to make sure we are getting full value for everything we are putting into the drone technology, in the deployment of drones.

If we are going to spend more money on drones, I want to make sure we get our entire money's worth. I am sure the taxpayers feel that way as well.

One of my thoughts, aside from the technology, I wish to work with the Presiding Officer, with the Republicans, and I want to work with the Democrats on comprehensive immigration reform. I want us to finish the work we started, and I want us to do it sooner than later. I hope the money we have to spend in that bill to strengthen our borders, we spend it in a smart way.

I have mentioned a couple of those ways too. One of those is the drones, to make sure we take into account the investigation by the inspector general and his folks and make sure they are being honest and straightforward with us. I am sure they wouldn't deliberately mislead us, but I want to make sure we are getting our value.

I want to mention a couple of other things. I spent a little bit of my life in an airplane, some of my time in the Navy in a P-3. During the Vietnam war, we flew a lot of missions off the coast of Vietnam and Cambodia. Our job was to pick up little infiltrator trawlers trying to resupply the Viet Cong and turn them over when we found them, track them to the coast, and turn them over to swift boats and the Coast Guard. That was our job.

We also did an area of surveillance of shipping traffic going into Haiphong Harbor. The capital of North Vietnam, Hanoi, was there. We were trying to make sure we knew what was going in and out of that country.

When we were doing those kinds of missions, largely what we did was we did ocean surveillance, subsurface ocean surveillance. We tracked a lot of Soviet nuclear submarines, diesel submarines, to make sure we knew where they were and what they were up to.

The other thing we did from time to time, we would be called on for our Navy P-3 assets to do a search and rescue. As we have seen from the Malaysian aircraft that disappeared a number of months ago and the Indonesian aircraft that disappeared a number of months ago, we put the P-3 airplane up there to help search for them. We put them out across the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean with, in many cases, binoculars, but radar was running as well and we were trying to listen to see if there were any radio signals coming out.

We also came out with binoculars. I am going to tell you, looking for people in a boat, looking for wreckage with binoculars from an aircraft out of the ocean at 1,000 feet, 5,000 feet or 10,000 feet, that is very hard to do and not very fruitful.

We have these fixed-wing aircraft that the Homeland Security owns. They are called Cessna 206. They are a single engine and they fly for maybe 5 or 6 hours. They are actually a pretty good platform, but we essentially use them—if we use them at all—with binoculars, looking for people coming to our border from Mexico or trying to get across our border.

That isn't very smart. There is a system called VADER and the VADER system is a highly advanced, sophisticated system that enables us to see from 5,000, 10,000, 20,000 feet, day or night, what is coming through our borders, in some cases even in inclement weather.

For us to fly aircraft, whether they are drones, fixed-wing aircraft, whatever, and not use that technology is not very smart. If we have something that is that good—as I have seen with my own eyes, even on this trip—what an advantage that gives us for being able to detect people coming to our border, across our border or over our

border. That is hugely helpful information. We can deploy our forces by helicopter, by vehicle or by foot or by horse.

The Presiding Officer has been to Afghanistan a time or two. I have been there a couple of times myself. I had a chance to see the tethered dirigibles—lighter than air—that were used in Afghanistan, Kabul and other places, to enable us to surveil through cameras and other assistive devices, surveil what is going on in Afghanistan and in Kabul, for example. They are very helpful.

It seemed to me the first time I was there—the first couple of times I was at the border—the first thing I asked was why do we use that technology? Why don't we use that technology, tethered lighter-than-air dirigibles that can go up to 1,000 feet, 2,500 feet, 5,000, 10,000—why don't we use them along the borders, particularly as we are bringing that equipment technology back from Afghanistan?

Well, we are starting to do that. One of the things we did, we actually were at the tethered dirigible site on the border by the Rio Grande River, and we had the opportunity, with the tethered dirigible up and operating, to actually be in the shack, if you will—there is actually a modern shack right at the base of the dirigible—and see people coming through Mexico—about a half dozen or so—approaching our border and waiting for sundown or dusk to be able to come across the Rio Grande River.

It gave us the opportunity to know they were coming, to marshal our forces, and to have them positioned appropriately, if these folks came across, to take them into custody. If they were folks who were not coming here lawfully or for asylum or just looking for an opportunity for a better life or a better economic life or if they were bringing bad stuff—drugs, and a bunch of them do—then we were in a position to deal with that.

But the technology, the tethered dirigible, the technology we can put on those—cameras, radar, great stuff—we ought to be doing more of that. Again, I like to find out what works and do more of that. But that is a great force multiplier and not the only one.

We also have towers. These are towers that are not tethered dirigibles. These are towers that are maybe 100, 200 feet in the air. They don't allow someone, as the dirigible does, to look over the horizon, but they can certainly give a good idea of what is going on for several miles, either way, maybe 2 or 3 miles in radius. The dirigibles go up 10, 15 miles in radius to see what is going on and inform us—in all kinds of weather. But the towers that are on the ground are fine.

Airboats, one of the exciting things we did was add boats, fast boats. We have gone up and down the Rio Grande

River—gosh, maybe a mile away. The fellow who was running our boat—I might be getting confused with our helicopter—but in any event, as we were doing helicopter runs up and down the river and airboats up and down the river—I think the pilot actually saw something in our helicopter about a mile up going around the bend. He actually picked up visually at least one or two people who were approaching the banks of the river on the Mexican side. Sure enough, we ran in on them, and they had a raft there and several people who were apparently trying to come across the river.

But we have some parts of the Rio Grande River—the kind of watercraft we were in works just fine, but there were other parts of the river where we needed airboats because the water was very shallow, and the boats we were in would run aground. So one of the other takeaways in terms of force multiplier is to make sure we have boats, technology that is appropriate, also making sure we have the communications equipment we need but also making sure we are using things such as airboats when we need them.

The other thing I was saying—I hadn't thought about this until right now—but one of the things that is very important for us to better secure our borders is for Mexico to better secure their borders. For Mexico, when folks are trying to get across from these three Central American countries and they are coming toward the southern border of Mexico, Mexico needs to realize they have a dog in this fight. If we stop them at our border, that means all these immigrants are going to be in Mexico. It will provide challenges, some problems, if you will, for the Mexican people in some cases.

Just as a refugee needs a place, needs work or needs food or shelter, it is all of those challenges with movement of population such as this. In some cases they are criminals. In most cases they are not, but in some cases they are criminals. Does the Mexican Government want all of those problems? No, they don't. They are finally awakening to that and they are doing a much better job, particularly with their multi-layer approach on their southern border to slow and stop—to some extent—the flow of illegal immigrants coming from the three Central American countries I have mentioned.

The other thing that Mexico can be very helpful with is shutting down train service. I say that with tongue in cheek. There is a train called "The Beast"—in fact, several of them. They emanate from southern Mexico. They run the full length of the country, about 1,500 miles. People are able to climb—until at least recently—on top of these freight trains and hold on for dear life or maybe get into the rail car and hunker down, travel the length of the country, and get off as the trains

approach the border with the United States.

It is sort of like riding the Amtrak train from Delaware to New Orleans or from Delaware to Chicago and basically not having a ticket, just traveling along, a free rider.

I have said to the Mexican Government: Why do you do this? Why do you allow them to do this? We would never let people ride our free trains like this and come down to your country. Why do you allow this?

God bless them. They finally said: Well, we are going to stop that. Instead of having maybe a couple thousand people on "The Beast," this train—this freight train with people on top of the freight cars holding on for dear life—now we have a handful—maybe a handful—of people allowed to do this, which is helpful.

The other thing Mexico can be helpful in—and they are doing I think a better job—is sharing information with us, the sharing of information. They have an idea of who is coming through their country, who is bringing them, and we need that information. We actually need some more information from Honduras and Guatemala.

We are getting reasonably good information, intelligence from the Mexicans and the other countries, and we need it to be better. To the extent that we get that better information, it enables us to be better positioned to respond with human assets and with some of these force multipliers that I have been talking about.

I wish to mention—if I could again go back to the border crossings. When we think of a border crossing, we think of a road maybe or something, maybe it is a bridge. These are unbelievable. Some of them are huge and unbelievable infrastructures that have been constructed with multiple lanes of traffic going each way. Traffic is backed up in some cases for hours trying to get from the United States into Mexico. Maybe they are taking parts down for auto assembly and then coming back with finished products.

But there is a huge flow of trade which benefits Mexico and frankly benefits us as well. There is an old saying: Time is money. To the extent that folks in a just-in-time economy are trying to move products, trying to move goods, to have to wait for those lengths of time is not good.

We can do a better job. We need to do a better job in terms of the people whom we have working there at the border for us and in terms of the kind of technology we are using.

I wish to use as an example one piece of technology that I saw, something just a little bit bigger than my handheld device here. A woman who is working the border at the crossing for all the trucks trying to come and go—she showed me her handheld device. She said: These are the next six or so

trucks lined up to come through from northern Mexico.

I said: Really? Do you know anything about any of them?

She clicked on one of the trucks. It had the history of the truck coming across our border this year—maybe even before this year—and the driver information, about who is the driver, how often has he or she been coming across our border. It is very good stuff.

We have the ability to detect radiation, the ability to detect shipments of guns, and the ability to detect people who are in vehicles. That is all well and good, but we need to continue to update and modernize that technology at the border and frankly put more money into the infrastructure so that flow of commerce is not impeded to the extent it is today.

I think that is it, pretty much. I always think, when I go through a long ramble such as this, I should come back at the end and try to point out a couple of points and repeat what I really want to convey.

I am really glad we went to the border. I have learned a lot each time I have gone. I certainly learned a lot this weekend. One of the things that gives me special joy is that it helped me identify and reinforce items such as the tethered dirigible—the kind of technology we can hang on to and deploy across the border in all kinds of locations. How important that technology is.

The other item that came home to me was that we spend a huge amount of money on these measures—one-quarter of a trillion dollars in the last 10 years on securing our borders. We spent less than 1 percent of that trying to help—along with Mexico, Colombia, and the Inter-American Development Bank—the countries of El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala to become less places of desolation and fear. We want to help them. It is not for us to do this by ourselves. It is not our job. What do they say at Home Depot? You can do it; we can help. In this case it would be like Colombia. In Colombia, 20-some years ago, what happened was a bunch of gunmen rounded up their supreme court justices, took them into a room and shot them to death—11 justices of their supreme court. Colombia was oppressed on the one hand by leftist guerillas and on the other hand by narco drug lords. A lot of people said they were going down. But they made it, in part with our help and Plan Colombia.

The folks who—the presidents of Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador have come up, with our encouragement, with their own Plan Colombia to focus on, among other things, restoring the rule of law, going after corruption, making sure police police, prosecutors prosecute, judges administer justice, and correctional systems prisons actually correct behavior.

They are looking at the schools. Kids are finishing up after grade 6 and, frankly, without the skills they need to do much of anything. So they are looking to make sure those schools are producing students better equipped and prepared to be gainfully employed.

Also, as I said, half of the secondary roads in Honduras were wiped out after Hurricane Mitch. Half of them were wiped out, and there is a need for them, with maybe some help from a bunch of us—Mexico, Colombia, NGOs, and non-profits—to work on that.

The other thing is the energy piece. If they are going to have jobs down there, they need to have affordable energy, and it is not going to be from the continued use of electricity through the use of petroleum but through low-priced natural gas and by strengthening their grid—really, to build and rebuild their electric grid.

So those are some of my take-aways. I wanted to share some of those with my colleagues.

I hope we don't shut down the Department of Homeland Security. They do important work for us, and we need them to be on the job. Frankly, we don't need a continuing resolution because that just hampers their ability to move assets around to meet one challenge that is greater than another. Hopefully, we will not have the kind of flood events we had last summer. Hopefully, we won't.

We are doing some smart messaging campaigns down in those three Central American countries, and with the cooperation of the governments, we are saying: Look, this is really what you are going to find when you try to come through Mexico and this Texas border. This is what the real truth is, and this is what you are going to run into when you get into the United States. It is the kind of truth campaign we are delivering with the help of those governments to try to reduce the attraction for coming.

But I came away more hopeful than maybe I was when I went down. There is reason for hope, but there is plenty to do—plenty to do.

If we can somehow put our political differences aside, I hope we will continue to fund the Department of Homeland Security so they can do their jobs. There are a lot of good people working for us around the world, and we don't need to hamper them further.

Finally, let's work on immigration. Let's roll up our sleeves and do this year a better job than what we tried to do 2 years ago—a better job. The American people sent us here to do that.

With that, I conclude my remarks. I thank you for your patience and attention.

I saw one of my colleagues walk on the floor. He is a Senator from another small but mighty State, the State of Rhode Island, and I am happy to yield for Senator WHITEHOUSE to make whatever remarks he wishes to make.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I might point out that not only are Delaware and Rhode Island both small and mighty, but they are small, mighty, and coastal, which is relative to the topic of my remarks this afternoon. I am now here for the 89th consecutive week that Congress has been in session to urge the Senate to wake up to the risks of climate change and to address the carbon pollution that is causing climate change.

We have a particular context for this conversation this week. The Founding Fathers in article I, section 8 of the Constitution granted to Congress a sacred duty, as the Constitution says, to “provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.”

To that end, we have built the world's greatest military and the most sophisticated intelligence and national security services. After the attacks of September 11, 2001, we undertook the largest reorganization of the Federal Government in half a century to stand up the Department of Homeland Security. We trust these national security agencies and the dedicated professionals who lead them and serve in them to ascertain and prepare for the risks facing our country in an uncertain world. But the tea party wing of the Republican caucus has chosen to hold up appropriations for vital Homeland Security programs—programs that protect Americans from terrorism, programs that help our States prepare for disasters—all to have a quarrel with the President on immigration.

Well, when we get to immigration—if our friends on the House side ever get to immigration—we could certainly debate the merits of the President's action. Certainly, we should pass legislation to fix our broken immigration system so the President's Executive actions are no longer necessary. And, by the way, in the Senate we did our job and passed a strong bipartisan bill. But to deny the Department of Homeland Security the resources it needs to safeguard the Nation is foolhardy.

Now, it is precisely because of that duty to safeguard the Nation that we should take our homeland security and military professionals seriously when they take seriously the threats posed by climate change. I think we should have a vote on a resolution highlighting the fact findings of our national security, military, and intelligence services about the climate threat. This resolution would express the sense of the Senate that the conclusions of our security professionals are not products of some hoax or deception perpetrated on the American public and that they deserve our respect.

That ought to be something every Senator can get behind. Let's look at some of the information. Just last week the administration's 2015 National Security Strategy classified climate change as "an urgent and growing threat to our national security." It is because this is serious that the United States is out there actively cutting pollution and strengthening resilience at home and leading the international community towards stronger carbon pollution standards.

The challenge that climate change poses to national security and to emergency preparedness is clearly laid out in the Department of Homeland Security's 2014 Quadrennial Homeland Security Review. It describes the effects of climate change as threat multipliers, with the potential to aggravate hazards to American safety and health. For example, higher temperatures may change patterns of disease and the spread of pests and pathogens.

Competition for resources can contribute to the kind of social destabilization that engenders terrorist activity all around the world.

You don't have to look far to see that today. Extreme weather and temperatures endanger the infrastructure that underpins our economy and way of life—from roads and bridges that now run too close to rising seas, to power and water treatment plants, to telecommunications and cyber networks.

As Assistant Secretary David Heyman of the DHS Office of Policy and Assistant Secretary Caitlin Durkovich of the Office of Infrastructure Protection explained to our own Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs just last year:

The projected impacts of climate change, including sea level rise and increasing severity and frequency of extreme weather events, can cause damage or disruptions that result in cascading effects across our communities, with immeasurable costs in lives lost and billions of dollars in property damage.

Why would we not want to take that seriously?

We heard just the same message in the Budget Committee just last week from OMB Director Shaun Donovan.

Already, the annual number of costly weather-related disasters is going up. According to NOAA, in the 1980s—in that decade—if you look at the number of natural disasters costing \$1 billion or more, in each year of the 1980s there were between zero and five. That was the range for the 1980s—between zero and five \$1 billion weather events. In the 1990s that rate rose to between three and nine events each year. Then in 2000 it went up to between 2 and 11 events per year. Since 2010, in the category of \$1 billion disasters each year, the range has been between 6 and 16.

So from the 1980s, it was 0 to 5, until this decade when it is 6 to 16. If people can't take that seriously, they are simply not meeting their responsibilities.

Superstorm Sandy caused tens of billions of dollars in damage, including terrible losses in my home State of Rhode Island. Across New England, Sandy destroyed thousands of homes, left millions without electric service, and caused more than 100 deaths across nine States. Of course, we cannot say this one devastating storm was specifically caused by climate change, but we do know that carbon pollution loads the dice for more and more severe extreme weather such as Sandy.

Sandy sure showed how vulnerable we are to this kind of catastrophic change. Climate change presents security challenges in every corner of the homeland. To the south, DHS predicts that more severe droughts and storms could increase both legal and illegal movements across the U.S. border—from Mexico, from Central America, and from the Caribbean.

My Republican colleagues insist that protecting our border is a top priority—fine. I hope that means they will take seriously the warnings from our national security professionals about the destabilizing effects of climate change and its effects, in turn, on our border.

If you move up north to the State of Maine, our former colleague, Olympia Snowe, has just written an article in *Newsweek* magazine. I will read the opening:

In late 2014, fishery regulators announced that for the second consecutive year, there would be no shrimp fishery in the Gulf of Maine this winter. The culprit: principally warming ocean waters caused by climate change.

She goes on to describe another phenomenon that scientists dubbed an ocean heat wave in the spring of 2012 that led to an early molt and migration of lobsters that caused a supply glut and subsequent price collapse. Now if you know anything about Maine, you know lobsters are pretty important to Maine. Senator Snowe's conclusion: "The message here is clear: climate change is taking dollars and jobs away from fishing communities."

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that her article be printed at the conclusion of my remarks.

To the far north, melting sea ice opens the Arctic for shipping, tourism, and resource extraction, but also for smuggling and illicit resource extraction and environmental disasters. It is a whole new frontier to be patrolled and protected by our Coast Guard, part of the Department of Homeland Security, at taxpayer expense.

Former Coast Guard Commandant ADM Robert Papp, Jr., is now the U.S. Special Representative to the Arctic Region. He has got the job to help manage risk in this remote but increasingly accessible region in the world, and he had this to say about managing the consequences of climate change. Admiral Papp said:

I am not a scientist. I can read what scientists say, but I am in the world of consequence management. My first turn in Alaska was 39 years ago, and during the summertime we had to break ice to get up to the Bering Strait and to get to Kotzebue. Thirty-five years later, going up there as commandant, we flew into Kotzebue at the same time of year. I could not see ice anywhere. So it is clear to me that there are changes happening, but I have to deal with the consequences of that.

The men and women of our homeland and national security forces deal in real-world consequences. They don't have the luxury of skirting the evidence or shrugging off serious adult risk analysis.

It is just as true at the Department of Defense as it is at the Department of Homeland Security. As ADM Samuel J. Locklear, III, the Navy Commander of the U.S. Pacific Command, puts it, it is "... not my venue to debate the politics of any issue. All I do is report what I see and what I think I see, and the implications."

Admiral Locklear, our chief naval officer in the Pacific Command, has called climate change the biggest long-term security threat in the Pacific, because as he sees it, "it is probably the most likely thing that is going to happen that will cripple the security environment."

Our colleagues may think it is funny to ignore climate change in this body while they depend so heavily on funding from the fossil fuel that is behind the pollution. They should listen to admirals who are responsible for our security when they tell us it is probably the most likely thing that is going to happen to cripple the security environment.

Last May, the CNA Corporation released a report on the risks climate change poses to our national security. This report was led by 15 generals and admirals from all 4 branches of the United States military. Here is what they said:

The national security risks of projected climate change are as serious as any challenges we have faced.

That is what they wrote. They continued:

We are dismayed that discussions of climate change have become so polarizing and have receded from the arena of informed public disclosure and debate. . . . Time and tide wait for no man.

Our military intelligence and homeland security services have been warning Congress for far too long about the risks of climate change. It is a dereliction of duty for this body to continue to ignore this problem. It is time to heed the warning. It is time to responsibly prepare for the clear risk before us, and it is time to wake up.

I yield the floor. I see the majority leader is present on the floor.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Newsweek, Feb. 9, 2015]

LACK OF ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE IS
COSTING FISHING JOBS

(By Senator Olympia Snowe)

In late 2014, fishery regulators announced that for the second consecutive year, there would be no shrimp fishery in the Gulf of Maine this winter. The culprit? Principally, warming ocean waters caused by global climate change.

Maine in particular is feeling this climate pinch: The water temperature in the Gulf of Maine increased eight times faster than the rest of the world's oceans in recent years, according to a 2014 study by Andrew Pershing, chief scientific officer at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute.

As a result, while the shrimp fishery is the first to close in New England primarily as a result of our changing climate, it is unlikely to be the last. Some of the Gulf of Maine's depleted stocks of groundfish, particularly Gulf of Maine cod, have been slow to rebuild from overfishing in the 1980s and 1990s in part as a result of warming water. Lobster has been disappearing from its traditional habitat in southern New England.

Meanwhile, the iconic lobster industry in Maine has experienced record landings in recent years, but more and more of the catch is coming from areas further down the coast toward Canada. And a phenomenon that scientists dubbed an "ocean heat wave" in the spring of 2012 led to an early molt and migration of lobsters that caused a supply glut and subsequent price collapse.

The message here is clear: climate change is taking dollars and jobs away from New England's fishing communities.

Scientists, fishery managers and industry members recognize the necessity of better understanding this phenomenon, and numerous research projects are already underway. For example, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Rutgers University have partnered to analyze data from oceanographic and fisheries-dependent studies. Their project, OceanAdapt, has confirmed that fish species off the northeast United States are collectively moving to higher latitudes and deeper water in search of the cooler temperatures they require to survive.

Of course, fishermen are the ones who know their ocean the best. So in order to get their perspective on what they are experiencing on the water, the Center for American Progress (CAP) commissioned a poll of participants in the groundfishery as well as the lobster fisheries in Maine and Massachusetts.

The CAP poll shows that majorities of all these fishermen and women believe climate change poses a significant risk to their industry, as warming waters lead to lower profits and lower catch limits. Respondents are deeply concerned these impacts could force them from the fishery or result in the disappearance of traditional markets for their product.

This perspective is consistent with the findings of the "Risky Business" report released last June by a bipartisan committee co-chaired by Michael Bloomberg, Hank Paulson and Tom Steyer. I was involved as a member of this project's "Risk Committee," which found that the American economy faces significant and diverse economic threats from the effects of climate change—rising seas, increased damage from storm surge, and more frequent bouts of extreme heat—all of which will have measurable impacts on our nation.

Each geographic region analyzed by the project faces distinct and significant eco-

nomics risks. Here in the northeast, projections are already showing that temperature increases in Gulf of Maine waters will restrict habitat for commercially vital species such as cod and lobster. In addition, sea levels are likely to rise by two to four feet in Boston by the end of the century threatening to swamp coastal infrastructure, including the wharves and fish houses critical to sustaining our fishing industry.

These numbers fail to reflect the potential for dramatic "storm surge" events, in which higher sea levels combine with more intense weather activity to increase flooding and storm damage. The Risky Business research finds that these kinds of impacts, combined, could increase annual property losses along the northeast coast from \$11 billion to \$22 billion—a two- to four-fold increase from current levels.

As vigorous policy debates continue in Washington, the economic impact of addressing climate change and transitioning to a lower carbon economy is understandably a key issue—and one that is not the domain of one side versus the other. Here in New England's fishing communities, there is serious and legitimate concern for the fishing jobs that will be lost if we don't act to rein in the emissions warming and acidifying our waters and causing sea levels to rise.

The loss of Maine's \$5 million shrimp fishery should serve as a warning. A similar blow to our \$300 million lobster fishery must be avoided at all costs. That will require honest, fact-based discussion and a genuine bipartisan commitment to solutions.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DR. ROBERT LASKOWSKI

• Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I speak on behalf of the Delaware Delegation to honor the exemplary service of the president and CEO of Christiana Health Care System, Dr. Robert "Bob" Laskowski. He served in this position since 2003, and during that time he transformed the largest not-for-profit health care system in Delaware into an award-winning hospital organization with a national reputation of patient quality and innovation. Bob is now retiring after more than two decades of serving Christiana Care. He is a tremendous leader and true advocate for the patient and health-care worker, as well as a devoted husband to his wife, Kathy, and loving father to their children and grandchildren. His hard work, leadership and willingness to work together on transforming the health care system in Delaware and the Nation will truly be missed.

Bob used his leadership role at Christiana to cultivate philanthropic endeavors in the community. He lives "The Christiana Care Way" of serving our neighbors as respectful, expert, caring partners in their health. Under his leadership, Christiana Care has given back millions of dollars to the Delaware community.

Bob is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine with

a master's degree in business administration from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business. He is a board-certified internist specializing in geriatric medicine who understands the needs and priorities of health care professionals, as well as the business of running a health care system.

Bob's reach extends far beyond Delaware's borders. He is nationally recognized for his work on health care transformation. He fearlessly took on the challenge of making Christiana Care Health System a model for other hospital systems around the country. Bob's notable accomplishments include expanding the Helen F. Graham Cancer Center & Research Institute to a 200,000-square-foot state-of-the-art facility that serves the majority of cancer patients in Delaware. This National Cancer Institute selected Community Cancer Center is a national model for care and a leader in enrolling patients in clinical trials. He also led Christiana Care in earning recognition by the American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program as 1 of only 37 hospitals in the Nation achieving "meritorious" outcomes for surgical patient care in 9 clinical areas. His expertise is sought out throughout the country as he serves on the board of directors of the Association of American Medical Colleges and on its finance and executive compensation committees. He serves on the American Medical Association Section on Medical Schools, and is a former member of the American Hospital Association Section for Health Care Systems Governing Council and the Health Management Academy Chief Executive Officers Forum.

Apart from his work in the health care field, Bob is an excellent cook, honing his skills in his own kitchen and cooking for colleagues and guests. He also spends his time playing piano, violin, the accordion, and is currently learning Spanish.

On behalf of Senator CHRIS COONS and Congressman JOHN CARNEY, I wholeheartedly thank Dr. Bob Laskowski for his service to Christiana Care and our State. His model leadership and dedication has improved the quality of life for not only Delawareans, but patients and health care workers around the Nation. We offer our sincere congratulations on a job well done and wish him many happy, healthy, and successful years to come.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 6:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 203. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the conduct

of annual evaluations of mental health care and suicide prevention programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-638. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to persons undermining democratic processes or institutions in Zimbabwe that was declared in Executive Order 13288 of March 6, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-639. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Ukraine that was originally declared in Executive Order 13660 of March 6, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-640. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the National Security Strategy of the United States of America; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-641. A communication from the Board Members of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Congressional Justification of Budget Estimates Report for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-642. A communication from the Management Analyst, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Flock Delivery and Stages of Poultry Production" (RIN0580-AB23) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-643. A communication from the Executive Resources Program Manager, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Chief Counsel, Small Business Administration, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2015; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-3. A concurrent resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio urging Congress to continue the full funding and production of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter's technology; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NUMBER 54

Whereas, Ohio has a strong history of supporting our military; and

Whereas, Our military at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base is leading the way by conducting a significant portion of the testing of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter's technology; and

Whereas, The members of our military need the latest high-quality technology supporting them as they protect our nation and ensure peace overseas and at home; and

Whereas, The F-35 provides fifth generation technology that is unmatched by any other weapons system in the world and should replace the current aging fleet of United States military aircraft that no longer meets global emerging challenges; and

Whereas, Our military families deserve the peace of mind that we are supplying our military with the most advanced multi-role fighter ever built to protect their family members; and

Whereas, Fifty-six Ohio manufacturers contribute to the production of parts of the F-35 and more than 4,300 skilled, experienced Ohioans have jobs producing this technology directly and indirectly; and

Whereas, The F-35 program has more than \$442 million in economic impact in this state; and

Whereas, Congress is currently considering its commitment to full funding and production of the F-35; and

Whereas, The United States has been investing in the production of the F-35 for more than a decade and will lose the benefits of this investment if full funding and planned production is not continued: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the General Assembly of the State of Ohio urges the Congress of the United States to continue the full funding and production of the F-35 in order to ensure that Ohio and our nation will benefit from the advanced technology that thousands of Ohioans have labored to produce; and be it further

Resolved, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, the Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Ohio Congressional delegation, and the news media of Ohio.

POM-4. A resolution adopted by the Mayor of Madisonville, Kentucky expressing support for the maintenance of current troop levels at Fort Campbell and to urge Congress to oppose any reductions; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. MCCAIN for the Committee on Armed Services.

*Ashton B. Carter, of Massachusetts, to be Secretary of Defense.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. KING, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. COONS, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. KAINE, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WICKER, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. TESTER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. SCOTT):

S. 420. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HELLER:

S. 421. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for greater transparency and efficiency in the procedures followed by the Federal Communications Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PORTMAN:

S. 422. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to clarify the use of credentials by enrolled agents; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. KIRK, Mr. COTTON, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. HELLER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CORKER, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 423. A bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual written privacy notice requirement; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 424. A bill to promote unlicensed spectrum use in the 5 GHz band, to maximize the use of the band for shared purposes in order to bolster innovation and economic development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 425. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a five-year extension to the homeless veterans reintegration programs and to provide clarification regarding eligibility for services under such programs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. AYOTTE:

S. 426. A bill to amend chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the Regulatory Flexibility Act), to ensure complete analysis of potential impacts on small entities of rules, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. KING):

S. 427. A bill to reduce the number of non-essential vehicles purchased and leased by the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 428. A bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide for 12-

month continuous enrollment under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 429. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide a standard definition of therapeutic foster care services in Medicaid; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 430. A bill to prohibit the marketing of electronic cigarettes to children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCOTT, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. TESTER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. COONS, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BURR, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. KIRK, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. VITTER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. COATS, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. LEE, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. FLAKE):

S. 431. A bill to permanently extend the Internet Tax Freedom Act; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 432. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt certain small businesses from the employer health insurance mandate and to modify the definition of full-time employee for purposes of such mandate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BURR, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. DONNELLY, and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 433. A bill to establish a benefit calculation methodology with respect to currency undervaluation for purposes of countervailing duty investigations and reviews, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mr. VITTER):

S. 434. A bill to strengthen the accountability of individuals involved in misconduct affecting the integrity of background investigations, to update guidelines for security clearances, to prevent conflicts of interest relating to contractors providing background investigation fieldwork services and investigative support services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, and Mr. VITTER):

S. 435. A bill to amend chapter 1 of title 1, United States Code, with regard to the definition of "marriage" and "spouse" for Federal purposes and to ensure respect for State regulation of marriage; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 436. A bill to promote youth athletic safety and for other purposes; to the Com-

mittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 437. A bill to provide for congressional approval of national monuments and restrictions on the use of national monuments, to establish requirements for the declaration of marine national monuments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. HATCH, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 438. A bill to provide for the repair, replacement, and maintenance of certain Indian irrigation projects; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BROWN, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. UDALL, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 439. A bill to end discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity in public schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. RISCH, Mr. KING, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 440. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an exclusion for assistance provided to participants in certain veterinary student loan repayment or forgiveness; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CASEY, Mr. HELLER, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. TESTER, Mr. VITTER, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. GARDNER, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 441. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to clarify the Food and Drug Administration's jurisdiction over certain tobacco products, and to protect jobs and small businesses involved in the sale, manufacturing and distribution of traditional and premium cigars; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. REID, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. COONS):

S. 442. A bill to establish within the Department of Education the Innovation Inspiration school grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:

S. 443. A bill to prohibit the long-term storage of rail cars on certain railroad tracks unless the Surface Transportation Board has approved the rail carrier's rail car storage plan; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 444. A bill to support afterschool and out-of-school-time science, technology, engineering, and mathematics programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 445. A bill to increase students' and borrowers' access to student loan information

within the National Student Loan Data System; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CORKER, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. Res. 72. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the January 24, 2015, attacks carried out by Russian-backed rebels on the civilian population in Mariupol, Ukraine, and the provision of lethal and non-lethal military assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 48

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 48, a bill to prohibit discrimination against the unborn on the basis of sex or gender, and for other purposes.

S. 165

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 165, a bill to extend and enhance prohibitions and limitations with respect to the transfer or release of individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and for other purposes.

S. 192

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 192, a bill to reauthorize the Older Americans Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

S. 207

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 207, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to use existing authorities to furnish health care at non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities to veterans who live more than 40 miles driving distance from the closest medical facility of the Department that furnishes the care sought by the veteran, and for other purposes.

S. 209

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 209, a bill to amend the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-

Determination Act of 2005, and for other purposes.

S. 210

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 210, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for amounts paid by a spouse of a member of the Armed Forces for a new State license or certification required by reason of a permanent change in the duty station of such member to another State.

S. 226

At the request of Mrs. ERNST, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 226, a bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law.

S. 238

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 238, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to authorize the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to issue oleoresin capsicum spray to officers and employees of the Bureau of Prisons.

S. 257

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 257, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to physician supervision of therapeutic hospital outpatient services.

S. 259

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 259, a bill to modify the efficiency standards for grid-enabled water heaters.

S. 264

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 264, a bill to require a full audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal reserve banks by the Comptroller General of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 269

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 269, a bill to expand sanctions imposed with respect to Iran and to impose additional sanctions with respect to Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 271

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 271, a bill to amend title 10,

United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 286

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 286, a bill to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian tribes, and for other purposes.

S. 290

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 290, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the accountability of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 291

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 291, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for extensions of detention of certain aliens ordered removed, and for other purposes.

S. 295

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 295, a bill to amend section 2259 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 298

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 298, a bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option of providing services to children with medically complex conditions under the Medicaid program and Children's Health Insurance Program through a care coordination program focused on improving health outcomes for children with medically complex conditions and lowering costs, and for other purposes.

S. 299

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 299, a bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 301

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 301, a bill to require the Secretary of

the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

S. 317

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 317, a bill to improve early education.

S. 322

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 322, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain compensation received by public safety officers and their dependents from gross income.

S. 326

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 326, a bill to amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to provide cancellation ceilings for stewardship end result contracting projects, and for other purposes.

S. 327

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 327, a bill to provide for auditable financial statements for the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 332

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 332, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make permanent the extension of the Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) program and the increased payments under the Medicare low-volume hospital program.

S. 335

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 335, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve 529 plans.

S. 356

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 356, a bill to improve the provisions relating to the privacy of electronic communications.

S. 370

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 370, a bill to require breast density reporting to physicians and patients by facilities that perform mammograms, and for other purposes.

S. 373

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE), the Senator from

Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 373, a bill to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel.

S. 375

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 375, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a reduced rate of excise tax on beer produced domestically by certain qualifying producers.

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 375, *supra*.

S. 402

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 402, a bill to establish a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Master Teacher Corps program.

S. 404

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 404, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions.

S. RES. 52

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 52, a resolution calling for the release of Ukrainian fighter pilot Nadiya Savchenko, who was captured by Russian forces in Eastern Ukraine and has been held illegally in a Russian prison since July 2014.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. RISCH, Mr. KING, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 440. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an exclusion for assistance provided to participants in certain veterinary student loan repayment or forgiveness; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise in support of the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Enhancement Act that I am introducing today with Senator DEBBIE STABENOW of

Michigan. This bipartisan legislation would address the shortage of veterinarians in many areas of this Nation by helping to increase the placement of more veterinarians in areas of the country where they are desperately needed.

Veterinarians are a critical part of ensuring our access to a safe and high-quality food supply. Americans depend on veterinarians to help ensure food safety and public health, improve animal health and welfare, promote sustainable economic development and safeguard our homeland from foreign animal disease. Unfortunately, nearly every state has a rural community that is suffering from a shortage in essential veterinary services.

To help address this concern, in 2003, Congress established the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program, VMLRP. This program assists selected food animal and public health veterinarians with student loan repayment for a three-year commitment to practice in areas of the country facing a veterinarian shortage. This program helps veterinarians with daunting student loan debt with making a living in a community where starting a practice may be otherwise financially impossible. Through the program, more than 280 veterinarians have been placed in communities throughout the country—a benefit for food safety, the communities, farmers and ranchers, the veterinarians and more.

The problem is the VMLRP is subject to a significant Federal withholding tax on the assistance provided to qualifying veterinarians. This affects the amount of limited resources that can go toward this worthy effort and the reach of its benefits. The legislation we are introducing will address this by providing an exemption from the Federal income withholding tax for payments received under the VMLRP and similar State programs. Thus, more veterinarians would have the opportunity to practice in small, rural communities where their services are so desperately needed and more communities will have much-needed veterinarian services.

To illustrate the need for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Enhancement Act, consider the following example. In October 2014, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture announced more than \$4.5 million was awarded to 51 veterinarians through the VMLRP. The awards announced in October will fill shortage needs in 22 States. However, estimates show that if this withholding tax were to be eliminated, an additional veterinarian could be placed in a shortage area for every three currently participating in the program. That means approximately 17 additional awards could have been issued last year had this tax been eliminated.

This legislation would also help bring the tax treatment of this program in line with the tax treatment of assistance for doctors and nurses who are serving areas of the country in need through the National Health Service Corps' loan repayment program. In 2004, Congress exempted the benefits available under the National Health Service Corps' loan repayment program from the federal withholding tax. Enactment of the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Enhancement Act would create tax parity for the counterpart program for veterinary medicine.

So far, 15 Senators—including Senators THAD COCHRAN, JOHNNY ISAKSON, JIM RISCH, PAT ROBERTS, MICHAEL BENNET, KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND, AMY KLOBUCHAR, AL FRANKEN, MAZIE HIRONO, ANGUS KING, JR., PAT LEAHY, BERNIE SANDERS, and TAMMY BALDWIN—from both sides of the aisle have cosponsored this important legislation and 152 national and local organizations support the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Enhancement Act. Congress can help ensure that every community across America has access to needed veterinary care. Please join us in this effort to place more veterinarians in areas of the country where they are desperately needed and support passage of this bipartisan, common-sense legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a letter of support be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE VETERINARY MEDICINE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT ACT

The undersigned organizations urge Congress to pass the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Enhancement Act to address the challenges rural areas face in accessing veterinary services for livestock medicine and public health and to maximize funding congress appropriates for VMLRP so that it can be stretched further to fill shortage areas across the country.

By exempting the loan repayment awards from a 39 percent withholding tax, Congress will make it possible for one additional veterinarian to be selected to participate for every three currently working in federally designated areas. Since 2010, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has selected 286 veterinarians to practice in nearly every state across the country. If the VMLRP program awards were exempt from withholding taxes, then roughly 100 additional veterinarians could have served rural communities during that same time period.

It is time for every American community to gain access to needed veterinary services. Congress can ensure that our nation's livestock are healthy, our food supply is safe and secure, and public health is protected by passing the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Enhancement Act this session.

Sincerely,
American Veterinary Medical Association,
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges, Academy of Rural Veterinarians,

Alabama Veterinary Medical Association, Alaska Veterinary Medical Association, American Animal Hospital Association, American Academy of Veterinary Nutrition, American Association for Laboratory Animal Science, American Association of Avian Pathologists, American Association of Bovine Practitioners, American Association of Corporate and Public Practice Veterinarians, American Association of Equine Practitioners, American Association of Feline Practitioners, American Association of Food Safety Veterinarians, American Association of Industry Veterinarians.

American Association of Mycobacterial Diseases, American Association of Public Health Veterinarians, American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners, American Association of Swine Veterinarians, American Association of Veterinary Clinicians, American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians, American Association of Zoo Veterinarians, American Board of Veterinary Practitioners, American Board of Veterinary Toxicology, American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine, American College of Poultry Veterinarians, American College of Theriogenologists, American College of Veterinary Dermatology, American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, American College of Veterinary Pathologists.

American College of Veterinary Radiology, American Dairy Goat Association, American Dairy Science Association, American Farm Bureau Federation®, American Feed Industry Association, American Goat Federation, American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association, American Horse Council, American Rabbit Breeders Association, American Sheep Industry Association, American Society of Animal Science, American Society of Laboratory Animal Practitioners, American Veal Association, American Veterinary Medical Foundation, Animal Agriculture Alliance, Animal Health Institute, Animal Policy Group, Arizona Veterinary Medical Association.

Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association, Association for Women Veterinarians Foundation, Association of Avian Veterinarians, Association of Veterinary Biologics Companies, Association of Zoos & Aquariums, Bayer Animal Health, Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc., California Veterinary Medical Association, Center for Rural Affairs, Colorado Veterinary Medical Association, Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association, Delaware Veterinary Medical Association, District of Columbia Veterinary Medical Association, Elanco Animal Health (A Division of Eli Lilly & Company), Federation of Animal Science Societies, Florida Veterinary Medical Association, Georgia Department of Agriculture, Georgia Veterinary Medical Association.

Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association, Idaho Cattle Association, Idaho Veterinary Medical Association, Kansas Bioscience Authority, Kansas City Animal Health Corridor, Kansas City Area Development Council, Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute, Kansas Veterinary Medical Association, Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association, Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association, Indiana Veterinary Medical Association, Iowa Veterinary Medical Association, Lesbian and Gay Veterinary Medical Association, Livestock Marketing Association.

Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association, Maine Department of Agriculture—Conservation & Forestry, Maine Veterinary Medical Association, Maryland Veterinary

Medical Association, Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association, Merck Animal Health, Michigan Veterinary Medical Association, Minnesota Board of Animal Health, Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association, Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association, Missouri Veterinary Medical Association, Montana Veterinary Medical Association, Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals Multistate Initiative, National Association of Federal Veterinarians, National Association of State Animal Health Officials, National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America.

National Chicken Council, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, National Farmers Union, National Food Animal Veterinary Institute, National Grange, National Institute for Animal Agriculture, National Livestock Producers Association, National Milk Producers Federation, National Pork Producers Council, National Renderers Association, National Turkey Federation, Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association, Nevada Veterinary Medical Association, New England Veterinary Medical Association, New Hampshire Veterinary Medical Association, New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association, New Mexico Veterinary Medical Association, New York State Veterinary Medical Society.

Northeast States Association for Agriculture Stewardship, North American Meat Institute, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association, North Dakota Veterinary Medical Association, Ohio Veterinary Medical Association, Oklahoma Department of Agriculture—Food and Forestry—Animal Industry Division, Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association, Oregon Veterinary Medical Association, Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association, Pet Food Institute, Poultry Science Association, Puerto Rico Veterinary Medical Association (Colegio de Medicos Veterinarios de Puerto Rico), R-CALF United Stockgrowers of America, Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union.

Rural & Agriculture Council of America, South Carolina Association of Veterinarians, South Dakota Veterinary Medical Association, Student American Veterinary Medical Association, Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association, Texas Animal Health Commission, Texas Veterinary Medical Association, United Egg Producers, United States Animal Health Association, US Cattlemen's Association, US Poultry & Egg Association, Utah Veterinary Medical Association, Vermont Veterinary Medical Association, Virginia Veterinary Medical Association, Washington State Veterinary Medical Association, West Virginia Veterinary Medical Association, Wisconsin State Veterinarian, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association, Wyoming Veterinary Medical Association, Zoetis.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 72—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE JANUARY 24, 2015, ATTACKS CARRIED OUT BY RUSSIAN-BACKED REBELS ON THE CIVILIAN POPULATION IN MARIUPOL, UKRAINE, AND THE PROVISION OF LETHAL AND NON-LETHAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO UKRAINE

Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CORKER, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 72

Whereas Russian-backed rebels continue to expand their campaign in Ukraine, which has already claimed more than 5,000 lives and generated an estimated 1,500,000 refugees and internally displaced persons;

Whereas, on January 23, 2015, Russian-backed rebels pulled out of peace talks with Western leaders;

Whereas, on January 24, 2015, the Ukrainian port city of Mariupol received rocket fire from territory in the Donetsk region controlled by rebels;

Whereas, on January 24, 2015, Alexander Zakharchenko, leader of the Russian-backed rebel Donetsk People's Republic, publicly announced that his troops had launched an offensive against Mariupol;

Whereas Mariupol is strategically located on the Sea of Azov and is a sea link between Russian-occupied Crimea and Russia, and could be used to form part of a land bridge between Crimea and Russia;

Whereas the indiscriminate attack on Mariupol killed 30 people, including 2 children, and wounded 102 in markets, homes, and schools;

Whereas, on April 19, 2000, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1296, reaffirming its strong condemnation of the deliberate targeting of civilians;

Whereas, even after the Russian Federation and the Russian-backed rebels signed a ceasefire agreement called the Minsk Protocol in September 2014, NATO's Supreme Allied Commander, General Philip Breedlove, reported in November 2014 the movement of "Russian troops, Russian artillery, Russian air defense systems, and Russian combat troops" into Ukraine;

Whereas, on January 24, 2015, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg stated, "For several months we have seen the presence of Russian forces in eastern Ukraine, as well as a substantial increase in Russian heavy equipment such as tanks, artillery, and advanced air defense systems. Russian troops in eastern Ukraine are supporting these offensive operations with command and control systems, air defense systems with advanced surface-to-air missiles, unmanned aerial systems, advanced multiple rocket launcher systems, and electronic warfare systems.";

Whereas, on January 25, 2015, after Russian-backed rebels attacked Mariupol, European Council President Donald Tusk wrote,

"Once again appeasement encourages the aggressor to greater acts of violence; time to step up our policy based on cold facts, not illusions.";

Whereas, on November 19, 2014, at a Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate confirmation hearing, Deputy National Security Adviser Anthony Blinken stated that the provision of defensive lethal assistance to the Government of Ukraine "remains on the table. It's something we're looking at.";

Whereas the Ukraine Freedom Support Act (Public Law 113-272), which was passed by Congress unanimously and signed into law by the President on December 18, 2014, states that it is the policy of the United States to further assist the Government of Ukraine in restoring its sovereignty and its territorial integrity to deter the Government of the Russian Federation from further destabilizing and invading Ukraine and other independent countries in Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia; and

Whereas the Ukraine Freedom Support Act authorizes \$350,000,000 in fiscal years 2015–2017 for the President to provide the Government of Ukraine with defense articles, defense services, and military training for the purpose of countering offensive weapons and reestablishing the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, including anti-tank and anti-armor weapons; crew weapons and ammunition; counter-artillery radars; fire control and guidance equipment; surveillance drones; and secure command and communications equipment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SENSE OF THE SENATE.

The Senate—

(1) condemns the attack on Mariupol by Russian-backed rebels;

(2) urges the President to provide lethal and non-lethal military assistance to Ukraine as unanimously supported by Congress in the Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-272);

(3) calls on the United States, its European allies, and the international community to continue to apply economic and other forms of pressure on the Russian Federation, especially in the form of sanctions, if the Government of the Russian Federation continues to refuse to cease its aggression in Ukraine;

(4) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to immediately end its support for the rebels in eastern Ukraine, allow Ukraine to regain control of its internationally-recognized borders, and withdraw its military presence in eastern Ukraine; and

(5) expresses solidarity with the people of Ukraine regarding the humanitarian crisis in their country and the destruction caused by the military, financial, and ideological support of the Government of the Russian Federation for the rebels in eastern Ukraine.

SEC. 2. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this resolution shall be construed as an authorization for the use of force or a declaration of war.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 10, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 10, 2015, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Regulatory Relief for Community Banks and Credit Unions."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 10, at 10 a.m., in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a subcommittee hearing entitled "Keeping Goods Moving."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 10, 2015, at 10:10 a.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Getting to Yes on Tax Reform: What Lessons Can Congress Learn from the Tax Reform Act of 1986?"

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 10, 2015 at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Update on Iran Nuclear Negotiations."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 10, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled "The Reemergence of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases: Exploring the Public Health Successes and Challenges."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 10, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). The majority leader.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2015

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, February 11; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for up to 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the majority controlling the first half and the Democrats controlling the final half.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. So, Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks from Senators MORAN, CARDIN, and STABENOW.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Kansas.

ISIL ATTACKS AND THE AUMF

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I want to comment on an interview that was published yesterday, quoting the President. In an interview published yesterday, the President spoke about a number of issues facing the United States. During that interview he had commentary on terrorism and he referenced the January attacks in Paris, France, in what I would describe as a very concerning way. The President addressed the attacks in Paris as "randomly shooting a bunch of folks in a deli."

The President's stated perception of the hostage taking and murder of four Jews in a kosher supermarket in that way—we ought to all be concerned. When asked to clarify the President's comments today, the White House stated that the Jewish victims of this attack were "killed not because of who they were, but because of where they randomly happened to be."

The White House today suggested that because there were non-Jews in the kosher supermarket named Super Kosher, the attack did not specifically target Jews.

The State Department restated this explanation today, refusing to say that

an attack on a kosher supermarket that killed four Jews could be Jewish. The absurdity of this logic is apparent. Let me give you a hypothetical. If an attack occurs in a synagogue or in a church or in the American Embassy, are we really to accept the idea that on the chance that there were diverse people there, that that somehow disqualifies the possibility that members of the group who would predominantly frequent that place might be targeted? In other words, if somebody who happened to work in an American embassy but is not an American is killed in an attack, would we reach the conclusion that the attack on the embassy is not an attack on America?

The Obama administration's logic doesn't make sense and it is difficult to understand what they are trying to convey. It is also contrary to the open source media reports about the attack. Reuters reported that the perpetrator of the attack called a French television station to declare his allegiance to the Islamic State and stated his intentions to target Jews. Given this information, the Obama administration's now repeated comments that chalked this up to randomness—that is just amazing to me, that it is just random, this attack in Paris. The fact that four Jews were killed at a kosher supermarket, it is just random.

It is dangerous for our government leaders to reach such a conclusion and for us to be operating as we make a determination of how to proceed next in the war on terror to reach the kind of conclusions the President, his spokespersons, and the State Department are reaching.

The Islamic State, the organization the perpetrators of the Paris attack claim allegiance to, has made a point to persecute various ethnic and religious minorities. The denial of anti-minority or anti-Semitic motivations in this case gives me hesitation about whether the President understands the true nature of the threat we now face. This comes in the context of a report that the administration is soon to present to Congress for approval an authorization for the use of military force against Islamic State fighters.

Authorizing a war is a decision that should be made with the fullest of information and the most complete understanding possible. The Obama administration should be doing everything it can to clearly describe the threat our country faces—in fact, that people around the globe face—and a strategy that will be employed under this potential authorization to use force. If we don't know who we are fighting, how can we have a strategy to prevent the death and destruction those enemies will cause? The stakes are way too high to operate under anything but a clear understanding of the significant challenges our country faces. It makes no sense to describe something different than reality.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize February as National Children's Dental Health Month. Every year since 1981 we have acknowledged the importance of children's dental health and worked to ensure that all children have access to proper oral health. As former U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop reminded us, "There is no health without oral health."

Today tooth decay is the single most common chronic childhood disease—5 times more common than asthma, 4 times more common than early childhood obesity, and 20 times more common than diabetes. Despite the fact that tooth decay can be prevented, nearly half of all 5-year-olds have experienced tooth decay.

Left untreated, tooth decay can not only destroy a child's teeth and health but also have a severe negative impact on a child's quality of life. Because children with severe tooth decay are frequently in constant pain, they are often unable to learn, play, or interact with others. Recent studies have shown that children with poor oral health are nearly three times more likely to miss school due to dental pain, and children reporting recent toothaches are four times more likely to have lower grade point averages than peers without dental pain.

Good oral health is essential for our children to thrive. It is simply unacceptable that 16.5 million children are denied basic dental care each year. The health and well-being of every child depends on access to affordable care for all of his or her health needs, including dental services.

Tooth decay and oral health problems also disproportionately affect children from low-income families and minorities. According to the National Institutes of Health, about 80 percent of dental disease in children is concentrated in 25 percent of the population, and children from poor families face an inordinately high barrier in receiving dental care. To these children, the consequences of poor health care can be devastating.

Many have heard me speak before, including on the floor of the Senate, about the tragic loss of Deamonte Driver, a 12-year-old Prince George's County resident who died in February of 2007. Deamonte's death was particularly traumatic because it was entirely preventable. It is outrageous that only a few years ago a young boy died in our country because his family was unable to find a dentist to remove an infected tooth. By the time he was evaluated at

the Children's Hospital emergency room, the infection had spread to Deamonte's brain. After multiple surgeries and a lengthy hospital stay, he passed away.

This was a tragic loss of life that was completely preventable, and a waste of terrible resources. A person's life, hundreds of thousands of dollars, and all it took was \$80 in dental care to save his life.

I recently heard another story that gives me both hope in the future and strength and resolve to guarantee that all Americans have access to proper dental care. Ronald shared his story at the 2-day Mission of Mercy Health Equity Festival at the University of Maryland, where he waited 15 hours at the charity clinic to have a tooth pulled that had been troubling him for 2 years. Prior to the charity clinic, Ronald had been living with two choices: endure increasingly worse pain or go into debt to pay for dental care. A working man, Ronald had spent \$800—his entire life savings—to get a tooth fixed in 2012, but it continued to bother him. He recently paid a dentist for relief. The dentist suggested a more expensive procedure, but Ronald was unable to pay the high cost. So it was just a bandaid, he said. Now he is behind with his landlord and trying to catch up.

Ronald talked, however, with great pride about his 9-year-old soccer-playing daughter, who waves away candy and drinks water instead of soda. "I didn't know about oral health when I was her age," he said. Like many other children in Maryland, Ronald's daughter has access to dental care through our State's Children's Health Insurance Program. She has coverage for pediatric dental, she learns about oral health in her school, and she is taking steps to make sure she has proper oral health. She has coverage if she needs to see a dentist.

Thanks to CHIP, we now have the highest number in history of children who are insured with medical and dental insurance. CHIP provides affordable, comprehensive health coverage to more than 8 million children from working families—people who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but cannot afford private insurance. CHIP also provides funding for school-based health centers that are critical to providing dental services to at-risk children. I have visited these schools and have seen firsthand how effective they are in delivering dental care to our children. However, if Congress does not act to reauthorize funding for CHIP before September 30, the program's funding will run out and millions of children will again be at risk.

I am very proud that my State of Maryland has been recognized as a national leader in pediatric dental health. In the 2010 Pew Center report on the state of children's dental health,

Maryland earned an A and was the only State to meet seven of the eight policy benchmarks for addressing children's dental health needs.

In addition, in the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, every plan except one includes pediatric dental coverage as part of the comprehensive medical plan, so families don't have to pay a separate premium for pediatric dental coverage and they don't have an additional out-of-pocket cost.

In the Affordable Care Act, we included pediatric dental as part of the essential benefits; therefore, every family now has access to affordable pediatric coverage. That is primarily offered to most of the people in our State through a universal policy, meaning that they don't have to pay a separate premium or copayment.

Dental diseases are chronic, progressive, and destructive over time. Yet too often oral health care is overlooked or ignored. We have made great progress, but there are still millions of children in our country without dental care. We must continue to work to ensure that all Americans have access to both medical and dental care, as no citizen of our country should ever have to choose between going into debt and receiving proper health care.

The health care system was not there for Ronald, but thanks to CHIP and the Affordable Care Act, it has the potential to help his daughter stay healthy for years to come.

Let's pledge to do more for our children, starting with a reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program—CHIP—including the guaranteed pediatric dental benefits.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, we are in a countdown of sorts right now, and it is one I am deeply concerned about. On February 27, the funding for the Department of Homeland Security of our country runs out, and that is 17 days from now. Only 17 days from now, our Border and Customs and air traffic controllers, air security, Coast Guard—all of those agencies and all of the people involved in protecting us from the terrorist threats all around us—will lose their funding in one way or the other if we don't act.

On Sunday morning in Michigan, we had a reminder of the threat that ex-

ists within our borders. A man crashed his truck into a U.S. Coast Guard station in Grand Haven on the west side of Michigan. Then he assaulted members of the Coast Guard, which is, by the way, a Department of Homeland Security facility and will be affected by what is going to happen. The man claimed to have explosives in his truck. Fortunately, that turned out not to be true. Still, local officials initially called it "an act of domestic terrorism."

Department of Homeland Security officials have been working alongside other Federal agencies and local law enforcement to investigate. My colleagues can imagine how people on the west side of Michigan are feeling right now and how members of the Coast Guard are feeling about this.

This is the work the men and women of the Department of Homeland Security do every day in every part of Michigan, in every part of our country, in every part of our cities, including the District of Columbia, and in the communities we all represent. Frankly, people are scratching their heads right now about what in the world is going on.

I appreciate the fact there are disagreements with the President regarding immigration policy. Certainly, we can debate that. We can discuss it. The Republican leader can bring up the issue of immigration at any time on the floor of the Senate. But that should not be tied to whether we fund the Department of Homeland Security for our country. Homeland security funding should not be held hostage to what I view as the politics of the moment on immigration. We may have a disagreement in terms of immigration issues, but we should not have any disagreement about the need to fully fund the Department of Homeland Security.

We rely on the Department of Homeland Security to provide our transportation security at shipping ports and at all of our airports. We all go back and forth every single week. Millions of Americans are counting on the fact that people at our airports—people we see and people we don't see—are keeping us safe from attacks—the passengers, the cargo.

Michigan is a border State. We are the largest northern border crossing in the country for goods, services, and people coming back and forth from Detroit to Windsor. It is the men and women of the Department of Homeland Security—Border and Customs—who are keeping our borders safe every day.

We rely on the Department of Homeland Security to protect us against nuclear attacks, chemical attacks, and cyber attacks every day. In recent years, major American financial institutions have been attacked by hackers. I have been in a situation as a customer of a major company getting that notice in the mail about my credit

card. Millions of Americans have been in that situation. We expect that we are going to make sure we are protecting people's information, their financial security, the financial security of businesses. That is what is done through the Department of Homeland Security.

Seventeen days from now, if we don't act to fully fund the Department of Homeland Security, we will see the funding for that Department stop.

Chinese hackers targeted the U.S. Transportation Department Command, which directs the global movement of U.S. military forces. Hackers have gone after America's transportation and communications infrastructure over and over again.

This is very serious. This is very serious. This is not about politics or differences of opinion with the United States or having some leverage by holding funding up in order to get something else that group of people wants to get. This is about whether we are going to straight-up fund the security operations of our country. We have terrorists and terror threats all around us. Look at the globe—all around us. This is not the time to play politics with Homeland Security funding.

Last year we passed, with a huge majority, a bipartisan immigration bill. Immigration deserves a debate. There will be differences of opinion. I still think there is a broad bipartisan coalition to do comprehensive reform that makes sense for everyone, makes sense for America. But this is not the time to say: It is either my way or the highway. Either I get the changes I want or I will say to the President of the United States that he is wrong, that he is playing politics, whatever it is, and I am going to hold up the security of our country in order to do it.

I think most people in Washington are saying: What in the world is going on here? Terror threats are all around us, and we are 17 days away from a shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security. This makes absolutely no sense to me. Frankly, we can do better than that as an institution, as the U.S. Senate. We can do better in Congress than constantly having these roller coasters up and down and threats of government shutdowns. We have seen it before. We are now seeing the possibility of it again.

Seventeen days from now, if Homeland Security is shut down, if we aren't funding our border, cockpits, airport security, ports, the Coast Guard, and all the other things that keep us safe, there is going to be a big party. Do you know who is going to throw that party? The enemies of America. The terrorists who want very much to have the opportunity to attack our country. That makes absolutely no sense.

Let's come together this week before we leave. We are not in session next week. We can get this done. Let's just

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pass the Homeland Security budget and get on with important debates on other topics that we all care about. I hope we can do that and get this done as soon as possible.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:18 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, February 11, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, February 10, 2015

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. NEWHOUSE).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 10, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAN NEWHOUSE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, the primary responsibility of Congress is to keep our Nation safe. However, we are 133 days into the 2015 fiscal year, and the Department of Homeland Security is without a budget.

The Department is trying to fulfill its mission under the uncertainty of a continuing resolution that is set to expire in 18 days. Last week, the Department of Homeland Security submitted its fiscal year 2016 budget, but unlike every department and agency, DHS was at the disadvantage of not having a current funding level for its essential security functions.

There is the mistaken impression that the Department of Homeland Security is doing just fine under the continuing resolution. Some feel that, if DHS funding expires, no problem exists since approximately 85 percent of DHS personnel are deemed essential and are required to work. While it is true that frontline agents and officers, like those

at the CBP, ICE, the Coast Guard, and the Secret Service, would continue working, they would do so without being paid. Is this fair to expect these dedicated Americans to put their lives on the line without pay and the ability to care for their families? I think not, and I believe the American people would agree on the unfairness of this proposal.

A greater concern is that the Secretary of Homeland Security has warned us that not having an appropriation for 2015 is threatening our national security. Without a full year's budget, the Department is limited in its ability to advance the Secretary's unity of effort initiative to improve interagency coordination, making it more effective in achieving its security missions. It limits the Secretary's ability to implement aggressively his Southern Border and Approaches Campaign, and it creates uncertainty regarding ICE's ability to transfer unaccompanied children to HHS for humane treatment and its capacity to detain and deport dangerous criminals.

Operating under the lower allocations and uncertainty of a continuing resolution also has the potential of delaying and, ultimately, increasing the cost of needed procurements, including the acquisition of the Coast Guard's eighth National Security Cutter and badly needed security upgrades at the White House complex to prevent fence jumper intrusions.

The refusal of the Republican leadership to bring a clean Homeland Security appropriations bill for a vote delays the hiring of Secret Service personnel and the issuing of terrorism preparedness and response grants for State and local governments. This jeopardizes our first responders and other public safety personnel from being fully prepared when responding to a terrorist attack or to a natural disaster.

While I do not question the prioritization of my colleagues in protecting our country, I do worry that some fail to appreciate fully the negative impact of inappropriately using the 2015 DHS appropriations bill as leverage to reverse the President's executive actions on immigration policy. If my Republican colleagues believe the President has overreached, then the Constitution provides them a path of action through the authorizing committees rather than through an appropriations bill.

Mr. Speaker, when we are increasingly faced with the possibility of ter-

rorist threats, I urge the Republican leadership to let this House vote on the clean, bipartisan, bicameral 2015 Homeland Security appropriations bill, which was negotiated in good faith last November. This bill will pass the House and the Senate, and it will be signed by the President, enabling our Department of Homeland Security to continue to protect our country from harm. To do otherwise is a failure in our most basic responsibility as Members of Congress.

DECLASSIFY 28 PAGES OF JOINT INQUIRY REPORT OF 9/11 ATTACKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, in the last couple of weeks, the effort to declassify the 28 pages of the Joint Inquiry Report into the 9/11 attacks has received a lot of media attention, mainly because of Zacarias Moussaoui's recent comments exposing the financial link between the Saudi royal family and al Qaeda.

In 2002, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, chaired by Senator Bob Graham, and the House Committee on Intelligence, chaired by Congressman Porter Goss, released the Joint Inquiry report into the 9/11 attacks. In a political move, the Bush administration then classified 28 pages of the report even though the contents of those 28 pages posed no national security risk to the United States. Rather, the contents of those 28 pages are probably embarrassing for the Bush administration. Senator Graham has repeatedly called for the 28 pages to be declassified as a result.

I have read the 28 pages and cannot divulge what is in them, but I can say that the contents deal with relationships. Senator Graham has openly said that the 28 pages deal with the Bush administration's relationships with the Saudis. My colleagues Congressman STEPHEN LYNCH from Massachusetts and Congressman THOMAS MASSIE from Kentucky, who have also read the 28 pages, have joined me in introducing H. Res. 14, to urge the President to keep his word to the 9/11 families and declassify the 28 pages, which he could do with a stroke of a pen.

The movement to declassify the 28 pages is picking up momentum. Just last week, former Speaker of the House of Representatives Newt Gingrich tweeted his support for declassifying

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the 28 pages to 1.5 million of his followers. All of the principal players in producing the reports on the 9/11 attacks have called for the declassification of the 28 pages—Senator Bob Graham, Senator RICHARD SHELBY, Congressman Porter Goss, Congressman Tom Kean, and Congressman Lee Hamilton. I urge my colleagues to submit to the House Intelligence Committee a request to read the 28 pages and to join me, Congressman LYNCH, and Congressman MASSIE in supporting H. Res. 14 as a cosponsor.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that the 28 pages are declassified. The 9/11 families have a right to this information in the 28 pages, and the American people deserve to know the truth about what caused the 9/11 attacks. For more information on this effort to declassify the 28 pages, visit 28pages.org.

May God continue to bless America, and may God continue to bless our men and women in uniform.

SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight two important new reports released today by the Food Research and Action Center, or FRAC, on the School Breakfast Program. FRAC's reports—the School Breakfast Scorecard, and School Breakfast: Making it Work in Large School Districts—show that we have made progress in expanding access to school breakfast but that work remains to be done.

During the 2013–2014 school year, 11.2 million students received a healthy school breakfast on the average school-day. That is an average of 320,000 more students per day who received school breakfasts than the year before. The reports show that more students than ever are participating in the School Breakfast Program and are receiving healthy breakfasts on schooldays. We have made real progress in making sure that students who are eligible receive breakfast. The School Breakfast Program, along with the National School Lunch Program, are critically important antihunger programs that ensure that our most vulnerable children don't go hungry.

Mr. Speaker, there is truth to the old adage that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Research shows that students who eat healthy breakfasts have improved test scores, miss fewer days of school, and make fewer trips to the nurse's office; but for many students, they begin their schooldays on an empty stomach, with the last meal eaten having been yesterday's school lunch. Monday mornings are especially difficult for students from families who are struggling to put food on their tables at home. They may

have gone the entire weekend without eating a full or a balanced meal. Recent data from the Census Bureau show that one in five children received SNAP, or food stamp benefits, last year. Too many of our children don't know where their next meals will come from, making the meals they count on in school all the more important.

Our economy is still recovering from the Great Recession, and economic gains are uneven, especially among low-income families. Too many families are still operating with tight family budgets and are struggling to pay the bills and to put enough nutritious food on the table. I am sure that all of us can relate to the hectic morning rush to get kids and parents out the door on time in the mornings, especially when both parents are working to try to make ends meet.

Mr. Speaker, one of the best attributes of the School Breakfast Program is the flexibility the schools have to design programs that work for their own students and their own schools. The FRAC reports highlight a number of ways that school districts have successfully made the School Breakfast Program work for them:

Some schools have breakfast in the classroom, where the students can eat healthy breakfasts at their desks while getting ready for the day. School districts with a high proportion of low-income students can qualify for a community eligibility provision, by which all students in the school can receive free breakfasts and lunches. Still other schools serve a traditional breakfast in the cafeteria at the start of the day.

Regardless of the model used, the School Breakfast Program ensures that students, especially low-income students, are ready to learn and aren't distracted by hunger.

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 provided many important updates to the School Breakfast Program, including improving nutrition standards. Last year was the first year that the new nutrition standards were in place. Despite some of the buzz about students not liking the new meals, more students are participating in the School Breakfast Program than ever before. Not only are more students eating breakfast, but they are eating a healthier breakfast.

Mr. Speaker, investing in our children by making sure they don't go hungry and by providing them with a world-class education is the best down-payment we can make for our future economic success. As this Congress begins the process of reauthorizing the school nutrition programs, we must continue to build upon the gains and participation and improvements in nutrition standards that we have made in the School Breakfast Program. It would be foolish to roll back nutrition standards just because special interests or some students don't like them.

Today's FRAC reports show that we are doing a better job in making sure that kids start their day with a healthy breakfast but that there is more work to be done. For every 100 kids who receive free school lunches, only 53 receive school breakfasts. We must do more to expand the School Breakfast Program and increase participation so that all students who qualify for free and reduced priced lunches have the opportunity to receive healthy school breakfasts.

□ 1215

Mr. Speaker, we can and should do more to end hunger now, and expanding and strengthening the School Breakfast Program is an important step in that direction.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ERLE EDWARDS BARHAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Erle Edwards Barham, a man who dedicated his life to public service in northeast Louisiana.

Edwards tragically passed away in October. His memory will carry on with his family and friends, and the agricultural community will honor him in March as the newest inductee to the Louisiana Agriculture Hall of Distinction. If you look at his life's work, it is easy to see why.

Edwards grew up in Oak Ridge and held degrees from Louisiana State University and the University of Louisiana at Monroe. He farmed cotton, rice, soybeans, and corn in the fields of Louisiana and Mississippi, sowing the initial seeds that would grow into his legacy as a truly great agricultural leader.

His contributions to the agriculture community include service in the Louisiana Cotton Producers Association and the Northeast Louisiana Rice Growers Association. He founded Flying Tiger Aviation, one of the Nation's premier agriculture flight schools, which provides an invaluable service to my district, one of the largest row crop districts in the Nation.

Edwards left his mark on Louisiana history as well. In 1975, he became the first Republican in modern times to be elected to the State senate, a position he pursued so he could create a better life for all Louisianans.

Edwards valued education. He served on the Louisiana Board of Regents, the University of Louisiana System Board of Supervisors, and the Louisiana Community and Technical College System Board of Supervisors.

Edwards and his wife, Bennie Berry Barham, were married for 56 years. They had four children: the late Ben

Edwards Barham, II; Erle West Barham; Robert Berry Barham; and Amy Barham Westbrook. He was also loved by a number of grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, Louisiana is a better place today because of the contributions that Edwards Barham made to our community. I am honored to have called him a friend, and I know he will be greatly missed.

HOUSE VOTE ON KEYSTONE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, the House of Representatives is expected to vote on Senate-passed legislation—something that has already passed out of the House—that would immediately authorize the construction and operation of the Keystone XL pipeline.

For the past 6 years, President Obama has hidden behind political motives to delay a decision on the pipeline. While this administration has continued to engage in partisan politics, the American people have missed out on lower energy costs, thousands of new jobs, billions of new tax revenue, and a heightened level of energy security that would have been created by the pipeline's approval.

As the father of an Army soldier who was wounded in the Middle East, I believe that we should do everything we can to end dependence on Middle East energy.

This isn't about whether President Obama wins or loses. This is about doing what is right for the American people. The Keystone project is about ensuring a reliable energy source from our allies to the north—Canada—while creating tens of thousands of American jobs in the process. Approving the Keystone XL will also help to substantially reduce our imports from overseas.

Later this week, the President will have an opportunity to put politics aside, show real leadership, and sign the Keystone XL pipeline into law. Unfortunately, a veto threat still looms.

Mr. Speaker, this country needs a responsible, affordable, and reliable energy supply. The American people deserve as much. The approval of the Keystone XL pipeline is a great first step.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 19 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HILL) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving and gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Help us this day to draw closer to You so that, with Your spirit and aware of Your presence among us, we may all face the tasks of this day with grace and confidence.

Bless the Members of the people's House as they return from their home districts.

May these decisive days through which we are living make them genuine enough to maintain their integrity, great enough to be humble, good enough to keep their faith, always regarding public office as a sacred trust. Give them the wisdom and the courage to fail not their fellow citizens nor You.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KILDEE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

AMERICAN-GERMAN RELATIONS

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as cochair of the German-American Caucus, I rise to highlight this important juncture in European security strategy, the shared economic opportunities, and the future prosperity of both nations.

Yesterday, German Chancellor Angela Merkel visited the United States for bilateral meetings with the Obama administration. While the primary topic was mutual security, the visit also afforded an opportunity to display

the strong ties between our two great countries.

This relationship is immediately visible through the thousands of businesses, on both sides of the Atlantic, which provide employment and help support local economies. As two of the world's largest economies, opportunities for trade and investment are plentiful. Annually, hundreds of thousands of tourists from our respective nations travel to experience the landmarks, culture, and elements that define both as nations.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I speak for many of my colleagues when I say that Chancellor Merkel's visit was certainly welcomed, and we look forward to building on our relationship.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, there are only 18 days left until the Department of Homeland Security runs out of money and shuts down on February 28.

The Republican leadership, unfortunately, is still wasting time in this body in their appealing to the extremists within their party rather than addressing these important challenges that our country faces. The Republicans' extreme anti-immigration DHS funding bill is dead on arrival in the Senate, as they know. Border security experts have referred to the bill as ineffective, not serious, and dangerous for our Nation's security. Instead of coming together with Democrats in a bipartisan fashion to address the DHS funding issue and ensure the security of American families, we continue to see the House squander time, moving even further to the right in order to appease the most extreme voices.

At some point in time, Mr. Speaker, we have to end the politics and get down to the business of the American people. Please, please join Democrats and Republicans to protect the American people and fund the Department of Homeland Security immediately. Then we can focus on middle class economics, which can create bigger paychecks for all Americans and build new infrastructure, and we can get back to the work of the American people.

MAKING PERMANENT THE CONSERVATION EASEMENT TAX INCENTIVE

(Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because this House has an important job to finish, one that involves providing some certainty for our family farmers and property owners at all income levels. It is

the conservation easement legislation, which will make the incentive permanent. It was sponsored in past sessions by over 300 Members of this House and by many Members in the Senate.

The conservation easement incentive has enabled property owners across the country to voluntarily preserve their land. In some cases, the availability of the tax credit means the difference between keeping a family farm or selling it. In my time as township supervisor and as county commissioner in Chester County, one of my top priorities was preserving farmland and natural resources, but it required the collaboration and the financial wherewithal of the landowner. The conservation easement legislation that we seek to make permanent will enable more of that to happen.

Organizations in my district, like the Berks County Conservancy, the Natural Lands Trust, the Brandywine Conservancy, and the French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust, have all been very, very helpful in making Berks, Chester, Lebanon, and Montgomery Counties great places to live and raise a family. Families cannot make long-term decisions with short-term extensions about what is probably their most important, valuable assets. So let's finish our job, Mr. Speaker, and commit to making this the year we make permanent the Federal conservation easement tax incentive.

STEM GATEWAYS ACT

(Mr. KENNEDY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, our country's economic forecast continues to improve, which is a good thing, but we do risk leaving far too many people behind as we come out of a recession. That is an issue for us all.

STEM education—science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—is a critical vehicle in making sure that all Americans have access to the economic gains that will power our country for the next generation. Over the next 10 years, STEM jobs will grow at normally double the rate of non-STEM jobs, and at all levels of education, STEM careers earn about 11 percent higher wages compared to their counterparts in other jobs.

Mr. Speaker, this is an enormous opportunity, but, to date, our efforts around STEM education have left huge segments of our population behind. Combined, Hispanics and African Americans only occupy about 13 percent of all STEM jobs. While women make up nearly half of the workforce overall, only 26 percent of STEM jobs are held by women. In 2013, there were 11 States in which not a single African American student took a computer science advanced placement test, and

there were eight States in which no Hispanic students did and three States in which no women did.

Mr. Speaker, this is a challenge for us all. With this in mind, I rise, along with Representative TONKO and Senator GILLIBRAND, to introduce the STEM Gateways Act, which will try to make sure that access to the jobs of tomorrow is spread to all Americans.

OPPORTUNITY ECONOMY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the first month of the 114th Congress has been a busy one as House Republicans have gotten right to work in tackling the difficult issues facing the Nation.

We started off the new year by passing two pieces of bipartisan legislation designed to minimize the consequences caused by ObamaCare. We also approved three bills that will help us on our way to energy independence and that will increase access to affordable North American oil. The House acted swiftly to defund in their entirety the President's executive actions on illegal aliens, and we passed legislation that would ensure that veterans who may be struggling will have access to the mental health care services and support they need.

While House Republicans have accomplished a great deal in a relatively short time, there is still much work to do. We are focused on growing our economy from the ground up, not from the top down, to help get people back to work and restore opportunity for everyone.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, every single day, our national security personnel work tirelessly to protect Americans from harm. At a time of renewed threats from ISIS around the world and with the recent attacks in France, these men and women have done the tremendous job of keeping our country safe; but unless Congress acts in 17 days, the Department of Homeland Security will run out of funding.

Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson has warned that 30,000 Homeland Security workers will be furloughed, and the rest will be forced to work without pay. Is this really how our government should treat its employees on the front line of our national security system?

In an effort to roll back President Obama's executive action on immigration, House Republicans have attached toxic policy riders to their Department of Homeland Security bill. The Repub-

lican-controlled Senate has rejected this bill three times, but rather than taking up clean legislation to provide our frontline personnel with the resources they need to protect our country, they instead are attaching all of these toxic riders.

House Republicans continue to play political games with our national security. I call on my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to stop putting politics ahead of the safety of American families and fund the Department of Homeland Security immediately.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, a million jobs were created in the last 3 months; the deficit is down, and the stock market is up; but instead of building on this progress, the Republican Party is again threatening a partial government shutdown. This time, it is the Department of Homeland Security. We don't have many days left.

Why? Because the anti-immigrant fringe of the majority party disagrees with the President's decision to address our broken immigration system. If they don't get their way, they would stop paying our Border Patrol agents, stop paying our TSA security screeners at airports, stop paying the Coast Guard and Secret Service. The men and women who work to keep us secure would have to worry about how they would feed their families instead of protecting our country.

This is dangerous to our security and to our economy. I urge my colleagues to let common sense prevail and pass a clean Department of Homeland Security bill. The American people deserve their security.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 9, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 9, 2015 at 1:15 p.m.:

Appointment:
United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control.
With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 10, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 10, 2015 at 11:39 a.m.:

Appointment:
Washington's Farewell Address.
With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1634

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CARTER of Georgia) at 4 o'clock and 34 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION AU- THORIZATION ACT OF 2015

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 810) to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 810

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2015”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

Sec. 101. Fiscal year 2015.

TITLE II—HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT

Subtitle A—Exploration

Sec. 201. Space exploration policy.

Sec. 202. Stepping stone approach to exploration.

Sec. 203. Space Launch System.

Sec. 204. Orion crew capsule.

Sec. 205. Space radiation.

Sec. 206. Planetary protection for human exploration missions.

Subtitle B—Space Operations

Sec. 211. International Space Station.

Sec. 212. Barriers impeding enhanced utilization of the ISS's National Laboratory by commercial companies.

Sec. 213. Utilization of International Space Station for science missions.

Sec. 214. International Space Station cargo resupply services lessons learned.

Sec. 215. Commercial crew program.

Sec. 216. Space communications.

TITLE III—SCIENCE

Subtitle A—General

Sec. 301. Science portfolio.

Sec. 302. Radioisotope power systems.

Sec. 303. Congressional declaration of policy and purpose.

Sec. 304. University class science missions.

Sec. 305. Assessment of science mission extensions.

Subtitle B—Astrophysics

Sec. 311. Decadal cadence.

Sec. 312. Extrasolar planet exploration strategy.

Sec. 313. James Webb Space Telescope.

Sec. 314. National Reconnaissance Office telescope donation.

Sec. 315. Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope.

Sec. 316. Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy.

Subtitle C—Planetary Science

Sec. 321. Decadal cadence.

Sec. 322. Near-Earth objects.

Sec. 323. Near-Earth objects public-private partnerships.

Sec. 324. Research on near-earth object tsunami effects.

Sec. 325. Astrobiology strategy.

Sec. 326. Astrobiology public-private partnerships.

Sec. 327. Assessment of Mars architecture.

Subtitle D—Heliophysics

Sec. 331. Decadal cadence.

Sec. 332. Review of space weather.

Subtitle E—Earth Science

Sec. 341. Goal.

Sec. 342. Decadal cadence.

Sec. 343. Venture class missions.

Sec. 344. Assessment.

TITLE IV—AERONAUTICS

Sec. 401. Sense of Congress.

Sec. 402. Aeronautics research goals.

Sec. 403. Unmanned aerial systems research and development.

Sec. 404. Research program on composite materials used in aeronautics.

Sec. 405. Hypersonic research.

Sec. 406. Supersonic research.

Sec. 407. Research on NextGen airspace management concepts and tools.

Sec. 408. Rotorcraft research.

Sec. 409. Transformative aeronautics research.

Sec. 410. Study of United States leadership in aeronautics research.

TITLE V—SPACE TECHNOLOGY

Sec. 501. Sense of Congress.

Sec. 502. Space Technology Program.

Sec. 503. Utilization of the International Space Station for technology demonstrations.

TITLE VI—EDUCATION

Sec. 601. Education.

Sec. 602. Independent review of the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program.

Sec. 603. Sense of Congress.

TITLE VII—POLICY PROVISIONS

Sec. 701. Asteroid Retrieval Mission.

Sec. 702. Termination liability sense of Congress.

Sec. 703. Baseline and cost controls.

Sec. 704. Project and program reserves.

Sec. 705. Independent reviews.

Sec. 706. Commercial technology transfer program.

Sec. 707. National Aeronautics and Space Administration Advisory Council.

Sec. 708. Cost estimation.

Sec. 709. Avoiding organizational conflicts of interest in major Administration acquisition programs.

Sec. 710. Facilities and infrastructure.

Sec. 711. Detection and avoidance of counterfeit electronic parts.

Sec. 712. Space Act Agreements.

Sec. 713. Human spaceflight accident investigations.

Sec. 714. Fullest commercial use of space.

Sec. 715. Orbital debris.

Sec. 716. Review of orbital debris removal concepts.

Sec. 717. Use of operational commercial sub-orbital vehicles for research, development, and education.

Sec. 718. Fundamental space life and physical sciences research.

Sec. 719. Restoring commitment to engineering research.

Sec. 720. Liquid rocket engine development program.

Sec. 721. Remote satellite servicing demonstrations.

Sec. 722. Information technology governance.

Sec. 723. Strengthening Administration security.

Sec. 724. Prohibition on use of funds for contractors that have committed fraud or other crimes.

Sec. 725. Protection of Apollo landing sites.

Sec. 726. Astronaut occupational healthcare.

Sec. 727. Sense of Congress on access to observational data sets.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term “Administration” means the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Administration.

(3) ORION CREW CAPSULE.—The term “Orion crew capsule” means the multipurpose crew vehicle described in section 303 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18323).

(4) SPACE ACT AGREEMENT.—The term “Space Act Agreement” means an agreement created under the authority to enter into “other transactions” under section 20113(e) of title 51, United States Code.

(5) **SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM.**—The term “Space Launch System” means the follow-on Government-owned civil launch system developed, managed, and operated by the Administration to serve as a key component to expand human presence beyond low-Earth orbit, as described in section 302 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322).

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 101. FISCAL YEAR 2015.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administration for fiscal year 2015 \$18,010,200,000 as follows:

(1) For Space Exploration, \$4,356,700,000, of which—

(A) \$1,700,000,000 shall be for the Space Launch System;

(B) \$351,300,000 shall be for Exploration Ground Systems;

(C) \$1,194,000,000 shall be for the Orion crew capsule;

(D) \$306,400,000 shall be for Exploration Research and Development; and

(E) \$805,000,000 shall be for Commercial Crew Development activities.

(2) For Space Operations, \$3,827,800,000.

(3) For Science, \$5,244,700,000, of which—

(A) \$1,772,500,000 shall be for Earth Science;

(B) \$1,437,800,000 shall be for Planetary Science, with up to \$30,000,000 for the Astrobiology Institute;

(C) \$684,800,000 shall be for Astrophysics;

(D) \$645,400,000 shall be for the James Webb Space Telescope;

(E) \$662,200,000 shall be for Heliophysics; and

(F) \$42,000,000 shall be for Education.

(4) For Aeronautics, \$651,000,000.

(5) For Space Technology, \$596,000,000.

(6) For Education, \$119,000,000.

(7) For Safety, Security, and Mission Services, \$2,758,900,000.

(8) For Construction and Environmental Compliance and Restoration, \$419,100,000.

(9) For Inspector General, \$37,000,000.

TITLE II—HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT

Subtitle A—Exploration

SEC. 201. SPACE EXPLORATION POLICY.

(a) **POLICY.**—Human exploration deeper into the solar system shall be a core mission of the Administration. It is the policy of the United States that the goal of the Administration’s exploration program shall be to successfully conduct a crewed mission to the surface of Mars to begin human exploration of that planet. The use of the surface of the Moon, cis-lunar space, near-Earth asteroids, Lagrangian points, and Martian moons may be pursued provided they are properly incorporated into the Human Exploration Roadmap described in section 70504 of title 51, United States Code.

(b) **VISION FOR SPACE EXPLORATION.**—Section 20302 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **ORION CREW CAPSULE.**—The term ‘Orion crew capsule’ means the multipurpose crew vehicle described in section 303 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18323).

“(2) **SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM.**—The term ‘Space Launch System’ means the follow-on Government-owned civil launch system developed, managed, and operated by the Administration to serve as a key component to expand human presence beyond low-Earth orbit, as described in section 302 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administra-

tion Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322).”.

(c) **KEY OBJECTIVES.**—Section 202(b) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18312(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) to accelerate the development of capabilities to enable a human exploration mission to the surface of Mars and beyond through the prioritization of those technologies and capabilities best suited for such a mission in accordance with the Human Exploration Roadmap under section 70504 of title 51, United States Code.”.

(d) **USE OF NON-UNITED STATES HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT TRANSPORTATION CAPABILITIES.**—Section 201(a) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18311(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) **USE OF NON-UNITED STATES HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT TRANSPORTATION CAPABILITIES.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—NASA may not obtain non-United States human space flight capabilities unless no domestic commercial or public-private partnership provider that the Administrator has determined to meet safety and affordability requirements established by NASA for the transport of its astronauts is available to provide such capabilities.

“(2) **DEFINITION.**—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘domestic commercial provider’ means a person providing space transportation services or other space-related activities, the majority control of which is held by persons other than a Federal, State, local, or foreign government, foreign company, or foreign national.”.

(e) **REPEAL OF SPACE SHUTTLE CAPABILITY ASSURANCE.**—Section 203 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18313) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b);

(2) in subsection (d), by striking “subsection (c)” and inserting “subsection (b)”; and

(3) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (b) and (c), respectively.

SEC. 202. STEPPING STONE APPROACH TO EXPLORATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 70504 of title 51, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“**§ 70504. Stepping stone approach to exploration**

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In order to maximize the cost effectiveness of the long-term space exploration and utilization activities of the United States, the Administrator shall direct the Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate, or its successor division, to develop a Human Exploration Roadmap to define the specific capabilities and technologies necessary to extend human presence to the surface of Mars and the sets and sequences of missions required to demonstrate such capabilities and technologies.

“(b) **INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION.**—The President should invite the United States partners in the International Space Station program and other nations, as appropriate, to participate in an international initiative under the leadership of the United States to achieve the goal of successfully conducting a crewed mission to the surface of Mars.

“(c) **ROADMAP REQUIREMENTS.**—In developing the Human Exploration Roadmap, the Administrator shall—

“(1) include the specific set of capabilities and technologies that contribute to extending human presence to the surface of Mars and the sets and sequences of missions necessary to demonstrate the proficiency of these capabilities and technologies with an emphasis on using or not using the International Space Station, lunar landings, cis-lunar space, trans-lunar space, Lagrangian points, and the natural satellites of Mars, Phobos and Deimos, as testbeds, as necessary, and shall include the most appropriate process for developing such capabilities and technologies;

“(2) include information on the phasing of planned intermediate destinations, Mars mission risk areas and potential risk mitigation approaches, technology requirements and phasing of required technology development activities, the management strategy to be followed, related International Space Station activities, and planned international collaborative activities, potential commercial contributions, and other activities relevant to the achievement of the goal established in section 201(a) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2015;

“(3) describe those technologies already under development across the Federal Government or by nongovernment entities which meet or exceed the needs described in paragraph (1);

“(4) provide a specific process for the evolution of the capabilities of the fully integrated Orion crew capsule with the Space Launch System and how these systems demonstrate the capabilities and technologies described in paragraph (1);

“(5) provide a description of the capabilities and technologies that need to be demonstrated or research data that could be gained through the utilization of the International Space Station and the status of the development of such capabilities and technologies;

“(6) describe a framework for international cooperation in the development of all technologies and capabilities required in this section, as well as an assessment of the risks posed by relying on international partners for capabilities and technologies on the critical path of development;

“(7) describe a process for utilizing nongovernmental entities for future human exploration beyond lunar landings and cis-lunar space and specify what, if any, synergy could be gained from—

“(A) partnerships using Space Act Agreements (as defined in section 2 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2015); or

“(B) other acquisition instruments;

“(8) include in the Human Exploration Roadmap an addendum from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Advisory Council, and an addendum from the Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel, each with a statement of review of the Human Exploration Roadmap that shall include—

“(A) subjects of agreement;

“(B) areas of concern; and

“(C) recommendations; and

“(9) include in the Human Exploration Roadmap an examination of the benefits of utilizing current Administration launch facilities for trans-lunar missions.

“(d) **UPDATES.**—The Administrator shall update such Human Exploration Roadmap as needed but no less frequently than every 2 years and include it in the budget for that

fiscal year transmitted to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, and describe—

“(1) the achievements and goals reached in the process of developing such capabilities and technologies during the 2-year period prior to the submission of the update to Congress; and

“(2) the expected goals and achievements in the following 2-year period.

“(e) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section, the terms ‘Orion crew capsule’ and ‘Space Launch System’ have the meanings given such terms in section 20302.”.

(b) **REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a copy of the Human Exploration Roadmap developed under section 70504 of title 51, United States Code, to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(2) **UPDATES.**—The Administrator shall transmit a copy of each updated Human Exploration Roadmap to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than 7 days after such Human Exploration Roadmap is updated.

SEC. 203. SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds that—

(1) the Space Launch System is the most practical approach to reaching the Moon, Mars, and beyond, and Congress reaffirms the policy and minimum capability requirements for the Space Launch System contained in section 302 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322);

(2) the primary goal for the design of the fully integrated Space Launch System, including an upper stage needed to go beyond low-Earth orbit, is to safely carry a total payload to enable human space exploration of the Moon, Mars, and beyond over the course of the next century as required in section 302(c) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322(c)); and

(3) in order to promote safety and reduce programmatic risk, the Administrator shall budget for and undertake a robust ground test and uncrewed and crewed flight test and demonstration program for the Space Launch System and the Orion crew capsule and shall budget for an operational flight rate sufficient to maintain safety and operational readiness.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the President's annual budget requests for the Space Launch System and Orion crew capsule development, test, and operational phases should strive to accurately reflect the resource requirements of each of those phases, consistent with the policy established in section 201(a) of this Act.

(c) **IN GENERAL.**—Given the critical importance of a heavy-lift launch vehicle and crewed spacecraft to enable the achievement of the goal established in section 201(a) of this Act, as well as the accomplishment of intermediate exploration milestones and the provision of a backup capability to transfer crew and cargo to the International Space Station, the Administrator shall make the expeditious development, test, and achievement of operational readiness of the Space Launch System and the Orion crew capsule the highest priority of the exploration program.

(d) **GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REVIEW.**—Not later than 270 days after the

date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the Administration's acquisition of ground systems in support of the Space Launch System. The report shall assess the extent to which ground systems acquired in support of the Space Launch System are focused on the direct support of the Space Launch System and shall identify any ground support projects or activities that the Administration is undertaking that do not solely or primarily support the Space Launch System.

(e) **UTILIZATION REPORT.**—The Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence, shall prepare a report that addresses the effort and budget required to enable and utilize a cargo variant of the 130-ton Space Launch System configuration described in section 302(c) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322(c)). This report shall also include consideration of the technical requirements of the scientific and national security communities related to such Space Launch System and shall directly assess the utility and estimated cost savings obtained by using such Space Launch System for national security and space science missions. The Administrator shall transmit such report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(f) **NAMING COMPETITION.**—Beginning not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act and concluding not later than 1 year after such date of enactment, the Administrator shall conduct a well-publicized competition among students in elementary and secondary schools to name the elements of the Administration's exploration program, including—

(1) a name for the deep space human exploration program as a whole, which includes the Space Launch System, the Orion crew capsule, and future missions; and

(2) a name for the Space Launch System.

(g) **ADVANCED BOOSTER COMPETITION.**—

(1) **REPORT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Associate Administrator of the Administration shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that—

(A) describes the estimated total development cost of an advanced booster for the Space Launch System;

(B) details any reductions or increases to the development cost of the Space Launch System which may result from conducting a competition for an advanced booster; and

(C) outlines any potential schedule delay to the Space Launch System 2017 Exploration Mission-1 launch as a result of increased costs associated with conducting a competition for an advanced booster.

(2) **COMPETITION.**—If the Associate Administrator reports reductions pursuant to paragraph (1)(B), and no adverse schedule impact pursuant to paragraph (1)(C), then the Administration shall conduct a full and open competition for an advanced booster for the Space Launch System to meet the requirements described in section 302(c) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administra-

tion Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322(c)), to begin as soon as practicable after the development of the upper stage has been initiated.

SEC. 204. ORION CREW CAPSULE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Orion crew capsule shall meet the practical needs and the minimum capability requirements described in section 303 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18323).

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate—

(1) detailing those components and systems of the Orion crew capsule that ensure it is in compliance with section 303(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 18323(b));

(2) detailing the expected date that the Orion crew capsule will be available to transport crew and cargo to the International Space Station; and

(3) certifying that the requirements of section 303(b)(3) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 18323(b)(3)) will be met by the Administration.

SEC. 205. SPACE RADIATION.

(a) **STRATEGY AND PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall develop a space radiation mitigation and management strategy and implementation plan to enable the achievement of the goal established in section 201 that includes key research and monitoring requirements, milestones, a timetable, and an estimate of facility and budgetary requirements.

(2) **COORDINATION.**—The strategy shall include a mechanism for coordinating Administration research, technology, facilities, engineering, operations, and other functions required to support the strategy and plan.

(3) **TRANSMITTAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit the strategy and plan to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(b) **SPACE RADIATION RESEARCH FACILITIES.**—The Administrator, in consultation with the heads of other appropriate Federal agencies, shall assess the national capabilities for carrying out critical ground-based research on space radiation biology and shall identify any issues that could affect the ability to carry out that research.

SEC. 206. PLANETARY PROTECTION FOR HUMAN EXPLORATION MISSIONS.

(a) **STUDY.**—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies for a study to explore the planetary protection ramifications of potential future missions by astronauts such as to the lunar polar regions, near-Earth asteroids, the moons of Mars, and the surface of Mars.

(b) **SCOPE.**—The study shall—

(1) collate and summarize what has been done to date with respect to planetary protection measures to be applied to potential human missions such as to the lunar polar regions, near-Earth asteroids, the moons of Mars, and the surface of Mars;

(2) identify and document planetary protection concerns associated with potential human missions such as to the lunar polar regions, near-Earth asteroids, the moons of Mars, and the surface of Mars;

(3) develop a methodology, if possible, for defining and classifying the degree of concern associated with each likely destination;

(4) assess likely methodologies for addressing planetary protection concerns; and

(5) identify areas for future research to reduce current uncertainties.

(c) **COMPLETION DATE.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall provide the results of the study to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

Subtitle B—Space Operations

SEC. 211. INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

(1) The International Space Station is an ideal testbed for future exploration systems development, including long-duration space travel.

(2) The use of the private market to provide cargo and crew transportation services is currently the most expeditious process to restore domestic access to the International Space Station and low-Earth orbit.

(3) Government access to low-Earth orbit is paramount to the continued success of the International Space Station and National Laboratory.

(b) **IN GENERAL.**—The following is the policy of the United States:

(1) The United States International Space Station program shall have two primary objectives: supporting achievement of the goal established in section 201 of this Act and pursuing a research program that advances knowledge and provides benefits to the Nation. It shall continue to be the policy of the United States to, in consultation with its international partners in the International Space Station program, support full and complete utilization of the International Space Station.

(2) The International Space Station shall be utilized to the maximum extent practicable for the development of capabilities and technologies needed for the future of human exploration beyond low-Earth orbit and shall be considered in the development of the Human Exploration Roadmap developed under section 70504 of title 51, United States Code.

(3) The Administrator shall, in consultation with the International Space Station partners—

(A) take all necessary measures to support the operation and full utilization of the International Space Station; and

(B) seek to minimize, to the extent practicable, the operating costs of the International Space Station.

(4) Reliance on foreign carriers for crew transfer is unacceptable, and the Nation's human space flight program must acquire the capability to launch United States astronauts on United States rockets from United States soil as soon as is safe and practically possible, whether on Government-owned and operated space transportation systems or privately owned systems that have been certified for flight by the appropriate Federal agencies.

(c) **REAFFIRMATION OF POLICY.**—Congress reaffirms—

(1) its commitment to the development of a commercially developed launch and delivery system to the International Space Station for crew missions as expressed in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-155), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-422), and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-267);

(2) that the Administration shall make use of United States commercially provided International Space Station crew transfer and crew rescue services to the maximum extent practicable;

(3) that the Orion crew capsule shall provide an alternative means of delivery of crew and cargo to the International Space Station, in the event other vehicles, whether commercial vehicles or partner-supplied vehicles, are unable to perform that function; and

(4) the policy stated in section 501(b) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18351(b)) that the Administration shall pursue international, commercial, and intragovernmental means to maximize International Space Station logistics supply, maintenance, and operational capabilities, reduce risks to International Space Station systems sustainability, and offset and minimize United States operations costs relating to the International Space Station.

(d) **ASSURED ACCESS TO LOW-EARTH ORBIT.**—Section 70501(a) of title 51, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(a) **POLICY STATEMENT.**—It is the policy of the United States to maintain an uninterrupted capability for human space flight and operations in low-Earth orbit, and beyond, as an essential instrument of national security and the capability to ensure continued United States participation and leadership in the exploration and utilization of space.”.

(e) **REPEALS.**—

(1) **USE OF SPACE SHUTTLE OR ALTERNATIVES.**—Chapter 701 of title 51, United States Code, and the item relating to such chapter in the table of chapters for such title, are repealed.

(2) **SHUTTLE PRICING POLICY FOR COMMERCIAL AND FOREIGN USERS.**—Chapter 703 of title 51, United States Code, and the item relating to such chapter in the table of chapters for such title, are repealed.

(3) **SHUTTLE PRIVATIZATION.**—Section 50133 of title 51, United States Code, and the item relating to such section in the table of sections for chapter 501 of such title, are repealed.

(f) **EXTENSION CRITERIA REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the feasibility of extending the operation of the International Space Station that includes—

(1) criteria for defining the International Space Station as a research success;

(2) any necessary contributions to enabling execution of the Human Exploration Roadmap developed under section 70504 of title 51, United States Code;

(3) cost estimates for operating the International Space Station to achieve the criteria required under paragraph (1);

(4) cost estimates for extending operations to 2024 and 2030;

(5) an assessment of how the defined criteria under paragraph (1) respond to the National Academies Decadal Survey on Biological and Physical Sciences in Space; and

(6) an identification of the actions and cost estimate needed to deorbit the International Space Station once a decision is made to deorbit the laboratory.

(g) **STRATEGIC PLAN FOR INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION RESEARCH.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in consultation with the Administrator, academia,

other Federal agencies, the International Space Station National Laboratory Advisory Committee, and other potential stakeholders, shall develop and transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a strategic plan for conducting competitive, peer-reviewed research in physical and life sciences and related technologies on the International Space Station through at least 2020.

(2) **PLAN REQUIREMENTS.**—The strategic plan shall—

(A) be consistent with the priorities and recommendations established by the National Academies in its Decadal Survey on Biological and Physical Sciences in Space;

(B) provide a research timeline and identify resource requirements for its implementation, including the facilities and instrumentation necessary for the conduct of such research; and

(C) identify—

(i) criteria for the proposed research, including—

(I) a justification for the research to be carried out in the space microgravity environment;

(II) the use of model systems;

(III) the testing of flight hardware to understand and ensure its functioning in the microgravity environment;

(IV) the use of controls to help distinguish among the direct and indirect effects of microgravity, among other effects of the flight or space environment;

(V) approaches for facilitating data collection, analysis, and interpretation;

(VI) procedures to ensure repetition of experiments, as needed;

(VII) support for timely presentation of the peer-reviewed results of the research;

(VIII) defined metrics for the success of each study; and

(IX) how these activities enable the Human Exploration Roadmap described in section 70504 of title 51, United States Code;

(ii) instrumentation required to support the measurements and analysis of the research to be carried out under the strategic plan;

(iii) the capabilities needed to support direct, real-time communications between astronauts working on research experiments onboard the International Space Station and the principal investigator on the ground;

(iv) a process for involving the external user community in research planning, including planning for relevant flight hardware and instrumentation, and for utilization of the International Space Station, free flyers, or other research platforms;

(v) the acquisition strategy the Administration plans to use to acquire any new support capabilities which are not operational on the International Space Station as of the date of enactment of this Act, and the criteria the Administration will apply if less than full and open competition is selected; and

(vi) defined metrics for success of the research plan.

(3) **REPORT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the progress of the organization chosen for the management of the

International Space Station National Laboratory as directed in section 504 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18354).

(B) **SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS.**—The report shall assess the management, organization, and performance of such organization and shall include a review of the status of each of the 7 required activities listed in section 504(c) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 18354(c)).

SEC. 212. BARRIERS IMPEDING ENHANCED UTILIZATION OF THE ISS'S NATIONAL LABORATORY BY COMMERCIAL COMPANIES.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) enhanced utilization of the International Space Station's National Laboratory requires a full understanding of the barriers impeding such utilization and actions needed to be taken to remove or mitigate them to the maximum extent practicable; and

(2) doing so will allow the Administration to encourage commercial companies to invest in microgravity research using National Laboratory research facilities.

(b) **ASSESSMENT.**—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies for an assessment to—

(1) identify barriers impeding enhanced utilization of the International Space Station's National Laboratory;

(2) recommend ways to encourage commercial companies to make greater use of the International Space Station's National Laboratory, including corporate investment in microgravity research; and

(3) identify any legislative changes that may be required.

(c) **TRANSMITTAL.**—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate the results of the assessment described in subsection (b).

SEC. 213. UTILIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION FOR SCIENCE MISSIONS.

The Administrator shall utilize the International Space Station for Science Mission Directorate missions in low-Earth orbit wherever it is practical and cost effective to do so.

SEC. 214. INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION CARGO RESUPPLY SERVICES LESSONS LEARNED.

Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate that—

(1) identifies the lessons learned to date from the Commercial Resupply Services contract;

(2) indicates whether changes are needed to the manner in which the Administration procures and manages similar services upon the expiration of the existing Commercial Resupply Services contract; and

(3) identifies any lessons learned from the Commercial Resupply Services contract that should be applied to the procurement and management of commercially provided crew transfer services to and from the International Space Station.

SEC. 215. COMMERCIAL CREW PROGRAM.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that once developed and certified

to meet the Administration's safety and reliability requirements, United States commercially provided crew transportation systems offer the potential of serving as the primary means of transporting American astronauts and international partner astronauts to and from the International Space Station and serving as International Space Station emergency crew rescue vehicles. At the same time, the budgetary assumptions used by the Administration in its planning for the Commercial Crew Program have consistently assumed significantly higher funding levels than have been authorized and appropriated by Congress. It is the sense of Congress that credibility in the Administration's budgetary estimates for the Commercial Crew Program can be enhanced by an independently developed cost estimate. Such credibility in budgetary estimates is an important factor in understanding program risk.

(b) **OBJECTIVE.**—The objective of the Administration's Commercial Crew Program shall be to assist the development of at least one crew transportation system to carry Administration astronauts safely, reliably, and affordably to and from the International Space Station and to serve as an emergency crew rescue vehicle as soon as practicable within the funding levels authorized. The Administration shall not use any considerations beyond this objective in the overall acquisition strategy.

(c) **SAFETY.**—Consistent with the findings and recommendations of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board, the Administration shall ensure that safety and the minimization of the probability of loss of crew are the highest priorities of the commercial crew transportation program.

(d) **COST MINIMIZATION.**—The Administrator shall strive through the competitive selection process to minimize the life cycle cost to the Administration through the planned period of commercially provided crew transportation services.

(e) **TRANSPARENCY.**—Transparency is the cornerstone of ensuring a safe and reliable commercial crew transportation service to the International Space Station. The Administrator shall, to the greatest extent practicable, ensure that every commercial crew transportation services provider has provided evidence-based support for their costs and schedule.

(f) **INDEPENDENT COST AND SCHEDULE ESTIMATE.**—

(1) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 30 days after the Federal Acquisition Regulation-based contract for the Commercial Crew Transportation Capability Contract is awarded, the Administrator shall arrange for the initiation of an Independent Cost and Schedule Estimate for—

(A) all activities associated with the development, test, demonstration, and certification of commercial crew transportation systems;

(B) transportation and rescue services required by the Administration for International Space Station operations through calendar year 2020 or later if Administration requirements so dictate; and

(C) the estimated date of operational readiness for the program each assumption listed in paragraph (2) of this subsection.

(2) **ASSUMPTIONS.**—The Independent Cost and Schedule Estimate shall provide an estimate for each of the following scenarios:

(A) An appropriation of \$600,000,000 over the next 3 fiscal years.

(B) An appropriation of \$700,000,000 over the next 3 fiscal years.

(C) An appropriation of \$800,000,000 over the next 3 fiscal years.

(D) The funding level assumptions over the next 3 fiscal years that are included as part of commercial crew transportation capability contract awards.

(3) **TRANSMITTAL.**—Not later than 180 days after initiation of the Independent Cost and Schedule Estimate under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall transmit the results of the Independent Cost and Schedule Estimate to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(g) **IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES.**—

(1) **REPORT.**—Not later than 60 days after the completion of the Independent Cost and Schedule Estimate under subsection (f), the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report containing 4 distinct implementation strategies based on such Independent Cost and Schedule Estimate for the final stages of the commercial crew program.

(2) **REQUIREMENTS.**—These options shall include—

(A) a strategy that assumes an appropriation of \$600,000,000 over the next 3 fiscal years;

(B) a strategy that assumes an appropriation of \$700,000,000 over the next 3 fiscal years;

(C) a strategy that assumes an appropriation of \$800,000,000 over the next 3 fiscal years; and

(D) a strategy that has yet to be considered previously in any budget submission but that the Administration believes could ensure the flight readiness date of 2017 for at least one provider.

(3) **INCLUSIONS.**—Each strategy shall include the contracting instruments the Administration will employ to acquire the services in each phase of development or acquisition and the number of commercial providers the Administration will include in the program.

SEC. 216. SPACE COMMUNICATIONS.

(a) **PLAN.**—The Administrator shall develop a plan, in consultation with relevant Federal agencies, for updating the Administration's space communications and navigation architecture for low-Earth orbital and deep space operations so that it is capable of meeting the Administration's communications needs over the next 20 years. The plan shall include lifecycle cost estimates, milestones, estimated performance capabilities, and 5-year funding profiles. The plan shall also include an estimate of the amounts of any reimbursements the Administration is likely to receive from other Federal agencies during the expected life of the upgrades described in the plan. At a minimum, the plan shall include a description of the following:

(1) Steps to sustain the existing space communications and navigation network and infrastructure and priorities for how resources will be applied and cost estimates for the maintenance of existing space communications network capabilities.

(2) Upgrades needed to support space communications and navigation network and infrastructure requirements, including cost estimates and schedules and an assessment of the impact on missions if resources are not secured at the level needed.

(3) Projected space communications and navigation network requirements for the next 20 years, including those in support of human space exploration missions.

(4) Projected Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System requirements for the next 20

years, including those in support of other relevant Federal agencies, and cost and schedule estimates to maintain and upgrade the Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System to meet projected requirements.

(5) Steps the Administration is taking to meet future space communications requirements after all Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System third-generation communications satellites are operational.

(6) Steps the Administration is taking to mitigate threats to electromagnetic spectrum use.

(b) SCHEDULE.—The Administrator shall transmit the plan developed under this section to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

TITLE III—SCIENCE

Subtitle A—General

SEC. 301. SCIENCE PORTFOLIO.

(a) BALANCED AND ADEQUATELY FUNDED ACTIVITIES.—Section 803 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (124 Stat. 2832) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 803. OVERALL SCIENCE PORTFOLIO—SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.

“Congress reaffirms its sense, expressed in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010, that a balanced and adequately funded set of activities, consisting of research and analysis grants programs, technology development, small, medium, and large space missions, and suborbital research activities, contributes to a robust and productive science program and serves as a catalyst for innovation and discovery.”.

(b) DECADAL SURVEYS.—In proposing the funding of programs and activities for the Administration for each fiscal year, the Administrator shall to the greatest extent practicable follow guidance provided in the current decadal surveys from the National Academies’ Space Studies Board.

SEC. 302. RADIOISOTOPE POWER SYSTEMS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that conducting deep space exploration requires radioisotope power systems, and establishing continuity in the production of the material needed to power these systems is paramount to the success of these future deep space missions. It is further the sense of Congress that Federal agencies supporting the Administration through the production of such material should do so in a cost effective manner so as not to impose excessive reimbursement requirements on the Administration.

(b) ANALYSIS OF REQUIREMENTS AND RISKS.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Administrator, in consultation with other Federal agencies, shall conduct an analysis of—

(1) the requirements of the Administration for radioisotope power system material that is needed to carry out planned, high priority robotic missions in the solar system and other surface exploration activities beyond low-Earth orbit; and

(2) the risks to missions of the Administration in meeting those requirements, or any additional requirements, due to a lack of adequate radioisotope power system material.

(c) CONTENTS OF ANALYSIS.—The analysis conducted under subsection (b) shall—

(1) detail the Administration’s current projected mission requirements and associated

timeframes for radioisotope power system material;

(2) explain the assumptions used to determine the Administration’s requirements for the material, including—

(A) the planned use of advanced thermal conversion technology such as advanced thermocouples and Stirling generators and converters; and

(B) the risks and implications of and contingencies for any delays or unanticipated technical challenges affecting or related to the Administration’s mission plans for the anticipated use of advanced thermal conversion technology;

(3) assess the risk to the Administration’s programs of any potential delays in achieving the schedule and milestones for planned domestic production of radioisotope power system material;

(4) outline a process for meeting any additional Administration requirements for the material;

(5) estimate the incremental costs required to increase the amount of material produced each year, if such an increase is needed to support additional Administration requirements for the material;

(6) detail how the Administration and other Federal agencies will manage, operate, and fund production facilities and the design and development of all radioisotope power systems used by the Administration and other Federal agencies as necessary;

(7) specify the steps the Administration will take, in consultation with the Department of Energy, to preserve the infrastructure and workforce necessary for production of radioisotope power systems and ensure that its reimbursements to the Department of Energy associated with such preservation are equitable and justified; and

(8) detail how the Administration has implemented or rejected the recommendations from the National Research Council’s 2009 report titled “Radioisotope Power Systems: An Imperative for Maintaining U.S. Leadership in Space Exploration”.

(d) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit the results of the analysis to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 303. CONGRESSIONAL DECLARATION OF POLICY AND PURPOSE.

Section 20102(d) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(10) The direction of the unique competence of the Administration to the search for life’s origin, evolution, distribution, and future in the Universe. In carrying out this objective, the Administration may use any practicable ground-based, airborne, or space-based technical means and spectra of electromagnetic radiation.”.

SEC. 304. UNIVERSITY CLASS SCIENCE MISSIONS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that principal investigator-led small orbital science missions, including CubeSat class, University Explorer (UNEX) class, Small Explorer (SMEX) class, and Venture class, offer valuable opportunities to advance science at low cost, train the next generation of scientists and engineers, and enable participants in the program to acquire skills in systems engineering and systems integration that are critical to maintaining the Nation’s leadership in space and to enhancing the United States innovation and competitiveness abroad.

(b) REVIEW OF PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR-LED SMALL ORBITAL SCIENCE MISSIONS.—The Administrator shall conduct a review of the science missions described in subsection (a). The review shall include—

(1) the status, capability, and availability of existing small orbital science mission programs and the extent to which each program enables the participation of university scientists and students;

(2) the opportunities such mission programs provide for scientific research;

(3) the opportunities such mission programs provide for training and education, including scientific and engineering workforce development, including for the Administration’s scientific and engineering workforce; and

(4) the extent to which commercial applications such as hosted payloads, free flyers, and data buys could provide measurable benefits for such mission programs, while preserving the principle of independent peer review as the basis for mission selection.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the review required under subsection (b) and on recommendations to enhance principal investigator-led small orbital science missions conducted by the Administration in accordance with the results of the review required by subsection (b).

SEC. 305. ASSESSMENT OF SCIENCE MISSION EXTENSIONS.

Section 30504 of title 51, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 30504. Assessment of science mission extensions

“(a) ASSESSMENT.—The Administrator shall carry out biennial reviews within each of the Science divisions to assess the cost and benefits of extending the date of the termination of data collection for those missions that exceed their planned missions’ lifetime. The assessment shall take into consideration how extending missions impacts the start of future missions.

“(b) CONSULTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF INSTRUMENTS ON MISSIONS.—When deciding whether to extend a mission that has an operational component, the Administrator shall consult with any affected Federal agency and shall take into account the potential benefits of instruments on missions that are beyond their planned mission lifetime.

“(c) REPORT.—The Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, at the same time as the submission to Congress of the Administration’s annual budget request for each fiscal year, a report detailing any assessment required by subsection (a) that was carried out during the previous year.”.

Subtitle B—Astrophysics

SEC. 311. DECADAL CADENCE.

In carrying out section 301(b), the Administrator shall seek to ensure to the extent practicable a steady cadence of large, medium, and small astrophysics missions.

SEC. 312. EXTRASOLAR PLANET EXPLORATION STRATEGY.

(a) STRATEGY.—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies to develop a science strategy for

the study and exploration of extrasolar planets, including the use of the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite, the James Webb Space Telescope, a potential Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope mission, or any other telescope, spacecraft, or instrument as appropriate. Such strategy shall—

(1) outline key scientific questions;

(2) identify the most promising research in the field;

(3) indicate the extent to which the mission priorities in existing decadal surveys address the key extrasolar planet research goals;

(4) identify opportunities for coordination with international partners, commercial partners, and other not-for-profit partners; and

(5) make recommendations on the above as appropriate.

(b) **USE OF STRATEGY.**—The Administrator shall use the strategy to—

(1) inform roadmaps, strategic plans, and other activities of the Administration as they relate to extrasolar planet research and exploration; and

(2) provide a foundation for future activities and initiatives.

(c) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Academies shall transmit a report to the Administrator, and to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, containing the strategy developed under subsection (a).

SEC. 313. JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the James Webb Space Telescope will revolutionize our understanding of star and planet formation and how galaxies evolved, and advance the search for the origins of the universe;

(2) the James Webb Space Telescope will enable American scientists to maintain their leadership in astrophysics and other disciplines;

(3) the James Webb Space Telescope program is making steady progress towards a launch in 2018;

(4) the on-time and on-budget delivery of the James Webb Space Telescope is a high congressional priority; and

(5) maintaining this progress will require the Administrator to ensure that integrated testing is appropriately timed and sufficiently comprehensive to enable potential issues to be identified and addressed early enough to be handled within the James Webb Space Telescope's development schedule prior to launch.

SEC. 314. NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE TELESCOPE DONATION.

Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate outlining the cost of the Administration's potential plan for developing the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope as described in the 2010 National Academies' astronomy and astrophysics decadal survey, including an alternative plan for the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope 2.4, which includes the donated 2.4-meter aperture National Reconnaissance Office telescope. Due to the budget constraints on the Administration's science programs, this report shall include—

(1) an assessment of cost efficient approaches to develop the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope;

(2) a comparison to the development of mission concepts that exclude the utilization of the donated asset;

(3) an assessment of how the Administration's existing science missions will be affected by the utilization of the donated asset described in this section; and

(4) a description of the cost associated with storing and maintaining the donated asset.

SEC. 315. WIDE-FIELD INFRARED SURVEY TELESCOPE.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the Administrator, to the extent practicable, should make progress on the technologies and capabilities needed to position the Administration to meet the objectives of the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope mission, as outlined in the 2010 National Academies' astronomy and astrophysics decadal survey, in a way that maximizes the scientific productivity of meeting those objectives for the resources invested. It is further the sense of Congress that the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope mission has the potential to enable scientific discoveries that will transform our understanding of the universe.

(b) **CONTINUITY OF DEVELOPMENT.**—The Administrator shall ensure that the concept definition and pre-formulation activities of a Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope mission continue while the James Webb Space Telescope is being completed.

SEC. 316. STRATOSPHERIC OBSERVATORY FOR INFRARED ASTRONOMY.

The Administrator shall not use any funding appropriated to the Administration for fiscal year 2015 for the shutdown of the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy or for the preparation therefor.

Subtitle C—Planetary Science

SEC. 321. DECADAL CADENCE.

In carrying out section 301(b), the Administrator shall seek to ensure to the greatest extent practicable that the Administration carries out a balanced set of planetary science programs in accordance with the priorities established in the most recent decadal survey for planetary science. Such programs shall include, at a minimum—

(1) a Discovery-class mission at least once every 24 months;

(2) a New Frontiers-class mission at least once every 60 months; and

(3) at least one Flagship-class mission per decadal survey period, including a Europa mission with a goal of launching by 2021.

SEC. 322. NEAR-EARTH OBJECTS.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Near-Earth objects pose a serious and credible threat to humankind, as many scientists believe that a major asteroid or comet was responsible for the mass extinction of the majority of the Earth's species, including the dinosaurs, approximately 65,000,000 years ago.

(2) Similar objects have struck the Earth or passed through the Earth's atmosphere several times in the Earth's history and pose a similar threat in the future.

(3) Several such near-Earth objects have only been discovered within days of the objects' closest approach to Earth, and recent discoveries of such large objects indicate that many large near-Earth objects remain to be discovered.

(4) The efforts undertaken by the Administration for detecting and characterizing the hazards of near-Earth objects should continue to seek to fully determine the threat posed by such objects to cause widespread destruction and loss of life.

(b) **DEFINITION.**—For purposes of this section, the term "near-Earth object" means an asteroid or comet with a perihelion distance of less than 1.3 Astronomical Units from the Sun.

(c) **NEAR-EARTH OBJECT SURVEY.**—The Administrator shall continue to detect, track, catalogue, and characterize the physical characteristics of near-Earth objects equal to or greater than 140 meters in diameter in order to assess the threat of such near-Earth objects to the Earth, pursuant to the George E. Brown, Jr. Near-Earth Object Survey Act (42 U.S.C. 16691). It shall be the goal of the Survey program to achieve 90 percent completion of its near-Earth object catalogue (based on statistically predicted populations of near-Earth objects) by 2020.

(d) **WARNING AND MITIGATION OF POTENTIAL HAZARDS OF NEAR-EARTH OBJECTS.**—Congress reaffirms the policy set forth in section 20102(g) of title 51, United States Code (relating to detecting, tracking, cataloguing, and characterizing asteroids and comets).

(e) **PROGRAM REPORT.**—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, an initial report that provides—

(1) recommendations for carrying out the Survey program and an associated proposed budget;

(2) analysis of possible options that the Administration could employ to divert an object on a likely collision course with Earth; and

(3) a description of the status of efforts to coordinate and cooperate with other countries to discover hazardous asteroids and comets, plan a mitigation strategy, and implement that strategy in the event of the discovery of an object on a likely collision course with Earth.

(f) **ANNUAL REPORTS.**—Subsequent to the initial report the Administrator shall annually transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that provides—

(1) a summary of all activities carried out pursuant to subsection (c) since the date of enactment of this Act, including the progress toward achieving 90 percent completion of the survey described in subsection (c); and

(2) a summary of expenditures for all activities carried out pursuant to subsection (c) since the date of enactment of this Act.

(g) **STUDY.**—The Administrator, in collaboration with other relevant Federal agencies, shall carry out a technical and scientific assessment of the capabilities and resources to—

(1) accelerate the survey described in subsection (c); and

(2) expand the Administration's Near-Earth Object Program to include the detection, tracking, cataloguing, and characterization of potentially hazardous near-Earth objects less than 140 meters in diameter.

(h) **TRANSMITTAL.**—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit the results of the assessment carried out under subsection (g) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 323. NEAR-EARTH OBJECTS PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Administration should seek to leverage the capabilities of the private sector and philanthropic organizations to the maximum extent practicable in carrying out the Near-Earth Object Survey program in order to meet the goal of the Survey program.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing how the Administration can expand collaborative partnerships to detect, track, catalogue, and categorize near-Earth objects.

SEC. 324. RESEARCH ON NEAR-EARTH OBJECT TSUNAMI EFFECTS.

(a) REPORT ON POTENTIAL TSUNAMI EFFECTS FROM NEAR-EARTH OBJECT IMPACT.—The Administrator, in collaboration with the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other relevant agencies, shall prepare a report identifying and describing existing research activities and further research objectives that would increase our understanding of the nature of the effects of potential tsunamis that could occur if a near-Earth object were to impact an ocean of Earth.

(b) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit the report required and prepared under subsection (a) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 325. ASTROBIOLOGY STRATEGY.

(a) STRATEGY.—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies to develop a science strategy for astrobiology that would outline key scientific questions, identify the most promising research in the field, and indicate the extent to which the mission priorities in existing decadal surveys address the search for life's origin, evolution, distribution, and future in the Universe. The strategy shall include recommendations for coordination with international partners.

(b) USE OF STRATEGY.—The Administrator shall use the strategy developed under subsection (a) in planning and funding research and other activities and initiatives in the field of astrobiology.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Academies shall transmit a report to the Administrator, and to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, containing the strategy developed under subsection (a).

SEC. 326. ASTROBIOLOGY PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing how the Administration can expand collaborative partnerships to study life's origin, evolution, distribution, and future in the Universe.

SEC. 327. ASSESSMENT OF MARS ARCHITECTURE.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies to assess—

(1) the Administration's revised post-2016 Mars exploration architecture and its responsiveness to the strategies, priorities, and guidelines put forward by the National Academies' planetary science decadal surveys and other relevant National Academies Mars-related reports;

(2) the long-term goals of the Administration's Mars Exploration Program and such program's ability to optimize the science return, given the current fiscal posture of the program;

(3) the Mars architecture's relationship to Mars-related activities to be undertaken by agencies and organizations outside of the United States; and

(4) the extent to which the Mars architecture represents a reasonably balanced mission portfolio.

(b) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit the results of the assessment to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

Subtitle D—Heliophysics**SEC. 331. DECADAL CADENCE.**

In carrying out section 301(b), the Administrator shall seek to ensure to the extent practicable a steady cadence of large, medium, and small heliophysics missions.

SEC. 332. REVIEW OF SPACE WEATHER.

(a) REVIEW.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in consultation with the Administrator, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Director of the National Science Foundation, and heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies to provide a comprehensive study that reviews current and planned ground-based and space-based space weather monitoring requirements and capabilities, identifies gaps, and identifies options for a robust and resilient capability. The study shall inform the process of identifying national needs for future space weather monitoring, forecasts, and mitigation. The National Academies shall give consideration to international and private sector efforts and collaboration that could potentially contribute to national space weather needs. The study shall also review the current state of research capabilities in observing, modeling, and prediction and provide recommendations to ensure future advancement of predictive capability.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 14 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Academies shall transmit a report containing the results of the study provided under subsection (a) to the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

Subtitle E—Earth Science**SEC. 341. GOAL.**

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Administration is being asked to undertake important Earth science activities in an environment of increasingly constrained fiscal resources, and that any transfer of additional responsibilities to the Administration, such as climate instrument development and measurements that are currently part of the portfolio of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, should be accompanied by the provision of

additional resources to allow the Administration to carry out the increased responsibilities without adversely impacting its implementation of its existing Earth science programs and priorities.

(b) GENERAL.—The Administrator shall continue to carry out a balanced Earth science program that includes Earth science research, Earth systematic missions, competitive Venture class missions, other missions and data analysis, mission operations, technology development, and applied sciences, consistent with the recommendations and priorities established in the National Academies' Earth Science Decadal Survey.

(c) COLLABORATION.—The Administrator shall collaborate with other Federal agencies, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, non-government entities, and international partners, as appropriate, in carrying out the Administration's Earth science program. The Administration shall continue to develop first-of-a-kind instruments that, once proved, can be transitioned to other agencies for operations.

(d) REIMBURSEMENT.—Whenever responsibilities for the development of sensors or for measurements are transferred to the Administration from another agency, the Administration shall seek, to the extent possible, to be reimbursed for the assumption of such responsibilities.

SEC. 342. DECADAL CADENCE.

In carrying out section 341(b), the Administrator shall seek to ensure to the extent practicable a steady cadence of large, medium, and small Earth science missions.

SEC. 343. VENTURE CLASS MISSIONS.

It is the sense of Congress that the Administration's Venture class missions provide opportunities for innovation in the Earth science program, offer low-cost approaches for high-quality competitive science investigations, enable frequent flight opportunities to engage the Earth science and applications community, and serve as a training ground for students and young scientists. It is further the sense of Congress that the Administration should seek to increase the number of Venture class projects to the extent practicable as part of a balanced Earth science program.

SEC. 344. ASSESSMENT.

The Administrator shall carry out a scientific assessment of the Administration's Earth science global datasets for the purpose of identifying those datasets that are useful for understanding regional changes and variability, and for informing applied science research. The Administrator shall complete and transmit the assessment to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

TITLE IV—AERONAUTICS**SEC. 401. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) a robust aeronautics research portfolio will help maintain the United States status as a leader in aviation, enhance the competitiveness of the United States in the world economy and improve the quality of life of all citizens;

(2) aeronautics research is essential to the Administration's mission, continues to be an important core element of the Administration's mission and should be supported;

(3) the Administrator should coordinate and consult with relevant Federal agencies

and the private sector to minimize duplication and leverage resources; and

(4) carrying aeronautics research to a level of maturity that allows the Administration's research results to be transitioned to the users, whether private or public sector, is critical to their eventual adoption.

SEC. 402. AERONAUTICS RESEARCH GOALS.

The Administrator shall ensure that the Administration maintains a strong aeronautics research portfolio ranging from fundamental research through integrated systems research with specific research goals, including the following:

(1) **ENHANCE AIRSPACE OPERATIONS AND SAFETY.**—The Administration's Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate shall address research needs of the Next Generation Air Transportation System and identify critical gaps in technology which must be bridged to enable the implementation of the Next Generation Air Transportation System so that safety and productivity improvements can be achieved as soon as possible.

(2) **IMPROVE AIR VEHICLE PERFORMANCE.**—The Administration's Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate shall conduct research to improve aircraft performance and minimize environmental impacts. The Associate Administrator for the Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate shall consider and pursue concepts to reduce noise, emissions, and fuel consumption while maintaining high safety standards, and shall conduct research related to the impact of alternative fuels on the safety, reliability and maintainability of current and new air vehicles.

(3) **STRENGTHEN AVIATION SAFETY.**—The Administration's Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate shall proactively address safety challenges associated with current and new air vehicles and with operations in the Nation's current and future air transportation system.

(4) **DEMONSTRATE CONCEPTS AT THE SYSTEM LEVEL.**—The Administration's Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate shall mature the most promising technologies to the point at which they can be demonstrated in a relevant environment and shall integrate individual components and technologies as appropriate to ensure that they perform in an integrated manner as well as they do when operated individually.

SEC. 403. UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator, in consultation with the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration and other Federal agencies, shall carry out research and technological development to facilitate the safe integration of unmanned aerial systems into the National Airspace System, including—

- (1) positioning and navigation systems;
- (2) sense and avoid capabilities;
- (3) secure data and communication links;
- (4) flight recovery systems; and
- (5) human systems integration.

(b) **ROADMAP.**—The Administrator shall update a roadmap for unmanned aerial systems research and development and transmit this roadmap to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) **COOPERATIVE UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE ACTIVITIES.**—Section 31504 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by inserting "Operational flight data derived from these cooperative agreements shall be made available, in appropriate and usable formats, to

the Administration and the Federal Aviation Administration for the development of regulatory standards." after "in remote areas.".

SEC. 404. RESEARCH PROGRAM ON COMPOSITE MATERIALS USED IN AERONAUTICS.

(a) **PURPOSE OF RESEARCH.**—The Administrator shall continue the Administration's cooperative research program with industry to identify and demonstrate more effective and safe ways of developing, manufacturing, and maintaining composite materials for use in airframes, subsystems, and propulsion components.

(b) **EXPOSURE OF RESEARCH TO NEXT GENERATION OF ENGINEERS AND TECHNICIANS.**—To the extent practicable, the Administration's cooperative research program with industry on composite materials shall provide timely access to that research to the next generation of engineers and technicians at universities, community colleges, and vocational schools, thereby helping to develop a workforce ready to take on the development, manufacture, and maintenance of components reliant on advanced composite materials.

(c) **CONSULTATION.**—The Administrator, in overseeing the Administration's work on composite materials, shall consult with relevant Federal agencies and partners in industry to accelerate safe development and certification processes for new composite materials and design methods while maintaining rigorous inspection of new composite materials.

(d) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate detailing the Administration's work on new composite materials and the coordination efforts among Federal agencies and industry partners.

SEC. 405. HYPERSONIC RESEARCH.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with other Federal agencies, shall develop and transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a research and development roadmap for hypersonic aircraft research with the objective of exploring hypersonic science and technology using air-breathing propulsion concepts, through a mix of theoretical work, basic and applied research, and development of flight research demonstration vehicles. The roadmap shall prescribe appropriate agency contributions, coordination efforts, and technology milestones.

SEC. 406. SUPERSONIC RESEARCH.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds that—

(1) the ability to fly commercial aircraft over land at supersonic speeds without adverse impacts on the environment or on local communities could open new global markets and enable new transportation capabilities; and

(2) continuing the Administration's research program is necessary to assess the impact in a relevant environment of commercial supersonic flight operations and provide the basis for establishing appropriate sonic boom standards for such flight operations.

(b) **ROADMAP FOR SUPERSONIC RESEARCH.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall develop and transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House

of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a roadmap that allows for flexible funding profiles for supersonic aeronautics research and development with the objective of developing and demonstrating, in a relevant environment, airframe and propulsion technologies to minimize the environmental impact, including noise, of supersonic overland flight in an efficient and economical manner. The roadmap shall include—

(1) the baseline research as embodied by the Administration's existing research on supersonic flight;

(2) a list of specific technological, environmental, and other challenges that must be overcome to minimize the environmental impact, including noise, of supersonic overland flight;

(3) a research plan to address such challenges, as well as a project timeline for accomplishing relevant research goals;

(4) a plan for coordination with stakeholders, including relevant government agencies and industry; and

(5) a plan for how the Administration will ensure that sonic boom research is coordinated as appropriate with relevant Federal agencies.

SEC. 407. RESEARCH ON NEXTGEN AIRSPACE MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS AND TOOLS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall, in consultation with other Federal agencies, review at least annually the alignment and timing of the Administration's research and development activities in support of the NextGen airspace management modernization initiative, and shall make any necessary adjustments by reprioritizing or retargeting the Administration's research and development activities in support of the NextGen initiative.

(b) **ANNUAL REPORTS.**—The Administrator shall report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate annually regarding the progress of the Administration's research and development activities in support of the NextGen airspace management modernization initiative, including details of technologies transferred to relevant Federal agencies for eventual operation implementation, consultation with other Federal agencies, and any adjustments made to research activities.

SEC. 408. ROTORCRAFT RESEARCH.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with other Federal agencies, shall prepare and transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a roadmap for research relating to rotorcraft and other runway-independent air vehicles, with the objective of developing and demonstrating improved safety, noise, and environmental impact in a relevant environment. The roadmap shall include specific goals for the research, a timeline for implementation, metrics for success, and guidelines for collaboration and coordination with industry and other Federal agencies.

SEC. 409. TRANSFORMATIVE AERONAUTICS RESEARCH.

It is the sense of Congress that the Administrator, in looking strategically into the future and ensuring that the Administration's Center personnel are at the leading edge of aeronautics research, should encourage investigations into the early-stage advancement of new processes, novel concepts, and

innovative technologies that have the potential to meet national aeronautics needs. The Administrator shall continue to ensure that awards for the investigation of these concepts and technologies are open for competition among Administration civil servants at its Centers, separate from other awards open only to non-Administration sources.

SEC. 410. STUDY OF UNITED STATES LEADERSHIP IN AERONAUTICS RESEARCH.

(a) **STUDY.**—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies for a study to benchmark the position of the United States in civil aeronautics research compared to the rest of the world. The study shall—

(1) seek to define metrics by which relative leadership in civil aeronautics research can be determined;

(2) ascertain how the United States compares to other countries in the field of civil aeronautics research and any relevant trends; and

(3) provide recommendations on what can be done to regain or retain global leadership, including—

(A) identifying research areas where United States expertise has been or is at risk of being overtaken;

(B) defining appropriate roles for the Administration;

(C) identifying public-private partnerships that could be formed; and

(D) estimating the impact on the Administration's budget should such recommendations be implemented.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall provide the results of the study to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

TITLE V—SPACE TECHNOLOGY

SEC. 501. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that space technology is critical to—

(1) enabling a new class of Administration missions beyond low-Earth orbit;

(2) developing technologies and capabilities that will make the Administration's missions more affordable and more reliable; and

(3) improving technological capabilities and promoting innovation for the Administration and the Nation.

SEC. 502. SPACE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.

(a) **AMENDMENT.**—Section 70507 of title 51, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 70507. Space Technology Program authorized

“(a) **PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**—The Administrator shall establish a Space Technology Program to pursue the research and development of advanced space technologies that have the potential of delivering innovative solutions and to support human exploration of the solar system or advanced space science. The program established by the Administrator shall take into consideration the recommendations of the National Academies' review of the Administration's Space Technology roadmaps and priorities, as well as applicable enabling aspects of the Human Exploration Roadmap specified in section 70504. In conducting the space technology program established under this section, the Administrator shall—

“(1) to the maximum extent practicable, use a competitive process to select projects to be supported as part of the program;

“(2) make use of small satellites and the Administration's suborbital and ground-

based platforms, to the extent practicable and appropriate, to demonstrate space technology concepts and developments; and

“(3) undertake partnerships with other Federal agencies, universities, private industry, and other spacefaring nations, as appropriate.

“(b) **SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS.**—The Administrator shall organize and manage the Administration's Small Business Innovation Research program and Small Business Technology Transfer Program within the Space Technology Program.

“(c) **NONDUPLICATION CERTIFICATION.**—The Administrator shall include in the budget for each fiscal year, as transmitted to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, a certification that no project, program, or mission undertaken by the Space Technology Program is duplicative of any other project, program, or mission conducted by another office or directorate of the Administration.”.

(b) **COLLABORATION, COORDINATION, AND ALIGNMENT.**—The Administrator shall ensure that the Administration's projects, programs, and activities in support of technology research and development of advanced space technologies are fully coordinated and aligned and that results from such work are shared and leveraged within the Administration. Projects, programs, and activities being conducted by the Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate in support of research and development of advanced space technologies and systems focusing on human space exploration should continue in that Directorate. The Administrator shall ensure that organizational responsibility for research and development activities in support of human space exploration not initiated as of the date of enactment of this Act is established on the basis of a sound rationale. The Administrator shall provide the rationale in the report specified in subsection (d).

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall provide to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report comparing the Administration's space technology investments with the high-priority technology areas identified by the National Academies in the National Research Council's report on the Administration's Space Technology Roadmaps. The Administrator shall identify how the Administration will address any gaps between the agency's investments and the recommended technology areas, including a projection of funding requirements.

(d) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—The Administrator shall include in the Administration's annual budget request for each fiscal year the rationale for assigning organizational responsibility for, in the year prior to the budget fiscal year, each initiated project, program, and mission focused on research and development of advanced technologies for human space exploration.

(e) **TABLE OF SECTIONS AMENDMENT.**—The item relating to section 70507 in the table of sections for chapter 705 of title 51, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“70507. Space Technology Program authorized.”.

SEC. 503. UTILIZATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION FOR TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATIONS.

The Administrator shall utilize the International Space Station and commercial services for space technology demonstration missions in low-Earth orbit whenever it is practical and cost effective to do so.

TITLE VI—EDUCATION

SEC. 601. EDUCATION.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Administration's missions are an inspiration for Americans and in particular for the next generation, and that this inspiration has a powerful effect in stimulating interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (in this section referred to as “STEM”) education and careers;

(2) the Administration's Office of Education and mission directorates have been effective in delivering Administration educational content because of the strong engagement of Administration scientists and engineers in the Administration's education and outreach activities; and

(3) the Administration should be a central partner in contributing to the goals of the National Science and Technology Council's Federal Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education 5-Year Strategic Plan.

(b) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administration shall continue its education and outreach efforts to—

(1) increase student interest and participation in STEM education;

(2) improve public literacy in STEM;

(3) employ proven strategies for improving student learning and teaching;

(4) provide curriculum support materials; and

(5) create and support opportunities for professional development for STEM teachers.

(c) **ORGANIZATION.**—In order to ensure the inspiration and engagement of children and the general public, the Administration shall continue its STEM education and outreach activities within the Science, Aeronautics Research, Space Operations, and Exploration Mission Directorates.

(d) **CONTINUATION OF EDUCATION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS.**—The Administrator shall continue to carry out education and outreach programs and activities through the Office of Education and the Administration mission directorates and shall continue to engage, to the maximum extent practicable, Administration and Administration-supported researchers and engineers in carrying out those programs and activities.

(e) **CONTINUATION OF SPACE GRANT PROGRAM.**—The Administrator shall continue to operate the National Space Grant College and Fellowship program through a national network consisting of a State-based consortium in each State that provides flexibility to the States, with the objective of providing hands-on research, training, and education programs, with measurable outcomes, to enhance America's STEM education and workforce.

(f) **REAFFIRMATION OF POLICY.**—Congress reaffirms its commitment to informal science education at science centers and planetariums as set forth in section 616 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005 (51 U.S.C. 40907).

SEC. 602. INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL SPACE GRANT COLLEGE AND FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program, which was established in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 2486 et seq.), has been an important program by which the Federal Government has partnered with State and local governments, universities, private industry,

and other organizations to enhance the understanding and use of space and aeronautics activities and their benefits through education, fostering of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary space research and training, and supporting Federal funding for graduate fellowships in space-related fields, among other purposes.

(b) REVIEW.—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies for—

(1) a review of the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program, including its structure and capabilities for supporting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education and training consistent with the National Science and Technology Council's Federal Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education 5-Year Strategic Plan; and

(2) recommendations on measures, if needed, to enhance the Program's effectiveness and mechanisms by which any increases in funding appropriated by Congress can be applied.

(c) NATIONAL SPACE GRANT COLLEGE AND FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM AMENDMENTS.—

(1) PURPOSES.—Section 40301 of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (5);

(B) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (6) and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(7) support outreach to primary and secondary schools to help support STEM engagement and learning at the K–12 level and to encourage K–12 students to pursue post-secondary degrees in fields related to space.”.

(2) REGIONAL CONSORTIUM.—Section 40306 of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

(ii) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

“(2) INCLUSION OF 2-YEAR INSTITUTIONS.—A space grant regional consortium designated in paragraph (1)(B) may include one or more 2-year institutions of higher education.”; and

(B) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “paragraphs (2)(C) and (3)(D)” and inserting “paragraphs (3)(C) and (4)(D)”.

SEC. 603. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that the Administrator should make the continuation of the Administration's Minority University Research and Education Program a priority in order to further STEM education for under-represented students.

TITLE VII—POLICY PROVISIONS

SEC. 701. ASTEROID RETRIEVAL MISSION.

(a) ASTEROID RETRIEVAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall provide to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the proposed Asteroid Retrieval Mission. Such report shall include—

(1) a detailed budget profile, including cost estimates for the development of all necessary technologies and spacecraft required for the mission;

(2) a detailed technical plan that includes milestones and a specific schedule;

(3) a description of the technologies and capabilities anticipated to be gained from the proposed mission that will enable future human missions to Mars which could not be gained by lunar missions;

(4) a description of the technologies and capabilities anticipated to be gained from the proposed mission that will enable future planetary defense missions, against impact threats from near-Earth objects equal to or greater than 140 meters in diameter, which could not be gained by robotic missions; and

(5) a complete assessment by the Small Bodies Assessment Group and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Advisory Council of how the proposed mission is in the strategic interests of the United States in space exploration.

(b) MARS FLYBY REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, an independent, private systems engineering and technical assistance organization contracted by the Human Exploration Operations Mission Directorate shall transmit to the Administrator, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report analyzing the proposal for a Mars Flyby human spaceflight mission to be launched in 2021. Such report shall include—

(1) a technical development, test, fielding, and operations plan using the Space Launch System and other systems to successfully mount a Mars Flyby mission by 2021;

(2) a description of the benefits in scientific knowledge and technologies demonstrated by a Mars Flyby mission to be launched in 2021 suitable for future Mars missions; and

(3) an annual budget profile, including cost estimates, for the development test, fielding, and operations plan to carry out a Mars Flyby mission through 2021 and comparison of that budget profile to the 5-year budget profile contained in the President's Budget request for fiscal year 2016.

(c) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 60 days after transmittal of the report specified in subsection (b), the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate an assessment by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Advisory Council of whether the proposal for a Mars Flyby Mission to be launched in 2021 is in the strategic interests of the United States in space exploration.

(d) CREWED MISSION.—The report transmitted under subsection (b) may consider a crewed mission with the Space Launch System in cis-lunar space prior to the Mars Flyby mission in 2021.

SEC. 702. TERMINATION LIABILITY SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that:

(1) The International Space Station, the Space Launch System, and the Orion crew capsule will enable the Nation to continue operations in low-Earth orbit and to send its astronauts to deep space. The James Webb Space Telescope will revolutionize our understanding of star and planet formation and how galaxies evolved and advance the search for the origins of our universe. As a result of their unique capabilities and their critical contribution to the future of space exploration, these systems have been designated by Congress and the Administration as priority investments.

(2) In addition, contractors are currently holding program funding, estimated to be in the hundreds of millions of dollars, to cover the potential termination liability should the Government choose to terminate a program for convenience. As a result, hundreds

of millions of taxpayer dollars are unavailable for meaningful work on these programs.

(3) According to the Government Accountability Office, the Administration procures most of its goods and services through contracts, and it terminates very few of them. In fiscal year 2010, the Administration terminated 28 of 16,343 active contracts and orders—a termination rate of about 0.17 percent.

(4) The Administration should vigorously pursue a policy on termination liability that maximizes the utilization of its appropriated funds to make maximum progress in meeting established technical goals and schedule milestones on these high-priority programs.

SEC. 703. BASELINE AND COST CONTROLS.

Section 30104 of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “Procedural Requirements 7120.5c, dated March 22, 2005” and inserting “Procedural Requirements 7120.5E, dated August 14, 2012”; and

(2) in subsection (f), by striking “beginning 18 months after the date the Administrator transmits a report under subsection (e)(1)(A)” and inserting “beginning 18 months after the Administrator makes such determination”.

SEC. 704. PROJECT AND PROGRAM RESERVES.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the judicious use of program and project reserves provides the Administration's project and program managers with the flexibility needed to manage projects and programs to ensure that the impacts of contingencies can be mitigated.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing—

(1) the Administration's criteria for establishing the amount of reserves held at the project and program levels;

(2) how such criteria relate to the agency's policy of budgeting at a 70-percent confidence level; and

(3) the Administration's criteria for waiving the policy of budgeting at a 70-percent confidence level and alternative strategies and mechanisms aimed at controlling program and project costs when a waiver is granted.

SEC. 705. INDEPENDENT REVIEWS.

Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing—

(1) the Administration's procedures for conducting independent reviews of projects and programs at lifecycle milestones and how the Administration ensures the independence of the individuals who conduct those reviews prior to their assignment;

(2) the internal and external entities independent of project and program management that conduct reviews of projects and programs at life cycle milestones; and

(3) how the Administration ensures the independence of such entities and their members.

SEC. 706. COMMERCIAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROGRAM.

Section 50116(a) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by inserting “, while protecting national security” after “research community”.

SEC. 707. NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION ADVISORY COUNCIL.

(a) **STUDY.**—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Public Administration to assess the effectiveness of the NASA Advisory Council and to make recommendations to Congress for any change to—

- (1) the functions of the Council;
- (2) the appointment of members to the Council;
- (3) qualifications for members of the Council;
- (4) duration of terms of office for members of the Council;
- (5) frequency of meetings of the Council;
- (6) the structure of leadership and Committees of the Council; and
- (7) levels of professional staffing for the Council.

In carrying out the assessment, the Academy shall also assess the impacts of broadening the Council's role to advising Congress, and any other issues that the Academy determines could potentially impact the effectiveness of the Council. The Academy shall consider the past activities of the NASA Advisory Council, as well as the activities of other analogous Federal advisory bodies in conducting its assessment. The results of the assessment, including any recommendations, shall be transmitted to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(b) **CONSULTATION AND ADVICE.**—Section 20113(g) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by inserting “and Congress” after “advice to the Administration”.

(c) **SUNSET.**—Effective on September 30, 2015, section 20113(g) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking “and Congress”.

SEC. 708. COST ESTIMATION.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that realistic cost estimating is critically important to the ultimate success of major space development projects. The Administration has devoted significant efforts over the past five years to improving its cost estimating capabilities, but it is important that the Administration continue its efforts to develop and implement guidance in establishing realistic cost estimates.

(b) **GUIDANCE AND CRITERIA.**—The Administrator shall provide to programs and projects and in a manner consistent with the Administration's Space Flight Program and Project Management Requirements—

- (1) guidance on when an Independent Cost Estimate and Independent Cost Assessment should be used; and
- (2) the criteria to be used to make such a determination.

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report—

- (1) describing efforts to enhance internal cost estimation and assessment expertise;
- (2) describing the mechanisms the Administration is using and will continue to use to ensure that adequate resources are dedicated to cost estimation;
- (3) listing the steps the Administration is undertaking to advance consistent implementation of the joint cost and schedule process;
- (4) identifying criteria used by programs and projects in determining when to conduct

an Independent Cost Estimate and Independent Cost Assessment; and

- (5) listing—
 - (A) the costs of each individual Independent Cost Estimate or Independent Cost Assessment activity conducted in fiscal year 2012, fiscal year 2013, and fiscal year 2014;
 - (B) the purpose of the activity;
 - (C) identification of the primary Administration unit or outside body that conducted the activity; and
 - (D) key findings and recommendations.
- (d) **UPDATED REPORT.**—Subsequent to submission of the report under subsection (c), for each subsequent year, the Administrator shall provide an update of listed elements in conjunction with subsequent congressional budget justifications.

SEC. 709. AVOIDING ORGANIZATIONAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST IN MAJOR ADMINISTRATION ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.

(a) **REVISED REGULATIONS REQUIRED.**—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall revise the Administration Supplement to the Federal Acquisition Regulation to provide uniform guidance and recommend revised requirements for organizational conflicts of interest by contractors in major acquisition programs in order to address elements identified in subsection (b).

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The revised regulations required by subsection (a) shall, at a minimum—

- (1) address organizational conflicts of interest that could potentially arise as a result of—

(A) lead system integrator contracts on major acquisition programs and contracts that follow lead system integrator contracts on such programs, particularly contracts for production;

(B) the ownership of business units performing systems engineering and technical assistance functions, professional services, or management support services in relation to major acquisition programs by contractors who simultaneously own business units competing to perform as either the prime contractor or the supplier of a major subsystem or component for such programs;

(C) the award of major subsystem contracts by a prime contractor for a major acquisition program to business units or other affiliates of the same parent corporate entity, and particularly the award of subcontracts for software integration or the development of a proprietary software system architecture; or

(D) the performance by, or assistance of, contractors in technical evaluations on major acquisition programs;

(2) ensure that the Administration receives advice on systems architecture and systems engineering matters with respect to major acquisition programs from objective sources independent of the prime contractor;

(3) require that a contract for the performance of systems engineering and technical assistance functions for a major acquisition program contains a provision prohibiting the contractor or any affiliate of the contractor from participating as a prime contractor or a major subcontractor in the development of a system under the program; and

(4) establish such limited exceptions to the requirement in paragraphs (2) and (3) as may be necessary to ensure that the Administration has continued access to advice on systems architecture and systems engineering matters from highly qualified contractors with domain experience and expertise, while ensuring that such advice comes from sources that are objective and unbiased.

SEC. 710. FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Administration must reverse the deteriorating condition of its facilities and infrastructure, as this condition is hampering the effectiveness and efficiency of research performed by both the Administration and industry participants making use of Administration facilities, thus reducing the competitiveness of the United States aerospace industry;

(2) the Administration has a role in providing laboratory capabilities to industry participants that are economically viable as commercial entities and thus are not available elsewhere;

(3) to ensure continued access to reliable and efficient world-class facilities by researchers, the Administration should seek to establish strategic partnerships with other Federal agencies, academic institutions, and industry, as appropriate; and

(4) decisions on whether to dispose of, maintain, or modernize existing facilities must be made in the context of meeting future Administration and other Federal agencies' laboratory needs, including those required to meet the activities supporting the Human Exploration Roadmap required by section 70504 of title 51, United States Code.

(b) **POLICY.**—It is the policy of the United States that the Administration maintain reliable and efficient facilities and that decisions on whether to dispose of, maintain, or modernize existing facilities be made in the context of meeting future Administration needs.

(c) **PLAN.**—The Administrator shall develop a plan that has the goal of positioning the Administration to have the facilities, laboratories, tools, and approaches necessary to address future Administration requirements. Such plan shall identify—

(1) future Administration research and development and testing needs;

(2) a strategy for identifying facilities that are candidates for disposal, that is consistent with the national strategic direction set forth in—

- (A) the National Space Policy;
- (B) the National Aeronautics Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation Infrastructure Plan;

(C) National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Acts; and

(D) the Human Exploration Roadmap specified in section 70504 of title 51, United States Code;

(3) a strategy for the maintenance, repair, upgrading, and modernization of the Administration's laboratories, facilities, and equipment;

(4) criteria for prioritizing deferred maintenance tasks and also for upgrading or modernizing laboratories, facilities, and equipment and implementing processes, plans, and policies for guiding the Administration's Centers on whether to maintain, repair, upgrade, or modernize a facility and for determining the type of instrument to be used;

(5) an assessment of modifications needed to maximize usage of facilities that offer unique and highly specialized benefits to the aerospace industry and the American public; and

(6) implementation steps, including a timeline, milestones, and an estimate of resources required for carrying out the plan.

(d) **POLICY.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall establish and make publicly available a policy that guides the Administration's use of existing authorities to

out-grant, lease, excess to the General Services Administration, sell, decommission, demolish, or otherwise transfer property, facilities, or infrastructure. This policy shall establish criteria for the use of authorities, best practices, standardized procedures, and guidelines for how to appropriately manage property, infrastructure, and facilities.

(e) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit the plan developed under subsection (c) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(f) ESTABLISHMENT OF CAPITAL FUND.—The Administrator shall establish a capital fund for the modernization of facilities and laboratories. The Administrator shall ensure to the maximum extent practicable that all financial savings achieved by closing outdated or surplus facilities at an Administration Center shall be made available to that Center for the purpose of modernizing the Center's facilities and laboratories and for upgrading the infrastructure at the Center.

(g) REPORT ON CAPITAL FUND.—Expenditures and other activities of the fund established under subsection (f) shall require review and approval by the Administrator and the status, including the amounts held in the capital fund, shall be reported to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate in conjunction with the Administration's annual budget request justification for each fiscal year.

SEC. 711. DETECTION AND AVOIDANCE OF COUNTERFEIT ELECTRONIC PARTS.

(a) REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall revise the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Supplement to the Federal Acquisition Regulation to address the detection and avoidance of counterfeit electronic parts.

(2) CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES.—The revised regulations issued pursuant to paragraph (1) shall provide that—

(A) Administration contractors who supply electronic parts or products that include electronic parts are responsible for detecting and avoiding the use or inclusion of counterfeit electronic parts or suspect counterfeit electronic parts in such products and for any rework or corrective action that may be required to remedy the use or inclusion of such parts; and

(B) the cost of counterfeit electronic parts and suspect counterfeit electronic parts and the cost of rework or corrective action that may be required to remedy the use or inclusion of such parts are not allowable costs under Administration contracts, unless—

(i) the covered contractor has an operational system to detect and avoid counterfeit parts and suspect counterfeit electronic parts that has been reviewed and approved by the Administration or the Department of Defense;

(ii) the covered contractor provides timely notice to the Administration pursuant to paragraph (4); or

(iii) the counterfeit electronic parts or suspect counterfeit electronic parts were provided to the contractor as Government property in accordance with part 45 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

(3) SUPPLIERS OF ELECTRONIC PARTS.—The revised regulations issued pursuant to paragraph (1) shall—

(A) require that the Administration and Administration contractors and subcontractors at all tiers—

(i) obtain electronic parts that are in production or currently available in stock from the original manufacturers of the parts or their authorized dealers, or from suppliers who obtain such parts exclusively from the original manufacturers of the parts or their authorized dealers; and

(ii) obtain electronic parts that are not in production or currently available in stock from suppliers that meet qualification requirements established pursuant to subparagraph (C);

(B) establish documented requirements consistent with published industry standards or Government contract requirements for—

(i) notification of the Administration; and

(ii) inspection, testing, and authentication of electronic parts that the Administration or an Administration contractor or subcontractor obtains from any source other than a source described in subparagraph (A);

(C) establish qualification requirements, consistent with the requirements of section 2319 of title 10, United States Code, pursuant to which the Administration may identify suppliers that have appropriate policies and procedures in place to detect and avoid counterfeit electronic parts and suspect counterfeit electronic parts; and

(D) authorize Administration contractors and subcontractors to identify and use additional suppliers beyond those identified pursuant to subparagraph (C) provided that—

(i) the standards and processes for identifying such suppliers comply with established industry standards;

(ii) the contractor or subcontractor assumes responsibility for the authenticity of parts provided by such suppliers as provided in paragraph (2); and

(iii) the selection of such suppliers is subject to review and audit by appropriate Administration officials.

(4) TIMELY NOTIFICATION.—The revised regulations issued pursuant to paragraph (1) shall require that any Administration contractor or subcontractor who becomes aware, or has reason to suspect, that any end item, component, part, or material contained in supplies purchased by the Administration, or purchased by a contractor or subcontractor for delivery to, or on behalf of, the Administration, contains counterfeit electronic parts or suspect counterfeit electronic parts, shall provide notification to the applicable Administration contracting officer within 30 calendar days.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the revised regulations specified in subsection (a) have been implemented, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report updating the Administration's actions to prevent counterfeit electronic parts from entering the supply chain as described in its October 2011 report pursuant to section 1206(d) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18444(d)).

(c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term "electronic part" means a discrete electronic component, including a microcircuit, transistor, capacitor, resistor, or diode that is intended for use in a safety or mission critical application.

SEC. 712. SPACE ACT AGREEMENTS.

(a) COST SHARING.—To the extent that the Administrator determines practicable, the funds provided by the Government under a

funded Space Act Agreement shall not exceed the total amount provided by other parties to the Space Act Agreement.

(b) NEED.—A funded Space Act Agreement may be used only when the use of a standard contract, grant, or cooperative agreement is not feasible or appropriate, as determined by the Associate Administrator for Procurement.

(c) PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT.—The Administrator shall make available for public notice and comment each proposed Space Act Agreement at least 30 days before entering into such agreement, with appropriate redactions for proprietary, sensitive, or classified information.

(d) TRANSPARENCY.—The Administrator shall publicly disclose on the Administration's website and make available in a searchable format each Space Act Agreement, with appropriate redactions for proprietary, sensitive, or classified information, not later than 60 days after such agreement is signed.

(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the end of each fiscal year, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the use of Space Act Agreement authority by the Administration during the previous fiscal year.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report shall include for each Space Act Agreement in effect at the time of the report—

(A) an indication of whether the agreement is a reimbursable, nonreimbursable, or funded Space Act Agreement;

(B) a description of—

(i) the subject and terms;

(ii) the parties;

(iii) the responsible—

(I) mission directorate;

(II) center; or

(III) headquarters element;

(iv) the value;

(v) the extent of the cost sharing among Federal Government and non-Federal sources;

(vi) the time period or schedule; and

(vii) all milestones; and

(C) an indication of whether the agreement was renewed during the previous fiscal year.

(3) ANTICIPATED AGREEMENTS.—The report shall also include a list of all anticipated reimbursable, nonreimbursable, and funded Space Act Agreements for the upcoming fiscal year.

(4) CUMULATIVE PROGRAM BENEFITS.—The report shall also include, with respect to the Space Act Agreements covered by the report, a summary of—

(A) the technology areas in which research projects were conducted under such agreements;

(B) the extent to which the use of the Space Act Agreements—

(i) has contributed to a broadening of the technology and industrial base available for meeting Administration needs; and

(ii) has fostered within the technology and industrial base new relationships and practices that support the United States; and

(C) the total amount of value received by the Federal Government during the fiscal year pursuant to such Space Act Agreements.

SEC. 713. HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS.

Section 70702(a) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) any other orbital or suborbital space vehicle carrying humans—

“(A) that is owned by the Federal Government; or

“(B) that is being used pursuant to a contract or Space Act Agreement, as defined in section 2 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2015, with the Federal Government for carrying a researcher or payload funded by the Federal Government; or”.

SEC. 714. FULLEST COMMERCIAL USE OF SPACE.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on current and continuing efforts by the Administration to “seek and encourage, to the maximum extent possible, the fullest commercial use of space,” as described in section 20102(c) of title 51, United States Code.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an assessment of the Administration's efforts to comply with the policy;

(2) an explanation of criteria used to define compliance;

(3) a description of programs, policies, and activities the Administration is using, and will continue to use, to ensure compliance;

(4) an explanation of how the Administration could expand on the efforts to comply; and

(5) a summary of all current and planned activities pursuant to this policy.

(c) BARRIERS TO FULLEST COMMERCIAL USE OF SPACE.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on current and continuing efforts by the Administration to reduce impediments, bureaucracy, redundancy, and burdens to ensure the fullest commercial use of space as required by section 20102(c) of title 51, United States Code.

SEC. 715. ORBITAL DEBRIS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that orbital debris poses serious risks to the operational space capabilities of the United States and that an international commitment and integrated strategic plan are needed to mitigate the growth of orbital debris wherever possible. Congress finds the delay in the Office of Science and Technology Policy's submission of a report on the status of international coordination and development of mitigation strategies to be inconsistent with such risks.

(b) REPORTS.—

(1) COORDINATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall provide the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate with a report on the status of efforts to coordinate with countries within the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee to mitigate the effects and growth of orbital debris as required by section 1202(b)(1) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18441(b)(1)).

(2) MITIGATION STRATEGY.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall provide the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of

the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate with a report on the status of the orbital debris mitigation strategy required under section 1202(b)(2) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18441(b)(2)).

SEC. 716. REVIEW OF ORBITAL DEBRIS REMOVAL CONCEPTS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the amount of orbital debris in low-Earth orbit poses risks for human activities and robotic spacecraft and that this debris may increase due to collisions between existing debris objects. Understanding options to address and remove orbital debris is important for ensuring safe and effective spacecraft operations in low-Earth orbit.

(b) REVIEW.—The Administrator, in collaboration with other relevant Federal agencies, shall solicit and review concepts and technological options for removing orbital debris from low-Earth orbit. The solicitation and review shall also address the requirements for and feasibility of developing and implementing each of the options.

(c) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall provide a report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the solicitation and review required under subsection (b).

SEC. 717. USE OF OPERATIONAL COMMERCIAL SUBORBITAL VEHICLES FOR RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND EDUCATION.

(a) POLICY.—The Administrator shall develop a policy on the use of operational commercial reusable suborbital flight vehicles for carrying out scientific and engineering investigations and educational activities.

(b) PLAN.—The Administrator shall prepare a plan on the Administration's use of operational commercial reusable suborbital flight vehicles for carrying out scientific and engineering investigations and educational activities. The plan shall—

(1) describe the purposes for which the Administration intends to use such vehicles;

(2) describe the processes required to support such use, including the criteria used to determine which scientific and engineering investigations and educational activities are selected for a suborbital flight;

(3) describe Administration, space flight operator, and supporting contractor responsibilities for developing standard payload interfaces and conducting payload safety analyses, payload integration and processing, payload operations, and safety assurance for Administration-sponsored space flight participants, among other functions required to fly Administration-sponsored payloads and space flight participants on operational commercial suborbital vehicles;

(4) identify Administration-provided hardware, software, or services that may be provided to commercial reusable suborbital space flight operators on a cost-reimbursable basis, through agreements or contracts entered into under section 20113(e) of title 51, United States Code; and

(5) describe the United States Government and space flight operator responsibilities for liability and indemnification with respect to commercial suborbital vehicle flights that involve Administration-sponsored payloads or activities, Administration-supported space flight participants, or other Administration-related contributions.

(c) ASSESSMENT OF CAPABILITIES AND RISKS.—The Administrator shall assess and characterize the potential capabilities and performance of commercial reusable suborbital vehicles for addressing scientific research, including research requiring access to low-gravity and microgravity environments, for carrying out technology demonstrations related to science, exploration, or space operations requirements, and for providing opportunities for educating and training space scientists and engineers, once those vehicles become operational. The assessment shall also characterize the risks of using potential commercial reusable suborbital flights to Administration-sponsored researchers and scientific investigations and flight hardware.

(d) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit the plan and assessment described in subsections (b) and (c) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(e) ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORTS.—In conjunction with the Administration's annual budget request justification for each fiscal year, the Administrator shall transmit a report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate describing progress in carrying out the Commercial Reusable Suborbital Research Program, including the number and type of suborbital missions planned in each fiscal year.

(f) INDEMNIFICATION AND LIABILITY.—The Administrator shall not proceed with a request for proposals, award any contract, commit any United States Government funds, or enter into any other agreement for the provision of a commercial reusable suborbital vehicle launch service for an Administration-sponsored spaceflight participant until transmittal of the plan and assessment specified in subsections (b) and (c), the liability issues associated with the use of such systems by the United States Government have been addressed, and the liability and indemnification provisions that are planned to be included in such contracts or agreements have been provided to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 718. FUNDAMENTAL SPACE LIFE AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES RESEARCH.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that fundamental, discovery-based space life and physical sciences research is critical for enabling space exploration, protecting humans in space, and providing societal benefits, and that the space environment facilitates the advancement of understanding of the life sciences and physical sciences. Space life and physical science research contributes to advancing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics research, and provides careers and training opportunities in academia, Federal laboratories, and commercial industry. Congress encourages the Administrator to augment discovery-based fundamental research and to establish requirements reflecting the importance of such research in keeping with the priorities established in the National Academies' decadal survey entitled “Recapturing a Future for Space Exploration: Life and Physical Sciences Research for a New Era”.

(b) BUDGET REQUEST.—The Administrator shall include as part of the Administration's

annual budget request for each fiscal year a budget line for fundamental space life and physical sciences research, devoted to competitive, peer-reviewed grants, that is separate from the International Space Station Operations account.

(c) **STRATEGIC PLAN.**—

(1) **DEVELOPMENT.**—The Administrator, in consultation with academia, other Federal agencies, and other potential stakeholders, shall develop a strategic plan for carrying out competitive, peer-reviewed fundamental space life science and physical sciences and related technology research, among other activities, consistent with the priorities in the National Academies' decadal survey described in subsection (a).

(2) **TRANSMITTAL.**—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit the strategic plan developed under paragraph (1) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 719. RESTORING COMMITMENT TO ENGINEERING RESEARCH.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that engineering excellence has long been a hallmark of the Administration's ability to make significant advances in aeronautics and space exploration. However, as has been noted in recent National Academies reports, increasingly constrained funding and competing priorities have led to an erosion of the Administration's commitment to basic engineering research. This research provides the basis for the technology development that enables the Administration's many challenging missions to succeed. If current trends continue, the Administration's ability to attract and maintain the best and brightest engineering workforce at its Centers as well as its ability to remain on the cutting edge of aeronautical and space technology will continue to erode and will threaten the Administration's ability to be a world leader in aeronautics research and development and space exploration.

(b) **PLAN.**—The Administrator shall develop a plan for restoring a meaningful basic engineering research program at the Administration's Centers, including, as appropriate, collaborations with industry, universities, and other relevant organizations. The plan shall identify the organizational approach to be followed, an initial set of basic research priorities, and a proposed budget.

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit the plan specified in subsection (b) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 720. LIQUID ROCKET ENGINE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

The Administrator shall consult with the Secretary of Defense to ensure that any next generation liquid rocket engine made in the United States for national security space launch objectives can contribute, to the extent practicable, to the space programs and missions carried out by the Administration.

SEC. 721. REMOTE SATELLITE SERVICING DEMONSTRATIONS.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Administration plays a key role in demonstrating the feasibility of using robotic technologies for a spacecraft that could autonomously access, inspect, repair, and refuel satellites;

(2) demonstrating this feasibility would both assist the Administration in its future missions and provide other Federal agencies and private sector entities with enhanced confidence in the feasibility to robotically refuel, inspect, repair, and maintain their satellites in both near and distant orbits; and

(3) the capability to refuel, inspect, repair, and maintain satellites robotically could add years of functional life to satellites.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate describing the Administration's—

(1) activities, tools, and techniques associated with the ultimate goal of autonomously servicing satellites using robotic spacecraft;

(2) efforts to coordinate its technology development and demonstrations with other Federal agencies and private sector entities that conduct programs, projects, or activities on on-orbit satellite inspection and servicing capabilities;

(3) efforts to leverage the work of these Federal agencies and private sector entities into the Administration's plans;

(4) accomplishments to date in demonstrating various servicing technologies;

(5) major technical and operational challenges encountered and mitigation measures taken; and

(6) demonstrations needed to increase confidence in the use of the technologies for operational missions, and the timeframe for these demonstrations.

SEC. 722. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY GOVERNANCE.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that information security is central to the Administration's ability to protect information and information systems vital to its mission.

(b) **STUDY.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study to assess the effectiveness of the Administration's Information Technology Governance. The study shall include an assessment of—

(1) the resources available for overseeing Administration-wide information technology operations, investments, and security measures and the Chief Information Officer's visibility into and access to those resources;

(2) the effectiveness of the Administration's decentralized information technology structure, decisionmaking processes and authorities and its ability to enforce information security; and

(3) the impact of providing the Chief Information Officer approval authority over information technology investments that exceed a defined monetary threshold and any potential impacts of the Chief Information Officer having such authority on the Administration's missions, flights programs and projects, research activities, and Center operations.

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall transmit a report detailing the results of the study conducted under subsection (b) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 723. STRENGTHENING ADMINISTRATION SECURITY.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Following the public disclosure of security and export control violations at its research centers, the Administration contracted with the National Academy of Public Administration to conduct an independent assessment of how the Administration carried out Foreign National Access Management practices and other security matters.

(2) The assessment by the National Academy of Public Administration concluded that "NASA networks are compromised", that the Administration lacked a standardized and systematic approach to export compliance, and that individuals within the Administration were not held accountable when making serious, preventable errors in carrying out Foreign National Access Management practices and other security matters.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administration shall report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on how it plans to address each of the recommendations made in the security assessment by the National Academy of Public Administration and the recommendations made by the Government Accountability Office and the Administration's Office of the Inspector General regarding security and safeguarding export control information.

(c) **REVIEW.**—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate its assessment of how the Administration has complied with the recommendations described in subsection (b).

SEC. 724. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR CONTRACTORS THAT HAVE COMMITTED FRAUD OR OTHER CRIMES.

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2015 or any fiscal year thereafter for the Administration may be used to enter into a contract with any offeror or any of its principals if the offeror certifies, pursuant to the Federal Acquisition Regulation, that the offeror or any of its principals—

(1) within a three-year period preceding the offer has been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against it for—

(A) commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or local) contract or subcontract;

(B) violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes relating to the submission of offers; or

(C) commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, violating Federal criminal tax laws, or receiving stolen property;

(2) are presently indicted for, or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity with, commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (1); or

(3) within a three-year period preceding the offer, has been notified of any delinquent Federal taxes in an amount that exceeds \$3,000 for which the liability remains unsatisfied.

SEC. 725. PROTECTION OF APOLLO LANDING SITES.

(a) **ASSESSMENT.**—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in consultation with all relevant agencies of the Federal Government and other appropriate entities and individuals, shall carry

out a review and assessment of the issues involved in protecting and preserving historically important Apollo Program lunar landing sites and Apollo program artifacts residing on the lunar surface, including those pertaining to Apollo 11 and Apollo 17. The review and assessment shall, at a minimum, include determination of what risks to the protection and preservation of those sites and artifacts exist or may exist in the future, what measures are required to ensure such protection and preservation, the extent to which additional domestic legislation or international treaties or agreements will be required, and specific recommendations for protecting and preserving those lunar landing sites and artifacts.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate the results of the assessment required under subsection (a).

SEC. 726. ASTRONAUT OCCUPATIONAL HEALTHCARE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The National Academies' Institute of Medicine report "Health Standards for Long Duration and Exploration Spaceflight: Ethics Principles, Responsibilities, and Decision Framework" found that the Administration has ethical responsibilities for and should adopt policies and processes related to health standards for long duration and exploration spaceflights that recognize those ethical responsibilities. In particular, the report recommended that the Administration "provide preventative long-term health screening and surveillance of astronauts and lifetime health care to protect their health, support ongoing evaluation of health standards, improve mission safety, and reduce risks for current and future astronauts".

(b) RESPONSE.—The Administration shall prepare a response to the National Academies report recommendation described in subsection (a). The response shall include the estimated budgetary resources required for the implementation of those recommendations, and any options that might be considered as part of the response.

(c) TRANSMITTAL.—The response required under subsection (b) shall be transmitted to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 727. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON ACCESS TO OBSERVATIONAL DATA SETS.

It is the sense of Congress that the Administration should prioritize the development of tools and interfaces that make publicly available observational data sets more easy to access, analyze, manipulate, and understand for students, teachers, and the American public at large, with a particular focus on K-12 and undergraduate STEM education settings.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PALAZZO) and the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Mississippi?

There was no objection.

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is truly a bipartisan bill. The House should be proud of the work the committee has done and continues to do to be inclusive of Members on both sides of the aisle.

In a time of partisanship on Capitol Hill, both Republicans and Democrats came together last year to craft legislation that moves beyond congressional districts and parochial interests.

This bill provides clear and consistent guidance to NASA. The authorization levels are responsible and consistent with the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2015. It also continues looking to NASA to provide a strategic roadmap that will guide exploration development in the future.

Space Subcommittee Ranking Member DONNA EDWARDS and I worked long days to put this legislation together last year. While Ms. EDWARDS and I don't always agree, we are united in our unwavering support for NASA and space exploration during this crucial time in our Nation's history. We are committed to once more launching American astronauts on American rockets from American soil.

I know many of our colleagues agree that American leadership in space is both a matter of national pride, but also of national security; yet over the last decade, the human exploration program at NASA has been plagued with instability from constantly changing requirements, budgets, and missions.

We cannot continue changing our program of record every time there is a new President. We must be consistent in our commitment to human exploration.

As identified by numerous reports and committees, NASA needs Congress to provide consistency of purpose. That commitment is reflected in today's bipartisan bill, and I am confident it will continue into the future.

The bill before us today requires the agency to develop a human exploration roadmap and provides a framework to build an executable plan for future exploration efforts. NASA must use this plan as an opportunity to utilize assets from all the mission directorates to find the most efficient and effective ways to build technologies and capabilities within constrained budgets.

Both the Space Launch System and Orion crew vehicle are reaffirmed in this bill, consistent with the NASA Authorization Act of 2010, which laid out very clear guidelines and direction for the development of these systems.

This bill authorizes ample funding for the Commercial Crew Program to ensure safe and ontime development of domestic access to the international space station. There are also oversight provisions to ensure transparency during the development of these systems.

This agreement represents an understanding that both our Commercial Crew partners and those developing SLS and Orion have a crucial role to play in ending our reliance on Russian rockets.

NASA must develop a concrete plan for the future of human exploration if we have any hope of ensuring America's leadership in space. This bill tasks the scientists and engineers at NASA, rather than the administration, to develop such a plan.

As a study last year from the National Academy of Sciences pointed out, "a return to extended surface operations on the Moon would make significant contributions to a strategy ultimately aimed at landing people on Mars."

I hope that the roadmap NASA produces in response to this bill will also incorporate the valued guidance from the National Academies, as well as the NASA Advisory Council, the Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel, and the many other groups that advise NASA.

Our bill is not perfect, but it represents a serious bipartisan commitment to space exploration at a critical time in our Nation's space exploration history. As a good steward of taxpayer dollars, I will continue to raise questions and concerns over NASA's budgets.

For instance, since 2007, NASA's earth science budget grew almost 75 percent while NASA's exploration budget remained stagnant. Even with these historic increases, I am worried that the additional responsibilities being thrust on NASA by NOAA and USGS will consume NASA's already challenged budget even more.

The administration continues to advocate for an ever-changing and poorly justified asteroid mission which was universally criticized by all of NASA's advisory groups. One study from the National Academies even called a portion of the mission a "dead-end technology."

In these budget-constrained times, NASA must be frugal with its precious exploration resources and focus on core developments, such as the SLS and Orion, which will provide the foundation for any potential deep space missions in the future.

I also have interest in strengthening provisions dealing with cumbersome termination liability requirements, and I hope those can be addressed as we work with the Senate.

American leadership in space depends on our ability to put people and sound policy ahead of politics. This is what we have tried to do with this House

bill. This bill has been tested, debated, and passed multiple times over the last year.

It has passed the subcommittee, full committee, and the House once already, and I urge our friends in the Senate to move forward with us by adopting our commonsense compromise and passing the House bill. Our Nation's space program needs this legislation.

Space exploration has always had its challenges, but the United States has always risen to the occasion. This country was built by people who dream big and do the hard things.

I believe the decisions we make today will determine whether the U.S. maintains its leadership in space tomorrow. In the future, as in the past, I hope we will be able to focus mission priorities and goals to ensure our best chances of success.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Mississippi because it has been truly a pleasure to try to work on something where we are not working for perfection, but we are looking to find agreement and to do the best thing possible that supports the goals of NASA and all of the space industry, but also so that we get something done in this Congress.

I could not have found a more cooperative and helpful working relationship than that that I have with Mr. PALAZZO.

I also want to thank the chairman of the full committee, LAMAR SMITH, and our ranking member, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON—both of Texas—for supporting a process that leads us to the point we are today.

This bipartisan bill that we are considering, the NASA Authorization Act of 2015, is largely identical to a bill that passed the House last year, H.R. 4412, and it passed with overwhelming support by a vote of 401-2. Unfortunately, time ran out during the last Congress before the Senate was able to take final action to reauthorize NASA, and so here we are.

H.R. 810 authorizes appropriations for 1 year, consistent with the funding levels enacted for fiscal year 2015. Other than relevant date changes, the bill remains unchanged from last year's bipartisan, House-passed H.R. 4412 and retains the important and timely policy direction that NASA needs now to ensure stability and to sustain maximum progress on its programs.

Mr. Speaker, building on the foundation set in H.R. 810, I and my colleagues on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee will be able to begin work on a multiyear NASA authorization once H.R. 810 is enacted into law, so we have set the process in place.

Why is this bipartisan bill important, and why am I urging my colleagues in the House to vote "yes" on this bill should it come to a vote?

Mr. Speaker, the developments in our Nation's civil space program never cease to amaze us and never cease to inspire countless individuals not only in the United States, but across the globe. NASA, as a multimission agency, makes these awe-inspiring contributions not only in human exploration, but across the disciplines of space and earth science, in the development of innovative technologies, in human spaceflight operations and biomedical research, and in aeronautics. It is this multipronged approach that we support today.

In the sciences, NASA is making good progress on developing the James Webb Space Telescope, the next major observatory to follow the Hubble Space Telescope.

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NASA researchers are using data collected from space to identify new planets orbiting stars other than our Sun, to increase our scientific understanding of Mars and other planets in the solar system, to uncover critical information about our home planet, Earth, and its climate, and to study the Sun and space weather. These programs will lead to new discoveries and deepen our scientific knowledge. In fact, much of NASA's work also benefits our society in terms of new technologies and applied research that can improve the quality of life of all of our citizens.

NASA is taking critical steps now in building the systems that will eventually take humans, as my colleague has said, into deep space. NASA is also overseeing recently awarded contracts to commercial companies that will develop, test, and seek certification for the U.S. commercial space vehicles that will take NASA astronauts safely to and from the international space station, thereby relieving our sole reliance on Russian partners for access to low-Earth orbit.

We remain committed to a Commercial Crew Program that makes the most efficient use of taxpayer dollars; and as NASA and commercial partners embark on these projects, this bill that we are taking up today puts the highest priority for NASA's Commercial Crew Program on ensuring the safety of our astronauts.

NASA is continuing to lead the highly successful international space station partnership, expand the use of the ISS for commercial, scientific, and exploration-oriented research, and gather critical biomedical information. The ISS is the only orbiting laboratory on which we can prepare for further human exploration and operations in outer space.

The upcoming study of astronaut Scott Kelly, who will soon begin a

year's stint on the ISS, and his twin brother, Mark, a former astronaut who will serve as a control subject, is an important undertaking in that regard. We need to examine measures to monitor Scott's health and the health of the NASA family of astronauts both in space and on the ground to gain a long-term perspective on the effects of spaceflight.

Mr. Speaker, if NASA is to be as productive as it can be, it will require constancy of purpose and policy direction. In order for our Nation's space and aeronautics program to succeed, this bipartisan bill provides that constancy. H.R. 810 sets the long-term course of sending humans to the surface of Mars and directs NASA to provide a human exploration roadmap, outlining the capabilities and milestones needed to achieve that goal. Recognizing two of the primary systems needed to accomplish the goal—the Space Launch System, SLS, and Orion crew capsule—this bill directs the expeditious development, test, and achievement of SLS and Orion as the highest priority of NASA's human exploration program.

Further, H.R. 810 also ensures that NASA maintains a strong aeronautics research portfolio, ranging from fundamental research through integrated systems, and it reaffirms the importance of NASA's education activities. NASA's successful STEM education program brings the expertise of its researchers and engineers to bear on STEM activities. That is science, technology, engineering, and math. This bill encourages the administration to continue in that vein.

In addition, the bill includes provisions to advance our scientific and technical knowledge of orbital debris—or space junk—and near-Earth asteroids so that we in Congress can better understand the options for mitigating the risks that they pose.

In closing, NASA is a crown jewel of our Federal Government. Its workers are an important component in our workforce, and the workers through the industry are important to us as well. NASA's space and aeronautics programs help maintain our competitiveness. They serve as a catalyst for innovation and economic growth, and they inspire the next generation to dream big and garner the skills to turn those dreams into action.

NASA and our space program have a long history of bipartisan support. That continues today. NASA needs our constancy of purpose and policy direction now, and this 1-year bill puts us on track to do just that. We will build on that baseline as we work toward a multiyear authorization over the coming year. I look forward to doing that with my colleagues on the committee, and particularly with my colleague from Mississippi.

At this point, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of the full Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the chairman of the Subcommittee on Space for yielding me time. I also want to thank him and DONNA EDWARDS, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, and MO BROOKS for sponsoring this bipartisan legislation.

NASA has accomplished some of the most inspiring and technologically advanced space initiatives in the history of humankind. This bill, H.R. 810, the NASA Authorization Act of 2015, helps ensure that the United States will continue its proud tradition of being a world leader in space exploration.

For more than 50 years, the U.S. has led the world in space exploration. The U.S. was the first nation to put a human on the Moon, and NASA's Voyager 1, an American space mission, was the first human-made object to enter interstellar space.

Our astronauts are national heroes. Alan Shepard, John Glenn, Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Sally Ride are household names. Today's astronauts motivate students to study science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and to reach for the stars.

Space exploration is an investment in our Nation's future, sometimes our long-term future. This bill expresses bipartisan confidence in America's space initiatives.

The bill is nearly identical to the one that passed the House last year by a vote of 401-2. It is consistent with current funding levels found in the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act for 2015. It contains provisions for the development of American rockets that will take cargo and people to low-Earth orbit and beyond. It supports the James Webb Space Telescope, which will identify and characterize new planets in our galaxy and help researchers look back in time to see how the universe began.

It directs NASA to continue to focus resources on the detection of near-Earth asteroids that may threaten the Earth and its inhabitants. It instructs NASA to design and send a robotic mission to Jupiter's moon Europa to see if any form of life exists in the waters under its icy surface. It directs NASA to work with the National Academies to put together a strategy for finding more exoplanets.

The bill also requires NASA to develop a human exploration roadmap, similar to the recommendation made in last year's National Academy of Sciences report. This roadmap will provide a long-term plan for future human space exploration.

Finally, this bill is an example of how well Congress can work together to accomplish an objective that benefits the entire Nation. I again want to

thank Mr. PALAZZO, chairman of the Subcommittee on Space, and Ms. EDWARDS, ranking member of the Subcommittee on Space, for finding common ground on this bill. I also want to thank the ranking member of the full committee, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas and Representative MO BROOKS from Alabama, for supporting this bill as well.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" and to help ensure that the United States maintains its leadership in space.

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON), the ranking member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 810, the NASA Authorization Act of 2015. NASA is a critical engine of discovery, science, innovation, and inspiration.

During the last Congress, our committee leadership and Members from both sides came together to work through a compromise NASA authorization act. It was for a 1-year bill, but it provided important policy direction to the agency at a time when we in Congress wanted NASA to build on its progress and keep its focus on the priorities established through successive authorization acts. That bipartisan bill passed the House last year by an overwhelming 401-2 margin.

The bill, H.R. 810, which is also a 1-year reauthorization, takes that same policy language and updates the authorization of appropriations to be consistent with the funding levels enacted in fiscal year 2015. The bill also provides necessary date changes where relevant.

While this is not a perfect bill, especially in terms of its short duration and lack of meaningful outyear funding guidance, it includes many important policy provisions that will help guide the future of NASA at a critical time for our space program.

H.R. 810 emphasizes NASA's role as a multimission agency with programs in aeronautics, science, exploration, and human spaceflight. It also establishes a clear long-term goal of sending humans to the surface of Mars and directs NASA to prepare a human exploration roadmap of what is needed to get there.

The bill also provides policy direction on a host of other priority activities, including space and earth science, aeronautics, space technology, and education, as well as good government directives on curbing cost growth and strengthening program management, among others.

Consistent with the recommendations of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board, H.R. 810 directs that safety be the highest priority in the commercial human spaceflight pro-

gram to transport our astronauts to the international space station.

NASA is doing all that it can to make effective progress on its programs thanks to its passionate and dedicated civil servant workforce and extended contractor and academic communities. We want to sustain NASA's progress on critical programs, including the Space Launch System and Orion, by providing consistency and constancy of purpose and direction. This bill enables such stability while providing our committee the time needed to develop a comprehensive multiyear reauthorization of NASA once H.R. 810 is enacted into law.

I want to recognize the efforts of the committee leadership, including our chairman, LAMAR SMITH, and most especially our subcommittee chairman, STEVE PALAZZO, and the ranking member, Congresswoman DONNA EDWARDS, for their dedication and willingness to work together with me to achieve this bipartisan bill, H.R. 810, the NASA Authorization Act of 2015.

We need a strong NASA with an inspiring agenda for our children and grandchildren, and we need to fund it at a level commensurate with the tasks we have given them to achieve. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 810, the NASA Authorization Act of 2015.

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HULTGREN).

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the distinguished chairman, Chairman SMITH, chairman of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology; the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PALAZZO); and also the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) for their leadership on this important issue and for getting this bill to the floor.

Human space exploration and discovery sciences are so ingrained in the American way of life that they have become emblematic of America's role as an exceptional nation. It is in our DNA as Americans to push the boundaries and frontiers of knowledge.

When we continue to develop the technologies and expertise to do this, there is no way to measure the potential benefit in spinoffs that we will reap. That is why I rise today to support H.R. 810. This legislation would authorize programs within the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, keeping in place our commitment for space exploration, prioritizing work on the Space Launch System, Orion, and a commercial crew system so we can carry our own astronauts to and from the space station.

This legislation makes it clear that Mars is the focal point and our next step. If the administration prioritizes their activities properly, it is realistic to have a manned Mars fly-by mission

in 2021. This legislation will require further examination of this mission, which I think would finally help spur NASA into the next era. Perhaps more importantly, this is the kind of mission that would get children to start dreaming about being an astronaut again.

For the last few years, NASA and our space workforce have been unsure of the next mission and are struggling to stay afloat. Without a bold, long-term commitment to NASA's core mission, our workforce has been scrambling to find short-term goals to keep programs alive.

We need to be doing more than this if we want our Nation to realize the full capabilities we have in space. This legislation is a step in the right direction, and that is why I urge my colleagues to support it.

Thank you again to the sponsors.

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Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, having no further requests for time, I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER).

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 810, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2015.

I would like to compliment Chairman PALAZZO and Ranking Member EDWARDS for a job well done. It has been tough. There have been disagreements. Matters have been handled fairly. And now we are getting behind the product of all of that labor.

There was a great deal of work and negotiation on these provisions over the past year, and the outcome of that work is this legislation, which embodies the bipartisan leadership both here at the subcommittee level and at the committee level and the bipartisan support in this House for our Nation's civil space programs.

I would like to note that significant differences of opinion remain on many of the provisions in this bill, but I won't go into any of them now. I think I might have worried some of my colleagues on that. But despite those differences, we all share a set of common goals for NASA. The foremost of our mutual objectives is that America must return to international preeminence in human spaceflight. This is true for both access to low-Earth orbit, for which we are trusting our commercial partners, and for far-reaching exploration missions to the Moon and beyond.

Our discussions and, yes, our disagreements will continue, but we will continue to work together to achieve America's shared goals.

H.R. 810 brings us closer to launching Americans into space on American rockets from American soil. It brings us closer to the next steps in explo-

ration of our outer planets. It brings us closer to technological developments that can turn a seemingly impossible goal into an achievable one. It brings us closer to finding asteroids that may pose a threat to Earth or may provide vast resources that could help humanity in space. It brings us one step closer to moving beyond exploration and into pioneering, leading to settlements in space. It brings us closer to the stars. For these reasons, I ask my colleagues to join me in support of this important legislation.

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, so I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN).

Mr. BABIN. I thank the gentleman from Mississippi and the gentlewoman from Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 810, the NASA Authorization Act of 2015. This bipartisan legislation is an important step forward in our efforts to build a stronger and more focused NASA.

Let's face it: NASA is the only Federal agency that has human spaceflight as its mission. However, in recent years, NASA has branched into areas that divert attention and funding from its critical mission. This bill before us begins to bring human spaceflight back into focus as NASA's key mission. It provides strong funding for vehicle development that will enable NASA to reach the Moon and beyond, putting us on a clear path towards deeper exploration into our solar system.

Having met with top officials at the Johnson Space Center in my district just this past week, I can attest that they are very excited about this new focus. I am aware of NASA's challenges, and I am excited about the opportunities ahead and some of the successes that we have had over the past few months.

Our bill supports NASA's Orion spacecraft, it expands America's access to the international space station, and it funds a robust Commercial Crew Program to launch American astronauts on American rockets.

I urge my colleagues to join in support of this bipartisan bill.

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from Mississippi is prepared to close, I am prepared to close.

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I am prepared to close.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. EDWARDS. I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to thank all of my colleagues on the committee for the hard work that has been put into this bipartisan authorization. It is not perfect by any means. There are plenty of things that, between now and the time that we see this go to the

President's desk for his signature, we will continue to have input on. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the committee and our colleagues in the Senate to make sure that we get to the end point.

As I have said and as Ranking Member JOHNSON has said as well, we look forward to working on a bipartisan, multiyear authorization. Having put this one to bed, we actually now have demonstrated to ourselves and to the American public that we have the ability to get this done.

In closing, I want to thank the committee staff—Allen Li, Pam Whitney, and Dick Obermann—for all of their work and my personal staff, Anne Nelson, as well as the staff on the other side because it really did take an awful lot of staff work and Member work to see this to the finish line. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

As I close, I would like to acknowledge all the hard work and bipartisan efforts of Science Committee Chairman LAMAR SMITH, full committee Ranking Member EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, and Space Subcommittee Ranking Member DONNA EDWARDS.

Like Ms. EDWARDS, I also want to acknowledge the work of my personal staff, Patrick Large; Ms. EDWARDS' personal staff, Anne Nelson; the majority staff, Tom Hammond, Jared Stout, Allison Rose-Sonnesyn, and Christian Rice; and the minority staff, Pam Whitney and Allen Li.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for H.R. 810, and I yield back the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, February 10, 2015.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and
Technology Committee, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SMITH: I write concerning H.R. 810, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2015. This legislation includes matters that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

In order to expedite floor consideration of H.R. 810, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will forgo action on this bill. However, this is conditional on our mutual understanding that forgoing consideration of the bill does not prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation that fall within the Committee's Rule X jurisdiction. I request you urge the Speaker to name members of the Committee to any conference committee named to consider such provisions.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional

interest into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY,
Washington, DC, February 10, 2015.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's jurisdictional interest in H.R. 810, the "National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2015."

I agree that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has valid jurisdictional interests in matters pertaining to the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board, and that your Committee's jurisdiction will not be adversely affected by your decision to forego consideration of H.R. 810. As you have requested, I will support your request for an appropriate appointment of outside conferees from your Committee in the event of a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation, if in your jurisdiction, should such a conference be convened.

Finally, I will include a copy of your letter and this response in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill. Thank you again for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee and a former member of the Science Committee I am in strong support of, H.R. 810, The NASA Authorization Act of 2015."

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON for their work to bring the NASA Authorization Act of 2015 before the House for consideration.

There is historic congressional support for NASA in Congress, and I am at the forefront of that support.

I served on the House Science Committee for 12 years; and I am in strong support of the NASA Authorization Act of 2015, as the best way forward to strengthen NASA into the future and to avoid dismantling the manned space program.

This legislation will protect American and Texan jobs, saving more than while, driving innovation, and ensure our Nation's youth are encouraged to pursue careers in science, exploration, engineering, technology, and math.

The United States space program has existed for over half a century and my commitment to providing NASA with the resources to carry the agency forward with its ambitious agenda of research, exploration, and discovery is unwavering.

It is our job as members of Congress to make sure that NASA continues to push the boundaries of what is possible, keeping our Nation on the forefront of innovation and exploration.

This bill authorizes programs and projects at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15).

This authorization bill's funding is consistent with the funding \$18,010,200,000 in appropriations for NASA in the Consolidated and Further Appropriations Act, 2015 bill passed at the end of the 113th Congress.

NASA continues to be the world's premier space organization.

This bill seeks to maintain sustainability of purpose and budget for NASA programs, continuing the congressional commitment provided in previous reauthorizations in 2005, 2008, and 2010 to space exploration, both human and robotic.

This legislation makes clear that a human mission to Mars is the goal for NASA's human spaceflight program and requires the development of a roadmap to achieve that goal, as well as biennial updates.

In the near-term, the primary tasks for NASA human spaceflight include:

Realizing the research potential of the International Space Station (ISS) with an Office of Science & Technology Policy-led strategic plan for all science agencies to conduct research on the Station.

Continued commitment to develop the Space Launch System and Orion Crew Vehicle to serve as a backup system to support the ISS if necessary.

NASA will be able to engage in the educational and outreach activities necessary to support science, technology, engineering, and mathematics curriculum and inspire the next generation of explorers.

The authorization will assist in building at least one Commercial Crew system (with NASA funds) to carry American astronauts on American rockets safely, reliably, and affordably to and from the International Space Station so that we are no longer reliant on Russia for crew access.

The bill emphasizes the importance of maintaining a steady cadence of science missions, including a Europa mission with a goal of launching by 2021.

The bill directs NASA and the NASA to provide Congress with a report assessing the long-term goals of NASA's Mars Exploration Program, which includes the Mars 2020 rover.

To reflect the increase in the number of newly discovered planets outside our solar system, the legislation also directs NASA and the NAS to provide an exoplanet exploration strategy.

This bill stresses the importance of completing and expanding the Congressionally mandated near-Earth object survey to detect, track, catalogue, and characterize near-Earth objects 140 meters in diameter or larger.

This authorization addresses an issue of great importance to a sustained and healthy space program.

The bill provides NASA with the agility to develop a plan to better position the agency to have the facilities and infrastructure necessary to meet future requirements including those set forth in the human exploration roadmap.

It is the responsibility of this Congress to ensure that the future of NASA is one of continued progress and that space exploration remains a part of our national destiny.

NASA inspires our children to look to the stars and dream of what they too may achieve one day.

Space exploration allows us to push the bounds of our scientific knowledge, as we

carry out research projects not possible within the constraints of planet Earth.

I look forward to the reintroduction of the REAL Space Act this Congress and ask that my colleagues support this important measure.

In recent years, we have seen other nations joining in the space race with varying levels of success.

We applaud these efforts, which include:

The European Space Agency's success in landing a vehicle on a comet that was speeding through deep space; and

China's landing its first rover "Jade Rabbit" on the surface of the moon.

Exploration of space remains critical to United States leadership and economic trendsetting position in the global economy.

The future is space, and I support NASA's continued progress to ensure the United States retains its leadership in this vital area of human exploration.

I ask that my colleagues join me in voting for H.R. 810.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the NASA Authorization bill before the House.

This legislation is important because it reaffirms Congress' commitment to space exploration and the important role NASA plays in the areas of science, aeronautics, exploration, and human spaceflight. Over the next few months, NASA spacecraft will visit Pluto and the dwarf planet Ceres for the first time. We will further develop our nation's commercial launch capability even as NASA continues work on the Orion space capsule and a new heavy-lift rocket. NASA will also build on its efforts in the important areas of space science and education. The bill before the House supports all of these endeavors.

I want to mention one NASA program in particular, the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program. This program gives students across the country the chance to design microgravity experiments to fly in Earth orbit. Indeed, one of these experiments is scheduled to come home from the International Space Station today. The experiment was designed by a team of four students from Wilkinson Middle School in Madison Heights, Michigan. The experiment involves the effects of microgravity on water purification. In Michigan, we tend to take the availability of fresh water for granted since we are surrounded by the Great Lakes, but water is a rare and precious commodity in space, and hopefully this experiment will help future astronauts to re-use water.

I want to commend the students who have worked so hard on this microgravity experiment: Regina Alsabagh, Farah Sabah, Maryam Kafra and Israa Alfadhli. Their achievement is all the more remarkable since their experiment originally was supposed to be carried into orbit last October, but that rocket exploded shortly after liftoff, destroying the students' experiment. Fortunately, NASA was able to find space on a rocket to the space station that launched in January, and the Wilkinson students managed to build a second version of their experiment in time for that flight.

I congratulate the Wilkinson students for their hard work, perseverance, and determination to overcome obstacles. It's important that Congress continue to support NASA and efforts like the Student Spaceflight Experiments

Program. I urge all my colleagues to join me in voting for the NASA Authorization bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PALAZZO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 810.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TSA OFFICE OF INSPECTION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 719) to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 719

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Consistent with Federal law and regulations, for law enforcement officers to qualify for premium pay as criminal investigators, the officers must, in general, spend on average at least 50 percent of their time investigating, apprehending, or detaining individuals suspected or convicted of offenses against the criminal laws of the United States.

(2) According to the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS IG), the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) does not ensure that its cadre of criminal investigators in the Office of Inspection are meeting this requirement, even though they are considered law enforcement officers under TSA policy and receive premium pay.

(3) Instead, TSA criminal investigators in the Office of Inspection primarily monitor the results of criminal investigations conducted by other agencies, investigate administrative cases of TSA employee misconduct, and carry out inspections, covert tests, and internal reviews, which the DHS IG asserts could be performed by employees other than criminal investigators at a lower cost.

(4) The premium pay and other benefits afforded to TSA criminal investigators in the Office of Inspection who are incorrectly classified as such will cost the taxpayer as much as \$17,000,000 over 5 years if TSA fails to make any changes to the number of criminal investigators in the Office of Inspection, according to the DHS IG.

(5) This may be a conservative estimate, as it accounts for the cost of Law Enforcement Availability Pay, but not the costs of law enforcement training, statutory early retirement benefits, police vehicles, and weapons.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term “Administration” means the Transportation Security Administration.

(2) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term “Assistant Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security) of the Department of Homeland Security.

(3) INSPECTOR GENERAL.—The term “Inspector General” means the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security.

SEC. 4. INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.

(a) REVIEW.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General shall analyze the data and methods that the Assistant Secretary uses to identify employees of the Administration who meet the requirements of sections 8331(20), 8401(17), and 5545a of title 5, United States Code, and provide the relevant findings to the Assistant Secretary, including a finding on whether the data and methods are adequate and valid.

(b) PROHIBITION ON HIRING.—If the Inspector General finds that such data and methods are inadequate or invalid, the Administration may not hire any new employee to work in the Office of Inspection of the Administration until—

(1) the Assistant Secretary makes a certification described in section 5 to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

(2) the Inspector General submits to such Committees a finding, not later than 30 days after the Assistant Secretary makes such certification, that the Assistant Secretary utilized adequate and valid data and methods to make such certification.

SEC. 5. TSA OFFICE OF INSPECTION WORKFORCE CERTIFICATION.

(a) CERTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—The Assistant Secretary shall, by not later than 90 days after the date the Inspector General provides its findings to the Assistant Secretary under section 4(a), document and certify in writing to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate that only those employees of the Administration who meet the requirements of sections 8331(20), 8401(17), and 5545a of title 5, United States Code, are classified as criminal investigators and are receiving premium pay and other benefits associated with such classification.

(b) EMPLOYEE RECLASSIFICATION.—The Assistant Secretary shall reclassify criminal investigator positions in the Office of Inspection as noncriminal investigator positions or non-law enforcement positions if the individuals in those positions do not, or are not expected to, spend an average of at least 50 percent of their time performing criminal investigative duties.

(c) PROJECTED COST SAVINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary shall estimate the total long-term cost savings to the Federal Government resulting from the implementation of subsection (b), and provide such estimate to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate by not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) CONTENTS.—Such estimate shall identify savings associated with the positions reclassified under subsection (b) and include, among other factors the Assistant Secretary considers appropriate, savings from—

- (A) law enforcement training;
- (B) early retirement benefits;
- (C) law enforcement availability pay; and

(D) weapons, vehicles, and communications devices.

SEC. 6. INVESTIGATION OF FEDERAL AIR MARSHAL SERVICE MISCONDUCT.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, or as soon as practicable, the Assistant Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate—

(1) any materials in the possession or control of the Department of Homeland Security associated with the Office of Inspection's review of instances in which Federal Air Marshal Service officials obtained discounted or free firearms for personal use; and

(2) information on specific actions that will be taken to prevent Federal Air Marshal Service officials from using their official positions, or exploiting, in any way, the Service's relationships with private vendors to obtain discounted or free firearms for personal use.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) and the gentleman from New York (Miss RICE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 719, the TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act of 2015. I introduced this bipartisan bill to target millions of dollars of potential waste within the TSA's Office of Inspection, as identified by the Homeland Security inspector general.

TSA's Office of Inspection is charged with investigating misconduct of TSA employees and conducting internal inspections and covert testing of TSA operations to ensure our transportation systems are well protected.

However, according to a critical DHS inspector general report issued in 2013, TSA does not sufficiently track whether each of its 100 criminal investigators in the Office of Inspection, in fact, spend a majority of time performing actual criminal investigations, as required by law.

Instead, these TSA investigators primarily monitor the results of criminal investigations conducted by other agencies, investigate administrative cases of employee misconduct, and carry out inspections, covert tests, and internal reviews. Therefore, these TSA investigators may be unduly receiving premium law enforcement pay, specialized training, vehicles, firearms, and other benefits even though they do not

meet the minimum legal requirements for receiving such pay and benefits.

H.R. 719 aims to correct this problem by requiring the inspector general to certify that TSA criminal investigators meet the legal threshold for receiving premium pay and benefits, which could save as much as \$17 million in taxpayer dollars over 5 years.

Mr. Speaker, like any entity, the vast majority of TSA employees do an exemplary job. It is a critical component of this continuing ability to have these people perform at a high level to have internal oversight.

The importance of investigating misconduct among TSA employees cannot be overstated. Just last week, we learned of an investigation conducted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, otherwise known as ICE, that led to the indictment of a TSA employee on child pornography charges.

In this recent and unfortunate example, it was ICE that performed the investigation, not TSA. We must ensure that TSA's internal cadre of investigators are spending the majority of time on criminal investigations or we risk wasting significant taxpayer resources, resources that could be used toward improving the integrity of TSA's workforce.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the original cosponsor of this legislation, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SANFORD), for his leadership on this important commonsense issue.

This bill passed the House last Congress, but the Senate did not take action on it. Let's send this bill back to the Senate and on to the President for his signature.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 719, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 719, the TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act of 2015.

Mr. Speaker, as ranking member of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security, I have a responsibility to ensure that the Transportation Security Administration operates effectively and efficiently. Part of this responsibility includes working to ensure that not a single taxpayer dollar is wasted so that resources are properly expended to protect our Nation's airports and the traveling public.

Regrettably, we have learned from the Department of Homeland Security's inspector general that the TSA's Office of Inspection is not operating effectively and efficiently. Specifically, we have learned that taxpayer dollars have been wasted in a manner that may well be undermining the effectiveness and integrity of internal investigations and inspections within the TSA.

According to a report issued by the inspector general in September of 2013, some employees in the Office of Inspection were designated "criminal investigators" and have received the premium pay and early retirement benefits commensurate with that position, despite the fact that they perform little to no investigative duties.

Apparently, the Office of Inspection knowingly made these improper designations and knowingly conferred better pay and benefits to employees who did not do the work required to justify such compensation.

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If no changes are made to the number of criminal investigator positions, the inspector general estimates that it will result in the wasting of as much as \$17.5 million over 5 years. H.R. 719 seeks to put an end to this wasteful practice and prevent it from happening in the future.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would require TSA to certify that all persons designated as criminal investigators are working on criminal investigations at least 50 percent of their time. If the TSA wants to provide an employee with the enhanced pay and benefits that criminal investigators receive, then they should have to certify that the employee is actually performing the duties of a criminal investigator. That is just common sense.

This measure would not affect individuals in that office who legitimately hold the criminal investigator title and would not impede efforts to thwart terror plots and other criminal enterprises that threaten our national security.

Again, this legislation is common sense. It reflects a commitment to good government and the careful stewardship of taxpayer dollars. The House unanimously approved identical legislation in the last Congress, and I urge my colleagues to do the same with this bill.

This is an opportunity for bipartisan action to solve a problem and demonstrate the strength of our commitment to eliminate wasteful spending.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend Chairman KATKO, as well as the gentleman from South Carolina, Representative SANFORD, for their work on this legislation. If enacted, H.R. 719 will bring greater accountability to TSA's Office of Inspection and ensure taxpayer dollars are being used efficiently and that past abuses are not being repeated.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Homeland Security Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member THOMPSON for their support of this bill, as well as the ranking member of the Subcommittee

on Transportation Security, the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE).

Mr. Speaker, the American people have entrusted us with conducting oversight of the agencies like TSA to root out instances of waste. H.R. 719 will hold TSA accountable and save precious tax dollars by ensuring that the inspector general's findings are addressed.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 719, the "TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act of 2015".

Upon its creation, TSA was given broad authority to hire, fire, and set the terms of employment of its personnel.

This has resulted in employees, such as Transportation Security Officers, lacking the full rights afforded other Federal employees.

It has also resulted, in some cases, of abuses of the system for the gain of a few.

According to the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security, TSA's Office of Inspection has been gaming the system by employing a bloated number of personnel as "criminal investigators" for years.

Those who are designated as "criminal investigators" receive additional compensation and are afforded the right to retire early.

H.R. 719 will put an end to these abuses by requiring the Inspector General to approve the method used by TSA to designate personnel as criminal investigators. It also requires TSA to certify to Congress that only those individuals performing the requisite criminal investigation work are designated as "criminal investigators".

According to the Inspector General, properly classifying individuals within TSA's Office of Inspection could save taxpayers as much as \$17 million over five years.

During Committee consideration of this measure last Congress, I offered an amendment on behalf of Representative LORETTA SANCHEZ that addresses revelations about how some within TSA's Federal Air Marshal Service exploited relationships with private vendors to obtain discounted or free firearms.

Specifically, in April 2014, the Committee became aware that the former director of the Federal Air Marshal Service bought several guns from an employee who is under investigation for using his position to obtain free and discounted firearms.

Unfortunately, TSA was less than forthcoming with Congress regarding this investigation, leaving many questions unanswered about how the investigation was conducted and the number of FAMs officials involved.

The exploitation of official relationships for personal gain is a serious matter.

Such misuse occurring within the Federal Air Marshal Service, the Law Enforcement component within TSA is unacceptable.

To address the lack of transparency regarding the investigation, the Committee accepted language I offered to require TSA to provide information and materials associated with the Office of Inspection's review of the allegations to Congress.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee and a former chair of the Transportation

Security Subcommittee, I rise in support of H.R. 719, the "TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act of 2015."

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman McCAUL and Ranking Member THOMPSON for their leadership in bringing this legislation to the floor.

H.R. 719 will save the taxpayers hundreds of thousands dollars annually by requiring the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to conform its personnel classification practices to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions.

According to a report by the Homeland Security Department's Inspector General (IG), about half of the employees in the Office of Inspection (OI) are classified as criminal investigators even though their duties do not involve responsibilities that can be characterized as criminal investigation activities.

Instead, the responsibilities of these employees primarily consist of administrative duties such as investigating cases of TSA employee misconduct and conducting internal reviews.

Classifying these employees as "law enforcement" personnel, however, makes them eligible for premium pay and other significant economic benefits.

If TSA fails to reclassify criminal investigator positions as noncriminal investigator positions or non-law-enforcement positions, this will cost taxpayers as much as \$17,000,000 over 5 years.

This money could be utilized to ensure that law enforcement agencies, which identify, apprehend, and prosecute criminals, have the tools, resources, and training necessary to do their job efficiently, effectively, and economically.

Mr. Speaker, I have always strongly supported providing the resources needed by law enforcement and first responders and will continue to do so in future.

But we have an obligation to the American people to be responsible stewards of the public trust and it is not responsible to provide premium pay and benefits intended for law enforcement personnel to employees who do not perform the dangerous duties of law enforcement officers.

This bill will obligate the Assistant Secretary of TSA to reclassify criminal investigator positions in the Office of Inspection as noncriminal investigator positions or non-law enforcement positions if the individuals in those positions do not, or are not expected to, spend an average of at least 50 percent of their time performing criminal investigative duties.

This is an important step to bring transparency to the office of inspector with regards to the work of TSA personnel and law enforcement investigative task.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 719, which directs the Office of Inspection to reclassify its current criminal investigator positions to conform to the requirements of applicable law and save the taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars annually.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, I am proud to be an original co-sponsor of H.R. 719, the TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act of 2015, sponsored by the gentleman from New York, Mr. KATKO.

This bill would increase accountability at TSA and save precious taxpayer dollars by requiring the agency to correctly designate criminal investigators within the TSA Office of Inspection who are charged with conducting covert tests, inspections, and investigating misconduct among fellow TSA employees.

This bill stems from a 2013 DHS Inspector General (IG) report that found TSA's Office of Inspection does not operate efficiently and does not ensure that its criminal investigators are spending the majority of their time conducting criminal investigations, even though they are receiving premium law enforcement pay and related benefits. The bill addresses the IG's findings by requiring a thorough review of the type of work carried out by TSA criminal investigators, which could save millions of taxpayer dollars over the next several years in law enforcement pay, vehicles, training, and other benefits.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this common sense, bipartisan bill, and would like to thank the chairman of the subcommittee, Mr. KATKO, as well as the Congressman from South Carolina, Mr. SANFORD, for their leadership on this issue. I would also like to thank the ranking member of the full committee, Mr. THOMPSON, and the ranking member of the subcommittee, Miss RICE, for their support of this legislation.

H.R. 719 is substantively identical to H.R. 4803, legislation approved by the Committee on Homeland Security last Congress that subsequently passed the House by voice vote.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 719.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 719.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GERARDO HERNANDEZ AIRPORT SECURITY ACT OF 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 720) to improve intergovernmental planning for and communication during security incidents at domestic airports, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 720

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Gerardo Hernandez Airport Security Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term "Assistant Secretary" means the Assistant Sec-

retary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security) of the Department of Homeland Security.

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—The term "Administration" means the Transportation Security Administration.

SEC. 3. SECURITY INCIDENT RESPONSE AT AIRPORTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary shall, in consultation with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, conduct outreach to all airports in the United States at which the Administration performs, or oversees the implementation and performance of, security measures, and provide technical assistance as necessary, to verify such airports have in place individualized working plans for responding to security incidents inside the perimeter of the airport, including active shooters, acts of terrorism, and incidents that target passenger-screening checkpoints.

(b) TYPES OF PLANS.—Such plans may include, but may not be limited to, the following:

(1) A strategy for evacuating and providing care to persons inside the perimeter of the airport, with consideration given to the needs of persons with disabilities.

(2) A plan for establishing a unified command, including identification of staging areas for non-airport-specific law enforcement and fire response.

(3) A schedule for regular testing of communications equipment used to receive emergency calls.

(4) An evaluation of how emergency calls placed by persons inside the perimeter of the airport will reach airport police in an expeditious manner.

(5) A practiced method and plan to communicate with travelers and all other persons inside the perimeter of the airport.

(6) To the extent practicable, a projected maximum timeframe for law enforcement response.

(7) A schedule of joint exercises and training to be conducted by the airport, the Administration, other stakeholders such as airport and airline tenants, and any relevant law enforcement, airport police, fire, and medical personnel.

(8) A schedule for producing after-action joint exercise reports to identify and determine how to improve security incident response capabilities.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary shall report to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the findings from its outreach to airports under subsection (a), including an analysis of the level of preparedness such airports have to respond to security incidents, including active shooters, acts of terrorism, and incidents that target passenger-screening checkpoints.

SEC. 4. DISSEMINATING INFORMATION ON BEST PRACTICES.

The Assistant Secretary shall—

(1) identify best practices that exist across airports for security incident planning, management, and training; and

(2) establish a mechanism through which to share such best practices with other airport operators nationwide.

SEC. 5. CERTIFICATION.

Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Assistant Secretary shall certify in writing to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate that all screening personnel have participated in practical training exercises for active shooter scenarios.

SEC. 6. REIMBURSABLE AGREEMENTS.

Not later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate an analysis of how the Administration can use cost savings achieved through efficiencies to increase over the next 5 fiscal years the funding available for checkpoint screening law enforcement support reimbursable agreements.

SEC. 7. NO ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act, and this Act shall be carried out using amounts otherwise available for such purpose.

SEC. 8. INTEROPERABILITY REVIEW.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary shall, in consultation with the Assistant Secretary of the Office of Cybersecurity and Communications, conduct a review of the interoperable communications capabilities of the law enforcement, fire, and medical personnel responsible for responding to a security incident, including active shooter events, acts of terrorism, and incidents that target passenger-screening checkpoints, at all airports in the United States at which the Administration performs, or oversees the implementation and performance of, security measures.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 30 days after the completion of the review, the Assistant Secretary shall report the findings of the review to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) and the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 720, the Gerardo Hernandez Airport Security Act of 2015.

H.R. 720 is a bipartisan measure I introduced to enhance preparedness at our Nation's airports for responding to active shooters and other security incidents.

The legislation was championed last Congress by my predecessor, the former chairman of the Transportation Security Subcommittee, Mr. HUDSON, in response to the tragic shooting at

Los Angeles International Airport in November of 2013.

The shooting at LAX took the life of Transportation Security Officer Hernandez and wounded two other TSA officers and one passenger. The event highlighted vulnerabilities in airport preparedness, including in the areas of incident command, communication with travelers, communication between TSA and law enforcement, and evacuation measures. H.R. 720 would apply lessons learned and help close gaps in preparedness at other U.S. airports around the country.

Mr. Speaker, the time to act is now. Everyone within the airport community—from law enforcement and emergency medical personnel, to airport and airline personnel, to TSA officials and the traveling public—must know how to respond to an active shooter or other threat inside the airport.

If not, we risk repeating the communication and coordination challenges among responding agencies that were well documented in the aftermath of the LAX shooting. There is no excuse for such inaction.

Many airports have taken their own steps following the shooting to strengthen preparedness and response plans, and they should be applauded for that.

H.R. 720 would require TSA to verify that airports maintain plans for evacuating travelers, conducting joint exercises within the airport community, establishing unified command posts during security incidents, and testing radio equipment.

The bill would also make TSA a clearinghouse for security incident response and communications best practices—a key recommendation from the airport community—as well as require the agency to certify to Congress that all screening personnel have participated in active shooter training.

H.R. 720 explicitly does not authorize any new spending to implement these commonsense measures. TSA continues to achieve millions of dollars in cost savings with risk-based programs such as TSA Precheck, and I believe the agency must continually prioritize its resources to address real threats to the traveling public.

This bipartisan bill was developed with public and private sector input following multiple subcommittee hearings, site visits, meetings, and afteraction reviews conducted by both the TSA and Los Angeles World Airports.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman MCCAUL, Ranking Member THOMPSON, Ranking Member RICE, Congressman HUDSON, and other bipartisan cosponsors of the bill for joining me in introducing this legislation and for their strong support in getting this legislation to the floor today.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 720, the Gerardo Hernandez Airport Security Act of 2015, and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the bill before us today is named in honor of Officer Gerardo Hernandez, a Transportation Security Administration officer who was tragically shot and killed in the line of duty on November 1, 2013, at Los Angeles International Airport.

Officer Hernandez was the first TSA employee ever to be killed in the line of duty, and this bill that bears his name seeks to better prepare our Nation's airports to respond to such security incidents in hopes that we can prevent another TSA officer, airport employee, or passenger from suffering the same fate.

That morning in November 2013, a man entered LAX with a semiautomatic rifle, a bagful of ammunition, and the intent to target TSA officers. After killing Officer Hernandez at the TSA checkpoint, the man proceeded into the secure area of the terminal where he shot and wounded two more TSA officers and a civilian.

Those two TSA officers heroically continued to help passengers escape to safety while the shooter made it as far as the food court at the end of the terminal before he was shot and wounded by LAX police officers.

The men and women of the Los Angeles World Airports Police Department and all emergency responders who arrived on the scene that morning acted bravely and swiftly prevented further loss of life despite tremendous communications challenges.

It is with those men and women and all emergency responders in mind that I rise to support this bill because this incident exposed serious deficiencies in planning, preparedness, and communication that must be corrected for the safety of emergency responders and all who use and work in our airports.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 720 would implement commonsense security measures to ensure that our Nation's airports have in place individualized strategies for responding to a security incident such as an active shooter scenario or an act of terrorism.

This bill also specifically requires TSA to provide information to airports on best practices for responding to a security incident at checkpoints; provide Transportation Security officers with practical training for responding to active shooter scenarios; and conduct a nationwide assessment of the interoperable communications capabilities of the law enforcement, fire, and medical personnel responsible for responding to an active shooter event at an airport.

These requirements are informed by postincident reviews conducted by TSA

and LAX, as well as hearings and oversight work conducted by the Committee on Homeland Security Subcommittee on Transportation Security.

Mr. Speaker, prior to my time here in Congress, I understand that the Subcommittee on Transportation Security also visited LAX to see firsthand how the tragedy unfolded and hear from TSA airport officials and the American Federation of Government Employees about how the response to a similar incident can be improved going forward.

I hope that we can continue that productive dialogue with LAX and our other airports and work together to better prepare for such violence in the airport environment.

We will never forget what happened at LAX on November 1, 2013, nor can we afford to forget the lessons to be learned from that tragic day. The threats to our Nation's airports are ceaseless and constantly evolving. There could be another attack on any given day at any given airport. We must assume that it will happen. We must be more prepared. We must do better. We owe it to Officer Hernandez and his family.

That is why I rise today in support of H.R. 720, and I urge all of my colleagues to pass this important bill.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time and look forward to the comments from the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS).

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), the ranking member on the U.S. House Committee on Financial Services whose district encompasses Los Angeles International Airport.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. I thank the gentlewoman for the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 720, the Gerardo Hernandez Airport Security Act of 2015. I would like to thank Congressman JOHN KATKO, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security of the House Committee on Homeland Security, for reintroducing this bill. I was proud to join him as an original cosponsor.

I would like to thank Homeland Security Chairman MICHAEL McCAUL, Ranking Member BENNIE THOMPSON, and our Subcommittee Ranking Member KATHLEEN RICE for supporting this bill and bringing it to the floor for a vote.

Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan bill was originally introduced last year in response to the horrific November 1, 2013, shooting incident at Los Angeles International Airport in my congressional district.

This bill is named in honor of Gerardo Hernandez, the Transportation Security officer who was killed in the line of duty on that tragic day. As we debate this bill, we offer our deepest

condolences to the family of Gerardo Hernandez, and we honor all of the TSOs, police officers, and other first responders who risked their lives to stabilize the situation and protect the public during that terrible incident.

Following the LAX shooting incident, Congress conducted several hearings on the incident, including a field hearing in my district on March 28, 2014. These hearings revealed serious security lapses which interfered with response efforts, such as emergency phones and panic buttons that did not work properly, problems in coordination between various police and fire departments, and incompatible radio systems. These security failures are unacceptable.

The Gerardo Hernandez Airport Security Act requires the Department of Homeland Security to conduct outreach to airports to verify that they have working plans to respond to security incidents, including active shooter incidents, acts of terrorism, and incidents that target passenger screening checkpoints like the one where Officer Hernandez was killed.

□ 1730

It is imperative that major airports like LAX have state-of-the-art emergency response systems. The safety and security of our Nation's airports, and of all of the workers and travelers who pass through them, is of paramount importance. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and send it to the President's desk.

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank Subcommittee Chairman KATKO for the bipartisan, inclusive, and constructive way in which he has conducted the subcommittee's response to this incident. I am proud to join Ranking Member THOMPSON and Chairman McCAUL as an original cosponsor of H.R. 720. This is bipartisan legislation that was unanimously passed by the House last Congress, and I urge my colleagues to do the same with this bill.

I strongly believe that with our votes today, we will not only honor the life of Officer Hernandez, we have the opportunity to save lives, be they transportation security officers, airport workers, or members of the flying public. At the end of the day, saving those lives is the best way we can honor Officer Hernandez and his family. I once again urge my colleagues to pass this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the tragic event that unfolded at LAX in November of 2013 was a stark reminder that much remains to be done in securing America's transit hubs, particularly the non-

sterile or nonsecure side of airports that are in many ways just like open shopping malls.

Given this reality, we must ensure that airport communities are prepared to respond swiftly to any major security incidents that threaten the safety of the traveling public. In remembrance of Transportation Security Officer Hernandez, I urge my colleagues to pass this important legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 720, the Gerardo Hernandez Airport Security Act of 2015. This bipartisan legislation will help airports nationwide improve their emergency response plans, in order to be better prepared for security incidents like the tragic shooting that occurred at Los Angeles International Airport on November 1, 2013. This legislation will enhance airport security by requiring the Transportation Security Administration to assess security incident preparedness at airports across the country, train its own employees on how to effectively respond to active shooter incidents, develop plans for testing emergency communications equipment, and act as a clearinghouse for airport security best practices.

I had the opportunity to travel to LAX nearly a year ago for a site visit and field hearing led by the gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. HUDSON. During that trip, the Committee gained a better understanding of how relatively easy it is for someone with malicious intent to wreak havoc at one of the world's busiest airports and how important it is to have adequate emergency plans in place to respond to any security incident that may occur.

I would like to commend the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security, Mr. KATKO and the former Chairman of the Subcommittee, Mr. HUDSON for their diligent efforts to address this important issue, and their dedication to strengthening the state of airport security nationwide. I also wish to commend the bipartisan efforts of both the Ranking Member of the Full Committee, Mr. THOMPSON, and the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, Miss RICE, whose support of this legislation is greatly appreciated. Identical language to H.R. 720 was approved by the Committee on Homeland Security last Congress and subsequently passed the House by voice vote.

I urge support for this critical measure.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 720, a bill I am pleased to be a cosponsor of.

The shooting at LAX resulted in the loss of Officer Hernandez's life and served as a stark reminder of the dangers the men and women on the front lines of securing our aviation sector face.

Unarmed and exposed, Transportation Security Officers perform the often thankless task of screening 1.8 million passengers per day.

They do so with limited workplace protections and the great responsibility of preventing another terrorist attack on the scale of 9/11.

Given their vulnerability and the critical role they play in protecting our homeland, it is essential that airports and the law enforcement

agencies that serve them have the resources, training, and plans in place to ensure a swift and effective response when an incident that threatens the safety of Transportation Security Officers occurs.

In March of 2014, I had the opportunity to attend the Subcommittee on Transportation Security's site visit and field hearing at Los Angeles International Airport focused on the tragic shooting that occurred there on November 1st of 2013.

While the response of the individual police officers who prevented further loss of life on that tragic day is to be commended, the overall response at LAX left much to be desired.

Panic buttons at the checkpoint were not in working order. The emergency phone Transportation Security Officers have been trained to use did not display the location of the incident to the command center, and the police, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel responding could not communicate via interoperable radios.

The bill before us today represents a bipartisan effort to remedy many of the deficiencies identified following the shooting.

During Committee consideration of the bill last Congress, Representative PAYNE offered an amendment to the bill requiring TSA to conduct a nationwide assessment of the interoperability capabilities of emergency responders at airports.

I am pleased that the amendment was adopted and is still included in the bill before the House today.

Such an assessment will help inform where communications gaps that may hamper emergency response at airports still exist.

I would like to once again give my condolences for Officer Hernandez.

Under current law, the families of individuals serving a public agency in an official capacity as a law enforcement officer, firefighter, or chaplain receive compensation if their loved one is killed in the line of duty.

The same is true for families of employees of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and members of rescue squads or ambulance crews.

Unfortunately, the law has not been updated to include Transportation Security Officers within the definition of what constitutes a public safety officer.

As a result, the families of TSOs who are killed in the line of duty, such as the Hernandez family, are not entitled to funds from the Public Safety Officer's Benefits Program.

Last Congress, Representative BROWNLEY introduced legislation that would grant Transportation Security Officers the benefits of other law enforcement officers that are killed in the line of duty.

It is my understanding that Representative BROWNLEY intends to reintroduce the "Honoring Our Fallen TSA Officers Act" this Congress.

I implore my colleagues to support the forthcoming legislation so that the families of the men and women on the front lines of protecting our aviation sector are properly compensated when tragedy strikes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 720, The Gerardo Hernandez Airport Security Act of 2015, which improves intergovernmental planning and com-

munication during security incidents at domestic airports.

As a former chair and ranking member of the Homeland Security Committee Transportation Security Subcommittee, I understand how important this bill will be in enhancing safety and protection in the air transit industry, not just for our citizens but for our Transportation Security Officers working in the line of duty.

This legislation, which requires the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to devote more resources for planning and communication during and in case of threats or emergencies, is prompted by the tragic death of Gerardo I. Hernandez, a Transportation Security Officer who was killed in the line of duty at Los Angeles International Airport on November 1, 2013.

At just 39 years old, Gerardo Hernandez was the first TSA officer to lose his life in the line of duty in the 12 year history of the agency.

He died from several gunshot wounds inflicted by an assailant while on duty at the Los Angeles International Airport.

Gerardo Hernandez was among those thousands of TSA employs carrying out their mission to keep the airways safe for traveling citizens, and their work across the nation cannot be understated.

Seven victims were treated at the scene of the attack and three victims who were wounded by gunfire, including two TSA officers, identified as 54-year-old James Speer and 36-year-old Tony Grigsby needed hospital treatment.

On average, TSA officers screen 1.7 million air passengers at more than 450 airports across the nation, which averaged over 637.5 million passengers in 2012.

H.R. 720 will help ensure that all screening personnel have received training in how to handle potential shooting threats.

The bill also requires TSA to verify that all airports have plans in place to respond to any security threats, and provide technical assistance as necessary to improve those plans.

The bill also directs the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office of Cybersecurity and Communication to report to Congress the capacity of law enforcement, fire, and medical response teams' communication and response to security threats at airports.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates the implementation of H.R. 720 would cost about \$2.5 million in 2015. Of the \$2.5 million, an estimated \$1.5 million would serve to provide additional technical assistance to airports, and the remaining \$1 million would be used to evaluate the interoperability of communication systems used by emergency response teams.

Mr. Speaker, it has been almost 14 years since our country suffered the tragedy of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

We will never forget how that day changed our lives, and the lives of every American generation to follow.

Security measures in airports across the country have been enhanced dramatically, and the resulting inconvenience is a small price to pay for the protective measures needed to keep the travelling public safe.

It is people like Gerardo Hernandez who do their best to make the necessary screening as

least intrusive and burdensome as possible, consistent with the mission of ensuring the security of all members of the flying public.

TSA officers willingly risk their lives to make sure the job gets done, and for that we owe these men and women a debt of gratitude.

In honor of Gerardo Hernandez's contribution to his country, I strongly support this bill and urge all my colleagues to join me in voting for its passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 720.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1831

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CARTER of Georgia) at 6 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE ALAN NUNNELEE, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 99

In the House of Representatives, U.S., February 10, 2015:

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable Alan Nunnelee, a Representative from the State of Mississippi.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 719, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 720, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The remaining electronic votes will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

TSA OFFICE OF INSPECTION
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 719) to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 414, nays 0, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 69]

YEAS—414

Abraham	Calvert	Delaney
Adams	Capuano	DeLauro
Aderholt	Cárdenas	DeBene
Aguilar	Carney	Denham
Allen	Carson (IN)	Dent
Amash	Carter (GA)	DeSantis
Amodei	Carter (TX)	DeSaulnier
Ashford	Castor (FL)	DesJarlais
Babin	Castro (TX)	Deutch
Barletta	Chabot	Dingell
Barr	Chaffetz	Doggett
Barton	Chu (CA)	Dold
Bass	Cicilline	Doyle (PA)
Beatty	Clark (MA)	Duffy
Becerra	Clarke (NY)	Duncan (SC)
Benishek	Clawson (FL)	Duncan (TN)
Bera	Clay	Edwards
Beyer	Cleaver	Ellison
Bilirakis	Clyburn	Ellmers
Bishop (GA)	Coffman	Emmer
Bishop (MI)	Cohen	Engel
Bishop (UT)	Cole	Eshoo
Black	Collins (NY)	Esty
Blackburn	Comstock	Farenthold
Blum	Conaway	Farr
Blumenauer	Connolly	Fattah
Bonamici	Conyers	Fincher
Bost	Cook	Fitzpatrick
Boustany	Cooper	Fleischmann
Boyle (PA)	Costa	Fleming
Brady (PA)	Costello (PA)	Flores
Brady (TX)	Courtney	Forbes
Brat	Cramer	Fortenberry
Bridenstine	Crawford	Foster
Brooks (AL)	Crenshaw	Fox
Brooks (IN)	Crowley	Frankel (FL)
Brown (FL)	Cuellar	Franks (AZ)
Brownley (CA)	Culberson	Frelinghuysen
Buchanan	Cummings	Fudge
Buck	Curbelo (FL)	Gabbard
Bucshon	Davis (CA)	Gallego
Burgess	Davis, Danny	Garamendi
Bustos	Davis, Rodney	Garrett
Butterfield	DeFazio	Gibbs
Byrne	DeGette	Gibson

Gohmert	Luján, Ben Ray	Roybal-Allard
Goodlatte	(NM)	Royce
Gowdy	Lummis	Ruppersberger
Graham	Lynch	Rush
Granger	MacArthur	Russell
Graves (GA)	Maloney,	Ryan (OH)
Graves (LA)	Carolyn	Ryan (WI)
Graves (MO)	Maloney, Sean	Salmon
Grayson	Marchant	Sánchez, Linda
Green, Al	Marino	T.
Green, Gene	Massie	Sarbanes
Griffith	Matsui	Scalise
Grijalva	McCarthy	Schakowsky
Grothman	McCaul	Schiff
Guinta	McClintock	Schock
Guthrie	McCollum	Schrader
Hahn	McDermott	Schweikert
Hanna	McGovern	Scott (VA)
Hardy	McHenry	Scott, Austin
Harper	McKinley	Scott, David
Harris	McMorris	Sensenbrenner
Hartzler	Rodgers	Serrano
Hastings	McNerney	Sessions
Heck (NV)	McSally	Sewell (AL)
Heck (WA)	Meadows	Sherman
Hensarling	Meehan	Shimkus
Herrera Beutler	Meeks	Shuster
Hice (GA)	Meng	Simpson
Higgins	Messer	Sinema
Hill	Mica	Sires
Himes	Miller (FL)	Slaughter
Hinojosa	Miller (MI)	Smith (MO)
Holding	Moolenaar	Smith (NE)
Honda	Mooney (WV)	Smith (NJ)
Hoyer	Moore	Smith (TX)
Hudson	Moulton	Smith (WA)
Huelskamp	Mullin	Speier
Huffman	Mulvaney	Stefanik
Huizenga (MI)	Murphy (FL)	Stivers
Hultgren	Murphy (PA)	Stutzman
Hunter	Nadler	Swalwell (CA)
Hurd (TX)	Napolitano	Takai
Hurt (VA)	Neal	Takano
Israel	Neugebauer	Thompson (CA)
Issa	Newhouse	Thompson (MS)
Jackson Lee	Nolan	Thompson (PA)
Jeffries	Norcross	Thornberry
Jenkins (KS)	Nugent	Tiberi
Jenkins (WV)	Nunes	Tipton
Johnson (GA)	O'Rourke	Titus
Johnson (OH)	Olson	Tonko
Johnson, E. B.	Pallone	Torres
Johnson, Sam	Palmer	Trott
Jolly	Pascarell	Tsongas
Jones	Paulsen	Turner
Jordan	Payne	Upton
Joyce	Pearce	Valadao
Kaptur	Pelosi	Van Hollen
Katko	Perlmutter	Vargas
Keating	Perry	Veasey
Kelly (IL)	Peters	Vela
Kelly (PA)	Peterson	Velázquez
Kennedy	Pingree	Visclosky
Kildee	Pittenger	Wagner
Kilmer	Pitts	Walberg
Kind	Pocan	Walden
King (IA)	Poe (TX)	Walker
King (NY)	Poliquin	Walorski
Kinzinger (IL)	Polis	Walters, Mimi
Kirkpatrick	Pompeo	Walz
Kline	Posey	Wasserman
Knight	Price (GA)	Schultz
Kuster	Price (NC)	Watson, Maxine
LaMalfa	Quigley	Watson Coleman
Lamborn	Rangel	Weber (TX)
Lance	Ratcliffe	Webster (FL)
Langevin	Reed	Wenstrup
Larsen (WA)	Reichert	Westerman
Larson (CT)	Renacci	Westmoreland
Latta	Ribble	Whitfield
Lawrence	Rice (NY)	Williams
Levin	Rice (SC)	Wilson (FL)
Lewis	Richmond	Wilson (SC)
Lieu (CA)	Rigell	Wittman
Lipinski	Roby	Womack
LoBiondo	Rogers (AL)	Woodall
Loeb sack	Rogers (KY)	Yarmuth
Lofgren	Rohrabacher	Yoder
Long	Rokita	Yoho
Loudermilk	Rooney (FL)	Young (AK)
Love	Ros-Lehtinen	Young (IA)
Lowenthal	Roskam	Young (IN)
Lowey	Ross	Zeldin
Lucas	Rothfus	Zinke
Luetkemeyer	Rouzer	

NOT VOTING—18

Capps	Labrador	Ruiz
Cartwright	Lee	Sanchez, Loretta
Collins (GA)	Lujan Grisham	Sanford
Diaz-Balart	(NM)	Stewart
Duckworth	Noem	Welch
Gosar	Palazzo	
Gutiérrez	Roe (TN)	

□ 1857

Ms. KAPTUR changed her vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE LATE HONORABLE ALAN NUNNELEE

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, on Friday we lost our colleague ALAN NUNNELEE, who represented the First Congressional District of Mississippi.

On yesterday, Congressman NUNNELEE was funeralized. The entire Mississippi delegation and 40 other Members of Congress attended.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House pause for a moment of silence in remembrance of Congressman NUNNELEE.

The SPEAKER. Members will rise and observe a moment of silence.

GERARDO HERNANDEZ AIRPORT
SECURITY ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 720) to improve intergovernmental planning for and communication during security incidents at domestic airports, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 411, nays 1, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 70]

YEAS—411

Abraham	Beatty	Bonamici
Adams	Becerra	Bost
Aderholt	Benishek	Boustany
Aguilar	Bera	Boyle (PA)
Allen	Beyer	Brady (PA)
Amash	Bilirakis	Brady (TX)
Amodei	Bishop (GA)	Brat
Ashford	Bishop (MI)	Bridenstine
Babin	Bishop (UT)	Brooks (AL)
Barletta	Black	Brooks (IN)
Barr	Blackburn	Brown (FL)
Barton	Blum	Brownley (CA)
Bass	Blumenauer	Buchanan

Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Capuano
Cárdenas
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu (CA)
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Doyle (PA)
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Emmer
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxy
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson

Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzel
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
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Kelly (IL)
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Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lieu (CA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebach
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer

Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
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Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
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Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
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Nunes
O'Rourke
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Pallone
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Pascarell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
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Quigley
Rangel
Ratcliffe
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Reichert
Renacci
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Rice (NY)
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Rogers (AL)
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Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard

Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schock
Schroder
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)

Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
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Thornberry
Tiberi
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Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky

Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NAYS—1

Sensenbrenner

NOT VOTING—20

Capps
Cartwright
Collins (GA)
Diaz-Balart
Duckworth
Gosar
Gutiérrez
Labrador
Lee
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Murphy (FL)
Noem
Roe (TN)
Ruiz
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Smith (NE)
Stewart
Welch
Woodall

□ 1906

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I was delayed for votes on Tuesday, February 10, 2015, as the train I was on ended up being delayed by two and a half hours, and as a consequence, I arrived half an hour late and missed votes. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: H.R. 719—TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act—vote: “yes,” H.R. 720—Gerardo Hernandez Airport Security Act—vote: “yes.”

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 1, KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE APPROVAL ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM FEBRUARY 16, 2015, THROUGH FEBRUARY 23, 2015

Mr. COLE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-22) on the resolution (H. Res. 100) providing for consideration of the bill (S. 1) to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline, and providing for proceedings during the period from February 16, 2015, through February 23, 2015, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 644, FIGHTING HUNGER INCENTIVE ACT OF 2015, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 636, AMERICA'S SMALL BUSINESS TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2015

Mr. COLE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-23) on the resolution (H. Res. 101) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 644) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 636) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ESSENTIAL TRANSPORTATION WORKER IDENTIFICATION CREDENTIAL ASSESSMENT ACT

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 710) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to prepare a comprehensive security assessment of the transportation security card program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 710

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Essential Transportation Worker Identification Credential Assessment Act”.

SEC. 2. COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY ASSESSMENT OF THE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY CARD PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Comptroller General of the United States a comprehensive assessment of the effectiveness of the transportation security card program under section 70105 of title 46, United States Code, at enhancing security and reducing security risks for facilities and vessels regulated pursuant to section 102 of Public Law 107-295. Such assessment shall be conducted by a national laboratory that, to the extent practicable, is within the Department of Homeland Security laboratory network with expertise in maritime security or by a maritime security university-based center within the Department of Homeland Security centers of excellence network.

(b) CONTENTS.—The comprehensive assessment shall include—

(1) an evaluation of the extent to which the program, as implemented, addresses known or likely security risks in the maritime environment;

(2) an evaluation of the extent to which deficiencies identified by the Comptroller General have been addressed; and

(3) a cost-benefit analysis of the program, as implemented.

(c) **CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN; PROGRAM REFORMS.**—Not later than 60 days after the Secretary submits the assessment under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit a corrective action plan to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate that responds to the assessment under subsection (b). The corrective action plan shall include an implementation plan with benchmarks, may include programmatic reforms, revisions to regulations, or proposals for legislation, and shall be considered in any rule making by the Department relating to the transportation security card program.

(d) **COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW.**—Not later than 120 days after the Secretary issues the corrective action plan under subsection (c), the Comptroller General shall—

(1) review the extent to which such plan implements—

(A) recommendations issued by the national laboratory or maritime security university-based center, as applicable, in the assessment submitted under subsection (a); and

(B) recommendations issued by the Comptroller General before the enactment of this Act; and

(2) inform the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate as to the responsiveness of such plan to such recommendations.

(e) **TRANSPORTATION SECURITY CARD READER RULE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Homeland Security may not issue a final rule requiring the use of transportation security card readers until—

(A) the Comptroller General informs the Committees on Homeland Security and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and Commerce, Science and Transportation of the Senate that the submission under subsection (a) is responsive to the recommendations of the Comptroller General; and

(B) the Secretary issues an updated list of transportation security card readers that are compatible with active transportation security cards.

(2) **LIMITATION ON APPLICATION.**—Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to any final rule issued pursuant to the notice of proposed rulemaking on Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC)-Reader Requirements published by the Coast Guard on March 22, 2013 (78 Fed. Reg. 17781)

(f) **COMPTROLLER GENERAL OVERSIGHT.**—Not less than 18 months after the date of the issuance of the corrective action plan under subsection (c), and every six months thereafter during the 3-year period following the date of the issuance of the first report under this subsection, the Comptroller General shall report to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate regarding implementation of the corrective action plan.

SEC. 3. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act, and this Act

and such amendments shall be carried out using amounts otherwise available for such purpose.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 710, the Essential Transportation Worker Identification Credential Assessment Act.

First, I would like to thank the gentlelady from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for reintroducing this thoughtful legislation and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) for her leadership in moving it through her subcommittee last Congress.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation calls for a security assessment to determine the efficacy of the Transportation Worker Identification Credential, commonly known as the TWIC program. This bill will help Congress better determine the value of the TWIC program and simultaneously allow the Department to proceed with finalizing the long-awaited card reader rule.

I support this bill under consideration on the floor today because it responds to a key recommendation of the Government Accountability Office that the TWIC program should have a baseline security assessment before the program moves forward.

I have several thriving ports in my district, such as Savannah, Brunswick, and Kings Bay. As many of my colleagues who also have ports in their districts know, TWIC is a port security program that has been wrought with constant delays and questions about its overall security value.

Last Congress, the Border and Maritime Subcommittee held a hearing with the Coast Guard, TSA, and GAO on the TWIC program and the ongoing concerns therein, and this legislation is a result of that strong oversight.

It may be hard to believe, but more than a decade after the legislation that required TWIC was first enacted, there has been no security or effectiveness assessment of the program to assess the underlying assumptions of the security and access control concerns the card was intended to mitigate.

This bill seeks to answer the simple question: How, if at all, does TWIC im-

prove maritime security? This should have been one of the very first things the Department did when it began to implement this program, and this bill ensures it is done.

The TWIC card was initially designed to prevent terrorists from gaining access to sensitive parts of our Nation's ports through the use of biometric-enabled credentials. However, with no biometric reader regulations in place, the TWIC card is currently used as a flash pass since most facilities and vessels are neither currently required to nor voluntarily utilize biometric readers. The lack of biometric readers, therefore, limits the effectiveness of this program.

For several years, members of the Homeland Security Committee have been calling on the Department to release the card reader rule to provide some certainty to workers and industry.

□ 1915

The final rule to require TWIC readers to be used at the riskiest 5 percent of all TWIC-regulated vessels and facilities has not been issued. The notice of proposed rulemaking was posted almost 2 years ago which was nearly 6 years after workers were first required to pay for and obtain a TWIC card.

The delays are so significant that workers have already had to renew their biometric credentials in the time it has taken to issue regulations on credential readers to actually utilize the biometric-enabled technology. This is absurd.

While we all agree there is much room for improvement with the TWIC program, putting it on hold for several more years would do more harm than good. The business community has been preparing for this TWIC rule for several years.

This bill would give them certainty about the requirements of the TWIC program. It also allows the Coast Guard and TSA to continue their efforts to deliver the port security program Congress expected years ago.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 710 requires the GAO to perform consistent reviews of the TWIC program and to follow the changes the Department makes as a result of the required assessment. This added level of review will provide Congress with progress updates for future legislative action.

The proposed rule and open GAO recommendations lead to some very basic questions about mitigating threat, risk, and vulnerability at our Nation's ports and how the TWIC program should be used effectively to prevent a potential terrorist attack.

We have an obligation, Mr. Speaker, to get this right. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 710, and I reserve the balance of my time.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, February 5, 2015.

Hon. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL: I write concerning H.R. 710, the Essential Transportation Worker Identification Credential Assessment Act. This legislation includes matters that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

In order to expedite floor consideration of H.R. 710, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will forgo action on this bill. However, this is conditional on our mutual understanding that forgoing consideration of the bill does not prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation that fall within the Committee's Rule X jurisdiction. I request you urge the Speaker to name members of the Committee to any conference committee named to consider such provisions.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, February 5, 2015.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SHUSTER: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 710, the "Essential Transportation Worker Identification Credential Assessment Act." I appreciate your support in bringing this legislation before the House of Representatives, and accordingly, understand that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will forego action on the bill.

The Committee on Homeland Security concurs with the mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of this bill at this time, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this bill or similar legislation in the future. In addition, should a conference on this bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure represented on the conference committee.

I will insert copies of this exchange in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor. I thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 710, the Essential Transportation Worker Identification Credential Assessment Act, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend from Georgia for his concern and for his commitment and thank him for his service on the Homeland Security Committee. I also want

to acknowledge our chairman and our ranking member of the full committee and Mrs. MILLER who now serves as the chairwoman of the Border and Maritime Security, on which I served as the ranking member in the last Congress.

The bill passed the House unanimously in the 113th Congress, and I am pleased it is being considered by the House again today. Mr. Speaker, might I add my appreciation to the House leadership, in particular the Speaker; majority leader; and, of course, our leader and minority whip.

The SAFE Port Act of 2006 directed the Secretary of Homeland Security to implement a biometric credential program, now known as the TWIC program, to ensure that individuals with unescorted access to secure areas of ports and vessels were vetted and carrying proper credentials.

Mr. Speaker, I had a TWIC card. I remember being there as the TWIC card was being implemented and watching various workers come to a central point and sign up for the TWIC card. We had great hope and inspiration on that TWIC card.

Establishment of this program was viewed as critical to ensuring protection of our ports from a so-called insider security threat; however, in the years since it was established, the Department of Homeland Security struggled to realize the security benefits that Congress envisioned.

I know that the former director of the Transportation Security Administration, Mr. Pistole, was very concerned. It should be noted their efforts are an important part of their work, along with others.

In fact, the Government Accountability Office has examined the program and identified serious shortcomings that may undermine the program's intended purpose and make it difficult to justify the program's costs and particularly the costs to workers. I saw that firsthand. I also saw the challenges of workers who had many unique scheduling for their work hours to be able to get a TWIC card.

In response, I introduced H.R. 710 and its predecessor last Congress with the support of Subcommittee Chairman MILLER as an original cosponsor to ensure that Congress receives an independent, scientific assessment of the program and to require the Secretary to issue a corrective action plan in response to the assessment.

Ranking Member THOMPSON is also a cosponsor, but this is bipartisan legislation. The required assessment should give Congress the information it needs to determine how best to proceed with the TWIC program.

The bill has been refined over time to ensure that the long overdue rule-making for TWIC card readers would not be affected by the bill and to refine the scope of the assessment we are seeking.

There is great interest in that final rule; particularly, there is interest in how many ports and vessels will be required to install readers for biometric cards. If the final rule requires only a limited number of vessels and ports to have biometric readers, as has been previously proposed by the Department, we will still—we will still—certainly need to have a discussion about what this means for the approximately 2 million truckers, longshoremen, and port workers who today carry TWICs as part of their jobs.

For those of us who live around and near our ports, such as the Houston port, we know that this will have a great impact.

In closing, I again thank my friend for his concern and presence here on the floor today and in support of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to make the point that this bill was generated by the GAO report which found a number of concerns, and I just want to mention one or two. The reliability of data collection retention was done in an incomplete and inconsistent manner, this report wanted to inform us of—this was a GAO TWIC report—and it commented on some of the illnesses or ailments of this process.

It reported that transaction data did not match underlying documentation, installed TWIC readers and access control systems could not collect required data on TWIC reader use, and TSA and the independent test agent did not employ effective compensating data collection measures.

Also, pilot participants did not document instances of denied access. Finally, TSA and the independent test agent did not collect complete data on malfunctioning TWIC cards.

This legislation, the underlying legislation, H.R. 710, is to be a helper. It is to help correct our path to make the document, the TWIC card that all of us are quite familiar with, the best effective data-collecting document and system that it can possibly be.

I am very grateful that, again, my colleagues on the Homeland Security Committee have supported this legislation, and I ask my colleagues to join us in making what is good much better and best to be able to secure the Nation and provide for the homeland.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of my bill, H.R. 710, the "Essential Transportation Worker Identification Credential Assessment Act."

This bill passed the House unanimously in the 113th Congress and I am pleased it is being considered by the House again today.

The SAFE Port Act of 2006 directed the Secretary of Homeland Security to implement a biometric credential program, now known as the TWIC program, to ensure that individuals with unescorted access to secure areas of ports and vessels were vetted and carrying proper credentials.

Establishment of this program was viewed as critical to ensuring the protection of our ports from a so-called "insider security threat."

However, in the years since it was established, the Department of Homeland Security struggled to realize the security benefits that Congress envisioned.

In fact, the Government Accountability Office has examined the program and identified serious shortcomings that may undermine the program's intended purpose and make it difficult to justify program costs, and particularly the costs to workers.

In response, I introduced H.R. 710 and its predecessor last Congress, with the support of Subcommittee Chairman MILLER as an original cosponsor, to ensure that Congress receives an independent scientific assessment of the program and to require the Secretary to issue a corrective action plan in response to the assessment.

The required assessment should give Congress the information it needs to determine how best to proceed with the TWIC program.

The bill has been refined over time to ensure that the long-overdue rulemaking for TWIC card readers would not be affected by the bill and to refine the scope of the assessment we are seeking.

There is great interest in that final rule, particularly there is interest in how many ports and vessels will be required to install readers for biometric cards.

If the final rule requires only a limited number of vessels and ports to have biometric readers, as has been previously proposed by the Department, we will certainly need to have a discussion about what this means for the approximately 2 million truckers, longshoremen and port workers who today carry TWICs as part of their jobs.

In closing, I want to express my appreciation to Chairman MILLER for the bipartisan nature of the work on this bill and express my appreciation to her staff for their cooperation.

I am proud to represent a portion of the Port of Houston and know firsthand the importance of this issue to the maritime workers, truckers, and others who access our Nation's ports every day. It is imperative that we get this right on their behalf.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 710, a bipartisan bill that is essential to ensuring that the Department of Homeland Security has an effective program in place to help secure our ports.

Identical legislation that I authored was approved unanimously last Congress. Today, with this legislation, we have the opportunity to send another strong message to the Department.

Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, the Ranking Member of the Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee, and the author of the legislation, I rise in strong and enthusiastic support of H.R. 710, the "Essential Transportation Worker Identification Credential Assessment Act."

H.R. 710 is identical in all substantive respects to H.R. 3202, which passed the House during the 113th Congress on July 28, 2014.

The Essential Transportation Worker Identification Credential Assessment Act directs the Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS) to submit to Congress and the Comptroller General (GAO) a comprehensive assessment of the effectiveness of the transportation security card

program at enhancing security or reducing security risks for maritime facilities and vessels.

I reintroduced H.R. 710, in response to this GAO TWIC Report on the Weaknesses in the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) Reader Pilot program that impacted the accuracy, and reliability of the system.

The GAO report stated that data collection and retention was done in an incomplete and inconsistent manner during the pilot, further undermining the completeness, accuracy, and reliability of the data collected at pilot sites.

Problems identified included by the GAO report included:

1. Installed TWIC readers and access control systems could not collect required data on TWIC reader use, and TSA and the independent test agent did not employ effective compensating data collection measures.

2. Reported transaction data did not match underlying documentation.

3. Pilot documentation did not contain complete TWIC reader and access control system characteristics.

4. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the independent test agent did not record clear baseline data for comparing operational performance at access points with TWIC readers.

5. TSA and the independent test agent did not collect complete data on malfunctioning TWIC cards.

6. Pilot participants did not document instances of denied access.

7. TSA and the independent test agent did not collect consistent data on the operational impact of using TWIC cards with readers.

8. Pilot site reports did not contain complete information about installed TWIC readers' and access control systems' design.

H.R. 710 addresses the problems outlined in the GAO report by directing the Secretary to issue a corrective action plan based on the assessment that responds to the findings of a cost-benefit analysis of the program and enhances security or reduces security risk for such facilities and vessels.

Following the assessment the Comptroller General, within 120 days must review the extent to which the submissions implement certain recommendations issued by the Comptroller General, and inform Congress as to the responsiveness of the submission.

The bill also prohibits the Secretary from issuing a final rule requiring the use of transportation security card readers until the Comptroller General informs Congress that the submission is substantially responsive to the GAO recommendations, and the Secretary issues an updated list of transportation security card readers that are compatible with active transportation security cards.

Mr. Speaker, my congressional district is located in Houston, Texas, which is home to the Port of Houston, one of the world's busiest ports, and one of its most critical infrastructure projects.

According to the Department of Commerce in 2012, Texas exports totaled \$265 billion.

The Port of Houston is a 25-mile-long complex of diversified public and private facilities located just a few hours' sailing time from the Gulf of Mexico.

In 2012, ship channel-related businesses contribute 1,026,820 jobs and generate more

than \$178.5 billion in statewide economic impact.

For the past 11 consecutive years, Texas has outpaced the rest of the nation's ports in exports and ranked: 1. 1st in foreign tonnage; 2. 2nd in total tonnage; and 3. 7th in container ports by total TEUs in 2012.

The Port of Houston is the largest Texas port with 46% of market share by tonnage and the largest Texas container port with 96% market share in containers by total TEUs in 2012.

It is the largest Gulf Coast container port, handling 67% of Gulf Coast container traffic in 2012 and ranked 2nd in terms of cargo value (based on CBP Customs port definitions).

The Government Accountability Office (GAO), reports that the Port of Houston, its waterways, and vessels are part of an economic engine handling more than \$700 billion in merchandise annually.

The Port of Houston houses approximately 100 steamship lines offering services that link Houston with 1,053 ports in 203 countries.

The Port of Houston hosts a \$15 billion petrochemical complex, the largest in the nation and second largest worldwide.

The Port of Houston petrochemical complex supplies over 40 percent of the nation's base petrochemical manufacturing capacity.

What happens at the Port of Houston affects the entire nation.

When Congress enacted the SAFE Ports Act in 2006, we directed the Secretary of Homeland Security to implement a biometric credential program to ensure that individuals with unescorted access to sensitive areas in ports and vessels were vetted and known.

However, under the Homeland Security Committee's oversight responsibilities we learned that, as implemented by TSA and the Coast Guard, there are weaknesses in the program.

For this reason, I introduced H.R. 710, with the support of Mr. THOMPSON, the Homeland Security Committee Ranking Member, and Mrs. MILLER, Chair of the Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee as original cosponsors, to ensure that Congress receives an independent scientific assessment of the program and to require the Secretary to issue a corrective action plan in response to the assessment.

The required assessment should give Congress the information it needs to determine how best to proceed with the program.

I want to point out that in the last Congress when this bill was marked up in Committee, language was integrated to ensure that clarified that pending rulemaking would not be impacted by the bill and refined the scope of the assessment we are seeking.

H.R. 710 retains this language.

The Department has said that the final rule for biometric readers will be published in January 2015.

There is great interest in the Department's final rule for biometric readers, particularly as it relates to the number of ports and vessels that will be required to install readers for biometric cards.

If the final rule requires only a limited number of vessels and ports to have biometric readers, as has been previously proposed by the Department, we will certainly need to have

a discussion about what this means for the approximately 2 million truckers, longshoremen and port workers who today are required to carry biometric cards to do their jobs.

I want to express my appreciation to Chairman MILLER for the bipartisan nature of the work on this and all the bills that originate in her Subcommittee and thank her and the Committee staff for their cooperation and assistance in shepherding this vital legislation to the floor.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to strongly support this bipartisan bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Texas for her leadership in this very important issue.

Once again, I want to urge all of my colleagues to support this strong, bipartisan piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 710.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE FIGHTING HUNGER INCENTIVE ACT

(Mr. YOUNG of Iowa asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of H.R. 644, which promotes charitable giving. Think about this: one in eight Iowans struggle to find food, and one in five Iowa children don't have enough to eat. Iowa and our country face a very real challenge here that we cannot ignore.

Mr. Speaker, this week, we will be considering H.R. 644, the Fighting Hunger Incentive Act. H.R. 644 is good for families who give, and it is good for the families they serve. It is a common-sense solution that all my colleagues should support.

This bill would permanently update the Tax Code to provide for enhanced deductions for food inventory donations. We have great food banks across the Hawkeye State, but they are always in need of food inventory.

Let's pass H.R. 644. It makes giving less expensive, and it makes more businesses and families eligible for the credit so that we can empower those who can make a difference.

DIPLOMATIC PROTOCOLS

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the planned upcoming speech before Con-

gress by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been mishandled from the start. It is being brought forward in a manner that is in total contravention of important diplomatic protocols that exist to support America's strategic interests and, frankly, Israel's.

Mr. Speaker, this speech was agreed to unilaterally by the Republican Speaker of this House. He provided no courtesy nor prior notification to the executive branch, as is the standard course of protocol with foreign leaders.

This is a fundamental violation of our national unity on foreign policy. Our Constitution assigns the office of the President the right and responsibility to negotiate with foreign governments.

To circumvent this imperative and to invite a sitting head of state with no notification to the executive branch does harm to our national interests and our standing throughout the world.

At this time, while our executive branch is pursuing sensitive and promising nuclear negotiations with Iran, why would our Speaker behave so cavalierly? Shouldn't our Nation's executive and legislative branches be unified in matters of foreign policy with such grave ramifications beyond our shores?

As this pending visit comes 2 weeks before the Israeli elections, it appears that our Congress will be used as a campaign backstop and backdrop for Israeli election politics. How unfortunate and how wantonly crass and insulting to this Congress and the Constitution we are all sworn to uphold.

"ALLEGIANCE"

(Mr. TAKAI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAKAI. Aloha, Mr. Speaker. As a fourth-generation Japanese American, it is with special pride today that I announce a historic moment, the first time a play about the World War II internment of Japanese Americans has made it to Broadway.

Music and lyrics are by Jay Kuo, with a book by Marc Acito. The musical is called "Allegiance," and actor George Takei and all of the artists, producers, and supporters of "Allegiance" deserve congratulations. They are getting this still little-known story about the internment of Japanese Americans told in a high profile and exciting way.

"Allegiance" is inspired by Mr. Takei's experiences when he and his family were interned during World War II. The play is a tribute to his parents, as well as the more than 110,000 other people of Japanese ancestry who were subjected to forced relocation and incarceration.

Mr. Speaker, I urge everyone to see and support "Allegiance." This produc-

tion will raise awareness of injustices of that time, and it is a reminder of how much work remains to ensure equal rights and treatment for all.

UKRAINE

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the President to send defensive weapons to the beleaguered people of Ukraine. I just came back from a meeting in Europe with the President of Ukraine, Mr. Poroshenko, who pleaded with us that he needs help. The world cannot stand idly by and allow Putin Russian aggression to continue without giving the Ukrainians a chance to defend themselves.

I know that there are meetings and negotiations going on this week in Minsk, and I know that the leaders of France and Germany want to see if they can again put together some kind of an agreement before any weapons are given, but there was a Minsk agreement several months ago only to be broken by Mr. Putin, and the Ukrainians need help now.

As Mr. Poroshenko said when he addressed the joint session of Congress:

Thank you for the blankets, but blankets don't allow us to defend ourselves.

The Ukrainians are asking for anti-tank weapons, armored Humvees, longer-range counterartillery radars, drones, and additional advanced radios. We just would give them the ability to defend themselves.

Mr. Speaker, it doesn't involve U.S. military. It doesn't involve U.S. troops. How much longer can we watch the beleaguered people of Ukraine in siege? The United States should take moves and should take moves now. Send Ukraine these defensive weapons.

□ 1930

VACCINES SAVE LIVES

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, just yesterday I joined my public school system, my director of the city health department, and a number of health professionals to again remind parents and others around the Nation, and really to remind now, as I speak, my colleagues, vaccines save; and to be able to emphasize in the backdrop of this outbreak of measles, starting first with 7 States and 114 cases coming out of the case in Disney, and then now 17 States with 121 cases, to recognize the importance of research and responding to infectious disease.

We understand measles. We understand the science of it. We know that

we can protect people against it. We know when they should get a booster and what age a child should begin their first shots, certainly after 1 year old. We understand that an 8-month-old is in jeopardy if he or she is exposed, as is someone with low immunity. We also know that the measles vaccine has worked, and it has been effective.

I want to thank the Centers for Disease Control. In a conference call, they indicated that they are going to make new efforts to work with various health facilities and health entities across the Nation to establish protocols to talk to parents about vaccines. We can save lives, and we must do so together.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE TO ATTEND THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE HONORABLE ALAN NUNNELEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROUZER). Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker on February 9, 2015, appointed the following Members of the House to the committee to attend the funeral of the late Honorable ALAN NUNNELEE:

The gentleman from Mississippi, Mr. THOMPSON

The gentleman from Ohio, Mr. BOEHNER

The members of the Mississippi delegation:

Mr. HARPER

Mr. PALAZZO

Other Members in attendance:

Mr. MCCARTHY, California

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS

Mr. ADERHOLT

Mr. NEUGEBAUER

Mr. CONAWAY

Mr. MCHENRY

Mr. FLEMING

Mr. THOMPSON, Pennsylvania

Mr. WALBERG

Mr. BENISHEK

Mrs. BLACK

Mr. DENHAM

Mr. FLORES

Mr. HULTGREN

Mr. MCKINLEY

Mr. WOMACK

Mr. HUDSON

Mr. MESSER

Mrs. RADEWAGEN

FUNDING ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, "Alzheimer's," a word that brings fear and trauma to families all across America and, indeed, around the world. Tonight we are going to spend our time talking about this dreaded disease for which there is no known cure and which always ends in death.

I would like now to turn to my colleague, this being a bipartisan Special Order hour, unusual to be sure, but absolutely appropriate given the fact that this illness affects virtually every American family. I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE).

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) for organizing this Special Order for 1 hour to talk about the blight that we face here in America, and I am sure in many other countries around the world, known as Alzheimer's. I note the flyer that the gentleman sent around, a beautiful picture of him and his wife, Patti Garamendi, and some other family members, one of whom I am sure has had this difficulty themselves. So again, from the bottom of my heart and my constituents, I thank you for taking the time to organize this Special Order.

Alzheimer's robs an individual of a most valued possession—their memory. But we will not forget the them. I have met with many families across the Sixth District of Virginia who have been impacted by Alzheimer's, and it has been my honor to represent them by being a member of the bipartisan Congressional Alzheimer's Task Force.

Tonight I would like to take a moment to thank the men and women who care for those suffering from Alzheimer's—the spouses, children, grandchildren, friends, doctors, and nurses who assure them who they are, where they are, and affirm for them their dignity as an individual. Though their memories and clarity may fade, who they are is not truly gone. And we will not forget those suffering from Alzheimer's.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to promote bipartisan policies that will benefit the fight against this dreaded disease of Alzheimer's.

I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time to participate.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I thank the gentleman from Virginia for joining us and for his commitment to this very serious issue. There are approximately 5.1 million Americans who have Alzheimer's today, and it is expected to substantially grow. As the baby boomers come into their latter years, we would expect to see as many as 13 million Americans with this disease in the years ahead. It will be an incredible challenge for this Nation.

I now yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) for him to join us and share his thoughts on this issue.

Mr. HIGGINS. I thank the gentleman from California for bringing this issue to the House floor, underscoring the urgency of investing, through the National Institutes of Health, proper funding to find a cause and, thus, a cure for Alzheimer's. As the gentleman said, 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's. It is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States.

Death from Alzheimer's increased 68 percent between the years 2000 and 2010, while deaths from other major diseases decreased.

The cost to the United States is over \$200 billion a year. Without a breakthrough, treatment will cost \$1 trillion a year by the year 2050. We are still seeking an adequate level of funding. For every \$100 that the National Institutes of Health spends on Alzheimer's research, Medicare and Medicaid spend \$26,000 caring for those who have the disease.

In Congress we have two pieces of legislation: the Alzheimer's Accountability Act, which would ensure that Federal priorities and goals for Alzheimer's research actually reflect what scientists believe is needed; and the HOPE for Alzheimer's Act, which would provide Medicare coverage for the clinical diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and for care planning of newly diagnosed Americans.

But all of this, as the gentleman from California pointed out, becomes localized and becomes very personal. The origins of Alzheimer's are unknown, but the end is absolutely certain. It ends in losing your cognitive ability, your dignity, and, ultimately, your life.

In western New York, we have approximately 130,000 people who are impacted by Alzheimer's: 32,000 people who are afflicted, and 96,000 who love and provide care for the afflicted. That number is expected to triple by 2015.

The Alzheimer's Association of Western New York works year-round to highlight the effect of Alzheimer's disease and to help people and caregivers touched by this disease.

One of the people who was touched by this disease is Nancy Swiston, a constituent who lost her mom, Grace Swiston, who bravely fought the disease for 10 long years. Today, Nancy volunteers with the Alzheimer's Association of Western New York to be a voice for those suffering from the disease and the families who care for those with Alzheimer's. Nancy's story is one of too many families across the Nation we share, but we commit to fighting with her to raise awareness in funding for a cure that we will all embrace one day.

I thank the gentleman from California again for committing us to this important issue.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. HIGGINS, thank you for sharing your thoughts on this dreaded disease for which there is no known cure and there is no way to diagnose it until it is present. You cannot get ahead of this illness, but there are ways we can make progress. You pointed out what has happened over the last decade with extraordinary research efforts, and this chart really lays it out there as to where we are.

For breast cancer, we have seen a decline of 2 percent in breast cancer

deaths; prostate cancer, an 8 percent decline; heart disease, a 16 percent decline; stroke, 23 percent decline; and then one of the great victories, HIV/AIDS, a 42 percent decline in the number of deaths. This is the result of research, an extraordinary amount of research going on, not only in the United States but around the world, resulting in significant drops in the death rates for those diseases.

On the other hand, Alzheimer's, where we have just over \$500 million of research, we have seen a 68 percent increase in the death rates. This is the story of Alzheimer's. This is the challenge that we face. This is the challenge that every American family faces and our communities. We will talk more about this a little later.

The cochair of the Alzheimer's Task Force here in the Congress of the United States is the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MAXINE WATERS), who has joined us this evening to talk about the work that the task force is doing and her own commitment to this profoundly important issue. MAXINE and I have had the pleasure of working together for 40 years, so it is all good.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Thank you so very much.

JOHN GARAMENDI, I would like to thank you not only for allotting me this time this evening, but I would like to thank you for your commitment to educating on this issue and to helping our colleagues to understand that we must focus on this issue and that we must do more to support research. You are indeed a leader. This certainly is not the first time that you have organized one of these evening meetings on this, and I thank you for the work that you are doing.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Thank you.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, as cochair of the Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease, I know how devastating this disease can be for patients, families, and caregivers. The task force works on a bipartisan basis to increase awareness of Alzheimer's, strengthen the Federal response to the disease, and provide assistance to Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers. I am proud to lead the task force, along with my returning cochair, Congressman CHRIS SMITH, and incoming cochairs MICHAEL BURGESS and CHAKA FATTAH.

Alzheimer's is a tragic disease affecting millions of Americans, and it has reached crisis proportions. There is no effective treatment, no means of prevention, nor even a method for slowing the progression of the disease. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease as of 2013. This number is expected to almost triple to 14 million by the year 2050.

The cost associated with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia

are also growing at an unsustainable rate. A recent RAND study of adults ages 70 years and older found that the total economic cost of dementia in 2010 was estimated to be \$109 billion for direct care alone. That is higher than the cost of both heart disease and cancer. Furthermore, when the cost of informal care is included, the total cost rises to between \$159 billion and \$215 billion.

We must act now to change the trajectory of this disease. The bipartisan-supported National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease calls for a cure or an effective treatment for Alzheimer's by the year 2025. Reaching this goal will require a significant increase in Federal funding for Alzheimer's research.

Last December, I joined together with task force cochair Congressman CHRIS SMITH to call for a \$200 million increase in funding for Alzheimer's research in the President's budget for fiscal year 2016. However, while the President's budget did recognize the importance of Alzheimer's research, it only increased funding by \$51 million. This year, I plan to work with my colleagues on the task force to make certain Congress appropriates robust funding for Alzheimer's research to meet the urgent need.

I also plan to reintroduce three bills to expand the available resources for Alzheimer's research and assist patients, families, and caregivers.

□ 1945

First, I will reintroduce the Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Act. This bill will authorize grants to public and nonprofit organizations to expand training and support services for families and caregivers of Alzheimer's patients. With the majority of Alzheimer's patients living at home under the care of family and friends, it is important that we ensure these caregivers have access to the training and resources needed to provide proper care.

Second, I will reintroduce legislation to reauthorize and improve the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program, a small but effective Department of Justice program that helps local communities and law enforcement agencies quickly identify persons with Alzheimer's disease who wander away from their homes and safely reunite them with their families. This program is very valuable. It is a valuable resource for first responders. More importantly, it protects vulnerable Alzheimer's patients and brings peace of mind to their families.

Several years ago, I offered an amendment to continue funding for this program, which cost only \$1 million for the year. The following year, I called for, and received, a doubling of the funding for this important program.

Since then, I have made sure this program gets funding every year. I am not happy with the amount of the funding. We need to do more, and we have to fight more beyond 2015 into the 2016 budget to make sure that we get more money because it is desperately needed.

Finally, I will reintroduce the legislation to require the U.S. Postal Service to issue and sell a semi-postal stamp, with the proceeds helping to fund Alzheimer's research at the National Institutes of Health. This would encourage concerned individuals to get involved and contribute to Alzheimer's research efforts, just as many have done in the case of the popular and successful Breast Cancer Research semi-postal stamp.

Our Nation is at a critical crossroads. The situation requires decisive action to search for a cure and protect the millions of Americans currently living with Alzheimer's disease. Together, we must take every possible action to improve treatments for Alzheimer's patients, support caregivers, and invest in research to find a cure for this dreadful disease.

Once again, I want to thank JOHN GARAMENDI, my colleague from California, whom I have worked with for many, many years, for again organizing yet another night Special Order.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Congresswoman WATERS, thank you so very, very much for your leadership as cochair of the Alzheimer's task force here in Congress. Obviously, it is leading to some good pieces of legislation. Last year, when you introduced that legislation, I had the privilege and pleasure of being a coauthor. I will join you again as you introduce those pieces of legislation. I bet we can get all 194 members of the task force on board. That will give us—let's see, we need 18 plus 6—24 more Members and we can get it past the House of Representatives.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Let's do it.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Let's do it. Yes, we can. Si, se puede.

Thank you very much. I really appreciate your leadership on this. I know this is a personal issue for you with family having been impacted by it.

I want to just take a few moments—and I know you are going to have to take off and head to another meeting—but Alzheimer's is very, very much a personal thing.

This is my wife, Patti, with her mother as her mother was entering the last year of her 15-year struggle with Alzheimer's. We had the good fortune of Patti's mom, Merle, living with us in our home, and we were able to take care of her. We had a daycare come in to handle the issues during the day. But then in the evening, Patti and I took care of her. It turned out to be a

good experience for us where the family really pulled together, the grandchildren and the great-grandchildren all coming together.

I think our situation was, perhaps, unusual in that my mother-in-law was always kind, always gentle, even though in the last couple of years she could not speak and was unable to really move very much. But, nonetheless, it was a period of time where the grandchildren came to know her in a very different way.

I remember one incident that took place about a year, maybe 14 months before she died. Her speech was garbled and not really clear. We couldn't understand. But our little 3-year-old granddaughter climbed up on great-grandma's bed and was listening to the great-grandmother talk. The rest of us adults were gathered around and we were talking about whatever it was, and our little 3-year old began to translate what great-grandma was saying. We were suddenly caught up in the awareness that, while the mind was not functioning fully, it was, nonetheless, functioning in a way in which this woman, who was then 90 years old, was able to understand what we were saying, but because of this disease was unable to articulate, at least to us, her involvement in the conversation.

It was one of those moments when we realized that this illness destroys the mind a piece at a time. It doesn't just wipe out, as a stroke might, but it takes away the cognitive ability of the mind in a slow progression through time. This progression was about 15 years, but other progressions might be very, very rapid.

I know earlier today our colleague from Missouri, VICKY HARTZLER, had intended to join us, but was called away late this evening. Her mother died just 3 weeks ago of this illness. She explained some of the way in which it happened. When we come back in about a month to do another Special Order hour, I will ask her to join us and, hopefully, she will be able to share her experiences.

But I suspect among the 435 of us here there are, perhaps, more than 50 percent of us whose families have been personally impacted, and then the neighbors, as Mr. GOODLATTE was sharing with us.

If you would like to join in, let's have a colloquy. We will share thoughts about what we can do about the research effort. I will put up some charts and we can chat on for a few minutes.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Well, thank you so very, very much, Mr. GARAMENDI, again, for your leadership and for affording our Members the opportunity to have shared their experiences because all of what we learn as we serve as caregivers who happen to be relatives and friends, that information is going to be very valuable to our researchers. Because of you, we are

going to be able to get those stories out. Thank you so very much.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Let me just pick up this chart. You mentioned research in your opening remarks, and then again. Your leadership on this has been absolutely extraordinary—the bills that you have introduced and the encouragement you have given to others to introduce legislation and push it forward.

I think this is where we are going to spend our time—fighting for research. I am going to go through this.

Ms. WATERS, I know you must leave. Thank you so very much for joining us.

This poster shows how we are spending our National Institutes of Health research dollars. We can be thankful for each piece of this research that is going on.

First, on the cancer research ongoing with considerable success—and I will come back and show an earlier poster that I had—we are spending \$5.418 billion. This is in fiscal year 2014—\$5.418 billion.

What does that result in? Well, over the years, between 2000 and 2010, we have seen breast cancer deaths decline by 2 percent, prostate cancer decline by 8 percent. That is what research will do. It is successful.

With HIV/AIDS, just under \$3 billion spent annually in 2014, and again we are seeing HIV/AIDS an incredible success story. Still with us, but nonetheless, we have seen death from HIV/AIDS decline by 42 percent as we have invested \$3 billion over the years; in 2014, \$3 billion, and a little less in the previous years.

Similarly, cardiovascular illnesses—heart disease, stroke, and heart attacks—we are spending around \$2 billion of your taxpayer money on this particular disease. What is the result? The result is that deaths from heart disease from 2000–2010, deaths from heart disease are down by 16 percent and stroke down by 23 percent.

What does this mean? This means that research really works.

Where are we with Alzheimer's research? Alzheimer's research in 2014 was \$566 million, just over half a billion dollars for Alzheimer's research. And where are we with Alzheimer's? Well, that same period of time, we have seen Alzheimer's deaths increase by 68 percent, in part because there is no cure except death, and that is what has happened. As the baby boomers age, as that cohort of the population moves through into advanced age, Alzheimer's is taking a grip on those people.

So this is the story. Our goal this year, along with the research that Ms. WATERS has already discussed, and some other bills that will be discussed in the days ahead, our goal this year is to ramp up this research. A project, as a result of the legislation that was passed in the year 2011, gave us information from the National Institutes of

Health and other scientists that the appropriate level of funding to understand Alzheimer's, to find a cure or at least a way of prolonging health and delaying the onset of the illness, should be about \$2 billion a year, something similar to what we are spending on cardiovascular research.

Fortunately, in last year's budget—that is the 2015 budget, that is the current budget—we increased the funding by about \$25 million. Good. We are not getting very close to \$2 billion, which is the goal to really get and understand this disease. But, nonetheless, we put \$25 million more into it last year.

I hope that all of us who are concerned about this make a full-court press this year to try to get that number up to a much more substantial number so that we can really get at this research. The President, recognizing this problem—as was discussed earlier by one of our colleagues here—the President has proposed an additional \$50 million. Good. But, once again, not what the scientists tell us we need to really adequately fund this illness. So we are going to work on this.

I notice that my colleague from California—would you like to join us? This is a bipartisan Special Order hour. Unusual, to be sure. Usually, we talk both sides—one side talks about the other side, the other side talks about them. This time we are talking about a common problem that affects all of us—Democrat, Republican, Independent, left, right, center, up, and down—all Americans.

My colleague from California, welcome.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GARAMENDI. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Let me just note that I have been here 26 years, and I have always tried to vote for increases in the specific level of funding for the National Institutes of Health, which, of course, oversees much of this health research that we are talking about today. I know we have people coming in all the time talking to us. They want us to sign onto a bill to increase this particular disease or that particular disease.

But I think the approach that we have to have is basically let's provide as much money as we can to this type of research and programs by people who are the experts, and let them determine where is the best use of our limited research money. So I have been very much supportive of your efforts and the other efforts of many bipartisan people in this Congress.

I would like to add that we can't just rely on the government. The next speech I will be giving in a few moments deals with the patent issue. We need to make sure that people in the private sector will be encouraged to invest in new types of technology and

new types of approaches to curing these problems, like medical equipment and things that will really help save people.

I know Al Mann, for example, has a new inhalant so that 60 percent of the people who now use needles for diabetes won't have to use them. They can just do a little inhale before every meal.

□ 2000

It took him 10 years to get that through the FDA—10 years. We need to make sure the FDA is doing its job, and we need to make sure those people who are out in the private sector who are investing in new medical technologies have a way to recoup their money. At the same time, like you are focusing on tonight, we have to make sure the government is doing its part both in patents and in the FDA and, especially, for the National Institutes of Health. So thank you very much for what you are doing.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Thank you, Mr. ROHRABACHER.

I know in your district—in the Orange County area—there is major medical research going on at the University of California at Irvine and, certainly, at UCLA, at the mind institutes there. Out of that research do come new technologies, new drugs, new kinds of equipment, some of which are patentable; and the licensing of the new drugs through the FDA is always a challenge, so we do have multiple tasks here. We have to deal with the patent laws and the availability of patent research dollars and then have to make sure that the drug actually is made available to address the illness. I thank you so very much for joining us.

Mr. Speaker, I want to go back to a couple of things that we were talking about earlier on the research side. Our goal is to ramp up this research to try to get to the level that is suggested. Now, we always look at cost benefit. Is this research going to pay off? I think it will.

As I was preparing for this evening, I came across an email, actually, from the University of California at Davis, which I represent—near Sacramento—at their California National Primate Research Center. They have been using stem cell research to address the issue of Alzheimer's. What they have found is that they are able to use this Nouvelle stem cell therapy in primates, which is similar to the human brain, and to actually have some success. They have now taken it the next step further. Here is where we are into the FDA and the approval of drugs, Mr. ROHRABACHER. They have taken it the next step further, and they are doing clinical human trials with this drug, and it seems to restore the human brain.

Now, that is a long way before we get to the end of this story, but this is

what happens when we have research developing a new therapy—in this case, a stem cell therapy with primates—and now transferring it over to the human in a clinical trial. How exciting it is—the possibilities—not just in slowing down the progress of the disease, which has been the short-term goal, but maybe in being able to restore the human brain. Wow. Wow. I think of my mother-in-law. I think of those whom I know who have come down with this illness, and I am going, wow, what if? What if it had been available? Well, it could be.

I know, Mr. ROHRABACHER, you are very interested in international work. You have traveled extensively. You are involved with other countries and their research. This is not just a United States issue; this is an international issue.

Earlier last year, in June, the new cochair of the Alzheimer's Task Force here in Washington, in the House of Representatives, conducted a bipartisan international conference in New York at the United Nations, pulling together researchers from around the world. We have another piece of this puzzle available to us in the United States—international research, NIH research, research at the universities, at the various mind institutes around the Nation—all of that.

As a result of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, with improvised explosive devices and the extraordinary impact that those have had on our military—the soldiers, the marines, and others who have suffered from those explosions—we are now, in the military budget, appropriating a significant amount of money for research into traumatic brain injury as well as into posttraumatic stress syndrome, trying to understand the human mind. What happens when you get that blow against the head? What causes the brain to react and to deteriorate? That research also informs us about Alzheimer's.

One of the goals that I will be pursuing this year is to try to bring together all of these research programs that are underway. Even the National Football League is engaging in research having to do with traumatic brain injury to the football players in the professional football leagues. They are trying to understand what it is all about. So, if we could pull together all of that research and pool the information and make it available—perhaps what is going on at UC Davis and at other research institutions—I think we can jump-start the solution.

Fortunately, I won't be doing this alone. Our former colleague here, Patrick Kennedy, heads up an organization called the One Mind organization, and that is their goal: to pull together the research—to get all of the international, the military, the National Institutes of Health, the National Foot-

ball League—and to have all of us working towards a common goal of understanding the human mind, what the injuries are, and how we can deal with Alzheimer's as a result of all of that.

I am going to put up a couple more pieces of this puzzle and the trauma that it brings. We discussed this briefly early on, and I just want to come back to this.

The already high cost of Alzheimer's will skyrocket as the baby boomers age. This is driven by three things: one, the cost of treating Alzheimer's, which is very expensive and is ongoing; secondly, there is no known cure; and, thirdly, the demographic growth of the population. Today, you are looking at somewhere around \$225 billion spent by the government and private and individuals and families on Alzheimer's, and it is expected to grow to close to \$1 trillion by 2050. This is an extraordinary growth rate. A lot of this money is going to be taxpayer money spent on Medicare and Medicaid.

This one shows the cost increases to Medicare and Medicaid. In 2010, Medicare and Medicaid were spending about \$122 billion. In 2020, it is expected to go up to nearly \$200 billion and then just continue to escalate. This, many think, is the way in which Medicare and Medicaid will be bankrupted—just with Alzheimer's alone. Now, this is the government spending. The private spending—private insurance and families—will probably be spending somewhere around a third of this amount in the years ahead. So, if we are able—and we believe we can. Just take one look at what is going on at UC Davis, and that is just one of dozens and dozens of examples.

What is happening is that the research is coming on. The first goal is to delay the onset. It is anticipated that, if we were able to quickly ramp up to \$2 billion a year of research, we would, within the next 4 to 5 years, be able to find a way, perhaps with a drug therapy, to delay the onset of Alzheimer's by 5 years. What does that mean? That means that the \$2 billion that is spent on research leading to the delay—not the cure but just the delay of the onset—would, in the next 3 years, after that delay goes into place, save the taxpayers the \$2 billion that was spent on research, and then those savings would continue on into the future. If you are a financial analyst on Wall Street and if you are able to get a payback within 3 years, you are thinking that that is a pretty good investment. So we ought to look at this in terms of cost benefit, in terms of investment—the financial side of it. That is appropriate.

Yet, on the human side, think what could be done. Think what could be done to those families, to my wife's mother—my mother-in-law—if her illness were delayed 5 years. She would have had 5 more years of healthy life.

She didn't die of heart disease or cancer. She died of Alzheimer's. She could have had an additional 5 years if we had been able, at that moment, to have delayed the onset of the disease. As we understand how to delay the onset, we will also learn how to cure the disease. This is where we are headed. This is our goal. This is what we want to try to accomplish.

I am going to put this one up because it is so dramatic. Here is the cost of treatment today for the Federal Government. This is 2014: \$150 billion from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. CMS: \$150 billion. These are actually 2012 expenditures. Then this is where we are spending the money: \$560 million on research. It is lopsided.

My final point before I turn back my time today is to take these two charts, actually. This one: Research works. Research saves lives. Research improves the quality of life for Americans.

Cancer research: we have decreased the cancer rate for breast cancer. Cancer research: we have decreased by 8 percent prostate cancer. HIV/AIDS research: a 42 percent decrease in the death rate. Heart disease and stroke: 23 and 16 percent. Alzheimer's: we are not there yet. We are researching, but we are not there yet, so we wind up with a death rate that is rapidly increasing.

Ultimately, it is about this: it is about my family, and it is about your family. It is about the American families. It is about the American families who are enduring their loved ones—their parents, their grandparents—slowly, slowly dying of Alzheimer's, losing their mental capabilities. It affected our family, and I suspect it has affected your family. It doesn't have to be. We can deal with this. Yes, we can—sí, se puede. We can do this, and your Congress—Democrat and Republican—is working on this issue. We are going to beat Alzheimer's. It is our task. It is our challenge.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

TECHNOLOGICAL GENIUS, FREEDOM—AND THE AMERICAN PATENT SYSTEM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend my colleague, who has just presented a heartfelt case for scientific and health-related research by the National Institutes of Health. I concur with him that this is a very important part of what we do here. We have budgets that we have to meet, but this should be a significant part of our budget.

I would like to also note, as I did when he yielded to me, that, yes, the

government needs to play a significant part—the National Institutes of Health—in trying to find cures and in trying to find ways of improving the health of the American people. It is not just up to the National Institutes of Health, and it is not just up to the government employees. My approach, which I will be talking about tonight, is something vital—that the private sector needs to be involved not only in this type of health innovation, but in all sorts of innovation and technological jumps forward that some people think only government can do; but, in fact, it is the private sector and, especially, the small, independent inventors who have played such a significant role in furthering human progress, in uplifting humankind.

□ 2015

So while I agree with the government role especially in these health-related issues, I think that we should dedicate ourselves to making sure that private money is going into this.

In my area, yes, the University of California at Irvine is doing exemplary work. Yes, but so are many private companies that have invested money in health care technology development. Some of them, I might add, have been taxed to death by a 2.5 percent tax on their gross simply for being the inventors of health-related technologies.

This type of medical device tax, which makes the manufacturers of devices the most heavily taxed people in this country, is a deterrent to having people in the private sector investing in exactly what my colleague was trying to suggest—into new approaches to these various diseases. That is also true not only of medical technology but of technologies across the board that really impact on the well-being and on the standard of living of ordinary people throughout our country.

I rise today to draw attention, my colleagues, to a legislative threat to the safety and well-being of the American people. We dodged a bullet in the last session of Congress on this very same issue.

Alerted by our aggressive yet unsuccessful attempt to stop that effort—that rancorous legislation in the House, which passed by a large majority last time around—we raised such a ruckus that the Senate was inundated with a wide spectrum of opposition to this supposed reform that had passed the House. There was so much opposition, in fact, that the Senate simply refused to bring up the bill for consideration.

What is the issue that is being rammed through the House right now and, once we exposed it the last time around, caused the Senate to turn back and to not let it go through? Well, there has been an ongoing fight here in Washington—one most of the public is totally unaware of, and worse than

that, most of my colleagues are totally unaware of—that for the last 20 years there has been a classic case of crony capitalism that plagues our country at play here on a specific issue.

The big guys—the big crony capitalists—are trying to diminish the rights of the little guy in order to make more money. Surprise, surprise. And in this case, it will basically undermine America's prosperity and security in the long run while hurting the little guys while the big guys get their way.

I am certainly not opposed to the profit motive, but first and foremost we need to ensure that powerful forces don't change the economic rules in order to enrich themselves unjustly.

Unseen by most Americans has been the attempt by mega-multinational corporations to undermine and yes, destroy a constitutional right of our citizens, this in order to fill their pockets at the expense of American citizens who don't have the means to defeat such a power play.

I am referring to an attack on the fundamental constitutional right of Americans to own what they have created. This right, written into our law at the Constitutional Convention itself, which wrote our Constitution, is now under attack. It is a clandestine legal maneuver that would neuter our inventors' protections and permit powerful multinational corporations to steal what now rightfully belongs to American inventors, and thus, ordinary Americans will be hurt, and of course, the big corporations will benefit.

It is not just dispossessing individual inventors; this is a power grab that will undermine the prosperity we all have enjoyed as Americans. The less than forthright attack on our patent system will undermine the economic well-being of our working people who depend on the United States for being technologically superior to the working people of other societies. People in all these societies work very hard. It is not hard work—it is hard work coupled with technology—and we have ensured through the patent system that we would be developing the technology that would give Americans the edge.

Our Founding Fathers believed that technology, freedom, and yes, the profit motive was the formula that would uplift humankind. As I say, they wrote into our Constitution a guarantee of the property rights of inventors and authors. It is the only place in the body of our Constitution that the word "right" is actually used.

The Bill of Rights was added after the body of the Constitution, but in article I, section 8, clause 8 of our Constitution, it states:

The Congress shall have power to . . . promote the progress and science of useful arts by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries.

This provision has served America well. It has led to a general prosperity

where we have technological advances that uplift our own people and give our own people the chance to outcompete those people who work their hearts out overseas but don't have the same technological support system in their economic endeavors.

Well, this provision in America has led to prosperity. It has helped our national security. The fact is, we could never dream of trying to defeat the enemies of freedom throughout the world on a man-to-man basis. It is only our ability to be able to bring technology and our genius to play that has given us a leverage over countries that have tens of millions of people and, by the way, don't really value human life.

We need to make sure we are technologically superior, and it has been our patent system that has given our inventors the chance to invent things that will protect all of us from aggression and prevent anti-democratic forces throughout the world—fanatic forces—from overwhelming us and overwhelming our defenses.

Of course, this having been the country of new ideas, the country where we encouraged people to be innovative, we have uplifted the life of average people. Average people here are now able to live decent lives as compared to the average people in so many countries of the world.

Yes, Americans work hard and, as I say, so do other people. It is the technology that makes the difference. Our technology has multiplied the results of the hard work of our people. That is the secret of America's success. Technology and freedom and our strong patent system is right there at the foundation of that principle. It is what has made the difference in this vital area to our security and our well-being.

Yet today, we have these multinational corporations—the same ones who run overseas to do business with communist China and with America's enemies and people who treat their populations with total disregard—yes, these multinational corporations want to diminish the patent protection of the American people because they don't want to pay Americans for their creative new technologies. They don't want to give them their share when they create something that will uplift our people.

Over the years, we fought and turned back many efforts to weaken our patent system. I doubt whether half the new Members of this Congress are fully aware of the aggressive and brutal fights that we have been in over patents and the patent system over these last 20 years.

A little over 20 years ago, they were saying we need to change the patent system in order to harmonize it with the rest of the world. Our patent system was out of sync with the rest of the world. Well, of course. Our constitutional rights are out of sync with

the rest of the world. We are out of sync as we protect people's right to go to church and not be repressed by some other religion. We are out of sync with most of the world when we protect people's right to speak and to criticize their government or to assemble or to try to join unions or other activities in the economic area.

No, we actually are out of sync with a lot of areas, but they decided to say we need to harmonize our law on patents with the rest of the world, which has weak patent systems. Their laws have been determined by, basically, what is going to help the big guy and what is going to get new ideas out into the hands of the big industrialists.

Well, we have beat back major efforts. The first ones, as I say, were on harmonizing the law. They had two big issues. One was to harmonize our law with the rest of the world.

Our system has been that when someone submits their patent, no matter how long it takes for that patent to get issued, it is secret. In fact, it is a felony, I believe, for someone at the Patent and Trademark Office to disclose a patent application. And then, when you get your patent, it is published to the world, but you are granted 17 years of ownership.

Well, their goal was what? Their goal was to do it the European and Japanese way, which is—aha—after 18 months of applying for your patent, it is published. If you don't have it, or even if it takes another 5, 10 years to get it, it is published.

I called it the Steal American Technologies Act. We managed to turn that one around.

The other half of that particular onslaught was that we have now a guaranteed protection, as I said, in the Constitution, as I just read. For a specific period of time, we were granted a 17-year patent protection. That starts at the time when you are issued your patent.

Well, overseas that is not what it is all about. We are out of sync with them because what happens is, the minute that you file, the clock starts ticking, and 20 years later you have no patent protection at all, but that is from filing. It may take you 10 or 15 years to get your patent.

So they are dramatically reducing the ownership rights of the patent of a person who has applied for a patent, all to the benefit, of course, of these big guys who are saying, We can speed this up maybe with our contacts. And the little guys overseas over and over again get beaten up and their material stolen from them by these powerful forces. We don't want that to happen here. We protect the rights of the little guy here.

We won those fights that I was just talking about by standing tall and tough on the issue. And yes, there were some compromises over the years

where we beat those first two issues that I talked about, we won that case, but over the years there have been several other hard-fought patent battles where we compromised and were able to come up with something that was acceptable to both sides.

Well, now, after a few years of preparing the political battleground in Washington, and now, after Google has provided more campaign contributions than any other corporation in the world on various issues and we have other big corporations providing big campaign contributions—and I am not saying they are buying votes, but what they are buying is attention; and people don't even know about the issue—but now, Google has been able to explain their case. They don't hear the other side.

That is why it is up to us to make sure every Member of Congress knows what the issue is when it comes to the patent fight, instead of walking down to the floor unaware of how significant this is.

There is only one group of people that is going to be able to make sure their Congressman is focused on just how significant this issue is. The American people have to notify their Congressmen in order to let them know we should not be weakening our patent system.

There is no excuse to undermine the independent inventor when he is trying to protect his rights to a patent. We won't have independent inventors, and we won't be on the cutting edge of change, as we have been.

After a few years of preparing, as I say, a new onslaught has been prepared.

Now, as I say, they claimed in the beginning that they wanted to harmonize our system, but, of course, we don't want to harmonize and make our system weaker in order to be the same with other countries.

So that fight went back over 20 years, but now what they have laid the groundwork for and are bringing up is—in the last 3 years we have seen this fight for the second round. Three-and-a-half years ago, the House passed the America Invents Act, which fundamentally diminished our patent system, weakening its protection for ordinary citizens.

□ 2030

It still, even with that weakening, was better than what you had in Europe and in Japan. The negative impacts of that legislation are just now being felt. They are just now moving through the patent system and being implemented by the Patent Office.

We are going to find out what happens when you undermine the little guys in order to help the big guys because you don't—after a few more years, where is the innovation coming from?

From the big, multinational corporate bureaucracies, from the government bureaucracy? No. When we have undermined the small inventor, the individual inventor, we have taken the profit motive out of this. We have put roadblocks in the way of America moving forward.

The next wave began in this patent battle just a little more than a year ago. Last year, as I said, the onslaught aimed at neutering the rights of the small inventor was barely turned back, and that bill came forward, and we got it through. Actually, it passed the House with a substantial margin.

When citizens and universities and small businesses across America understood because of the great debate that we had here what was at stake, they inundated their Senators with calls and visits, and their message was: Don't undermine our rights. Don't undermine the rights of the small inventor. Don't undermine this constitutional right. It is just as precious as the rights of speech and press and religion. Let's not undermine that in the name of helping some multinational corporation squash an opposition to a guy who has invented something and wants to get his rightful payment for the work that he has done.

Of course, the power brokers don't claim that they must change the measure of legal protection that we offer inventors because they don't claim that it is because the inventors are bad and need to be deprived of longstanding rights or that the Constitution is just outmoded and we don't really want to follow it. They don't argue that.

No, these powerful interests, mega-multinational corporations, well heeled here in Washington, these powerful interests have to have a bogeyman to try to draw away attention from what they are really trying to do.

The issue won't become diminishing the rights of the small inventor, preventing the small inventor from enforcing his patents on people who are trying to steal it, who are big mega-multinational corporations.

No, they don't say that. There is always an excuse, something that has to sound very sinister, a sinister force at play, trying to hurt these innocent businessmen—unfairly at that.

We heard it before. About 15 years ago, we heard it was submarine patents. That was the real derogatory term, submarine patents. That was why we need to change the amount of time that someone is able to actually have, as a guarantee for their patent rights.

The submarine patent was used to say: Oh, so what if after 20 years and you haven't had your patent for 15 years, so you have only got 5 years of protection, so what?

It is the submarine patenters we are really trying to get at—forget the hardship on those little guys, which is

the vast majority of people who want to get their patent as soon as possible—but the submarine patenters, meaning we have got to really restrict those little guys.

Well, now, the big guys have come up with another sinister label. That was a fraud. The submarine patent issue was a fraud, and we fixed it very easily, with a very small compromise, without having to have all the rights of the little guy eliminated, simply by saying if the little guy is—it can be shown that he prevented the issuance of his patent, trying to elongate that, well then that clock will start ticking during that time period and that time will be taken away from him.

If it is not him, if it is the bureaucracy that is holding off the actual issuance of the patent, we shouldn't be doing things that hurt the little guy who is trying to get his patent out.

Well, so we got that covered, but now, the big guys have come up with another sinister label because submarine patent doesn't apply anymore. We found a way to solve it without hurting the little guy.

Now, the big guys have come up with this other label which is aimed at confusing the public about who gets hurt and who benefits from the so-called reforms that are now being shoved through Congress. They are insisting that the need for patent change, basic changes in our patent system, is because of the so-called patent trolls. Over and over again, you will hear this sinister word.

Now, let me tell you how cynical this is. There is a guy who was a top executive at one of the electronic companies who is now on my side, on our side, the side of the little guy on this issue, but he was very high up in a big company. They got together with their people to decide what tactic they should use to get the changes done and passed through Congress.

They knew they couldn't just attack the small inventor. They knew they couldn't attack the innovators in our society. What are they going to do to diminish their patent rights?

Well, we have got to make it sound like it is somebody else who is going to get hurt, and that person has to be evil. The patent troll is what they came up with.

This gentleman who worked in the business said he was in a room when that term was formalized by a number of people in the industry. They went around in a circle and said: What is the worst and nastiest sounding term we can come up with in order to vilify that, to draw people's attention away from this issue?

He told me he had suggested patent pirate; and, no, patent troll sound really much more sinister. That is how cynical these people are. It is arrogant, and it is cynical because the patent troll is a creation.

Yeah, there are some people who misuse our system. There are frivolous lawsuits that happen in our country. You know what, it is not just in the patent issue. It is all across the board. There are lawyers that have frivolous lawsuits.

They are trying to claim that patent trolls are people with patents that are not legal patents, and they are trying to threaten lawsuits so they will get paid off. Well, that is happening throughout our system. They are called frivolous lawsuits.

There is no need to hurt our small inventors and to phase back their rights, as inventors, the rights of their ownership and the rights to enforce their patent, in order to get someone a lawyer who is engaged in a frivolous lawsuit.

These patent trolls are patent holders. Remember, when you hear the patent troll, just think: someone who owns a patent. Unless it is the inventor himself, they say the patent troll is anyone who owns a patent who is not the inventor. Patent holders or companies who represent patent holders are also people who own patents who get in infringement cases, but these are people who did not invent it themselves, and, thus, they are called trolls.

They are engaged in basically defending their rights against the infringement of large companies. Yeah, there are a few cases where small guys, we are told—that, again, is a front, to try to protect the big guys from the little guys, but there has been infringement on the patents that they own, these regular people, people who own—and patents are what? It is your property, intellectual property.

Patents should be looked at that the United States Government believes it is your right to own, for a given period of time, as I just read in the Constitution, your invention or your writing, and you own it.

If someone is infringing and if you want to buy it from someone, someone who has invented it but can't afford to basically enforce it, well, you have a right to do that. That doesn't make you an evil troll. That means you have bought something that is a piece of property.

By the way, after a number of years—10, 13, 14 years—that will no longer be your property because the patent protection lasts only a given period of time. Well, these owners are just as valid as any other patents that are granted by the Patent Office. We are not talking about phony patents.

They will try to make it sound like it is, Oh, these worthless pieces of paper. No, these are real patents and real pieces of paper that show you have rights to own this particular technology.

Huge corporate infringers would have us believe that these patents that they are talking about, that the people are

trying to enforce, that these big companies have used, knowing that there is probably someone who owns that who has developed this new technology and just forgetting about them and leaving them behind, well, these big corporate infringers would have you believe that all these people are that way. They are not.

Almost all of the infringement cases happen by people who legitimately own a legitimate patent, and if not, it should be decided in court. There is nothing wrong with bringing this to court if it is a legitimate patent or if it is an illegitimate patent.

This happens all the time. Are you violating someone's property rights when they own a piece of property and you have built a road across them without asking whether or not you could use their property? No, that should go to court.

In fact, it is not a frivolous lawsuit for someone who owns a piece of property and someone who maybe owns a mine or something over here and just builds a road across and doesn't ask you about it. No, you have a right for compensation.

That is basically what we are talking about except, in this case, you have an inventor who has enriched a big company with something new, but the big company doesn't want to give him any of his royalties for building this new technology.

By the way, in the past, big corporations would try to do patent searches to make sure they weren't stepping on the little guy, and they would try to cut deals with these patent owners to try to make sure that they didn't face a lawsuit. They would be able to chart out exactly what their expenses were.

Then they decided, Don't do it, don't even look, don't check to see if we are stealing this new idea. You know why? They did that because what you have now—and what they have tried to eliminate is that if a big company intentionally knows that it is violating the patent rights of someone who owns that new technology and infringes upon it, that it knowingly does this, there are triple damages that the inventor can get in his lawsuit against that big company.

The big companies, they say, Oh, well, so we won't even look, so they can't prove that we knew we were stepping on these little people. They don't even look anymore. That is how arrogant they are. Then they worry when a small guy comes up and sues them for infringement?

By the way, why did they want to eliminate the triple damages? Because the little guys, regular people, don't have the money to pay for the lawyers necessary for these lawsuits. The little guy's ability to hire a lawyer on a contingency basis—if you take away the triple damages, you have eliminated the right of almost all of the small in-

ventors to be able to have the protection they need in court, but that was one of their major goals.

By the way, we turned that one back, thank God, but it keeps going. They keep going because this is a way to enrich these powerful, multinational corporations in a way that the public isn't seeing it. It is just a change in the rules; and the little guys, the wealth that should be going to them is extracted and put into the pockets of these big corporate entities.

They have the power, basically, and they are going to use it. They have the power in the economy, and they have the power in getting their case across to the Members of Congress because they have the ability to hire lobbyists again and to give campaign contributions, but not to buy votes, and I am not suggesting that.

When you are here and you have so much time, if you have lobbyists that are working just to get the attention of the Member of Congress on the issue for a short period of time, you have succeeded. These companies can do it, and the little guy can't. The little guy has no way of getting people's attention here.

The fact is that these big corporations—and especially Google—have hired the best representatives in town and spent the most money getting people's attention.

The only answer here is to make sure we offset that by making sure the American people call their Member of Congress and tell them: Don't diminish the patent protection for regular Americans, don't let this happen.

They have won the last couple of fights. Again, like I say, by the time it got over to the Senate, some people just started paying attention, but we lost it here in the House.

Well, the patents that we are talking about are patents; they are not frivolous lawsuits. These are patents that were issued by the United States Patent Office, but huge infringers would have us believe: Of course, don't worry, the Congress is just up there trying to protect people who really haven't come up with anything and just have frivolous lawsuits.

No, we are talking about tangible, tangible items that these people have used without paying the royalty to the man or woman who invented that particular item, that particular technology.

What makes these patents different than the good patents, by the way? These same large corporations own thousands of patents—by the way, most of these corporations are the megaelectronics industry companies, so they own lots of patents.

What makes the little guy a patent troll for being willing to try to get some help to fight these big guys? What makes that little guy's patent or the "troll's" patent any less real and

any less valuable and official as these big companies?

□ 2045

They have their patents, too. If the small inventor doesn't have the resources to enforce his or her patent in the limited time—they only have owned this now. Remember, once you own a patent, you own it for 17 years, and then it is done; everybody owns it.

In the limited time they are granted for ownership, if they don't have the resources to basically enforce their rights, an individual or company can buy their rights and can create—or they can create a partnership with a small inventor, and they can see to it that way to see that there isn't a theft of this little guy's property, and they call it an infringement. There is nothing wrong with someone coming in and saying: Well, listen. If you can't enforce this, we think it is a good idea, you have 10 more years of patent protection. We will buy that patent right, just like buying a parcel of land. We are going to speculate that that land is going to go up in value or whatever. There is no difference at all. It is a piece of property. It is a property right. It is intellectual property.

This effort to change our patent law is an attack on the very nature of intellectual property.

Okay. So the small inventor can't do it. What is wrong with somebody coming in and offering to buy that patent right from him for those 10 years or to go into partnership with him?

Well, I have consulted with a number of outside individual inventors and groups, and they have reaffirmed that the legislation now being proposed disadvantages the little guy against deep-pocketed multinational corporations. This has been achieved in the guise, as I say, of targeting patent trolls.

You are not vilifying this poor little inventor, this guy who works his heart out in his garage, quits his job because he has got an idea, puts all of his money and sells his home in order to build something new, a new technology. No, I am sorry. That guy is a hero. And under the guise of getting patent trolls, whatever that is, they are going to smash this little guy that I just described because they are going to prevent anybody from helping him because that person who is helping him is a patent troll. This person and company who has contracted with the inventor to see that his or her rights are respected, I consider them to be a positive economic and also a moral force within the concept of determining ownership in our society.

How horrible, making a business—which some of these companies have done—of helping a business out of helping small inventors see to it that their patent rights are enforced. Oh, how horrible. Or how horrible it is for them to be buying patent rights from them.

Oh, my goodness, a guy with money says: You can't afford to enforce your rights; I think it is a great idea; I will pay you for this. The fact that that happens and is able to happen in our society means that that little guy now has something of value.

If we take that away and say: Oh, these people buying them are all trolls—sounds sinister—oh, when you do that, the value of our patents for all of our inventors goes down. We are undercutting the wealth that is available to our independent inventors because we are devaluing what they have if they can't enforce it themselves, they can't sell it to somebody who is not going to commercialize it, thus you have got a situation where the patent value, we are taking wealth out of the pockets of the least able people in our society in the technology arena, the least able to weather that, and we are putting that money and that power into the pockets of the big mega-multinational, not just American companies, multinational companies. It is sinful.

The proponents of this legislation are covering the fact that someone has stolen someone else's patent rights, someone else's intellectual property, and now they want to change the system so they can get away with this theft. That is what it is all about. The big companies have been stealing. They want to get away with it. They need to change the rules of the game so they can get away with it, and the little guy will just give up because he can't go through all the steps now.

They would have us believe that all the lawsuits against these companies are frivolous. As I say, that is not the case. Well, the vast majority of them are not. The vast majority of patent infringement cases have very legitimate areas of concern, and they need to be decided by the court, not to have Congress step in and make it more difficult for someone to take someone to court who has stolen his intellectual property. Yes, there are frivolous lawsuits throughout our system. Why are these guys just focusing on patents? They are doing that because that is what these megacorporations will benefit from.

Tonight I draw the attention of the American people to H.R. 9, the Innovation Act, introduced by Chairman GOODLATTE with 19 bipartisan cosponsors. The last Congress, the House Committee on the Judiciary held a hearing on this same bill. The same bill that came in last time, this bill that is being proposed now, H.R. 9, is exactly the same bill, except maybe with one provision that is taken out, which is a provision that I was able to get out of the bill on the floor in the debate and in the amendment process.

By the way, that provision was going to prevent inventors, if they believed they were treated unfairly by the Patent Office, that provision would deny

them the right to take it to court. They would have to settle the issue with an ombudsman from the Patent Office. Get that? The right to use court of a U.S. citizen was going to be denied them, and the proponents of this legislation just let it drip off their back like water off a duck's back. Give me a break. That is a huge violation of rights of Americans, but it is just as huge a violation for us to try to diminish their ability to enforce the rights of their own property.

So I draw attention to H.R. 9. Last Congress the House Committee on the Judiciary held a hearing on this almost very same bill. The witnesses at that hearing, including former Patent Office Director Kappos, made it clear that we should move slowly and with great care in making any changes to the patent law, especially in light of the fact that no one yet understands the implication of a similar patent law that was passed 2 years ago, the America Invents Act.

The process from that act is just now being implemented. I think it is going to have a very negative impact, and we need to know that that is what is going to happen, and we need to work that into our calculus of whether we should pass even more restrictions like are in that first bill.

So everybody says: Take it easy; go slow; make sure you are right before you go ahead. Well, we haven't even digested the last bite Congress has taken out of the patent law. We haven't even digested that at all, and now they want us to gobble down a few more apples. We need to make sure that we know what we have already gotten ourselves into by biting into this apple, but, no, we have got to now commit to having even more and more change before we even know whether that apple is going to turn sour in our stomach and cause us to be sick.

In and of itself, this legislation is too broad, H.R. 9, the same thing they tried to pass through here last year, rammed it through, too broad, its implications too unclear, its effects unknowable. That is what witnesses and other experts have indicated. The conclusion, as I say, is move forward with these fundamental changes in our patent system, and if you do so, you might be undermining that system.

We need not to move forward quickly on this, see what the impact of the past law changes are. That is what now has been indicated, but that is not what has happened. That is not what we have seen happen here on Capitol Hill. The House was railroaded into passing this new proposal on top of the previous legislation before we have a chance to see whether it is going to have a negative or positive effect, and it is not even being fully implemented yet. But yet we were pushed. This thing was rammed down our throats. It seems like some multinational corporations really wanted action now: Do it now.

Well, what is going on here? This congressional ramrodding exemplifies the battle to diminish America's patent system that has been going on for 25 years. This isn't something new. What I am describing to you is just one more hit, one more attempt by people to harmonize American law with the rest of the world.

We need to be more like the rest of the world. We have a strong protection of intellectual property rights. Oh, we should be more like the rest of the world—baloney. The fact is America should stand tall. If we want harmony with the rest of the world, they should harmonize with our stronger protection for the individual, for our caring for ordinary people.

This law and these changes are going to change the way we do business in America, all right. We are not going to have the creative and the cutting edge as these very same mega-multinational corporations go to countries like China in order to get cheap labor to accomplish their mission rather than using the technology of Americans, giving them the royalty for it, at least, in order to make sure our country and our countrymen are safe, our countrymen are secure and our well-being of our people economically, they have good jobs producing competitive products that they can sell overseas. No. No. These companies, they just want that power for themselves. They want to harmonize with the rest of the world so they can run roughshod over all of us.

According to the sponsors of H.R. 9, it is an attempt to combat the problem of patent trolls. That is it. You look at their arguments, it is all patent trolls, patent trolls, patent trolls, even though the study mandated by Congress shows that this much-heralded problem is not a major driver of lawsuits. It has not caused, as they claim, a surge of new lawsuits. In fact, the most recent data shows that patent lawsuits dropped dramatically in 2014 compared to previous years.

The provisions of this legislation are designed to make it much more complicated. Now, this is what it is. This legislation, H.R. 9, is designed to make it much more complicated, costly, and challenging to bring a lawsuit for patent infringement, thus hurting the little guy, the infringement that is taking place. That means the victim is the little guy. We are helping the big guy, the guy who is committing the crime.

By the way, if these people wanted to impact frivolous lawsuits, if they say, "Oh, there are too many frivolous lawsuits with patents," they should just make it simpler and cheaper to defend against baseless infringement cases. Somebody that is accused of infringement and it is baseless, let's make it easier for these companies to defend themselves against that charge in court.

But, no, no, making it more easy to defend themselves, no, no, no. We are

being asked to raise the bar for the inventor to bring lawsuits to defend his or her rights rather than lowering the bar to allow small businesses and others to defend themselves against frivolous lawsuits. When we weaken the little guy—that is what we are doing. They want us to weaken the little guy to protect the big guy from frivolous lawsuits.

Well, who gets hurt and who is helped? You have a sinister cover-up there, the trolls, and who is getting helped by that? These big megacorporations. And who is getting hurt? The little guys who can't go through all these extra steps; they can't afford to protect themselves. And we are going to side with the big guys, the big guys again who take their work to China without blushing? This legislation, H.R. 9, is consistent with the decades-long war being waged on America's and against America's independent inventors.

Here are a few provisions of this Innovation Act we have just submitted:

It would create new requirements for a patent holder, when a patent holder must, once filing a claim for infringement, provide information about all the parties who are involved with this; and, thus, you basically have the accused infringer is going to know everybody who is involved and, thus, be able to basically attack all of the people, not just the guy who has lost his intellectual property rights, but somebody who backed him up now will become a target of big corporations. This means the elimination of privacy for major business dealings.

The little guy no longer has that right of privacy. The little guy is totally exposed, as his friends and suppliers will be. The patent holder will be forced to provide a list of potential bank accounts to raid, and those bank accounts and all of that information will be made available to the bad guys, the people who are infringing. The big companies who are beating him down will now have all this information to use against him.

In addition, once the requirement has been invoked, the patent holder must maintain a current record of the information on file at the Patent Office or forfeit the rights.

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What that means is the patent holder now has huge new bureaucratic reporting requirements, dramatically increasing his cost and vulnerability.

Now, you do that to a small investor or a small inventor, what does that say? You are increasing their costs dramatically. And why are we increasing their requirements for bureaucratic reporting? Because they have actually reported an infringement of their intellectual rights; thus, they have got to pay the price; they have got to have the burden on them. We are going to

put the burden on them for saying, Somebody just stole my property. We are increasing the burden on them.

If they do that, from then on, they have a whole new obligation, a bureaucratic obligation.

In addition, the patent holder gains a new bureaucratic fee—not just a bureaucratic requirement but a fee—and is forced to pay record keeping fees to maintain the current record at the Patent Office.

More fees, more bureaucratic requirements. These are minor inconveniences to multinational corporations, these corporations with hundreds, if not thousands of employees. It is not going to cost them anything. In fact, when they go to court, they have a whole stable of attorneys, so it won't cost them much money there either.

So for these multinational corporations, this isn't even an inconvenience. But for the little guy, all of these new requirements are killers because they don't have \$100,000 that they can just drop into keeping better books over here or getting a hold of all of these people or exposing anybody who has invested in their patent.

The Innovation Act also enables large multinational corporations to create nested shell companies which have few assets but can infringe on patents while the inventor is unable to sue their customers, who are free to continue infringing. So they say: Well, we will just do all of our business with this technology, through that company, so if we get sued, they can't get at us—no way. While the first court case moves through the system, we are going to shield these big guys who are stealing.

This process could keep an infringing process in place for a decade or more while the inventor is trying to find ways to stop that infringement.

The Innovation Act authorizes the Patent Office director to create a patent troll database—how about that—and to create a strategy to teach small business how to defend themselves against patent trolls.

We are encouraging the director of the Patent Office to create an enemies list and a strategy guide for people who are infringing on other people's patent rights. That is what we are talking about.

They are trying to basically vilify a group of people who are involved in a perfectly legal and moral economic activity, helping out small business guys, buying small patent owners' rights to their patents. If they can't enforce it themselves, they are going into partnership with them.

No, no. Now we are going to have a list of these people who are going to be on an enemy's list mandated by the Patent Office, according to this legislation.

So we are encouraging this enemies list strategy. Instead of just, okay, if

there is a frivolous lawsuit, let's just make it easier for someone to defend themselves in court.

The ultimate results of this legislation will be:

Increased patent infringement. Have you got that? This legislation, H.R. 9, will increase the amount of theft in our society because now we have made it easier.

Reduced legal remedies. We have basically reduced the legal remedies for the victim, for those who have been infringed.

We have reduced the investment in small business. Why are people going to invest in a new patent if they think it can be infringed upon, and this guy isn't going to get his money back? So we have dramatically hurt the amount of money that is going to be invested in the new technology, in the brilliant ideas that come from our students from university. You know, they come out and they have great ideas. We want them to go into small business and follow their dream. Oh, no, no. This would make it almost impossible for people like that. Our young people and small businessmen, people with a dream.

Irreparable damage will be done to our research universities, to our inventors and entrepreneurs. All of these people are going to be hurt.

Let me put it this way: our colleges and universities, they know that if this bill passes—the one that was going through the Senate passed—there would be a dramatic reduction in the value of all the patents that they own, and that is a major, major asset to our universities.

Each part of this so-called reform is detrimental to the patent owners, especially damaging to individual small inventors. Every provision bolsters the patent thieves, the infringers, at the expense of the legal owners.

No, no. Let's not talk about that. Let's talk about patent trolls, how evil they are. "Troll" is a bad word. You don't want to be on the side of the trolls.

No, no. Everything they are proposing in the name of stopping the trolls, using that as cover, hurts the little guy and helps these big guys who are financing this campaign to undermine our patent system.

This approach assists thieves because they are powerful corporations versus little guys. The only hope for the little guy has always been that America stands for the God-given rights and that those rights are protected by our government, recognized and protected by it, as it was in the Constitution.

To all people, rich and poor, their rights are protected in this country, and we should not be about to let big corporate interests step on the little guy.

If a guy owns a piece of property and a big corporation wants to build a road across it, to build a whatever it is on

the other side—an oil derrick or whatever it is—they have to pay that man's price because he owns that property. And in this case, we are talking only about an ownership for 17 years, granted to somebody who has actually come up with something that is of great value to our people.

No. We need to make sure that we remain the country where we protect everybody's rights and that the big guys can't get away with stepping on the little guys.

The rights of ownership are the same as all of our other rights: speech, religion, assembly. And this has been what we are seeing now in H.R. 9—the last couple of years have been a blatant power grab by the big guys to diminish the rights of the little guy.

When the bill identical to this one was previously submitted, opposition emerged to it, as people figured out what I am telling you. What I am saying tonight—finally some people, when they heard the debate over here, they mobilized. And when they found out what was about to be foisted upon them, we were speaking with loud voices.

Here is a list of some of those people who opposed or expressed major concerns over that act, a bill that was identical to H.R. 9, which is now perched and ready to be shoved through Congress:

The Association of American Universities; American Council on Education; Association of American Medical Colleges; Association of Public and Land-grant Universities; Association of University Technology Managers; Council on Governmental Relations; Eagle Forum; Club for Growth; American Bar Association; Patent Office Professional Association; Judicial Conference Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure; American Intellectual Property Law Association; Intellectual Property Owners Association; National Association of Patent Practitioners; National Venture Capital Association; the Biotechnology Industry Organization; Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, PhRMA; Innovation Alliance; Coalition for 21st Century Patent Reform; Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

Let's just note, all of these groups were opposed or were very concerned about that act because:

It creates more paperwork for everybody, increasing the cost for anybody who wants to defend their rights.

It forces patent holders who file claims of infringement to maintain new bureaucratic reporting requirements and to pay new recordkeeping costs. It just complicates their lives and their expenses.

It eliminates the independent judicial review of patent applicants by striking section 145 of title 35. This is very important in order to keep the Patent Office honest. There should be

an independent judicial review. That is what they tried to foist off on us last time.

And it dramatically increases the financial risks for anybody filing an infringement lawsuit.

We need to make sure that our country stays true to the American people, to what will give us security for our people. We need to be on the cutting edge of technology. We need to be ahead of our potential enemies. We can't defend our country man for man. We have got to have the best equipment and the high technology that comes from the creative thinking of our people. We need to make sure that our working people are producing more wealth with every hour of work they do; thus, we can afford to provide the services and the standard of living for ordinary people.

Every time there is a new idea, if we actually permit that to be stolen by multinational corporations, that is not going to improve the well-being of our people.

We have seen this going on in the past. This is not the first time. This is just in the last 25 years of onslaught. And what we have now in H.R. 9 is just the latest salvo in the effort to destroy the patent system that we have got.

But this happened a long time ago. We have had to reaffirm the rights of the little guy over and again.

There is a statue in our Congress, in our Capitol, of Philo Farnsworth. Do you know who Philo Farnsworth was? Philo Farnsworth was the inventor of the picture tube for the television.

Philo was a farmer and an engineer in Utah, a man with not many resources at all. But he figured out something that RCA, one of the biggest corporations in the country at the time, was trying to find out: How do you create a picture tube?

Well, he wrote them and said, I found the secret. And what do you know, they sent their top engineer over. Philo actually showed them what he had done. And they said, We are going to get back to you, and we are going to work with you as your partner. You know what they did? He could never get a hold of them again.

David Sarnoff, one of the richest, most powerful men in the United States, set out to steal the right to the patent for the picture tube from this lone American, this guy who had a small farm in Utah. And he led—Philo Farnsworth didn't give up. He led a struggle for 20 years to get his rights to own that technology, that intellectual property.

And when he was fighting this huge corporate interest that was trying to just squish him like a bug, he stood up there, and he couldn't have stood alone. People invested in his lawsuit. People invested with him so that justice would come and that inventors in the United States would know that

when they invent something, they have a right, and the American people will stick by them.

In the end, the Supreme Court made the decision, and they decided with the little guy. They decided with Philo. What a great affirmation of our country. And there is a statute today of Farnsworth in the Capitol, the man who advanced communications in our country. You will never find a statue to David Sarnoff or any of these big moguls who tried to squish him, these multinational corporations.

Let's remember the heart of America, patriotism. Let's be loyal to our regular people. They will be loyal to us. That is what the American Revolution was all about.

I ask my colleagues to join me in opposing H.R. 9. And I invite people to talk about it and to talk to their Congressmen and their Senators and to make sure that they don't come in here for a vote not knowing how important this vote is on H.R. 9.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CARTWRIGHT (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of death in the family.

Mr. RUIZ (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of death in the family.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 203. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the conduct of annual evaluations of mental health care and suicide prevention programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.), under its previous order and pursuant to House Resolution 99, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, February 11, 2015, at 10 a.m., for morning-hour debate, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Honorable ALAN NUNNELEE.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

373. A letter from the Management Analyst, Forest Service, ORMS, D and R, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) (RIN: 0596-AD21) received January 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

374. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, APHIS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Commuted Traveltime; Correction [Docket No.: APHIS-2004-0108] received February 3, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

375. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, APHIS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Brucellosis Class Free States and Certified Brucellosis-Free Herds; Revisions to Testing and Certification Requirements [Docket No.: APHIS-2009-0083] (RIN: 0579-AD22) received February 3, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

376. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Forest Service, ORMS, D and R, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Use By Over-Snow Vehicles (Travel Management Rule) (RIN: 0596-AD17) received February 3, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

377. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting the OMB Sequestration Preview Report to the President and Congress for Fiscal Year 2016, pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (BBEDCA), as amended; to the Committee on Appropriations.

378. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting the sequestration order for Fiscal Year 2016, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 901a; to the Committee on Appropriations.

379. A letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization for Brigadier General Jacqueline D. Van Ovost, United States Air Force, to wear the insignia of the grade of major general, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

380. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Homeland Defense and Global Security, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report on assistance provided for sporting events during calendar year 2014, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2564(e); to the Committee on Armed Services.

381. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the annual report to Congress of the Maritime Administration (MARAD) for Fiscal Year 2013, pursuant to Public Law 91-469, section 208; to the Committee on Armed Services.

382. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting the National Security Strategy of the United States, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 3043; to the Committee on Armed Services.

383. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, DEA, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Schedules of Controlled Substances: Removal of

Naloxegol from Control [Docket No.: DEA-400] received January 28, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

384. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, DEA, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final order — Schedules of Controlled Substances: Temporary Placement of Three Synthetic Cannabinoids into Schedule I [Docket No.: DEA-402] received January 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

385. A letter from the Chief Executive Officer, Corporation for National and Community Service, transmitting the Corporation's Fiscal Year 2016 Congressional Budget Justification; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

386. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

387. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

388. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's semiannual report of the Inspector General and the Management Response for the period April 1, 2014, through September 30, 2014, pursuant to Public Law 95-452, section 5; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

389. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act Provisions; American Lobster Fishery [Docket No.: 130705590-5010-03] (RIN: 0648-BD45) received February 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

390. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; Modifications of the West Coast Commercial and Recreational Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Actions #24 through #44 [Docket No.: 140107014-4014-01] (RIN: 0648-XD547) received February 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

391. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule; correction — Anchorage Regulations; Port of New York [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0018] (RIN: 1625-AA01) received January 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

392. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations; Clearwater Super Boat National Championship; Gulf of Mexico, Clearwater, FL [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0657] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received January 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

393. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland

Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; SFOBB Demolition Safety Zone, San Francisco, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0654] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

394. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Security Zone; John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse; Boston, MA [Docket No.: USCG-2014-1055] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received January 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

395. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Anchorage Regulations; Port of New York [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0018] (RIN: 1625-AA01) received January 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

396. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Thames River, New London, CT [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0983] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received January 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

397. A letter from the Trial Attorney, FRA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — National Highway-Rail Crossing Inventory Reporting Requirements [Docket No.: FRA-2011-0007, Notice No. 4] (RIN: 2130-AC26) received January 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

398. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Privacy Office's report entitled "2014 Data Mining Report to Congress", pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 2000ee-3; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

399. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Privacy Office's semiannual report to Congress covering the period March 1, 2014, through September 30, 2014, pursuant to the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007, section 803; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

400. A letter from the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Agency's fiscal year 2016 proposed budget and performance plan; jointly to the Committees on Agriculture and Oversight and Government Reform.

401. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Office of the Medicare Ombudsman 2013 Report to Congress, pursuant to the Social Security Act, section 1808(c)(2)(C); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

402. A letter from the Inspector General, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the fiscal year 2016 Congressional Budget Justification for the Office of Inspector General; jointly to the Committees on Appropriations, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. WOODALL: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 100. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (S. 1) to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline, and providing for proceedings during the period from February 16, 2015, through February 23, 2015 (Rept. 114-22). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. COLE: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 101. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 644) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 636) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-23). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, and Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 820. A bill to amend title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930 to clarify that countervailing duties may be imposed to address subsidies relating to a fundamentally undervalued currency of any foreign country; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LATTI (for himself, Mr. ISSA, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. MATSUI, and Ms. DELBENE):

H.R. 821. A bill to promote unlicensed spectrum use in the 5 GHz band, to maximize the use of the band for shared purposes in order to bolster innovation and economic development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio):

H.R. 822. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require reporting of certain data by providers and suppliers of air ambulance services for purposes of reforming reimbursements for such services under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TONKO (for himself, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 823. A bill to better integrate STEM education into elementary and secondary instruction and curricula, to encourage high-quality STEM professional development, and to expand current mathematics and science education research to include engineering education; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. WEBER of Texas (for himself, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of

Texas, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. PITTS, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. OLSON, Mr. LATTI, Mr. PALMER, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. FLORES, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. JONES):

H.R. 824. A bill to amend chapter 1 of title 1, United States Code, with regard to the definition of "marriage" and "spouse" for Federal purposes and to ensure respect for State regulation of marriage; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROSKAM (for himself and Mr. VARGAS):

H.R. 825. A bill to promote trade and commercial enhancement between the United States and Israel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Financial Services, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself and Ms. KAPTUR):

H.R. 826. A bill to provide for a study by the Institute of Medicine on gaps in mental health services and how these gaps can increase the risk of violent acts; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. FOXX (for herself and Mr. JOLLY):

H.R. 827. A bill to direct the Federal Trade Commission to revise the regulations regarding the Do-not-call registry to prohibit politically-oriented recorded message telephone calls to telephone numbers listed on that registry; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BOUSTANY:

H.R. 828. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to clarify the use of credentials by enrolled agents; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. CAPPS (for herself and Mr. PASCRELL):

H.R. 829. A bill to promote youth athletic safety and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARSON of Indiana:

H.R. 830. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to reauthorize the predisaster hazard mitigation program; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 831. A bill to support afterschool and out-of-school-time science, technology, engineering, and mathematics programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. COOK (for himself and Ms. TITUS):

H.R. 832. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Labor to enter into a contract for the conduct of a longitudinal study of the job counseling, training, and placement services for veterans provided by the Secretary, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California:

H.R. 833. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to authorize the Secretary of Education to make

grants for recruiting, training, and retaining individuals, with a preference for individuals from underrepresented groups, as teachers at public elementary and secondary schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California:

H.R. 834. A bill to require States and local educational agencies to report on the achievement of military-connected students in annual report cards under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mr. COLE, Ms. BASS, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD):

H.R. 835. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide a standard definition of therapeutic foster care services in Medicaid; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DENT (for himself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. HANNA, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. HARPER, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. BARR, Mr. OLSON, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. JOLLY, and Mr. BOUSTANY):

H.R. 836. A bill to improve access to emergency medical services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BARTON, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Ms. JENKINS of Kansas):

H.R. 837. A bill to implement a demonstration project under titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to examine the costs and benefits of providing payments for comprehensive coordinated health care services provided by purpose-built, continuing care retirement communities to Medicare beneficiaries; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HANNA (for himself, Ms. MENG, and Mr. CHABOT):

H.R. 838. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to revise requirements related to assets pledged by a surety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HASTINGS (for himself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. HAHN, Ms. TITUS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. EDWARDS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. RANGEL, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. FUDGE, and Mr. MEEKS):

H.R. 839. A bill to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Lena Horne in

recognition of her achievements and contributions to American culture and the civil rights movement; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. TONKO, and Ms. SLAUGHTER):

H.R. 840. A bill to increase the participation of women, girls, and underrepresented minorities in STEM fields, to encourage and support students from all economic backgrounds to pursue STEM career opportunities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. KING of Iowa (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. JONES, and Mr. BARLETTA):

H.R. 841. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify that wages paid to unauthorized aliens may not be deducted from gross income, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois (for himself, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KIND, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. LANCE, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. HARPER, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. TONKO, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. STEWART, Mr. HONDA, Ms. LEE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. DELANEY, Ms. ESTY, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. POCAN, Mr. POLIS, Mr. SIREN, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. MASSIE, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. POSEY, Mr. COHEN, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 842. A bill to require the Commissioner of Social Security to revise the medical and evaluation criteria for determining

disability in a person diagnosed with Huntington's Disease and to waive the 24-month waiting period for Medicare eligibility for individuals disabled by Huntington's Disease; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KLINE (for himself, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. DUFFY):

H.R. 843. A bill to prohibit treatment of gray wolves in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan as endangered species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. KLINE:

H.R. 844. A bill to require a plan approved by the Surface Transportation Board for the long-term storage of rail cars on certain railroad tracks; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. LUMMIS (for herself and Mr. WALZ):

H.R. 845. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to publish in the Federal Register a strategy to significantly increase the role of volunteers and partners in National Forest System trail maintenance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POLIS (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN):

H.R. 846. A bill to end discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity in public schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. POLIS (for himself and Mr. SABLAN):

H.R. 847. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to invest in innovation for education; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. POLIS (for himself and Mrs. DAVIS of California):

H.R. 848. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve teacher and principal effectiveness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ROSS (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. ESTY, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida):

H.R. 849. A bill to grant a Federal charter to the National Academy of Inventors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RYAN of Ohio (for himself, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. YARMUTH, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT):

H.R. 850. A bill to support evidence-based social and emotional learning programming; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SABLAN:

H.R. 851. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to adjust funding levels for certain outlying areas; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 852. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for additional technical and procedural standards for artificial or prerecorded voice telephone messages and the establishment of such standards for live telephone solicitations; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska (for himself and Mrs. LUMMIS):

H.R. 853. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to apportionments under the Airport Improvement Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. TAKAI (for himself, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. GABBARD, and Ms. BORDALLO):

H.R. 854. A bill to amend the Compact of Free Association of 1985 to provide for adequate Compact-impact aid to affected States and territories, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TIBERI (for himself, Mr. NEAL, and Mr. REED):

H.R. 855. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 856. A bill to establish the Gold Butte National Conservation Area in Clark County, Nevada, in order to conserve, protect, and enhance the cultural, archaeological, natural, wilderness, scientific, geological, historical, biological, wildlife, educational, and scenic resources of the area, to designate wilderness areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 857. A bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain Federal land in Garden Valley, Nevada; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. YARMUTH (for himself, Mr. POLIS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. COHEN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. POCAN):

H.R. 858. A bill to establish a comprehensive literacy program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. LEE (for herself, Mr. HONDA, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. NADLER):

H.J. Res. 30. A joint resolution to require a strategy and report to counter the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. BEATTY (for herself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLAY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RUSH, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia):

H. Con. Res. 16. Concurrent resolution recognizing the difficult challenges Black veterans faced when returning home after serving in the Armed Forces, their heroic military sacrifices, and their patriotism in fighting for equal rights and for the dignity of a people and a Nation; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HENSARLING:

H. Res. 98. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Financial Services in the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H. Res. 99. A resolution expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives on

the death of the Honorable Alan Nunnelee, a Representative from the State of Mississippi; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. FARENTHOLD:

H. Res. 102. A resolution expressing support for designation of September 25, 2015, as "National Pediatric Bone Cancer Awareness Day"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. McCAUL (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi):

H. Res. 103. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Homeland Security in the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey introduced a bill (H.R. 859), for the relief of certain aliens who were aboard the Golden Venture; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. LEVIN:

H.R. 820.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 821.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: Congress shall have the Power . . . "to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes."

By Mr. SESSIONS:

H.R. 822.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 823.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have the Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. WEBER of Texas:

H.R. 824.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, which states that "The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect taxes, duties, impost and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but

all duties impost and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;" and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution, which states that Congress shall have power "To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. ROSKAM:

H.R. 825.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 826.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Ms. FOXX:

H.R. 827.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution which states "Congress shall have power to regulate commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes."

By Mr. BOUSTANY:

H.R. 828.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 829.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution

By Mr. CARSON of Indiana:

H.R. 830.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 831.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Mr. COOK:

H.R. 832.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mrs. DAVIS of California:

H.R. 833.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mrs. DAVIS of California:

H.R. 834.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 835.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DENT:

H.R. 836.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 section 8 of the US constitution

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 837.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HANNA:

H.R. 838.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority on which this bill rests is enumerated in Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HASTINGS:

H.R. 839.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

H.R. 840.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (relating to the power of Congress to provide for the general welfare of the United States) and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress)

By Mr. KING of Iowa:

H.R. 841.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and under Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois:

H.R. 842.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. KLINE:

H.R. 843.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, commonly referred to the "Commerce Clause," of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KLINE:

H.R. 844.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, commonly referred to the "Commerce Clause," of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. LUMMIS:

H.R. 845.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2: "The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or of any particular state."

By Mr. POLIS:

H.R. 846.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Mr. POLIS:

H.R. 847.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. POLIS:

H.R. 848.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (relating to the power of Congress to provide for the general welfare of the United States) and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress)

By Mr. ROSS:

H.R. 849.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. RYAN of Ohio:

H.R. 850.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The above mentioned legislation is based upon the following Section 8 statement.

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. SABLAN:

H.R. 851.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution (clause 1), which grants Congress the power to collect taxes and expend funds to provide for the general welfare of the United States.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 852.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3:

To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:

H.R. 853.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 3 (related to regulation of Commerce among the several states).

By Mr. TAKAI:

H.R. 854.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII, of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. TIBERI:

H.R. 855.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 856.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 857.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2

By Mr. YARMUTH:

H.R. 858.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 859.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 4 of the Constitution provides that Congress shall have power "To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;"

By Ms. LEE:

H.J. Res. 30.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 24: Mr. DEFazio, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, and Mr. CARTER of Texas.

H.R. 27: Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 44: Ms. GABBARD.

H.R. 67: Mr. HASTINGS and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 69: Mr. KILDEE, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. SPEIER, and Mr. FARENTHOLD.

H.R. 85: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 114: Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 131: Mr. DUFFY, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. PITTINGER, and Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 136: Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. COSTA, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. FARR, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. NUNES, Mr. KNIGHT, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. TAKANO, and Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California.

H.R. 143: Mr. POLIQUIN.

H.R. 160: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 169: Mr. BLUM, Mr. KIND, Mr. KILMER, Mr. DEFazio, and Mr. WILLIAMS.

H.R. 173: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

H.R. 178: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.

H.R. 187: Ms. ESTY.

H.R. 197: Mr. HECK of Washington and Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 212: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. JOYCE, and Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 216: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 218: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 223: Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 249: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 271: Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 280: Mr. HENSARLING.

H.R. 281: Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. JORDAN, and Mr. HARRIS.

H.R. 284: Mr. MCCAUL.

H.R. 287: Mr. HENSARLING.

H.R. 290: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 292: Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HARPER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE, Mr. SIREN, Mr. POSEY, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HECK of Washington, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 303: Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. KILMER, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 304: Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 306: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 317: Mr. PALLONE.

H.R. 333: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 344: Mr. LEWIS and Mr. ASHFORD.

H.R. 349: Mr. JOYCE and Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 358: Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. HANNA, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. POCAN, and Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 363: Ms. FUDGE and Mr. BEYER.

H.R. 365: Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 400: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mr. ISSA.

H.R. 401: Mr. PEARCE and Mr. ISSA.

H.R. 402: Mr. LUETKEMEYER and Mr. PEARCE.

H.R. 403: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 411: Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. POLIS, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 417: Mr. ZINKE, Mr. ROKITA, and Mr. WESTERMAN.

H.R. 426: Mr. POMPEO, Mr. LATTA, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. LONG, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 429: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 431: Mr. HARDY.

H.R. 441: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.

H.R. 445: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.

H.R. 451: Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. ROSS, and Mr. SCHOCK.

H.R. 461: Mr. HILL.

H.R. 465: Mr. OLSON, Mr. STIVERS, and Mr. STEWART.

H.R. 478: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 483: Mr. TED LIEU of California.

H.R. 486: Mr. HENSARLING.

H.R. 495: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 497: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 508: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 509: Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. ASHFORD, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 511: Mr. BENISHEK and Mr. LUCAS.

H.R. 523: Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. POCAN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 525: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 529: Mr. BLUM, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. ROSKAM, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 531: Mr. COHEN and Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 540: Mrs. ELLMERS and Mr. PEARCE.

H.R. 541: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 546: Mr. NUGENT, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. LANCE.

H.R. 556: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 563: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 572: Mr. COLE.

H.R. 574: Mr. PEARCE.

H.R. 578: Mr. HARPER and Mr. BARR.

H.R. 583: Mr. PITTINGER.

H.R. 592: Mr. MASSIE, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. STEWART, Mr. NUNES, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. ROSS, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. WILLIAMS.

H.R. 594: Mr. ROSS, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. HOLDING, and Mr. MILLER of Florida.

H.R. 602: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama and Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 604: Mr. OLSON, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, and Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 606: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

- H.R. 608: Ms. FUDGE.
H.R. 622: Mr. BABIN and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 631: Mr. HENSARLING.
H.R. 634: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 635: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 642: Ms. TITUS and Ms. GABBARD.
H.R. 650: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
H.R. 654: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. RATCLIFFE, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 662: Mr. ROKITA, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. ISSA, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H.R. 663: Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. WALZ.
H.R. 665: Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 670: Mr. LOEBSACK and Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 699: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska and Mr. TED LIEU of California.
H.R. 703: Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. NUNES, Mr. POSEY, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. HENSARLING, and Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.R. 704: Mr. HARRIS, Mr. ROSS, and Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.R. 709: Mrs. HARTZLER.
H.R. 711: Mr. TIBERI.
H.R. 716: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 717: Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. TAKAI.
H.R. 718: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 722: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 724: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 731: Mr. SESSIONS and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 733: Mr. FORTENBERRY and Mr. MULVANEY.
H.R. 751: Mr. RIGELL, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. PITTENGER, and Mr. YOHIO.
H.R. 754: Mr. BARLETTA.
H.R. 757: Ms. GABBARD.
H.R. 762: Ms. KUSTER and Ms. LEE.
H.R. 767: Mr. CRENSHAW and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H.R. 774: Mr. ROYCE, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. PIERLUISI, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 775: Mr. POMPEO and Mr. HILL.
H.R. 784: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 794: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 795: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 812: Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 814: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. COOK, and Mr. SESSIONS.
H.J. Res. 22: Mr. DeFAZIO.
H. Con. Res. 13: Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. LATTA.
H. Con. Res. 15: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.
H. Res. 11: Mrs. HARTZLER.
H. Res. 12: Ms. TITUS, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. ASHFORD, and Mr. PETERS.
H. Res. 15: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Ms. DeLAURO.
H. Res. 28: Mr. RICHMOND and Mr. PETERS.
H. Res. 49: Mr. CHABOT and Mr. SANFORD.
H. Res. 50: Mr. COHEN and Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H. Res. 54: Mr. DeFAZIO, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.
H. Res. 74: Mr. COHEN and Mr. POCAN.
H. Res. 92: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. DeSAULNIER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. POCAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. HONDA, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SOCIAL SECURITY

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, this week, Americans making more than one million dollars a year will get a tax break. Not because Congress approved one, but because they've already reached the maximum amount of income that is subject to the Social Security tax. That's right—those making more than one million dollars have already reached the income cap of \$118,500, and we're not even six weeks into the year.

This gaping loophole allows billionaire hedge fund managers and corporate CEOs to pay a lower percentage of their income into Social Security than teachers, police officers and healthcare workers. Ninety-four percent of American workers pay Social Security tax on all of their income. But the wealthiest six percent are exempt from doing the same. By closing this loophole, we can make sure that every American pays exactly the same percentage of their income into Social Security.

Ending this tax racket for the wealthy also ensures that Social Security will continue paying full benefits to every single American who pays in. We have a choice: we can tell our children and grandchildren that their Social Security benefits will be cut in order to maintain a regressive tax that benefits only the richest six percent, or we can close this loophole and guarantee that if you pay into the program, you will receive the full Social Security benefits you were promised.

Unfortunately, this is not the conversation that has dominated Washington, DC in recent years. Instead, some of my colleagues in Congress would prefer to manufacture a crisis in order to privatize the entire system, leaving seniors' benefits at the mercy of Wall Street power brokers. They want you to think the system cannot be fixed and that Social Security as we know it is doomed. We can prove them wrong. If every American pays their fair share into the system, we can make sure the government fulfills its obligation to America's seniors.

TRIBUTE TO SENIOR MASTER
SERGEANT RONALD CARL
HOUGHTALEN

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Senior Master Sergeant Ronald Carl Houghtalen. A native of Binghamton, New York and currently a resident of

Clay, New York, who subsequently has more than 34 years of military service with the United States Air Force and New York Air National Guard. Sergeant Houghtalen has been decorated with numerous medals, awards, and service distinctions and will retire from military service on 1 December 2014. It is my honor to recognize such a distinguished citizen and airman.

Sergeant Houghtalen began his military career in the United States Air Force, in September of 1981. On completion of basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, in October 1981, Sergeant Houghtalen began technical school training as an Electronic Warfare Systems Specialist at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi. In September 1982, he was assigned to the 416th Bombardment Wing, Strategic Air Command as an Electronic Warfare Systems Specialist, at Griffiss Air Force Base, New York. He began on-the-job training for his five-skill level on the B-52G "Buff" aircraft and remained in that position until November 1984.

In November 1984, Sergeant Houghtalen was reassigned to the 81st Tactical Fighter Wing, Tactical Air Command, Flight-line Branch, Royal Air Force Bentwaters-Woodbridge, England, in support of United States Air Forces in Europe operations. While assigned with the 81st Component Repair Squadron, he performed duties as Electronic Warfare Systems Technician and Phase Dock Supervisor on the A-10A "Warhog" aircraft, which provided Offensive-Defensive Electronic Counter-measures and Close Air Support of ground forces and battlefield air interdiction in support of NATO ground forces.

After completion of his tour in November 1986, Sergeant Houghtalen was reassigned to the 379th Bombardment Wing, Strategic Air Command, Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Wurtsmith Air Force Base, Michigan. He was assigned as an Electronic Warfare Systems Technician Supervisor performing integrated jamming systems maintenance and supervision of B-52H advanced Electronic Warfare systems troubleshooting and repair. He was also selected to assist with the research and development of a new automated Electronic Warfare system and automatic and Semi-Automatic Support Equipment that would enhance Electronic Warfare maintenance and aircraft protection systems for the B-52H aircraft. Upon completion of his second active duty tour in March of 1990, Sergeant Houghtalen transferred to the 174th Tactical Fighter Wing, Aircraft Maintenance Branch, Avionics Maintenance Squadron, New York Air National Guard, Hancock Field in Syracuse, New York, and was assigned as an Electronic Warfare Technician and Integrated Avionics Maintenance Technician on the F-16A/B "Falcon" aircraft.

On 17 August 2006, as the Logistics Readiness Flight Superintendent, Sergeant Houghtalen volunteered for an Air Expedi-

tionary Force deployment in support of the Global War on Terrorism and was tasked to assemble, organize and deploy the first Redeployment Action Team to Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait. Assigned to the 386th Expeditionary Mission Support Group, he coordinated the arrival and off-load of cargo from three Air National Guard Wings transported by Sealift Command to Ali Al Salem AB and the on-load of cargo to C-130 aircraft for intra-theater airlift, in support of combat operations throughout Iraq and Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. On 19 February 2007, Sergeant Houghtalen returned to active duty to redeploy with his Team to Ali Al Salem AB for his ninth overseas tour where he successfully redeployed all cargo used down range, in support of combat operations, and returned it to the respective Air National Guard Wings throughout the United States.

Sergeant Houghtalen was employed as a 174th Fighter Wing Air National Guard Technician from May 1990 to January 2010. He held positions in the 174th Maintenance Squadron as an Integrated Avionics Maintenance Technician, 174th Maintenance Group as the Maintenance Operations Center Superintendent, 174th Fighter Wing as the Wing Plans Superintendent and the 174th Logistics Readiness Squadron as the Logistics Readiness Flight Superintendent for F-16 and MQ-9 aircraft. On 2 January 2010 he transferred from his full-time technician position to the Department of Defense, Defense Contract Management Agency and remained a member of the 174th Fighter Wing as a Traditional Guardsman. In March 2011, Sergeant Houghtalen transferred assignment to Joint Forces Headquarters (JFHQ), Latham, New York.

His last military assignment was with Joint Forces Headquarters-New York as the Domestic Operations Services Superintendent, Joint Task Force-5/FEMA Region II. While assigned, he performed duties with the Joint Exercise Control Group to plan, conduct, educate and train Joint Task Force-5 and supporting state, county and local emergency agency managers. He functioned as part of the Services Command and Control Headquarters Staff that responds to Homeland Defense and Civil Support within and outside the Continental United States contingency operations. Between 13 and 20 May 2012, Sergeant Houghtalen led New York Air National Guard Services members to provide lodging and feeding support for over 400 support personnel during a Homeland Response Force Exercise conducted in Oriskany, New York. He was ordered to State Active Duty between 29 October and 14 November by the Governor, in response to Hurricane Sandy at Joint Forces Headquarters, New York, and assigned to Joint Operations Center J1 Staff responsible for Manpower status and reporting in support of relief operations.

In January 2013, Sergeant Houghtalen deployed to Washington, DC, where he provided

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

mission support for the 57th Presidential Inauguration as a key member of the Joint Task Force-J4, playing a pivotal role in the logistics operation, providing critical transportation and sustainment contingency planning for the movement of over 6,000 personnel and several tons of cargo. From 22 April to 3 May 2014, Sergeant Houghtalen provided direct support during the Headquarters Reserve Forces Exercise conducted in Oriskany, NY, where he planned, organized, and executed operations, providing leadership and logistical coordination for twelve Services Support personnel from five New York Air National Guard Wings, successfully demonstrating contingency support capabilities in a Domestic Operations environment utilizing the Disaster Response Mobile Kitchen Trailer and their ability to respond to a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear event for Federal Emergency Management Agency Region II HRF, Joint Task-5, Joint Forces Headquarters, New York. He completed his military career and retired on 1 December 2014 after more than 34 years combined service, with nearly 10 years of Federal Active Duty and the remainder with the New York Air National Guard.

Sergeant Houghtalen holds a bachelor of arts degree in Management, cum laude, Columbia College, associate of arts degree in Management, Columbia College, associate degree in Business Administration and Logistics Management, Community College of the Air Force, associate's degree in Applied Science, Avionics Systems Technology, Community College of the Air Force. He is a graduate of the United States Air Force Senior Air Force Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Air Force Noncommissioned Officer Academy, and the Air Force Noncommissioned Officer Leadership School where he received the Commandant's Award.

Sergeant Houghtalen's military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster; the Air Force Commendation Medal, with one oak leaf cluster; the Air Force Achievement Medal; and the Army Achievement Medal. His military unit and achievement awards include the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, one oak leaf cluster; the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" device and six oak leaf clusters; the Air Force Good Conduct Medal, with two oak leaf clusters; and the Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal, with seven oak leaf clusters. His military campaign and service awards include the National Defense Service Medal, with one bronze service star; the Armed Forces Expeditionary Service Medal; the Southwest Asia Service Medal, with three bronze campaign stars; the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; the Air Force Overseas Long Service-Long Tour Ribbon, the Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon, with seven oak leaf clusters; the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with silver hourglass device, mobilization "M" device, and numeral "9"; the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Military Education Ribbon with three oak leaf clusters; the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon with one service star device; and the Air Force Training Ribbon. Sergeant Houghtalen's Foreign Service awards include the Kuwait Liberation Medal from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with

Palm device and the Kuwait Liberation Medal from the Government of Kuwait.

Sergeant Houghtalen also holds the following New York State awards and decorations: the New York State Long and Faithful Service Award, with one gold shield device; the New York State Desert Storm Service Medal; New York State Operation Iraqi Freedom Ribbon; New York State Operation Enduring Freedom Ribbon; the New York State Defense of Liberty Medal; New York State Conspicuous Service Cross; the Medal for Humane Service to New York State. He also holds service awards from other states that include the Mississippi Emergency Service Medal for Operation Vigilant Guard Relief, Hurricane Katrina; the District of Columbia National Guard Community Service Ribbon in support of the 57th Presidential Inauguration.

His effective dates of promotion are: Airman—17 October 1981; Airman First Class—30 August 1982; Senior Airman—1 September 1984; Sergeant—1 September 1985; Staff Sergeant—1 January 1987; Technical Sergeant—1 June 1995; Master Sergeant—1 January 2000; Senior Master Sergeant—27 February 2002.

He is also the recipient of the following recognition awards: the Onondaga Community College Veteran of the Month 1994; the Red Flag Superior Performer in 1999; the Presidential Support Secret Service Augmentee award in 1999; the American Red Cross Veterans Award in 2000; the Air Combat Command Inspector General Superior Performance Award in 2000 and 2003; the Phase II Operational Readiness Inspection Superior Performer in 2000; 174th Fighter Wing Base Honor Guard Team Superior Performer Award in 2003, Air Combat Command Inspector General Deployment Support Organization Superior Performance Award in 2003; and the 174th Fighter Wing Phase 1 Operational Readiness Exercise Superior Performer award in 2004.

Sergeant Houghtalen is a past member of the Air National Guard Noncommissioned Officer Academy Graduate Association, the Association of the Old Crows, and the Air Force Association; he is still an active member of the 174th Attack Wing Base Honor Guard.

Senior Master Sergeant Ronald Houghtalen resides in the Town of Clay with his wife Sharon Houghtalen. He has one daughter and one son, Staff Sergeant Briana Houghtalen, 174 Attack Wing and Senior Airman Ryan Houghtalen, 152 Air Operations Group. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Thelma Houghtalen of Binghamton, New York (Deceased).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, from January 28, 2015 through February 5, 2015, I missed recorded votes #49–#68. I was unable to vote, as I contracted the flu and was considered contagious at the time. My doctor advised me to remain home until my fever sub-

sided. Despite receiving the flu shot, I was one of the many Americans to come down with the flu this year.

I would like to reflect how I would have voted if I was in attendance:

On Roll Call #49 I would have voted no (Motion to Recommit).

On Roll Call #50 I would have voted yes (Passage of H.R. 351, LNG Permitting Certainty and Transparency Act).

On Roll Call #51 I would have voted yes (Passage of H.R. 361, Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act).

On Roll Call #52 I would have voted yes (Passage of H.R. 615, Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act).

On Roll Call #53 I would have voted yes (Passage of H.R. 623, Social Media Working Group Act).

On Roll Call #54 I would have voted yes (Previous Question).

On Roll Call #55 I would have voted yes (Agreeing to Resolution, H. Res. 70).

On Roll Call #56 I would have voted yes (Approving the Journal).

On Roll Call #57 I would have voted no (Motion to Recommit).

On Roll Call #58 I would have voted yes (Passage of H.R. 596, To repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010).

On Roll Call #59 I would have voted yes (Previous Question).

On Roll Call #60 I would have voted yes (Agreeing to Resolution, H. Res. 78).

On Roll Call #61 I would have voted no (On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 50 by Cummings Part C Amendment #2).

On Roll Call #62 I would have voted no (On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 50 by Connolly Part C Amendment #3).

On Roll Call #63 I would have voted no (Motion to Recommit).

On Roll Call #64 I would have voted yes (Passage of H.R. 50, Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2015).

On Roll Call #65 I would have voted no (On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 527 by Schrader Part A Amendment No. 4).

On Roll Call #66 I would have voted no (On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 527 by Lee Part A Amendment No. 6).

On Roll Call #67 I would have voted no (Motion to Recommit).

On Roll Call #68 I would have voted yes (Passage of H.R. 527, Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2015).

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT MICHAEL YAREMA AND SERGEANT PETER HEISE

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Michael Yarema and Sergeant Peter Heise of the Syracuse New York Police Department. On January 4, 2015, Sergeant Yarema and Sergeant Heise responded

to the scene of a shooting, performed textbook emergency medical treatment on the victim, all while working on an unsecure and volatile crime scene. Doctors at Upstate University Hospital Emergency Room confirm that the immediate, life-saving measures performed by both sergeants saved the life of the victim.

Sergeant Yarema served the Syracuse Police Department as an officer in the Patrol Division, Syracuse Anti-firearm Enforcement Unit, and Syracuse Police Traffic Division before being promoted to Sergeant in May of 2009. He has served as a firearms instructor and member of the SWAT team in Syracuse. Sergeant Yarema has received the Syracuse Police Life Saving Award and Syracuse Police Department's Officer of the Month Award.

Sergeant Yarema was raised in Auburn, New York and holds a bachelor of arts and sciences degree in Criminal Justice. He is supported by his girlfriend, Melissa Bottorff and daughter, Lauryn Bacon.

Sergeant Heise served the Syracuse Police Department as a Detective in the Criminal Investigations Division and as a defensive tactics instructor in the Training Division before being promoted to Sergeant in May of 2006. He then acted as Patrol Sergeant and a Sergeant in the Criminal Investigations Division. Sergeant Heise holds the following awards: Chief's Achievement Award, Police Benevolent Association Award, and the Mayor's Achievement Award.

Sergeant Heise was raised in Dexter, New York and holds a bachelor of arts and sciences degree from the State University of New York at Oswego. He is supported by his wife, Melanie Heise and two daughters, Mackenzie and Morgan.

Sergeant Yarema and Sergeant Heise have each bravely served the Syracuse New York Police Department for 20 years. I am proud to share in the recognition of Sergeant Michael Yarema and Sergeant Peter Heise as first-rate officers, performing tremendous service to the people of Syracuse, New York.

THE BIRTH OF COLLINS MADDEN
AND EMMA RHOADES LENIHAN

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friends, Keagan Lenihan and her husband Brian, on the birth of their twin daughters Collins Madden and Emma Rhoades Lenihan. Collins was born at 11:21 p.m. and Emma at 11:22 p.m. on Monday, January 19, 2015, in Washington, DC. Collins and Emma are five pounds of pride and joy to their loving grandparents, Barclay and Lorita Resler of McLean, Virginia and Michael and Marilyn Lenihan of Fredericksburg, Virginia. I am so excited for this new blessing to the Lenihan family and wish them all the best on their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF ANDREW "PETE" SANCHEZ, JR.

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Andrew "Pete" Sanchez, Jr., a native of my hometown of New Orleans, Louisiana. I especially wish to congratulate him on becoming the 100th King of the Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club. It is my distinct privilege to recognize him here today for this accomplishment.

Following in the footsteps of his father, Andrew Sanchez, Sr., Mr. Sanchez joined the Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club in 1994. Since then, he has occupied numerous leadership positions within Zulu. He has served on the Zulu Board of Directors for the past nine years, and is Zulu's representative to Mayor Mitch Landrieu's Mardi Gras Advisory Council.

In addition to his work with Zulu, Mr. Sanchez is a dedicated family man and has been active in his community. He has received awards for his work with Toys for Tots, serves as a Commissioner on New Orleans Board of Zoning, and in November, was appointed by Mayor Landrieu to the New Orleans Cultural and Historical Committee. He is a proud graduate of McDonough #35 Senior High School and Southern University A&M College. He is married to Dr. Janice Sanchez, and the proud father of Ashley Nichelle Sanchez. This year, he will get a chance to share the honor and joy of being Zulu royalty with his wife, as Dr. Sanchez will reign alongside him as the 79th Queen of Zulu. This will be a special time for the family, and we are very proud of him. The commitment that Mr. Sanchez shows to his family and his community is an example to all of us. The hard work and dedication of Mr. and Dr. Sanchez to improving the community and raising a strong family gives us hope and promise for the future of our city.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Mr. Andrew Peter Sanchez, Jr. on his coronation as the 100th King of Zulu and wish him a successful reign as King Zulu, 2015.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL THEODORE
HAROLD LIMPET

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Colonel Theodore Harold Limpert. A native of Central New York and currently a resident of Syracuse, New York, Colonel Limpert subsequently has more than 30 years of military service with the United States Air Force and New York Air National Guard. Colonel Limpert has been decorated with numerous medals, awards, and service distinctions and retired from military service on 29 June 2012. It is my honor to recognize such a distinguished citizen and airman.

Colonel Limpert began his military career in the New York Air National Guard on 24 No-

vember 1981, attending the Air National Guard's Academy of Military Science, receiving his commission as a Second Lieutenant on 24 June 1982. From September 1982 to September 1983, he attended undergraduate Pilot Training at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma. From November 1983 to January 1984, Colonel Limpert attended Lead Fighter Training at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, and subsequently completed the A-10 Replacement Training Unit at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana in May 1984.

As a traditional guardsman and currently a Syracuse City Court Judge, Colonel Limpert became an operational member of the 174th Fighter Wing in May 1984 and was assigned the 138th Fighter Squadron. During his tenure with the 174th Fighter Wing, as a pilot in the T-38, T-37, A-10, and the F-16, Colonel Limpert has accumulated more than 3,100 flight hours, with 750 flight hours in the A-10 aircraft, 2,200 flying hours in the F-16 aircraft, and has 392 combat flight hours, and holds the rating of Command Pilot.

In 1991, Colonel Limpert deployed to Southwest Asia seven times supporting combat operations in Southwest Asia, beginning with Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1991 at Al Kharj Air Base Saudi Arabia, with subsequent deployments in support of Operation Provide Comfort in 1995 at Incirlik Air Base Turkey; Operation Southern Watch in 2000 at Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia; Operation Enduring Freedom in 2003 at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar; and Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2006 and 2008 at Balad Air Base, Iraq. During the 2006 deployment to Balad Air Base, Iraq in 2006, Colonel Limpert held dual assignments as the 174th Fighter Wing Detachment Commander and 332nd Expeditionary Squadron Commander. In addition to his deployments supporting combat operations in Southwest Asia, Colonel Limpert also flew Combat Air Patrol sorties over New York City in support of Operation Noble Eagle after the September 11th terrorist attack on the United States.

Colonel Limpert has held numerous duty assignments throughout his military career with the New York Air National Guard. They include: Assistant Flight Commander and Flight Commander, 138th Fighter Squadron, from May 1989 to July 1996; Combat Air Planner, 152nd Air Operations Group, from July 1996 to September 1998; Command Post Officer, 174th Fighter Wing from September 1998 to September 1999; F-16 Pilot, Operations Officer and later Operations Support Flight Commander, 174th Operations Support Flight; Commander, 138th Fighter Squadron from May 2003 to September 2007; and Deputy Operations Group Commander, 174th Fighter Wing from September 2007 to October 2008.

In his final assignment, Colonel Limpert was assigned to the New York Air National Guard Joint Force Headquarters as Director of Plans and Programs and, Director of the Joint Exercise Control Group. As Director of Plans and Programs, he oversaw the five New York State Air Wings respective plans offices. The Joint Exercise Control Group ensures readiness of state military forces for state contingency operations and defense support to civil authorities. Colonel Limpert's joint staff team of Air and Army National Guard personnel,

planned, coordinated and observed table top and large scale civilian and military exercises conducted by each of the state's six joint task forces. He also volunteered and took on duties as Senior Air Reserve Component Advisor to the Commander, United States Air Forces Central Command, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar.

During these times and throughout his career, Colonel Limpert has displayed honorable character and service to the United States Air Force, the New York Air National Guard, and our country. His military decorations and unit awards include the Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor "V" device; the Air Medal with five oak leaf clusters; the Aerial Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster; Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster; the Air Force Commendation Medal; the Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster; the Joint Meritorious Service Award; the Meritorious Unit Award; and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor "V" device and seven oak leaf clusters.

Colonel Limpert's military campaign, service awards include the Combat Readiness Medal with eleven oak leaf clusters; National Defense Service Medal with one bronze service star; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Southwest Asia Service medal with three campaign stars; the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with one bronze campaign star; the Iraq Campaign Medal with one bronze campaign star; the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; the Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with gold boarder and two oak leaf clusters; the Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon with six oak leaf clusters; Armed Forces Reserve Medal with gold hourglass device, mobilization "M" device, and numeral "6"; and the Air Force Training Ribbon. His foreign service awards include the Kuwait Liberation Medal with gold palm device from Saudi Arabia and the Kuwait Liberation Medal from Kuwait.

Colonel Limpert also holds the following New York State awards and decorations: the New York State Long and Faithful Service Award with one gold shield device and one silver shield device; the New York State Desert Storm Service Medal; the New York State Operation Enduring Freedom Ribbon; the New York State Operation Iraqi Freedom Ribbon; the New York State Defense of Liberty Medal; the New York State Conspicuous Service Cross with one cross device; the Medal for Human Service to New York State; the New York State Exercise Support Ribbon; and the New York State Physical Fitness Ribbon.

Colonel Limpert's effective dates of promotion are: Second Lieutenant—24 June 1982; First Lieutenant—25 February 1985; Captain—5 March 1985; Major—1 October 1993; Lieutenant Colonel—February 2000; and his current rank of Colonel—4 October 2008.

Colonel Limpert received a bachelor of science in Biology from Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania in 1981 and juris doctor, magna cum laude, from Syracuse University College of Law, Syracuse, New York. He also completed the Squadron Officer School, (Correspondence) course, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama in 1993; the Air Command and Staff College, (Correspondence), Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama in 2000; the Air War College, (Correspondence), Maxwell

Air Force Base, Alabama in 2007; and the Advanced Joint Professional Military Education Course, Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Virginia in 2009.

In his civilian capacity, Colonel Limpert is a Syracuse City Court Judge. He was appointed to the Bench in November 2009, and elected to a ten year term in November 2010. As a City Court Judge, Colonel Limpert handles both criminal and civil cases. Prior to becoming a Judge, he was in private practice for over 20 years.

Without question Mr. Speaker, Colonel Limpert is a very special person. He willingly served his nation, exuding loyalty and pride. For his unrelenting service, Colonel Limpert can retire knowing he has earned such a status. I would like to wish him well in his retirement years, as he will now be able to spend more free time with his wife Susan, his daughter Elizabeth, and his sons Harold, Nikolas and Tyler. Colonel Limpert, thank you for all your years of hard work, dedication and service to our country.

TRIBUTE TO DAN SMOOT

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the most dedicated and respected law enforcement officials in narcotics diversion and substance abuse education in Kentucky, Dan Smoot, in honor of his 33 years of law enforcement service—12 of which were spent as a leader at an organization near and dear to my heart, Operation UNITE.

After serving more than two decades as a narcotics diversion specialist for the Kentucky State Police in Eastern Kentucky, Smoot was one of the first leaders brought on board to help launch Operation UNITE, a non-profit organization designed to tackle the tidal wave of drug abuse that hit Kentucky's Fifth Congressional District with the release of powerful prescription painkillers in our rural region. Because of the unique challenges associated with prescription drug addiction and abuse, UNITE's name reflects its three-pronged, holistic approach—Unlawful Narcotics Investigations, Treatment and Education.

As the inaugural Law Enforcement Director, he undertook the daunting task of developing and implementing law enforcement policies and procedures for UNITE's accredited task force. Critically important to the organization's success has been buy-in and cooperation among local law enforcement, and Smoot's early work at UNITE was critical to forging these partnerships. He engaged with more than 30 different fiscal courts to enact interlocal cooperation agreements to provide jurisdiction for UNITE to work with local law enforcement agencies in each county. Thus far, UNITE's task force has arrested more than 4,000 drug traffickers, taken over \$12.3 million in drugs off the streets, while maintaining a 97% conviction rate in southern and eastern Kentucky. Closely collaborating with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA),

Smoot developed an innovative debit card program to fund street-level drug purchases for local police departments and sheriff's offices in eleven counties. Additionally, he has developed a reputation for his tireless advocacy for better drug abuse-related policy and legislation in Kentucky and surrounding states. As a result of his efforts, Smoot was named President and CEO of UNITE in 2013.

Though the majority of his career has been focused on law enforcement, Smoot quickly became an advocate for UNITE's effective education and treatment programs. It takes a special kind of law enforcement officer to commit to treatment and education programs—but Smoot immediately bought in, and it's due in large part to his leadership, to his steadfast guidance and advocacy, and to his unwavering commitment to this critically important cause that UNITE shines as a national leader in helping individuals take back their communities from the scourge of drug abuse. He has supported Drug Court programs and spent countless hours educating community members and students about drug abuse prevention across the region. Whether he is talking to national leaders or spending time with at-risk middle school children at Camp UNITE, his passion to end the cycle of drug abuse in Kentucky is remarkable. The story of his career is now written, not only by the drug traffickers who have spent time in state and federal prisons for illicit drug activities, but also by their children and grandchildren who now realize there is hope for a better future, thanks to the valiant education and treatment programs he helped lead at Operation UNITE.

I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Dan Smoot's incredible leadership in our life-saving and life-changing anti-drug efforts in Kentucky and throughout our Appalachian region. I have no doubt that he will carry these incredible and laudable professional and personal traits with him into any future endeavors, and I certainly wish him the very best in his new post with the Appalachian High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (AHIDTA).

RECOGNIZING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 250th anniversary of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, located in West Milford, New Jersey. St. Joseph's parish dates back to 1765, making it one of the oldest and longest lasting parishes in New Jersey.

As we look back on the past 250 years, we recognize that the world has changed drastically. Throughout these changes St. Joseph's church has remained a beacon of faith for their community. The parishioners of St. Joseph's Church come together every week to worship, promote faith, care for the less fortunate, and serve their local community. Their commitment to one another, and to the wider community, is exceptional.

I congratulate St. Joseph's on this impressive anniversary. It is an honor to represent the people of West Milford and to commend St. Joseph's parish for all they do as they seek to make our community a better place.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JOSEPH
EDWARD LAMENDOLA

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Colonel Joseph Edward Lamendola. Originally from Massena, New York and currently a resident of Camillus, New York, Colonel Lamendola received his direct commission on 19 February 1984 and subsequently has 30 years of military service with United States Air Force and the New York Air National Guard. Colonel Lamendola has been decorated with numerous medals, awards, and service distinctions. It is my honor to recognize such a distinguished citizen and airman.

Colonel Lamendola began his military career in the Air Force on 19 February 1984 under the Air Force's direct commissioning program and served four years on Federal Active Duty as an Assistant Staff Judge Advocate and Area Defense Counsel at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina. In October 1988, Colonel Lamendola transferred to the New York Air National Guard and was assigned to the 174th Fighter Wing, Hancock Field, Syracuse, New York. During his tenure as Staff Judge Advocate with the 174th Fighter Wing, Colonel Lamendola served as the 9th Air Force Air National Guard Judge Advocate Liaison. From October 1995 through December 2000, Colonel Lamendola provided guidance and support to 9th Air Force Air National Guard-gained units, including conducting Staff Assistance Visits to all 18 units.

In March 1995, he deployed with the 174th Fighter Wing in support of a Joint NATO Exercise conducted at Andoya Air Base, Norway. In 1991, Colonel Lamendola was called to Federal Active Duty in support of Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm. He served for 180 days at home station performing duties in a dual role as Staff Judge Advocate and Public Affairs Officer.

Colonel Lamendola has served as Legal Advisor, Recorder, and Respondent's Counsel on numerous occasions by Air National Guard units from the states of Alaska, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Montana, New York and Vermont. Colonel Lamendola has assisted in the research and revision of the 1996 Commander's Legal Desk Book, and participated as a member of a Process Action Team, which drafted the Air National Guard Instruction dealing with Legal Assistance. He has also served as an instructor for the November 2003 Contemporary Base Issues course hosted by the New York Air National Guard.

Colonel Lamendola currently serves as the senior uniformed Air National Guard Judge Advocate in the New York Air National Guard and is responsible for providing legal advice, opinions, and assistance on a variety of subjects to the Commander of the New York Air

National Guard, the Air Staff, other Judge Advocates assigned to New York Air National Guard's five flying wings the Eastern Air Defense Sector, and commanders throughout the New York Air National Guard.

During these times and throughout his career, Colonel Lamendola has displayed honorable character and service to the United States Air Force, the New York Air National Guard, and our country. His military decorations and unit awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters; the Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster; and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with four oak leaf clusters. His military campaign and service awards include the National Defense Service Medal with one bronze service star; the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; the Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon with six oak leaf clusters; Armed Forces Reserve Medal with silver hourglass device and mobilization "M" device; and Air Force Training Ribbon.

Colonel Lamendola also holds the following New York State awards and decorations: the New York State Long and Faithful Service Award with one gold shield device; the New York State Defense of Liberty Medal; the New York State Conspicuous Service Cross; and the New York State Exercise Support Ribbon.

Colonel Lamendola's effective dates of promotion are: First Lieutenant—23 September 1982; Captain—28 September 1984; Major—2 December 1989; Lieutenant Colonel—27 January 1994; and his current rank of Colonel—1 June 2009.

In his civilian capacity, Colonel Lamendola maintains a law practice in Syracuse, New York and serves a client base in Northern and Central New York. His practice concentrates in the areas of business litigation, personal injury, education and school law, family law, military law and estate planning. Colonel Lamendola serves as a committee member on the Fourth Department Attorney Grievance Committee, and he is also a delegate for the Fifth Judicial District nominating committee.

Colonel Lamendola holds degrees from Tulane Law School, New Orleans, Louisiana, 1983 (LL.M., Admiralty Law) University of Wales, Cardiff, United Kingdom, 1982 (LL.B., Cum Laude) State University of New York, Plattsburg, NY, 1977 (B.A., Political Science) Air War College, May 2005.

Colonel Lamendola also holds Bar Admissions in the U.S. Supreme Court, 1987; the U.S. Court of Appeals 2nd Circuit, 1996; the U.S. Court of Appeals 5th Circuit, 1983; the U.S. District Court Eastern District of Louisiana, 1983; the U.S. District Court Northern District of New York, 1991; the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, 1984; the State of New York, 1990; and the State of Louisiana, 1983.

Without question Mr. Speaker, Colonel Lamendola is a very special person. He willingly served his nation, exuding loyalty and pride. For his unrelenting service, Colonel Lamendola can retire knowing he has earned such a status. I would like to wish him well in his retirement years, as he will now be able to spend more free time with his wife Heather and his daughter Amelia Jude. Colonel Lamendola, thank you for all of your years of hard work, dedication, and service to our country.

RECOGNIZING MR. JOSEPH
ZIMMERMAN

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Joseph Zimmerman of Bucks County for his service and dedication to Scouting, the Boy Scouts of America, Washington Crossing Council, and Cub Scout Pack 30. An Eagle Scout, Mr. Zimmerman has been involved in Scouting for 75 years and recently was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation and the title of Cub Master Emeritus for his work on behalf of the youngest Scouts. Since 2006, he served as Chartering Organization Executive to Cub Scout, Pack 30, providing the benefit of his experience and leadership. I join his friends and associates in thanking him for his many community contributions and his service to our country during the Korean war. With his spirit of volunteerism and the countless hours as a role model for Scouts and Scout Masters, Joseph Zimmerman has set an example for others to follow.

HONORING VANESSA IAQUINTA

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the conclusion of National School Counseling Week to honor a deserving school counselor in my district. Vanessa Iaquinta joined Norwalk High School in 1998, and is the heart and soul of the school's counseling team. She has made a tremendous impact on the lives of Norwalk students because she believes that every one of them should be given the tools necessary to succeed in both college and life.

Ms. Iaquinta works with parents to make sure they feel included and informed about their child's education. Vanessa and her team have developed a personalized and comprehensive approach that meets the academic, social-emotional, and post-secondary needs of each and every Norwalk High School student. She goes above and beyond, even using social media to stay connected with graduates, reminding them of application deadlines for student aid and scholarships.

Vanessa is also the counselor for AVID, a program that helps students who have shown the potential to succeed but need a little extra help. She meets with students, and coordinates with teachers to make sure their individual needs are being met.

This year, Vanessa agreed to be the counselor for the newly established Project Lead the Way which exposes students to the field of biomedicine. In the few short months since Vanessa has undertaken this role, the program has expanded, interest has increased, and students are thriving.

Norwalk High School is a special place because of dedicated professionals like Vanessa. In honor of National School Counselors Week, I ask my colleagues to join me

in thanking all the school counselors who are making a positive impact in the lives of our students.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 50 I was unable to make votes due to the weather (snow storm) in Pennsylvania. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

REINTRODUCING THE LENA HORNE RECOGNITION ACT OF 2015

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Lena Horne Recognition Act of 2015, which would award the Congressional Gold Medal to the late, renowned singer, actress, and Civil Rights icon, Ms. Lena Mary Calhoun Horne.

As an African American woman born in the 1917, Ms. Horne, who passed away in 2010, was truly a woman of firsts, having pioneered the way for many men and women of color through her work in Jazz, film, and the Civil Rights movement. She began her career in the chorus line at Harlem's famed Cotton Club before moving on to record dozens of musical tracks and playing roles in movies and musicals.

As a young woman, Lena drew much fame from her beauty and talent, yet found many roadblocks in her personal success due to the hyper-racialized nature of show business at the time. However, this adversity would not limit her, and presented a platform for her increasing support of and action in the Civil Rights movement.

The first to do so, Lena signed a long term contract with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM) and embarked on a career in Hollywood, as her celebrity had been noticed by many, despite the color of her skin. She was also the first African American woman to be nominated for a Tony Award. However, again, she found road blocks in her professional life, due to state-law restrictions in on-screen interracial relationships as well as the need to have her roles edited out for Jim Crow abiding viewers. Blacklisted during the period of McCarthyism in the 1950s, Ms. Horne still recorded what would become the best-selling album by a female singer in RCA Victor's history in 1957.

From music and film, Lena had built a substantial fan base, and by the 1960s, at the peak of the Civil Rights movement, she became a staple on Television. She had become so renowned in popular culture despite her race that she appeared on shows such as the Dean Martin Show and Ed Sullivan Show. In 1970, Horne co-starred with well known actor, Harry Belafonte, on a show for ABC donning their names—"Harry and Lena." She would go

on to play herself on The Muppet Show, Sesame Street, and Sanford and Son. In 1981, Lena then received two Grammy awards and a special Tony award for her cast recording of her Broadway show, Lena Horne: The Lady and Her Music. In 1989, she received a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.

Amongst her many awards, Ms. Horne was the recipient of the Kennedy Center honor for lifetime contribution to the arts in 1984. She received two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame—for her work in both motion pictures and recording—in addition to a footprint on the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site. Lena always fought back when opportunities presented themselves.

For example, during World War II, Lena had been slated to perform for segregated troops of U.S. servicemen. She was appalled to find that African American servicemen had been seated behind German prisoners of war, and refused to partake unless she could sing before an integrated group. As a compromise, Lena left the stage and sang directly in front of her African American counterparts, with the German prisoners of war to her rear.

Lena notably remained committed to bettering lives of the underserved and under-represented for the entirety of her life. An active participant in the movement, Lena met President John F. Kennedy shortly before his assassination, marched in the March on Washington, and ultimately performed and spoke on behalf of the NAACP, SNCC, and National Council of Negro Women. Also notable is the work that she engaged in with Former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt to pass anti-lynching laws. Lena was awarded the Spingarn Medal from the NAACP in 1983.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in support of honoring Lena Horne posthumously with a Congressional Gold Medal, for her outstanding contributions to American culture and the Civil Rights Movement. A beautiful person inside-out, Lena willed her talent, intelligence, and fame to fight against discrimination, traversing her career on a road filled with pot holes full of racial bias and degradation. Lena represents the very best of American ideals and signifies the true purpose of the American Dream.

RECOGNIZING MRS. VICTORIA WHITEHEAD MCCRAY

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, today it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the contributions of Mrs. Victoria Whitehead McCray, a dedicated educator and public servant. Mrs. McCray is being honored by the Gamma Beta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. at this year's Diamond Anniversary Banquet in Wilson, North Carolina. Mrs. McCray has dedicated her life to the service of others and is most deserving of this recognition.

Mrs. McCray was born on October 22, 1927, in Wilson, North Carolina, to John Henry

Whitehead and the former Victoria Ennis. Mrs. McCray attended Darden High School in Wilson, and attended North Carolina Central University in Durham. Following her education at NCCU, Mrs. McCray taught business and typing courses and produced a booklet on Black History entitled "A Proud Heritage" that was widely distributed to students and others.

Mrs. McCray is a Golden Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She has held every office in the chapter including as Tamiouchos, Nominating Committee Chair, and Treasurer, where she has demonstrated her financial expertise. For her many contributions to her Sorority and community, Mrs. McCray was awarded the Phenomenal Woman Award for Outstanding Community Service from the Alumni Chapter at Bennett College.

Mrs. McCray is married to Wilford McCray and they are proud parents of Ms. Paulette McCray. Mrs. McCray is a member of the historic Jackson Chapel First Missionary Baptist Church in Wilson, where she serves as finance committee chair.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. McCray's contributions to our great nation are many. She is dedicated to the service of others and her passion for education and community is self-evident. I ask my colleagues join me in congratulating Mrs. Victoria Whitehead McCray on the high honor of being recognized by the Gamma Beta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,124,962,972,729.90. We've added \$7,498,085,923,816.62 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.4 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

SUTTON NORRIS APPOINTMENT TO UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. JODY B. HICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to congratulate Mr. Sutton Norris on his appointment to the United States Military Academy.

Mr. Norris is an incredibly accomplished young man from Athens, Georgia. Sutton is the son of Tab and Elizabeth Norris, and is a graduate of the prestigious Prince Avenue Christian School. During his time there, Sutton exhibited his dedication to leadership while attending the Summer Leadership Experience at USMA and was awarded the Outstanding Leader Award.

Among his many accolades, Sutton also showcased academic prowess while serving as the President of the National Honor Society and the National Junior Honor Society.

Mr. Speaker, Sutton Norris is also a young man who is also dedicated to improving his community through service. Sutton organized Prince Avenue Christian School's initial participation in Relay for Life, an organization dedicated to raising awareness about cancer and funds to combat the disease.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I understand that Mr. Norris is no stranger to the rigorous work ethic required to be considered as a candidate for the United States Military Academy. With several family members serving in different branches of the armed services, I am confident that Sutton will accomplish his ultimate goal of serving his nation as a United States soldier.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate Mr. Sutton Norris.

IN RECOGNITION OF SEMINOLE
STATE COLLEGE THEATRE DE-
PARTMENT'S HISTORIC COMPLE-
TION OF AUGUST WILSON'S
"PITTSBURGH CYCLE"

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

Whereas, with its production of "Radio Golf" in February 2015, Seminole State College's Theatre Department completes its 10-year commitment to produce all ten plays in playwright August Wilson's Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize winning series referred to as "The Pittsburgh Cycle", an historic feat that only a few American theaters have accomplished, and

Whereas, Seminole State College has contributed to the region's celebration, and recognition, of Black History Month over the past decade by presenting the "Pittsburgh Cycle", which depicts the African-American experience during each decade of the 20th century, and

Whereas, Seminole State College Theatre Department's production of the "Pittsburgh Cycle" demonstrates the exceptional power of college theater to promote active learning, and encourage individual development and growth, and

Whereas, Seminole State College's decade long productions of the plays that make up the "Pittsburgh Cycle" provided unique opportunities for student, community, and professional theater members to work with nationally renowned veterans of African-American theater.

Therefore, in recognition of Seminole State College's remarkable completion of August Wilson's "Pittsburgh Cycle", I, CORRINE BROWN, Representative of the 5th District of Florida, congratulate Seminole State College and its Theatre Department, and encourage the Seminole County and Seminole State College community to join in the celebration of this most noteworthy achievement.

HONORING MAJOR MELISSA
DUNLOW

HON. BRAD ASHFORD

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Melissa Dunlow for her 25 years of service in the United States Air Force Reserves, seventeen of which were served on active duty. Mrs. Dunlow grew up in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin. She had an interest in traveling and although she had the desire to attend college, it was not financially feasible. In her senior year of high school, Mrs. Dunlow entered the delayed enlistment program, and subsequently active duty with the United States Air Force. Mrs. Dunlow was first assigned to Tinker AFB in Oklahoma as an Air Transportation Specialist; which primarily meant manual labor of loading cargo and passengers onto military aircraft. Mrs. Dunlow applied for and was approved to cross-train into the paralegal career field where she could perform administrative work. During the four and a half years Mrs. Dunlow served as a paralegal, she took college classes at night and on Saturdays to complete her bachelor's degree. She then applied for a commission and attended Officer Training School about three weeks after her college graduation. Mrs. Dunlow's first assignment as a Second Lieutenant was to Offutt AFB in Bellevue, Nebraska, in 2003. While stationed there, she met her future husband, Neil who was also stationed at Offutt. Mrs. Dunlow applied for a ROTC teaching position at University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill. The couple married in June 2006 and Mrs. Dunlow was assigned to Chapel Hill the next month. However, her husband Neil remained at Offutt to fulfill his duty requirement. During their separation, Mr. Dunlow came to realize that the Bellevue/Papillion area was where he wanted to start an orthodontic practice as well as a family. Together, they decided to separate from active duty and make a life in Nebraska. Mrs. Dunlow returned to the area in a civil service position in Human Resources at STRATCOM while Mr. Dunlow opened a small orthodontic practice in Bellevue. Mrs. Dunlow joined the Air Force Reserves as a Liaison Officer to the Civil Air Patrol. After "buying in" her active duty time and completing the minimum required time in civil service, Mrs. Dunlow left her position with STRATCOM in September 2012 in order to spend time at home with their two children who are now 6 and 4. Currently, Mrs. Dunlow spends days at home with their youngest daughter and works part-time at the orthodontic office as an office manager. Only time will tell what Mrs. Dunlow will do once their youngest daughter is in school full-time, maybe she will utilize her master's degree, or perhaps she will strike out a new career after using the remaining two years of her GI bill to complete another degree. Mr. Speaker it is with great pleasure that I recognize Mrs. Melissa Dunlow for her 25 years of military service. What a truly inspiring career she has had and will continue to have. Her hard work and tenacity are commendable. Mrs. Dunlow represents a real American hero through her

commitment and solidarity to her brothers and sisters in arms.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 49 I was unable to make votes due to the weather (snow storm) in Pennsylvania. Had I been present, I would have voted nay.

HONORING FOUR MEN FOR THEIR
LIFE-SAVING EFFORTS

HON. CHRIS COLLINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize four individuals from the Finger Lake Region on the eve of the one year anniversary of their heroic actions.

On February 11, 2014, an employee at American Rock Salt, located in New York's 27th District, collapsed after suffering severe chest pain. Through the swift actions of four men, Colin Keller, Gary Morrison, Michael Smith, and John Ayer, that individual is still alive and well. The group utilized an artificial external defibrillator and CPR skills learned through the Red Cross's Safety training to successfully resuscitate their colleague.

For their life-saving actions, Colin, Gary and Michael will be presented with Certificates of Merit signed by President Obama and John will receive a Certificate of Extraordinary Personal Action.

The Certificate of Merit is the highest award given by the American Red Cross to an individual or team of individuals who saves or sustains a life by using skills and knowledge learned in an American Red Cross Health and Safety Services course.

The Certificate of Extraordinary Personal Action is awarded to individuals who save or sustain a life by action that exemplifies the mission of Preparedness and Health and Safety Services.

I want to thank Colin, Gary, Michael, and John for their life saving efforts and congratulate them on earning these prestigious honors.

RECOGNIZING CONGENITAL HEART
DEFECT AWARENESS WEEK

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize congenital heart defect Awareness Week, which is February 7th through 14th, 2015.

Each year approximately 40,000 babies are born right here in the United States with congenital heart defects. That is an astounding

one in every 125 babies, making this the most common birth defect.

Most newborn infants are not routinely screened for congenital heart defects, causing many children to suffer or even perish early in life. However, if the defects are detected and treated early in life, they can be treated successfully. In the past quarter century, treatments have been developed enabling 500,000 children in the U.S. to survive to adulthood.

Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week serves to raise awareness about this condition.

RECOGNIZING MRS. BESSIE MARIE POOLE

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, today it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the contributions of Mrs. Bessie Marie Poole who will be honored by the Gamma Beta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. at this year's Diamond Anniversary Banquet in Wilson, North Carolina. Mrs. Poole has dedicated her life to serving her community and she is most deserving of this recognition.

Mrs. Poole was born August 23, 1946, in Wilson, North Carolina to parents Jessie and Edrena Ruffin. Mrs. Poole attended Elizabeth City State University and earned both her undergraduate and graduate degrees there. Following her education, Mrs. Poole dedicated her life to educating future generations through a career as an English teacher. Her dedication to education was honored when Mrs. Poole was recognized as Teacher of the Year in 1986 by Beddingfield High School in Wilson.

Mrs. Poole was initiated as a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. in 1965 while attending Elizabeth City State University and joined the Gamma Beta Omega chapter in 1970. As a member, she has led several committees including the International Program Awards, Baccalaureate, Finance, and Scholarship committees. She also serves as a board member and assistant treasurer for the Odelle Barnes Center. Mrs. Poole is married to Willie Poole, and they are proud parents of two adult children, Keith and Brian Poole.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Poole's contributions to our great nation are many. She has committed her life to serving others through education. I ask my colleagues join me in congratulating Mrs. Poole on the high honor of being recognized by the Gamma Beta Omega chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

IN RECOGNITION OF RAYMOND E. COOK OF THE FIRST SPECIAL SERVICE FORCE

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the tremendous

service of Raymond E. Cook of Brimfield, Massachusetts who received the Congressional Gold Medal along with his comrades of the First Special Service Force on February 3, 2015.

The First Special Service Force was an elite military unit during World War II comprised of volunteers from the United States and Canada. This unit was specifically trained to fight behind enemy lines in the most inhospitable conditions. They distinguished themselves on multiple occasions, most notably for their critical role in Allied victories in Italy, North Africa, southern France, and Anzio Beach. The unit became known as the "Black Devils" because they would blacken their faces for nighttime missions.

Raymond served as an United States Army Ranger before joining the First Special Service Force in early 1944 and remained with them until the unit was disbanded at the end of that year. Raymond continued to serve in the Army until he was honorably discharged in October 1945. During his tour of service, Raymond was awarded two Purple Hearts for the injuries he sustained during combat.

Mr. Speaker, Raymond Cook fought courageously for the ideals of freedom and peace that our nation holds dear. I want to thank him for his service and congratulate him on receiving the highest award that Congress can bestow.

HONORING MR. HERB HOMEYER FOR BEING NAMED THE 2015 NATIONAL TOOLING AND MACHINING ASSOCIATION (NTMA) CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine, Mr. Herb Homeyer, President of Homeyer Precision Manufacturing in Marthasville, MO. Mr. Homeyer will be named the 2015 National Tooling and Machining Association (NTMA) Chairman of the Board on Thursday, March 5, 2015. As the national representative of the precision custom manufacturing industry, Mr. Homeyer will tell the story of the NTMA. Backed by nearly 2,000 members and representing more than \$40 billion in sales, the clout collectively wielded by this association is considerable. NTMA serves as a valuable national resource for their members, helping them grow profitably.

Homeyer Precision Manufacturing serves key clients in the industries of Aerospace/Defense, Commercial/Industrial, Military, Medical/Pharmaceutical, Oil & Gas/Energy, Semiconductors/Lasers, Electrical/Electronics, and Transportation/Agriculture. The company and its 63 employees are also major supporters of Manufacturing Day. They opened their doors to over 150 students for a facility tour to help reach out to the next generation and to show what opportunities are available in manufacturing not only in their community, but in the United States.

Herb Homeyer's 43 years in precision manufacturing began as a tool/die maker, then a

tool designer, and finally an owner of a company specializing in aerospace tooling, medical, laser components, and high voltage transmission.

Homeyer Precision Manufacturing is one of over 1,400 companies that are members of the NTMA that supports U.S. manufacturing and creates employment opportunities in their communities. Tools, dies, molds, precision machining, and special machines shape virtually every single product that is mass manufactured in the United States. This industry is at the very heart of manufacturing in this country and therefore it touches the lives of every American.

It is an honor to have the new chairman of the NTMA from not only my home state of Missouri, but also the 3rd District of Missouri.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call #65 on the Schrader amendment to H.R. 527, I am not recorded because I was absent due to a death in the family. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay.

On Roll Call #66 on the Jackson Lee amendment to H.R. 527, I am not recorded because I was absent due to a death in the family. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay.

On Roll Call #67 on the Motion to recommit with instructions to H.R. 527, I am not recorded because I was absent due to a death in the family. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay.

On Roll Call #68 on the Passage of H.R. 527, I am not recorded because I was absent due to a death in the family. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for votes on Thursday, February 5, 2015.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call vote 65, "yea" on roll call vote 66, and "yea" on roll call vote 67.

Finally, I would like to indicate that I would have voted "nay" on roll call vote 68 in opposition to H.R. 527, the Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2015.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 48 I was unable to make votes due to the weather (snow storm) in Pennsylvania.

Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

LOGAN HUGHES APPOINTMENT TO
UNITED STATES MILITARY
ACADEMY

HON. JODY B. HICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to congratulate Mr. Logan Hughes on his appointment to the United States Military Academy.

Mr. Hughes is an incredibly accomplished young man from Evans, Georgia. Logan is the son of Michael and Laura Hughes, and is a graduate of the Greenbriar High School. During his time there, Logan exhibited his dedication to leadership while serving as the High School NJRTOC Battalion Executive Officer.

Among his many accolades, Logan also showcased academic prowess by his involvement with the National Honor Society, and the Spanish Honor Society.

Mr. Speaker, Logan Hughes is also a young man who is also dedicated to improving his community through service. Logan led service efforts at Wesley United Methodist Church as a service acolyte.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I understand that Mr. Hughes is no stranger to the rigorous work ethic required to be considered as a candidate for the United States Military Academy. With Mr. Hughes' Grandfather as outstanding example of an Army Officer, I am confident that Logan will accomplish his ultimate goal of serving his nation as a United States soldier.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate Mr. Logan Hughes.

TO REAUTHORIZE THE PRE-DIS-
ASTER HAZARD MITIGATION
PROGRAM

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to reauthorize the pre-disaster hazard mitigation program.

First authorized in 2000, the pre-disaster hazard mitigation program has a proven history of saving taxpayer money by investing in cost effective projects that are designed to reduce injuries, loss of life, and damage and destruction of property in the event of a disaster. As the old adage goes: an ounce of prevention is worth its weight in gold.

This is true for the pre-disaster hazard mitigation program. In 2005, the Multi Hazard Mitigation Council of the National Institute of Building Sciences found that for every \$1 spent on mitigation, \$4 was saved in potential disaster costs. Other corollary benefits and indirect savings at the local level and within the business sector were also identified. Moreover, the Congressional Budget Office con-

firmed the cost savings of the program. Using a different analysis, the CBO found in 2007 that for every \$1 spent on mitigation, \$3 was saved in potential disaster costs.

But it is not just empirical studies that have confirmed the benefits of this program. There are numerous examples of flood control projects, voluntary acquisitions of real property located in flood zones, and the construction of safe rooms that have saved lives and prevented future damage. Areas that have experienced flood damage in the past, and have flooded again, experienced reduced or no damage thanks to effective mitigation. For instance, in Iowa, pre-disaster mitigation funds were used to purchase riverfront homes from homeowners that had suffered flood damage and then converted to green space. When the area subsequently flooded again, there was no new damage, thanks to the pre-disaster mitigation efforts.

With today's ongoing fiscal challenges, increasingly severe storms, and escalating effects of climate change, it makes sense for our country to prepare for these disasters now in order to prevent or reduce damage. Smart planning to mitigate the adverse impact of disasters not only saves lives, but saves money—especially over the long run.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy when there were initial damage estimates in the billions of dollars, many Members from both sides of the aisle streamed to the floor to express sympathy to the victims, as well as decry the extent of the damage and large costs. This program represents an opportunity to curb similar costs in the future while also saving lives and protecting property.

It is time to reauthorize the Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Program at a sufficient level to make an impact. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, on February 2, 2015, on Roll Call #51 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 361—Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On February 2, 2015, on Roll Call #52 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 615—Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On February 2, 2015, on Roll Call #53 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 623—Social Media Working Group Act, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On February 3, 2015, on Roll Call #54 on Ordering the Previous Question for H. Res. 70, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On February 3, 2015, on Roll Call #55 on H. Res. 70, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 596) to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, and for other purposes, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On February 3, 2015, on Roll Call #57 on the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 596, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On February 3, 2015, on Roll Call #58 on Passage of H.R. 596—To repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, and for other purposes, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On February 4, 2015, on Roll Call #59 on Ordering the Previous Question for H. Res. 78, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On February 4, 2015, on Roll Call #60 on H. Res. 78, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 527) Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2015 and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 50) Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2015, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On February 4, 2015, on Roll Call #61 on Agreeing to the Cummings of Maryland Amendment to H.R. 50, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On February 4, 2015, on Roll Call #62 on Agreeing to the Connolly of Virginia Amendment to H.R. 50, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On February 4, 2015, on Roll Call #63 on the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 50, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On February 4, 2015, on Roll Call #64 on Passage of H.R. 50—Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2015, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On February 5, 2015, on Roll Call #65 on Agreeing to the Schrader of Oregon Amendment to H.R. 527, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On February 5, 2015, on Roll Call #66 on Agreeing to the Jackson-Lee of Texas Amendment to H.R. 527, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On February 5, 2015, on Roll Call #67 on the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 527, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On February 5, 2015, on Roll Call #68 on Passage of H.R. 527—Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2015, I

am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

RECOGNIZING MRS. PEGGY
WILLIAMS RUFFIN

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, today it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the contributions of Mrs. Peggy Williams Ruffin who dedicated her career to public service. Mrs. Ruffin is being honored by the Gamma Beta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. at this year's Diamond Anniversary Banquet in Wilson, North Carolina. Mrs. Ruffin has dedicated herself to the pursuit of social justice and the well-being of those less fortunate and is most deserving of this recognition.

Mrs. Ruffin, who is married to Jessie Ray Ruffin, was born on September 18, 1942, in Wilson, North Carolina to James Williams and the former Ida Pearl. Mrs. Ruffin graduated from Shaw University with a bachelor's degree and received her master's degree from Howard University in Washington, DC. Following her education, Mrs. Ruffin worked as a medical social worker and hospital supervisor. Upon retiring from the North Carolina Department of Human Resources, she was presented the state's highest honor—the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. In keeping with her selfless contributions to others, Mrs. Ruffin currently serves as a mentor and tutor as well as a Board Member of the Odelle W. Whitehead Center.

Mrs. Ruffin is a Golden Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and was initiated in 1963 while attending Shaw University as a member of the Beta Rho chapter. She joined the Gamma Beta Omega chapter in 1969 and has served in many leadership positions since then.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Ruffin's contributions to our great nation are many. She is dedicated to the service of others and her passion to improve the quality of life and the well-being of her community is self-evident. I ask my colleagues join me in congratulating Mrs. Peggy Ruffin on the high honor of being recognized by the Gamma Beta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

MS. BRITTANY SEYMORE—
EMBODIMENT OF SERVICE

HON. JOHN RATCLIFFE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Ms. Brittany Seymore on her well-deserved recognition as the 2014 Outstanding Teaching Award winner.

Ms. Seymore has proven herself a leader and a role model for her 3rd grade class in the Rockwall ISD.

As a son of two public school teachers and a graduate of public school myself, I know the critical role that educators play in preparing our children to be the leaders of tomorrow.

Rockwall ISD and the surrounding areas are fortunate to have such a passionate and dedicated teacher to call its own. Her own principal has said that Ms. Seymore has built a reputation throughout the district as a leader and a top level teacher.

Ms. Seymore's ability to differentiate utilizing stations and homework according to student need is a feat that all teachers strive to reach, and one that Ms. Seymore has mastered.

Her involvement on her campus also goes above and beyond the duties of a teacher. Her part in the district's "Launch Pad Cadre" leadership team fosters innovated and meaningful classroom projects.

Not only is Ms. Seymore valued in her school but also in the Rockwall community. Just this past year, her ability to collect supplies for a young student that was being treated for leukemia shows a great level of compassion and intertwines life lessons into what she teaches her students.

Recognizing the role that education plays in enabling opportunity for all, the United States was the first country in the world to develop a public education system free for anyone to attend. In my job as your Congressman, I'm engaged in many policy debates about education in this country. But let me tell you, nothing that legislators do in Washington or Austin can change this undeniable fact—good education starts with great teachers. And we need more dedicated and passionate teachers like Ms. Seymore. That's why I'm so happy to be here to present this award. Congratulations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 47, I was unable to make votes due to the weather (snow storm) in Pennsylvania.

Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

LIAM FAIRBRASS APPOINTMENT
TO UNITED STATES MILITARY
ACADEMY

HON. JODY B. HICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to congratulate Mr. Liam Fairbrass on his appointment to the United States Military Academy.

Mr. Fairbrass is an incredibly accomplished young man from Milledgeville, Georgia. Liam is the son of Mark and Emily Fairbrass, and is a graduate of the prestigious Georgia Military College Preparatory School. During his time there, Liam exhibited his dedication to leadership while serving as the High School JRTOC Battalion Rank Commander, the highest ranking possible at the institution.

Among his many accolades, Liam also showcased academic prowess by his involvement with the National Honor Society, the Mu Alpha Theta Society, and served as a student government representative.

Mr. Speaker, Liam Fairbrass is also a young man who also is dedicated to improving his community through service. Liam led fundraising efforts for the worthy cause of Wreaths Across America, an organization which works with the Georgia War Veterans Memorial in order to lay wreaths on the graves of veterans.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I understand that Mr. Fairbrass is no stranger to the rigorous work ethic required to be considered as a candidate for the United States Military Academy. With several family members serving as mentors and graduates of the same institution, I am confident that Liam will accomplish his ultimate goal of serving his nation as a United States soldier.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate Mr. Liam Fairbrass.

RECOGNIZING MRS. ADDIE SCIPIO
HAGANS

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, today it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the contributions of Mrs. Addie Scipio Hagans, a dedicated educator and civil servant. Mrs. Hagans is being honored by the Gamma Beta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. at this year's Diamond Anniversary Banquet in Wilson, North Carolina. Mrs. Hagans has dedicated her life to the service of others and is most deserving of this recognition.

Mrs. Addie Hagans was born May 24, 1928, in Chadbourne, North Carolina, to Alfred Dancy Scipio and the former Novella Wallace. She earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees from North Carolina Central University, then North Carolina College, where she excelled in English, Speech, and Drama. After college, Mrs. Hagans began her career in education. Mrs. Hagans spent 35 years in education and during that time earned numerous awards and accolades. In addition to being recognized as Wilson County Teacher of the Year for 1978, Mrs. Hagans received the Distinguished Service Award and Most Spirited Teacher Award from the Wilson City Schools.

Mrs. Hagans is a Golden Member and Life Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sorority Inc. and has served as Basileus, Epistoleus, Anti-Basileus, Ivy Leaf Reporter, and Hodegos. In keeping with her selfless contributions to others, Mrs. Hagans currently serves as a member of the Gamma Beta Omega Chapter's Tutoring Committee. Mrs. Hagans is married to John Hubert Hagans and they are proud parents of two adult children, Reginald Orrin Hagans and Pamela Joi Hagans.

Mr. Speaker, Addie Hagans' contributions to my home state of North Carolina and our great nation are many. Her passion for education and dedication to the service of others

is self-evident. I ask my colleagues join me in congratulating Mrs. Addie Scipio Hagans on the high honor of being recognized by the Gamma Beta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

IN HONOR OF KYLE DIXON III

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kyle Dixon III of Cherry Hill, New Jersey for his personal growth and achievements as a successful author at the age of thirteen.

As a fourth grade student, Kyle could not write a full sentence. He was a special needs student who struggled with most of his classes, in particular, writing. Due to his struggle, Kyle was homeschooled until the sixth grade. It was at that time that his mother encouraged him to start a journal to improve his writing skills. The support and encouragement he received from his family propelled young Kyle to start writing his book titled "Jay Bumblebee".

"Jay Bumblebee" is about a young bee that does not have wings. Unable to provide for his family, Jay becomes an entrepreneur and goes on to take over his father's shoe business and provide for his family. Many of the themes in "Jay Bumblebee" go hand in hand with the challenges Kyle has overcome in his own life, and his book has provided inspiration for many young students to never give up on their dreams.

Kyle is a wonderful example of what New Jersey Students are capable of. To date, he has travelled throughout New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania promoting his book. He plans on visiting fifty more schools by April. With over 8,000 copies already sold, Kyle's future success looks promising, and he hopes to continue motivating students by sharing his own story of hard work and success.

Mr. Speaker, Kyle Dixon is a great student who exemplifies the American spirit. I join the Cherry Hill community and all of New Jersey in honoring the achievements of this exceptional young man.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 46, I was unable to make votes due to the weather (snow storm) in Pennsylvania. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

RECOGNIZING MRS. MARIAN SEWELL FARMER

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, today it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the

contributions of Mrs. Marian Sewell Farmer who is being honored by the Gamma Beta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. at this year's Diamond Anniversary Banquet in Wilson, North Carolina. Mrs. Farmer is a dedicated educator and public servant who has committed her life's work to the service of others and is most deserving of this recognition.

Mrs. Farmer was born March 7, 1935, in Wilson, North Carolina to James and Katie Sewell. Mrs. Farmer attended public schools in Wilson and graduated from Darden High School. She received a bachelor of science degree from Livingston College, in Salisbury, North Carolina and was inducted into the esteemed National Science Honor Society while there. Following her education, Mrs. Farmer began her career in education.

Mrs. Farmer was an educator for 36 years and remains an active member of her community. For her contributions to others in support of her community, she was awarded the Phenomenal Woman Award for Outstanding Community Service from the Alumni Chapter at Bennett College. Mrs. Farmer serves as co-chair of the North Carolina Breast and Cervical Cancer Coalition and is a board member of the Arts Council of Wilson.

Mrs. Farmer is a Golden Member and Life Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., and has served as Grammateus, Tamiouchos, and Basileus, and has also chaired a number of committees. She was first initiated into the Alpha Xi chapter while attending Livingston College and joined the Gamma Beta Omega chapter in 1957. Mrs. Farmer is married to James Edward Farmer, and they are the proud parents of two adult children, James Edward Farmer, III and Allegro Farmer.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Farmer has consistently served her community while remaining a dedicated educator. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mrs. Marian Sewell Farmer on her work and on the high honor of being recognized by the Gamma Beta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

TRIBUTE TO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL SCIENCE BOWL TEAM

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Charlie Napier, Sunita Kolareth, Gabriel Mintzer, Ryan Thompson, Arun Velamuri, and Coach Nathan Speichinger of Valley High School of West Des Moines, Iowa for winning their regional competition for the 2015 National Science Bowl (NSB).

This program is one of the largest science competitions in the nation and a prestigious academic competition that challenges America's students to excel in mathematics and science and to pursue careers in these fields. The NSB brings together thousands of middle and high school students from across the country to compete in solving technical problems and answering questions on a range of

science disciplines including biology, chemistry, earth and space science, physics, and math.

Approximately 240,000 students have participated in the National Science Bowl since it was established in 1991. More than 14,000 students compete in the NSB each year. The Valley High School team won their qualifying regional competition this past weekend, and will be advancing to the National Finals in April.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by these students demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent these students and their families in the United States Congress. I know all of my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating them on competing in this rigorous competition and wishing continued success in their education and careers.

TO AMEND THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF 1965 TO ADJUST FUNDING LEVELS FOR CERTAIN OUTLYING AREAS

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, as we ready to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act in the 114th Congress, I am introducing legislation, which I want to see incorporated into a reauthorization and which will help fulfill one of the original goals of the Act, namely to ensure that American children have access to a high-quality education—no matter the economic circumstances of the geographic area where they live. Title 1 of the ESEA was designed to address the "impact that concentrations of low-income families have on the ability of local educational agencies to support adequate educational programs . . ." Pub. L. No. 89-10, §201. But this intent—to close the educational opportunity gaps that exist from community to community in America—has not yet been realized in my district, the Northern Mariana Islands, where incomes are less than half the national median and our local educational agency still struggles to meet the needs of students.

Expenditures for public elementary and secondary education nationally were \$10,667 per pupil in fiscal 2012, the most recent year for which this data is available. In the Northern Marianas public elementary and secondary education spending per pupil was just \$6,246. National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education. In part, this gap is a function of the local contribution; but the point of Title I was to use federal resources to balance educational funding nationwide by helping places where there is limited fiscal capacity. And my constituents are not unwilling to invest in education: In November they adopted an initiative amending our Commonwealth Constitution to require that 25 percent of each year's local revenues go to our schools, an increase of the existing 15 percent requirement. But, because personal incomes

are low, these local government revenues are limited.

The local contribution in the Northern Marianas is also constrained because we have only one layer of government. Local educational agencies nationwide are generally funded both by a state and by a county or municipal government, a system that shares state resources across wealthy areas and poor. In the Northern Marianas there is only a single, state-level government that has authority to raise revenues and is solely responsible for supporting our school system.

If it operated as intended, the system of allocation established for Title I-A funding should alleviate such variations in local capacity, instead it appears to disadvantage the Northern Marianas. The ESEA gives the Secretary of Education authority to allocate a fixed one percent of Title I funds among the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools and four "outlying areas," of which the Northern Marianas is one. But, according to the Congressional Research Service, the result in fiscal 2014 was an allocation of \$1,987 per qualifying child in Bureau schools, while each qualifying child in Northern Marianas schools was allotted only \$1,073.

In addition to this allocation discrepancy, associated with Secretarial discretion, there is an inherent flaw in the Title I set-aside of a fixed percentage of annual funding to assist a population that changes with time. We expect families to seek economic opportunity for themselves or better schooling for their children by moving from one area of our nation to another. I have seen this kind of out-migration from my district. And the annual adjustments in Title I-A allocations among the states respond to this dynamic, but the fixed one percent to BIE and the outlying areas does not. Likewise, the population counts and income data, which the Secretary uses in allocating funds among the outlying areas, are based on the decennial census, not on the more up-to-date information used for Title I-A allocations nationally. As a result, Title I-A allocations among the outlying areas continue fixed—on auto-pilot—for a decade, even if the economy in one of these areas flags, incomes fall, or the number of qualifying children increases. I have also witnessed this effect in my district.

Ironically, I understand, the one percent set-aside may originally have been intended to protect the small, outlying areas from year-to-year swings in funding and to assure our areas of federal assistance sufficient to run meaningful programs and to compensate for the inherent fiscal deficiencies islands we face, as a result of geographic and economic isolation. But the present effect of this set-aside is that Title I-A support for public elementary and secondary education in my district, the Northern Marianas, is, as noted, \$1,073 per student, even less than the national average of \$1,215.

So, today I am introducing legislation that modifies the present Title I-A funding system for the outlying areas. My bill ends the special set-aside system, removes Secretarial discretion, and employs the same funding formula that applies to every other part of our nation, although at a much reduced rate in recognition of our relatively smaller populations. And I ask my colleagues for their support.

TRIBUTE TO CARL COCHRAN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Carl Cochran of Minden, Iowa for being inducted into the Tri-Center High School Basketball Hall of Fame.

The Basketball Hall of Fame at Tri-Center was established in 1991 to honor players and coaches who have contributed to the success of Tri-Center's outstanding basketball tradition. Over fifty players and coaches have been inducted into the hall of fame.

Over his 39 year career with Tri-Center, Coach Cochran won 551 games, made five state tournaments, won five Western Iowa Conference Championships, five Conference Tournament Championships, eight District Championships, and five Substate Championships. Coach Cochran was also awarded the State of Iowa Coach of the Year in 1986 and 2008 and was inducted into the Iowa High School Athletic Association's Hall of Fame in 2009.

In addition to these many honors Coach Cochran has a well-deserved reputation for helping produce great students and guiding them to become even better young adults. Mr. Speaker, the example set by Coach Cochran and the countless hours of devotion to his students demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance.

I am honored to represent Carl and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating him on this latest honor and wish him the best of luck in the future.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF EDNA FLORES-LAGUNTE

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and celebrate the birthday of Edna Flores-Lagunte. Edna was a valued member of my Capitol Hill staff during the late 1990s, and she lived in San Francisco during the past decade. She would have turned 42 years old today. I say "would have" because, sadly, Edna passed away unexpectedly on June 8, 2014.

One of Edna's great passions was participating in the annual AIDS/LifeCycle, a 7 day, 545 mile bike ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles to raise funds and awareness in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Edna was a veteran rider and participated in her 13th AIDS/LifeCycle last year. Her involvement originally stemmed from a strong desire to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS in the Filipino American community. She oftentimes rode in the memory of friends whom she had met over the years.

Edna took part in last year's event with her husband, Richard Lagunte, also a longtime

rider. Sadly, she suffered cardiac arrest in the middle of the ride and passed away shortly thereafter.

Not only was she well-known among event organizers and fellow cyclists, she was a beloved individual. Edna was genuine, enthusiastic, compassionate, and full of life. Her strong dedication to serving the needs of individuals with HIV/AIDS and raising awareness was truly outstanding and serves as an example for all of us.

During her tenure in my office, Edna was a respected member of my staff who gave so much of herself. I will always remember her for her cheerful spirit, generosity, positive attitude, and her stunning smile.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues and this House to rise with me to celebrate the birth and life of Edna Flores-Lagunte. I am saddened that after less than 42 years of living, we must say farewell to a remarkable human being who personified the very best in public service. I extend my deepest condolences to Edna's husband Richard, parents Nena and Esposito Flores, and brother Edward. She touched so many and is deeply missed.

TRIBUTE TO TUCKER BLUML

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Tucker Bluml for being awarded the Ron Scott Wrestler of Character Award at the Scott Duels in Mt. Ayr, Iowa.

Tucker was selected for this honor by a committee of wrestlers, coaches, officials, and teachers who worked with Coach Scott. This is a prestigious award that is presented annually to a wrestler nominated by one of the competing schools who has displayed exemplary character.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by Tucker and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and persistence. I am honored to represent Tucker and his parents, Shawn and Barbie Bluml, in the United States Congress.

I know that all of my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating him on being recognized with the Ron Scott Wrestler of Character Award, and I wish him continued success in his future education and the sport of wrestling.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT WILLIAM A. MEEHAN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend, Dr. William A. Meehan, who has gone above and beyond

in his service to my alma mater, Jacksonville State University. Dr. Meehan is retiring from his post as the president of JSU on June 30th, 2015, where his leadership and support will be sorely missed.

Dr. Meehan first enrolled at JSU as a freshman in 1968, completed his bachelor of science in biology in 1972 and in the same year began a career in education. In 1976, he earned his master's of science degree in biology at Jacksonville State University and the following year returned as an instructor in the Department of Biology. He received a doctorate of education in the field of higher education administration from the University of Alabama.

Among the positions Dr. Meehan held at JSU prior to becoming president were: Coordinator of Medical Technology Program, Director of Academic Advisement, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, Associate Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Acting Vice President for Institutional Advancement. He assumed the position of president on July 1st, 1999.

Dr. Meehan's expansive vision for JSU included looking to the future while drawing on the strengths of the past. One of his primary goals has been to extend classrooms and remove barriers to a college degree. Through the use of Internet, the University is able to make classes and learning more accessible to those who work, or for other reasons may not be able to reside on or near the main campus. Under Meehan's leadership, JSU is working to move forward to allow education to be an opportunity to those who were previously excluded.

President Meehan has strived to ensure JSU's bright future; through partnerships with K-12 and community colleges, he has turned JSU into a campus in which education can be

seen as a seamless process flowing from kindergarten through graduate school.

While overseeing the development of the University's first strategic plan, Dr. Meehan said that JSU more accurately accomplished the institution's mission through integrating traditional academic programs with career-oriented programs for students. His initiative for the future was founded upon the principle that education spurs economic development.

Dr. Meehan is also highly involved in the community. He has served as an executive committee member of the Board of Directors of the United Way of East Central Alabama, and is active in the area Chambers of Commerce of both Calhoun and Etowah Counties. Meehan is married to the former Elizabeth Stevens, and father to twin boys Drew and Will, and daughter Carol Grace. President Meehan is a devoted member of the First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Alabama.

On April 3rd, 2015, there will be a community-wide event to honor Dr. Meehan and his family.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Dr. William Meehan for his tireless dedication to Jacksonville State University and the surrounding community. His exemplary service in education is an inspiration. We wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO LT. COLONEL
TRAVIS ACHESON IN THE FIRST
SESSION OF THE 114TH CON-
GRESS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lt. Colonel Travis Acheson

upon being promoted to the rank of Colonel. He has dedicated his life to his country and I am proud to recognize his service and accomplishments today.

After graduating from Valley High School in Des Moines, Colonel Acheson attended the University of Iowa with a degree in Economics. He was commissioned shortly after through the Air National Guard Academy of Military Science. He's served as Commander of the 124th Fighter Squadron at the Iowa Air National Guard in Des Moines. He has over 2,300 flying hours and flown missions in Iraq and Afghanistan for the operations Provide Comfort, Northern Watch, Noble Eagle, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Throughout his life Colonel Acheson has displayed enormous courage, resolve, and selflessness in his service. He's dedicated his life to our country and we cannot thank him enough for the sacrifices he's made.

Colonel Acheson is an Iowan who we can all be proud of. We must never forget those who have answered the call to serve this nation and the cause of freedom. Iowans like him are the reason we can all sleep soundly at night and enjoy the freedoms we cherish so much.

It's with great honor I recognize Colonel Acheson and his family today. I know that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring his accomplishments. I thank him for his service and wish him and his family all the best moving forward.

SENATE—Wednesday, February 11, 2015

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, the giver of every good and perfect gift, we are sinful people seeking salvation. We are lost people seeking direction. We are doubting people seeking faith. Teach us, O God, the way of salvation. Show us the path to meaningful life. Reveal to us the steps of faith.

Today use the Members of this body as instruments of Your glory. Quicken their hearts and purify their minds. Broaden their concerns and strengthen their commitments. Show them duties left undone. Remind them of promises unkept and reveal to them tasks unattended. Lord, lead them to a deeper experience with You.

And, Lord, please comfort the loved ones of Kayla Jean Mueller.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to H.R. 240.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 5, H.R. 240, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

CLAY HUNT SAV ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, last night I joined Members of both parties to recognize the latest bipartisan achievement for the American people.

The Clay Hunt SAV Act, which will provide important support to our Nation's veterans, passed the House and

Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support. It is on its way to President Obama's desk, and I am confident he will sign it.

KEYSTONE BILL

Mr. President, today the House of Representatives is expected to pass yet another bipartisan bill for him to sign, the Keystone jobs bill. It is just common sense. That is why this bipartisan legislation already passed the Senate with support from both parties. That is why labor unions support it, and that is why the American people support it. Americans know construction of this infrastructure project would pump billions into the economy and support thousands of good jobs. They also know America could achieve this with, as the President's own State Department has indicated, minimal environmental impact.

Americans are urging President Obama not to interfere in the review process for political reasons any longer. Americans are urging the President to finally heed scientific conclusions his own State Department already reached. Let American workers build this infrastructure project. Sign this jobs and infrastructure bill.

Powerful special interests may be demanding that the President veto Keystone jobs, but we hope he will not. If the President does ultimately bow to these special interest demands, that is a discussion we can have then. But either way Americans should know this: The new Congress will not stop pursuing good ideas.

This new majority is committed to refocusing Washington on the concerns of the middle class, and the passage of bipartisan bills such as Keystone, Clay Hunt, and Keystone jobs shows we are doing just that.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. President, on a different matter, Democrats are blocking Homeland Security funding in order to defend Executive overreach the President has said himself, on many different occasions, he didn't have. As I indicated yesterday, this is the reason the Senate can't move forward, so it needs to come to an end. This is the simplest and most obvious way it can.

Many Democrats previously indicated opposition to the kinds of overreach described by President Obama himself as unwise and unfair. So all they have to do is back up those words with some action. If Democrats claim to be against overreach and claim to be for funding the critical activities of the Department of Homeland Security, then there is no reason for them to continue their party's filibuster.

So vote with us to allow the Senate to actually debate Homeland Security funding instead. We have already offered a fair and open debate that would allow for amendments from both parties. If the bill needs to be amended, that is when it could be, when we actually get on the bill and offer amendments.

This is about Democrats being confronted with a choice: filibuster funding for Homeland Security to protect overreach of President Obama himself, referred to as "ignoring the law" or allow the Senate to debate, vote, and amend the very funding they claim to want.

AUMF FUNDING

Mr. President, one final and critically important matter. This morning we received the President's proposed authorization for the use of military force against ISIL and its affiliates. It was clear from the outset that a successful military campaign to defeat ISIL would require a multiyear effort, so it is certainly in order for Congress to debate an authorization such as this.

Because Congress must meet its responsibility to decide whether our military should use force, the Senate will review the President's request thoughtfully. Individual Senators and committees of jurisdiction will review it carefully, and they will listen carefully to the advice of military commanders as they consider the best strategy for defeating ISIL. Because this decision demands such serious consideration, I want our Members to have an early opportunity to discuss the President's request. That is why later today our conference, the Republican conference, will meet for a discussion led by Senators CORKER and MCCAIN.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PAUL). The assistant Democratic leader is recognized.

NECESSARY ABSENCE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am standing in today for the Democratic leader, Senator REID, who is absent for a medical procedure. He was with us yesterday and will be returning after the break. We wish him a speedy recovery. He has gone through quite a bit after the accident that he endured on January 1, and we wish him the very best and quick recovery.

Mr. President, we are going to have a chance to do something this week that is important, to fund the Department of Homeland Security. This was a department created after 9/11 for obvious purposes. We never want America to be

vulnerable again to that type of extremist terrorist attack and all the death and destruction it brought with it.

So on a bipartisan basis we created this Department. Twenty-two different agencies were merged into one so we would have a common effort to keep America safe and secure, and the Department of Homeland Security has done a great job. Secretary Jeh Johnson, who is currently the leader of that agency, is an extraordinarily gifted, talented man, and he is doing his best to keep America safe.

We should do everything we can to keep it safe, too, and that means the Senate and the House of Representatives need to do their job when it comes to the Department of Homeland Security.

As everyone knows, when we talked about funding the agencies of government this past December after the election, there was only one agency, one department, which the Republicans singled out and said we will not properly fund this one department.

What was it? The Department of Homeland Security. I don't understand this.

If the Department of Homeland Security has the singular responsibility of keeping America safe, why would we risk the security and safety of America by not properly funding the Department? But the House Republicans insisted on that position and Senate Republicans backed them up.

Why would they jeopardize America's security over the funding of DHS? So the Republicans could engage in a political debate over President Obama's immigration policy. It is an important debate. It is a worthy debate. There is no reason we shouldn't engage in this debate. But why would the Republicans insist that this debate be at the expense of funding the Department of Homeland Security? It doesn't make any sense. In fact, we are running a great risk by what we call continuing resolutions instead of regular budgetary appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security.

Secretary Johnson has talked to us about what is going to happen if we don't properly fund the Department of Homeland Security. There are grants that are given through DHS to fire departments and police departments across America to train their personnel, to upgrade their equipment, and to be ready, God forbid, for the next challenge that faces America.

Yet the Republicans insist on stopping that grantmaking to the local police departments in your community and mine—and to the fire departments—so they can engage in a debate with the President over immigration.

What is it about the President's immigration policy that infuriates the Republicans? Could it be that the President has said he wants to

prioritize deportations in America so that we, in fact, are going to deport those who are the most dangerous in the United States? I hope that is not it because the President's position is something most Americans would endorse, heartily endorse.

Could it be they object to the President's proposal that those who are here undocumented—parents of American citizens and parents of legal residents—that those who are here undocumented step forward, pay their taxes, submit themselves to a criminal background check in order to have a 2-year temporary work permit? I doubt many Americans would disagree with that. It would mean these tax-paying workers would be checked, and if there is any problem, deported.

The Republicans want to stop that. They disagree with the President's Executive order. I think we ought to have that debate but not at the expense of funding the Department of Homeland Security, but that is their position.

So in 16 days the Department of Homeland Security runs out of money. The Department entrusted with keeping America safe from terrorism runs out of money.

What are we going to do about it? There is something very easy we can turn to. It is on the Senate Calendar of Business. It is on every desk on the floor or available to every Senator: S. 272, a bill introduced by Senators SHAHEEN and MIKULSKI to make the appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security to give them the budget they need to protect America. It takes out all of the immigration riders insisted on by the House and takes us down to the basics.

So are we going to fund the Department of Homeland Security?

Well, the Republican majority leader has insisted he will stand in the way of funding DHS unless we can get into this political debate about immigration. I think that is shortsighted.

Senator REID came to the floor a few days ago and said: We are prepared to engage in this debate on immigration—but not at the expense of the Department of Homeland Security. We have had three votes on the floor of the Senate and this effort by the Republicans has fallen woefully short in every single vote to receive the 60 votes necessary.

So why does the majority leader insist on sticking with this approach? It is hard to explain. It could be that within his own caucus—and maybe he personally thinks that the efforts of the President to protect certain people from deportation are just plain wrong.

One of those efforts is one I heartily support myself. It is called DACA. DACA was an Executive order issued by the President in 2012. In that Executive order the President said those who are eligible under the DREAM Act would be given protection from deportation.

The DREAM Act was a piece of legislation I introduced 14 years ago which said: If someone was brought to America as an infant, a toddler, a small child, and they stayed in America, had no serious criminal issue, finished high school, and they were prepared to enlist in the military or go on to college, they would get a path to legalization. That is what the DREAM Act said. It has never become law.

But these young people, we estimate 2 million nationwide, are left in limbo. They came to America, were brought to America at an early age, grew up in America, went to American schools, pledged allegiance to our American flag, sang our national anthem, and believed they were Americans. Then they were told, sorry, but you don't have the necessary documentation. You are not here legally.

So they are left in limbo. They have nowhere to turn. Under the laws of the United States they are subject to deportation. President Obama said on a 2-year basis we will protect these young people from deportation. They will have a background check, they will pay their fees, and on a 2-year basis they can live in America without fear of deportation and work in America or go to school in America. Those are the DREAMers. That is the DACA provision which the Republicans are opposing in the House of Representatives. It is the provision which the majority leader insists we vote on before we can fund the Department of Homeland Security.

I think it is instructive to introduce these DREAMers to Members of the Senate who may not know who they are, and I want to introduce two of them today: Nelson and John Magdaleno. Nelson is on the left in the suit, and John is on the right on his graduation today. They were brought to the United States from Venezuela when Nelson was 11 and John 9 years old. They were both honor students at Lakeside High School in Atlanta, GA. In high school John was the fourth highest officer and commander of the Air Honor Society in his Junior ROTC.

Nelson and John both went to the Georgia Institute of Technology, one of the most selective engineering schools in America. In 2012 Nelson graduated from Georgia Tech with honors and a major in computer engineering.

President Obama established the DACA Program shortly after Nelson graduated from Georgia Tech. Thanks to DACA, Nelson has been working since 2012 as a computer engineer for a Fortune 500 semiconductor corporation.

John also received DACA in 2012, while he was still a student at Georgia Tech. He then worked for 2 years as a researcher in a biomedical engineering lab at Georgia Tech, researching glaucoma, one of the leading causes of blindness.

In 2014 John graduated from Georgia Tech with a major in chemical and biomedical engineering and with the highest honors. He is now working as a process engineer with a Fortune 500 company.

Nelson Magdaleno wrote me a letter, and here is what he said:

To me DACA means an opportunity to be able to live my dreams and contribute to society in ways that I could not have imagined. DACA means one of my life goals, owning my own company, could be a possibility in the future. DACA means a chance. DACA means the American Dream.

His brother John wrote, and here is what he said:

I consider an American to be someone who loves, and wholeheartedly dedicates themselves to the development of this country. From age nine, I have made the United States my home, and it has made me the man I am today. I proudly call myself an American.

When you hear the stories of these two young men, who attended college and finished without any government assistance or loans, who worked hard to get their degrees in challenging fields such as computer engineering, who went to one of the best schools in America, who now have talents and skills that create opportunities not only for discovery but for innovation and entrepreneurship, I wonder: What are the Republicans thinking when they say these two individuals don't belong in America, that they need to be deported, that they need to be sent back to Venezuela, a country neither of them really knows. Is that the answer to America's future? Is it to export the most talented minds, the hardest working individuals, and that the amazing achievements they have made in their lives are to be ignored? I don't think so.

I think Americans by and large believe in fairness. Fairness says we will not hold the children of the parents who were responsible for wrongdoing responsible themselves. If you are pulled over for speeding, you may get a ticket. But it would be fundamentally unfair to give one to the child sitting in a car seat in the car. They weren't driving. These kids weren't driving either. Their parents came to America without any permission from the children. But they set up a life here and they made a good life here. Should we now penalize these children because their parents came to America?

That doesn't make sense. Frankly, it doesn't represent what this country is all about. We are a nation of immigrants, and the immigrants who come here make a difference. They bring not only a determination for a better life, but they are risk takers. They leave it all behind from wherever they were. They come to America and risk it all in the hopes they will have a better life and, even more importantly, that their children will. That is who we are. That is what America is all about and has been from the beginning of time.

Why would we turn our backs on this heritage? Why would we ignore the opportunity these young people bring? That is the Republican position, at least the one stated by the House of Representatives. It has been summarily rejected now three different times on the floor of the Senate. Yet the majority leader comes to us today and says he may do it again.

This is not fair to the Department of Homeland Security, it is not fair to John and Nelson, and it is not fair to this country. Let us do the right thing. Let's fund the Department of Homeland Security before we leave for any recess. Let's get it done so that Department can protect America.

The majority leader talked about what we have achieved here—the Keystone Canadian pipeline act, which was the highest priority of the Senate Republicans. TransCanada, a Canadian corporation, would be able to transport oil from Canada to a refinery in Texas and then export it from the United States. There are benefits of construction, of course, and 35 permanent pipeline jobs, of course. But in the end the refined oil coming in from Canada will not benefit the American economy. We had an amendment on the floor that would address that very issue, and every single Republican said we will not vote to keep that refined oil product in America.

We also suggested that if we are going to build a pipeline in America, we use American steel. Let's put American workers to work at the steel mills to make the steel that is necessary to build the pipeline, and that too was rejected by the Republicans. They said no, insisting on American steel won't be part of this so-called pipeline jobs projects.

Well, I think there are better ways to get the economy moving forward and to create more jobs. One of them is infrastructure, and I am sure we will debate it at a later time.

The other thing mentioned by the majority leader was the Clay Hunt bill, which was a bill that was needed and important, related to veteran suicide, and it passed overwhelmingly, to no one's surprise.

Why was this bill held up in the previous Congress? There was an objection to bringing the bill to the floor by a Republican Senator—by a Republican Senator. There was no obstruction in passing this bill on the Democratic side, and I am glad it passed. I know the President is about to sign it.

The other thing I want to mention is that it is unfortunate we are leaving this week for the 1-week Presidents Day recess. We are leaving at a time when the nomination of Loretta Lynch to be Attorney General of the United States is still pending. She has been pending, I understand, longer than any nominee for Attorney General in recent history.

I went through the hearing with her and there was no opposition—none. They asked the witnesses who were brought in if any one of them objected to her being Attorney General, and not one would raise their hand. There were no objections. There is no objection to this woman serving our Nation. She has been the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York. She has done an amazing job. Why are they holding her up? What is the purpose in this? We should approve her nomination before we leave this week.

PULLMAN NATIONAL MONUMENT

Mr. President, a Chicago neighborhood that has played a significant part in our country's African-American and labor history is being recognized next week in an exciting way. Next Thursday President Obama is going to declare the Pullman Historic District on the South Side of Chicago a national monument. This is the first time a unit of the National Park Service would be established in Chicago.

This designation is the result of a collaborative effort by the businesses, residents, and organizations of the Pullman area in Chicago to restore and preserve this unique community. The people who are part of the Pullman legacy helped shape America as we know it.

The Pullman neighborhood includes almost 90 percent of the original buildings the railcar magnate George Pullman built a century ago for his factory town to build railroad cars. It was the birthplace of the Nation's first black labor union, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

Pullman workers fought for fair labor conditions in the late 19th century, and Pullman porters helped advance America's civil rights movement.

During the economic depression of the 1890s, the Pullman community was the catalyst for the first industry-wide strike in the United States, which helped to lead to the creation of Labor Day as a national holiday. The Pullman porters are credited with creating the African-American middle class.

I have supported this designation for some time and have introduced legislation with my colleague Senator KIRK and with Congressman ROBIN KELLY to make the site a national historical monument.

Alderman Anthony Beale of Chicago's 9th Ward has worked hard to garner support for the recognition of Pullman. Many others in Chicago helped advance the proposal: Eleanor Gorski, with the Chicago Department of Planning and Development; David Doig, president of Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives, Lynn McClure and LeAaron Foley with the National Parks Conservation Association, and many others who drew attention to the historical significance of this neighborhood.

The Pullman national monument will be an important addition to the current National Park System. It highlights stories from communities that are rarely represented in other national parks. The park's urban location on Chicago's South Side makes it easily accessible to millions of people by public transportation—again setting Pullman apart from other national parks.

The National Park Service is associated with national wonders such as geysers and forests. Urban national parks are few and far between. With this designation, the Pullman neighborhood is joining the ranks of the National Mall and the Statue of Liberty as national parks accessible in urban areas. The monument will also provide an opportunity for tourism and job creation—much needed in this community.

It is only right that Pullman be preserved and honored as a part of our National Park System. I commend the President for this decision to showcase the prominence and legacy of Pullman in our Nation's history.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, and with the majority controlling the first half.

The Senator from Alaska.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SULLIVAN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I wish to take a few minutes today to talk about my growing concern over President Obama's policies regarding several major national security issues.

Of course, the President has just today sent over to Congress an authorization for use of military force against ISIL, the Islamic State, but over the past 6 years, as the quantity and frequency of international crises have grown, there have been some very clear trends that have emerged from this administration's foreign policy.

First, we have seen what might be dubbed the red-line syndrome in which the President uses stern language and strong rhetoric toward a hostile foreign regime or terrorist group and then backs it up with either total inaction or ineffectual action, thus inviting not respect, not fear, but ridicule.

The most infamous example, of course, is when the President remarked that the use of chemical weapons by Bashar al Assad of Syria would constitute a red line and then, after Assad had crossed that red line and used chemical weapons on his own people, the President did essentially nothing in response, thus damaging the United States' credibility on the world stage in the eyes of both our friends and our foes.

And I don't have to remind the Senate what has happened since that time. More than 200,000 Syrians have lost their lives in this terrible civil war, and millions of Syrians have become displaced, either internally within the country or outside of the country in refugee camps, such as those I visited in Turkey and others in Lebanon and Jordan, just to name a few places.

So there are consequences associated with tough talk and no action.

The second pattern I have observed is what might be what my dad called, when I was growing up, paralysis by analysis. In other words, this is what some have called just plain dithering.

I think what the President seems to regard as a deliberative process and as a virtue others call dithering or paralysis by analysis. We can think of numerous examples, starting with the snail-like pace of the President's decision process early in his administration with regard to whether to surge U.S. forces in Afghanistan and, if so, what long-term role we should play there.

Again, in today's Washington Post, when I got up and was getting my first cup of coffee, I was reading that now apparently the administration is starting to reassess again their commitment to Afghanistan.

But the list of the President's paralysis by analysis is lengthy. The situation in Ukraine is another painful example. In Ukraine, the President has stood idly by and watched Russian President Vladimir Putin carry out a de facto invasion of Ukraine, starting with Crimea, and continuing today in eastern Ukraine.

From "mysterious little green men" to columns of full-up Russian tanks, the hand of Putin in the Ukraine has been unmistakable. It has been the most blatant land grab by a force that Europe has seen in quite some time. Yet the best President Obama has been able to do is more hollow rhetoric.

Now there have been modest economic assistance and nonlethal military resources to Ukraine's Government, and there have been some sanctions, but they apparently have not worked to dissuade Putin.

The Senate might recall what I recall when the President of Ukraine came to speak to a joint session of Congress just a few months ago when he asked for more aid, lethal aid to fight and defend his country. But he did say: Thank you for the blankets. Obviously you can't win a war with blankets.

By the way, the President's policies toward Russia have been an unabated disaster, dating all the way back to his 2009 reset of relations with Russia, and Vladimir Putin has taken full advantage of the opening that he sees and the lack of resoluteness on the part of the U.S. Government.

We have little to show for this so-called reset except realities such as this: the aforementioned Russian annexation of Ukraine, a Russian violation with impunity of President Reagan's landmark intermediate-range nuclear arms treaty, which now poses a direct threat to the security of our NATO allies in Europe.

We have also seen a steady flow of Russian weapons and other support to the blood-thirsty butcher of Syria, Bashar al Assad, who, as I mentioned earlier, has slaughtered more than 200,000 of his own country men and women.

The President's paralysis by analysis has also infected his incoherent approach in dealing with the terrorist army of ISIL, the so-called Islamic State. In 2011, after he pulled negotiations with the Iraqis on a status-of-forces agreement, the Obama administration proceeded with a misguided plan to pull the plug on the American presence in that country, thus squandering the blood and treasure that Americans invested in trying to liberate the Iraqis and provide them with a better future.

While it is true the Iraqis had not agreed to the U.S. conditions to an enduring American presence, including legal immunity for our troops, the administration simply gave up and failed to expend the political capital necessary to secure a status-of-forces agreement and to preserve the security gains in Iraq that, as I have said, had been paid for by American blood and treasure.

The resulting security vacuum, coupled with an incompetent and corrupt Prime Minister, set the conditions for ISIL to make alarming gains in territory and power in Iraq last year.

As chaos took hold in Syria, ISIL and other terrorist groups were flourishing. We know that in 2012 many of the President's most senior National Security Advisers—including then-CIA Director David Petraeus, then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, then-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Martin Dempsey, and then-Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta—all of them recommended at that time that the President initiate a program to arm vetted moderate Syrian rebels.

President Obama refused, publicly remarking just 1 year ago that ISIL, the Islamic State in the Levant, was the JV team of terrorist groups. Today, of course, the irony is the President has now sent us an authorization for the use of military force to fight this JV team, as he called it 1 year ago.

Then last summer, when the challenge had grown many times more complex and more difficult, the President dusted off the idea and moved ahead with it.

This is not exactly a picture of decisive leadership, nor is it designed to instill respect—indeed, fear—in our enemies nor confidence in our allies.

Today, with ISIL growing in strength in our region, our Commander in Chief cannot even bring himself to call the evil they represent by their rightful name. He refuses to acknowledge ISIL is a radical Islamist group, even after these jihadists have beheaded numerous American citizens, other Western captives, and burned alive a pilot from one of our closest allies, Jordan.

And then, of course, there is the most recent tragic news about Kayla Mueller, the young humanitarian aid worker who tragically lost her life in the hands of ISIL terrorists, after being held captive in Syria since 2013. Kayla, from Phoenix, AZ, had been assisting the group Doctors Without Borders.

In 2011, in a video she posted on YouTube, remarking about the slaughter by Bashar al Assad of his own citizens in Syria, and the rampage of ISIL, she said that “silence is participation in this crime.”

Well, the President chose to use his recent speech at the National Prayer Breakfast that I attended, along with my wife and friends from Dallas, to

paint a picture of moral equivalence between the barbaric entity known as ISIL and Christian crusaders from centuries ago. I have to say I am not the only one, apparently, who was confused by this equivalency or this comparison the President used during his remarks that morning.

This week, as Congress has now received the President's draft authorization for use of military force against ISIL, most of us still lack a clear understanding of the strategy the President seeks to employ in order to degrade and destroy this threat.

Even though the military campaign began last August, I know the Presiding Officer has served with distinction in the U.S. Marine Corps—and one of the things I hope the President will answer is how he hopes to defeat ISIL with just airstrikes. Indeed, as I understand from the military experts, you can't hope to win a conflict like this by blowing up things with airstrikes. You actually have to hold the territory so the enemy doesn't reoccupy it once you have moved on somewhere else.

The strategy we have heard so much about clearing, holding, and building, which seems to be an essential strategy when it comes to winning a conflict such as this, is nowhere to be seen in the President's strategy to have airstrike after airstrike after airstrike.

So I hope the President will enlighten us on what strategy he seeks to employ in order to degrade and destroy ISIL. If not, I trust that Members of the Senate on both sides of the aisle will offer their ideas about the kind of strategy that could have a reasonable chance of success.

I personally am reserving judgment on this authorization for use of military force until I learn more about the President's strategy and hear more about what sort of consensus we can have in the Senate about a strategy that has a reasonable chance of success.

I take very seriously—as I know every single Member of this Senate does—the granting of authority to use military force, putting our men and women in uniform in harm's way to protect not only us but our national security interests around the world. So this is one of the most serious and most important sorts of debates we can have as Members of the Senate. But I worry about the flawed policies I have identified and that these are really just the tip of the iceberg.

In future remarks, I wish to come back and address a national security threat that I think is perhaps the most urgent, and that is of Iran's relentless quest for nuclear weapons, as well as the impact on our closest ally in the Middle East, the State of Israel.

Recently one of America's finest generals and former Commander of the United States Central Command, Gen. James Mattis, testified before the Sen-

ate Armed Services Committee that the United States needs “to come out now from its reactive crouch and to take a firm strategic stance in defense of our values.”

I couldn't agree more. The world is safer and more stable when America leads, leads from the front, not from the rear, and when we say what we mean and we mean what we say, and we back it up with action.

If the President can't do that, then over the last 2 years of his administration it will be incumbent upon Republicans and Democrats in Congress to lead the way in the absence of Presidential leadership and to do what we can do within our authority to prevent further erosion of American credibility on the world stage.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, last Tuesday President Obama met with 10 people at the White House. These are people who had written him letters about the health care law. The White House said it designed this little publicity stunt to remind people to sign up for insurance on healthcare.gov by the deadline date of Sunday, February 15.

At his meeting the other day the President said that the people there were “a pretty good representative sample of people whose lives have been impacted,” as he said, “in powerful ways.”

I will tell you, if President Obama really wanted a representative sample, he would have included some of the people his law has affected in alarming and expensive ways. What does the President have to say to those people? Why didn't he invite any of them to the White House for his photo-op?

Here is what the New York Times wrote on Sunday, February 8. This is the Sunday Review, New York Times. The headline is “Insured, but Not Covered: New policies have many Americans scrambling.” Why isn't the President willing to talk to those people who are scrambling all across the country who may have insurance but are not covered?

The story starts off by telling the story of one woman in New York City. Her name is Karen Pineman. She lost her existing health insurance policy because it didn't meet all the mandates President Obama said a health insurance policy had to include. It might

have worked very well for her, but it didn't work well enough for President Obama, so she lost her coverage.

The article says that "she gamely set about shopping for a new policy through the public marketplace." After all, she had supported President Obama and she had supported the health care law, as they say, as a matter of principle.

The article goes on:

Ms. Pineman, who is self-employed, accepted that she'd have to pay higher premiums for a plan with a narrower provider network and no out-of-network coverage.

So here she is—supported the law but then lost her insurance and had to buy other insurance with a narrower provider network and higher premiums. She accepted that she would have to pay out of pocket to see her primary care physician because her primary care physician didn't participate and wasn't part of that narrow network. She even accepted, the New York Times reports, having copays of nearly \$1,800 to have a cast put on her ankle in an emergency room after she broke her ankle playing tennis.

The article goes on:

But her frustration bubbled over when she tried to arrange a follow-up visit with an [orthopedic surgeon] in her network.

She had to buy the insurance under President Obama's law because she lost her own insurance even though the President had promised her "if you like your insurance, you can keep it."

The article goes on:

The nearest doctor available who treated ankle problems was in Stamford, Conn.

She is in New York City. She lives in New York. The closest doctor who was in her network was in Connecticut. She has had it. She said:

It was ridiculous—didn't they notice it was in another state?

What does President Obama have to say to this woman in New York? I see she wasn't included in the photo-op they had at the White House with the 10 people who wrote letters to the President. What does he think about the powerful negative ways his health care law is affecting her life? After all, the New York Times thought it was enough that they would devote the front page of the Sunday Review section this past week to "Insured, but Not Covered: New policies have many Americans scrambling."

The article sums it up this way:

The Affordable Care Act has ushered in an era of complex new health insurance products featuring legions of out-of-pocket coinsurance fees, high deductibles and narrow provider networks.

All of ObamaCare's mandates force insurance companies to use things like these deductibles and narrow networks to keep premiums from going up even faster. Remember, the President said premiums would go down by \$2,500 per family. They have actually gone up, not down, and they have done all these

things so they wouldn't go up even faster.

The New York Times article says that under ObamaCare these insurance plans come with "constant changes in policy guidelines, annual shifts in what's covered and what's not, monthly shifts in which doctors are in and out of network," and surprise bills for services people thought would be covered. Is the President proud of that? He stood up and said the Democrats should forcefully defend and be proud of the law. I don't see one Democrat on this floor of the Senate who is standing here to forcefully defend and be proud of this law.

The article goes on to say that for many people it is all so confusing and so expensive "that they just avoid seeing doctors." What does President Obama have to say to people who are so confused by their insurance now that the easiest path is to just not go for health care?

According to a recent poll, 46 percent of Americans said that paying for basic medical care is a hardship for their family. Forty-six percent say it is a hardship for their family. Where was it a year ago? Well, it is actually up by 10 percent.

The President said that things would get better, that people would like the health care law, and that Democrats should forcefully defend and be proud of it, but 10 percent more people this year than last year say that it is harder to pay for basic medical care, that it is a hardship for their family. What does he say to these people? What does the President of the United States say to these people who said his Affordable Care Act is making their life more of a hardship?

This is an extensive article, "Insured, but Not Covered," in the Sunday issue of this week's New York Times.

There is another example from this article—Alexis Gersten, who lives in a town called East Quogue. She bought ObamaCare health insurance coverage for her family. Then she found out that they did have insurance, but they weren't covered. When her son needed an ear, nose, and throat doctor, the nearest one in her network was in Albany, NY, which is 5 hours away from where she lives. Even though her own cardiologist was on the network list, he said he didn't take her plan. She ended up driving an hour to see a new cardiologist. Finally, there was a dispute over deductibles that left her with a pediatrician's bill for \$457.

Five hours to take her son to a specialist? Is that what the President means when he says the Democrats should forcefully defend and be proud of this law they voted for? Almost \$500 out of pocket to see a pediatrician? Is that the kind of powerful effect President Obama wanted his health care law to have on families? That is what he said last week, "a powerful effect on

their lives." What does the President have to say to this woman, to Alexis?

The only reason health care costs are not even higher for a lot of people is because the Obama administration decided to give subsidies to some people to help hide the true costs. Over the next few months, the Supreme Court is going to decide if President Obama is breaking his own law by giving out some of those subsidies.

Millions of people in 37 States may suddenly find that they have to bear the expenses of ObamaCare entirely on their own, buying insurance that many of them don't want, don't need, and can't afford, covering lots of things they would never buy insurance for if given the personal choice, but the President says they must because he seems to know more about what they need for their families than they do.

Last December several of us asked the administration to start warning people, people who buy insurance through the healthcare.gov Web site—the disastrous Web site—to inform those people that they may lose their subsidies come this summer when the Supreme Court makes its ruling.

We asked the administration—the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Treasury—to let us know how the administration plans to protect people who might get caught in the mess that President Obama and his administration and all the people who voted for it created. All we have heard in response is that the administration has no plans—no plans—to warn anyone or to do anything to help Americans harmed by the President's health care law. This has the potential to be yet another ObamaCare train wreck.

Another study came out last month that looked at the change in health insurance coverage for the first 9 months of 2014. It found that there was a total change of about 8 million more people who actually have coverage. The problem is that most of those people were just added to Medicaid. Medicaid is a program that is already broken and doesn't work well. As a doctor who has taken care of patients in Wyoming for almost a quarter of a century, I can tell you that Medicaid across the country is a broken system. Yet the people who have gotten health insurance—not care; the President is quick to use the word "covered," but he doesn't use the word "care" because there is a huge difference. I can tell you that as a doctor. There were about 6 million people enrolled in the individual market, mostly through the exchanges, except 5 million people lost their insurance that they had gotten before through work.

So when you take a look at the net effect on coverage, 89 percent of those newly covered got it through Medicaid. That works out to a net gain of a little under 1 million people who actually got private insurance, in spite of the exchanges and in spite of the subsidies.

Seven and a half million got it through Medicaid. All of that expense and all of the hardship President Obama caused on American families—families who have suffered as a result of the President's health care law—and most of the net gain in coverage is people who went onto Medicaid?

The American people didn't ask for this. If President Obama actually talked with a real representative sample of Americans, he would know that. But he doesn't. He only hears what he wants to hear. He disregards the rest. He didn't do that last week. He still refuses to listen to people who have been hurt by his law.

It is time for the President to be honest with the American people about the ways his law has harmed them. This is it—New York Times, Sunday, February 8, "Insured, but Not Covered: New policies have many Americans scrambling."

It is time for the President to start working with Republicans to give people the kind of health care reform they wanted all along—access to the care they need from a doctor they choose at a lower cost. That is what the American people are demanding, and that is what they deserve, and that is what Republicans are going to give them when we get the opportunity to do so. It is time for President Obama to join us.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, we are running out of time until the Department of Homeland Security shuts down, and the majority doesn't seem to have any real plan to avoid it.

There are 17 days left—with a week of recess in between—until tens of thousands of DHS workers are furloughed, fire grants to local fire departments are no longer sent out, and training local first responders in handling terrorist attacks stops dead in its tracks. Yet each day comes with a new round of finger-pointing from Republicans eager to pass the buck to the other Chamber.

The distinguished majority leader, my friend, Senator MCCONNELL, and my friend from Tennessee, Senator ALEXANDER, and many other Republicans in this body have said it is time for the House majority to come up with a new plan. The House of course says it

is the Senate majority that needs to act again. This morning Speaker BOEHNER, astoundingly, said the House would not pass another DHS bill. He is tied in such a knot he can't move, even though he knows his failure to move risks a government shutdown.

The House of course says it is the Senate majority that needs to act again, and yesterday the majority leader said the onus was now on the House to fund DHS. This morning the majority leader said the onus is now on the Senate. We have all kinds of Abbott and Costello behavior going on. The funny thing is the finger-pointing is not at the Democrats. They are pointing at each other as to who is to blame.

The American people are getting whiplash from listening to the Republican leadership on this issue. The Republicans need to sort out the divisions within their own caucus before they deflect any blame on Democrats, because while Democrats remain united in both Houses in support of a clean bill, the Republican majority is busy playing a game of hot potato with national security funding.

The disunity and delay has led a few Republicans to start talking about a continuing resolution that would guarantee another cliff and more brinkmanship and underfund DHS in the meantime. Delaying this same standoff by a few weeks or months isn't a very good plan B. It is hardly a plan at all.

Secretary Jeh Johnson described the CR for DHS this way: "It's like going on a 300-mile trip with a five-gallon tank of gas."

Let me give a few examples of why a Republican continuing resolution is a very poor plan B.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, will my friend from New York yield for a question?

Mr. SCHUMER. I will yield for a question when I finish my remarks, just as he was nice enough to yield to me a few days ago.

First, without a bipartisan full-year bill, the Secret Service cannot move forward with the critical reforms recommended by an independent panel of experts made after the White House fence-jumping incident.

Second, we can't upgrade the biometric identification system that prevents terrorists from coming into the country. Republicans and Democrats negotiated an additional \$25 million for DHS to upgrade the system that allows them to stop terrorists from coming through an airport or on a cargo ship and into the United States. A CR does not provide that funding.

Third, Secretary Johnson has said the Department will be constrained by a CR from improving security along our southwest border and maintaining the resources we added to deal with last summer's border crisis. Some say, Why does a CR constrain all of this? Because it is just ratifying last year's

funding, and when new situations have emerged—new terrorist threats, new trouble on the border—we can't change the budget. It makes no sense. No company would simply pass last year's budget when they are experiencing new challenges; neither should our government.

In short, a CR just doesn't work. It is not how we should be funding the Department of Homeland Security.

So we implore our Republican colleagues: Don't shut down the Department of Homeland Security, don't set up another shutdown, and don't underfund the men and women who work 24/7 to keep us safe. Pass a clean appropriations bill and give the people on the frontlines of defending this country the tools they need to get the job done.

I will be happy to yield for a question to my good friend, the Senator from Texas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask my friend from New York—I don't hear any Republicans talking about a shutdown and I don't hear any Republicans talking about a continuing resolution. I just hear Republicans talking about taking up the bill the House has passed, which is a \$40 billion appropriations bill and having a vote on it. But isn't it true that Democrats are united in blocking our ability to even consider that \$40 billion appropriations bill?

Mr. SCHUMER. I thank my friend for the question. It is nice to see him standing on the Democratic side. I hope he tries it again. If he likes it, he might do it more often.

I would say this: We all know what Speaker BOEHNER did. The hard right in the House said we want to force the President to undo his Executive order. They know if they put it on the floor alone, the President might veto it, so they attached it to Homeland Security and they basically say to the President, the only way we will fund the Department of Homeland Security is if we include these unpalatable riders, which the President has said he would veto.

So there is a simple solution.

That would force a shutdown. What the House did is say if we don't do it our way, we are shutting down the government. That didn't work 2 years ago—and that effort was led by the junior Senator from Texas, not my friend, the senior Senator from Texas—and it is not going to work today. Everyone knows what our colleagues in the House did. They are playing hostage. They are holding a gun to the head of America and saying unless we do it their way, they are going to shut down the government. That is why they attached it.

Let me repeat to my dear friend from Texas: No one objects to debating what the President did on Executive orders. We welcome that debate. It is the act

of tying it to funding the government—the same thing they did with ObamaCare a few years ago—that says we are going to shut down the government unless we get our way.

So the logical solution—and I will yield in a moment—is very simple: Pass the Department of Homeland Security bill. If they don't want to shut down the government, pass a clean Homeland Security bill and then the majority can put immigration on the floor and we can debate it.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, again, I don't hear any Republicans talking about shutting down the government. Indeed, the deadline, as I understand, is February 27 for this appropriations bill. What we are having is a discussion about the President's abuse of his authority under the Constitution by issuing the Executive order. I understand we disagree about that—and we ought to have that debate—and the public I think would insist that we honor our oath by making sure we protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, including against Presidential overreach.

I ask my friend, is it going to be the consistent position of our Democratic friends in the Senate that they are going to block us from even getting on the bill so that then they can offer amendments to strip out the parts they don't like? That is the way the Senate is supposed to work, but it doesn't work that way when Democrats are filibustering this \$40 billion appropriations bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I thank my colleague from Texas for his good question. I agree with parts of what he said. First, I agree that we disagree on the President's Executive order.

Second, I agree we ought not debate it in a hostage-taking situation. Our colleagues in the House may not have used the word "shutdown." It doesn't matter. Their actions speak louder than words. When they attach these proposals to the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill and say we are not going to fund Homeland Security unless we get some of these proposals, that is saying we will shut down the government unless we get our way. Sure, they will not shut down the government if we vote for all of their extraneous immigration provisions, and then next time they will attach something else and then something else. But they are using the threat of a government shutdown to try and get their way. That has not worked in the past and it will not work today.

So we Democrats are not blocking any debate. We are happy to debate funding the Department of Homeland Security. We are happy to debate immigration. Challenge us. Pass Homeland Security, put immigration on the floor, and see if any Democrat tries to block that debate. We welcome that debate. We think we will win that debate.

I know my good friend from Texas disagrees with that.

But that is not the issue. The issue is again that unless Democrats do it our way, we are shutting down the government. That is what the House did and so far that is what the Republican majority in the Senate is going along with. That is government shutdown. That is hostage-taking. That hasn't worked in the past and it will not work now.

It is unprecedented. The junior Senator from Texas came up with this kind of thinking, and unfortunately too many of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle go along with him, either out of conviction or for some other reason.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, will the Senator yield for one last question? He has been very gracious, and I appreciate it.

Mr. SCHUMER. Of course. I enjoy these debates.

Mr. CORNYN. While I don't agree with his answers, I appreciate the spirit in which we are actually having a discussion. But I wonder if he can explain to me how it is that the majority is blocking Department of Homeland Security funding when the House has passed a \$40 billion bill. Republicans have been united in voting to proceed to get on the bill and then allowing an amendment process where the minority can then move to strike the provisions they don't like. That is the way the Senate is supposed to operate.

How is it that Republicans are blocking Department of Homeland Security funding under those circumstances? I don't understand that.

Mr. SCHUMER. I would just ask the rhetorical question—and I thank my colleague—why did they attach these provisions, inimicable to the President, inimicable to us, to the Department of Homeland Security bill, which has nothing to do with it? It was not because they wanted a debate, not because they wanted to fund Homeland Security. There are easy ways to do that. They wanted to say that unless we do it their way, they are not going to fund Homeland Security and they are going to shut down a major portion of the government.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, are we in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are indeed, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes.

TRIBUTE TO MALCOLM BUTLER

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I rise briefly today to recognize the extraordinary story of my fellow Mississippian Malcolm Butler, who hails from Vicksburg, MS, and attended Hinds Community College. Mr. Butler, a cornerback

for the New England Patriots, made the game-winning interception in Super Bowl XLIX on February 1, 2015.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an article by Rick Cleveland.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Daily Journal, Feb. 3, 2015]

VICKSBURG'S BUTLER RISES UP AS
MISSISSIPPI'S LATEST NFL HERO

(By Rick Cleveland)

You wait in line, easing around one car-length at a time. Finally, you roll down your window and the voice over the microphone says, "Welcome to Popeyes. Can I take your order?"

Malcolm Butler was that voice, the one who asks you if you want your chicken spicy or mild, your tea sweetened or unsweetened.

Before he became a Super Bowl hero, Malcolm Butler worked the to-go window at Popeyes. That was after nobody much had recruited him out of Vicksburg High School. That was after he was kicked off the Hinds Community College football team after a campus altercation.

"Welcome to Popeyes, can I take your order?"

Well, sure, I'll have a pass interception on the goal line to win the Super Bowl.

Malcolm Butler's story is for everybody who makes a huge mistake. Who flunks the big exam. Who gets kicked out of school. Who gets fired. Who gets told they aren't quite good enough or tall enough or fast enough.

Malcolm Butler, Super Bowl hero.

Twenty-six seconds remained. The Seattle Seahawks had second-and-goal at the New England one-yard-line trailing 28-24. The Hawks needed three feet, 36 inches for victory.

There were 22 players on the field. Would Russell Wilson, the great star from Wisconsin, give it to Marshawn Lynch, the irrepressible one from Washington, or throw to Doug Baldwin of Stanford? Would they run behind James Carpenter of Alabama or Justin Britt of Missouri? Who would make the big defensive play: Vince Woolfork, the monster out of Miami, or Dont'a Hightower of Bama?

So many questions, just one answer.

Only heaven or Pete Carroll knows why the Seahawks didn't give the ball to Lynch, but they did not.

No, they ran out of the shotgun. They didn't even fake it to Lynch. The Seahawks ran a straight pass. Ricardo Lockette split out wide to the right behind Jermaine Kearse. The call was for Kearse to clear a path for Lockette to run a simple slant pattern.

Malcolm Butler never let it happen. Later, he would say he saw what would happen before it happened. He saw it in his mind's eye. Butler didn't let Kearse get in his way. He broke in front of Lockette before Russell even released the ball. And then, somehow, he caught the ball during the collision.

Malcolm Butler, Super Bowl hero.

SUMMON THE HEROES

Mississippi has produced so many over the years. Jerry Rice starred in three Super Bowls. Eli Manning was the MVP in two of them. Brett Favre led the Packers to a Super Bowl title. L.C. Greenwood sacked Roger Staubach four times in one Super Bowl. The great Willie Brown of Yazoo City once returned a Fran Tarkenton Super Bowl pass 75

yards for a Super Bowl touchdown. Walter Payton helped the Bears shuffle to a Super Bowl ring.

But Jerry Rice was the greatest receiver in the history of the game. Eli Manning's pedigree is known to all. Favre was in the process of winning three straight NFL MVPs. Greenwood was part of Pittsburgh's Iron Curtain. Willie Brown might be the greatest corner in the history of the sport. Payton was Payton.

Malcolm Butler? After they let him back on the team at Hinds, he had no Division I scholarship offers. He played his college football at West Alabama, formerly Livingston. When he finished Livingston, 32 NFL teams had a chance to draft him. None did.

But Malcolm Butler kept working, kept believing.

Against all odds, he made the team, worked his way into the rotation and made the biggest play in the most important game. Thus he joins Mississippi's remarkable Super Bowl pantheon.

Willie Brown, L.C. Greenwood, Walter Payton, Jerry Rice, Brett Favre and Malcolm Butler.

Malcolm Butler.

Super Bowl hero.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, Rick Cleveland is the executive director of the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame and Museum. This story appeared on February 3, 2015, in a number of newspapers, including my hometown of Tupelo's Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal. The article points out how Malcolm Butler overcame adversity, how he went from working at a Pop-eyes fried chicken restaurant to being the hero of this year's Super Bowl.

My home State of Mississippi has a long and storied football tradition. Gridiron legends such as Archie Manning, Eli Manning, Michael Oher, Jerry Rice, Walter Payton, Brett Favre, and a host of others from the Magnolia State are included in this list. As Rick Cleveland points out in the article, Malcolm Butler now joins Mississippi's remarkable Super Bowl pantheon.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mrs. MURRAY pertaining to the introduction of S. 469 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mrs. MURRAY. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, it is my understanding that we have someone coming down in about 10 minutes. I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized shortly after 2:25 p.m. I wish to lock that in—Senator HOEVEN and then me.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

KEYSTONE PIPELINE

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I would like to speak on the subject of the Keystone XL Pipeline. The Keystone XL approval bill which we passed in the Senate will be voted on this afternoon in the House. I believe the House will pass the bill with a strong bipartisan majority, just as we did in the Senate.

This bill is about energy, it is about jobs, it is about economic growth, and it is about national security through energy security. I have been on the floor in the Senate talking about all these issues as we worked on this bill. The Keystone XL Pipeline approval bill was the first bill we took up in the Senate in this Congress, S. 1. I think there were on the order of 250 amendments filed on the bill and we voted on more than 40 amendments with rollcall votes. We debated, Senators brought forward their amendments, and we voted on the bill and the bill passed, as I say, with a strong bipartisan majority.

Now the House will vote, as I say, this afternoon on the bill as well. I think it is remarkable that today is the day we will pass the bill completely through the Congress. I think it is remarkable because it is on the very same day the President has sent to the Congress an AUMF, authorization for use of military force, to deal with ISIS. It is on the very same day the President has sent us an AUMF, authorization for use of military force, to actually send our soldiers, our men and women, our combat resources to the conflict in the Middle East, the very same day we are passing legislation that will help our Nation with the production of more energy, not only in the United States but also working with our closest friend and ally, Canada.

This pipeline is about the infrastructure we need to help us move to energy security, meaning that we produce more energy than we consume. Today in the United States we consume about 18 million barrels of oil a day. Of that

total, we produce about 11 million barrels a day, and we import from Canada about 3 million barrels a day. So if we do the math, that means there are about 4 million barrels a day we need to import from other countries. We get about half of that from OPEC, roughly 2 million barrels a day. The Keystone XL Pipeline will move 830,000 barrels a day. Some of that will be produced in Canada, some of it will be produced in the United States, but it will move 830,000 barrels a day to our refineries. That is almost 1 million barrels a day we don't have to import from somewhere else.

So go back to the math. I just said we were importing from countries other than Canada 4 million barrels a day, half of that from OPEC—about 2 million barrels a day. This project is almost half of what we are importing from OPEC right now. That is why I say it is remarkable on the very same day that we are working to build energy security for this country, where we are working to develop the infrastructure we need to move oil from where it is produced to where it is refined and consumed in this country, we are also dealing with the conflict in the Middle East. OPEC—we are getting oil from the Middle East and we are dealing with conflict in the Middle East. Let's break that cycle, right?

At the point that we produce more energy than we consume, we are more energy secure. It is not only about growing the economy and creating jobs, but that means we don't have to get oil from OPEC anymore. That is one more reason we may not have to be involved in a conflict in the Middle East in the future. So here we are in a bipartisan way in the Congress doing the work the people sent us to do in the Senate and in the House on a project that has overwhelming bipartisan support, on a project where all six States on the route of this pipeline—Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas—all of the States have approved it.

They didn't have to particularly hustle because they had 6 years to do it. The administration has held up this project for 6 years. Here we are with something that Congress overwhelmingly supports on a bipartisan basis. All six States that have this pipeline have approved it, and the American people overwhelmingly support it.

In poll after poll, 65 to 70 percent of the American public said, yes, build this infrastructure, create an energy future where we produce the oil and gas we need in America and we work with Canada. We the American people don't want to rely on OPEC or the Middle East anymore for our energy. We don't want to have to import oil from the Middle East. That is what this legislation is all about.

On the very day we are approving this bill through Congress, we are getting the President's request for the use

of military force. He is sending that agreement to us and, I believe the President is saying to us, Congress, join with the Obama administration to work to deal with the terrible problem of ISIS, and we need to do that.

We are going to give that AUMF, authorization for use of military force, careful consideration. I think the Congress will work its will. Then we will, together, as representatives of the American people—the Executive and the Legislative branch—work to defeat ISIS.

Just as the President is sending that document today, we are sending him a document. We will be sending him a law dutifully passed by both the Senate and the House in a bipartisan way and saying, Mr. President, we need you to work with us too. Just as you want Congress to work with you on an authorization for use of military force, we want you to work with us on behalf of the American people who have spoken loudly and consistently that they want energy security.

Mr. President, we need you to work with us to build that vital infrastructure so we can produce our energy here at home and work with our closest friend and ally, Canada, and not be dependent on energy from the Middle East anymore.

Don't be fooled—don't be fooled. We are in a battle right now for global market share to determine who is going to produce energy in the future. Is it going to be OPEC? Is it going to be Russia? Is it going to be the United States? Who is going to produce energy in the future? The reason the price at the pump has come down over \$1 over the course of the past year is because we are producing so much oil and gas in the United States and because we are getting more from Canada. More supply pushes prices down. If that were a tax cut, it would equate to more than a \$100 billion tax cut for the American consumer. So what is going on?

On a global basis OPEC is pushing back, because they know if they push back, instead of our industry and our energy industry in this country continuing to grow, it starts to shrink again. Who is back in the driver's seat? OPEC is back in the driver's seat. What do you suppose is going to happen then? Prices will go right back up, and that benefit consumers get at the pump we will not have anymore. Also, that security issue I am talking about we will not have because we will have to continue to bring in oil from the Middle East. This is about a long-term strategy for national security.

It is more than just sending our combat resources into a conflict. A long-term strategy for national security also includes energy security, and just as the President is sending us an AUMF today, we are sending him legislation today that will make our Nation more energy secure. I hope the Presi-

dent will join with us in that endeavor on behalf of the American people.

Thank you, and with that I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized for such time as I shall consume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I was listening very carefully to the Senator talking about our situation with the pipeline, and there is something else I was going to talk about, but I want to make sure we say it as often as we can. I have sent for a poster which I want to share with the Senate.

My State of Oklahoma is more than just passively interested in the pipeline. In the center of Oklahoma is a town called Cushing. Cushing, OK, happens to be the central location for the pipelines going throughout the United States—east, west, north, and south. The picture, if it does arrive, that I wanted to share with everyone is of this President who is trying to, I guess, insult our intelligence by having it both ways. I think the Senator from North Dakota made it very clear that the President is dragging his feet and that he has been able to successfully stop the pipeline from coming through.

The picture I will show is a picture of President Obama coming into my State of Oklahoma and standing with all the barrels behind him in Cushing, OK, announcing that he is not going to stop the pipeline from going south from Oklahoma down to the Texas border. That is very good because he cannot do it. The only place he can stop it is when it crosses the international border. Of course that is where he is continuing to stop it.

I have to say he has lost the war of words on this because people know we have an opportunity—that everything the Senator said is correct. We can be totally independent in no time at all. We are not talking about years, we are talking about weeks and months. We can have our total independence just by lifting all the restrictions we have right now, not just the pipeline but what is happening on Federal land.

It is interesting. We have gone through this shale revolution in this country, and it has been so overwhelming. In the last 5 years it has been in spite of the President because he continues in his budget to have all kinds of punitive provisions for the oil and gas industry. Yet because of what has happened with the shale revolution, the use of hydraulic fracturing, the horizontal drilling, we have increased our production over the last 5 years by 61 percent. All of the 61 percent is in private land or it is in State land. We have on Federal land a reduction. While the rest of the country has increased 61 percent, it has been re-

duced by 6 percent. That is the dilemma we have right now.

It goes far beyond just the pipeline. We have an opportunity to be completely free—and I am talking about our Northern Hemisphere—being free from dependence on anyone in any part of the world for our ability to produce the energy necessary to run this machine called America.

(The remarks of Mr. INHOFE pertaining to the introduction of S. 452 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. INHOFE. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 295

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. 295; that there be up to 1 hour equally divided in the usual form; that following the use or yielding back of that time, the Hatch technical amendment at the desk be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time, and the Senate proceed to vote on the bill with no intervening action or debate.

Following disposition of the bill, the Senate will resume the motion to proceed to H.R. 240, the DHS appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. No objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMY AND VICKY CHILD PORNOGRAPHY VICTIM RESTITUTION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2015

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report S. 295.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 295) to amend section 2259 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 1 hour of debate, equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I thank the majority leader for moving ahead on S. 295, which we call the Amy and Vicky Act.

The need for this bill arises because of the Supreme Court's 5-to-4 decision last year in *Paroline v. United States*.

The Court at that time limited the recovery that a victim of a child pornography offense could receive, even as

additional wrongdoers saw her image as it was repeatedly posted on the Internet.

Rather than making the offender provide restitution for all the harms caused by the repeated viewings, the Supreme Court limited the recovery against any one defendant to the relative harm that defendant caused.

This bill will expand the categories of loss for which the victim could recover. It would reverse, then, the Supreme Court by permitting the victim to recover up to the full loss from any one defendant, subject to a minimum amount, depending upon the defendant's conduct. No longer, then, would the victim receive restitution from each defendant limited to that defendant's own actions. Each defendant would be jointly and severally liable for the victim's entire loss.

The bill sets up a contribution procedure for those defendants, which then would make the victim whole. Of course, that is the main point.

The choice is between the convicted child pornography offender being held responsible for the full loss and the innocent victim not receiving full compensation.

The Supreme Court ruled that the victim could not receive all her restitution from any one single defendant, even as her damage suffered was compounded. This bill appropriately rejects that. I hope it is not the last time this Congress overturns a Supreme Court decision.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation, as I was in the last Congress. I was pleased that the first legislation the Judiciary Committee took up when I became chairman was this bipartisan child pornography bill, and I am glad to have shepherded that bill through the committee so that the Senate at this time can take it up as one of its first legislative items.

We should all commend, as I do, Senator HATCH for his work on this very important piece of legislation.

I yield the floor.

Mr. TOOMEY. Madam President, I am very pleased to see the Senate will pass the bipartisan Justice for Amy and Vicky Act.

As an original co-sponsor of this bill, it's great to see that the Senate is helping ensure that victims of child pornography are able to receive full restitution for the terrible harms that they have suffered.

Last year, the Supreme Court issued a decision that sharply limited the remedies available to victims of child pornography.

The case involved Pennsylvania resident "Amy."

"Amy" was just eight and nine years old when her uncle raped her. Amy received help from a therapist and her family, and began to heal. Then, at age 17, Amy learned that her uncle re-

corded the events and traded them over the Internet. Amy is believed to be the most widely traded image of child pornography: Her attorney estimates that over 70,000 people have viewed these images.

I cannot begin to imagine the devastation Amy feels, so I turn to her own words. Amy writes:

Every day of my life I live in constant fear that someone will see my pictures and recognize me and that I will be humiliated all over again. It hurts me to know someone is looking at them—at me—when I was just a little girl being abused for the camera. I did not choose to be there, but now I am there forever in pictures that people are using to do sick things. I want it all erased. I want it all stopped. But I am powerless to stop it just like I was powerless to stop my uncle. . . . My life and my feelings are worse now because the crime has never really stopped and will never really stop. . . . It's like I am being abused over and over and over again.

Amy has struggled to hold down a steady job, facing repeated breakdowns. Amy estimates she has suffered \$3.4 M in lost income and counseling costs over the years.

Amy sought restitution from those who viewed and traded her image. The Federal restitution statute allows a victim of child pornography to collect restitution from those convicted of producing, trafficking, or viewing images of the victim's abuse.

But Amy faced a problem common in child pornography cases: Tens of thousands of people have trafficked in her image. When she attempted to collect restitution, could she collect the full amount from any one person? Or would she have to wait for tens of thousands of people to be criminally convicted, collecting a small amount from each person, in order to be made whole?

Last April, in the case of *Paroline v. United States*, the Supreme Court decided that Federal statute required the latter. The Supreme Court recognized that this was unworkable, and it called on Congress to provide a legislative remedy.

Last year, I responded to the Supreme Court's call by introducing the Justice for Amy Act, which would ensure that victims of child pornography are able to receive full restitution, without having to appear in thousands of court cases.

It sought to amend the Federal restitution statute to provide that all defendants who produce, traffic, or possess child pornography of a victim are jointly and severally liable for all of that victim's damages, and may sue one another for contribution. This goal is to take the burden off of the child victim, and places it on the child pornographers. Once one defendant is found guilty, he is held liable for the full damages and the burden is on him to sue all other wrongdoers to help pay the restitution award.

I am pleased to see that this commonsense approach has been adopted

by and incorporated into the Justice for Amy and Vicky Act. I am proud to be an original co-sponsor of this important legislation that the Senate will pass today.

This bill provides one important first step in ensuring that victims of child sexual abuse receive the help they need. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to provide additional protections for America's children.

Mr. DAINES. Madam President, as a father of four, I am deeply concerned by the very need for legislation like S. 295, the Amy and Vicky Child Pornography Victim Restitution Improvement Act. It is appalling that even a single one of our children is subject to such base and vile exploitation. As parents, and as a Nation, it is paramount we guard our children when there are those who would exploit them in pornography, who would enslave them in human and sex trafficking, and who would perpetrate this sickening crime upon them.

The Amy and Vicky Child Pornography Victim Restitution Act is one more step in laying the full consequences of these heinous crimes upon the perpetrators. While current law brings criminals to justice before the courts, it can leave the victims to reconstruct their lives with only limited resources on hand. This bill would make sure victims of child pornography have what they need to rebuild and restore their lives by making the perpetrators financially responsible.

Yet while it is a good and necessary step, nothing can ever truly be done by the law or the courts to repair the damage that has been wrought on these lives. We must stop it before it begins. So let us help those who are in need of healing and stop those who would continue this violence.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask unanimous consent that any time during the quorum calls be equally divided.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. TOOMEY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, later this month, on February 27, funding for the Department of Homeland Security will run out. I think we all agree this is a critical time for our country's national security, and it is important that we fully fund Department of Homeland Security to protect Americans against terrorist attacks.

But in recent days several of my friends across the aisle have spoken on this floor asserting that Republicans are trying to force a Department of Homeland Security shutdown. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Essentially, their argument is that unless Republicans choose to completely agree with President Obama's egregious constitutional violation of executive power to implement major changes in our immigration laws—an issue which is clearly the responsibility of the people's elected representatives—then Republicans will be responsible for any lapse in DHS funding.

So to put all this in perspective regarding this situation and the assertion that a few of my colleagues have made, let me give you some thoughts. First, let's remember how we got into this situation to start with. In 2008, a Presidential candidate by the name of Barack Obama said the following:

I take the Constitution very seriously. The biggest problems that we are facing right now have to do with trying to bring more and more power into the executive branch and not go through Congress at all. And that's what I intend to reverse when I am President of the United States of America.

He went on to say when he was President:

America is a nation of laws, which means that as President, I am obligated to enforce that law. I don't have a choice about that. That's part of my job. But I can advocate for changes in the law so that we can have a country that is respectful of the law but also continues to be a great country of immigrants.

Here is the key statement:

With respect to the notion that I can just suspend deportations through executive order, that is just not the case, because there are laws on the books that Congress has passed.

I could go on and on about what the President has said about his limitation of powers both as a candidate and as the President of the United States. Of course, he has violated and trampled on every word he has said, broken many promises he has made, and taken just the reverse position on everything he said about this issue on the Senate floor as a Senator and now as President.

So Republicans have responded by simply saying: "That is a violation of your Executive power. We think these issues ought to be debated and worked through the people's representatives, as they have been in the past."

Because there is an association between the Department of Homeland Security

funding and funding for certain aspects of immigration, Republicans thought it would be worthwhile to bring a debate to the floor so the public could hear what we have to say on this issue and so that we could make adjustments through this process.

Having suffered through 6 years of this Presidency—4 years for me—led by a then majority leader of the Democratic Party, with Republicans not being allowed to debate on the floor any significant issues that perhaps did not fit the Democratic agenda, new management has taken over here and opened up the process so that we can again be the people's representatives and speak and debate on the floor, offer amendments—winning some, losing some—and come to a conclusion.

Looking for the right vehicle, the only real vehicle, that would allow us to at least debate and offer our amendments in opposition to what the President is trying to do has been totally stifled through Democrat filibustering, not even allowing us to move forward with the bill. So we are stuck here in a difficult situation, wanting to address this egregious abuse of the power constitutionally designated to the President and at the same time needing to fund our necessary security needs through the Department of Homeland Security.

By not allowing us to even bring this issue to the floor of the Senate and debate it back and forth, offering amendments to address each Senator's various concerns, we neglect to move forward on legislation that addresses these two important needs: Number 1, the funding of our national security through DHS, and Number 2, the issue of the President's constitutional overreach.

So we stand here frustrated with our inability to be able to go forward in the way the American people expect us to go forward, in the way this Senate has traditionally operated. Here we stand in a stalemate because one party says: "No, we don't even want to let you talk about it." One party says: "No, we don't even want to take it up, offer our amendments." Maybe they are afraid they will not pass. That is how it works here.

The irony is that at least eight Democrats, as I count, were very critical when the President issued his Executive order regarding immigration. They basically said: "Yes, that does exceed his powers, and he should not have done that."

Here is an opportunity for them to weigh in with their votes instead of just their rhetoric. Yet they will not even allow that to happen.

So we are caught here in this dilemma. But let me make a couple of things absolutely clear, at least from my perspective. I do not believe a departmental shutdown is the appropriate response to this issue. Funding

and paying for essential functions of the Department of Homeland Security at a time when threats have never been higher is absolutely critical. So we have to achieve that by whatever means.

By the same token, addressing this egregious constitutional violation and the President's broken promises relative Executive power on immigration is a key issue the American people want debated now. It needs to be debated. Both sides have agreed that we need immigration reform. But it ought to be done through the people's representatives and not through the wishes of the President of the United States when he does not have the power to make these changes.

So I trust that we will be able to work through this in the next several days leading up to our recess or the end of this month when we have to come to a conclusion. We are working hard to do that. We just would like the opposing party, the Democrat Party, to allow its Members to say where they stand, to offer changes, to offer alternatives, and to offer amendments. It is important enough for us to do what we were sent here to do, and that is to represent the people in this country on the critically important issues that lie before us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, the bill before us proves the axiom that big things come in small packages. This bill, the Amy and Vicky Child Pornography Victim Restitution Improvement Act, may only be several pages long, but it is a very big bill.

In 1994, by enacting the Violence Against Women Act, Congress required that defendants who commit certain crimes pay restitution to their victims. I had a lot to do with that bill. These are crimes—such as the sexual exploitation of children—that have a particularly devastating impact on victims, and they need help to put their lives back together.

Last year, in a case titled "Paroline v. United States," the Supreme Court concluded that the restitution statute cannot provide the restitution that Congress promised for child pornography victims. The only way to fix this problem is to amend the restitution statute in a way that accounts for the insidious and evil nature of child pornography itself.

The Supreme Court held in Paroline that under the statute as currently written, a victim can seek restitution only for losses that are directly related to an individual defendant's distribution or possession of specific images of her abuse. That is not only virtually impossible to prove, but it pretends that defendants and images are isolated and self-contained. The truth is that in the Internet age, defendants are

part of a growing, shifting, and constantly active group of individuals who keep the victimization going. As the Supreme Court put it in *Paroline* last year, each viewing of child pornography is a repetition of the child's abuse. Everyone who drives the trafficking in those images repeats that abuse and contributes to a victim's losses. Some of them will be caught and prosecuted, while others will hide in the shadows and seek safety in numbers.

The harsh reality for a victim is that the Internet has multiplied the number of individuals who harm her and, at the same time, made it harder to identify them so she can seek restitution—or should I say, she really can't seek restitution.

The bill before us today addresses this cruel catch-22. This bill is named for Amy and Vicky, the victims in two of the most widely viewed child pornography series in the world.

When I reintroduced this bill on January 28, I also shared the story of Andy, a young man in Utah who is the victim in another widely distributed child pornography series.

He is the named victim in more than 700 cases but has been granted restitution under *Paroline* in only one-quarter of the cases in which he has sought it and actually received restitution in just two of those cases.

This bill provides judges with options for calculating a victim's total losses and imposing restitution in different kinds of cases. That is not always easy for the very reason that I just described. A judge must impose restitution in an individual case for losses that flow from ongoing harm. But that is the diabolical nature of child pornography, and we must equip the criminal justice system to address it.

This bill helps victims in another important way. Today a victim must chase every single defendant to seek restitution, only to be told that she must seek the impossible and, therefore, receive next to nothing. In addition to providing a way for judges to require meaningful restitution in individual cases, this bill allows defendants who harm the same victim to seek contribution from each other to spread that restitution cost.

Let me put it as simply as I can. The current statute maximizes a victim's burden and minimizes her restitution. This bill minimizes a victim's burden and maximizes her restitution.

Both Amy and Vicky personally endorse this bill. National victim advocacy groups also support it, including the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the National Organization for Victim Assistance, the National Crime Victim Law Institute, the National Center for Victims of Crime, the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women, and the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network.

Last October I received a letter endorsing this bill signed by the attorneys general of 43 States—22 Republicans and 21 Democrats. This has, in fact, been a truly bipartisan effort.

The senior Senator from New York, Mr. SCHUMER, has been my partner from the start in developing this legislation and has been a champion for crime victims for many years. It is important to have him on this bill. He is one of the great leaders in the Senate today, and we intend to do more together in the future.

The cosponsors include 22 Republicans and 17 Democrats. Big things really do come in small packages.

I have been contacted by advocates working with dozens of countries around the world to tackle the problem of child pornography and exploitation. They emphasize the need for meaningful restitution and say that this legislation can be an example for other countries to follow.

Congress in 1994 required full restitution for child victims of sexual exploitation. The Supreme Court last year confirmed that the restitution statute cannot keep that promise to victims of child pornography.

Enacting this legislation shows Congress at its best, stepping up and taking the action necessary to address this problem. Amy, Vicky, and Andy are counting on us.

This is an extremely important bill. It means that victims of child pornography—usually videos that are shipped all around the world and seen by, maybe, millions—have the chance of being able to get true restitution under this bill. Before that, they would have to go and sue everyone who was involved, and there is no way they could find that out, no way they could really do that, no way they could really get restitution and justify the attorneys' fees, and no way they could really vindicate themselves and show these people, these horrible people who do these things to children, that they are not going to get away with it anymore.

This bill eliminates all of that. This bill makes it possible for the victims of pornography and childhood exploitation to be able to recover and to get restitution for the very poor treatment they have undergone.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the Amy and Vicky Child Pornography Victim Restitution Improvement Act, which my good friend Senator ORRIN HATCH has requested a vote on this afternoon.

First, I thank Senator HATCH for his work on this important legislation. I

was proud to work alongside him as the Democratic cosponsor of his bill, and he has been an absolute force in pushing this bill in the Judiciary Committee and to the floor today. We have had a great partnership and have worked on many things together, and I think I join every one of my 99 colleagues in telling the Senator from Utah how much respect we have for him.

Our bill does one important thing. It fixes a flaw in our restitution system for pornography victims. You see, in this day and age, victims of child pornography face ongoing harm every time a video or picture of them is shared and viewed on the Internet. As the Supreme Court explained about a victim:

These sexual abuse crimes are compounded by the distribution of images of her abuser's horrific acts, which meant the wrongs inflicted upon her were in effect repeated; for she knew her humiliation and hurt were and would be renewed into the future as an ever-increasing number of wrongdoers witnessed the crimes committed against her.

The horror of sexual abuse can be long lasting. It can constitute the loss of income, medical care, psychiatric counseling, and therapy. The victims of sexual abuse, therefore, are absolutely in the right to seek restitution from those evil criminals who perpetuate the original crime by sharing and viewing images of the crime.

A 2014 Supreme Court case, *Paroline v. United States*, placed a heavy burden on the child pornography victims trying to recover restitution. The tragic effect of the Supreme Court's decision in the *Paroline* case was this: The more widely viewed the pornographic image of a victim and the more offenders there are, the more difficult it is for the victim to recover for her anguish and her damages.

For the perpetrators of child pornography, there should not be safety in numbers.

Now, the bill that Senator HATCH has led on and I was proud to cosponsor rights this wrong. Our bill provides a method for these victims to seek restitution for the total harm they endured from this horrific victimization. Specifically, the Amy and Vicky Act does three things that reflect the nature of these crimes. First, it considers the total harm to the victim, including from individuals who may not yet have been identified. Second, it requires real and timely restitution. And, third, it allows defendants who have contributed to the same victims' harm to spread the restitution cost among themselves.

These specific changes are supported by the attorneys general of 43 States and countless national victim advocacy groups, such as the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and they have wide bipartisan support in the Senate.

Once again, I commend my colleague Senator HATCH for the great work he has done on this and other things.

As I said while he was not in the Chamber, I look forward to our working on many other causes together. He is a great leader and very well respected by me and all of his colleagues.

I urge my colleagues to pass this important measure to give more power to the victims of sexual abuse to seek redress, closure, and justice for the crimes—the dastardly crimes—committed against them.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

Under the previous order, amendment No. 250 is agreed to.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To Improve the Bill)

On page 4, beginning on line 22, strike “sexual conduct (as those terms are defined in section 2246)” and insert “sexual contact (as those terms are defined in section 2246) or sexually explicit conduct (as that term is defined in section 2256)”.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, shall it pass?

Mr. ALEXANDER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 98, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 55 Leg.]

YEAS—98

Alexander	Boxer	Coats
Ayotte	Brown	Cochran
Baldwin	Burr	Collins
Barrasso	Cantwell	Coons
Bennet	Capito	Corker
Blumenthal	Cardin	Cornyn
Blunt	Carper	Cotton
Booker	Casey	Crapo
Boozman	Cassidy	Cruz

Daines	Kirk	Rounds
Donnelly	Klobuchar	Rubio
Durbin	Lankford	Sanders
Enzi	Leahy	Sasse
Ernst	Lee	Schatz
Feinstein	Manchin	Schumer
Fischer	Markey	Scott
Flake	McCain	Sessions
Franken	McCaskill	Shaheen
Gardner	McConnell	Shelby
Gillibrand	Menendez	Stabenow
Graham	Merkley	Sullivan
Grassley	Mikulski	Tester
Hatch	Murkowski	Thune
Heinrich	Murphy	Tillis
Heitkamp	Murray	Toomey
Heller	Nelson	Udall
Hirono	Paul	Vitter
Hooven	Perdue	Warner
Inhofe	Peters	Warren
Isakson	Portman	Whitehouse
Johnson	Reed	Wicker
Kaine	Risch	Wyden
King	Roberts	

NOT VOTING—2

Moran

Reid

The bill (S. 295), as amended, was passed, as follows:

S. 295

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Amy and Vicky Child Pornography Victim Restitution Improvement Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The demand for child pornography harms children because it drives production, which involves severe and often irreparable child sexual abuse and exploitation.

(2) The harms caused by child pornography are more extensive than the harms caused by child sex abuse alone because child pornography is a permanent record of the abuse of the depicted child, and the harm to the child is exacerbated by its circulation. Every viewing of child pornography is a repetition of the victim's original childhood sexual abuse.

(3) Victims suffer continuing and grievous harm as a result of knowing that a large, indeterminate number of individuals have viewed and will in the future view images of their childhood sexual abuse. Harms of this sort are a major reason that child pornography is outlawed.

(4) The unlawful collective conduct of every individual who reproduces, distributes, or possesses the images of a victim's childhood sexual abuse plays a part in sustaining and aggravating the harms to that individual victim. Multiple actors independently commit intentional crimes that combine to produce an indivisible injury to a victim.

(5) It is the intent of Congress that victims of child pornography be fully compensated for all the harms resulting from each and every perpetrator who contributes to their anguish.

(6) Congress intends to adopt and hereby adopts an aggregate causation standard to address the unique crime of child pornography and the unique harms caused by child pornography.

(7) Victims should not be limited to receiving restitution from defendants only for losses caused by each defendant's own offense of conviction. Courts must apply a less restrictive aggregate causation standard in child pornography cases, while also recognizing appropriate constitutional limits and protections for defendants.

SEC. 3. MANDATORY RESTITUTION.

Section 2259 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) DEFINITION.—(A) For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘full amount of the victim's losses’ includes any costs incurred by the victim for—

“(i) lifetime medical services relating to physical, psychiatric, or psychological care;

“(ii) lifetime physical and occupational therapy or rehabilitation;

“(iii) necessary transportation, temporary housing, and child care expenses;

“(iv) lifetime lost income; and

“(v) attorneys' fees, as well as other costs incurred.

“(B) For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘full amount of the victim's losses’ also includes any other losses suffered by the victim, in addition to the costs listed in subparagraph (A), if those losses are a proximate result of the offense.

“(C) For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘full amount of the victim's losses’ also includes any losses suffered by the victim from any sexual act or sexual contact (as those terms are defined in section 2246) or sexually explicit conduct (as that term is defined in section 2256) in preparation for or during the production of child pornography depicting the victim involved in the offense.”;

(2) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d);

(3) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) DETERMINING RESTITUTION.—

“(1) HARMED BY ONE DEFENDANT.—If the victim was harmed as a result of the commission of an offense under section 2251, 2251A, 2252, 2252A, or 2260 by 1 defendant, the court shall determine the full amount of the victim's losses caused by the defendant and enter an order of restitution for an amount that is not less than the full amount of the victim's losses.

“(2) HARMED BY MORE THAN ONE DEFENDANT.—If the victim was harmed as a result of offenses under section 2251, 2251A, 2252, 2252A, or 2260 by more than 1 person, regardless of whether the persons have been charged, prosecuted, or convicted in any Federal or State court of competent jurisdiction within the United States, the court shall determine the full amount of the victim's losses caused by all such persons, or reasonably expected to be caused by such persons, and enter an order of restitution against the defendant in favor of the victim for—

“(A) the full amount of the victim's losses; or

“(B) an amount that is not more than the amount described in subparagraph (A) and not less than—

“(i) \$250,000 for any offense or offenses under section 2251(a), 2251(b), 2251(c), 2251A, 2252A(g), or 2260(a);

“(ii) \$150,000 for any offense or offenses under section 2251(d), 2252(a)(1), 2252(a)(2), 2252(a)(3), 2252A(a)(1), 2252A(a)(2), 2252A(a)(3), 2252A(a)(4), 2252A(a)(6), 2252A(a)(7), or 2260(b); or

“(iii) \$25,000 for any offense or offenses under section 2252(a)(4) or 2252A(a)(5).

“(3) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF RESTITUTION.—No order of restitution issued under this section may exceed the full amount of the victim's losses.

“(4) JOINT AND SEVERAL LIABILITY.—Each defendant against whom an order of restitution is issued under paragraph (2)(A) shall be jointly and severally liable to the victim with all other defendants against whom an order of restitution is issued under paragraph (2)(A) in favor of such victim.

“(5) CONTRIBUTION.—Each defendant who is ordered to pay restitution under paragraph (2)(A), and has made full payment to the victim equal to or exceeding the statutory minimum amount described in paragraph (2)(B), may recover contribution from any defendant who is also ordered to pay restitution under paragraph (2)(A). Such claims shall be brought in accordance with this section and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. In resolving contribution claims, the court may allocate payments among liable parties using such equitable factors as the court determines are appropriate so long as no payments to victims are reduced or delayed. No action for contribution may be commenced more than 5 years after the date on which the defendant seeking contribution was ordered to pay restitution under this section.”;

(4) in subsection (d), as redesignated, by striking “a commission of a crime under this chapter,” and inserting “or by the commission of (i) an offense under this chapter or (ii) a series of offenses under this chapter committed by the defendant and other persons causing aggregated losses,”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Amy and Vicky Child Pornography Victim Restitution Improvement Act of 2015, the Attorney General shall submit to Congress a report on the progress, if any, of the Department of Justice in obtaining restitution for victims of any offense under section 2251, 2251A, 2252, 2252A, or 2260.”.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BARRY GOLDWATER STATUE DEDICATION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, along with my colleagues I just had the opportunity to be at the unveiling of the statue of Senator Barry Goldwater in Statuary Hall.

I had the privilege of serving with Barry Goldwater. We traveled together many times. He came to Vermont at different times with me, and we became very close friends. It was interesting to watch Senator Goldwater form alliances across the aisle with different people. But I remember expressly one very personal thing.

I was very close to my father, and my father passed away late one evening in Vermont. The next morning, the first two telephone calls my mother received were condolences. One was from Barry Goldwater, and one was from Ted Kennedy. The two had both talked before they called. I mention that because that was the type of people they

both were. It had nothing to do with ideology; it was who they were.

In 1980 I had the second closest election in America. Somebody suggested to me that it must be because of my philosophy. I thought probably, but I can't figure it out. So I called up the man who had the closest election in 1980, the year of the Reagan sweep.

I said, “Senator Goldwater, what is the message we are being sent?”

Barry laughed and said, “We have to change our luck.”

He suggested that he move into the office of the retiring Senator Abe Ribicoff of Connecticut, a Democratic Senator from New England. He said, “I am going to move into his office and change my luck. You better be strong enough to move into mine.”

I suggested that I didn't have quite the seniority to do that. He said, “I will arrange your move next week.” He did.

When I was sworn in for my second term in January of 1981, I was in that office. I have stayed in Senator Barry Goldwater's office ever since. I have stayed there now for—well, I am in my 35th year in Senator Goldwater's office, and I consider it a matter of pride, and I consider it a matter of pride to have served with him.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AUMF

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President. I would like to touch on two topics. The first is that today the President has submitted a request for authorization for use of military force with regard to ISIL, or ISIS, as some call it.

First, I think it is good news that the President has made that submission, and I think he is right when he says the country is stronger when both Congress and the President act together.

I would say there is a pretty simple authorization he could ask for, and it would be one sentence, and that is, “We authorize the President to defeat and destroy ISIL.” And that is what I think we need to do.

I look forward to reading through his submission. I understand it contains a time limitation. It does not contain geographic limitations. It contains some language that supposedly will make people feel more comfortable about the use of ground troops.

An authorization to use force that has limitations built into it is really quite unprecedented. We did some research, and the Congressional Research Service said that there really were only two previous authorizations that have limited the President in terms of the use of force to be used or the duration of the conflict. One was in 1983 in Lebanon, and one was in 1993 in Soma-

lia. Both of those were peacekeeping missions, so it made sense to limit the peacekeeping mission to use of force. But it appears that never before in certainly modern history has the Congress of the United States authorized the President to take on and defeat an enemy but has done so with limitations on the time or geography or anything of that nature. That is an important point for us to understand because under no circumstances can ISIL stay. What we need to be authorizing the President to do is to destroy them and to defeat them and allow the Commander in Chief—both the one we have now and the one who will follow—to put in place the military tactics necessary to destroy and defeat ISIS.

It is important to point out that circumstances on the ground might rapidly change. They already have. For example, when this began—if you look back a year and a half ago, if I had stood on the floor and given a speech about defeating ISIL or ISIS, no one would have known what I was talking about because at the time most Americans and most Members of Congress had no idea what that was. That is how quickly this has developed into a threat.

I would remind everyone that when they actually crossed over from Syria into Iraq, the President called them the JV team. Even today the facts on the ground continue to evolve very rapidly. For example, we now know through open source reports that ISIL has now established a presence in Derna, Libya, which gives them access to a port facility, and it is a completely uncontested space. There is no government shooting at them. There are no airstrikes. There is no one coming after them there. They can do whatever they want in Libya, and they are doing it. They are using it as a place to train, a place to recruit, a place to resupply, a place to raise money, and they have access to a port that allows them to bring all these things in.

There have also been open source reports of groups in Afghanistan beginning to pledge allegiance to ISIS. In fact, in at least four different countries in north Africa, there are now groups who have pledged allegiance to ISIL. So while we continue to focus on the conflict with relation to Iraq and Syria, we cannot overlook the fact that they are sprouting affiliates throughout the entire region.

I think that after the brutal murder of numerous Americans—we saw last week what happened to the Jordanian pilot—I don't have to spend much time convincing people how dangerous this group is. What we don't hear enough about is the atrocities being committed on a daily basis on the ground, what they are doing to the Sunni population, for example, of areas they have now conquered, the brutality, the way

they enforce sharia law with brutal tactics, not to mention the brutal stories we have heard of women being sold off or given away as brides to ISIL fighters, children trafficked into slavery, entire populations slaughtered, and fighters who were captured and killed in mass killings. This is what this group envisions for the world.

The goals of this group are not simply to govern what we knew once as Iraq or Syria or Libya or any other country; their ultimate goal is for the entire world—including where we stand today—to one day live under their mandate, under the rules they have established, under their radical version of Sunni Islam. You may say that is far-fetched, and it may be today, but that is their clear ambition—to spread their form of radical Islam everywhere and anywhere they can. They openly talk about this.

This group needs to be defeated. I wish we had taken this group on earlier. I wish, in fact, that we had gotten involved in the conflict in Syria earlier and equipped moderate rebel elements, non-jihadist rebel elements on the ground so that they would have been the most powerful force there. The President failed to do that in a timely fashion, and as a result a vacuum was created, and that vacuum was filled by this group who has attracted foreign fighters from all over the world to join their ranks.

Now we are dealing with this problem, but I would argue better late than never. Had we dealt with this a year and a half ago or 2 years ago, it wouldn't have been easy, but it would have been easier. But it is important to deal with it decisively now. We can debate the tactics, but it is the job of the Commander in Chief, in consultation with his military officials who surround him and advise him, to come up with the appropriate tactics to defeat the enemy.

For our purposes—very straightforward—ISIL is the enemy. They need to be defeated, and we should authorize this President and future Presidents to do what they can and what they must to defeat ISIS and erase them from the equation.

VENEZUELA

Mr. President, I also wish to take a moment to talk a little bit about what is happening in Venezuela. Tomorrow, February 12, will mark the 1-year anniversary since students and others across Venezuela took to the streets in peaceful demonstrations and demanded a better government and a better future than the current one, which is corrupt and incompetent and provides no leadership to the country.

Tomorrow also marks the 1-year anniversary since the Venezuelan Government, under Nicolas Maduro, responded with a violent crackdown that left dozens of people dead, thousands injured, and hundreds in jail as political pris-

oners. There have been at least 50 documented cases of torture by government forces on peaceful demonstrators, and more than 1,700 individuals await trial today in Venezuela before a judiciary that is completely controlled by Maduro's government. This includes Leopoldo Lopez, who has been languishing in the Ramo Verde prison for almost a year.

In the year since the people took to the streets demanding more opportunity, accountability, and more freedom, the basic necessities have vanished from the shelves. It is one of the richest nations in the hemisphere, and its economy is in shambles.

Venezuela is also plagued with one of the world's highest murder rates, rampant corruption related to state assets, a 57-percent inflation rate, a junk rating on the global bond market, and unprecedented scarcity of goods as basic as toilet paper. Lately, things have gotten so bad in Venezuela under Maduro that they are no longer just kidnapping people. As the *Diario las Americas*, which is a newspaper in Miami, reported earlier this week, people are now kidnapping dogs and other pets in Venezuela and holding them for ransom. That is how bad things have gotten.

Why is this happening? Why has the cradle of Latin American independence—a country blessed with oil and energy wealth, with talented and hard-working people—become a failed state?

For starters, because it is modeling its economy after Cuba, which itself is a failed state.

Second, for years Venezuela has been in the grips of incompetent buffoons, one after another. First it was Hugo Chavez and now Nicolas Maduro. They have squandered the nation's riches.

Third, the country is being run by corrupt individuals. Just last week reports came out alleging that the speaker of the national assembly, Diosdado Cabello, is himself a drug kingpin.

Fourth, even with all the oil wealth Venezuela has squandered, it still possesses some of the largest oil reserves on the planet, but oil prices are dropping. In a country such as Venezuela where innovation and entrepreneurship are stifled, where wealth and power are concentrated in the government and its cronies, the entire economy is the oil industry. Ninety-six percent of Venezuela's export revenues come from oil.

So I am proud that in December the Senate and the House passed and the President signed a bill that sanctions human rights violators in Venezuela. It mandates that their assets be frozen and visa restrictions be placed upon them if they are involved in human rights violations. That is going to be critical going forward. As things get worse, more people in Venezuela will take to the streets, and the national guard in the country—which is nothing but armed thugs working on behalf of

the Maduro government—will be tempted to crack down on people violently. So our legislation would impose visa sanctions and asset sanctions on individuals responsible for these human rights violations.

The good news is that the President has moved forward with some of these visa restrictions, and that is a very positive step. America should not be and cannot be a playground for Venezuela's human rights violators. But the financial sanctions part of the bill are long overdue. They are urgently needed because things are only going to get worse in Venezuela. People are only going to get more desperate. They are only going to speak out more. They are only going to demand freedom more. And I suspect, although I hope I am wrong, that the response from the Venezuelan Government will be more violence and more crackdowns on the people of their own nation.

If, God forbid, they use lethal force against their own people—which is a right they have reserved for themselves, a right the government has approved and has given authority to the national guard to use—we cannot simply stand by and watch as innocent people are killed or injured because the regime believes there will be no consequences.

So today I wanted to come here for a few moments and urge the President to do what I asked him to do in a letter last week, and that is to not sit idly by on the Venezuelan sanction law he signed last year but to use it—to use it immediately and decisively to make clear that the United States of America will not stand for repression taking place in Venezuela and that we will use the tools of our economy and the power we have given the President to punish those responsible for committing human rights violations in Venezuela against the people of that great nation.

Thank you, Mr. President.

With that, I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise to talk about the Department of Homeland Security and the necessity to fund it.

Earlier today the President submitted a document for the authorization of use of military force to the Congress. I take the President's request very seriously. I look forward to the analysis that will be done by the Foreign Relations Committee, the Armed Services Committee, and debate on the floor.

Why did the President send it and why did so many in the Congress call for it? It is because everybody says that we have to do something about ISIL. You know what. I think we do have to do something about ISIL. What a ghoulish, barbaric terrorist group. There is no doubt there has to be an international effort to strike them

from the planet and that the United States has to be a part of it.

But what comes out when we talk about ISIL is the need to have a strong, robust counterterrorism effort. If we are going to fight counterterrorism, we must fund the agency that has the principal responsibility for protecting the homeland.

The Department of Defense protects us against foreign invaders, but we have to also protect the homeland—whether it is against cyber security threats or other terrorist activity or other dangers that come to our country.

So why after 2 weeks do we have the Department of Homeland Security appropriations for fiscal year 2015? We are ready to vote on it. We have a clean bill. I am speaking now as the ranking or vice chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. During fiscal year 2014, I chaired the committee. At the end of the year, when we worked on our omnibus, it was the will of the Congress that we would fund all government agencies except Homeland Security and instead put it on a continuing resolution until February 27 because there were those in both Houses who were cranky about the fact that President Obama exercised Executive authority in certain matters related to immigration.

So now we are holding up the entire funding for the Department of Homeland Security because some people are cranky with President Obama over him using an Executive order on immigration. These very people who are so cranky are criticizing him for being a weak leader. Oh, where is President Obama? Why doesn't he take strong and decisive action? When the President takes strong and decisive action, they not only don't like it, they are willing to hold up the entire funding for the Department of Homeland Security over this. What is this? Do we have a new math where 1 and 1 makes 14 or 5?

We created the Department of Homeland Security after the horrific attack of 9/11, and they need to be funded.

I am here to urge that we pass a clean funding bill to protect the Nation from terrorism, cyber security threats which are mounting every day, and so we can also help our communities respond to other threats.

I believe immigration does deserve a debate. I am not arguing about that, nor would I ever want to stifle a Senator's ability to speak on topics where they have strong beliefs and deeply held views, but let's move immigration to a different forum to talk about it.

In the last Congress the Senate passed a comprehensive immigration bill. It went to the House, and it sat there. Gee, it sat there. After a while it kind of sat there some more, and then it died as that session came to an end.

The President, frustrated that the House of Representatives refused to

take up a bill and debate it through its committees and on the floor, acted through Executive order.

So my view is let's bring up immigration, let's move our comprehensive bill again with a full and ample debate, full and ample amendments. Maybe the House will finally get around to talking about immigration instead of talking about President Obama, and then we can pass the Homeland Security bill.

Three times last week the Senate rejected a procedural vote to take up Homeland Security. People can ask: Senator BARB, why did you do that? I voted not to delay but to move on. We Senate Democrats tried to move a clean Homeland Security funding bill. What does that mean? We focused only on the money. We said we did not want to have the five poison pill immigration riders that are in the House bill. We wanted to be able to take that out.

The President has been very clear. If we send him a bill that includes funding plus five poison pill riders on immigration, he will veto it. What is the consequence? We become a public spectacle in the world's eyes. We play parliamentary ping-pong with the President of the United States. We pass a bill because we want to have a temper tantrum. He vetoes it. It comes back. We have another debate where we huff and puff and hope problems will go away. We then try to override a veto and all the while we are eating up time.

The world is watching us. Our treasured allies are not the only ones asking about what is going on with the United States and how the greatest deliberative body has become the greatest delaying body. Our enemies say we can't get our act together internally to pass the very money to take them on, so they are going to try to bring it to us.

In the end, when all is said and done, more is getting said than done. Before we go out for the Presidents Day recess, I urge the Senate to pass this bill.

Tomorrow we are going to vote to confirm the Secretary of Defense, Dr. Ashton Carter. He has gone through the process and was reported out of committee. I look forward to voting for him.

Why are we going to move so fast to confirm Dr. Carter? Because we need a Secretary of Defense. We have to fight for America. We have to stand up for America. We have to be muscular and ready to deal with those bad guys. I agree with that.

I salute our military every day and in every way. They are out there on the frontlines, and their families are there to lovingly support them.

We are going to have a Secretary of Defense. Let's not forget we also have a Secretary of Homeland Security, Mr. Jeh Johnson. Instead of America having deep pockets to fight terrorism, the Secretary of Homeland Security will have empty pockets.

What is this? We are going to rush to confirm Dr. Carter, and I think we ought to. There is no dispute from me on that. Shouldn't we also rush to complete our work and fund Homeland Security? I think we should. We could do it tomorrow. We could do it tomorrow and pass this clean bill.

The Department of Homeland Security's mission is to protect America from terrorism and help communities respond to all threats, from terrorism to natural disasters. We are talking about the TSA, which protects our airports. We are talking about the Border Patrol and ICE, so if we are talking about immigration, don't we want to fund the agents out there protecting our borders? Don't we want to continue to have cyber warriors securing our networks? We need to support the people who are dealing with bio and nuclear threats. We need to also continue supporting State and local first responders, firefighters, and EMS personnel in the different States so they can be ready—whether they are responding to a local disaster or something that has been caused by a despicable attack. We need to be able to pass this bill.

The Department of Homeland Security funding runs out on February 27, and my view is that instead of running the clock we should move this bill. I believe it could pass tomorrow and that we could get our job done. But, no, we are all going to go back to our home States and tell everybody how they have a government on their side and how they can count on us to fight for America. But the way to fight for America is to stop fighting with each other.

Let's try to find a sensible Senator and move this bill forward. I believe people on both sides of the aisle are patriots. I believe people on both sides of the aisle want to defend America. Let's come together on both sides of the aisle, right down the middle, and let's find a way to move this bill forward and have a debate on immigration. I don't want to stifle or stiff-arm it, but let's move this forward, and let's stand shoulder to shoulder doing our job to fund the agency that has the principal responsibility for protecting the homeland.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I am here to also talk about the DHS funding bill. I will say from the outset that I don't think the President did the right thing by taking this unilateral action. I think he has made it more difficult to pass immigration reform in this body.

Having said that, to attempt to use the spending bill in order to try to poke a finger in the President's eye, in my view, is not a good move. I believe that rather than poke the President in the eye, we ought to put legislation on

his desk, and we ought to use this time—we have already used up 2 weeks trying to attach measures to a funding bill when we could have used this time to move actual immigration legislation.

Coming from the State of Arizona, we desperately need immigration reform. We desperately need to have more resources and better security on our border. We have needed that for a long time. We have had situations where part of the border gets better and then falls back. As soon as the economy ramps up again, we can expect a lot more flow across the border. We don't have sufficient border security in the State, and Arizonans pay the price in terms of the cost of health care, education, criminal justice. We bear the brunt of the Federal Government's failure to have a secure border and to provide for a secure border.

We need to pass that kind of legislation. There has been a bill that has been introduced in the House and the Senate. I happen to be a cosponsor of the bill in the Senate which would help us to get a more secure border. That is one piece of legislation we could be moving right now so it could be put on the President's desk.

Second, we all know we need better interior enforcement. We need to make sure employers who employ illegal aliens are not able to do so. We need to make sure employers have the tools to find out if those they are hiring are here legally. That has been needed for a long time. It has been provided in other pieces of legislation. We could do a bill just on interior enforcement. We could be doing that now rather than simply making a statement on a spending bill.

We also need legislation to expand the guest worker plans and programs we have now. There has been legislation introduced in this body already to deal with high-tech workers. We need to make sure those who are educated in our universities and receive graduate degrees in the STEM fields are encouraged to stay. They ought to be encouraged to stay to help create jobs in this country rather than returning to their home country and competing against us. That has been needed, and that is recognized on a bipartisan basis. We could move legislation right now with regard to high-tech visas.

We also need to expand other visa categories. We need an ag worker bill to make sure areas where we simply don't have enough labor to deal with the needs we have on our farms—we need to pass legislation to do that. Legislation has been introduced and could be moved through now. We could be doing that.

We also obviously need to move legislation to deal with those who are here illegally now—the so-called DREAMers. They are here through no fault of their own. They were brought to this

country when they were 2, 10 or 12 years, and they are now as American as you or I. They ought to be given a path where they can stay and have some kind of certainty moving ahead, but that needs to be done by Congress. It cannot simply be done by the President in Executive action. That kind of legislation could move here now as well.

We obviously need to deal with legislation for the broader class of those here illegally. We dealt with it in S. 744, which was introduced and passed in the Senate in the last Congress. It provided a way for those who are here illegally to get right with the law and to deport those who are in a criminal class but also allow those who are here and want to adjust their status to find a way to do so and to be able to stay. Legislation such as that could move as well but instead we are spending weeks trying to make a statement on a spending bill.

So I hope we will actually do what this Senate is prepared to do and is ready to do again, which is actually to legislate—to move legislation through the committee process to the floor and on to the President's desk. That is how we ought to respond to the action the President has taken. I hope we will do so.

I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, over the last two weeks Republicans in Congress have insisted on playing political games with funding for the Department of Homeland Security. The same agency that supports States such as Massachusetts when disasters hit, the same agency that provides grants for equipment to keep firefighters safe when they rush into burning buildings, the same agency that helps train and fund local police, the same agency that tracks down weapons that terrorists can use to threaten our safety here at home, the same agency that keeps our borders and airports safe—this is the agency the Republicans are willing to shut down. Why? Why put America at such risk? Because Republicans want to protest the steps President Obama has taken to try to address our country's immigration challenges.

This is not a responsible way to govern. This is a dangerous way to govern. There are real threats out there, from ISIS in the Middle East to cyber threats, to acts of terror such as the one in Paris earlier this year.

DHS gives funding to State and local governments to help them prevent ter-

ror attacks. Massachusetts received over \$30 million in these grants just last year alone. If DHS shuts down, that funding dries up, leaving our firefighters, our police, and our EMTs hanging, putting the safety of every American at risk.

Think about the Customs and Border Protection agents, who screen people traveling into the United States through our airports, and the men and women of the Coast Guard who patrol our waters. They will still have to work those tough, sometimes dangerous jobs, but if the Republicans shut down the Department of Homeland Security, these people just won't get paid. Tens of thousands of workers nationwide could be working to help keep us safe and not get a paycheck to cover their groceries and rent. That is no way to treat the people who protect this country.

The solution is simple. Last year Democrats and Republicans agreed on a bipartisan bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security. That bill was ready to go until the Republicans decided they wanted to play politics. They decided to hold the Department of Homeland Security hostage to try to force the President to reverse an Executive order on immigration. That Department of Homeland Security funding bill is still ready to go. We could vote on it today and be done with all of this. Everyone who works to protect our safety would keep on working and keep on getting paid.

A few days ago the Boston Globe wrote an editorial about this, and they said:

The game of political chicken has to end with the Republicans blinking. It's one thing to disagree with a President's executive actions, but it's another thing altogether to hold crucial funding for a wide range of security programs hostage.

I couldn't agree more.

I ask unanimous consent that the full text of the editorial be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Boston Globe, Feb. 7, 2015]

GOP SHOULD FOCUS ON FIXING IMMIGRATION,
NOT COMPROMISING SECURITY
(Editorial)

In the latest political show vote on Capitol Hill, Republicans are protesting President Obama's executive orders on immigration, enacted in November, by trying to attach language undoing them to a bill that funds the Department of Homeland Security. The attempt is going nowhere: Earlier this week, Democrats in the Senate blocked the bill from reaching Obama's desk. At the same time, the president has vowed to veto any legislation that reverses his immigration measures.

This game of political chicken has to end with the Republicans blinking. It's one thing to disagree with the president's executive actions, but it's another thing altogether to hold crucial funding for a wide range of security programs hostage.

Republicans who believe Obama's executive orders are an abuse of power should instead look for remedy in the courts. If Obama overstepped, the surest way to reverse his orders would be through a judicial ruling. Meanwhile, Congress should pass a "clean" Homeland Security funding bill that funds the agency without the immigration language.

Obama enacted the executive orders only after the House refused to vote on a Senate-passed bill that would have overhauled our current immigration system. In retaliation, the GOP decided to attack the president's orders at the funding source: DHS. The Republican bill included so-called "poison pill" amendments that prevent the use of DHS funds or fees to enforce Obama's executive actions, which will benefit about 4 million undocumented immigrants by shielding them from deportation while also allowing them to apply for work permits. The amendments also prevent the use of any funds to continue implementing a 2012 order that protected some undocumented immigrants who came to the United States as children.

Along with some Republicans who voted against the bill in the House and the Senate, three former secretaries of Homeland Security have also urged the GOP to stop using the agency's budget as a political weapon. Republicans Tom Ridge and Michael Chertoff, and Democrat Janet Napolitano, wrote to Republican leadership: "DHS's responsibilities are much broader than its responsibility to oversee the federal immigration agencies and to protect our borders . . . Funding for the entire agency should not be put in jeopardy by the debate about immigration." They called for a clean funding bill for the rest of the year, like the one Maryland Senator Barbara Mikulski and New Hampshire Senator Jeanne Shaheen filed last week.

Obama has said he would be happy to see Congress pass a law that would make his executive orders unnecessary. Republicans, instead of engaging in quixotic budget tactics, should get to work on a new immigration bill and stop compromising national security.

Ms. WARREN. Let's be clear. If Republicans in the Senate don't change course, they will shut down the Department of Homeland Security and compromise the safety of the American people, and they will have done it because a handful of extremists in the Republican Party are angry at the President because he is trying to fix what we all know is a broken immigration system. Well, if they are angry about the President's immigration policy, let's debate the President's immigration policy. Last Congress the Senate passed a bipartisan bill to address immigration. Let's debate that bill again. Or if they want to propose a new bill, let's vote on that. But don't play games with the safety of the American people.

The way forward is clear. We need to pass a bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

IRRIGATE ACT

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I wish to discuss legislation I introduced yesterday that would help Native American irrigators, ranchers, farmers, and families fully utilize the irrigation systems in Indian Country. The bill, S. 438, is entitled the Irrigation Rehabilitation and Renovation for Indian Tribal Governments and Their Economies Act, or the IRRIGATE Act.

I thank my colleagues who have joined me as co-sponsors of this legislation, including Senators TESTER, HATCH, ENZI, DAINES and BENNET.

Careful management of water in Indian communities is essential if we are to ensure a reliable supply in the future. Many ranchers and farmers, both Indian and non-Indian, still depend on the Bureau of Indian Affairs, BIA, to deliver water for their needs.

The Department of the Interior initiated several Indian irrigation projects in the late 1800s and early 1900s intended as a central component of tribal economies. In most cases, the Federal Government did not even complete these projects. In 2006, the Government Accountability Office released a report on Indian irrigation projects, which highlighted the inefficiencies of the operation, maintenance, and management by the BIA.

While the BIA has indicated that the current backlog is estimated to be in excess of \$560 million, some Indian tribes estimate that this backlog estimate may be even higher. The most recent information from the BIA clearly reflects an upward trend in the costs of these systems, growing from \$549 million to in excess of \$560 million in only one-quarter year alone.

Deferred maintenance means inefficient water delivery and damaged infrastructure. For the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming, these issues are perpetual problems. Tribal economies depend on these water systems—and the BIA has an obligation to repair those irrigation systems.

The bill intends to bring the BIA irrigation systems into the 21st century. The bill would authorize \$35 million each year from FY 2015 to 2036, to address the deferred maintenance needs of certain BIA irrigation projects. This includes any structures, facilities, equipment, or vehicles used in connection with the projects. The bill would also require a longer-term study on the operations of these projects.

This bipartisan bill is supported by many Indian tribes. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

REMEMBERING DEAN SMITH

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate and celebrate the life of Coach Dean Smith. Dean Smith's accomplishments as coach, mentor, and teacher made him a legend in our State, and far beyond Tobacco Road. Brooke and I were deeply saddened to hear of his passing, but he left his indelible mark on our State. Under his stewardship, UNC-Chapel Hill became the formidable college basketball powerhouse that it is today. While he was a winning coach, he also encouraged his players to excel in the classroom and taught well beyond the locker room.

Coach Smith was born in Emporia, KS, in 1931. The son of public school teachers, his lifelong dedication to teaching on and off the court was instilled in him from a young age. Dean was a high school athlete playing basketball, football, and baseball. He earned an academic scholarship to the University of Kansas. While at Kansas he played basketball and was a member of the 1952 national championship team. He began his coaching career there in 1953 as an assistant coach.

Dean Smith then served his country in the U.S. Air Force. In 1958 he was asked to serve as assistant coach for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Three years later he would become the head coach for UNC. His first season as head coach was his only losing season in his 36 year coaching career.

His early days as coach were not always so smooth. In 1965, the UNC fans hung him in effigy after a loss to my alma mater, Wake Forest University. But, soon enough, he enjoyed tremendous success as a coach. He is considered one of the greatest to ever coach the game. His accomplishments are too many to list. Some of his most memorable feats include 2 national championship titles, 11 final four appearances, 17 regular season ACC titles, 13 ACC tournament titles, 27 NCAA tournament appearances with 23 of those being consecutive. He was the National Coach of the Year four times. Dean had 879 wins in his 36-year coaching career making him one of the winningest coaches of all time. Five of his players went on to be Rookies of the Year in the NBA or ABA. He coached Team USA to gold in the 1976 Olympics. Legendary UCLA coach John Wooden once said "Dean is the best teacher of basketball that I have observed." His philosophy known as the "Carolina Way" still rings true today. Play Hard, Play Together, Play Smart.

Coach Smith's influence extended far beyond the basketball court. He was a champion for social justice. He was the first UNC coach to offer a scholarship to an African-American player. He encouraged many local businesses to desegregate during the 1960s. He served as a mentor to his players and always

taught them that education came first. During his career over 95 percent of his players received their degrees. His former players remember the fact that Coach Smith not only taught them about basketball, he taught them about life.

Throughout his career, he was a fierce competitor but was always respected by his opponents. There was never a hint of scandal about how he recruited players or how he ran his program. He was a pioneer in the art of assembling a long-term winning basketball tradition. Basketball, UNC and all of North Carolina have lost a giant with his passing.

I extend my sympathy to his wife Linnea and to all of Coach Smith's family.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL TO AUTHORIZE THE LIMITED USE OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES AGAINST THE ISLAMIC STATE OF IRAQ AND THE LEVANT (ISIL)—PM 5

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

To the Congress of the United States:

The so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) poses a threat to the people and stability of Iraq, Syria, and the broader Middle East, and to U.S. national security. It threatens American personnel and facilities located in the region and is responsible for the deaths of U.S. citizens James Foley, Steven Sotloff, Abdul-Rahman Peter Kassig, and Kayla Mueller. If left unchecked, ISIL will pose a threat beyond the Middle East, including to the United States homeland.

I have directed a comprehensive and sustained strategy to degrade and defeat ISIL. As part of this strategy, U.S. military forces are conducting a systematic campaign of airstrikes against ISIL in Iraq and Syria. Although existing statutes provide me with the authority I need to take these actions, I have repeatedly expressed my commitment to working with the Congress to pass a bipartisan authorization for the use of military force (AUMF) against ISIL. Consistent with this commitment, I am submitting a draft AUMF that would authorize the continued use of military force to degrade and defeat ISIL.

My Administration's draft AUMF would not authorize long-term, large-scale ground combat operations like those our Nation conducted in Iraq and Afghanistan. Local forces, rather than U.S. military forces, should be deployed to conduct such operations. The authorization I propose would provide the flexibility to conduct ground com-

bat operations in other, more limited circumstances, such as rescue operations involving U.S. or coalition personnel or the use of special operations forces to take military action against ISIL leadership. It would also authorize the use of U.S. forces in situations where ground combat operations are not expected or intended, such as intelligence collection and sharing, missions to enable kinetic strikes, or the provision of operational planning and other forms of advice and assistance to partner forces.

Although my proposed AUMF does not address the 2001 AUMF, I remain committed to working with the Congress and the American people to refine, and ultimately repeal, the 2001 AUMF. Enacting an AUMF that is specific to the threat posed by ISIL could serve as a model for how we can work together to tailor the authorities granted by the 2001 AUMF.

I can think of no better way for the Congress to join me in supporting our Nation's security than by enacting this legislation, which would show the world we are united in our resolve to counter the threat posed by ISIL.

BARACK OBAMA,
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 11, 2015.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:30 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 710. An act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to prepare a comprehensive security assessment of the transportation security card program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 719. An act to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 720. An act to improve intergovernmental planning for and communication during security incidents at domestic airports, and for other purposes.

H.R. 810. An act to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes.

The message further announced the House has agreed to the following resolution:

H. Res. 99. Resolution relative to the death of the Honorable Alan Nunnelee, a Representative from the State of Mississippi.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 710. An act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to prepare a comprehensive security assessment of the transportation security card program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 810. An act to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Ad-

ministration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 446. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the credit for employers establishing workplace child care facilities, to increase the child care credit to encourage greater use of quality child care services, to provide incentives for students to earn child care-related degrees and to work in child care facilities, and to increase the exclusion for employer-provided dependent care assistance; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 447. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to prohibit the exclusion of individuals from service on a Federal jury on account of sexual orientation or gender identity; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 448. A bill to provide for coordination between the TRICARE program and eligibility for making contributions to a health savings account, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PORTMAN:

S. 449. A bill to reduce recidivism and increase public safety; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. REED, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 450. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax rate parity among all tobacco products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. KING):

S. 451. A bill to award grants to encourage State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and schools to utilize technology to improve student achievement and college and career readiness, the skills of teachers and school leaders, and the efficiency and productivity of education systems at all levels; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WICKER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. VITTER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 452. A bill to provide lethal weapons to the Government of Ukraine in order to defend itself against Russian-backed rebel separatists in eastern Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. 453. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants to States to streamline State requirements and procedures for veterans with military emergency medical training to become civilian emergency medical technicians; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mr. BALDWIN):

S. 454. A bill to amend the Department of Energy High-End Computing Revitalization Act of 2004 to improve the high-end computing research and development program of the Department of Energy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Mr. COONS, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 455. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for special treatment of the research credit for certain start-up companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARPER:

S. 456. A bill to codify mechanisms for enabling cybersecurity threat indicator sharing between private and government entities, as well as among private entities, to better protect information systems; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. 457. A bill to secure the Federal voting rights of non-violent persons when released from incarceration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 458. A bill to provide emergency funding for port of entry personnel and infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BOOZMAN:

S. 459. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to approve waivers under the Medicaid Program under title XIX of the Social Security Act that are related to State provider taxes that exempt certain retirement communities; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 460. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide for the assessment and management of the risk of algal toxins in drinking water, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 461. A bill to provide for alternative financing arrangements for the provision of certain services and the construction and maintenance of infrastructure at land border ports of entry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 462. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to publish a health advisory and submit reports with respect to microcystins in drinking water; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 463. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to prohibit the paying of premium subsidies on policies based on the actual market price of an agricultural commodity at the time of harvest; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 464. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 regarding Native Hawaiian education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 465. A bill to extend Federal recognition to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe-Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. REED, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 466. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to improve the quality, health outcomes, and value of maternity care under the Medicaid and CHIP programs by developing maternity care quality measures and supporting maternity care quality collaboratives; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. LEE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HATCH, Mr. COONS, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 467. A bill to reduce recidivism and increase public safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 468. A bill to provide a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to allow the Director of the Bureau of Land Management and the Chief of the Forest Service to remove Pinyon-Juniper trees to conserve and restore the habitat of the greater sage-grouse and the mule deer; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. TESTER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 469. A bill to improve the reproductive assistance provided by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to severely wounded, ill, or injured members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their spouses or partners, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 33

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 33, a bill to provide certainty with respect to the timing of Department of Energy decisions to approve or deny applications to export natural gas, and for other purposes.

S. 36

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 36, a bill to address the continued threat posed by dangerous synthetic drugs by amending the Controlled Substances Act relating to controlled substance analogues.

S. 48

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 48, a bill to prohibit discrimination against the unborn on the basis of sex or gender, and for other purposes.

S. 50

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Wyoming

(Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 50, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit certain abortion-related discrimination in governmental activities.

S. 51

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 51, a bill to amend title X of the Public Health Service Act to prohibit family planning grants from being awarded to any entity that performs abortions, and for other purposes.

S. 83

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 83, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to improve nonretaliation provisions relating to equal pay requirements.

S. 125

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) were added as cosponsors of S. 125, a bill to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2020, and for other purposes.

S. 295

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 295, a bill to amend section 2259 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 295, *supra*.

S. 299

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 299, a bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 301

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 301, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

S. 308

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 308, a bill to reauthorize 21st century community learning centers, and for other purposes.

S. 337

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 337, a bill to improve the Freedom of Information Act.

S. 373

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 373, a bill to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel.

S. 409

At the request of Mr. BURR, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 409, a bill to amend the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act to require the Secretary of Defense to inform the Attorney General of persons required to register as sex offenders.

S. 423

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 423, a bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual written privacy notice requirement.

S. 438

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 438, a bill to provide for the repair, replacement, and maintenance of certain Indian irrigation projects.

S. 439

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 439, a bill to end discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity in public schools, and for other purposes.

S. 441

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 441, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to clarify the Food and Drug Administration's jurisdiction over certain tobacco products, and to protect jobs and small businesses involved in the sale, manufacturing and distribution of traditional and premium cigars.

S.J. RES. 8

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) were added as co-

sponsors of S.J. Res. 8, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to representation case procedures.

S. RES. 26

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 26, a resolution commending Pope Francis for his leadership in helping to secure the release of Alan Gross and for working with the Governments of the United States and Cuba to achieve a more positive relationship.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. REED, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 450. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax rate parity among all tobacco products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 450

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Tobacco Tax Equity Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHING EXCISE TAX EQUITY AMONG ALL TOBACCO PRODUCT TAX RATES.

(a) TAX PARITY FOR PIPE TOBACCO AND ROLL-YOUR-OWN TOBACCO.—Section 5701(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "\$2.8311 cents" and inserting "\$24.78".

(b) TAX PARITY FOR SMOKELESS TOBACCO.—(1) Section 5701(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "\$1.51" and inserting "\$13.42";

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking "50.33 cents" and inserting "\$5.37"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) SMOKELESS TOBACCO SOLD IN DISCRETE SINGLE-USE UNITS.—On discrete single-use units, \$50.33 per thousand."

(2) Section 5702(m) of such Code is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "or chewing tobacco" and inserting "chewing tobacco, or discrete single-use unit";

(B) in paragraphs (2) and (3), by inserting "that is not a discrete single-use unit" before the period in each such paragraph;

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(4) DISCRETE SINGLE-USE UNIT.—The term 'discrete single-use unit' means any product containing tobacco that—

"(A) is not intended to be smoked; and

"(B) is in the form of a lozenge, tablet, pill, pouch, dissolvable strip, or other discrete single-use or single-dose unit."

(c) TAX PARITY FOR LARGE CIGARS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 5701(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "52.75 percent" and all that follows through the period and inserting the following: "\$24.78 per pound and a proportionate tax at the like rate on all fractional parts of a pound but not less than 5.033 cents per cigar."

(2) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary may issue guidance regarding the appropriate method for determining the weight of large cigars for purposes of calculating the applicable tax under section 5701(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(d) TAX PARITY FOR ROLL-YOUR-OWN TOBACCO AND CERTAIN PROCESSED TOBACCO.—Subsection (o) of section 5702 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting "and includes processed tobacco that is removed for delivery or delivered to a person other than a person with a permit provided under section 5713, but does not include removals of processed tobacco for exportation" after "wrappers thereof".

(e) CLARIFYING TAX RATE FOR OTHER TOBACCO PRODUCTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 5701 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(i) OTHER TOBACCO PRODUCTS.—Any product not otherwise described under this section that has been determined to be a tobacco product by the Food and Drug Administration through its authorities under the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act shall be taxed at a level of tax equivalent to the tax rate for cigarettes on an estimated per use basis as determined by the Secretary."

(2) ESTABLISHING PER USE BASIS.—For purposes of section 5701(i) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, not later than 12 months after the date that a product has been determined to be a tobacco product by the Food and Drug Administration, the Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary of the Treasury's delegate) shall issue final regulations establishing the level of tax for such product that is equivalent to the tax rate for cigarettes on an estimated per use basis.

(f) CLARIFYING DEFINITION OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 5702 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

"(c) TOBACCO PRODUCTS.—The term 'tobacco products' means—

"(1) cigars, cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, pipe tobacco, and roll-your-own tobacco, and

"(2) any other product subject to tax pursuant to section 5701(i)."

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Subsection (d) of section 5702 of such Code is amended by striking "cigars, cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, pipe tobacco, or roll-your-own tobacco" each place it appears and inserting "tobacco products".

(g) TAX RATES ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION.—Section 5701 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(i) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any calendar year beginning after 2015, the dollar amounts provided under this chapter shall each be increased by an amount equal to—

"(A) such dollar amount, multiplied by

"(B) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar year, determined by substituting 'calendar year 2014' for 'calendar year 1992' in subparagraph (B) thereof.

"(2) ROUNDING.—If any amount as adjusted under paragraph (1) is not a multiple of \$0.01, such amount shall be rounded to the next highest multiple of \$0.01."

(h) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) through (4), the amendments made by this section shall apply to articles removed (as defined in section 5702(j) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) after the last day of the month which includes the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) DISCRETE SINGLE-USE UNITS AND PROCESSED TOBACCO.—The amendments made by subsections (b)(1)(C), (b)(2), and (d) shall apply to articles removed (as defined in section 5702(j) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) after the date that is 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) LARGE CIGARS.—The amendments made by subsection (c) shall apply to articles removed after December 31, 2015.

(4) OTHER TOBACCO PRODUCTS.—The amendments made by subsection (e)(1) shall apply to products removed after the last day of the month which includes the date that the Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary of the Treasury's delegate) issues final regulations establishing the level of tax for such product.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WICKER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. VITTER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 452. A bill to provide lethal weapons to the Government of Ukraine in order to defend itself against Russian-backed rebel separatists in eastern Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I am introducing a bill today because there is something going on that people are not as aware of as they should be.

We don't have a better friend than King Abdullah in Jordan. I have been pleased to get to know him as a personal friend as well as a friend of America. I was over there with him last October. We were on the Syrian border looking at all the things that are going on right now with ISIL and ISIS, and it has been a real tragedy.

Last week King Abdullah was in the United States for the National Prayer Breakfast. While he was here, there were several of us who were with him when he got the news that his friend and relative, an F-16 pilot, had been caged, soaked with gasoline, and burned alive.

America and the whole world saw what happened and asked: What kind of monsters are these people who are doing this over there? They are beheading children and pregnant women and burning people alive. Yet this is going on. People have to understand this.

They do understand it in terms of ISIS. But what I want to share with you, and introduce legislation to correct, is that it is not just happening there, it is also happening in Ukraine right now.

I happened to be in Ukraine in late October of this year. I went over there because they were having their par-

liamentary elections at the time. Ukraine has been such a good friend to us—not just Poroshenko, but the rest of the administration that went through the parliamentary election has also been a friend.

Let's keep in mind that the Presidential elections were way back in May. This last election was the parliamentary election, and we were there to see what was happening in the Ukraine.

In the Ukraine they have a constitutional requirement that you cannot have a seat in Parliament unless you have 5 percent of the vote. This is the first time, after the vote when we were there in October, that they had a parliamentary election and not one Communist got a seat in Parliament. This is the first time in 96 years that not one Communist has a seat in the Parliament.

As bad as things are with ISIS, I suggest that what is going on—and I only preface what I am saying so I can demonstrate what a good friend Poroshenko and the leadership of the Ukraine is to the United States. We have the Russians in there with the separatists doing horrible things—things that are just as bad as what is taking place in Syria with ISIS and in other places.

To demonstrate this—it is not a very fun thing to look at, but you have to understand what is happening. These are T-72 tanks. Putin keeps saying: We don't have any Russians in there with the separatists. It is not us. We are not doing it.

Well, here they are. These are the pictures we brought back with us. All those tanks are lined up within Ukraine, and that is clearly what they are.

If you want to see how brutal Putin and everyone else is—it is not something anyone enjoys looking at, but you have to know this is going on. The tragedies that are taking place in Syria and in other parts of the world are also taking place in Ukraine.

This is a picture of the murders and torture that have been taking place there. These people have been disembodied, their heads cut off. These are Ukrainian citizens. They are legal citizens. They are the ones whom Putin and the rest of them are fighting. For that reason, I have introduced legislation to require that the United States offer the weaponry.

By the way, I was making a presentation about this issue and Senator MCCAIN was there. He said: If you look at all of those tanks, they don't have one piece of equipment that could offer a defense against those tanks. What have we been giving them? We have been giving them MREs and blankets.

When Poroshenko was here in the United States, he made a speech to both Houses. He said that "one can't win the war with blankets. . . . Even

more, we cannot keep the peace with a blanket." In other words, we have to share the very best defensive weapons or weapons that can be used offensively with them. They cannot be left naked there when facing this kind of abuse. We know that shortly after the heavily armed Russian soldiers invaded and took control of the Crimean region in February of 2014, the Ukrainian Government and its people faced and sustained a deadly force from heavily armed rebel separatists who were equipped, trained, and supported by the Russian Federation. We have seen pictures of that. This is the first time we have shown pictures that document, No. 1, that the equipment came from Russia and Putin, and, No. 2, the type of things they are doing over there.

We passed a law last year that said we would give defensive weaponry to the Ukrainians, but it fell short because of one thing—it was prescriptive. It said what kind of equipment it would be.

The bill I am introducing today does two things. It offers the equipment we can give them with no restrictions whatsoever, and secondly, it does something else I think is very significant, and that is we require the President to come up with a strategy. People always say: Well, the President doesn't have a strategy against ISIS. It is true he doesn't have one, and it is deplorable that he doesn't have one. He also doesn't have a strategy for Ukraine. Without a strategy, it is not going to work.

Last week we had a hearing in the Senate Armed Services Committee. It was kind of funny because we had people from the past. We had George Shultz, Madeleine Albright, and Henry Kissinger. We were talking about the Ukraine at that time and talked about offering some equipment we thought should go there, and they said: Well, you have to do that, but you can't just send them equipment. You have to specifically demand a strategy. In this bill we are saying to the President of the United States to not only send over equipment but we need to also provide a strategy we can massage as time goes on.

On February 2, 2015, eight of the former senior ranking diplomatic and military officials testified. They included the former U.S. Ambassador to the Ukraine, Steven Pifer; former Under Secretary of Defense Michele Flournoy; former Supreme Allied Commander ADM James Stavridis, and former Deputy Commander to the U.S. Command, Gen. Charles Wald. They all served under both Republican and Democratic administrations. They released a nonpartisan report calling on President Obama to provide Ukraine with lethal weaponry, and this is what we talked about in the bill. They encouraged other NATO countries to do

the same, particularly those that possess and used former Soviet equipment and weaponry.

On January 25, when President Obama stated at a news conference in New Delhi, India that the aggression by the rebel separatists in eastern Ukraine had Russian backing, Russian equipment, Russian financing, Russian training, and Russian troops—so he finally agreed. It is not something that is debatable or might be happening; it is something that is happening. You can see the horrible things that are going on there, and you can see the reason it is necessary to get this done.

Some time ago, back when Carl Levin was still here—he is retired, and he did such a great job as the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee for so many years when I was the ranking Republican on the Committee on Armed Services. At that time, a year ago in October, we wrote the following in the Washington Post:

We believe that the United States should begin providing defensive weapons that would help Ukraine defend its territory. Such weapons could include anti-tank weapons to defend against Russian-provided armored personnel carriers, ammunition, vehicles and secure communications equipment. This would present no threat to Russia unless its forces launch further aggression against Ukraine. In other words, these weapons are lethal, but not provocative because they are defensive.

That came from Carl Levin and me. This is back before we knew the results of the parliamentary election that was so successful and so complementary to the West.

This has been long overdue. There is no one who disagrees with it, and even the President recognizes they have the equipment and we are not doing the job we should be doing.

So, with that, I am going to introduce S. 452, and we are going to ask for cosponsors to come down and speak on this topic. We have quite a long list of cosponsors.

It doesn't bother me if other Members want to introduce like resolutions because we need to get something passed. We need to raise the visibility so the people of America know this is not just going on in Syria and some of these other countries, but it is also in the country of one of our very best friends worldwide, and that best friend is the Ukraine.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 452

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Defense of Ukraine Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION TO PROVIDE LETHAL WEAPONS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE.

The President is authorized to provide lethal weapons to the Government of Ukraine in order to defend itself against Russian-backed rebel separatists in eastern Ukraine.

SEC. 3. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

(a) STRATEGY.—Not later than 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to Congress a written report setting forth a comprehensive strategy of the United States to provide lethal weapons to the Government of Ukraine so that it may effectively defend itself from Russian-backed rebel aggression.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGY.—

(1) REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after submitting the report required under subsection (a), and every 90 days thereafter, the President shall submit to Congress a written report setting forth a current comprehensive description and assessment of the implementation of the comprehensive strategy set forth in the report required under such subsection.

(2) UPDATES.—If the President makes a substantive change to the comprehensive strategy required under subsection (a), the President shall immediately submit a written report to Congress that articulates the change, the reason for the change, and the effect of the change on the overall comprehensive strategy.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 458. A bill to provide emergency funding for port of entry personnel and infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 458

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Emergency Port of Entry Personnel and Infrastructure Funding Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the General Services Administration.

(2) COMMISSIONER.—The term “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

(3) NORTHERN BORDER.—The term “Northern border” means the international border between the United States and Canada.

(4) RELEVANT COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “relevant committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Finance of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(E) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

(F) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

(G) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(6) SOUTHERN BORDER.—The term “Southern border” means the international border between the United States and Mexico.

SEC. 3. U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION PERSONNEL.

(a) STAFF ENHANCEMENTS.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION.—In addition to positions authorized before the date of the enactment of this Act and any existing officer vacancies within U.S. Customs and Border Protection on such date, the Secretary, subject to the availability of appropriations for such purpose, shall hire, train, and assign to duty, by not later than September 30, 2020—

(A) 5,000 full-time U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers to serve on all inspection lanes (primary, secondary, incoming, and outgoing) and enforcement teams at United States land ports of entry on the Northern border and the Southern border; and

(B) 350 full-time support staff for all United States ports of entry.

(2) WAIVER OF FTE LIMITATION.—The Secretary may waive any limitation on the number of full-time equivalent personnel assigned to the Department of Homeland Security in order to carry out paragraph (1).

(b) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

(1) OUTBOUND INSPECTIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the relevant committees of Congress that includes a plan for ensuring the placement of sufficient U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers on outbound inspections, and adequate outbound infrastructure, at all Southern border land ports of entry.

(2) SUFFICIENT AGRICULTURAL SPECIALISTS AND PERSONNEL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall submit a report to the relevant committees of Congress that contains plans for the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Health and Human Services, respectively, for ensuring the placement of sufficient U.S. Customs and Border Protection agriculture specialists, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service entomologist identifier specialists, Food and Drug Administration consumer safety officers, and other relevant and related personnel at all Southern border land ports of entry.

(3) ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report to the relevant committees of Congress that—

(A) details the Department of Homeland Security's implementation plan for the staff enhancements required under subsection (a)(1)(A);

(B) includes the number of additional personnel assigned to duty at land ports of entry, classified by location;

(C) describes the methodology used to determine the distribution of additional personnel to address northbound and southbound cross-border inspections; and

(D) includes—

(i) the strategic plan required under section 5(a)(1);

(ii) the model required under section 5(b), including the underlying assumptions, factors, and concerns that guide the decision-making and allocation process; and

(iii) the new outcome-based performance measures adopted under section 5(c).

(c) **SECURE COMMUNICATION.**—The Secretary shall ensure that each U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer is equipped with a secure 2-way communication and satellite-enabled device, supported by system interoperability, that allows U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers to communicate—

(1) between ports of entry and inspection stations; and

(2) with other Federal, State, tribal, and local law enforcement entities.

(d) **BORDER AREA SECURITY INITIATIVE GRANT PROGRAM.**—The Secretary shall establish a program for awarding grants for the purchase of—

(1) identification and detection equipment; and

(2) mobile, hand-held, 2-way communication devices for State and local law enforcement officers serving on the Southern border.

(e) **PORT OF ENTRY INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commissioner may aid in the enforcement of Federal customs, immigration, and agriculture laws by—

(A) designing, constructing, and modifying—

(i) United States ports of entry;

(ii) living quarters for officers, agents, and personnel;

(iii) technology and equipment, including those deployed in support of standardized and automated collection of vehicular travel time; and

(iv) other structures and facilities, including those owned by municipalities, local governments, or private entities located at land ports of entry;

(B) acquiring, by purchase, donation, exchange, or otherwise, land or any interest in land determined to be necessary to carry out the Commissioner's duties under this section; and

(C) constructing additional ports of entry along the Southern border and the Northern border.

(2) **PRIORITIZATION.**—In selecting improvements under this section, the Commissioner, in coordination with the Administrator shall give priority consideration to projects that will substantially—

(A) reduce commercial and passenger vehicle and pedestrian crossing wait times at 1 or more ports of entry on the same border;

(B) increase trade, travel efficiency, and the projected total annual volume at 1 or more ports of entry on the same border; and

(C) enhance safety and security at border facilities at 1 or more ports of entry on the same border.

(f) **CONSULTATION.**—

(1) **LOCATIONS FOR NEW PORTS OF ENTRY.**—The Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of State, the International Boundary and Water Commission, the International Joint Commission, and appropriate representatives of States, Indian tribes, local governments, and property owners, as appropriate—

(A) to determine locations for new ports of entry; and

(B) to minimize adverse impacts from such ports on the environment, historic and cultural resources, commerce, and the quality of life of the communities and residents located near such ports.

(2) **SAVINGS PROVISION.**—Nothing in this subsection may be construed—

(A) to create any right or liability of the parties described in paragraph (1);

(B) to affect the legality or validity of any determination by the Secretary under this Act; or

(C) to affect any consultation requirement under any other law.

(g) **AUTHORITY TO ACQUIRE LEASEHOLDS.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the Secretary determines that the acquisition of a leasehold interest in real property and the construction or modification of any facility on the leased property are necessary to facilitate the implementation of this Act, the Secretary may—

(1) acquire such leasehold interest; and

(2) construct or modify such facility.

(h) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, for each of the fiscal years 2015 through 2020, \$1,000,000,000, of which \$5,000,000 shall be used for grants authorized under subsection (d).

(i) **OFFSET, RESCISSION OF UNOBLIGATED FEDERAL FUNDS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There is hereby rescinded, from appropriated discretionary funds that remain available for obligation on the date of the enactment of this Act (other than the unobligated funds referred to in paragraph (4)), amounts determined by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget that are equal, in the aggregate, to the amount authorized to be appropriated under subsection (h).

(2) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall determine and identify—

(A) the appropriation accounts from which the rescission under paragraph (1) shall apply; and

(B) the amount of the rescission that shall be applied to each such account.

(3) **REPORT.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit a report to Congress and to the Secretary of the Treasury that describes the accounts and amounts determined and identified under paragraph (2) for rescission under paragraph (1).

(4) **EXCEPTIONS.**—This subsection shall not apply to unobligated funds of—

(A) the Department of Defense;

(B) the Department of Veterans Affairs; or

(C) the Department of Homeland Security.

SEC. 4. CROSS-BORDER TRADE ENHANCEMENT.

(a) **AGREEMENTS AUTHORIZED.**—Consistent with section 559 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2014 (6 U.S.C. 211 note), during the 10-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner and the Administrator, for purposes of facilitating the construction, alteration, operation, or maintenance of a new or existing facility or other infrastructure at a port of entry under the jurisdiction, custody, and control of the Commissioner or the Administrator, may—

(1) enter into cost-sharing or reimbursement agreements; or

(2) accept donations of—

(A) real or personal property (including monetary donations); or

(B) nonpersonal services.

(b) **ALLOWABLE USES OF AGREEMENTS.**—The Commissioner and the Administrator may—

(1) use agreements authorized under subsection (a) for activities related to an existing or new port of entry, including expenses relating to—

(A) land acquisition, design, construction, repair, or alternation;

(B) furniture, fixtures, or equipment;

(C) the deployment of technology or equipment; and

(D) operations and maintenance; or

(2) transfer such property or services between the Commissioner and the Adminis-

trator for activities described in paragraph (1) relating to a new or existing port of entry under the jurisdiction, custody, and control of the relevant agency, subject to chapter 33 of title 40, United States Code.

(c) **SAVINGS PROVISION.**—Nothing in this section may be construed to alter or change agreements or authorities authorized under section 559 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2014 (division F of Public Law 113–76; 6 U.S.C. 211 note) and in place as of the date of enactment of this Act

(d) **EVALUATION PROCEDURES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—

(A) **REQUIREMENT FOR PROCEDURES.**—The Commissioner, in consultation with the Administrator and consistent with section 559 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2014 (6 U.S.C. 211 note), shall issue procedures for evaluating a proposal submitted by a person for an agreement authorized under subsection (a).

(B) **AVAILABILITY.**—The procedures required under subparagraph (A) shall be made available to the public through a website of the Department of Homeland Security.

(2) **SPECIFICATION.**—Proposals for agreements or donations referred to in subsection (a) may specify—

(A) the land port of entry facility or facilities in support of which the agreement is entered into; and

(B) the time frame in which the contributed property or nonpersonal services shall be used.

(3) **SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING.**—Any property (including monetary donations) or nonpersonal services donated pursuant to subsection (a)(2) may be used in addition to any other funds, including appropriated funds, property, or services made available for the same purpose.

(4) **RETURN OF DONATION.**—

(A) **REQUIREMENT FOR RETURN.**—If the Commissioner or the Administrator does not use the property or services donated pursuant to subsection (a)(2) for the specific facility or facilities designated by the person or within the time frame specified by the person, such donated property or services shall be returned to the person that made the donation.

(B) **PROHIBITION ON INTEREST.**—No interest may be owed on any donation returned to a person under subparagraph (A).

(5) **DETERMINATION AND NOTIFICATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after receiving a proposal pursuant to subsection (a) with respect to the construction or maintenance of a facility or other infrastructure at a land border port of entry, the Commissioner or the Administrator shall—

(i) make a determination with respect to whether or not to approve the proposal; and

(ii) notify the person that submitted the proposal of—

(I) the determination; and

(II) if the Administrator did not approve the proposal, the reasons for such disapproval.

(B) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In determining whether or not to approve a proposal under this subsection, the Administrator shall consider—

(i) the impact of the proposal on reducing wait times at that port of entry and other ports of entry on the same border;

(ii) the potential of the proposal to increase trade and travel efficiency through added capacity; and

(iii) the potential of the proposal to enhance the security of the port of entry.

(e) **ANNUAL REPORT AND NOTICE TO CONGRESS.**—The Commissioner, in collaboration with the Administrator, shall—

(1) submit an annual report to the relevant committees of Congress describing agreements entered into pursuant to subsection (a); and

(2) not later than 3 days before entering into an agreement under subsection (a) with a person, notify the members of Congress that represent the State and district in which the facility is located.

SEC. 5. IMPLEMENTATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE FINDINGS.

(a) BORDER WAIT TIME DATA COLLECTION.—

(1) STRATEGIC PLAN.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Commissioner, the Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, State Departments of Transportation, and other public and private stakeholders, shall develop a strategic plan for standardized collection of vehicle wait times at land ports of entry.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The strategic plan required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a description of how U.S. Customs and Border Protection will ensure standardized manual wait time collection practices at ports of entry;

(B) current wait time collection practices at each land port of entry, which shall also be made available through existing online platforms for public reporting;

(C) the identification of a standardized measurement and validation wait time data tool for use at all land ports of entry; and

(D) an assessment of the feasibility and cost for supplementing and replacing manual data collection with automation, which should utilize existing automation efforts and resources.

(3) UPDATES FOR COLLECTION METHODS.—The Secretary shall update the strategic plan required under paragraph (1) to reflect new practices, timelines, tools, and assessments, as appropriate.

(b) STAFF ALLOCATION.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Commissioner and State, municipal, and private sector stakeholders at each port of entry, shall develop a standardized model for the allocation of U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers and support staff at land ports of entry, including allocations specific to field offices and the port level that utilizes—

(1) current and future operational priorities and threats;

(2) historical staffing levels and patterns; and

(3) anticipated traffic flows.

(c) OUTCOME-BASED PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Commissioner and relevant public and private sector stakeholders, shall identify and adopt not fewer than 2 new, outcome-based performance measures that support the trade facilitation goals of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

(2) EFFECT OF TRUSTED TRAVELER AND SHIPPER PROGRAMS.—Outcome-based performance measures identified under this subsection should include—

(A) the extent to which trusted traveler and shipper program participants experience decreased annual percentage wait time compared to nonparticipants; and

(B) the extent to which trusted traveler and shipper program participants experience an annual reduction in percentage of referrals to secondary inspection facilities compared to nonparticipants.

(3) AGENCY EFFICIENCIES.—The Secretary shall not adopt performance measures that—

(A) solely address U.S. Customs and Border Protection resource efficiency; or

(B) fail to adequately—

(i) gauge the impact of programs or initiatives on trade facilitation goals; or

(ii) measure benefits to stakeholders.

(4) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the relevant committees of Congress that identifies—

(A) the new performance measures developed under this subsection; and

(B) the process for the incorporation of such measures into existing performance measures.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 461. A bill to provide for alternative financing arrangements for the provision of certain services and the construction and maintenance of infrastructure at land border ports of entry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 461

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Cross-Border Trade Enhancement Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR; ADMINISTRATION.—The terms “Administrator” and “Administration” mean the Administrator of General Services and the General Services Administration, respectively.

(2) COMMISSIONER.—The term “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

(3) PERSON.—The term “person” means—

(A) an individual; or

(B) a corporation, partnership, trust, association, or any other public or private entity, including a State or local government.

(4) RELEVANT COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “relevant committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Finance of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(E) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

(F) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

(G) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 3. AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS FOR THE PROVISION OF CERTAIN SERVICES AT LAND BORDER PORTS OF ENTRY.

(a) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 451 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1451), and consistent with section 560 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2013 (division D of Public Law 113–6; 127 Stat. 378) and section 559 of the Depart-

ment of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2014 (division F of Public Law 113–76, 6 U.S.C. 211 note) the Commissioner may, during the 10-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and upon the request of any person, enter into an agreement with that person under which—

(A) U.S. Customs and Border Protection will provide the services described in paragraph (2) at a land border port of entry; and

(B) that person will pay the fee described in subsection (b) to reimburse U.S. Customs and Border Protection for the costs incurred in providing such services.

(2) SERVICES DESCRIBED.—Services described in this paragraph are any services related to customs, agricultural processing, border security, or inspection-related immigration matters provided by an employee or contractor of U.S. Customs and Border Protection at land border ports of entry.

(3) LIMITATION.—The Commissioner may not modify existing requirements or reimbursement fee agreements in effect as of the date of the enactment of this Act unless the relevant person requests a modification to include services described in this section.

(4) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to reduce the responsibilities or duties of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to provide services at land border ports of entry that have been authorized or mandated by law and are funded in any appropriation Act or from any accounts in the Treasury of the United States derived by the collection of fees.

(b) FEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A person requesting U.S. Customs and Border Protection services shall pay a fee pursuant to an agreement under subsection (a) in an amount equal to the sum of—

(A) a proportionate share of the salaries and expenses of the individuals employed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection who provided such services; and

(B) other costs incurred by U.S. Customs and Border Protection relating to such services, such as temporary placement or permanent relocation of such individuals.

(2) OVERSIGHT OF FEES.—The Commissioner shall develop a process to oversee the activities reimbursed by the fees authorized under paragraph (1) that includes—

(A) a determination and report on the full cost of providing services, including direct and indirect costs;

(B) a process for increasing such fees, as necessary;

(C) the establishment of a monthly remittance schedule to reimburse appropriations; and

(D) the identification of overtime costs to be reimbursed by such fees.

(3) DEPOSIT OF FUNDS.—Amounts collected in fees under paragraph (1)—

(A) shall be deposited as an offsetting collection;

(B) shall remain available until expended, without fiscal year limitation; and

(C) shall directly reimburse each appropriation account for the amount paid out of such account for—

(i) any expenses incurred for providing U.S. Customs and Border Protection services to the person paying such fee; and

(ii) any other costs incurred by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection relating to such services.

(4) TERMINATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner shall terminate the services provided pursuant to an agreement with a private sector or government entity under subsection (a) upon receiving notice from the Commissioner that

such entity failed to pay the fee imposed under paragraph (1) in a timely manner.

(B) EFFECT OF TERMINATION.—At the time services are terminated pursuant to subparagraph (A), all costs incurred by U.S. Customs and Border Protection to provide services to the entity described in subparagraph (A), which have not been reimbursed by the entity, will become immediately due and payable.

(C) INTEREST.—Interest on unpaid fees will accrue from the date of termination based on current Treasury borrowing rates.

(D) PENALTIES.—Any private sector or government entity that fails to pay any fee incurred under paragraph (1) in a timely manner, after notice and demand for payment, shall be liable for a penalty or liquidated damage equal to 2 times the amount of such fee.

(5) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 3 days before entering into an agreement under this section, the Commissioner shall notify—

(A) the relevant committees of Congress; and

(B) the members of Congress who represent the State or district in which the facility at which services will be provided under the agreement.

SEC. 4. EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVE FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF INFRASTRUCTURE AT LAND BORDER PORTS OF ENTRY.

(a) AGREEMENTS AUTHORIZED.—Consistent with section 559 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2014 (division F of Public Law 113-76, 6 U.S.C. 211 note), during the 10-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner and the Administrator may, for purposes of facilitating the construction, alteration, operation, or maintenance of a new or existing facility or other infrastructure at a port of entry under the jurisdiction, custody, and control of the Commissioner or the Administrator—

(1) enter into cost-sharing or reimbursement agreements with any person; or

(2) accept donations from any person of—

(A) real or personal property (including monetary donations); or

(B) nonpersonal services.

(b) ALLOWABLE USES OF AGREEMENTS.—The Commissioner and the Administrator, with respect to an agreement authorized under subsection (a), may—

(1) use such agreements for activities related to an existing or new port of entry, including expenses related to—

(A) land acquisition, design, construction, repair, or alternation;

(B) furniture, fixtures, or equipment;

(C) the deployment of technology or equipment; or

(D) operations and maintenance; or

(2) subject to chapter 33 of title 40, United States Code, transfer such property or services between the Commissioner and the Administrator for activities described in paragraph (1) that are related to a new or existing port of entry under the jurisdiction, custody, and control of the relevant agency.

(c) EVALUATION PROCEDURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) REQUIREMENTS FOR PROCEDURES.—The Commissioner, in consultation with the Administrator and consistent with section 559 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2014 (division F of Public Law 113-76; 6 U.S.C. 211 note), shall issue procedures for evaluating a proposal submitted by a person for an agreement authorized under subsection (a).

(B) AVAILABILITY.—The procedures issued under subparagraph (A) shall be made available to the public through the Department of Homeland Security website.

(2) SPECIFICATION.—In making a donation under subsection (a)(2), a person may—

(A) designate the land port of entry facility or facilities that the donation is intended to support; and

(B) specify the period during which the contributed property or nonpersonal services shall be used.

(3) SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING.—Any property, including monetary donations and nonpersonal services donated pursuant to subsection (a) may be used in addition to any other funds, including appropriated funds, property, or services made available for the same purpose.

(4) RETURN OF DONATION.—

(A) RETURN REQUIRED.—If the Commissioner or the Administrator does not use the property or services donated pursuant to subsection (a) for the specific facility or facilities designated under paragraph (2)(A) or during the period specified under paragraph (2)(B), such donated property or services shall be returned to the person that made the donation.

(B) INTEREST PROHIBITED.—No interest may be owed on any donation returned to a person pursuant to subparagraph (A).

(5) DETERMINATION AND NOTIFICATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after receiving a proposal pursuant to subsection (a) with respect to the construction or maintenance of a facility or other infrastructure at a land border port of entry, the Commissioner or the Administrator shall—

(i) make a determination with respect to whether or not to approve the proposal; and

(ii) notify the person that submitted the proposal of—

(I) the determination; and

(II) if the Administrator did not approve the proposal, the reasons for such determination.

(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making the determination under subparagraph (A)(i), the Commissioner or the Administrator shall consider—

(i) the impact of the proposal on reducing wait times at that port of entry and other ports of entry on the same border;

(ii) the potential of the proposal to increase trade and travel efficiency through added capacity; and

(iii) the potential of the proposal to enhance the security of the port of entry.

(d) ANNUAL REPORT AND NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—The Commissioner, in collaboration with the Administrator, shall—

(1) submit an annual report to the relevant committees of Congress on the agreements entered into under subsection (a); and

(2) not less than 3 days before entering into an agreement with a person under subsection (a), notify the members of Congress that represent the State or district in which the affected facility is located.

By Mr. Kaine (for himself and Mr. Warner):

S. 465. A bill to extend Federal recognition to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe-Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. Kaine. Mr. President. I am pleased to reintroduce the Thomasina

E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2015. This legislation was voted out of Committee in the previous Congress, and I remain hopeful that the full Senate will vote to approve this tribes bill this year.

This legislation is critically important because it strives toward reconciling an historic wrong for Virginia and the Nation. While the Virginia Tribes have received official recognition from the Commonwealth of Virginia, acknowledgement and officially-recognized status from the federal government has been considerably more difficult due to their systematic mistreatment over the past century.

More specifically, Virginia's Racial Integrity Act, a state law in effect from 1924 to 1967, stripped the identities of the tribal members of Virginia's Indian Tribes. The Act changed the racial identifications of those who lacked white ancestry to "colored" on birth certificates during that period. In addition, five of the six courthouses that held the vast majority of the Virginia Indian Tribal records were destroyed in the Civil War. Those records were crucial for documenting the history of the tribes for recognition by the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Federal Acknowledgement.

Furthermore, Virginia Indians made peace when they signed the Treaty of Middle Plantation with England in 1677. This predated the creation of the United States of America by about 100 years; the founding fathers of the United States never recognized the treaty. Therefore, unlike tribes that received federal recognition upon the signing of a treaty with the United States, the Virginia Tribes did not receive federal recognition because they made peace with England prior to the founding of our Nation.

I am proud of Virginia's recognized Indian Tribes and their contributions to our Commonwealth. The Virginia Tribes are not only part of our history, but they remain ever present today. We go to school and work together, and serve the Commonwealth and nation together every day. These contributions should be acknowledged, and this Federal recognition for Virginia's native peoples is long overdue.

Virginia's Indian Tribes contributed to the successful founding of our country and continue to help define our national identity. Their members have attended our schools, worked next to us, and served in every American war since the Revolution, all while maintaining a unique identity and culture. I am hopeful the Senate will act upon my legislation this year, to give these six Virginia Native American Tribes the Federal recognition that is long overdue.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 465

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2015”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978.

TITLE I—CHICKAHOMINY INDIAN TRIBE

- Sec. 101. Findings.
- Sec. 102. Definitions.
- Sec. 103. Federal recognition.
- Sec. 104. Membership; governing documents.
- Sec. 105. Governing body.
- Sec. 106. Reservation of the Tribe.
- Sec. 107. Hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering, and water rights.

TITLE II—CHICKAHOMINY INDIAN TRIBE—EASTERN DIVISION

- Sec. 201. Findings.
- Sec. 202. Definitions.
- Sec. 203. Federal recognition.
- Sec. 204. Membership; governing documents.
- Sec. 205. Governing body.
- Sec. 206. Reservation of the Tribe.
- Sec. 207. Hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering, and water rights.

TITLE III—UPPER MATTAPONI TRIBE

- Sec. 301. Findings.
- Sec. 302. Definitions.
- Sec. 303. Federal recognition.
- Sec. 304. Membership; governing documents.
- Sec. 305. Governing body.
- Sec. 306. Reservation of the Tribe.
- Sec. 307. Hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering, and water rights.

TITLE IV—RAPPAHANNOCK TRIBE, INC.

- Sec. 401. Findings.
- Sec. 402. Definitions.
- Sec. 403. Federal recognition.
- Sec. 404. Membership; governing documents.
- Sec. 405. Governing body.
- Sec. 406. Reservation of the Tribe.
- Sec. 407. Hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering, and water rights.

TITLE V—MONACAN INDIAN NATION

- Sec. 501. Findings.
- Sec. 502. Definitions.
- Sec. 503. Federal recognition.
- Sec. 504. Membership; governing documents.
- Sec. 505. Governing body.
- Sec. 506. Reservation of the Tribe.
- Sec. 507. Hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering, and water rights.

TITLE VI—NANSEMOND INDIAN TRIBE

- Sec. 601. Findings.
- Sec. 602. Definitions.
- Sec. 603. Federal recognition.
- Sec. 604. Membership; governing documents.
- Sec. 605. Governing body.
- Sec. 606. Reservation of the Tribe.
- Sec. 607. Hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering, and water rights.

TITLE VII—EMINENT DOMAIN

- Sec. 701. Limitation.

SEC. 2. INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT OF 1978.

Nothing in this Act affects the application of section 109 of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1919).

TITLE I—CHICKAHOMINY INDIAN TRIBE

SEC. 101. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) in 1607, when the English settlers set shore along the Virginia coastline, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe was 1 of about 30 tribes that received them;

(2) in 1614, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe entered into a treaty with Sir Thomas Dale, Governor of the Jamestown Colony, under which—

(A) the Chickahominy Indian Tribe agreed to provide 2 bushels of corn per man and send warriors to protect the English; and

(B) Sir Thomas Dale agreed in return to allow the Tribe to continue to practice its own tribal governance;

(3) in 1646, a treaty was signed which forced the Chickahominy from their homeland to the area around the York Mattaponi River in present-day King William County, leading to the formation of a reservation;

(4) in 1677, following Bacon's Rebellion, the Queen of Pamunkey signed the Treaty of Middle Plantation on behalf of the Chickahominy;

(5) in 1702, the Chickahominy were forced from their reservation, which caused the loss of a land base;

(6) in 1711, the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg established a grammar school for Indians called Brafferton College;

(7) a Chickahominy child was 1 of the first Indians to attend Brafferton College;

(8) in 1750, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe began to migrate from King William County back to the area around the Chickahominy River in New Kent and Charles City Counties;

(9) in 1793, a Baptist missionary named Bradby took refuge with the Chickahominy and took a Chickahominy woman as his wife;

(10) in 1831, the names of the ancestors of the modern-day Chickahominy Indian Tribe began to appear in the Charles City County census records;

(11) in 1901, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe formed Samaria Baptist Church;

(12) from 1901 to 1935, Chickahominy men were assessed a tribal tax so that their children could receive an education;

(13) the Tribe used the proceeds from the tax to build the first Samaria Indian School, buy supplies, and pay a teacher's salary;

(14) in 1919, C. Lee Moore, Auditor of Public Accounts for Virginia, told Chickahominy Chief O.W. Adkins that he had instructed the Commissioner of Revenue for Charles City County to record Chickahominy tribal members on the county tax rolls as Indian, and not as White or colored;

(15) during the period of 1920 through 1930, various Governors of the Commonwealth of Virginia wrote letters of introduction for Chickahominy Chiefs who had official business with Federal agencies in Washington, DC;

(16) in 1934, Chickahominy Chief O.O. Adkins wrote to John Collier, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, requesting money to acquire land for the Chickahominy Indian Tribe's use, to build school, medical, and library facilities and to buy tractors, implements, and seed;

(17) in 1934, John Collier, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, wrote to Chickahominy Chief O.O. Adkins, informing him that Congress had passed the Act of June 18, 1934 (commonly known as the “Indian Reorganization Act”) (25 U.S.C. 461 et seq.), but had not made the appropriation to fund the Act;

(18) in 1942, Chickahominy Chief O.O. Adkins wrote to John Collier, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, asking for help in getting the proper racial designation on Selective Service records for Chickahominy soldiers;

(19) in 1943, John Collier, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, asked Douglas S. Freeman,

editor of the Richmond News-Leader newspaper of Richmond, Virginia, to help Virginia Indians obtain proper racial designation on birth records;

(20) Collier stated that his office could not officially intervene because it had no responsibility for the Virginia Indians, “as a matter largely of historical accident”, but was “interested in them as descendants of the original inhabitants of the region”;

(21) in 1948, the Veterans' Education Committee of the Virginia State Board of Education approved Samaria Indian School to provide training to veterans;

(22) that school was established and run by the Chickahominy Indian Tribe;

(23) in 1950, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe purchased and donated to the Charles City County School Board land to be used to build a modern school for students of the Chickahominy and other Virginia Indian tribes;

(24) the Samaria Indian School included students in grades 1 through 8;

(25) in 1961, Senator Sam Ervin, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights of the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, requested Chickahominy Chief O.O. Adkins to provide assistance in analyzing the status of the constitutional rights of Indians “in your area”;

(26) in 1967, the Charles City County school board closed Samaria Indian School and converted the school to a countywide primary school as a step toward full school integration of Indian and non-Indian students;

(27) in 1972, the Charles City County school board began receiving funds under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 458aa et seq.) on behalf of Chickahominy students, which funding is provided as of the date of enactment of this Act under title V of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 458aaa et seq.);

(28) in 1974, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe bought land and built a tribal center using monthly pledges from tribal members to finance the transactions;

(29) in 1983, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe was granted recognition as an Indian tribe by the Commonwealth of Virginia, along with 5 other Indian tribes; and

(30) in 1985, Governor Gerald Baliles was the special guest at an intertribal Thanksgiving Day dinner hosted by the Chickahominy Indian Tribe.

SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) TRIBAL MEMBER.—The term “tribal member” means—

(A) an individual who is an enrolled member of the Tribe as of the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) an individual who has been placed on the membership rolls of the Tribe in accordance with this title.

(3) TRIBE.—The term “Tribe” means the Chickahominy Indian Tribe.

SEC. 103. FEDERAL RECOGNITION.

(a) FEDERAL RECOGNITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Federal recognition is extended to the Tribe.

(2) APPLICABILITY OF LAWS.—All laws (including regulations) of the United States of general applicability to Indians or nations, Indian tribes, or bands of Indians (including the Act of June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C. 461 et seq.)) that are not inconsistent with this title shall be applicable to the Tribe and tribal members.

(b) FEDERAL SERVICES AND BENEFITS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On and after the date of enactment of this Act, the Tribe and tribal members shall be eligible for all services and benefits provided by the Federal Government to federally recognized Indian tribes without regard to the existence of a reservation for the Tribe.

(2) SERVICE AREA.—For the purpose of the delivery of Federal services to tribal members, the service area of the Tribe shall be considered to be the area comprised of New Kent County, James City County, Charles City County, and Henrico County, Virginia.

SEC. 104. MEMBERSHIP; GOVERNING DOCUMENTS.

The membership roll and governing documents of the Tribe shall be the most recent membership roll and governing documents, respectively, submitted by the Tribe to the Secretary before the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 105. GOVERNING BODY.

The governing body of the Tribe shall be—

- (1) the governing body of the Tribe in place as of the date of enactment of this Act; or
- (2) any subsequent governing body elected in accordance with the election procedures specified in the governing documents of the Tribe.

SEC. 106. RESERVATION OF THE TRIBE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Upon the request of the Tribe, the Secretary of the Interior—

- (1) shall take into trust for the benefit of the Tribe any land held in fee by the Tribe that was acquired by the Tribe on or before January 1, 2007, if such lands are located within the boundaries of New Kent County, James City County, Charles City County, or Henrico County, Virginia; and
- (2) may take into trust for the benefit of the Tribe any land held in fee by the Tribe, if such lands are located within the boundaries of New Kent County, James City County, Charles City County, or Henrico County, Virginia.

(b) DEADLINE FOR DETERMINATION.—The Secretary shall make a final written determination not later than three years of the date which the Tribe submits a request for land to be taken into trust under subsection (a)(2) and shall immediately make that determination available to the Tribe.

(c) RESERVATION STATUS.—Any land taken into trust for the benefit of the Tribe pursuant to this paragraph shall, upon request of the Tribe, be considered part of the reservation of the Tribe.

(d) GAMING.—The Tribe may not conduct gaming activities as a matter of claimed inherent authority or under the authority of any Federal law, including the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) or under any regulations thereunder promulgated by the Secretary or the National Indian Gaming Commission.

SEC. 107. HUNTING, FISHING, TRAPPING, GATHERING, AND WATER RIGHTS.

Nothing in this title expands, reduces, or affects in any manner any hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering, or water rights of the Tribe and members of the Tribe.

TITLE II—CHICKAHOMINY INDIAN TRIBE—EASTERN DIVISION

SEC. 201. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

- (1) in 1607, when the English settlers set shore along the Virginia coastline, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe was 1 of about 30 tribes that received them;
- (2) in 1614, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe entered into a treaty with Sir Thomas Dale, Governor of the Jamestown Colony, under which—

- (A) the Chickahominy Indian Tribe agreed to provide 2 bushels of corn per man and send warriors to protect the English; and

- (B) Sir Thomas Dale agreed in return to allow the Tribe to continue to practice its own tribal governance;

- (3) in 1646, a treaty was signed which forced the Chickahominy from their homeland to the area around the York River in present-day King William County, leading to the formation of a reservation;

- (4) in 1677, following Bacon's Rebellion, the Queen of Pamunkey signed the Treaty of Middle Plantation on behalf of the Chickahominy;

- (5) in 1702, the Chickahominy were forced from their reservation, which caused the loss of a land base;

- (6) in 1711, the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg established a grammar school for Indians called Brafferton College;

- (7) a Chickahominy child was 1 of the first Indians to attend Brafferton College;

- (8) in 1750, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe began to migrate from King William County back to the area around the Chickahominy River in New Kent and Charles City Counties;

- (9) in 1793, a Baptist missionary named Bradby took refuge with the Chickahominy and took a Chickahominy woman as his wife;

- (10) in 1831, the names of the ancestors of the modern-day Chickahominy Indian Tribe began to appear in the Charles City County census records;

- (11) in 1870, a census revealed an enclave of Indians in New Kent County that is believed to be the beginning of the Chickahominy Indian Tribe—Eastern Division;

- (12) other records were destroyed when the New Kent County courthouse was burned, leaving a State census as the only record covering that period;

- (13) in 1901, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe formed Samaria Baptist Church;

- (14) from 1901 to 1935, Chickahominy men were assessed a tribal tax so that their children could receive an education;

- (15) the Tribe used the proceeds from the tax to build the first Samaria Indian School, buy supplies, and pay a teacher's salary;

- (16) in 1910, a 1-room school covering grades 1 through 8 was established in New Kent County for the Chickahominy Indian Tribe—Eastern Division;

- (17) during the period of 1920 through 1921, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe—Eastern Division began forming a tribal government;

- (18) E.P. Bradby, the founder of the Tribe, was elected to be Chief;

- (19) in 1922, Tsena Commocko Baptist Church was organized;

- (20) in 1925, a certificate of incorporation was issued to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe—Eastern Division;

- (21) in 1950, the 1-room Indian school in New Kent County was closed and students were bused to Samaria Indian School in Charles City County;

- (22) in 1967, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe and the Chickahominy Indian Tribe—Eastern Division lost their schools as a result of the required integration of students;

- (23) during the period of 1982 through 1984, Tsena Commocko Baptist Church built a new sanctuary to accommodate church growth;

- (24) in 1983 the Chickahominy Indian Tribe—Eastern Division was granted State recognition along with 5 other Virginia Indian tribes;
- (25) in 1985—

- (A) the Virginia Council on Indians was organized as a State agency; and

- (B) the Chickahominy Indian Tribe—Eastern Division was granted a seat on the Council;

- (26) in 1988, a nonprofit organization known as the "United Indians of Virginia" was formed; and

- (27) Chief Marvin "Strongoak" Bradby of the Eastern Band of the Chickahominy presently chairs the organization.

SEC. 202. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

- (1) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

- (2) TRIBAL MEMBER.—The term "tribal member" means—

- (A) an individual who is an enrolled member of the Tribe as of the date of enactment of this Act; and

- (B) an individual who has been placed on the membership rolls of the Tribe in accordance with this title.

- (3) TRIBE.—The term "Tribe" means the Chickahominy Indian Tribe—Eastern Division.

SEC. 203. FEDERAL RECOGNITION.

(a) FEDERAL RECOGNITION.—

- (1) IN GENERAL.—Federal recognition is extended to the Tribe.

- (2) APPLICABILITY OF LAWS.—All laws (including regulations) of the United States of general applicability to Indians or nations, Indian tribes, or bands of Indians (including the Act of June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C. 461 et seq.)) that are not inconsistent with this title shall be applicable to the Tribe and tribal members.

(b) FEDERAL SERVICES AND BENEFITS.—

- (1) IN GENERAL.—On and after the date of enactment of this Act, the Tribe and tribal members shall be eligible for all future services and benefits provided by the Federal Government to federally recognized Indian tribes without regard to the existence of a reservation for the Tribe.

- (2) SERVICE AREA.—For the purpose of the delivery of Federal services to tribal members, the service area of the Tribe shall be considered to be the area comprised of New Kent County, James City County, Charles City County, and Henrico County, Virginia.

SEC. 204. MEMBERSHIP; GOVERNING DOCUMENTS.

The membership roll and governing documents of the Tribe shall be the most recent membership roll and governing documents, respectively, submitted by the Tribe to the Secretary before the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 205. GOVERNING BODY.

The governing body of the Tribe shall be—

- (1) the governing body of the Tribe in place as of the date of enactment of this Act; or

- (2) any subsequent governing body elected in accordance with the election procedures specified in the governing documents of the Tribe.

SEC. 206. RESERVATION OF THE TRIBE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Upon the request of the Tribe, the Secretary of the Interior—

- (1) shall take into trust for the benefit of the Tribe any land held in fee by the Tribe that was acquired by the Tribe on or before January 1, 2007, if such lands are located within the boundaries of New Kent County, James City County, Charles City County, or Henrico County, Virginia; and
- (2) may take into trust for the benefit of the Tribe any land held in fee by the Tribe, if such lands are located within the boundaries of New Kent County, James City County, Charles City County, or Henrico County, Virginia.

(b) DEADLINE FOR DETERMINATION.—The Secretary shall make a final written determination not later than three years of the

date which the Tribe submits a request for land to be taken into trust under subsection (a)(2) and shall immediately make that determination available to the Tribe.

(c) **RESERVATION STATUS.**—Any land taken into trust for the benefit of the Tribe pursuant to this paragraph shall, upon request of the Tribe, be considered part of the reservation of the Tribe.

(d) **GAMING.**—The Tribe may not conduct gaming activities as a matter of claimed inherent authority or under the authority of any Federal law, including the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) or under any regulations thereunder promulgated by the Secretary or the National Indian Gaming Commission.

SEC. 207. HUNTING, FISHING, TRAPPING, GATHERING, AND WATER RIGHTS.

Nothing in this title expands, reduces, or affects in any manner any hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering, or water rights of the Tribe and members of the Tribe.

TITLE III—UPPER MATTAPONI TRIBE

SEC. 301. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) during the period of 1607 through 1646, the Chickahominy Indian Tribes—

(A) lived approximately 20 miles from Jamestown; and

(B) were significantly involved in English-Indian affairs;

(2) Mattaponi Indians, who later joined the Chickahominy Indians, lived a greater distance from Jamestown;

(3) in 1646, the Chickahominy Indians moved to Mattaponi River basin, away from the English;

(4) in 1661, the Chickahominy Indians sold land at a place known as “the cliffs” on the Mattaponi River;

(5) in 1669, the Chickahominy Indians—

(A) appeared in the Virginia Colony’s census of Indian bowmen; and

(B) lived in “New Kent” County, which included the Mattaponi River basin at that time;

(6) in 1677, the Chickahominy and Mattaponi Indians were subjects of the Queen of Pamunkey, who was a signatory to the Treaty of 1677 with the King of England;

(7) in 1683, after a Mattaponi town was attacked by Seneca Indians, the Mattaponi Indians took refuge with the Chickahominy Indians, and the history of the 2 groups was intertwined for many years thereafter;

(8) in 1695, the Chickahominy and Mattaponi Indians—

(A) were assigned a reservation by the Virginia Colony; and

(B) traded land of the reservation for land at the place known as “the cliffs” (which, as of the date of enactment of this Act, is the Mattaponi Indian Reservation), which had been owned by the Mattaponi Indians before 1661;

(9) in 1711, a Chickahominy boy attended the Indian School at the College of William and Mary;

(10) in 1726, the Virginia Colony discontinued funding of interpreters for the Chickahominy and Mattaponi Indian Tribes;

(11) James Adams, who served as an interpreter to the Indian tribes known as of the date of enactment of this Act as the “Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe” and “Chickahominy Indian Tribe”, elected to stay with the Upper Mattaponi Indians;

(12) today, a majority of the Upper Mattaponi Indians have “Adams” as their surname;

(13) in 1787, Thomas Jefferson, in Notes on the Commonwealth of Virginia, mentioned the Mattaponi Indians on a reservation in

King William County and said that Chickahominy Indians were “blended” with the Mattaponi Indians and nearby Pamunkey Indians;

(14) in 1850, the census of the United States revealed a nucleus of approximately 10 families, all ancestral to modern Upper Mattaponi Indians, living in central King William County, Virginia, approximately 10 miles from the reservation;

(15) during the period of 1853 through 1884, King William County marriage records listed Upper Mattaponis as “Indians” in marrying people residing on the reservation;

(16) during the period of 1884 through the present, county marriage records usually refer to Upper Mattaponis as “Indians”;

(17) in 1901, Smithsonian anthropologist James Mooney heard about the Upper Mattaponi Indians but did not visit them;

(18) in 1928, University of Pennsylvania anthropologist Frank Speck published a book on modern Virginia Indians with a section on the Upper Mattaponis;

(19) from 1929 until 1930, the leadership of the Upper Mattaponi Indians opposed the use of a “colored” designation in the 1930 United States census and won a compromise in which the Indian ancestry of the Upper Mattaponis was recorded but questioned;

(20) during the period of 1942 through 1945—

(A) the leadership of the Upper Mattaponi Indians, with the help of Frank Speck and others, fought against the induction of young men of the Tribe into “colored” units in the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(B) a tribal roll for the Upper Mattaponi Indians was compiled;

(21) from 1945 to 1946, negotiations took place to admit some of the young people of the Upper Mattaponi to high schools for Federal Indians (especially at Cherokee) because no high school coursework was available for Indians in Virginia schools; and

(22) in 1983, the Upper Mattaponi Indians applied for and won State recognition as an Indian tribe.

SEC. 302. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) **TRIBAL MEMBER.**—The term “tribal member” means—

(A) an individual who is an enrolled member of the Tribe as of the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) an individual who has been placed on the membership rolls of the Tribe in accordance with this title.

(3) **TRIBE.**—The term “Tribe” means the Upper Mattaponi Tribe.

SEC. 303. FEDERAL RECOGNITION.

(a) **FEDERAL RECOGNITION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Federal recognition is extended to the Tribe.

(2) **APPLICABILITY OF LAWS.**—All laws (including regulations) of the United States of general applicability to Indians or nations, Indian tribes, or bands of Indians (including the Act of June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C. 461 et seq.)) that are not inconsistent with this title shall be applicable to the Tribe and tribal members.

(b) **FEDERAL SERVICES AND BENEFITS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—On and after the date of enactment of this Act, the Tribe and tribal members shall be eligible for all services and benefits provided by the Federal Government to federally recognized Indian tribes without regard to the existence of a reservation for the Tribe.

(2) **SERVICE AREA.**—For the purpose of the delivery of Federal services to tribal mem-

bers, the service area of the Tribe shall be considered to be the area within 25 miles of the Sharon Indian School at 13383 King William Road, King William County, Virginia.

SEC. 304. MEMBERSHIP; GOVERNING DOCUMENTS.

The membership roll and governing documents of the Tribe shall be the most recent membership roll and governing documents, respectively, submitted by the Tribe to the Secretary before the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 305. GOVERNING BODY.

The governing body of the Tribe shall be—

(1) the governing body of the Tribe in place as of the date of enactment of this Act; or

(2) any subsequent governing body elected in accordance with the election procedures specified in the governing documents of the Tribe.

SEC. 306. RESERVATION OF THE TRIBE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Upon the request of the Tribe, the Secretary of the Interior—

(1) shall take into trust for the benefit of the Tribe any land held in fee by the Tribe that was acquired by the Tribe on or before January 1, 2007, if such lands are located within the boundaries of King William County, Caroline County, Hanover County, King and Queen County, and New Kent County, Virginia; and

(2) may take into trust for the benefit of the Tribe any land held in fee by the Tribe, if such lands are located within the boundaries of King William County, Caroline County, Hanover County, King and Queen County, and New Kent County, Virginia.

(b) **DEADLINE FOR DETERMINATION.**—The Secretary shall make a final written determination not later than three years of the date which the Tribe submits a request for land to be taken into trust under subsection (a)(2) and shall immediately make that determination available to the Tribe.

(c) **RESERVATION STATUS.**—Any land taken into trust for the benefit of the Tribe pursuant to this paragraph shall, upon request of the Tribe, be considered part of the reservation of the Tribe.

(d) **GAMING.**—The Tribe may not conduct gaming activities as a matter of claimed inherent authority or under the authority of any Federal law, including the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) or under any regulations thereunder promulgated by the Secretary or the National Indian Gaming Commission.

SEC. 307. HUNTING, FISHING, TRAPPING, GATHERING, AND WATER RIGHTS.

Nothing in this title expands, reduces, or affects in any manner any hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering, or water rights of the Tribe and members of the Tribe.

TITLE IV—RAPPAHANNOCK TRIBE, INC.

SEC. 401. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) during the initial months after Virginia was settled, the Rappahannock Indians had 3 encounters with Captain John Smith;

(2) the first encounter occurred when the Rappahannock weroance (headman)—

(A) traveled to Quiyocohannock (a principal town across the James River from Jamestown), where he met with Smith to determine whether Smith had been the “great man” who had previously sailed into the Rappahannock River, killed a Rappahannock weroance, and kidnapped Rappahannock people; and

(B) determined that Smith was too short to be that “great man”;

(3) on a second meeting, during John Smith's captivity (December 16, 1607 to January 8, 1608), Smith was taken to the Rappahannock principal village to show the people that Smith was not the "great man";

(4) a third meeting took place during Smith's exploration of the Chesapeake Bay (July to September 1608), when, after the Moraughtacund Indians had stolen 3 women from the Rappahannock King, Smith was prevailed upon to facilitate a peaceful truce between the Rappahannock and the Moraughtacund Indians;

(5) in the settlement, Smith had the 2 Indian tribes meet on the spot of their first fight;

(6) when it was established that both groups wanted peace, Smith told the Rappahannock King to select which of the 3 stolen women he wanted;

(7) the Moraughtacund King was given second choice among the 2 remaining women, and Mosco, a Wighcocomoco (on the Potomac River) guide, was given the third woman;

(8) in 1645, Captain William Claiborne tried unsuccessfully to establish treaty relations with the Rappahannocks, as the Rappahannocks had not participated in the Pamunkey-led uprising in 1644, and the English wanted to "treat with the Rappahannocks or any other Indians not in amity with Opechancanough, concerning serving the county against the Pamunkeys";

(9) in April 1651, the Rappahannocks conveyed a tract of land to an English settler, Colonel Morre Fauntleroy;

(10) the deed for the conveyance was signed by Accopatough, weroance of the Rappahannock Indians;

(11) in September 1653, Lancaster County signed a treaty with Rappahannock Indians, the terms of which treaty—

(A) gave Rappahannocks the rights of Englishmen in the county court; and

(B) attempted to make the Rappahannocks more accountable under English law;

(12) in September 1653, Lancaster County defined and marked the bounds of its Indian settlements;

(13) according to the Lancaster clerk of court, "the tribe called the great Rappahannocks lived on the Rappahannock Creek just across the river above Tappahannock";

(14) in September 1656, (Old) Rappahannock County (which, as of the date of enactment of this Act, is comprised of Richmond and Essex Counties, Virginia) signed a treaty with Rappahannock Indians that—

(A) mirrored the Lancaster County treaty from 1653; and

(B) stated that—

(i) Rappahannocks were to be rewarded, in Roanoke, for returning English fugitives; and

(ii) the English encouraged the Rappahannocks to send their children to live among the English as servants, who the English promised would be well-treated;

(15) in 1658, the Virginia Assembly revised a 1652 Act stating that "there be no grants of land to any Englishman whatsoever de futuro until the Indians be first served with the proportion of 50 acres of land for each bowman";

(16) in 1669, the colony conducted a census of Virginia Indians;

(17) as of the date of that census—

(A) the majority of the Rappahannocks were residing at their hunting village on the north side of the Mattaponi River; and

(B) at the time of the visit, census-takers were counting only the Indian tribes along

the rivers, which explains why only 30 Rappahannock bowmen were counted on that river;

(18) the Rappahannocks used the hunting village on the north side of the Mattaponi River as their primary residence until the Rappahannocks were removed in 1684;

(19) in May 1677, the Treaty of Middle Plantation was signed with England;

(20) the Pamunkey Queen Cockacoeske signed on behalf of the Rappahannocks, "who were supposed to be her tributaries", but before the treaty could be ratified, the Queen of Pamunkey complained to the Virginia Colonial Council "that she was having trouble with Rappahannocks and Chickahominies, supposedly tributaries of hers";

(21) in November 1682, the Virginia Colonial Council established a reservation for the Rappahannock Indians of 3,474 acres "about the town where they dwell";

(22) the Rappahannock "town" was the hunting village on the north side of the Mattaponi River, where the Rappahannocks had lived throughout the 1670s;

(23) the acreage allotment of the reservation was based on the 1658 Indian land act, which translates into a bowman population of 70, or an approximate total Rappahannock population of 350;

(24) in 1683, following raids by Iroquoian warriors on both Indian and English settlements, the Virginia Colonial Council ordered the Rappahannocks to leave their reservation and unite with the Nanzatico Indians at Nanzatico Indian Town, which was located across and up the Rappahannock River some 30 miles;

(25) between 1687 and 1699, the Rappahannocks migrated out of Nanzatico, returning to the south side of the Rappahannock River at Portobacco Indian Town;

(26) in 1706, by order of Essex County, Lieutenant Richard Covington "escorted" the Portobaccos and Rappahannocks out of Portobacco Indian Town, out of Essex County, and into King and Queen County where they settled along the ridgeline between the Rappahannock and Mattaponi Rivers, the site of their ancient hunting village and 1682 reservation;

(27) during the 1760s, 3 Rappahannock girls were raised on Thomas Nelson's Bleak Hill Plantation in King William County;

(28) of those girls—

(A) 1 married a Saunders man;

(B) 1 married a Johnson man; and

(C) 1 had 2 children, Edmund and Carter Nelson, fathered by Thomas Cary Nelson;

(29) in the 19th century, those Saunders, Johnson, and Nelson families are among the core Rappahannock families from which the modern Tribe traces its descent;

(30) in 1819 and 1820, Edward Bird, John Bird (and his wife), Carter Nelson, Edmund Nelson, and Carter Spurlock (all Rappahannock ancestors) were listed on the tax roles of King and Queen County and taxed at the county poor rate;

(31) Edmund Bird was added to the tax roles in 1821;

(32) those tax records are significant documentation because the great majority of pre-1864 records for King and Queen County were destroyed by fire;

(33) beginning in 1819, and continuing through the 1880s, there was a solid Rappahannock presence in the membership at Upper Essex Baptist Church;

(34) that was the first instance of conversion to Christianity by at least some Rappahannock Indians;

(35) while 26 identifiable and traceable Rappahannock surnames appear on the pre-

1863 membership list, and 28 were listed on the 1863 membership roster, the number of surnames listed had declined to 12 in 1878 and had risen only slightly to 14 by 1888;

(36) a reason for the decline is that in 1870, a Methodist circuit rider, Joseph Mastin, secured funds to purchase land and construct St. Stephens Baptist Church for the Rappahannocks living nearby in Caroline County;

(37) Mastin referred to the Rappahannocks during the period of 1850 to 1870 as "Indians, having a great need for moral and Christian guidance";

(38) St. Stephens was the dominant tribal church until the Rappahannock Indian Baptist Church was established in 1964;

(39) at both churches, the core Rappahannock family names of Bird, Clarke, Fortune, Johnson, Nelson, Parker, and Richardson predominate;

(40) during the early 1900s, James Mooney, noted anthropologist, maintained correspondence with the Rappahannocks, surveying them and instructing them on how to formalize their tribal government;

(41) in November 1920, Speck visited the Rappahannocks and assisted them in organizing the fight for their sovereign rights;

(42) in 1921, the Rappahannocks were granted a charter from the Commonwealth of Virginia formalizing their tribal government;

(43) Speck began a professional relationship with the Tribe that would last more than 30 years and document Rappahannock history and traditions as never before;

(44) in April 1921, Rappahannock Chief George Nelson asked the Governor of Virginia, Westmoreland Davis, to forward a proclamation to the President of the United States, along with an appended list of tribal members and a handwritten copy of the proclamation itself;

(45) the letter concerned Indian freedom of speech and assembly nationwide;

(46) in 1922, the Rappahannocks established a formal school at Lloyds, Essex County, Virginia;

(47) prior to establishment of the school, Rappahannock children were taught by a tribal member in Central Point, Caroline County, Virginia;

(48) in December 1923, Rappahannock Chief George Nelson testified before Congress appealing for a \$50,000 appropriation to establish an Indian school in Virginia;

(49) in 1930, the Rappahannocks were engaged in an ongoing dispute with the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States Census Bureau about their classification in the 1930 Federal census;

(50) in January 1930, Rappahannock Chief Otho S. Nelson wrote to Leon Truesdell, Chief Statistician of the United States Census Bureau, asking that the 218 enrolled Rappahannocks be listed as Indians;

(51) in February 1930, Truesdell replied to Nelson saying that "special instructions" were being given about classifying Indians;

(52) in April 1930, Nelson wrote to William M. Steuart at the Census Bureau asking about the enumerators' failure to classify his people as Indians, saying that enumerators had not asked the question about race when they interviewed his people;

(53) in a followup letter to Truesdell, Nelson reported that the enumerators were "flatly denying" his people's request to be listed as Indians and that the race question was completely avoided during interviews;

(54) the Rappahannocks had spoken with Caroline and Essex County enumerators, and with John M.W. Green at that point, without success;

(55) Nelson asked Truesdell to list people as Indians if he sent a list of members;

(56) the matter was settled by William Steuart, who concluded that the Bureau's rule was that people of Indian descent could be classified as "Indian" only if Indian "blood" predominated and "Indian" identity was accepted in the local community;

(57) the Virginia Vital Statistics Bureau classed all nonreservation Indians as "Negro", and it failed to see why "an exception should be made" for the Rappahannocks;

(58) therefore, in 1925, the Indian Rights Association took on the Rappahannock case to assist the Rappahannocks in fighting for their recognition and rights as an Indian tribe;

(59) during the Second World War, the Pamunkeys, Mattaponis, Chickahominies, and Rappahannocks had to fight the draft boards with respect to their racial identities;

(60) the Virginia Vital Statistics Bureau insisted that certain Indian draftees be inducted into Negro units;

(61) finally, 3 Rappahannocks were convicted of violating the Federal draft laws and, after spending time in a Federal prison, were granted conscientious objector status and served out the remainder of the war working in military hospitals;

(62) in 1943, Frank Speck noted that there were approximately 25 communities of Indians left in the Eastern United States that were entitled to Indian classification, including the Rappahannocks;

(63) in the 1940s, Leon Truesdell, Chief Statistician, of the United States Census Bureau, listed 118 members in the Rappahannock Tribe in the Indian population of Virginia;

(64) on April 25, 1940, the Office of Indian Affairs of the Department of the Interior included the Rappahannocks on a list of Indian tribes classified by State and by agency;

(65) in 1948, the Smithsonian Institution Annual Report included an article by William Harlen Gilbert entitled, "Surviving Indian Groups of the Eastern United States", which included and described the Rappahannock Tribe;

(66) in the late 1940s and early 1950s, the Rappahannocks operated a school at Indian Neck;

(67) the State agreed to pay a tribal teacher to teach 10 students bused by King and Queen County to Sharon Indian School in King William County, Virginia;

(68) in 1965, Rappahannock students entered Marriott High School (a White public school) by executive order of the Governor of Virginia;

(69) in 1972, the Rappahannocks worked with the Coalition of Eastern Native Americans to fight for Federal recognition;

(70) in 1979, the Coalition established a pottery and artisans company, operating with other Virginia tribes;

(71) in 1980, the Rappahannocks received funding through the Administration for Native Americans of the Department of Health and Human Services to develop an economic program for the Tribe; and

(72) in 1983, the Rappahannocks received State recognition as an Indian tribe.

SEC. 402. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) **TRIBAL MEMBER.**—The term "tribal member" means—

(A) an individual who is an enrolled member of the Tribe as of the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) an individual who has been placed on the membership rolls of the Tribe in accordance with this title.

(3) **TRIBE.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term "Tribe" means the organization possessing the legal name Rappahannock Tribe, Inc.

(B) **EXCLUSIONS.**—The term "Tribe" does not include any other Indian tribe, subtribe, band, or splinter group the members of which represent themselves as Rappahannock Indians.

SEC. 403. FEDERAL RECOGNITION.

(a) **FEDERAL RECOGNITION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Federal recognition is extended to the Tribe.

(2) **APPLICABILITY OF LAWS.**—All laws (including regulations) of the United States of general applicability to Indians or nations, Indian tribes, or bands of Indians (including the Act of June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C. 461 et seq.)) that are not inconsistent with this title shall be applicable to the Tribe and tribal members.

(b) **FEDERAL SERVICES AND BENEFITS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—On and after the date of enactment of this Act, the Tribe and tribal members shall be eligible for all services and benefits provided by the Federal Government to federally recognized Indian tribes without regard to the existence of a reservation for the Tribe.

(2) **SERVICE AREA.**—For the purpose of the delivery of Federal services to tribal members, the service area of the Tribe shall be considered to be the area comprised of King and Queen County, Caroline County, Essex County, and King William County, Virginia.

SEC. 404. MEMBERSHIP; GOVERNING DOCUMENTS.

The membership roll and governing documents of the Tribe shall be the most recent membership roll and governing documents, respectively, submitted by the Tribe to the Secretary before the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 405. GOVERNING BODY.

The governing body of the Tribe shall be—

(1) the governing body of the Tribe in place as of the date of enactment of this Act; or

(2) any subsequent governing body elected in accordance with the election procedures specified in the governing documents of the Tribe.

SEC. 406. RESERVATION OF THE TRIBE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Upon the request of the Tribe, the Secretary of the Interior—

(1) shall take into trust for the benefit of the Tribe any land held in fee by the Tribe that was acquired by the Tribe on or before January 1, 2007, if such lands are located within the boundaries of King and Queen County, Stafford County, Spotsylvania County, Richmond County, Essex County, and Caroline County, Virginia; and

(2) may take into trust for the benefit of the Tribe any land held in fee by the Tribe, if such lands are located within the boundaries of King and Queen County, Richmond County, Lancaster County, King George County, Essex County, Caroline County, New Kent County, King William County, and James City County, Virginia.

(b) **DEADLINE FOR DETERMINATION.**—The Secretary shall make a final written determination not later than three years of the date which the Tribe submits a request for land to be taken into trust under subsection (a)(2) and shall immediately make that determination available to the Tribe.

(c) **RESERVATION STATUS.**—Any land taken into trust for the benefit of the Tribe pursuant to this paragraph shall, upon request of the Tribe, be considered part of the reservation of the Tribe.

(d) **GAMING.**—The Tribe may not conduct gaming activities as a matter of claimed inherent authority or under the authority of any Federal law, including the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) or under any regulations thereunder promulgated by the Secretary or the National Indian Gaming Commission.

SEC. 407. HUNTING, FISHING, TRAPPING, GATHERING, AND WATER RIGHTS.

Nothing in this title expands, reduces, or affects in any manner any hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering, or water rights of the Tribe and members of the Tribe.

TITLE V—MONACAN INDIAN NATION

SEC. 501. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) in 1677, the Monacan Tribe signed the Treaty of Middle Plantation between Charles II of England and 12 Indian "Kings and Chief Men";

(2) in 1722, in the Treaty of Albany, Governor Spotswood negotiated to save the Virginia Indians from extinction at the hands of the Iroquois;

(3) specifically mentioned in the negotiations were the Monacan tribes of the Toterlo (Tutelo), Saponi, Ocheneeches (Occaneechi), Stengenocks, and Meipontskys;

(4) in 1790, the first national census recorded Benjamin Evans and Robert Johns, both ancestors of the present Monacan community, listed as "white" with mulatto children;

(5) in 1782, tax records also began for those families;

(6) in 1850, the United States census recorded 29 families, mostly large, with Monacan surnames, the members of which are genealogically related to the present community;

(7) in 1870, a log structure was built at the Bear Mountain Indian Mission;

(8) in 1908, the structure became an Episcopal Mission and, as of the date of enactment of this Act, the structure is listed as a landmark on the National Register of Historic Places;

(9) in 1920, 304 Amherst Indians were identified in the United States census;

(10) from 1930 through 1931, numerous letters from Monacans to the Bureau of the Census resulted from the decision of Dr. Walter Plecker, former head of the Bureau of Vital Statistics of the Commonwealth of Virginia, not to allow Indians to register as Indians for the 1930 census;

(11) the Monacans eventually succeeded in being allowed to claim their race, albeit with an asterisk attached to a note from Dr. Plecker stating that there were no Indians in Virginia;

(12) in 1947, D'Arcy McNickle, a Salish Indian, saw some of the children at the Amherst Mission and requested that the Cherokee Agency visit them because they appeared to be Indian;

(13) that letter was forwarded to the Department of the Interior, Office of Indian Affairs, Chicago, Illinois;

(14) Chief Jarrett Blythe of the Eastern Band of Cherokee did visit the Mission and wrote that he "would be willing to accept these children in the Cherokee school";

(15) in 1979, a Federal Coalition of Eastern Native Americans established the entity known as "Monacan Co-operative Pottery" at the Amherst Mission;

(16) some important pieces were produced at Monacan Co-operative Pottery, including a piece that was sold to the Smithsonian Institution;

(17) the Mattaponi-Pamunkey-Monacan Consortium, established in 1981, has since

been organized as a nonprofit corporation that serves as a vehicle to obtain funds for those Indian tribes from the Department of Labor under Native American programs;

(18) in 1989, the Monacan Tribe was recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia, which enabled the Tribe to apply for grants and participate in other programs; and

(19) in 1993, the Monacan Tribe received tax-exempt status as a nonprofit corporation from the Internal Revenue Service.

SEC. 502. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) **TRIBAL MEMBER.**—The term “tribal member” means—

(A) an individual who is an enrolled member of the Tribe as of the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) an individual who has been placed on the membership rolls of the Tribe in accordance with this title.

(3) **TRIBE.**—The term “Tribe” means the Monacan Indian Nation.

SEC. 503. FEDERAL RECOGNITION.

(a) **FEDERAL RECOGNITION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Federal recognition is extended to the Tribe.

(2) **APPLICABILITY OF LAWS.**—All laws (including regulations) of the United States of general applicability to Indians or nations, Indian tribes, or bands of Indians (including the Act of June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C. 461 et seq.)) that are not inconsistent with this title shall be applicable to the Tribe and tribal members.

(b) **FEDERAL SERVICES AND BENEFITS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—On and after the date of enactment of this Act, the Tribe and tribal members shall be eligible for all services and benefits provided by the Federal Government to federally recognized Indian tribes without regard to the existence of a reservation for the Tribe.

(2) **SERVICE AREA.**—For the purpose of the delivery of Federal services to tribal members, the service area of the Tribe shall be considered to be the area comprised of all land within 25 miles from the center of Amherst, Virginia.

SEC. 504. MEMBERSHIP; GOVERNING DOCUMENTS.

The membership roll and governing documents of the Tribe shall be the most recent membership roll and governing documents, respectively, submitted by the Tribe to the Secretary before the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 505. GOVERNING BODY.

The governing body of the Tribe shall be—

(1) the governing body of the Tribe in place as of the date of enactment of this Act; or

(2) any subsequent governing body elected in accordance with the election procedures specified in the governing documents of the Tribe.

SEC. 506. RESERVATION OF THE TRIBE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Upon the request of the Tribe, the Secretary of the Interior—

(1) shall take into trust for the benefit of the Tribe any land held in fee by the Tribe that was acquired by the Tribe on or before January 1, 2007, if such lands are located within the boundaries of Amherst County, Virginia; and

(2) may take into trust for the benefit of the Tribe any land held in fee by the Tribe, if such lands are located within the boundaries of Amherst County, Virginia, and those parcels in Rockbridge County, Virginia (subject to the consent of the local unit of government), owned by Mr. J. Poole, described

as East 731 Sandbridge (encompassing approximately 4.74 acres) and East 731 (encompassing approximately 5.12 acres).

(b) **DEADLINE FOR DETERMINATION.**—The Secretary shall make a final written determination not later than three years of the date which the Tribe submits a request for land to be taken into trust under subsection (a)(2) and shall immediately make that determination available to the Tribe.

(c) **RESERVATION STATUS.**—Any land taken into trust for the benefit of the Tribe pursuant to this paragraph shall, upon request of the Tribe, be considered part of the reservation of the Tribe.

(d) **GAMING.**—The Tribe may not conduct gaming activities as a matter of claimed inherent authority or under the authority of any Federal law, including the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) or under any regulations thereunder promulgated by the Secretary or the National Indian Gaming Commission.

SEC. 507. HUNTING, FISHING, TRAPPING, GATHERING, AND WATER RIGHTS.

Nothing in this title expands, reduces, or affects in any manner any hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering, or water rights of the Tribe and members of the Tribe.

TITLE VI—NANSEMOND INDIAN TRIBE

SEC. 601. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) from 1607 until 1646, Nansemond Indians—

(A) lived approximately 30 miles from Jamestown; and

(B) were significantly involved in English-Indian affairs;

(2) after 1646, there were 2 sections of Nansemonds in communication with each other, the Christianized Nansemonds in Norfolk County, who lived as citizens, and the traditionalist Nansemonds, who lived further west;

(3) in 1638, according to an entry in a 17th century sermon book still owned by the Chief's family, a Norfolk County Englishman married a Nansemond woman;

(4) that man and woman are lineal ancestors of all of members of the Nansemond Indian tribe alive as of the date of enactment of this Act, as are some of the traditionalist Nansemonds;

(5) in 1669, the 2 Nansemond sections appeared in Virginia Colony's census of Indian bowmen;

(6) in 1677, Nansemond Indians were signatories to the Treaty of 1677 with the King of England;

(7) in 1700 and 1704, the Nansemonds and other Virginia Indian tribes were prevented by Virginia Colony from making a separate peace with the Iroquois;

(8) Virginia represented those Indian tribes in the final Treaty of Albany, 1722;

(9) in 1711, a Nansemond boy attended the Indian School at the College of William and Mary;

(10) in 1727, Norfolk County granted William Bass and his kinsmen the “Indian privileges” of clearing swamp land and bearing arms (which privileges were forbidden to other non-Whites) because of their Nansemond ancestry, which meant that Bass and his kinsmen were original inhabitants of that land;

(11) in 1742, Norfolk County issued a certificate of Nansemond descent to William Bass;

(12) from the 1740s to the 1790s, the traditionalist section of the Nansemond tribe, 40 miles west of the Christianized Nansemonds, was dealing with reservation land;

(13) the last surviving members of that section sold out in 1792 with the permission of the Commonwealth of Virginia;

(14) in 1797, Norfolk County issued a certificate stating that William Bass was of Indian and English descent, and that his Indian line of ancestry ran directly back to the early 18th century elder in a traditionalist section of Nansemonds on the reservation;

(15) in 1833, Virginia enacted a law enabling people of European and Indian descent to obtain a special certificate of ancestry;

(16) the law originated from the county in which Nansemonds lived, and mostly Nansemonds, with a few people from other counties, took advantage of the new law;

(17) a Methodist mission established around 1850 for Nansemonds is currently a standard Methodist congregation with Nansemond members;

(18) in 1901, Smithsonian anthropologist James Mooney—

(A) visited the Nansemonds; and

(B) completed a tribal census that counted 61 households and was later published;

(19) in 1922, Nansemonds were given a special Indian school in the segregated school system of Norfolk County;

(20) the school survived only a few years;

(21) in 1928, University of Pennsylvania anthropologist Frank Speck published a book on modern Virginia Indians that included a section on the Nansemonds; and

(22) the Nansemonds were organized formally, with elected officers, in 1984, and later applied for and received State recognition.

SEC. 602. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) **TRIBAL MEMBER.**—The term “tribal member” means—

(A) an individual who is an enrolled member of the Tribe as of the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) an individual who has been placed on the membership rolls of the Tribe in accordance with this title.

(3) **TRIBE.**—The term “Tribe” means the Nansemond Indian Tribe.

SEC. 603. FEDERAL RECOGNITION.

(a) **FEDERAL RECOGNITION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Federal recognition is extended to the Tribe.

(2) **APPLICABILITY OF LAWS.**—All laws (including regulations) of the United States of general applicability to Indians or nations, Indian tribes, or bands of Indians (including the Act of June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C. 461 et seq.)) that are not inconsistent with this title shall be applicable to the Tribe and tribal members.

(b) **FEDERAL SERVICES AND BENEFITS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—On and after the date of enactment of this Act, the Tribe and tribal members shall be eligible for all services and benefits provided by the Federal Government to federally recognized Indian tribes without regard to the existence of a reservation for the Tribe.

(2) **SERVICE AREA.**—For the purpose of the delivery of Federal services to tribal members, the service area of the Tribe shall be considered to be the area comprised of the cities of Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach, Virginia.

SEC. 604. MEMBERSHIP; GOVERNING DOCUMENTS.

The membership roll and governing documents of the Tribe shall be the most recent membership roll and governing documents, respectively, submitted by the Tribe to the Secretary before the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 605. GOVERNING BODY.

The governing body of the Tribe shall be—

(1) the governing body of the Tribe in place as of the date of enactment of this Act; or

(2) any subsequent governing body elected in accordance with the election procedures specified in the governing documents of the Tribe.

SEC. 606. RESERVATION OF THE TRIBE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Upon the request of the Tribe, the Secretary of the Interior—

(1) shall take into trust for the benefit of the Tribe any land held in fee by the Tribe that was acquired by the Tribe on or before January 1, 2007, if such lands are located within the boundaries of the city of Suffolk, the city of Chesapeake, or Isle of Wight County, Virginia; and

(2) may take into trust for the benefit of the Tribe any land held in fee by the Tribe, if such lands are located within the boundaries of the city of Suffolk, the city of Chesapeake, or Isle of Wight County, Virginia.

(b) DEADLINE FOR DETERMINATION.—The Secretary shall make a final written determination not later than three years of the date which the Tribe submits a request for land to be taken into trust under subsection (a)(2) and shall immediately make that determination available to the Tribe.

(c) RESERVATION STATUS.—Any land taken into trust for the benefit of the Tribe pursuant to this paragraph shall, upon request of the Tribe, be considered part of the reservation of the Tribe.

(d) GAMING.—The Tribe may not conduct gaming activities as a matter of claimed inherent authority or under the authority of any Federal law, including the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) or under any regulations thereunder promulgated by the Secretary or the National Indian Gaming Commission.

SEC. 607. HUNTING, FISHING, TRAPPING, GATHERING, AND WATER RIGHTS.

Nothing in this title expands, reduces, or affects in any manner any hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering, or water rights of the Tribe and members of the Tribe.

TITLE VII—EMINENT DOMAIN

SEC. 701. LIMITATION.

Eminent domain may not be used to acquire lands in fee or in trust for an Indian tribe recognized under this Act.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. LEE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HATCH, Mr. COONS, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 467. A bill to reduce recidivism and increase public safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 467

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Corrections Oversight, Recidivism Reduction, and Eliminating Costs for Taxpayers In Our National System Act of 2015” or the “CORRECTIONS Act”.

SEC. 2. RECIDIVISM REDUCTION PROGRAMMING AND PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall—

(1) conduct a review of recidivism reduction programming and productive activities, including prison jobs, offered in correctional institutions, including programming and activities offered in State correctional institutions, which shall include a review of research on the effectiveness of such programs;

(2) conduct a survey to identify products, including products purchased by Federal agencies, that are currently manufactured overseas and could be manufactured by prisoners participating in a prison work program without reducing job opportunities for other workers in the United States; and

(3) submit to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a strategic plan for the expansion of recidivism reduction programming and productive activities, including prison jobs, in Bureau of Prisons facilities required by section 3621(h)(1) of title 18, United States Code, as added by subsection (b).

(b) AMENDMENT.—Section 3621 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) RECIDIVISM REDUCTION PROGRAMMING AND PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Bureau of Prisons, shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, make available to all eligible prisoners appropriate recidivism reduction programming or productive activities, including prison jobs, in accordance with paragraph (2).

“(2) EXPANSION PERIOD.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this subsection, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall have 6 years beginning on the date of enactment of this subsection to ensure appropriate recidivism reduction programming and productive activities, including prison jobs, are available for all eligible prisoners.

“(B) CERTIFICATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The National Institute of Corrections shall evaluate all recidivism reduction programming or productive activities that are made available to eligible prisoners and determine whether such programming or activities may be certified as evidence-based and effective at reducing or mitigating offender risk and recidivism.

“(ii) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining whether or not to issue a certification under clause (i), the National Institute of Corrections shall consult with internal or external program evaluation experts, including the Office of Management and Budget and the Comptroller General of the United States to identify appropriate evaluation methodologies for each type of program offered, and may use analyses of similar programs conducted in other correctional settings.

“(3) RECIDIVISM REDUCTION PARTNERSHIPS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Attorney General shall issue regulations requiring the official in charge of each correctional facility to ensure, subject to the availability of appropriations, that appropriate recidivism reduction programming and productive activities, including prison jobs, are available for all eligible prisoners within the time period specified in paragraph (2), by entering into partnerships with the following:

“(A) Nonprofit organizations, including faith-based and community-based organizations, that provide recidivism reduction programming, on a paid or volunteer basis.

“(B) Educational institutions that will deliver academic classes in Bureau of Prisons facilities, on a paid or volunteer basis.

“(C) Private entities that will, on a volunteer basis—

“(i) deliver occupational and vocational training and certifications in Bureau of Prisons facilities;

“(ii) provide equipment to facilitate occupational and vocational training or employment opportunities for prisoners;

“(iii) employ prisoners; or

“(iv) assist prisoners in prerelease custody or supervised release in finding employment.

“(4) ASSIGNMENTS.—In assigning prisoners to recidivism reduction programming and productive activities, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall use the Post-Sentencing Risk and Needs Assessment System described in section 3621A and shall ensure that—

“(A) to the extent practicable, prisoners are separated from prisoners of other risk classifications in accordance with best practices for effective recidivism reduction;

“(B) a prisoner who has been classified as low risk and without need for recidivism reduction programming shall participate in and successfully complete productive activities, including prison jobs, in order to maintain a low-risk classification;

“(C) a prisoner who has successfully completed all recidivism reduction programming to which the prisoner was assigned shall participate in productive activities, including a prison job; and

“(D) to the extent practicable, each eligible prisoner shall participate in and successfully complete recidivism reduction programming or productive activities, including prison jobs, throughout the entire term of incarceration of the prisoner.

“(5) MENTORING SERVICES.—Any person who provided mentoring services to a prisoner while the prisoner was in a penal or correctional facility of the Bureau of Prisons shall be permitted to continue such services after the prisoner has been transferred into prerelease custody, unless the person in charge of the penal or correctional facility of the Bureau of Prisons demonstrates, in a written document submitted to the person, that such services would be a significant security risk to the prisoner, persons who provide such services, or any other person.

“(6) RECIDIVISM REDUCTION PROGRAM INCENTIVES AND REWARDS.—Prisoners who have successfully completed recidivism reduction programs and productive activities shall be eligible for the following:

“(A) TIME CREDITS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clauses (ii) and (iii), a prisoner who has successfully completed a recidivism reduction program or productive activity that has been certified under paragraph (2)(B) shall receive time credits of 5 days for each period of 30 days of successful completion of such program or activity. A prisoner who is classified as low risk shall receive additional time credits of 5 days for each period of 30 days of successful completion of such program or activity.

“(ii) AVAILABILITY.—A prisoner may not receive time credits under this subparagraph for successfully completing a recidivism reduction program or productive activity—

“(I) before the date of enactment of this subsection; or

“(II) during official detention before the date on which the prisoner’s sentence commences under section 3585(a).

“(iii) EXCLUSIONS.—No credit shall be awarded under this subparagraph to a prisoner serving a sentence for a second or subsequent conviction for a Federal offense imposed after the date on which the prisoner’s first such conviction became final. No credit

shall be awarded under this subparagraph to a prisoner who is in criminal history category VI at the time of sentencing. No credit shall be awarded under this subparagraph to any prisoner serving a sentence of imprisonment for conviction for any of the following offenses:

“(I) A Federal crime of terrorism, as defined under section 2332b(g)(5).

“(II) A Federal crime of violence, as defined under section 16.

“(III) A Federal sex offense, as described in section 111 of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (42 U.S.C. 16911).

“(IV) A violation of section 1962.

“(V) Engaging in a continuing criminal enterprise, as defined in section 408 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 848).

“(VI) A Federal fraud offense for which the prisoner received a sentence of imprisonment of more than 15 years.

“(VII) A Federal crime involving child exploitation, as defined in section 2 of the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 17601).

“(iv) IDENTIFICATION OF COVERED OFFENSES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, the United States Sentencing Commission shall prepare and submit to the Director of the Bureau of Prisons a list of all Federal offenses described in subclauses (I) through (VII) of clause (iii), and shall update such list on an annual basis.

“(B) OTHER INCENTIVES.—The Bureau of Prisons shall develop policies to provide appropriate incentives for successful completion of recidivism reduction programming and productive activities, other than time credit pursuant to subparagraph (A), including incentives for prisoners who are precluded from earning credit under subparagraph (A)(iii). Such incentives may include additional telephone or visitation privileges for use with family, close friends, mentors, and religious leaders.

“(C) PENALTIES.—The Bureau of Prisons may reduce rewards a prisoner has previously earned under subparagraph (A) for prisoners who violate the rules of the penal or correctional facility in which the prisoner is imprisoned, a recidivism reduction program, or a productive activity.

“(D) RELATION TO OTHER INCENTIVE PROGRAMS.—The incentives described in this paragraph shall be in addition to any other rewards or incentives for which a prisoner may be eligible, except that a prisoner shall not be eligible for the time credits described in subparagraph (A) if the prisoner has accrued time credits under another provision of law based solely upon participation in, or successful completion of, such program.

“(7) SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION.—For purposes of this subsection, a prisoner—

“(A) shall be considered to have successfully completed a recidivism reduction program or productive activity, if the Bureau of Prisons determines that the prisoner—

“(i) regularly attended and participated in the recidivism reduction program or productive activity;

“(ii) regularly completed assignments or tasks in a manner that allowed the prisoner to realize the criminogenic benefits of the recidivism reduction program or productive activity;

“(iii) did not regularly engage in disruptive behavior that seriously undermined the administration of the recidivism reduction program or productive activity; and

“(iv) satisfied the requirements of clauses (i) through (iii) for a time period that is not less than 30 days and allowed the prisoner to

realize the criminogenic benefits of the recidivism reduction program or productive activity; and

“(B) for purposes of paragraph (6)(A), may be given credit for successful completion of a recidivism reduction program or productive activity for the time period during which the prisoner participated in such program or activity if the prisoner satisfied the requirements of subparagraph (A) during such time period, notwithstanding that the prisoner continues to participate in such program or activity.

“(8) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) ELIGIBLE PRISONER.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘eligible prisoner’—

“(i) means a prisoner serving a sentence of incarceration for conviction of a Federal offense; and

“(ii) does not include any prisoner who the Bureau of Prisons determines—

“(I) is medically unable to successfully complete recidivism reduction programming or productive activities;

“(II) would present a security risk if permitted to participate in recidivism reduction programming; or

“(III) is serving a sentence of incarceration of less than 1 month.

“(B) PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITY.—The term ‘productive activity’—

“(i) means a group or individual activity, including holding a job as part of a prison work program, that is designed to allow prisoners classified as having a lower risk of recidivism to maintain such classification, when offered to such prisoners; and

“(ii) may include the delivery of the activities described in subparagraph (C)(i)(II) to other prisoners.

“(C) RECIDIVISM REDUCTION PROGRAM.—The term ‘recidivism reduction program’ means—

“(i) a group or individual activity that—

“(I) has been certified to reduce recidivism or promote successful reentry; and

“(II) may include—

“(aa) classes on social learning and life skills;

“(bb) classes on morals or ethics;

“(cc) academic classes;

“(dd) cognitive behavioral treatment;

“(ee) mentoring;

“(ff) occupational and vocational training;

“(gg) faith-based classes or services;

“(hh) domestic violence education and deterrence programming;

“(ii) victim-impact classes or other restorative justice programs; and

“(jj) a prison job; and

“(ii) shall include—

“(I) a productive activity; and

“(II) recovery programming.

“(D) RECOVERY PROGRAMMING.—The term ‘recovery programming’ means a course of instruction or activities, other than a course described in subsection (e), that has been demonstrated to reduce drug or alcohol abuse or dependence among participants, or to promote recovery among individuals who have previously abused alcohol or drugs, to include appropriate medication-assisted treatment.”.

SEC. 3. POST-SENTENCING RISK AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter C of chapter 229 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 3621 the following:

“§ 3621A. Post-sentencing risk and needs assessment system

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 months after the date of the enactment of this section, the Attorney General shall de-

velop for use by the Bureau of Prisons an offender risk and needs assessment system, to be known as the ‘Post-Sentencing Risk and Needs Assessment System’ or the ‘Assessment System’, which shall—

“(1) assess and determine the recidivism risk level of all prisoners and classify each prisoner as having a low, moderate, or high risk of recidivism;

“(2) to the extent practicable, assess and determine the risk of violence of all prisoners;

“(3) ensure that, to the extent practicable, low-risk prisoners are grouped together in housing and assignment decisions;

“(4) assign each prisoner to appropriate recidivism reduction programs or productive activities based on the prisoner’s risk level and the specific criminogenic needs of the prisoner, and in accordance with section 3621(h)(4);

“(5) reassess and update the recidivism risk level and programmatic needs of each prisoner pursuant to the schedule set forth in subsection (c)(2), and assess changes in the prisoner’s recidivism risk within a particular risk level; and

“(6) provide information on best practices concerning the tailoring of recidivism reduction programs to the specific criminogenic needs of each prisoner so as to effectively lower the prisoner’s risk of recidivating.

“(b) DEVELOPMENT OF SYSTEM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In designing the Assessment System, the Attorney General shall—

“(A) use available research and best practices in the field and consult with academic and other criminal justice experts as appropriate; and

“(B) ensure that the Assessment System measures indicators of progress and improvement, and of regression, including newly acquired skills, attitude, and behavior changes over time, through meaningful consideration of dynamic risk factors, such that—

“(i) all prisoners at each risk level other than low risk have a meaningful opportunity to progress to a lower risk classification during the period of the incarceration of the prisoner through changes in dynamic risk factors; and

“(ii) all prisoners on prerelease custody, other than prisoners classified as low risk, have a meaningful opportunity to progress to a lower risk classification during such custody through changes in dynamic risk factors.

“(2) RISK AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT TOOLS.—In carrying out this subsection, the Attorney General shall—

“(A) develop a suitable intake assessment tool to perform the initial assessments and determinations described in subsection (a)(1), and to make the assignments described in subsection (a)(3);

“(B) develop a suitable reassessment tool to perform the reassessments and updates described in subsection (a)(4); and

“(C) develop a suitable tool to assess the recidivism risk level of prisoners in prerelease custody.

“(3) USE OF EXISTING RISK AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT TOOLS PERMITTED.—In carrying out this subsection, the Attorney General may use existing risk and needs assessment tools, as appropriate, for the assessment tools required under paragraph (2).

“(4) VALIDATION.—In carrying out this subsection, the Attorney General shall statistically validate the risk and needs assessment tools on the Federal prison population, or ensure that the tools have been so validated. To the extent such validation cannot be completed with the time period specified

in subsection (a), the Attorney General shall ensure that such validation is completed as soon as is practicable.

“(5) RELATIONSHIP WITH EXISTING CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS.—The Bureau of Prisons may incorporate its existing Inmate Classification System into the Assessment System if the Assessment System assesses the risk level and criminogenic needs of each prisoner and determines the appropriate security level institution for each prisoner. Before the development of the Assessment System, the Bureau of Prisons may use the existing Inmate Classification System, or a pre-existing risk and needs assessment tool that can be used to classify prisoners consistent with subsection (a)(1), or can be reasonably adapted for such purpose, for purposes of this section, section 3621(h), and section 3624(c).

“(c) RISK ASSESSMENT.—

“(1) INITIAL ASSESSMENTS.—Not later than 30 months after the date on which the Attorney General develops the Assessment System, the Bureau of Prisons shall determine the risk level of each prisoner using the Assessment System.

“(2) REASSESSMENTS AND UPDATES.—The Bureau of Prisons shall update the assessment of each prisoner required under paragraph (1)—

“(A) not less frequently than once each year for any prisoner whose anticipated release date is within 3 years;

“(B) not less frequently than once every 2 years for any prisoner whose anticipated release date is within 10 years; and

“(C) not less frequently than once every 3 years for any other prisoner.

“(d) ASSIGNMENT OF RECIDIVISM REDUCTION PROGRAMS OR PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES.—The Assessment System shall provide guidance on the kind and amount of recidivism reduction programming or productive activities appropriate for each prisoner.

“(e) BUREAU OF PRISONS TRAINING.—The Attorney General shall develop training protocols and programs for Bureau of Prisons officials and employees responsible for administering the Assessment System. Such training protocols shall include a requirement that personnel of the Bureau of Prisons demonstrate competence in using the methodology and procedure developed under this section on a regular basis.

“(f) QUALITY ASSURANCE.—In order to ensure that the Bureau of Prisons is using the Assessment System in an appropriate and consistent manner, the Attorney General shall monitor and assess the use of the Assessment System and shall conduct periodic audits of the use of the Assessment System at facilities of the Bureau of Prisons.

“(g) DETERMINATIONS AND CLASSIFICATIONS UNREVIEWABLE.—Subject to any constitutional limitations, there shall be no right of review, right of appeal, cognizable property interest, or cause of action, either administrative or judicial, arising from any determination or classification made by any Federal agency or employee while implementing or administering the Assessment System, or any rules or regulations promulgated under this section.

“(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) DYNAMIC RISK FACTOR.—The term ‘dynamic risk factor’ means a characteristic or attribute that has been shown to be relevant to assessing risk of recidivism and that can be modified based on a prisoner’s actions, behaviors, or attitudes, including through completion of appropriate programming or other means, in a prison setting.

“(2) RECIDIVISM RISK.—The term ‘recidivism risk’ means the likelihood that a pris-

oner will commit additional crimes for which the prisoner could be prosecuted in a Federal, State, or local court in the United States.

“(3) RECIDIVISM REDUCTION PROGRAM; PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITY; RECOVERY PROGRAMMING.—The terms ‘recidivism reduction program’, ‘productive activity’, and ‘recovery programming’ shall have the meaning given such terms in section 3621(h)(8).”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subchapter C of chapter 229 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3621 the following:

“3621A. Post-sentencing risk and needs assessment system.”.

SEC. 4. PRERELEASE CUSTODY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3624(c) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking the period at the end of the second sentence and inserting ‘or home confinement, subject to the limitation that no prisoner may serve more than 10 percent of the prisoner’s imposed sentence in home confinement pursuant to this paragraph.’;

(2) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and inserting the following:

“(2) CREDIT FOR RECIDIVISM REDUCTION.—In addition to any time spent in prerelease custody pursuant to paragraph (1), a prisoner shall spend an additional portion of the final months of the prisoner’s sentence, equivalent to the amount of time credit the prisoner has earned pursuant to section 3621(h)(6)(A), in prerelease custody, if—

“(A) the prisoner’s most recent risk and needs assessment, conducted within 1 year of the date on which the prisoner would first be eligible for transfer to prerelease custody pursuant to paragraph (1) and this paragraph, reflects that the prisoner is classified as low or moderate risk; and

“(B) for a prisoner classified as moderate risk, the prisoner’s most recent risk and needs assessment reflects that the prisoner’s risk of recidivism has declined during the period of the prisoner’s incarceration.

“(3) TYPES OF PRERELEASE CUSTODY.—A prisoner eligible to serve a portion of the prisoner’s sentence in prerelease custody pursuant to paragraph (2) may serve such portion in a residential reentry center, on home confinement, or, subject to paragraph (5), on community supervision.”;

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (6) as paragraphs (9) through (11), respectively;

(4) by inserting the following after paragraph (3):

“(4) HOME CONFINEMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon placement in home confinement pursuant to paragraph (2), a prisoner shall—

“(i) be subject to 24-hour electronic monitoring that enables the prompt identification of any violation of clause (ii);

“(ii) remain in the prisoner’s residence, with the exception of the following activities, subject to approval by the Director of the Bureau of Prisons—

“(I) participation in a job or job-seeking activities;

“(II) participation in recidivism reduction programming or productive activities assigned by the Post-Sentencing Risk and Needs Assessment System, or similar activities approved in advance by the Director of the Bureau of Prisons;

“(III) participation in community service;

“(IV) crime victim restoration activities;

“(V) medical treatment; or

“(VI) religious activities; and

“(iii) comply with such other conditions as the Director of the Bureau of Prisons deems appropriate.

“(B) ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF MONITORING.—If compliance with subparagraph (A)(i) is infeasible due to technical limitations or religious considerations, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons may employ alternative means of monitoring that are determined to be as effective or more effective than electronic monitoring.

“(C) MODIFICATIONS.—The Director of the Bureau of Prisons may modify the conditions of the prisoner’s home confinement for compelling reasons, if the prisoner’s record demonstrates exemplary compliance with such conditions.

“(5) COMMUNITY SUPERVISION.—

“(A) TIME CREDIT LESS THAN 36 MONTHS.—Any prisoner described in subparagraph (D) who has earned time credit of less than 36 months pursuant to section 3621(h)(6)(A) shall be eligible to serve no more than one-half of the amount of such credit on community supervision, if the prisoner satisfies the conditions set forth in subparagraph (C).

“(B) TIME CREDIT OF 36 MONTHS OR MORE.—Any prisoner described in subparagraph (D) who has earned time credit of 36 months or more pursuant to section 3621(h)(6)(A) shall be eligible to serve the amount of such credit exceeding 18 months on community supervision, if the prisoner satisfies the conditions set forth in subparagraph (C).

“(C) CONDITIONS OF COMMUNITY SUPERVISION.—A prisoner placed on community supervision shall be subject to such conditions as the Director of the Bureau of Prisons deems appropriate. A prisoner on community supervision may remain on community supervision until the conclusion of the prisoner’s sentence of incarceration if the prisoner—

“(i) complies with all conditions of prerelease custody;

“(ii) remains current on any financial obligations imposed as part of the prisoner’s sentence, including payments of court-ordered restitution arising from the offense of conviction; and

“(iii) refrains from committing any State, local, or Federal offense.

“(D) COVERED PRISONERS.—A prisoner described in this subparagraph is a prisoner who—

“(i) is classified as low risk by the Post-Sentencing Risk and Needs Assessment System in the assessment conducted for purposes of paragraph (2); or

“(ii) is subsequently classified as low risk by the Post-Sentencing Risk and Needs Assessment System.

“(6) VIOLATIONS.—If a prisoner violates a condition of the prisoner’s prerelease custody, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons may revoke the prisoner’s prerelease custody and require the prisoner to serve the remainder of the prisoner’s term of incarceration, or any portion thereof, in prison, or impose additional conditions on the prisoner’s prerelease custody as the Director of the Bureau of Prisons deems appropriate. If the violation is non-technical in nature, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall revoke the prisoner’s prerelease custody.

“(7) CREDIT FOR PRERELEASE CUSTODY.—Upon completion of a prisoner’s sentence, any term of supervised release imposed on the prisoner shall be reduced by the amount of time the prisoner served in prerelease custody pursuant to paragraph (2).

“(8) AGREEMENTS WITH UNITED STATES PROBATION AND PRETRIAL SERVICES.—The Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall, to the

greatest extent practicable, enter into agreements with the United States Probation and Pretrial Services to supervise prisoners placed in home confinement or community supervision under this subsection. Such agreements shall authorize United States Probation and Pretrial Services to exercise the authority granted to the Director of the Bureau of Prisons pursuant to paragraphs (4), (5), and (12). Such agreements shall take into account the resource requirements of United States Probation and Pretrial Services as a result of the transfer of Bureau of Prisons inmates to prerelease custody and shall provide for the transfer of monetary sums necessary to comply with such requirements. United States Probation and Pretrial Services shall, to the greatest extent practicable, offer assistance to any prisoner not under its supervision during prerelease custody under this subsection.”; and

(5) by inserting at the end the following:

“(12) DETERMINATION OF APPROPRIATE CONDITIONS FOR PRERELEASE CUSTODY.—In determining appropriate conditions for prerelease custody pursuant to this subsection, and in accordance with paragraph (5), the Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall, to the extent practicable, subject prisoners who demonstrate continued compliance with the requirements of such prerelease custody to increasingly less restrictive conditions, so as to most effectively prepare such prisoners for reentry. No prisoner shall be transferred to community supervision unless the length of the prisoner’s eligibility for community supervision pursuant to paragraph (5) is equivalent to or greater than the length of the prisoner’s remaining period of prerelease custody.

“(13) ALIENS SUBJECT TO DEPORTATION.—If the prisoner is an alien whose deportation was ordered as a condition of supervised release or who is subject to a detainer filed by Immigration and Customs Enforcement for the purposes of determining the alien’s deportability, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall, upon the prisoner’s transfer to prerelease custody pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2), deliver the prisoner to United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement for the purpose of conducting proceedings relating to the alien’s deportation.

“(14) NOTICE OF TRANSFER TO PRERELEASE CUSTODY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Bureau of Prisons may not transfer a prisoner to prerelease custody pursuant to paragraph (2) if the prisoner has been sentenced to a term of incarceration of more than 3 years, unless the Director of the Bureau of Prisons provides prior notice to the United States Attorney’s Office for the district in which the prisoner was sentenced.

“(B) TIME REQUIREMENT.—The notice required under subparagraph (A) shall be provided not later than 6 months before the date on which the prisoner is to be transferred.

“(C) CONTENTS OF NOTICE.—The notice required under subparagraph (A) shall include the following information:

“(i) The amount of credit earned pursuant to paragraph (2).

“(ii) The anticipated date of the prisoner’s transfer.

“(iii) The nature of the prisoner’s planned prerelease custody.

“(iv) The prisoner’s behavioral record.

“(v) The most recent risk assessment of the prisoner.

“(D) HEARING.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—On motion of the Government, the court may conduct a hearing on the prisoner’s transfer to prerelease custody.

“(ii) PRISONER’S PRESENCE.—The prisoner shall have the right to be present at a hearing described in clause (i), which right the prisoner may waive.

“(iii) MOTION.—A motion filed by the Government seeking a hearing—

“(I) shall set forth the basis for the Government’s request that the prisoner’s transfer be denied or modified pursuant to subparagraph (E); and

“(II) shall not require the Court to conduct a hearing described in clause (i).

“(E) DETERMINATION OF THE COURT.—The court may deny the transfer of the prisoner to prerelease custody or modify the terms of such transfer, if, after conducting a hearing pursuant to subparagraph (D), the court finds in writing, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the transfer of the prisoner is inconsistent with the factors specified in paragraphs (2), (6), and (7) of section 3553(a).”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5. REPORTS.

(a) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

(1) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and every year thereafter, the Attorney General, in coordination with the Comptroller General of the United States, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that contains the following:

(A) A summary of the activities and accomplishments of the Attorney General in carrying out this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(B) An assessment of the status and use of the Post-Sentencing Risk and Needs Assessment System by the Bureau of Prisons, including the number of prisoners classified at each risk level under the Post-Sentencing Risk and Needs Assessment System at each facility of the Bureau of Prisons.

(C) A summary and assessment of the types and effectiveness of the recidivism reduction programs and productive activities in facilities operated by the Bureau of Prisons, including—

(i) evidence about which programs and activities have been shown to reduce recidivism;

(ii) the capacity of each program and activity at each facility, including the number of prisoners along with the risk level of each prisoner enrolled in each program and activity; and

(iii) identification of any problems or shortages in capacity of such programs and activities, and how these should be remedied.

(D) An assessment of budgetary savings resulting from this Act and the amendments made by this Act, to include—

(i) a summary of the amount of savings resulting from the transfer of prisoners into prerelease custody under this Act and the amendments made by this Act, including savings resulting from the avoidance or deferral of future construction, acquisition, or operations costs;

(ii) a summary of the amount of savings resulting from any decrease in recidivism that may be attributed to the implementation of the Post-Sentencing Risk and Needs Assessment System or the increase in recidivism reduction programs and productive activities required by this Act and the amendments made by this Act; and

(iii) a strategy to reinvest such savings into other Federal, State, and local law enforcement activities and expansions of recidivism reduction programs and productive activities in the Bureau of Prisons.

(2) REINVESTMENT OF SAVINGS TO FUND PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAMMING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning in the first fiscal year after the first report is submitted under paragraph (1), and every fiscal year thereafter, the Attorney General shall—

(i) determine the covered amount for the previous fiscal year in accordance with subparagraph (B); and

(ii) use an amount of funds appropriated to the Department of Justice that is not less than 90 percent of the covered amount for the purposes described in subparagraph (C).

(B) COVERED AMOUNT.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term “covered amount” means, using the most recent report submitted under paragraph (1), the amount equal to the sum of the amount described in paragraph (1)(D)(i) for the fiscal year and the amount described in paragraph (1)(D)(ii) for the fiscal year.

(C) USE OF FUNDS.—The funds described in subparagraph (A)(ii) shall be used, consistent with paragraph (1)(D)(iii), to—

(i) ensure that, not later than 6 years after the date of enactment of this Act, recidivism reduction programs or productive activities are available to all eligible prisoners;

(ii) ensure compliance with the resource needs of United States Probation and Pretrial Services resulting from an agreement under section 3624(c)(8) of title 18 United States Code, as added by this Act; and

(iii) supplement funding for programs that increase public safety by providing resources to State and local law enforcement officials.

(b) PRISON WORK PROGRAMS REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the status of prison work programs at facilities operated by the Bureau of Prisons, including—

(1) a strategy to expand the availability of such programs without reducing job opportunities for workers in the United States who are not in the custody of the Bureau of Prisons;

(2) an assessment of the feasibility of expanding such programs, consistent with the strategy required under paragraph (1), so that, not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, not less than 75 percent of eligible low-risk offenders have the opportunity to participate in a prison work program for not less than 20 hours per week; and

(3) a detailed discussion of legal authorities that would be useful or necessary to achieve the goals described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

(c) REPORTING ON RECIDIVISM RATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and every year thereafter, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, shall report to the appropriate committees of Congress on rates of recidivism among individuals who have been released from Federal prison and who are under judicial supervision.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall contain information on rates of recidivism among former Federal prisoners, including information on rates of recidivism among former Federal prisoners based on the following criteria:

(A) Primary offense charged.

(B) Length of sentence imposed and served.

(C) Bureau of Prisons facility or facilities in which the prisoner’s sentence was served.

(D) Recidivism reduction programming that the prisoner successfully completed, if any.

(E) The prisoner's assessed risk of recidivism.

(3) ASSISTANCE.—The Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall provide to the Attorney General any information in its possession that is necessary for the completion of the report required under paragraph (1).

(d) REPORTING ON EXCLUDED PRISONERS.—Not later than 8 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the effectiveness of recidivism reduction programs and productive activities offered to prisoners described in section 3621(h)(6)(A)(iii) of title 18, United States Code, as added by this Act, as well as those ineligible for credit toward prerelease custody under section 3624(c)(2) of title 18, United States Code, as added by this Act, which shall review the effectiveness of different categories of incentives in reducing recidivism.

(e) DEFINITION.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on the Judiciary and the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on the Judiciary and the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 6. PROMOTING SUCCESSFUL REENTRY.

(a) FEDERAL PRISONER REENTRY INITIATIVE.—Section 231(g) of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17541(g)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking “and shall be carried out during fiscal years 2009 and 2010”; and

(2) in paragraph (5)(A)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking “65 years” and inserting “60 years”; and

(B) in clause (ii)—

(i) by striking “the greater of 10 years or”; and

(ii) by striking “75 percent” and inserting “2/3”.

(b) FEDERAL REENTRY DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—

(1) EVALUATION OF EXISTING BEST PRACTICES FOR REENTRY.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, shall—

(A) evaluate best practices used for the reentry into society of individuals released from the custody of the Bureau of Prisons, including—

(i) conducting examinations of reentry practices in State and local justice systems; and

(ii) consulting with Federal, State, and local prosecutors, Federal, State, and local public defenders, nonprofit organizations that provide reentry services, and criminal justice experts; and

(B) submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report that details the evaluation conducted under subparagraph (A).

(2) CREATION OF REENTRY DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, select an appropriate number of Federal judicial districts to conduct Federal reentry demonstration projects using the best practices identified in the evaluation

conducted under paragraph (1). The Attorney General shall determine the appropriate number of Federal judicial districts to conduct demonstration projects under this paragraph.

(3) PROJECT DESIGN.—For each Federal judicial district selected under paragraph (2), the United States Attorney, in consultation with the Chief Judge, Chief Federal Defender, the Chief Probation Officer, the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the National Institute of Justice, and criminal justice experts shall design a Federal reentry demonstration project for the Federal judicial district in accordance with paragraph (4).

(4) PROJECT ELEMENTS.—A project designed under paragraph (3) shall coordinate efforts by Federal agencies to assist participating prisoners in preparing for and adjusting to reentry into the community and may include, as appropriate—

(A) the use of community correctional facilities and home confinement, as determined to be appropriate by the Bureau of Prisons;

(B) a reentry review team for each prisoner to develop a reentry plan specific to the needs of the prisoner, and to meet with the prisoner following transfer to monitor the reentry plan;

(C) steps to assist the prisoner in obtaining health care, housing, and employment, before the prisoner's release from a community correctional facility or home confinement;

(D) regular drug testing for participants with a history of substance abuse;

(E) substance abuse treatment, which may include addiction treatment medication, if appropriate, medical treatment, including mental health treatment, occupational, vocational and educational training, life skills instruction, recovery support, conflict resolution training, and other programming to promote effective reintegration into the community;

(F) the participation of volunteers to serve as advisors and mentors to prisoners being released into the community;

(G) steps to ensure that the prisoner makes satisfactory progress toward satisfying any obligations to victims of the prisoner's offense, including any obligation to pay restitution; and

(H) the appointment of a reentry coordinator in the United States Attorney's Office.

(5) REVIEW OF PROJECT OUTCOMES.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, in consultation with the Attorney General, shall—

(A) evaluate the results from each Federal judicial district selected under paragraph (2), including the extent to which participating prisoners released from the custody of the Bureau of Prisons were successfully reintegrated into their communities, including whether the participating prisoners maintained employment, and refrained from committing further offenses; and

(B) submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report that contains—

(i) the evaluation of the best practices identified in the report required under paragraph (1); and

(ii) the results of the demonstration projects required under paragraph (2).

(c) STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF REENTRY ON CERTAIN COMMUNITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Administrative Office of the United States

Courts, shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report on the impact of reentry of prisoners on communities in which a disproportionate number of individuals reside upon release from incarceration.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall analyze the impact of reentry of individuals released from both State and Federal correctional systems as well as State and Federal juvenile justice systems, and shall include—

(A) an assessment of the reentry burdens borne by local communities;

(B) a review of the resources available in such communities to support successful reentry, including resources provided by State, local, and Federal governments, the extent to which those resources are used effectively; and

(C) recommendations to strengthen the resources in such communities available to support successful reentry and to lessen the burden placed on such communities by the need to support reentry.

(d) FACILITATING REENTRY ASSISTANCE TO VETERANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 months after the date of the commencement of a prisoner's sentence pursuant to section 3585(a) of title 18, United States Code, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall notify the Secretary of Veterans Affairs if the prisoner's presentence report, prepared pursuant to section 3552 of title 18, United States Code, indicates that the prisoner has previously served in the Armed Forces of the United States or if the prisoner has so notified the Bureau of Prisons.

(2) POST-COMMENCEMENT NOTICE.—If the prisoner informs the Bureau of Prisons of the prisoner's prior service in the Armed Forces of the United States after the commencement of the prisoner's sentence, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall notify the Secretary of Veterans Affairs not later than 2 months after the date on which the prisoner provides such notice.

(3) CONTENTS OF NOTICE.—The notice provided by the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under this subsection shall include the identity of the prisoner, the facility in which the prisoner is located, the prisoner's offense of conviction, and the length of the prisoner's sentence.

(4) ACCESS TO VA.—The Bureau of Prisons shall provide the Department of Veterans Affairs with reasonable access to any prisoner who has previously served in the Armed Forces of the United States for purposes of facilitating that prisoner's reentry.

SEC. 7. ADDITIONAL TOOLS TO PROMOTE RECOVERY AND PREVENT DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE. —

(a) REENTRY AND RECOVERY PLANNING.—

(1) PRESENTENCE REPORTS.—Section 3552 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsections (b), (c), and (d) as subsections (c), (d), and (e), respectively;

(B) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b) REENTRY AND RECOVERY PLANNING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the information required by rule 32(d) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the report submitted pursuant to subsection (a) shall contain the following information, unless such information is required to be excluded pursuant to rule 32(d)(3) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure or except as provided in paragraph (2):

“(A) Information about the defendant’s history of substance abuse and addiction, if applicable.

“(B) Information about the defendant’s service in the Armed Forces of the United States and veteran status, if applicable.

“(C) A detailed plan, which shall include the identification of programming provided by the Bureau of Prisons that is appropriate for the defendant’s needs, that the probation officer determines will—

“(i) reduce the likelihood the defendant will abuse drugs or alcohol if the defendant has a history of substance abuse;

“(ii) reduce the defendant’s likelihood of recidivism by addressing the defendant’s specific recidivism risk factors; and

“(iii) assist the defendant preparing for reentry into the community.

“(2) EXCEPTIONS.—The information described in paragraph (1)(C)(iii) shall not be required to be included under paragraph (1), in the discretion of the Probation Officer, if the applicable sentencing range under the sentencing guidelines, as determined by the probation officer, includes a sentence of life imprisonment or a sentence of probation.”;

(C) in subsection (c), as redesignated, in the first sentence, by striking “subsection (a) or (c)” and inserting “subsection (a) or (d)”; and

(D) in subsection (d), as redesignated, by striking “subsection (a) or (b)” and inserting “subsection (a) or (c)”.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3672 of title 18, United States Code, is amended in the eighth undesignated paragraph by striking “subsection (b) or (c)” and inserting “subsection (c) or (d)”.

(b) PROMOTING FULL UTILIZATION OF RESIDENTIAL DRUG TREATMENT.—Section 3621(e)(2) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C) COMMENCEMENT OF TREATMENT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this subparagraph, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall ensure that each eligible prisoner has an opportunity to commence participation in treatment under this subsection by such date as is necessary to ensure that the prisoner completes such treatment not later than 1 year before the date on which the prisoner would otherwise be released from custody prior to the application of any reduction in sentence pursuant to this paragraph.

“(D) OTHER CREDITS.—The Director of the Bureau of Prisons may, in the Director’s discretion, reduce the credit awarded under subsection (h)(6)(A) to a prisoner who receives a reduction under subparagraph (B), but such reduction may not exceed one-half the amount of the reduction awarded to the prisoner under subparagraph (B).”.

(c) SUPERVISED RELEASE PILOT PROGRAM TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM AND IMPROVE RECOVERY FROM ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall establish a recidivism reduction and recovery enhancement pilot program, premised on high-intensity supervision and the use of swift, predictable, and graduated sanctions for noncompliance with program rules, in Federal judicial districts selected by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts in consultation with the Attorney General.

(2) REQUIREMENTS OF PROGRAM.—Participation in the pilot program required under paragraph (1) shall be subject to the following requirements:

(A) Upon entry into the pilot program, the court shall notify program participants of

the rules of the program and consequences for violating such rules, including the penalties to be imposed as a result of such violations pursuant to subparagraph (E).

(B) Probation officers shall conduct regular drug testing of all pilot program participants with a history of substance abuse.

(C) In the event that a probation officer determines that a participant has violated a term of supervised release, the officer shall notify the court within 24 hours of such determination, absent good cause.

(D) As soon as is practicable, and in no case more than 1 week after the violation was reported by the probation officer, absent good cause, the court shall conduct a hearing on the alleged violation.

(E) If the court determines that a program participant has violated a term of supervised release, it shall impose an appropriate sanction, which may include the following, if appropriate:

(i) Modification of the terms of such participant’s supervised release, which may include imposition of a period of home confinement.

(ii) Referral to appropriate substance abuse treatment.

(iii) Revocation of the defendant’s supervised release and the imposition of a sentence of incarceration that is no longer than necessary to punish the participant for such violation and deter the participant from committing future violations.

(iv) For participants who habitually fail to abide by program rules or pose a threat to public safety, termination from the program.

(3) STATUS OF PARTICIPANT IF INCARCERATED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In the event that a program participant is sentenced to incarceration as described in paragraph (2)(E)(iii), the participant shall remain in the program upon release from incarceration unless terminated from the program in accordance with paragraph (2)(E)(iv).

(B) POLICIES FOR MAINTAINING EMPLOYMENT.—The Bureau of Prisons, in consultation with the Chief Probation Officers of the Federal judicial districts selected for participation in the pilot program required under paragraph (1), shall develop policies to enable program participants sentenced to terms of incarceration as described in paragraph (2)(E) to, where practicable, serve the terms of incarceration while maintaining employment, including allowing the terms of incarceration to be served on weekends.

(4) ADVISORY SENTENCING POLICIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The United States Sentencing Commission, in consultation with the Chief Probation Officers, the United States Attorneys, Federal Defenders, and Chief Judges of the districts selected for participation in the pilot program required under paragraph (1), shall establish advisory sentencing policies to be used by the district courts in imposing sentences of incarceration in accordance with paragraph (2)(E).

(B) REQUIREMENT.—The advisory sentencing policies established under subparagraph (A) shall be consistent with the stated goal of the pilot program to impose predictable and graduated sentences that are no longer than necessary for violations of program rules.

(5) DURATION OF PROGRAM.—The pilot program required under paragraph (1) shall continue for not less than 5 years and may be extended for not more than 5 years by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.

(6) ASSESSMENT OF PROGRAM OUTCOMES AND REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall conduct an evaluation of the pilot program and submit to Congress a report on the results of the evaluation.

(B) CONTENTS.—The report required under subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) the rates of substance abuse among program participants;

(ii) the rates of violations of the terms of supervised release by program participants, and sanctions imposed;

(iii) information about employment of program participants;

(iv) a comparison of outcomes among program participants with outcomes among similarly situated individuals under the supervision of United States Probation and Pretrial Services not participating in the program; and

(v) an assessment of the effectiveness of each of the relevant features of the program.

SEC. 8. ERIC WILLIAMS CORRECTIONAL OFFICER PROTECTION ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 303 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 4049. Officers and employees of the bureau of prisons authorized to carry oleoresin capsicum spray

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall issue, on a routine basis, oleoresin capsicum spray to—

“(1) any officer or employee of the Bureau of Prisons who—

“(A) is employed in a prison that is not a minimum or low security prison; and

“(B) may respond to an emergency situation in such a prison; and

“(2) to such additional officers and employees of prisons as the Director determines appropriate, in accordance with this section.

“(b) TRAINING REQUIREMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In order for an officer or employee of the Bureau of Prisons, including a correctional officer, to be eligible to receive and carry oleoresin capsicum spray pursuant to this section, the officer or employee shall complete a training course before being issued such spray, and annually thereafter, on the use of oleoresin capsicum spray.

“(2) TRANSFERABILITY OF TRAINING.—An officer or employee of the Bureau of Prisons who completes a training course pursuant to paragraph (1) and subsequently transfers to employment at a different prison, shall not be required to complete an additional training course solely due such transfer.

“(3) TRAINING CONDUCTED DURING REGULAR EMPLOYMENT.—An officer or employee of the Bureau of Prisons who completes a training course required under paragraph (1) shall do so during the course of that officer or employee’s regular employment, and shall be compensated at the same rate that the officer or employee would be compensated for conducting the officer or employee’s regular duties.

“(c) USE OF OLEORESIN CAPSICUM SPRAY.—Officers and employees of the Bureau of Prisons issued oleoresin capsicum spray pursuant to subsection (a) may use such spray to reduce acts of violence—

“(1) committed by prisoners against themselves, other prisoners, prison visitors, and officers and employees of the Bureau of Prisons; and

“(2) committed by prison visitors against themselves, prisoners, other visitors, and officers and employees of the Bureau of Prisons.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 303 of part III of title 18,

United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 4048 the following:

“4049. Officers and employees of the bureau of prisons authorized to carry oleoresin capsicum spray.”.

(c) GAO REPORT.—Not later than the date that is 3 years after the date on which the Director of the Bureau of Prisons begins to issue oleoresin capsicum spray to officers and employees of the Bureau of Prisons pursuant to section 4049 of title 18, United States Code (as added by this Act), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report that includes the following:

(1) An evaluation of the effectiveness of issuing oleoresin capsicum spray to officers and employees of the Bureau of Prisons in prisons that are not minimum or low security prisons on—

(A) reducing crime in such prisons; and

(B) reducing acts of violence committed by prisoners against themselves, other prisoners, prison visitors, and officers and employees of the Bureau of Prisons in such prisons.

(2) An evaluation of the advisability of issuing oleoresin capsicum spray to officers and employees of the Bureau of Prisons in prisons that are minimum or low security prisons, including—

(A) the effectiveness that issuing such spray in such prisons would have on reducing acts of violence committed by prisoners against themselves, other prisoners, prison visitors, and officers and employees of the Bureau of Prisons in such prisons; and

(B) the cost of issuing such spray in such prisons. Recommendations to improve the safety of officers and employees of the Bureau of Prisons in prisons.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. TESTER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 469. A bill to improve the reproductive assistance provided by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to severely wounded, ill, or injured members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their spouses or partners, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I wish to take a few minutes to discuss a piece of legislation I am introducing today—legislation I have written to improve access to health care for our Nation's veterans, because there is no more solemn promise we make as a nation than our commitment to care for the men and women who serve in the U.S. military. These men and women put life and limb on the line to protect our country, to protect our freedoms, and to protect our way of life. In return, we as a country make a promise to care for them, no matter what. Just as important, we make a promise to care for their families—their wives, their husbands, and their children.

Many of the young men and women who serve in the military enter at a very young age, often before they have children of their own. Like so many other Americans, they have big plans for their lives after their service. Many

of them plan to buy a house, go back to school, and eventually have a family.

But in a time when our military conflicts involve roadside bombs, make-shift explosives, and life-threatening danger around every corner, many of our service men and women are coming home with injuries that leave them unable to start their own family.

In fact, military data shows that over the last decade, thousands of servicemembers have suffered injuries that make it nearly impossible to have children. We should be doing everything we can, with the best science and health services available, to help our veterans and their loved ones have children, despite their injuries.

But instead, outdated policies at the Pentagon and the VA are making it harder, not easier, for seriously injured veterans to have children. That is because when severely injured service men and women and veterans seek reproductive health services, such as in vitro fertilization, their military and VA health insurance simply doesn't cover this often very expensive procedure. As a result, the only option for these heroes and their partners to have children is to pay out of their own pocket, often tens of thousands of dollars, to try and conceive.

So today I am introducing The Women Veterans and Families Health Services Act of 2015.

It would basically do two things: First, it would expand the reproductive health services available for Active-Duty servicemembers and their families.

Second, it would finally end the ban on in vitro fertilization services at the VA. I have introduced similar legislation in the past, and, as I have done before, I am going to share the story of SSG Matt Keil and his wife Tracy.

Staff Sergeant Keil was shot in the neck while on patrol in Ramadi, Iraq, on February 24, 2007, just 6 weeks after he married the love of his life, Tracy. The bullet went through the right side of his neck, hit a major artery, went through his spinal cord, and exited through his left shoulder blade. He instantly became a quadriplegic. Doctors informed Tracy her husband would be on a ventilator for the rest of his life, and would never move his arms or legs.

Staff Sergeant Keil eventually defied the odds and found himself off the ventilator and beginning a very long journey of physical rehabilitation.

Around that same time, Tracy and her husband started exploring the possibilities of starting a family together. Having children was all they could talk about, once they adjusted to their “new normal.”

With Staff Sergeant Keil's injuries preventing him from having children naturally, Tracy turned to the VA for assistance and began to explore her options for fertility treatments. Feeling defeated after being told the VA had no

such programs in place for her situation, Tracy and Staff Sergeant Keil decided to pursue IVF through the private sector.

While they were anxious to begin this chapter of their lives, they were confronted with the reality that TRICARE did not cover any of the costs related to Tracy's treatments, because she did not have fertility issues beyond her husband's injury.

Left with no further options, the Keils decided this was important enough to them that they were willing to pay out of pocket to the tune of almost \$32,000 per round of treatment. Thankfully, on November 9, 2010, just after their first round of IVF, Staff Sergeant Keil and Tracy welcomed their twins Matthew and Faith into the world.

Tracy told me:

The day we had our children something changed in both of us. This is exactly what we had always wanted, our dreams had arrived.

The VA, Congress and the American People have said countless times that they want to do everything they can to support my husband or make him feel whole again and this is your chance.

Having a family is exactly what we needed to feel whole again. Please help us make these changes so that other families can share in this experience.

Tracy does not want to see other servicemembers and their families go through the struggle she and Matt did because of outdated policies that don't reflect modern medicine.

While the Keils' story may be unique, they are not alone. Thousands of servicemembers and veterans have returned from their service hoping to have children, only to find that, despite their sacrifices for our country, they are unable to obtain the kind of assistance they need. Some have spent tens of thousands of dollars in the private sector, like Tracy and her husband did, to get the advanced reproductive treatments they need to start a family. Others have, sadly, watched their marriages dissolve because of the stress of infertility, in combination with the stress of readjusting to a new life after a severe injury, driving their relationship to a breaking point.

Any servicemember who sustains this type of serious injury deserves so much more. They deserve our support to help them start a family, and our support to raise that family.

This bill is so important because access to childcare is one of the most significant barriers to care for women veterans and younger veterans. This bill makes permanent the highly successful pilot program in VA and expands it across the country. I am very hopeful today that both Republicans and Democrats can come together to support this bill.

Just a few years ago we were able to pass similar legislation through the Senate, but, unfortunately, it didn't

pass the House in time to get the President's signature and become signed into law. This time has to be different, because this bill is about nothing more than giving veterans who have sacrificed so much the option to fulfill the dream of starting a family. It is a bill that shows when we tell our servicemembers deploying to a war zone that we have their back, we mean it. It is a bill that recognizes the men and women who are harmed in the service of this country have bright, full lives ahead of them.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 250. Mr. HATCH proposed an amendment to the bill S. 295, to amend section 2259 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 250. Mr. HATCH proposed an amendment to the bill S. 295, to amend section 2259 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 4, beginning on line 22, strike "sexual conduct (as those terms are defined in section 2246)" and insert "sexual contact (as those terms are defined in section 2246) or sexually explicit conduct (as that term is defined in section 2256)".

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 11, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 11, 2015, at 9:45 a.m., in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled, "The Connected World: Examining the Internet of Things."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 11, 2015, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled, "Oversight Hearing: Examining EPA's proposed carbon dioxide emissions rules from

new, modified, and existing power plants."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 11, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 11, 2015, at 2:15 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Ending Modern Slavery: The Role of U.S. Leadership."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 11, 2015, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled "Ambushed: How the NLRB's New Election Rule Harms Employers & Employees."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 11, 2015, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Risky Business: Examining GAO's 2015 List of High Risk Government Programs."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 11, 2015, at 3 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 11, 2015, at 2:45 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following morning business on Thursday, February 12, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 12, the nomination of Ashton Carter to be Secretary of Defense. I further ask that the time until 2 p.m. be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, and that at 2 p.m. the Senate vote on confirmation. I ask that if the nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENTS

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Democratic leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 99-93, as amended by Public Law 99-151, appoints the following Senators as members of the United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control: the Honorable DIANNE FEINSTEIN of California, the Honorable CHARLES E. SCHUMER of New York, and the Honorable SHELDON WHITEHOUSE of Rhode Island.

The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 96-388, as amended by Public Law 97-84, and Public Law 106-292, reappoints the following Senators to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council: the Honorable BERNARD SANDERS of Vermont and the Honorable AL FRANKEN of Minnesota.

The Chair announces, on behalf of the Democratic leader, pursuant to Public Law 105-83, the reappointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the National Council on the Arts: the Honorable TAMMY BALDWIN of Wisconsin.

The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Public Law 94-304, as amended by Public Law 99-7, appoints the following Senators as members of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki) during the 114th Congress: the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN of Maryland, the Honorable SHELDON WHITEHOUSE of Rhode Island, the Honorable TOM UDALL of New Mexico, and the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN of New Hampshire.

The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 106-286, appoints the following Members to serve on the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: the Honorable DIANNE FEINSTEIN of California, the Honorable SHERROD BROWN of Ohio, the Honorable JEFF MERKLEY of Oregon, and the Honorable GARY C. PETERS of Michigan.

The Chair, pursuant to Executive Order 12131, as amended and extended, appoints the following Senators to the President's Export Council: the Honorable AMY KLOBUCHAR of Minnesota and the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND of New York.

The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 85-874, as amended, reappoints the following Senator to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: the Honorable MARK WARNER of Virginia.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 12, 2015

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Sen-

ate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Thursday, February 12; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the Democrats controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half; following morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the Carter nomination under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. CORNYN. For the information of all Senators, the vote will occur at 2 p.m. tomorrow on the Carter nomination.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:10 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, February 12, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, February 11, 2015

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JOLLY).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 11, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID W. JOLLY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

ADMIRAL ROBERT HARPER SHUMAKER ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS CAPTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, February 11, 2015. What is the special significance? We become involved in our routines and our responsibilities. We greet our colleagues, and the day continues. This was not the case 50 years ago.

A young Navy pilot climbed into the cockpit of his F-8 Crusader aboard the USS *Coral Sea*, readying himself for a mission over North Vietnam.

Now, imagine yourself, Mr. Speaker, as a young naval aviator. They are some of the best that we have in our Armed Forces—some may say a little cocky. They are actually able to fly a flying engine, in essence. An F-8 Crusader can go faster than the speed of sound. They can fly missions and actu-

ally land back on a ship at night in rough seas.

So, 50 years ago today, this young naval aviator boarded his F-8 Crusader and was going to fly a low-level mission about 1,000 feet above the surface. Yet, after he took on some fire, very quickly he realized that he was in some trouble. The cockpit filled with smoke, and he had a very short amount of time to exit the plane. His parachute opened at about 35 feet above the ground, and he broke his back upon impact. This young pilot's world had just changed—and dramatically. What was he going to do with the pain? His first thought was: "When am I going to be killed?" He was picked up very quickly and was marched by bayonet.

The interesting thing, Mr. Speaker, is that, as the second American aviator shot down over North Vietnam, he was a prize and, therefore, was photographed. While this may not seem lucky, it was actually very fortunate in the fact that his family now knew and the people back in the United States now knew that he was alive and in captivity. He was, indeed, one of the lucky ones because, as the POWs would mount over this conflict in Vietnam, many did not have that same luck.

On having broken his back on impact, he was looking for medical attention. The medical attention he received was a white robe and a bunch of cameras, taking pictures, and as soon as the cameras left, the extent of his medical treatment ceased. He was taken to the Hoa Lo Prison, which we now affectionately know as the Hanoi Hilton. He was the one who was eventually credited with naming the Hanoi Hilton.

As those who know who have been in captivity and as many of us have read, when you are in captivity, you are able to give your captors four basic—what they call the big four—pieces of information: your name, your rank, your serial number, and your date of birth. As we know, this obviously was not going to be enough.

Over the next 8 years and a day, this naval aviator endured some of the worst torture. At some point in time, everyone breaks, and the torture that they endured and that this man endured eventually had to give—whether it was sitting on broomsticks for days at a time or tying your arms behind your back and then having your elbows brought together by ropes and then slowly risen above your head. So he did give some additional information.

His father was a lawyer but also owned a farm in Pennsylvania. The Vi-

etnamese wanted to know how many chickens did they have. At some point in time, he said: That is pretty innocuous information. I will let them know—19 chickens. He knew when he got back to his cell, and some of these cells, Mr. Speaker, were about 3 by 9, some 4 by 9. Now, just imagine spending 10 hours in a 4-by-9-foot space, not to mention 2½ years of solitary confinement, 8 years in captivity. So he gave this additional information, and as he went back to his cell, he realized it was going to get worse and worse. He tried to take his own life, Mr. Speaker, because he thought he had let his country down.

Communication, however, was a huge savior—a savior for himself and for the other men who would be in captivity—that sense of camaraderie, that sense of making sure that your brain could continue to focus on other things, that message to keep them and their spirits up. They devised a tap code. It was a 5-by-5 metric of A, B, C, D, E and the next line of F, G, H, I, J. They left out the K because that would not make it a 5-by-5-foot box.

His courage, his integrity, his leadership and loyalty to his fellow prisoners—his love of country—cemented faith wherever present. His valor in the face of the impossible ensured that he returned with honor.

Lieutenant Commander Robert Harper Shumaker—now Admiral Shumaker—holds a near and dear place in my heart. He happens to be my uncle. When my wife and I had our first daughter, we decided to name her Harper after one of the most incredible people we know.

Mr. Speaker, my daughter gave me very clear instructions before I came here, and that was to let everyone know how much we love this American hero. In my office, I keep two pictures: one of the day he was shot down, and the other of the day he was reunited with his family. They were reminders to me not of the darkness and cruelty of war but of the power of faith and the strength of a brotherhood and the honor that no one could take away.

On the 50th anniversary of one of the darkest hours endured by an American aviator, let the record show that we stand and applaud this most revered American patriot.

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU'S INVITATION TO SPEAK TO A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the scheduled March 3 invitation by Speaker BOEHNER to Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu to speak to a joint session of Congress is wrong on many levels.

It is a deliberate attempt by the Israeli Prime Minister and the Speaker of the House to undercut an effort at a diplomatic solution to stop Iran from becoming a nuclear power. This is calculated to occur at a very sensitive stage in talks to reach a potential agreement to limit Iran's nuclear ambitions. Undercutting that diplomatic option is wrong for the United States. It undermines our efforts to smooth choppy waters at a time when we are deeply concerned with ISIS, Hezbollah, Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria. The potential of being able to work with Iran beyond the nuclear weapons issue is important for trying to manage many of the world's most explosive problems.

It is impossible to fully comprehend the next steps if we undercut this diplomatic effort. Why give Iran an excuse to blame the United States for a failure of negotiations and play to their hardliners, who don't want any agreement that would contain their efforts to build nuclear weapons?

There are no other good alternatives. Some of the people most eager to ultimately use military force against Iran are the same people who were so enthusiastic about going to war with Iraq. The fallout of the war with Iran would likely be as bad or worse at a time of upheaval in this troubled region.

There are other critical issues besides the negotiations with Iran. It is outrageous to think that Israel or any country would use Congress as a prop for their highly contested domestic elections. This proposed speech would be right in the middle of a short and heated Israeli election. It is unseemly and counterproductive. One has only to look at Netanyahu's television commercials from his last election—and how he used his appearance before Congress—to see where this is going.

Finally, there is the issue of respect for the Office of the President and the responsibility to conduct foreign policy. I can't imagine what the reaction would have been if Speaker NANCY PELOSI had offered French President Sarkozy an opportunity to lecture Republicans and George Bush about our disastrous policy in Iraq. Republicans would have been apoplectic.

This is not good for Israel either. It is creating a backlash at home for Netanyahu. It is creating heartburn for some of the strongest supporters of Israel in Congress, and it is straining the relationship between the administration and the Government of Israel. This drama is coming at a time when the majority of Israelis think their country is headed in the wrong direc-

tion, when Netanyahu does not have the majority support of his countrymen, when the election is quite close, with a significant number of undecided voters; and polls tell us a majority of Israelis think this speech is a bad idea.

It is unnecessary; it is unfortunate; and it is a bad precedent. Joint sessions involving heads of state and other world leaders should advance American interests and be a positive expression of our values and our opportunities, not a partisan or an ideological device. This proposed speech fails that test. The invitation should be withdrawn or rescheduled, or the Israeli Prime Minister, himself, should reconsider. I, for one, have no intention of being part of dignifying this blatant political act with my presence, because it is not good for Congress; it is not good for Israel; and it is not good for the United States.

REDEDICATING OURSELVES TO OUR NATION'S UNFINISHED WORK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, 7 score and 12 years ago, another gentleman from Illinois went to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, to dedicate the 4-month-old, still unfinished Union cemetery at the site of one of the bloodiest battles in American history. There he would give one of our Nation's defining speeches. Amazingly, President Lincoln's address was not even the main event of that day. Edward Everett, the former president of Harvard, was the event's main speaker, spending 2 hours lecturing about ancient Greece and how that society honored their fallen soldiers.

Everett later wrote:

I should be glad if I could flatter myself that I came as near to the central idea of the occasion in 2 hours as President Lincoln did in 2 minutes.

In the 2½ minutes Lincoln spoke, he did more than honor our fallen soldiers. In 272 eloquent words, he reminded us that we live in a nation dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. He asked whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure.

In his address, the President also issued a challenge to his contemporaries and to generations of Americans thereafter, saying:

It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.

He concluded:

Our Nation shall have a new birth of freedom and that a government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from this Earth.

In his address, I believe, President Lincoln was asking the question: What

do we as Americans mean when we say all of us "are created equal"?

□ 1015

In the over 150 years since the Gettysburg Address, we have had our struggles, but we have also had our successes.

We have suffered the Supreme Court's decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, but we also experienced the redemption of *Brown v. Board of Education*. We allowed the women of this Nation to remain disenfranchised for more than a century, but we also passed the 19th Amendment, which affirmed women's right to vote.

We lived through the travesties of Jim Crow, but we also celebrated the passage of the Civil Rights Act. We watched Truman's executive action desegregate our military. We passed Don't Ask, Don't Tell—and repealed it—and DOMA, but we also have witnessed the legalization of same-sex marriage in 37 States and the District of Columbia.

All of these examples serve as reminders of the difficulties in ensuring equality for all, but they also demonstrate a nation that has responded to challenge and has been reborn. Each time, we have come a little closer to living up to the ideal that all of us are created equal.

To paraphrase Dr. King, the moral arc of our Nation may be long, but as history shows us, it bends towards justice, equality, and freedom.

In times of dissonance, inequality, and injustice, great leaders like Lincoln have reminded us of our Nation's true purpose: equality.

On Lincoln's birthday, let's rededicate ourselves to our Nation's unfinished work. Let's ensure that women get equal pay for equal work. Let's recognize all love as equal and extend marriage rights to all of our citizens once and for all. Let's strengthen the Voting Rights Act to guarantee that no one is disenfranchised and all Americans have access to this fundamental right.

Let's finish the work the Senate started and pass a comprehensive immigration reform bill. Let's pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act so that no American can be fired simply because of who they love or who they are. Let's allow our neighbors and friends who put in a full day's work, whether in the mailroom or the boardroom, to provide their families with a living wage.

Lincoln modestly believed that "no one would long remember" his address that day at Gettysburg, but we do remember and strive to honor all those who have sacrificed and struggled—and continue to struggle—for equality because we believe, as Dr. King spoke of on the steps of Lincoln's own sacred memorial, "that one day this Nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: We hold these truths to

be self-evident, that all men are created equal.”

WORLD IS SILENT AS SUDAN RENEWS GENOCIDAL ATTACKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the deteriorating humanitarian and human rights situation inside Sudan. Regrettably, as the attention of the world has been pulled in many different directions, the people of Sudan have been forgotten.

For over a year and a half, the situation inside Sudan has been getting worse and worse. It happens quietly, out of the limelight, but the suffering of the Sudanese people is not silent. Their cries are deafening to those trying to help.

On July 22, 2004, the House of Representatives adopted House Concurrent Resolution 467 by a vote of 422-0. That resolution declared that the crimes of Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir in Darfur constituted genocide.

Over a decade later, the Sudanese government has renewed and increased its genocidal attacks in Darfur. As humanitarian agencies withdraw from the region, unable to carry out their missions in the face of unrelenting attacks, the civilian and displaced populations of Darfur are left without protection and without witnesses.

In the past weeks, the government-supported Janjaweed—now reincarnated as Bashir's Rapid Support Forces, or RSF—have intensified their scorched earth campaign of attacks, bombings, rape, displacement, and destruction.

According to the Satellite Sentinel Project and the Enough project, these forces are “better equipped, centrally commanded, and fully integrated into the state's security apparatus, with legal immunity from prosecution.”

According to reports by United to End Genocide, since January 1, at least 20,000 innocent civilians have been forced to flee their homes in Darfur. President al-Bashir is bombing civilians, blocking the investigation of the reported mass rape of over 200 Darfuri women and, in the midst of the sharpest increase in violence in years, demanding the removal of U.N. peacekeepers.

On January 6, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported that 115 villages have either been abandoned or burned to the ground in North Darfur. Attackers have forced women, children, and the elderly to leave their villages with nothing to survive on, often looting everything belonging to civilians.

It is clear that the RSF and their masters in Khartoum are engaged in a

campaign to strip the people of Darfur of everything they own, anything that might keep them alive, and condemn them to increasing poverty displacement, starvation, and death. And the world—including Congress and the U.N. Security Council—remains silent.

In the border states of South Kordofan and Blue Nile, defenseless civilians in the Nuba Mountains face a relentless bombing campaign by the Sudanese Air Force and ground attacks by the Sudanese Armed Forces. On January 20, a hospital in South Kordofan run by Doctors Without Borders was deliberately targeted by an aerial bombing campaign, depriving the local population of lifesaving care.

In the past few months, under the auspices of the African Union, countries from the region, as well as the United States and Europe, have sought to bring the Bashir regime and various rebel forces to the table in order to negotiate a cessation of hostilities and promote an inclusive national dialogue. This is a worthy effort with worthy goals, but while such talks meander, Khartoum continues its genocidal campaign to impose military solutions to the political crisis facing Sudan.

President Bashir has no political solution to Sudan's problems. As the people of Darfur, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile know only too well, displacement, starvation, and death are the only strategies being pursued by the government in real time and in real life.

It is unconscionable—it is shameful—that these horrors are taking place inside Sudan in complete silence. The lack of response by the United States, by the Europeans, by the nations of the region only serves to provide Bashir with a green light to continue the killing.

Over 10 years ago, Congress called these very same actions acts of genocide and crimes against humanity. At the end of this month, I intend to reintroduce an updated version of my bipartisan bill, the Sudan Peace, Security, and Accountability Act, and demonstrate to the suffering people of Sudan—especially those in Darfur, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile—that we hear their cries and that this House intends to take action.

I ask all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in this effort.

[From United to End Genocide, Dec. 9, 2014]

WILL 2015 BE THE WORST YEAR FOR SUDAN?

(By Daniel Sullivan)

Sudan's impunity and intransigence have taken a sharp turn for the worse. That's a pretty high bar considering the country's track record since the genocide in Darfur started more than a decade ago. But even measured against a long history of abuse, Sudan's recent actions led by President Omar al-Bashir are a particularly harsh slap in the face for the international community.

In recent weeks, the Government of Sudan has newly bombed civilians in Darfur and the

Nuba Mountains, blocked the investigation of a reported mass rape of over 200 Darfuri women, and, in the midst of the sharpest increase in violence and displacement in years, called for the removal of UN peacekeepers.

These new bold actions must be met with equally bold measures by the United States and the rest of the international community.

The facts are astounding. More than 430,000 people newly displaced in Darfur in 2014, the highest number since the height of the genocide. Over 2,000 bombs dropped in South Kordofan and Blue Nile since fighting began there in 2012. And new bombings in Darfur are in clear violation of UN Security Council Resolutions.

“Increased criminality” and “prevailing insecurity” cited in the latest report of the UN Secretary General on Darfur including fifty-five cases of violence, nearly half by government forces, in recorded by UN peacekeepers in the last 90 days. Serious allegations of mass rape that the UN Secretary General and highest UN peacekeeping officials have insisted must be investigated.

Yet, the Sudanese government is blatant in its denial. Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, wanted on charges of genocide by the International Criminal Court, accused the UN peacekeeping mission in Darfur (UNAMID) of being a “security burden” and blamed foreigners for fabricating rape allegations to “confuse the improvement of the situation in Darfur”.

To make matters worse, this is not just an escalation of the kind of posturing the Sudanese regime has practiced in the past. Bashir is also getting new support from Russia. In a recent visit, the Russian Foreign Minister announced plans for increased military support for the Sudanese regime and the Sudanese government said that Russia supports its position on removal of UNAMID.

The irony is that as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, Russia is among those responsible for failing to support UNAMID.

On paper, the Council has given UNAMID a strong mandate, backed by the strongest authorizations under Chapter VII of the UN Charter including the use of force to protect civilians. But in reality, Sudan has been allowed to intimidate UNAMID and there has been little accountability from the international community when the mission fails to report or act to protect civilians.

The way to address these problems is not play into the hands of the perpetrators and to remove the imperfect last line of defense for many civilians, but rather to reinforce the peacekeeping mission so that it can carry out the mission that has been set out for it.

The UN Security Council, including Russia, must live up to its own commitments in terms of justice and accountability. The year 2014 will close with the latest briefing of the UN Security Council on Darfur by the Chief Prosecutor to the International Criminal Court (ICC) Fatou Bensouda. Amazingly, this is the 20th such briefing since the Council referred the case of Darfur to the ICC.

In her last such briefing, Bensouda admonished the Security Council for its failure to take action in the face of “total impunity” in Darfur and called for “a dramatic shift in this Council's approach to arresting Darfur suspects”. Six months later little has been done to support the court.

Sadly, the only dramatic shift has come on the part of the Government of Sudan whose latest intransigence is mind-bogglingly being met with more welcome than condemnation. For the sake of past victims of

genocide and those now in the cross-hairs of the sharpest uptick in violence in nearly a decade, the Security Council must respond.

DEAR MADAM, DEAR SIR, DEAR COLLEAGUE,

Please find below a statement released today by Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) regarding the aerial bombing of a hospital operated by MSF in Sudan on January 20, forcing the suspension of medical activities.

You may find the full statement below, and on the website.

Sincerely,

MANUEL LANNAUD.

SUDAN: MSF HOSPITAL BOMBED IN SOUTH KORDOFAN

NEW YORK/PARIS, January 22, 2015.—A hospital operated by the international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) was directly targeted in an aerial bombing in Sudan on January 20, forcing the suspension of medical activities, MSF announced today.

The hospital, located in the Nuba Mountains village of Frandala in the South Kordofan region of Sudan, was bombed by the Sudanese Air Force (SAF). Repeated and targeted bombings in the region prevent the safe operation of medical activities, depriving the local population of lifesaving care.

"We condemn in the strongest terms the bombing of the Frandala hospital," said Marc Van der Mullen, MSF head of mission. "With more than 100 patients present, we were very lucky not to have more casualties because people simply had no time to seek protection. Everyone is shocked and frightened of further attacks."

Approximately 150 patients and staff were in the hospital when a SAF fighter jet dropped a cluster of 13 bombs, two of which landed inside the hospital compound. The others struck just outside the hospital fence. One MSF staff member and one patient were injured. The property also suffered damage.

The attack is part of an indiscriminate bombing campaign in South Kordofan, a feature of the war between authorities in Khartoum and rebels groups in the Nuba Mountains. Health facilities are not spared, adding to the suffering of the population created by the bombing raids.

The Frandala hospital was previously bombed in June, 2014. That attack took place despite the Sudanese government's knowledge of the hospital location and its activities, which had been previously communicated to the authorities by MSF. One patient was killed in the attack and several others were wounded. The hospital also sustained significant damage. MSF publicly condemned the attack and demanded respect of medical facilities.

"Today there can be no doubt that this was a deliberate and targeted bombing on a civilian hospital structure and part of a strategy to terrorize the community," said Van der Mullen. "MSF again calls on Khartoum to respect assistance provided to the population. Despite this latest setback we will try to find a way to continue to provide care to the population caught in this largely undocumented war."

MSF is one of the few health care providers in South Kordofan. The MSF facility in Frandala, featuring outpatient and inpatient wards, began operating in 2012. Nearly 80,000 consultations have been performed, along with close to 4,000 hospitalizations.

FUND HOMELAND SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, the President has issued an AUMF, which is the authority to determine the questions of war and peace, particularly in light of the dangers we face with ISIS. In spite of that, we are holding hostage the funding of the armor of security for this Nation, the Department of Homeland Security, the committee upon which I have sat since the horrible, heinous act of 9/11.

We take our work very seriously. We know that we oversee the national security of this Nation, along with the very important aspect and leadership of our Defense Department. Every day, we are mindful of the roles that individuals play who are a part of the Department of Homeland Security.

Rather than looking to be concerned about the dangers of unaccompanied children, as our Republican friends seem to be, challenging the President's thoughtful executive actions within the context of his constitutional authority, we are now using those reasons for holding hostage the very armor of domestic security.

Mr. Speaker, let me tell you, the TSA officers that I see as I travel around this country are front liners. I speak to them all the time. They have protected this Nation from various attacks—or potential attacks, might I say—stopping threats that many of us are not even aware of. These very faithful workers, along with border security workers, will have to work without pay. There will have to be a reordering of the strategies of the Secretary of Homeland Security.

Mr. Speaker, 40,000 Border Patrol agents; 50,000 TSA personnel; 13,000 Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, officers; 40,000 Coast Guard; and 4,000 Secret Service officers will be threatened by this.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I demand that we do the right thing, with 8 legislative days left. Fund the Department of Homeland Security. Speak in a tone that is that of America. Defend our Nation. Protect our Nation. Stop this politicizing of the funding of the Department of Homeland Security.

I ask the Republicans to join me in an important patriotic effort. Fund the Department of Homeland Security.

TRIBUTE TO ERNIE BANKS, AMBASSADOR FOR BASEBALL, MR. CUB

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate African American History Month, I rise to acknowledge and pay tribute to one of the most

outstanding athletes in the history of baseball but also one of the most congenial personalities in public life, Ernie Banks, also known as Mr. Cub, Mr. Chicago, and Mr. Ambassador for Baseball.

Ernie Banks was indeed a superior athlete, playing 19 years for the Chicago Cubs, named MVP in 1958 and 1959, named to the All-Star team 12 times, hit .274 with 512 home runs, voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame on his first year of eligibility. But it was actually his cheerful attitude and his love of the game that made him such a popular player.

Ernie was always the absolute optimist. You could always count on him to express a most positive attitude:

Everyday was a good day; let's play two.

No matter what the Cubs' record, this was the year that they could win the pennant and become World Series champions.

After his playing days were over, Ernie became a coach and was active in the community. He founded a charitable organization, became the first Black Ford Motor Company dealer in the United States, and even ran unsuccessfully for the Chicago City Council.

A few years ago, Ernie approached me about an effort he had underway to get young athletes who grew up in the inner city and depressed communities to pool some of their resources and reinvest in the rebuilding and redevelopment of these neighborhoods. He was an inspiration to stars like Magic Johnson, Isaiah Thomas, and others who are doing just that.

In 1997, he was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame; in 1999, he was named to the Major League Baseball All Century Team; and in 2013, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama.

Ernie Banks, we salute you, Mr. Cub, Mr. Chicago, Mr. Ambassador for Baseball, but most importantly, Mr. Cheerleader for Life and Positive Living.

CONGRESS IS A COEQUAL BRANCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TIP-TON). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. JOLLY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strongest support for the invitation to have Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu address this body and to express my personal support for the Speaker's invitation.

Congress is a coequal branch. The Constitution acknowledges that. It establishes that. To suggest, as some have, that this body does not have a role in the geopolitical and diplomatic strategy of this Nation is flatly wrong.

This body, this Congress, funds our diplomatic activities. We, this body, this Congress, funds our military activities. And this body authorizes the use of military force, as acknowledged

by the President just today with his delivery of a request for an authorization to use military force.

This body, this Congress, authorizes sanctions. And this body has expressed strong support in recent years for additional sanctions on Iran. We have a disagreement with the President, very respectfully, on this issue. But to suggest that this body, this Congress, this co-equal branch, established by article I of the Constitution, should simply lay down its responsibility because the President of the United States suggested during the State of the Union that he will veto any additional sanctions we pass would be a dereliction of the duty of this body, of this Congress.

□ 1030

That is why we have expressed our interest and we have said to the President that we do want to hear from our greatest ally in the Middle East to express our position of how to secure the region. It is appropriate. We are a co-equal branch.

At a time when the President continues negotiations with Iran over the objections of so many in this body, at a time when the administration has had to acknowledge—forced to acknowledge a secret letter to Iran, it is appropriate for this body to stand up, and it is appropriate for this body to suggest that we stand with Israel perhaps in a way that the President does not.

This body, this House, this Member, we welcome the Prime Minister here in March. We look forward to hearing his vision, the vision of our greatest ally in the region, on securing peace in the Middle East, providing for the stability of the Middle East, securing democracy, and to say with the people of Israel that we stand with you in providing for your security.

CONTINUED REMITTANCES TO SOMALIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, my question to all my colleagues today as I stand before this body is: If we could prevent a humanitarian disaster, would we? Should we?

Right now, Somalia may be on the brink of a preventable humanitarian disaster. My district happens to be home to one of the largest Somali American communities in the world, and it is certainly the largest in the Western Hemisphere.

My constituents have come to me and have explained in very detailed and moving ways that it is time for us to figure out this problem that we have in the United States with helping people remit money that they have earned to their loved ones in the Horn of Africa.

Somali Americans in my district are proud of the progress Somalia has

made, as I am and many people around the world are. This is a nation that, for over two decades, had civil war but now has a President, a legislature, and is planning for elections in 2016.

This country is fighting off al Shabaab, a terrorist organization in league with al Qaeda, and this nation has successfully fought off famine and want of many kinds. Now, they are on another kind of problem, and this problem has to do with remittances and the ability of Somali Americans to send money to their loved ones.

It is important to understand that the progress they have made is fragile. We, in the United States, don't need to worry about sending money there right now, although we should, and we have, and we are. We need to just get out of the way to allow Somali Americans to send money to their own loved ones, and our financial system is inhibiting that.

Every year, Somali Americans send about \$215 million to Somalia, a figure comparable to the entire U.S. aid package, which is approximately about \$200 million a year. Individual Somali Americans send more money than the whole Government of the United States sends there, and that vital pipeline is lifesaving money that is shut off now as we speak.

The bank that provided 60 percent of the remittances or funds sent to Somalia closed accounts of businesses that transfer money from the U.S. to Somalia, and this is catastrophic.

Now, Somali Americans cannot send money to their loved ones, and Somalis can no longer receive money that they depend on for food, for school fees, for medical bills. Many of the financial institutions in the United States have chosen to avoid serving money services businesses that send money to vulnerable nations like Somalia, due to concern that the money could find its way into bank accounts of unsavory money launderers.

The goal of the U.S. financial regulator is good. We want to keep money from the money launderers and the terrorists; but do we arrive at a point where our regulation is so tight that even the legitimate money that we want to flow is being cut off?

I am calling on our government to get together—Treasury, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, State Department—and have a real conversation, how we can stop the bad money but also let the good money flow.

As I said, Somalia depends upon this money. It is a very fragile state. It is emerging from being a failed state. If they cut the remittances off, we will see catastrophic results.

One of those catastrophic results will be an opening to groups like al Shabaab, a terrorist group that argues that the United States and the West generally don't want to help Somalia.

We need to stop them from using that recruiting message by figuring out

how we can achieve our goals of stopping bad money from flowing and allowing good money to flow. For years, I have been asking for agencies to work with me to prevent this foreseeable tragedy. We need to be creative about finding a solution.

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York could use its wire service to process transfers to east Africa; that is a possibility. We could follow the example of the United Kingdom and set up a safe corridors program for banks to safely transfer money while managing risk. We could provide proactive training and assistance for banks that want to serve east African communities. There is no shortage of ideas.

I urge our government to sit down at a table and figure out a way to stop the money launderers and the bad money from flowing, but to certainly allow legitimate remittances to flow. We could prevent a catastrophe if we do.

END THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY IMPASSE NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. TAKAI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TAKAI. Aloha, Mr. Speaker.

On February 27, the Department of Homeland Security will run out of money—17 more days. If this is not resolved, at best case, approximately 200,000 workers will stay on the job without pay or be furloughed or, at worst, not work.

Mr. Speaker, I was elected to Congress and came here promising my constituents no more government shutdowns, no more Federal furloughs, and no more sequestration; yet here we are, on the verge of letting funding for Homeland Security run out and partially shutting down government. This impasse needs to end, and it needs to end now.

I say the bottom line—to paraphrase DHS Secretary Johnson's point—is security for our Nation is not free. Our homeland security cannot be hijacked by political games. We must get past this political stalemate and work out a clean bill for funding Homeland Security.

If we don't, significant portions of the Department of Homeland Security could be crippled, and hundreds of thousands of critical Federal personnel—our constituents—could be affected.

Let's remember that we are talking about some of the most critical security personnel who are working to keep Americans safe—shuttering the DHS Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, which would no longer alert and coordinate with local law enforcement agencies, and withholding the Securing the Cities grants that pay for critical nuclear detection capacities in cities across the country; halting research and development work on countermeasures to devastating biological

threats, on nuclear detection equipment, and on cargo and passenger screening technologies; crippling FEMA's preparations for future disasters, furloughing nearly 22 percent of FEMA personnel; and ending FEMA's training activities with local law enforcement for weapons of mass destruction events.

Although some DHS employees would continue to work in the event of a shutdown, they would be forced to work without pay, creating a significant distraction and dealing a direct blow to morale.

Among those who would be affected and expected to protect Americans without getting paid would be more than 40,000 Border Patrol agents and Customs and Border Protection agents; more than 50,000 TSA aviation security screeners; more than 13,000 Immigration and Customs Enforcement law enforcement agents and officers; more than 40,000 Active-Duty Coast Guard military members; and more than 4,000 Secret Service law enforcement agents and officers.

Holding hostage funding of DHS for the purpose of overturning the President's executive actions on immigration is wrong. President Obama was forced to take action because of the inaction of this House to consider a bipartisan, comprehensive immigration reform bill that the Senate passed last year. Here we are again, yet with more inaction.

We cannot waste any more time here with political bickering, and it is not fair to try to hijack Homeland Security funding with an anti-immigration agenda. The security of our Nation and our people hang in the balance.

Again, no more government shutdowns, no more Federal furloughs, no more sequestration—let's get to work, come together, answer the call of our constituents, and just pass a clean bill for DHS funding.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 40 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As we meditate on all the blessings of life, we especially pray for the blessing of peace in our lives and in our world. Our fervent prayer, O God, is that people will learn to live together in reconciliation and respect so that the terrors of war and violence will be no more.

As You have created each person, we pray that You would guide our hearts and minds, that every person of every place and background might focus on Your great gift of life and so learn to live in unity.

May Your special blessings be upon the Members of this assembly in the important, sometimes difficult work they do. Give them wisdom and charity that they might work together for the common good.

May all that is done this day in the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE AGAINST THE ISLAMIC STATE OF IRAQ AND THE LEVANT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 114-9)

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

The so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) poses a threat to the people and stability of Iraq, Syria, and the broader Middle East, and to U.S. national security. It threatens American personnel and facilities located in the region and is responsible for the deaths of U.S. citizens James Foley, Steven Sotloff, Abdul-Rahman Peter Kassig, and Kayla Mueller. If left unchecked, ISIL will pose a threat beyond the Middle East, including to the United States homeland.

I have directed a comprehensive and sustained strategy to degrade and defeat ISIL. As part of this strategy, U.S. military forces are conducting a systematic campaign of airstrikes against ISIL in Iraq and Syria. Although existing statutes provide me with the authority I need to take these actions, I have repeatedly expressed my commitment to working with the Congress to pass a bipartisan authorization for the use of military force (AUMF) against ISIL. Consistent with this commitment, I am submitting a draft AUMF that would authorize the continued use of military force to degrade and defeat ISIL.

My Administration's draft AUMF would not authorize long-term, large-scale ground combat operations like those our Nation conducted in Iraq and Afghanistan. Local forces, rather than U.S. military forces, should be deployed to conduct such operations. The authorization I propose would provide the flexibility to conduct ground combat operations in other, more limited circumstances, such as rescue operations involving U.S. or coalition personnel or the use of special operations forces to take military action against ISIL leadership. It would also authorize the use of U.S. forces in situations where ground combat operations are not expected or intended, such as intelligence collection and sharing, missions to enable kinetic strikes, or the provision of operational planning and other forms of advice and assistance to partner forces.

Although my proposed AUMF does not address the 2001 AUMF, I remain committed to working with the Congress and the American people to refine, and ultimately repeal, the 2001 AUMF. Enacting an AUMF that is specific to the threat posed by ISIL could serve as a model for how we can work together to tailor the authorities granted by the 2001 AUMF.

I can think of no better way for the Congress to join me in supporting our Nation's security than by enacting this legislation, which would show the world we are united in our resolve to counter the threat posed by ISIL.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 11, 2015.

JOINT RESOLUTION

To authorize the limited use of the United States Armed Forces against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

Whereas the terrorist organization that has referred to itself as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and various other names (in this resolution referred to as “ISIL”) poses a grave threat to the people and territorial integrity of Iraq and Syria, regional stability, and the national security interests of the United States and its allies and partners;

Whereas ISIL holds significant territory in Iraq and Syria and has stated its intention to seize more territory and demonstrated the capability to do so;

Whereas ISIL leaders have stated that they intend to conduct terrorist attacks internationally, including against the United States, its citizens, and interests;

Whereas ISIL has committed despicable acts of violence and mass executions against Muslims, regardless of sect, who do not subscribe to ISIL’s depraved, violent, and oppressive ideology;

Whereas ISIL has threatened genocide and committed vicious acts of violence against religious and ethnic minority groups, including Iraqi Christian, Yazidi, and Turkmen populations;

Whereas ISIL has targeted innocent women and girls with horrific acts of violence, including abduction, enslavement, torture, rape, and forced marriage;

Whereas ISIL is responsible for the deaths of innocent United States citizens, including James Foley, Steven Sotloff, Abdul-Rahman Peter Kassig, and Kayla Mueller;

Whereas the United States is working with regional and global allies and partners to degrade and defeat ISIL, to cut off its funding, to stop the flow of foreign fighters to its ranks, and to support local communities as they reject ISIL;

Whereas the announcement of the anti-ISIL Coalition on September 5, 2014, during the NATO Summit in Wales, stated that ISIL poses a serious threat and should be countered by a broad international coalition;

Whereas the United States calls on its allies and partners, particularly in the Middle East and North Africa, that have not already done so to join and participate in the anti-ISIL Coalition;

Whereas the United States has taken military action against ISIL in accordance with its inherent right of individual and collective self-defense;

Whereas President Obama has repeatedly expressed his commitment to working with Congress to pass a bipartisan authorization for the use of military force for the anti-ISIL military campaign; and

Whereas President Obama has made clear that in this campaign it is more effective to use our unique capabilities in support of partners on the ground instead of large-scale deployments of U.S. ground forces: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This joint resolution may be cited as the “Authorization for Use of Military Force against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.”

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The President is authorized, subject to the limitations in subsection (c), to use the Armed Forces of the United States as the President determines to

be necessary and appropriate against ISIL or associated persons or forces as defined in section 5.

(b) **WAR POWERS RESOLUTION REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **SPECIFIC STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION.**—Consistent with section 8(a)(1) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1547(a)(1)), Congress declares that this section is intended to constitute specific statutory authorization within the meaning of section 5(b) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1544(b)).

(2) **APPLICABILITY OF OTHER REQUIREMENTS.**—Nothing in this resolution supercedes any requirement of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1541 et seq.).

(c) **LIMITATIONS.**—The authority granted in subsection (a) does not authorize the use of the United States Armed Forces in enduring offensive ground combat operations.

SEC. 3. DURATION OF THIS AUTHORIZATION.

This authorization for the use of military force shall terminate three years after the date of the enactment of this joint resolution, unless reauthorized.

SEC. 4. REPORTS.

The President shall report to Congress at least once every six months on specific actions taken pursuant to this authorization.

SEC. 5. ASSOCIATED PERSONS OR FORCES DEFINED.

In this joint resolution, the term “associated persons or forces” means individuals and organizations fighting for, on behalf of, or alongside ISIL or any closely-related successor entity in hostilities against the United States or its coalition partners.

SEC. 6. REPEAL OF AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE AGAINST IRAQ.

The Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Public Law 107-243; 116 Stat. 1498; 50 U.S.C. 1541 note) is hereby repealed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND DISABILITY DOUBLE-DIPPING

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, millions of Americans who have paid into Social Security rely on the promise that it will be there for them when they become disabled and cannot work. Unfortunately, under current law, some people can get both disability benefits and unemployment benefits. That just doesn’t make any sense. Disability benefits are for those who can’t work. Unemployment benefits are for those who can work.

That is why I will be introducing commonsense legislation this week that will help ensure Social Security disability benefits are only for those who truly cannot work. With the disability program going broke next year, we cannot afford to continue to allow individuals to double dip. My bill will stop this double-dipping and will help ensure that the disability program is there for those who truly need it.

NATIONAL SALUTE TO VETERAN PATIENTS

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, each year, the Department of Veterans Affairs designates a week in February as the National Salute to Veterans to honor the brave men and women who have served our country. More than 98,000 veterans are cared for in the VA facilities across America, and the National Salute to Veterans is one small way to say thank you to these brave men and women.

Every year, I join with students all across Rhode Island to deliver Valentines to veterans during this week in order to pay tribute and express our appreciation for their service. This Saturday, I will visit the Providence VA Medical Center and veterans’ homes across the State to personally deliver thousands of handwritten cards. This week, VA medical facilities all over will be holding many special activities to pay tribute to the veterans who have bravely served our country.

I encourage my colleagues and everyone listening to contact your nearest VA medical center and ask for Voluntary Service to get involved and salute America’s heroes this week.

HONORING SENATOR BARRY GOLDWATER

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that Congress today will honor a great American patriot, Barry Goldwater, with a statue in the National Statuary Hall of the U.S. Capitol.

On July 4, 1963, I visited Washington, by bus, for the first time to participate in the National Draft Goldwater Rally. Senator Goldwater’s legacy of promoting limited government, a strong national defense—leading to victory in the cold war—and protecting personal freedoms is more vital than ever. As a teenage Republican, I lived the southern Republican revolution he inspired. He helped transform the South from nonexistent, or insignificant, Republican legislative membership in 1963, culminating in 2014 with Republican legislative majorities in all States from Virginia to Texas and Oklahoma to Arkansas.

I am grateful the southern Republican revolution has created an open process in South Carolina, with Nikki Haley being the first female Governor in 340 years, with TIM SCOTT being the first popularly elected African American ever elected in the South to the U.S. Senate, and Alan Wilson being elected America’s youngest attorney general.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLOODY SUNDAY, TURNAROUND TUESDAY, AND FINAL SELMA TO MONTGOMERY VOTING RIGHTS MARCH

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor those who, in the face of violent opposition, bravely stood for what is right. This March will mark the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday, and the final Selma to Montgomery voting rights march.

In 2013, I had the honor of joining Congressman JOHN LEWIS to visit some of these historic sites, including the Edmund Pettus Bridge, where nearly 8,000 foot soldiers marched to demonstrate against the denial of African Americans' right to vote. The sacrifice and perseverance of the Selma foot soldiers inspired the Nation, and in August of that year, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was signed into law.

As we continue to celebrate Black History Month, I, along with many of my colleagues, am a proud original cosponsor of H.R. 431, which would award the highest civilian honor, the Congressional Gold Medal, to the foot soldiers of the voting rights movement. The bravery of the civil rights activists demonstrated half a century ago was remarkable, but we must not forget how much still needs to be done.

KAYLA MUELLER

(Mr. GOSAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about Kayla Mueller, one of my constituents, who was brutally kidnapped and killed by the Islamic State, or ISIS.

Kayla was a young woman who was still full of youthful exuberance, optimism about peace and human relations, and who was willing to put her life on the line to help others halfway around the world. She was a beautiful soul, and I know she is with God now. I am not youthful.

I see ISIS for what it is.

This is an Islamic terrorist group that is a scourge to humanity. Our society cannot exist with barbaric and evil people who value death over life, war over peace, and chaos over order. Their evil deeds are well known—as they publicize them—genocide, mass murder, sadistic killings.

I am done. I hope you are, too.

The elimination of ISIS is long overdue. In order to defeat these terrorists,

we need a strategic and comprehensive military strategy.

FUNDING HOMELAND SECURITY AND IMPROVING PORT SECURITY

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to warn of the impending danger of shutting down the Department of Homeland Security.

While terror attacks are occurring worldwide, it is unbelievable and it would be unforgivable to stop funding the Department that protects our Nation's security. Yet some in Congress are willing to shut down this Department and put our Nation at risk unless we deport 5.3 million people.

As cochair of the Ports Caucus and as the Representative of the Port of Los Angeles, I can tell you that our ports are one of the most vulnerable entryways into this country; and though I believe we should do more to protect our Nation's ports, closing the Department of Homeland Security at this time would make our ports even more vulnerable to an attack.

We must act now. Time is running out to pass legislation to keep this Department open.

□ 1215

TERRORISM THREAT NOT ON PAR WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in the administration's national security strategy unveiled last week, they went as far as to identify climate change as a threat on par with terrorism and weapons of mass destruction.

I agree that we need to continue to be cognizant and attentive of the impacts of the climate, but it is downright dangerous to equate the issue to the very real and direct threats that terrorist organizations and networks around the world pose to the lives of American citizens.

Mr. Speaker, Americans saw firsthand and will never forget the horrors of September 11, 2001.

Mr. Speaker, I also believe that thousands of U.S. troops who have fought in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the families and friends of the thousands of Americans who have paid the ultimate price, would respectfully disagree with the President.

Mr. Speaker, just this morning, the White House circulated a proposal to Congress to authorize military action to fight Islamic State terrorists—a day after it was confirmed that an American aid worker had been killed by the terrorist group.

This is a clear indication that the threat of terrorism has posed and continues to pose a much more immediate challenge to our national security and the safety of every American than climate change.

FUNDING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

(Mrs. TORRES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, it is irresponsible to hold homeland security funds hostage simply because some of my colleagues don't like the President's action on immigration. There is a time and place to have this debate—and this isn't it.

I spent my career working in public safety and emergency preparedness with the LAPD. Security is in my blood. I know how important it is to be able to plan, prepare, and maintain the morale of those on the front lines.

If we let the Department of Homeland Security funding expire, it isn't nameless bureaucrats who will be suffering. We will shutter the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, halt R&D work to counter security threats, and end FEMA training activities with our local law enforcement. That says nothing of the 147,000 Border Patrol, ICE, and TSA officers, Active Duty Coast Guard, and Secret Service agents who will be forced to work without pay.

These men and women have our backs. We should have theirs.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

(Mrs. BLACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, in the President's State of the Union Address he declared the need for "21st century infrastructure." With today's legislation to complete the Keystone XL pipeline, we are offering him an infrastructure bill that would create jobs and promote energy security.

This study from the President's own State Department says Keystone will create about 42,000 jobs and generate about \$2 billion in earnings, all while imposing a negligible environmental impact.

This project has been waiting for approval for more than 2,300 days. The Nebraska Supreme Court struck down the challenge against it. Fifty-eight percent of Americans said they support it, and a bipartisan majority in both Chambers of Congress approved it.

I urge the President to listen to the will of his constituents and, if nothing else, maybe read the reports from his own administration. The excuses have run out. It is time to build.

FUND HOMELAND SECURITY

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, as you have heard, there are only 17 days until the GOP recklessly shuts down the Department of Homeland Security—and only 6 legislative days before that happens. We have a bipartisan bill that we have already agreed to. Bring it to the floor. We will be here. We can pass it today.

When the majority leader was asked why we should pass the DHS funding bill, he said: “Why do we have to?” Seriously. This is about the safety of the American people. Rather than dealing with the safety of the American people, the Republican leadership has decided to continue to pander to the extreme Tea Party voices within their party.

We ought to be taking this up as a matter of course and get back to the business of dealing with the big questions that people want us to take on, like how we can create an economy that is not rigged for the people at the top, with the rest of us paying the price. These are questions that people want us to deal with.

We ought to set aside the politics of this Homeland Security bill and bring the bill that you have already agreed to, and we will vote on it and get on with the business of the American people.

WE NEED STRONG LEADERSHIP
ON TERRORISM

(Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern about the continued expansion of Islamic terrorist groups and the threat they pose to the American people.

Today, the President requested congressional authorization for his limited efforts against ISIS, but make no mistake: this request does not constitute a strategy, nor does it substitute for resolve.

In August, the President promised to “degrade and destroy” this terrorist army through airstrikes and military assistance to our partners. Since then, his efforts have remained lacking, while ISIS’ sanctuary has grown to the size of Maryland.

The administration has instead courted the mullahs of Iran and signaled a willingness to work with Syria’s brutal dictatorship, the Assad regime, even though they both still continue to contribute to this crisis.

History has shown us that the world pays a heavy price when we appease dictators and turn a blind eye to evil. The President has allowed the emergence of a global threat that will likely persist for years.

The American people deserve stronger leadership from their Commander in Chief and to hear directly from him how the action he is asking Congress to authorize will destroy ISIS.

FY 2015 FUNDING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, in these challenging times, as we work to protect the country from the security threats we face, I call on the Republican leadership to bring a clean bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security to the floor.

As a senior member of the Committee on Homeland Security, I know that DHS plays a vital role in protecting us from threats like ISIL, and I strongly support those who defend our Nation, go to work every day to protect us, and particularly those who put their lives on the line.

Protecting the homeland extends beyond conventional acts of terror to things like cybersecurity, an area that I am deeply concerned about. Through endeavors like the National Cybersecurity Communications and Integration Center and US-CERT, DHS partners with industry to defend us against attacks and works to protect and assist Federal agencies from cyber assault.

Mr. Speaker, the attack on Sony and Anthem’s massive data breach underscore the need for the robust cybersecurity activities supported by DHS. For the majority to prevent DHS’ hard-working employees from being paid or undertaking new projects is politics trumping policy, and I urge my Republican colleagues to abandon their misguided strategy and bring a clean bill to the floor that will appropriately fund DHS.

HONORING DANE A. MILLER

(Mr. STUTZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and the legacy of Dr. Dane A. Miller, who passed away yesterday.

Dane was born in 1946 and, along with his wife, Mary Louise, was nothing short of the classic American success story. There is also no shortage of professional accomplishments to fully describe this industry titan.

As the founder of Biomet, now a medical device company in Warsaw, Indiana, he started the company—in true Indiana form—in a converted barn. During his time as president and CEO, he managed to grow Biomet into a company of over \$2 billion in annual sales and 4,000 employees.

Dane was a brilliant man. He was a Ph.D. and a biomedical engineer known for numerous innovations in the medical device industry. Perhaps the only two things he didn’t know how to do was to give up on a problem or to retire. He was tireless in his efforts. The only thing larger than his ability was his heart.

His time and energy were fully dedicated to his wife, family, and the greater community of Warsaw and his hometown of Winona Lake.

My heart goes out to his family and the innumerable people whose lives he touched. For me and so many others, Dane Miller will be a shining example of hard work, charity to one’s fellow man, and doing this all while maintaining a humble spirit. He enjoyed nothing more than spending time with his friends and family. Dane has affected so many lives in wonderful ways and will long be missed.

FUND DHS

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is amazing to me to watch the Republicans recklessly play politics with our national security. That is right. Keeping America safe is why we have a Department of Homeland Security. That is what it does.

Funding for the Department of Homeland Security expires February 27. We have only 6 legislative days between now and then to pass a clean funding bill.

If we fail to pass a bill, 30,000 workers will be furloughed and the rest will work without getting paid. Really? These workers are Border Patrol Agents, TSA security screeners, immigration officers, and members of the Secret Service and Coast Guard. We rely on them to keep us safe—and they rely on us to pay them.

Shame on the Republican Party for jeopardizing our national security in a misguided attempt to score political points with the extremist wing of their base. Give us a clean bill and let us fund the Department of Homeland Security.

PASS THE KEYSTONE XL
PIPELINE BILL

(Mr. HARRIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, this year, House Republicans have hit the ground running in addressing harmful and outdated policies that have hindered job growth and hurt the American economy over the last several years. One of our first priorities has been to pass a bill to build the Keystone pipeline, which I hope will have final passage here later today.

It has been 6 years since the original Keystone pipeline application was submitted—6 long years where we would have increased job creation, energy security, lowered energy costs, and built a stronger economy.

It is time to take action where this administration has failed to and move forward with the Keystone pipeline, an issue that has broad bipartisan support and will create jobs and positively impact hardworking families across the country.

We plan on getting a lot done this Congress, and our top priority will be kick-starting our stalled economy. House Republicans remain focused on creating good-paying jobs, growing our economy, and ensuring that every hardworking American has the opportunity to succeed.

HONORING ALEX RAY

(Ms. KUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Alex Ray, a Granite Stater who has made significant contributions to our State's identity and our economy.

When you ask most people in New Hampshire what restaurant captures the essence of our State, they will say the Common Man. Alex built the Common Man family of restaurants from the ground up, expanding from one location in Ashland, New Hampshire, in 1971 to 16 eateries around the State. He has also given back a great deal to communities across New Hampshire and has been involved with a wide array of philanthropic endeavors over the years.

Alex's motto for the Common Man family is simply, "Do Good," which he seeks to instill in his staff and live by in his own life.

He is currently in the process of completing two beautiful new rest areas off Interstate 93. These new facilities are great examples of the public-private partnerships that have been so successful in New Hampshire.

Alex's creative and community-oriented approach to both business and philanthropy has had an incredibly positive impact over the last four decades.

I am honored to count Alex as a good friend, and I would like to express my appreciation for all his wonderful work on behalf of the citizens of New Hampshire.

FUNDING DHS

(Mr. LOWENTHAL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, as the sign points out, today marks 17

days until the Department of Homeland Security shuts down, leaving our Nation's national security at risk.

Why is DHS closing down? It is closing down for the reason that it is being held hostage because it is riddled with immigration policy riders which, as we all know, have a zero chance of being signed by the President.

If funding lapses, our Nation's ports of entry will be severely impacted. For example, I represent the Port of Long Beach. They will not be able to upgrade their communications and their surveillance systems unless DHS continues and is able to put out grant funding. That is unacceptable and also very unwise.

The Senate has made clear that it will not accept the current bill and will not pass that bill in its Chamber. It is now time for the Republican leadership in this House to end their political grandstanding and bring up a clean DHS bill immediately.

□ 1230

DON'T SHUT DOWN OUR SECURITY

(Mr. CROWLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because time is running out for my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to act responsibly when it comes to our Nation's security. In 17 days, the money for our Homeland Security programs will be gone.

My Democratic colleagues and I are sending a very clear message to Speaker BOEHNER and the Republican majority. Don't shut down our security. It is as simple as that. Don't shut down our security.

Don't shut down the very agency that is trusted to protect the American people from threats of every kind. Don't hold our Homeland Security programs hostage until you get your way in deporting parents and families.

Don't put politics before people. That is exactly what they are doing. Seventeen days, there is no more time for these kinds of games.

At that point, thousands of vital workers will either be forced to work without pay or sent home, leaving their important jobs undone during a dangerous time in our world.

They are putting politics before people. They are putting politics before the safety of our country. Don't shut down our security. Don't shut down our security.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE APPROVAL ACT

(Ms. ADAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to S. 1.

Here we go again. For the 11th time, House Republicans are falsely promoting the idea that Keystone will improve the economy.

They say Keystone will create 42,000 jobs. False—Keystone will create 35 permanent jobs. Republicans say the pipeline will guarantee U.S. energy independence. False—there is no concrete assurance that oil produced by the pipeline will remain in the U.S.

Along with these economic shortcomings, U.S. taxpayers will bear 100 percent of the risk if a catastrophic spill occurs. America needs job growth, reliable energy, not hypotheticals. We must be focused on investments in clean energy and infrastructure projects that create jobs and boost our economy.

With no real impact on job creation or energy security, this bill is a losing deal for everyone except the foreign company, TransCanada.

The American people and our environment deserve better than to be collateral damage for an unfounded project. I stand opposed to the Keystone XL Pipeline Approval Act, and I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later.

AWARDING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO THE FOOT SOLDIERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN BLOODY SUNDAY, TURNAROUND TUESDAY, OR THE FINAL SELMA TO MONTGOMERY VOTING RIGHTS MARCH IN MARCH OF 1965

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 431) to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Foot Soldiers who participated in Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday, or the final Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March in March of 1965, which served as a catalyst for the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 431

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) March 7, 2015, will mark 50 years since the brave Foot Soldiers of the Voting Rights

Movement first attempted to march from Selma to Montgomery on "Bloody Sunday" in protest against the denial of their right to vote, and were brutally assaulted by Alabama state troopers.

(2) Beginning in 1964, members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee attempted to register African-Americans to vote throughout the state of Alabama.

(3) These efforts were designed to ensure that every American citizen would be able to exercise their constitutional right to vote and have their voices heard.

(4) By December of 1964, many of these efforts remained unsuccessful. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., working with leaders from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, began to organize protests throughout Alabama.

(5) On March 7, 1965, over 500 voting rights marchers known as "Foot Soldiers" gathered on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama in peaceful protest of the denial of their most sacred and constitutionally protected right—the right to vote.

(6) Led by John Lewis of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and Rev. Hosea Williams of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, these Foot Soldiers began the march towards the Alabama State Capitol in Montgomery, Alabama.

(7) As the Foot Soldiers crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge, they were confronted by a wall of Alabama state troopers who brutally attacked and beat them.

(8) Americans across the country witnessed this tragic turn of events as news stations broadcasted the brutality on a day that would be later known as "Bloody Sunday."

(9) Two days later on Tuesday, March 9, 1965, nearly 2,500 Foot Soldiers led by Dr. Martin Luther King risked their lives once more and attempted a second peaceful march starting at the Edmund Pettus Bridge. This second attempted march was later known as "Turnaround Tuesday."

(10) Fearing for the safety of these Foot Soldiers who received no protection from federal or state authorities during this second march, Dr. King led the marchers to the base of the Edmund Pettus Bridge and stopped. Dr. King kneeled and offered a prayer of solidarity and walked back to the church.

(11) President Lyndon B. Johnson, inspired by the bravery and determination of these Foot Soldiers and the atrocities they endured, announced his plan for a voting rights bill aimed at securing the precious right to vote for all citizens during an address to Congress on March 15, 1965.

(12) On March 17, 1965, one week after "Turnaround Tuesday", U.S. District Judge Frank M. Johnson ruled the Foot Soldiers had a First Amendment right to petition the government through peaceful protest, and ordered federal agents to provide full protection to the Foot Soldiers during the Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March.

(13) Judge Johnson's decision overturned Alabama Governor George Wallace's prohibition on the protest due to public safety concerns.

(14) On March 21, 1965, under the court order, the U.S. Army, the federalized Alabama National Guard, and countless federal agents and marshals escorted nearly 8,000 Foot Soldiers from the start of their heroic journey in Selma, Alabama to their safe arrival on the steps of the Alabama State Capitol Building on March 25, 1965.

(15) The extraordinary bravery and sacrifice these Foot Soldiers displayed in pur-

suit of a peaceful march from Selma to Montgomery brought national attention to the struggle for equal voting rights, and served as the catalyst for Congress to pass the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which President Johnson signed into law on August 6, 1965.

(16) To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Movement and the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, it is befitting that Congress bestow the highest civilian honor, the Congressional Gold Medal, in 2015, to the Foot Soldiers who participated in Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday or the final Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March during March of 1965, which served as a catalyst for the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design to the Foot Soldiers who participated in Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday, or the final Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March during March of 1965, which served as a catalyst for the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the "Secretary") shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) AWARD OF MEDAL.—Following the award of the gold medal described in subsection (a), the medal shall be given to the Selma Interpretative Center in Selma, Alabama, where it shall be available for display or temporary loan to be displayed elsewhere, as appropriate.

SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses, and the cost of the gold medal.

SEC. 4. STATUS OF MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) and the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous materials into the RECORD concerning H.R. 431, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this very important bill, H.R. 431, a bipartisan bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the foot soldiers, the courageous men and women who participated in historic days such as Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday, and the final March from Selma to Montgomery to ensure voting rights for African Americans.

Mr. Speaker, sometimes, it is hard for people in today's society to realize the historical significance of the events that took place in the past. For younger people, it may seem like a lifetime ago, but for those who lived through those experiences, it may seem like it just happened yesterday.

One series of events that we cannot and must not allow to fade away are the historic marches that began in Selma in the spring of 1965. On March 7, 1965, led by two fearless men, the Reverend Hosea Williams and a man many in this Chamber know well, Representative JOHN LEWIS, 500 of those brave foot soldiers determined to have their voices heard and their right to vote be recognized as they bravely lined up at the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

These initial marchers were then brutally assaulted and beaten by Alabama State troopers as they attempted to cross the bridge, seeking to assert their constitutional right to vote. That atrocity became known as Bloody Sunday.

Two days later, nearly 2,500 foot soldiers, led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., peacefully assembled and again attempted to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge. The group marched to where the attacks occurred a few days before on Bloody Sunday, and at Dr. King's request, they stopped and knelt in prayer. Following the prayer, the marchers turned around and returned to Selma.

Finally then, on March 21, under the protection of the U.S. Army, Federal marshals, and the federalized Alabama National Guard at that point, that group had swollen to 8,000 foot soldiers who were escorted safely for 54 miles from Selma to Montgomery.

By the time the march reached the steps of the State capitol, that group had grown to approximately 25,000 people strong there on those steps in Montgomery.

Mr. Speaker, instead of bringing the campaign to search for voting rights to a halt, 50 years ago, the photographs and blurry television images of that violent attack on Bloody Sunday on that bridge galvanized the national attention. In fact, the first march was a catalyst for action.

Just 5 short months after the first march, Congress had passed and President Johnson had signed into law the Voting Rights Act.

Mr. Speaker, we, as a Nation, must do more to ensure voting rights are protected for all Americans, and in doing so, we must remember the sacrifices of those individuals who came before us and worked so tirelessly to make a difference and to create voting rights equality.

It is truly a privilege for me personally to stand before you today as Congress recognizes these brave men and women and the historical significance of those marches that began in Selma and forever changed the direction of our great Nation.

I thank the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) for highlighting these historic events, and I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 431.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 431 and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Michigan for joining me on the floor today to support H.R. 431. I have enjoyed our bipartisan working relationship on the House Financial Services Committee, and I am pleased today to share this debate time with him.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 431, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the foot soldiers who participated in Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday, or the final Selma to Montgomery voting rights march in 1965.

March 7, 2015, will mark 50 years since the courageous foot soldiers of the voting rights movement first attempted to march from Selma to Montgomery to protest the denial of their voting rights.

Led by our colleague JOHN LEWIS of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and Reverend Hosea Williams of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, these foot soldiers began the march towards the Alabama State Capitol in Montgomery. They pledged to keep on walking until they secured the freedoms promised to them by the U.S. Constitution.

As they crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge, a wall of Alabama State troopers were waiting at the foot of the bridge. News stations from across the country televised the brutality that followed as foot soldiers like Hosea Williams; JOHN LEWIS; Amelia Boynton Robinson; Reverend F.D. Reese; Bob Nance of Lowndes County; Albert Turner, Sr., of Perry County; and so many others were attacked on Edmund Pettus Bridge on what has become known as Bloody Sunday.

The journey of the foot soldiers we honor today was not an easy one. They were discriminated by Whites and ostracized by Blacks who were afraid to join them, but still, they persevered because they could no longer bear the burdens of second-class citizenship.

The president of the Dallas County Voters League, Reverend F.D. Reese, wasn't going to let nobody turn him around, he told me. He said that given the conditions that existed in Selma and the South at that time, he wanted to make sure that things were different.

He was willing to do whatever was necessary to ensure that people—no matter their race, color, or creed—would have the right to vote.

He said:

The Lord gave us determination to keep moving forward. We were determined to let the Lord lead us and direct us so that all people, regardless of their color, would have access to the political process.

He went on:

We were not at all afraid because we were determined that whatever it took, even if it meant our lives, we were going to move Alabama and the States and this Nation forward.

Amelia Boynton Robinson literally felt the blows of injustice as she was beaten on the bridge by Alabama State troopers and left for dead. Amelia's will and dignity suffered no damage, but it made her more resolved than ever to continue the fight for equal voting rights.

Two days after Bloody Sunday, over 2,500 foot soldiers, heeding the call from Dr. Martin Luther King, came to Selma to join the marchers. On March 9, 1965, led by Dr. King and Reverend Ralph Abernathy and many clergy from across this Nation, the foot soldiers once again left from the historic Brown Chapel AME Church and walked to the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

Dr. King stopped at the top of the bridge while a sea of State troopers stepped aside. On bended knees, Dr. King began to pray as the thousands of marchers joined him. As if moved by the spirit, Dr. King turned around and walked back to the church. Tuesday was not to be the day to complete the 54-mile journey. The second march attempt was known as Turnaround Tuesday.

The fight for voting rights was fought both in the streets and in the courtrooms. Attorney Fred Gray helped pave the way for the final Selma to Montgomery march. He was a member of the legal team that represented Hosea Williams, JOHN LEWIS, and Amelia Boynton Robinson in *Williams v. Wallace*.

Because of his work and the courage of an Alabama Federal judge, Federal Judge Frank Johnson ruled that the foot soldiers had a First Amendment right to petition the government through peaceful protest and ordered Federal agents to provide full protection to the foot soldiers during the Selma to Montgomery March.

Under court order, the U.S. Army, the federalized Alabama National Guard, and countless Federal agencies and marshals escorted more than 8,000

foot soldiers on March 21, 1965, as these brave men and women began their historic 54-mile journey from Selma to the steps of the Alabama State Capitol in Montgomery, Alabama.

The extraordinary bravery and sacrifices these foot soldiers displayed in pursuit of a peaceful march from Selma to Montgomery brought national attention to the struggle for equal voting rights and served as a catalyst for Congress to pass the Voting Rights Act of 1965 which President Lyndon Johnson signed into law on August 6, 1965.

Mr. Speaker, as Alabama's first Black Congresswoman, I know that the journey that I now take was only made possible because of the courage and bravery of the foot soldiers of the voting rights movement.

As a proud native of Selma and the U.S. Representative who now represents Selma and parts of Montgomery, I am the direct beneficiary of their sacrifice.

During this 50th commemoration of the voting rights movement and the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, it is befitting that this august body would bestow upon the foot soldiers of the voting rights movement our highest civilian honor, a Congressional Gold Medal, for their valor and determination in relentlessly pursuing the promise of our great Constitution, that all men and women were indeed created equal.

I am proud to be joined by my colleague MARTHA ROBY and the entire Alabama congressional delegation—Representatives ADERHOLT, ROGERS, BROOKS, BYRNE, and PALMER—as original cosponsors of this Congressional Gold Medal bill.

I want to thank the more than 300 colleagues who also signed on to the bill and a special thanks to the leadership of both parties—Speaker BOEHNER, Majority Leader MCCARTHY, Minority Leader PELOSI, and Whip HOYER—for their support in getting this legislation on the floor today.

□ 1245

This would not have been possible without the help and support of Chairman HENSARLING and Ranking Member WATERS of the House Committee on Financial Services.

To the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA), thank you. It is an honor to stand with you today to pay tribute to the foot soldiers of the voting rights movement.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 431, a bill that honors the foot soldiers who participated in Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday, and the final march from Selma to Montgomery with a Congressional Gold Medal, which is Congress' highest civilian honor. I hope this medal serves as a powerful reminder of the many sacrifices that were made.

They say that the price of freedom is never free. Well, the foot soldiers of the voting rights movement paid the ultimate price so that this Nation could live up to the ideals of equality and justice for all. This Nation should never forget those who marched, prayed, and died in the pursuit of civil rights, voting rights, and social change.

I urge my colleagues to join us in voting in favor of H.R. 431.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Alabama (Mrs. ROBY), who is the lead cosponsor of this legislation.

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

I, too, want to echo the sentiments of my colleague from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) in thanking leadership and all the Members on both sides of the aisle for their willingness to jump right on this so that we could achieve passage both here in the House and in the Senate in time for this most important anniversary, the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday.

I am so proud just standing here listening to my colleague. I am so proud to have the privilege and the opportunity to cosponsor this bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the brave men and women who not only changed Alabama and America, but they changed the world.

So as we look toward the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, it is certainly fitting to honor the brave individuals who, against brutality and oppression, took a stand for their God-given rights. So thank you to my colleague, Terry Sewell, for all your hard work on this very important, worthy legislation.

I have also been honored, Mr. Speaker, to serve alongside my colleague from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) in recruiting Members of this body and the Senate to join us in the pilgrimage led by JOHN LEWIS to Alabama for the anniversary on the 6th, 7th, and 8th of next month. I am proud to say we have a record number of colleagues that are willing to participate because of the obvious significance of this important day.

I look forward to, alongside all of my colleagues in the Alabama delegation—who again I thank as well as Ms. SEWELL for their willingness to host our colleagues from all over the country in Birmingham, in Montgomery, and Selma, and other very important places to the civil rights movement—hearing from those who lived it.

One of the things that we did alongside this Congressional Gold Medal, Mr. Speaker, was to invite our colleagues to come to a screening of the movie “Selma.” I have to say, as a girl growing up in Montgomery, Alabama, that

did not live through this very important time in our history, it was honestly one of the more moving moments in my time in Congress, to sit in the room with our colleague, Mr. LEWIS, and experience through that visual on the screen what he lived in his life. It was a unique and special moment and one that I will personally treasure for a very long time.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is Mr. LEWIS and all those that joined him in standing up for justice that we seek to honor with this Congressional Gold Medal. There is no higher honor that we as Members of Congress can bestow, yet it seems such a small token of gratitude compared to the magnitude of the endeavors of those who lived through those days.

My daughter, Margaret, Mr. Speaker, whom you often hear me talk about—I have Margaret and George, but Margaret is in fourth grade, and like in a lot of States, in fourth grade in Alabama you learn about Alabama history. This is such an important time in her life as she learns about our State and its history, and the civil rights movement is certainly an integral part, a very important part of our history. So she is coming with me on the pilgrimage next month. She will be able to meet and know firsthand the people that fought to change the world.

It is difficult for those of us who weren't alive during the civil rights movement sometimes to wrap our minds around it, but I, alongside my daughter, am very much looking forward to this special time as Members of Congress that we have to reflect on the importance of this history.

I am, again, honored, Mr. Speaker, to be a part of this bill, and I just thank, again, all of my colleagues who very quickly joined with us so that we could get this done to honor those brave foot soldiers that changed not just our country, but the world. I, too, ask that all my colleagues join me in voting in favor of H.R. 431.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

Mr. COHEN. I want to thank Ms. SEWELL for having the foresight to bring this proposal. This is most fitting that we honor the foot soldiers. They were Americans, all races, who came together and saw injustice and wanted to right it. They risked their lives. Some died in the efforts. Miss Liuzzo was killed right after the march to Montgomery. Schwerner, Chaney, and Goodman were killed over in Mississippi in conjunction with this with the Freedom Riders.

Thousands of people came to the South to see that people got the right to vote. It is hard to believe that people were denied the right to vote in this country, but they were.

I was touched by the remarks of my colleague from Alabama. It was his-

toric. But you don't just have to see the movie and experience it to honor these people and give them a Gold Medal; you need to live it.

People are being denied voting rights today in this country. The Supreme Court emasculated the Voting Rights Act just recently. It needs to be reinstated. There are civil rights that can be performed and enacted in America today. The movement isn't over. The movement continues. A medal is good, but the spirit must continue on this floor to see that all people have their right to vote, their right to participate, and their rights not to have State judges with their lips dripping with interposition tell probate clerks not to enforce a Federal law.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROSS), a member of the Committee on Financial Services, which has been dealing with this issue.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of this bipartisan legislation that will award a Congressional Gold Medal to the civil rights leaders who so bravely marched for voting rights and equality from Selma, Alabama, to the State capital of Montgomery in March of 1965.

As an adopted son of the great State of Alabama, having been educated at both Auburn University and Samford University's Cumberland School of Law, it is an absolute honor to recognize these peace-loving, God-fearing patriots. These marchers, led by civil rights leaders such as Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., and my colleague from Georgia, Representative JOHN LEWIS, changed the course of our Nation's history. Ultimately, their fearless efforts led to the enactment of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian award presented by Congress, and I can think of no better time than the 50th anniversary of this moment in our Nation's history to honor and recognize the civil rights leaders who sacrificed so greatly to bring equality to the voiceless across the United States. May their sacrifice, diligence, and dedication to this cause stand as an example to all of us as we continue to serve in this Chamber and in every aspect of our lives.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS).

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 431, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the foot soldiers who participated in Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday, and the final march from Selma to Montgomery, which was a catalyst for the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

I am proud to cosponsor this bill and to stand with Congresswoman SEWELL and her delegation and one of the greatest leaders in the civil rights movement, Congressman JOHN LEWIS.

It is important that we recognize the civil rights titans whose sacrifice is an essential part of American history. As we honor yesterday's foot soldiers with a Congressional Gold Medal, let us remember that we are still in the fight.

In my home State of North Carolina, we are battling a new rollback on voters' rights. It was one of the most regressive laws we have passed. To fully honor the foot soldiers' sacrifice, we must keep fighting and restore the important protections that have been stripped from the Voting Rights Act.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for joining me in honoring these American heroes.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), the distinguished House majority leader.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I do want to thank the authors of this bill, Congresswoman ROBY and Congresswoman SEWELL, for their work on this. I appreciate it.

We are blessed in this Nation to enjoy the privileges of democracy and to exercise our freedoms without fear, but sadly, for millions of African Americans in our history, that has not been the case.

James Cooper, author of American works like "The Last of the Mohicans" and "The American Democrat," once said: "The man who can right himself by a vote will seldom resort to a musket."

The opposite is also true. People denied their rights might well resort to violence. It is not difficult to see why. With no established form of recourse, what choice do those denied their freedoms have?

But the people we honor today chose a different path. These nonviolent civil rights activists did not take the road of hate. In their generation's quest for freedom, they didn't corrupt themselves with the sins of those who worked against them. They fought for the rights due to every person—not with weapons, but with the force of rhetoric and virtue of peace.

I remember just a few years ago, I was walking with my friend Congressman JOHN LEWIS through Selma, Alabama. We walked on the same path of the Selma to Montgomery march that JOHN led 50 years ago. We crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge in peace that day, but when JOHN led the march across the same bridge in 1965, he was beaten by a mob of State troopers and deputized citizens.

JOHN cannot remember who carried him, but wounded and bloodied, as JOHN told it to me, he was taken away to a church with a head injury. He did not know if he would even live.

Those marchers at Selma demonstrated physical courage, but they also demonstrated the highest moral courage. Under the onslaught of bru-

ality and uncertainty, they did not match violence with violence. No. They demanded peace in the face of war, solidarity in the face of division, and love in the face of hate.

For all of America's shortcomings, these brave men and women demanded that the promise of America not be discarded but, instead, realized by being purified in practice. They held America to its promise. By doing so, they put their lives at risk, suffered ridicule and bodily harm, and yet in history they were vindicated.

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We are gathered today in honor of those civil rights activists who suffered violence while standing in peace. We honor them for holding our Nation to the highest ideals, ensuring the true existence of liberty and justice for all and making this country keep to its promise that all men and women are created equal.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from California, NANCY PELOSI, the honorable minority leader.

Ms. PELOSI. I thank the gentlewoman from Alabama, Congresswoman TERRI SEWELL, for her leadership and for introducing and driving forth this legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the foot soldiers of Selma who fought for African Americans' right to vote. I thank her for the opportunity to speak.

Mr. Speaker, it is very interesting and moving and inspiring to listen to the debate on this legislation, to hear the majority leader, to hear other Members of the Congress talk about how important what happened at Selma was to our country and what promise it made for the future of our country.

I would hope that the logical conclusion of that—when we see people who are beaten and, in some instances at that time, killed, fighting for the right to vote—is that we would truly honor them not only with a Gold Medal, as wonderful as that is, but by passing the Voting Rights Act on the floor of the House.

Today, listening to our colleagues, I am reminded of a day almost a year ago, around March of last year, when we dedicated the statue of Rosa Parks in the Capitol of the United States. How exciting—an African American woman to join the ranks of all those men out there. Many more striving to bring diversity, recognizing the great leadership of Rosa Parks.

While we were there that very day, dedicating the statue of Rosa Parks, across the street at the Supreme Court they were hearing the arguments on the Voting Rights case. And it seems to me that it would have been so logical for us to be supporting the spirit of the Voting Rights Act.

Of course the Court acted, and the Congressional Black Caucus took the

lead. Many of us stood on the steps while the oral arguments were going on and later came here to dedicate the statue.

But there seemed to be a total disconnect between those who were speaking in a bipartisan way about Rosa Parks and how important it was to our country and the fact that the Court was going to overturn a piece of the Voting Rights Act, and that we, 1 year later, have done nothing to correct that.

So while it is beautiful and lovely to hear all of the good words, and it is fabulous for us to be awarding this Gold Medal, frankly, I think that the foot soldiers of Selma bring added luster to the Gold Medal, as we honor them with it.

As we all know, this marks the 50th anniversary of two exceptional events in American history: the march on Selma and the passage of the Voting Rights Act. Fifty years ago, as we all know, thousands of people—students and scholars, homemakers and laborers, members of the clergy—the Greek Orthodox Church was very prominently there, and many other heroes—marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama.

Today, the undaunted courage and dignity of the men and women who marched continue to inspire our Nation—in fact, on the floor of the House today. Hopefully that inspiration will rise to a place in this House where we pass the Voting Rights Act.

The gentleman from Georgia, JOHN LEWIS, who was there, has been acclaimed by all of us as a national treasure and a national hero. What an honor it is to serve with him in Congress and to call him "colleague."

The journey from Selma to Montgomery is more than 50 miles, but fatigue did not stop the marchers. State troopers used tear gas and nightsticks. Hatred, violence, and injuries did not stop them. Those brave foot soldiers, propelled by their faith in our country to live up to its promise, continued to march because they knew the power of the ballot.

How proud all of us are, again, to serve in the House alongside Congressman JOHN LEWIS, the conscience of the Congress, who was one of the young leaders of the march toward equality and opportunity, toward justice, toward the ballot box.

The bravery of the Selma marchers summoned this Nation to action. A week after Bloody Sunday, President Lyndon Baines Johnson came to this Chamber—right there—to call on Congress to pass the Voting Rights Act. And he said at the time:

At times, history and fate meet at a single time in a single place to shape a turning point in man's unending search for freedom. So it was at Lexington and Concord. So it was at Appomattox. So it was in Selma, Alabama.

The courage of 8,000 marchers transformed the bridge into a national symbol of how justice can conquer the status quo. Today, that steel arch bridge over the Alabama River illustrates Dr. King's observation that we all quote all the time: "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice."

Today we propose to honor the foot soldiers of the Selma marches with the Congressional Gold Medal and by accepting our own responsibility to keep bending, pulling, and nudging that arc toward justice. One way we can do it is by passing the Voting Rights Act.

Just to recall, Mr. Speaker, the last time we brought up the Voting Rights Act in 2006-2007, the Senate passed it unanimously. In the House, the vote was 390-33.

There is bipartisan legislation that has been introduced which can be brought to the floor, passed, and signed into law in time for the Selma anniversary next month. And it certainly must be passed before the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Voting Rights Act on August 6, the 50th anniversary.

We must do so to push back against the same old stale, dressed-up, and renamed efforts to hamper voting access and hinder progress.

Today, as we celebrate the foot soldiers—we pay homage, we reach deep inside of us to say how inspired we all were by it and isn't it wonderful—let's look to the now and say: Right now, to honor these people, we must pass the Voting Rights Act again to correct what the Court did.

So as we pay tribute to the foot soldiers who kept on marching, we move forward from a painful past and march into a brighter, fairer future for everyone.

Again, I thank the gentlewoman from Alabama, Congresswoman SEWELL, for her leadership on this important issue.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

I have no interest in politicizing this great bipartisan Gold Medal act that we currently have before us. And let's not turn this important act into a debate that will be, frankly, held in the Judiciary Committee, rather than on the House floor.

We know that the Voting Rights Act—being a man who represents a significant part of Gerald R. Ford's congressional district, it was men like him that were hand-in-hand, arm-in-arm with those in that movement that helped create the original Voting Rights Act. And I know that this body can rise again to do the right thing and move forward in a bipartisan manner.

With that, Mr. Speaker, recognizing that the other side has numerous requests for time on this bill, particularly from the Congressional Black Caucus, I ask unanimous consent that 7 minutes of the majority's time be

transferred and placed under the control of my good friend and colleague from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL), who is the Democratic manager.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, first, I want to thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding us the time. I want to thank him for the opportunity to allow the members of the Congressional Black Caucus to speak out on this important bill.

Right now, I have the honor to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland, STENY HOYER, the honorable minority whip.

Mr. HOYER. I will say to my friend from Michigan, today we are all members of the Congressional Black Caucus, one people with one commitment and one idea.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill, of which I am a cosponsor, honoring the brave men and women who marched in Selma.

This will be my 10th year participating in the Faith and Politics Institute's pilgrimage to Selma with my friend from Georgia, JOHN LEWIS.

I thank the gentlelady from Selma for leading this debate.

Those folks who marched across that bridge on March 7, known as Bloody Sunday, were met with the power of the State to prevent them from voting.

This Gold Medal would be a tribute to JOHN and to all those who marched alongside him and all those who marched along 2 weeks later with Martin Luther King, Jr., those thousands who walked that 5-day journey from Selma to Montgomery. We ought to pass it unanimously. I hope we will.

But Martin Luther King, Jr., would not be happy with us if we just looked back in awe and reverence and did not look at today—I tell my friend from Michigan—for he would say that Congress should go further than simply honoring those who fought for their rights a half a century ago. We should pay tribute to their sacrifices and the scars they still carry by restoring the full protections of the Voting Rights Act, which the Supreme Court weakened in 2013. Martin Luther King, Jr., was about principle, but he was also about ensuring that protections would be in place.

I hope that this House will allow bipartisan legislation to restore these protections, which is cosponsored by the gentleman from Wisconsin, JIM SENSENBRENNER, the former chairman of the Judiciary Committee on the Republican side, and the gentleman from Georgia, JOHN LEWIS, a hero of Selma. These protections should move expeditiously through the House once the legislation is introduced.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman from Michigan for giving the gentlewoman a minute to yield to me.

I thank Representative SEWELL for her leadership in making sure Congress honors those who shook the conscience of our Nation through their courageous actions in Selma 50 years ago and in so many other places—where many fought, some were badly injured, and, yes, some died—to redeem the promise of America that all of us are created equal, endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights. And certainly in a democracy, one of the most important—if not the most important—rights that we have is to vote, to select our representatives, to select the policies under which we will live.

I thank the Speaker and the majority leader for getting behind this effort. And, again, I thank the gentlelady from Selma. How proud she must be of her hometown and of the history that was made there, not just for African Americans but for all Americans.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time at this moment.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, how many more minutes do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Alabama has 12½ minutes remaining.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. At this time, I yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY).

Mrs. BEATTY. I thank the gentlewoman from Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join Congresswoman TERRI SEWELL, my good friend, and my good friend from Alabama, MARTHA ROBY, in strong support of H.R. 431, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the foot soldiers who participated in the Selma freedom marches in March of 1965.

These foot soldiers, including our colleague from Georgia, Congressman JOHN LEWIS, and the men, women, and children who marched on Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday, and in the final march from Selma to Montgomery, were met with attacks and dogs, beatings, and death along the way. But, Mr. Speaker, still they marched, as many of us will march in a few weeks, to fight for equal rights and voting rights.

Mr. Speaker, let us honor the 1965 foot soldiers for their bravery and for their equality, marching for equality. I urge all Members to vote "yes" on H.R. 431.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlelady from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

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Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Alabama, and I thank her particularly for her persistent leadership and for her generosity with inviting so many Members to her district. We have enjoyed meeting her local officials, and we have enjoyed meeting the leadership of that great city and its great history.

We make a personal commitment to her that as we travel through Selma—and it captures the essence of a town of great history—that we recognize that there is a need to invest many dollars to preserve this great city and to preserve its history. We thank her for her leadership.

To the manager, the gentleman from Michigan, let me thank you very much for your eloquent statements. Isn't it important, Mr. Speaker, to see the number of leaders of our leadership—the majority leader, the minority leader, the whip, and the minority whip—here on the floor of the House joining us in this momentous occasion?

Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of working for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, obviously at a very, very young age. It was in that atmosphere, out of their office on Auburn Avenue in Georgia, that I got the sense and the feeling of the moment of the history of Selma.

In the fictional yet truthful movie "Selma," we are reminded of the song "Glory." Today is an example of "Glory." It is an example of the coming together of peoples around what is right, and it is a recognition that foot soldiers, though unknown even some 50 years later, are deserving of being pulled from the ashes of their last words to be able to say to them, "Thank you."

That is what this Congressional Gold Medal means to me and means to so many who were among the 600-plus that could be called the foot soldiers. Obviously, by working for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, I knew at that time Ambassador Andrew Young, Hosea Williams, James Orange, and a litany of others.

Certainly, as our Congresswoman from Selma has done, we pay tribute to our leader JOHN LEWIS who, himself, was brutalized as he attempted to exercise a simple right protected by the Bill of Rights, and that is the right to freedom of speech, freedom of access, and freedom of movement.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I join in the words of President Johnson on March 15, 1965, looking back over Bloody Sunday. He said:

I speak tonight for the dignity of man and the destiny of democracy . . . At times, history and fate meet at a single time in a single place to shape a turning point in man's unending search for freedom. So it was at Lexington and Concord. So it was a century ago at Appomattox. So it was last week in Selma, Alabama.

Yes, it was simply just last week in the thinking of so many of us as we stand on the floor of the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 15 seconds.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentlewoman.

Might I say, as we vote on this, we vote together. Might I say, as much as we vote, can we do it in action and vote to reauthorize the Voting Rights Act by simply restoring section 5, giving the Supreme Court what it needs, but recognizing the importance of protecting the right to vote?

In the name of Jimmie Lee Jackson who died trying to protect his mother and grandmother, in the name of Viola Liuzzo, and in the name of Reverend James Reeb, I ask that we stand here today and vote for this legislation to honor them, but vote for reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today not only as a proud supporter, but as a cosponsor, of H.R. 431, a bill authorizing the award of the Congressional Gold Medal to the "foot soldiers of Selma," those heroic souls who risked their lives for freedom and to secure the right to vote for all Americans by their participation in marches for voting rights on "Bloody Sunday," "Turnaround Tuesday," or the final, completed march from Selma to Montgomery in March 1965.

I thank my colleague, Congresswoman TERRI SEWELL of Alabama, for introducing this legislation paying fitting, and long overdue, tribute to those brave and determined men and women, boys and girls, persons of all races and creeds, who loved their country so much that they were willing to risk their lives to make it better, to bring it even closer to its founding ideals that all persons have dignity and the right to equal treatment under the law, and in the making of the laws, which is the fundamental essence of the right to vote. I also want to thank Congresswoman MARTHA ROBY.

Mr. Speaker, on March 15, 1965, before a joint session of the Congress and the eyes of the nation, President Lyndon Johnson explained to the nation the significance of "Bloody Sunday":

"I speak tonight for the dignity of man and the destiny of democracy. . . .

"At times history and fate meet at a single time in a single place to shape a turning point in man's unending search for freedom.

"So it was at Lexington and Concord.

"So it was a century ago at Appomattox.

"So it was last week in Selma, Alabama."

The previous Sunday, March 7, 1965, more than 600 civil rights demonstrators, including our beloved colleague, Congressman JOHN LEWIS of Georgia, were brutally attacked by state and local police at the Edmund Pettus Bridge as they marched from Selma to Montgomery in support of the right to vote.

"Bloody Sunday" was one of the defining moments in American history because it crystallized for the nation the necessity of enacting a strong and effective federal law to protect the right to vote of every American.

No one who witnessed the violence and brutally suffered by the foot soldiers for justice

who gathered at the Edmund Pettus Bridge will ever forget it; the images are deeply seared in the American memory and experience.

Mr. Speaker, what is so moving, heroic, and awe-inspiring is that the foot soldiers we honor today faced their heavily armed oppressors fortified only by their love for their country and each other and the audacious faith that their cause was just.

The example set by the foot soldiers of Selma showed everyone, here in America and around the world, that there is no force on earth as powerful as an idea whose time has come.

So it is fitting and proper, Mr. Speaker, that we honor today the heroes—the foot soldiers—who won the Battle of Selma and helped redeem the greatest nation on earth.

But we should not forget that this victory came at great cost and that many good and dear persons lost their lives to win for others the right to vote.

Men like Jimmy Lee Jackson, who was shot by Alabama state trooper as he tried to protect his mother and grandmother from being beaten for participating in a peaceful voting rights march in Marion, Alabama.

Women like Viola Liuzzo, a housewife and mother of five, who had journeyed to Selma from Detroit to join the protests after witnessing on television the events at Edmund Pettus Bridge on "Bloody Sunday" and who was shot and killed by Klansmen while driving back from a trip shuttling fellow voting rights marchers to the Montgomery airport.

Persons of faith, goodwill, and non-violence like the Reverend James Reeb of Boston, a minister from Boston who heeded the call of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to come to Selma and who succumbed to the head injuries he suffered at the hands of his white supremacists attackers on March 9, two days after Bloody Sunday.

Mr. Speaker, in the face of all this hostility, violence, brutality, and hatred, the foot soldiers of Selma would not be deterred—would not be moved—would not be turned around.

They kept their eyes on the prize and held on.

And help came the very next week when President Johnson announced to the nation that he would send to Congress for immediate action a law designed to eliminate illegal barriers to the right to vote by striking down "restrictions to voting in all elections—Federal, State, and local—which have been used to deny Negroes the right to vote."

On August 6, 1965, that legislation—the Voting Rights Act of 1965—was signed into law by President Johnson and for the next 48 years did more to expand our democracy and empower racial and language minorities than any act of government since the Emancipation Proclamation and adoption of the Civil War Amendments.

But our work is not done; the dreams of Dr. King and of all those who gave their lives in the struggle for justice are not behind us but still before us.

In the wake of the Supreme Court's 2013 ruling in *Shelby County v. Holder*, which severely crippled the Voting Rights Act, we have seen many states across our nation move to enact legislation designed to limit the ability of

women, the elderly, racial and language minorities to exercise their right to vote.

In Texas alone, new voter ID laws are estimated to have prevented or deterred as many as 600,000 citizens from registering to vote in 2014.

To honor the memory of the foot soldiers of Selma, we must rededicate ourselves to a great task remaining before us—to repair the damage done to the Voting Rights Act by working to pass the Voting Rights Amendments Act of 2015, which I am proud to be one of the original cosponsors.

Mr. Speaker, as I have stated many times, the 1965 Voting Rights Act is no ordinary piece of legislation.

For millions of Americans, and for many in Congress, it is sacred treasure, earned by the sweat and toil and tears and blood of ordinary Americans who showed the world it was possible to accomplish extraordinary things.

As we honor the foot soldiers of Selma by voting to pass H.R. 431 awarding them the Congressional Gold Medal, let us resolve also to restore the Voting Rights Act of 1965, so that it remains a lasting monument to their heroism and devotion to the country they loved.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN).

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Alabama for bringing us together around this important issue.

It is my honor to be a cosponsor of this endeavor, to take this opportunity to demonstrate our appreciation and our respect for the sacrifices that were made by the foot soldiers who marched in the three marches. It is my honor always to be a part of this wonderful body that serves along with JOHN LEWIS, who happens to be one of my personal heroes.

This Congressional Gold Medal is not just simply an award. It is emblematic of a selflessness that was demonstrated by people who stood up and did the right thing and put their lives in jeopardy to ensure that we, as a democracy, had an opportunity to participate at the very highest level, and that is the level of voting.

As I stand here and thank each and every one of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle for supporting this initiative, I rise also to remind us that we have work still to be done, that the battle that was before us that we thought we won is still there to be won, and that we need to correct the actions of the Supreme Court and follow through on the actions of giving people the right to vote.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH).

Mr. FATTAH. I thank the gentlewoman from Alabama and those others who have cosponsored this, including Congresswoman ROBY from Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is so vitally important. I take it as one of my life's greatest honors to have served for the last 20 years in the Congress with JOHN LEWIS. He literally changed our Nation through his bravery.

On a day like today, this is the date that 25 years ago, Nelson Mandela walked out of prison and into the Presidency in South Africa, and as those foot soldiers walked across this bridge on Bloody Sunday, they helped create a circumstance in which we would have, as a President of the United States, Barack Obama. We cannot separate these issues. They are inextricably intertwined.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say to my colleague from Selma who represents so ably the new South that our Nation is so much better for the struggle in Selma, for the sacrifice, and not just in those who are famous like Dr. King or JOHN LEWIS, but I met at her side Ms. Boynton, a 105-year-old woman who walked across that bridge that day, just in this Capitol less than 20 days ago.

I want to thank her for her leadership on this issue and thank her as we celebrate and commemorate these 50 years and as we dedicate ourselves to fight for the right to vote for every single American without equivocation or compromise.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, voting is the most fundamental right that we share as Americans. The foot soldiers who dared to march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in the face of extreme racial hostility did so in the spirit of equality. We should never forget the sacrifices they made so that this Nation could live up to the ideals of equality and justice for all.

While we can never repay these foot soldiers for the sacrifices that they made, we can offer a down payment by continuing to fight against injustice wherever it exists. For as Dr. King so eloquently noted, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

May we be moved by the valor and determination of these foot soldiers to stomp out modern-day inequities in the name of justice. The foot soldiers of the voting rights movement set forth a powerful precedent for all of us to follow.

Whenever the rights of any one man have been denied, the rights of all are in danger. The price of freedom, as has been said before, is not free. The foot soldiers paid the ultimate price to ensure equal voting rights for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that over 300 of my colleagues in Congress—both Democrats and Republicans—have agreed to cosponsor this bill. I am proud that my colleague from Alabama Senator SESSIONS and Senator BOOKER will introduce this bill on the Senate side today.

I am humbled by the strong bipartisan support of this bill, and I would like to thank Representative MARTHA ROBY and all of the members of the Alabama delegation for standing with me in support of this bill.

Today, I am especially proud to be from Alabama. I invite my colleagues, Republican and Democrat, and all Americans, to come to Selma during the first week of March to witness living history. You, too, can witness living history.

The city of Selma and the jubilee group will be doing a host of activities all week long. Of course, the commemorative march itself will be on Sunday, March 8, as well as our President will be speaking to us in Selma on March 7.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 431. I believe that bestowing the Congressional Gold Medal to the foot soldiers of the voting rights movement is a strong reminder of the power of ordinary Americans to collectively achieve extraordinary, extraordinary social change.

I want to again thank the gentleman from Michigan for sharing with me this wonderful 40 minutes of debate. I want you to know that it is one of the highlights of my life to have the opportunity to bestow this Congressional Gold Medal to the foot soldiers of the voting rights movement.

As a proud daughter of Selma and the Representative of Selma, Montgomery, Birmingham, and Tuscaloosa, I want you to know that those of us who are the direct beneficiaries of the movement, Black and White, we owe a debt of gratitude that we can never repay.

Today goes a long way in acknowledging those unsung and noted heroes like JOHN LEWIS, but there are so many, so many, that are in our midst, in our communities, that gave that sacrifice. Today, we honor them, the foot soldiers of the voting rights movement.

I want to say again to all of my colleagues: I hope that you will take seriously this bill and what its significance is to America.

I want to thank the gentleman from Michigan for sharing this time with me, and I want to thank the leadership of both parties for putting this bill on the floor in such a timely manner, so that we can get it on the President's desk before the March 7 and 8 wonderful, wonderful celebration.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I thank all of you for being here, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 431, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

To my friend, it is amazing to me today the irony as we talk about the Edmund Pettus Bridge, a man who served as the grand dragon of the Ku Klux Klan in Alabama, who just 100 years ago was serving in the U.S. Senate, and to have that be a symbol and discussed in the same breath as a man like JOHN LEWIS and Martin Luther King and so many others and in that short 50 years for us, even though we may be of a different political persuasion, for me to be here and witness the first African American to be President of these United States, what an amazing journey this has been.

Gone are the poll taxes, gone are the reading and history tests, gone are a number of those legal impediments and formal legal impediments that were there both in the North and in the South that dictated to someone where they could or couldn't live.

What has not gone—I am struck by this time and time again—is sin and hatred in human hearts. As C.S. Lewis talks about in his book “Mere Christianity,” by means of laws, a man can attempt to change a man's actions, but they will not succeed without a change to those men's hearts.

I think that is our legacy. I think that is our duty as Americans, and I think that is part of what we are doing here today—to honor, to recognize, and to celebrate, knowing that the journey is not done necessarily, knowing that we have other areas where we need to work on this as a society, but knowing that progress has been made.

It is truly an honor to be a part of this with you as well, my friend.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 431.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays. The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

call up House Resolution 100 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 100

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (S. 1) to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided among and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; and (2) one motion to commit.

SEC. 2. On any legislative day during the period from February 16, 2015, through February 23, 2015—

(a) the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and

(b) the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time, within the limits of clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment.

SEC. 3. The Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 2 of this resolution as though under clause 8(a) of rule I.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, we are here today to talk about House Resolution 100, which provides a closed rule for consideration of S. 1, the Keystone XL Pipeline Approval Act. Folks might find that a little unusual to talk about a bill that begins with the title S. 1, but there is a new day in Washington, D.C., that excites me, and it is that the “open for business” sign is there on the Senate side. It is not a function of Republicans doing this or Democrats doing that. It is a function of the process working the way that it should.

The first vote I took on the Keystone pipeline, Mr. Speaker, was back in 2011 when I was first elected to Congress. It passed the House by a wide bipartisan margin. It was never given the time of day in the United States Senate.

As we come here today, we are not just talking about approval of the Keystone XL pipeline in S. 1. We are talking about the inclusion of another bill that has passed time and time again, the Better Buildings Act. Mr. MCKINLEY from West Virginia has language that would promote energy conservation across this land, a bill that has

passed time and time again in this House but has never been passed by the Senate.

It is an opportunity here today, Mr. Speaker. It is an opportunity to do those things that the American people sent us here to do: bipartisan votes, commonsense legislation for the first time in a long time, Mr. Speaker, and what I hope will be the beginning of a long trend here in the U.S. House of Representatives.

As you listened to the Clerk read, Mr. Speaker, you heard that there are a lot of different points in this bill. It is not just a bill for consideration of S. 1. It is also a bill so that when the House is not in session in D.C. next week, the Speaker will have the ability to call the House back into session to continue to conduct business because the business must continue to go on. I am glad the Rules Committee was able to include that provision as well.

Seven years ago is when the permit process started on the Keystone XL pipeline, Mr. Speaker. Since seven years ago, longer than it took to build the Hoover Dam, we have been trying to approve a small section of pipeline. I say “trying to approve” somewhat loosely. I think if we had been committed to getting it done, we could have absolutely gotten it done. Again, it is a commonsense piece of legislation that decides rather than building a pipeline across Canada to carry oil to Canadian refineries, which will provide lots of jobs for Canadians, if our partner to the north is willing, we will build that pipeline through America to deliver that oil to American refineries to create American jobs.

This is not a bill that mandates that, Mr. Speaker. The marketplace is going to control this construction decision. The marketplace is going to control where the oil is refined, and the marketplace is going to control whether or not the oil comes out of the ground to begin with.

Too often, I think we have been treating the Keystone XL pipeline approval process as if it were an environmental decision. There are those who wish the United States would reduce its reliance on fossil fuels. I am one of those. I don't think there is any advantage to be had by putting all your eggs in one energy basket. I am in favor of an all-of-the-above strategy that makes sure that America's energy security—North America's energy security—is based on multiple—multiple—avenues for energy production. But we do not get to decide in this Chamber whether or not the Canadians bring oil out of the ground. We only get to decide whether or not, once that oil comes out of the ground, it is moved with U.S. jobs and U.S. construction to U.S. refineries, or whether or not those jobs go elsewhere.

Mr. Speaker, time and time again folks come to the floor and they say:

Where are the jobs? Where is the jobs legislation? I am thrilled to be carrying this rule for the Rules Committee today, Mr. Speaker, because this is one of those jobs bills—bipartisan, common sense. And if we pass it here in the House today, Mr. Speaker, headed to the President's desk, that signature will change the lives of those hardworking Americans looking for jobs today.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL), for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, you are not permitted to sing in the House of Representatives, and I shall not do that; but I will take this opportunity to do as my colleagues in the Rules Committee did yesterday, a little bit in advance of my friend's birthday. Today is the birthday of my friend, Mr. WOODALL. And as one who has had many more birthdays than he, I hope he has as many birthdays as me and many, many more. Happy birthday to you, ROB.

As my friends are already aware, the President has already said that he is going to veto this measure. We introduced last night the statement of the administration with reference thereto. That means that the likelihood that this bill will become law is highly improbable at best. I wish I was standing here under different circumstances. I wish that the House were about to vote on something it knows that the President will sign into law. I wish we were working on something that would actually help our economic recovery instead of hamstringing it.

I listened to my friend very attentively when he pointed out that the marketplace will dictate three different circumstances. One that he did not allude to that I will is that the marketplace will dictate where the oil, once refined if the Keystone pipeline is approved, the marketplace will dictate out there in that neverland where we don't participate, where the oil will go. Therefore, I want to make it very clear that I do not believe that it means that there will be cheaper prices in the United States of America.

I am standing here because House leadership would rather pass purely symbolic measures than work with the President. And I recognize that, as my friend has pointed out, that a long time has passed with reference to this measure. I did a little added research to determine what would Enbridge and the other companies up in Canada do in case there was no Keystone pipeline. In addition to rail, they also have plans to send oil east and west and plans to send it north. And, I might add, for all that same period of time, the resistance inside Canada, based on a number of circumstances having to do with the Beluga whale, all of the way back to farmers, having to do with environ-

mentalists, the same as in our country, the same arguments, whether East, West, or North in Canada, have been going on while our debate has been going on here with reference to the Keystone pipeline.

The 113th Congress is going to be remembered, and I believe everyone now understands, as the least productive Congress ever. That is the one that we just came out of. However, it seems that the current Congress is going to take its best shot at accomplishing even less if we stay on the course that we are on. Virtually every bill that has come before the Rules Committee the House already passed in the 113th Congress. Most have no more hope of becoming law now than the last time around. We have yet to see one really new idea from the Republican leadership of this body, which has shown zero interest in actually doing its job, in my opinion.

How many more times are we going to have to vote to repeal so-called ObamaCare, a program that now unquestionably is improving the lives of some hardworking Americans. Instead, we are voting on bills handpicked for their ability to demonstrate the Republicans' message of the week, regardless of chance of enactment, regardless of whether it is a good idea, regardless of whether it is something that will help everyday Americans. And because these bills are handpicked for specific purposes, most have come to the floor under a closed rule, which means that Members cannot change the measure in any way, not even to make it better and not even with bipartisan solutions.

A good example is so far this body has voted on 15 rules during this 114th Congress, of which 8 of those 15 have been closed. The closed rules we will pass this week will be numbers 9, 10, and 11. Listen, my friends, on this same measure last week and before, the United States Senate, operating under regular order that is now majority-led by Republicans, considered on this very same measure 18 amendments, six that were approved, and some of them that were offered were bipartisan.

Among the reasons I believe that the Senate majority leader determined that he would operate differently than the previous majority leader is so as to give his membership, smaller than ours, of course, an opportunity to participate in the process. All the more reason, I believe, that we should have open rules. We have new Members, too, as do they. We have Members that have ideas that may be bipartisan with reference to support and opposition to the Keystone pipeline. But no, we continue to operate under closed rules.

Do you know how many rules were closed at this same point in the last Congress? The most closed rules ever, six. The gavel might as well be a brick wall.

Furthermore, much of the legislation this Congress has voted on has evaded

regular order, escaping the review, hearings, and markups that ensure appropriate deliberation and consideration. Those of us on the Rules Committee have a wonderful opportunity. We are becoming sort of like the place of first resort for legislation. It isn't coming from hearings. The American public doesn't get an opportunity to see the various committees. It just comes up to the Rules Committee and we massage it back and forth about what our views are, but it does not come under regular order.

□ 1345

Just like the original version of this bill, the House is considering the Senate version of this bill without a hearing or a markup.

These are not just academic procedural disagreements. It matters because Members are not able to represent their constituents. It matters because good ideas are being deliberately kept hidden.

I have been here a long time. I have seen some pretty great Congresses under Republican and Democratic control, and I have seen some pretty lousy ones.

But the last few years, this body has been like a hamster on a wheel, spinning and spinning, but never getting anywhere. You don't have to look farther than a couple of amendments the Senate made to this bill to see my friends spinning their wheels.

Climate change is real. Because a few Senators decided to get cute in parsing a few words, it is in the bill. We are going to vote on it. And then what?

Just yesterday, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that the United States Department of Agriculture is making more than \$280 million available for rural agricultural producers and small business owners to apply for resources to purchase and install renewable energy systems or make energy efficiency improvements.

Once more, those funds were made available in the 2014 farm bill, which shows what Congress can accomplish when we work together. I might add, because farmers in this country have experienced a 37 percent reduction—and I, along with others, represent many of those rural areas—I am delighted that we were able to do that in the farm bill, and I am pleased that Secretary Vilsack made his announcement.

The Senate also included an amendment that finds that Congress should—as opposed to shall—require oil companies to pay an excise tax to fund oil spill cleanups.

While I appreciate this expression, the amendment effectively does nothing to mandate contributions to the oil liability trust fund. I would invite my colleagues on the other side to explain that. Tell us why it is that these oil companies should not be required to

contribute in a mandatory manner to the oil liability trust fund. Instead, what is happening is we create the illusion that oil companies will actually be accountable in the event of a spill.

Alternatively, simply closing the tax loophole that allows oil and gas companies to deduct the cost of cleaning up oil spills would discourage oil spills and save hardworking American taxpayers an average of \$1.3 billion per year.

The American people were led to believe that changing control of the Senate would lead to an end of this gridlock. But sadly, this has not been the case.

My friends are not going to be able to, like the hamster, spin their wheels continuously. Even the hamster gets tired. And sooner or later, when that hamster gets tired of the nonsense of spinning going nowhere, he either gets off or he falls off.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to thank my friend for his well wishes and to tell him I am sympathetic to the hamster wheel scenario that he describes.

I don't particularly enjoy these opening weeks of a new Congress, Mr. Speaker, because committees haven't gotten organized, legislation hasn't started to flow, and it puts the committee in the very unfortunate situation of having to act as the legislator, as the authorizer, to begin moving pieces of legislation to the floor.

That is unfortunate. But that is not the situation we are talking about today, Mr. Speaker. What we are talking about today is a bill that not only passed the floor of the House but went to the Senate, a bill that not just went to the Senate but went through that wonderful open debate process that my friend from Florida described and has now come back to us today.

Four years we have been trying to move this bill forward, Mr. Speaker. It is a closed rule here today so that we can act on the same legislation that the Senate has passed, so we can send this bill to the President's desk, so we can get off the hamster wheel of futility that my friend from Florida describes.

I am optimistic, Mr. Speaker. But it doesn't happen by itself. It happens with years and years of work.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), whose advocacy and leadership have made having this bill on the floor today possible.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank my friends on the other side as well on the Rules Committee. I have been before them twice now on this topic and have enjoyed it immensely.

I might say as a word of encouragement with regard to the hamster

wheel, because I share the same concerns, but I am also encouraged by the fact that we are actually passing the Senate bill today. As many times as we have tried to pass this, we have never been able to get it to the President's desk. That will happen soon. That is progress, and I think we ought to celebrate the progress of that.

With regard to being the least productive Congress, veto threats before voting on important things sort of leads to gridlock, I suppose. But I don't think that should stop us from doing our job and forwarding the ideas that our constituents have asked for. My constituents want the Keystone XL pipeline built.

What we are doing today, as was teed up by the gentleman from Georgia, is, of course, talking about a Senate bill. We passed H.R. 3 when I introduced it the first week in the House, a closed rule, as the gentleman from Florida said, a simple bill. We have passed similar bills in previous Congresses, well vetted. And my colleague from North Dakota, Senator HOEVEN, who is really the originator of this whole concept, introduced S. 1.

The other reason I think we should be encouraged is not only did the Senate have an open process, they voted on 47—at least 47—amendments. That is more than three times as many amendments on S. 1 as the Senate voted on in all of the bills last year. That is progress. That is not hamsters on the wheel.

I want to take a few minutes to describe the amendments that came over from the Senate and why I suggest to leadership—and I am pleased leadership accepted—that we just simply accept the Senate amendments and move this forward rather than going to conference, although I think that would have been a good exercise for a lot of us as well.

But there were a couple of amendments introduced that deal with energy efficiency programs, as the gentleman from Georgia pointed out, dealing with federally leased and owned property, as well as schools. It sets up programs and processes and gives authority to the Department of Energy to sort of coordinate energy efficiency issues in programs and projects, which I think is a noble goal.

There is that sense of the Senate that climate change is real and not a hoax. Now, we can throw that out as sort of meaningless. But the reality is that a statement like that passed 98-1 by the Senate is a pretty strong statement. I think the President ought to view that as currency—as currency. He argues that Keystone, because oil sands are somehow supposed to emit more greenhouse gas emissions than other production—I am here to tell you it is not true, and I will point out the very specific facts on that.

But in the spirit of compromise, he has this statement that I think pro-

vides currency for him to go to Paris next December and say: This is the sense of the Congress of the United States. I hope he views it as a positive.

Senator MIKULSKI has that amendment—which the gentleman from Florida spoke to—the sense of the Senate that all forms of unrefined and unprocessed petroleum should be subject to the nominal per-barrel excise tax associated with the spill fund.

While it says it is the sense of the Senate and it isn't put into law, I think it is important to note that we are talking about a tax, an excise tax that is placed on domestic crude, for sure, not placed on—if you can imagine this now—bitumen. Bitumen is the product that comes from the oil sands, and because bitumen is not in the Tax Code, it is not subject to the excise tax. That should be corrected. We should do that in the proper order, probably through the Ways and Means Committee.

That said, it is important to note that TransCanada is 100 percent responsible for spills and cleaning them up. I sited the first Keystone pipeline through the State of North Dakota, 600 landowners' land. They had some issues in the early going at one of the pumping stations. They did clean it up. It didn't contaminate water or the surrounding area. All of the tools worked properly.

My point is that they are responsible, and that is as per each State's law. This line will be permitted in each State, and they have to be responsible for cleanup.

Another one, Senator CORNYN had an amendment: Land or interest in land for the pipeline may only be acquired through constitutionally appropriate means. That only makes sense. Maybe it doesn't need to be stated, but it is important to state, similar to the Barrasso amendment that clarifies that treaties with Indian tribes must remain in effect. That should be obvious as well, but it doesn't help to restate those important points.

I think that these amendments are important amendments, they are good amendments, and they help broaden the appeal of the bill.

I want to take this map down and I want to speak to just a few of the merits of the Keystone pipeline bill because I know them very well, the extraordinary benefits of Keystone XL.

Employment opportunities—Mr. Speaker, according to the U.S. State Department, 42,000 jobs will be supported by the construction. I can assure you, having been on the construction site of the original Keystone bill, it is true. These are real jobs. These are good jobs. Some people refer to them as temporary jobs. Referring to a pipeline project as temporary is like referring to a wind farm as only temporary construction.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 5 minutes.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the generosity of the gentleman from Georgia. Thank you.

But all construction jobs are temporary until the construction is done and you move on to the next project. There are thousands of miles of pipeline under the ground in the United States. The steel workers, the truck drivers, the backhoe operators, the welders, and the local hotels and restaurants and retailers benefit tremendously. This is the make-or-break in many cases for some of these smaller businesses that benefit from the construction of this dynamic economy.

Energy security—we can't overstate energy security. We are talking about displacing Venezuelan oil. We are talking about displacing Middle East oil. In fact, the 830,000 barrels per day that will run through the Keystone pipeline into U.S. refineries is equal to about 50 percent of what we import from the Middle East. That is security.

When we talk about energy independence, that is one thing. Security means that we have our security in our own hands, and we are not subject to bad guys from other parts of the world; that, in fact, we are part of the security solution. And it relates directly to national security, I might add.

Enhanced safety—I was a pipeline regulator for years. There is no safer way to move crude oil than by a pipeline. It is the most efficient and it is the safest by far.

We have seen some of the things that happened when we cluttered our highways. In fact, the Department of Transportation in North Dakota anticipates the saving of three to six fatalities on the roads in North Dakota if this pipeline is built because, remember, it is not all Canadian oil sands. About a quarter of this capacity is reserved for Bakken crude oil as well. That removes a lot of trucks from our roads. That is much safer for the traveling public.

Trains—another issue we have. We have a lot of trains. This would represent 10 trains a week that could be hauling food to hungry people rather than oil to the marketplace.

Environmental protection—we hear a lot about the environment and the issues pertaining to it, and rightfully so. The good news is that after 6½ years of study, this is the most environmentally studied pipeline and the most sophisticated and highest-tech pipeline in the history of the world.

In fact, moving oil by rail actually emits 1.8 times more CO₂ into the air than moving it by pipeline. Moving it by truck emits 2.9 times more CO₂ than does moving it by pipeline. Moving it by barge to China, where it will be refined with far lower environmental standards than the United States, that is priceless.

Exchange with Canada—I don't think we should understate the importance of our relationship. Our number one trading partner, \$2 billion a day of goods and services travels between our two countries—our top trading partner and best friend, Canada.

If we were doing this to Canadians and to Canadian companies, or if they were doing this to us, I can't imagine how we would respond. I have worked closely with the Embassy. I have worked closely with the new Premier, Premier Jim Prentice, from Alberta, who, by the way, just won the election this last fall on the pro-environmental stewardship platform.

Exchange with Canada is so important. We need to restore and care for that important relationship. I would rather enhance that relationship, quite frankly—and it gets right back to this energy security issue—than be fighting over oil or fighting to protect the transportation of oil in other places.

□ 1400

At the end of the day, with everything else that has gone on and with these other important issues, to me, the final thing is this, and it is what I would say to the President, Mr. Speaker:

You have asked for bipartisan bills. You have asked for us to work together. Here we have a bipartisan, bicameral solution, one that the American public supports in a big way, one that would create jobs, one that would lift up the middle class, Mr. President.

I would just beg, Mr. Speaker, that the President would reconsider his veto threat on this important bipartisan jobs bill and sign it when it goes to his desk so that we can get people back to work, can become less dependent on foreign sources of oil from across the sea, and can become more interdependent with our neighbors in Canada.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, would you be kind enough to tell both of us the remaining amount of time on both sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida has 18 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Georgia has 15 minutes remaining.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Here we are, only 17 days before the Republican Homeland Security shutdown and with just 6 legislative days left until the Department of Homeland Security shuts down on February 28, closing down many of the crucial Department of Homeland Security operations that have kept our country safe from terrorist attacks.

If we defeat the previous question, I am going to offer an amendment to the rule to bring up a clean version of the Department of Homeland Security funding bill. With such serious consequences, it is time to put politics

aside in order to strengthen our homeland and protect American families.

To discuss our proposal, I am very pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), my good friend, the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge this House to immediately take up and pass a clean funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security. By defeating the previous question on the pending rule, we can immediately make in order a clean Homeland Security bill and stop the theatrics over the President's use of executive orders.

Madam Speaker, as of today, we are 134 days into what should have been the start of this fiscal year. The situation this House has caused is completely unacceptable. We simply cannot wait one more day to do the right thing, the responsible thing, and fund these critical agencies tasked with protecting this Nation.

As the ranking minority member of the Appropriations Committee, I was involved in the bipartisan, bicameral negotiations on the omnibus spending bill that passed the House and the Senate and was signed by the President last December. That package could have contained all 12 annual spending bills because all 12 were negotiated in conference, and every one of them was ready to go.

An unfortunate decision was made by the leadership of this body to omit the Homeland Security bill, not because there were outstanding issues or continued disputes. That bill, negotiated by my good friend from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE), was stripped from the omnibus because some in this body were upset by the President's executive order on immigration. They even admitted the President's actions had little to do with the Homeland Security appropriations bill. Yet that was the choice that was made on how to proceed, so the Homeland Security appropriations bill was forced to operate under a continuing resolution instead of having a full-year bill. Ironically, it meant Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement—two of the agencies tasked with defending our borders and enforcing our immigration laws—had to do without the nearly \$1 billion increase they would have gotten under the full-year bill.

Delaying the full-year bill, my colleagues: limits the Department's ability to advance the Secretary's Unity of Effort initiative, designed to improve coordination in our security missions; limits the ability of the Secretary to move ahead with the Southern Border and Approaches Campaign; creates uncertainty regarding ICE's capacity to detain and deport dangerous criminals; complicates the Department's ability

to deal with another influx of unaccompanied children at our border stations; delays the implementation of the new security upgrades at the White House and of the hiring increases of the U.S. Secret Service; and delays terrorism preparedness and response grants for State and local public safety personnel.

I understand that many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle feel quite strongly about the President's use of executive orders on immigration policy, but I am compelled to remind those colleagues that they have every tool at their disposal to pass legislation changing the President's proposal.

This stunt, my friends, has gone on too long. It is time to admit these immigration policy decisions have little to nothing to do with the appropriations process. The Homeland Security bill should never have been held hostage in this fight.

Madam Speaker, just this week, Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson issued a sobering statement about the consequences of operating under a continuing resolution. Quite simply, "Border security is not free."

I couldn't agree more.

Madam Speaker, I would like to enter Secretary Johnson's statement in the RECORD.

[Department of Homeland Security Press Release, Feb. 10, 2015]

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY JEH C. JOHNSON ON THE CONSEQUENCES TO BORDER SECURITY WITHOUT A DHS APPROPRIATIONS BILL

I continue to stress the need for a DHS appropriations bill for FY 2015, unburdened by politically charged amendments that attempt to defund our executive actions on immigration reform. The President has made plain that he will veto a bill that includes such language.

At present, the Department of Homeland Security is operating on a continuing resolution that expires on February 27. As long as this Department is funded by a continuing resolution, there are a whole series of activities vital to homeland security and public safety that cannot be undertaken. The public must be aware of the real impacts to homeland security as long as DHS is funded by a continuing resolution, or, still worse, if Congress were to permit our funding to lapse altogether and the Department of Homeland Security goes into government shutdown.

Last week I issued a statement noting the impact on DHS's grant-making activity to states, local and tribal governments as long as we are on a CR. Basically, we are prevented from funding all new non-disaster assistance grants.

The public must also be aware of the impact on our ability to secure the borders as long as we operate on a CR. As part of our executive actions to reform the immigration system, the President and I have emphasized increased border security. Added border security is also a key component of the President's FY 2015 and FY 2016 budget submissions to Congress. But, as long as this Department is on a CR, and not a full-year appropriations bill, our ability to strengthen border security, to include maintaining the resources we put in place to respond to the

surge in illegal migration into south Texas last summer, is constrained.

Here are some concrete examples of things we need to do, but cannot, without a full-year DHS appropriations bill for FY 2015:

Important investments in border security technology cannot be initiated, including additional resources to upgrade obsolete remote video surveillance systems and mobile video surveillance systems in the Rio Grande Valley;

Investments to increase our ability to analyze geospatial intelligence cannot be made. This is a capability critical to enhancing situational awareness of illegal border crossings and prioritizing frontline personnel and capability deployments;

Non-intrusive inspection technology at ports of entry cannot be enhanced. This technology reduces inspection times while facilitating trade and travel, and is necessary to detect illegal goods and materials, such as potential nuclear and radiological threats;

Critical enhancements to the CBP National Targeting Center's operational and analytical systems cannot be made. These support our daily operations against transnational criminal organizations by identifying terrorist and criminal threats attempting to cross our borders via land, air and sea; and

More aggressive investigations by ICE of transnational criminal organizations responsible for human smuggling and trafficking, narcotics smuggling, and cybercrime involving child exploitation and intellectual property rights violations.

Border security is not free. The men and women of DHS need a partner in Congress to fund their efforts. Time is running out. I urge Congress to act responsibly and pass a clean appropriations bill for this Department.

For more information, visit www.dhs.gov.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. ROSELEHTINEN). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. HASTINGS. I yield the gentleman another 30 seconds.

Mrs. LOWEY. If my colleagues are finally serious about these programs and priorities, I urge them to join with me today. Defeat the previous question so that my colleague, Mr. HASTINGS, can offer an amendment to provide a clean, full-year appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I was just reading an article from the AP, which is doing a fact check on whether or not a conversation about the Department of Homeland Security is a fair and honest conversation. They say, in reality, most people will see little change if the Department's flow is halted, and some of the warnings of doom are as exaggerated as they are striking. They go on to list word after word of folks announcing those warnings.

What is striking to me, Madam Speaker, is that, if we had the same open process going on in the Senate right now that the gentleman from Florida described—the great process that brought S. 1 to the floor—we would be bringing the Department of

Homeland Security bill to the floor of the Senate as well; but, as you know, the Senate minority leader today is filibustering any effort to even bring this conversation to the floor, going back to the hamster wheel my friend from Florida described earlier.

How often do we hear that? How often do we hear about the procedural stunts that get in the way of doing the business that every single one of us knows our constituents sent us here to do?

This bill, though, is one about which we can be proud. This bill, though, is one that gets to the heart of what our constituents have asked us to do. This bill, though, has been done right from the start in a bipartisan way, in an open way, and it can make a difference for people tomorrow if we pass it on the floor of the House today and send it on to the President.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, my colleague just said to me, as my friend was looking at the Associated Press' fact check, that it would seem that the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security would know a little bit more about what he is doing than would a reporter. I would hope that that is the case.

I am very pleased to yield 6 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD), my classmate and good friend.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to defeat the previous question on the rule, to amend it, and to make in order the House consideration of the clean, bipartisan Homeland Security Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2015, negotiated in good faith last November.

Today is February 11, 134 days into fiscal year 2015. With only 17 days remaining until the current CR expires, the House is scheduled to be in session only 6 more days. Yet this Congress is no closer than it was last December to carrying out its basic responsibility to appropriately fund the Department of Homeland Security, whose primary mission is to protect us from terrorist attacks.

Secretary Johnson has warned us over and over again that the Republican leadership's refusal to allow a vote on the clean, bipartisan funding bill is threatening the national security of our country. He tells us that, without a full-year budget, he is unable to move forward on key homeland security priorities, including new investments in border security technology; more aggressive investigations by ICE, related to drug smuggling, human smuggling, and trafficking; preparedness for responding to surges in illegal migration; security upgrades at the White House complex; and grants for State and local terrorism prevention and response capabilities; and the list goes on.

I am truly perplexed as to what it will take to convince the Republican leadership to do the right thing. Surely, before taking appropriate action, we don't need to experience attacks like those in Paris.

If my colleagues on the other side of the aisle believe the President has overreached, the answer is not to jeopardize our national security by delaying the 2015 funding for Homeland Security. If Republicans wish to circumscribe the President's discretion on immigration policy, the Constitution provides a clear path of action that runs through the authorizing committees, not through an appropriations bill.

Last week, the Senate definitively demonstrated three times that there are insufficient votes to bring up the DHS funding bill with the House-passed poison pill riders. Even if the Senate were to take up the bill, it would be vulnerable to a budget point of order because the poison pill riders have been scored by the Congressional Budget Office as having a net cost of \$7.5 billion.

Republicans control majorities in both the House and the Senate, and they control the agenda. By allowing a vote on the clean, full-year, bipartisan DHS funding bill, the leadership today has the opportunity to make clear that the Nation's security takes priority over unrelated policy debates over immigration enforcement strategy. This bill addresses the most pressing needs of the Department of Homeland Security's to protect our country from harm. It would pass both Houses and would be signed by the President today, and we should send it to him.

I urge my colleagues to defeat the previous question to make in order the consideration of a clean Homeland Security funding bill.

□ 1415

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, at this time I would like to take the gentleman from Florida's advice and yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HARRIS), an expert on the appropriations process.

Mr. HARRIS. I want to thank the floor leader for yielding the time.

Madam Speaker, there is no amendment necessary to this rule. Three weeks ago, we passed a fully funded Department of Homeland Security. Except for the President's illegal actions, the entire rest of the Department is funded: TSA, the Coast Guard; all these critical things.

Let's review how Congress really works. The House takes an action—we did 3 weeks ago—and then the Senate is supposed to take an action. What action did they take? HARRY REID and the Democrats have blocked three efforts to even debate the bill. They know if they didn't take that action, the Senate could debate the bill and they could strike those amendments.

The Democrats are free to strike the amendments that we put on the bill that limit the President's illegal actions with regards to amnesty. They know they can.

Madam Speaker, let's be honest. The last time the President shut down the government, 87 percent of DHS was fully funded. TSA was there. The Coast Guard was on the job. Yeah, there were some administrators who didn't go to work for a few days, but let me tell you, after the unemployment problem we have had in this country, there are a lot of people outside the Federal Government who don't go to work for a lot more days. That is not what the American people expect from us.

The fact is that this bill is sitting over in the Senate. The President said 22 times he didn't have the authority to do what he did on amnesty. All we did is just made it quite clear the House position is he doesn't have the authority.

So, we are not going to spend the money. We take article I seriously. We have the authority over spending, and if we think the President is taking an illegal action, we have the authority to withhold that funding—and that is what we did, fund the entire Department except for that one illegal activity the President is doing in violation of article I of the Constitution. It gives us the authority over the law.

The President said he can't rewrite the law 22 times—and he did. We are just going to keep him to his word. He can't rewrite the law.

The previous speaker said you can't do authorizations on appropriations. That is nonsense. We do it all the time. We can correct the President's mistake in the bill. We did. That is the bottom line.

The Democrat leadership in the Senate has blocked even debate on the bill. What kind of country are we when one party, the party that is really holding this bill hostage in the Senate—not the Republicans; it is the Democrats—refuses to even debate the bill? I am shocked.

Americans expect the Senate to debate. That is what we are asking them to do. That is what they are not doing. I don't understand that. Why don't they want the Homeland Security bill to be funded? I don't get it.

Madam Speaker, I will close by saying we just need to move the motion on the previous question, pass the rule, and build the Keystone pipeline.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I would also take the opportunity to encourage the previous speaker to read Jefferson's Manual because some of the things he talked about on rules are not, at least, my understanding. So I accept his expertise on certain mat-

ters, but his ideas about what we can do in the minority strike me as strange.

Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY).

Mr. VEASEY. I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding me the time.

Madam Speaker, I want to talk about the rule. I am rising today against the rule. And although I believe that a pipeline is absolutely the most safest and environmentally conscious way that we can transport natural resources through North America—and natural resources, for that matter, that are going to be developed. It doesn't matter what the carrier ultimately is; these are resources that will be developed. But the underlying rule, much like the prior rules we have seen on any of the Keystone pipeline votes, does not allow for Member debate. It doesn't. It doesn't allow for Member debate, and that is not how we can best move forward. Only by having an open discussion can this body fully engage in creating sound public policy.

I want to give you an example of what I am talking about. I offered an amendment in the Rules Committee which said that if the Keystone pipeline is built, we would maximize the amount of American jobs that are created or sustained in this process.

My amendment would ensure that the iron, steel, and manufactured goods made in the construction of the Keystone pipeline and facilities are made here in America. If we are going to build the pipeline in America, let's make the materials in America. That will create more jobs. That will give people more opportunity.

There has been much discussion about how we have lost so many manufacturing jobs in this country, about how we have lost ground in that area, about how people can't take care of their families because these opportunities are no longer here. If we are going to build this pipeline, let's give people the opportunity to go back to work, roll up their sleeves, and let's build these in America. There is no reason to have materials made in China to build this pipeline.

Therefore, I believe that if Republicans want to follow a jobs-focused agenda, the amendment that I am offering will make sure that we keep Americans working and not workers in China.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to say to the gentleman from Texas, my heart sits where his heart sits—with American workers and American products. We build the best products in the world. There is absolutely no reason not to purchase the best products in the world to build something particularly as important as our pipeline.

The box we find ourselves in is that, candidly, some of us—in fact, I dare

say all of us—are a little surprised the Senate was even able to move through this bill. I have not seen the Senate move like it has moved in this open process, in this expedient process. In the entire 4 years I have served in this institution, I have never seen it happen before.

It is a good bill. I don't take issue with the work the Senate did. It looks substantially similar to what we passed here in the House. We may never get a chance to send this bill to the desk.

Again, we are just trying to debate a small part of the appropriations process and the Senate right now can't even move into debate because of filibusters in the Senate.

So I say to my friend from Texas, I am absolutely sympathetic to his amendment. I would like to have an opportunity to debate more amendments on the floor of this House.

I think back to my early days here 4 years ago. We had a 3½-day what I call festival of democracy. We came down here and worked night and day on H.R. 1 until every Member had a chance to be heard. That is the way it ought to be done. And I regret that in this situation we did not have a chance to make the gentleman's amendment in order because it was a good amendment and it would absolutely be worthy of debate and consideration here on the floor of the House.

Madam Speaker, with that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, may I ask how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) has 4½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) has 9 minutes remaining.

Mr. HASTINGS. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I would also advise my friend from Georgia that I have no further speakers. I don't know whether my friend from Georgia does or not.

Mr. WOODALL. I also have no further speakers.

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I earlier asked several questions. I believe Mr. CRAMER addressed one of them. I have yet another that I did not ask, and I am not asking him to respond.

I might add, I think those of us here in the body—and I said this to him when he was in the Rules Committee—I do believe Mr. CRAMER from North Dakota really does have a comprehensive understanding of this matter.

While I disagreed with him about many matters, I do believe that he points out something that we need to pay attention to, in that there are already, without Keystone, a lot of pipelines in the United States of America, and in the period of time of this recent

debate, there have been a lot of pipelines that have had spills and have caused major damage. Without getting into them, three of them have really been substantial. Shutoff valves become important.

We haven't discussed many of the things regarding the technology that has improved over time, but I keep hearing my colleagues talk about this being a jobs measure. Indisputably, if there were to be a pipeline built, there would be jobs.

I agree with my friends on the other side that most, if not all, construction jobs are temporary jobs, and there are those in labor unions who are very supportive of this matter for the reason that it would create jobs.

But I have in mind something that many of us have advocated for years. The greatest reminder occurred the night before last right here close to us, in Maryland, when a piece of concrete from a big, old bridge fell off and, fortunately, when I saw the lady on television, her car was damaged and she was frightened out of her wits. But she is alive and was unharmed. That is concrete off of a bridge.

There are thousands of bridges in this country, and all of us know that we could be about the business of dealing with our infrastructure, which would create a whole lot of jobs and not leave us to these ideological debates.

I might add, if we approve this matter, in order for people to litigate, they have to come here to the Federal Circuit in the District of Columbia. That does not make sense to me, and it precludes those who would want to bring actions from being able to do so. This legislation allows that as the only vehicle.

I might add, the litigation isn't concluded yet in many of the places where there may continue to be concerns—in South Dakota, where Mr. CRAMER is close to—Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Texas, and certainly in Nebraska.

In the midst of trying to combat all of the problems that we have here in this country, attaching conditions and ultimatums to fundamental legislation is not the way to go about addressing the policy that was earlier raised and that I will raise in the previous question with reference to immigration.

If my friends really want to debate immigration issues, they should work with us and the President to reach a comprehensive and bipartisan consensus. Perpetuating the Department of Homeland Security stalemate is as dangerous to our country's security as it is corrosive to our democratic process.

Please, let's stop the pointless politicking. Let's end these games of chicken with our national security. Pass a clean DHS funding bill, and let's get back to the business of the American people.

I didn't know that this was in the drawer in front of me. It kind of looks like a hamster. The wheel just keeps on spinning. But my little friend here is still with us and has, in many respects, like my friends, stopped, by virtue of his being inanimate, his spinning. And that is what the Republicans need to do: stop spinning like the hamster on the wheel and get on with the business of the United States of America.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment in the RECORD, along with extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker I urge my colleagues to vote "no" and defeat the previous question. I urge a "no" vote on the rule, and I yield back the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I may be an unnatural optimist, but I believe these 2 years that we are about to have in this institution are going to be the finest that I have seen in my lifetime. The reason I believe that is exactly because we are responding to the plea that my friend from Florida has made to get on about the business of the people.

It is hard being in the minority around here. It is hard. My friends on the other side of the aisle may feel like they are in the minority today. For the last 4 years, we had the Speakership in this Chamber, but I sure felt like I was in the minority.

□ 1430

The Senate, held by the party on the other side; the White House, the party on the other side—and things got to be about party, day in and day out, and it wore on me, wore on me.

That is not why I ran for Congress, Madam Speaker. It is not why you ran for Congress. It is not why any of my colleagues here ran for Congress. They ran for Congress to get about the business of the people.

We are 1 month and a week into this new session of Congress, and the Senate has already managed to do what it hasn't been able to do for 4 years, and that is hold an open debate and move legislation where Members had a chance to have their voice heard.

We have that measure in front of us today. The only thing standing between us and considering that measure, Madam Speaker, is passing this rule. I am excited about it. I am excited about it.

I am proud of what is in this underlying legislation. I am proud of the process that produced this legislation. I am proud of the leadership of folks like Mr. CRAMER who moved it through the House first.

Now, this is the Senate version, but this is the process that folks have worked in tandem. This is a process that folks back home can be proud of.

Now, that is not to say every Member of this Chamber supports this legislation, Madam Speaker. They don't, and they have myriad reasons for choosing not to support this legislation, but the majority is going to work its will.

I don't mean the majority, the Republican majority. I mean the majority—let's have a show of hands, see where people stand—and Republicans and Democrats are going to stand together and say, I support these American jobs. They are going to say, I support our largest trading partner, which is Canada. They are going to say, I support finality on a process that began 7 years ago.

I long for the debate we will have on this House floor, and I hope the gentleman from Florida and I get to manage the rule when we bring the surface transportation bill to the floor of this House because America needs that surface transportation bill. We need to build America, Madam Speaker.

What does it say when getting approval for this pipeline consumed more time than the entire construction of the Hoover Dam? Have we so hamstrung ourselves with bureaucracy that we can no longer do those great building projects as a Nation?

I hope that the answer is no, but if the answer is yes, we have the ability in this Chamber to change it to no. We are a society that does great, great things. We do have responsibilities that are great, great responsibilities, and we cannot accomplish those in a partisan way. We cannot accomplish those without partnership and cooperation.

For the next 2 years, Madam Speaker, we have an opportunity to move bills out of a Republican-led Congress that get signed by a Democratic-led White House. That is kind of the way the Founding Fathers envisioned it, and I am pleased to be a small part of it today.

The material previously referred to by Mr. HASTINGS is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 100 OFFERED BY
MR. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 4. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consid-

eration of the bill (H.R. 861) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 5. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 861.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated,

control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clauses 8 and 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the previous question will be followed by 5-minute votes on adoption of House Resolution 100, if ordered, and approval of the Journal.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 242, nays 183, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 71] YEAS—242

Abraham	Chabot	Fleming
Aderholt	Chaffetz	Flores
Allen	Clawson (FL)	Forbes
Amash	Coffman	Fortenberry
Amodel	Cole	Fox
Babin	Collins (GA)	Franks (AZ)
Barletta	Collins (NY)	Frelinghuysen
Barr	Comstock	Garrett
Barton	Conaway	Gibbs
Benishek	Cook	Gibson
Bilirakis	Costello (PA)	Gohmert
Bishop (MI)	Cramer	Goodlatte
Bishop (UT)	Crawford	Gosar
Black	Crenshaw	Gowdy
Blackburn	Culberson	Granger
Blum	Curbelo (FL)	Graves (GA)
Bost	Davis, Rodney	Graves (LA)
Boustany	Denham	Graves (MO)
Brady (TX)	Dent	Griffith
Brat	DeSantis	Grothman
Bridenstine	DesJarlais	Guinta
Brooks (AL)	Diaz-Balart	Guthrie
Brooks (IN)	Dold	Hanna
Buchanan	Duffy	Hardy
Buck	Duncan (SC)	Harper
Bucshon	Duncan (TN)	Harris
Burgess	Ellmers	Hartzler
Byrne	Emmer	Heck (NV)
Calvert	Farenthold	Hensarling
Carter (GA)	Fincher	Herrera Beutler
Carter (TX)	Fleischmann	Hice (GA)

Hill	Meehan	Sanford	O'Rourke	Sánchez, Linda	Thompson (MS)	Issa	Mullin	Scott, Austin
Holding	Messer	Scalise	Pallone	T.	Titus	Jenkins (KS)	Mulvaney	Scott, David
Hudson	Mica	Schock	Pascarell	Sarbanes	Tonko	Jenkins (WV)	Murphy (PA)	Sensenbrenner
Huelskamp	Miller (FL)	Schweikert	Payne	Schakowsky	Torres	Johnson (OH)	Neugebauer	Sessions
Huizenga (MI)	Miller (MI)	Scott, Austin	Pelosi	Schiff	Tsongas	Johnson, Sam	Newhouse	Shimkus
Hultgren	Moolenaar	Sensenbrenner	Perlmutter	Schrader	Van Hollen	Jolly	Noem	Shuster
Hunter	Mooney (WV)	Sessions	Peters	Scott (VA)	Vargas	Jones	Nugent	Simpson
Hurd (TX)	Mullin	Shimkus	Peterson	Scott, David	Veasey	Jordan	Nunes	Smith (MO)
Hurt (VA)	Mulvaney	Shuster	Pingree	Serrano	Vela	Joyce	Olson	Smith (NE)
Issa	Murphy (PA)	Simpson	Pocan	Sewell (AL)	Velázquez	Katko	Palazzo	Smith (NJ)
Jenkins (KS)	Neugebauer	Smith (MO)	Polis	Sherman	Visclosky	Kelly (PA)	Palmer	Smith (TX)
Jenkins (WV)	Newhouse	Smith (NE)	Price (NC)	Sinema	Walz	King (IA)	Paulsen	Stefanik
Johnson (OH)	Noem	Smith (NJ)	Quigley	Sires	Wasserman	King (NY)	Pearce	Stewart
Johnson, Sam	Nugent	Smith (TX)	Rangel	Slaughter	Schultz	Kinzinger (IL)	Perry	Stivers
Jolly	Nunes	Stefanik	Rice (NY)	Smith (WA)	Waters, Maxine	Kline	Peterson	Stutzman
Jones	Olson	Stewart	Richmond	Speier	Watson Coleman	Knight	Pittenger	Thompson (PA)
Jordan	Palazzo	Stivers	Royal-Allard	Swallow (CA)	Welch	Labrador	Pitts	Thornberry
Joyce	Palmer	Stutzman	Ruppersberger	Takai	Wilson (FL)	LaMalfa	Poe (TX)	Tiberi
Katko	Paulsen	Thompson (PA)	Rush	Takano	Yarmuth	Lamborn	Poliquin	Tipton
Kelly (PA)	Pearce	Thornberry	Ryan (OH)	Thompson (CA)		Lance	Pompeo	Trott
King (IA)	Perry	Tiberi				Latta	Posey	Turner
King (NY)	Pittenger	Tipton				LoBiondo	Price (GA)	Upton
Kinzinger (IL)	Pitts	Trott	Cartwright	Lee	Sanchez, Loretta	Long	Ratcliffe	Valadao
Kline	Poe (TX)	Turner	Duckworth	Roe (TN)		Loudermilk	Reed	Vela
Knight	Poliquin	Upton	Fitzpatrick	Ruiz		Love	Reichert	Wagner
Labrador	Pompeo	Valadao				Lucas	Renacci	Walberg
LaMalfa	Posey	Wagner				Luetkemeyer	Ribble	Walden
Lamborn	Price (GA)	Walberg				Lummis	Rice (SC)	Walker
Lance	Ratcliffe	Walden				MacArthur	Rigell	Walorski
Latta	Reed	Walker				Marchant	Roby	Walters, Mimi
LoBiondo	Reichert	Walorski				Marino	Rogers (AL)	Weber (TX)
Long	Renacci	Walters, Mimi				Massie	Rogers (KY)	Webster (FL)
Loudermilk	Ribble	Weber (TX)				McCarthy	Rohrabacher	Wenstrup
Love	Rice (SC)	Webster (FL)				McCaul	Rokita	Westerman
Lucas	Rigell	Wenstrup				McClintock	Rooney (FL)	Westmoreland
Luetkemeyer	Roby	Westerman				McHenry	Ros-Lehtinen	Whitfield
Lummis	Rogers (AL)	Whitfield				McKinley	Roskam	Williams
MacArthur	Rogers (KY)	Williams				McMorris	Ross	Wilson (SC)
Marchant	Rohrabacher	Wilson (SC)				Rodgers	Rothfus	Wittman
Marino	Rokita	Wittman				McSally	Rouzer	Womack
Massie	Rooney (FL)	Womack				Meadows	Royce	Woodall
McCarthy	Ros-Lehtinen	Woodall				Meehan	Russell	Yoder
McCaul	Roskam	Yoder				Messer	Ryan (WI)	Yoho
McClintock	Ross	Yoho				Mica	Salmon	Young (AK)
McHenry	Rothfus	Young (AK)				Miller (FL)	Sanford	Young (IA)
McKinley	Rouzer	Young (IA)				Miller (MI)	Scalise	Young (IN)
McMorris	Royce	Young (IN)				Moolenaar	Schock	Zeldin
Rodgers	Russell	Zeldin				Mooney (WV)	Schweikert	Zinke
McSally	Ryan (WI)	Zinke						
Meadows	Salmon							

NOT VOTING—7

□ 1500

Mrs. CAPPS and Mr. DESAULNIER changed their votes from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. JONES and COFFMAN changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 248, noes 177, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 72]

AYES—248

Adams	DeGette	Keating	Abraham	Cole	Frelinghuysen	Adams	DeSaulnier	Kuster
Aguilar	Delaney	Kelly (IL)	Aderholt	Collins (GA)	Garrett	Aguilar	Deutch	Langevin
Ashford	DeLauro	Kennedy	Allen	Collins (NY)	Gibbs	Ashford	Dingell	Larsen (WA)
Bass	DelBene	Kildee	Amash	Comstock	Gibson	Bass	Doggett	Larson (CT)
Beatty	DeSaulnier	Kilmer	Amodei	Conaway	Gohmert	Beatty	Doyle (PA)	Lawrence
Becerra	Deutch	Kind	Babin	Cook	Goodlatte	Becerra	Edwards	Levin
Bera	Dingell	Kirkpatrick	Barletta	Cooper	Gosar	Bera	Ellison	Lewis
Beyer	Doggett	Kuster	Barr	Costa	Gowdy	Beyer	Engel	Lieu (CA)
Bishop (GA)	Doyle (PA)	Langevin	Barton	Costello (PA)	Granger	Bishop (GA)	Eshoo	Lipinski
Blumenauer	Edwards	Larsen (WA)	Benishek	Cramer	Graves (LA)	Blumenauer	Esty	Loebsack
Bonamici	Ellison	Larson (CT)	Bilirakis	Crawford	Graves (MO)	Bonamici	Farr	Lofgren
Boyle (PA)	Engel	Lawrence	Bishop (MI)	Crenshaw	Green, Gene	Boyle (PA)	Fattah	Lowenthal
Brady (PA)	Eshoo	Levin	Bishop (UT)	Culberson	Griffith	Brady (PA)	Foster	Lowey
Brown (FL)	Esty	Lewis	Black	Curbelo (FL)	Grothman	Lujan Grisham	Frankel (FL)	Lujan Grisham
Brownley (CA)	Farr	Lieu (CA)	Blackburn	Davis, Rodney	Guinta	(NM)	Fudge	(NM)
Bustos	Fattah	Lipinski	Blum	Denham	Guthrie	Lujan, Ben Ray	Gabbard	(NM)
Butterfield	Foster	Loebsack	Bost	Dent	Hanna	(NM)	Gallo	Lynch
Capps	Frankel (FL)	Lofgren	Boustany	DesJarlais	Hardy	Maloney, Sean	Garamendi	Maloney, Carolyn
Capuano	Fudge	Lowenthal	Brady (TX)	Diaz-Balart	Harper	Carolyn	Graham	Maloney, Sean
Cárdenas	Gabbard	Lowe	Brat	Dold	Harris	Grayson	Cardenas	Maloney, Sean
Carney	Gallo	Lujan Grisham	Bridenstine	Duffy	Hartzer	Green, Al	Carney	Maloney, Sean
Carson (IN)	Garamendi	(NM)	Brooks (AL)	Duncan (SC)	Heck (NV)	Grijalva	Carson (IN)	Maloney, Sean
Castor (FL)	Graham	Luján, Ben Ray	Brooks (IN)	Duncan (TN)	Hensarling	Gutiérrez	Castor (FL)	Matsui
Castro (TX)	Grayson	(NM)	Buchanan	Ellmers	Herrera Beutler	Hahn	Castro (TX)	McCollum
Chu (CA)	Green, Al	Lynch	Buck	Emmer	Hice (GA)	Hastings	Chu (CA)	McDermott
CiCilline	Green, Gene	Maloney, Carolyn	Bucshon	Farenthold	Hill	Heck (WA)	CiCilline	McGovern
Clark (MA)	Grijalva	Maloney, Sean	Burgess	Fincher	Holding	Higgins	Clark (MA)	McNerney
Clarke (NY)	Gutiérrez	Malone, Sean	Byrne	Fleischmann	Hudson	Himes	Clarke (NY)	Meeks
Clay	Hahn	Matsui	Calvert	Fleming	Huelskamp	Hinojosa	Clay	Meng
Cleaver	Hastings	McCollum	Carter (GA)	Flores	Huizenga (MI)	Honda	Cleaver	Moore
Clyburn	Heck (WA)	McDermott	Carter (TX)	Forbes	Hultgren	Hoyer	Clyburn	Moulton
Cohen	Higgins	McGovern	Chabot	Fortenberry	Hunter	Huffman	Cohen	Murphy (FL)
Connolly	Himes	McNerney	Chaffetz	Fox	Hurd (TX)	Nadler	Connolly	Nadler
Conyers	Hinojosa	Meeks	Clawson (FL)	Coffman	Hurt (VA)	Napolitano	Conyers	Napolitano
Cooper	Honda	Meng				Neal	Conyers	Neal
Costa	Hoyer	Moore				Johnson (GA)	Courtney	Nolan
Courtney	Huffman	Moulton				Johnson, E. B.	Crowley	Norcross
Crowley	Israel	Murphy (FL)				Kaptur	Cuellar	O'Rourke
Cuellar	Jackson Lee	Nadler				Keating	Cummings	Pallone
Cummings	Jeffries	Napolitano				Kelly (IL)	Davis (CA)	Pascarell
Davis (CA)	Johnson (GA)	Neal				Kennedy	DeFazio	Pelosi
Davis, Danny	Johnson, E. B.	Nolan				Kildee	DeGette	Perlmutter
DeFazio	Kaptur	Norcross				Kilmer	DeLaney	Peters
						Kind	DeLauro	Pingree
						Kirkpatrick	DelBene	Pocan

NOES—177

Adams	DeSaulnier	Kuster
Aguilar	Deutch	Langevin
Ashford	Dingell	Larsen (WA)
Bass	Doggett	Larson (CT)
Beatty	Doyle (PA)	Lawrence
Becerra	Edwards	Levin
Bera	Ellison	Lewis
Beyer	Engel	Lieu (CA)
Bishop (GA)	Eshoo	Lipinski
Blumenauer	Esty	Loebsack
Bonamici	Farr	Lofgren
Boyle (PA)	Fattah	Lowenthal
Brady (PA)	Foster	Lowey
Brown (FL)	Frankel (FL)	Lujan Grisham
Brownley (CA)	Fudge	(NM)
Bustos	Gabbard	Lujan, Ben Ray
Butterfield	Gallo	(NM)
Capps	Garamendi	Lynch
Capuano	Graham	Maloney, Carolyn
Cárdenas	Grayson	Maloney, Sean
Carney	Green, Al	Maloney, Sean
Carson (IN)	Grijalva	Matsui
Castor (FL)	Gutiérrez	McCollum
Castro (TX)	Hahn	McDermott
Chu (CA)	Hastings	McGovern
CiCilline	Heck (WA)	McNerney
Clark (MA)	Higgins	Meeks
Clarke (NY)	Himes	Meng
Clay	Hinojosa	Moore
Cleaver	Honda	Moulton
Clyburn	Hoyer	Murphy (FL)
Cohen	Huffman	Nadler
Connolly	Israel	Napolitano
Conyers	Jackson Lee	Neal
Cooper	Jeffries	Nolan
Costa	Johnson (GA)	Norcross
Courtney	Johnson, E. B.	O'Rourke
Crowley	Kaptur	Pallone
Cuellar	Keating	Pascarell
Cummings	Kelly (IL)	Pelosi
Davis (CA)	Kennedy	Perlmutter
DeFazio	Kildee	Peters
DeGette	Kilmer	Pingree
DeLaney	Kind	Pocan
DeLauro	Kirkpatrick	
DelBene		

Polis	Scott (VA)	Torres
Price (NC)	Serrano	Tsongas
Quigley	Sewell (AL)	Van Hollen
Rangel	Sherman	Vargas
Rice (NY)	Sinema	Veasey
Richmond	Sires	Velázquez
Roybal-Allard	Slaughter	Visclosky
Ruppersberger	Smith (WA)	Walz
Rush	Speier	Wasserman
Ryan (OH)	Swalwell (CA)	Schultz
Sánchez, Linda T.	Takai	Waters, Maxine
Sarbanes	Takano	Watson Coleman
Schakowsky	Thompson (CA)	Welch
Schiff	Thompson (MS)	Wilson (FL)
Schrader	Titus	Yarmuth
	Tonko	

NOT VOTING—7

Cartwright	Lee	Sanchez, Loretta
Ruckworth	Ro (TN)	
Fitzpatrick	Ruiz	

□ 1508

Ms. JACKSON LEE changed her vote from “aye” to “no.”

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

IN MEMORY OF KAYLA JEAN MUELLER

(Mr. GOSAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, we, the Arizona delegation, rise today to honor the life of one of our own, one of our young, and one of our very best.

Kayla Jean Mueller of Prescott, Arizona, was a young woman full of youthful exuberance, optimism about peace and humanity, and was willing to put her life on the line to help others halfway around the world. Kayla stood as a beacon of light and hope in a time that is too often filled with darkness. She was a beautiful soul, and I know she is with God now.

While all of our hearts are heavy with the sadness of Kayla's passing, we stand here unified and strengthened to carry on her spirit, courage, and compassion that has touched millions. We must endeavor to remain brave and strong in the face of those who wish to terrify, just as Kayla did.

No parent should ever have to endure the pain and suffering of losing a child so early, but now, let us look back fondly upon her life and the many ways she made our lives better by the words she spoke: “I find God in the suffering eyes reflected in mine. If this is how you are revealed to me, this is how I will forever seek you.”

I now yield to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. KIRKPATRICK).

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Madam Speaker, we are here today to honor Kayla Mueller, her courage, and her undying spirit and determination; and we are here to offer our hearts and prayers in comfort to her grieving family and friends.

In Arizona, in Flagstaff and in Prescott, we are all neighbors, and we are all friends. Kayla went to Northern Ar-

izona University, which is in my hometown, Flagstaff. In talking to her friends and her professors, everyone talked about her dedication to serving others. Even if it meant going to far-away places that were dangerous, she was driven by a compassion to help the suffering.

We know that her short life is proof that one dedicated soul can touch a thousand others. Let us all keep Kayla's family in our prayers and her legacy in our hearts.

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I now ask the House to join my colleagues and me for a moment of silence to honor the immortal spirit of Kayla Mueller.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 263, nays 156, answered “present” 1, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 73]

YEAS—263

Abraham	Cole	Gowdy
Aderholt	Collins (NY)	Graham
Allen	Comstock	Granger
Amodei	Conaway	Graves (LA)
Barletta	Cook	Grayson
Barr	Cooper	Green, Al
Barton	Courtney	Griffith
Beatty	Cramer	Grothman
Becerra	Crawford	Guinta
Bilirakis	Crenshaw	Guthrie
Bishop (GA)	Cuellar	Hahn
Bishop (MI)	Culberson	Hardy
Bishop (UT)	Davis (CA)	Harper
Black	DeGette	Harris
Blackburn	DeLauro	Heck (WA)
Blum	DelBene	Hensarling
Blumenauer	Dent	Higgins
Bonamici	DeSaulnier	Himes
Boustany	DesJarlais	Hinojosa
Brady (TX)	Deutch	Huelskamp
Brat	Diaz-Balart	Huffman
Bridenstine	Doyle (PA)	Hultgren
Brooks (AL)	Duncan (SC)	Hurd (TX)
Brooks (IN)	Duncan (TN)	Hurt (VA)
Brown (FL)	Edwards	Issa
Buchanan	Ellison	Jeffries
Buck	Elmers	Johnson (GA)
Bucshon	Emmer	Johnson, E. B.
Bustos	Engel	Johnson, Sam
Butterfield	Eshoo	Jolly
Byrne	Esty	Kaptur
Calvert	Farr	Katko
Capps	Fattah	Keating
Cárdenas	Fleischmann	Kelly (IL)
Carney	Forbes	Kelly (PA)
Carson (IN)	Fortenberry	Kennedy
Carter (GA)	Foster	Kildee
Carter (TX)	Frankel (FL)	King (IA)
Castro (TX)	Franks (AZ)	King (NY)
Chabot	Frelinghuysen	Kline
Chu (CA)	Gabbard	Knight
Ciциlline	Gibbs	Kuster
Clark (MA)	Goodlatte	Labrador
Clay	Gosar	LaMalfa

Lamborn	Nugent	Sinema
Larsen (WA)	Nunes	Smith (MO)
Larson (CT)	O'Rourke	Smith (NE)
Latta	Olson	Smith (NJ)
Lieu (CA)	Pascarell	Smith (TX)
Lipinski	Payne	Smith (WA)
Loeb sack	Pelosi	Speier
Lofgren	Perlmutter	Stefanik
Long	Pingree	Stewart
Loudermilk	Pitts	Stivers
Lowey	Pocan	Stutzman
Lucas	Polis	Takai
Luetkemeyer	Pompeo	Takano
Lujan Grisham	Posey	Thornberry
(NM)	Price (NC)	Titus
Lummis	Quigley	Tonko
Marchant	Rangel	Tsongas
Marino	Ribble	Upton
Massie	Rice (SC)	Van Hollen
Matsui	Richmond	Wagner
McCarthy	Roby	Walden
McCaul	Rogers (KY)	Walker
McClintock	Rohrabacher	Walorski
McCollum	Rokita	Walters, Mimi
McHenry	Rooney (FL)	Walz
McMorris	Ross	Wasserman
Rodgers	Rothfus	Schultz
McNerney	Royce	Waters, Maxine
McSally	Ruppersberger	Webster (FL)
Meadows	Russell	Welch
Meeks	Ryan (WI)	Wenstrup
Meng	Salmon	Westerman
Mica	Sanford	Westmoreland
Miller (FL)	Scalise	Whitfield
Miller (MI)	Schiff	Williams
Moolenaar	Schweikert	Wilson (FL)
Mooney (WV)	Scott (VA)	Wilson (SC)
Moore	Scott, Austin	Womack
Mullin	Sensenbrenner	Yarmuth
Murphy (PA)	Serrano	Yoho
Nadler	Sherman	Young (IA)
Napolitano	Shimkus	Young (IN)
Neugebauer	Shuster	Zeldin
Newhouse	Simpson	Zinke
Noem		

NAYS—156

Adams	Gibson	Meehan
Aguilar	Graves (GA)	Messer
Amash	Graves (MO)	Moulton
Ashford	Green, Gene	Mulvaney
Babin	Grijalva	Murphy (FL)
Bass	Gutiérrez	Neal
Benishke	Hanna	Nolan
Bera	Hartzler	Norcross
Beyer	Hastings	Palazzo
Bost	Heck (NV)	Pallone
Boyle (PA)	Herrera Beutler	Palmer
Brady (PA)	Hice (GA)	Paulsen
Brownley (CA)	Hill	Pearce
Burgess	Holding	Perry
Capuano	Honda	Peters
Castor (FL)	Hudson	Peterson
Chaffetz	Huizenga (MI)	Pittenger
Clarke (NY)	Hunter	Poe (TX)
Clawson (FL)	Israel	Poliquin
Cleaver	Jackson Lee	Price (GA)
Clyburn	Jenkins (KS)	Ratcliffe
Coffman	Jenkins (WV)	Reed
Cohen	Johnson (OH)	Reichert
Collins (GA)	Jones	Renacci
Connolly	Jordan	Rice (NY)
Conyers	Joyce	Rigell
Costa	Kilmer	Rogers (AL)
Costello (PA)	Kind	Ros-Lehtinen
Crowley	Kinzinger (IL)	Rouzer
Cummings	Kirkpatrick	Roybal-Allard
Curbelo (FL)	Lance	Rush
Davis, Danny	Langevin	Ryan (OH)
Davis, Rodney	Lawrence	Sánchez, Linda T.
DeFazio	Levin	Sarbanes
Delaney	Lewis	Schakowsky
Denham	LoBiondo	Schock
DeSantis	Love	Schrader
Dingell	Lowenthal	Sewell (AL)
Dold	Luján, Ben Ray	Sires
Duffy	(NM)	Slaughter
Farenthold	Lynch	Swalwell (CA)
Fincher	MacArthur	Thompson (CA)
Fleming	Maloney,	Thompson (MS)
Flores	Carolyn	Thompson (PA)
Foxx	Maloney, Sean	Tiberi
Fudge	McDermott	Tipton
Garamendi	McGovern	Torres
Garrett	McKinley	

Trott	Vela	Weber (TX)
Turner	Velázquez	Wittman
Valadao	Visclosky	Woodall
Vargas	Walberg	Yoder
Veasey	Watson Coleman	Young (AK)

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Gohmert

NOT VOTING—12

Cartwright	Gallego	Roskam
Doggett	Hoyer	Ruiz
Duckworth	Lee	Sanchez, Loretta
Fitzpatrick	Roe (TN)	Scott, David

□ 1518

Mr. PALMER changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote today because of a serious illness in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted: rollcall No. 71—"yea", rollcall No. 72—"aye", rollcall No. 73—"yea."

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE APPROVAL ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on S. 1.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 100, I call up the bill (S. 1) to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 100, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Keystone XL Pipeline Approval Act".

SEC. 2. KEYSTONE XL APPROVAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, L.P. may construct, connect, operate, and maintain the pipeline and cross-border facilities described in the application filed on May 4, 2012, by TransCanada Corporation to the Department of State (including any subsequent revision to the pipeline route within the State of Nebraska required or authorized by the State of Nebraska).

(b) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.—The Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement issued by the Secretary of State in January 2014, regarding the pipeline referred to in subsection (a), and the environmental analysis, consultation, and review described in that document (including appendices) shall be considered to fully satisfy—

(1) all requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and

(2) any other provision of law that requires Federal agency consultation or review (in-

cluding the consultation or review required under section 7(a) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(a))) with respect to the pipeline and facilities referred to in subsection (a).

(c) PERMITS.—Any Federal permit or authorization issued before the date of enactment of this Act for the pipeline and cross-border facilities referred to in subsection (a) shall remain in effect.

(d) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Except for review in the Supreme Court of the United States, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction over any civil action for the review of an order or action of a Federal agency regarding the pipeline and cross-border facilities described in subsection (a), and the related facilities in the United States, that are approved by this Act (including any order granting a permit or right-of-way, or any other agency action taken to construct or complete the project pursuant to Federal law).

(e) PRIVATE PROPERTY SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this Act alters any Federal, State, or local process or condition in effect on the date of enactment of this Act that is necessary to secure access from an owner of private property to construct the pipeline and cross-border facilities described in subsection (a).

(f) PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTION.—Land or an interest in land for the pipeline and cross-border facilities described in subsection (a) may only be acquired consistently with the Constitution.

SEC. 3. COORDINATION OF ENERGY RETROFITTING ASSISTANCE FOR SCHOOLS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) SCHOOL.—The term "school" means—

(A) an elementary school or secondary school (as defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801));

(B) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 102(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(a));

(C) a school of the defense dependents' education system under the Defense Dependents' Education Act of 1978 (20 U.S.C. 921 et seq.) or established under section 2164 of title 10, United States Code;

(D) a school operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs;

(E) a tribally controlled school (as defined in section 5212 of the Tribally Controlled Schools Act of 1988 (25 U.S.C. 2511)); and

(F) a Tribal College or University (as defined in section 316(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b))).

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Energy.

(b) DESIGNATION OF LEAD AGENCY.—The Secretary, acting through the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, shall act as the lead Federal agency for coordinating and disseminating information on existing Federal programs and assistance that may be used to help initiate, develop, and finance energy efficiency, renewable energy, and energy retrofitting projects for schools.

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out coordination and outreach under subsection (b), the Secretary shall—

(1) in consultation and coordination with the appropriate Federal agencies, carry out a review of existing programs and financing mechanisms (including revolving loan funds and loan guarantees) available in or from the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Energy, the Department of Education, the Department of the Treasury, the Internal Revenue Service, the Environmental Protec-

tion Agency, and other appropriate Federal agencies with jurisdiction over energy financing and facilitation that are currently used or may be used to help initiate, develop, and finance energy efficiency, renewable energy, and energy retrofitting projects for schools;

(2) establish a Federal cross-departmental collaborative coordination, education, and outreach effort to streamline communication and promote available Federal opportunities and assistance described in paragraph (1) for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and energy retrofitting projects that enables States, local educational agencies, and schools—

(A) to use existing Federal opportunities more effectively; and

(B) to form partnerships with Governors, State energy programs, local educational, financial, and energy officials, State and local government officials, nonprofit organizations, and other appropriate entities to support the initiation of the projects;

(3) provide technical assistance for States, local educational agencies, and schools to help develop and finance energy efficiency, renewable energy, and energy retrofitting projects—

(A) to increase the energy efficiency of buildings or facilities;

(B) to install systems that individually generate energy from renewable energy resources;

(C) to establish partnerships to leverage economies of scale and additional financing mechanisms available to larger clean energy initiatives; or

(D) to promote—

(i) the maintenance of health, environmental quality, and safety in schools, including the ambient air quality, through energy efficiency, renewable energy, and energy retrofit projects; and

(ii) the achievement of expected energy savings and renewable energy production through proper operations and maintenance practices;

(4) develop and maintain a single online resource website with contact information for relevant technical assistance and support staff in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy for States, local educational agencies, and schools to effectively access and use Federal opportunities and assistance described in paragraph (1) to develop energy efficiency, renewable energy, and energy retrofitting projects; and

(5) establish a process for recognition of schools that—

(A) have successfully implemented energy efficiency, renewable energy, and energy retrofitting projects; and

(B) are willing to serve as resources for other local educational agencies and schools to assist initiation of similar efforts.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing the implementation of this section.

SEC. 4. CONSULTATION WITH INDIAN TRIBES.

Nothing in this Act relieves the United States of its responsibility to consult with Indian nations as required under executive order 13175 (67 Fed. Reg. 67249) (November 6, 2000).

SEC. 5. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING CLIMATE CHANGE.

It is the sense of the Senate that climate change is real and not a hoax.

SEC. 6. SENSE OF SENATE REGARDING THE OIL SPILL LIABILITY TRUST FUND.

It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) Congress should approve a bill to ensure that all forms of bitumen or synthetic crude

oil derived from bitumen are subject to the per-barrel excise tax associated with the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund established by section 9509 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

(2) it is necessary for Congress to approve a bill described in paragraph (1) because the Internal Revenue Service determined in 2011 that certain forms of petroleum are not subject to the per-barrel excise tax;

(3) under article I, section 7, clause 1 of the Constitution, the Senate may not originate a bill to raise new revenue, and thus may not originate a bill to close the legitimate and unintended loophole described in paragraph (2);

(4) if the Senate attempts to originate a bill described in paragraph (1), it would provide a substantive basis for a “blue slip” from the House of Representatives, which would prevent advancement of the bill; and

(5) the House of Representatives, consistent with article I, section 7, clause 1 of the Constitution, should consider and refer to the Senate a bill to ensure that all forms of bitumen or synthetic crude oil derived from bitumen are subject to the per-barrel excise tax associated with the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund established by section 9509 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

DIVISION B—ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the “Energy Efficiency Improvement Act of 2015”.

TITLE I—BETTER BUILDINGS

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Better Buildings Act of 2015”.

SEC. 102. ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN FEDERAL AND OTHER BUILDINGS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of General Services.

(2) COST-EFFECTIVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURE.—The term “cost-effective energy efficiency measure” means any building product, material, equipment, or service, and the installing, implementing, or operating thereof, that provides energy savings in an amount that is not less than the cost of such installing, implementing, or operating.

(3) COST-EFFECTIVE WATER EFFICIENCY MEASURE.—The term “cost-effective water efficiency measure” means any building product, material, equipment, or service, and the installing, implementing, or operating thereof, that provides water savings in an amount that is not less than the cost of such installing, implementing, or operating.

(b) MODEL PROVISIONS, POLICIES, AND BEST PRACTICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy and after providing the public with an opportunity for notice and comment, shall develop model commercial leasing provisions and best practices in accordance with this subsection.

(2) COMMERCIAL LEASING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The model commercial leasing provisions developed under this subsection shall, at a minimum, align the interests of building owners and tenants with regard to investments in cost-effective energy efficiency measures and cost-effective water efficiency measures to encourage building owners and tenants to collaborate to invest in such measures.

(B) USE OF MODEL PROVISIONS.—The Administrator may use the model commercial leas-

ing provisions developed under this subsection in any standard leasing document that designates a Federal agency (or other client of the Administrator) as a landlord or tenant.

(C) PUBLICATION.—The Administrator shall periodically publish the model commercial leasing provisions developed under this subsection, along with explanatory materials, to encourage building owners and tenants in the private sector to use such provisions and materials.

(3) REALTY SERVICES.—The Administrator shall develop policies and practices to implement cost-effective energy efficiency measures and cost-effective water efficiency measures for the realty services provided by the Administrator to Federal agencies (or other clients of the Administrator), including periodic training of appropriate Federal employees and contractors on how to identify and evaluate those measures.

(4) STATE AND LOCAL ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall make available model commercial leasing provisions and best practices developed under this subsection to State, county, and municipal governments for use in managing owned and leased building space in accordance with the goal of encouraging investment in all cost-effective energy efficiency measures and cost-effective water efficiency measures.

SEC. 103. SEPARATE SPACES WITH HIGH-PERFORMANCE ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B of title IV of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17081 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 424. SEPARATE SPACES WITH HIGH-PERFORMANCE ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) HIGH-PERFORMANCE ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURE.—The term ‘high-performance energy efficiency measure’ means a technology, product, or practice that will result in substantial operational cost savings by reducing energy consumption and utility costs.

“(2) SEPARATE SPACES.—The term ‘separate spaces’ means areas within a commercial building that are leased or otherwise occupied by a tenant or other occupant for a period of time pursuant to the terms of a written agreement.

“(b) STUDY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, shall complete a study on the feasibility of—

“(A) significantly improving energy efficiency in commercial buildings through the design and construction, by owners and tenants, of separate spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures; and

“(B) encouraging owners and tenants to implement high-performance energy efficiency measures in separate spaces.

“(2) SCOPE.—The study shall, at a minimum, include—

“(A) descriptions of—

“(i) high-performance energy efficiency measures that should be considered as part of the initial design and construction of separate spaces;

“(ii) processes that owners, tenants, architects, and engineers may replicate when designing and constructing separate spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures;

“(iii) policies and best practices to achieve reductions in energy intensities for lighting,

plug loads, heating, cooling, cooking, laundry, and other systems to satisfy the needs of the commercial building tenant;

“(iv) return on investment and payback analyses of the incremental cost and projected energy savings of the proposed set of high-performance energy efficiency measures, including consideration of available incentives;

“(v) models and simulation methods that predict the quantity of energy used by separate spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures and that compare that predicted quantity to the quantity of energy used by separate spaces without high-performance energy efficiency measures but that otherwise comply with applicable building code requirements;

“(vi) measurement and verification platforms demonstrating actual energy use of high-performance energy efficiency measures installed in separate spaces, and whether such measures generate the savings intended in the initial design and construction of the separate spaces;

“(vii) best practices that encourage an integrated approach to designing and constructing separate spaces to perform at optimum energy efficiency in conjunction with the central systems of a commercial building; and

“(viii) any impact on employment resulting from the design and construction of separate spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures; and

“(B) case studies reporting economic and energy savings returns in the design and construction of separate spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures.

“(3) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall publish a notice in the Federal Register requesting public comments regarding effective methods, measures, and practices for the design and construction of separate spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures.

“(4) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall publish the study on the website of the Department of Energy.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 423 the following new item:

“Sec. 424. Separate spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures.”

SEC. 104. TENANT STAR PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B of title IV of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17081 et seq.) (as amended by section 103) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 425. TENANT STAR PROGRAM.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) HIGH-PERFORMANCE ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURE.—The term ‘high-performance energy efficiency measure’ has the meaning given the term in section 424.

“(2) SEPARATE SPACES.—The term ‘separate spaces’ has the meaning given the term in section 424.

“(b) TENANT STAR.—The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall develop a voluntary program within the Energy Star program established by section 324A of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6294a), which may be known as ‘Tenant Star’, to promote energy efficiency in separate spaces leased by tenants or otherwise occupied within commercial buildings.

“(c) EXPANDING SURVEY DATA.—The Secretary of Energy, acting through the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, shall—

“(1) collect, through each Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey of the Energy Information Administration that is conducted after the date of enactment of this section, data on—

“(A) categories of building occupancy that are known to consume significant quantities of energy, such as occupancy by data centers, trading floors, and restaurants; and

“(B) other aspects of the property, building operation, or building occupancy determined by the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, to be relevant in lowering energy consumption;

“(2) with respect to the first Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey conducted after the date of enactment of this section, to the extent full compliance with the requirements of paragraph (1) is not feasible, conduct activities to develop the capability to collect such data and begin to collect such data; and

“(3) make data collected under paragraphs (1) and (2) available to the public in aggregated form and provide such data, and any associated results, to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for use in accordance with subsection (d).

“(d) RECOGNITION OF OWNERS AND TENANTS.—

“(1) OCCUPANCY-BASED RECOGNITION.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which sufficient data is received pursuant to subsection (c), the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall, following an opportunity for public notice and comment—

“(A) in a manner similar to the Energy Star rating system for commercial buildings, develop policies and procedures to recognize tenants in commercial buildings that voluntarily achieve high levels of energy efficiency in separate spaces;

“(B) establish building occupancy categories eligible for Tenant Star recognition based on the data collected under subsection (c) and any other appropriate data sources; and

“(C) consider other forms of recognition for commercial building tenants or other occupants that lower energy consumption in separate spaces.

“(2) DESIGN- AND CONSTRUCTION-BASED RECOGNITION.—After the study required by section 424(b) is completed, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with the Secretary and following an opportunity for public notice and comment, may develop a voluntary program to recognize commercial building owners and tenants that use high-performance energy efficiency measures in the design and construction of separate spaces.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 424 (as added by section 103(b)) the following new item:

“Sec. 425. Tenant Star program.”.

TITLE II—GRID-ENABLED WATER HEATERS

SEC. 201. GRID-ENABLED WATER HEATERS.

Part B of title III of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended—

(1) in section 325(e) (42 U.S.C. 6295(e)), by adding at the end the following:

“(6) ADDITIONAL STANDARDS FOR GRID-ENABLED WATER HEATERS.—

“(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

“(i) ACTIVATION LOCK.—The term ‘activation lock’ means a control mechanism (either a physical device directly on the water heater or a control system integrated into the water heater) that is locked by default and contains a physical, software, or digital communication that must be activated with an activation key to enable the product to operate at its designed specifications and capabilities and without which activation the product will provide not greater than 50 percent of the rated first hour delivery of hot water certified by the manufacturer.

“(ii) GRID-ENABLED WATER HEATER.—The term ‘grid-enabled water heater’ means an electric resistance water heater that—

“(I) has a rated storage tank volume of more than 75 gallons;

“(II) is manufactured on or after April 16, 2015;

“(III) has—

“(aa) an energy factor of not less than 1.061 minus the product obtained by multiplying—

“(AA) the rated storage volume of the tank, expressed in gallons; and

“(BB) 0.00168; or

“(bb) an equivalent alternative standard prescribed by the Secretary and developed pursuant to paragraph (5)(E);

“(IV) is equipped at the point of manufacture with an activation lock; and

“(V) bears a permanent label applied by the manufacturer that—

“(aa) is made of material not adversely affected by water;

“(bb) is attached by means of non-water-soluble adhesive; and

“(cc) advises purchasers and end-users of the intended and appropriate use of the product with the following notice printed in 16.5 point Arial Narrow Bold font:

“‘IMPORTANT INFORMATION: This water heater is intended only for use as part of an electric thermal storage or demand response program. It will not provide adequate hot water unless enrolled in such a program and activated by your utility company or another program operator. Confirm the availability of a program in your local area before purchasing or installing this product.’”.

“(B) REQUIREMENT.—The manufacturer or private labeler shall provide the activation key for a grid-enabled water heater only to a utility or other company that operates an electric thermal storage or demand response program that uses such a grid-enabled water heater.

“(C) REPORTS.—

“(i) MANUFACTURERS.—The Secretary shall require each manufacturer of grid-enabled water heaters to report to the Secretary annually the quantity of grid-enabled water heaters that the manufacturer ships each year.

“(ii) OPERATORS.—The Secretary shall require utilities and other demand response and thermal storage program operators to report annually the quantity of grid-enabled water heaters activated for their programs using forms of the Energy Information Agency or using such other mechanism that the Secretary determines appropriate after an opportunity for notice and comment.

“(iii) CONFIDENTIALITY REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall treat shipment data reported by manufacturers as confidential business information.

“(D) PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In 2017 and 2019, the Secretary shall publish an analysis of the data collected under subparagraph (C) to assess

the extent to which shipped products are put into use in demand response and thermal storage programs.

“(ii) PREVENTION OF PRODUCT DIVERSION.—If the Secretary determines that sales of grid-enabled water heaters exceed by 15 percent or greater the quantity of such products activated for use in demand response and thermal storage programs annually, the Secretary shall, after opportunity for notice and comment, establish procedures to prevent product diversion for non-program purposes.

“(E) COMPLIANCE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraphs (A) through (D) shall remain in effect until the Secretary determines under this section that—

“(I) grid-enabled water heaters do not require a separate efficiency requirement; or

“(II) sales of grid-enabled water heaters exceed by 15 percent or greater the quantity of such products activated for use in demand response and thermal storage programs annually and procedures to prevent product diversion for non-program purposes would not be adequate to prevent such product diversion.

“(ii) EFFECTIVE DATE.—If the Secretary exercises the authority described in clause (i) or amends the efficiency requirement for grid-enabled water heaters, that action will take effect on the date described in subsection (m)(4)(A)(ii).

“(iii) CONSIDERATION.—In carrying out this section with respect to electric water heaters, the Secretary shall consider the impact on thermal storage and demand response programs, including any impact on energy savings, electric bills, peak load reduction, electric reliability, integration of renewable resources, and the environment.

“(iv) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out this paragraph, the Secretary shall require that grid-enabled water heaters be equipped with communication capability to enable the grid-enabled water heaters to participate in ancillary services programs if the Secretary determines that the technology is available, practical, and cost-effective.”.

(2) in section 332(a) (42 U.S.C. 6302(a))—

(A) in paragraph (5), by striking “or” at the end;

(B) in the first paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(C) by redesignating the second paragraph (6) as paragraph (7);

(D) in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (7) (as so redesignated), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) for any person—

“(A) to activate an activation lock for a grid-enabled water heater with knowledge that such water heater is not used as part of an electric thermal storage or demand response program;

“(B) to distribute an activation key for a grid-enabled water heater with knowledge that such activation key will be used to activate a grid-enabled water heater that is not used as part of an electric thermal storage or demand response program;

“(C) to otherwise enable a grid-enabled water heater to operate at its designed specification and capabilities with knowledge that such water heater is not used as part of an electric thermal storage or demand response program; or

“(D) to knowingly remove or render illegible the label of a grid-enabled water heater described in section 325(e)(6)(A)(ii)(V).”.

(3) in section 333(a) (42 U.S.C. 6303(a))—

(A) by striking “section 332(a)(5)” and inserting “paragraph (5), (6), (7), or (8) of section 332(a)”;

(B) by striking “paragraph (1), (2), or (5) of section 332(a)” and inserting “paragraph (1), (2), (5), (6), (7), or (8) of section 332(a)”;

(4) in section 334 (42 U.S.C. 6304)—

(A) by striking “section 332(a)(5)” and inserting “paragraph (5), (6), (7), or (8) of section 332(a)”;

(B) by striking “section 332(a)(6)” and inserting “section 332(a)(7)”.

TITLE III—ENERGY INFORMATION FOR COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

SEC. 301. ENERGY INFORMATION FOR COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS.

(a) REQUIREMENT OF BENCHMARKING AND DISCLOSURE FOR LEASING BUILDINGS WITHOUT ENERGY STAR LABELS.—Section 435(b)(2) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17091(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking “paragraph (2)” and inserting “paragraph (1)”;

(2) by striking “signing the contract,” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following:

“signing the contract, the following requirements are met:

“(A) The space is renovated for all energy efficiency and conservation improvements that would be cost effective over the life of the lease, including improvements in lighting, windows, and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems.

“(B)(i) Subject to clause (ii), the space is benchmarked under a nationally recognized, online, free benchmarking program, with public disclosure, unless the space is a space for which owners cannot access whole building utility consumption data, including spaces—

“(I) that are located in States with privacy laws that provide that utilities shall not provide such aggregated information to multitenant building owners; and

“(II) for which tenants do not provide energy consumption information to the commercial building owner in response to a request from the building owner.

“(ii) A Federal agency that is a tenant of the space shall provide to the building owner, or authorize the owner to obtain from the utility, the energy consumption information of the space for the benchmarking and disclosure required by this subparagraph.”.

(b) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy, in collaboration with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall complete a study—

(A) on the impact of—

(i) State and local performance benchmarking and disclosure policies, and any associated building efficiency policies, for commercial and multifamily buildings; and

(ii) programs and systems in which utilities provide aggregated information regarding whole building energy consumption and usage information to owners of multitenant commercial, residential, and mixed-use buildings;

(B) that identifies best practice policy approaches studied under subparagraph (A) that have resulted in the greatest improvements in building energy efficiency; and

(C) that considers—

(i) compliance rates and the benefits and costs of the policies and programs on building owners, utilities, tenants, and other parties;

(ii) utility practices, programs, and systems that provide aggregated energy con-

sumption information to multitenant building owners, and the impact of public utility commissions and State privacy laws on those practices, programs, and systems;

(iii) exceptions to compliance in existing laws where building owners are not able to gather or access whole building energy information from tenants or utilities;

(iv) the treatment of buildings with—

(I) multiple uses;

(II) uses for which baseline information is not available; and

(III) uses that require high levels of energy intensities, such as data centers, trading floors, and television studios;

(v) implementation practices, including disclosure methods and phase-in of compliance;

(vi) the safety and security of benchmarking tools offered by government agencies, and the resiliency of those tools against cyber attacks; and

(vii) international experiences with regard to building benchmarking and disclosure laws and data aggregation for multitenant buildings.

(2) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—At the conclusion of the study, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on the results of the study.

(c) CREATION AND MAINTENANCE OF DATABASE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act and following opportunity for public notice and comment, the Secretary of Energy, in coordination with other relevant agencies, shall maintain, and if necessary create, a database for the purpose of storing and making available public energy-related information on commercial and multifamily buildings, including—

(A) data provided under Federal, State, local, and other laws or programs regarding building benchmarking and energy information disclosure;

(B) information on buildings that have disclosed energy ratings and certifications; and

(C) energy-related information on buildings provided voluntarily by the owners of the buildings, only in an anonymous form unless the owner provides otherwise.

(2) COMPLEMENTARY PROGRAMS.—The database maintained pursuant to paragraph (1) shall complement and not duplicate the functions of the Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star Portfolio Manager tool.

(d) INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS.—The Secretary of Energy shall seek input from stakeholders to maximize the effectiveness of the actions taken under this section.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary of Energy shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on the progress made in complying with this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided among and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON), the gentleman from New Jer-

sey (Mr. PALLONE), the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER), and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER).

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1, the Keystone XL Pipeline Approval Act. S. 1 passed the Senate by a bipartisan vote of 62-36. This bill is based on H.R. 3 which, last month, the House passed by a bipartisan vote of 266-153. S. 1 does not change any of the House provisions regarding the Keystone pipeline.

Here we are again on the floor with a bill that has been approved on a bipartisan basis three times in the last 4 months. It is time for the President to approve the Keystone pipeline.

His own administration has found the pipeline would have minimal impact on the environment. Congress has shown that there is Republican and Democrat support for the pipeline. The last remaining excuse for delay—pending litigation in Nebraska—has been resolved. I hope the President reconsiders his veto threat on this bill.

I think he should sign this bill because we all agree we need to invest in our Nation's infrastructure, and pipelines are critical to the economy. America's pipeline network is immense—2.6 million miles of pipe transporting natural gas, oil, and other hazardous materials.

Pipelines transport more energy product than any other mode of transportation in this country. Keystone will be a critical addition to the pipeline network, increasing our Nation's supply of oil and enhancing our energy independence.

This project will create good-paying American jobs. As the President has stated, “First-class infrastructure attracts first-class jobs.” Indeed, six unions representing over 3 million workers support this project, including the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters, the International Union of Operating Engineers, the Laborers' International Union of North America, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the building and construction trade, and the Teamsters.

It is simply time to move forward on this project, so I urge all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote for S. 1, and I urge the President to sign this bill and allow infrastructure to be built in this country.

With that, Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, for anyone watching this debate for the 11th time who isn't familiar with the substantive reasons

to oppose this legislation, I would refer them to my earlier remarks numerous times on the floor of the House because, in the interest of time, I am not going to repeat them.

I am going to say that I am pleased that this is actually a big step forward for the other side of the aisle in the House because there are two critical changes that the Senate made which go to a raging debate on the Republican side of the aisle here in the House, and that is whether or not climate change is real or a hoax.

By voting for this bill today, you are going to endorse language saying that climate change is real and not a hoax. I think that is tremendous progress for the Republican side of the aisle, who I expect will be supporting this bill to accept the reality of climate change. I am thrilled that that is in there, and their votes will be reflected in the RECORD as endorsing that language.

Secondly, Madam Speaker, one of the other substantive issues we have raised numerous times is that this foreign corporation will not—because of a bizarre ruling by the Internal Revenue Service—will not be paying into the trust fund which goes to mitigate pipeline spills, breaks, and cleanups: the oil spill liability trust fund.

We have offered that as a motion to recommit numerous times here on the floor, thinking it would be a reasonable thing to level the playing field between U.S. producers shipping oil and a Canadian company shipping oil which is going to be exported from the United States perhaps after it is refined.

Again, this will be a shift on the Republican side of the aisle because you will be voting for language that says, “Congress should approve a bill to ensure that all forms of bitumen or synthetic crude oil derived from bitumen are subject to the per-barrel excise tax associated with the oil spill liability trust fund,” which would be I think the first time the Republican side has endorsed any sort—well, no, there was a tax increase for inland waterways users buried in that bill in December—but this will be only the second time that Republicans here have voted to increase a tax.

I am really thrilled to see that and the fact that we will be righting that inequity, and essentially, the Republicans will be endorsing something that we have offered numerous times on the floor.

The third thing—which really isn’t an improvement—is some Senators stuck in language saying that when this foreign corporation takes American citizens’ private property against their will, they have to follow the Constitution.

Well, unfortunately, because of the Kelo decision—which we did try a number of years ago to clarify and overturn—the Supreme Court, in its wisdom, has ruled that you can yield the

right, for economic development purposes, to a private entity to take peoples’ private property.

We are going one step—or you are going one step further here by actually giving that authority to a foreign corporation. As far as I know, this is the first time in the history of the United States of America that a foreign corporation will have the right to take private property from an American citizen against their will. That isn’t an improvement, just saying “follow the Constitution,” because of the ruling by the Supreme Court.

But the other two are great. Climate change exists. You are endorsing that implicitly by voting for this bill. We should increase taxes and impose taxes on this tar sands oil.

Again, I think this is a big breakthrough for the other side. I still won’t be voting for the bill. I stand on the previous concerns I have raised. Those are all still extant, but these things will be worthy of noticing.

With that, Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) be allowed to control the balance of my time in addition to the time controlled by the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials.

□ 1530

Mr. DENHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1, the Keystone XL Pipeline Approval Act, which passed bipartisan not only in the House with 266 votes, but also bipartisan in the Senate with 62 votes. As Chairman SHUSTER noted, this is a jobs bill that will create jobs, enhance our energy independence, and strengthen our national economy.

This pipeline will transport over 800,000 barrels of oil per day. That is according to the Department of Energy. It will also help create good paying jobs, over 40,000 jobs, according to the State Department.

We held a hearing in our subcommittee last week regarding the need for more transportation infrastructure for energy projects. One witness testified we will need 12,000 to 15,000 miles of new pipeline over the next 5 to 10 years. Keystone XL is just one of those new projects.

This is the most studied pipeline in our history. This is no reason to continue to stall this project. This is a safe project. America has 2.6 million miles of pipeline, providing an extremely safe way to transport energy products. The Keystone pipeline will be

built the safest pipeline ever with 95 special mitigation measures, including nearly 60 recommended by the Department of Transportation, the most extensively studied and vetted pipeline project in the history of our country.

Finally, as amended in the Senate, this bill will make important strides towards greater energy efficiency. In conclusion, the Keystone XL has been under review for over 6 years and debated and voted on in the House and Senate numerous times. We need these jobs. We need this energy. We need it now.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today we are voting once again to grant special treatment to TransCanada’s Keystone tar sands pipeline. It is the 11th time we are voting on a special deal for the Canadian company’s pipeline since Republicans took control of the House of Representatives. This Congress has much work to do on energy. Our situation is changing rapidly, and each energy-related decision we make can have long-term consequences for our environment, our economy, and our national security. But the President has made clear that he will veto this legislation, so we should stop wasting our time on it.

The Senate added many provisions to this version of the Keystone bill. Some of the provisions on energy efficiency are provisions that I and many of my colleagues can support and have supported in the past, but those provisions should be considered separately, preferably as stand-alone bills in the House and Senate. They should not be held hostage by another doomed Keystone approval bill, and they in no way come close to offsetting the harm that would be caused by Congress deeming Keystone pipeline approval.

We don’t need this Canadian tar sands oil. Worldwide crude oil prices are at their lowest level in 5 years, and gasoline prices are down, too. Domestic oil production is up. Last week EPA noted that low oil prices means approval of the Keystone pipeline could be a critical factor in the economic viability of Canadian tar sands expansion. And tar sands are among the dirtiest and carbon intensive of all fossil fuels. The Keystone pipeline will create a dependence on tar sands crude, reversing the carbon pollution reductions that we need.

This pipeline is a terrible deal for America. We get all of the risks while the oil companies reap the rewards. If this pipeline spills, like Enbridge pipeline in Michigan, the heavy tar sands that flow onto the ground and into our waters, our groundwater and our surface water, will be even harder to clean up than regular oil.

Unfortunately, if there is such a spill, it will be cleaned up at U.S. taxpayer expense and the polluter won’t

have to pay. Why is that? Because tar sands are not considered crude oil for purposes of contributing to the oil spill liability trust fund. We have repeatedly pointed out this egregious and unjustified loophole to the majority, and we have repeatedly received assurances that it will be addressed—yet it has still not been addressed. In fact, three times in this Chamber alone, we have offered amendments to solve this problem, but the Republican majority voted each one of them down.

Now there is this new “sense of the Senate” language that was put into the bill by the Senate that promises further action on this issue, but it is no substitute for real legislation to protect the American taxpayer from the financial consequences of a tar sands spill. Make no mistake, this language, this sense of Congress or sense of the Senate, does nothing to change the equation and end the tar sands oil subsidy.

Recently, the President stood in this Chamber and noted that 21st century businesses need 21st century infrastructure. He said that we should “set our sights higher than a single oil pipeline.” Yet here we are again voting on that single oil pipeline.

It is my hope that we are nearing the end of this long cycle of futile votes to grant special treatment to this single pipeline; and it is my hope that sooner rather than later we can get back to trying to find agreement on a moderate energy policy, one that is sustainable, one that helps the U.S. economy, and one that moves us forward, not backward, in the fight against climate change. In the meantime, I urge my colleagues once again to vote “no” on this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. MIMI WALTERS).

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Madam Speaker, it was 2008 when TransCanada first submitted an application to construct the Keystone XL pipeline. Six years later, the Keystone pipeline is still awaiting approval.

What does construction of the Keystone pipeline mean for our Nation? Over 40,000 jobs, energy security, and increased economic growth. Furthermore, the State Department found that construction of the Keystone pipeline would pose little environmental risk. In fact, there would be greater environmental and safety risks from not building the pipeline.

Despite the obvious benefits and bipartisan support, the President has continued to block Keystone's approval. Now he threatens to veto the bill, effectively killing the entire Keystone program. After 6-plus years, the President has run out of excuses. It is clear that the construction of the Keystone pipeline is in our Nation's best interests, and we cannot afford to delay any longer.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I wanted to reference again this provision in the bill that the Senate put in. The Senate bill contains a provision boldly stating that “climate change is real and not a hoax.” I couldn't agree more with that, Madam Speaker, but let's be clear: the Senate Republican majority in the same breath rejected another amendment stating that climate change is caused by human activity.

Senators who voted against those amendments are out of step with the American people, including many Republicans. In a recent poll, an overwhelming majority of Americans, including almost half of Republicans, stated support for government action to fight climate change and disagreed with those who question that climate change is caused by human activity.

Many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have become fond of saying that they are not scientists, and I think that we can generally agree that is true. But even though they admit they are not scientists, it doesn't stop them from questioning the science. Now, I am not a scientist either, but when actual scientists speak and say there is an overwhelming body of evidence that man-made climate change is real and happening now, I listen to the actual scientists. And saying that you are not a scientist is, in my opinion, just a way of dodging the facts.

I have to say, Madam Speaker, when I go home to New Jersey, and my district was probably more impacted by Superstorm Sandy than any other district, I don't see any disagreement between Democrats and Republicans in my district. It doesn't matter whether they are State legislators or county legislators or mayors or on the council. And I have almost as many Republican mayors and councilmen and councilwomen as I do Democrats, but all of them agree that climate change is real and caused by human activity because they are listening to the scientists and they understand that science is important and that we should pay attention to it.

In any event, the “sense of the Senate” language affirming that climate change is not a hoax does not fix any of the problems with the bill before us, and its inclusion doesn't mean that voting “yes” today will help us in the fight against climate change. In fact, voting “yes” today will move us backward in that fight because one of the major concerns that I have and opponents have of Keystone is because it will exploit tar sands, it will actually increase greenhouse gas significantly. And it is very possible that, without the pipeline, those tar sands will simply not be developed or exploited.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MOOLENAAR).

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Madam Speaker, it is time to build the Keystone pipeline. Building Keystone will create jobs, expand economic opportunity, and provide our country with energy from a reliable trading partner. It is estimated that the pipeline will carry more than 30 million gallons of oil per day, and the State Department has concluded the pipeline is the safest way to transport it to market. Keystone will support job creation by moving oil to American refineries where American workers will process it. Thousands of products using refined oil are manufactured and purchased by Americans every day, and this pipeline has the potential to make those products less expensive.

The House has passed Keystone policy time and again. Ten times, in fact, the House has stood with American workers and consumers. Today, we stand with hardworking Americans looking for good-paying jobs. Today, we stand with American consumers who will see more of their hard-earned money go further at the gas pump.

Keystone helps secure our country's energy independence, lowers energy costs for every American, and supports jobs without raising taxes or adding to our debt.

It is time to pass this bill. I urge my colleagues to vote “yes.”

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Again, I want to make this point about the impact of low oil prices on Keystone and on exploitation of tar sands. The price of oil has dropped precipitously in the past few months and is expected to stay in the \$65 to \$75 per barrel range for the foreseeable future. Just last month, the price of oil actually dipped below \$50 per barrel, and gas prices have fallen below \$2 per gallon in some areas. Obviously, this is good news for the American consumer but bad news for tar sands producers who are struggling to remain profitable in the face of rising production costs and limited transportation options.

In a scenario where tar sands are less profitable due to low oil prices and transportation constraints, the State Department concluded that the construction of Keystone will play a pivotal role in future tar sands development and increased carbon pollution that comes from it. So just last week, EPA made clear that low oil prices mean that the pipeline's impact on future tar sands production could be substantial, with significant implications for climate change.

Now, when I was at Rules, some of my colleagues on the Republican side said: Well, if you don't build the pipeline, this tar sands oil is going to be transported by rail or by some other

means, and so what is the difference if we build Keystone?

Well, the bottom line is that it is very likely that, with low oil prices, there wouldn't be the investment in tar sands. If tar sands had to be transported by means other than the pipeline, investment would not be there. Therefore, the argument is made, obviously, that without Keystone, you might not be exploiting these tar sands and you wouldn't increase the greenhouse gases and force the major change in climate that would result from it.

So again, the point that the EPA is making that with low oil prices, a decision to approve the pipeline could be a significant factor in increased tar sands production and increased greenhouse gas emissions, and the President and the Congress need to look at this development carefully and assess its impact.

One of the reasons—and there are others, like the impact of the pipeline if there was a spill on groundwater and other things. This is one of the reasons why the President has said that the decision of whether this is in the national interest still has to be weighed, and it shouldn't be dictated to by Congress and yet deemed approved because the Canadian company or others think this is appropriate. This is something that the President needs to continue to review, as he has said. That is why he is vetoing the bill. And that is, again, Madam Speaker, why we are wasting our time today.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY).

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Madam Speaker, on a variety of issues, from the Environmental Protection Agency's war on coal jobs in West Virginia to the designation of ANWR in Alaska as permanent wilderness, the President has used unilateral executive action to stifle domestic energy production. It is time for the President to stop pandering to radical environmentalists and do what is right for hardworking American families.

□ 1545

The business community, organized labor, partisan majorities in Congress, and a clear majority of the American people support construction of the Keystone XL pipeline.

The President's own State Department concluded that the project is in the best economic interest of our Nation and that the project would have no impact on carbon emissions and no negative impact on the environment.

Mr. President, enough is enough. It is time to create 42,000 jobs and reduce energy prices for hardworking families. Sign this bill into law. It is time to build the Keystone XL pipeline. I ask that you do this not only for the hard-

working taxpayers I represent in West Virginia but for all Americans struggling in this economy.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I, again, yield myself such time as I may consume.

Again, I listened to the previous speaker on the Republican side and I don't understand how he can say that the President is trying to prevent domestic production. Domestic oil production is at a 29-year high. Whether it is oil or it is natural gas, we have never seen production of this magnitude.

Under this administration, there has been such an increase in both oil and natural gas production in comparison to any previous administration for as long as I have been here. To suggest otherwise boggles the mind, in my opinion.

I wanted to go back to another issue that we are concerned about in terms of the environment and why Keystone needs to continue to be reviewed by the President and not just be deemed approved, and that has to do, again, with oil spills and the impact on aquifers.

Again, our first priority, Madam Speaker, must be to ensure public safety. The proposed Keystone pipeline is a massive project that would carry tar sand sludge throughout the middle of America. Even supporters agree that it should not be built until we have some assurance that it will be safe.

Keystone poses real risks. Over the last few years, a litany of tragic failures have reinforced the need for strong pipeline safety standards.

In 2011, another ExxonMobil pipeline ruptured in Montana, spilling crude oil into the Yellowstone River. The oil was carried hundreds of miles down the river, threatening the livelihoods of ranchers.

In July 2010, a pipeline carrying tar sands oil ruptured near Marshall, Michigan. Over 800,000 gallons of oil spilled into the Talmadge Creek and then flowed into the Kalamazoo River. The cleanup will cost hundreds of millions of dollars. Because the diluted bitumen is heavier than water and sinks to the bottom of the river, it has proven harder to clean up than conventional crude oil.

TransCanada and its supporters have repeatedly assured the public and the Congress that we shouldn't worry about this pipeline carrying tar sand sludge through the middle of America and across the Ogallala Aquifer. They say it will be an ultra-safe state-of-the-art pipeline.

The problem, though, is that we have heard this before. TransCanada's first Keystone pipeline, which brings Canadian tar sands oil to refineries in Illinois and Oklahoma, shouldn't inspire confidence. This was a brand-new, supposedly state-of-the-art pipeline. It was predicted to spill no more than once every 7 years. But in its first year of operation, it reported 14 separate oil spills.

The largest spill occurred on May 7, 2011, when approximately 20,000 gallons of oil erupted from the pipeline in North Dakota. There was literally a 64-high geyser of oil. Amazingly, this spill was not detected by TransCanada but was reported by a local farmer.

In response to this spill and others, the pipeline safety agency issued a corrective action order temporarily shutting down the original Keystone pipeline. The agency based this action on a finding that the continued operation of the pipeline without corrective action would be hazardous to life, property, and the environment.

With this track record, we need a thorough review of whether the standards necessary to safely transport tar sands oil are in place. The proposed route of this tar sands pipeline would cross the Ogallala Aquifer.

Millions of Americans depend on this aquifer for their drinking water and for their livelihoods. If there is an oil spill, the consequences would be devastating to the Americans who depend on this precious water resource.

Again, this is another reason why we shouldn't be approving this and deem this pipeline approved.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES).

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my soon-to-be-friend from New Jersey for bringing up the oil spill issue.

In my home State of Louisiana, we actually have hundreds of thousands of barrels of oil that are unaccounted for as a result of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. We have tens of miles of shoreline that remain oiled as a result of an oil spill that happened over 4 years ago, and this administration is doing absolutely nothing to hold the responsible parties accountable for removing that oil.

To hide behind some of these issues, such as the threat of oil spills, is absolutely absurd when at the same time they are not doing anything to protect the environment and hold responsible parties accountable.

Secondly, there is nothing that this pipeline project is going to do to further threaten the environment. In fact, it is going to make it worse if we don't build it because the oil will be transported by barge, by rail, and other less safe means of transportation.

We saw recently where the EPA released a letter contrary to what the State Department's EIS found, stating that this was going to cause a greater impact to climate change. Whatever the reality is, this pipeline does nothing to address consumption of oil. It does nothing to increase consumption. It is an absurd approach.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SHUSTER. I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. And lastly, Madam Speaker, I will just say that this President for years has embraced an all-of-the-above energy strategy, all-of-the-above. This pipeline fits that criteria—it is all of the above. Perhaps I misunderstood and they were talking geographically above. It is coming from Canada. It fits that one too.

Madam Speaker, this project needs to move forward. It has been delayed far too long. All it is going to do by not building this project is cause us to rely upon Venezuela and other non-allies for energy to power this Nation's economy.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH), the ranking member of the Energy and Power Subcommittee.

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, this is déjà vu all over again, as for the umpteenth time the majority party is trying to jam the Keystone XL pipeline through this Congress despite the fact that President Obama has made it pretty clear to all who will listen that this bill is headed to a veto if it ever reaches his desk.

Madam Speaker, instead of going through regular order and the committee process and working on bipartisan legislation that would ultimately create hundreds of thousands of good-paying American jobs, such as building up our infrastructure, fixing our roads and bridges, and modernizing our energy grid, instead of looking at the interests, the real interests of the American people, and working to provide the American people much-needed jobs, my friends on the other side of the aisle have repeatedly spent valuable time, time that this Congress will never, ever see again, trying to grant a regulatory earmark to the TransCanada Corporation by short-circuiting the normal permitting process and forcing President Obama's hand.

This is not a jobs bill. Madam Speaker, we need a jobs bill. But where are the jobs in this bill? Every time we talk about jobs, every time jobs develop on the floor of this House, the Republicans all run to one place: that all we need is to build the Keystone XL pipeline and that will solve America's job problem. I beg to differ with my friends on the other side of the aisle.

The State Department—our State Department—consulted with TransCanada and found out that the construction of this pipeline would directly result in about 4,000 jobs in the early stages just to build the pipeline. These jobs, Madam Speaker, will last no more than 12 months—365 days of work provided to the American people. What kind of jobs bill are we trying to perpetrate on the American people?

In addition, Madam Speaker, by building the pipeline, 42,100 1-year jobs

will be created indirectly across the United States.

After the Keystone XL pipeline is completed, operation, where the permanent jobs are, the real operation where the lasting jobs are, the jobs that will provide a future for American families—college education, mortgages to pay for their home, put dinner on the table—these jobs would only amount to about 35 permanent jobs in this Nation—35. A franchise burger joint on the corner will provide more permanent jobs than this whole Keystone XL pipeline is purported to do.

Let's put these figures into perspective.

In 2014, the U.S. economy created nearly 50,000 jobs per week—50,000 per week in 2014; 230,000 jobs per month. So even taking the most favorable estimates for all the indirect and direct jobs, the Keystone XL pipeline will produce fewer jobs than the economy is already creating on its own in just 7 days—in just one week.

Taking the lowest estimate for the 35 permanent jobs again, the Keystone XL pipeline will produce even fewer jobs, in all of its massiveness, in all of the hyperbole that comes from the other side, than the economy is already creating in just 1 hour. In the next hour, Mr. Speaker, the American economy will produce more jobs than the entire Keystone XL pipeline in all of its duration—in just the next hour.

This is not a jobs bill. Where are the priorities for the other side? Why are we wasting time on this?

Let me remind my friends on the other side, in just 2 weeks—just 2 weeks—the Homeland Security Department will run out of money, putting all of the American people, our entire Nation, at risk, in just 2 weeks.

Where are your priorities? Doesn't that make more sense than wasting our time on creating 35 jobs—35 permanent jobs? We are going to be out of this place at the end of the week. Where is the priority for American security? Where is the priority for us to spend our time? What are the priorities of the majority if we are going to waste our time?

Here we go again, valuable time. Homeland Security running out of money, folks being laid off, our borders are being compromised, terrorists are going to have or could have a field day because we have not funded Homeland Security.

□ 1600

Yet we are here, wasting valuable time. Let's use this time to fund the Department of Homeland Security, and let's get off some of this nonsense that makes no sense at all.

I cannot believe, Mr. Speaker, that the American people have sent us here to work on behalf of TransCanada and to ignore the Department of Homeland Security. I can't in my wildest imagi-

nation believe that they didn't even know, that they didn't even imagine, that they didn't even think that we are here with the Department of Homeland Security on one side and the Keystone XL on the other side. Go figure. Where are their priorities?

Mr. Speaker, this bill is unnecessary. This bill will be vetoed by President Obama, and it will be sent back here DOA. We have far more important work that we should be doing on behalf of the American people.

I urge all of my colleagues to turn down this unnecessary, ill-timed, ill-conceived notion that we should be spending our valuable time on the Keystone XL and ignoring the funding for the Department of Homeland Security.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind my friend from Chicago that all infrastructure jobs are temporary. Based on that argument, we shouldn't build roads, bridges, highways, or pipelines. All infrastructure jobs—construction jobs—are temporary. Second, I would like to remind my colleague that he voted against the appropriations bill to fund Homeland Security.

With that, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER).

Mr. WEBER of Texas. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Keystone XL Pipeline Approval Act.

It comes into my district, by the way. It comes into my district on the gulf coast of Texas. Over 6 years has passed since the permit was applied for. The iPad was not even introduced at that time. That is how long it has been. In contrast, this Congress is acting in less than 2 months to approve the most studied pipeline in the Nation's history. The President is creating jobs all right. It is called studying pipelines so you can deny the permit.

The State Department has concluded that this pipeline will be safe and environmentally sound. Indeed, that was the first amendment I got passed on the floor of this House in Lee Terry's bill—the State Department's own language.

The pipeline strengthens our relationship with an important ally, and it creates thousands of jobs for the American people.

The other side is saying some funny things:

They say that drilling and oil production is at a 29-year high. Great. Let's continue this process. Let's make it better. Let's make it longer. I didn't even think about that. You are right. Energy independence is right around the corner. You are onto something here, so let's continue that;

The other side says there is danger from oil spills. The truth is that the pipeline industry has a 99 percent safety rating. You cannot say that about trucking. You cannot say that about rail. You cannot say that about barge;

They say this is the umpteenth time the Republicans have passed this bill. On November 4, as I recall, the Americans elected some umpteenth new Republicans. I think they are sending a message that they want energy independence, that they want a change. They understand that the Keystone pipeline means energy independence.

Yes, this House will pass this bill. We will send it to the President. A little over a year ago, the President said, if Congress wouldn't act, he had a phone and a pen, and he would. Now Congress is acting, and he is saying: I have got a pen, and I am going to veto.

Which way is it, Mr. President? You can't have it both ways.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SHUSTER. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Maybe, if the people on the other side of the aisle don't vote for this bill, we will get it passed, and the President will veto it. Then maybe Americans will elect some umpteenth more Republicans.

It is time to move this bill and get it done.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time remains on both sides?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Jersey has 4 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Pennsylvania has 3½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) has 15 minutes remaining.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN).

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. I want to thank our ranking member for allowing me to have 2 minutes to talk about how I support the Keystone pipeline. We have a little diversity on our side.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1, the Keystone XL Pipeline Approval Act.

I represent a refinery and chemical plant community in Houston, east Harris County, Texas. We have five refineries in my area alone, which would use that Keystone crude oil. In fact, Congressman WEBER has the eastern leg of it, and I have the western leg that actually stops in our district. We have two, big, old, huge tanks in Channelview, Texas, which are ready to get that oil and distribute it to our refineries. We have refineries, literally, from Corpus Christi over to Pascagoula in the Gulf of Mexico, on the gulf coast, that could use that crude oil. They are already using heavier crude from other parts of the world.

It has taken 6 years to get this permit for the pipeline's development. This is the longest study of any cross-border pipeline that I have ever seen. Unfortunately, because of the backlog, we have 11 other cross-border projects

that have not moved through the process. Some of these are just a simple name change, and that is the problem. The Presidential permitting process has broken down. That is why Congress needs to act. The State Department has studied the project four different times. Each time, they have come back and have said that the environmental and climate impacts would be negligible.

Let me talk about the jobs issue.

We will have a year of high-paid pipefitters, teamsters, laborers, electrical workers—you name it. Those are great jobs, and they are high paying for a year. Construction jobs are temporary. Then they will go on to another job, and, frankly, in Texas, we have no shortage of need for pipelines even though I have never not lived on a pipeline easement in Houston, Texas.

The bill is not as perfect as I would like, but we need to send this bill to the President—it got out of the Senate—and give the President a chance to do it. We need cross-border pipelines whether it is Canada to the United States, Texas to Mexico, or the United States to Mexico, or back.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1, the Keystone XL Pipeline Approval Act. I represent a refinery/chemical plants. The refineries on the Gulf Coast will use the crude oil.

I rise in support of this bill because I support North American energy development.

The pipeline has been in development and waiting for approval for six years. This is the longest study of any cross-border pipeline that I have ever seen.

Unfortunately, because of this backlog, there are now 11 other cross-border projects that have not moved through the process.

Some of these projects are as simple as a name change.

The Presidential Permitting Process has become nothing more than a political game.

Opponents of domestic infrastructure projects use the process to delay projects endlessly in an attempt to raise money under the guise of environmental protection.

The State Department has studied this project four different times.

Each time, the Department reported back that the environmental and climate impacts would be negligible.

However, opponents of the project do not like that answer so they continue their attack until the project is deferred.

Opponents of the project now decry that because oil prices are low, more studies should be conducted.

Opponents cite low oil prices as a reason the federal government shouldn't approve the project.

Last time I checked, the federal government wasn't involved in private business decisions. If oil prices remain low, the market will dictate which projects remain viable and which do not.

The federal government has one job to do and should complete its work in a timely fashion.

Further, opponents claim that Keystone XL will only result in 35 permanent jobs.

What they fail to address is that Keystone XL, along with the majority of other cross-border facilities, will create thousands of construction jobs.

Those who oppose the project say, those are only temporary jobs.

Well, to my friends who oppose the project, construction jobs by their very nature are temporary jobs.

But I can tell you this, the pipefitters, operating engineers, electrical and Teamster laborers that work on their segment of the pipeline are darn happy to have that job.

That is a large paycheck to help support his or her family.

I continue to urge support for the Keystone XL pipeline.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Once again, I ask my colleagues to support this bill, this pipeline, that is said to have been the most studied and will be the safest pipeline. It will help out one of our great allies, and it will help us keep energy costs down in this country. It will create over 40,000 infrastructure jobs. Yes, they are temporary, but as we all know, those jobs will go to helping the families of the construction workers. They will move on to other jobs, and these will also be a spinoff to other jobs to help keep this pipeline viable for years to come.

Let me finish with a final quote from a well-known American—an American respected by the other side of the aisle, an American trusted by the other side of the aisle, an American listened to by the other side of the aisle. He says:

The pipeline increases the diversity of available supplies among the United States' worldwide crude oil sources in a time of considerable political tension in other major oil producing countries and regions; it shortens the transportation pathway for crude oil supplies; and it increases crude oil supplies from a major non-Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries producer. Canada is a stable and reliable ally and trading partner of the United States with which we have free trade agreements which augment the security of this energy supply.

The approval of the permit sends a positive economic signal, in a difficult economic period, about the future reliability and availability of a portion of the United States' energy imports, and in the immediate term, this shovel-ready project will provide construction jobs for workers in the United States.

That American, ladies and gentlemen, is President Barack Obama. He said that in 2009, but he was talking about the Enbridge Alberta Clipper. I don't know what has changed, but this quote could go right towards this pipeline. It does all of the same things, and it has all of the positive impact that that pipeline has. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, to send it to the President, and to ask the President to reconsider his veto threat.

Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) control the remainder of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan has 16½ minutes remaining.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Here we are, once again, to debate legislation on the Keystone XL pipeline. For the past 6 years, this project has been thoroughly vetted by the Congress and the administration. There is no question in my mind that the Keystone XL is in the national interest, so let's look again at the facts:

It is a jobs project. The President's own State Department has confirmed that Keystone is going to support 42,000 jobs across the country;

Keystone is going to be safe. Yes, it is. Pipelines remain one of the very safest and most efficient ways to transport energy, and Keystone is going to rank at the top of the class when it comes to safety. The pipeline, in fact, is going to incorporate some 59 additional safety standards proposed by PHMSA, and it will adhere to the rigorous new pipeline safety standards on which I worked with John Dingell to get signed into law in the last Congress;

Keystone is better for the environment. Yes, it is. We know that Canada is going to continue to develop its rich oil sands regardless of whether we build the pipeline. If we don't build it, that oil is going to continue to get to the marketplace through other, more carbon-intensive means;

Keystone is going to enhance our energy security and help energy prices stay stable and affordable. We know this respite from high gas prices won't last forever, and prices have already begun to tick back up. By bringing more North American energy to the market, the pipeline can help protect us against future price spikes and overseas disruptions. We want as much certainty in the marketplace as we can.

The President said last week that, again, another reason he is against this is that gas prices are low. Yesterday's Wall Street Journal headline above the fold reads: "Oil-Price Rebound Predicted." That is right. They are going to go up. Americans understand supply and demand. The Keystone pipeline is very positive for us in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into the RECORD a letter that we received just an hour or so ago from the Canadian Embassy.

CANADIAN EMBASSY,
February 10, 2015.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY, I was quite disappointed to read the comments from the

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with respect to the Keystone XL (KXL) application.

The EPA derives its greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) calculations from a study using data from 2005, two years before iPhones existed, completely neglecting the innovation and emissions reductions that have since occurred in the oil sands.

Just as communication technology has advanced in the last ten years, so too has scientific analysis of the oil sands. There are more recent credible scientific numbers on oil sands emissions reductions. Canadian government data show that per barrel emissions have fallen 28% from 1990 to 2012. In 2014, both IHS-CERA (Dan Yergin's consultancy) and the California Air Resources Board data showed that average oil sands GHG emissions are in the same range as Venezuelan and Californian heavy oil and lower than several types of Venezuelan and Californian crudes. Furthermore, IHS-CERA has determined that 45% of the crude oils consumed in the United States are within the same GHG intensity range as those of the oil sands.

The EPA selected the highest GHG value among four studies considered by the State Department, and then assumed that KXL flows at capacity over fifty years, that KXL transports only oil sands crude, and most egregiously that the only crude displaced is Saudi light. By contrast, the State Department reported oil sands incremental emissions as a range from 1.3 to 27.4 megatonnes annually. The lower figure compared oil sands to Venezuelan and Mexican heavy crudes that would be displaced. The higher figure compared oil sands to Saudi light crude, an international benchmark, which your Department noted, is not a direct competitor for heavy crude oil refineries. Clearly, the correct comparison is to the lower figure, not the higher figure.

In its April 22nd, 2013 comments on the same data, the EPA calculated an oil sands incremental GHG value some 46% lower than it is now claiming, and made no effort to explain why its calculation has now increased by 46%.

The EPA chose to ignore that the oil sands are produced in the only jurisdiction supplying oil to the United States that has imposed a carbon fee which is used to fund clean energy technologies.

The EPA questions the State Department's finding that, absent KXL, incremental volumes of Canadian oil will move to the U.S. Gulf Coast by rail. The EPA chose rather conveniently not to examine data for the last two years. Since the KXL application was first delayed in November 2011, crude oil by rail exports from Canada to the U.S. have jumped ten-fold, and continue to expand.

The EPA neither discusses nor disputes the State Department's findings that rail represents 28-42% higher GHG emissions than KXL.

The EPA neither discusses nor disputes the State Department's findings on safety. The State Department originally reported that KXL would represent one injury and no fatalities annually, as compared to 49 injuries and six fatalities for rail, then revised the rail figures from 49 to 189 injuries, and from six to 28 fatalities.

The EPA chose to ignore that Canada, an ally, has committed to an absolute reduction in our GHG emissions. No other major oil supplier to the United States can make this statement. In 2012, Canada's GHG emissions were down 5.1%, with more work ahead of us.

One is left with the conclusion that there has been significant distortion and omission to arrive at the EPA's conclusions.

There is no significant difference between the GHG emissions from oil sands crude oil and from other heavy crude oils that would be displaced at the U.S. Gulf Coast. As compared to rail, KXL represents lower GHG emissions, as well as lower environmental and public safety risks.

We would be pleased to discuss the gap between the EPA comments and the scientific analysis of the State Department.

Thank you for the opportunity to raise this issue with you.

Sincerely,

GARY DOER,
Ambassador.

Mr. UPTON. In the letter from the Ambassador of Canada, he makes a number of good points, but he concludes by saying this:

"There is no significant difference between the GHG emissions from oil sands crude oil and from other heavy crude oils that would be displaced at the U.S. Gulf Coast. As compared to rail, KXL represents lower GHG emissions, as well as lower environmental and public safety risks."

The evidence is in. The case ought to be closed. There is no good reason for President Obama not to join with Republicans and Democrats to say, yes, it is time to build.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, how much time is now on the Republican side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan has 13½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from New Jersey has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the sponsor of the House-passed bill.

Mr. CRAMER. I thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I spent several minutes articulating the details of the benefits of this bill. I am grateful to Senator HOEVEN, my Senator from North Dakota, for introducing it in the Senate.

I want to answer just a couple of the questions because I think there are legitimate concerns being raised by my friends on the other side.

With regard to the price of oil being about \$50 and being low and that it, therefore, somehow negates the need for the pipeline, there are two things I would say. 2,336 days ago, the price of oil was approaching \$50, and TransCanada still applied for the pipeline. In fact, at low prices, the cost of transportation is an even more important consideration, and oil transported by rail costs about \$10 a barrel more than it does by pipeline. The pipeline is even more important in this environment.

□ 1615

With regard to the pump station spill in North Dakota, on the original pipeline, I know it well. I sited that line. The good news was that everything worked. The alarms went off. The bells shut down. The farmer even called the

company. There was a spill. It was corrected. There was no negative environmental impact.

With regard to the types of jobs, I saw them firsthand. These are permanent jobs. Yes, they are temporary on that particular job, but 88 percent of the steel used in the Keystone XL pipeline has been sourced from North Carolina. That is 88 percent.

I want to finish by reading this quote from Danny Hendrix. Danny says this with regard to what kind of jobs will be created by the XL:

They've got health care for another year. They've got a pension credit for when they retire. It means that those families have got health care, dental care—so it means a lot. It means they can make a house payment. It means they can send their kids to college.

Danny Hendrix is a business manager for Pipeliners Local 798 in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

These are real jobs, and to belittle them in any way, Mr. Speaker, to degrade them in any way, is intellectually dishonest and disrespectful.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY).

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Keystone XL pipeline. It is going to create 42,000 jobs. By the way, those jobs that you are talking about that will be part-time, I guarantee you the Department of Labor will include them in their numbers when they talk about how great we are becoming.

This is the most federally reviewed pipeline in U.S. history—it is 6 years—and the thing about this that is most impressive is it doesn't cost the American taxpayer one single penny. It is privately funded. And I would guarantee you that along that pipeline, as it is constructed, all those communities are going to benefit from the fact they have people working there, staying in their hotels, buying their food, enhancing their local economy.

How many more times do we have to talk about this? This is not a Republican issue, by the way. This is an American issue. A majority of the American people support this, and Democrats and Republicans in both the House and the Senate. It is bipartisan and bicameral. My goodness, how rare is that? Business groups and labor unions. You know what? Even President Bill Clinton and President Bush agree this is something that needs to be done.

News outlets from Bloomberg to The Washington Post to USA Today all say: Build it.

USA Today gets it right. They say:

On the merits, the Obama administration should long ago have said yes . . . but the White House seems to have been paralyzed by its fear of angering our ally Canada if it says no or infuriating Democratic environmentalists if it says yes . . . It is long past time to say yes.

President Obama must say "yes" to new jobs, he must say "yes" to bipartisanship, he must say "yes" to good government, he must say "yes" to America, and he must say "yes" to the Keystone pipeline. It is long past due, my friends.

Let's move America forward, let's become energy self-sustaining, and let's be the leader in the world when it comes to energy. This debate is way past time, and the thought that we shouldn't do it now because the oil market is down, my goodness, nothing could be further from the truth.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS).

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, I am having kind of a déjà vu moment and a holy cow moment both at the same time. It is déjà vu because we already passed a Homeland Security funding bill. So that bill has shifted to the Senate. Somebody apparently didn't get that memo. I am having this holy cow moment because I can't believe I am standing up here in support of the Senate-passed Keystone XL Pipeline Approval Act.

Mr. Speaker, the broad support for building the Keystone XL pipeline is truly remarkable. This bill is bipartisan. It is bicameral. In fact, it commanded a supermajority in the Senate. A majority of the American people want to see the pipeline constructed. The pipeline has been studied and studied and studied again, in fact, way up to the State Department, which approved the pipeline more than a year ago.

This kind of support for a piece of legislation is a rarity in Washington. It doesn't get any better than this. And that is because the pipeline has unquestionable merit. It directly creates jobs. It is a shot in the arm for our energy economy. It will make America more energy secure, an aspiration of Presidents and Congresses for decades. And it is now within our grasp if we choose to seize it. Why our President would choose to veto this bill is beyond rational explanation. Its economic benefits could not be more evident.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope the President reconsiders his threat to veto this so American workers can finally start to construct and reap the benefits for the American people.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL).

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of approving the Keystone XL pipeline. The pipeline is widely supported by Americans and by a bipartisan majority in this House and in the Senate.

In the more than 6 years since the application to build the pipeline, the President has refused to authorize it, citing two reasons. Number one, environmental challenges. But, Mr. Speak-

er, the pipeline has undergone numerous environmental assessments, and the U.S. State Department's Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement confirms the minimal impact of the pipeline on the environment.

Number two, legal challenges. But, Mr. Speaker, on January 9, 2015, the Nebraska Supreme Court approved the pathway of the pipeline.

The President has no more excuses to deny the completion of the Keystone XL, and I urge him to rescind his veto threat of this critical energy and infrastructure bill.

Americans want a true all-of-the-above energy policy that boosts our goal of North American energy independence, benefits consumers, creates jobs, protects our environment, and preserves our natural resources.

This bill accomplishes all of those goals. However, Mr. Speaker, the President continues to block this essential energy and infrastructure project and the jobs it would provide to our hard-working American families.

Further, due to the bureaucratic delays of the past 6 years, this project is now costing 50 percent more than its original announcement.

In my district alone, the pipeline has supported over 600 jobs at Welspun Tubular, headquartered in Little Rock, Arkansas, where 700 miles of this pipe are stacked up at the rail head ready to put in the ground.

Mr. Speaker, if approved, this project will provide thousands more jobs and over \$3.4 billion for our Nation's economy. The President is out of excuses. It is time to approve this project.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman said this is the time to pass it. It is not the time to pass it. The time to pass it is after all the reports and studies are in. The State Department hasn't completed its study.

It is kind of like what we are doing in this Congress. We are not going by our regular procedures. We are not having bills in committee and opportunities for amendments on the floor because we bring things up here to make it the political issue du jour.

This is not the time for the bill, just like it is not the time for the Prime Minister to come and speak from that well. It should be after his election and after the negotiations with Iran are over. This should be after the State Department has told us what their opinion is, and then let the President make his decision.

We should go back to regular order. I hope the House will return to regular order.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Keystone XL Pipeline Approval Act.

I think on both sides all we talk about is creating jobs. For 6 years, this project has been studied. We hear that over and over again. Every environmental report has been favorable. In fact, the President's own State Department says that the construction of this pipeline will create tens of thousands of jobs.

At a time when millions of Americans are struggling, this is a project that is ready to go. As we said, we have pipeline stacked up and ready to put in the ground.

The Keystone pipeline is not just important to growing our economy. This project is critical to securing North American energy independence and reducing our dependence on foreign oil.

Congress has taken action with bipartisan support, and finally we will put this priority on the President's desk. I urge the President to listen to the American people who support this project and reconsider his threat to veto this critical legislation.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for yielding time and the work you have done on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1 to approve the Keystone XL pipeline after what has turned out to be an unacceptable 6-year delay by the Obama administration.

Many have stated that this bill is about creating jobs. And guess what? They are right. The pipeline would create over 40,000 jobs without a dime of taxpayer funding, helping to pull eager American workers out of the unemployment line.

Approval of the pipeline would also bring down energy costs here at home, lifting a huge burden on hardworking families, small businesses, and farmers.

Moreover, clearing the construction of the Keystone pipeline puts us closer to North American energy independence to reduce our dependence on oil from foreign sources that are all too often at odds with America's interests and our national security.

So the bill we debate today is about jobs. It is about making energy more affordable. But it is also about making our country safer. This bill will help us stop funding both sides of the war on terror.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, may I ask how much time is remaining on both sides?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) has 4 minutes remaining. The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I am not aware that we have any further speak-

ers. I am willing to close, if the gentleman goes first.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The bill grants a regulatory earmark to TransCanada Corporation, effectively exempting TransCanada's Keystone tar sands pipeline from all Federal permitting requirements, including requirements that apply to every other construction project in the country.

Keystone will increase carbon pollution and threaten critical water resources. Tar sands are a dirty, high-polluting fuel. On a lifecycle basis, tar sands crude produces up to 40 percent more carbon pollution than conventional oil. And even with the current proposed route, leaks from the highly corrosive crude in the pipeline would still threaten the aquifer, a critical resource for drinking water and irrigation.

Mr. Speaker, we don't need this dirty oil. Since Keystone was proposed, we have cut U.S. oil demand. We have dramatically boosted less-polluting U.S. oil production. In fact, much of the tar sands oil will not go to America but will go through America and be exported overseas. This leaves the United States with all the risk and no reward.

I would urge my colleagues once again to vote "no" on this legislation. It is not good for this country.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, this is not new science. We have got existing oil and gas pipelines that cross the border. We have got a million miles of pipeline or so within the United States. Safety standards, rightly so, are a lot higher than they used to be, and we will continue to oversee this.

Canada is our friend. We get oil and gas from Canada today. We have expanded many of our refineries by billions of dollars trying to get prepared for new pipeline commodities coming from the north.

It is time to build this. It has been 6 years. I remember well Secretary of State Hillary Clinton a number of years ago saying that they would be ready before the end of that year to complete their studies to get this thing done. Well, 6 years has now come, and it is time for us to act.

The Nebraska Supreme Court has ruled the way that they did in support of this. We know that the carbon footprint is less by putting it in a pipeline, and we know that it is safer than other means of transportation.

Again, we know that Canada is going to sell this oil somewhere. And if they don't get it in a pipeline here to the U.S., that pipeline is going to go 2,000 miles to the east and get on a boat or a barge—a higher carbon footprint. Isn't it better to do it here, to build it, put it in a pipeline here in the U.S.?

□ 1630

This bill, we were accepting the Senate bill. Yes, they finally passed this bill. Let's pass this bill this afternoon. Let's send it to the President. Let's hope that he might reconsider a proposed veto on this bill, and let's deal with the issue, and let's get it done.

There is a reason why better than 65 percent of Americans support this. They understand it. They understand supply and demand. We want gas prices to stay stable. We know that this oil that we get from Canada will displace oil coming either from the Middle East or from Venezuela. Why is that not a good thing?

Please vote "yes."

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise once again in opposition to the Keystone XL Pipeline Approval Act (S. 1). Despite no evidence suggesting that Congressional intervention is needed, this is the second time this Congress that the Republicans are bringing forward a bill to sidestep federal requirements and approve TransCanada's application for the Keystone Pipeline. I oppose this legislation and support the ongoing federal review of the environmental, safety, and economic impacts of this application to determine if this pipeline is truly in our national interest.

The Keystone XL pipeline would transmit oil 1,700 miles from the tar sands of Alberta, Canada across the U.S. to the Gulf of Mexico where it would be refined and exported to global markets. According to federal law, the State Department must complete an environmental review of all cross-border projects of this magnitude. The State Department requested comments on Keystone XL by February 2, 2015 from the Pentagon, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Departments of Energy, Justice, Interior, Commerce, Transportation, and Homeland Security. The EPA released their public comments on this day stating that the recent trend of global decline in oil prices should be factored in on whether to approve Keystone XL pipeline. The State Department needs the time to thoroughly evaluate the EPA and other agencies' comments.

In Minnesota, this project has the potential to negatively impact our economy. The Keystone XL pipeline would divert Canadian oil that now flows to refineries in Minnesota and the upper Midwest to the Gulf of Mexico. Diverting oil away from Minnesota could result in job losses at our refineries. Respected oil economist Philip Verleger wrote an op-ed published in the Star Tribune in March 2011 stating that in his expert opinion the oil diversion will diminish supply, resulting in an increase in the cost of oil and food for Minnesotans and the rest of the Midwest. In fact, he states the country as a whole would end up paying nearly \$5 billion more for oil than we do today if the pipeline is built. Other economists have estimated that the pipeline will result in the creation of only 50 permanent jobs nationally.

President Obama has stated that he will veto this legislation because S. 1 sidesteps the process for deciding whether a cross-border pipeline serves the national interest of the

American people. I support the President's decision to veto S. 1. The precedent of forgoing our national due diligence in order to benefit of a foreign company is irresponsible. The American people deserve an adequate review is conducted. Trading dubious economic benefits for potentially disastrous environmental consequences and higher costs for Minnesota families and small businesses is simply not a trade I am willing to make.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing the Keystone XL Pipeline Approval Act and instead bring a bill to the House floor that works to strengthen the middle class.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 100, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time and was read the third time.

MOTION TO COMMIT

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to commit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentlewoman opposed to the bill?

Mrs. CAPPS. Yes, I am.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to commit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mrs. Capps moves to commit the bill S. 1 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

After section 2, insert the following (and redesignate subsequent sections accordingly):

SEC. 3. REQUIREMENT THAT TRANSCANADA KEYSTONE PIPELINE, L.P. PAY FOR ANY OIL SPILL CLEANUP ON AMERICAN SOIL.

In the approval process authorized under section 2, TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, L.P. shall certify to the President that diluted bitumen and other materials derived from tar sands or oil sands that are transported through the Keystone XL pipeline will be treated as crude oil for the purposes of determining contributions that fund the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund.

Mr. UPTON (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I reserve a point of order against the motion to commit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A point of order is reserved.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk continued to read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes in support of her motion.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer the final amendment to this bill.

Passage of this amendment will not prevent passage of the underlying bill. If it is adopted, my amendment will simply be incorporated into the bill, and the bill would be immediately voted upon.

Mr. Speaker, no matter if you support or oppose Keystone XL, we can all

agree that extracting and transporting oil has some serious risks. It only takes one small crack, one small mistake, to cause a major oil spill and a catastrophe, irreparable damage to the surrounding communities and to the environment.

History has shown us that there is simply no such thing as a spillproof well or pipeline. Accidents happen, and they will continue to happen, regardless of what we are told by the oil companies building and maintaining the pipelines.

In fact, accidents have already happened 14 times on the existing section of the Keystone pipeline, and these oil spills don't just devastate the surrounding environment. They harm lives and livelihoods as well.

In 1969, my home district in California experienced one of the worst oil spills in American history. I saw, firsthand, the devastating damage to our local economy, to human health, to property, to natural resources. We have sadly seen this happen far too many times since then in communities all around this country.

The Deepwater Horizon disaster cost 11 lives, billions of dollars in economic damages, and untold devastation to the delicate ecosystem of the gulf. That very same year, we saw as well a terrible spill in Kalamazoo, Michigan. This spill was particularly noteworthy because it involved tar sands oil, which is the same type of oil that would flow through the Keystone pipeline.

Tar sands oil is much harder to clean up than standard crude, which is one of the reasons the spill took nearly \$1 billion and several years to clean up.

Mr. Speaker, despite numerous assurances that Keystone XL will be safer and that the risk of a spill will be minimal, safer simply does not equal safe. That is why we have the oil spill liability trust fund, to ensure that the oil companies that create these messes will also pay for them to clean them up.

This trust fund is financed by an 8 cents per-barrel fee on crude oil and petroleum products, but TransCanada is currently not even required to contribute to the trust fund for Keystone because tar sands oil is not considered crude oil for purposes of this program—a loophole, if I have ever heard of one.

If there is a spill, taxpayers and local communities, not those responsible, could be stuck paying for this cleanup. That is why I am offering this straightforward amendment.

My amendment would simply require TransCanada to certify that it will pay the same per-barrel fee for its tar sands oil as it does for its regular crude. It would ensure that TransCanada—and not taxpayers—pay to clean up its own mess in the event of a spill.

I have offered this amendment several times before, both in committee and here on the floor, so the majority

should be quite familiar with this issue. In fact, the majority has assured us on several occasions that they would work with us, on Ways and Means Committee as well, to resolve this issue; yet the majority has failed to even propose a meaningful solution, let alone bring one to the floor for a vote.

Mr. Speaker, this is a straightforward issue that should have bipartisan support. We taxpayers, if we are going to bear 100 percent of the risk of an oil spill from this Keystone pipeline, the least we can do is to ensure that those that are responsible for it also pay to clean it up.

I urge my colleagues to adopt this amendment, to protect American taxpayers, and hold oil companies accountable.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The reservation of the point of order is withdrawn.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I claim the time in opposition to the gentlewoman's motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I might just start off by asking my dear friend from California a quick question: If this motion was adopted, would she be voting for the bill? Yes or no.

I yield to the gentlewoman.

Mrs. CAPPS. As I said in my opening remarks, I would not, but as we know, the bill would still pass.

Mr. UPTON. Reclaiming my time, I appreciate the gentlelady's interest on this, and I share her concern.

I would note, and I know that I would also speak for my colleague, Chairman SHUSTER, as we did write then-chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Dave Camp, back in 2012, May 21, I sent a letter to the Ways and Means chair encouraging that this exemption be—loophole—be fixed.

As you know, meaningful tax reform did not emerge from the last Congress. I remain absolutely committed to resolving this, as I know BILL SHUSTER has said so on the RECORD.

Besides that though, it has been years that we have been debating this, and we finally have a bill out of the Senate. They took a whole month on the other side. They considered lots of amendments. They adopted three. We are accepting those three amendments when this bill passes today, as we did not go to conference.

As we know, this is a jurisdictional issue, that neither our committee nor Transportation has jurisdiction over tax issues. That is why we were not able to include that provision here, and that is, frankly, why the Senate was not able to adopt it on the Senate side

either, because it would have been a blue slip issue.

We view this on our side as a procedural issue. We don't want to send it back to the Senate. Who knows when we are going to get it back after the last month that they had.

I would urge my colleagues on our side to vote "no" on this procedural vote. To the folks on your side that are voting, just know that we remain committed to closing this loophole.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to commit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to commit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to commit will be followed by 5-minute votes on passage of the bill, if ordered; and the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 431.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 181, nays 241, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 74]

YEAS—181

Adams	DeSaulnier	Kuster
Aguilar	Deutch	Langevin
Ashford	Dingell	Larsen (WA)
Bass	Doggett	Larson (CT)
Beatty	Doyle (PA)	Lawrence
Becerra	Duncan (TN)	Levin
Bera	Edwards	Lewis
Beyer	Ellison	Lieu (CA)
Bishop (GA)	Engel	Lipinski
Blumenauer	Eshoo	Loeb sack
Bonamici	Esty	Lofgren
Boyle (PA)	Farr	Lowenthal
Brady (PA)	Fattah	Lowe
Brown (FL)	Foster	Lujan Grisham
Brownley (CA)	Frankel (FL)	(NM)
Bustos	Fudge	Lujan, Ben Ray
Butterfield	Gabbard	(NM)
Capps	Gallego	Lynch
Capuano	Garamendi	Maloney
Cardenas	Graham	Carolyn
Carney	Grayson	Maloney, Sean
Carson (IN)	Green, Al	Matsui
Castor (FL)	Green, Gene	McCollum
Castro (TX)	Grijalva	McDermott
Chu (CA)	Gutiérrez	McGovern
Cicilline	Hahn	McNerney
Clark (MA)	Hastings	Meeks
Clarke (NY)	Heck (WA)	Meng
Clay	Higgins	Moore
Cleaver	Himes	Moulton
Clyburn	Hinojosa	Murphy (FL)
Cohen	Honda	Nadler
Connolly	Huffman	Napolitano
Conyers	Israel	Neal
Cooper	Jackson Lee	Nolan
Courtney	Jeffries	Norcross
Crowley	Johnson (GA)	O'Rourke
Cuellar	Johnson, E. B.	Pallone
Cummings	Jones	Pascarell
Davis (CA)	Keating	Payne
Davis, Danny	Kelly (IL)	Pelosi
DeFazio	Kennedy	Perlmutter
DeGette	Kildee	Peters
Delaney	Kilmer	Peterson
DeLauro	Kind	Pingree
DelBene	Kirkpatrick	Pocan

Polis	Scott (VA)
Price (NC)	Serrano
Quigley	Sewell (AL)
Rangel	Sherman
Rice (NY)	Sinema
Richmond	Sires
Roybal-Allard	Slaughter
Ruppersberger	Smith (WA)
Rush	Speier
Ryan (OH)	Swalwell (CA)
Sánchez, Linda T.	Takai
Sarbanes	Takano
Schakowsky	Thompson (CA)
Schiff	Thompson (MS)
Schradler	Titus
	Tonko

NAYS—241

Abraham	Graves (GA)	Noem
Aderholt	Graves (LA)	Nugent
Allen	Graves (MO)	Nunes
Amash	Griffith	Olson
Amodei	Grothman	Palazzo
Babin	Guinta	Palmer
Barletta	Guthrie	Paulsen
Barr	Hanna	Pearce
Barton	Hardy	Perry
Benishek	Harper	Pittenger
Bilirakis	Harris	Pitts
Bishop (MI)	Hartzler	Poe (TX)
Bishop (UT)	Heck (NV)	Poliquin
Black	Hensarling	Pompeo
Blackburn	Herrera Beutler	Posey
Blum	Hice (GA)	Price (GA)
Bost	Hill	Ratcliffe
Boustany	Holding	Reed
Brady (TX)	Hudson	Reichert
Brat	Huelskamp	Renacci
Bridenstine	Huizenga (MI)	Ribble
Brooks (AL)	Hultgren	Rice (SC)
Brooks (IN)	Hunter	Rigell
Buchanan	Hurd (TX)	Roby
Buck	Hurt (VA)	Rogers (AL)
Bucshon	Issa	Rogers (KY)
Burgess	Jenkins (KS)	Rohrabacher
Byrne	Jenkins (WV)	Rokita
Calvert	Johnson (OH)	Rooney (FL)
Carter (GA)	Johnson, Sam	Ros-Lehtinen
Carter (TX)	Jolly	Roskam
Chabot	Jordan	Ross
Chaffetz	Joyce	Rothfus
Clawson (FL)	Katko	Rouzer
Coffman	Kelly (PA)	Royce
Cole	King (IA)	Russell
Collins (GA)	King (NY)	Ryan (WI)
Collins (NY)	Kinzinger (IL)	Salmon
Comstock	Kline	Sanford
Conaway	Knight	Scalise
Cook	Labrador	Schock
Costa	LaMalfa	Schweikert
Costello (PA)	Lamborn	Scott, Austin
Cramer	Lance	Sensenbrenner
Crawford	Latta	Sessions
Crenshaw	LoBiondo	Shimkus
Culberson	Long	Shuster
Curbelo (FL)	Loudermilk	Simpson
Davis, Rodney	Love	Smith (MO)
Dent	Lucas	Smith (NE)
DesJarlais	Luetkemeyer	Smith (NJ)
Diaz-Balart	Lummis	Smith (TX)
Dold	MacArthur	Stefanik
Duffy	Marchant	Stewart
Duncan (SC)	Marino	Stivers
Ellmers	Massie	Stutzman
Emmer	McCarthy	Thompson (PA)
Farenthold	McCauley	Thornberry
Fincher	McClintock	Tiberi
Fleischmann	McHenry	Tipton
Fleming	McKinley	Trott
Flores	McMorris	Turner
Forbes	Rodgers	Upton
Fortenberry	McSally	Valadao
Fox	Meadows	Wagner
Foxx	Meehan	Walberg
Franks (AZ)	Messer	Walden
Frelinghuysen	Mica	Walker
Garrett	Miller (FL)	Walorski
Gibbs	Miller (MI)	Walters, Mimi
Gibson	Moolenaar	Weber (TX)
Gohmert	Mooney (WV)	Webster (FL)
Goodlatte	Mullin	Wenstrup
Gosar	Mulvaney	Westerman
Gowdy	Murphy (PA)	Westmoreland
Graham	Neugebauer	Whitfield
Granger	Newhouse	Williams

Wilson (SC)	Yoder	Young (IN)
Wittman	Yoho	Zeldin
Womack	Young (AK)	Zinke
Woodall	Young (IA)	

NOT VOTING—10

Cartwright	Kaptur	Sanchez, Loretta
Duckworth	Lee	Scott, David
Fitzpatrick	Roe (TN)	
Hoyer	Ruiz	

□ 1704

Messrs. FINCHER, NEUGEBAUER, and MARCHANT changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Messrs. JONES, CICILLINE, POLIS, and SWALWELL of California changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the motion to commit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 270, nays 152, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 75]

YEAS—270

Abraham	Cramer	Hardy
Aderholt	Crawford	Harper
Allen	Crenshaw	Harris
Amodei	Cuellar	Hartzler
Ashford	Culberson	Heck (NV)
Babin	Curbelo (FL)	Hensarling
Barletta	Davis, Rodney	Herrera Beutler
Barr	Denham	Hice (GA)
Barton	Dent	Hill
Benishek	DeSantis	Hinojosa
Bilirakis	DesJarlais	Holding
Bishop (GA)	Diaz-Balart	Hudson
Bishop (MI)	Dold	Huelskamp
Bishop (UT)	Doyle (PA)	Huizenga (MI)
Black	Duffy	Hultgren
Blackburn	Duncan (SC)	Hunter
Blum	Duncan (TN)	Hurd (TX)
Bost	Ellmers	Hurt (VA)
Boustany	Emmer	Issa
Brady (PA)	Farenthold	Jackson Lee
Brady (TX)	Fincher	Jenkins (KS)
Brat	Fleischmann	Jenkins (WV)
Bridenstine	Fleming	Johnson (OH)
Brooks (AL)	Flores	Johnson, Sam
Brooks (IN)	Forbes	Jolly
Buchanan	Fortenberry	Jones
Buck	Fox	Jordan
Bucshon	Franks (AZ)	Joyce
Burgess	Frelinghuysen	Katko
Bustos	Garrett	Kelly (PA)
Byrne	Gibbs	King (IA)
Calvert	Gibson	King (NY)
Carter (GA)	Gohmert	Kinzinger (IL)
Carter (TX)	Goodlatte	Kline
Chabot	Gosar	Knight
Chaffetz	Gowdy	Labrador
Clawson (FL)	Graham	LaMalfa
Clyburn	Granger	Lamborn
Coffman	Graves (GA)	Lance
Cole	Graves (LA)	Latta
Collins (GA)	Graves (MO)	Lipinski
Collins (NY)	Green, Al	LoBiondo
Comstock	Green, Gene	Loeb sack
Conaway	Griffith	Long
Cook	Grothman	Loudermilk
Cooper	Guinta	Love
Costa	Guthrie	Lucas
Costello (PA)	Hanna	Luetkemeyer

Lummis
MacArthur
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moonenar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)

Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Robby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schradler
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shinkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)

Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Veasey
Vela
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NAYS—152

Adams
Aguilar
Amash
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brown (CA)
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu (CA)
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clever
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DeBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah

Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Galleo
Garamendi
Grayson
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Honda
Huffman
Israel
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larsen (CT)
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lieu (CA)
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney

Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sherman
Sinema
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Velazquez
Visclosky

Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Cartwright
Doggett
Duckworth
Fitzpatrick
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Hoyer
Kaptur
Lee
Roe (TN)

NOT VOTING—10

□ 1713

So the bill was passed.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AWARDING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO THE FOOT SOLDIERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN BLOODY SUNDAY, TURNAROUND TUESDAY, OR THE FINAL SELMA TO MONTGOMERY VOTING RIGHTS MARCH IN MARCH OF 1965

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 431) to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Foot Soldiers who participated in Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday, or the final Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March in March of 1965, which served as a catalyst for the Voting Rights Act of 1965, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 420, nays 0, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 76]

YEAS—420

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishak
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany
Boyle (PA)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine

Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cardenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu (CA)
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Clever
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)

Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DeBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell

Doggett
Dold
Doyle (PA)
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Emmer
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foss
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Fudge
Gabbard
Galleo
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Honda
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee

Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larsen (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lieu (CA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebach
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moonenar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry

Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Levin
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Robby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schock
Schradler
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shinkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Neal
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas

Veasey	Waters, Maxine	Womack
Vela	Watson Coleman	Woodall
Velázquez	Weber (TX)	Yarmuth
Visclosky	Webster (FL)	Yoder
Wagner	Welch	Yoho
Walberg	Wenstrup	Young (AK)
Walden	Westerman	Young (IA)
Walker	Westmoreland	Young (IN)
Walorski	Whitfield	Zeldin
Walters, Mimi	Williams	Zinke
Walz	Wilson (FL)	
Wasserman	Wilson (SC)	
Schultz	Wittman	

NOT VOTING—12

Cartwright	Frelinghuysen	Lee
Coffman	Goodlatte	Roe (TN)
Duckworth	Hoyer	Ruiz
Fitzpatrick	Kaptur	Sanchez, Loretta

□ 1724

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained during the last vote of the second series on February 11, 2015. Had I been present, I would have voted yes on H.R. 431, legislation to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Foot Soldiers who participated in Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday, or the final Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March in March of 1965, which served as a catalyst for the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote today because of a serious illness in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted: rollcall No. 74—"nay," rollcall No. 75—"yea," rollcall No. 76—"yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 75 and 76 I was unavoidably detained outside of Washington, DC. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN WES COOLEY

(Mr. WALDEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the entire Oregon delegation who are with me to inform the House of the passing of our former colleague Wes Cooley.

Wes Cooley was born in Los Angeles in 1932. He graduated from the University of Southern California, served in the Army, raced motorcycles professionally, and among other business ventures, he owned a vitamin supplements company and ranch in Oregon.

Wes Cooley cared deeply for his community and his State, prompting him to run successfully for and serve in the Oregon State Senate before being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1994, where he served one term. He worked hard, and he cared deeply about the rural West and the country.

Last week, Wes passed away in Bend, Oregon, after a long illness. Our thoughts and our prayers are with his wife, Rosemary, and his family during this difficult time of loss.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Oregon delegation, I ask that the House observe a moment of silence in memory of former Congressman Wes Cooley.

RECOGNIZING THE PASSING OF MY FRIEND LARRY SILVERTON

(Mr. SCHIFF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHIFF. I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to recognize the passing of my friend Larry Silverton.

How do I describe Larry? A lot of words apply: businessman, lawyer, father, friend, Democrat, and mensch. He was generous, funny, endearing, and a little zany.

He met me for breakfast one morning in Burbank and looked a bit disheveled.

I said: What happened?

He said: Well, I rode here.

I said: On your bicycle?

He said: Don't be ridiculous—on my motorcycle.

He was well in his eighties at the time.

My fondest memories, though, were riding horses with Larry and talking politics. He was equally at home on horseback or in the middle of a discussion of the Keystone pipeline.

He was a wonderfully good man, and if he were watching us here today, he would probably say: A tribute on the floor of the House, not too shabby.

Good-bye, Larry. You were my very good friend, and you will be missed.

PROTECTING ACCESS TO SPEECH-GENERATING DEVICES

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about an important issue for millions of Americans, and that is protecting access to speech-generating devices.

For those living with ALS and other neurological and degenerative disabilities, these life-improving devices give them the ability to communicate with their friends and their loved ones, something that we all take for granted.

Unfortunately, a government agency is now threatening to limit access to speech-generating devices, causing unnecessary hardship for those who are living with ALS or other disabilities.

That is why I have helped author H.R. 628, the Steve Gleason Act, to ensure that Medicare's most vulnerable patients have access to the communication technology that they deserve during the most challenging points in

their lives. The bill is named after NFL pro Steve Gleason, who has championed the needs of the ALS community.

Mr. Speaker, passage of this important legislation will make a world of difference for those that are suffering from degenerative disabilities and their families.

□ 1730

HONORING THE LIFE OF COACH JERRY TARKANIAN

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart to mourn the loss and honor the life of my friend, Coach Jerry Tarkanian, who passed away this morning.

A leader and a role model, both on and off the court, "the Shark" was not only a legendary collegiate men's basketball coach, but a pillar in the Las Vegas community.

As coach at UNLV, he led the Running Rebels to a 509–105 record over 19 seasons, four Final Four appearances, and an NCAA championship in 1990. In 2013, he was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, and a statue of him was placed outside UNLV's Thomas & Mack Center, which houses the basketball court bearing his name.

Coach Tarkanian was known for giving young players a second chance. He supported numerous charities and programs that helped build character, life skills, and talent that fostered success in later life.

My thoughts go out to his wife and his family, and I am sure the coach is looking down and chewing on that famous towel in Heaven.

STEELWORKERS REFINERY STRIKE

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Members, last Friday and Saturday I visited and walked with United Steelworkers union members who are on strike for health and safety issues in our east Houston congressional district.

Their jobs are very dangerous. They produce refined products and chemicals that our Nation needs. We have, sadly, lost lives recently in the industry, and to have men and women working 10-plus straight days for shifts of 10 hours is not reasonable.

These men and women work hard in a dangerous occupation, and they should not have to go on strike for safety. Safety is important to employees and

companies. Let's settle the strike with new safety standards so that no family has to worry that their loved one will not come home from work.

HONORING JEROME "BIG DUCK" SMITH

(Mr. RICHMOND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in my continuing recognition of Black History Month to honor Freedom Rider and civil rights legend Jerome "Big Duck" Smith. An active mentor of youth in New Orleans, he earned his nickname because there is usually a line of children waddling behind him.

From a young age, Big Duck was not intimidated by what he viewed as the racial norms in New Orleans. When he was 10 years old, he removed a screen that acted as a barrier between Black and White passengers on a New Orleans streetcar, causing some uneasiness. An older Black woman riding the streetcar took him off the car and told him "never, ever stop" and that she was proud of him for what he had done. This show of support would light a fire within him to fight for racial justice.

Jerome Smith would go on to become part of the Freedom Riders, a group that looked to desegregate bus terminals across the Deep South. Also, he helped found the New Orleans chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality, one of the big four civil rights organizations.

Today, Big Duck is the director of Tambourine and Fan, a youth organization in New Orleans that engages young people on the civil rights movement, leadership, and the importance of political engagement. His work for the civil rights movement and with youth throughout the city is an inspiration not only to me, but to the entire region. Big Duck embodies the never-ending struggle for justice and equality of opportunity.

ELIMINATING ISIS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, over the last 24 hours, we have heard that a wonderful young woman from Arizona, whose family is now mourning, lost her life somewhere in Syria at the hands of a violent and barbaric group by the name of ISIS. I hope that it brings all Americans together around the importance of eliminating this dastardly group, and to begin to look inwardly to make sure that we attack this cancer at its beginning and to be able to stop the radicalization that comes about through the Internet and

many of the young people in this country.

I introduced earlier this year the No Fly Foreign Soldiers Act to ensure that those who may leave this country and then attempt to fly back are, in fact, detected. There are many things we can do on the end of passing law, but we must also respond that we not attack any religion for just its beliefs and begin to educate people about the values of many different religions.

That is what this young American sought to do. She went to save the vulnerable. And so we must isolate ISIS as it is and stand with those who recognize the greatness of America and the diversity of our religions and the diversity of the people.

I sadly offer my sympathy for the Muslims that were killed at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. We must fight those who are here attempting to do harm and must recognize that we have a goodness in our country and emphasize the fact that we live and can live in harmony. But ISIS must be our target, not those whose faith may be considered a faith that we do not understand or maybe even disagree with.

STOP OBAMA'S EXECUTIVE AMNESTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOOLENAAR). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LOUDERMILK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BRAT).

Mr. BRAT. Mr. Speaker, on November 4, the American people spoke loudly and clearly on illegal immigration and President Obama's repeated overreaches of his authority. Yet within weeks of the election, the President tried to singlehandedly rewrite America's immigration laws by granting amnesty by executive decree to 5 million illegal aliens already in this country. It was a move that he previously said he had no constitutional authority to execute. He also acknowledged that only Congress could rewrite the laws. But he did it anyway.

In response, the House took a firm stand last month to pass a bill to stop the President's illegal and unconstitutional decree that grants amnesty,

work permits, and Federal benefits to illegal aliens. The bill fully funds the Department of Homeland Security for the rest of the year, but it also prohibits the Department from carrying out the President's illegal act. Let me repeat that last line. This bill fully funds the Department of Homeland Security. It just says that in order to get that funding, the Department cannot break the law.

That is just common sense. The American people don't want the Federal Government breaking the law, and it is up to Congress to make sure that no Federal funds are used illegally.

Yet today, Senate Democrats are currently united in opposing this bill. Recent polling shows that Americans overwhelmingly oppose the President's executive immigration actions 58 to 36. I call on my Senate colleagues to support the Constitution and the rule of law and pass H.R. 240 as it was passed in the House.

The President's amnesty scheme is not only illegal, it is patently unconstitutional. It creates a dangerous precedent where future Presidents can ignore laws they don't agree with and expand their own power beyond its legal boundaries, threatening the very liberty of the American people.

Our constitutionally guaranteed liberties, our rule of law and economic opportunities are precisely the things that immigrants come to America to experience. Our Constitution, rule of law, and economic prosperity are precisely the things that we will be giving up if we allow the President to break our laws to give amnesty and work permits to those who are here illegally.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DESANTIS).

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Speaker, about 5 weeks ago, Members of this body stood on the House floor and we all raised our hands and we all swore an oath of office to support and defend the Constitution. It is the same oath that Members in the other body, in the Senate, take. I think it is an oath that means something. It is not just window dressing. We have a responsibility to conform the actions of this body and to counteract actions of other branches of government if those actions are not consistent with the Constitution.

And so here we have an instance in which the President is on record 22 different times saying he does not have the authority to grant work permits unilaterally, 5 million of them, to people in the country illegally. He can't give Social Security numbers or benefits without an act of Congress. And yet, after losing the election, he did it. When he did it, a number of Members in his own party in the Senate said they were concerned about what he did, and they didn't think that it could be done by executive fiat and that changes to immigration law had to happen through Congress.

And so we are in a curious situation now because the House has passed a bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security but to constrain the President from acting illegally, because the government has to follow the law just like any other citizen. And you have a situation in the Senate in which the Democrats, including those seven Senators who said that this is problematic, they are blocking even having a debate on the bill. Forget about being opposed to the bill in its final form or if you don't get an amendment, they will not even let it come to the floor so it can be debated.

To me, this is the most important type of debate, when it goes to the central purpose of our oath: to support and defend the Constitution. I think they need to go on record about why they think this is constitutional. What limits are there for the President in terms of exercising this executive power? Can he legislate lower tax rates? Can he legislate in the field of environmental law or workplace safety law that the Congress doesn't support?

I think what you are seeing is a dereliction of duty by those Senators who are unwilling to have a discussion and they are unwilling to debate. They are putting protecting the political interests of a President in their own party over their duty to support and defend the Constitution of the United States.

If you were right on the issues and you knew that what he did was constitutional, then you should have no problem going to the floor and making that case to the American people. The fact that they are unwilling to do that, I believe, is proof positive that they know that case cannot be made, and, in fact, they would not be able to make it.

So I appreciate my friend from Georgia reserving this time. I think this is something that absolutely needs to have a thorough debate; and the American people overwhelmingly are opposed to what the President did, so let's debate it. If you don't like what we did, offer your suggestion, but the idea that you can go run and hide is something that is not consistent with our duties or with our oath of office.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the fine remarks by the gentleman from Florida.

I now yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS), the State from which our Declaration of Independence was passed and the very Constitution we are speaking about was debated and proposed to this great Union.

Mr. ROTHFUS. I thank my colleague from Georgia for organizing this very important discussion that we are having here today.

Three weeks ago, this House passed a bill to fund the lawful operations of the Department of Homeland Security. Our bill provides nearly \$40 billion for the protection of our Nation, with a \$100

million increase for border security and \$600 million more for Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Democrats in the Senate, however, now refuse to vote on funding these important programs because they are insisting on funding President Obama's unlawful amnesty order for 5 million illegal aliens.

The dollars that hardworking taxpayers send to Washington should not be used to fund any unlawful order, including President Obama's amnesty order.

And how do we know that the President's action is unlawful? Well, I remember what the President said repeatedly. For example, in 2011, the President said:

With respect to the notion that I can just suspend deportations through executive order, that is just not the case because there are laws on the books that Congress has passed. For me to simply, through executive order, ignore those congressional mandates would not conform with my appropriate role as President.

Funding for the Department of Homeland Security runs out in 16 days. The House acted 21 days ago. It is time for the Senate to act.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BROOKS).

□ 1745

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague from Georgia, BARRY LOUDERMILK, for the leadership that he has shown in putting this event together where we on the House floor can try to help explain to the American people what is at stake here with the President's executive amnesty.

Mr. Speaker, in that vein, I rise to speak in opposition to President Obama's illegal and unconstitutional executive amnesty for illegal aliens. Why? Because I was elected by Americans to represent Americans in Washington, D.C. While, clearly, protecting the United States Constitution is the number one reason to fight President Obama's illegal and unconstitutional conduct, a close second reason is the economic welfare of American families searching for jobs that will empower them to take care of their own families.

In that vein, a report by the Center for Immigration Studies is very instructive. The Center for Immigration Studies did a report based on Federal Government data. It was collected from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Census Bureau. And this is what they found.

From the first quarter of the year 2000 to the first quarter of the year 2014, a 14-year period, with respect to people in America who are ages 16 to 65—and I will repeat that—ages 16 to 65, which is far and away the largest block by age of working Americans,

the American economy for that 16 to 65 age group created 5.6 million net new jobs. Some would say that is pretty good—5.6 million net new jobs.

But do you know how many of those jobs went to American-born citizens? Do you know the answer to that question? Well, I would submit to you that every American citizen should—and they ought to be outraged by the answer. Of those 5.6 million net jobs created over a 14-year period in the United States of America for people ages 16 to 65, American-born citizens had a net loss of 127,000 jobs.

And you wonder why the polling data shows that Americans still believe they are in a recession. The answer is American-born citizens are still in a recession.

Well, who got those jobs? Well, according to the Center for Immigration Studies report, 5.7 million net job gains were by two groups: illegal aliens, plus lawful immigrants.

So look at the priorities of our Federal Government over the last 14 years. Look at the priorities established by President Obama's executive amnesty. The priorities do not lie with American citizens. Rather, they lie with people of all kinds other than American citizens.

We had 127,000 net job losses, but that doesn't really tell the whole picture. We also had population growth in the 16 to 65 age bracket for American-born citizens during that 14-year period of time.

So do you know how many more Americans are unemployed today—jobless—in the 16 to 65 age bracket because of America's faulty, porous like a sieve immigration policies? Seventeen million.

And you wonder why our youth are despondent, you wonder why they are depressed with the job circumstances they face, you wonder why American families cannot earn a living with the wages that are now being paid. It is because there are so many people in the White House, on K Street, and other places who are lobbying the United States Congress to dramatically increase the labor supply by bringing in illegal aliens and lawful immigrants to suppress wages and to take jobs from American families. That is wrong.

Now, you have heard the argument often raised: Well, Americans won't do those jobs. Let me tell you about those jobs for a moment. We have got two categories: illegal aliens and lawful immigrants.

Well, you can make the argument that illegal aliens are seeking the blue collar jobs and that perhaps Americans won't do them at the suppressed wages now being paid.

With respect to lawful immigrants it is a different picture. Over those 14 years, in that 16 to 65 age bracket, American-born citizens lost jobs while lawful immigrants gained jobs in these fields: engineering, architecture,

health care, sales, office staff. Those are good-paying jobs that when I was growing up American citizens used to be able to compete for and get but which are now being denied because of immigration policies.

Those are sobering numbers, those are startling numbers. So sobering, so depressing, that I challenged my staff. I said, This report can't be right.

So my congressional staff went to the raw data from the Census Bureau, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the Department of Homeland Security, and they confirmed that the Center for Immigration Studies data was correct. Which brings us back to President Obama's executive amnesty that does so much damage to American citizens.

The House has done its job. We have passed legislation to defund executive amnesty to prevent the President from doing what he has been doing. The problem, as has been the last 4 years that I have been in the United States Congress and hopefully won't be the case for the next 2 years, lies with the United States Senate.

Media reports say that we are in an impasse, that the Democrats are standing with illegal aliens and shunning American families and filibustering. And the Republican leadership is professing: We don't have the firepower, we don't have the 60 votes, we are stymied, we can't end this filibuster.

Well, Mr. Speaker, there is another option.

Let's think back for a moment and let's look at HARRY REID when he was Senate majority leader and the power that he wielded. And what did he do? He said: I am not going to let the filibuster stop me from achieving my political goals. And he exercised the nuclear option. And then under HARRY REID you did not need 60 votes for appointments of Barack Obama-submitted appointees; rather, a mere majority would work.

Well, if HARRY REID and the Democratic majority can do that, if they can stand up for their beliefs, however wrong those beliefs may be, then where is our Republican Senate leadership, and why aren't they doing the same thing? We have 54 Republican Senators. MITCH MCCONNELL last time I checked is the Senate Republican majority leader.

All of our Senators have said they object to executive amnesty. Why don't they do the same thing in respect to bills that we have to pass to prevent government shutdowns, bills dealing with spending matters, and say only 51 votes are needed; no longer can a minority with a filibuster shut down the United States Government?

And so with that, Mr. Speaker, I would submit that it is time for the United States Senate to change their rules to reflect the will of the American people. And certainly if those rules can be changed for mere appoint-

ments by a President, they can also be changed to protect the United States Constitution and the separation of powers.

Mr. Speaker, I can't speak for any Senators or, for that matter, any elected officials in Washington, D.C., but I can speak for me and I can speak for the people of the Tennessee Valley of the State of Alabama. I vote to put the jobs and wage interests of struggling American families over the interests of illegal aliens. I encourage all Senators of both parties to do the same. Respect the wishes of the American people, act on behalf of the American people, and if you do that America will continue to prosper and the rule of law in America will continue to prevail.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Alabama for those passionate words.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield a portion of my time to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY), my freshman colleague.

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, Congressman JIM JORDAN and Congressman BARRY LOUDERMILK, for arranging this special session tonight to address a critical issue looming before our Nation.

Senator HARRY REID and the President are currently risking the full funding of our national security to protect the President's unilateral and unconstitutional executive action on amnesty.

On 22 occasions, President Obama himself said he did not have the authority to grant executive amnesty before flipping and denying the will of the American people and taking unilateral action anyway. This attitude follows a pattern of unilateral action, executive action, including the President's war on coal, and it must be stopped.

Now, Senator REID and his allies continue to block any consideration of the bill passed by the House to fund the Department of Homeland Security. This obstruction is intended to protect the President's unconstitutional executive amnesty.

Sadly, no one is surprised that this President would use this unlawful, unilateral action to pursue his own radical agenda. But now Senator REID and the President are edging closer to putting the American people in danger to protect that agenda.

The Constitution clearly gives the power of the purse to the United States House of Representatives—this Chamber right here. And the American people said clearly last year that they expect us to use our authority over spending to keep government operating in a responsible manner.

I call upon Senator REID, President Obama, and their Democrat allies to end this political gamesmanship. Instead, bring up the bill to fund Home-

land Security for consideration and passage.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague from West Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, as you can tell, we have people from all over this great Union that have risen here today to speak, not just from the South. I would like to yield a portion of my time to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT), my great friend.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman leading tonight's discussion on the floor. As we do so, we think about the people back at home and across this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, Americans are hurting. Americans are hurting because they are out of work, Americans are hurting because they lost jobs, they find they can't find new jobs. Families are hurting because of this. Families, Mr. Speaker, are also hurting because they are waiting for other fellow family members to be able to join them here in this country through the legal immigration process. They are patiently going through all the processes that we have set up in this country to process it, and they are hurting as they wait for their family members to join them.

As we come here to the floor today as Members of Congress, we understand that this government has to ensure that everyone plays by the rules, including this administration.

As Members of Congress, we are obligated to uphold the Constitution, and that is exactly what this House has done by defunding the President's unconstitutional actions in which he granted amnesty. Added to that, he provided working permits to over 5 million illegal immigrants, thereby creating additional problems for those Americans who are out of work and creating additional problems for those Americans who are waiting for their fellow family members to come into this country through the legal immigration process.

Mr. Speaker, the House has done its job. We have acted. We have fully funded—this is important—we have fully funded the Department of Homeland Security while at the same time undoing the damage the President's unprecedented executive amnesty is having on our Republic and, more important, on our American families.

The President's actions to grant de facto amnesty has broad-reaching consequences for many of my constituents and constituents all across the United States as well.

It is unfair. It is not only unfair, it is irresponsible to divert resources away from legal applications of those who, as I said before, are patiently waiting and going through the legal process of immigration to give it to those who have broken the law.

It is also reckless to reward those who have blatantly broken the law

with work permits, allowing them to compete directly with those Americans and those American families who are hurting because they are out of work today and are finding themselves in a hard position to find work.

So because of this, Mr. Speaker, I call on our Senators who are blocking a vote on the bill: do not turn your backs on the millions of Americans who are struggling to find work, do not turn your back on those who have immigrated here legally, and do not turn your back on those who are still waiting to try to immigrate into this country legally as well.

□ 1800

It is time, Mr. Speaker, for the Senate to act. It is time for the Senate to end its obstruction. It is time to move this bill.

I thank the gentleman.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. I thank my friend from New Jersey for those appropriate words.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to my good friend and freshman colleague from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER).

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, we are rapidly approaching a crossroads regarding the President's executive actions that provide de facto amnesty for millions of illegal immigrants.

On February 27, the appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security runs out. Here are the facts:

The House has done exactly what the American people have asked. We have passed a bill that fully funds the Department of Homeland Security, including broadly supported amendments that would defund the President's illegal executive orders.

Now the time has come for the Senate to engage. Sadly, they are not even debating the issue. Senate Democrats are now blocking the consideration of the bill. I strongly urge the Senate majority leader, MITCH MCCONNELL, to hold the line and to work diligently.

The President's overreach needs to be stopped. This is a constitutional issue, not an immigration one. Are we not outraged at such abuse? The President has violated his own words, attempting to enforce authoritative actions he repeatedly said he did not have. In fact, 22 times he has said he did not have the constitutional privilege to do so. This administration's opinion on other issues may continue to evolve or change, but may I remind him the Constitution has not changed.

I am calling on not only my constituents but on our fellow citizens across this land to let your voices be heard. Demand results from your leaders.

I would like to thank my colleague from Georgia for organizing this meeting to allow our voices to be heard in a very loud manner.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate all of the comments that have been made here today. As you can

tell, this is not a party issue. This is not about Republicans or Democrats or conservatives. This is about our Constitution. This is about American principles and the rule of law, but, more importantly, it is about fairness. It is about the American Dream. It is about those who are working hard every day. It is about the children and our future.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the beautiful State of Arizona (Mr. FRANKS).

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. I certainly thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I have cherished the privilege to chair the Subcommittee on the Constitution in this body, and throughout the Obama administration, I have been bewildered many times by this President's many casual dismissals of constitutional principle and the respect for the rule of law, itself, in America.

However, I now believe that the President's recent actions related to illegal immigration constitute a fundamental and seminal abrogation of his sworn oath to the Constitution. If left unchallenged, Mr. Speaker, this President's unconstitutional act could create a precedent that could threaten to place a permanent crack in the very foundations of this Republic. Consequently, the issue before us now is about far more than illegal immigration—it is about protecting the Constitution of the United States of America.

Now it is both the prerogative and the solemn responsibility of this House and of the U.S. Senate to uphold our own collective oath to the Constitution. Through the constitutional power of the purse, we must stand with and for the American people and refuse to fund this unconstitutional action by this President. We must call upon the Senate to continue to hold multiple votes for cloture so that this Nation can discover and understand who it is who prevents us from doing our constitutional duty.

Mr. Speaker, failing that, we must now call upon the United States Senate to subordinate its own cloture rules to the United States Constitution and to use their rules to change their rules for that purpose if it becomes a choice between the Senate cloture rules and the United States Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, Daniel Webster once said:

Hold on, my friends, to the Constitution and to the Republic for which it stands, for miracles do not cluster; and what has happened once in 6,000 years may never happen again. So hold on to the Constitution, for, if the American Constitution should fail, there will be anarchy throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, our duty is clear.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. I thank my good friend from the Grand Canyon State. No truer words have ever been spoken.

Mr. Speaker, many of us sat in this very room back in January, and we lis-

tened to the President as he gave his State of the Union Address. He outlined a complete program, from the cradle to the grave, of what government would do—take over the rights of individuals. Many of us heard from citizens across the Nation that they were opposed to that. Mr. Speaker, if we allow this President to continue on legislating from the Oval Office, I would submit there is nothing standing in the way for him to implement every one of his plans.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE).

Mr. PEARCE. I thank the gentleman for yielding and for bringing this key issue to us on the floor tonight.

Mr. Speaker, in November, the voters sent a very loud message to Washington, D.C. Now, they elected a lot of Republicans, but I tell my Republican friends that they weren't affirming our principles so much as they were desperate for a check and a balance against a President whose policies were frightening to them but also whose actions lay outside the bounds of laws that he was constrained by and constitutional constraints on his actions also. He, himself, admitted that multiple times, maybe more than 20 times, saying: I don't have the right to do it—as his own party chastised him and tried to force him into these executive actions, which he ultimately took. He said at one point: I am not the emperor.

Are we now to believe that he declares himself to be such? That is the basic question that faces us now.

The people of America want this institution called Congress—the House and the Senate together—to operate properly. I think, as much as anything else, the voters were expressing discontent that 380-plus bills from this House were stalled on the other side of the Capitol, never making their way in any form to the floor of the Senate.

The people expect to see the issues up here and wrangled about. They want the tension between the two parties' different ideological points of view pulling at the fabric of the ideas in front of us. They are not so much concerned about the next bill. They are concerned about our vision for America and where we would take it, and they are frightened of a President who himself would take on actions which they knew were contrary to the good of the future of the country and that were certainly outside the boundaries of the laws which restrain even the President, because this country believes that not even the President is above the law.

So the questions before us are very critical. There are some who are saying: You all in the House have passed a DHS bill, and it is all your way or no way. I beg to differ. We sent our version of a Keystone pipeline bill to the Senate. The Senate made significant changes. They sent that back,

and, just today, we sent the bill with the changes, the changes that were brought by Democrats in the Senate. The Senate Democrats allowed the bill to come up for debate. They amended the bill. There are more amendments in this one bill than have been heard in the previous year, total, so the system is working properly. We just sent that bill to the President. We are going to ask him to sign it or to turn it down. The people will have an opinion now about the outcome of whether the President signs it or doesn't sign it.

In contrast, look at what is happening with the DHS bill. The Senate Democrats, under HARRY REID, are saying: No, we are going to block it again. There is no debate, and there is no discussion, and there are no more ideas that are going to come in front of this Senate. I think that the American people are going to have the same opinion that they had about REID's blocking all of the bills that came from the House before. I think that to be the case.

At any rate, we in the House have passed our bill. The Senate should either obstruct or move forward. There are many fashions to do both, but the American people are looking and judging because they desperately want an institution that functions. They are not really significantly interested if it functions for Democrat rule or Republican rule. I think what they want is a system that is passing commonsense legislation, guaranteeing that the future of this country will be solid and sound. Then we can build a healthy economy, where everyone has got opportunity and where everyone has a chance to succeed based on the merits of his work.

That is not what this President is putting in line, and that is the question before the House now as the Senate twice has rejected or has, maybe, even three times rejected the opportunity to debate the issue. I just calmly tell the American people that we are here, prepared to do the work you sent us to do. We will continue to do it. All you have to do is express your opinions to this body.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, we have heard from Representatives of the people of this Nation from all across the country. So far, I have yielded to Representatives from Florida, Alabama, West Virginia, New Jersey, North Carolina, Arizona, and New Mexico.

Now I yield to a good friend and patriot from the State that has seen and has participated in creating so much of the history of this Nation. He is the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

Mr. PERRY. I thank Mr. LOUDERMILK for putting this together this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I was thinking about the situation we are in, and it came to my mind that there is a reason that the legislature is supposed to make the

laws. There is a reason that we have a debate and that we discuss all of the different facets, because what also came to mind is the fact that the folks who have been legalized by the President's unconstitutional action will now get a Social Security number. With that, it will allow them to qualify for the earned income tax credit. As well, many will qualify for the child tax credit. Now, the IRS Code, Mr. Speaker, allows taxes to be amended back 3 years, and these folks who have just now received their Social Security numbers will be able to receive this payment retroactively.

I ask you, Mr. Speaker: Where is the fairness in that? I mean, what is fair about an illegal amnesty bonus? A bonus for breaking the law? What is fair about an immigrant's standing in line, coming here legally, wading through the process, only to watch somebody come right around him into this Nation, getting a Social Security number and, not only that, getting paid for doing that?

What is fair about hardworking, tax-paying Americans knowing that they can't get a break on their taxes because that money has got to go to somebody who came here expressly to break the law? What is fair about all of the children of all of these hardworking, tax-paying Americans being saddled with debt for the rest of their futures and their children's futures and those of their children's children for the sake of an illegal amnesty bonus? It is a bonus for breaking the law. What is fair about that, Mr. Speaker?

Now it is in the Senate, and the Senate is saying: Well, maybe the House should send another bill. The House sent a bill. It is the will of the House. It is the Senate's turn. With all due respect, if you don't want to vote for the bill, we get that. Vote "no." You can explain that to your constituents—you can explain that to your voters—but it is more important to you to pay somebody a bonus for coming here illegally. You can explain that.

The point is that they don't even want to have the vote. They are making sure there will be no vote. We are saying give this bill its chance; give it its day. If you have got a better idea, if you have got a different idea, that is great. That is wonderful. Let's see it. Pass your bill and send it over, and we will work together to pass something along.

I would say this to the leader of the Senate: It is time you make the rules, Mr. Leader. If now is not the time to change those rules in favor of the Constitution, when is the time? Instead of being concerned about 40-some years of tradition and of the way we run the Senate—instead of being concerned about that—how about being concerned about hundreds of years in favor of the Constitution? When President Obama didn't like the rule, apparently, even

though he said 20 times or so that he had to abide by the Constitution, he just changed it. He just disregarded it.

□ 1815

And when HARRY REID didn't like the rule—a couple hundreds years of votes in cloture and the nuclear rule in the Senate—he just changed it. Right?

We are not asking to change it all the time, but when it comes down to a constitutional crisis, when it comes down to a division of powers, do you want to stand up for a bonus for acting illegally, for breaking the law, or do you want to stand up for the Constitution?

If that is not the time to change the rules for the President's unconstitutional executive action, if that is not the time to change the rules, Mr. MCCONNELL, when is the time? The time is now.

Pass a bill. Whatever your bill is, have a vote, "yes" or "no," send it to the House, and we will work it out. This legislation, this issue demands your attention. It demands a vote. It deserves a vote. The American people need to know. They deserve to know where their elected representatives in the Senate stand, not to just not vote on anything. They didn't send them there to just not vote. They sent them there to make a decision, "yes" or "no."

We get it. If you want to vote "no," good for you. You explain that. If you want to vote "yes," great. But have the vote. There is no reason to not change the rule if it gets us to a vote and upholds the Constitution. As a matter of fact, if it takes changing the rules to uphold the Constitution, this is one Representative of the Fourth District of Pennsylvania who thinks it is worth it.

With that, Mr. Speaker, again, I ask you: What is fair? What is fair about giving these bonuses to people who just received a Social Security card and who have been operating outside of the law for years? They receive their Social Security Card and they get a bonus.

You try that. Having worked here as a person who was born in this country, you try to work under the table and then just apply and see if you will get a bonus from the IRS. Let me tell you what you get, Mr. Speaker. You will get a visit from the IRS, but it won't be for a bonus.

Think about fairness, Mr. Leader in the Senate. Change the rules. Let's move this bill forward.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, as you can see, this is a very passionate issue for many of us—not just because of politics but because this is about the heart of our Nation. This is the basis, the foundation of our Nation.

I now yield to a good friend and another freshman colleague from the great State of Arkansas (Mr. HILL).

Mr. HILL. I thank my colleague for yielding. I am pleased to have this time on the floor to talk about this important issue that faces our Congress.

On more than 22 occasions, President Obama has told audiences that, on the advice of his counsel, his attorneys, he could in fact not do what he has just proposed to do last November of 2014.

He stated that he did not have the statutory authority to defer deportation of over 5 million people who are in our country illegally, thereby granting them rights to drivers' licenses, work permits, Social Security, and health benefits.

For example, in 2013, the President stated that implementing immigration "reform" through executive action was "difficult to defend legally" and "not an option." He has repeatedly told the American people that he is a President, not a king, not an emperor.

Mr. Speaker, I will place in the RECORD the 22 times that the President has uttered these words that say that he does not have the authority to take executive action on immigration.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S TWENTY-TWO STATEMENTS ON HIS LACK OF AUTHORITY TO HANDLE IMMIGRATION POLICY BY EXECUTIVE ACTION

With the White House poised to grant executive amnesty any day now despite the American people's staunch opposition, on Sunday President Obama was asked about the many, many statements he made in the past about his inability to unilaterally change or ignore immigration law. His response was astonishingly brazen: "Actually, my position hasn't changed. When I was talking to the advocates, their interest was in me, through executive action, duplicating the legislation that was stalled in Congress."

This is a flagrant untruth: "In fact, most of the questions that were posed to the president over the past several years were about the very thing that he is expected to announce within a matter of days," reported *The New York Times*. "[T]he questions actually specifically addressed the sorts of actions that he is contemplating now," *The Washington Post's* Fact Checker agreed, awarding President Obama the rare "Upside-Down Pinocchio," which signifies "a major-league flip-flop." Even FactCheck.org piled on.

President Obama is once again trying to mislead Americans, but he can't run from what he's said over and over (and over) again. Not only are Americans not stupid—they can read:

1. "I take the Constitution very seriously. The biggest problems that we're facing right now have to do with [the president] trying to bring more and more power into the executive branch and not go through Congress at all. And that's what I intend to reverse when I'm President of the United States of America." (3/31/08)

2. "We've got a government designed by the Founders so that there'd be checks and balances. You don't want a president who's too powerful or a Congress that's too powerful or a court that's too powerful. Everybody's got their own role. Congress's job is to pass legislation. The president can veto it or he can sign it. . . . I believe in the Constitution and I will obey the Constitution of the United States. We're not going to

use signing statements as a way of doing an end-run around Congress." (5/19/08)

3. "Comprehensive reform, that's how we're going to solve this problem. . . . Anybody who tells you it's going to be easy or that I can wave a magic wand and make it happen hasn't been paying attention to how this town works." (5/5/10)

4. "[T]here are those in the immigrants' rights community who have argued passionately that we should simply provide those who are [here] illegally with legal status, or at least ignore the laws on the books and put an end to deportation until we have better laws. . . . I believe such an indiscriminate approach would be both unwise and unfair. It would suggest to those thinking about coming here illegally that there will be no repercussions for such a decision. And this could lead to a surge in more illegal immigration. And it would also ignore the millions of people around the world who are waiting in line to come here legally. Ultimately, our nation, like all nations, has the right and obligation to control its borders and set laws for residency and citizenship. And no matter how decent they are, no matter their reasons, the 11 million who broke these laws should be held accountable." (7/1/10)

5. "I do have an obligation to make sure that I am following some of the rules. I can't simply ignore laws that are out there. I've got to work to make sure that they are changed." (10/14/10)

6. "I am president, I am not king. I can't do these things just by myself. We have a system of government that requires the Congress to work with the Executive Branch to make it happen. I'm committed to making it happen, but I've got to have some partners to do it. . . . The main thing we have to do to stop deportations is to change the laws. . . . [T]he most important thing that we can do is to change the law because the way the system works—again, I just want to repeat, I'm president, I'm not king. If Congress has laws on the books that says that people who are here who are not documented have to be deported, then I can exercise some flexibility in terms of where we deploy our resources, to focus on people who are really causing problems as opposed to families who are just trying to work and support themselves. But there's a limit to the discretion that I can show because I am obliged to execute the law. That's what the Executive Branch means. I can't just make the laws up by myself. So the most important thing that we can do is focus on changing the underlying laws." (10/25/10)

7. "America is a nation of laws, which means I, as the President, am obligated to enforce the law. I don't have a choice about that. That's part of my job. But I can advocate for changes in the law so that we have a country that is both respectful of the law but also continues to be a great nation of immigrants. . . . With respect to the notion that I can just suspend deportations through executive order, that's just not the case, because there are laws on the books that Congress has passed. . . . [W]e've got three branches of government. Congress passes the law. The executive branch's job is to enforce and implement those laws. And then the judiciary has to interpret the laws. There are enough laws on the books by Congress that are very clear in terms of how we have to enforce our immigration system that for me to simply through executive order ignore those congressional mandates would not conform with my appropriate role as President." (3/28/11)

8. "I can't solve this problem by myself. . . . [W]e're going to have to have bipartisan

support in order to make it happen. . . . I can't do it by myself. We're going to have to change the laws in Congress, but I'm confident we can make it happen." (4/20/11)

9. "I know some here wish that I could just bypass Congress and change the law myself. But that's not how democracy works. See, democracy is hard. But it's right. Changing our laws means doing the hard work of changing minds and changing votes, one by one." (4/29/11)

10. "Sometimes when I talk to immigration advocates, they wish I could just bypass Congress and change the law myself. But that's not how a democracy works. What we really need to do is to keep up the fight to pass genuine, comprehensive reform. That is the ultimate solution to this problem. That's what I'm committed to doing." (5/10/11)

11. "I swore an oath to uphold the laws on the books. . . . Now, I know some people want me to bypass Congress and change the laws on my own. Believe me, the idea of doing things on my own is very tempting. I promise you. Not just on immigration reform. But that's not how our system works. That's not how our democracy functions. That's not how our Constitution is written." (7/25/11)

12. "So what we've tried to do is within the constraints of the laws on the books, we've tried to be as fair, humane, just as we can, recognizing, though, that the laws themselves need to be changed. . . . The most important thing for your viewers and listeners and readers to understand is that in order to change our laws, we've got to get it through the House of Representatives, which is currently controlled by Republicans, and we've got to get 60 votes in the Senate. . . . Administratively, we can't ignore the law. . . . I just have to continue to say this notion that somehow I can just change the laws unilaterally is just not true. We are doing everything we can administratively. But the fact of the matter is there are laws on the books that I have to enforce. And I think there's been a great disservice done to the cause of getting the DREAM Act passed and getting comprehensive immigration passed by perpetrating the notion that somehow, by myself, I can go and do these things. It's just not true. . . . We live in a democracy. You have to pass bills through the legislature, and then I can sign it. And if all the attention is focused away from the legislative process, then that is going to lead to a constant dead-end. We have to recognize how the system works, and then apply pressure to those places where votes can be gotten and, ultimately, we can get this thing solved." (9/28/11)

In June 2012, President Obama unilaterally granted deferred action for childhood arrivals (DACA), allowing "eligible individuals who do not present a risk to national security or public safety . . . to request temporary relief from deportation proceedings and apply for work authorization." He then argued that he had already done everything he could legally do on his own:

13. "Now, what I've always said is, as the head of the executive branch, there's a limit to what I can do. Part of the reason that deportations went up was Congress put a whole lot of money into it, and when you have a lot of resources and a lot more agents involved, then there are going to be higher numbers. What we've said is, let's make sure that you're not misdirecting those resources. But we're still going to, ultimately, have to change the laws in order to avoid some of the heartbreaking stories that you see coming up occasionally. And that's why this continues to be a top priority of mine. . . . And

we will continue to make sure that how we enforce is done as fairly and justly as possible. But until we have a law in place that provides a pathway for legalization and/or citizenship for the folks in question, we're going to continue to be bound by the law. . . . And so part of the challenge as President is constantly saying, 'what authorities do I have?'" (9/20/12)

14. "We are a nation of immigrants. . . . But we're also a nation of laws. So what I've said is, we need to fix a broken immigration system. And I've done everything that I can on my own[.]" (10/16/12)

15. "I'm not a king. I am the head of the executive branch of government. I'm required to follow the law. And that's what we've done. But what I've also said is, let's make sure that we're applying the law in a way that takes into account people's humanity. That's the reason that we moved forward on deferred action. Within the confines of the law we said, we have some discretion in terms of how we apply this law." (1/30/13)

16. "I'm not a king. You know, my job as the head of the executive branch ultimately is to carry out the law. And, you know, when it comes to enforcement of our immigration laws, we've got some discretion. We can prioritize what we do. But we can't simply ignore the law. When it comes to the dreamers, we were able to identify that group and say, 'These folks are generally not a risk. They're not involved in crime. . . . And so let's prioritize our enforcement resources.' But to sort through all the possible cases of everybody who might have a sympathetic story to tell is very difficult to do. This is why we need comprehensive immigration reform. To make sure that once and for all, in a way that is, you know, ratified by Congress, we can say that there is a pathway to citizenship for people who are staying out of trouble, who are trying to do the right thing, who've put down roots here. . . . My job is to carry out the law. And so Congress gives us a whole bunch of resources. They give us an order that we've got to go out there and enforce the laws that are on the books. . . . If this was an issue that I could do unilaterally I would have done it a long time ago. . . . The way our system works is Congress has to pass legislation. I then get an opportunity to sign it and implement it." (1/30/13)

17. "This is something I've struggled with throughout my presidency. The problem is that I'm the president of the United States, I'm not the emperor of the United States. My job is to execute laws that are passed. And Congress right now has not changed what I consider to be a broken immigration system. And what that means is that we have certain obligations to enforce the laws that are in place even if we think that in many cases the results may be tragic. . . . [W]e've kind of stretched our administrative flexibility as much as we can[.]" (2/14/13)

18. "I think that it is very important for us to recognize that the way to solve this problem has to be legislative. I can do some things and have done some things that make a difference in the lives of people by determining how our enforcement should focus. . . . And we've been able to provide help through deferred action for young people. . . . But this is a problem that needs to be fixed legislatively." (7/16/13)

19. "My job in the executive branch is supposed to be to carry out the laws that are passed. Congress has said 'here is the law' when it comes to those who are undocumented, and they've allocated a whole bunch of money for enforcement. And, what I have been able to do is to make a legal argument

that I think is absolutely right, which is that given the resources that we have, we can't do everything that Congress has asked us to do. What we can do is then carve out the DREAM Act folks, saying young people who have basically grown up here are Americans that we should welcome. . . . But if we start broadening that, then essentially I would be ignoring the law in a way that I think would be very difficult to defend legally. So that's not an option. . . . What I've said is there is a there's a path to get this done, and that's through Congress." (9/17/13)

20. "[I]f, in fact, I could solve all these problems without passing laws in Congress, then I would do so. But we're also a nation of laws. That's part of our tradition. And so the easy way out is to try to yell and pretend like I can do something by violating our laws. And what I'm proposing is the harder path, which is to use our democratic processes to achieve the same goal that you want to achieve. . . . It is not simply a matter of us just saying we're going to violate the law. That's not our tradition. The great thing about this country is we have this wonderful process of democracy, and sometimes it is messy, and sometimes it is hard, but ultimately, justice and truth win out." (11/25/13)

21. "I am the Champion-in-Chief of comprehensive immigration reform. But what I've said in the past remains true, which is until Congress passes a new law, then I am constrained in terms of what I am able to do. What I've done is to use my prosecutorial discretion, because you can't enforce the laws across the board for 11 or 12 million people, there aren't the resources there. What we've said is focus on folks who are engaged in criminal activity, focus on people who are engaged in gang activity. Do not focus on young people, who we're calling DREAMers. . . . That already stretched my administrative capacity very far. But I was confident that that was the right thing to do. But at a certain point the reason that these deportations are taking place is, Congress said, 'you have to enforce these laws.' They fund the hiring of officials at the department that's charged with enforcing. And I cannot ignore those laws any more than I could ignore, you know, any of the other laws that are on the books. That's why it's so important for us to get comprehensive immigration reform done this year." (3/6/14)

22. "I think that I never have a green light [to push the limits of executive power]. I'm bound by the Constitution; I'm bound by separation of powers. There are some things we can't do. Congress has the power of the purse, for example. . . . Congress has to pass a budget and authorize spending. So I don't have a green light. . . . My preference in all these instances is to work with Congress, because not only can Congress do more, but it's going to be longer-lasting." (8/6/14)

Further, notwithstanding the President's own legal argument to the contrary, Mr. Obama's supporters argue that he simply is doing what Presidents Reagan and Bush 41 did. This statement is simply not true. Instead, President Reagan and Bush responded in a statutorily acceptable matter to an ambiguity in a specific law and did not seek to circumvent or prevent enforcement of the law as it was written.

I supported recent House legislative action to defund the President's executive actions based on the facts above, as well as my view that Congress must in fact fix our broken immigration system by legislation.

The separation of powers argument here is clear. In article I of the U.S. Constitution, Congress is granted the enumerated power of setting uniform law for naturalizing our citizens.

Mr. Obama's approach violates this provision by both exceeding his constitutional authority as well as his sworn obligation to faithfully execute the laws as passed by Congress.

While we are all familiar with the Executive's obligation to faithfully execute, we must focus on the cynical distrust that doing the opposite causes among our citizens.

James Madison in Federalist 51 discussed the need for each branch of government to guard against overreach by another. "When such an overreach occurs," Madison stated, "ambition must be counteracted by ambition." And clearly, our government works best when each branch stays within its prescribed boundaries.

Supreme Court Justice Kennedy argued this in a recent separation of powers case before the court when he said:

Liberty is always at stake when one or more of the branches seek to transgress the separation of powers.

As a matter of principle, as a matter of our role in Congress, I urge my colleagues in the Senate to stand up for the proper separation of powers and assert that Congress alone can debate and enact such sweeping changes to our immigration system.

Mr. Speaker, Members seeking to reform our broken immigration system should support our efforts to rein in this tyranny of the Executive. Only then can Congress work together to craft the proper solutions to fix our broken system. Only then will Congress come together and insist on a border that is secure and fully functioning as a cornerstone of our homeland security.

With a land, sea, and air border that knows who and why people are entering our beloved Nation, we can then turn our attention to those many connecting facets of our system: visa overstays; lack of a balanced, well-staffed, and functioning guest worker program; adequate welcome and legal openings for those facing persecution; speedy adjudication for those aliens who are detained; opportunities for needed workers, professors, and students in our universities; and finally, a process for handling those among us who remain outside our legal tax and societal systems.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the Senate to stand up for the first branch and our constitutional prerogative. Take action on our Homeland Security bill and send it back to the House.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Again, Mr. Speaker, you can see that Representatives from all across the Nation have stood here today and represented the people of this Nation on how important this issue is.

Mr. Speaker, we live in one of the most dangerous times in American history. Innocent American citizens are targeted by extreme Islamic terrorists at home and around the world.

On September 11, 2001, even the sanctity of our homeland was proven to be vulnerable. And now, an organization considered too evil and too extreme by other terrorist organizations is calling for homegrown terrorists to carry out unspeakable acts of violence against innocent Americans—acts which we have witnessed in the past year.

Since 2001, there have been more than 60 coordinated terrorist plots against Americans on American soil. These perpetrators of evil planned to execute their violence in the places where innocent civilians live, work, and play. They have targeted civilians on aircraft, at military installations, mass gatherings of citizens, sporting activities, restaurants, and shopping malls—the very places where Americans should expect to feel safe and secure.

However, the current administration continues to deny the ideology that motivates these acts of evil. When a known sympathizer to terrorist organizations chooses to carry out his evil acts against coworkers, it is passed off as workplace violence. When our Embassy in Benghazi was invaded and officials of the United States Government were slain at the hands of known terrorists, it was spun as a violent response to a YouTube video.

When a military pilot of an allied country was murdered in the most horrific and painful way, the President referred to the perpetrators as a cult of death, not extremist Islamic terrorists.

With the rise and the expansion of ISIS, our citizens, military, and first responders are in more danger than ever before, and we must be vigilant to protect our citizens and our national interests.

Following the terrorist attacks of 9/11, our government recognized that the threat of organized and well-planned acts by international terrorist organizations required new and dedicated resources to protect American citizens. In response, the Department of Homeland Security was created, and resources were allocated by Congress to protect our homeland from future devastating acts of terrorism.

Since the turn of the century, terrorists have plotted over 60 attacks against our Nation. Thankfully, more than 50 of these were thwarted by U.S. law enforcement and our intelligence community, while others were stopped with the cooperation of law enforcement from other nations.

In the past several months, the threat against America has grown exponentially. ISIS is one of the most well-funded, the most organized, the best armed, and the most ruthless terrorist organization in the history of the world.

Even al Qaeda, which planned and executed the most devastating attack on American soil since the Japanese raid on Pearl Harbor, pales in comparison to the organization and resources of ISIS.

Recently, ISIS has expanded well beyond traditional communication tactics used by other terrorist organizations and has engaged in an effective Internet and social media campaign to recruit foreign fighters to join their ranks. They are purposefully, Mr. Speaker, targeting our youth by using popular video games to appeal to thrill seekers. They are promising that these young people can live out the fantasy world that they experience in their games.

Today, we are experiencing what may be the largest convergence of terrorist activity in history. As a result of the growth and the recruitment of ISIS, foreign fighters are swarming to Syria to join the ranks of the international jihad.

While it is virtually impossible to stop every act of terrorism against Americans, I believe the Department of Homeland Security, our military, and law enforcement agencies have done an exceptional job. However, we are only days away from the current funding of the Department of Homeland Security expiring, which, even according to this administration, could put us at grave risk.

During the first week of this 114th Congress, the House of Representatives took quick and decisive action to ensure that the Department of Homeland Security will continue to function at full capacity. We passed a funding measure that would ensure that all public safety functions within the Department are fully funded so that the agency can fulfill its mission.

Unfortunately, a few Senate Democrats are filibustering this bill and are keeping it from even coming to the floor for consideration. The Democratic Party is putting our national security at risk through their insistence that the President be able to grant 5 million illegal aliens legal status so they can receive work permits, tax refunds, and public assistance.

The President's recent executive order on amnesty places the safety of every citizen in jeopardy and eliminates job opportunities for hard-working Americans. At a time when millions of Americans are struggling simply to make ends meet, the President should be focused on providing American jobs, not introducing millions of new laborers into the workforce. Since the President assumed office, he has already issued almost 5.5 million work permits to foreign laborers.

The Senate now has the perfect opportunity to protect the safety of all Americans by approving House Resolution 240, a bill that would defund the

President's executive order on amnesty, yet they refuse to take up this commonsense measure and do what is right for the American people. By not taking action, the Senate is relinquishing control to the President to continue carrying out these actions without the consent of Congress.

Today, my office and the office of every Member of Congress received a formal request from the White House to authorize the President to use military force to fight against ISIS. It is ironic that, on one hand, the President is asking to send our young men and women overseas to fight against terrorism but, on the other hand, he and Senate Democrats are willing to put our security at risk at home so he can, without constitutional authority, saturate the American workforce with foreign labor who have entered this Nation illegally.

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Instead of working to strengthen our economy and secure our jobs for American citizens, the President seems to be more concerned with providing jobs for illegal immigrants.

He has even threatened to veto the Keystone pipeline, a bill that we just passed here just a couple of hours ago. He has already threatened that he is going to veto this bill with one stroke of his pen, a bill that would create more than 40,000 jobs; but with another, he is willing to add 5 million illegal immigrants to an already struggling job market.

Mr. President, the American people are hurting. Many families are spending countless hours around the kitchen table discussing how to pay their bills and live within their means. These families should not have to compete for jobs with those who are not legal U.S. citizens.

The American people should be calling on the Democrats in the Senate to stop their filibuster of H.R. 240. It is time for the President, Mr. Speaker, and Members of the Senate to put the American people first and help hard-working Americans find jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TROTT). The Chair will remind Members to address their remarks to the Chair and to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

THE ISSUE OF TRADE IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I do appreciate the opportunity to utilize the time allotted to the Democrats in the House to speak to the issue of trade.

There are many who see this issue as an important issue.

Others are now beginning to understand some of the dynamics as they relate to free trade versus fair trade and just what the dynamics of some of the last decades were, as recent past history has indicated, as they relate to American jobs and the American economy.

This will be a good opportunity for us to address in fuller terms the issues of trade that we believe need to be addressed significantly well before we go forward with these negotiated contracts that could cause undesirable results, rather than those for which we all, I would believe, want to work—the opportunity to provide for individuals to tether the American Dream, to be able to go forth with dignity, to assume jobs that allow them to express their skills and God-given talents, and to be able to have that soulfulness of earning a paycheck.

We want to focus on those issues here this evening. There are many who would suggest that a fast track is of great concern. Fast track is that circumventing of the responsibilities of Congress—the ability of Congress—to get more in depth with the proposed agreement, to understand fully what those impacts of the agreements might be on their local economy, on their State economy, and certainly on the national scene.

It is important for us, I believe, to invest ourselves as a House. I would encourage those viewing this evening to ask their individual Members of Congress where they are on the fast track.

Do you stand for the concept that goes back to the days of President Nixon, that gave a more expedited process and perhaps more authority over to the executive branch to get these contracts done? Or do you stand for the scrutiny that should rest with the Congress to make certain that no undue pressure is put on our local jobs and economy, falsely so?

I believe that we do have that responsibility. As we have seen in recent years, we have grown the trade deficit of this Nation into the trillions of dollars. The challenge exists here, in the House, in this Congress, both Houses being faced with the added pressures of understanding what the dynamics of our trade deals are all about.

The first step of which we express concern is that fast track concept where we, again, do not allow for the fullest efforts of Congress to be utilized—where we can amend, where we can adjust, where we can advise—and simply a thumbs-up/thumbs-down doesn't quite cut it for the people we represent, the working families the great many of us dub the "middle class of America."

As I enter into this discussion, I am reminded of the district that I represent in upstate New York that basi-

cally witnesses—hosts—the confluence of the Hudson River and Mohawk River.

Those two valleys merge in the district that I represent, and they were the gateway, designed as an Erie Canal, barge canal system, that produced not only a stronger economy for New York, developed a port out of a little town called New York City, and then gave birth to a necklace of communities dubbed "mill towns" that became the epicenters of invention and innovation.

It was there that many an immigrant tethered his or her dream, the American Dream, at those factory sites, where they were able to climb that ladder of opportunity, where they were able to lift their family's potential simply through the investment of hard work, pouring forth somehow their ability to land those jobs, and then to provide the creative genius that oftentimes developed new product lines or better product lines.

That was a heyday of the American economy that, again, started through these mill towns. They became those locations of hope and prosperity. Then it led to a westward movement, an industrial revolution where we were the kingpin of the world's economy.

We know the world dynamics are different today. We know that we need to adjust and respond, but we do that thoughtfully. We do it mindfully. We do it in a way that is academically measured, so that we don't introduce free trade but, instead, value fair trade, making certain that fair trade doesn't dispense unnecessarily of American jobs, that does not deflate our economy and finds us working on something, competing on something—the likes of an unlevel playing field. We need to have that level playing field be the result.

Tonight, we are talking about some of those trade negotiations that will come forth. The most recent now is being viewed as a huge impact on the world's economy. A great percentage of the world's economy will be impacted by the TPP, the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

We have to make certain that it is done correctly, that it is done sensitively, that it keeps in mind that the American contribution to all of this should provide us an ample opportunity, an equal opportunity, to compete for jobs.

What has happened is that we have had these trade negotiations develop well beyond the original dynamics of trade barriers and tariffs. They are incorporating far more information and dynamics than just those barriers. We may reach to items like collective bargaining opportunities or environmental standards or guidelines for public health or requirements for public safety.

If we relinquish some of those hard-fought battles in this country to make

safer a workplace or to have a product be as safe as possible or where we have been sound stewards of the environment or we have offered dignity to workers to collectively bargain, to unite as an effort to score for better benefits and just remuneration for the work that they do, we want to make certain that those standards are not dumbed down, that they are not reduced, that the world comply with those given opportunities for which decades' worth of sweat equity was poured forth.

Advocacy was echoed in the halls of government to make certain that these justified outcomes were fought for and realized and made statutorily etched into our government and our laws.

We do not take this lightly. We take this effort as a serious challenge, one that would address some of these hidden impacts that aren't often shared well enough with the general public that we serve that are represented here in this Chamber.

It is important for us to understand one of those growing concerns happens to be currency manipulation. It is one of those sneak attacks that really provides for a grossly unlevel playing field. We are discussing a critical aspect of the global economy and trade policy that has been ignored for far too long.

This currency manipulation is causing a lot of concern on both sides of the aisle and is now pushing legislators to speak more forcefully. When countries manipulate their currency, it makes foreign-produced goods all the cheaper. That should signal an alarm.

It doesn't end there. It also suggests or creates a situation where United States exports are less competitive. It doesn't end there because, as we lose in that battle, where we are less competitive, it then drains our economy by contributing to the downward pressure on wages in many sectors of our economy.

We have seen this tremendous impact in trade deficit that has been produced in this country because of failed negotiated contracts and because of the impact of currency manipulation.

Now, I understand that currency manipulation is not something most people talk about. It is not easy to conceptualize how devaluation of China's yuan or Japan's yen could impact us so severely. It puts American jobs in jeopardy. That is why we need to consider this issue much more seriously.

We need to make certain that a structured response to this manipulation is part of the negotiations and part of statute from the Federal perspective. Millions of jobs, I would suggest, are at stake.

If a country is going to cheat by devaluing its currency to make its products cheaper, it hurts America, and that hurt should not be tolerated. It is as simple as that.

For anyone that claims to support unfettered free trade, I urge them to engage in this issue. Persisting currency manipulation distorts markets. It is as simple as that. As long as it is allowed to continue, trade cannot be free, trade cannot be fair.

Now, there is a growing bipartisan consensus that strong and enforceable currency rules are needed, needed to ensure a level playing field for both the legislative perspective and as part of any new free trade agreement. We believe, many of us, that it should be part of statutory reform but, indeed, included in those agreements that are struck.

Few actions by foreign governments do more to disrupt free trade and harm the United States job market than currency manipulation.

A wide array of economic think tanks—including the Laffer Center at the Pacific Research Institute, the Peterson Institute for International Economics, the Economic Policy Institute, and the Center for Automotive Research—have all published what are extensive studies and commentaries supporting a crackdown on currency manipulation.

These groups hold varying and diverse views on the benefits of free trade, so they may not all be coming from the same perspective, but all are united in their sense that trade cannot be free or fair if countries are allowed to cheat by manipulating their currencies.

The Peterson Institute has support indicated for currency as a chapter in the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Certainly, the former economic adviser to the Vice President has also supported including a currency chapter in the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

The Peterson Institute has estimated that America's trade deficit has averaged some \$200 billion to \$500 billion per year higher as a result of the manipulation.

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That is happening from many angles, primarily from forces in China and Japan. Let me repeat those stats. \$200 billion to \$500 billion per year is the estimate for our trade deficit coming from some sound think tanks as a result of currency manipulation.

The Peterson Institute also estimates that interventions in currency markets by foreign governments have cost United States workers as many as 5 million jobs over the last decade. So I believe it speaks to us profoundly and should cause us to respond to the challenges of protecting jobs, American jobs, through the issues of fairness. This is not asking for some unfair competitive advantage. It is simply reminding the world that we understand what is happening out there as dynamics work against us and that we are going to do what we can to inspire fairness in the process.

The EPI, the Economic Policy Institute, found that ending currency manipulation could reduce the United States trade deficit by as much as \$500 billion within 3 years and create as many as 5.8 million—5.8 million—American jobs. These are statistics that should not be taken lightly. They are reports that should feed our senses and build our passion to do what is correct here, to make certain that we inspire the sort of reforms to this process and to Federal law that would make for a much fairer outcome, a more fair outcome for the American public.

Certainly there is no greater issue that rests before Congress these days than creating the climate that allows for private sector job growth. Now, government may not create jobs. That may not be our purpose, prime purpose, but we certainly can do all within our power to create the sort of climate, the environment that allows for job growth to be maximized.

As we move into this desire to have world trade work as powerfully as it can and as fairly as it can for those of us in this country, we need to make certain that some of these reforms are embraced, and embraced in as enthusiastic a manner and expeditious a process as possible.

There was a report released just last week by EPI highlighting the negative impact that the Trans-Pacific Partnership would have on the United States' jobs if currency manipulation is not addressed, and that report, dubbed Currency Manipulation and the 896,000 United States Jobs Lost Due to the United States-Japan Trade Deficit, contains estimates for job displacement for every congressional district. We are making certain that all of our colleagues know of this information. These are data that are relevant to the people that we represent. These are data that challenge us.

I know that the study found that over 46,000 jobs would be displaced in New York State, including 1,800 in the 20th Congressional District of New York, my home district. That is due, again, to the massive trade deficit that this Nation endures with Japan, a deficit that has been fueled primarily by currency manipulation.

So how do we address currency manipulation? How does it work? To identify manipulation, we need first and foremost to look at three criteria, criteria that are based on the International Monetary Fund's definition.

First, does the country of concern have large reserves of foreign currency, does the country have sustained trade surpluses, and does the country continue to buy large amounts of foreign currency?

Worth repeating. Does the country have large reserves of foreign currency, does the country have sustained trade surpluses, and does the country continue to buy large amounts of foreign currency?

Undervalued exchange rates allow the manipulating country to boost exports of their products and then put imports from other countries that are not cheating at tremendous disadvantage. Floating currencies should be self-adjusting based on trade deficits and surpluses. Cheaper dollars will lead to more exports and a balancing of the deficit over time. It is an ebb and flow relationship, and there is a natural tendency for that ebb and flow; but when one enters in a greed factor, it can change those results and change them severely. The natural trend is not allowed to occur when a country intervenes in that currency market.

Countries like China and Japan have prevented this self-correcting process by buying United States currency. This artificially strengthens the dollar and keeps us importing relatively cheap goods produced abroad.

We already have a significant trade deficit with Japan, and that is very much measured in the automobile industry. Our trade deficit with Japan is second only to our trade deficit with China, and the majority of that deficit is in the automotive sector.

Now, if you are to talk to any of our colleagues from Michigan, they will tell you about the devastation that has been borne upon, laid upon that auto industry in their home State. They have shared with us some very painful statistics. Well, the majority of that deficit, as I said, is in the automotive sector as it relates to Japan and China.

Japan, for instance, imports one American car for every 100 Japanese cars imported into the United States each year. That is one car, one car imported from America into Japan for every 100 Japanese cars that are imported into the United States each year. That pattern can't continue. That is an easily predictable devastating outcome.

Ford Motor calculates that the weakened yen of Japan added some \$6,000 in profit, on average, per car imported from Japan in the years 2012 to 2013. So if you have that \$6,000 advantage built into the sales price, where do you think we are going? It is allowing for such a devastating impact on the American worker, the autoworker of this country. It is unrealistic to have us as a nation to stand silently and not echo some order of concern.

So what can the Congress do? Well, the House of Representatives should pass the Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act, and the administration should require strong and enforceable currency manipulation provisions in the TPP, in the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Bipartisan groups in the House and in the United States Senate here in Congress are introducing legislation which would use United States trade law to fight currency manipulation and provide consequences for countries that indeed do cheat.

In the 113th Congress, the Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act, of which I was cosponsor, would have enabled the Department of Commerce to impose countervailing duties to offset the impact of currency manipulation. If you want to cheat, you pay. We are not going to stand for unfair trade. That bill had 157 bipartisan cosponsors, and identical legislation was passed with bipartisan support back in 2010.

The legislation is identical to the House bill that passed with overwhelming bipartisan support in 2010. That bill is consistent with the World Trade Organization and its rules. I think that this bill is written intelligently to conform to our trade agreement rules by considering currency devaluations as an illegal trade subsidy.

We already have mechanisms for addressing other illegal subsidies, but a bill such as that one, which is a start to addressing the problem, will not end the practice of currency manipulation. We also need to include provisions in our trade agreements. Those provisions included in those agreements would provide our trading partners with a strong deterrent for manipulating their currency in the first place. We also have to make sure that our trade obligations explicitly allow this approach to targeting currency manipulation.

So I believe there are efforts within our grasp that we can work to achieve, that the changes and the reforms that we can provide will enable us to breathe free and grow and enhance the opportunities of our manufacturing sector.

Now, we think back to the booming economy we had in the 1950s and 1960s. We think of all the post-World War II growth of this Nation. We think of the tethering of the American Dream. We think of the passion of immigrants who had come here to climb those ladders of economic opportunity. We think of the generations that were strengthened by those who made the journey. It was their dream to provide a better life for them and their children and their grandchildren, and they saw it happening within these mill towns, those epicenters of which I spoke, epicenters of invention and innovation, of creative genius that enabled us to be the best we could possibly be and where there was hope abounding in our communities.

We can bring back that spirit. We can call for justice, social and economic justice as it relates to workers, as it relates to a world scene where there is a thought for those in the middle-income community, the middle class of America, the working families of America, strengthened and empowered because we get it here in Washington, where we speak to forces like counterforces, like currency manipulation that doesn't give us a fair shot, that creates an unlevel playing field, that will cost us dearly in jobs and in the growth of our economy.

So there is much work to be done. We need to make certain that as stewards of these agreements we are insisting that our strength be heard at the table, that we make certain that we are informed about issues like child labor laws, about the rights for collective bargaining, about environmental standards, about the need for public health and public safety to be addressed in the workplace and in the product line that is developed.

These are standards that are uniquely American at times, that should lift the world along with the people of this great country. We don't abandon those championing efforts that enabled us to be a stronger people, a safer people, building a stronger tomorrow. We don't abandon those principles. We build upon them. We share them with the other nations of the world.

As I mentioned to a group of labor individuals in my district recently, there are consequences galore if we continue down this path.

□ 1900

We are selling short the American worker. We are offshoring jobs that we can ill afford to ship away.

But it is beyond that. Not only does the American worker lose her job, not only does the American worker lose his hope, we then find economies around the world accepting the fact that their citizens are working for 75 cents an hour. Where is the justice to any of the workers around the world? This is an impact that has a ripple effect that pours forth in painful measure with insensitivity and gross, gross negative outcomes.

We can do better than that. We can be a country that will stand tall and know from the growth and progress that we have achieved through our halls of government, through the efforts of labor and unionized forces that came through labor and said, We are better than this. We need to share in the wealth of our economy.

We need to make certain that we respect our labor forces. The unionized efforts gave us sound benefits and sound salaries and good working conditions, acceptable standards. We are not going to ship that away. We are not going to allow for currency manipulation and the undoing of the American ideals, to be forsaken for the sake of a factor that has taken this global economy and produced these outcomes that are grossly unfair.

When we see a trade deficit in the trillions of dollars, when we understand that addressing currency manipulation can undo by hundreds of millions of dollars a deficit in a short order of 3 years, we can make a difference. We can be a force of change. We can be the voice of reason. We need to be that leader at the table.

Congress needs to be involved, invested in this opportunity. We need to

make certain that the academics guide us here, that we pay attention to the data that are speaking to our senses.

We are rejecting all for which we fought. We are rejecting all for which labor painfully organized and achieved successful outcomes. If there is not justice for all in this process, it will not work.

But the American standard, the American appeal, the American hope that has been a beacon to people around the world should be that guiding force, should be the noble effort that allows all of us to understand that by committing to these issues of social and economic justice, we will have strengthened not only the American worker but workers around the world. An unlevel playing field simply does not work here. And offshoring jobs is the painful, gross neglect of the American Dream. The American Dream was one that found people playing by the rules, rolling up their sleeves, and expecting to taste success.

We can still build that aura within the halls of government. We can create those standards that determine a fair and just outcome. And we can speak soulfully to the people who are counting on us in the given communities they call home across this great expanse called the United States of America. We have always been that higher standard. We have always been the people in search of a better tomorrow. We have always been a society indebted to justice.

Throughout our annals of history, stories replete of us making a difference by working our process called government, by making certain it empowers the individuals and families of this Nation in a way that simply speaks to what is right. We know it is right here.

There have been a number of folks in this House championing the effort of fair trade, talking about the inclusion of Congress in a way that allows for amendments and improvements to agreements and certainly an outspoken force that speaks to holding fast to those standards that speak to the wisdom that guides us, of being fair and respectful to those who labor, who labor steadfastly, who ask only to be treated as an equal partner in this process.

It is an honor to represent those voices that speak so profoundly well in the workplace, asking for that dignity of work, asking for just remuneration for the sweat equity that they pour forth in wanting to have just that better step forward for their children and their grandchildren as they grow to their tomorrows, filled with hope. We can provide hope. We can build change. And we can issue justice if we put our mind, heart, and souls to that effort. I suggest we can do it. It is within our grasp.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity and yield back the balance of my time.

CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORITY VERSUS PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. JOLLY) for 30 minutes.

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity tonight to address a very important matter regarding the role of the Congress. And I would associate myself with the remarks of my colleague from New York (Mr. TONKO) about the role that this body plays in trade but also the role that this body plays in foreign policy and matters of diplomacy.

Every American watches the news each day. We all see the same stories, be it ISIS, be it terror around the globe. We know that we, as a nation, are engaged against a threat that, left unchecked, could cause great harm to our homeland and to American interests abroad. We also have heard in recent news the conversation about the Prime Minister of Israel addressing our Nation.

We have seen the President's negotiations with Cuba, the President's negotiations with Iran, and it begs the question: What is the role of Congress in all of these matters, in these matters of foreign policy and foreign affairs?

So I appreciate the opportunity tonight to discuss a view of our side of the aisle and many in this Congress. I will be joined by my colleague from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) shortly to specifically talk about the role that Congress provides in setting the direction of our Nation's foreign policy.

This body is a coequal branch. We are established under article I of the Constitution, just as the administration is established under article II. We are coequal branches.

This body, most every American knows, has the authority to declare war. This body does, this Congress does. We fund our diplomatic activities. We fund our military activities. We authorize the use of military force, as was affirmed by the President today in sending such a request to this body to ask for the constitutional affirmation of this body, of this Congress. And we do so routinely.

So when we come across events where sometimes people question why Congress would inject itself into matters of national security, into matters of foreign affairs, let's revisit why and the important role that Congress has served.

This body, this Congress rejected the President's negotiation of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919 and 1920. This body

rejected the President's negotiation of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in 1999. This body did that, reflecting the will of our constituents, of this Nation. This body, very importantly, investigated the Iran-Contra affair. This body investigated the intelligence activities related to 9/11. This body investigated the events of 2011 in Libya.

We have the authority of the purse as well, as spending originates in this body. We have used that authority to limit the transfer of detainees at Guantanamo, over the objection of the President.

We have used the constitutional authority of this body in matters of foreign aid and, at times, withholding foreign aid. Following the capture of Osama bin Laden and questions about Pakistan's role, this body responded by putting restrictions on that foreign aid. And, yes, this body provides billions to Israel as a matter of not only protecting the security of Israel but furthering our national security in the Middle East.

So it is appropriate then to raise questions very respectfully and in a way that reflects our constitutional responsibility of the President's decisions at times. We are one Nation. We are united in providing for the security of our country, but sometimes we have different ideas. And it is okay to raise questions on the President's decisions.

Consider the President's recent actions and the concerns of this body over the negotiations to return Bowe Bergdahl that involved the release of five prisoners from Guantanamo, in contravention of a law passed by this Congress and signed by the President. He provided no notice of that.

We know that this President sent a secret letter to the Supreme Leader of Iran during a time of critical negotiations that many of us have concerns about and during a time when many of us have asked for additional sanctions on Iran, not fewer sanctions.

We know this President has attempted to negotiate with the Castro regime to normalize relations in Cuba.

We know that the President sent a message to Putin just before his last election, saying, If you just give me time and wait until after the election, I will have more flexibility. He delivered that message to the Russian President.

So it is okay that those of us in this body have raised those questions.

The President has the authority to do most of what I just said, although I object to his no notice in the Bowe Bergdahl case. But we also have the authority to provide oversight and to exert our role in this.

So how do we do that? We do that in three or four areas that are very ripe right now for conversation, for debate, and in a way that attracts the attention and the interest of our constituents, of the American people that send us here to represent them.

We saw today the President's request for an Authorization for Use of Military Force. I appreciate the President sending that request to this Congress. I believe we should have done that last September. I was one of a few Members of Congress who signed my name onto an Authorization for Use of Military Force that we introduced last Congress prior to the President sending his resolution to this body. I believe we had a constitutional responsibility to do that, as this body, to ask: Are we a nation at war? And if so, are we willing to incur the sacrifice necessary to win that war?

I am encouraged that the President today, during his press conference, said that by working with the Congress and by negotiating on the language that we can make this resolution even stronger. And I think we will see that. I hope we will see that in the coming weeks and the coming months.

The language in the Authorization for Use of Military Force that prohibits no enduring offensive ground troops I think causes much consternation for many in this body. Are we really going to pass a resolution that restricts the tools of our own warfare when it comes to providing for the national security of the United States?

The President will have his opportunity to make his case. This body will have our opportunity to make that case as well.

Limiting or sunseting the authorization to 3 years I think is something that we should begin to talk about. It is okay for us to have to revisit a responsible Authorization for Use of Military Force in 3 years so that we don't find ourselves with a President years from now relying on an authorization that can be 10, 11, or 12 years old. We need to have that debate in this body and represent our view of how we respond to ISIS because the President's view has created much concern.

We saw at the National Prayer Breakfast that he suggested that the foundation of our response to ISIS needed to start with our own humility, by looking at our own history.

I appreciate the academic conversation the President would like to have on that. But that sentiment, in itself, compromises our own national security, in my opinion, because it suggests that we first must look inward before responding to what is a pending national security threat, a threat to our homeland and a threat to our national interests.

We need to have a debate whether or not we believe that an air campaign is sufficient. For the President to suggest that no ground troops will be required, that somehow that is a way of providing for the safety of our men and women in uniform, ignores the very risk of those who will be engaging in a dangerous air campaign and will continue to do so every day. And what

happens if we lose one of our pilots? What happens if one of our pilots is captured, like the Jordanian pilot that was captured and, as we all saw, the tragic end that he met? Are we, as a nation, prepared to respond and rescue? Are we going to put boots on the ground? Should we put boots on the ground? That is a debate we need to have.

None of us are advocating for an extended war. None of us are advocating for putting men and women in harm's way. But if we are going to engage, as a nation, with our partners to defeat a threat to the United States, we need to have an honest debate about how we do that and not start the debate by restricting how we intend to do that.

□ 1915

We also have a role in the future of Guantanamo. I have introduced legislation, H.R. 654, which would prevent the President of the United States from handing over our naval base at Guantanamo to the Cuban regime without congressional approval. This is very different from the debate over the future of the prison and very different from the debate over the transfer of detainees.

Mr. Speaker, this simply says that we, as the United States, have a naval station 90 miles off our shore, and when Raul Castro demands that we return that to the Cuban people and pay reparations to the Cuban Government as terms of negotiation, my legislation says, No, Mr. President, you may not do that without coming to this body to ask for authorization. Certainly, I would not lend my vote to that.

I was pleased to hear testimony in the other body, in the Senate, when the administration said that is not a matter they would consider, but as we have seen in the President's negotiations in the past, it gives us reason to pause.

My legislation would simply codify the restriction that says that the Guantanamo Naval Base may not be returned to the Cuban people without congressional approval.

Finally, we do have a role in inviting a foreign leader to address this body, Prime Minister Netanyahu. It is fully appropriate as a coequal branch of this government to invite and to ask for Netanyahu to address us about his vision of security in the region, his vision of peace in the region—his vision of security—and also his vision of the current negotiations with Iran.

No Member of this body should shy away from receiving an address from the Prime Minister of Israel. We should stand resolute—Republicans, Independents, and Democrats—and be here for that address and not insult the Prime Minister and the people of Israel by turning it into a political game of boycotting an address by the Prime Minister.

We should be here showing our support for the security of Israel, for the

people of Israel, and, yes, for the Prime Minister's leadership. This is appropriate. We can disagree with the administration without being disagreeable.

As we engage in oversight, Mr. Speaker, it is important that we continue this dialogue, and we do, as the President very respectfully suggested, and I want to thank him again for the tone of his remarks today when he said he hopes the AUMF can be better by working with the Congress.

I would ask for the same of the administration when our Speaker steps out and invites Prime Minister Netanyahu because it represents the interests of this body when it comes to Israel and to the current negotiation with Iran.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be joined this evening to discuss this further by a fine colleague of mine in this body, Representative RODNEY DAVIS from Illinois.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Well, thank you to the gentleman from Florida for actually putting this Special Order together tonight and also for yielding me time.

You brought up a great number of issues that I think are very important to many of us, regardless of whether or not you represent 800,000 constituents in Florida or—like me—800,000 constituents in central and southwestern Illinois.

I will tell you, DAVID, that the other night, I was cleaning out one of my son's pockets in his jacket because I was throwing it into the laundry, and I pulled out a copy of the Constitution that he got at school.

I flipped through it, and I reread article I, article II, article III, and the Bill of Rights. You learn something new each time. What you don't forget is that our forefathers who created this great institution understood that it took equal powers. It took equal branches of government to produce the freedoms that we here in America sometimes take for granted.

It is exactly what you said about let's work with each branch of government. We can disagree without being disagreeable. You address so many issues. I would like to actually talk back and forth on some of those.

Let's start with the invitation to Prime Minister Netanyahu. We have a tremendous disagreement on whether or not the United States should unilaterally enter into negotiations with the terrorist State of Iran.

I worry. I worry what it means for America and what it means for our closest ally in the Middle East, Israel, if Iran finally was given access to a functional nuclear weapon. What would they do with that? Whom would they provide that technology to? It is something in a geopolitical sense that we have to be concerned about in our position as Members of Congress.

These are issues that we have to put a check and balance on the administration to ensure that we are working towards what is the common goal for our allies.

I think that Prime Minister Netanyahu's being invited to this great institution to come here to address the United States Congress, to address 435 Members of this House and many others, to talk about how we are working together as allies, I don't think that is an insult.

Frankly, Mr. Speaker, I say: What took so long? Why did it take the Speaker of the House to put the invitation out? Why did the administration continue to block this? These are the types of issues that we as an equal branch of government have to address in this body. That is why we are happy to talk about many of the other issues.

You mentioned Guantanamo Bay. I am a proud cosponsor of your bill that is going to ensure that this administration cannot negotiate away the United States' ownership of Guantanamo Bay, regardless of whether or not the President is going to—which I think is a terrible policy—regardless of whether or not the President is going to clear out Guantanamo Bay of the terrorists who are there because they want to hurt Americans.

I think we need to ensure that there is a law of the land that does not allow this administration to negotiate away a very important base in Cuba that protects Americans.

Mr. Speaker, these are the types of issues, foreign policy issues—ISIS is one that I know we will be able to discuss tonight and others—but I am happy to begin a discussion on whatever it is you think is most important when it comes to America's foreign policy and our ability to be that oversight branch, that equal branch to the executive branch.

Mr. JOLLY. I thank my colleague. Let's, for a moment, stay on the topic of Prime Minister Netanyahu.

One of the reasons we take to the floor is to make sure that the voices are heard from all over the political spectrum. As the media and some in this body have gained the attention of the media by suggesting that the Prime Minister shouldn't attend, it is important for those of us who believe he should to take time to discuss why that is.

Most people know and understand—but some people don't—the significance of our partnership with Israel and what it means in one of the most volatile regions of the world.

This is a nation that has committed to democracy, to peace, to freedom, to representation, and to security; and they are doing so in an incredibly volatile region. All that they have asked of the United States over the years is that we stand with them in their own courage to promote peace, security, and freedom of their own people.

I would say, as I mentioned earlier, for those who have chosen not to attend, I certainly respect that decision, but I think it sends a message that is wrong to say not just to the people of Israel, but to the Prime Minister himself.

Not only is there a political message trying to be delivered by those that don't attend, but there is also this notion that, somehow, those of us in this body better understand the internal politics in Israel better than the elected leaders.

Why should we not trust that Prime Minister Netanyahu understands what is best for his nation? Why should we try to suggest that we know better than Prime Minister Netanyahu what is right for Israel and for the people of Israel? To suggest otherwise is demeaning both to the Prime Minister, as well as to the people of Israel.

I look forward to the Prime Minister's address, and I think this body, as we make decisions both about Iran sanctions but also about our aid to the people of Israel, I think this body has an opportunity to learn from the Prime Minister and to understand the issue better as we begin to make decisions.

I look forward to the Prime Minister's address to this body.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Well, like my colleague, Mr. JOLLY, I look forward to the Prime Minister's address, too. It is really beyond what I thought serving as a Member of Congress we would see here, and it is the sheer pettiness of the fact that the Speaker of the House invited the Prime Minister and many decided to say they are going to boycott this.

Do you know what—boycott it. If that is your idea of your freedom of speech, go ahead. We will fill the seats. We will make sure that Prime Minister Netanyahu understands that America stands with him and his nation as our greatest allies in the Middle East.

When that happens, he will come here, he will be received with a reception that is worthy of the Prime Minister of Israel, and I am just honored to be able to sit in this room and to hear why our bilateral relationship is of the utmost importance.

Mr. Speaker, I wish we didn't have this pettiness here in this Congress because I think the American people are sick and tired of the infighting. I think they are wanting us to govern together.

This is just one more example that goes out to the American people that tells them that people in Washington in this institution can't get along. I hate to say it, but they are wrong on many issues because we do get along, but on this one, it is so important that we show respect to our greatest ally.

Mr. Speaker, I notice we have been joined by our colleague from California (Mr. VALADAO), who I think wants to participate in this discussion on Prime Minister Netanyahu also.

Mr. JOLLY. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, a couple of years ago, I had the opportunity to go visit Israel and actually spend some time with Prime Minister Netanyahu. That was, for me, probably one of the most enlightening trips I have been on, to have the opportunity to actually see what they are experiencing there and to see how important our relationship is to the folks there in Israel, but also to us here in the U.S.

We learn so much from the technology that they use to protect their borders, to protect themselves from terrorists, and we see the situation that we have got going on with ISIS now today, and we need that relationship more than ever, something that can actually truly make a difference because we truly are under attack at all times.

We have got people around this world—and now, we are hearing today in committee, it was mentioned that there are a lot of people within our own borders today, so it truly is a scary time.

To have someone with the experience that Netanyahu has and to see what he has seen over the years and to bring that and share that with us here in our Chamber where we pass the laws, where we are here, sworn to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, but also the people here, and that is our number one priority, and to have the opportunity to have him speak to us, I think, is an honor.

Mr. Speaker, I am looking forward to that opportunity. I think it is something that will help all of us here in Congress truly understand what we are up against and what needs to be done. I think it is something that most of us are smart enough to attend. There are a few that choose not to, but I think that is going to be a very small group of people.

Again, Mr. JOLLY, I appreciate the opportunity.

Mr. JOLLY. I appreciate the gentleman's comments.

It can't be lost in this conversation about the pending address from the Prime Minister. As we mentioned, the security of Israel in a very volatile region, it is a region that is the center of much of the presence of ISIS.

As we often see the political debate, the TV commentary, and the radio commentary about how we define ISIS, the fact is that if we are not willing to define our enemy, we will never defeat our enemy. We know that we face a threat, an organization that has declared war on us, and we don't get to choose the threats we face as a nation. We certainly wish we could. We only get to choose how we respond to those threats.

The President's submittal of an AUMF request today is the right one. This body, I think, can have a very respectful debate about the terms of how

we confront ISIS, about the authority, the authorization that we want to provide this administration for how he engages.

I think the most critical thing we can do, though, is not tie the hands of our men and women in uniform and the leadership of our Department of Defense as they make decisions how to execute our campaign against this radical organization.

I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am, again, so proud to be joined by my colleague from Florida and my colleague from California.

When we talk about ISIS, this is a true threat to Americans abroad. I have never in my lifetime seen such a savage organization who finds it entertaining to show the death of innocent civilians.

□ 1930

Let us also recognize that most of the civilians who have been killed by ISIS have been fellow Muslims. So it is not something that we here in America with our freedoms that we enjoy can comprehend. I think we have to do everything we can to eradicate them, to destroy them and ensure that they never get a foothold in any type of nation-state whatsoever because their plans will be to do one thing, and that is to kill Americans.

Part of our job as Members of Congress is to come here and make some pretty tough decisions. These are decisions that none of us, when we stood up to get sworn in in this institution, thought we would have to make, but they are decisions that the American people demand that we make. We are being demanded to ensure that America remains safe here in the homeland and Americans should remain safe abroad.

The President talks about a trajectory of peace. I don't know what he is looking at. It seems like a flat line of destruction to me. We have an opportunity now to put forth an Authorization for Use of Military Force, something I never wished that we would vote on in this House, but we are forced to by the failures of the foreign policy coming out of this administration in dealing with ISIS.

I stood on this floor and I said I am willing to stand with the President, who told me this strategy of using air superiority and working with our allies on the ground was going to work. It is clearly not working. The last thing I wanted to do was stand here and offer up an opportunity for American Special Forces and ground forces to partner with allies to go in and defeat ISIS, but it may be the only chance we have.

And this Authorization for Use of Military Force, I like the fact that it may expire in 3 years. Let it be reauthorized. But the fact of the matter is

we need the President to stand up and be the Commander in Chief. We can put any piece of paper in front of him and his administration that we want, but if he is not willing to do the job and be the Commander in Chief, to destroy, defeat, and ensure that America remains safe here and abroad, then he is not doing the job that he was elected to do.

We will do our job. We will pass an Authorization for Use of Military Force, and we will give the President the opportunity to fight ISIS, but we have to make sure that our men and women in the military are the ones who are put at the forefront of what matters most, and the only thing that we should consider is that the American military, our soldiers, our men and women who fight for our freedoms, should be given the opportunity to do what they are trained to do.

Let's not play politics with destroying ISIS. Let's actually allow our men and women in uniform to do just that. They can do it. They have done it throughout history, and that is exactly what we need to continue to do in this institution. Let's work together. Let's make this happen.

Mr. JOLLY. I want to associate myself with my colleague's remarks and simply close with this. It is important to revisit the context of how we brought this up tonight. We are one nation. The President, the Congress, we are united as Americans, as elected officials of this country, to protect the national security of the United States.

The point of tonight's Special Order is that just as the President exercises his article II authority, this body also has a responsibility to exercise our article I authority, and that is okay. That is why we have the greatest republic that has ever been on the face of this Earth. Because we can have these debates in a constructive way between a President with one view of how to respond, a Congress with another, but know every day that we as a nation, the President and this body, are resolved to eradicate the threat of ISIS from the face of this Earth. We will do that.

As I mentioned, just as the President asks us to consider an authorization to use military force, we must also ask the President to understand our interest in how this war to defeat ISIS is executed. And on issues of Iran, Cuba, and others, we will work together. We will have our differences and disagreements, but we remain one United States resolved to protect the security of our interests.

I look forward to a very healthy debate on these issues in the coming months.

I yield to Mr. DAVIS.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. I thank the gentleman again for organizing this opportunity.

I just want to remind all of our fellow colleagues, it is a privilege to serve

in this great institution. These decisions that we will make will not be easy, but the decisions we make will be judged in history as to what happens here and what the future holds. Let's make sure that we make our forefathers and those who follow us proud to be Members of Congress. Let's do the right thing.

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

BORDER SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I come before this body today, again, to talk about the very important issue of border security.

My district is Arizona's Second Congressional District. I represent about 85 miles of the southern border. We have border residents and ranchers who every day are dealing with transnational criminal organizations that are trafficking drugs and people and weapons and money through their property, putting their lives at risk, often having them have to make difficult decisions, potentially life-and-death decisions.

As we stand today, this administration has done nothing to secure our border. This is a national security threat. It is a public safety threat. The people of southern Arizona need to be heard, and that is why I am organizing some time to address this issue.

I appreciate one of my colleagues, the gentleman from California (Mr. VALADAO), joining this conversation. This is a serious issue. We do have a bill, Secure Our Borders First Act. I am a cosponsor of the bill, and I believe it is an important bill that should unite this body to move forward and address this issue. I don't want to play politics with it.

I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. VALADAO).

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative MCSALLY. I had an opportunity to go to your home State a couple of weeks ago and spend some time with you on the border. I have spent quite a bit of time here in Washington over the last 2 years talking about immigration reform. I do believe that we have to fix the problem. We have to address the situation we have

with immigration in general. But something that I learned a lot about on that trip which I knew before, until I really got to experience and see for myself, I didn't realize how bad the situation on the border was and what our border agents face on a day-to-day basis, with people coming in with tools that I happened to use in my shop when I am building stuff, saws and torches and different types of equipment, just to get through the fence. When you see the situation we have got with the types of drugs and the types of people crossing the border on a daily basis, it is truly a situation that has to be resolved and looked at in a totally different way.

Chairman MCCAUL came up with a piece of legislation to address this, going along the whole border in a piece-by-piece manner. It looks at each part of the border and how it needs to be addressed. From that tour and the time I spent on the border, I got to see how important it was; from the California portion in San Diego and how people are getting across the border and the type of tunnels they are digging to the type of aircraft that people are flying, the drones that you can buy for a couple thousand bucks online; and even down to your part of the border where we got to see people cutting through the fence and actually making ramps and driving over barriers that weren't able to be cut; down to Texas to the Rio Grande when we traveled the river and saw what the situation was there, where people can hide and how narrow that area is.

The bill that was introduced helps secure the border because it looks at each portion of the border separately and individually and addresses it as a problem in itself. It puts technology in those places where it can truly make a difference. That border with this legislation can actually be secured—as much as we possibly can. Then we can move on with the rest of what has to be done. Obviously, fixing our guest worker programs and fixing our visa programs and the type of legal immigration that we welcome in this country because this country was built on immigrants. But we want to make sure that we secure the border first.

I am thrilled to be here and spend some time with you this evening talking about such an important issue. I appreciate the invitation.

Ms. MCSALLY. Congressman VALADAO, I appreciate you coming to visit my district. Twenty-one Members of this body came to southern Arizona to see what these border residents and ranchers are dealing with on a daily basis, to include our chairman, Chairman MCCAUL. I really appreciated your willingness to come see firsthand and listen to the ranchers and border residents.

We have men and women in uniform in our communities that are doing the

best they can. But the strategy that they have been given in our sector is just not working, and they need some better tools and they need a better strategy so that we can use intelligence-driven operations, we can use technology where it works, we can have barriers where they work. Ideally, we need to be detecting the illegal activity of the cartels well south so that we are able to then monitor and either deter the breaches or intercept them as soon as possible when they come over the border.

Some of the additions that I added into the bill were to create a rapid reaction force so that they quickly intercept, and directing the Border Patrol to be patrolling at the border to the maximum extent possible. Right now there is a multilayered approach in these rural areas. It is called a Defense in Depth strategy. It relies on taking sometimes, what they say, hours to days to intercept illegal activity. The problem with that is, during those hours to days, these cartels are transiting over private property.

Whereas in the past, sometimes, these ranchers, look, they have always had a humanitarian heart. If they saw individuals who were coming over illegally to find work, if they needed water, they would help them and then they would call border security. But now they don't know who they are. As the numbers have gone down, the cartel activity, the drug mules, the potential violence, the violent history of the individuals who are apprehended have gone up. So they don't know who it is that is crossing their property right now.

Rancher Rob Krentz, in 2010, went out to help someone, and that is the last we have heard of him. He was murdered on his own property. They still don't know who did that as he was out there responding.

We have stories of individuals in my district. You have heard some of them. We hear more every single day where, generally speaking, they are on alert. They usually don't go out of their homes unless they are armed, and they often don't go out unless it is in daylight hours. So it is impacting their lives and their livelihood, and they are constantly dealing with cut fences and loose cattle or killed cattle and all of the implications that come with these cartels that are trafficking across their property and around their homes, like break-ins and other things that come with that.

So I really appreciate your willingness to come down and see that firsthand.

For those who are listening and watching, I want to make sure they know: Call your Congressman. This is a good bill. We have to get this thing passed. If we can't unite this body around securing our border, what can we unite around? This is something

that we need to get done. It is what we have been asked to do. On our side of the aisle, as Republicans, we always hear our colleagues say to secure the border first. Well, this is an opportunity to do that. I stand today to support that bill again.

I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) to join the conversation.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank one of my newest colleagues, Congresswoman MARTHA MCSALLY, who has shown true leadership on this issue because it is personal. It is your district. Just like many issues that we face in the Midwest are issues that you and I will talk about but you don't have to experience, but these are issues that you see and we hear about. You see many cases where the border is not secure, where drug cartels are coming through private property. We in Illinois cannot imagine someone walking through our backyard hauling drugs and criminals. These are things that we don't experience, but we have to experience as Members of this institution because every vote we take impacts every single citizen in this great country.

I just am proud that you are willing to stand up and talk about the issues that matter most to this debate, and that is how we secure our borders, because once we do, we can fix our broken immigration system. We can fix the process that we already have, called the naturalization process, and ensure that we have a system that is going to work.

My fear, though, is that many in this debate, they don't want to see this problem fixed because they want to use it as a political hammer.

I will tell a personal story very quickly. I can remember doing one of my public meetings and having an organization come in and talk to me about their view of how we make our border more secure. As I was going to another public meeting, this organization decided to send members to my house and send the same message to my then 12-year-old son. Bullying tactics like that are not conducive to solving problems, not just in this institution but in this great country.

That is why I am so proud to be able to stand here with both of you today and talk about the issues that are important, and the fact that we are willing to talk about it and find solutions and begin our address towards making those solutions real is the reason why we came to this institution.

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Thank you for your leadership, both of you, on many issues, especially this one. I hope, some day, I can follow in the footsteps of my colleague from California and visit your district and see the same things he did.

Ms. MCSALLY. Well, you can come down any time. The door is open. We

are ready to show anyone, really, from this body, so that they can see firsthand what we are dealing with.

I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois for his comments and his encouragement and his support to this bill in this initiative. We have got to find like-minded individuals to move this forward because that is what the American people are asking us to do.

When we were hosting the CODEL down at the Ladd ranch, Jack Ladd and John Ladd, just amazing and wonderful Americans and hardworking people who gave us their perspective, along with many other ranchers. If you remember, one of the ranchers said: Look, these mules are just trafficking through our neighborhoods, but they are going to yours.

Once they hit the highway and they are able to get around, they are moving on to Phoenix, they are moving over to California, they are moving up to Illinois. They are bringing their drugs to all over the United States. There is cartel presence in many of these States. This is a very sophisticated criminal organization. Even though it starts in my district, it is impacting everyone in the country, related to their presence in everybody's district.

This is the time. We have been talking about border security for a very long time, and there have been efforts. With putting up some of the additional barriers, we have seen the efforts and how that has delayed activity, for sure. We have seen how the San Diego sector has really done a fantastic job in order to go from what was literally just an open border to having much better control.

But this is a sophisticated organization, these cartels, and they adjust. What do they do? They adjusted into my sector. Even as we put up some barriers, it basically funneled them into these rural areas, so that these criminals were trafficking through the ranchers' neighborhoods and border residences.

Again, we were the highest sector since 1998 until last year, as far as the number of apprehensions, but as we said on the trip, we don't know what the denominator is.

If all we are doing is measuring the numerator of how many individuals we have caught or apprehended, but the Border Patrol does not have situational awareness to be able to see all activity and then intercept the activity, we don't even know what those numbers are.

We have got to have the political will now to address this very important issue, so that we can bring the promise home to the people who live in my community and then in the rest of the country.

This is not hard. This is a good bill. In our sector, it provides additional resources, it provides additional technologies to increase the situational

awareness. It holds Border Patrol and the senior appointees in Homeland Security accountable for securing the border, and it provides the resources and the capabilities that they need in order to gain situational awareness and operational control.

I have heard many of our colleagues—and if you all want to join on this discussion—say, Just build a fence, just build a fence. Look, we have built some fences in southern Arizona, and those fences and those vehicle barriers and the pedestrian fences, they are delaying activity, for sure.

What we have seen is these sophisticated cartels have got scouts on hilltops, they have got good communication devices, they have got incredible equipment, and they are across those fences. They either go over it, through it, or under it; and they do it in very fast time.

A barrier is certainly one element of a strategy in order to slow down the activity, but that is not the only answer. It is very costly, about \$5 million a mile for some of this fencing, so where it is appropriate, it definitely needs to be put up.

But if we don't actually have Border Patrol actively monitoring where the fence line is, using intelligence-driven operations, and then intercepting the activity, patrolling right at the border on the south of John Ladd's ranch, not on the north side, then we are still not going to be able to stop these breaches because they will happen.

For those who don't understand that, I welcome them to come to Arizona and see that.

I yield again to the gentleman from California (Mr. VALADAO), my colleague.

Mr. VALADAO. I appreciate the opportunity again.

But, no, that is something we hear about a lot in the district. Everybody just says: Build a fence, follow the existing law.

Most people don't know the technology out there. Like you said, they literally have scouts. They have got people every so often, every so many yards or 100 yards, whatever the distance, spotting where the Border Patrol agents are. They know everything about these Border Patrol agents.

I heard a story that one of the people crossing the border actually had a booklet with all the names, addresses, and the tendencies of each and every Border Patrol agent.

They knew if they chewed gum, if they chewed tobacco, if they read a book while they were sitting there. They knew how slow they drove from checkpoint to checkpoint. They knew everything about this person. They knew exactly how long they would have those openings to get across.

They knew how to dig a tunnel. There was a tunnel they found that was 90 feet underground, 700 yards long, and

the only reason they found that wasn't because of technology—because they don't have the technology to find that—it was because they found an informant that opened their mouth and told them where it was at, and they were able to stop that.

It is amazing how much is out there and what these people are doing, and anyone that believes just building a fence is going to work—they are going to go under it, they are going to buy those drones to go over it.

I heard stories of cannons that are literally firing bales of drugs over the top. There are so many opportunities out there. For anybody to believe that just enforcing the law the way it is written today, it will never work—it just won't—because the technology is out there.

If you ask any police officer on the street or any parent out there, you can't do everything the same way you did 50 years ago because your children have way better technology to do stuff, our prisoners in our prison system have much more opportunity, and now, these folks have unbelievable amounts of technology out there to get across or to bring their drugs across.

Like you mentioned earlier, the problem has changed. What the folks in your district had mentioned to me was 20 years ago, 15 years ago, it was a large number of people—it was families, it was those that we see typically working on farms—who are out here just looking for an opportunity.

The folks coming across today are dangerous. They are cartels. They are trying to bring drugs. They are bringing problems into this country. A lot of times—like one of your constituents—someone's life was taken. It is a truly sad situation.

But it has to be addressed in a way that actually solves our problems. We don't just take votes here because of sending out a press release. We solve problems. Legislation that we introduce and that we pass and that we vote on has to solve problems for the American people. That is what we are responsible to do, and that is what I want to do.

So again, I thank you for the opportunity.

Ms. MCSALLY. Thank you. Again, I appreciate the gentleman from California. Thank you so much for your perspectives.

I agree. If anyone thinks, if anyone in this body thinks, let's just build a fence, I would invite you to please come to southern Arizona and see the doggy doors that are cut—even in California, the doggy doors, as they call them—that get cut out in less than 60 seconds and where individuals are still coming through.

So those barriers are helpful, but they are a speed bump. We are dealing with sophisticated organizations that are much more nimble than we are.

When we come up with a different strategy, they are able to react much more quickly.

But we have got men and women in Border Patrol right now that if they are able to detect any sort of activity, they just start tracking them sometimes by themselves, they are out there tracking them, without any situational awareness as to what they are tracking, who they are tracking, what do they have on them, are they armed, are they not armed, what is their intent.

Some of the other things in this bill actually help provide them with the situational awareness that they need. Some of it is bringing technologies back that we have used overseas so that we can just have motion sensing and know what is moving and what is not moving so we don't have to bother lining agents up on the border, but we can respond and react with intelligence.

Mr. DAVIS, would you like to join us again and provide some more comments? I yield to you.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Absolutely. And it relates to the fact that sometimes the policies that are put in place through administrative rules or by this body hinder our ability to achieve the goals that Americans want us to achieve.

We could build fencing, but you know there are many times people will find a way around that fence. And that doesn't mean let's not do it, but what it means is let's also enact policies that will not hinder our Border Patrol agents from actually doing their job.

One of my colleagues from Illinois flies National Guard duty over the southern border and talks about how different groups will overwhelm a single Border Patrol agent. And understand that a majority of those who are trying to cross into America will get in. Some won't, but a majority will. And it is worth the risk to many.

Frankly, if we weren't living in this great country, we would probably want to be here too. This is a wonderful country that is the beacon of hope for so many throughout this globe.

But we also have to take into consideration the impact that it has in this country. And we need to make sure that we put policies in place that allow our border to be secure by making sure our Border Patrol agents have the tools and the ability to address the problem that both of you have addressed so well this evening.

So thank you again for being here. Thank you again for being willing to stand up, because it is not an easy issue to talk about. It is not an easy issue because it has become so politicized. But I commend you for that because we have to stand up and take courage. We have to take courageous stances, and we have to take courageous votes that may not make all of

our constituents happy. But these are opportunities to lead, and that is exactly why we all came to Congress.

Again, thank you to my colleague.

Ms. MCSALLY. Thank you, Mr. DAVIS, for your kind words and your support.

I come from a very diverse district and a very split district. I won by 167 votes to get here. So we are a very diverse and split district.

But I will tell you, this is a unifying issue, even in my district. When I look at the things that are going to unify us, it is making sure that we are safe and secure and have economic opportunity. Throughout my district, people agree we need to secure the border.

Now, they also want to look for thoughtful solutions to modernize and revamp our legal immigration system so that those who want to come here to work and are going to contribute to our economy have a legal way to do that. We need to work on those challenges as well. As we talk about it in southern Arizona, we need a high fence and a wide gate, sort of metaphorically.

What that means is, let's focus our border security on transnational criminal organizations and the public safety and national security threat, but we also need to make sure we have got good economic development and opportunities for individuals to come here legally, and also for commerce to be able to flow, which is a separate issue. They often get lumped in together and oftentimes these issues get hijacked by others who have other intentions that are trying to politicize it.

But I think every American—Democrat, Independent, Republican—can agree that they want their families to be safe and secure from transnational criminal organizations. I can't find anyone who doesn't agree to that.

So why is this not an issue that would unify this body? Why is this not an issue that we could work together on within our party and then across to the other side of the aisle to actually get the job done, to use commonsense solutions, to give the situational awareness, the tools they need, to hold Homeland Security accountable, to secure our border once and for all, direct a better strategy sector by sector, to provide that situational awareness and operational control?

I strongly support this bill. I appreciate the leadership of Chairman McCAUL, my colleagues who have joined me here tonight, and others who have gotten behind this bill. And I want to urge those who are watching and listening to please call your Congressman, tell him to support the Secure Our Borders First Act, and let's get this thing through the House, through the Senate, and signed by the President.

This is not time to play politics with border security. The residents and the

ranchers in my community cannot wait any longer in order to have that fear go away so that they can feel like they can sleep well at night and their livelihood is not at stake and their families are not at risk. We owe it to them to take action.

Let's figure out how to unify, work through any sort of solutions that we need to in order to get to a commonsense agreement, and let's pass this bill.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, February 12, 2015, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

403. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule — Irish Potatoes Grown in Colorado; Relaxation of the Handling Regulation for Area No. 3 [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-14-0092; FV15-948-1 IR] received February 4, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

404. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule — Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Revision of the Saleable Quantity and Allotment Percentage for Class 3 (Native) Spearmint Oil for the 2014-2015 Marketing Year [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-13-0087; FV14-985-1B IR] received February 4, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

405. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Oranges and Grapefruit Grown in Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas; Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-14-0054; FV14-906-3 FIR] received February 4, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

406. A letter from the Under Secretary, Rural Development, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Rural Development Regulations — Update to FmHA References and to Census References (RIN: 0570-AA30) received February 4, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

407. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's annual report listing all repairs and maintenance performed on any covered Navy vessel in any shipyard

outside the United States or Guam during Fiscal Year 2014, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 7310; to the Committee on Armed Services.

408. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Community Planning and Development, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's Major interim rule — Housing Trust Fund [Docket No.: FR-5246-I-03] (RIN: 2506-AC30) received February 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

409. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Annual Funding Notice for Defined Benefit Plans (RIN: 1210-AB18) received February 3, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

410. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedures for Fluorescent Lamp Ballasts [Docket No.: EERE-2009-BT-TP-0016] (RIN: 1904-AB99) received February 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

411. A letter from the Deputy Director — ODRM, CDC/NIOSH, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Closed-Circuit Escape Respirators; Extension of Transition Period [Docket No.: CDC-2015-0004; NIOSH-280] (RIN: 0920-AA60) received January 28, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

412. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Washington; Redesignation to Attainment for the Tacoma-Pierce County Nonattainment Area and Approval of Associated Maintenance Plan for the 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Matter Standard [EPA-R10-OAR-2014-0808; FRL-9922-81-Region 10] received February 4, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

413. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New Mexico; Transportation Conformity and Conformity of General Federal Actions [EPA-R06-OAR-2011-0938; FRL-9922-73-Region 6] received February 4, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

414. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; North Carolina; Inspection and Maintenance Program Updates [EPA-R04-OAR-2013-0772; FRL-9922-42-Region 4] received February 4, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

415. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Difenoconazole; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0151; FRL-9920-98] received February 4, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

416. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's

final rule — Flutriafof; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0482; FRL-9922-06] received February 4, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

417. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Regulation of Fuels and Fuel Additives: Extension of the Reformulated Gasoline Program to Maine's Southern Counties [EPA-HQ-OAR-2014-0283; FRL-9921-82-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AS19) received February 4, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

418. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revision to the Arizona State Implementation Plan; Nogales Nonattainment Area; Fine Particulate Matter Emissions Inventories [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0450; FRL-9922-74-Region 9] received February 4, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

419. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Placer County Air Pollution Control District and San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0731; FRL-9921-37-Region 9] received February 4, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

420. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the Clean Air Act Section 110 Submission Requirements for State Implementation Plans and Notice of Availability of an Option for Electronic Reporting [EPA-HQ-OAR-2015-0045; FRL-9922-54-OAR] received February 4, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

421. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Silverton, Texas) Station KXDJ(FM), Spearman, Texas [MB Docket No.: 14-156] (RM-11725) (File No.: BPH-20140519AHY) received February 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

422. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 14-55, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance to the Netherlands, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

423. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revisions to the Unverified List (UVL) [Docket No.: 141104925-4925-01] (RIN: 0694-AG35) received February 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

424. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — U.S.-India Bilateral Understanding: Additional Revisions to the U.S. Export and Reexport Controls Under the Export Administration Regulations [Docket No.: 130405339-3339-01] (RIN: 0694-AF72) received January 29, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

425. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Russian Sanctions: Licensing Policy for the Crimea Region of Ukraine [Docket No.: 141218999-4999-01] (RIN: 0694-AG43) received February 4, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

426. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 13-114, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

427. A letter from the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's Annual Performance Report (APR) for Fiscal Years 2014-2016 and the Annual Performance Plan, pursuant to Public Law 111-352; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

428. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's fiscal year 2014 Performance and Accountability Report, prepared in accordance with OMB Circular A-136 and part 6 of Circular A-11; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

429. A letter from the Executive Resources Program Manager, Small Business Administration, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

430. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; List of Authorized Fisheries and Gear [Docket No.: 130904784-4999-02] (RIN: 0648-BD67) received February 4, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

431. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Using Hook-and-Line Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 130925836-4174-02] (RIN: 0648-XD654) received February 8, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

432. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's Fiscal Year 2014 report to Congress on H-1B Petitions, pursuant to Public Law 105-277, div. C, title IV, section 416(c); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

433. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting a status report on the Bureau of Prisons' compliance with the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997, pursuant to Public Law 105-33; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

434. A letter from the Under Secretary for Policy, Department of Transportation, transmitting a letter regarding the Department's response to the National Transportation Safety Board's 2015 Most Wanted List, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 1135(e)(1); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

435. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting the Attorney General's first quarterly report of FY 2015 on the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994, pursuant to Public Law 110-389; jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Veterans' Affairs.

436. A letter from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the Board's Congressional Justification of Budget Estimates for Fiscal Year 2016, including the Performance Plan for the year, pursuant to 45 U.S.C. 231(f); Public Law 93-445, title I, section 416; jointly to the Committees on Appropriations, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CUMMINGS (for himself, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. POLIS, Mr. COHEN, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.R. 860. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to amend the process by which students with certain special circumstances apply for Federal financial aid; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD (for herself and Mrs. LOWEY):

H.R. 861. A bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FARENTHOLD (for himself and Mr. POLIS):

H.R. 862. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to provide that the first sale doctrine applies to any computer program that enables a machine or other product to operate; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RENACCI (for himself, Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, and Mr. COSTA):

H.R. 863. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify the treatment of seasonal positions for purposes of the employer shared responsibility requirement; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California (for herself and Mr. POCAN):

H.R. 864. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to prohibit the exclusion of individuals from service on a Federal jury on account of sexual orientation or gender identity; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. BENISHKEK, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. SCHOCK, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska):

H.R. 865. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to limit the liability of health care professionals who volunteer to provide health care services in response to a disaster; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for

consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. BLACK (for herself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. PITTINGER, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. STEWART, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. Tipton, Mr. SALMON, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. HUELSKAMP):

H.R. 866. A bill to achieve domestic energy independence by empowering States to control the development and production of all forms of energy on all available Federal land; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BARR (for himself, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. FINCHER):

H.R. 867. A bill to exempt the natural aging process in the determination of the production period for distilled spirits under section 263A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. STEWART (for himself and Ms. GABBARD):

H.R. 868. A bill to provide for coordination between the TRICARE program and eligibility for making contributions to a health savings account, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. REICHERT (for himself and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 869. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to broaden the special rules for certain governmental plans under section 105(j) to include plans established by political subdivisions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PIERLUISI:

H.R. 870. A bill to amend title 11 of the United States Code to treat Puerto Rico as a State for purposes of chapter 9 of such title relating to the adjustment of debts of municipalities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JEFFRIES (for himself and Ms. MENG):

H.R. 871. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to direct the Bureau of Prisons to provide certain voting information to Federal prisoners upon their release from prison; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WITTMAN (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. BEYER):

H.R. 872. A bill to extend Federal recognition to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe-Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 873. A bill to promote energy efficiency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HULTGREN (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. SWALWELL of California, and Mr. LIPINSKI):

H.R. 874. A bill to amend the Department of Energy High-End Computing Revitaliza-

tion Act of 2004 to improve the high-end computing research and development program of the Department of Energy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. CUELLAR:

H.R. 875. A bill to provide for alternative financing arrangements for the provision of certain services and the construction and maintenance of infrastructure at land border ports of entry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Judiciary, Homeland Security, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DOGGETT (for himself and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana):

H.R. 876. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require hospitals to provide certain notifications to individuals classified by such hospitals under observation status rather than admitted as inpatients of such hospitals; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. MILLER of Michigan (for herself, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mr. VELA):

H.R. 877. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. MILLER of Michigan (for herself, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mr. VELA):

H.R. 878. A bill to provide for the authorization of border, maritime, and transportation security responsibilities and functions in the Department of Homeland Security and the establishment of United States Customs and Border Protection, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GUINTA:

H.R. 879. A bill to repeal the "Cadillac Tax" on middle class Americans' health plans; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BRADY of Texas (for himself,

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mr. NEAL):

H.R. 880. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify and make permanent the research credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. POE of Texas (for himself, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. JONES, Mr. NUGENT, and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 881. A bill to prohibit certain nutrition rules with respect to foods sold at schools as a fundraiser; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SARBANES (for himself, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARK of Massa-

chusetts, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. FARR, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KIND, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. LEE, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. POLIS, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SIRE, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. YARMUTH):

H.R. 882. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 in order to improve environmental literacy to better prepare students for postsecondary education and careers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. O'ROURKE (for himself and Mr. CUELLAR):

H.R. 883. A bill to provide emergency funding for port of entry personnel and infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Appropriations, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RIBBLE (for himself, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. EMMER, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. KIND, Mr. KLINE, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. WALZ):

H.R. 884. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to reissue final rules relating to listing of the gray wolf in the Western Great Lakes and Wyoming under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. HOYER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. NADLER, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. PIERLUISI, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. BASS, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. DENT, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. GIBSON):

H.R. 885. A bill to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WESTERMAN (for himself, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. BLUM, Mr. HILL, Mr. ROUZER, and Mr. CRAWFORD):

H.R. 886. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to permit States to impose workforce requirements for individuals made eligible for medical assistance under the amendments made by the Affordable Care Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. BLACK (for herself, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. BUCHANAN):

H.R. 887. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to the

treatment of patient encounters in ambulatory surgical centers in determining meaningful EHR use, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CAPUANO:

H.R. 888. A bill to amend the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to require certain systemically important entities to account for the financial benefit they receive as a result of the expectations on the part of shareholders, creditors, and counterparties of such entities that the Government will shield them from losses in the event of failure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CHABOT (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GOODLATTE, and Mr. CONYERS):

H.R. 889. A bill to amend chapter 97 of title 28, United States Code, to clarify the exception to foreign sovereign immunity set forth in section 1605(a)(3) of such title; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CLAWSON of Florida:

H.R. 890. A bill to correct the boundaries of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Unit P16; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CUELLAR:

H.R. 891. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 141 Paloma Drive in Floresville, Texas, as the "Floresville Veterans Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee:

H.R. 892. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to prohibit the paying of premium subsidies on policies based on the actual market price of an agricultural commodity at the time of harvest; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. ASHFORD):

H.R. 893. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN (for himself, Mr. LANCE, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. TONKO, Ms. ESTY, and Mr. DENT):

H.R. 894. A bill to extend the authorization of the Highlands Conservation Act; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. GABBARD (for herself, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. TAKAI):

H.R. 895. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 regarding Native Hawaiian education; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GIBBS:

H.R. 896. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify when the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency has the authority to prohibit the specification of a defined area, or deny or restrict the use of a defined area for specification, as a disposal site under section 404

of such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GIBBS:

H.R. 897. A bill to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify Congressional intent regarding the regulation of the use of pesticides in or near navigable waters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 898. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the equalization of the excise tax on liquefied natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KING of Iowa:

H.R. 899. A bill to require the country of origin of certain special immigrant religious workers to extend reciprocal immigration treatment to nationals of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LABRADOR (for himself, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. COOK, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. PEARCE):

H.R. 900. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to provide for congressional and State approval of national monuments and restrictions on the use of national monuments; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MEADOWS:

H.R. 901. A bill to prohibit accessing pornographic web sites from Federal computers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. NEAL (for himself, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. NORTON, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. KILMER, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. KIND, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. RUSH, Mr. KEATING, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. COHEN, Ms. ESTY, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. KILDEE, and Ms. FUDGE):

H.R. 902. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make improvements in the earned income tax credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PITTS:

H.R. 903. A bill to require notification of individuals of breaches of personally identifiable information through Exchanges under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 904. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of designating the study

area as the Black Metropolis National Heritage Area in the State of Illinois, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. THORNBERRY (for himself, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. LANCE):

H.R. 905. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the equalization of the excise tax on liquefied natural gas and per energy equivalent of diesel; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WHITFIELD (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. LATTI, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 906. A bill to modify the efficiency standards for grid-enabled water heaters; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.J. Res. 31. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States regarding the permissible sources of funding for elections for public office and State ballot measures; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PEARCE:

H. Res. 104. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the President should provide Congress with a detailed deployment and troop commitment plan prior to approval for authorization to commit United States Armed Forces to fight the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BRIDENSTINE (for himself and Mr. WALBERG):

H. Res. 105. A resolution calling for the protection of religious minority rights and freedoms worldwide; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. PAULSEN (for himself, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. MACARTHUR, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. MESSER, and Mr. LANCE):

H. Res. 106. A resolution supporting quality of life for prostate cancer patients; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PETERSON:

H. Res. 107. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the third week in October as National School Bus Safety Week and for the designation of Wednesday of that week as National School Bus Drivers Appreciation Day; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

2. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Ohio, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 54, urging the Congress to continue the full funding and production of the F-35; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Ohio, relative to Senate Resolution No. 410, urging the Department of Commerce to conduct a thorough investigation into unfair trade practices of foreign glass manufacturers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Ohio, relative to

Substitute House Resolution No. 283, urging the Congress and the Department of Defense to protect and uphold the religious and free speech rights of military service members; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 860.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD:

H.R. 861.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 9

By Mr. FARENTHOLD:

H.R. 862.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article One, Section 8, Clause 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. RENACCI:

H.R. 863.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

Within the Enumerated Powers of the U.S. Constitution, Congress is granted the power to law and collect taxes. This provision grants Congress the authority over this particular piece of legislation.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California:

H.R. 864.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Amendment XIV, Section 1

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

H.R. 865.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mrs. BLACK:

H.R. 866.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Tenth Amendment stating that, "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." and

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 providing that "Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States. . . ."

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 867.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution: Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. STEWART:

H.R. 868.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. REICHERT:

H.R. 869.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Clause I of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. PIERLUISI:

H.R. 870.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of the Congress to establish uniform laws on the subject of bankruptcies throughout the United States, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 of the United States Constitution; to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution such power, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution; and to make rules and regulations respecting the U.S. territories, as enumerated in Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the Constitution.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

H.R. 871.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause I of the United States Constitution related to general welfare of the United States.

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 872.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, which provides Congress with the power to regulate commerce and relations between the United States and Indian tribes, and to pass all laws necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, as well as all other Power vested by the Constitution.

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 873.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution: The Congress shall have power to enact this legislation to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mr. HULTGREN:

H.R. 874.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, to provide for the common defense and general welfare;

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper,

By Mr. CUELLAR:

H.R. 875.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION
ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS
CLAUSE 18

The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Mr. DOGGETT:

H.R. 876.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. MILLER of Michigan:

H.R. 877.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 1; and Article 1, section 8, clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mrs. MILLER of Michigan:

H.R. 878.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 1; and Article 1, section 8, clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. GUINTA:

H.R. 879.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section VIII Clause I: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States

Article I Section VII Clause III: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among several States, and with Indian Tribes;

Article I Section VII Clause XVIII: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. BRADY of Texas:

H.R. 880.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution, which gives Congress the "power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises . . ."

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 881.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. SARBANES:

H.R. 882.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution under the General Welfare Clause.

By Mr. O'ROURKE:

H.R. 883.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Officer thereof

By Mr. RIBBLE:

H.R. 884.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 885.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Fifteenth Amendment, Section 2 Section 1: The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the U.S. or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

By Mr. WESTERMAN:

H.R. 886.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 Clause 1

By Mrs. BLACK:

H.R. 887.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. CAPUANO:

H.R. 888.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Sec. 8, Clause 3: "The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes."

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 889.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this legislation is based is found in article I, section 8, clause 9; article III, section 1, clause 1; and article III, section 2, clause 2, of the Constitution, which grant Congress authority over federal courts.

By Mr. CLAWSON of Florida:

H.R. 890.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1:

The Congress shall have Power to . . . provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States

By Mr. CUELLAR:

H.R. 891.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS
CLAUSE 18

The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof

By Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee:

H.R. 892.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The ability to regulate interstate commerce pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 893.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority for this bill is pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN:

H.R. 894.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. GABBARD:

H.R. 895.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution, also known as the Commerce Clause.

By Mr. GIBBS:

H.R. 896.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 3 (related to regulation of Commerce among the several States)

By Mr. GIBBS:

H.R. 897.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to clause 3(d)(1) of Rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee finds the Constitutional authority for this legislation in Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, that grants Congress the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested by Congress in the Constitution of the United States or in any department or officer thereof.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 898.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KING of Iowa:

H.R. 899.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LABRADOR:

H.R. 900.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This legislation has been written pursuant to Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2, which gives Congress the authority "To dispose or and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State."

By Mr. MEADOWS:

H.R. 901.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

"The Congress shall have the Power To . . . make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or Department or Officer thereof."—Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 902.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I and the 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. PITTS:

H.R. 903.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, which states that Congress shall have the power "to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states . . ."

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 904.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;"

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: "To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this

Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof."

By Mr. THORNBERRY:

H.R. 905.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. WHITFIELD:

H.R. 906.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 3

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.J. Res. 31.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article V of the U.S. Constitution

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 9: Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 25: Mr. HENSARLING.
H.R. 27: Mr. HENSARLING.
H.R. 38: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
H.R. 124: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 169: Mr. FORTENBERRY and Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan.
H.R. 173: Mr. HENSARLING.
H.R. 174: Mrs. COMSTOCK.
H.R. 178: Mr. BYRNE and Mr. POSEY.
H.R. 188: Mr. WELCH, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. VISLOSKEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. RUIZ, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. NEAL.
H.R. 198: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 204: Mr. ISSA.
H.R. 210: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
H.R. 232: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts and Mr. McDERMOTT.
H.R. 270: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. LATTA, and Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia.
H.R. 280: Mr. COFFMAN.
H.R. 317: Mr. WALZ.
H.R. 353: Mr. RIBBLE.
H.R. 393: Ms. GABBARD.
H.R. 402: Mr. HILL, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.
H.R. 431: Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. SCALISE, and Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.
H.R. 443: Mr. HUELSKAMP.
H.R. 445: Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 448: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 452: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 456: Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. BEYER.
H.R. 465: Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. CULBERSON.
H.R. 471: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 472: Mr. NUGENT and Mr. JOLLY.
H.R. 486: Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 508: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 519: Mr. HENSARLING.
H.R. 528: Mr. POSEY, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. HECK of Nevada, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 529: Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. LATTA, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 537: Mr. CULBERSON.
H.R. 540: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. RIBBLE.
H.R. 543: Mr. HENSARLING and Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 546: Mr. NUNES, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. HARRIS.

H.R. 555: Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. HENSARLING, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.

H.R. 556: Mr. SABLAN, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 560: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 571: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. HUELSKAMP, and Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 572: Mr. LUCAS, Mr. YODER, and Mr. BARR.

H.R. 577: Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. JONES, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. MESSER.

H.R. 592: Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. WHITFIELD, and Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 594: Mr. TROTT, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. ISSA, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. POSEY, and Mr. MULVANEY.

H.R. 595: Mr. BARLETTA and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 598: Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin.

H.R. 601: Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. ROSS, Mr. BOST, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 603: Mr. HENSARLING.

H.R. 612: Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. COLE, Mr. TROTT, and Mr. WENSTRUP.

H.R. 622: Mr. BARTON and Mr. HENSARLING.

H.R. 633: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

H.R. 638: Mr. JONES, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. LANCE.

H.R. 650: Mr. NUGENT and Mrs. BLACK.

H.R. 654: Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. BARR, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

H.R. 667: Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 676: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 681: Mr. REICHERT.

H.R. 708: Mr. BYRNE.

H.R. 721: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. MEADOWS, and Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan.

H.R. 731: Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 742: Mr. VEASEY.

H.R. 746: Mr. COHEN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. FARR, and Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 751: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.

H.R. 756: Mr. FARR, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 766: Mr. MULVANEY.

H.R. 767: Mr. DENT and Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 782: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 789: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 793: Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. JONES, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, and Mr. HUELSKAMP.

H.R. 794: Mr. CARDENAS.

H.R. 800: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H.R. 801: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York and Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 803: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. BABIN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. FLEMING, and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.

H.R. 814: Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 818: Mr. ROSS and Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 842: Mrs. CAPPS and Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 845: Mr. RIBBLE, Ms. DELBENE, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, and Mr. NOLAN.

H.R. 850: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 855: Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. KIND.

H.R. 858: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.J. Res. 9: Mr. MILLER of Florida.

H.J. Res. 25: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN and Mr. JEFFRIES.

H. Con. Res. 13: Mr. WITTMAN.

H. Res. 14: Mr. SANFORD, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. DOGGETT.

H. Res. 15: Mr. COSTA.

H. Res. 28: Ms. MENG, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. KUSTER, and Mr. DEUTCH.

H. Res. 54: Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. LOBIONDO.

H. Res. 62: Mr. PAULSEN.

H. Res. 67: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H. Res. 93: Mr. DEUTCH.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

4. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the City of Clarksville, Tennessee, relative to Resolution 20-2014-15, supporting the maintenance of current troop levels at Fort Campbell; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5. Also, a petition of the City of Port Townsend, Washington, relative to Resolution No. 14-058, designating City shorelines as a Maritime Heritage Area; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE GILMER HIGH SCHOOL BUCKEYES, 2014 4-A, DIV II STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to acknowledge and congratulate the superb performance of the Gilmer High School Buckeyes as they came together as a team resulting in their winning the 2014 Texas State 4-A, Div II Football Championship. The Gilmer Buckeyes displayed great resilience and commitment throughout their season, and it is indeed an honor to bring these outstanding athletes to national attention and retention in our national record.

After the devastating, unexpected death of a beloved member of the team last year, the Buckeyes and the entire Gilmer community pledged to preserve the memory of Desmond Pollard by honoring him throughout the season. Residents of east Texas generously paid tribute to Desmond by raising funds to pay for all his funeral expenses. So much money was donated and accumulated that it not only paid for the service, but there was also enough to establish a memorial scholarship fund in Desmond's name.

The Buckeyes carried Desmond's memory onto the field with them before every game by taking his jersey to midfield for every coin toss. This honorable group of young men created and adopted "DEZign8" as the team motto to pay tribute to Desmond throughout the season by combining his name with his team jersey number, #8. The motto was based on the belief that the team was "DEZign8"-ed to be tested, and to overcome any challenges in order to emerge victorious.

When the Buckeyes began the third quarter of the state championship game, they trailed West Orange-Stark 25-7. The Buckeyes recognized the daunting task before them, but they were not about to give up. Instead, every player reached deep inside themselves, and reinvigorated their strength, skill and commitment to such an incredible level that the Buckeyes became virtually unstoppable, scoring four more touchdowns, overtaking the Mustangs, while shutting down their vaunted opponent's powerful offense, and capturing the state title with a final score of 35-25. This amazing team of caring, committed, yet crushing Buckeyes were successful in achieving their objective. They were victorious in honoring their fallen teammate with an entire season of success resulting in the State Championship in honor of Desmond. Ultimately, the Buckeyes finished the season with a perfect, undefeated record of 16-0, and the honor of finishing with the second-highest point total in a season in Texas high school football history with 950 points.

Special commendations must be offered to each member of this exceptional company of young men. The team includes: Blevin Burns, Devin Smith, McLane Carter, DeMarco Boyd, Quinn Fluellen, Jamel Jackson, Desmond Pollard, Blake Lynch, Zac Spears, Preston Smith, Kollin Hurt, Brandon Crouch, Ryen Lawhorn, Tanner Harrison, Taylor Lofton, Desmond Jones, Cameron Bowman, Nick Smith, Cambron Granville, Kris Boyd, Kelton Collier, Christian Loyd, Chase Tate, Jamaal Wheeler, LaMarcus Morton, Freddy Curtis, Dustin Brown, Hunter Richardson, CJ Grimmer, Kade Clemens, Tristan Olivares, Juan Esquivel, Nathan Mize, Tendon Brooks, Frankie Coleman, Kaloni Moton, Caleb Gunter, Clayton Williams, Jeremy Kelly, Matthew Caldwell, Jackson Sikes, Brett Rice, Zach Jones, Jake Traylor, Caleb Ritter, Jacob Cullins, Will Harrison, Colin Hardin, Johnny Perez, Dane Jesters, Colton Hendrix, Trevor Lewis, Landry Henson, Cole Hart, Lucas Garrett, Erik Cerda, Dakota Williamson, Andrew Hollis, Cameron Tension, Colby Gipson, Zack Troell, Zed Heath, and Stoney Fuller.

No matter how talented and committed, no team could achieve so much resulting in an undefeated season without a head coach and coaching staff of extraordinary vision and ability who could lead the Buckeyes to success, both on and off the field. Superintendent Rick Albritton, Principal Greg Watson, Head Coach and Athletic Director Jeff Traylor, Todd Barr, Robert Bero, Colton Bunn, Randall Canady, Wayne Coleman, Russell Cunningham, Tommy Edwards, Todd Fenton, Dustin Gunter, Lonnie Henry, Olan Johnson, Kerry Lane, Terrence Lovely, Max Low, Alan Metzel, Cody Robinson, Keith Tate, Kurt Traylor, Matt Turner, and Brandon Williams; along with athletic trainers Kara Kanutson and Will Bennett.

It is truly an incalculable honor to pay tribute to this sensationally astounding group of young people who became so much more than the sum total of the team's individual parts. And they magnificently represent the very best of the Gilmer community and the entire First District of Texas. Their legacy, along with the memory of their friend and cherished teammate Desmond Pollard, is now recorded in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD which will endure as long as there is a United States of America.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF CARL DJERASSI, PH.D.

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary American, Carl Djerassi, a chemist, novelist, poet and philanthropist who excelled in each of these fields.

He was the child of two physicians, born in 1923 in Vienna, Austria, and he died on January 15, 2015, at his home in San Francisco, California.

Dr. Djerassi is best known as the "Father of the Pill", the birth control pill which brought about a cultural revolution. He is less well known for his part in the development of antihistamines to treat allergies, and the synthesis of cortisone. Educated at Kenyon College and the University of Wisconsin, his first job was with the Swiss company, Ciba. From there he went to Syntex, then a small company in Mexico. He became a professor at Stanford University in 1959, and founded Zeecon, a manufacturer of non-toxic pesticides in 1968. He published over 1,200 articles and 7 monographs on chemical subjects.

Dr. Djerassi's brilliant work in chemistry was only a part of his life story. He published numerous poems, short stories, five novels and many plays. He founded the Djerassi Resident Artists Program in honor of his daughter, Pamela. He was the recipient of countless honors, including the National Medal of Science and the Wolf Prize in Chemistry. He was a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and its Institute of Medicine, and he received 32 well-earned honorary doctorates.

Dr. Djerassi was married three times, most recently to the late Diane Middlebrook, a professor of literature at Stanford University.

Dr. Djerassi leaves his son Dale, an independent filmmaker, and his grandson Alexander Maxwell Djerassi. He will be sorely missed by all who had the good fortune to know him. His life's work was a gift to humanity, and his presence made the world a better place.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the extraordinary life of Carl Djerassi, who was a national treasure, and extend our sympathy to his family.

LIVES WELL-LIVED

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize four people from the Cromwell/McGregor area of Minnesota who just celebrated turning 100-years-old or more. In some parts of the country, this would be in passing—but for Cromwell (population 231) and McGregor (population 376) it is big news that this many legacy members of their communities have reached this significant milestone. It must be our good Minnesota water.

When you stop to think about it, to be born 100 years ago, there were no tractors to plow the fields and automobiles were just starting to be built. Before that, people walked to town or

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

took a horse-and-buggy. Most schoolrooms were in one-room buildings with an outhouse "out back." Radio communication was just beginning and television had not yet been invented. Penicillin had not been discovered. There were not vaccinations for polio or other deadly childhood diseases. The idea of an airplane was but a dream and the thought of man landing on the moon was unfathomable. How exciting it must have been for them witnessing that first countdown as John Glenn was the first American about to orbit the earth.

These citizens lived through two World Wars, the Korean Conflict, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

They were just coming of age when the Depression hit this country and struggled like countless others to have part of the American dream.

They persevered.

Each of them—Mary Dahlberg, Hjalmer Hutar, Ailie Costello and Viola Johnson took different paths in their lives. I congratulate each of them for the contributions they brought to their families and communities. They have been lives well lived.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote yesterday because of a serious illness in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted:

Roll Call #69—YEA.

Roll Call #70—YEA.

RECOGNIZING HIGHLAND HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, each year since 1999, the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform releases a Schools to Watch list to identify high-performing schools across the country. According to the stated criteria, each school on the list is academically excellent, developmentally responsive, and socially equitable.

This list is well-respected and highly exclusive. That's why I'm proud to say that Highland Hills Middle School in Floyd County, Indiana, is a new entry to the list this year. This recognition is well deserved and reflects the hard work and determination of the administration, the teachers, and especially the students of Highland Hills and the entire New Albany Floyd County Consolidated School Corporation.

As policy makers at every level of government continue to look for ways to improve our educational systems, we would all do well to look to models like Highland Hills Middle School for guidance.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to be present for the following Roll Call vote on February 10, 2015 and would like to reflect that I would have voted as follows:

Roll Call #69: YES.

Roll Call #70: YES.

HONORING DOROTHY BARNES PELOTE

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of the late Mrs. Dorothy Barnes Pelote who entered into eternal rest Sunday, January 18, 2015. Mrs. Pelote, often described as a "people's lawmaker", dedicated her life to public service and to her community.

As a native of Lancaster, South Carolina and graduate of Allen University, Mrs. Pelote moved to Savannah, Georgia over 50 years ago where she furthered her education at Savannah State University. In her early career, Mrs. Pelote dedicated more than 30 years of service to teaching in the Savannah Chatham County Public School System.

Mrs. Pelote served in the Georgia General Assembly as a State Representative for the 149th District from 1992 until she retired in 2002. Mrs. Pelote also served as the Eighth District Representative on the Chatham County Board of Commissioners to which she became the first of two women to ever serve on this panel.

Today, it is my privilege to recognize the life of Mrs. Dorothy Pelote. As a teacher, an instrumental leader, and a friend, Mrs. Pelote will forever be remembered.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,128,511,342,681.14. We've added \$7,501,634,293,768.06 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

ROSIE THE RIVETER

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize LaVonne Feichtinger Ostergaard of Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota. She was one of the thousands of women throughout America who served as a "Rosie the Riveter" during World War II when she went to work for 50 cents an hour at the Char-Gale plant in St. Cloud. She operated as a riveter building planes. Her job was riveting the fuselage and wings on the outside of the aircraft for planes designed to carry cargo, personnel, patients and mechanized equipment and to drop cargo and troops by parachute. It was by no means a clean or quiet working environment. Mrs. Ostergaard never won any medals for her service, but I call upon all Members to remember how so many women—from small towns and big cities alike—stepped forward when they heard the call for workers to serve as riveters, buckers, sanders, welders, crane operators, bus drivers, uniform makers, bullet makers, parachute folders, clerical workers, shipyard workers, assembly line workers, Red Cross workers and more.

These women probably never imagined they would answer the call to do this kind of work, but it was a time in our nation's history when everyone needed to pull together with their motto of "We pull better if we pull together." Those who served on the home front are often unrecognized, as after the war, they quietly returned to the routine of raising children, helping on the home farm or the family business.

According to the American Rosie the Riveter Association, of which Mrs. Ostergaard is a member, they came together for one purpose—to help win the war. They built 80,000 landing craft, 100,000 tanks, 300,000 aircraft, 15,000 guns and 41,000,000,000 rounds of ammunition. It was a massive accomplishment and our nation owes these outstanding women our deepest gratitude.

IN RECOGNITION OF HOLLY SCHLESSER OF STREAMWOOD, ILLINOIS

HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to recognize one of my constituents, Holly Schlessler, and her selfless act for a child in need. This past fall Holly donated a piece of her liver to a friend's 8 month old baby, Madison Casey. Holly and Madison's mom, Tanya, are the wives of firefighters in Streamwood, Illinois. Service and sacrifice is a part of their daily lives. Madison was born with a rare genetic disorder that led to liver failure. Thanks to Holly Schlessler's selfless gift she now has real hope of growing up healthy and strong alongside her twin brother. The

Schlesser and Casey families show us the importance of living through our actions.

Their story is also an important reminder about the incredible difference that organ and tissue donors can make. There is a large and heartbreaking gap between the supply and demand for lifesaving organs and tissue. Each day an average of 18 people in the United States in need of transplants die waiting. And without angels like Holly Schlesser, every 10 minutes a new person joins the national transplant waitlist.

In my home state of Illinois, Gift of Hope, which is part of the national organ and tissue donation system, is working hard to address this challenge by educating the public about the need for donors. They're making progress and experienced their second record-setting year in a row in 2014, helping make 1,024 life-saving donations happen through the generosity of 336 organ donors and 1,912 tissue donors. I applaud the more than 5 million Illinoisans who have decided to become organ and tissue donors and encourage other Americans to follow the example set by my neighbors.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT HYATT

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, our nation has a long history of honoring our veterans. Even today, we reserve the highest levels of respect for our fellow Americans who served our country bravely in battle. And while many of us personally know some who served in one, or perhaps, two wars, it's exceedingly rare to find an individual who wore the uniform in three separate wars. In fact, in my home state of Indiana, there are only two such veterans alive.

One of them, Robert Hyatt of Franklin, Indiana, will soon celebrate his 90th birthday. A veteran who served as a medic in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, he recently told a local news station that he'd still be serving in the military today if his health permitted. It's worth noting that along the way, his military service put his health at risk: He was shot in the leg during World War II and stabbed in Korea.

So as he and his family prepare to celebrate his 90th birthday, I wanted to take some time today to wish him well and honor his service to our country. Each of us owes a debt of gratitude to all our veterans, but especially to veterans like Robert Hyatt who answered the call of duty every chance they got.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, February 2 and during the first series

of votes on Tuesday, February 3, 2015, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted:

"YES" on roll call vote No. 51, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 361; "YES" on roll call vote No. 52, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 615; "YES" on roll call vote No. 53, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 623; "NO" on roll call vote No. 54, on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 70; "NO" on roll call vote No. 55, on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 70; and "YES" on roll call vote No. 56, on approving the Journal.

HONORING COLONEL BYRON L. DIAMOND

HON. BRAD ASHFORD

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Byron L. Diamond for his nearly 29 years of military service in the Nebraska Army National Guard and United States Army Reserve. Colonel Diamond was born March 30, 1967 in Belleville, Kansas. He graduated from Columbus High School in Columbus, Nebraska in 1985. Colonel Diamond enlisted as a Private on July 17, 1986 into the Nebraska Army National Guard as a member of Company C, 1/195 Armor Battalion in Fairbury, Nebraska. In order to become a commissioned officer, Colonel Diamond attended Southeast Community College in Lincoln where he received an associate degree of Applied Science—Finance in 1989. Colonel Diamond was then commissioned a Second Lieutenant on July 22, 1989 at the Nebraska National Guard Military Academy.

From there, he continued his education to obtain a bachelor of Professional Studies—Business Administration/Technical Services from Bellevue University at Bellevue, Nebraska in 1992. Later on Colonel Diamond would earn a master of Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College in 2011. Colonel Diamond and his wife, Denise, have two daughters, Emma and Olivia and son, Alexander.

His career included traditional and full-time positions of ever increasing responsibility. Colonel Diamond's career culminated as the G4—Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics in the Nebraska Army National Guard. Colonel Diamond's significant service contributions include key assignments within the 267th (Direct Support) Maintenance Company (command), the 67th Infantry Brigade Forward Support Battalion, the 19th Theater Support Command, the 67th Area Support Group, commander 402nd Military Police Battalion, and Joint Force Headquarters—Nebraska. His key achievements include: serving as the Directorate of Installation Management for the 67th Area Support Group while deployed to Al Asad Air Base; developing plans with the 19th TSC for the defense of South Korea; and the establishment of communications infrastructure to relocate the Nebraska National Guard Headquarters to a new facility.

Colonel Diamond was promoted to his current rank December 13, 2011. Colonel Diamond distinguished himself through his extensive knowledge of logistics and mobilization operations where his mentoring and championing of logistics personnel and processes resulted in Nebraska's numerous regional and national Chief of Staff of the Army, Combined Logistics Excellence Awards. His accomplishments are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and patriotism and have brought great credit upon himself and the country. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize Colonel Byron Diamond for his years of service and sacrifice to our country.

HONORING MR. ROBERT "BOBBY" HICKMAN

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Robert "Bobby" Hickman, to recognize his lifetime of persistently fighting for social change and mentoring the youth of our community over many decades.

Born in St. Paul, Minnesota, Robert was a fourth-generation St. Paulite. His father was a descendant of the founders of Pilgrim Baptist Church and his mother came from a family of educators. Robert recognized the importance of his heritage and the deep rooted community ties that were instilled in him at an early age. Hickman served as a mechanical engineer in the Air Force and returned to St. Paul in the 1960s. It was during this tumultuous time of the civil rights movement that Robert became an activist within his community. In 1968 he founded the Inner City Youth League and served as the Executive Director for the next 20 years.

Robert believed in the importance of empowering and educating youth. The Inner City Youth League taught teenagers art, black history, music, and theater. He would sponsor forums to allow African-American youth to question city officials. He even ran a public television show called "Black Voices" and trained community members in video production.

Robert often came up with creative ways to protest the powers that be in his community. When the city of St. Paul razed houses for urban renewal he created community gardens out of the vacant plots. He advocated employment programs for young African-Americans, pushed for stronger schools, and protested profiling by police. After his work with Inner City Youth he teamed up with the advocacy and social services group The City Inc. in Minneapolis which opened one of the very first alternative schools in Minnesota.

Robert was more than just an activist; he was truly a community leader. He wore many hats throughout his personal and professional life. He was a small business owner and even an occasional actor playing the role of Frederick Douglas in Minnesota's Juneteenth celebrations. He discovered Buddhism and made trips to Kenya and Ghana. Most recently he

worked with the Cultural Wellness Center in Minneapolis with young men, many of whom were referred there by the criminal justice system.

Throughout Robert's life he always continued to overcome divisions between city officials and community members. He was able to overcome cultural, racial, and generational divides to unite people in finding common ground while consistently and persistently supporting the community's black youth.

Robert "Bobby" Hickman passed away on January 28, 2015 at the age of 79. His work to improve and inspire the lives of African-American youth will resonate in the hearts and minds of the community for generations to come. He viewed his life's work as a calling and there is no nobler calling than mentoring and empowering our nation's future.

H.R. 596

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 596, the latest in a series of seemingly never ending attempts by House Republicans to destroy and dismantle the Affordable Care Act. This legislation, which has no chance of becoming law, would be nothing short of catastrophic for the millions of Americans who receive critical benefits and health care coverage under the ACA.

The Affordable Care Act is working. Individuals with preexisting conditions are no longer unfairly kept out of the insurance marketplace. Health care premiums are growing at the slowest rate in nearly a half century. Young adults are able to remain on their parents' health coverage; families can purchase affordable health coverage on the health insurance exchanges; and seniors are receiving real help with their prescription drug costs as we eliminate the Part D donut hole.

Despite these successes, House Republicans are continuing their quixotic pursuit to undermine this law using the same old and discredited arguments they have tried in the past. Instead of outlining a replacement to the ACA, Republicans want to take away comprehensive health coverage from millions of Americans and repeal critical patient protections.

In the last year, I've had many constituents share deeply personal stories of the positive

impact the ACA has had on their lives. Below is one such story from Amy and Mark Adams-Westin of St. Paul, Minnesota.

THE ACA IS WORKING FOR US
(By The Westins)

We've been married since 1995. In the spring of 1997 Amy was diagnosed with stage-two breast cancer. A month earlier, Mark had just gotten group health insurance through his employer. A year, two surgeries, 6 chemo treatments, and a full course of radiation later, Amy was finished with her treatments. It was now time to rebuild; fortunately our finances were spared the catastrophe.

We both have been musicians/composers/performers for all of our lives, with dreams of making our love our profession. After going through this life and death struggle, we decided to honor our gifts and talent and go for it. Of course this meant winding down, then giving up, Mark's day job. When we felt we had enough cushion in the bank, we made the leap.

We applied to our health insurance provider to change our group policy to a private family policy. By this time over 11 years had passed since Amy's breast cancer treatments. Our provider had no problem accepting Mark, but they refused Amy's coverage due to the previous conditions of her breast cancer (which shocked her oncologist), and fall allergies (which shocked us).

Fortunately, Amy got coverage from a Minnesota state mandated program that covered folks refused by private companies. Unfortunately, both our monthly premiums (from \$300 to \$650) and our yearly deductible (from \$300 to \$17,500) skyrocketed. And many of the preventative measures (mammograms, colonoscopies, even flu shots . . .) became part of our deductibles, which we had to pay out of pocket. Somehow we managed to scrape by, but it meant that we often had to choose between seeing our doctors or paying our premiums. Now let me say that we are both non-smokers. Mark does not drink and Amy has an occasional glass of wine. We are mostly vegetarian (Mark is total veg since 1973), and exercise regularly.

As musicians, a great percentage of our work is in independent, assisted living, transitional, and nursing Elder Care facilities. It is an absolute joy to see how important and healing our music can be to so many. We help turn lights on every day. For several years, we struggled from paycheck to paycheck to keep turning those lights on.

On May 1, 2013 Mark turned 62 and began to collect Social Security, which he'd been paying into for almost 50 years. That check covers our housing. In March of 2014 when the ACA took effect, our premiums and deductible were reduced into the affordable range. Also our coverage for preventative measures are now included.

Our response to Social Security and the ACA was "WHEW!" These two programs

have changed our lives, along with the lives of millions of others. We can now continue to live our American dream, while bringing our music to those precious folks who need it the most.

Our health care system was broken and breaking this nation until passage of the ACA. While we weren't among the 40,000,000 plus uncovered men, women, and children, our coverage was strangling our finances.

The ACA, contrary to oft repeated myth, is in fact working and making millions of lives better. We must continue to refine the ACA and health care in America until all of the cracks that hard working folks and their children have been allowed to fall into are filled and the basic cost of healthcare is reduced to sane sustainable levels. To repeal the ACA, which has been the constant threat and "promise" of the opposition, would be to turn back the clock and recreate the void that endangered far too many lives.

Mark and Amy's story is just one of many that I have heard about how the Affordable Care Act is helping to improve Minnesotans' health and economic security. It is time for Congressional Republicans to stop refighting the battles of the past and focus on the challenges facing our communities. I'm looking forward to working with my colleagues—Republicans and Democrats—to enact policies that will benefit middle class families and strengthen our economy.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 24

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of the Interior.

SD-366

FEBRUARY 25

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) reauthorization, focusing on perspectives from owners, operators, and users of the system.

SD-406

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine regional nuclear dynamics.

SR-222

FEBRUARY 26

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Forest Service.

SD-366

MARCH 4

3:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine United States nuclear weapons policy, programs, and strategy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fis-

cal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

MARCH 12

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To receive a closed briefing on missile defense programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SVC-217

MARCH 25

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine ballistic missile defense programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, February 12, 2015

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 12, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable EVAN H. JENKINS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

INTRODUCTION OF A MARIJUANA BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, for more than 70 years our government has followed the most spectacular failure in policy since the disastrous 13-year experiment with the prohibition of alcohol.

Forty-three years ago, the National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse released a report, finding that the Federal ban on marijuana is unjustified and inappropriate. Yet, for most of that time, Federal policy has been frozen in amber.

Countless lives have been ruined for the use of a substance that a majority of Americans think should be legal; untold billions of dollars have been spent on a failed effort at prohibition; and still 25 million adults use it every month.

Despite a finding in Federal law that marijuana is a schedule I controlled substance with no therapeutic value, 213 million Americans live in 34 States and the District of Columbia where

medical marijuana is recognized and legal in some form, and over a million people use it as medicine.

In 1996, voters in California marked a significant change in course when they legalized medical marijuana with a vote of the people, and almost three dozen States have followed. In the fall of 2012, voters in the States of Washington and Colorado approved the adult use of marijuana, and it should be noted that the sky didn't fall, big cracks didn't appear in the Earth, and problems with marijuana didn't get worse. In some instances, they became more manageable.

For the Federal Government, the tide continues to turn. Last session of Congress had six successful votes on the floor of the House to rationalize our foolish policies, including reining in Federal enforcement and opening opportunities for legal industrial hemp cultivation. Last fall, voters in my State of Oregon, looking at the evidence and experience like in Colorado, approved adult use by an even larger margin than in the previous States.

The marijuana reform train has left the station, and it is time for the Federal Government to redouble its efforts on developing policies that work. Congressman JARED POLIS and I will reintroduce this week our legislation to establish a Federal framework to end the failed Federal prohibition.

It will pave the way for States to chart their own course to legalize, tax, and regulate marijuana according to what individual States want to do—just like they do with alcohol. We will save tens of billions of dollars on failed enforcement, incarceration, and lost revenue. We will choke off a profit center for drug cartels that has been enriched by our failed policies, and we will make it easier to enforce laws to keep marijuana out of the hands of our children and have money for government services rather than waste money on failed policy, arresting people for something that a majority of Americans now think should be legal.

For those of us who have worked in this field for years, it is an exciting time. My legislation will deal with the taxation of marijuana, and we look forward to refining it, to being able to have the tax at a proper level to support government services but also reasonable enough to choke off black market supply.

It is time for us to enter a new era of marijuana policy for research, for protecting our children, for economic development and individual liberties. I

strongly urge my colleagues to examine the legislation that we have advanced and be part of this long overdue effort at reform.

STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, back in December, President Obama gave a major speech regarding the United States policy towards Cuba. The President said:

I do not believe we can continue doing the same thing for five decades and expect a different result.

In other words, the President is saying that, when something isn't working, we need to try a new approach.

I wonder if the President and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle agree that we should apply that same standard to our Nation's education policy. As a former member of the Alabama State school board and as the former chancellor of postsecondary education for Alabama, I think it is time for a change.

For the last 50 years, Federal education policy has failed our students, especially our Nation's poor students, who need us the most. Just look at the statistics. Only 38 percent of high school seniors can read at grade level, and just 26 percent are proficient in math. Survey after survey shows that the United States is lagging behind other countries in terms of education.

We clearly need a new approach, and that is why I was proud to support the Student Success Act yesterday in our Committee on Education and the Workforce. For too long, the focus has been on the needs and wishes of Washington special interest groups instead of on the needs of those who matter the most—the students. It is time we change that. Immediately, two glaring flaws come to mind when looking at current policy:

First, our local teachers and administrators are drowning in paperwork and mandates. While only 10 percent of the funding for K–12 education comes from the Federal Government, the Government Accountability Office has found that 41 percent of the paperwork comes from the Federal level. That is unacceptable.

Second, title 1 funds, which are intended to support our Nation's most vulnerable, are picking and choosing winners by forcing money to some schools and by not allowing that

money to others. The money should follow the student. We shouldn't allow students to remain stuck in failing schools. Every child deserves a fair chance.

Mr. Speaker, this top-down, heavy-handed Federal approach to education is not working, and, frankly, it is outdated. It is not the 1960s anymore: there are more than three television networks; we aren't all eating Wonder Bread; our phones aren't rotary phones tied to the wall; and our education system shouldn't be stuck in the sixties either. Instead of focusing on special interest groups, let's turn the focus to students, parents, and local leaders.

While the other side is always quick to point out the D.C. special interest groups, which stand by their failed approach, the Student Success Act is supported by the National School Boards Association, which is made up of more than 90,000 local school board members. These are the very people who are actually dealing with Federal education policy and how it actually works on the ground every day, and they want a new approach. Democrats and Republicans and these local school boards want a new approach.

Our teachers need the flexibility to innovate. That is why the Student Success Act reforms a patchwork of narrowly scoped grant programs and, instead, creates a Local Academic Flexible Grant, which allows local schools to spark innovation and use teaching methods that work best for their students.

During committee debate yesterday, my colleagues on the other side were so committed to these same old, failed education policies that they even defended the universally disliked highly qualified teacher requirement. While I agree we need the best teachers possible in the classroom, who are Federal bureaucrats in Washington to decide what makes you highly qualified? Teachers in southwest Alabama and all across our country agree that the highly qualified teacher provision is simply not effective. Yet my colleagues on the other side and their special interest buddies refuse to give up power and allow us to move in a different direction.

It is time for the Federal Government to get some humility. Washington bureaucrats don't know how to educate our children, but local superintendents, school boards, teachers, and principals do, so let's empower them. It is time we restored local control over education policy and put power in the hands of those who know our students best. Let's put the focus on the student for once, and that is exactly what this act does.

I think the President may be on to something. We shouldn't continue with the same, failed education policy that has failed us for decades. We should get away from this centralized approach to

education, which has failed the students throughout America. Mr. Speaker, the Student Success Act offers that new approach.

I urge the leadership of this House to bring the Student Success Act to the floor for a vote, and let's empower parents and local education leaders. For once, let's put the students first.

LYNCH-JONES RESOLUTION TO DECLASSIFY THE 28 PAGES OF THE 9/11 JOINT CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, almost 14 years after the horrific terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the American public does not yet have all of the information available regarding the circumstances surrounding those attacks on our country, particularly 28 pages of the bipartisan Joint Inquiry into Intelligence Community Activities Before and After the Terrorist Attacks of September 2001, which remain classified.

Since 2013, my colleagues, Congressman WALTER JONES of North Carolina, Congressman MASSIE of Kentucky, and I have been working together to craft and to garner support for H. Res. 14, which calls on the President to release the 28 pages of the 9/11 Joint Congressional Inquiry. I sincerely appreciate Congressman JONES' and Congressman MASSIE's willingness to collaborate on this concerted effort on this issue.

Over the past few weeks, calls to declassify the 28 pages have been in the spotlight due to recent allegations by convicted terrorist Zacarias Moussaoui, who conspired to kill American citizens and who will rightly spend the rest of his life in prison. Whatever the motivations for Mr. Moussaoui's recent accusation of complicity by foreign agents in the 9/11 attacks, his testimony does bring to light important questions. Most notably is the fact that, as a nation, we have not yet fully accounted for the sources of funding and logistical support that enabled al Qaeda to undertake those terrorist attacks.

We owe it to the families who lost loved ones on that tragic day to provide a complete accounting of the events and circumstances leading up to the tragedy of 9/11, and it is a grave injustice that 28 pages of the bipartisan, bicameral congressional inquiry remain classified 14 years after September 11. This was not a mere redaction of a few specific words or phrases but the wholesale excising and removal of a full section, 28 pages in length. It may have been a matter of national security to classify these pages back in 2002, but it is now a matter of public interest and good governance to release them in 2015.

I am in firm agreement with former Senator Bob Graham of Florida, who oversaw the inquiry, with my colleague WALTER JONES of North Carolina, with Mr. MASSIE, and with Members of both parties, who, like myself, have read the 28 pages and believe the disclosure will not jeopardize sources or methods used in gathering this information. I firmly believe that declassifying the findings is appropriate for a number of reasons.

As Thomas Jefferson said:

An enlightened citizenry is indispensable for the proper functioning of a republic, and self-government is not possible unless the citizens are educated sufficiently to enable them to exercise oversight.

In other words, there can be no accountability without transparency. We must advocate for the need to make these pages public in order to shine a brighter light on the information contained therein and utilize it in framing our foreign policy going forward.

In addition, I have met with the spouses, children, siblings, parents of the 9/11 victims as well as with representatives from the 9/11 Families United for Justice Against Terrorism. They have provided powerful testimony and heartrending submissions regarding how important it is to seek the truth and to bring all those to account who were responsible for the 9/11 attacks.

□ 1015

Today, at a time when the world continues to face challenges from expanding terrorist organizations such as ISIS, Jabhat al-Nusra, Boko Haram, and al Shabaab, as well as al Qaeda and its affiliates, we must be mindful of the urgent need to bring their financiers and supporters to justice as well.

At an even more basic level, our commitment to one another as citizens in a society that values freedom and justice demands that we hold accountable those who aided and abetted the savage attacks on our homeland and murdered thousands of innocent Americans.

When that fundamental duty to protect American citizens has been breached, it is not enough to say that we will "never forget." The military and civilian personnel at the Pentagon, the first responders and office workers in the New York office towers, the passengers and crew of those hijacked planes, and all those families whose hearts still ache, we owe it to them.

So I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to not only take the time to review those 28 pages but also consider supporting House Resolution 14, as these families and the American people deserve to have their questions answered.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to start off with a positive note. Just recently, President Obama submitted the Federal budget on time for the first time since 2010. While I appreciate his timeliness, I, and the constituents in my district, don't appreciate, however, his disregard for fiscal responsibility.

The President sent a budget to Congress which starts the fiscal year with our country in the red. What organization starts off the fiscal year by saying they are going to purposefully spend more money than they take in? How many folks around a dinner table actually have their conversation at the start of the year saying, "You know what? I want to start the year broke and I want to end broke." That is what the President's budget does.

The President presented to Congress a \$4 trillion budget, and yes, you heard me right, that is trillion with a T. The proposed budget requests \$4 trillion in spending but only provides—catch this—\$3.5 trillion in revenue. I was not the best math student but I can see a problem here. That leaves the government with a half-trillion-dollar deficit.

Wait. Hold on a second. Let me go back and correct myself. I misspoke. That leaves the U.S. taxpayers with a half-trillion-dollar deficit because, let me remind you, the government makes nothing. Everything we spend comes from right here in my pocket, your pocket, and the pocket of everyone else in this country.

Now, I just checked, and the population of the United States is slightly over 320 million. So every man, woman, and child would have to add an additional \$1,500 onto what they already owe in taxes—to include newborns—in order for this budget to even break even. And that is just for 2016.

The President's budget is a political document that reflects a very different view of fiscal responsibility than most people have.

Let's go through it and discuss the good, the bad, and the ugly of this budget.

First, the good. Now it is true that our national deficit is shrinking. Is it because of the President's policies? No. It is because of the ingenuity and determination of the American people. The private sector is now growing—and has been for a while—even as the administration has attempted to stifle businesses with antigrowth policies like ObamaCare and other regulations that continue to put sand in the gears of American business.

Even in the President's own budget document he cites economic growth as helping accelerate the pace of deficit reduction. He likes to go around the Nation and do speeches on how the deficit has decreased to its lowest level in decades during his Presidency. The inconvenient truth is that he decides to leave out that the biggest drops occur

after 2010, when the Republicans took control of the House of Representatives.

The Republicans were able to garner concessions on reductions in spending. Plus, sequestration entered the fray, which aided in the decrease of federal expenditures. While sequestration is not the budget tool Congress would have hoped for, the President is now trying to capitalize off of this budget negotiation side effect.

President Clinton likes to take credit for the budget surpluses in the nineties, which were a result of the Republicans' Contract with America. Now, President Obama wants to take sole credit for a decrease in the deficit, a reduction in spending that he has had to make do with.

The bad. The President wants to raise taxes on Americans at the worst possible time—as we are emerging from the financial crisis. President Obama's tax proposals target job creators and the middle class. One such proposal was so egregious that even the Democrats said, We can't go along with this.

The President had a tax proposal to cut tax benefits on college savings plans. The 529 college plans are a means by which close to 12 million families save for college, many of them middle class Americans. That comes at a time when student loan debt is approaching a trillion dollars.

Hidden deep in Obama's budget is a student loan program that recently has been discovered to have a \$21.8 billion shortfall. His plan to subsidize student loans has now created a loss equal to the annual budgets of the Department of the Interior, EPA, and NASA.

The ugly. In President Obama's budget he discusses that by 2025 the Federal debt will have reached 73.3 percent of GDP. That is almost three-fourths of our Nation's collective wealth. The President defines the country's \$18 trillion debt as being fiscally sustainable.

For him, 73 percent of our GDP is acceptable:

The key test of fiscal sustainability is whether debt is stable . . . as a share of the economy, resulting in interest payments that consume a stable . . . share of the Nation's resources.

Figure that one out.

The most disheartening part is the President's numbers are incorrect. The Congressional Budget Office, a non-partisan analytical wing of Congress, has stated that by 2025, the Federal debt will actually rise to nearly 79 percent of GDP, when the Federal debt would be \$26.3 trillion. CBO states that our debt is currently 74 percent of GDP.

The question you are asking now is: What is causing this increase in government spending? I bet you know the answer but I am going to tell you anyway. The CBO lists many factors, all of which are contributing to a bust in our Federal spending.

With that, this budget is another example of what does not need to be.

REMEMBERING JIMMIE LEE JACKSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate the life and legacy of Jimmie Lee Jackson.

Jimmie Lee Jackson was one of the foot soldiers who died to ensure that all Americans have the fundamental right to vote.

This 26-year-old Marion, Alabama, native was brutally killed at the hands of an Alabama State trooper on February 18, 1965, after attending a voting rights rally while trying to protect his mother and his 82-year-old grandfather.

The State trooper confronted the family at Mack's Cafe in Marion and shot Jimmie Lee Jackson at gunpoint range for simply shielding his family from the intimidation and retributions being carried out by law enforcement.

And to think that this occurred because of the audacity of this young man and his family to peacefully protest for their constitutional rights, which led to his brutal murder at the hands of law enforcement.

It was the senseless murder of Jimmie Lee Jackson that served as a catalyst for the voting rights movement in Selma, Alabama. Jimmie Lee Jackson deserves to have his proper place in American history as a true agent of change.

Likewise, the city of Marion is, rightly, the starting point of the historic road to voter equality that led marchers from Selma to Montgomery. I have sponsored efforts and look forward to the National Park Service adding the city of Marion to the historic trail from Selma to Montgomery.

The senseless killing of Jimmie Lee Jackson shocked the consciousness of the American public and galvanized local leaders to be even more resolved in their fight against the inequalities in voting.

Who was to blame for the death of Jimmie Lee Jackson? Dr. Martin Luther King professed, as he eulogized Jimmie Lee Jackson at his funeral, we are all to blame for his murder. Dr. King said it best:

A State trooper pointed the gun, but he did not act alone. He was murdered by the brutality of every sheriff who practices lawlessness in the name of law.

He was murdered by the irresponsibility of every politician, from Governors on down, who has fed his constituent the stale bread of hatred and the spoiled meat of racism.

He was murdered by the timidity of a Federal Government that would spend millions of dollars a day to keep troops in South Vietnam and cannot protect the rights of its own citizens seeking the right to vote.

He was murdered by the cowardice of every Negro who passively accepts the evils of segregation and stands on the sidelines in the struggle for justice.

Justice should be blind, Mr. Speaker, but in many cases it is not. Everyone knew who killed Jimmie Lee Jackson, but it wasn't until 40 years later, when Michael Jackson, Dallas County's first Black district attorney, reopened the investigation, that the wheels of justice slowly began to turn.

Yesterday, this august body unanimously passed H.R. 431, a bill that would award a Congressional Gold Medal to the foot soldiers who participated in Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday, or the final march from Selma to Montgomery. It is past due, Mr. Speaker, that these brave men and women take their proper place as agents of change in American history.

While Jimmie Lee Jackson did not live to participate in the march from Selma to Montgomery, he was there in spirit. It was his spirit that gave strength to the weak, that gave courage to the scared, and that gave hope to the hopeless.

To his family, I say this Nation owes his family a debt of gratitude which we can never repay. My hope is that this national recognition of the significance of the death of Jimmie Lee Jackson will spur a renewed commitment in all of us to continue to fight for justice and equality for all.

We, the beneficiaries of that struggle, must continue his fight. We must continue to stand together. We must continue to be united in the fight for justice everywhere it is needed. Jimmie Lee Jackson did not stand on the sidelines waiting patiently for justice to come, nor should we.

Dr. King once said:

If you can't fly, then run. If you can't run, then walk. If you can't walk, then crawl. But whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward.

We must continue to stand together because our greatest and biggest fights are yet to come. We still need Federal oversight to ensure that every eligible voter in these United States is able to cast their ballot and that every vote matters.

Jimmie Lee Jackson recognized the importance of the vote. He recognized the power of the ballot box. We owe it to ourselves and to the memory of Jimmie Lee Jackson to continue his fight.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRE-K

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I come here today to the House floor to address an extremely important and timely topic for our Nation: investing in high-quality pre-K education. It is really imperative to the success of our children, schools, and communities.

Two years ago, in this Chamber, President Obama laid out his plan to provide universal high-quality pre-K

for every child in America. Why did the President propose such a bold and audacious plan for our country? It is really simple. It has been proven that children who participate in high-quality prekindergarten programs are more likely to have greater academic and life achievements down the road.

The benefits of a high-quality pre-K education include increased eagerness and preparedness to learn; higher reading, writing, and mathematics scores; and increased cognitive and social abilities. Access to quality pre-K is a much better predictor of achievement than race, family income, or parents' education.

Research has demonstrated that access to prekindergarten programs have substantial long-term benefits. Children that have attended prekindergarten are 20 percent more likely to graduate from high school and 22 percent more likely to own a home. Additionally, these individuals are more likely to be employed and less likely to commit violent crimes.

I have to tell you, Mr. Speaker, one of the things that saddens me the most about my home State of Texas is that we are leaving a lot of really bright young people behind.

□ 1030

Nearly 550,000 preschool-aged children in Texas do not attend any type of pre-K program, despite what I laid out earlier about less likely to commit violent crimes, more likely to own homes. You would think it would be a no-brainer and we would be committing more towards pre-K education.

Leaving behind this many children, 550,000—over half a million—really does pose a serious, long-term economic effect to our great State and is something that needs to be addressed. It is apparent that high-level prekindergarten education produces individuals that are more prosperous and more likely to contribute to society in a positive way.

To help States like my own boost their pre-K education programs, President Obama and the Department of Education delivered on his State of the Union Address, and they released Preschool Development Grants. These grants will help expand high-quality preschool programs in targeted communities.

When the announcements were made in December—again, I have got to tell you, we do a lot of great things in Texas, and we often do it bigger and better—but I was really disappointed, Mr. Speaker, to learn that our State had lost out on \$120 million of this grant funding to invest in our children and really, ultimately, our future—\$120 million that the great State of Texas lost out on, over half a million kids being left behind. This was really a sad day in the Lone Star State.

This money would have been used to improve pre-K education and expand

access to children in low-income communities who need these services the most, and losing out on this money should really be a wake-up call to Texas and the policymakers there, that we must create a plan to improve our pre-K system.

Texas failed to meet even the minimum requirements of this application to provide at least a 50 percent increase in preschool slots available, and that is just really unacceptable.

My State needs a comprehensive pre-K plan that works to increase access to high-quality programs, set higher learning standards, improve curriculum, and increase teacher training. All those really are very, very important keys.

The failure to invest in our young children is a failure to invest in our future. Here in Congress and back home, I intend to work tirelessly to provide for the best education system that our Nation can provide.

But there are some bright spots. I talked about how the State, because of the failed application policy that was just really handled poorly, how we lost out on \$120 million and over half a million kids are suffering because of that, but I do think that it is important that I point out some of the positives.

There has been some bipartisan work along these efforts on pre-K, and I do want to thank one of my former colleagues in the State legislature, State Representative Eric Johnson of Dallas, and a lady that I did not serve with out of Georgetown, Texas—near Austin—Marsha Farney of Georgetown, to not only increase pre-K funding by \$300 million, but also improve curriculum, teacher training, and lower student-teacher ratios.

In this global economy that we live in today and tomorrow, students won't be competing for jobs in the workplace with neighboring States but will be competing with kids and students from all over the world.

Mr. Speaker, let's do this for Texas. Let's do the right thing. Let's help these children.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 33 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Dear God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask Your special blessing upon the Members of this people's House. They face difficult decisions in difficult times, with many forces and interests demanding their attention.

In these days, give wisdom to all the Members, especially as they consider the most serious matter of engaging in military activity. Bless as well those who inform them of the issues with honest frankness, knowing of the dangers implied and so many uncertain consequences.

Bless the men and women of this Chamber, O God, and be with them and with us all this day and every day to come. May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

OBAMACARE DATA SECURITY

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, last week, more than 80 million Americans lost personal information when health insurer Anthem was hacked. Almost immediately, Anthem customers started to receive suspicious email messages trying to con them.

Anthem, Target, Home Depot, Sony—the list goes on and on of major hacks in the last year. In many of these cases, those who had their information stolen did not receive notice of the compromise promptly—the best way for them to protect themselves.

Because of ObamaCare, Federal and State governments now host a massive trove of private information. In hearing after hearing last year, we heard

about the vulnerabilities of these systems.

In order to protect consumers, the House passed my Health Exchange Security and Transparency Act, which would require the government to inform consumers of a breach within 2 days. This bill passed with an overwhelming veto-proof majority but went nowhere in HARRY REID's Senate.

I have now reintroduced this bill, a commonsense measure to protect consumers if ObamaCare is the next major target for hackers. Maybe this year the Senate will act.

FUND DHS

(Mr. SCHIFF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in urging the Republican leadership to advance bipartisan legislation that will keep the American people safe by continuing to fund the Department of Homeland Security.

On behalf of the dedicated men and women at the Department of Homeland Security—those who screen passengers traveling into and out of the country, those who ensure that our borders and shores are protected, and those who enforce the deportation of dangerous criminals—let's put aside partisan politics and come together on one thing we can all agree on: to prioritize the safety and security of the American people.

As the tragedies of recent events abroad have demonstrated, we can ill-afford another day of inaction by this Congress. The clock is running out. Sixteen days. Let's do our job. The American people expect better and they deserve better. Let's vote on a clean spending bill today.

UNSUSTAINABLE DEBT UNDER PRESIDENT OBAMA

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in July 2008, then-Senator Barack Obama said that President Bush adding to the national debt was "irresponsible" and "unpatriotic." In February 2009, President Obama warned congressional leaders that the rate of government spending was unsustainable and pledged to cut the deficit.

Clearly, his words did not translate into actions. The deficit has tripled since President Obama took office. Now, the President's recent budget last week provides for \$8.5 trillion in new debt and does not ever balance. Republicans, led by Chairman PAUL RYAN, will produce a positive budget which balances.

The current rate of government spending is putting America's youth at risk with skyrocketing interest payments. I will keep working to promote policies that reduce our debt, cut wasteful spending, and create jobs while maintaining vital defense funding to promote peace.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

FUND DHS

(Mr. ISRAEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I want to start by reading a quote from today's Politico:

A faction of House and Senate conservatives is pushing Republican leaders to take the battle over the Homeland Security Department to the brink, arguing the party would win the public relations war with Democrats if a standoff over immigration led to a shutdown of the agency.

A public relations war. This is about the war on terror. In 16 days, the people who protect us from that war will lose their jobs or have to work without pay. We are 16 days away from a shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security and instead of planning how to protect us from our enemies, DHS is preparing contingency budgets in case this Republican Congress decides to shut them down.

To protect themselves from their political base in a fight on immigration, Republicans are willing to disrupt the protection of the American people in our communities, at our airports, our ports, and our borders.

Mr. Speaker, the bad guys have to be watching this and saying: Are you serious?

We should be serious about our homeland security and our economic security.

REMEMBERING DEAN SMITH

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, on February 7, the State of North Carolina lost a legend both on and off the court when former University of North Carolina basketball coach Dean Smith passed away.

During his 36-year tenure as head coach, Smith led the Tar Heels to 879 wins and 13 ACC tournament championships. His teams reached the Final Four 11 times and won two national titles. He also coached the U.S. men's basketball team to an Olympic Gold Medal in 1976.

But Smith was more than just a college basketball icon. He was a deeply

religious man who placed a strong emphasis on education. More than 96 percent of his players received their degrees. An unwavering supporter of civil rights, he recruited the first Black scholarship athlete at UNC.

While he never sought accolades for his actions, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which is the Nation's highest civilian honor, in 2013.

Coach Smith was a remarkable man, and North Carolina was lucky to call him one of our own.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT

(Ms. BROWNLEY of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I am so honored to serve a second term as ranking member of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to help Ventura County's veterans and veterans across America access VA health care and benefits and to break down bureaucratic barriers to care at the VA.

There is no commitment I take more seriously than to the men and women who have served our country. That is why I introduced the Veterans Health Care Improvement Act as my first bill in the 114th Congress. My bill would help guarantee adequate resources for veterans health care benefits by requiring the GAO to continue verifying the accuracy and adequacy of the VA's budget for medical care.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation with me.

REMEMBERING PRESIDENT LINCOLN

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the birthday of a man whose name is synonymous with my home State of Illinois, the Land of Lincoln. It is the time of year when we remember the great deeds of our Presidents and their important actions in times of crisis.

President Lincoln knew crisis. Generations note his firm resolve in the face of a "House divided against itself"; his faithfulness in serving a country when half of it was bent and betting on his failure; and his growing faith in the "gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us."

Our Nation was on the verge of collapse, but he never wavered, he never tired, he never backed down from the challenge. He challenges us to rise to the "great tasks" before us and meet them head on.

GOP DHS TANTRUM

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on my Republican colleagues to not let their immigration reform politics weaken border security, paralyze our ports, and shut down the Department of Homeland Security created in the wake of 9/11.

If we do not pass a clean funding bill, more than 20 percent of FEMA personnel will be furloughed, crippling our ability to respond to disasters; management and support of our entire homeland security infrastructure would shut down; and essential personnel would be forced to work without pay.

That is 40,000 Border Patrol agents and Customs officers risking their lives for free because of a political stunt. That is 50,000 TSA screeners who guard our nationwide travel, keeping the USA safe, yet going without pay because the Republican leadership is putting politics ahead of security. And it is more than 40,000 Active Duty Coast Guard officers standing guard on our shores, proudly serving a country whose political leaders don't seem to care if they get paid for their sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, the stakes are too high. The risk is too real. Republicans need to stop their anti-immigrant tantrum and end this dangerous game. Pass a clean DHS funding bill today to protect our great Nation.

A "NO" VOTE ON PRESIDENT'S AUTHORIZATION REQUEST

(Mr. MCCLINTOCK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, when we send our soldiers into harm's way, we have a solemn obligation to back them with the full might and resources that our country can muster and to give them the widest possible latitude for action. MacArthur was right:

In war, there is no substitute for victory.

The President proposes something very different: war by half measure; war on the cheap; war with dangerous restrictions on our troops; war with no clear objective other than to pull out in 3 years.

I will not vote for the authorization that the President has requested. Given his obvious irresolution, I think the best immediate course for the United States is to assure that the regional powers currently engaged against the Islamic State have the material support they require.

DHS SPENDING BILL

(Mr. SARBANES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the Republican leadership to bring a clean funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security to this floor.

The Department of Homeland Security provides vital programs and services that ensure the American public's safety. This Congress must also ensure that DHS has adequate funding to continue its important and effective work protecting our borders, our ports, our aviation systems, and all of our communities across the country. Without funding, DHS will be forced to shut down critical counterterrorism and natural disaster programs that safeguard millions of Americans.

It is the height of irresponsibility for Republicans to hold DHS funding hostage for the sole purpose—and the dangerous purpose—of partisan politics. Instead of putting forth a clean DHS funding bill, Republicans put forward legislation that is littered with unrelated policy riders.

We all agree that withholding funding for DHS is bad for our Nation's safety and security, so let's pass a clean DHS funding bill and debate these separate issues on their own merits. It is time for the House to pass a clean DHS funding proposal and stop playing games with the safety and the security of the American people.

□ 1215

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CORPORAL C.G. BOLDEN

(Mr. HILL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of U.S. Army Corporal C.G. Bolden, a Clinton, Arkansas, native and veteran of the Korean conflict.

In January 1951, Corporal Bolden was taken prisoner of war in Korea; and at that time, his wife, Geraldine, and 3-year-old son, Larry, were notified that he was missing in action. Tragically, that same year, Corporal Bolden died of malnutrition under horrific conditions in a North Korean POW camp.

In 1993, his remains were among those returned to the United States, and through innovative DNA testing, scientists at the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command identified Corporal Bolden's remains and determined his cause of death.

On February 21, after decades of unanswered questions, Corporal Bolden will be laid to rest in his hometown of Clinton, Arkansas, and I am honored to join his family to remember him and welcome him home.

Corporal Bolden gave the ultimate sacrifice for his country, and his life is an example for all Americans and all

Arkansans. I thank him and his family for their service and their sacrifice.

REPUBLICANS ARE PLAYING A DANGEROUS GAME OF CHICKEN WITH AMERICA'S SECURITY

(Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, 16 days—House Republicans are playing a dangerous game of chicken with America's security, threatening to shut down the Department of Homeland Security unless we give in to their extreme demands on immigration; threatening to force DHS employees on the front lines who keep us safe—people in the Border Patrol, TSA, the Coast Guard—to go to work and risk their lives while they are not getting paid; threatening to furlough DHS workers who support the frontline folks by training new agents, purchasing new equipment, and collecting intelligence.

Republicans are wasting our time on an unnecessary and dangerous showdown when they should be focusing on economic growth, creating new jobs, and increasing hardworking Americans' paychecks, so that we can preserve and expand the middle class in this country.

I call on my colleagues in the Republican Party to abandon these unacceptable tactics, pass a clean DHS funding bill for the remainder of 2015, and start focusing on creating new jobs and increasing Americans' paychecks.

AMERICA'S SMALL BUSINESS TAX RELIEF ACT

(Mr. STUTZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, workers and small businesses all across the country have suffered greatly in Obama's economy. Over 90 million people are not participating in our workforce, and wages have remained stagnant, creating a squeeze on the middle class.

Expanding the size of government by raising taxes and increasing regulations will not help America recover; instead, working Americans are counting on us to make it easier and not harder to find opportunities so that they can earn a steady paycheck and provide for their families.

I ask my colleagues to support America's Small Business Tax Relief Act, legislation that the House will vote on tomorrow, sponsored by Congressman TIBERI. I know, from traveling my district in Indiana, that small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and this bill will allow job creators to deduct expenses and investments for new

equipment the year that they are purchased, making it easier for businesses to grow.

This legislation could help produce tens of thousands of jobs and add billions of dollars in economic output.

Tomorrow, let's stand for common sense and pass a bill that will help kick-start our economy and make it easier for small businesses and workers to succeed.

THE RECKLESS AND IRRESPONSIBLE LEGISLATIVE JOYRIDE

(Mr. JEFFRIES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, in 16 days, House Republicans are prepared to shut down the Department of Homeland Security.

Once again, you are taking the American people on a reckless and irresponsible legislative joyride that is destined to crash and burn. You are taking the American people on a collision course that will damage the safety and security of the American people at a time when terrorists all across the world are determined to do us harm.

Why would you contemplate shutting down the Department of Homeland Security at this time—or at any time—simply in order to satisfy the extreme rightwing of your party?

The American people want us to focus on bigger paychecks, they want us to focus on good-paying jobs, they want us to focus on strengthening the middle class, but you are determined to shut down the Department of Homeland Security. It is reckless and irresponsible.

Let's get back to doing the business of the American people.

END SEQUESTRATION

(Mr. RIGELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, this Congress must address the defense sequester with the urgency that is warranted. Our men and women in uniform are fighting bravely around the world, and they depend on the certainty of knowing that they have got everything they need to accomplish their mission.

The way to achieve that certainty is made increasingly difficult because of sequestration and the indiscriminate cuts that are affecting our men and women in uniform. I respectfully remind my colleagues today that as we start this budget and appropriations process, that we have the opportunity to replace sequestration in the months ahead.

Last year, House Republicans passed not only a budget in a timely manner, but we incorporated increased defense

spending to ease the burden of sequestration.

Regardless of which side of the aisle we are on today, we all have a deep obligation to pass on the blessings of liberty and freedom to future generations. In order to accomplish that, we can no longer allow Federal budget policy to be dictated by a process that neither side intended to go into effect.

I encourage my colleagues to make ending sequestration the top priority in the 114th Congress.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY SHUTDOWN THREAT

(Ms. JUDY CHU of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, national security—protecting our Nation's borders, airports, and computer networks—should be a priority.

Making sure the Department of Homeland Security, created with bipartisan support in the wake of September 11, has what it needs to protect our Nation from terrorism and other threats is a no-brainer, but the Republicans are jeopardizing all of that just for the opportunity to tell millions of hardworking, aspiring Americans that they are not welcome here.

This tactic of "my way or no way" is dangerous and serves the interests of a few at the expense of the many. Holding our top national security agenda hostage because the Republican majority is unhappy with the President's executive action on immigration is illogical and counterproductive.

In fact, former DHS Secretaries from both parties have warned that this approach will actually weaken—not strengthen—our borders.

The American people deserve better. They expect us to set partisan politics aside and ensure that government has the resources it needs. I urge my colleagues to listen to the needs of the American people and bring a clean DHS funding bill to the floor.

WHY MARRIAGE MATTERS

(Mrs. HARTZLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of National Marriage Week. It is an honor to promote an institution that has been the cornerstone of society for centuries, and I am blessed to celebrate this week with my husband of 30 years, Lowell Hartzler.

When a man and woman join together in holy matrimony, they are not only starting a life together and creating a family, they are also establishing the foundation of a healthy society.

Researchers document many benefits to marriage: better health, greater personal happiness, enhanced financial

stability, and positive impacts for children. Boys and girls raised at home by a mom and dad perform better in school, have less addictions, experience lower rates of teen pregnancy, and see less trouble with the law.

At a time when some question the future of marriage, I think it is wise to reflect on the unique benefits the intact, married family provides. Social science clearly tells us that marriage leads to greater wealth, health, longevity, and happiness. It is something to aspire to, to treasure, and to fight for.

Not only does society benefit but, most importantly, so do the men and women who commit to a lifetime of love, laughter, faithfulness, and future generations.

FUNDING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

(Mr. GALLEGRO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GALLEGRO. Mr. Speaker, there are only 16 days left until the Department of Homeland Security runs out of money. How did we find ourselves in this situation?

Unfortunately, my Republican colleagues decided to play political games with our national security. They decided to pass a DHS funding bill they knew the Senate would not approve and the President would not sign. They decided deporting DREAMers and the parents of American children was more important than funding the Department that helps protect the American people.

Thankfully, there is an easy solution to this manufactured crisis. The Republican leadership could bring up a clean bill this afternoon, and it would pass with strong bipartisan support.

Mr. Speaker, our most critical responsibility as Members of Congress is to ensure that the men and women charged with protecting our Nation have the resources to do their jobs.

It is time for the Republican leadership to stop playing games and start living up to this basic obligation by bringing a clean DHS funding bill to the floor.

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

(Mr. DOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise as a son, a husband, a father of two daughters, a brother of three sisters, and I am proud to stand with 1 Billion Rising Lake County to end violence against women and girls everywhere.

One woman in three will be abused in her lifetime, totaling 1 billion across our globe. Mr. Speaker, 1 Billion Rising

gives mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, neighbors, and friends who have suffered from abuse the opportunity to be heard and to join a supportive community.

Together, we must be the voice of those who cannot speak up and to take action to help those who are asking for help. We must take the lead on this issue and set an example for the world, ensuring that women everywhere can live and thrive without fear of becoming a victim of violence.

I am committed to taking action to stop abuse, no matter what form it takes, and I ask everyone to join me and rise with 1 Billion Rising to stand strong against these disturbing crimes.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, last week, America got some great economic news. Businesses added over 267,000 jobs in January, extending the longest streak on record of consecutive private sector job growth to 59 months.

We also set another record when the House, led by the Republicans, voted for the 56th time to repeal the Affordable Health Care Act.

Our economy added 3 million private sector jobs in the last 12 months, including over a million jobs in the last 3 months alone; yet instead of capitalizing on this success in order to help grow the middle class and add more jobs, the majority just continues to vote to take away health care.

Enough is enough. Thanks to President Obama and the Democrats, this economy has recovered from the worst recession on record. As you can see, the blue shows when President Obama took office, and then we grew out of the loss of jobs and have been gaining jobs.

□ 1230

HONORING MIKE COLLINS

(Mr. LATTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of Mike Collins.

Mike Collins epitomized what a true public servant is. Mike was a marine, a city councilman, mayor, police officer, and he epitomized that public service of never putting yourself above the people you represent. He always put the people he represented first. With his passing, northwest Ohio has lost a great leader.

Mr. Speaker, with his funeral today, I want to extend my deepest sympathies to his wife, his daughters, and his family.

FUNDING THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on the importance of funding the Department of Homeland Security. Playing partisan politics with DHS for ransom because you are unhappy with the President's executive order on immigration is inappropriate.

There are only 16 days—more importantly, there are only 6 legislative days—remaining before the Department of Homeland Security runs out of money. This is America's security at stake.

The events in Paris recently showed us that terrorism remains a threat around the world. It is also a domestic threat.

Why in the world would we want to put American citizens at risk, in harm's way?

Yet the majority seems to be content to risk our national security by defunding Homeland Security. It is either my way or the highway. The opposition insists that Congress dismantle the administration's immigration priorities, but they have yet to offer or bring a solution to the floor to fix our broken immigration system. If you have a better approach, then bring it to the floor for debate and we will vote on it.

In the valley that I represent, the San Joaquin Valley, this bill would have a devastating effect on farmworkers, farmers, and farming communities.

I ask us to come together. Let's fund Homeland Security and put the American people first.

RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY AS NATIONAL CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise as cochair of the bipartisan Congressional Career and Technical Education Caucus in order to recognize February as National Career and Technical Education Month.

With my friend and cochair, JIM LANGEVIN of Rhode Island, the CTE Caucus remains focused on ensuring individuals have access to high-quality career and technical education programs.

In the previous Congress, a bipartisan CTE Caucus was successful in highlighting the need for robust funding for the Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. As we begin working on funding for fiscal year 2016, again our priority will be focused on ensuring adequate funding for CTE programming across the country.

Now, more than ever, our young people need assurances that the skills that they attain will lead to good-paying, family-sustaining jobs. CTE programming can make those assurances.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate National Career and Technical Education Month, I encourage all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join us as members of the bipartisan Career and Technical Education Caucus.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my good friend and colleague, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, in recognition of Career and Technical Education Month. As cochair of the Congressional CTE Caucus, we are absolutely committed to ensuring that every student has the ability to achieve his or her career goals.

Mr. Speaker, it is long past time to reauthorize the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. I certainly look forward to working with all my colleagues on this important legislation.

This year the CTE Caucus will also focus on expanding apprenticeships and employer-educator partnerships, as well as helping school counselors to provide students the information necessary to make informed career decisions.

To that end, I encourage all of my colleagues to join us on the Congressional CTE Caucus and also to cosponsor the bipartisan Counseling for Career Choice Act that we will introduce later this month that will ensure that school counselors have all the job training information that they need to understand in order to advise their students about the good-paying jobs that will be available to them in the future.

I want to thank, again, my good friend and colleague, Mr. THOMPSON from Pennsylvania, for being such a strong partner on these issues.

COURT REPORTING AND CAPTIONING WEEK

(Mr. GUINTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the hundreds of court reporters and captioners in the Granite State and around the country as we prepare to celebrate National Court Reporting and Captioning Week next week.

Since the beginning of our Nation's history, beginning with the scribes during the Continental Congress and the drafting of our Declaration of Inde-

pendence and Constitution, the act of transcribing events and important documents has always been a pillar of our democracy.

In fact, after their high school graduations, my own parents met at court reporting school and later went on to start their own court reporting business. Fifty years later, my mother still is in the business.

Court reporters are ever present right now in this very Chamber, in committee hearings, in capturing the spoken word and debate between Members of Congress, including Michele York, formerly of Candia, New Hampshire.

The court reporting and captioning industry continues to grow, estimating 5,000 new jobs over the next several years. To the hundreds of court reporters and captioners in New Hampshire and around the country, thank you for all you do. And to the future reporters and captioners, thank you for continuing a legacy so paramount to our democracy and our country.

FUNDING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, there are 16 calendar days and only 6 legislative days until the Department of Homeland Security shuts down on February 28. Let me repeat that. The Department charged with keeping America safe is set to run out of funding in just 2 weeks, all because the Republican majority insists on pandering to anti-immigrant extremists in their party. In fact, when asked if they were going to take up a new DHS funding bill, the Republican response was: Well, why do we have to?

Well, to my brazen colleagues across the aisle who refuse to govern, here is why: because keeping American families safe should be the first responsibility of this Congress. At a time of increased threats around the world, holding the country's national security hostage for the sake of a partisan stunt is the height of irresponsibility. Without funding, DHS would be unable to manage and support the homeland security infrastructure that was built following the 9/11 terrorist attacks to keep our country safe.

Mr. Speaker, this is not leadership. The American people deserve much better than this. We must continue funding the Department of Homeland Security immediately.

HONORING LOLIS EDWARD ELIE

(Mr. RICHMOND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Lolis Edward Elie,

one of the Nation's preeminent civil rights attorneys.

Elie, a native of New Orleans, attended Howard University, Dillard University, and later earned his J.D. from Loyola Law School. Following graduation, Elie started the law firm of Collins, Douglas, and Elie, which became the most noteworthy firm in Louisiana for racial equality.

In 1960, the New Orleans chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality, or CORE, asked Elie and his firm to represent them following a sit-in. Elie and his firm defended CORE chapter president Rudy Lombard and three others who were arrested for staging a sit-in protest at the lunch counter of the McCrory five-and-ten-cent store. They appealed the case to the United States Supreme Court, which, in its decision, declared the city's ban on sit-ins unconstitutional. Later in his career, Elie was one of seven supporters of the Freedom Riders who met with Attorney General Robert Kennedy in 1961 when Kennedy encouraged them to shift their efforts to registering Black Southerners to vote.

His son, Lolis Eric Elie, is a prominent writer and filmmaker.

Lolis, Sr., still calls New Orleans home and mentors the younger generation through his training program for new Black attorneys. Through Lolis Elie's example, many young Black men and women are able to achieve much more than they ever thought possible, myself included.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 12, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 12, 2015 at 9:09 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 295.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 644, FIGHTING HUNGER INCENTIVE ACT OF 2015, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 636, AMERICA'S SMALL BUSINESS TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2015

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 101 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 101

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 644) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-5 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) 90 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 636) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-6 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) 90 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

Mr. COLE. On Tuesday, the Committee on Rules met and reported a rule for consideration of two important pieces of tax legislation, H.R. 644 and H.R. 636.

The resolution provides a closed rule for consideration of each bill and pro-

vides for 90 minutes of debate equally divided between the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Ways and Means on each bill. In addition, the rule provides for a motion to recommit on each bill.

Mr. Speaker, most of my colleagues will remember the House's consideration of H.R. 5771, the Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2014, in December of last year. At that time, more than 50 individual tax extenders were retroactively extended for the 2014 tax year, giving businesses just 12 days to make complicated investment decisions. That is no way to run a business.

Every time I am at home I hear from Oklahomans who either work for or own small businesses. Without fail, they tell me that certainty is what they need most from Washington. But too often Washington tells Americans who operate and work in small businesses to "trust us." We promise to extend X or Y or Z tax provision indefinitely.

Unfortunately, those Americans can't take that to the bank. They can't take our word that we will actually be able to deliver on the promises made by Congress. The only thing they can rely on is the law. If our tax laws expire every year, it injects an uncertainty into the business environment that inhibits economic growth.

Even though we were able to retroactively extend those tax provisions at the end of last year, they are already expired again. Instead of continuing this cycle of uncertainty, it is important to put these tax cuts in place early so that we don't end up in a situation like we did last year.

I applaud Chairman RYAN for beginning early with provisions we all agree on.

□ 1245

This rule will provide for consideration of permanent extension of seven different tax provisions, provisions like section 179 expensing and provisions like extending the deduction of IRA distributions to charities. All of us, Republicans and Democrats, have supported these measures in the past, at least on a temporary basis. These are tax provisions that we retroactively extended less than 2 months ago. Why shouldn't we make these popular tax provisions permanent and do it now, not retroactively late in the year?

Mr. Speaker, some have criticized this legislation because it "isn't paid for." I think Chairman RYAN said it best in the Rules Committee on Tuesday. These are provisions of the Tax Code which we routinely extend, year after year. They are effectively part of the existing Tax Code. Permanently reauthorizing them reflects the policy this country has maintained for years, under both Republican and Democratic administrations and Congress. And doing so provides business with the certainty that they desperately seek.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to take a few moments to note that just as we have had to examine and pare back the discretionary side of the budget, we need to examine and pare back the tax side of the budget. There are over 200 tax expenditures—or spending on the "tax side" of the ledger—that, if all are extended, will cost the Federal Government more than \$12 trillion over the next 10 years. Many of these provisions are worthy, but many others should clearly be eliminated. The sheer complexity of the Tax Code and associated regulations should push us towards reforms so that our Tax Code works for us all in the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Chairman RYAN for beginning this process in earnest and look forward to the consideration of additional measures at the appropriate time.

I urge support for the rule and the underlying legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today we are considering two pieces of tax legislation under closed rules. These mark our 10th and 11th closed rules in the first 6 weeks of the 114th Congress. Sadly, this has become the standard operating procedure in the Republican House.

In 2011, when Republicans took the majority, Speaker BOEHNER promised "the right to a robust debate in open process." He promised many open rules. Instead, we have just ended the most closed Congress in history. And if these past 6 weeks are any indication of where we are headed, this leadership seems intent on breaking its own record for denying open debate on the House floor.

I also want to point out that the Department of Homeland Security runs out of money February 28, 16 days from now. Press reports indicate that the Republican leadership is scrambling to gather the votes necessary to pass a bill.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I have some advice for my friends in the majority. Instead of yelling, instead of pouting and swearing, bring to the floor a clean Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill, the bipartisan negotiated compromise that has been ready to go since last November. This is a bill that could and should be sent to the President as quickly as possible, especially considering the international and national homeland security situation facing the U.S. and the world at this very, very moment.

So I have to say that I am a little perplexed as to why the majority has chosen this week to bring to the floor a package of tax breaks that are not paid for, that are going nowhere, 5 legislative days before the Department of

Homeland Security is going to be forced to shut down because of Republican dithering.

And I say going nowhere because Senate Republicans have said quite clearly that these bills will not likely be considered in committee or by the full Senate. Let me repeat that. These bills are going nowhere because of the Republicans in the Senate. They have made it pretty clear.

So the clock is ticking on funding our Homeland Security programs, Mr. Speaker. Are the Republican leaders planning to let the clock run out, planning to create another crisis?

We should be debating a clean Department of Homeland Security bill right now. We ought to vote in a bipartisan way to pass it, have the Senate do the same thing, send it right to the President, and actually accomplish something.

I am also concerned, Mr. Speaker, with the partisan approach taken by the Republicans on the Ways and Means Committee in advancing these particular tax measures. We went through this same exercise last year with a similar set of bills, only to pass in the final weeks of the 113th Congress a 1-year comprehensive “tax extenders” package. The Republican leadership in the House is setting the stage for a similar confrontation this year, instead of working in a productive and bipartisan manner on comprehensive tax reform.

That is something that the American people, Democrats and Republicans, all want. They want us to be working on it, and they want us to pass a bipartisan comprehensive tax reform bill.

The seven tax provisions before us today, packaged into two bills, will add more than \$93 billion to the deficit. There was a time when my Republican friends actually cared about the deficit. I guess those days are gone.

While I support the goals of many of the provisions contained in these bills, I cannot vote for legislation that targets only a handful of tax provisions, chooses to elevate them and make them permanent at the expense of other tax priorities, and then refuses to pay for them—absolutely refuses to pay for them.

This Republican package does nothing, absolutely nothing to address key priorities, like the work opportunity tax credit and the new markets tax credit. It fails to address the long-term status of the child tax credit and the earned income tax credit that work to reduce poverty.

If these tax provisions are allowed to expire in 2017, as currently scheduled, many working poor families would lose their child tax credit, and many low-income married couples and larger families would see a cut in their EITC. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities estimates that if the EITC and the CTC provisions were to expire, “more than

16 million people in low-income working families, including 8 million children, would fall into—or deeper into—poverty.”

The piecemeal, deficit-spending approach taken by this majority puts these working family tax provisions at risk.

Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to see members of the Republican leadership at D.C. Central Kitchen the other day talking about hunger. D.C. Central Kitchen does incredible work to feed the hungry and help people get back on their feet.

But count me as a little skeptical because time after time after time after time, Republicans have targeted poor people and the programs that help them.

If my friends on the other side of the aisle are serious about ending hunger, they need to do much more than encourage donations to food banks. First and foremost, they should stop targeting SNAP, the Nation’s premier antihunger program. They should stop treating SNAP as an ATM machine for other programs.

Instead, they should work with us to increase the minimum wage or at least give us a vote on increasing the minimum wage. They should work with us to expand job training programs and make child care more affordable. They should work with us to fix the major flaw in our social safety net; namely, that when someone gets a job that doesn’t pay very much, they tend to lose all their benefits and end up struggling, once again, to put food on the table, find day care for their kids, keep their house warm, and pay the rent.

We need desperately to have a serious and thoughtful discussion about the long-term sustainability of our safety net programs.

The Fighting Hunger Incentive Act makes permanent the enhanced deduction for contributions of food inventory. I strongly support our food banks and charitable organizations that work each and every day to feed the hungry in this country. I support efforts that provide incentives to donate food to these organizations. But one tax break does not constitute a plan to address hunger. And it certainly does not make up for the cuts to SNAP and other safety net programs that have been proposed and enacted by this Republican majority.

So in closing, again, I would urge my colleagues to pay attention to today’s National Journal Daily, the headline: “So Far, a Congress About Nothing.” That is what this Congress is becoming known as, “a Congress about nothing.”

Well, work with us in a bipartisan way to change this headline, and you could do that by allowing a clean Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill to come before us. We can pass it in a bipartisan way, and we can meet the national security needs of our

country and actually do something before we go home on another break.

With that, I urge my colleagues to reject this rule and the underlying legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My good friend from Massachusetts covered a lot of ground. I am not going to try to deal with every single issue that he raised in my response. But let me point out a couple of facts.

First, my friend is concerned about the deficit, and I appreciate that. But this is a rather new, novel idea for Democrats. When the Republican majority actually took power, the deficit was \$1.4 trillion a year. It is under \$500 billion, which is still way too high. But this majority has taken deficits extremely seriously and has lowered them every year.

Second, my friend is worried about the cost of these tax cuts. That is amazing to me because when they were in the majority, they routinely extended these same tax credits without paying for them year after year after year. So the sudden conversion to paying for tax cuts is new and remarkable and probably worth some consideration.

Third, my friend is worried about this coming to the floor under a closed rule. Frankly, tax legislation always comes to the floor under a closed rule. It is pretty hard to make calculations otherwise. And that was true with Democrats. It is true with Republicans. In this particular case, I am informed that the minority was offered a chance to submit an alternative proposal in the form of an amendment and chose not to exercise that right. That is certainly their right. But if they wanted an alternative, it could have been made in order. They chose not to do that.

My friend raised the issue of Homeland Security. And on this, frankly, we all are concerned. I think all Americans are worried. I think where we disagree is, this House has acted. It has fully funded and passed, and we are waiting on the Senate to do something.

Now, what is happening in the Senate? My friend alluded to the fact that the Republicans were somehow responsible for this in the Senate. As he well knows, the Republicans on three occasions have tried to bring the bill that we passed in this Chamber to the floor for consideration. The Democratic majority on all three occasions have kept them from reaching the 60 votes that Senate rules require. Why? Because they simply don’t want to vote on anything.

We lived through 4 years of a Democratic majority that never brought appropriations bills to the floor. They have already had more votes under the Republican leadership in the other body in a matter of weeks than they had all of last year. The Democratic

majority in the Senate didn't want a vote. The Democratic minority in the Senate evidently does not want a vote either. And that has frustrated, frankly, both sides and has kept legislation from coming to be. That is just simply the reality of it.

We will wait to see what the Senate does. I would not expect them to pass exactly what we pass over here. If they would simply allow consideration for a bill, something would emerge. We would go to conference. We would hammer out our differences, and we could move on and fund the Department of Homeland Security.

But right now, this is a Senate issue. This is not a House issue. And this is a question as to whether or not Democratic Senators will allow their own body to function. That is in their hands, not in ours.

Frankly, I think that we will, unfortunately, see a lot of this in the course of this session. We will send legislation over. Democrats will try to keep it from being considered. I think they will be offered the opportunity to consider that legislation over and over again. I hope we don't see this pattern repeated time after time after time.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Again, I urge my colleagues to read the National Journal Daily today and pay close attention to this headline, "So Far, a Congress About Nothing." And that is basically what we are doing here today.

The tax provisions that we are talking about here today, the Republicans over in the Senate are saying that they don't intend to bring any of these before the relevant committees or bring them to the floor. They are trying to work on a more long-term comprehensive tax reform bill, as we should be here. So we can't blame the Democrats for that. It is the Republicans in the Senate who have said they aren't going to take this up.

So then the question arises, why are we doing this? Why aren't we doing something that is more urgent and more pressing, like passing a Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill?

And let's be clear about what the problem is. There is a bipartisan bill that Democrats and Republicans agree on on funding the Department of Homeland Security. What some of the more extreme elements in the House of Representatives on the Republican side have done is they have loaded it up with all kinds of anti-immigration provisions.

□ 1300

They have decided that that is where they want the debate on immigration, so all of a sudden, this bill has been loaded up with extraneous issues that

don't belong on this bill. Quite frankly, we think that that is wrong, and Democrats in the Senate think it is wrong. What we are saying is actually bring before both bodies a clean bill.

What is so wrong with that? If you don't like what the President is doing on immigration, bring up a separate bill or sue him again because that seems to be what my Republican friends like to do all the time, but don't hold up a Department of Homeland Security bill for a political battle on an issue, quite frankly, that does not belong on an appropriations bill.

Mr. Speaker, again, there are only 16 days left until the funding of the Department of Homeland Security expires. It is 16 days, but 5 legislative days only. If it expires, it would shut down many of the crucial operations that keep our country safe.

Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule that will allow for consideration of a clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill. With such serious consequences, it is time to put politics aside in order to strengthen our homeland and protect American families.

To discuss our proposal, I will yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), the distinguished ranking member on the Committee on Appropriations.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge this House to immediately take up and pass the bipartisan negotiated clean funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security.

By defeating the previous question on the pending rule, we can immediately make in order the bipartisan, clean, negotiated Homeland Security bill and stop the theatrics over the President's use of executive orders.

My colleague Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD and I made a similar attempt yesterday, which was unfortunately defeated on a party-line vote. It is my sincere hope that my friends on the other side of the aisle have further discussed this issue amongst themselves and that they are now prepared to end this standoff.

Mr. Speaker, as of today, we are 135 days into what should have been the start of the fiscal year. The situation this House has caused is completely unacceptable.

We simply cannot wait 1 day longer—1 more day—to do the right thing, the responsible thing, and fund these critical agencies tasked with protecting this Nation.

As the ranking minority member of the Appropriations Committee, I was involved in bipartisan, bicameral negotiations on the omnibus spending bill that passed the House and the Senate and was signed by the President last December.

That package could have contained all 12 annual spending bills because all

12 were negotiated in conference and every one of them was ready to go. We thank Representative PRICE for his role in negotiating the Homeland Security bill last Congress.

But an unfortunate decision was made by the leadership of this body to omit the Homeland Security bill—not because there were outstanding issues or continued disputes. That bill was stripped from the omnibus because some in this body were upset by the President's executive order on immigration.

They even admitted the President's actions had little to do with the Homeland Security Appropriations bill, yet that was the choice that was made on how to proceed.

The Homeland Security Appropriations bill was forced to operate under a continuing resolution instead of having a full-year bill. Ironically, it meant the Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement—two of the agencies tasked with defending our borders and enforcing our immigration laws—had to do without the nearly \$1 billion increase they would have gotten under the full-year bill.

Delaying the full-year bill limits the Department's ability to advance the Secretary's unity of effort initiative designed to improve coordination in our security missions, limits the ability of the Secretary to move ahead with the Southern Border and Approaches Campaign, creates uncertainty regarding ICE's capacity to detain and deport dangerous criminals, complicates the Department's ability to deal with another influx of unaccompanied children at our border stations, delays implementation of the new security upgrades at the White House and hiring increases of the U.S. Secret Service, and delays terrorism preparedness and response grants for State and local public safety personnel.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle feel quite strongly about the President's use of executive orders on immigration policy, but I am compelled to remind those colleagues that they have every tool at their disposal to pass legislation changing the President's proposal.

This stunt has gone on too long. It is time to admit these immigration policy decisions have little to nothing to do with the appropriations process. The Homeland Security bill should never have been held hostage in this fight.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I put a statement by Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD because I thought it was so important for my colleagues to read.

In it, the Secretary laid out the consequences of operating under a continuing resolution and summed up the dangerous situation we face with a sobering message.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 1 minute.

Mrs. LOWEY. "Border security is not free."

I couldn't agree more.

Yesterday, as a result of the party-line vote in the House on bringing up a clean bill, many of my majority colleagues insisted it was the Senate's turn to act, but it is clear for all those watching that the Senate cannot pass a Homeland Security bill with the House's extraneous riders attached. Further, the President has made it abundantly clear he would veto the bill if these riders remained.

I ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle: What now? Hasn't this gone on long enough? Isn't it time we abandon the failed strategy and pass a clean bill funding the Homeland Security Department?

To that end, I urge this whole House to join me today in defeating the previous question so that my colleague Mr. MCGOVERN can offer an amendment to provide a clean, full-year appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me return the focus for a moment at least to the matter at hand, the legislation in front of us.

In response to my good friend from Massachusetts' concerns, remember, the provisions in the tax legislation that we are considering have been routinely enacted for years under both Democratic and Republican Congresses and Democratic and Republican administrations.

They are so automatic that they are essentially part of the existing Tax Code. Frankly, I predict once we get to the legislation, probably we will have dozens of my friend's colleagues vote in favor of these. That certainly was the case last year when similar provisions were brought to the floor. There will be a lot of Democratic votes for the very bills that are under consideration.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with my friend. We do need a larger overhaul of the entire tax system. He is totally correct at that. We made some progress in that regard last year. I have no doubt that is exactly Mr. RYAN's intent.

The reason to act on these measures and others like them now that will be part of any final package is to simply give our fellow Americans—businesses, workers, and people that want to make charitable contributions—tax certainty early in the year, so they can go ahead and make their actions knowing that this legislation is in place.

I am not convinced that none of these will be taken up by the other side in the other Chamber. We will see. It is an unpredictable body, but we will see.

Mr. Speaker, I want to compliment my friend from New York, the gentle-

woman who is the ranking member on Appropriations. We have gotten 95 percent or so of government funded in large part due to her efforts in conjunction with our colleague, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, and she was a big reason that that got done and got done in a bipartisan manner.

We passed legislation across this floor with the gentlelady's help, quite frankly. So all of us, myself included, owe you a debt in that regard.

I do point out that the legislation on homeland—we have acted on that. Now, my friends have said, Well, perhaps you should sue the President. That is a good suggestion. About 30-odd States are doing that right now.

He is in court because the action he took, in their view, is going to cost them millions and millions of dollars. My personal view is perhaps the House should somehow associate itself with that lawsuit. That is not my decision to make, but I think that is an appropriate thing to do.

Mr. Speaker, this was an action that was extraordinarily provocative by the President. The President has a long history of using immigration as a political issue rather than viewing it as a problem to be solved.

When he ran for office in 2008, he said he would have an immigration bill on the floor within 100 days. We had a Democratic Senate and a Democratic House, and we never saw the bill.

Then we didn't hear much about it for 2 years because he was busy running for his own reelection. Then later, we heard a lot about it. The President said he was going to act before the election. Then he pulled back from doing that because he thought, Well, electorally, this may not be advantageous.

But the minute afterwards when he thought it was to his political advantage, he rolled it out again. So let's be real here about how serious this effort is, but it will be challenged in court.

In terms of this body, again, it has passed appropriate legislation on funding. It has done exactly as my friend from New York suggests, use some of the tools that are legitimately at its disposal. That bill now rests in the Senate.

If the Democratic minority in the Senate will allow it to be brought up, I would not expect it would come back exactly as this House fashioned it. They simply just need to do their job, send something back, go to conference, and we can act on it. They have had lots of time to do this. This was moved over there weeks ago—or a couple of weeks ago.

The real problem here, Mr. Speaker, is the United States Senate, because of the obstruction of the minority, is simply choosing not to act. As soon as they act, I think we will probably move pretty expeditiously, find some common ground, and address my friend's

concerns because I think they are very legitimate concerns and very appropriate in terms of getting the Homeland Security bill done.

It is a good bill. The underlying bill that my friend was part of negotiating was an excellent piece of bipartisan, bicameral compromise. If the Senate would simply take up the bill in front of them, I think we could get to the point we could have an agreement in rather short order.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to hope that the Senate actually does its job.

In the meantime, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to respond to a few of the points that the gentleman has made in his speech on the floor here.

First of all, about the process—these are closed rules that we are dealing with here today. Yes, while it has been traditional to give tax provisions closed rules, there were Members who actually brought amendments to the House Rules Committee to help pay for some of these that I think might have been able to earn bipartisan support because I think there are some Members on your side of the aisle who would like these paid for and do not want to add to the deficit, but they were not made in order in the Rules Committee.

There may be other ideas on how to pay for this so we can truly have a bipartisan vote on this and not add to the deficit, but we will not have that opportunity because of the rule.

Again, Mr. Speaker, these provisions that we are talking about would add \$93 billion to the deficit over the next 10 years. Yes, maybe Republicans and Democrats in the past have extended these without pay-fors, but that doesn't make it right. It just means we both added to the deficit. Maybe we ought to get serious about Pay-As-You-Go.

My friends on the other side of the aisle insist that emergency unemployment benefits have to be paid for, but when it comes to any kind of tax cut, they don't believe anything has to be paid for, so we should have a more open process on this.

My friend talks about certainty, that all we are trying to do is give people certainty, but that is not the case. It is not the case because the President has said that he would threaten to veto these bills if they weren't paid for. It is what Republican leaders in the Senate have said.

ROY BLUNT, our former colleague in the House, made it very clear. He said:

As long as the Finance Committee in the Senate feels there is an opportunity for overall tax reform, I think you are going to not see a quick response to individual bills coming over here. We may deal with them later on down the aisle, but there is no sense that the Senate is going to act on this any time soon.

When we talk about providing people certainty, that is not what we are doing here. This is about just kind of going through the motions for the sake of going through the motions.

Finally, on the Department of Homeland Security bill, yes, the House acted and attached all these radical anti-immigrant riders to the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill.

MITCH MCCONNELL, the Senate majority leader, told reporters on Tuesday:

I think it is clear we cannot go forward in the Senate, so the next move, obviously, is up to the House.

□ 1315

Today is Thursday. Tomorrow we leave for a break, and it doesn't seem like Republican leaders feel the same sense of urgency that we do over here that we need to get this business completed.

Republicans are obviously refusing to admit the reality of this kind of dangerous anti-immigrant grandstanding. In fact, when reporters asked House Majority Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY whether the House would take up a new DHS funding bill, he said, "Why do we have to?"

Let me respond to the majority leader. The reason why we have to is because our primary job here is to protect the people of the United States of America. By letting this bill lapse, we are failing in our responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD).

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise to urge my colleagues to defeat the previous question on the rule so it can be amended to make in order House consideration of H.R. 861, the clean, bipartisan Homeland Security Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2015.

As we have been reminded by previous speakers, today is February 12, 135 days into fiscal year 2015, and there are only 16 days remaining until the current CR expires. Of these days, the House is scheduled to be in session only 5. If some of my colleagues have a sense of déjà vu when they hear that, I can sympathize. I get the same feeling when I wake up each morning and find that Congress is still spinning its wheels on a full-year funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security.

I know some of my colleagues believe the onus to act now lies with the Senate, as we have heard. I agree, the Senate should act. While it has had multiple failed attempts to bring up the House bill containing the poison pill riders, the Senate Republican leadership has not tried to bring up the clean, bipartisan funding bill.

I feel confident that a majority of the Senate would support the bill without the poison pill riders added to the House on the floor. There is only one way to find out.

The real question is why isn't the House Republican leadership willing to bring the clean Homeland Security bill for a vote? Why wait? Why not take the initiative and make H.R. 861 in order today? We can quickly resolve the funding dilemma facing the Department of Homeland Security, and the House could then work its will on immigration policy and border security by debating the legislation reported to the House by the authorizing committees. That is the way our process was intended to work by our framers.

The fact is, Mr. Speaker, the clean full-year DHS funding bill was negotiated in good faith on a bicameral, bipartisan basis, and it addresses the most pressing needs of the Department to protect this country from harm. The President would sign that bill today, and we should send it to him.

I urge my colleagues to put the safety of our country first and defeat the previous question to make in order the consideration of H.R. 861, the clean Homeland Security funding bill.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Again, let's go back over a couple of points in the process where my friends and I disagree.

Again, tax legislation normally comes here under a closed rule—almost always. Democrats do it; Republicans do it.

The second point: I bet you that these provisions that we are discussing here today will at some point this year, if not in this legislation, almost certainly—as a matter of fact, certainly—be extended and placed. All we are trying to do is move them early so people know for sure it is going to happen and can plan and act accordingly—and, frankly, dozens of my friends who will vote for this, almost certainly, when it is actually considered on the floor. Nothing unusual or extreme here. It is just simply a way to try to give a break and a little advance notice to hardworking men and women that run small businesses all over America.

On the Homeland Security issue, again, this is now in the Senate. This body has acted. The Senate can literally do whatever it chooses to do. We have had several suggestions of what Republican leaders can do or what Democratic leaders can do.

Right now, the Democratic minority has chosen not to allow debate to occur, not to act on the bill. If they simply act on the bill, I suspect it will change. It will not look exactly like what we sent over. All they need to do is actually legislate.

Now, this is the oldest book, evidently, in the minority party on the other body's playbook, because, again, they did it when they were in the majority. They just simply refuse to vote on things. We don't have a broken House. We certainly have differences of opinion in the House, but at least we

act and actually move legislation across the floor and put it in the other Chamber.

All we are asking of Democrats and Republicans alike in the other Chamber is just do your job. Just send us something. We will go to conference with you. We will hammer out a compromise, and we will go on from there.

So this sort of déjà vu all over again, I agree with that. We saw a Democratic majority in the Senate blocking action on almost any legislation, didn't pass a single appropriations bill last year. We now see a Democratic minority trying to do, in the same body, essentially the same thing.

So, hopefully, that lesson will be learned at some point over there and they will just simply pick up legislation and begin to move it. If they do, I think we can find a lot of common ground on a lot of important issues.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the remaining time.

Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, I am going to urge my colleagues to vote against the previous question. If we defeat the previous question, I will bring up an amendment that will allow for there to be a clean vote on the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill. No controversial anti-immigrant riders, just the bill that a bipartisan group of Members and the Appropriations Committees agreed on in an up or down vote.

I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment in the RECORD, along with extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, while I have great respect for my friend on the Rules Committee, and I sometimes get frustrated by the Senate as well, the fact of the matter is, at least in the Senate, they are voting on a lot more amendments than we are in the House. We don't have an open process here. We have one of the most closed processes, if not the most closed process, in history. That is where a lot of the frustration comes from.

On these tax provisions, I think there is broad bipartisan support on the policy. I support, I think, mostly all of them. If we worked in a bipartisan way to make sure they were paid for, I think you would get a unanimous vote here in the House.

But for some reason, this notion of working in a bipartisan way is something that my friends on the other side of the aisle just refuse to do. It is their way or the highway. It is one political message vote after another, after another, after another. I think people are getting sick of it.

I go back to the headline in the *National Journal Daily*: "So Far, a Congress About Nothing." The reason why it is about nothing is that this Chamber is not working.

There is no bipartisanship here when it comes to legislation; there is no give and take. Routinely, we are being forced to vote up or down on bills that, quite frankly, with a few tweaks and some improvements, would pass. And the bills that we are talking about here I think would pass overwhelmingly if we just open up the process a little bit, a little give-and-take.

Let's also be clear, we are not providing anybody with any certainty about anything. The Senate leaders of the relevant committees that would take up this tax legislation have said clearly they are not going to take it up, not any time soon. So it is not urgent that we be debating and doing these bills here today. What is urgent is the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill.

For the life of me, I don't understand why the Republican leadership can't override the views of a handful of extremists in their party who are insisting on maintaining these anti-immigration riders, holding the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill hostage, and thereby jeopardizing the security of the people of the United States of America.

We have 5 legislative days left to deal with this, and we are leaving tomorrow for a break. Again, we go home and tell our constituents when they ask, "What have you accomplished?" the answer is, "Nothing."

We have done nothing. Yes, we have had debates, we have had votes, but on things that are going nowhere. Not only because the President has threatened vetoes on most of the legislation, but because the House Republicans are saying: The stuff you are sending over to us is too extreme.

What have we done? We voted to repeal the Affordable Care Act for the 57th or the 58th time, another waste of taxpayer money going nowhere. We voted on the Keystone bill twice, closed rules, and voted on a bill to basically deny women essential reproductive rights that was so over the top and so extreme that the Republican leadership had to pull it and substitute it with something else.

So that has been the total amount of work that has been done here. I don't know how my Republican friends go home and brag about, or even talk about, what we have been doing here when it has amounted to nothing.

Let's do something. Let's defeat the previous question. Allow me to bring up an amendment that would allow for a clean vote on a Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill. We can come together in a bipartisan way, pass it overwhelmingly in the House, pass it overwhelmingly in the Senate.

You will all be invited down to the White House when the President signs it into law. We all can agree on it and show our constituents, Democrats and Republicans alike, that we can work together and we can get something done, that we are not a Congress just about nothing.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, let's go back to the beginning of this debate and make sure that folks are very clear about what we are talking about. We are talking about extending tax breaks that have routinely been extended for years—that Democrats have extended, that Republicans have extended—that, frankly, have not been paid for in the past, and that will most certainly be part of any overall package that is enacted.

We are simply saying let's make sure people that have a benefit bestowed in these areas know and can calculate and make business decisions accordingly early in the year instead of scramble at the very end. It simply makes sense, and it is simply fair to the American taxpayer. That is important to remember.

Also, it is important to remember that the underlying legislation is extremely bipartisan. The only part of this process that will be partisan is the normal procedural part, where it is almost a sort of shirts and skins game where Democrats all vote against a Republican rule—we do exactly the same thing when we are in the minority—and our people mostly vote for that rule, and I think probably certainly will today; and then we will actually have a vote on the underlying legislation, and many, many, many Democrats will join almost all Republicans and vote for it.

So we think it is a good piece of legislation, and we also think it is part of an incremental effort. We think Mr. RYAN will bring other bills like this to the floor but also will, in time, make an overall proposal on tax reform. Then we will see if our friends are really serious about engaging in that debate. I am not questioning my friends on this side of the aisle, but I do have some serious questions about how serious the President is about tax reform. But, again, we will see.

Finally, we have had a great deal of discussion about Homeland Security. And, again, just to be clear, this House has acted and fully funded Homeland Security. The Homeland is done. It is funded through the end of this month. We have got legislation that we have agreed on.

The President, in my view, provoked a crisis by acting unilaterally. That view, by the way, is not just a narrow view by a few people. He is in court defending his actions. Over 30 States are

involved in a lawsuit against him because of what he did. He knew it was going to be controversial. He waited until after the elections to try and pick a fight and I think probably try to cover up a little bit for how poorly his side did in that particular election, anything to change the topic.

□ 1330

So now we are here.

The House has reacted to that, I think, in an appropriate form and has sent it to the Senate. In the Senate, the Democratic minority has simply refused to allow any debate. They can do that under the Senate rules—and I respect that process—but let's be clear about who is stopping the funding of Homeland Security. It is actually Democratic Senators, who won't allow a measure to even come up for debate.

Now, if that measure came up for debate, what this House passed, I would suspect that it would be changed in some ways. I do not expect the Senate will do exactly what we suggest and think they should do. They very seldom do that. If they will just do that, we will arrive at, I think, a common agreement; we will go to conference; there will be the normal give-and-take in politics; and we will reach an agreement.

My friend is concerned about the openness of the process. Again, I point out that, when we deal with this kind of legislation, it is normally a closed rule, and this has been pretty routine stuff. I commit to my friend on this point: we will actually be much more open in the appropriations process than my friends were when they were in the majority. They almost never brought bills to the floor, and when they did, they actually, for the first time, brought them under closed rules. We will bring our bills to the floor under open rules, and that is normal in the appropriations process. I think, if you actually look at the record of the two majorities side by side, you will find that there were a lot more amendments made available to Members of both sides under a Republican majority than has been the case when my friends were most recently in power.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, again, I want to point out that the legislation in question is routine, and it should be enacted on a bipartisan basis. We have the potential, if the Senate will act, to actually put it on the President's desk. I don't think he would actually veto it if we did, but, again, that would be his call.

I urge my colleagues to support this rule and the underlying legislation.

The material previously referred to by Mr. MCGOVERN is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 101 OFFERED BY
MR. MCGOVERN OF MASSACHUSETTS

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 3. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to

clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 861) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 4. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 861.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution. . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend

the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule. . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the 7 Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York) at 2 p.m.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 644, FIGHTING HUNGER INCENTIVE ACT OF 2015, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 636, AMERICA'S SMALL BUSINESS TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfin-

ished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 101) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 644) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 636) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of the adoption of the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 232, nays 164, not voting 36, as follows:

[Roll No. 77]

YEAS—232

Aderholt	Fincher	Lance
Allen	Fleischmann	Latta
Amash	Fleming	LoBiondo
Amodei	Flores	Long
Babin	Forbes	Loudermilk
Barletta	Fox	Love
Barr	Franks (AZ)	Lucas
Barton	Frelinghuysen	Luetkemeyer
Benishek	Garrett	Lummis
Bilirakis	Gibbs	MacArthur
Bishop (MI)	Gohmert	Marchant
Bishop (UT)	Goodlatte	Marino
Black	Gosar	Massie
Blackburn	Gowdy	McCarthy
Blum	Granger	McCaul
Bost	Graves (GA)	McClintock
Boustany	Graves (LA)	McHenry
Brady (TX)	Graves (MO)	McKinley
Brat	Griffith	McMorris
Bridenstine	Grothman	Rodgers
Brooks (AL)	Guinta	McSally
Brooks (IN)	Guthrie	Meadows
Buchanan	Hanna	Meehan
Buck	Hardy	Messer
Bucshon	Harper	Mica
Burgess	Harris	Miller (MI)
Byrne	Hartzler	Moolenaar
Calvert	Heck (NV)	Mooney (WV)
Carter (GA)	Hensarling	Mullin
Carter (TX)	Herrera Beutler	Mulvaney
Chabot	Hice (GA)	Murphy (PA)
Chaffetz	Hill	Neugebauer
Clawson (FL)	Holding	Newhouse
Coffman	Hudson	Noem
Cole	Huizenga (MI)	Nugent
Collins (GA)	Hultgren	Nunes
Collins (NY)	Hunter	Olson
Comstock	Hurd (TX)	Palazzo
Conaway	Hurt (VA)	Palmer
Cook	Issa	Perry
Costello (PA)	Jenkins (KS)	Pittenger
Crawford	Jenkins (WV)	Pitts
Crenshaw	Johnson (OH)	Poe (TX)
Culberson	Johnson, Sam	Poliquin
Curbelo (FL)	Jolly	Pompeo
Davis, Rodney	Jones	Posey
Denham	Jordan	Price (GA)
Dent	Joyce	Ratcliffe
DeSantis	Katko	Reed
DesJarlais	Kelly (PA)	Reichert
Diaz-Balart	King (IA)	Renacci
Dold	King (NY)	Ribble
Duffy	Kinzinger (IL)	Rice (SC)
Duncan (SC)	Kline	Rigell
Duncan (TN)	Knight	Roby
Ellmers	Labrador	Rogers (AL)
Emmer	LaMalfa	Rogers (KY)
Farenthold	Lamborn	Rohrabacher

Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster

Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden

Walker
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NAYS—164

Adams
Aguilar
Ashford
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Brady (PA)
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu (CA)
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DeBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle (PA)
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge

Gabbard
Gallego
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu (CA)
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lowenthal
Lowey
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton

Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Takai
Buck
Takano
Bucshon
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—36

Abraham
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Cartwright
Courtney
Cramer
Duckworth
Eshoo
Esty
Fitzpatrick
Fortenberry
Garamendi

Gibson
Hinojosa
Huelskamp
Kaptur
Lofgren
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Miller (FL)
O'Rourke
Paulsen
Pearce
Pelosi
Peters

Price (NC)
Roe (TN)
Ruiz
Ryan (OH)
Sinema
Swalwell (CA)
Titus
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Welch

□ 1428

Mr. POCAN changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. FARENTHOLD changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 77, I was attending the Clay Hunt SAV bill signing at the White House. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 233, noes 163, not voting 36, as follows:

[Roll No. 78]

AYES—233

Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Takano
Bucshon
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tonko
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Costello (PA)
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Duffy
Walorski
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Emmer

Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fox
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell

LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell

Roby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner

Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner

Walberg
Walden
Walker
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOES—163

Adams
Aguilar
Ashford
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Brady (PA)
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu (CA)
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DeBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle (PA)
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge

Gabbard
Gallego
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu (CA)
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lowenthal
Lowey
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton

Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—36

Abraham
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Cartwright
Courtney
Cramer
Duckworth
Eshoo
Esty
Fitzpatrick
Fortenberry
Garamendi

Gibson
Hinojosa
Huelskamp
Kaptur
Lofgren
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Miller (FL)
O'Rourke
Paulsen
Pearce
Pelosi
Peters

Price (NC)
Roe (TN)
Ruiz
Ryan (OH)
Sinema
Swalwell (CA)
Titus
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Welch

□ 1438

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 78 I was attending the Clay Hunt SAV bill signing at the White House. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, on the Legislative Day of February 12, 2015, a series of votes was held. Had I been present for these rollcall votes, I would have cast the following votes: rollcall 77—I vote "nay," rollcall 78—I vote "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, due to attending the President's Bill Signing Ceremony of the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act, I missed the following rollcall votes: No. 77 and No. 78 on February 12, 2015. If present, I would have voted: rollcall No. 77—On Ordering the Previous Question, "aye," rollcall vote No. 78—H. Res. 101—The rule providing for consideration of both H.R. 644—Fighting Hunger Incentive Act of 2015, and H.R. 636—America's Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2015, "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, on February 12, 2015, I missed two votes because I had the honor to be at the White House for the bill signing ceremony of H.R. 203, the Clay Hunt SAV Act. I missed recorded votes No. 77–78. I would like the RECORD to reflect how I would have voted if I were present. On rollcall No. 77, I would have voted "yea," on rollcall No. 78, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, today, February 12, 2015, I was not present for call votes number 77 and 78 due to attendance at the White House bill signing ceremony for the Clay Hunt SAV Act. If I had been in attendance, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 77 and "yea" on rollcall vote 78.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 77 and 78 I missed the votes to attend the signing of the Clay Hunt SAV Act into law, a bipartisan law that will reduce veteran suicides. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on 77 and "yea" on 78.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 12, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 12, 2015 at 1:42 p.m.:

Appointments:

Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China.

National Council on the Arts.

United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki).

Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

President's Export Council.

United States Holocaust Memorial Council.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

FIGHTING HUNGER INCENTIVE
ACT OF 2015

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 101, I call up the bill (H.R. 644) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 101, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-5 is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 644

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "America Gives More Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION AND EXPANSION OF CHARITABLE DEDUCTION FOR CONTRIBUTIONS OF FOOD INVENTORY.

(a) PERMANENT EXTENSION.—Section 170(e)(3)(C) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking clause (iv).

(b) INCREASE IN LIMITATION.—Section 170(e)(3)(C) of such Code, as amended by subsection (a), is amended by striking clause (ii), by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv), and by inserting after clause (i) the following new clauses:

"(ii) LIMITATION.—The aggregate amount of such contributions for any taxable year which may be taken into account under this section shall not exceed—

"(I) in the case of any taxpayer other than a C corporation, 15 percent of the taxpayer's aggregate net income for such taxable year from all trades or businesses from which such contributions were made for such year, computed without regard to this section, and

"(II) in the case of a C corporation, 15 percent of taxable income (as defined in subsection (b)(2)(D)).

"(iii) RULES RELATED TO LIMITATION.—

"(I) CARRYOVER.—If such aggregate amount exceeds the limitation imposed under clause (ii), such excess shall be treated (in a manner consistent with the rules of subsection (d)) as a charitable contribution described in clause (i) in each of the 5 succeeding taxable years in order of time.

"(II) COORDINATION WITH OVERALL CORPORATE LIMITATION.—In the case of any charitable contribution allowable under clause (ii)(II), subsection (b)(2)(A) shall not apply to such contribution, but the limitation imposed by such subsection shall be reduced (but not below zero) by the aggregate amount of such contributions. For purposes of subsection (b)(2)(B), such contributions shall be treated as allowable under subsection (b)(2)(A)."

(c) DETERMINATION OF BASIS FOR CERTAIN TAXPAYERS.—Section 170(e)(3)(C) of such Code, as amended by subsections (a) and (b), is amended by adding at the end the following new clause:

"(v) DETERMINATION OF BASIS FOR CERTAIN TAXPAYERS.—If a taxpayer—

"(I) does not account for inventories under section 471, and

"(II) is not required to capitalize indirect costs under section 263A,

the taxpayer may elect, solely for purposes of subparagraph (B), to treat the basis of any apparently wholesome food as being equal to 25 percent of the fair market value of such food."

(d) DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET VALUE.—Section 170(e)(3)(C) of such Code, as amended by subsections (a), (b), and (c), is amended by adding at the end the following new clause:

"(vi) DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET VALUE.—In the case of any such contribution of apparently wholesome food which cannot or will not be sold solely by reason of internal standards of the taxpayer, lack of market, or similar circumstances, or by reason of being produced by the taxpayer exclusively for the purposes of transferring the food to an organization described in subparagraph (A), the fair market value of such contribution shall be determined—

"(I) without regard to such internal standards, such lack of market, such circumstances, or such exclusive purpose, and

"(II) by taking into account the price at which the same or substantially the same food items (as to both type and quality) are sold by the taxpayer at the time of the contribution (or, if not so sold at such time, in the recent past)."

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the amendments made by this section shall apply to contributions made after the date of the enactment of this Act, in taxable years ending after such date.

(2) LIMITATION; APPLICABILITY TO C CORPORATIONS.—The amendments made by subsection (b) shall apply to contributions made in taxable years ending after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. RULE ALLOWING CERTAIN TAX-FREE DISTRIBUTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES MADE PERMANENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 408(d)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking subparagraph (F).

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to distributions made in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2014.

SEC. 4. SPECIAL RULE FOR QUALIFIED CONSERVATION CONTRIBUTIONS MADE PERMANENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) INDIVIDUALS.—Subparagraph (E) of section 170(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to contributions of qualified conservation contributions) is amended by striking clause (vi).

(2) CORPORATIONS.—Subparagraph (B) of section 170(b)(2) of such Code (relating to qualified conservation contributions) is amended by striking clause (iii).

(b) CONTRIBUTIONS OF CAPITAL GAIN REAL PROPERTY MADE FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES BY NATIVE CORPORATIONS.—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 170(b)(2) of such Code is amended by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D), and by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph:

“(C) *QUALIFIED CONSERVATION CONTRIBUTIONS BY CERTAIN NATIVE CORPORATIONS.*—

“(i) *IN GENERAL.*—Any qualified conservation contribution (as defined in subsection (h)(1)) which—

“(I) is made by a Native Corporation, and

“(II) is a contribution of property which was land conveyed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act,

shall be allowed to the extent that the aggregate amount of such contributions does not exceed the excess of the taxpayer's taxable income over the amount of charitable contributions allowable under subparagraph (A).

“(ii) *CARRYOVER.*—If the aggregate amount of contributions described in clause (i) exceeds the limitation of clause (i), such excess shall be treated (in a manner consistent with the rules of subsection (d)(2)) as a charitable contribution to which clause (i) applies in each of the 15 succeeding taxable years in order of time.

“(iii) *NATIVE CORPORATION.*—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘Native Corporation’ has the meaning given such term by section 3(m) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.”

(2) *CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.*—

(A) Section 170(b)(2)(A) of such Code is amended by striking “subparagraph (B) applies” and inserting “subparagraph (B) or (C) applies”.

(B) Section 170(b)(2)(B)(ii) of such Code is amended by striking “15 succeeding years” and inserting “15 succeeding taxable years”.

(3) *VALID EXISTING RIGHTS PRESERVED.*—Nothing in this subsection (or any amendment made by this subsection) shall be construed to modify the existing property rights validly conveyed to Native Corporations (within the meaning of section 3(m) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act) under such Act.

(c) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The amendments made by this section shall apply to contributions made in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2014.

SEC. 5. MODIFICATION OF THE TAX RATE FOR THE EXCISE TAX ON INVESTMENT INCOME OF PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 4940(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “2 percent” and inserting “1 percent”.

(b) *ELIMINATION OF REDUCED TAX WHERE FOUNDATION MEETS CERTAIN DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS.*—Section 4940 of such Code is amended by striking subsection (e).

(c) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 6. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 90 minutes, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 45 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Mem-

bers may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 644, the Fighting Hunger Incentive Act of 2015.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Here is what we are trying to accomplish with this legislation today: we are trying to provide some more certainty.

Small businesses, they have to be able to plan for the future. Charities who are serving those in need, they also have to plan for the future. Families need to know whether there is going to be help for them at the local food bank. A lot of them look to the Tax Code, ironically, when planning for the future. They need a tax code that is easy to understand. But that is not the Tax Code that we have today. Whether we make the Tax Code more complicated—well, if we do that, we are making their lives more unpredictable. That is a disservice to the people we are trying to serve.

What would really help would be to fix our broken tax system. And ultimately, our goal is to get to a tax code that is simpler, that is flatter, that is fairer for everybody. But we have still got work to do on that front, and life doesn't wait for Washington. In fact, Washington has a really bad habit of letting really important provisions expire, only to renew them retroactively. This has got to stop, and we are trying to fix this.

So this bill would make several of these provisions permanent. Number one, it would encourage charitable giving. Number two, it would help people contribute to charities from their IRAs, Individual Retirement Accounts, tax-free. Number three, it would let people deduct food bank donations from their taxes, and it would make other changes that make giving less expensive.

The quick to the short, Mr. Speaker, is these are provisions in the Code that we know—because it has been demonstrated—make a big difference.

□ 1445

It is so important that we have a vibrant civil society, that space that stands between ourselves and our government, which is where we live and we lead our lives, that it is vibrant and that that space is there to help people in need. Private charity is the glue that keeps our communities together.

In so many instances, private charities thrive on the good will and the donations and the generosity of other people, of businesses, and those businesses are affected by the Tax Code. What we have to do is provide certainty to those businesses who want to

be generous and to those people who want to be generous, but to these charities who need some predictability, so they can plan their charitable endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, knowing that this is a bipartisan notion, knowing that the good work that is done by these groups is absolutely essential to healing people in our communities, to getting people on to lives of self-sufficiency, getting them to where they want to be in life, the least we can do is provide some certainty so more of this can happen.

Last year, Mr. Speaker, we waited until the end of the year to extend these provisions retroactive to the first of the year but only for that year—oh, and by the way, last year, we waited until December 11 to tell all of these charities, these donors to charities, Okay. Now, here is the benefit for the past year, but guess what, it already expired the beginning of this year.

I know that it sounds kind of complicated. The point is this is no way to run a railroad. We need to provide families with certainty. We need to provide charities with certainty. That is what this bill does.

The part that we are going to have a debate here, Mr. Speaker, is nobody seems to have a problem when we do this 1 year at a time. Nobody seems to have a problem suggesting that we “pay for it” which is, in my opinion, another way of saying raise taxes on other people just to keep them the same when we do it 1 year at a time, but when we say, Let's make this thing permanent, this thing that we do once every year that everybody is fine with, instead of doing it once every year and sometimes retroactively, let's just do it permanently so people in families and businesses can plan, then all of a sudden, there is a big problem.

I personally don't understand that. It makes no sense because who we are serving is not Washington, who we are serving are the people who are trying to survive, are the people who are the beneficiaries of these charities or the charities who are doing the good works. That is why we are bringing this legislation to the floor. I am very excited to be a part of this.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all the Members on both sides of the aisle for their hard work in this area, and with that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I shall consume.

Mr. Speaker, the issues here are not the merits. That isn't the issue. The issue is whether we proceed this way. Proceeding this way is the opposite of bipartisanship—its very opposite. The chairman has said he wants to find common ground on common aspects.

What this does is essentially pull terrain out from under common ground. It is the opposite of a search for common ground. The President has said he will veto. We have the messages right here

once again. It is the opposite of bipartisanship.

It is also, if I might say, the opposite of certainty for taxpayers. We went through this last year. These bills will not become law, period. If they were to pass the House and the Senate, they would be vetoed. That happened last year. It did not become law. It will not become law this year.

These provisions will be continued if we don't pass tax reform. Mr. Chairman, you control the schedule. If you don't want to wait until December, do it earlier if tax reform doesn't become a reality.

That is another problem with this bill and these bills. They are the opposite of tax reform. You don't do tax reform in a piecemeal fashion. Dave Camp, to his credit, understood that, so he came up with a comprehensive package.

In the Senate, Republicans understand this. Senator BLUNT said last week:

As long as the Finance Committee feels there is an opportunity for overall tax reform, I think you are going to not see a quick response to individual bills coming over.

What could be clearer? What could be clearer?

This is also the opposite of fiscal responsibility.

You have here three opposites—really four, and four opposites make a big minus.

Fourteen billion is the cost of this bill and 79 billion, the next bill—that is 93. We marked up just a few hours ago in Ways and Means two more bills, one 42 billion and another one 177 billion—that is 219. And you add up those, over \$310 billion in terms of adding to the deficit.

There has been some talk about helping the middle class. Action is the opposite of platitudes. Where is the action on the child tax credit? Where is the action on the EITC also affecting working and middle class families? Where is the action on the work opportunity tax credit? Where is the action on the minimum wage? The answer is we are now several months into this session.

A reporter said to me, What is bill number one?

I said, I have no idea.

How about other bills that really address the needs of the middle class of this country?

As expressed in Ways and Means, so many of us are very opposed to what is really a counterproductive path here. The merits, again, are not the basic issue.

The basic issue, do we want to fly in the face of bipartisanship, fly in the face of certainty for taxpayers, fly in the face of tax reform, and fly in the face of fiscal responsibility? We should not be doing that. We should not be doing that.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. At this time, I would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY), the distinguished member from the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak very well about H.R. 641, the Conservation Easement Incentive legislation. I get confused sometimes by the discussion on the floor.

If I understand it, if you do it for a year or 2 years and you don't pay for it, that is good policy, that is good legislation, that is good for America, but if you go beyond that time, it is not good.

This is a piece of legislation that came up in 2006. In fact, my colleague Mr. THOMPSON brought it up. He and Chairman Camp did it. He and Mr. Gerlach, who retired last year, did it. This just makes good sense.

I can tell you something about this. It is not only bipartisan, it is bicameral. It is in the President's budget. If you are talking about trying to work together to get somewhere, isn't this it? Isn't this it?

Sometimes, we always try to bend the rules for something else, but this is about conservation. This is about allowing a landowner to set property aside. So I don't care if you are a farmer or a rancher, I don't care if you are a hunter or a hiker, I don't care if you like to look at birds or hunt birds, there are over 65 associations around the country that say, Please do more of this, set this ground apart.

Now, if you are a farmer or a rancher, you can still work that ground. All you are saying is this is a set-aside, this ground can't be developed, we can't lose this ground.

This is so basic who we are as Americans. We are saying, Let's preserve what we have. Let's just keep what we have. Let's make sure that our kids can hunt, hike, and swim. Let's make sure that they can fish. Let's make sure they can do all those wonderful things that this land affords us to do.

Then it becomes, Gosh, this is about politics. It is not about policy. It is good policy. It has never been paid for. I just don't understand why, all of a sudden—now—why is it paid for?

I am only starting my third session here; but, my God, you would never do this back home. I wouldn't do this. I am an automobile dealer.

I couldn't do this to a customer and say, Yeah, it is okay now, but do you know what, later on, you are going to have to pay me for it.

And they say, Wait a minute, I thought you gave it to me.

No, no. We are going to take it back.

Mr. Speaker, there are millions of acres that have been set aside now. Why not give some permanency to this? We talk about tax reform. Let's

give it some permanency. Let's do what makes sense for all of America.

Let's talk about preserving America's ground and making sure it doesn't go under development. People can still farm it, and they can still ranch on it. It just makes good sense.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I am just asking our friends on the other side, let's think about what is good for the people we represent and not what is just good for the moment.

We have always done this in the past. It has only become a problem now because it is not a 1-year extender or a 2-year extender. Now, all of a sudden, we say, Well, let's just let people know this is the way it is always going to be from now until all time.

But, no, that is a bad idea to do that. You don't want to give anybody certainty. You don't want to give anybody permanency.

There is no time in my life that I would ever say to my friends, my family, or anybody I represent, This is just a temporary thing for me. Tomorrow, I may have a change of heart.

I just ask my friends, H.R. 641—Mr. THOMPSON is on this piece. Let's make sure that we move forward for America. Let's make sure that we set ground aside for the future.

Mr. LEVIN. It is now my pleasure to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), our distinguished whip, who is going to supply, if the gentleman will wait here, for a very clear answer.

Mr. HOYER. The ranking member didn't write my speech, so I am not sure what my answer to the distinguished gentleman's comments is, but I will say this to my friend, I am not for 1 year. I may vote for 1 year, but that is not what we ought to do. It ought to be paid for if it is 1 year, 2 years, permanent. There is no free lunch.

You are in the automobile business. People come into your automobile store, and they would say, I would like to have that car for \$10,000.

And you say, Now, look, I paid \$20,000 for that car. I can't sell it to you for \$10,000.

There is no free lunch. Unpaid tax cuts are a free lunch, a pretense that somehow it is just free, but I will tell my friend it is not free.

The chairman, who was the chairman of the Budget Committee, offered a budget which cuts food stamps \$125 billion. This bill is called the Fighting Hunger Incentive Act—\$125 billion cut in food stamps. I tell you my friend voted for a \$40 billion cut in food stamps in the farm bill.

I am not for free lunches. I am for a lot of these tax cuts, but I am not for taking it out of the mouths of children,

I am not for taking it out of NIH, and I am not for taking it out of our national security. We have got to pay for what we buy, and I vote that way.

The chairman and I were one of 18 people one time that voted against a very popular bill that had to do with Social Security. We thought it was not paid for and not fiscally responsible, and he and I were one of 18 people in this House that voted against it.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOYER. I don't have much time, but maybe we can get some more. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I could not be in better or more agreement with you. I have watched for 6 years—an opportunity in a country with the greatest assets in the world—watched our working class, our middle-income people, our lower-income people suffer the greatest harm they have ever had in their life.

If this is truly about getting America back to work, putting food in the mouths of our children and being able to do all these things, the only one way to do that is to have a dynamic and robust economy. That is what I think we need to do.

I have watched it for 6 years. It is appalling what we have allowed to have happen in a country that has been blessed with so many things. It is just bad policy. We can't get beyond the politics. That is what is hurting our people.

It is not the fact that this is not being paid for because we are not manipulating it for a year or 2. The whole purpose of why we should be here is let's raise all America. Let's get everybody looking up, being able to feed everybody. We shouldn't have to have programs for people who can't take care of themselves because, by their very nature, they can do that. We have all of that potential.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, I used to have a magic 1 minute. I don't have that now. I would be glad to participate in debate. We have had bad policy, I tell my friend.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I agree.

Mr. HOYER. Terrible policy.

I don't know about you, but I am for Simpson-Bowles. The problem with Simpson-Bowles for some people is it paid for what it did, just like the Camp bill. The Camp bill made tough choices, and it was a zero-sum game in the sense that it cut taxes and it paid for them—a zero-sum game—just like you had to run your business because, if you didn't run your business that way, you would have gone bankrupt.

Now, I fought for that for a very long period of time and voted that way, as I say, one of 18 with my friend from Wisconsin, but I tell my friend, yes, we are following bad policy.

This bill, you can argue for the merits. I get that. The next bill, you can

argue for the merits, and the bill after that and the bill after that and the bill after that, and you have then caused \$600 billion in deficit spending that your kids and my kids will have to pay for because we are too old to be around long enough to pay for it.

□ 1500

So I rise against this bill not because I am against fighting hunger. Everybody ought to be against fighting hunger.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield an additional 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. But when you talk about fighting hunger, don't cut food stamps \$40 billion. Don't suggest the way we pay for this tax cut is to cut \$125 billion from food stamps over the next 10 years, as the chairman did.

I disagree with that policy, and I respect the chairman.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOYER. No, I can't yield any more because I am running out of time.

Mr. Speaker, this is one of two bills that we are considering on the floor this week to make tax cuts permanent, and it is unfortunate that neither of these bills is paid for 1 year or permanently. Together, they would increase the deficit by \$93 billion. Nobody is suggesting we are going to pay for that, so our kids will pay for it.

Democrats support extending many of the preferences we are talking about, but we are also deeply concerned about America's fiscal future. And I voted that way, not just talked that way.

I hear a lot of talk from my friends in the majority about the debt, but that talk too often fails to translate into fiscally responsible policy. It didn't in 1981 when we cut taxes deeply and increased the national debt from the time I came in under Reagan 189 percent, more than any President that has been President during my term in the last 34 years.

We have seen these two tax bills before—when Republicans brought them to the floor last Congress, along with several other permanent tax cuts, which, together, would have ballooned the deficit by more than \$600 billion. That is twice what we will spend on medical research at NIH and 10 times what it would cost to expand community college access.

I also hear a lot of my friends on the other side of the aisle talk about a broken tax system. I tell my friend, that system is going to remain broken unless we do what Camp did.

Did I agree with everything that Camp did? No. But I respected him for putting together a package of tax reform that gives what Mr. RYAN says we

need, and I agree with him—certainty. People need to know. These ought to all be permanent. The R&D tax credit ought to be permanent so people can plan.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has again expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. America's businesses and families deserve the certainty that comes from tax reform, not partisan piecemeal reform bills that undermine—undermine—tax reform. That is what ROY BLUNT was talking about.

ROY BLUNT has already been quoted, so I won't repeat the quote. But what he said is, as long as the Finance Committee feels there is an opportunity for overall tax reform, I think you are not going to see a quick response to individual bills coming over.

That is why this is bad policy; because you are not going to get from here to there unless you have a comprehensive bill that makes the tough tradeoffs and summons the courage of this Congress to pass meaningful, permanent, paid-for tax certainty for our citizens.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute to say I truly, sincerely want to say this.

I very much respect the majority whip. We have had a great relationship over the years. I very much respect the gentleman. He is a class act legislator. I look forward to his support of our coming work from the committee if he wants to be part of tax reform.

Mr. HOYER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I yield to the gentleman.

That was the longest magic minute I think I have seen.

Mr. HOYER. No, I have done longer when I had the minute, believe me.

I want to tell the gentleman, in all sincerity, I look forward to being able to support a bill that is comprehensive, paid for, and gives our citizens and individual taxpayers the certainty they need to have the confidence they need to grow our economy.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I just want to keep on my time.

Let me ask about the time allotment, by the way. Who is where.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Wisconsin has 37 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Michigan has 33½ minutes remaining.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, normally, I don't try to get into these baseline issues because it is kind of arcane budget issues. But here is where I think there is an inconsistency or a problem, and so people listening to this debate, there is a lot of confusion here.

If we were talking about a spending bill—let's just say the highway trust

fund or TANF, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families—and it expired and we said, well, let's just extend this bill, this law, and the spending in it at its current levels for another 5, 6 years, we wouldn't have to "pay" for that. It wouldn't cost anything. It is already in the baseline. So if we were basically talking about a spending bill here, none of these kinds of criticisms would hold merit, would be usable.

So here we are talking about taxes, and so I think people are getting the impression from this debate that we are talking about a tax cut here, that we are talking about doing something to businesses or individuals and cutting their taxes. These are laws that are already on the books. Charities, that is what we are talking about here in this particular bill. All we are saying is don't raise their taxes. That is what we are saying here.

The choice before us is fairly obvious. Either we raise taxes on small businesses and individuals with respect to charitable giving, or we keep them where they are today and just go raise taxes on somebody else, or we acknowledge reality for what it is: they have these benefits, they have had these benefits, we all agree they ought to keep these benefits, and every year we renew these benefits.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I yield myself an additional 30 seconds.

But we do it in such an awful way. We wait until the end of the year, then we do it retroactively or we do it 1 year. Nobody knows what is going on. Nobody can predict the Tax Code. Nobody can make decisions. As a result, these charities, these families, these small businesses suffer. That is what we are trying to fix here.

With that, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHOCK), a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman.

I would just say so much has been said I am not sure I will need 3 minutes.

Obviously, I am here to speak in support of a measure that I introduced in this body last July that passed by a 2 to 1 majority. That means nearly every Republican and tens and scores of Democrats, a whole host of Democrats that passed by a 2 to 1 majority, voted for almost identical language contained in this bill.

Now, the negotiation in the agreement between the House and the Senate to make this more permanent fell apart, and so we did what we have always done, which is extend it for another year.

Just a few months ago—just a few months ago—Republicans and Democrats came together in this body to vote on identical legislation to extend

it a year at a time. In fact, this piece of legislation has been extended four times since 2006 under the same proposal that we are submitting here, just not a year at a time but, rather, permanent, the same pay-fors or lack thereof, written almost identically.

So what is at stake? What is at stake is how much the people of our respective districts are going to benefit and whether they will benefit.

Back in my district, the head of the Galesburg Community Foundation says that, when he is meeting with donors, if they can give to their IRA, as this bill will allow, they give, on average, four times the amount of goods and services that they would otherwise give without the IRA donation provision—four times.

This isn't about the donor; it is about the recipient. And so I would just simply ask: Why don't we give the certainty not to the donor but, rather, give the certainty to the recipient, whether it be food and shelter, whether it be education benefits here in our country and around the world, a benefit from this provision, give them the certainty, do what we have always done, but do it early and do it now?

Rather, I would ask anyone who stands up to oppose this: 10 months from now, where will your vote be on a 1-year extension? Where will your vote be on a 2-year extension? What is wrong with making what we have been doing since 2006 1 year and 2 years at a time permanent?

It is important for us to give the certainty to the beneficiaries and to the communities who benefit from this provision. I urge a "yes" vote on this. And I hope, once again, as we did last July, this body will pass this bill with an overwhelmingly 2 to 1 majority.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

The answer to the gentleman is you pay for certainty. If you make something permanent, you should pay for it. And that is essentially what our chairman did when he chaired the Budget Committee. His budget never assumed these provisions were permanently in the baseline or he would never have been able to say he balanced the budget in 10 years. That is the reality.

If you want to add hundreds of billions of dollars to the budget, you have got to face up to paying for them; otherwise, you squeeze out other necessary programs.

Mr. Speaker, it is now a pleasure to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), a member of our committee, a very active member.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, certainty, we are told, is the key factor here—first words from Chairman RYAN in support of this bill. I think the first certainty we have here is the knowledge that this bill is part of a package that, approved through today, is certain to borrow \$317.5 billion. That is

basically a request to this House and this Congress that we approve the borrowing of \$317.5 billion. And when you look at other measures they have approved in the past, they are really on a pathway to borrowing almost \$1 trillion to finance these tax cuts.

I believe that certainty is important to taxpayers. I think that when someone pays for Medicare and Social Security, they need to be certain that it will be there. They need to be certain that the water that they drink and the air they breathe is not contaminated. They need to be certain that the food that they put on their family's table is safe, that it has been inspected by a meat inspector or another type of health inspector. They need to be sure when they drive home, they need to have the certainty that the bridge that they drive over is not going to fall down, as it did in Minneapolis a few years back. They need to be certain that there is educational opportunity, quality education, for their children. They need to be able to do all this without just having to rely on charity.

This bill certainly selects a subset of tax provisions that benefit a few Americans and gives them preference. And I like some of these provisions. In fact, I am a cosponsor of some of these provisions, like the conservation easement. But they are measures that can and should be fully paid for instead of asking for another IOU. And because they are select provisions, they exclude many working and middle class American families.

For example, the American Opportunity Tax Credit, which is based on the principle that we want all Americans to be able to get postsecondary education in a college or a trade school, but a choice that they make and get \$2,500 directly off of their tax bill to pay for tuition and books; the child tax credit that so many American families claim to help with their children; the earned income tax credit that even President Reagan said was a key factor in getting people out of poverty, those are key provisions that were left over on the side and not selected for borrowing or for anything else.

It is certain that many Americans have been left out of this very costly package. Working families do need to depend on more than charity. They need to be able to depend on this Congress to respond to their needs.

Now, there is seldom a week that goes by in the area of medical research that there is not a group here on Capitol Hill concerned with Alzheimer's research, multiple sclerosis, diabetes, Parkinson's, cancer, AIDS, or any number of dreaded diseases, basically saying: Find a cure for my family member or my neighbor; find a cure before I get this dreaded disease. There are groups that come here after the tough droughts we had here last year saying the Forest Service and the

weather service need more resources in order to deal with the natural disasters associated with climate change.

□ 1515

We have been unable to find the funds for our crumbling roads and bridges. We do not have the investment we need from pre-K to postgraduate in education.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman an additional minute.

Mr. DOGGETT. When you dig another hundreds of billions of dollars—or maybe \$1 trillion—into debt, it provides an excuse for many of those who don't believe in those programs to say: Gee, we would love to help you with education for your children, and, yes, it would be good if we had another meat inspector, but we just can't afford to do that.

So we get to the point that Mr. RYAN has raised: Why is it we should raise taxes on some in order to maintain and renew some expired tax credits for others? I think there are two reasons.

One is that some people are still not paying their fair share. We have got some multinational corporations that don't pay as much as a percent of their income as the people who clean up their offices. The second reason is that it is for the same reason that we say, if we need additional money for our national defense or for our educational and retirement security at home, we have to come up with the revenues to pay for that if we are to maintain any sense of fiscal responsibility.

There are some good provisions in this bill, but we need the certainty that we will not be digging ourselves deeper into debt, preventing our ability to meet other vital national needs for our families.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 10 seconds to say: I wonder what the reaction would be if we chose to change the way that the spending baseline is treated, such that, if any program in its authorization expired, then it would expire on the baseline, and you would have to offset the spending for renewing any program. I would be curious to see what the reaction would be for that.

I yield 3½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN), a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. PAULSEN. I thank the chairman for his leadership on leading the effort to simplify the Tax Code and give some confidence and certainty to those who use it.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation, the America Gives More Act. This legislation is absolutely about helping those who are most in need. Those are our charities and our foundations across the country, which are working day in and day out to help those who are most in need.

There are a number of important tax rules that we have already discussed that are governing charitable donations and charitable organizations, but they have always been temporary. We have already had these provisions in law, and they have already expired, so here we are, acting under retroactivity already. It is time to get rid of these short-term fixes and embrace long-term solutions. This legislation simply makes the provisions permanent.

It encourages companies to donate food to help feed the hungry. It makes it easier for individuals who might want to use their money in their IRA retirement funds and give that money to charitable organizations to help others of all varieties. It incentivizes landowners to help protect and preserve our environment for future generations through conservation easements.

I want to just address one other provision that is in this bill, which I actually authored with my colleague, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, to help simplify the Tax Code for private foundations. He has been a very strong advocate in leading this effort.

I think we would all agree that private foundations make a world of difference in our communities. We all have them in our States. I know, in Minnesota, we have 1,400 different foundations that donate about \$1 billion annually to all of those who are in need. Across the country, there is something like 86,000 foundations that give tens and tens and tens of billions of dollars. Now, these are really impressive figures, but the truth is those figures could actually be a lot higher, and here is why.

The foundation community has come to us, and they are telling us that the Tax Code is discouraging them from actually giving large donations. Today, these institutions face a really complex, cumbersome, two-tiered system of taxation that requires them to pay either a 1 percent or a 2 percent excise tax on their investment income, but in order to qualify for the low rate in any given year, they have got to go and donate an amount greater than the average of their 5-year rolling average from the previous 5 years.

This, actually, creates a very perverse disincentive for these foundations to not make any donations of large amounts in times when we might have a natural disaster, when there are economic tough times. Absolutely now, this is because a large donation in these times would significantly increase a private foundation's 5-year average and make it difficult for them to actually qualify for the lower rate. It also makes sure that they are not going to get the low rate for the next 4 years. We are eliminating this disincentive by replacing a very complicated, two-tiered system with a simple, flat, 1 percent excise tax on all private foundation investment income.

It is important to simplify the tax planning process especially for smaller foundations, because they are the ones who are spending money on accountants and lawyers to navigate the Tax Code when those are valuable resources that could actually be used to help give grants to others who need those resources. This bill simply makes sure that charitable giving decisions are going to be based not on the Tax Code but on the needs of our communities.

The bottom line is: every dollar that these organizations are paying in taxes is one less dollar that they are giving to those who truly need it. I ask my colleagues to join in supporting this legislation.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is now my real pleasure to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California, NANCY PELOSI, our distinguished leader.

Ms. PELOSI. I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership on helping to have a budget that produces growth to reduce the deficit.

Mr. Speaker, today, we are talking about issues on which we are very much in agreement in terms of the policy toward charitable giving. In fact, some of this legislation has been introduced by Mr. LEVIN and Mr. THOMPSON on the Ways and Means Committee, in fact, in offering an amendment in Rules last night, which was rejected by the Rules Committee, to go forward in a way that was fiscally sound and was paid for.

Here is the problem that we have. We all want to have comprehensive tax reform, where we can close loopholes and we can lower the tax rate and we can have transparency in our Tax Code. In order to go to the table to do that—and I know there is bipartisan interest in doing so—we should go to the table with as much freedom as possible and not constrained by taking rifle shots on the floor of the House for certain pieces of the Tax Code. The whole package that the Republicans are putting forth is about \$800 billion. That is a lot of money.

It is important for people to know that, in our budget every year, we have a part of the budget that is called tax expenditures. They are well over \$1 trillion. Some of them are worthy, and we want to protect them—certainly, charitable deductions fall in that category—but many of them are not. Many of those tax expenditures, which means giving a tax break whether it is special interest loopholes in the Tax Code to special interests, do not create growth. They increase the deficit, and they are just like spending. They are called expenditures because they are giving a tax break to certain special interests.

Okay. How does that fit in here?

We want to go to the table—put everything on the table—and subject it to agnostic scrutiny to say: What works

for growth? What is fair about transparency? How do we proceed in a way that lowers the corporate rate? increases the revenue to the budget? that has fairness, simplicity, and transparency?

What the Republicans are proposing this week is totally in opposition to our being able to do that effectively. What they are saying is let us take \$800 billion—permanently, unpaid for—out of the mix, and then we have less to negotiate on in terms of what we can do on the other side of the budget, which are investments into the future.

I have always said—and I think that most economists would agree—that nothing brings more money to the Treasury or reduces the deficit more than investments in education—early childhood education, K-12, higher ed, postgraduate—lifelong learning. That is about growth. That is about bigger paychecks, confidence to spend, demand injected into the economy, jobs created, revenue produced. It is all part of how we can go forward with a budget for the future that creates growth and reduces the deficit.

So we have this obstacle, which sounds very good. How do you vote against these provisions, which are good provisions, about nonprofits and conservation and all of these other things? We agree—as I say, our colleagues have introduced them—but then you say that they are permanently unpaid for. Again, mixing some of the good with the not so good is like a Trojan horse moving in. It looks good, but wait a minute. There is a lot in the gut of that horse that is not good for growth or for reducing the deficit.

All we are saying to everyone today is we can come to agreement on some of the principles about tax deductions for charitable organizations. It is curious to hear our colleagues talk so movingly about providing food for hungry people when very few of them want to vote for food stamps, but that is a whole other issue. It just shows some inconsistency in all of this.

Just remember this one thing: if we want to have comprehensive tax reform—if we want to reduce the deficit, if we want to have balance in terms of investments plus how we produce revenue—we have to do it in a comprehensive way. That is what a budget is about. What we are doing today is to throw up, to just stack the deck against any investments in growth, because we have already taken \$800 billion off the table if we go down this path.

What we are doing today is to say other tax reforms that we want to make for fairness are already in jeopardy because of some of what is in this. As I say, some are positive and some are not. Let's be discerning in how we make the judgment. You can't be discerning by saying: I am going to vote

for permanent, unpaid-for tax expenditures—which, as I say, have a blend of positive and negative in them, but it is hard to make a distinction without seeing the whole, big picture of it.

I urge my colleagues to say: While I support some of what is good in all of this, I do not support permanently taking it off the table for consideration and not paying for it at this time.

In order to talk this through and have a clear instead of this drive-by approach to tax policy—an antideficit exploding spree that our Republican colleagues are on while they profess to be deficit hawks—and while we are working this out and having a discussion about this, we, in our motion to recommit, will have a 1-year extension of the provision that we are talking about here so that, okay, in the course of this time, we will go forward with a tax extender for 1 year.

Hopefully, in that time, under the leadership of the Budget chair, who is also from the Ways and Means Committee—he understands these issues very well. In fact, his own budget would not be consistent with what he is putting on the floor today as he is the former chair of Ways and Means, now of the Budget Committee. No. It is the reverse, but it is related. They are so related because how we produce revenue is so essential to how we do our budget, and the gentleman knows that because his own budget would be inconsistent with what is on the floor today.

So I say to my colleagues: Hold on. Vote “no” on this. Vote “yes” on the motion to recommit, which gives us a year to talk this through but to do so in a way that reduces the deficit, produces growth, makes bigger paychecks from that growth to increase more revenue, and we would have these provisions go forth in a way that is fair, that is paid for, and that is part of comprehensive tax reform.

With that, again, I thank the gentleman for his exceptional leadership and the members of the Ways and Means Committee for their courage in opposing something that has popular appeal. There is a reason why. They are not bad policies. It is just that they are not paid for, and they are permanent. We should do this, but we should do it right. I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on the bill and “yes” on the motion to recommit.

I thank the gentleman for his leadership.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

I want to say to the gentlewoman, the minority leader, that I appreciate the tone and the temperament of her remarks. I thought that was well done.

□ 1530

I disagree with the basic premise on baseline. I won't get into the details. I talked about that a little bit before.

So I have some differences of opinion on the facts as she laid them out. I see

it quite differently. But I thought that was a good tone and temperament that speaks well to the need for tax reform that is comprehensive. We believe that this helps move us in the right direction toward tax reform.

I won't go to the baseline issues again, only to say I think this is a positive step in the direction toward comprehensive tax reform, which clearly the gentlewoman—meaning both parties—agree is something that we have to tackle.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM), a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. ROSKAM. I thank Chairman RYAN for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman from California said that we needed to use agnostic scrutiny when we are evaluating these. I think it is a little bit ambitious to have a roomful of agnostics when we are all true believers. We all come in with an agenda.

An agnostic, Mr. Speaker, would look at the four things in the bill that we are contemplating today and would say of all four of these things: Surely these are not going to get caught up and swept away in tax reform; surely, it is not going to be how we are treating food charities; surely, it is not going to be how we are dealing with conservation easements; surely, it is not how we are treating IRA contributions to charities; and surely, it is not trying to make private foundations and give them a sure footing. Surely, these are the things we can all agree on based on agnostic scrutiny.

Did you notice something, Mr. Speaker? There is nobody on the other side of the aisle who has stood up today and said: The food charity thing? Disaster. I'm against that. Or: Conservation easements? Ridiculous. Look into that a little bit more. Or: The IRA contributions? Be careful there. Or: Private foundations, getting them all squared away? I'm against it. Not one person said that.

So what was their argument? They wrap themselves up in process. But by wrapping themselves up in process, they have opened themselves up to criticism, because if we had gone a different route, if the chairman had taken a different path, they would have said: Chairman RYAN, why don't you start on things where there is bipartisan agreement? And here the chairman is bringing bills to the floor that have been enthusiastically, actively supported, Mr. Speaker, by our friends on the other side of the aisle. Why have they supported them? Because they are good ideas. This is where there is an incredible amount of common ground.

There have been some false arguments made on the other side that are just not that persuasive, and the argument by the gentleman from Texas created the impression that if you vote

"yes" on this, then we are not going to be able to afford meat inspectors. We are not going to be able to have bridges or a cure for cancer. It is somehow out of our reach. Spare me.

Mr. Speaker, I am reminded at times like this of a letter that Thomas Jefferson wrote in 1790 to a man named Charles Clay. I am going to give you three lines from this letter that I have committed to memory because I think it deeply resonates where most Americans are when they look at our House today.

Thomas Jefferson wrote this to Charles Clay. He said:

The ground of liberty is to be gained by inches. We must be content what we can get from time to time and eternally press forward for what is yet to get. It takes time to persuade men even to do what is for their own good.

Mr. Speaker, that is Jefferson's admonition—no stranger to vision, no stranger to the big picture as the author of the Declaration of Independence.

We don't walk away from tax reform, the aspiration that we all have, but it is to say: Look, if we are going to be agnostically scrutinizing these things, even an agnostic would say this ought not to be caught in the crossfire.

We ought to vote "yes" for this bill and move it along.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Essentially, what the gentleman from Illinois says is: Well, let's do tax reform by picking and choosing a piece or a few at a time.

That is the opposite of tax reform. He described it. That is the difference.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON), a very distinguished member of our committee.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the Democratic lead on the conservation easement bill and to very regrettably say that I rise in opposition to this bill that I think so highly of.

I don't disagree with the policy. I don't disagree with the need for certainty, something that has been referred to many times today. And I don't disagree that the way the Republicans did it last year—in the last 2 weeks and doing it retroactively—I don't disagree that that was the wrong way to do it.

I have worked for permanency on conservation easements ever since Chairman Camp and I passed the big expansion in 2006. I have been the Democratic lead in every Congress to make conservation easements permanent.

Conservation easements are good public policy. They protect open space. They protect important ag lands. They protect important wildlife habitat. They are essential for clean air and

clean water. They are essential for locally sourced good, healthy food. They are important to hunters, to fishermen, to conservationists.

They are important to people who live in rural areas and they are important to people who live in urban areas. Nowhere is that more apparent than what happened in New York. We were able to save New York City from having to spend \$8 billion in building a water filtration system because we were able to protect their watershed area, in large part through conservation easements.

We all know that these are important. Every one of us knows it is important. That is why every Congress, when we introduce this bill, we get upward of and sometimes over 300 bipartisan coauthors on the bill, but the problem is this bill isn't paid for, as you have heard a number of times.

Sadly, I offered an amendment that would have totally offset the cost of the conservation easement portion of the bills that we are taking up today. It was an offset with no tax increases. It didn't increase anybody's taxes, didn't put the taxes on the back of somebody else, didn't shift the cost to anyone else. As a matter of fact, it focused on scofflaws who have been able to avoid paying their taxes because of a short statute of limitations. We offered to extend that statute of limitations. We could have paid for this whole thing. Unfortunately, my friends on the Republican side of the House rejected that amendment.

So instead, we are here with this bill, not paid for. Instead, today, we are going to vote on \$93 billion worth of unpaid-for tax bills that will add \$93 billion to our deficit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. If you add that to what our Republican colleagues did in the Ways and Means Committee this morning when they passed \$225 billion of unpaid-for tax expenditures, that means that just today the Republican side of this House spent \$320 billion that we don't have, directly shifting the cost to our deficit and our debt.

This is not tax reform, Members, and this is not paid for. It is not a good way to proceed, and I ask for a "no" vote.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished member from New York (Mr. REED), a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. REED. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the underlying bill, the America Gives More Act of 2015. In particular, Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about a bill that is near and dear to me, and that is the Fighting Hunger Incentive Act,

which is a subpart of this underlying bill.

The ranking member and I had a conversation the last time this legislation was before the House for consideration. We got a large bipartisan vote in support of the fighting hunger provisions. And I know the ranking member, the gentleman from Michigan, has worked extensively on this legislation for years and years and years. I know in our last debate and conversation here that the ranking member had some concerns that I questioned whether or not he cared about the people that were going to be helped by this act.

I want to make it clear here today, Mr. Speaker, I understand the ranking member cares about those individuals, just as I do—just as all of us, as Democrats and Republicans, should be focusing this debate not necessarily always about the arguments of D.C. but about the people that we came here to represent and help.

Fighting hunger is a bipartisan issue. We unite as Americans when our fellow citizens are suffering. When you look at the millions of Americans who are going hungry every day, Mr. Speaker, we shouldn't be divisive. We shouldn't be arguing about the details of what my opponents on the other side are putting forth today.

We should stand for those millions of Americans, where we say this tax policy is going to result in tons and tons of food not going into landfills, not going into the garbage, but going onto the tables of our fellow Americans that could use that food the most: the hungry, the poor.

And we can argue whether there are other ways to do it and there are other things that we can do to help them, but we can agree that this is one piece of a solution to this problem that we could pass today and move the needle and care for our fellow Americans.

That is why I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation. We don't want food going into landfills. We want food to be put on the table of the people that need it most.

We have concerns about the debt on both sides. I get it. But here is an opportunity for us to come together. I am concerned about the debt. My colleagues are concerned about the debt. But here is an opportunity for us to show the American people that sent us here that we care about them, we are listening to the American people, and we are willing to do something about it in order to make sure that this policy results in that food going to our fellow citizens who need it most.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, if I could ask how much time we have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) has 22½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) has 21½ minutes remaining.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA), another distinguished member of our committee, the chairman of our Caucus.

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I think we should clarify something. Every day, Americans donate food, clothes, and money to charities. Millions of Americans do that all the time. Most of those Americans don't expect to get something in return. They do it because it is the right thing to do, and it makes them feel like they are part of the American community. So every day Americans are giving.

Now, the Tax Code happens to also try to encourage us to do more giving, which I think all of us agree is good. So let's remove that from the debate because I think we are confusing folks who might be watching this.

This isn't about trying to give people an incentive to give because Americans are doing it whether or not the Tax Code says to them: We want you to do this.

The issue is this. Under the Tax Code, some Americans—not a majority of Americans, not even a third of Americans, but a fraction of Americans—can take advantage of the provisions in the Tax Code that give them tax breaks for having given something.

You have heard a discussion about food. If you gave canned goods because the boy next door put up a bag and you put canned goods in there and you gave them away, this provision isn't about that. No. There are a fraction of American taxpayers, mostly companies, restaurants, and so forth, who can take advantage of that. You can't. Americans can't take advantage of that provision.

Say you have an IRA, or Individual Retirement Account. Some Americans have an IRA. The majority of Americans don't, but some do. You want to be charitable. Say you have done fairly well. You want to give some of your IRA to a charity. The Tax Code says: We want to incentivize you to do that.

□ 1545

The Tax Code right now says you can give up to \$100,000 in your IRA to charity. Guess what? That won't be recognized as income.

How many Americans make \$100,000? Not too many—but say you make \$100,000. How much are you going to pay in taxes? How many of you have \$100,000 in your IRA that you give away to a charity? Well, there are some people who can, and there are some people who do. Guess what? They get a tax break for doing that.

It is a pretty big tax break if you think about how much you would pay in taxes on \$100,000 of your income. They get to give that money away. Guess what? They don't get taxed a cent on that \$100,000 that they just gave out of that IRA that they can do.

By the way, you don't get to just do it once in your lifetime. Every year, an American can give away \$100,000 out of your IRA and get the tax break.

How many Americans do that? A tiny, tiny fraction—but guess what? When you take that IRA rollover tax break and you take that other tax break for those companies that can give away food and you take the other tax breaks for those who have land that they could give away to a charity, guess how much it adds up to?

It adds up to what we, today, provide in funding to do research against breast cancer and all the research funding we put in to do Alzheimer's research, the same amount of money.

When people say, You don't have to worry about the cost of that, you don't have to pay for this—well, we could spend twice as much money to find a cure for breast cancer, twice as much money to find a cure for Alzheimer's disease, if we weren't giving away these tax breaks to somebody who can afford to give away \$100,000 in their IRA every year to do good.

By the way, that wealthy American could give \$100,000 out of that IRA today, but they get a tax break for doing it. Would that stop them from giving away \$100,000 just because they don't get the tax break? I don't think so.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. BECERRA. I don't think so because you don't have to be wealthy in America to give. We all want to give. In fact, the folks who give the most are the folks who earn the least. They give what they can.

How many times have you been invited to someone's home who you know it is hard for them to put food on the table, and they invite you to eat at their home, and they don't expect you to give them a thing?

We give because we think it is the right thing to do. The Tax Code wants to incent that, and that is good because we want to help charity.

To say that it doesn't have to be paid for, when we have to pay for all the cancer research, for breast cancer, when we have to pay for the research to cure Alzheimer's disease, when we have to pay for those food inspectors to make sure that the food that gets on our table is free of carcinogens and diseases and microbes that could endanger us—absolutely, we have to pay for those things. As it was said earlier, there is no free lunch.

All we are saying is this: Let's do good. If we are going to give someone who is wealthy a chance to do good, let's pay for it. Let's figure out a way to do that because we want to be charitable, but let's not play this game that it doesn't cost somebody in America for this tax break to go mostly to wealthy folks.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), the distinguished House majority leader.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman and the chairman for yielding.

I have to pause for a moment. We debate a lot of things on this floor, and they are worthy debates, and they are interesting debates, but let's first, Mr. Speaker, tell the American people what we are debating today. Fighting Hunger Incentive Act, that is what we are debating.

Lots of times, I question why we have debates on the floor certain times. Right now is one of them. I really wonder if the American people tuned in today and said: You were really having an argument against Fighting Hunger Incentive Act?

Let me walk through what we are debating because, just a couple of days ago, I just went down the road here to the D.C. Central Kitchen. It is a non-profit, feeds a lot of homeless, also helps people build jobs.

You know how it was created? Because a small businessman saw people who were hungry, then he saw an inaugural for the 41st President of the United States and said: Should that food all be wasted?

He took the leftovers and found someone who needed it. Then he went further and he goes: You know what, these people coming to eat, what they really need is they need a job, so why don't I create a culinary school?

Ninety-nine classes have gone through this culinary school. And you know what? I met this young man who went through class number two. Early in his life, he did some things wrong, and he was incarcerated for more than 20 years.

But you know what his life is today? He is the supervisor for 8 years. He has a 5-year-old daughter, and he has a college fund for that daughter. That is because the current Tax Code allows it to happen.

Mr. Speaker, when I listen to the other side, you would think we are creating a whole new bill. We are taking a Tax Code and extending it, instead of having a problem when someone wonders: Will I still get that donation?

So I asked them, I see how many people you feed here and the number of volunteers—if you want to volunteer at the D.C. Central Kitchen, you have to sign up, and the opening is in May because people want to give back.

They say 60 percent of all the food they get is donated. They get fish that would actually go into a dump beforehand. But you know what? It is not easy, if you are a small farm somewhere else, to donate it.

This incentive allows it happen. Why? Because one person saw a need—he didn't go to government to do it,

but he used the system to actually enhance and build it up.

I don't have to just go to D.C. to see this. I see this in my own community. My wife and I go down to the mission in Kern County. I see lives changed. I see people fed.

But you know what? I see all walks of life. I was down to feed the mission one day, and a person that was just a couple of lines behind in there to get food went to the same elementary school as me and the same junior high and the same high school. That is the greatness of this country, that we are willing to help one another.

Mr. Speaker, I just don't understand. If we are willing to help each other, why do we have to fight to make it allowed to do that?

There are worthy fights on this floor, but this is not one. We are better than this, Mr. Speaker. I will tell you this: What I am most amazed and dumbfounded by, this bill has a veto threat.

This bill to help hunger, to help the next Dawain, to help the next individual be fed, has a veto threat.

You know what? I read the veto threat. The administration doesn't oppose the provision because it is already in law.

So many times people say: Why do you wait till the last minute in this House? Well, we are not now. We are taking it up early, so nobody has a problem.

But you know what the administration, Mr. Speaker, the President said? He is threatening to veto this bill because Congress didn't pass other bills the President wanted and because the President might oppose future bills that the House could pass.

Seriously? That is just wrong. Mr. Speaker, I believe in this country. I believe in mankind. I believe in the goodness of all of us. It is not about party. It is about helping one another.

We are fighting for the incentive to end hunger and encouraging others to do it. We shouldn't have to debate about it. We should celebrate it.

I look forward to this bill passing with a large majority and the President signing it and all of us, as Americans, coming together to help the most precious because it is in every single one of our communities, hunger.

Let's put our political games aside, Mr. Speaker, and let's rise to what people expect of this House, to help the common good.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

I think the majority leader is leaving the floor, but I want him to hear me. I am an original if not the original sponsor of the provision regarding food donation. I have a son and daughter-in-law who are working on this very issue.

The issue is this: the majority leader helped lead an effort to cut food stamps by \$40 billion. The argument was we could not afford it. Now, they come

forth here with a provision that they don't want to pay for, added to other provisions that will cost \$200 billion, \$300 billion, going to \$700 billion or \$800 billion.

That puts a bad name on the notion of commitment. Commitment needs to have some consistency.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS).

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I have long supported the tax incentive for businesses to deduct charitable contributions of food inventory. Indeed, I have a bill to expand the deduction for non-C corps, as does the bill under consideration.

The food inventory deduction allows us to help stock America's food banks and feed the hungry. Importantly, we need to address the food inventory deduction because, unlike other business tax extenders, the food deduction provision cannot be useful if extended retroactively. If it expires, our hunger relief organizations miss out on potential donations of food.

In Chicago, where I live, one in six people, including children, do not know where their next meal is coming from.

In addition to advancing charitable and S corps tax provisions, this committee should be prioritizing the permanent extension of the earned income tax credit to help the working poor afford food and other basic needs for their families.

We should be prioritizing the new market tax credits to help distressed communities so that the hungry can have jobs so that they can purchase their own food and not rely on food banks.

Although I strongly support incentivizing charitable donations of food inventory, I do not support passing unpaid for, permanent, and piece-meal tax breaks while the needs of other vulnerable citizens go unmet.

We should be considering the EITC, AOTC, new market tax credit, work opportunity tax credit, tuition and fees deduction, teacher tax benefits, Promise Zones, and hundreds of other tax provisions that help our communities and our people.

One of the things that I have learned—if I know nothing else—is something that Frederick Douglass was known for saying, that in this world, you may not get everything that you pay for, but you most certainly will pay for everything that you get, and if you don't pay one way, then you will definitely pay another way.

The price of increasing the deficit, not providing a broad, comprehensive tax reform effort, is something that we ought not be paying for. The principles and concepts in many of the provisions, obviously, we agree, but we do not agree that you can go on paying for what it is that you need.

Mr. Speaker, I will vote "no" on these provisions.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER).

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Fighting Hunger Incentive Act of 2015.

Roughly one in 10 Minnesotans live in poverty. Sadly, this means that many Minnesotans, including children, lack access to the food and resources they need to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle.

This morning, I had an opportunity to tour and make sandwiches at Martha's Table, an organization here in D.C. that reaches more than 18,000 people through their programs. I saw firsthand the need for legislation like this.

This legislation will permanently extend the enhanced charitable deduction for all businesses that donate food to charities and food banks. This will encourage more businesses to chip in and help in the ongoing fight against hunger.

We have an obligation to help those around us, and this is a nonpartisan, bipartisan way to make a big difference.

□ 1600

Mr. LEVIN. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), our ranking member on the Committee on the Budget so dedicated to these issues. If he needs more time, he should just ask.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I thank my friend from Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, things are not always what they seem, and this is one of those cases. It is unfortunate because tax incentives for charitable giving are the kind of issues we should be handling in a bipartisan way. We should be working together in a bipartisan manner to reform our Tax Code and this as part of that.

Unfortunately, we are not doing that today, and this bill along with the series of other bills that will be coming to the floor in the days to come will add \$350 billion to our deficit over the next 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, most of the bills that are coming next are permanent extensions of tax breaks to major corporations. In the process, they don't pay for any of that. They don't close a single corporate tax loophole to provide those tax breaks.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am holding in my hand the budget that Republicans passed in this House just a year ago. Now we have the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means—he was chairman of the Committee on the Budget, a good friend of mine. In their budget last year, they said they would not do what they are doing today. They passed a budget saying they would not have tax extenders that added to the deficit. I am reading right here from the budget that I think passed unanimously with Republican votes. It says

they will only do these tax extenders if such measures would not increase the deficit for the period of fiscal years 2015 to 2024.

Here we are, less than a year later, throw their budget out the door. Why did it matter? Because last year they wanted to pretend their budget was in balance after 10 years, and they knew that if you had these tax extenders that were unpaid for, they wouldn't have a balanced budget. It wasn't balanced anyway, but no matter, that is why they did it.

Now, why does this matter beyond the fact that the Republican majority did one thing last year and is doing something different today? It matters because when you increase the deficits, our Republican colleagues are going to come right back around to us and say: You know what? The deficits are going to go up, and so we have to cut some of the investments that are supposed to help vulnerable people—the very people our Republican colleagues say they want to help today. They are going to say: Deficits are going up. We have got to cut those programs.

You know how we know that? Even before they increase the deficit like they are doing today, they were cutting those investments last year. In fact, while they are claiming to fight hunger today, here is what the budget from last year did: it would have cut the food and nutrition programs by 20 percent, \$137 billion. That would have ended nutrition assistance for 3.8 million Americans.

Now, I heard one of my friends and colleagues, Mr. ROSKAM from Illinois, saying Democrats are opposing this.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman an additional 2 minutes.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I heard some of our colleagues saying we are opposing this on the basis of process. Really? Cutting nutrition assistance programs for 3.8 million Americans is process?

You know what else their budget did? It cut the category of spending that we use for the Women, Infants, and Children program to the point that 200,000 women, infants, and children would have been cut off of supplemental nutrition assistance under the Women, Infants, and Children program. Process? Really? I thought our colleagues were saying they wanted to fight hunger.

That budget last year, the one I am holding in my hands that passed here, you know what else it did? It did not extend tax credits for vulnerable people. It did not extend the earned income tax credit bump up. It did not extend the child tax credit. At the same time, they had a budget, and I suspect they will again this year, that cuts the top income tax rate for millionaires. That is what they do.

We can do a lot better, Mr. Speaker. That is what Democrats are saying. We

can make these reforms to the Tax Code. We can make the charitable deduction permanent, but we can do it in a way that doesn't hurt other programs for hungry people. We can help hungry people through one mechanism without hurting those same people through another mechanism. That is why the President said he was going to veto this bill, not because it helps the deduction for charitable giving. This is a bill that says we are going to help some hungry people. But you know what? We are going to do something else in our budget that actually hurts those same hungry people even more, much more.

Now, I am also holding in my hand the Democratic budget that was presented last year. You know what we do? We permanently extended this charitable deduction—permanently—just like this bill. But you know what we did not do?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has again expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman an additional 2 minutes.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend.

So I just want to be clear. In our budget, we extended permanently this charitable deduction to fight hunger, the fighting hunger incentive. We did that.

But you know what we did not do? We did not cut the food and nutrition program, SNAP, by 20 percent. You know what we did not do? We did not cut the part of the budget that funds the Women, Infants, and Children program so that 200,000 people would not have the benefit of that.

You know what we did do? We cut a lot of the corporate tax breaks. We said we should not have a Tax Code that actually rewards American companies that move American jobs and capital overseas, so we would cut down on those. In that way, we were able to pay for them. That way, Mr. Speaker, we were able to extend the charitable deduction permanently, but we were also able to avoid cutting the Women, Infants, and Children program and avoid cutting the food and nutrition programs. That is what we are saying.

Unfortunately, the bill before us today, what they are saying is, by increasing the deficit, yes, we are going to extend this program to fight hunger; but, on the other hand, when their budget comes around next year, they are actually going to pass stuff that hurts those same people even more.

What we are saying is we don't have to help people by hurting people. We can do it all if we are willing to cut some of those corporate tax breaks, tax expenditures, spinning the Tax Code for major corporations that are put there because they have good lobbyists in Washington.

So let's do this the right way. That's the way we did it in the Democratic

budget last year. That is the way we will do it in the Democratic budget again this year. Let's not help people by hurting other people or even hurting the people we are trying to help.

Mr. Speaker, I regretfully urge that we reject this bill and do this the right way.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. KNIGHT).

Mr. KNIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I have gotten to sit during this debate, and for the last hour or more I got to listen to nobody arguing, nobody wondering that this is a bad idea, nobody saying that this is something we shouldn't do.

When you walk around your district—and me being a freshman, I get to hear all my friends. You know, you never ask your friend whether you are a liberal or a conservative or a Democrat or Republican. You just talk to your friends. Friends always ask me: Why don't you get something done?

As a State legislator in California, it was difficult for us to get some things done. I was always frustrated about that. I never liked to hear the term "ABC"—Anywhere but California. But the reason that term came up was because of certainty, was because businesses didn't know what we were going to do from year to year. That is exactly what we are talking about today—certainty. "Certainty" is just not a word that we throw around. "Certainty" is something that has meaning. If we are going to extend this for, now, 7, 8 years in a row, it is obviously a good idea.

Going back and forth and volleying back and forth saying that this is a great idea, we all agree, we just want to do it on a 1-year basis, doesn't give certainty, doesn't give that reliability that this is good policy, we all believe in it, and we can get what we desire out of it.

When we go back to our districts and we go to our food pantries or we go to places that are helping the needy and helping the people that need it, feed people that need to be fed, wouldn't you like to go back there and say: "You know what? This is not something we are going to kick back and forth next year or the next year. This is something that is going to be on the books. We have sheer certainty about this"?

So listening to this debate and listening to what is happening of these four measures is what I draw out of this. What I draw, what we can get today: bipartisan, moving this forward, getting certainty for these measures that we seem to all agree upon.

Mr. LEVIN. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. At this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER).

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman.

As I have been sitting here, I have to admit, my thoughts have changed back and forth. My mind has changed. My speech has changed dramatically.

It occurred to me: I think my friends on the other side of the aisle are asking the wrong question. The question should not be: What is this going to cost the taxpayers? The question should be: What will the cost to the taxpayers be if we let these deductions expire?

Then it occurred to me, in listening to some of the speeches, that there is not a lack of sincerity in the desire to feed hungry people, not on their side, and certainly not on our side. I grieve when somebody's sincerity is questioned in this way. But I think what the question is is: Who do you trust to deliver the solution to people's needs, to people's hunger? What about college education? What about women's shelters? Who is best prepared to deliver those resources and those services?

I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, it is charity. It is charity. The Sermon on the Mount wasn't communicated to the Congress; it was communicated to the congregation. It wasn't delivered to the democracy; it was delivered to the disciples. Our Tax Code ought not punish charity; it ought to lift it up.

I think we are asking the wrong question: Who is best prepared to deliver these services?

I think the other wrong question is we are arguing over what is not in the bill sometimes as opposed to what is. I wish there was more in it. I wish that we could include life income tools and the charitable IRA rollover. The chairman knows that. I hope to get to that. But I also know that incremental change is better than no change. Incremental progress is better than no progress. I hope we can get to comprehensive tax reform. I am confident we can. But today I am asking our colleagues, let's do what we can do. What we can do is this bill that is in front of us. I urge a "yes" vote.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY), another member of our committee.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding me this time.

It is unfortunate we are here today, once again, in a situation where I think the overall intent sounds very good: charitable giving, helping the poor, helping the hungry. Quite often that is something you hear from our side of the aisle. In fact, all last year we had done the food stamp challenge. We had done a number of things to bring focus and attention to the plight of the hungry in the United States, and it is a bit raw to hear my colleagues on the other side of the aisle speak about their solution to this issue as a tax bill unpaid for that adds more than \$14 billion back on to our national deficit and to our debt, ultimately.

The President announced that he would cut the deficit in half within 4 years. He has now reduced the deficit by over a trillion dollars, from \$1.4 trillion to a little bit over \$400 billion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. CROWLEY. Not perfect. We still have a ways to go. But isn't that remarkable? A Democratic President that reduced the deficit, was handed a deficit of over a trillion dollars by his Republican predecessor, and now this President can lay claim—and I think rightfully so—to having reduced the deficit, yearly deficit, by over a trillion dollars.

Yet here are my Republican colleagues. Once again, they see an opportunity to add on to the deficit again here in this particular measure by \$14.3 billion. It doesn't sound like much, but when you add up the whole package, it is well over \$300 billion you want to add back to the Nation's deficit. I think it is wrong. I think most Americans think that is wrong. Democrat, Republican, it matters not. We are making progress. You are putting that on the back of future generations. The hungry that you pretend to be taking care of today are going to have to try to pay for these bills in the years to come. I think this is wrongheaded. I hope that my colleagues on this side do not support this measure.

□ 1615

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO).

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, one thing that is particularly of pride for organizations and individuals in southeastern Pennsylvania is the success of the Chester County Food Bank and many other food banks.

Fighting food insecurity is something that you wouldn't think is a real problem in the more wealthier enclaves of this country, yet there are those who wake up every morning not knowing where their meal is going to come from. Food banks provide a very valuable service. The Fighting Hunger Incentive Act aims to assist our food banks and assist organizations and individuals to help fight hunger. That is what this bill is about. We should pass it, and we should move on in a bipartisan fashion.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

We have heard a lot of discussion about many of these programs, maybe most of all about food programs. But really, let's look at it beyond the rhetoric. Essentially when it comes to food programs, what the Republicans are doing is giving with one hand while they take with another. And there is much more that they take than they would give.

The food provision here comes to \$2.2 billion. They have chopped \$40 billion from food stamps; that is 20 times more. As the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) pointed out, when you add in WIC and other programs, they have cut way over \$100 billion. And they say they had to do that, in part, because they could not afford it.

So they come forth with bills that are going to add to the deficit, and that shows what this is all about, because they pass these bills adding to the deficit, and then they come back and they say, Sorry, when it comes to other needed programs, we don't have the money.

Indeed, not only do they give with one hand and take with another, and much more, but they give an empty hand, an empty hand like this—nothing in it—for the Child Tax Credit, for the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, for the New Markets provision that really matters, for the EITC. And then they say, Well, we can't afford it, yet they won't close the tax loopholes. It is so inconsistent.

I think in terms of the impact on human beings, it is not only inadequate but it is impersonal.

So we come here fortified. We are determined to do the right thing when it comes to tax reform. We are going to do the right thing when it comes to other important issues, including fiscal responsibility. And we are going to make sure that there are the funds available for needed programs because we have paid for things.

I strongly urge a "no" vote. That really is standing up for the right thing when it comes to bipartisanship, to tax reform, and to fiscal responsibility.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

I guess I will just try to summarize this debate in a couple of ways. What I am hearing is, to paraphrase: We like this policy. We think there is a need. We just want to raise taxes.

Let me put it a different way. If there was a popular spending measure that came here to the floor that extended the same policy from last year to this year because it was expiring, I don't think we would be hearing these concerns.

In fact, with Trade Adjustment Assistance, something that is very popular among this committee and the Members on the other side of the aisle, that is exactly what happened in December. The law expired. A straight extension of the law, of spending, continued. It didn't cost anything. Why? Because that is how the baseline treats spending.

I didn't hear all the hues and cries about deficits when we extended the Trade Adjustment Assistance law, that spending program. So we hear all of these cries about it.

Actually, let me take that back. We don't hear all these hues and cries about the deficits when we extend these tax provisions for 2 years. We don't hear these concerns when we extend current law tax provisions for 1 year. And we don't hear these concerns about deficits when we retroactively extend it from last year, going forward. We only hear these concerns when we are giving people the certainty.

So the real actual question before us is: Do we have to raise taxes on other hardworking Americans just so that we can keep them where they are for everybody else? Do we take money away from charities and people giving donations or raise taxes on other hardworking Americans? Or, just like Trade Adjustment Assistance was extended this last year, do we treat these important provisions the same, which is: they are in the Code; they have been in the Code; we want them in the Code; we agree they should be in the Code—let's keep them in the Code. That is the decision here.

So the newfound concern about deficits, I find, is really more of a thinly veiled attempt to raise taxes. I think what this baseline argument is really all about is: Do we just want to have a Tax Code that raises more and more and more taxes? Do we want to put ourselves in this position of just always raising taxes? Or do we want to give taxpayers a break? We are not even saying give them a break. We are saying, just don't raise their taxes; just keep them where they are.

So this isn't costing anything, in that we are not lowering someone's taxes. We are just keeping their taxes where they are, and we are preventing them from going up. So let's just make it really clear.

I guess the new definition of preventing tax increases from hitting hardworking Americans is now a big tax cut. That is basically what we are hearing here.

We don't buy that logic. We don't want to raise people's taxes. We want to reform the Tax Code. And we want these kinds of provisions that are very important, that we know will stay in the Tax Code even with tax reform. We want people to know that they are there so they can plan accordingly.

We are doing 179 tomorrow. We want farmers to be able to buy tractors before December 11 in the year. We want people to make decisions to donate food to charities. Maybe you are doing well in retirement and you have got a little bit of money out of your Individual Retirement Account and you would like to donate it to a charity, we think you ought to be able to do that. We want foundations to be able to make donations for the greater good in their communities. Those are the things we are getting here and, more importantly, we are giving them the certainty they need to make long-term

plans so they can do more of it. That is why we should pass this bill. That is why I think everybody should vote for this bill. That is why I think Democrats and Republicans should vote for this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this bill.

It's not because I don't support providing additional assistance to benefit charities. I do. It's because this bill is a trick to actually cut funding for groups like food banks and homeless shelters in the long term.

The reason is, the cost of this bill is not paid for, meaning the entire cost of these tax breaks will be added to the nation's deficit.

\$14.2 billion will be added to the deficit.

This after President Obama has already slashed the deficit by $\frac{2}{3}$ from the trillion dollar deficits he inherited from his predecessor George Bush.

So what will be the result of these new larger deficits that my Republican colleagues are creating today?

We all know.

Republicans will soon turn around and cry crocodile tears about the budget and demand deeper cuts in spending.

And that means less Federal grants towards homeless veterans shelters, food banks, senior centers and other organizations that help people in need.

I ask, has the Republican austerity program benefitted charities so far?

Have the budget cuts known as sequestration benefitted local charities and nonprofits?

The answer is a resounding no.

It is the charities themselves who have said the painful budget cuts forced on them have put charities in a situation where more than 50 percent of nonprofits report that they are unable to meet demand for their services.

So why are our charities, our schools, our communities suffering under the Republican majority?

Because my Republican colleagues claimed to be so concerned about deficits—many of which were caused by the trillion dollar Bush tax cuts that did nothing for our economy or to create jobs—that they have demanded steep spending cuts without ever asking the wealthiest American to pay more.

Yes, my Republican colleagues have used their so-called concerns about the deficit to justify cutting spending to social programs that serve children, seniors, and other vulnerable populations—shifting the burden to already-stressed nonprofits. This is a vicious cycle that needs to stop and it needs to stop today.

Funny thing is we could have stopped this process of adding to the deficit, while still benefitting charities, if the Republicans simply allowed a vote on a Democratic amendment to pay for the costs of these tax cuts.

The Republicans refused to even allow a vote in Congress.

Republicans will argue that tax cuts pay for themselves.

But everyone who has been forced to live under the austerity program over the past few years know otherwise.

Republicans argue there is wasteful spending that needs to be cut in order to mandate new spending. Sometimes they are right.

But let's be clear there are wasteful tax programs out there that should be repealed to pay for more beneficial tax cuts as well.

We can find common ground here.

Let's go back to the drawing board and pass these tax cuts, but in a fiscally responsible manner.

So I reluctantly oppose this bill as it will just add to the deficit and lead to more painful spending cuts for the charitable groups that we are claiming to help today.

I urge a no vote on the underlying bill.

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I wish to highlight an important bill that is being considered by the House today—the “America Gives More Act of 2015 (H.R. 644).” This legislation contains a package of four charitable giving incentives: the IRA charitable rollover; the enhanced deduction for donating food inventory; the simplification of the Private Foundation Excise Tax; and the enhanced deduction for donating conservation easements, the last of which is of critical importance to Montana.

Since 2006, the enhanced tax incentive for qualified conservation easement donations has opened the door to voluntary, landowner-led conservation on millions of acres across the country. This provision allows Montanans, particularly our ranchers and farmers, who donate the development rights on their land to deduct a larger portion of their income over more years. It is common sense that modest income donors with highly valued lands should be allowed the same tax deductions they would have been entitled to if their incomes were larger.

These donations are extraordinary in many ways. One of which is the time they take and the money they cost the donor. Decisions to give away what is often a family's most valuable asset routinely take more than a year and require hiring an attorney and an appraiser at considerable cost. Having this incentive expire after a year guarantees that most of the people who would most benefit from it will never even begin the process of considering it.

I support this bill, especially when it benefits constituents like Dan Lilja. About 35 years ago he moved to rural western Montana after graduating from the University of Montana. He married a local, Sally, and started Lilja Precision Barrels in Plains, Montana, in 1985. Dan's interest in bench shooting inspired him to design some of the world's best rifle barrels. Lilja barrels are used in rifles by the U.S. Army, the U.S. Army Rangers, Navy SEALs, Coast Guard, the FBI, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and Canadian Special Forces, among others. These customers demand the best and Lilja Precision Barrels delivers a quality product.

Dan and Sally own property in Sanders County along the scenic Clark Fork River. They entered into a conservation easement with the Montana Land Reliance to protect this property from inappropriate subdivision and to provide critical winter and spring habitat for elk and big horn sheep.

In a way that is both patriotic and conservation-minded, Dan and Sally have contributed to the health and preservation of western wildlife habitats and the security of our country. This is just one of the many stories of how conservation easements are preserving our rich heritage, and I call upon the House to

support this bill for the betterment of not only Montana, but our country.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, because I was traveling to attend the President's cybersecurity summit in California, I was not present when the House voted on H.R. 644, the Fighting Hunger Incentive Act of 2015.

While I support goals of the tax provisions in this bill and recognize the value of extending them permanently, I am concerned that H.R. 644 does not pay for them. I have long been a supporter of improving and streamlining charitable donations to make it easier for individuals to donate food, but this one-sided approach of passing bills that offer tax reductions without increasing revenues is unsustainable.

H.R. 644 will add \$14.2 billion to the deficit over 10 years. By bringing this and similar tax extender bills to the floor for votes, Republicans continue to demonstrate that they are not serious about deficit reduction. It is long past time for Congress to have a reasonable and informed debate on comprehensive tax reform. These piecemeal, unbalanced extender votes are not the way to approach real tax reform.

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about H.R. 644, the America Gives More Act.

The bill before us today contains provisions that I strongly support, but it is with much frustration that I will vote against today's bill. Rather than tackling comprehensive tax reform, House Republicans are once again doing just the opposite. It seems like Congress has given up on comprehensive tax reform only six weeks into the year. The American people deserve better.

I feel like I'm starting to sound like a broken record on this, but we need a tax code that is simple, fair, and provides certainty to all taxpayers. Watching the Republicans cherry pick a few bills while leaving countless other deserving, historically bipartisan bills in the dust is not how to run this committee or this country.

I have been proud to support local food banks in Los Angeles for many years. The work that they do is truly invaluable. Countless families in my district, and across Los Angeles County, are able to put food on the table and send their kids to school on a full stomach because of our local food banks.

Yet year after year we let our local charities down by kicking the can down the road, sometimes kicking the can backwards, when can only muster retroactive policy. Our federal tax code is like a spider web. If we tinker with one provision, others provisions are affected. That is why we must tackle comprehensive tax reform to provide true certainty to both tax payers and charities.

I strongly support the individual charitable provisions before us today, but this is not how to run a country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 101, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. NEAL. I am opposed to the bill in its current form, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I reserve a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A point of order is reserved.

The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Neal moves to recommit the bill H.R. 644 to the Committee on Ways and Means with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 7. NO INCREASE IN DEFICIT OR DELAY OF COMPREHENSIVE TAX REFORM.

Nothing in this Act shall result in—

(1) an increase in the deficit, or

(2) a delay or weakening of efforts to adopt a permanent extension of the provisions of this Act, so long as it is accomplished in a fiscally responsible manner.

SEC. 8. SHORT-TERM EXTENSION WHILE COMPREHENSIVE TAX REFORM IS UNDER CONSIDERATION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, any temporary provision of law the application of which is otherwise made permanent under this Act shall be hereby only extended for 1 year.

SEC. 9. TAX BENEFITS DISALLOWED IN CASE OF INVERTED CORPORATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a taxpayer which is, or is a member of an expanded affiliated group which includes, an applicable inverted corporation, the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall be applied and administered as if the provisions of, and amendments made by, this Act (other than this section) had never been enacted.

(b) APPLICABLE INVERTED CORPORATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the term “applicable inverted corporation” means any foreign corporation which—

(A) would be a surrogate foreign corporation under subsection (a)(2) of section 7874 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 if such subsection were applied by substituting “80 percent” for “60 percent”, or

(B) is an inverted domestic corporation.

(2) INVERTED DOMESTIC CORPORATION.—For purposes of this subsection, a foreign corporation shall be treated as an inverted domestic corporation if, pursuant to a plan (or a series of related transactions)—

(A) the entity completes after May 8, 2014, the direct or indirect acquisition of—

(i) substantially all of the properties held directly or indirectly by a domestic corporation, or

(ii) substantially all of the assets of, or substantially all of the properties constituting a trade or business of, a domestic partnership, and

(B) after the acquisition, either—

(i) more than 50 percent of the stock (by vote or value) of the entity is held—

(I) in the case of an acquisition with respect to a domestic corporation, by former shareholders of the domestic corporation by reason of holding stock in the domestic corporation, or

(II) in the case of an acquisition with respect to a domestic partnership, by former partners of the domestic partnership by reason of holding a capital or profits interest in the domestic partnership, or

(ii) the management and control of the expanded affiliated group which includes the entity occurs, directly or indirectly, primarily within the United States, and such expanded affiliated group has significant domestic business activities.

(3) EXCEPTION FOR CORPORATIONS WITH SUBSTANTIAL BUSINESS ACTIVITIES IN FOREIGN COUNTRY OF ORGANIZATION.—A foreign corporation described in paragraph (2) shall not be treated as an inverted domestic corporation if after the acquisition the expanded affiliated group which includes the entity has substantial business activities in the foreign country in which or under the law of which the entity is created or organized when compared to the total business activities of such expanded affiliated group. For purposes of applying section 7874(a)(2)(B)(iii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the preceding sentence, the term “substantial business activities” shall have the meaning given such term under Treasury regulations in effect on May 8, 2014, except that the Secretary of the Treasury may issue regulations increasing the threshold percent in any of the tests under such regulations for determining if business activities constitute substantial business activities for purposes of this paragraph.

(4) MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL.—For purposes of paragraph (2)(B)(ii)—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe regulations for purposes of determining cases in which the management and control of an expanded affiliated group is to be treated as occurring, directly or indirectly, primarily within the United States. The regulations prescribed under the preceding sentence shall apply to periods after May 8, 2014.

(B) EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT.—Such regulations shall provide that the management and control of an expanded affiliated group shall be treated as occurring, directly or indirectly, primarily within the United States if substantially all of the executive officers and senior management of the expanded affiliated group who exercise day-to-day responsibility for making decisions involving strategic, financial, and operational policies of the expanded affiliated group are based or primarily located within the United States. Individuals who in fact exercise such day-to-day responsibilities shall be treated as executive officers and senior management regardless of their title.

(5) SIGNIFICANT DOMESTIC BUSINESS ACTIVITIES.—For purposes of paragraph (2)(B)(ii), an expanded affiliated group has significant domestic business activities if at least 25 percent of—

(A) the employees of the group are based in the United States,

(B) the employee compensation incurred by the group is incurred with respect to employees based in the United States,

(C) the assets of the group are located in the United States, or

(D) the income of the group is derived in the United States,

determined in the same manner as such determinations are made for purposes of determining substantial business activities under regulations referred to in paragraph (3) as in effect on May 8, 2014, but applied by treating all references in such regulations to “foreign country” and “relevant foreign country” as references to “the United States”. The Secretary of the Treasury may issue regulations decreasing the threshold percent in any of

the tests under such regulations for determining if business activities constitute significant domestic business activities for purposes of this paragraph.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, the terms “domestic corporation”, “foreign corporation”, and “expanded affiliated group” shall each have the same meaning as when used in section 7874 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I am opposed to this bill in its current form.

I want to remind my colleagues that this amendment to the bill will not kill the bill or send it back to committee if adopted. It will simply allow us to proceed to final passage, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Wisconsin, Chairman RYAN, spoke a few moments ago about the notion of goodwill and confidence. But he used a peculiar term as a substitute. He called it the “baseline.”

What about a baseline of some goodwill and confidence building and a measure that acknowledged that, in terms of procedure, this is a violation of the confidence that we have all tried to establish as we proceed to tax reform?

Some of us who have been around for a long time and have participated in actual tax strategy, we would offer the following: the last time that the Tax Code was changed in America, the Internet had not been invented, Ronald Reagan was the President of the United States, and Tip O'Neill was the Speaker of this House.

Now, in terms of procedure, why we object is the following: if you recall, the gentleman from Michigan, Chairman Camp, waited until tax reform last year was completely dead and then asked us to go through the motion. And that, in the end, is exactly what it was, to have gone through the motion of trying to pass some permanent extended tax bills.

Well, in New England 2 weeks ago, we were talking about deflated footballs. Now we are talking about deflated tax reform expectations.

Six weeks into this Congress, and we are doing this procedural instead of substantive achievement that might lead to some tax relief, as the President has acknowledged, for American corporations or tax relief for individual and family filers?

□ 1630

We are doing this with the argument that, somehow, Democrats don't support charitable giving? Our objection

today is based on the following: Fiscally, this is reckless; procedurally, it violates the notion of goodwill in the House; and lastly, and just as importantly, I think it pushes apart the two parties from getting to tax reform.

Mr. Speaker, this is a positioning amendment: How might we embarrass the minority? Do you know what? They are saying here, as they go forward in this argument, that this keeps everything the way it is, it extends charitable giving.

You have to borrow the money eventually to pay for this. That adds to the deficits. Mr. Speaker, that is the argument that we are having here today. We want to know how this is paid for. We are not objecting to the thrust or mission of what is being offered. Under different circumstances, these bills would pass without any problem with broad support.

Mr. Speaker, I don't have any personal quarrel with the merits of this policy, but when it is unpaid for, it means more borrowing. We all support the work of public charities and private foundations in our communities. We support the good works of charitable communities, and we strive to provide these charities with the resources that they need to carry out their mission.

Let me ask you this: Why would they try to masquerade this notion that somebody from Massachusetts is against charitable giving?

Universities, hospitals, and foundations, they abound throughout my State. Like the rest of our Caucus, I favor charitable giving and object to the procedure in which this is being offered today. We object to the procedure.

Why are we taking up this time debating these bills? We should be coming together on tax reform, as promised, for middle class families that grows the economy. If the goal of Mr. RYAN is to eventually remove all deductions, preferences, and exclusions in the Code to get to a lower rate, that should be stated, but not to do it this way.

We are debating bills that the administration has already said they will veto and the Senate has given us no indication they will take them up.

So to fix this moment, our motion to recommit offers the following: a 1-year bridge to tax reform. By the way, my predictions of this in terms of the extenders have been far more accurate over the years than their proposals on the extenders.

We are suggesting here a proposal that does not add to the deficit and addresses the longstanding problem of corporate inversions. By the way, why are companies inverting? Because of the tax system in America.

We are suggesting today that there is a difference and a distinction to be drawn between tax evasion and tax

avoidance. They are avoiding taxes in some cases and evading them in the others.

We have an opportunity to do something about this Tax Code that would help bring that about. We pay for our provision. It gives, I think, a measure of comfort for the Democratic minority today to vote for this motion to recommit, and I urge Republican support for this provision.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I withdraw my reservation of a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The reservation of the point of order is withdrawn.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I claim the time in opposition to the gentleman's motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I will be very brief. My friend got a little animated.

Mr. Speaker, there was a lot there. I will just say this. Here is the question before us: Do we want to give businesses and charities certainty or not? If we would pass this motion to recommit and it went into law, then we will be right back here at the end of the year with the same old problem. We will be right back here. We will be right back here in the same old problem.

They are saying, Let's just do 1 year. Let's just say it takes a few months to pass through the Senate and all of this, then we are back here at the end of the year saying, Oh, my gosh, all these charities are going to be in jeopardy in January.

Let's get off this merry-go-round, Mr. Speaker. It is ridiculous. We all know this is good policy. We all know this is the right thing to do, and we all know that businesses and charities need the kind of certainty that we are providing, and most of us believe that not raising taxes is not the same as cutting taxes.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge a “no” vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 168, nays 245, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 79]

YEAS—168

Adams
Aguilar
Ashford
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu (CA)
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doyle (PA)
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge

Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Sarbanes
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lieu (CA)
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lowenthal
Lowe y
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Lujan, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Nadler

Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
Pallone
Pascarell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Vela
Velázquez
Viscosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NAYS—245

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Becerra
Benishek
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)

Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Costello (PA)
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Doggett
Dold
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Emmer
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick

Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)

Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McSally
Meadows

Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Roskam
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford

Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOT VOTING—19

Cartwright
DeLauro
Duckworth
Esho
Hinojosa
Honda
Kaptur

Lee
Loggren
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Pearce
Price (NC)
Roe (TN)

Ruiz
Rush
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Veasey

□ 1659

Messrs. LOUDERMILK, WESTERMAN, LATTA, GRIFFITH, BILIRAKIS, and AMODEI changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. COHEN and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 279, nays 137, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 80]

YEAS—279

Abraham
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bera
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Boyle (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Byrne
Calvert
Capps
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Costello (PA)
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Davis, Rodney
Delaney
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Emmer
Esty
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy

Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (PA)
Kilmer
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
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Nunes
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Honda

Kaptur
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Lofgren
Mulvaney
Pearce
Price (NC)

Roe (TN)
Ruiz
Speier
Swalwell (CA)

□ 1707

Mr. CARSON of Indiana changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mr. GARAMENDI changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1715

HONORING WALTER GROTZ ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

(Mr. EMMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 90th birthday of Walter Grotz of Delano, Minnesota.

Born on February 10, 1925, Walter is a World War II veteran with a remarkable life of service, both to his community and to his country.

Shortly after graduating from Delano High School in 1943, Walter was drafted

into the U.S. Army Air Force. When his plane was shot down over Germany, he spent 6 months as a prisoner of war of the Nazis.

After surviving this brutal experience, Walter came back to Minnesota, serving as Delano's postmaster until his retirement 34 years later. "Freedom is a very special thing," he reminds Delano students through his scholarship essay contest. "You take it for granted because it's always been there and always will be." But will it?

Thank you for your service, Walter. Happy birthday.

SEND THE PRESIDENT A HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS BILL

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the Congress has 5 legislative days left until February 27. We have 5 days to meet and send the President an appropriations bill that he can sign to keep the Department of Homeland Security from shutting down.

The Republican leader in the Senate says the House ought to act. The Speaker says the Senate ought to act. Somebody needs to act. Somebody needs to act like an adult. Somebody needs to fund the security and safety of the American people. Their own Senate colleagues disagree with their strategy of holding national security hostage to their political goals on immigration.

We face, as all of us know, very real threats, which is why we cannot let the Department's funding lapse. If Republicans want to debate immigration policy, then bring an immigration bill to the floor. Don't hold our security hostage.

I ask my Republican colleagues to end their games and instead work with us to keep America safe.

NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK

(Mr. HUELSKAMP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, this week marks National Marriage Week. This is the time for Americans to recognize, to celebrate, to honor this time-honored institution and the critical importance of a man and a woman committing to each other and to the children of their loving union.

The plain and simple truth is this: marriage is vital to our economic success, cultural well-being, and our children. And sadly, it is being trampled upon as we speak. Unelected judges from all across the country are forcing their personal feelings and biases against traditional marriage upon the American people. This judicial activ-

ism has thrown the social and legal status of marriage into chaos.

Since the question of marriage is now before the U.S. Supreme Court, Congress must act now to right this wrong. That is why today I am reintroducing the marriage protection amendment to affirm the true meaning of marriage is between one man and one woman and to provide a clear policy for our Nation, especially for our children.

ANNIVERSARY OF CRASH OF FLIGHT 3407

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today marks the sixth anniversary of the crash of Colgan Air Flight 3407 in western New York, which forever stole the lives of husbands and wives, sons and daughters, sisters and brothers.

Since that tragic day, the families and friends of those taken banded together as a new family to give others what their loved ones didn't have: a safe flight home. They descended in red by the dozens on Capitol Hill, turning pain into persistence, purpose, and progress.

They saw success in the passage of the Airline Safety and Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act, which establishes the "one level of safety" standard. This ensures that all commercial airlines, regardless of size, are held to the same high-quality training and rest requirements.

Still, there is no rest for the brave families. Last week, I joined them on Capitol Hill to support reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration bill and to speak out against recent industry pushback on safety qualifications.

With heavy hearts we remember the people of Flight 3407 and their courageous families. The flying public is safer today because of their work and persistence.

AMERICAN HEART MONTH

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind every American that February is Heart Month.

According to the American Heart Association, heart disease is the most common form of mortality among both men and women. In fact, one out of every four deaths in this country is cardiac-related. And yet many of these deaths are preventable.

Small changes in diet and exercise can have an enormous and positive impact on your heart health and lifespan. We must not forget America's amazing medical researchers and practitioners

who are also doing their part by pioneering innovative treatments that save lives every day.

So, please remember to love your heart this Valentine's Day, and every day.

SUPPORT PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO DEFER ON DEPORTATION

(Mr. SMITH of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the President's decision to defer the deportation of some of the 11 million undocumented immigrants who are in this country.

This is a decision that every President has made, to one degree or another. We do not have the resources to deport everybody, so he makes a decision about which ones should go and shouldn't. There is nothing illegal about that, and the House should not be holding up the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill because of that policy issue.

First of all, it is a policy issue best addressed by a policy committee, not by holding hostage an appropriations bill. There is an authorizing process to go through to have that fight. Secondly, and more importantly, the President's decision was the right one. There are millions upon millions of undocumented immigrants in this country who are valuable members of our community. They are wives and husbands. They are fathers. They are working productively and paying taxes. Tearing apart families and communities is not something that is going to help this country.

I think the President made the right decision. We should support it. And we certainly shouldn't be shutting down the Department of Homeland Security in a misguided attempt to go after that policy.

ENHANCE MILITARY SUPPORT FOR THE KURDS

(Mr. FORTENBERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, the international campaign to defeat ISIL depends in great part on the strength and effectiveness of trusted partners in the Middle East—trusted partners such as the Kurds.

The Kurdish Peshmerga is a moderate and capable force. They are showing determined courage in fighting ISIL, and they are winning a number of strategic victories. The Kurds are also defending the values of tolerance and pluralism, sheltering hundreds of thousands of Christians, Yazidis, and innocent Muslim people who have fled

ISIL's onslaught. They deserve robust support.

Driven by a twisted form of Islam, ISIL's militants are eighth century barbarians using 21st century weaponry. The recent videotaped immolation of a caged Jordanian pilot is a horrific reminder of their brutality. They are now responsible for the deaths of four American hostages, including Kayla Mueller, a 26-year-old humanitarian worker who was captured while assisting refugees in Syria.

Confronted by such acts, the United States, Sunni Arab nations, and key allies, including Germany, France, and Britain, should enhance military support for the Kurds.

HONORING THE LIFE OF AL LEWIS

(Ms. GABBARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to honor the life of Al Lewis, a selfless and larger-than-life community leader who truly embodied the aloha spirit of my home State of Hawaii. He was a husband, father, friend, organizer, mentor, and so much more to so many. If you knew Waimanalo, his hometown, you also knew "Uncle Al."

He found his passion helping those in need and led through servant leadership, never too busy or too preoccupied with himself to take action to better the lives of those around him. He helped our children—keiki—succeed by working with youth groups like the Waimanalo Teen Project.

In founding the Friends of Waimanalo, he helped create a literary program, purchased uniforms for schoolchildren, and donated to Kailua High School. Every single year he brought the community together from all parts at the Waimanalo Community Carnival.

A respected and loyal community advocate, Al Lewis, better known as Uncle Al, will be remembered and missed by his friends, family, and Hawaii.

PASS THE HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS BILL

(Mr. AGUILAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, today, once again, we find ourselves on the verge of a shutdown—because Congress can't do its job and pass funding for the Department of Homeland Security.

Mr. Speaker, over a year ago, the Senate passed a bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform plan—a commonsense plan—that the House failed to pass. The House has failed to pass anything to address immigration reform, forcing the President to act.

And now, Congress is playing politics, trying to roll back the President's

reforms and threatening to force the American people to pay the price for Congress' inability to agree on funding to protect our homeland.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot risk American jobs, lives, and the national security of the United States. We need to pass the Homeland Security Appropriations bill. We face many threats around the world. We cannot play games here.

To my colleagues I ask you: Is it more important to score political points, or is it more important to safeguard our national security?

Mr. Speaker, I am urging you today to bring a clean appropriations bill to the floor so we can fully fund the Department of Homeland Security. I urge my colleagues to join this effort.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS: INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALKER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, which is having our Special Order hour today to talk about the Nation's need for infrastructure—the fact that we need to keep serious investments in infrastructure not only to keep our roads and bridges and other important parts of our country together but also to help the good, family-supporting jobs that come along with these important investments in our infrastructure.

I serve on the Budget Committee, and we were talking one day with Dr. Elmendorf from the Congressional Budget Office, our nonpartisan agency that we deal with to talk about budgetary matters.

Specifically, I asked the question of Dr. Elmendorf about the Recovery Act that we passed in this country a number of years ago. Dr. Elmendorf said that, thanks to that Recovery Act, over 3 million jobs were saved or created because of the investment we put into our Nation's infrastructure.

In my State of Wisconsin, I was at the State legislature at the time and I chaired our budget committee. We had a report from the road building industry and the vertical construction industry that said 54,000 jobs just in Wisconsin were saved or created because of the Recovery Act.

As much as that helped provide a boost to the economy and help fill our infrastructure needs, we still have so many more to take care of. We have been given a grade of D-plus by the very engineering society that grades our Nation's infrastructure. We have been told that we have 100,000 bridges in this country, or 16 percent, old enough that they can qualify for Medicare.

□ 1730

As we know from recent disasters that we have seen in different parts of the country where bridges have fallen and people have literally been killed, we need to reinvest in that infrastructure so that we have a country that operates, that businesses can function.

Also, we need to help create those jobs now for people who are still out of work. As the economy is coming back, we know that wages have been stagnant, and these are good, strong, family-supporting jobs that can provide it.

The Congressional Progressive Caucus will soon be putting out our version of the budget, just as we will among the Democrats and the Republicans, but we will put out our version of the budget—just as the President has—with a deep investment in our infrastructure needs because we know that that investment is one of the pillars of the strong economy.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the minority leader.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me thank my colleague, Mr. POCAN, for yielding back and giving me this opportunity to address the people of the United States of America.

I am new around here, and so I like to generally listen and evaluate before I speak, and I only try to speak when I might have something to add of value.

If you drive through my district, which is the 12th Congressional District of the State of New Jersey and includes a lot of highways, byways, and bridges, you will see this iconic sign in the capital of New Jersey that says, "Trenton Makes, The World Takes."

It is a sign that points out the legendary industrial past of our community. However, this industrial revolution, it has passed us by, and it is a reminder of the employment that the city used to have.

Yes, the city of Trenton was once the place that you found employment. The Trenton Iron Company produced the wrought iron beams for the dome on this U.S. Capitol Building where we stand today. Trenton's John Roebling's Sons Company produced wire rope that was used to build the Brooklyn Bridge, the now-famous George Washington Bridge, and the Golden Gate suspension bridge in California.

Trenton was also known for its pottery-making, and even today, Trenton pottery can be found on display in museums around the world because of

its artistry and superior craftsmanship.

Trenton's booming industry is responsible for the invention of even the oyster crackers, pork roll, Bayer aspirin, and felt-tipped markers.

Yet, today, Trenton, New Jersey, has a 15 percent unemployment rate. The city of Trenton's legendary industrial past does little for the thousands of unemployed workers searching for work today. The city has had a turn for the worse since the manufacturing sector has left and took with it great-paying jobs.

We are not alone in that problem and this crisis. The same can be said for Cleveland, Ohio, or Detroit, Michigan, or Gary, Indiana, or Philadelphia—to name just a few—towns which were once thriving centers of commerce where jobs were plentiful and unemployment was rare. Today, these same towns face an unemployment crisis where securing work that enables a mother or a father to support a family is an elusive proposition.

At the same time we experience this employment crisis, we also have a crisis in our infrastructure. New Jersey has 39,213 total miles of road. We are small, but we have a lot of concrete, but 35 percent of the major roads are in deprived condition.

New Jersey has 6,566 bridges, but 36 percent of which are underfunded, considered structurally deficient, or functionally obsolete. Over 200 million trips are taken daily across deficient bridges in the Nation, but in total, one in nine of the Nation's bridges are rated as structurally deficient.

You may recall, in 2007, the I-35W Mississippi River bridge in Minneapolis—which had been categorized as structurally deficient—collapsed, killing 13 and injuring 145 people.

Mr. Speaker, our bridges are crumbling, and we need to invest in building and fixing them. The Nation's estimated 100,000 miles of levees can be found in all 50 States and the District of Columbia. The reliability of these levees is unknown in many cases, and the country has yet to establish a national levee safety program.

In 2005, New Orleans' levees failed to hold back the floodwaters of Hurricane Katrina, claiming the lives of more than 1,800 people and causing at least \$125 billion in economic damage. Public safety remains at risk from these aging structures, and the cost to repair or rehabilitate these levees is roughly estimated to be \$100 billion by the National Committee on Levee Safety.

Mr. Speaker, these numbers are reflective of what America has become. I take a look at our communities today, and I see the vestiges of our past.

I ask that we, as Congress, stop playing games, that we get to work for real this time, that we recognize that here we will have the opportunity to not only create safe infrastructure, not

only to create safe bridges, not only to protect communities that are subject to flooding from levees, but we will also be able to create jobs.

There is no more meaningful social action program than a good job, and we know that government has a history for creating those jobs in times of need that help not only to build the strong infrastructure of this great Nation, but to put families back to work, to make sure that they are earning a wage for which they can take care of their children, help provide opportunities for their families, take care of their elderly, ensure that their children have access to quality education, and ensure that our future is strong and stable, based upon the fact that they have had good, predictable, dependable, decent-paying jobs with decent wages.

I look to our Congress, as many people do in this country, and I know who we really are, and I know that if we put our foot to the pedal, that if we decide that we are going to put this country back on a strong footing—metaphorically, as well as literally—I know that if we are understanding that if we build out and support that middle-income layer, those people, the working people of this Nation, that we will create an economy that will grow and prosper everyone from the very, very top to the very, very bottom.

That is what we need to do right now in this country, from a bipartisan perspective, is to introduce, to advocate for, to debate, discuss, design, and develop an infrastructure bill with bipartisan support that signals to the working families and all families in this country that, A, we want to make sure that you are safe as you travel our highways and cross our bridges, that you are safe when you live near waterways and need to be protected with levees, and that you are given the opportunity to give back to your country, to build it, make it the strong country that it should be and, at the same time, create the kind of jobs that we need in order to grow our economy for everybody.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity to speak to the American people today, and I yield back the balance of my time.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LEGACY OF THE HONORABLE SAM JOHNSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, 42 years ago today, a POW came home from Vietnam.

This Special Order was put on by Mr. DOLD from Illinois. He will be here shortly.

A man I love came home that day 42 years ago. He is our colleague, SAM JOHNSON. SAM first saw combat in Korea, 62 hair-raising combat missions in an F-86 Sabre. He told me he used to race Buzz Aldrin to get to where the bad guys were to get the first kill of the day. That same Buzz Aldrin walked on the moon with Neil Armstrong.

SAM shot down one MIG in Korea. He came home and quickly became one of our best pilots in the Air Force. He joined the Thunderbirds, the Air Force's flight demonstration team. He flew solo and slot in the F-100C Super Sabre. He became an instructor pilot at the Air Force's Fighter Weapons School, their Top Gun.

SAM saw combat again in Vietnam. He flew the F-4 Phantom into combat. Coming back after dropping his bombs on North Korea, he was shot down. It was his 25th combat mission over Vietnam, April 15, 1966. SAM bailed out and fell into hell on earth. He was taken prisoner, confined for 6 years, 9 months, and 12 days.

This was a new war for POWs. It was a war of propaganda, so every minute those men were alive, they were valuable. Their captors used starvation, disease, isolation, physical, and mental torture to push these men to confess to war crimes, to bombing hospitals and schools with napalm. They were beaten every single day they were held in captivity.

The Viet Cong saw a fighter in SAM JOHNSON. They saw a man who might start a riot, a rebellion. They called him a "diehard," and so—with 10 other men—they moved him from the Hanoi Hilton to a place they called Alcatraz, hell within hell.

SAM was alone for over 2 years. He stayed in a windowless concrete room, 9 feet wide, 4 feet, 9 by 4 feet. Every summer, it got up to 110 degrees Fahrenheit in his cell.

His legs were shackled with irons—both legs—every minute he was in his cell. Ten other men went with him: Jeremiah Denton, Jim Stockdale, Bob Shumaker, Ronald Storz, Harry Jenkins, Howard Rutledge, Nels Tanner, Jim Mulligan, George McKnight, and George Coker.

□ 1745

Ten came home. Ronald Storz died in Alcatraz in captivity. SAM and his 10 brothers all learned to lean on each other to survive. In Alcatraz, one day SAM was put in a cell and beaten and beaten and beaten to make him write a document and sign his confession of committing a war crime.

Jeremiah Denton heard the clamor when SAM was thrown back into his cell hours after he was taken off from his cell with the Viet Cong. Admiral Denton said: SAM, SAM, it is okay, buddy. There was silence for a couple moments, and then SAM said: I made them write it, but I had to sign it. Ad-

miral Denton said: It is okay, SAM. You are, okay. Hang on. You did a good job.

Because of what SAM and others went through, every naval aviator, marine aviator, Air Force pilot, Army pilot, Navy SEAL, Marine Force Recon, Army Green Berets attend what is known as SERE school—S-E-R-E, survive, evade, resist, escape—POW school.

I went to SERE for 1 week in the fall of 1991. I was fed little amounts of food. No sleep. The last 2 days were in the POW camp in a small concrete room like SAM, alone, stuffed into a small box in the dark, loud music and a waterboard. That training gave me a taste of torture—my strengths and weaknesses. SAM never had that training. He learned it with his blood and broken bones.

I want to close by using the tap code, the way SAM and his fellow prisoners used to communicate without talking. It is a 5 by 5 matrix, 25 letters. It omits the K.

(Tapping on podium.)

In the Hanoi Hilton and Alcatraz, that says: I salute you. SAM, if I was there that day, 42 years ago when you came home, I would say: SAM, I salute you.

God bless them all.

I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING THE 42ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE RELEASE OF AMERICAN POWS FROM VIETNAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend from Texas for his remarks talking about SAM JOHNSON, one of the great American heroes that we have the honor here of serving with. That tap code that you just heard was really the lifeline, the lifeline for so many of the almost 600 POWs, the vast majority in the Hoa Lo Prison. So while you heard those taps, those taps were actually the communication system that allowed those POWs to have some sort of contact with another human, and, I would argue, probably saved many lives.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield to my good friend from Kentucky.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD), my friend, for his leadership on this issue and for leading this special hour. I also want to thank my friend from Texas for honoring our colleague SAM JOHNSON, a true American hero who, through his service and sacrifice, his time in the Hanoi Hilton, his time as a prisoner of war in Vietnam, really showcased what it means to be a great

patriot and an American hero willing to sacrifice for his fellow countrymen and for the freedom that we all enjoy.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of central and eastern Kentucky, I, too, rise today to recognize the 42nd anniversary of the release of American prisoners of war from Vietnam. I would like to honor the brave men and women who courageously wore our Nation's cloth and made great sacrifices in the name of freedom.

As I walk into my congressional office, I am reminded every day of all the American servicemembers that never returned home from past wars by the POW flag that I proudly display outside of my office.

Since the beginning of the Revolutionary War, Kentuckians have continued to answer our Nation's call to service. In fact, over 125,000 Kentuckians courageously and unselfishly served during the Vietnam era, and the people of Kentucky honor those who fought and died in Vietnam by commissioning the Kentucky Vietnam Veterans Memorial, which overlooks Kentucky's beautiful State capitol building in Frankfort. I would also like to recognize the organizations that keep the memories of those who have sacrificed much for our country alive, organizations such as Task Force Omega of Kentucky, Rolling Thunder, and the Kentucky Patriot Guard, who constantly remind us to never forget the servicemembers who have perished and have not yet returned home from Vietnam and other wars fought on foreign soil.

While being held captive, American POWs found strength in each other, and as Congressman DOLD and Congressman OLSON pointed out, those taps were the way that those men in that prison kept each other's spirits alive. Through their struggle, they found resilience; through their faith, they found comfort; and through their patriotism, they found hope. We are so grateful to have these servicemembers home. As we know all too well from recent events in the Middle East, not all prisoners of war make it back to their family members alive, but we owe all of them a debt of gratitude.

Unlike the veterans of World War II, Iraq, the Persian Gulf war or Afghanistan, those who served in Vietnam had a very different and unfortunate experience, many of them, when they returned home. Some were advised to change into civilian clothes and avoid contact with protestors, and it really hurt. They didn't deserve it. They deserve better. So for all of those veterans of the Vietnam war, including those who were POWs, we welcome them home because they deserve our respect, and they deserve to be welcomed home to a grateful nation.

American servicemembers found hope in the fact that a grateful nation would not leave them behind and would

do everything possible to bring them home. We, as Americans, still stand behind that promise today.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for the opportunity to honor the 42nd anniversary of the release of American POWs from Vietnam.

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Kentucky for coming and joining us in honoring these really incredible servicemen, each with an incredible story, and really as we talk about it, actually, Mr. Speaker, I came to the floor yesterday. Yesterday I came to this very spot to talk about my uncle. My uncle is one of the Alcatraz 11, lives not far from the Capitol here in Washington. He was flying off the USS *Coral Sea* in an F-8 Crusader and was shot down on a low-level mission, flying about a thousand feet above the ground.

Now, for those, Mr. Speaker, that don't know what an F-8 Crusader is, it is a jet that can fly at Mach 1.72, nearly twice the speed of sound. When it filled up with smoke after he was hit, he had very little time to eject. He ejected. His parachute opened about 35 feet above the ground, and he broke his back on impact.

Now, this is an incredible story. Yesterday marked the 50th anniversary of being shot down. That was one of the darkest days, I would argue, certainly in our family; but for American servicemen, and certainly aviators, that is certainly a very dark day.

Today, February 12, marks a very different day, a day for us to rejoice because it was the day that marks Operation Homecoming, the day that over 600 American POWs would eventually be released, and February 12 was the day that those first POWs would be released from the Hoa Lo Prison.

The Hoa Lo Prison, Mr. Speaker, was a prison that was built by the French, and unspeakable things happened at this prison. What is incredible to me is not the darkness of what happened at the Hoa Lo Prison, a prison that we know today as the Hanoi Hilton. What is remarkable to me is the fact that these servicemen relied upon faith and honor to get them through, and largely each other.

So I just want those that may be tuning in to put themselves in the place of an American aviator, jumping on board a jet. Put yourself, perhaps, in the cockpit of that F-8 Crusader.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am not revealing any news when we talk about American servicemen and -women being a little bit cocky if they are out there flying. I think some might think they are invincible. Well, the world changed certainly for my uncle and for many on the day of their captivity. They no longer had their aircraft. They no longer had their sidearm. They no longer had their uniform. All was stripped from them. They were issued, in essence, a pair of pajamas and a pair of sandals.

Little did my uncle or SAM JOHNSON or Nels Tanner or Jim Stockdale or Jeremiah Denton or JOHN MCCAIN or many of the other POWs realize how long this conflict would continue. What they did know was that each and every one of them, as an American fighting man, was going to return home with honor.

Many of you may know, Mr. Speaker, the story of JOHN MCCAIN. His father was very high up in the United States Navy. The Vietnamese knew that they had a prize when they had JOHN MCCAIN, and he was offered early release. They were going to give him a free pass home and comfort to be back here in the United States. The devastation that would have done to the POWs, the morale would have been devastating, and so he turned them down. The Vietnamese said it was going to be very bad for you now, Mr. MCCAIN, and indeed it was. He, as well as the other Americans in captivity, would endure years of torture.

□ 1800

The big four, Mr. Speaker, was name, rank, serial number, and date of birth. And these men would be tortured for additional information. Every person—at least everyone that I know—has their breaking point, and certainly American POWs are no different.

They set up a system. They set up, in essence, a military operation, following rank. Jim Stockdale was the highest-ranking officer and, therefore, sent word out that if they were broken, to be able to stiffen their back up and give no additional information next time.

That tap code system that you heard the gentleman from Texas talk about, the 5 by 5 matrix, A-B-C-D-E-F-G-H-I-J—they eliminated the K because they needed to have a 5 by 5 matrix. Rows and columns—first the row, then the column. So B is first row, second column. And really, the way they did it is, “shave and a haircut, two bits” is how you started this conversation. So most Americans know that if you give the rap, they are going to respond with two taps. And that is when you knew there was an American on the other side of the wall. If they got any sort of a different response, they knew that it was most likely not an American and, therefore, they were going to stop their communication.

What was going on through those walls was literally like hundreds of woodpeckers going nonstop, day in and day out, letting people know that it was okay, that they had them. They knew when someone was coming. They could hear the keys rattling and they knew that their comrade was going to be taken out and tortured and beaten. So when they got back to their cell, that tap code would go, letting them know that there was somebody there for them. Incredible.

Now out of the hundreds of POWs that went to North Vietnam and were captured, there was a crew of the 11 greatest threats to camp security, according to the North Vietnamese. They became known as the Alcatraz 11. My uncle, Bob Shumaker, was one of the Alcatraz 11, along with Admiral Stockdale, who was shot down in 1965. He was the senior U.S. officer present during the camps. And he was considered to be a big troublemaker, no question.

Also, George Coker, who was shot down in 1966. Jeremiah Denton, a United States Senator from the great State of Alabama, was shot down in 1965. Harry Jenkins was shot down also in '65. SAM JOHNSON, whom we talked about, whom we have the honor of serving with here in the United States Congress, was shot down in 1966 on his 25th combat mission. George McKnight was shot down in 1965. James Mulligan was shot down in 1966. Howard Rutledge was shot down in 1965. Ron Storz of the Alcatraz 11 was the only one who did not make it home alive.

Nels Tanner has a unique story. He was the last of the Alcatraz 11. Nels Tanner got his ticket to Alcatraz by making the Vietnamese look bad. When he was being tortured and they were trying to get information about who was his commanding officer, Nels Tanner told them it was “Ben Casey” and “Clark Kent.” Well, here in America, everybody knows Ben Casey and Clark Kent are not real figures. And when word got back to the Vietnamese that they had been made a joke of, he got his ticket to Alcatraz.

Mr. Speaker, I want people to understand Alcatraz for a minute. The reason why these 11 men went to Alcatraz is because they were the thorn in the side of the North Vietnamese. They were the ones that resisted the hardest. They were the ones that caused the problems.

The American fighting men in the Hoa Lo Prison, the Hanoi Hilton, they also caused problems, but these 11 were singled out. And they went into a cell that was—at most generous—about 4 feet by 9. Just imagine that, 4 feet by 9. It is about yea big, at 9 feet in front of you. The Alcatraz 11 spent, on average, about 2½ years in this prison camp. They were able to get out of their cell for 15 minutes a day to be able to go empty their sanitation bucket. They ate in their cell. And they had a tremendous amount of time.

What can you do? The most important muscle that they exercised was their brain, which is why the tap code was so important. But they used other methods. They could cough. They could sneeze. They could try to do different things along those lines. They waved their hands in front of the door so that shadows would be indicative of those letters and they were able to communicate.

Mr. Speaker, let me just say, my uncle built his home in Fairfax Station, Virginia, in his mind long before any brick was laid. Brick by brick, he knew exactly how many bricks it would take. He knew exactly how many feet of pipe it would take. He knew exactly how much lumber. These were the exercises. He built it, tour it down. He built it and tour it down. These were the exercises that these men would go through.

At Alcatraz, SAM JOHNSON learned French through the walls. A product of Texas public schools, he might not have had the opportunity to learn a foreign language. So he used that opportunity in Alcatraz to learn French from Bob Shumaker. It is not the most ideal way to learn French, but the one thing they did have was time.

The Vietnamese tried to strip everything from these men, but there is one thing that they couldn't strip. They couldn't strip their faith. They couldn't strip their honor. And each was determined that they would return to the United States with honor. That, I think, is just remarkable.

One of the things, as we think about February 12, 1973, we cannot miss what was happening back here at home. Their spouses played a vital role and an active role not only with the government but also in the Paris Peace Accords, advocating for the release of the American POWs.

Mr. Speaker, Vietnam was not a popular war, a war that went into living rooms. But the one thing that the American public was able to unite and rally around was our American POWs. Bracelets were worn identifying American POWs and the day that they were shot down.

I have a bracelet, Mr. Speaker, in my office. It is sitting next to two pictures—one of the day Bob Shumaker was shot down, February 11, 1965, and the other is this picture right here. This is the first time that he had an opportunity to see his wife and his son Grant, who was about 8 years and 3 months at the time, I think. When he had been shot down, his son Grant was only about 3 months old. This is the picture of them being reunited.

I know it is not the best picture for people to be able to view. But in 1973, the styles were a little bit different. So after the release, Bob Shumaker called his wife, Lorraine, and wanted to make sure that she dressed in the fashion of 1965. You can't see the go-go boots, but you can see the miniskirt. And that was how he had remembered her, and that is how he wanted to see her when he got off that plane.

Mr. Speaker, 8 years and a day for Bob Shumaker; 7 years plus for SAM JOHNSON; 5½ years for JOHN MCCAIN. Incredible stories. Torture.

I can tell you that some of America's finest servicemen tried to take their own lives because they thought they

let their country down when they gave information to the Vietnamese. But they were pulled up by their comrades, by the men who were next to them in these cells.

There are a couple of others whom I think are particularly interesting, Mr. Speaker.

Everett Alvarez actually was the first American POW. He was a U.S. Navy commander and was held in captivity for 8½ years.

Douglas Hegdahl was really a unique case. Most of the POWs were aviators, whether they were flying for the United States Air Force or the United States Navy. Doug Hegdahl was a guy who was in the Navy but happened to be on a ship. He came up and happened to be standing on the deck. The ship zigged when he thought it would zag, and over the side he went. When he was picked up by the Vietnamese in civilian clothes, they thought he was a member of the Central Intelligence Agency. They put him in the Hoa Lo Prison, and he started to just get along.

One of the things with that tap code that they tried to do each and every day was they would communicate who was newly in the prison. And when you think about trying to memorize the names of all the POWs—because if, for some reason, somebody were to be released or to escape, they wanted to make sure that the United States had the opportunity to know exactly who was in captivity. It was absolutely critical for them, critical for their families to be able to know that they were still alive.

Well, there were a couple of folks, Mr. Speaker, who were released early. I would say that was not necessarily the tack that many of the other POWs would have taken. Doug Hegdahl did not want to be released but was ordered to go because he had a photographic memory and knew every single POW, knew their hometown, their phone number. When he got back to the United States, he took his time to go to all of these places to visit the families of the POWs, to let them know that their son, that their husband, that their brother was still alive. He had memorized their addresses and phone numbers. He is really a remarkable man.

Bud Day, Mr. Speaker, another pilot that was shot down, sustained significant injuries while flying his F-100F. JOHN MCCAIN credits him for really saving his life. While in captivity, he was in really tough shape. Bud Day was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, as was Jim Stockdale.

Each and every one of these men—certainly the Alcatraz 11—were highly decorated for their efforts. But I think the thing that was most important to them was being able to return home with honor.

We look at today, Mr. Speaker—February 12, 2015—as a celebration hon-

oring the legacy that these American fighting men have given us all, an incredible faith and a dedication to make sure that each and every one of them was going to return with honor.

There was a ceremony that happened on February 12 as they were discharged and marched out of the Hoa Lo Prison. They were determined to march in rank, as an American fighting force, and then were discharged one by one. The first one shot down would be the first one released. So that was Everett Alvarez. The second one was Bob Shumaker.

They didn't believe that this day had finally come. They saw that C-141 come into Hanoi and really didn't start the real celebration until the 141 had lifted off of that tarmac and the first group of American POWs were on their way home.

Mr. Speaker, I am in awe every time I read stories of these men who did incredible things to endure and to overcome. It is an honor to be able to serve with one in this body, but it is also an honor to be able to stand here today on the day of Operation Homecoming and its 42nd anniversary and to say that America will never forget, America will always remember, that we stood by you then, and we look to stand by all of our men and women in uniform.

□ 1815

We are in the midst of a conflict right now in the midst of a war on terror. We must make sure that we give our men and women that we have asked to go out and defend us the tools necessary to protect our country and to do the job that we have asked them to do. I hope, Madam Speaker, that no one has to endure what these men endured in Hanoi.

I want to thank my colleagues who join me here today, but I also wanted to take this opportunity for those that may be tuning in to let the POWs from the Vietnam conflict know how much they mean not only to me, but to our country. We thank you, and we love you.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING THE NAACP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman for the recitation. It was very touching, very moving, and I just want to commend him for keeping the memory alive. Thank you so much.

Madam Speaker, I am honored tonight to thank the leadership and to thank the Members of Congress who have been supportive of this resolution

that we bring to the floor for a discussion. This is a resolution that honors the NAACP.

This resolution is not new to the Congress of the United States of America because, in 2006, it actually passed the House of Representatives by a voice vote and then, in 2007, it passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 410-0; in 2008, 403-0; 2009, 424-0; and 2010, 421-0.

I thank the leadership and the Members of this body for the support it has shown to the NAACP with the passage of this resolution through the years.

I am honored to be a member of the NAACP. I take great pride in my membership. I have a life membership in the NAACP. I have been fortunate enough to serve on the board of the Houston branch of the NAACP. I served for nearly a decade as president of the Houston branch of the NAACP, and I have been the beneficiary of the NAACP's works. The NAACP has made America the beautiful a more beautiful America.

Tonight, Madam Speaker, I would like to continue this discussion of the NAACP. I would like to say just a few words first about the founding of the NAACP. It was founded on this day 106 years ago—106 years ago—when approximately 60 people answered what was called the call.

It was a clarion call for persons to come together to talk about and discuss a means by which lynching could be dealt with. Of the 60 people, about seven were African Americans. The NAACP is not now and never has been an organization that has been supported by only African Americans or what some might call a Black organization. It has always been an integrated organization.

After having been founded in 1909, February 12, 106 years ago, the NAACP did embark upon a campaign to end lynching in the United States of America, a sad chapter in our history, but one that we must never forget because we never want to see these things happen again.

As things are doing well now in this area of lynching—we don't have lynchings in the United States of America, generally speaking, we understand the adage—the premise—that if you don't remember your history, there is a possibility that it can be repeated.

For this reason, we talk about these things. They are a sad chapter in our history, but it is a chapter that we dare not forget. The NAACP, in embarking on this campaign to end lynching, published a publication in 1919 that was styled "30 Years of Lynching in the United States."

It is interesting to note that lynching was so prevalent in the United States that the great Billie Holiday—the great Billie Holiday—sang a song, she was known for this song, styled "Strange Fruit."

This was a song that she could only sing in certain places because this was one of the first songs that dealt with the protest movement around this notion of civil rights and human rights for African Americans. This song was first presented in New York at a nightclub, the Cafe Society.

When she first presented the song, she had much fear and much consternation because she wasn't sure how it would be received. After she finished singing the song, there was a silence. For a moment, she thought that it would not be well received.

Then one person, as is the case with many movements, one person started to applaud and, after that, one person, then another and another. Then she received a very loud ovation for this song.

I am going to share the words to the song with us tonight because this song is probably one of her signature songs, but it is also a song that predated "We Shall Overcome," which was a part of the civil rights movement, the contemporary civil rights movement.

These are the words to the song, and you will have some appreciation for why I am mentioning it to you. The words are:

Southern trees bear a strange fruit,
Blood on the leaves and blood at the root,
Black bodies swinging in the Southern breeze,
Strange fruit hanging from the poplar trees.

Of course, we know that this song is referring to the lynchings that were taking place. In fact, between 1882 and 1968, according to Tuskegee Institute, there were 3,446 African Americans lynched in the United States of America—a sad chapter in our history.

This is why the NAACP came into being. In part, it was established to ensure political, educational, social, and economic equality for all persons—for all persons—not just African Americans, not just Blacks, not just as we were known at that time, Negroes, but for all persons; and it was established as well to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination—all noble challenges and challenges that we would easily embrace today.

At that time, when the NAACP was founded, because of lynchings that were taking place and because of a desire to make sure that all persons were treated fairly and equally, it was a difficult thing to do.

The NAACP, I am proud to say, has a history of being on the right side of right. It is consistently on the right side of right. The NAACP was on the right side of right in 1948 and 1953 when it filed and won the lawsuits *Shelley v. Kraemer* and *Barrows v. Jackson*. These lawsuits dealt with restrictive covenants.

There was a time in this country when persons could restrict the sale of property to people simply because of who they were, the hue of their skin,

restrict the sale of property to people because of the way they looked.

These two lawsuits were taken to the Supreme Court of the United States of America and were won. If the truth be told, we sleep where we sleep and we live where we live because of the NAACP, because the NAACP was on the right side of right.

What is interesting about this proposition of being on the right side of right, Madam Speaker, is the notion that when you are what I call—what some others would call a Monday morning quarterback, but what I call a hindsight quarterback—a hindsight quarterback, that is my phrase—when you are a hindsight quarterback, it is easy to be on the right side of right because others have had to suffer the slings and arrows associated with being on the right side of right at the right time, in the right place, in the right space. The NAACP has dared to be on the right side of right when it was very difficult to be there.

In 1948 and 1953, when *Shelley v. Kraemer* and *Barrows v. Jackson* were litigated, it was not easy to be on the right side of right, to talk about integrating neighborhoods, to talk about selling property to anybody if they could pay the price of the cost of the property.

Being on the right side of right means something in the country that we know and love. It means something in a country that stands for the proposition of liberty and justice for all, a country that stands for the notion that government should be of the people, by the people, and for the people.

It means something to be on the right side of right; hence it means something to have an organization like the NAACP that will step forward using litigation when necessary, protests when needed, but always a peaceful means to a just end. The NAACP has been there and has always been consistently on the right side of right.

The NAACP was on the right side of right in 1954 when it won the lawsuit *Brown v. Board of Education*. I would daresay that we eat where we eat because of the NAACP and we go to the schools that we go to because of the NAACP.

The NAACP took that lawsuit to the Supreme Court under the leadership of the Honorable Thurgood Marshall with the aid and assistance of the honorable Charles Hamilton Houston and won that lawsuit, placing the NAACP again on the right side of right, overturning decades of injustice with one single lawsuit. The NAACP made a difference in the lives of all Americans.

The truth be told, if we did not have the NAACP, we would have to create it because you need an organization like the NAACP. You need an organization that is willing to take a bold stand in difficult times, an organization that understands that it is not easy to be on

the right side of right, but that understands also that a great country has to move forward, and to do so, it must be on the right side of right.

Let me pause for just a moment because we have had a great sage come into the Chamber tonight. He is, of course, the sage from New York. We know him as the Honorable CHARLIE RANGEL.

I know him as a friend to all of humanity, a person who has consistently been on the right side of right, a person who speaks with clarity, with force, sincerity, and he actually calls them as he sees them, without any fear and without any belief that there are consequences that can be of great harm to him, such that he should not speak truth to power.

Tonight, I am honored to ask my dear friend if he would join me and give his commentary on the NAACP.

I will now yield to the gentleman from New York City, the Honorable CHARLES RANGEL.

Mr. RANGEL. Let me thank my friend and colleague for giving me an opportunity to thank an organization that, unfortunately, so many Americans, Black and White, have taken for granted.

Earlier today, I was sitting on the floor next to one of my Republican friends from the South, and we were talking about Selma. He had recently seen the motion picture, and he was shocked that something like this could have happened.

Me being an oldtimer, I was surprised that he did not know that those things had gone on, but it was the graphics in the motion picture and the change in attitude that people have.

□ 1830

And it reminded me that this happened in my lifetime, to see somebody from the same culture, the same background, now seeing things obscene that should never happen in our great country.

Now, if people could have stood up 60 years ago and subjected themselves as some people did in Selma and put their life on the line in the early sixties, as JOHN LEWIS and so many others did—because I would like to remind everybody I did the march too, but it was after Bloody Sunday. I was not thinking about putting my life on the line. And putting my feet on the line for 54 miles was an ordeal for me, because I didn't fully understand the concept and the threat to human life that was taking place in the sixties.

Imagine what it was when the NAACP was formed. Imagine the threat that Blacks and Whites had formed this organization to bring us together during the time that slavery had just been over and this organization has continued. I cannot begin to tell you, Congressman, at my age, the number of civil rights organizations

and political organizations and religious organizations that I have worked through in my lifetime.

But no matter what the internal debate is, no matter what state our Nation is in, the NAACP has managed, during very rough economic times and hard political times, to keep going step by step and never falling back. And when the whole country and parts of the world were rejoicing over the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act—and we see what recently happened to the Supreme Court. Why was nobody surprised that, once again, in front of the Supreme Court, organizing the entire Nation to do the right thing was the National Association of Colored People?

And so I just wish that, without solicitation, we can find some way to thank those faceless people who never get their names and pictures in the newspaper, go out to the meeting, active in voter registration, and whenever anybody in any community wants to go there for a rally, the first thing they do is call the local branch of the NAACP to make certain that someone would show up. Because the NAACP doesn't do these things for press conferences. They don't do it because they want their names in the newspaper. They have too much credibility and have done too much work and have suffered too much to risk their reputation for something like that.

So I am so grateful and appreciative that you would focus in the well of the Congress, and certainly we all admit that notwithstanding what Dr. Martin Luther King and so many others that we don't know their names have done to bring some sense of equality in our great Nation, that the NAACP was there 100 years ago doing the same thing and then hoping and praying that they can improve the quality of life for all of us. And guess what? They are still doing it.

Thank you for your commitment.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Thank you very much, Mr. RANGEL, for your very eloquent recitation. Once again, you have risen, you have stepped up to the plate, and we are most appreciative that you took a moment to come over and be with us. Thank you very much.

If I may now, we have another Member of the Congress with us from the 18th Congressional District in the State of Texas. She is a voice for the voiceless, a very powerful voice, not only in Congress, but across the length and breadth of the country when it comes to human rights, human dignity, and human decency.

I am honored to have my colleague with me tonight, the Honorable SHEILA JACKSON LEE, who is adjacent to me, the Ninth Congressional District in Houston, Texas. The Honorable SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Congressman, thank you so very much. And, again,

my greatest appreciation for your annual tribute to the NAACP. We are reminded of its great history. You are the carrier of this dream and this celebration. We are appreciative that you have come to this Congress and done many things, but you brought us to a moment every year to be able to honor this storied organization 106 years old. So let me thank my good friend Congressman GREEN, my next-door neighbor in Houston, and a friend of many of the same friends.

We know the work of the NAACP local chapter in Houston, Texas. Now, the leading President is, as I call him, Dean James Douglas. Many presidents before, of course, have ably served our local chapter, but we come today to acknowledge the grandness of the NAACP. And as my colleague, Congressman RANGEL, just mentioned, it is an organization that is everywhere in all ways.

It is well to note that many of the successes that we have had in freedom, justice, and liberty have come about through the NAACP. President Truman was the first President in 1948 to speak to the NAACP. But it was not just an oration, if you will. The NAACP seeks to work, collaborate, and get things done. It was that close relationship with President Truman that generated a commission that in the late 1940s, after World War II, where soldiers came home to a second-class citizenship.

Soldiers who left the hills and valleys of America, the farms, and the urban centers of America, African Americans, colored boys, who went into World War II came out as a second-class citizen. You will hear stories of soldiers coming back home being forced off trains or in the back of the train or the back of the bus, not being offered food at a train station, even with the uniform on.

So heroes that had fought in the war and managed to survive and come home still came to a segregated America. It was in that backdrop that President Truman spoke to the NAACP, and they called for a commission to address the question of civil rights in America. Out of that came the—because it was in the realm of World War II, out of that came an important announcement that really, I think, was the predecessor to desegregating America. That, of course, was the executive order that desegregated the United States military. That is the clout of the NAACP.

Through the years—through the years—the NAACP certainly has a long history, starting in its early birth. But I want to carry it forward into the 1950s and into the utilization of Thurgood Marshall. Now it is called the NAACP Legal Defense Fund that separated it out, but it was these lawyers of the NAACP that rose to defend those in the civil rights movement who were the foot soldiers and the actors of the civil rights movement, meaning acting on the issue, the activists. And

they had the cerebral opportunity, if you will, the cerebral leaders, the lawyers, that came together to provide them the legal armor that they needed. Certainly we know that Thurgood Marshall had a very fond expression and appreciation for the NAACP.

So we come through these years in the 1950s and the 1960s. And the kind of continued support that the NAACP provided in lasting and embracing—lasting and embracing—so it embraced the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which I had the privilege of working for. It embraced various other organizations. It embraced the various faiths in our community, and it embraced any organization that was moving toward justice, as Dr. King said, bending that arc toward justice. The NAACP was there with its many chapters, and it was there with providing the education of so many of these individuals that were, in fact, I call them, foot soldiers in every hamlet of America.

Now we come, if I may cite him, in the civil rights movement, again joining with those marching across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, being a mighty vehicle, if I might, a lobbyist. I understand Congressman Clarence Mitchell was called the 101st Senator. He was a lobbyist for the NAACP. He was on the cutting edge of every single civil rights legislation for a period of, I believe, 40 years. I may be exaggerating the timeframe, but he was there for the '64 Civil Rights Act, there for the '65 Voting Rights Act. Clarence Mitchell of the NAACP was an advocate, not a lobbyist, on behalf of the NAACP, and met and stood, if you will, to debate not on the floor of the Senate with the Strom Thurmonds and others who had a different opinion about desegregation of this country.

Let me take note of the fact that today I had the privilege of seeing an unveiling of a stamp in honor of Robert Robinson Taylor, the great-grandfather of Valerie Jarrett. And what I would say is that even his success in the backdrop of being the first graduate of MIT, African American graduate, you can be assured that the NAACP was moving along to add to the civil rights aspect of the great outstanding success and leadership that this gentleman, Mr. Taylor, has shown.

So the NAACP has been there to make a pathway. The NAACP has been there to embrace. The NAACP has been there to collaborate. The NAACP has been there to stand with you when you need them to stand with you.

I close by indicating that we have had a challenging year of addressing issues of criminal justice reform, and I am very grateful that the NAACP has also taken up this issue and will be a partner on this issue of criminal justice reform, working with many of us as we commit to America—not just African Americans—that we will answer

the question dealing with justice, equality, and liberty.

I pay tribute, finally, Mr. GREEN, to the leader of ACT-SO, who lost her life, in the local chapter of the NAACP. I want to honor her and thank her for the years that I knew her and her service to young people in the ACT-SO program in Houston, Texas. To her family, I want to thank her so much for the work that she did and the lives that she touched.

That is the NAACP. Tonight, I say, "I am the NAACP." Congratulations for 106 years.

Thank you, Mr. GREEN, for yielding.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Thank you very much. I applaud you for your very kind words about the NAACP, and I also compliment you for giving us additional examples of the NAACP being on the right side of right—the right side of right.

With the history that it has for being on the right side of right, one can imagine 100 years from now, when someone looks through the vista of time back upon this time, when the NAACP is the champion right now for voting rights, who will be on the right side of right when we look back?

I think that is important for us to consider because we never want to be on the wrong side of history, but we are in a situation right now where it will take some courage for some people to be on the right side of right as we tackle this question of voting rights, voting rights that have been diminished by the evisceration of section 4 of the Voting Rights Act, which emasculated section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, which means that there is no coverage. We have to now find a way to reinstate section 4 of the Voting Rights Act.

Who will be on the right side of right? Who will be with the NAACP? When we look back 100 years from now and we examine these circumstances and we understand that it was not easy to be on the right side of right, who will be there so that we can accomplish, again, what the NAACP has fought for for many decades in this country?

I thank you, again, Madam Speaker. I thank the leadership for this opportunity. Our time has expired, but our energies are still with us, and we will continue to be a part of this great august organization known as the NAACP, as it continues to be on the right side of right.

I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF THE MEN OF THE VIETNAM WAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) for 30 minutes.

Mr. DENHAM. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Forty years ago today, the first flight carrying U.S. prisoners of war out of North Vietnam lifted off from Hanoi to take the first 40 U.S. servicemen to freedom.

These men, some of whom had been held for 8 years in a brutal captivity, were just a small cohort of more than 683 Americans known to have been held in North Vietnamese prisons and the first of 591 POWs returned to American soil after the Paris Peace Accords through Operation Homecoming.

□ 1845

Sadly, 92 Americans died in captivity, and to this day, more than 1,000 Americans who served in Indochina during the Vietnam war era are still unaccounted for.

Today, we are here to honor both the men who survived and those who never returned. Their extraordinary courage, endurance, and sacrifice should be an example for everyone in this Chamber and across the country.

I would, in particular, like to recall the service of my good friend Senator JOHN MCCAIN and of our colleague here in the House, SAM JOHNSON, who spent nearly 7 years as a prisoner of war—many of them locked in solitary confinement.

The treatment that Congressman SAM JOHNSON and Senator MCCAIN faced inside the prisons was designed to break those held. To force them to give military information or to serve as propaganda tools for the North Vietnamese regime, physical and emotional torture were used to compel cooperation. The denial of food and sleep deprivation were regular, beatings with bars and whips were common, and the binding of POWs with ropes and then dislocating their arms and legs was a favorite tactic.

The names of the places that they were held have entered the lexicon—the Hanoi Hilton, the Alcatraz, and the Dogpatch—all names that conjure up images of cramped cells, isolation, filth, and savage pain.

Madam Speaker, it is worth remembering that the North Vietnamese, in order to justify their treatment of the American captives, declared all of their prisoners to be war criminals and denied them all protections of the Geneva Convention.

What is most remarkable is these men never broke. They kept faith with their country and with each other despite the extraordinary costs to themselves.

When asked what kept them going, many responded their faith in God and their fellow prisoners. Commander Paul Galanti stated:

What held me together was faith—four of 'em: faith in God, faith in my fellow POWs—many of whom I'd never met, although I felt closer to them than my own family—faith in my fellow military forces and leaders whom I knew wouldn't let us down, and, finally, faith in the USA.

Madam Speaker, these stories and the others shared by my colleagues here tonight should remind us of the terrible price paid by those who serve our country and of the debt we owe to each of them. We must also continue to make every effort to recover the 1,636 missing in action from the Vietnam war.

I would like to thank Mr. DOLD for speaking earlier tonight on this topic.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. PEARCE (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today and the balance of the week on account of a family medical emergency.

Mr. HONDA (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for the afternoon of today until February 13 on account of official business.

Mr. SWALWELL of California (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today starting at 1:30 p.m. and the balance of the week on account of traveling with the President and participating in a forum on cybersecurity.

PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE RULES

AMENDMENT TO THE RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE FOR THE 114TH CONGRESS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, Washington, DC, February 12, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I am pleased to submit for printing in the Congressional Record, pursuant to Rule XI, clause 2(a) of the Rules of the House, a copy of the Rules of the Committee on Agriculture, which were adopted at the organizational meeting of the Committee on January 22, 2015, and revised at the business meeting of the Committee today, February 12, 2015.

Appendix A of the Committee Rules will include excerpts from the Rules of the House relevant to the operation of the Committee. Appendix B will include relevant excerpts from the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. In the interests of minimizing printing costs, Appendices A and B are omitted from this submission.

Sincerely,

K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,
Chairman.

(As adopted January 22, 2015, and revised
February 12, 2015)

RULE I.—GENERAL PROVISIONS

(a) Applicability of House Rules.—(1) The Rules of the House shall govern the procedure of the Committee and its subcommittees, and the Rules of the Committee on Agriculture so far as applicable shall be interpreted in accordance with the Rules of the House, except that a motion to recess from day to day, and a motion to dispense with the first reading (in full) of a bill or resolution, if printed copies are available, are non-debatable privileged motions in the Com-

mittee and its subcommittees. (See Appendix A for the applicable Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives.)

(2) As provided in clause 1(a)(2) of House Rule XI, each Subcommittee is part of the Committee and is subject to the authority and direction of the Committee and its Rules so far as applicable. (See also Committee Rules III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII and XI, *infra*.)

(b) Authority to Conduct Investigations.—The Committee and its subcommittees, after consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, may conduct such investigations and studies as they may consider necessary or appropriate in the exercise of their responsibilities under Rule X of the Rules of the House and in accordance with clause 2(m) of House Rule XI.

(c) Authority to Print.—The Committee is authorized by the Rules of the House to have printed and bound testimony and other data presented at hearings held by the Committee and its subcommittees. All costs of stenographic services and transcripts in connection with any meeting or hearing of the Committee and its subcommittees shall be paid from applicable accounts of the House described in clause 1(i)(1) of House Rule X in accordance with clause 1(c) of House Rule XI. (See also paragraphs (d), (e) and (f) of Committee Rule IX.)

(d) Vice Chairman.—The Member of the majority party on the Committee or Subcommittee designated by the Chairman of the full Committee shall be the vice chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee in accordance with clause 2(d) of House Rule XI.

(e) Presiding Member.—If the Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee is not present at any Committee or Subcommittee meeting or hearing, the vice chairman shall preside. If the Chairman and vice chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee are not present at a Committee or Subcommittee meeting or hearing the ranking Member of the majority party who is present shall preside in accordance with clause 2(d), House Rule XI.

(f) Publication of Rules.—The Committee's Rules shall be publicly available in electronic form and published in the Congressional Record not later than 30 days after the Chair is elected in each odd-numbered year as provided in clause 2(a) of House Rule XI.

(g) Joint Committee Reports of Investigation or Study.—A report of an investigation or study conducted jointly by more than one committee may be filed jointly, provided that each of the committees complies independently with all requirements for approval and filing of the report.

RULE II.—COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETINGS— REGULAR, ADDITIONAL AND SPECIAL

(a) Regular Meetings.—Regular meetings of the Committee, in accordance with clause 2(b) of House Rule XI, shall be held on the first Wednesday of every month to transact its business if notice is given pursuant to clause 2(g)(3) of House Rule XI. The Chairman shall provide each Member of the Committee, as far in advance of the day of the regular meeting as practicable, a written agenda of such meeting. Items may be placed on the agenda by the Chairman or a majority of the Committee. (See paragraph (f) of Committee Rule XI for provisions that apply to meetings of subcommittees.)

(b) Additional Meetings.—(1) The Chairman may call and convene, as he or she considers necessary, which may not commence earlier than the third day on which Members have notice thereof after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member of the Com-

mittee or after concurrence with the Ranking Minority Member, additional meetings of the Committee for the consideration of any bill or resolution pending before the Committee or for the conduct of other Committee business. The Committee shall meet for such additional meetings pursuant to the notice from the Chairman.

(2) A hearing or meeting may begin sooner than specified in clause (1) (in which case the chair shall make the announcement specified at the earliest possible time) if the Committee so determines by majority vote in the presence of the number of Members required under the Rules of the Committee for the transaction of business.

(3) At least 24 hours prior to the commencement of a meeting for the markup of a measure or matter the Chair shall cause the text of such measure or matter to be made publicly available in electronic form.

(c) Special Meetings.—If at least three Members of the Committee desire that a special meeting of the Committee be called by the Chairman, those Members may file in the offices of the Committee their written request to the Chairman for such special meeting. Such request shall specify the measure or matters to be considered. Immediately upon the filing of the request, the Majority Staff Director (serving as the clerk of the Committee for such purpose) shall notify the Chairman of the filing of the request. If, within 3 calendar days after the filing of the request, the Chairman does not call the requested special meeting to be held within 7 calendar days after the filing of the request, a majority of the Members of the Committee may file in the offices of the Committee their written notice that a special meeting of the Committee will be held, specifying the date and hour thereof, and the measures or matter to be considered at that special meeting in accordance with clause 2(c)(2) of House Rule XI. The Committee shall meet on that date and hour. Immediately upon the filing of the notice, the Majority Staff Director (serving as the clerk) of the Committee shall notify all Members of the Committee that such meeting will be held and inform them of its date and hour and the measure or matter to be considered, and only the measure or matter specified in that notice may be considered at that special meeting.

RULE III.—OPEN MEETINGS AND HEARINGS; BROADCASTING

(a) Open Meetings and Hearings.—Each meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, and each hearing by the Committee or a Subcommittee shall be open to the public unless closed in accordance with clause 2(g) of House Rule XI. (See Appendix A.)

(b) Broadcasting and Photography.—Whenever a Committee or Subcommittee meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, or a hearing is open to the public, that meeting or hearing shall:

(1) To the maximum extent practicable the Committee shall provide audio and video coverage of each hearing or meeting for the transaction of business in a manner that allows the public to easily listen to and view the proceedings and shall maintain the recordings of such coverage in a manner that is easily accessible to the public.

(2) Be open to coverage by television, radio, and still photography in accordance with clause 4 of House Rule XI (See Appendix A). When such radio coverage is conducted in the Committee or Subcommittee, written notice to that effect shall be placed on the desk of each Member. The Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee, shall not limit

the number of television or still cameras permitted in a hearing or meeting room to fewer than two representatives from each medium (except for legitimate space or safety considerations, in which case pool coverage shall be authorized).

(c) Closed Meetings—Attendees.—No person other than Members of the Committee or Subcommittee and such congressional staff and departmental representatives as the Committee or Subcommittee may authorize shall be present at any business or markup session that has been closed to the public as provided in clause 2(g)(1) of House Rule XI.

(d) Addressing the Committee.—A Committee Member may address the Committee or a Subcommittee on any bill, motion, or other matter under consideration (See Committee Rule VIII (e) relating to questioning a witness at a hearing). The time a Member may address the Committee or Subcommittee for any such purpose shall be limited to 5 minutes, except that this time limit may be waived by unanimous consent. A Member shall also be limited in his or her remarks to the subject matter under consideration, unless the Member receives unanimous consent to extend his or her remarks beyond such subject.

(e) Meetings to Begin Promptly.—Subject to the presence of a quorum, each meeting or hearing of the Committee and its subcommittees shall begin promptly at the time so stipulated in the public announcement of the meeting or hearing.

(f) Prohibition on Proxy Voting.—No vote by any Member of the Committee or Subcommittee with respect to any measure or matter may be cast by proxy.

(g) Location of Persons at Meetings.—No person other than the Committee or Subcommittee Members and Committee or Subcommittee staff may be seated in the rostrum area during a meeting of the Committee or Subcommittee unless by unanimous consent of Committee or Subcommittee.

(h) Consideration of Amendments and Motions.—A Member, upon request, shall be recognized by the Chairman to address the Committee or Subcommittee at a meeting for a period limited to 5 minutes on behalf of an amendment or motion offered by the Member or another Member, or upon any other matter under consideration, unless the Member receives unanimous consent to extend the time limit. Every amendment or motion made in Committee or Subcommittee shall, upon the demand of any Member present, be reduced to writing, and a copy thereof shall be made available to all Members present. Such amendment or motion shall not be pending before the Committee or Subcommittee or voted on until the requirements of this paragraph have been met.

(i) Demanding Record Vote.—

(1) A record vote of the Committee or Subcommittee on a question or action shall be ordered on a demand by one-fifth of the Members present.

(2) The Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee may postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving a measure or matter or on adopting an amendment. If the Chairman postpones further proceedings:

(A) the Chairman may resume such postponed proceedings, after giving Members adequate notice, at a time chosen in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member; and

(B) notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, the underlying proposition on which proceedings were postponed

shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

(j) Submission of Motions or Amendments In Advance of Business Meetings.—The Committee and Subcommittee Chairman may request and Committee and Subcommittee Members should, insofar as practicable, cooperate in providing copies of proposed amendments or motions to the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or the Subcommittee twenty-four hours before a Committee or Subcommittee business meeting.

(k) Points of Order.—No point of order against the hearing or meeting procedures of the Committee or Subcommittee shall be entertained unless it is made in a timely fashion.

(l) Limitation on Committee Sitzings.—The Committee or subcommittees may not sit during a joint session of the House and Senate or during a recess when a joint meeting of the House and Senate is in progress.

(m) Prohibition of Wireless Telephones.—Use of wireless phones during a Committee or Subcommittee hearing or meeting is prohibited.

RULE IV.—QUORUMS

(a) Working Quorum.—One-third of the Members of the Committee or a Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for taking any action, other than as noted in paragraphs (b) and (c).

(b) Majority Quorum.—A majority of the Members of the Committee or Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for:

(1) the reporting of a bill, resolution or other measure (See clause 2(h)(1) of House Rules XI, and Committee Rule IX);

(2) the closing of a meeting or hearing to the public pursuant to clauses 2(g), 2(k)(5) and 2(k)(7) of the Rule XI of the Rules of the House;

(3) the authorizing of a subpoena as provided in clause 2(m)(3), of House Rule XI (See also Committee Rule VII.); and

(4) as where required by a Rule of the House.

(c) Quorum for Taking Testimony.—Two Members of the Committee or Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of taking testimony and receiving evidence.

RULE V.—RECORDS

(a) Maintenance of Records.—The Committee shall keep a complete record of all Committee and Subcommittee action which shall include:

(1) in the case of any meeting or hearing transcripts, a substantially verbatim account of remarks actually made during the proceedings, subject only to technical, grammatical and typographical corrections authorized by the person making the remarks involved, and

(2) written minutes shall include a record of all Committee and Subcommittee action and a record of all votes on any question and a tally on all record votes.

The result of each such record vote shall be made available by the Committee for inspection by the public at reasonable times in the offices of the Committee and by telephone request and also made publicly available in electronic form within 48 hours of such record vote. Not later than 24 hours after adoption of an amendment to a measure or matter, the chair of the Committee shall cause the text of such amendment adopted thereto to be made publicly available in electronic form. Information so available for public inspection shall include a description of the amendment, motion, order or other

proposition and the name of each Member voting for and each Member voting against such amendment, motion, order, or proposition, and the names of those Members present but not voting.

(b) Access to and Correction of Records.—Any public witness, or person authorized by such witness, during Committee office hours in the Committee offices and within 10 calendar days of the close of hearings, may obtain a transcript copy of that public witness's testimony and make such technical, grammatical and typographical corrections as authorized by the person making the remarks involved as will not alter the nature of testimony given. There shall be prompt return of such corrected copy of the transcript to the Committee. Members of the Committee or Subcommittee shall receive copies of transcripts for their prompt review and correction and prompt return to the Committee. The Committee or Subcommittee may order the printing of a hearing record without the corrections of any Member or witness if it determines that such Member or witness has been afforded a reasonable time in which to make such corrections and further delay would seriously impede the consideration of the legislative action that is subject of the hearing. The record of a hearing shall be closed 10 calendar days after the last oral testimony, unless the Committee or Subcommittee determines otherwise. Any person requesting to file a statement for the record of a hearing must so request before the hearing concludes and must file the statement before the record is closed unless the Committee or Subcommittee determines otherwise. The Committee or Subcommittee may reject any statement in light of its length or its tendency to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person.

(c) Property of the House.—All Committee and Subcommittee records (including hearings data, charts, and files) shall be kept separate and distinct from the congressional office records of the Members serving as Chairman and such records shall be the property of the House and all Members of the House shall have access thereto. The Majority Staff Director shall promptly notify the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member of any request for access to such records.

(d) Availability of Archived Records.—The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use in accordance with House Rule VII. The Chairman shall notify the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee of the need for a Committee order pursuant to clause 3(b)(3) or clause 4(b) of such House Rule, to withhold a record otherwise available.

(e) Special Rules for Certain Records and Proceedings.—A stenographic record of a business meeting of the Committee or Subcommittee may be kept and thereafter may be published if the Chairman of the Committee, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, determines there is need for such a record. The proceedings of the Committee or Subcommittee in a closed meeting, evidence or testimony in such meeting, shall not be divulged unless otherwise determined by a majority of the Committee or Subcommittee.

(f) Electronic Availability of Committee Publications.—To the maximum extent feasible, the Committee shall make its publications available in electronic form.

RULE VI.—POWER TO SIT AND ACT

For the purpose of carrying out any of its function and duties under House Rules X and

XI, the Committee and each of its subcommittees is authorized to sit and act at such times and places within the United States whether the House is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned and to hold such hearings.

RULE VII.—SUBPOENAS AND OATHS

(a) Issuance of Subpoenas.—In accordance with clause House Rule XI, clause 2(m), a subpoena may be authorized and issued by a majority of the Committee or by the Chairman in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member. Such consultation shall occur at least 48 hours in advance of a subpoena being issued under such authority. Authorized subpoenas shall be signed by the Chairman of the Committee or by any Member designated by the Committee.

(b) Oaths.—The Chairman of the Committee, or any member of the Committee designated by the Chairman, may administer oaths to any witnesses.

RULE VIII.—HEARING PROCEDURES

(a) Power to Hear.—For the purpose of carrying out any of its functions and duties under House Rule X and XI, the Committee and its subcommittees are authorized to sit and hold hearings at any time or place within the United States whether the House is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned. (See Committee Rule VI and paragraph (f) of Committee Rule XI for provisions relating to Subcommittee hearings and meetings.)

(b) Announcement.—The Chairman of the Committee shall after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, make a public announcement of the date, place and subject matter of any Committee hearing at least 1 week before the commencement of the hearing. The Chairman of a Subcommittee shall schedule a hearing only after consultation with the Chairman of the Committee and after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee, and the Chairmen of the other subcommittees after such consultation with the Committee Chairman, and shall request the Majority Staff Director to make a public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of such hearing at least 1 week before the hearing. If the Chairman of the Committee or the Subcommittee, with concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or Subcommittee, determines there is good cause to begin the hearing sooner, or if the Committee or Subcommittee so determines by majority vote, a quorum being present for the transaction of business, the Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee, as appropriate, shall request the Majority Staff Director to make such public announcement at the earliest possible date. The clerk of the Committee shall promptly notify the Daily Digest Clerk of the Congressional Record, and shall promptly enter the appropriate information into the Committee scheduling service of the House Information Systems as soon as possible after such public announcement is made.

(c) Scheduling of Witnesses.—Except as otherwise provided in this rule, the scheduling of witnesses and determination of the time allowed for the presentation of testimony at hearings shall be at the discretion of the Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee, unless a majority of the Committee or Subcommittee determines otherwise.

(d) Written Statement; Oral Testimony.—(1) Each witness who is to appear before the Committee or a Subcommittee, shall insofar as practicable file with the Majority Staff Director of the Committee, at least 2 work-

ing days before the day of his or her appearance, a written statement of proposed testimony. Witnesses shall provide sufficient copies of their statement for distribution to Committee or Subcommittee Members, staff, and the news media. Insofar as practicable, the Committee or Subcommittee staff shall distribute such written statements to all Members of the Committee or Subcommittee as soon as they are received as well as any official reports from departments and agencies on such subject matter. All witnesses may be limited in their oral presentations to brief summaries of their statements within the time allotted to them, at the discretion of the Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee, in light of the nature of the testimony and the length of time available.

(2) As noted in paragraph (b) of Committee Rule VII, the Chairman of the Committee or any Member designated by the Chairman, may administer an oath to any witness.

(3) To the greatest extent practicable, each witness appearing in a non-governmental capacity shall include with the written statement of proposed testimony:

(i) a curriculum vitae;

(ii) disclosure of the amount and source (by agency and program) of any Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or sub-contract thereof) received during the current calendar year or either of the 2 preceding calendar years by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness; and

(iii) disclosure of the amount and country of origin of any payment or contract related to the subject matter of the hearing originating with a foreign government received during the current calendar year or either of the 2 preceding calendar years by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness.

Such statements, with appropriate redactions to protect the privacy of witnesses, shall be made publicly available in electronic form not later than 1 day after the witness appears.

(e) Questioning of Witnesses.—Committee or Subcommittee Members may question witnesses only when they have been recognized by the Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee for that purpose. Each Member so recognized shall be limited to questioning a witness for 5 minutes until such time as each Member of the Committee or Subcommittee who so desires has had an opportunity to question the witness for 5 minutes; and thereafter the Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee may limit the time of a further round of questioning after giving due consideration to the importance of the subject matter and the length of time available. All questions put to witnesses shall be germane to the measure or matter under consideration. Unless a majority of the Committee or Subcommittee determines otherwise, no Committee or Subcommittee staff shall interrogate witnesses.

(f) Extended Questioning for Designated Members.—Notwithstanding paragraph (e), the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member may designate an equal number of Members from each party to question a witness for a period not longer than 60 minutes.

(g) Witnesses for the Minority.—When any hearing is conducted by the Committee or any Subcommittee upon any measure or matter, the minority party Members on the Committee or Subcommittee shall be entitled, upon request to the Chairman by a majority of those minority Members before the completion of such hearing, to call witnesses selected by the minority to testify with respect to that measure or matter during at least 1 day of hearing thereon as provided in clause 2(j)(1) of House Rule XI.

(h) Summary of Subject Matter.—Upon announcement of a hearing, to the extent practicable, the Committee shall make available immediately to all Members of the Committee a concise summary of the subject matter (including legislative reports and other material) under consideration. In addition, upon announcement of a hearing and subsequently as they are received, the Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee shall, to the extent practicable, make available to the Members of the Committee any official reports from departments and agencies on such matter. (See Committee Rule XI(f).)

(i) Open Hearings.—Each hearing conducted by the Committee or Subcommittee shall be open to the public, including radio, television and still photography coverage, except as provided in clause 4 of House Rule XI (see also Committee Rule III(b)). In any event, no Member of the House may be excluded from nonparticipatory attendance at any hearing unless the House by majority vote shall authorize the Committee or Subcommittee, for purposes of a particular series of hearings on a particular bill or resolution or on a particular subject of investigation, to close its hearings to Members by means of the above procedure.

(j) Hearings and Reports.—(1)(i) The Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee at a hearing shall announce in an opening statement the subject of the investigation. A copy of the Committee Rules (and the applicable provisions of clause 2 of House Rule XI, regarding hearing procedures, an excerpt of which appears in Appendix A thereto) shall be made available to each witness upon request. Witnesses at hearings may be accompanied by their own counsel for the purpose of advising them concerning their constitutional rights. The Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee may punish breaches of order and decorum, and of professional ethics on the part of counsel, by censure and exclusion from the hearings; but only the full Committee may cite the offender to the House for contempt.

(ii) Whenever it is asserted by a Member of the Committee that the evidence or testimony at a hearing may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person, or it is asserted by a witness that the evidence or testimony that the witness would give at a hearing may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate the witness, such testimony or evidence shall be presented in executive session, notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (i) of this rule, if by a majority of those present, there being in attendance the requisite number required under the Rules of the Committee to be present for the purpose of taking testimony, the Committee or Subcommittee determines that such evidence or testimony may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person. The Committee or Subcommittee shall afford a person an opportunity voluntarily to appear as a witness; and the Committee or Subcommittee shall receive and shall dispose of requests from such person to subpoena additional witnesses.

(iii) No evidence or testimony taken in executive session may be released or used in public sessions without the consent of the Committee or Subcommittee. In the discretion of the Committee or Subcommittee, witnesses may submit brief and pertinent statements in writing for inclusion in the record. The Committee or Subcommittee is the sole judge of the pertinency of testimony and evidence adduced at its hearings. A witness may obtain a transcript copy of his or

her testimony given at a public session or, if given at an executive session, when authorized by the Committee or Subcommittee. (See paragraph (c) of Committee Rule V.)

(2) A proposed investigative or oversight report shall be considered as read if it has been available to the Members of the Committee for at least 24 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays except when the House is in session on such day) in advance of their consideration.

RULE IX.—THE REPORTING OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

(a) Filing of Reports.—The Chairman shall report or cause to be reported promptly to the House any bill, resolution, or other measure approved by the Committee and shall take or cause to be taken all necessary steps to bring such bill, resolution, or other measure to a vote. No bill, resolution, or measure shall be reported from the Committee unless a majority of Committee is actually present. A Committee report on any bill, resolution, or other measure approved by the Committee shall be filed within 7 calendar days (not counting days on which the House is not in session) after the day on which there has been filed with the Majority Staff Director of the Committee a written request, signed by a majority of the Committee, for the reporting of that bill or resolution. The Majority Staff Director of the Committee shall notify the Chairman immediately when such a request is filed.

(b) Content of Reports.—Each Committee report on any bill or resolution approved by the Committee shall include as separately identified sections:

(1) a statement of the intent or purpose of the bill or resolution;

(2) a statement describing the need for such bill or resolution;

(3) a statement of Committee and Subcommittee consideration of the measure including a summary of amendments and motions offered and the actions taken thereon;

(4) the results of the each record vote on any amendment in the Committee and Subcommittee and on the motion to report the measure or matter, including the names of those Members and the total voting for and the names of those Members and the total voting against such amendment or motion (See clause 3(b) of House Rule XIII);

(5) the oversight findings and recommendations of the Committee with respect to the subject matter of the bill or resolution as required pursuant to clause 3(c)(1) of House Rule XIII and clause 2(b)(1) of House Rule X;

(6) the detailed statement described in House Rule XIII clause 3(c)(2) and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 if the bill or resolution provides new budget authority (other than continuing appropriations), new spending authority described in section 401(c)(2) of such Act, new credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures, except that the estimates with respect to new budget authority shall include, when practicable, a comparison of the total estimated funding level for the relevant program (or programs) to the appropriate levels under current law;

(7) the estimate of costs and comparison of such estimates, if any, prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office in connection with such bill or resolution pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 if submitted in timely fashion to the Committee;

(8) a statement of general performance goals and objectives, including outcome-related goals and objectives, for which the measure authorizes funding;

(9) an estimate by the Committee of the costs that would be incurred in carrying out such bill or joint resolution in the fiscal year in which it is reported and for its authorized duration or for each of the 5 fiscal years following the fiscal year of reporting, whichever period is less (see House Rule XIII, clause 3(d)(2), (3) and (h)(2), (3)), together with—(i) a comparison of these estimates with those made and submitted to the Committee by any Government agency when practicable, and (ii) a comparison of the total estimated funding level for the relevant program (or programs) with appropriate levels under current law (The provisions of this clause do not apply if a cost estimate and comparison prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 has been timely submitted prior to the filing of the report and included in the report);

(10) a list of congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, and limited tariff benefits in the bill or in the report (and the name of any Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner who submitted a request to the Committee for each respective item included in such list) or a statement that the proposition contains no congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits;

(11) the changes in existing law (if any) shown in accordance with clause 3 of House Rule XIII;

(12) the determination required pursuant to section 5(b) of Public Law 92-463, if the legislation reported establishes or authorizes the establishment of an advisory committee;

(13) the information on Federal and intergovernmental mandates required by section 423(c) and (d) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as added by the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (P.L. 104-4);

(14) a statement regarding the applicability of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act, Public Law 104-1;

(15) a statement indicating whether any provision of the measure establishes or reauthorizes a program of the Federal Government known to be duplicative of another Federal program. The Statement shall at a minimum explain whether—

(A) any such program was included in any report from the Government Accountability Office to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111-139; or

(B) the most recent catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, published pursuant to the Federal Program Information Act (Public Law 95-220, as amended by Public Law 98-169), identified other programs related to the program established or reauthorized by the measure; and

(16) a statement estimating the number of directed rule makings required by the measure.

(c) Supplemental, Minority, Additional, or Dissenting Views.—If, at the time of approval of any measure or matter by the Committee, any Member of the Committee gives notice of intention to file supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views, all Members shall be entitled to not less than 2 subsequent calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays except when the House is in session on such date) in which to file such writing and signed views, with the Majority Staff Director of the Committee. When time guaranteed by this paragraph has expired (or if sooner, when all separate views have been received), the Committee may arrange to file its report with the Clerk of the House not later than 1 hour

after the expiration of such time. All such views (in accordance with House Rule XI, clause 2(1) and House Rule XIII, clause 3(a)(1)), as filed by one or more Members of the Committee, shall be included within and made a part of the report filed by the Committee with respect to that bill or resolution.

(d) Printing of Reports.—The report of the Committee on the measure or matter noted in paragraph (a) above shall be printed in a single volume, which shall:

(1) include all supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views that have been submitted by the time of the filing of the report; and

(2) bear on its cover a recital that any such supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views (and any material submitted under House Rule XII, clause 3(a)(1)) are included as part of the report.

(e) Immediate Printing; Supplemental Reports.—Nothing in this rule shall preclude—

(1) the immediate filing or printing of a Committee report unless timely request for the opportunity to file supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views has been made as provided by paragraph (c); or

(2) the filing by the Committee of any supplemental report on any bill or resolution that may be required for the correction of any technical error in a previous report made by the Committee on that bill or resolution.

(f) Availability of Printed Hearing Records.—If hearings have been held on any reported bill or resolution, the Committee shall make every reasonable effort to have the record of such hearings printed and available for distribution to the Members of the House prior to the consideration of such bill or resolution by the House. Each printed hearing of the Committee or any of its subcommittees shall include a record of the attendance of the Members.

(g) Committee Prints.—All Committee or Subcommittee prints or other Committee or Subcommittee documents, other than reports or prints of bills, that are prepared for public distribution shall be approved by the Chairman of the Committee or the Committee prior to public distribution.

(h) Post Adjournment Filing of Committee Reports.—(1) After an adjournment of the last regular session of a Congress sine die, an investigative or oversight report approved by the Committee may be filed with the Clerk at any time, provided that if a Member gives notice at the time of approval of intention to file supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views, that Member shall be entitled to not less than 7 calendar days in which to submit such views for inclusion with the report.

(2) After an adjournment of the last regular session of a Congress sine die, the Chairman of the Committee may file at any time with the Clerk the Committee's activity report for that Congress pursuant to clause 1(d)(1) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House without the approval of the Committee, provided that a copy of the report has been available to each Member of the Committee for at least 7 calendar days and the report includes any supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views submitted by a Member of the Committee.

(i) Conference.—The Chairman is directed to offer a motion under clause 1 of Rule XXII of the Rules of the House whenever the Chairman considers it appropriate.

RULE X.—OTHER COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

(a) Oversight Plan.—Not later than February 15 of the first session of a Congress,

the Chairman shall convene the Committee in a meeting that is open to the public and with a quorum present to adopt its oversight plans for that Congress. Such plans shall be submitted simultaneously to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and to the Committee on House Administration. In developing such plans the Committee shall, to the maximum extent feasible—

(1) consult with other committees of the House that have jurisdiction over the same or related laws, programs, or agencies within its jurisdiction, with the objective of ensuring that such laws, programs, or agencies are reviewed in the same Congress and that there is a maximum of coordination between such committees in the conduct of such reviews; and such plans shall include an explanation of what steps have been and will be taken to ensure such coordination and cooperation;

(2) review specific problems with Federal rules, regulations, statutes, and court decisions that are ambiguous, arbitrary, or nonsensical, or that impose severe financial burdens on individuals;

(3) give priority consideration to including in its plans the review of those laws, programs, or agencies operating under permanent budget authority or permanent statutory authority;

(4) have a view toward ensuring that all significant laws, programs, or agencies within its jurisdiction are subject to review at least once every 10 years; and

(5) include proposals to cut or eliminate programs, including mandatory spending programs, that are inefficient, duplicative, outdated, or more appropriately administered by State or local governments.

The Committee and its appropriate subcommittees shall review and study, on a continuing basis, the impact or probable impact of tax policies affecting subjects within its jurisdiction as provided in clause 2(d) of House Rule X. The Committee shall include in the report filed pursuant to clause 1(d) of House Rule XI a summary of the oversight plans submitted by the Committee under clause 2(d) of House Rule X, a summary of actions taken and recommendations made with respect to each such plan, and a summary of any additional oversight activities undertaken by the Committee and any recommendations made or actions taken thereon.

(b) **Annual Appropriations.**—The Committee shall, in its consideration of all bills and joint resolutions of a public character within its jurisdiction, ensure that appropriations for continuing programs and activities of the Federal government and the District of Columbia government will be made annually to the maximum extent feasible and consistent with the nature, requirements, and objectives of the programs and activities involved. The Committee shall review, from time to time, each continuing program within its jurisdiction for which appropriations are not made annually in order to ascertain whether such program could be modified so that appropriations therefor would be made annually.

(c) **Budget Act Compliance: Views and Estimates** (See Appendix B).—Not later than 6 weeks after the President submits his budget under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, or at such time as the Committee on the Budget may request, the Committee shall, submit to the Committee on the Budget (1) its views and estimates with respect to all matters to be set forth in the concurrent resolution on the budget for the ensuing fiscal year (under section 301 of the

Congressional Budget Act of 1974—see Appendix B) that are within its jurisdiction or functions; and (2) an estimate of the total amounts of new budget authority, and budget outlays resulting therefrom, to be provided or authorized in all bills and resolutions within its jurisdiction that it intends to be effective during that fiscal year.

(d) **Budget Act Compliance: Recommended Changes.**—Whenever the Committee is directed in a concurrent resolution on the budget to determine and recommend changes in laws, bills, or resolutions under the reconciliation process, it shall promptly make such determination and recommendations, and report a reconciliation bill or resolution (or both) to the House or submit such recommendations to the Committee on the Budget, in accordance with the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (See Appendix B).

(e) **Conference Committees.**—Whenever in the legislative process it becomes necessary to appoint conferees, the Chairman shall, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, determine the number of conferees the Chairman deems most suitable and then recommend to the Speaker as conferees, in keeping with the number to be appointed by the Speaker as provided in House Rule I, clause 11, the names of those Members of the Committee of not less than a majority who generally supported the House position and who were primarily responsible for the legislation. The Chairman shall, to the fullest extent feasible, include those Members of the Committee who were the principal proponents of the major provisions of the bill as it passed the House and such other Committee Members of the majority party as the Chairman may designate in consultation with the Members of the majority party. Such recommendations shall provide a ratio of majority party Members to minority party Members no less favorable to the majority party than the ratio of majority party Members to minority party Members on the Committee. In making recommendations of Minority Party Members as conferees, the Chairman shall consult with the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee.

(f) **Hearing on Waste, Fraud, and Abuse.**—(1) The Committee, or a Subcommittee, shall hold at least one hearing during each 120-day period following the establishment of the Committee on the topic of waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement in Government programs which the Committee may authorize.

(2) A hearing described in subparagraph (1) shall include a focus on the most egregious instances of waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement as documented by any report the Committee has received from a Federal Office of the Inspector General or the Comptroller General of the United States.

(g) **Hearing on Agency Financial Statements.**—The Committee or a Subcommittee, shall hold at least one hearing in any session in which the Committee has received disclaimers of agency financial statements from auditors of any Federal agency that the Committee may authorize to hear testimony on such disclaimers from representatives of any such agency.

(h) **Hearing on GAO High-Risk-List.**—The Committee or a Subcommittee, shall hold at least one hearing on issues raised by reports issued by the Comptroller General of the United States indicating that Federal programs or operations that the Committee may authorize are at high risk for waste, fraud, and mismanagement, known as the 'high-risk-list' or the 'high-risk series'.

(i) **Activities Report.**—(1) Not later than January 2 of each odd-numbered year, the

Committee shall submit to the House a report on the activities of the Committee. After adjournment sine die of the last regular session of a Congress, or after December 15 of an even-numbered year, whichever occurs first, the Chair may file the report, a copy of which shall be made available to each Member of the Committee for at least 7 calendar days, with the Clerk of the House at any time.

(2) Such report shall include separate sections summarizing the legislative and oversight activities of the Committee during that Congress.

(3) The oversight section of such report shall include a summary of the oversight plans submitted by the Committee pursuant to clause 2(d) of House Rule X, a summary of the actions taken and recommendations made with respect to each such plan, and a summary of any additional oversight activities undertaken by the Committee, and any recommendations made or actions taken with respect thereto.

RULE XI.—SUBCOMMITTEES

(a) **Number and Composition.**—There shall be such subcommittees as specified in paragraph (c) of this rule. Each of such subcommittees shall be composed of the number of Members set forth in paragraph (c) of this rule, including ex officio Members.¹ The Chairman may create additional subcommittees of an ad hoc nature as the Chairman determines to be appropriate subject to any limitations provided for in the House Rules.

(b) **Ratios.**—On each Subcommittee, there shall be a ratio of majority party Members to minority party Members which shall be consistent with the ratio on the full Committee. In calculating the ratio of majority party Members to minority party Members, there shall be included the ex officio Members of the subcommittees and ratios below reflect that fact.

(c) **Jurisdiction.**—Each Subcommittee shall have the following general jurisdiction and number of Members:

General Farm Commodities and Risk Management (22 members, 13 majority and 9 minority)—Policies, statutes, and markets relating to commodities including barley, cotton, cottonseed, corn, grain sorghum, honey, mohair, oats, other oilseeds, peanuts, pulse crops, rice, soybeans, sugar, wheat, and wool; the Commodity Credit Corporation; risk management policies and statutes, including Federal Crop Insurance; producer data and privacy issues.

Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit (15 members, 9 majority and 6 minority)—Policies, statutes, and markets relating to commodity exchanges; agricultural credit; rural development; energy; rural electrification.

Conservation and Forestry (15 members, 9 majority and 6 minority)—Policies and statutes relating to resource conservation, forestry, and all forests under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture.

Nutrition (22 members, 13 majority and 9 minority)—Policies and statutes relating to nutrition, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and domestic commodity distribution and consumer initiatives.

Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research (15 members, 9 majority and 6 minority)—Policies, statutes, and markets relating to horticulture, including fruits, vegetables, nuts, and ornamentals; bees; and organic agriculture; policies and statutes relating to marketing and promotion orders; pest and disease management; bioterrorism; adulteration and quarantine matters; research, education, and extension; and biotechnology.

Livestock and Foreign Agriculture (15 members, 9 majority and 6 minority)—Policies, statutes, and markets relating to all livestock, poultry, dairy, and seafood, including all products thereof; the inspection, marketing, and promotion of such commodities and products; aquaculture; animal welfare; grazing; foreign agricultural assistance and trade promotion.

(d) Referral of Legislation.—

(1)(a) In General.—All bills, resolutions, and other matters referred to the Committee shall be referred to all subcommittees of appropriate jurisdiction within 2 weeks after being referred to the Committee. After consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, the Chairman may determine that the Committee will consider certain bills, resolutions, or other matters.

(b) Trade Matters.—Unless action is otherwise taken under subparagraph (3), bills, resolutions, and other matters referred to the Committee relating to foreign agriculture, foreign food or commodity assistance, and foreign trade and marketing issues will be considered by the Committee.

(2) The Chairman, by a majority vote of the Committee, may discharge a Subcommittee from further consideration of any bill, resolution, or other matter referred to the Subcommittee and have such bill, resolution or other matter considered by the Committee. The Committee having referred a bill, resolution, or other matter to a Subcommittee in accordance with this rule may discharge such Subcommittee from further consideration thereof at any time by a vote of the majority Members of the Committee for the Committee's direct consideration or for reference to another Subcommittee.

(3) Unless the Committee, a quorum being present, decides otherwise by a majority vote, the Chairman may refer bills, resolutions, legislation or other matters not specifically within the jurisdiction of a Subcommittee, or that is within the jurisdiction of more than one Subcommittee, jointly or exclusively as the Chairman deems appropriate, including concurrently to the subcommittees with jurisdiction, sequentially to the subcommittees with jurisdiction (subject to any time limits deemed appropriate), divided by subject matter among the subcommittees with jurisdiction, or to an ad hoc subcommittee appointed by the Chairman for the purpose of considering the matter and reporting to the Committee thereon, or make such other provisions deemed appropriate.

(e) Participation and Service of Committee Members on Subcommittees.—(1) The Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member shall serve as ex officio Members of all subcommittees and shall have the right to vote on all matters before the subcommittees. The Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member may not be counted for the purpose of establishing a quorum.

(2) Any Member of the Committee who is not a Member of the Subcommittee may have the privilege of sitting and nonparticipatory attendance at Subcommittee hearings or meetings in accordance with clause 2(g)(2) of House Rule XI. Such Member may not:

- (i) vote on any matter;
- (ii) be counted for the purpose of establishing a quorum;
- (iii) participate in questioning a witness under the 5-Minute Rule, unless permitted to do so by the Subcommittee Chairman in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member or a majority of the Subcommittee, a quorum being present;

(iv) raise points of order; or

(v) offer amendments or motions.

(f) Subcommittee Hearings and Meetings.—

(1) Each Subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive evidence, and make recommendations to the Committee on all matters referred to it or under its jurisdiction after consultation by the Subcommittee Chairmen with the Committee Chairman. (See Committee Rule VIII.)

(2) After consultation with the Committee Chairman, Subcommittee Chairmen shall set dates for hearings and meetings of their subcommittees and shall request the Majority Staff Director to make any announcement relating thereto. (See Committee Rule VIII(b).) In setting the dates, the Committee Chairman and Subcommittee Chairman shall consult with other Subcommittee Chairmen and relevant Committee and Subcommittee Ranking Minority Members in an effort to avoid simultaneously scheduling Committee and Subcommittee meetings or hearings to the extent practicable.

(3) Notice of all Subcommittee meetings shall be provided to the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee by the Majority Staff Director.

(4) Subcommittees may hold meetings or hearings outside of the House if the Chairman of the Committee and other Subcommittee Chairmen and the Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee is consulted in advance to ensure that there is no scheduling problem. However, the majority of the Committee may authorize such meeting or hearing.

(5) The provisions regarding notice and the agenda of Committee meetings under Committee Rule II(a) and special or additional meetings under Committee Rule II(b) shall apply to Subcommittee meetings.

(6) If a vacancy occurs in a Subcommittee chairmanship, the Chairman may set the dates for hearings and meetings of the Subcommittee during the period of vacancy. The Chairman may also appoint an acting Subcommittee Chairman until the vacancy is filled.

(g) Subcommittee Action.—(1) Any bill, resolution, recommendation, or other matter forwarded to the Committee by a Subcommittee shall be promptly forwarded by the Subcommittee Chairman or any Subcommittee Member authorized to do so by the Subcommittee.

(2) Upon receipt of such recommendation, the Majority Staff Director of the Committee shall promptly advise all Members of the Committee of the Subcommittee action.

(3) The Committee shall not consider any matters recommended by subcommittees until 2 calendar days have elapsed from the date of action, unless the Chairman or a majority of the Committee determines otherwise.

(h) Subcommittee Investigations.—No investigation shall be initiated by a Subcommittee without the prior consultation with the Chairman of the Committee or a majority of the Committee.

RULE XII.—COMMITTEE BUDGET, STAFF, AND TRAVEL

(a) Committee Budget.—The Chairman, in consultation with the majority Members of the Committee, and the minority Members of the Committee, shall prepare a preliminary budget for each session of the Congress. Such budget shall include necessary amounts for staff personnel, travel, investigation, and other expenses of the Committee and subcommittees. After consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, the Chairman shall include an amount budgeted to minor-

ity Members for staff under their direction and supervision. Thereafter, the Chairman shall combine such proposals into a consolidated Committee budget, and shall take whatever action is necessary to have such budget duly authorized by the House.

(b) Committee Staff.—(1) The Chairman shall appoint and determine the remuneration of, and may remove, the professional and clerical employees of the Committee not assigned to the minority. The professional and clerical staff of the Committee not assigned to the minority shall be under the general supervision and direction of the Chairman, who shall establish and assign the duties and responsibilities of such staff members and delegate such authority as he or she determines appropriate. (See House Rule X, clause 9)

(2) The Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall appoint and determine the remuneration of, and may remove, the professional and clerical staff assigned to the minority within the budget approved for such purposes. The professional and clerical staff assigned to the minority shall be under the general supervision and direction of the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee who may delegate such authority as he or she determines appropriate.

(3) From the funds made available for the appointment of Committee staff pursuant to any primary or additional expense resolution, the Chairman shall ensure that each Subcommittee is adequately funded and staffed to discharge its responsibilities and that the minority party is fairly treated in the appointment of such staff (See House Rule X, clause 6(d)).

(c) Committee Travel.—(1) Consistent with the primary expense resolution and such additional expense resolution as may have been approved, the provisions of this rule shall govern official travel of Committee Members and Committee staff regarding domestic and foreign travel (See House Rule XI, clause 2(n) and House Rule X, clause 8 (reprinted in Appendix A)). Official travel for any Member or any Committee staff member shall be paid only upon the prior authorization of the Chairman. Official travel may be authorized by the Chairman for any Committee Member and any Committee staff member in connection with the attendance of hearings conducted by the Committee and its subcommittees and meetings, conferences, facility inspections, and investigations which involve activities or subject matter relevant to the general jurisdiction of the Committee. Before such authorization is given there shall be submitted to the Chairman in writing the following:

- (i) The purpose of the official travel;
- (ii) The dates during which the official travel is to be made and the date or dates of the event for which the official travel is being made;
- (iii) The location of the event for which the official travel is to be made; and
- (iv) The names of Members and Committee staff seeking authorization.

(2) In the case of official travel of Members and staff of a Subcommittee to hearings, meetings, conferences, facility inspections and investigations involving activities or subject matter under the jurisdiction of such Subcommittee to be paid for out of funds allocated to the Committee, prior authorization must be obtained from the Subcommittee Chairman and the full Committee Chairman. Such prior authorization shall be given by the Chairman only upon the representation by the applicable Subcommittee Chairman in writing setting forth those items enumerated in clause (1).

(3) Within 60 days of the conclusion of any official travel authorized under this rule, there shall be submitted to the Committee Chairman a written report covering the information gained as a result of the hearing, meeting, conference, facility inspection or investigation attended pursuant to such official travel.

(4) Local currencies owned by the United States shall be made available to the Committee and its employees engaged in carrying out their official duties outside the United States, its territories or possessions. No appropriated funds shall be expended for the purpose of defraying expenses of Members of the Committee or its employees in any country where local currencies are available for this purpose; and the following conditions shall apply with respect to their use of such currencies;

(i) No Member or employee of the Committee shall receive or expend local currencies for subsistence in any country at a rate in excess of the maximum per diem rate set forth in applicable Federal law; and

(ii) Each Member or employee of the Committee shall make an itemized report to the Chairman within 60 days following the completion of travel showing the dates each country was visited, the amount of per diem furnished, the cost of transportation furnished, and any funds expended for any other official purpose, and shall summarize in these categories the total foreign currencies and appropriated funds expended. All such individual reports shall be filed by the Chairman with the Committee on House Administration and shall be open to public inspection.

RULE XIII.—AMENDMENT OF RULES

These Rules may be amended by a majority vote of the Committee. A proposed change in these Rules shall not be considered by the Committee as provided in clause 2 of House Rule XI, unless written notice of the proposed change has been provided to each Committee Member 2 legislative days in advance of the date on which the matter is to be considered. Any such change in the Rules of the Committee shall be published in the Congressional Record within 30 calendar days after its approval.

ENDNOTES

1. The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee serve as ex officio Members of the Subcommittees. (See paragraph (e) of this Rule).

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 295. An act to amend section 2259 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes, to the Committee on Judiciary.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on February 11, 2015, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 203. To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the conduct of annual evaluations of mental health care and suicide prevention programs of the De-

partment of Veterans Affairs, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DENHAM. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, February 13, 2015, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

437. A letter from the Management Analyst, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Flock Delivery and Stages of Poultry Production (RIN: 0580-AB23) received February 6, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

438. A letter from the Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Defining Larger Participants of the International Money Transfer Market [Docket No.: CFPB-2014-0003] (RIN: 3170-AA25) received February 6, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

439. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations (Ottawa County, OH, and Incorporated Areas) [Docket ID: FEMA-2014-0002] received February 6, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

440. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Office of the Managing Director, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 76.1506 of the Commission's Rules received February 6, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

441. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b) Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Cove and Daisy, Arkansas; Alamo, Georgia; Grayville, Illinois; Clayton, Louisiana; Harrison, Michigan; Alton, Missouri; Ennis, Montana; Buffalo, Erick, Haworth, Leedey, Reydon, Taloga, Thomas, and Wright City, Oklahoma; Weinert, Texas; Boscobel, Owen, and Tigerton, Wisconsin) [MB Docket No.: 11-147] received January 26, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

442. A letter from the Director, ES/PL/PS, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Prevailing Rate Systems; Redefinition of the Fort Wayne-Marion, IN, and Detroit, MI, Appropriated Fund Federal Wage System Wage Areas (RIN: 3206-AN06) received February 3, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

443. A letter from the Federal Liaison Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Miscellaneous Changes to Trademark Rules of Practice and the Rules of Practice in Filings Pursuant to the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks [Docket No.: PTO-T-2013-0026] (RIN: 0651-AC88) received January 12, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

444. A letter from the Secretary of the Commission, Bureau of Competition, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Revised Jurisdictional Thresholds for Section 8 of the Clayton Act received February 9, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

445. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; PILATUS Aircraft Ltd. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0770; Directorate Identifier 2014-CE-024-AD; Amendment 39-18064; AD 2015-01-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 9, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

446. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Aviation Training Device Credit for Pilot Certification; Withdrawal [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0987; Amdt. Nos.: 61-133, 141-18] (RIN: 2120-AK62) received February 9, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

447. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0925; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-229-AD; Amendment 39-18066; AD 2014-25-52] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

448. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB rule — Gracia v. Commissioner, T.C. Memo. 2004-147 [AOD 2015-01] received February 9, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

449. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB rule — Estate of Martinez v. Commissioner, T.C. Memo. 2004-150 [AOD 2015-01] received February 9, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. DEUTCH, and Mrs. LOWEY):

H.R. 907. A bill to improve defense cooperation between the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. ESHOO:

H.R. 908. A bill to include the Santa Cruz Redwoods Public Lands in the California

Coastal National Monument as a part of the National Landscape Conservation System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCCAUL (for himself, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. GRIFFITH, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. LANCE):

H.R. 909. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to expanding access for breakthrough drugs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. MILLER of Michigan (for herself and Mrs. LAWRENCE):

H.R. 910. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to provide eligibility under certain highway programs for projects for the installation of vehicle-to-infrastructure communication equipment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. MARINO, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. SIREN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LANCE, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. PERLMUTTER):

H.R. 911. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue an order with respect to secondary cockpit barriers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. YARMUTH (for himself, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. TONKO, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. HONDA):

H.R. 912. A bill to place a moratorium on permitting for mountaintop removal coal mining until health studies are conducted by the Department of Health and Human Services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. GABBARD, Ms. PINGREE, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. POLIS, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. WELCH, Ms. TITUS, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. HONDA, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. CONYERS):

H.R. 913. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to require that genetically engineered food and foods that contain genetically engineered ingredients be labeled accordingly; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. GRAHAM (for herself and Mr. BUCK):

H.R. 914. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to jointly operate the Federal Recovery Coordination Program, and for other pur-

poses; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DELBENE (for herself, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. McGOVERN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. POLIS, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. FARR, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. ESTY, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. PETERS, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. HAHN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KIND, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. KILMER, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. TITUS, Mr. HONDA, Ms. MENG, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. WALZ):

H.R. 915. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend and expand the membership of the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans to include veterans who are lesbian, gay, or bisexual and veterans who are transgender; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. BUSTOS (for herself, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. MENG, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. JONES, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. EDWARDS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. ESTY, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. DELANEY, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BUCHSON, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. KILMER, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. SINEMA, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. HAHN, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. SIREN, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. CLAY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. McNERNEY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. YOHO, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. MEEKS, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BEN RAY LUJAN of New Mexico, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RUSH, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. VELA, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. McGOVERN, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. KATKO, Mr. GUINTA, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. BERA, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. LOEBSACK):

H.R. 916. A bill to require the purchase of domestically made flags of the United States of America for use by the Federal Government; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. KING of Iowa (for himself, Mr. DEUTCH, and Mr. CHAFFETZ):

H.R. 917. A bill to provide for media coverage of Federal court proceedings; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas (for himself, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. TIBERI, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. BOUTSTANY, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHOCK, and Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin):

H.R. 918. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to prevent concurrent receipt of unemployment benefits and Social Security disability insurance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. RUSH, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. DEGETTE, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. McNERNEY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BEN RAY LUJAN of New Mexico, Mr. TONKO, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. CARDENAS):

H.R. 919. A bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to extend and improve the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LABRADOR (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. MASSIE):

H.R. 920. A bill to focus limited Federal resources on the most serious offenders; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GUTHRIE (for himself, Mr. RICHMOND, and Mr. WOMACK):

H.R. 921. A bill to provide protections for certain sports medicine professionals who provide certain medical services in a secondary State; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. ADAMS (for herself, Ms. MOORE, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Ms. FUDGE):

H.R. 922. A bill to amend the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 to provide enhanced academic and career training in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. STUTZMAN:

H.R. 923. A bill to allow reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr.

FARENTHOLD, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. STEWART, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. LATTA, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. BARTON, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. JONES, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. POMPEO, and Mr. MILLER of Florida):

H.R. 924. A bill to require that the prevailing wage utilized for purposes of subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Davis-Bacon Act), be determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. AMODEI (for himself, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. HARDY):

H.R. 925. A bill to promote conservation, improve public land, and provide for sensible development in Douglas County, Nevada, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. AMODEI:

H.R. 926. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of guide dogs to veterans blinded by a service-connected injury; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. TONKO, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. SIREs, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HONDA, Mr. SABLON, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H.R. 927. A bill to prevent and reduce the use of physical restraint and seclusion in schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BOUSTANY (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. YOHo, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. HARPER, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. COOK, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. LANCE, Mr. WOODALL, Mr. BARR, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. KLINE, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. REED, Mr. HANNA, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. JOLLY, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. LATTA, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. AMODEI, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. MESSER, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. OLSON, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. TURNER, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. NUNES,

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. LONG, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. FLORES, Mr. COLE, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. HILL, Mr. STEWART, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. FORBES, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. MULLIN, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. POSEY, Mr. HURT of Virginia, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. SCHOCK, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. BARTON, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. ROSS, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. SALMON, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. JONES, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. PERRY, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. FINCHER, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. GUINTA, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. DENT, Mr. ALLEN, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. HENSARLING, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. YODER, and Mr. PEARCE):

H.R. 928. A bill to repeal the annual fee on health insurance providers enacted by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself and Mr. LOEBSACK):

H.R. 929. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit former Members of Congress from engaging in lobbying contacts; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California (for herself and Mr. POLIS):

H.R. 930. A bill to recruit, support, and prepare principals to improve student academic achievement at eligible schools; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Ms. MENG):

H.R. 931. A bill to provide for approval of certain drugs and biological products indicated for use in a well-defined population of patients in order to address increases in bacterial resistance to drugs and biological products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. POCAN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. NADLER, Ms. LEE, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. MOORE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms.

SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. ESTY, Mr. KILMER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. TITUS, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. DELBENE, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. POLIS, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. HAHN, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. MENG, Mr. HONDA, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 932. A bill to allow Americans to earn paid sick time so that they can address their own health needs and the health needs of their families; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. ESHOO (for herself, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 933. A bill to amend the Head Start Act to ensure that all children in Head Start and Early Head Start programs are vaccinated, and allow exemptions only for children with underlying medical conditions, for whom vaccines are therefore medically contraindicated; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. HINOJOSA):

H.R. 934. A bill to require any State which, after enacting a Congressional redistricting plan after a decennial census and apportionment of Representatives, enacts a subsequent Congressional redistricting plan prior to the next decennial census and apportionment of Representatives, to obtain a declaratory judgment or preclearance in the manner provided under section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 in order for the subsequent plan to take effect; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HAHN (for herself, Mr. POE of Texas, Ms. LEE, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. COHEN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.R. 935. A bill to establish a National Freight Network Trust Fund to improve the performance of the national freight network, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HECK of Washington (for himself, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. LARSEN of Washington,

Mr. KILMER, Mr. McDERMOTT, and Mr. SMITH of Washington):

H.R. 936. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to identify, declare, and respond to marine disease emergencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HINOJOSA (for himself and Mr. FATTAH):

H.R. 937. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to support early college high schools and other dual enrollment programs; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. JOLLY (for himself and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 938. A bill to revise and extend provisions under the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KIND:

H.R. 939. A bill to require the Secretary of Education to use the excess revenue generated from the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program to carry out the Federal Pell Grant Program; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. BLACK (for herself, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. FLEMING, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. PITTS, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. AMASH, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. BUCK, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. KLINE, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. LATTI, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. OLSON, Ms. FOXX, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. LONG, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. BABIN, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. SHUSTER, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. MESSER, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. LUTKEMEYER, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. RUSSELL, Mr. SALMON, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. PALAZZO, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. MARINO, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. STEWART, Mr. FORBES, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. BYRNE, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. FLORES, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. YODER, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. YOHO, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. HARPER, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. BRADY of Texas, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 940. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to protect

rights of conscience with regard to requirements for coverage of specific items and services, to amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit certain abortion-related discrimination in governmental activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. KUSTER (for herself, Mr. GUINTA, and Ms. GABBARD):

H.R. 941. A bill to amend the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to extend the requirement of the Secretary to furnish hospital care and medical services through non-Department of Veterans Affairs entities to veterans residing in certain locations; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. LEE (for herself, Mr. BURGESS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. POCAN, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. JONES, and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 942. A bill to reduce by one-half of one percent the discretionary budget authority of any Federal agency for a fiscal year if the financial statement of the agency for the previous fiscal year does not receive a qualified or unqualified audit opinion by an external independent auditor, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LEWIS (for himself and Mr. REICHERT):

H.R. 943. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the requirement for employer disclosure of information on health care coverage of employees who are Medicare beneficiaries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LOBIONDO (for himself, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. POSEY, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, and Mr. JOLLY):

H.R. 944. A bill to reauthorize the National Estuary Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. LUMMIS (for herself, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. BEN RAY LUJAN of New Mexico, Mr. STEWART, and Mr. TIPTON):

H.R. 945. A bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey to a State all right, title, and interest in and to a percentage of the amount of royalties and other amounts required to be paid to the State under that Act with respect to public land and deposits in the State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York (for himself and Mr. PETERSON):

H.R. 946. A bill to make loans and loan guarantees under section 502 of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 available for implementing positive train control systems, and for other pur-

poses; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. MATSUI (for herself and Mr. MCNERNEY):

H.R. 947. A bill to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to allow the rebuilding, without elevation, of certain structures that are located in areas having special flood hazards and are substantially damaged by fire, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MESSER (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, and Mr. ZINKE):

H.R. 948. A bill to reduce a portion of the annual pay of Members of Congress for the failure to adopt a concurrent resolution on the budget which does not provide for a balanced budget, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committees on the Budget, Oversight and Government Reform, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. JEFFRIES, and Ms. CLARKE of New York):

H.R. 949. A bill to establish the African Burial Ground International Memorial Museum and Educational Center in New York, New York, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. PERLMUTTER:

H.R. 950. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to prohibit automated traffic enforcement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SALMON (for himself, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT):

H.R. 951. A bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to permit a State to require an applicant for voter registration in the State who uses the Federal mail voter registration application form developed by the Election Assistance Commission under such Act to provide documentary evidence of citizenship as a condition of the State's acceptance of the form; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Mr. PAYNE):

H.R. 952. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to establish a minimum direct care registered nurse staffing requirement at nursing facilities and skilled nursing facilities under Medicare and Medicaid and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER (for himself, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. MARINO, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. JOYCE):

H.R. 953. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:

H.R. 954. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt from the individual mandate certain individuals who had coverage under a terminated qualified health plan funded through the Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan (CO-OP) program; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington (for himself, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. NUNES, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. WALZ, Mr. TURNER, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. KLINE, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. COFFMAN, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. COOK, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. ZINKE, and Mr. PASCRELL):

H.R. 955. A bill to authorize assistance and sustenance to the military and national security forces of Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. COFFMAN, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H.R. 956. A bill to amend the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 to require the Secretary of Defense maintain a registry of sex offenders; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STIVERS (for himself, Mr. WALZ, Mr. ROYCE, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER):

H.R. 957. A bill to require Senate confirmation of Inspector General of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H.R. 958. A bill to posthumously award a Congressional gold medal to Clyde Kennard in recognition of his sacrifice for education equality; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H.R. 959. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the Medgar Evers House, located in Jackson, Mississippi, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. TIBERI (for himself, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. LATTI, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. TURNER, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. RENACCI, and Mr. CHABOT):

H.R. 960. A bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community based outpatient clinic in Newark, Ohio, as the Daniel L. Kinnard Department of Veterans Affairs Community Based Outpatient Clinic; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. TIBERI (for himself, Mr. NEAL, Mr. KIND, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. REED, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr.

YOUNG of Indiana, and Mr. BOUTSTANY):

H.R. 961. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the subpart F exemption for active financing income; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUELSKAMP (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. PITTS, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. JONES, Mr. LATTI, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. BABIN, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. FLORES, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. GIBBS):

H.J. Res. 32. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to marriage; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REICHERT (for himself, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Mr. COSTA):

H. Res. 108. A resolution expressing the sense of the House relating to the dispute between the Pacific Maritime Association and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union impacting operations of West Coast ports; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CARSON of Indiana (for himself and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan):

H. Res. 109. A resolution expressing support for the designation of February 28, 2015, as "Rare Disease Day"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HOLDING (for himself, Mr. NUNES, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. ROONEY of Florida):

H. Res. 110. A resolution recognizing the self determination of Gibraltar to determine its status as a British Overseas Territory; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

5. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 70, requesting the Congress of the United States call a convention of the States to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States.; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Illinois, relative to Senate Joint Resolution No. 42, requesting the Congress of the United States call a convention of the States to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States.; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN:

H.R. 907.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution
By Ms. ESHOO:

H.R. 908.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article IV, Section 3, clause 2 of the Constitution.

By Mr. McCAUL:

H.R. 909.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Sec. 8: "The Congress shall have Power To . . . regulate Commerce . . . among the several States . . ."

By Mrs. MILLER of Michigan:

H.R. 910.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 911.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. YARMUTH:

H.R. 912.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. DeFAZIO:

H.R. 913.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 3, of Section 8, of Article I of the Constitution.

By Ms. GRAHAM:

H.R. 914.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Ms. DELBENE:

H.R. 915.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. BUSTOS:

H.R. 916.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KING of Iowa:

H.R. 917.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 Clause 9 that grants Congress the power to constitute inferior tribunals to the Supreme Court.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 918.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution, to "provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States."

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 919.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, section 8

By Mr. LABRADOR:

H.R. 920.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Per Article 1, Section 8, Clause 9, and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution

and the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution, Congress has the power to enact this proposed legislation to make reforms to federal criminal sentencing. The proposed legislation conforms to the norms of the Fifth Amendment with respect to due process.

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 921.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow Money on the credit of the United States;

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

To establish Post Offices and post Roads;

To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;

To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offences against the Law of Nations;

To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings;—And

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. ADAMS:

H.R. 922.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. STUTZMAN:

H.R. 923.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 924.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Because this legislation adjusts the formula the federal government uses to spend money on federal contracts, it is authorized by the Constitution under Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1, which grants Congress its spending power.

By Mr. AMODEI:

H.R. 925.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 (relating to providing for the general welfare of the United States) and clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).

By Mr. AMODEI:

H.R. 926.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 (relating to providing for the general welfare of the United States) and clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 927.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. BOUSTANY:

H.R. 928.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 929.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. DAVIS of California:

H.R. 930.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 931.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 932.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Ms. ESHOO:

H.R. 933.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 934.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1 sec. 8 cl. 18)

By Ms. HAHN:

H.R. 935.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article 1: Section 8: Clause 18: of the United States Constitution, seen below, this bill falls within the Constitutional Authority of the United States Congress.

Article 1: Section 8: Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. HECK of Washington:

H.R. 936.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: "Congress shall have power to . . . make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof."

By Mr. HINOJOSA:

H.R. 937.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Clauses 1 and 18 of Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. JOLLY:

H.R. 938.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1, Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution which reads: "The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises, to pay the Debts, and provide for the common Defense and General Welfare of the United States; but all Duties and Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States."

By Mr. KIND:

H.R. 939.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3:

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States; . . .

To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among several states, and with the Indian tribes

By Mrs. BLACK:

H.R. 940.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Fourteenth Amendment, Section 5: All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and the

State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

By Ms. KUSTER:

H.R. 941.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (relating to the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States) of the United States Constitution

By Ms. LEE:

H.R. 942.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. LEWIS:

H.R. 943.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. LoBIONDO:

H.R. 944.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mrs. LUMMIS:

H.R. 945.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 4, Section 3: The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 946.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. MATSUI:

H.R. 947.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. MESSER:

H.R. 948.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 section 6 of the United States Constitution and the 27th Amendment to the United States Constitution

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 949.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, clauses 1, 17, and 18.

By Mr. PERLMUTTER:

H.R. 950.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 951.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 4, Clause 1: The times, places and manner of holding elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each state by the legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by law make or alter such regulations, except as to the places of choosing Senators.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 952.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 953.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause I

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:

H.R. 954.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. SMITH of Washington:

H.R. 955.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress "to provide for the common Defence", "to raise and support Armies", "to provide and maintain a Navy" and "to make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces" as enumerated in Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 956.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. STIVERS:

H.R. 957.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution: Congress shall have the power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H.R. 958.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution [t]o make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H.R. 959.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 2 of Section 3 of Article IV of the Constitution: The Congress shall have the Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or any particular State.

By Mr. TIBERI:

H.R. 960.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

United States Constitution, Article I, Section 8

By Mr. TIBERI:

H.R. 961.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill makes changes to existing law relating to Article 1, Section 7 which provides that "All bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives."

By Mr. HUELSKAMP:

H.J. Res. 32.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this joint resolution is based is found in Article V of the Constitution, which grants Congress the authority, whenever two thirds of both chambers deem it necessary, to propose amendments to the Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 131: Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. HENSARLING, and Mr. MARCH-ANT.

H.R. 169: Mr. PALAZZO.

H.R. 222: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 228: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H.R. 231: Mr. HASTINGS and Mr. DIAZ-BALART.

H.R. 232: Mr. MARINO.

H.R. 238: Ms. MCCOLLUM and Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 263: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 265: Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 280: Mr. COLE.

H.R. 281: Mr. GOSAR and Mr. HARDY.

H.R. 284: Mr. LATTA.

H.R. 310: Mr. HENSARLING and Mr. ROTHFUS.

H.R. 359: Mr. HANNA, Mr. LANCE, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 379: Mr. LANCE and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 381: Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 402: Mr. HENSARLING.

H.R. 411: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.

H.R. 430: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 439: Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 445: Mr. MESSER and Mr. HARDY.

H.R. 456: Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 473: Mr. COLE.

H.R. 485: Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 495: Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 516: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 524: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. POLIQUIN.

H.R. 528: Ms. STEFANIK.

H.R. 540: Mr. DEFazio.

H.R. 542: Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 546: Mr. PALAZZO, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, and Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 551: Mr. VELA, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. KAPTUR, and Ms. FUDGE.

H.R. 571: Mr. COLE.

H.R. 578: Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 583: Mr. HENSARLING.

H.R. 590: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 592: Mr. HUNTER, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. PEARCE.

H.R. 599: Mrs. NOEM.

H.R. 602: Miss RICE of New York, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr.

CARNEY, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. PETERS, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. KILMER, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. BUCSHON, and Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H.R. 605: Mr. YODER and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 606: Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 613: Mr. KILMER and Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 614: Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 625: Mr. POLIS, Mr. CARNEY, and Mr. ASHFORD.

H.R. 654: Mr. HANNA and Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H.R. 663: Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. OLSON, and Mr. HUELSKAMP.

H.R. 674: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 684: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 699: Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 700: Ms. JACKSON LEE and Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 703: Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 709: Mr. HENSARLING.

H.R. 727: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. FARR, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. STEFANIK, and Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 750: Mr. GROTHMAN and Mr. MESSER.

H.R. 756: Mr. SABLAN.

H.R. 762: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 768: Mr. ELLISON, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, and Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 803: Mr. HENSARLING.

H.R. 814: Ms. JENKINS of Kansas.

H.R. 824: Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. ROTHFUS.

H.R. 841: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.

H.R. 846: Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. POCAN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. COOPER, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. HONDA, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. DELANEY, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. PETERS, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms.

WILSON of Florida, and Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.

H.R. 855: Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. HARPER, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 861: Mr. ASHFORD, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KILMER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SIREN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. BASS, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. COOPER, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. DEUTCH, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ESTY, Mr. FARR, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. GALLEG0, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. HAHN, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HOYER, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KEATING, Mr. KIND, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. LEE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. POCAN, Mr. POLIS, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Miss RICE of New

York, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. BONAMICI, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKAI, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. TORRES, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. VELA, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. WALZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. DELANEY, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. SCHRADER, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, and Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 864: Mr. PETERS, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 885: Ms. KUSTER, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. MESSER, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. UPTON, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 902: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.J. Res. 1: Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. FINCHER, and Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.J. Res. 2: Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. HENSARLING, and Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.J. Res. 30: Mr. NOLAN.

H. Con. Res. 2: Mr. RANGEL and Ms. PLASKETT.

H. Res. 14: Mr. WELCH and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.

H. Res. 15: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.

H. Res. 24: Mrs. LOWEY and Mr. QUIGLEY.

H. Res. 26: Mr. LATTI.

H. Res. 54: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. MURPHY of Florida.

H. Res. 67: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H. Res. 93: Mr. JONES.

SENATE—Thursday, February 12, 2015

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God of light, in whom there is no darkness, thank You for Your love. You are a guide who gently leads us. You are a mystery but not a puzzle, profound but not incomprehensible. You are loving but not sentimental, patient and long-suffering but not weak and indecisive. O God, You are all things that we are not but need to be.

You, O God, with steadiness and perseverance, move in the lives of humanity and in the life of the whole world and its events. Awaken our lawmakers to Your inescapable presence. Enable them to feel You in their midst as they grapple with the problems of our time.

And, Lord, we thank You for the many years of faithful service by Kathie Alvarez.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HELLER). The majority leader is recognized.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to H.R. 240.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 5, H.R. 240, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

CARTER NOMINATION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, later today the Senate will consider the nomination of Ash Carter to be the next Secretary of Defense.

If I could place one demand on him, it would be to leave our Armed Forces

in a better position to deal with global threats than they are today. As I have noted in the past, the overall consequence of many of the President's policies have been to weaken our ability to confront Al Qaeda and its affiliates, the Taliban, and associated groups.

The President's inflexible commitment to campaign promises made in 2008 has led to artificial deadlines for withdrawal from Afghanistan, a rushed withdrawal from Iraq, and Executive orders to close Guantanamo and send detainees back home to places such as Yemen and Afghanistan. It has also led essentially to end America's ability to capture, detain, and interrogate terrorists—whether or not we are still at war with Al Qaeda.

The truth is Al Qaeda was at war with us before we went to war with them, and today we face a diffuse and versatile threat from terrorists, with ISIL intent on striking America and its allies.

The next Secretary of Defense needs to explain to the President that drawing down in Afghanistan—based on an artificial deadline—risks the gains we have made there. He needs to explain that the Haqqani network and the Taliban continue to threaten our allies.

The next Secretary of Defense must do all he can to make a declaratory policy of pivoting to Asia a real one. Past drawdowns of conventional power and failure to modernize the American force have encouraged foes and unsettled friends. So it is time to invest in the platforms and the capabilities needed to address effectively China's military buildup, and the next Secretary must also support the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff when he provides his best military advice to the President, especially when that advice is ignored in the White House.

In the Senate I will do all I can to support the next Secretary. That starts today. I intend to support Ash Carter's nomination, but my support is conditioned on this request: The incoming Secretary needs to have the courage to speak truth to power—to Congress, yes, but also to his Commander in Chief.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I have been trying to understand what has been holding up the funding for the Department of Homeland Security.

The Department of Homeland Security is the agency we created after 9/11

that merged 22 different agencies of our government to make sure that 9/11 never happened again. We created this new Department, and we said to them: Keep America safe. Use our tax resources and your best efforts to keep America safe. Thank goodness that we have not had a repeat of that terrible tragedy of 9/11 since—under either Republican or Democratic Presidents.

When we started debating about funding the agencies of government in December with an omnibus budget bill, the House Republicans said: We will fund the entire Government of the United States, but we will not give regular budget appropriations to the Department of Homeland Security. They singled out the one department responsible for our safety and security and said: We will give them temporary funding.

In fact, the funding for this round ends February 27, in 15 days. So we are in an almost impossible-to-explain situation where the agency with the premier responsibility of keeping America safe is not being adequately funded to do its job. Now, we know we live in a dangerous time in the world's history. Evidence continues to be shown of the ruthless, barbaric tactics of extremist groups such as ISIS.

Kayla Mueller, this magnificent young woman—I believe 26 years old—taken captive by ISIS, was killed by them. They murdered a Jordanian pilot by burning him alive. They beheaded the Japanese journalist. So we know they are ruthless and barbaric, and we know that they are extending their reach.

Well, we are doing what we must do with the Department of Defense when it comes to stopping them, but we are not doing enough when it comes to the Department of Homeland Security because we are not funding this agency as it should be funded. It has been singled out by the House Republicans as the only agency that doesn't receive regular appropriations.

We sat down with Secretary Johnson and asked him: Well, what impact does it have on you, on managing your Department when it comes to temporary funding, as opposed to a regular budget?

He said: I can't make grants to fire departments in Illinois, Nevada or Arizona. The fire departments come to me and say: Our firefighters need better training; can you give us a Federal grant for that purpose?

Or if they need equipment to keep themselves safe, he said: I can't give the grants because I am under a continuing resolution.

If we look at the budget for this Department of Homeland Security, honestly, there is no real disagreement on how much they should receive. When we look at this budget of \$47.8 billion, it raises some obvious questions.

I wish to mention for the record some of the items the money is used for. There is \$8.5 billion, roughly, for the Coast Guard. We know the Coast Guard's responsibilities—focusing on preventing terrorist attacks; addressing evolving threats to our maritime and transportation systems as well as the global supply chain; preventing the unauthorized acquisition, importation, and use of chemical, biological, radiological, and explosive materials. That is what the Coast Guard is supposed to do. I said \$8.5 billion, but it looks like it is \$10 billion in total that is supposed to go to the Coast Guard. But it is being held up by this continuing resolution.

We have to ask ourselves: What is stopping us from funding the Coast Guard properly so they can protect us?

How about Customs and Border Protection: There are \$12.5 billion for Customs and Border Protection to secure U.S. air, land, and sea borders; safeguard and streamline lawful trade and travel; and disrupt and dismantle transnational, criminal, and terrorist organizations.

The list goes on and on. What is it that is holding up this appropriation? It took some research, but I found what is holding it up.

It is this young woman on the poster. Her name is Herta Llusho. Herta Llusho was brought to the United States from Albania at the age of 11.

She grew up in Grosse Pointe, MI, a suburb of Detroit. She quickly learned English and became an academic star. She graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School with a 4.05 grade point average. In high school, Herta was a member of the varsity track team, won an Advanced Placement Scholar Award, and was a member of the National Honor Society.

Herta went on to the University of Detroit Mercy, and she graduated with honors with a major in electrical engineering. While Herta was in college, she completed internships at engineering companies, was very involved in her community, and volunteered at homeless shelters, tutoring programs, and in her church.

Listen to what her friends say about Herta Llusho:

I am humbled by Herta's willingness and desire to serve. I have had the privilege of going to the same church at which she faithfully serves. She spends hours tutoring kids and volunteering with the junior high Sunday school class. It's a joy to watch so many kids run up to her at church because of the love they receive when they are with her.

Herta, after she graduated, learned that she could be protected from deportation—because she is undocumented—with a Presidential order called DACA.

It is Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, and it was an Executive order by President Obama which says that Herta Llusho could be a DREAMer, allowed to stay in the United States, and will not be deported.

It turns out that Herta Llusho is the reason why we can't fund the Department of Homeland Security, in the minds of Republican leaders. They believe she needs to be deported first before we fund the Department of Homeland Security.

I hate to put that burden on Herta's shoulders, but she and many like her are at the center of this debate—600,000 young people, many of them people such as Herta Llusho, who came to this country as children, made a great record in high school, have no criminal issues whatsoever, and who want to be part of America's future. And what we are hearing from Republican leadership is that we will not fund the Department of Homeland Security to protect America until they deport Herta Llusho. That is what the House bill says. It makes no sense whatsoever.

We were off to a flying start in the Senate. We had 3 straight weeks of debate and 30 to 40 amendments from both sides of the aisle. I thought there was—but for one bump in the road on a Thursday night—a great spirit of cooperation. Amendments were being offered on the Democratic side and on the Republican side. Some were controversial, and people didn't want to vote on them. But I happened to welcome what happened on the floor. I think that active debate, deliberation, and all these amendments were the right thing to do, even though I disagreed with the basic bill, the Keystone Canadian pipeline bill that came before us. We took it through to its conclusion.

There were countless times when any Democrat could have stood up, objected and stopped the Senate for 30 hours or 60 hours, as we saw over the past several years. We did not do that.

We tried in a spirit of bipartisanship to engage in an active debate, even on an issue where we knew the Republicans would prevail. I think that was the right thing to do.

Sadly, in the past 2 weeks, we have fallen back into bad habits. There has been this insistence by Speaker BOEHNER that the Homeland Security bill not go forward to fund this critical agency unless they can challenge President Obama on immigration issues.

Why are they doing this? Why are they endangering the safety of the United States of America?

Is it because of Herta Llusho and their determination to make sure this spectacular young woman leaves America, is deported back to Albania, a country she barely remembers? Is that why we are doing this? If it is, it is sad. In fact, it borders on being disgraceful.

We need to pass a clean Homeland Security bill. We need to do it now. We can take up the debate on immigration any time the Speaker and the majority leader want to bring it up. It is within their power to call the next issue we are going to debate.

I sincerely hope that before we leave for the President's week break that we call up this bill; that we debate it and pass it, so we can make sure America is safe in this age of terrorism, and then let's save for another day the debate on Herta and the thousands just like her and what their fate and future will be in the United States of America.

Some Republicans have stepped up recently and joined us in our effort. I thank the Presiding Officer for the time he joined us on the rollcall. Yesterday, my colleague Senator KIRK, from the State of Illinois, made a statement on this issue. He said: My hope is that we pass the Homeland Security appropriations bill clean now. I would think we should just pass a regular appropriations bill under regular order. Republican Senator JEFF FLAKE said: To attempt to use a spending bill to try to poke a finger in the President's eye is not a good move, in my mind.

More and more Republican Senators are speaking up. I hope the leadership is listening and I hope the Speaker is listening. If we want a debate on immigration, let's have it. I am anxious to tell the story of Herta and many others and to appeal to my colleagues on a bipartisan basis to come up with sensible immigration reform. But let us not withhold funding from this critical agency while we are embroiled in this political squabble.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes, with the Democrats controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half.

The Senator from Illinois.

CARTER NOMINATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise to express my support for the President's nominee, Dr. Ashton Carter, to serve as our Nation's 25th Secretary of Defense.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CHUCK HAGEL

Let me first say a few words of thanks to Chuck Hagel, our former colleague in the Senate, who has served as Secretary of Defense. He is a friend, he has had a long career in public service,

and he is a veteran of Vietnam. The people of Nebraska rewarded him by asking him to represent them in the United States Senate.

As our Nation's first person of enlisted rank to serve as Secretary of Defense, he had a unique, ground-level view on matters of war and peace, and a strong commitment to our troops. I thank Chuck Hagel for his service and his family for their sacrifices over the last 2 years.

Dr. Carter has an impressive and distinguished record of service as well in government, as an adviser and as a scholar. He has what it takes to be a great Secretary of Defense.

His credentials as one of our Nation's top security policy experts are well established. He earned a bachelor's degree in physics and medieval history from Yale and his doctorate in theoretical physics from Oxford. He has served as faculty chair at Harvard and is the author of 11 books.

As singularly impressive as this is, Dr. Carter is also very much a doer. He has served no fewer than 11 Secretaries of Defense, including Leon Panetta and Chuck Hagel. He has four times been awarded the Department's Distinguished Service Medal, as well as the Defense Intelligence Medal.

As an assistant secretary during the Clinton administration, he was instrumental in removing nuclear stockpiles from the former Soviet states of Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belarus.

As Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, he was renowned for breaking through bureaucratic logjams to get our troops what they needed, when they needed it. We talked about this at some length when we met in my office a few weeks ago. How can we continue, I asked him, to reform DOD so that it will be able to rise to the occasion of today's challenges?

As part of the discussion, I was pleased to hear his appreciation for the organic industrial base of the Department of Defense, especially one near and dear to my heart, the Rock Island Arsenal in Illinois.

He recalled his experience in Afghanistan as he tried to bring our troops the body armor and armored humvees they needed. He also recalled working alongside the great dedicated employees at the Rock Island Arsenal as they delivered the necessary lifesaving equipment to our troops and rolled it off their assembly lines in record time.

I am confident Dr. Carter can steer the Department of Defense through difficult times and provide the President with the best policy advice to deal with our Nation's challenges. He has my full support.

LYNCH NOMINATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, while I am pleased the Senate is moving, and

moving quickly, on Ashton Carter, I am troubled that my colleagues across the aisle are delaying consideration of Loretta Lynch, the President's nominee for Attorney General of the United States. It has been 96 days since the President announced the nomination. This is longer than any other Attorney General nominee has had to wait in recent memory. By way of comparison, the Democratic-controlled Senate confirmed Michael Mukasey as Attorney General in 53 days, Eric Holder in 64 days.

I sat through the hearings with Loretta Lynch, and I listened to the questions, particularly from the Republican side, because most all Democrats I know of are supporting her. I listened to the questions on the Republican side and I came to the inescapable conclusion that Republican Senators were going to refuse any effort to renominate Eric Holder for Attorney General. That is all they had to say. Their grievance was with the sitting Attorney General, who has announced he is leaving as soon as his successor is chosen. I listened carefully for any criticism of Loretta Lynch and I didn't hear it.

Then they had the panel of public witnesses. That is a panel that has a majority of Republican-chosen witnesses and Democratic witnesses. Early on, I believe Senator LEAHY asked the question of all the witnesses there: How many of you who are on this public panel oppose the nomination of Loretta Lynch for Attorney General? Not one—not one Republican, not one Democrat. There is no opposition to Loretta Lynch.

Why are they holding up this important appointment by President Obama? Why don't we consider that this afternoon? It can be done, and it should be done very quickly.

Nobody has questioned her record as a Federal prosecutor. She has twice before been unanimously confirmed to serve as U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York. She has been vetted and examined and questioned to a fare-thee-well. She testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee for nearly 8 hours, answering every question, including 600 written questions that were sent to her.

It is time to move forward and confirm this obviously well-qualified and historic nominee.

The Senate Judiciary Committee will have the opportunity to report Ms. Lynch out this week. We have the opportunity to confirm her immediately. There is no reason for further delay. What are the Senate Republicans trying to prove by holding up an obviously qualified nominee for a critically important agency such as the Department of Justice?

I hope the spirit of bipartisanship shown in that committee can be shown on the floor of the Senate.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AUMF

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, to her high school classmates it was pretty clear what kind of person Kayla Mueller was going to turn out to be. As a teenager she took up the causes of the disenfranchised and the dispossessed, such as when she joined a campaign to stop the city of Flagstaff from using recycled wastewater to make snow on a set of peaks the Hopi people considered to be sacred. She later went to the most dangerous place on Earth because people there needed help. She saw suffering on an unimaginable scale, brought on by a vicious civil war inside Syria and Iraq, and she wanted to make it better.

No one is responsible for her death except for ISIL. They killed her, as they did James Foley, Steven Sotloff, Abdul-Rahman, Peter Kassig, and thousands of individual innocent Iraqis and Syrians over the course of the last year.

It has been a long time since the world has seen such evil. This is a brutal inhuman terrorist organization that today is a threat to the region in which they prowl, but without question could pose a threat to the United States if their march is allowed to go unchecked.

Like the Presiding Officer, every time I hear of a new attack or a new execution carried out by ISIL, my blood boils, I get furious, and I commit myself to doing everything within our power to stamp them out. But I also remember that as justified a response as it is, fury is not a strategy; revenge is not security.

If we are going to defeat ISIL, we need to act with our heads, not just with our hearts. And that means Congress needs to pass a war authorization that includes a strategy for victory—a strategy that learns from a small little creature called the planarian flatworm. I want to tell you about flatworms for a second. This is going to sound a little strange, but I will bring it back here.

These flatworms are extraordinary little things that live in ponds, under logs, and in moist soil. What is amazing about these flatworms is that if you split one of them in two, if you cut

it in half, both halves regenerate into new flatworms. In fact, if you cut it into four pieces, all four pieces can regrow into new flatworms. It means if for whatever reason you are trying to get rid of flatworms, cutting them into pieces does more harm than good. If you take a knife to it, you actually create more flatworms than you destroy.

So why am I talking about this? Because they are a perfect object lesson of the simple truth that if you attack a problem the wrong way, you might not just leave the problem unsolved, you might actually make it worse. If you use the wrong tool to try to eradicate flatworms, you just end up with a lot more of them.

In the wake of the 2003 invasion of Iraq, we were told we were going to be treated as liberators. We were told we would be out of Iraq in a few years. When that failed, our invasion turned the one-headed monster of Saddam Hussein into a two-headed monster of competing Sunni and Shiite insurgencies.

Then we were told more troops would do the trick. And it worked, for only as long as tens of thousands of Americans were patrolling the sands of Iraq. But ultimately our occupation was quietly breeding a new brand of an even more lethal insurgency, one that turned into the terrorist group we are fighting today.

Put simply, ISIL in its current form would not exist if we had not put massive ground troops into the region in the first place. Our presence in Iraq, our mishandling of the occupation, became bulletin board material for terrorist recruiters. Iraq became, in the CIA's words, the "cause celebre" of the international extremist network. We killed a terrorist, and the next day two more showed up.

Let me be clear, because I don't want people to twist my words here. America is not responsible for this evil ideology, and our troops are not to blame for ISIL. No one forgets that Al Qaeda attacked us and killed 3,000 of our people before we invaded Iraq. But do we believe having hundreds of thousands of U.S. soldiers occupying territory in the Middle East since then has succeeded in making us safer?

We have killed a lot of terrorists over the last 13 years, and yet there are more of them, in more places, with an even more radical agenda today than ever before.

Former Defense Secretary Bob Gates understood the lesson of the flatworm when he said, upon his departure from the Department of Defense, any future Secretary who proposed putting ground troops back into the Middle East should "have their head examined."

So for me, as we debate this new war authorization against ISIL, I have a bottom line: We cannot authorize a strategy that could result in American

combat troops going back to the Middle East.

If this President or the next President puts our soldiers into the Middle East to fight ISIL, they would serve with bravery and honor. But an intervention of this scale would ultimately create more terrorists than it destroyed. And to the extent we drove back ISIL, it would only be temporary, lasting only as long as our troops were there.

Why? These extremist groups such as ISIL exist not because of a military vacuum but because of a political and an economic vacuum. They prey upon disenfranchised young men who see no future for themselves in societies with massive, crippling hunger, poverty, and destitution.

These groups work best when autocratic or sectarian governments marginalize and dispossess specific ethnic or religious groups, pushing them into the arms of extremists who pledge to fight the corrupt and dehumanizing status quo.

Foreign ground troops do nothing to address these underlying issues. But worse, more often than not, foreign ground troops exacerbate these motivating forces. Bloody ground wars make more economic dislocation, not less. Foreign occupations often empower divisive local leadership, such as the former Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Malaki, who pushed people toward—not away from—extremist groups. Then groups such as Al Qaeda and ISIL use this misery to brainwash young men into believing America is to blame, that we are the enemy they are yearning to fight.

That doesn't mean there isn't a role for military force in the Middle East. I have voted for an authorization in the Foreign Relations Committee that allows for the United States—our military—to go in and kill terrorists, but we simply need to understand that ultimately what military force is in the Middle East is a shaping mechanism to give us space in order to achieve the political and economic reform on the ground with our local partners such that those root causes of terrorists disappear.

American military force is useful in this fight, but it has limits. There is a decreasing marginal return and then a point where it actually flips on its head and begins to actually create more of the people we are seeking to destroy.

I have heard two arguments over the past few days as to why this AUMF shouldn't have a limitation on ground troops. First, some of my Republican friends say this kind of prohibition on ground troops would be unwise because it would telegraph to our enemies a critical tactical limitation. My response: Good.

Why do we think ISIL puts up these execution videos? Because they know the best long-term play for their de-

sired caliphate is predicated on the United States making a mistake and rejoining a ground war in the Middle East. Recent history has taught ISIL that the best tool by far to recruit terrorists—and estimates are there are as many as 20,000 foreign fighters who have joined ISIL—is the U.S. Army in the Middle East. Thus, I have no problem being transparent with our enemy by signaling this to them; that we are going to learn from our mistakes and we are going to fight this war with tools that result in victory, not defeat.

The second argument I hear is that Congress would be overstepping our constitutional bounds by limiting the power of the President to prosecute a war. But first let's note that over and over again, starting with Congress's very first authorizations of military force passed in early American times, we have put restrictions consistently on war declarations and AUMFs. Most recently, Republicans and Democrats in the Foreign Relations Committee voted to put some pretty serious limitations on our authorization for the use of military force in Syria in the wake of chemical weapons usage. Frankly, regardless of the precedent, I would argue Congress has a constitutional responsibility to help set the strategy for war, to help guide the Nation's foreign policy.

Let's be honest. This AUMF is going to go on for 3 years, according to the limitations the President proposed, well into the next President's term. As someone who believes combat troops in the Middle East would be a mistake, I simply can't rely on President Obama's promise that he will not use ground troops against ISIL because he only has 2 more years left, and many leading Republicans have made it perfectly clear they would push a President from their party, if that is who comes next, to put troops back into the fight against ISIL. As an elected representative of the people I serve, I should get a say as to whether we have learned from our mistakes of the past 10 years.

I remember my first visit to Iraq. I was there in the bloody spring of 2007. I remember being absolutely blown away by the capability and the bravery and the capacity of the young U.S. soldiers whom I met in places such as Baghdad, Tikrit, and Baiji. So I can understand why it is easy for some people to believe there is no enemy our soldiers can't beat, that there is no challenge they can't meet, that there is no threat they can't eliminate. I believe in American exceptionalism in my heart, but I don't think it allows us to ignore history, to avoid facts, to deny reality, and the reality is extremists in some parts of the world are like flatworms. If we come at them with the wrong weapon, we may kill one, but we will create two more.

I am pleased the Senate is finally able to debate a new war against ISIL.

This debate is past due. ISIL needs to be defeated, and we deserve to honor the U.S. Constitution and step up to the plate and debate an authorization.

Make no mistake, we should pass an AUMF. ISIL is evil personified, but for us to beat them, we need an AUMF that makes it totally clear we will not simply repeat the mistakes of the past that got us into this mess in the first place.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROUNDS). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, what is the status of the floor debate and how much time might I have?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democrats have 8 minutes remaining.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I have come to the floor, with just 16 days left until the Department of Homeland Security shuts down, to again call for Congress to pass a clean full-year bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security. With our Nation facing very real and very dangerous threats—Senator MURPHY was just on the floor talking about the ISIL threat and pointed out what the risks are—it is time for us to put politics aside and do what is right for the security of our Nation.

If we don't pass a full-year bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security, we will not be able to make critical investments in border security, maritime security, and in nuclear detection activities.

If we don't pass a full-year bill, grants to protect our cities and our ports from terror attacks would be halted, and new grants to police and firefighters will not be awarded. If we don't pass a full-year bill, we are short-changing counterterrorism efforts, and we will put our Nation's cyber networks at risk.

Senator MIKULSKI and I have filed a clean, full-year funding bill that is on the Senate calendar and ready for action. Our bill fully funds these key security priorities, but if our colleagues on the other side of the aisle don't want to support a bill that Senator MIKULSKI and I have filed, certainly we can support a clean Republican bill that includes the funding for the Department of Homeland Security.

Our bill—our clean bill—is based on the bicameral, bipartisan agreement

that was reached in December by Senator MIKULSKI and Congressman HAL ROGERS. The legislation was agreed to by Democrats and Republicans, and it was the result of bipartisan, compromised negotiations. Not everyone got what they wanted in the bill, but it is a good budget that strengthens our Nation and protects against the many threats we face.

Appropriations bills are only possible because of the art of compromise. Senators from both parties identify priorities important to them or their States. They work with Members of the Appropriations Committee on bill language, funding priorities. Everyone works together to influence the final product. All Senators have the opportunity to participate in crafting appropriations bills.

In fact, there doesn't seem to be any disagreement about the funding and how it is allocated in the appropriations bill before us, in the funding bill for Homeland Security. Senator COCHRAN, who chairs the Appropriations Committee, came to the floor and touted all of the benefits in the funding bill for Homeland Security. Senator HOEVEN, who chairs the Subcommittee on Homeland Security that I am the ranking member of, came to the floor and, similar to Senator COCHRAN, touted what is on the bill. I have been on the floor, Senator MIKULSKI has been to the floor many times to talk about what is in the funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security and why we need to pass it.

This morning I wish to highlight a few more of the priorities in a clean, full-year bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security, priorities that will be at risk if we can't pass a clean bill.

There is bipartisan support that the Homeland Security appropriations bill includes strong funding for fire and SAFER grants. I know the Presiding Officer understands these programs because he has been the Governor of his home State. So he knows how important those fire and SAFER grants are to local fire departments, to first responders because they help purchase new equipment, they help with training exercises, and they can help fire departments cut down response times and save lives.

There is also bipartisan support that the Homeland Security funding bill include grants to help our Nation's largest cities protect against terror attacks. There is funding for port security grants, State and local law enforcement grants, emergency preparedness grants. There is bipartisan support for funding to upgrade the FEMA Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, AL.

There is a compromise most of the people on the Democratic side of the aisle didn't agree with, to deny President Obama's request to increase air passenger fees and reinstitute the air carrier security fee.

The Coast Guard needs to continue the acquisition of its eighth national security cutter, which is so important for our maritime security. Republicans and Democrats secured \$627 million in the bill for the cutter.

We have all seen how devastating the attacks were against Sony when it was hacked. Cyber attacks are an area of security that former National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft called "as dangerous as nuclear weapons." That is why Republicans and Democrats pushed for full funding for DHS cyber security activities.

The increase to the southwestern border of unaccompanied children and families last year is a major concern for States along our southern border—States such as Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico. It has been a key priority for a number of my Republican colleagues, and for all of us who are concerned about border security, to meet the statutory mandate of 34,000 detention beds for undocumented immigrants that is required for the Department of Homeland Security.

The clean funding bill includes support for those 34,000 detention beds, and it also includes funding to meet Republican requests to build 3,000 new family detention beds in Texas.

The National Bio and Agro-Defense facility construction in Manhattan, KS, which is an effort to help us deal with threats against our food supply and other bioterrorism threats—in a clean funding bill will receive the final amount needed to begin construction.

Senator ROBERTS and I talked about this today. One of the things he pointed out is he has been working on this project for 16 years. There is \$300 million in this clean, full-year bill. If we don't pass this bill, if the Department of Homeland Security shuts down, if we are in a continuing resolution, then this funding is at risk and they may have to rebid the project, which will drive up costs. That makes no sense.

There was bipartisan agreement to include \$12 million for the National Computer Forensics Institute in Hoover, AL, to support the expansion of basic and advanced training for State and local law enforcement personnel, judges, and prosecutors to combat cyber crime.

These important investments in counterterrorism and cyber and border security are not controversial. That is not what we are arguing about here. We are arguing about whether we are going to debate what the President did with respect to immigration, and we should not be having this debate on the Department of Homeland Security's funding bill. We can have that debate. I am all for it. I was happy to have that debate when this body passed comprehensive immigration reform 2 years ago, but we should not be having this debate on this bill. The House should understand, just as the Senate understands that. We should not be having

that debate on this funding bill for Department of Homeland Security.

We need to come together to pass a clean bill—a bill that was the result of bipartisan negotiation and bipartisan compromise. We have a bill on the Senate calendar to do just that.

I am hearing from communities all across New Hampshire—we are hearing from communities across the country—about the need to pass a full-year funding bill.

Last week the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National Association of Counties, the International Association of Emergency Managers, and the International Association of Firefighters joined our call for a clean, full-year funding bill because they understand, as I know we all do, how disastrous failing to fund this agency would be. Three previous DHS Secretaries, two Republicans and one Democrat, have done the same.

Earlier this week, the National Fraternal Order of Police joined that call for action.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have the letter from the National Fraternal Order of Police printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER
OF POLICE,
Washington, DC, February 10, 2015.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. HARRY M. REID,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. NANCY P. PELOSI,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR MCCONNELL, MR. SPEAKER, SENATOR REID AND REPRESENTATIVE PELOSI: I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police, and probably most Americans, to express our frustration and outrage that what used to be two greatest legislative bodies on the planet will allow a policy dispute to compromise the safety and security of our country.

The previous Congress made a conscious, political decision to defer action of funding for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) until the end of this month. I would also point out that is five months since the start of the current fiscal year and that some of our nation's largest and most vital law enforcement agencies and functions are operating without FY15 funding in place. The House passed legislation in spite of a veto threat and the Senate is now paralyzed and cannot even pass a motion to begin debating the bill. The entire process has become farcical and no amount of political spin or blaming the other side is reason enough to jeopardize the integrity of our nation's borders or the safety of the public.

What kind of message does this send to the men and women in DHS who put their lives on the line in defense of our homeland—three of whom fell in the line of duty over the past two years?

What kind of message does this send to our enemies? Our current threat level is "Elevated" as threats from terrorists and other hostile organizations plan attacks on the United States and our allies. Our Border Patrol and Customs and Border Patrol officers, not yet recovered from last year's surge of minors unlawfully entering our country by the thousands, now must redouble their vigilance against more sinister penetrations. Yet our great democratic institutions are unable to complete their most basic function—providing funding for the protection of our national security. Just more than a decade has passed since the creation of the Department of Homeland Security and today political partisanship holds hostage its operational integrity. This is a political obscenity.

I urge you all, as the leaders of this Congress, to work together and to fund fully the Department of Homeland Security. This is what the American people elected you to do and this is your obligation as Members of Congress. If you cannot, you may as well put out a welcome mat for our enemies and others who would do us harm.

Sincerely,

CHUCK CANTERBURY,
National President.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Their letter expresses frustration with the fact that a policy dispute over the President's immigration actions "could compromise the safety and security of our country."

The letter continues:

What kind of message does this send to the men and women in DHS who put their lives on the line in defense of our homeland—three of whom fell in the line of duty over the past two years?

What kind of message does this send to our enemies?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for another 60 seconds.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Congress's most basic function is to provide for the Nation's security. It is time to stop playing politics, to get to work, do our jobs, and pass a clean full-year bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas is recognized.

PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL SECURITY PLAN

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, on the same week that the President released his national strategy, a pilot in the Royal Jordanian Air Force was burned alive by radical Islamists.

While the administration was putting the finishing touches on this document, the propaganda wing of ISIS was busy too. The jihadist group was pumping out a video of this latest act of horrific brutality.

ISIS represents one of the biggest threats to peace of an already unstable

region. These terrorists are committed to establishing a new caliphate ruled by shari'a law where all would be forced to convert or die. They are committed to destroying all who stand in their way. If anyone embodies radical Islam, it is ISIS.

Given the severity of the threat posed by ISIS, not to mention continuing efforts of Al Qaeda to strike again, you would think a plan to take on radical Islam would be a focal part of the President's national security plan. It is not. In fact, there is no mention of radical Islam in the document at all.

What is mentioned instead is global warming. Yes, global warming is discussed in the President's national security strategy, but not radical Islamic extremism. Apparently that is not a threat to the United States. The President and his advisers have stood by this senseless narrative.

In a lengthy interview with Vox, the President essentially blamed the media for overhyping the threat of terrorism. He went on to say that terrorism sells because it is "all about the ratings," and climate change is "a hard story for the media to tell on a day-to-day basis."

Yesterday the White House spokesman was pressed on this very issue and refused to accept the premise that terrorist groups such as ISIS pose a "greater clear and present danger" than global warming. So you can see the disconnect that exists within the administration. But it doesn't end with just this document.

The President's budget proposal for the Department of Homeland Security would allocate tens of millions of dollars to protect against climate change. It does so by failing to dedicate funds for communities to identify and disrupt homegrown terror, despite the fact that ISIS is recruiting foreign fighters at a clip never seen before. While the majority of them are from the Middle East, the Wall Street Journal reports that upwards of 20,000 foreign fighters have joined ISIS in the past 2 years.

The group's savvy use of social media and its highly orchestrated propaganda campaign has appealed to Westerners as well, bringing thousands of jihadists with passports that allow them to travel with ease to ISIS-controlled territory. Where they will ultimately take the deadly skills they learned in Iraq and Syria remains to be seen. These foreign fighters could return home or even come to the United States, giving ISIS the ability to strike on American soil. The recent attacks in Paris serve as a vivid reminder that the reach of radical Islam extends far beyond the jihadi fighters on the ground in Iraq and in Syria.

Meanwhile, the Democrats in this Chamber, at the behest of the President, are holding up the House-passed

DHS appropriations bill. Senate Democrats voted three times to filibuster the House-passed Department of Homeland Security funding bill last week. Their objection is that it withholds funding from the President's unconstitutional Executive actions on immigration. They are holding up the entire bill and threatening to shut down DHS to protect the President's priority—not because the funding is too low or because the programs need reforms. Their complaint is that the President is not getting what he wants.

I encourage them to relent on their filibuster so we can debate the bill, make changes if the Chamber sees fit, and send it to the President. If the President truly wants immigration reform, then do it the right way and work with Congress to get it done. Don't go about it on your own unconstitutionally and then threaten to shut down a department charged with protecting Americans. It is out of touch, but it is not the first time this administration's priorities have been at odds with those of the American people.

The President once characterized ISIS as the JV team. This is no JV team. As the chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee noted, ISIS is the "largest convergence of Islamist terrorists in history" that has created a "pseudo-state dead set on attacking America."

Preventing ISIS from achieving its goals takes a clear, forceful security strategy both abroad and at home. What the President has put forward is neither.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I wish to follow on the comments of my good friend and neighbor from Arkansas, Senator BOOZMAN. He was talking about what the President is now asking the Congress to do. I think there are many questions that need to be asked about this authorization for activity against ISIS and what that might mean before the Congress can move forward.

The principal question, however, will continue to be: Do we have a strategy? And if we have a strategy, which has not yet been explained, is there a commitment to that strategy to move forward? Is this just another redline that means nothing or is this a document that is designed to meet some objectives that really are not the objectives of fighting people who clearly perceive freedom and America and the values we stand for as anathema to what they would hope to see?

There are so many questions. Is the 3-year timeframe enough? Why would you have a 3-year timeframe? That puts this authorization of force 1 year into the next Presidency. What kind of legacy is that to leave the next Presi-

dent? The minute that person becomes President, suddenly you have a clock that is ticking. If we take that approach, not only are we telling our adversaries when we plan to quit, we are telling the next President, no matter what the situation is, when we will quit. We have not been presented with a 3-year plan on how to degrade and destroy ISIS. We understand that is what the goal is, but nobody suggested a 3-year plan.

In fact, if you look back over the last 6 months, you will find the President's ability to project his foreign policy seems to defy all projections. A few months ago, he talked about Yemen as an example of how well our policy is working. This week we abandoned the Embassy and abandoned our efforts in that country.

The specific focus on ISIS and/or associated persons or forces—what does that mean? Does that mean another terrorist group that is struggling against ISIS is not covered by this? Does that mean Al Qaeda or al-Nusra or some other group that is equally focused on the United States and our friends is not covered by this?

The President has the authority to go after terrorist organizations. As far as 2001, 2002—he says he wants at least one of those authorities left on the books. By the way, it is sufficient to do anything we want to do now, so why add this to it?

This debate may take a while, but during the debate, I think we need to listen closely to our military leaders and question them again about how we can accomplish what we need to accomplish here, what we can do to help our friends as they work to accomplish what needs to be accomplished here, what we do to encourage people from the neighborhood to put their boots on the ground, and what do we need to do to be helpful.

Last weekend I traveled with a few other members of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence to Jordan and Turkey to discuss the ISIS threat and what was happening in Iraq and Syria. It was especially interesting to be in Jordan just after the brutal murder of the Jordanian pilot. I don't know that we know for sure exactly when that happened, but I think there are many reasons to believe this group was negotiating to save the life of the pilot long after the pilot's life had been taken in one of the most barbarous of possible ways. It got the attention of the neighborhood, and certainly Jordan and the UAE and others are beginning to line up with a new determination to go after ISIS, hitting targets on the ground, we are told, that we have known were targets for a long time but we didn't seem to be able to have the willingness to hit them. Certainly we had the capacity to hit them. Certainly we had the information to hit them. But why weren't we doing that? What is the commitment to do this?

The President asked the Congress of the United States to make this commitment of use of force, but there is absolutely no reason for us to make that commitment unless he intends to use the force and unless we understand how he intends to use the force. Not only can we not define our policy here; those people around the world who would like to know what our policy is don't hear it defined either.

Then we have events happen such as the botched interview of last weekend the Senator from Arkansas was speaking about where the President was asked if "the media sometimes overstates the level of alarm people should have about terrorism and this kind of chaos, as opposed to a longer-term problem of climate change and epidemic disease." The President's response was "Absolutely." Absolutely, a long-term problem of climate change and epidemic disease somehow calculates into the discussion of whether we are in imminent danger of these terrorist groups and whether that is real?

He went on to say in that interview: "If it bleeds, it leads, right?" This is the President talking. He went on to say, "You show crime stories and you show fires, because that's what folks watch, and it's all about ratings." I don't know what that means. I wouldn't want to suppose the President is saying that coverage of terrorism is about ratings. I, frankly, don't know what it means, but I do know that if I don't know what it means, a lot of people all over the world don't know what it means.

This is not climate change. It is not what we need to be doing at the CDC. The President is not asking for authorized use of force to do something about the CDC. When that was happening, the Congress stepped up and said: OK, here is money that will help meet that immediate need. That is not the same kind of discussion at all.

The President also raised eyebrows by suggesting that the shooting at a kosher deli, kosher market in Paris was "random." I think his exact quote was, "It is entirely legitimate for the American people to be deeply concerned when you've got a bunch of violent, vicious zealots who behead people or randomly shoot a bunch of folks in a deli in Paris." I could speak quite a bit about the President's unwillingness to call this bunch of violent, vicious zealots what they are. They are Islamic extremists. The Prime Minister of Great Britain can say that. Other leaders all over the world can say that. We can't say that.

The other comment I thought was particularly interesting was "randomly" shoot people in a deli in Paris. It was a kosher deli in Paris. There was no "random" about that. Most of the customers would be and the victims were Jews. There was no "random" about that. Let's accept this for what it is.

Let's not go back, as the President did at the National Prayer Breakfast a few days ago, and decide to equate something—crusades, almost 800 years ago, 600 years ago, various crusades—equate the crusades with what is happening now and somehow suggest that these people are just temporarily misguided. These people are not temporarily misguided; these people are about an evil purpose. They killed fellow members of their religion because they believed those people didn't perfectly reflect their own religion.

This is an issue we need to be concerned about. We have to have a strategy. We need clarity. We need commitment. If we are going to destroy this threat, we really have to be committed to destroy this terrorist threat.

I plan to press the administration, as many others will, on that question of, What is your plan? The President's nominee for Secretary of Defense couldn't explain the plan. That is a vote we are going to have later today. I don't intend to vote for that nominee today. We have already had three Secretaries of Defense in this Presidency who have been incredibly frustrated, obviously and visibly frustrated and willing to talk about their frustrations—at least the two Secretaries who have already left—of not knowing how to deal with a White House that wants to run the military in the most specific ways rather than saying: Here is our goal. What is the best way to meet that goal?

We have had that already. We don't need another Secretary of Defense who doesn't understand what the plan is and can't communicate that plan to either the Congress or the country or our friends around the world.

The Congress doesn't understand what the President is trying to do. The administration can't explain what the President is trying to do. Our enemies are emboldened by the fact that we can't explain what we are trying to do, and our friends wonder what we are trying to do.

In so many cases—I remember the great speech by the President of Ukraine at a joint session of Congress last year where basically he said: Thank you for the food. Thank you for the blankets. But we can't fight the Russians with blankets. We can't fight the terrorists without a strategy. We can't fight the terrorists without a commitment to the goal.

The document the President sent to us this week was carefully worded to meet all kinds of political constituencies. It is not carefully worded in a way that meets the threat of radical Islamic terrorism. The Jordanians understand this. People in the neighborhood understand this. People in Europe seem to have a better understanding of it than we do. They all want to see some level of commitment by the United States of America, and I would like to hear what that commitment is.

I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I heard the remarks earlier today about how we need to move forward with the Department of Homeland Security funding bill without any reaction to the President's Executive actions of last year. One way to see if that would really meet the test of the Senate is to move forward, to have the debate.

Our friends on the other side are unwilling to debate this. Why would that be? Many of them disagree with the actions of the President of last November. Enough of them certainly disagreed to have 60 votes on the Senate floor that would pass a bill to reverse those actions. Maybe not everybody agrees with everything, but we had more amendment votes on the Senate floor 2 weeks ago on 2 different days—each of 2 different days—than we had all of last year. The majority leader has shown a commitment to let Senators be heard. If they want to improve what the House sent over, let's debate it. If they want to improve what the House sent over, let's hear what those improvements are.

Later today I am joining my colleagues from the Senate Steering Committee and the Republican Study Committee to discuss why Senate Democrats continue their efforts to filibuster this funding bill, to not have a debate on this funding bill. In the last Congress we were often accused of not being willing to end debate; seldom were we accused of not being willing to have the debate. Our argument was, how can we end debate when we have had no amendments? We have not been able to be heard on how we would like to change this bill. Why would we end that debate?

Seldom were we accused of not wanting to go to debate. Several times that was the case when it was clear that nothing was going to happen and the debate was all about politics.

This is a debate about funding part of the government that is so essential that if funding is not there, almost all of the employees show up anyway. They are considered essential. They need a paycheck, just as families all over America do. We are going to see to it that that happens. These are essential employees.

This is not a situation where we can just decide we don't need to have the

debate. Our friends on the other side can't continue to think that the debate only happens and amendments only happen in the Senate if there are provisions with which they agree. Maybe they just don't want to explain why the President said 22 times he couldn't take the action he took in November. That is a lot of times, even by political standards. Twenty-two times saying he can't do something and then figuring out a way he can do it is a pretty extraordinary event.

So we need to have this debate. Frankly, unless we engage in the debate, we won't really ever know what is going to happen with the debate.

I think it is time to move forward. I hope Senate Democrats will work with us. If they want to offer amendments, I am more than happy to vote on their amendments. I think the bill the House sent over is work product we should be pursuing. We should be moving forward with it. Seldom is there legislation that can't possibly be improved, but it can't be improved if we won't talk about it. This is not an option. This is an issue we eventually have to deal with.

Let's have the debate on why it now doesn't matter that the President said 22 times he wasn't going to take an action and then took it. If there are provisions in the House bill our friends on the other side don't like, let's hear what they are and vote on those issues and see what happens then.

We need to continue our efforts to move to this funding bill. I hope we will still engage in this debate before the end of the month and give this the attention it deserves.

We should not assume that any legislation that comes to the floor is so perfect, it can't be improved. In fact, the tradition for appropriations bills of the Senate and the House has always been that any Member could challenge anything—until about 7 years ago when suddenly no Member could challenge anything. Let's get back to the way this work is supposed to be done.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent to exceed—I know morning business expires in 3 or 4 minutes. I doubt I will be speaking for more than 10 minutes, but for extra time in morning business, I ask unanimous consent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I rise today to address what I call an issue of

public responsibility. More specifically, I rise to address the responsibility of both the legislative and the executive branches to deal with our Nation's out of control deficit spending. Unfortunately, the President has shown little interest in the dire fiscal situation facing our Nation, which makes it all the more important for Congress to do so. Without Presidential leadership, it is now Congress's duty to step up and take the lead.

We have an obligation to be straightforward and honest with the American people about the financial challenges America faces. There was a furor over our continuing plunge into debt and deficit starting in 2009 and 2010 as we saw the spending explode with stimulus plans that didn't work and other policies that continued to drive us into debt. Unfortunately, that level of intensity and displeasure over all that was happening has subsided, but the problem hasn't gone away. It needs to be addressed, and it needs to be addressed now.

As I said, we have an obligation as Members of this body and of the Congress to be honest and straightforward with the American people about where we stand and what we will do about it.

I received a letter from one of my constituents, Steven of Martinsville, Indiana. Steven wrote to me to describe his concerns about our national debt and spending. Let me quote from his letter:

As of today, the outstanding national debt is over \$18 trillion. That is an overly exorbitant amount of money.

It certainly is, Steven. You are right. It is an exorbitant amount of money—one we can hardly even get our minds around in terms of what \$18 trillion means.

Steven continued:

Therefore, I would like to know our options in America.

I think we as elected officials have an obligation to list those options and describe what we would do about it if we had the opportunity and the support from the President, which is not forthcoming, but perhaps it will be. Surely even the executive branch and the President have to understand the situation we are in and the consequences of not doing something about it.

I am sure my colleagues received many letters and information from constituents who are concerned about the health of our Nation, from our mounting Federal debt, to our management—or I suppose I could say mismanagement—of the Federal budget. Our constituents want to know what we, as their elected officials, are going to do about it.

What is plain as day to Steven, unfortunately, is not so clear here in Washington because the President says we don't have a spending problem, we have a revenue problem. I can't go home to people in Indiana and tell

them that we need to tax more because government is growing and needs their money, and do so without derision coming back my way because people are being taxed to death. This President has an obsession with solving every conceivable problem by asking for more revenue and more taxes. The revenue is increasing; yet we have not placed the necessary spending restraints to control this ever-growing dilemma of deficit spending.

I think there is only one real solution to our problem—a solution that is absolutely necessary because we literally have tried everything else and come up short—and that solution is for this body to pass a balanced budget constitutional amendment. That is why I am cosponsoring an amendment to the United States Constitution that forces the Federal Government to balance its budget, limits the growth of government spending, and that requires a supermajority to pass any tax increase. Without these measures, we will not successfully deal with this problem.

This is not a new idea. I served here in 1995 and again in 1997. I voted for a balanced budget amendment to limit spending and require the Federal Government to balance its checkbook. Both times, the Senate came one vote short of the necessary two-thirds to pass the constitutional amendment and send it to the States for ratification. One vote—one Member out of 100—could have voted with us, and we would have put ourselves on the path towards a balanced budget. We would not have begun to have the problems of ever-increasing debt, ever-increasing new taxes to cover that debt, and constriction in terms of spending for national priorities, such as defense and health research. Unfortunately, it didn't. When the amendment failed in 1997, our nation's debt stood at \$5.36 trillion. Our debt is about three and a half times larger today. If we had had the political will to act then, we would not be faced with the financial challenges that exist today.

By passing a balanced budget amendment, we can send to the States not just a message that we are serious about addressing our fiscal woes, but that we are giving them a voice, we are giving people a voice, and we are giving them the power to hold Federal spending accountable. It would be a unique opportunity to right a wrong and begin restoring our fiscal house by making the Federal Government accountable for its spending.

In March of 1997 I stood on this very floor and warned about the dangers of operating outside our means. I said it then, and I would like to say it again today. I am quoting from what I said in 1997:

There is no reliable check on this process of intergenerational theft. It is politically prudent, even popular, and this political cal-

culatation will not change, will never permanently change without some kind of systematic institutional counterweight, without some measure to give posterity a voice in our affairs. Nothing, in my view, will permanently change until the accumulation of popular debt is a violation of our oath to the Constitution. Perverse incentives of the current system will not be altered until the system itself is altered, until our political interests are balanced by the weighty words of a constitutional amendment. It would be a much needed balance.

We need to come to this body at the beginning of each session and put our left hand on the Bible and our right hand forward and swear to uphold the Constitution, which would involve responsible spending to keep us from plunging into disastrous consequences.

I mentioned earlier that Steven from Martinsville, IN, sent me this letter. What I did not mention is that Steven is a Boy Scout working toward his Citizenship in the Nation merit badge, which teaches Scouts how to become active citizens who are aware of and grateful for their liberties and their rights.

We all know that Boy Scouts take this oath—the oath to be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, brave, clean, reverent, and thrifty. If we just take one of those principles, thrifty, and apply it to our governing, then America would be in a better place.

We cannot fail Steven, and we cannot fail his generation. His share of the debt will amount to more than \$62,000 in 10 years. Let's not keep shifting the hard choices to our children and grandchildren. Let's not deny them the opportunity at the American dream that all of us in my generation have enjoyed. The opportunity that comes with responsible spending and a responsible government. Opportunity that comes to few people in the world. We are so privileged as Americans to have that, and we are denying that to the future. By passing this balanced budget amendment, we can honor the moral tradition of sacrificing for posterity instead of asking posterity to sacrifice for us.

With that, I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF ASHTON B. CARTER TO BE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Ashton B. Carter, of Massachusetts, to be Secretary of Defense.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 2 p.m. will be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

The Senator from Maine.

(The remarks of Ms. COLLINS and Ms. KLOBUCHAR pertaining to the submission of S. Res. 74 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Submitted Resolutions.")

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RUBIO). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I always try to be accurate in what I say on the floor. Having been trained before Federal judges for almost 15 years, practicing law, if you said something out of line, you got hammered for it.

My friend, very good friend and colleague, the Democratic whip, Senator DURBIN, earlier today came to the floor and said: Mr. President, I have been trying to understand what is holding up the funding for the Department of Homeland Security.

I would ask my colleague Senator DURBIN: Have you ever heard of a filibuster? What about the filibuster you are leading to block the bill that funds Homeland Security? I mean how much more obvious can the answer be to what is holding up funding for the Department of Homeland Security, the House-passed legislation?

It is good legislation, to my knowledge. There is very little dispute about the agencies and the departments in Homeland Security in terms of what they would get in terms of funding. They simply said that the extra-lawful actions of President Obama would not be funded.

The Los Angeles Times now says that this executive amnesty could cost up to \$484 million. I think it will be much more. The Los Angeles Times isn't counting the cost to State and local governments, welfare costs, tax costs. This is just their idea of what it will cost to give lawful status to 5 million people. It is going to cost more than that. But \$484 million is still a lot of money.

Congress, the House of Representatives, said: Mr. President, we don't agree with this policy and your policy is unlawful. You said 20 times yourself you don't have the power to do this. Constitutional scholars say that. It is an erosion of our power and, based on

the fact that we don't like the policy and we think it is unlawful policy, we are going to fund Homeland Security, we are just not going to allow you to take money from enforcement of homeland security laws to reward people who violated the laws.

Isn't that a responsible thing for Congress to do? Isn't it an absolute fact that Congress has the power to fund what it desires to fund and not fund what it does not desire to fund? That is the power of the purse, vested in the coequal branch of Congress. It is Congress's fundamental power.

Senator DURBIN is now leading the filibuster. We have had a series of votes. He has been able to get every single Democrat to vote with him to block even going to the bill, even allowing a bill to come up on the floor of the Senate for debate and amendment.

If he wants to offer language that says we want to ratify what the President did and allow all this to happen, he is free to offer that amendment on the floor of the Senate. But he is not even attempting to do that. He is basically saying we are not going to allow the bill to come up for a vote, and we are going to blame the Republicans for blocking the bill.

What kind of world are we living in? I have suggested that is "through the looking glass." We have the people leading the filibuster accusing the House and Republicans in the Senate for blocking the bill when they, indeed, are the ones doing it.

He also quoted our fine colleague Senator FLAKE to say: To attempt to use the spending bill to try to poke a finger in the President's eye is not a good move, in my mind.

I agree with that, we shouldn't be using a spending bill to poke the President in the eye. But I suggest to my colleagues that the President is the one who has poked the American people in the eye, he has poked the rights and powers of Congress in the eye by taking money that was assigned and given to Homeland Security to enforce the laws of the United States. He is taking out money and spending it at this very moment to undermine and to violate the laws of the United States.

Colleagues, the law of the United States—we have a lot of laws—says that an employer, for example, cannot hire somebody unlawfully in the country.

So the President's proposal: Well, I am going to make 5 million people who are unlawful today lawful. I am going to give them a photo ID, I am going to give them a right to work, a Social Security number, and the right to participate in Social Security and Medicare, because I am angry that Congress wouldn't pass it.

Senator DURBIN says this—and our colleagues who have been leading the filibuster have been saying this—repeatedly.

It is impossible to explain the situation, quoting Senator DURBIN, where the agency "with the premier responsibility to keep America safe is not being adequately funded."

He goes on to say that again about placing America at risk.

I would ask a couple of questions. How does taking funding from the lawful, authorized policies of Homeland Security that are supposed to identify people unlawfully here, to identify terrorists, and do other things to make America safe—how does taking the money from them, to give legal status to 5 million illegal aliens make us safer?

Does that make us safer? How absurd is that?

Ken Palinkas, who is head of the union of CIS workers, the National Citizenship and Immigration Services Council, said:

Unfortunately—and perilously overlooked in Washington—our caseworkers are denied the urgent professional resources, enforcement tools, and mission support we need to keep out those who are bent on doing us harm.

This is processing the 1 million or so per year who are given lawful status in America. He is not referring to the future when they are going to be expected to process—immediately, apparently—5 million more. They don't have money to process the people today. These are his words, not mine, in a letter dated September of last year. He said:

The 9/11 hijackers got into the U.S. on visas and now, 13 years later, we have around 5 million immigrants in the United States who overstayed their visas—many from high-risk regions in the Middle East. Making matters more dangerous, the Obama Administration's executive amnesty, like S. 744 that he unsuccessfully lobbied for, would legalize visa overstays and cause millions additionally to overstay—raising the threat level to America even higher.

That is what the people who enforce the law every day are saying.

In January of this year, a few weeks ago, January 22, Mr. Palinkas said:

The President's executive amnesty—

And that is what they are objecting to. That is what the people who are filibustering this bill today are doing. They are protecting, advancing, supporting, and attempting to fund the President's unlawful amnesty.

Mr. Palinkas, whose duty it is to enforce these laws, said:

The President's executive amnesty order for 5 million illegal immigrants places the mission of USCIS [that is the immigration service] in grave peril. Instead of meeting our lawful function to protect the Homeland and keep out those who pose a threat to U.S. security, health, or finances, our officers will be assigned to process amnesty for individuals residing illegally inside our nation's borders. This compromises national security and public safety, while undermining officer morale.

That is exactly right. You don't have to be a real expert to understand he is exactly right about this.

He continues:

The Administration's skewed priorities means that the Crystal City amnesty processing center will likely have superior work-site conditions for personnel relative to our normal processing centers. Additionally, the security protocols at place in this facility will be insufficient to engage in any basic screening precautions, ensuring and rewarding massive amounts of fraud. For the administration to continue down this course after the Paris attacks is beyond belief.

This is what we are dealing with. In October of last year, Mr. Palinkas, when the President was proposing this amnesty before it happened, issued a statement on behalf of his workers and his colleagues in the immigration service. He concludes in his statement:

That is why this statement is intended for the public. If you care about your immigration security and your neighborhood security, you must act now to ensure that Congress stops this unilateral amnesty. Let your voice be heard and spread the word to your neighbors. We who serve in our nation's immigration agencies are pleading for your help—don't let it happen. Express your concern to your Senators and Congressmen before it is too late.

Well, that is what it is all about. The President 20 times said he did not have the power to do such a thing, but he—under political pressure, I suppose, or just an overreach on his part—decided to do it anyway. He said he didn't have the power to do this. Now he has acted on it, even though the officers pleaded for him to not do it, even though an overwhelming majority of the American people said don't do it, even though at least nine Democratic colleagues who were supporting this filibuster said the President didn't have the power or shouldn't do it this way, that these kinds of decisions are part of Congress's power.

Mr. President, don't do it, is what they said. Yet all nine of them are now standing in lockstep to block the funding of homeland security that funds every part of homeland security—it just doesn't fund this building they have leased across the river in Crystal City that is supposed to process up to 5 million people.

Colleagues, I want you to know it is absolutely true they will not even have face-to-face interviews with these applicants. This is going to be coming in by mail and computer. They will eventually be sent someplace to get a photo ID, they will be given a work permit to take any job in America, and the right to participate in Social Security and Medicare, weakening both of those programs over the long term, without any doubt.

That is what is occurring without congressional approval. This is going to cost hundreds of millions of dollars just in the process.

But what I want Senator DURBIN to know is this is going to weaken national security. Because if someone is here to do harm to America—perhaps they are a drug dealer or they are a

terrorist and they want to do criminal acts in America, and they have a record—they are not going to ask for the amnesty. They are going to stay and continue to work their wicked will. That is what they are going to do. Nobody is going to go look for them. Nobody is looking for them now, and nobody will be looking for them then. It will be business as usual.

But if you came here with a bad purpose—terrorism, drug dealing, other criminal activity—and you don't have a criminal record, you will just call in, send an email in, get your identity, and be allowed to permanently operate in the United States.

And colleagues, the American people, I think, understand this. Nobody is going to investigate anything, other than maybe to run a computer background check—a computer check to see if there is a criminal record out there. There is no way anybody is going to go back and try to verify whether someone has actually been in the country a number of years, verify family relations. They are not going to go back to some school to see if they actually graduated. There are no people to do that. This is just a blanket approval for people who apply, basically. You send in a few documents, and you are in. There is no capability of doing anything other than that.

So the President has just made a big mistake—a big mistake—and Congress needs to push back. Congress has the power to consider what kind of policies we want to set with regard to immigration. Those have been set. It is unlawful for people unlawfully in America to work in America and to participate in Social Security and all of those programs. It is just unlawful to do that. The President is violating that law in issuing directives through these departments and agencies to Federal employees, and those employees are protesting dramatically, but nobody seems to care.

Congress is the one body that is supposed to stand up to that, and the House of Representatives has done so. They passed a bill that would stop this activity, that says: we will not authorize the expenditure of any money to carry out this plan that Congress has not approved, that undermines the laws we have in place, and that—as Palinkas and other officers have told us—will encourage more people to come to America unlawfully, further decimating any integrity the system has.

We issued a 49-page document of 200 different actions taken since President Obama has been in office that undermine the moral integrity of the immigration system, making it more and more difficult to maintain even a modicum of legality in the system. His actions are continuing to erode that—the most dramatic, of course, being this Executive Amnesty. So we are just supposed to accept this.

This isn't a personal issue to attack President Obama or any of our colleagues. It is a big American policy issue. It is a huge issue for this country, and we need to understand it. It is a constitutional question as well as a policy question.

The constitutional question, which the House of Representatives understands, is that Congress appropriates money. Congress has no duty to placate the President of the United States when he wants to carry on an activity that Congress chooses not to fund. Congress has a duty to history and to generations yet unborn to defend and protect its power of the purse. Congress has to do that.

I plead with and say to my colleagues that those who know the President overreached on this, this is the time, this is the bill when we should fix this. Passage of this bill without the language of the House would basically fund all of the Executive Amnesty. It would not block funding of this activity. To take out the House language and to pass what our colleagues want to pass—a bill that makes no reference to the Executive Amnesty—takes no action to stop that activity; that is, it ratifies it. It is in effect a financial ratification of an unconstitutional overreach by the executive branch that will have ramifications in the future that we can't even imagine today.

Somebody asked the question—and I think it is a valid analogy—what if the President wanted to reduce the tax rate from 39 percent to 25 percent and Congress wouldn't pass it. So he tells all of his IRS agents—they work for him—don't collect any money over 25 percent. He says to the people: Don't send in money more than 25 percent. I told the agents not to collect more than 25 percent.

Is that so far-fetched, if this were to pass?

What the President is saying is, I know the law says you can't work here. I know the law says you are supposed to be removed if you are here illegally. I know all of these things, but we are just not going to do it. Not only am I not going to enforce the law with regard to immigration, but what I am going to do is I am going to declare you as lawful. I am going to give you Social Security numbers and work permits.

A recent report from a liberal group, the Economic Policy Institute, announced on February 10 that the unemployed exceed job openings in almost every industry in America.

We know unemployment is exceedingly high, and we know that we have high job unemployment in the country. Remember, the unemployment rate we see today does not include people who drop out of the workforce, it only reflects those people who are underemployed and looking for more work or people who are actually seeking employment aggressively and have signed

up on the unemployment rolls in efforts to get a job.

This indicates that in the big industry we used to hear a lot from—the construction industry—there are six times as many construction workers as there are job openings. Even for professional and business services they are higher. In retail trade there are far more applicants than jobs. It goes on and on, sector after sector.

So remember, at a time of this high unemployment, we are also going to be legalizing 5 million people to take jobs. We know we have to get over 200,000 jobs created in a month—that it takes 180,000 or 200,000—just to stay level with the growth in the population of America. We have been slightly above that recently, and there has been a lot of positive spin about that. But we still have the lowest percentage of Americans in their working years actually working that we have had in this country in 40 years.

Income is down \$4,000 since 2007 for middle-class working families. The median income is down \$4,000 since 2007. So how is this good for lawful immigrants, permanent residents, American citizens? How is it good to bring in even more workers at a time when we have the smallest percentage of Americans in the workforce in 40 years? I point to 40 years ago because we began to see a lot more women working in those years, so this is a reversal of that trend.

What do the American people think about it? Here is some Paragon Poll data that says by a more than 2-to-1 margin Americans strongly oppose rather than strongly support the President's Executive actions. Blue collar and middle class workers strongly oppose the President's action by more than a 3-to-1 majority. By a 50-point margin, voters want Congress to pass legislation making it harder for companies to hire workers now illegally in the country—71 to 21.

The American people want to make it harder. Their children, their husbands, their wives are looking for work and not finding any. They want to have a decent wage, a rising wage, and a chance to get a job. So this is a 50-point margin. Remember, the President's action—far from making it harder for people to get a job—is going to provide a photo ID, work authorizations, and Social Security numbers to 5 million people unlawfully here. Almost all of those are adults, frankly.

Just to show how people feel about this and how strongly they feel about it, Kellyanne Conway's polling data shows that by a 75-to-8 margin Americans say companies should raise wages instead of allowing more immigrant workers to fill jobs.

People would like to see a pay raise around here for a change. Salaries dropped 5 cents in December. We are not doing nearly as well as some would

like to say. That is a Department of Labor statistic—a government statistic—that says that.

How about this? What about people who have the hardest time finding work right now. African Americans, according to the Conway poll, by an 86-to-3 margin say companies should raise wages instead of allowing more immigrant workers to take jobs. For Hispanics that is true by a margin of 71 to 11. So by a 71-to-11 margin, Hispanics in America say companies should raise wages instead of bringing in more workers to take jobs, pulling wages down. That is what the market says.

So let's go back to the morality of all of this, which is fundamental. We as members of Congress represent the people of the United States. That includes immigrants, recent immigrants—naturalized citizens—living here today. It includes native-born citizens. That is who our obligation is to. So we need to ask ourselves, how are we helping them at a time of difficult wage conditions, difficult job conditions, while allowing a surge of workers to come to compete for the few jobs there are? Is that fulfilling our duty to the voters, to the electors who sent us here? I think not.

I think it is time for somebody to focus on the needs of people who go to work every day, who have had their hours reduced, who have had their wages decline, who have had their spouses and children having a hard time finding work. That is what is happening.

To repeat for my good friend Senator DURBIN, who says he has been trying to understand what is holding up the funding for the Department of Homeland Security, let me answer that question. The House has passed a bill. They have sent it to the Senate. More than a majority of the Senators have voted to pass a bill and fund the Department of Homeland Security. And you, as the Democratic whip, are leading the filibuster to block it from even coming up on the floor so amendments can be offered.

That is the answer to your question. So I don't think you should continue blaming Republicans for not attempting to fund Homeland Security. The whole world knows who is blocking the bill that funds Homeland Security: You and your team of filibusterers.

That is what it is. There is no doubt about that, and we need to get this straight. I don't believe the American people are going to be misled by that argument. I believe they are going to know what is happening in this Senate and why we have this difficulty.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the Senate will vote later today on the confirmation of Dr. Ashton Carter to fill a critically important Cabinet position, that of Secretary of Defense. I think we all know Dr. Carter is a dedicated and distinguished public servant. He has actually been confirmed twice, unanimously, to two senior positions at the Pentagon. He has been recognized as a four-time recipient of the Department of Defense Distinguished Service Medal, and he has been awarded the Defense Intelligence Medal. I have no doubt the vote today in support of Dr. Carter will be overwhelmingly favorable.

The Defense Department faces important, timely, and difficult decisions in the coming months and years. They have to learn how best to balance what we know are our fiscal constraints with not only existing but emerging international challenges. Dr. Carter served as the day-to-day financial officer of the Pentagon, so he is one of the few people who understand the complexities of the Pentagon's budget. I believe that Dr. Carter will build upon the fine work of Secretary Hagel to chart a path toward fiscal accountability while maintaining the kind of military capabilities we need to face current global threats.

Dr. Carter is receiving his confirmation vote just over a week after he testified before the Armed Services Committee and two days after his nomination was reported to the full Senate, and that swift action is commendable. But I want to contrast how his nomination was handled as compared to Loretta Lynch's for Attorney General.

LYNCH NOMINATION

It is a disappointment that contrary to what was done for Dr. Carter, Republicans on the Judiciary Committee chose to hold over for another two weeks another critical nomination, that of Loretta Lynch to be the Attorney General of the United States, the Nation's chief law enforcement officer.

Loretta Lynch is a renowned prosecutor, twice unanimously confirmed by the Senate. She has worked to put criminals behind bars for such crimes as terrorism and fraud. Some Members of this body said these terrorists should be held in Guantanamo because we, the most powerful nation on earth, should be afraid to try them in our Federal courts—the best court system in the world. She showed a lot more courage. She said, we will try these terrorists in our Federal courts, and we will show the rest of the world America is not afraid—and it worked. She got convictions. Now, the President announced the nomination of Ms. Lynch nearly one hundred days ago. It has been more than two weeks since she testified before the Judiciary Committee. In addition to nearly eight

hours of live testimony, she has responded to more than 600 written questions. Her nomination has been pending for longer than any modern Attorney General nominee.

I contrast this to another nominee. In 2007, Democrats, who had been in the minority, took back over control of the Senate. President Bush had had an Attorney General, a man who, by just about any objective standard, had been a disaster. He was removed, and President Bush nominated Michael Mukasey to serve as Attorney General. It took only 53 days from the time his nomination was announced to his confirmation. That included doing all of the background checks and having the hearings. And then, after Mr. Mukasey's hearing, of course under our rules we could have held his nomination over in Committee, but I asked the Committee not to and we did not. While I ultimately voted against Mr. Mukasey because of his responses relating to questions on torture, as Chairman I made sure to have the Committee act quickly on him. In fact, I held a special markup session in order for the Committee to be able to report his nomination as soon as possible, because the President should have an Attorney General—and he was confirmed by the Senate two days later. Now, Republicans should extend the same courtesy with respect to Ms. Lynch's nomination to serve as the Nation's top law enforcement officer.

I look forward to working with Dr. Carter. I am not suggesting we should hold him up because they are holding her up. Of course not. He should be confirmed, as she should be confirmed, and I look forward to working with Dr. Carter on issues of great importance to Vermonters and to the Nation, particularly concerning our continued diplomatic efforts to end Iran's nuclear program, in halting and reversing the proliferation of landmines around the world, in responsibly managing the Pentagon, and in supporting our servicemembers at home and abroad.

And I look forward to working with Loretta Lynch when the Senate ultimately confirms her nomination, as it will. I urge the Republican Leader to serve the national interest by scheduling a confirmation vote on her nomination as soon as she is reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee on February 26. She has already waited far longer for a confirmation vote than any Attorney General in modern history, and she should be confirmed just as Dr. Carter is going to be.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I rise to join my friend and colleague from Rhode Island, Senator REED, in supporting the nomination of Dr. Ash Carter to be Secretary of Defense. I am confident Senator REED and I feel we

have had a very good nomination hearing and that Dr. Carter is qualified to be the Secretary of Defense.

I have known Dr. Carter for many years during his lengthy service in Washington. He is one of America's most experienced defense professionals, respected by Republicans and Democrats alike.

He has served as Assistant Secretary of Defense for Global Strategic Affairs, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, and most recently as Deputy Secretary of Defense. In these positions, I have known him to be an honest, hard-working, and committed public servant. I have had the opportunity to work together with Dr. Carter on several issues of shared concern, especially trying to reform the Defense Acquisition System, improving financial management of the Department, and repealing and rolling back sequestration.

I was also pleased to hear Dr. Carter explain his views on a number of critical national security issues at his confirmation hearing earlier this month.

On Afghanistan Dr. Carter told the committee he would consider revisions to the size and pace of the President's drawdown plan if security conditions warranted. To achieve the success that is possible there, he urged the United States to "continue its campaign and finish the job."

Dr. Carter indicated he is very much inclined in the direction of providing defensive lethal arms to help Ukraine resist Russian aggression.

He pledged to do more to streamline and improve the Defense Acquisition System that takes too long and costs too much, and Dr. Carter agreed it is time to roll back sequestration because, in his words, "it introduces turbulence and uncertainty that are wasteful, and it conveys a misleadingly diminished picture of our power in the eyes of friends and foes alike."

America is confronted with a diverse and complex range of national security challenges. A revisionist Russia, a rising China, and radical Islamist groups each seeking in their own way to fundamentally challenge the international order as we have known it since the end of World War II, a system that cherishes the rule of law, maintains free markets and free trade, and relegates wars of aggression to their rightful place in the bloody past.

We need a coherent national security strategy incorporating all elements of America's national power to sustain and defend the international order that has produced and extended security, prosperity, and liberty across the globe.

We need to stop holding our military hostage to domestic political disputes and send an unmistakable message to friend and foe alike that America intends to lead in the 21st century by repealing sequestration immediately.

We need to reform our Defense Acquisition System to restore confidence that every defense dollar is spent well and to ensure that the men and women in uniform are getting the training and equipment they need on time and at a cost acceptable to the taxpayer.

That is why America needs a strong Secretary of Defense now more than ever. I think Dr. Carter will be a good Secretary of Defense, who will always keep faith with our men and women in uniform and work tirelessly on their behalf and that of our national security. I am hopeful about the prospects of working together with Dr. Carter, along with my colleagues in the Senate Committee on Armed Services on both sides of the aisle, to achieve our shared priorities, especially the reform of our Defense Acquisition System, the modernization of our military compensation system, and the repeal of sequestration.

But when it comes to much of our national security policy, I must candidly express concern about the task that awaits Dr. Carter and the limited influence he may have.

Two of his predecessors, Secretary Gates and Secretary Panetta, have severely criticized White House micro-management of the Defense Department and overcentralization of foreign and defense policies. According to numerous news reports, Secretary Hagel experienced similar frustrations with the insular and indecisive White House national security team over issues ranging from ISIL to Ukraine, detention policy to sequestration.

Dr. Carter is a worthy choice for Secretary of Defense. He has the experience, knowledge, and skill to succeed. The Armed Services Committee voted unanimously to approve his nomination last week, and I will gladly vote to confirm him today. I do so with sincere hope, and sadly, little confidence that the President who nominated Dr. Carter will empower him to lead and contribute to the fullest extent of his abilities. At a time of global upheaval and multiplying threats to our security, the American people need and deserve nothing less.

I thank my colleague from Rhode Island for his cooperation and coordination with the hearing and for his input and influence which led to a unanimous vote from the committee.

I yield the floor for my friend and colleague from Rhode Island.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FLAKE). The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I commend the chairman for his very clear and thoughtful conduct of these hearings with respect to Dr. Carter. The reason we are here today on the verge of a very strong vote for Dr. Carter to be the next Secretary of Defense is due to the contribution that Chairman MCCAIN has made to this process,

which was extremely thoughtful and bipartisan. I thank him again for that.

Mr. President, I join Senator MCCAIN, and I not only commend him for his leadership but I also wish to express my strong support for the nomination of Dr. Ashton Carter to be the 25th Secretary of Defense. Dr. Carter is uniquely qualified to lead the Department of Defense at a time when—as Henry Kissinger recently said in a hearing before the Armed Services Committee—“the United States has not faced a more diverse and complex array of crises since the end of the Second World War.”

Dr. Carter was born and raised in Philadelphia. He received a bachelor's degree in physics and medieval history from Yale and a doctorate in theoretical physics from Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar.

During his career, Dr. Carter has already held three critical positions in the Department of Defense: Assistant Secretary of Defense for Global and Strategic Affairs in the Clinton administration; Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics from 2009 to 2011; and most recently, Deputy Secretary of Defense from 2011 to 2013. He is well aware of, and has already been deeply immersed in, many of the significant challenges facing this Nation and the Defense Department.

As Deputy Secretary of Defense, Dr. Carter was a critical player in the discussions and decision making on a myriad of international issues—issues that will continue to need the close attention in his tenure as Secretary of Defense.

I wish to name just a few. While the Secretary of Defense is not a party to the negotiations relating to Iran's nuclear program, the Secretary will undoubtedly be responsible for any number of potential contingencies. In the event of a breakdown in the negotiations, the consequences could alter the face of the region for generations and generations to come, and the Secretary of Defense will be intimately involved in shaping the reaction.

Another area of deep concern is ISIL. Their violent campaign in Iraq and Syria to establish an extremist caliphate threatens to erase borders, destabilize the region, and create a breeding ground for foreign fighters willing to return to the West to carry out attacks against the United States and our allies. The Department must provide critical leadership in a coalition effort that includes Arab and Muslim States to degrade and ultimately defeat ISIL while being careful to ensure that the United States does not end up, as Brent Scowcroft and Dr. Brzezinski indicated to us in a hearing before the committee, “owning” some of these conflicts in Syria and elsewhere.

In Afghanistan the hard-won gains of the past decade are significant but remain fragile. As the Afghan National

Security Forces continue taking over responsibilities to secure Afghanistan, the United States and coalition forces have transitioned to a more limited mission of training and assisting the Afghan forces and conducting counterterrorism operations. Yet it remains to be seen whether conditions on the ground in Afghanistan will improve sufficiently by the end of 2016 to warrant the pace of further reductions under the current plan. Dr. Carter's participation in evaluating that plan will be absolutely critical.

Russia's aggression against Ukraine has raised tensions in Europe to a level not seen in decades. Recently separatists in eastern Ukraine, with substantial Russian equipment, training, and leadership, have abandoned any pretext of a cease-fire, although there were discussions that were held overnight that perhaps might indicate a cease-fire. But in any case, the United States must determine the best way to support the Ukrainian people and their forces in defending their country.

Political instability in Yemen has caused the United States to evacuate its Embassy and created a vacuum, allowing the free reign of Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, which is intent on striking the United States and its interests. Again, the Defense Department plays a key role in supporting our partners in Yemen and navigating the complex political situation and continuing to have a presence there—which they do—which can effectively help to preempt any attempt to use that as a launching pad for operations in the region or across the globe.

The same brand of violent extremism in the Middle East can also be found in parts of Africa—al-Shabaab in Somalia, Al Qaeda in the Lands of the Islamic Maghreb, and Boko Haram in Nigeria. Countering the threat posed by these groups will require building partner capacity and enabling support to foreign security forces at a time when resources are scarce and those capabilities are in high demand.

In North Korea, Kim Jong Un's regime has increased tensions on the peninsula with his provocative and belligerent behavior. The recent cyber attack on Sony is just the latest in a string of destabilizing actions. The regime is playing a dangerous game that could have disastrous consequences—especially for its own civilian population which has already suffered untold hardships and deprivation under his leadership. The North Korean regime is painting itself into a corner where it will be left with few friends and few options, and again, the United States, and particularly the Department of Defense, must be ever vigilant.

While the United States and China have many areas of coordination and cooperation, our future relationship remains uncertain. We welcome the rise of a peaceful and prosperous China. Es-

pecially in this new century of global commerce and economies, a prosperous China is not only in the region's best interests but also in the world's best interest. China's increasingly controversial claims of sovereignty in the South China Sea and dangerous altercations with its neighbors raise serious concerns. While legal and peaceful avenues for dispute resolution are available, China has instead chosen to pursue, in too many cases, adversarial and unilateral actions that raise questions about its intentions.

On the cyber front, China is engaged in massive theft of U.S. intellectual property from American industry and government, which threatens our technological edge and sows distrust and profound misgivings. China will remain one of the Department's most persistent and complicated challenges. With the focus on so many crises overseas, it is easy to overlook the challenges on our own continent. We have a violent threat of transnational organized crime in our own hemisphere. When the United States faced a threat stemming from violence and the drug trade in Colombia in the 1990s, it dedicated significant resources and entered into a decade-long commitment to provide training and other enabling assistance.

Colombia is a success story, but the problem has simply moved, in many cases, to other nations in the region. General Kelly, Commander of U.S. Southern Command, leads the Department's efforts in the hemisphere, but he operates with scarce resources, a situation that may have serious consequences.

In addition to these traditional challenges that nation-states have faced for many, many years, the United States now faces new 21st century threats. For years we have devoted significant attention to the complex challenge of cyber warfare. The attack on the Sony Corporation was a watershed event in many respects, and it should and must stimulate fresh critical thinking. This attack demonstrated that a relatively small and weak rogue nation can reach across the oceans to cause extensive destruction to a U.S.-based economic target and very nearly succeed in suppressing freedom of expression through cyber space.

The real and manifest advantages of the offense over the defense in cyber warfare that enable militarily inferior nations to strike successfully against the homeland are a new and worrisome factor for our national security and that requires not only the attention of the Department of Defense but the attention of the Congress.

All of the issues I have talked about are external, but there are local issues that the Secretary of Defense has to deal with. Senator MCCAIN pointed out probably the most significant one, and

that is the budgetary and programmatic challenges that have been forced upon us by sequestration.

The most immediate threat facing the Defense Department is, indeed, sequestration because without resources, the programs, the policies, and the initiatives which must be undertaken to confront these national threats cannot be done.

General Mattis, former Commander of Central Command, recently testified before our committee. He said: "No foe in the field can wreak such havoc on our security that mindless sequestration is achieving today."

Only one-third of Army brigades are ready to fight. Less than 50 percent of our combat squadrons are fully combat ready. Sequestration threatens not only our national security, but it risks damaging our public safety, our health, our transportation, our education, and our environment. In the world we face, there is not a neat distinction between what the Department of Defense does, what the Department of Homeland Security does, and what other civil agencies such as FEMA must do. It is something that we have to consider, not just in the context of the Department of Defense but in so many other agencies of the Federal Government—in fact, in every agency of the Federal Government.

When the Budget Control Act was passed, Dr. Carter organized the Strategic Choices and Management Review to find options for implementing the required defense cuts. The results of this review have helped the Defense Department navigate through difficult fiscal constraints, but Congress must find a balanced and bipartisan solution and a repeal of sequestration across the entire government.

Even without sequestration, the Defense Department has to tackle the rising personnel costs which could crowd out other items in the budget. Currently, military personnel benefits, including health care and retirement, consume approximately one-third of the Defense Department's budget.

If we are to adequately train and equip the force we have, to ensure they are capable of performing the arduous task we ask of them, and to modernize weapon systems, we must slow the growth of these costs within the Department in line with the slowdown of the overall top line. The congressionally mandated Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission recently released their recommendations. They are far-reaching and would fundamentally change military personnel benefits. They did so with the idea of improving the benefits available to many of our forces. They did it with the idea of insisting that our recruitment and retention efforts continue to be successful because we are a volunteer force. Their focus was really on the troops, but one of the ef-

fects of the recommendations was to make these costs sustainable over time.

As Secretary of Defense, Dr. Carter will have to work with Congress to carefully consider these recommendations to ensure that the Department has the resources to properly train and equip its fighting men and women.

The other major cost driver in the Defense Department is acquisition. To put it succinctly, defense acquisition takes too long and costs too much, but the Defense Department has undertaken significant reforms in recent years and many of these were personally led by Dr. Carter.

As Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Dr. Carter oversaw implementation of the Weapons System Acquisition Reform Act of 2009, and again, I must commend Senator McCain and Senator Levin for their leadership in this effort. The largest restructuring of DOD acquisition policies in more than two decades resulted from this initiative.

He also oversaw and contributed to improvements in a number of major acquisition programs, including the major restructuring on the Joint Strike Fighter program, the largest DOD acquisition program; efforts to reduce the cost of the Virginia-class submarine program and to improve contract performance, which has allowed the Navy to begin a two-per-year procurement program for these submarines, which are under budget and ahead of schedule—a remarkable achievement; improvements to the littoral combat ship program, which was experiencing major costs increases and delays, with Dr. Carter's participation DOD shifted to competitive fixed-price contracts in 2011; restructured procurement for the Air Force's KC-46A strategic tanker program, which led to a competitive procurement, incorporating a firm fixed-price development production contract for buying up to 120 tanker aircraft; and canceling of the VH-71 program, an out-of-control program to replace the current Presidential helicopter fleet.

Clearly not all acquisition problems have been fixed and the Defense Department can and should do more to streamline and improve the system. I believe, from what I have just indicated, that Dr. Carter as Secretary of Defense will do just that. He has already demonstrated he can do it and he will do it.

Finally, and most importantly, as Senator McCain indicated, if confirmed as Secretary of Defense, Dr. Carter will be leading 1.3 million Active-Duty military, 820,000 Reserve and Guard, and 773,000 civilians. They are under strain after over a decade of war and years of fiscal uncertainty. They are wrestling with many of the same issues as civilian society—issues such as sexual assault and suicide. Yet they are

committed to protecting this Nation and remain the finest force in the world.

Every decision Dr. Carter makes, I know he will make it thinking ultimately about what is in the best interests of the men and women in uniform and the DOD civilian workforce who give so much to this country every day, and that, I think, is one of the factors that compels all of us to support this nomination.

Dr. Carter has proven time and time again his commitment to the men and women who serve this Nation. I believe he is the right leader at the right time for the Department of Defense, and I urge my colleagues to support his confirmation.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CHUCK HAGEL

Mr. President, I would urge them also at this time to commend and thank Secretary Chuck Hagel for his service. It began decades ago as a young sergeant in Vietnam where he was wounded twice, where he fought in close combat against the enemies of the United States. He took this ethic from his own experience of understanding that ultimately the decisions made here in Washington are carried out by young men and women across this globe. In his tenure, he brought principled leadership, he brought a dedication to the men and women of the Armed Forces, and he also looked ahead in many different ways. One notable approach was his complete review of the nuclear establishment, the triad, not only in terms of its effectiveness but its security and its ability to respond to the threats not just of the Cold War but of the new world we face.

So for many reasons, he has done a remarkable job, and at this juncture, it is an opportunity to salute his efforts.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. President, I have concluded my remarks with respect to the nomination of Dr. Carter, but I wish to speak for a moment on a different topic.

We are in the midst of trying to provide appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security. It is an action we must take and we should take and we should do it without extraneous policy provisions.

Over the past few weeks, the State of Rhode Island has been beset by a series of snowstorms. In fact, the State could face another foot of snow this weekend. In coordinating a response to a disaster such as this, my State depends upon the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency as well as local emergency managers. Those agencies, in turn, depend on Federal funding through the Department of Homeland Security, particularly the Emergency Management Performance grant and Homeland Security grant programs, to build the capacity they need to respond to snowstorms, to hurricanes, and to natural disasters of all forms.

However, uncertainty about Federal funding makes it harder on my State

to plan and prepare. It is harder for every State to plan and prepare. It is one of the many reasons we ought to pass the bipartisan bill that was negotiated by Democrats and Republicans on the Committee on Appropriations without the provisions added by the House regarding immigration.

A clean Department of Homeland Security bill would probably pass in this Chamber by an overwhelming majority in a matter of minutes. We all understand the security of the United States—not just with respect to natural disasters but with respect to many of the issues that are handed off, if you will, from the Department of Defense to the Department of Homeland Security. When we are worried, as we all are, about the lone wolves who may be in combat zones but coming to the United States, that is quickly a Department of Homeland Security responsibility. I don't think we want to confuse the issue of defending the homeland and protecting communities from natural disasters with other issues.

This is commonsense legislation. We have done it before. We have to move I think with alacrity to get this done. It is about protecting the American people from natural disasters as well as, unfortunately, in this world we live in, the potential for terrorist activities that emanate elsewhere but are directed against the United States.

Issues that are unrelated to funding the Department of Homeland Security I think should be put aside. We can deal with them. We can deal with them through the authorization process, but let's get this Department fully appropriated so it can continue.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I support Dr. Ashton B. Carter to be our next Secretary of Defense.

I have known Dr. Carter for many years, both inside government and out, and especially as members of the Aspen Strategy Group. I have found Dr. Carter to be deeply thoughtful and extraordinarily competent. I am confident he will serve with distinction as our next Secretary of Defense, and I urge my colleagues to support his nomination.

It is vital to swiftly confirm Dr. Carter because we face countless threats around the world, many of which know no simple resolution. On all these national security issues, I strongly believe we need someone in charge who brings leadership, experience, intellect and a strategic lens. Dr. Carter possesses all of these things, and I fully expect he will put his expertise and counsel to good use in tackling our Nation's pressing challenges.

First and foremost, Dr. Carter will need to lead the Pentagon in confronting and ultimately defeating the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, ISIL.

ISIL is an unconscionably evil terrorist organization. Its barbarity knows no bounds. ISIL has burned alive Jordanian Capt. Moath al-Kasasbeh, beheaded American journalists and aid workers, and inflicts daily savagery on the people of Syria and Iraq, including the murder of civilians, women, children, and minorities. To marshal international support to sustain the global coalition and ensure ISIL is ultimately eliminated, I trust Dr. Carter to serve his country well.

At the same time, Dr. Carter will need to focus on our drawdown in Afghanistan. The Taliban is resurgent, ISIL is attempting to establish itself in the country, and the Afghan National Security Forces need our continued support. In 2011, the United States fully withdrew from Iraq only to see that country fall apart due to sectarian violence and undue foreign influence. We cannot afford the same in Afghanistan.

I have discussed with Dr. Carter my view that our drawdown in Afghanistan should not be linked to an arbitrary timeline, but rather to the needs on the ground and the necessity of an orderly transition.

Dr. Carter's deep history with nuclear nonproliferation issues will also be important in the coming years. Unfortunately, many of our nonproliferation programs with Russia have gone dormant due to our worsening bilateral relationship. We cannot let this continue to happen.

For decades the United States and Russia have worked together to secure nuclear materials and reduce our nuclear arsenals because doing so is important not only for U.S. security, but for global security. Finding a way to work constructively with Russia on securing and eliminating nuclear material, despite its invasion of Ukraine and continued support for the Assad regime in Syria, is clearly a most difficult assignment. I think Dr. Carter is up to the task.

Finally, Dr. Carter will need to deal with the extremely difficult spending limitations created by the 2011 Budget Control Act. If Congress cannot come together to find a bipartisan solution to raise the spending caps, like we did for fiscal years 2014 and 2015, overall security spending will only be allowed to increase by \$1.8 billion this year, that is a less than one-half of 1 percent increase.

At a time when threats to our Nation are increasing, not decreasing, I am deeply concerned that, under current law, our defense budget will not be allowed to rise to meet current threats. Dr. Carter understands this. In his confirmation hearing, he said, "I very much hope that we can find a way together out of the wilderness of sequester." I fully agree, and I urge my colleagues to work together to increase the spending caps for both defense and non-defense programs.

Dr. Carter is a rare combination of a strategic foreign policy thinker and an expert on the roles and procedures of the Department of Defense. In his time as Assistant Secretary of Defense under President Clinton, he focused on key national security issues like proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and relationships with other major world powers.

In his two recent positions at the Pentagon—as Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics and as the Deputy Secretary—Dr. Carter has managed the Department's business functions and ran its day-to-day operations. As Secretary, he will bring his unique experience in both sides of the job to the numerous challenges the Department and the Nation face.

Dr. Carter returns to the Defense Department at a time of immense global upheaval. Leading the Defense Department in such a time is no easy task, but I believe he will prove to be an excellent pick to help our country address these challenges head-on. He has the support of the President, the military, the civilian leadership of the Department, and by virtue of this vote, the U.S. Senate.

Mr. REED. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REALITIES OF DRUG SENTENCING IN THE FEDERAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President and Members of the Senate, as chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, I have mentioned publicly that I am open to certain Federal sentencing, or prison, reforms, and I have tried to make it very clear that I am very opposed to others.

Today I wish to address the realities of drug sentencing in the Federal criminal justice system. I do so because there are many myths that surround this topic.

The myth is that there are thousands of low-level drug offenders, such as people smoking marijuana, in Federal prison for very long terms. This is supposed to mean a waste of Federal tax dollars, overcrowding, and unfairness to people who should not be in prison. These myths are often used to justify lenient and, frankly, dangerous sentencing proposals in the U.S. Senate. One of those proposals is the so-called Smarter Sentencing Act.

It is time to set the record straight, and that is why I am here. It is important to know how many people are in Federal prison for drug possession, who they are, and why they are in prison.

Then it will be clear why it is unwise to make wholesale, one-way lenient changes in drug sentencing. In fiscal year 2013, the most recent year we have statistics, according to the U.S. Sentencing Commission there were 2,332 drug possession cases in the Federal prison. Almost 94 percent involved marijuana, more than 86 percent were against noncitizens, and 88 percent of the cases arose along the southwest border, so it is clear why so many noncitizens were charged. Federal drug possessors were rarely prosecuted for small quantities.

The median amount of drug possession in these southwest border cases, which are 88 percent of the Federal drug possession cases, was about 48 pounds. Understand, we are not talking about a few ounces of possession of marijuana. The average is 48 pounds. Can you imagine being in possession of 48 pounds of illegal drugs? These are not low-level, casual offenders by any stretch of the imagination. Moreover, well over 90 percent of the drug possession cases are along the southwest border. So more than 80 percent of all Federal drug possession cases were brought in the State of Arizona.

In that district, the U.S. attorney will agree to charge a drug trafficker with only drug possession if the offender is a first-time offender who acted only as a courier. Again, the median quantity of the amount of possession is 48 pounds, and many who actually committed trafficking there are charged only with mere drug possession.

Since 88 percent of all Federal drug possession cases derive from the southwest border, only 270 simple drug possession cases arose anywhere else in the United States. Get this, please. The odds of an American being subject to a Federal prosecution for drug possession in any given year are less than 1 in 1 million. It is also imperative to remember that mandatory minimum sentences are not an issue in these cases. The average Federal sentence for drug possession is 5 months; that is, only 5 months—I say that for emphasis—not the years of imprisonment some of the proponents of lenient sentencing would have us believe.

The brevity of Federal drug possession sentences is emphasized by how in the vast majority of these cases the median amount of drugs at issue was 48 pounds. In the 270 cases not along the border, the median amount of drugs the offender possessed was only 4 grams. The average sentence was 1.3 months. Most of those convicted were sentenced to probation.

There is no basis whatsoever to advocate change in Federal mandatory minimum sentencing laws based on drug possession cases since they are not subject to such mandatory minimums. Anyone who raises drug possession as an argument against Federal manda-

tory minimum sentences is using a stalking horse to lower sentences for much more serious offenders.

There is no separate Federal offense for what is called possession with intent to distribute. Those who possessed with that intent are treated the same as those who distribute. We need to look at drug distribution sentences in the Federal system as well.

Drug trafficking cases are sometimes subject to mandatory minimum sentences. For instance, just under half of all drug courier offenders were subject to mandatory minimum sentences, but under 10 percent were subject to mandatory minimum sentences at the time of their sentencing.

There are two main reasons so few of these offenders are actually sentenced to a mandatory minimum. The first is they may fall within the safety valve Congress has enacted to prevent mandatory minimum sentences from applying to low-level, first-time drug offenders or, second, they may have provided substantial assistance to prosecutors in fingering high-level offenders in a drug conspiracy.

That is an intended goal of current Federal sentencing policy, to put pressure on defendants to cooperate in exchange for a lower sentence so evidence against more responsible criminals can be attained. As a result, even for drug couriers the average sentence is 39 months. That seems to be an appropriate level.

We are not sending huge numbers of nonviolent drug offenders to Federal prison under lengthy mandatory minimum sentences. I want to make it very clear, this is the biggest sentencing myth of them all. When Federal drug sentencing is discussed, we need then to keep in mind the facts. There are hardly any nonviolent drug-offending Americans in Federal prison for mere drug possession. The quantities of drugs underlying the vast majority of Federal possession cases are high and sentences are fair. For drug courier distribution cases, only 10 percent of offenders are subject to mandatory minimum sentences at the time of sentencing.

I hope you will be on notice and be on guard. Don't let anyone tell you Federal mandatory minimum sentences are putting large numbers of nonviolent offenders in jail for long periods of time at great taxpayer expense. Don't let anyone tell you such offenders are the reason for the increase in Federal drug prisoners over the years. Don't let anyone tell you harsh mandatory sentences for low-level nonviolent offenders are decimating various communities.

Apart from the clear evidence from the Sentencing Commission regarding Federal drug offenders, I want to draw attention to the responses to questions from witnesses before our Judiciary Committee just this month. Testifying

before the committee, Milwaukee County Sheriff David A. Clarke, Jr., stated: "Federal mandatory minimum sentences have struck terror into the hearts of career criminals . . . and have provided longer periods of respite from the impoverished and crime-riddled communities that can least afford their return."

The sheriff said he feared the effect in his inner-city community of changing Federal drug mandatory minimum sentences. I have told my colleagues I am going to be open to lowering some Federal mandatory minimum sentences but only where specific situations may warrant that and if we can add or raise new ones for such offenses as arms export control violations, financial crimes, and child pornography possessions. Those three categories do not have to be extremely long sentences under present law, but too many judges are systematically sentencing these offenders to probation. Especially when the Supreme Court has taken away any other means of making sure judges do not let these offenders walk, mandatory minimum sentences are the only way Congress can require these offenders serve any time at all.

I am trying to inform my Senate colleagues through the use of facts. In doing that, by looking at the facts, we will not make unwise and dangerous changes to our Federal sentencing laws. I ask my colleagues to stick to the facts and avoid repeating myths. I pointed out those myths. It is a myth to say sentences for drug possession and nonviolent offenders justify the Smarter Sentencing Act. That bill does not apply to possession at all. Many drug offenses necessarily involve violence. Drug conspiracies operate with the threat or the use of force.

Whatever the offense charged, if the offender has a history of violent crime, he is a violent offender, and the sentence will and should reflect that fact. It is a myth to say the Smarter Sentencing Act would save money. All it would do is shift costs from incarceration to the victims who bear the cost of the crimes that earlier released offenders would commit. That is one of the reasons the bill is dangerous.

The Congressional Budget Office also says it would add billions of dollars in mandatory spending, regardless of what upfront discretionary savings there may be. I would ask my colleagues to get this: It is a fact the Smarter Sentencing Act would cut sentences for a range of heroin offenses, including importation and dealing, while the entire Nation is in the midst of a heroin epidemic and a rising number of deaths from heroin overdoses.

I would ask my colleagues to get this: It is a fact from the heads of the FBI and the Drug Enforcement Agency and Federal police organizations that mandatory minimum sentences spur cooperation from defendants and enable the successful prosecution of high-

level drug criminals who cause most of the tremendous harm. That includes cooperation from defendants charged with narcoterrorism.

I would ask my colleagues to get this: It is a fact the so-called Smarter Sentencing Act would cut in half the mandatory minimum sentences Congress put in place for distributing drugs to benefit terrorists or terrorist organizations. It would cut in half the mandatory minimum sentences for members of Taliban, Al Qaeda, ISIS or Hezbollah who deal drugs that fund terrorism. That would mean less cooperation to bring charges of narcoterrorism, get terrorists off the streets, and obtain intelligence to help prevent future attacks.

As President Obama's U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York has remarked, "[T]here is a growing nexus between drug trafficking and terrorism, a threat that increasingly poses a clear and present danger to our national security.

So I ask my colleagues to get this: It is a fact that the so-called Smarter Sentencing Act is dangerous not only because of its effect on increased crime and victimization but on national security as well.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LEE). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to urge our colleagues to come together quickly to pass a clean Homeland Security bill. We are now just 16 days away from a Homeland Security shutdown. The clock is ticking. A shutdown would be wholly unnecessary and, quite frankly, completely dangerous. We know we do not lack for security threats. It was less than 2 years ago that terrorists attacked the Boston Marathon. It was just weeks ago that we witnessed a horrific series of terror attacks on our friends in Paris. We know the brutal destabilizing force known as the Islamic State, or ISIL, is determined to hurt our Nation and our citizens. The world is a dangerous place.

At a time like this, we should be working together on a bipartisan basis to fund and strengthen Homeland Security, but instead we are facing insecurity, instability, and uncertainty because some want to hold the funding for the Department of Homeland Security hostage—hostage to a partisan political debate.

Is it really more important to hold a fight over deporting children who came to the United States and know no

country other than the United States, came here through no fault of their own? Is it more important to hold this fight over deporting those children than it is to protect America against terrorist threats?

Although protecting against these threats is reason enough to oppose this misguided strategy, the resulting fallout would not just be limited to national security. This bill includes FEMA grants to disaster-stricken areas. This bill includes funding for grants to local fire departments—grants that would not occur.

Thousands of essential public servants—from Homeland Security, to FEMA, to our terrific men and women in the Coast Guard—would be asked to keep on working even though we are not paying them. This is not the way to run a nation. This is certainly not the way to address national security threats that face us.

I think it is telling when a strategy is being criticized from Members on both sides of the aisle. This is a foolhardy game being played with our national security.

A colleague from Arizona said on this floor just yesterday—a colleague from across the aisle—that “to attempt to use a spending bill in order to poke a finger in the President’s eye is not a good move.”

Another colleague from across the aisle, from Illinois, said, “The American people are pretty alarmed, as they should be, about security . . . the way to go forward is just fund DHS,” the Department of Homeland Security. He continued, “We ought to strip the bill of extraneous issues and make it about homeland security.”

That is the path forward, to have a funding bill for Homeland Security, stripped of political riders designed to take on one issue or another when those issues can be addressed in separate bills. If someone really wants to prioritize the deportation of children who came here through no fault of their own and know no country other than the United States, our DREAMers, then they should write that bill, put it through committee, and then the majority should bring the debate to the floor of this Chamber. I can tell you that I would be voting against that bill, but we would have the debate on that issue separate from the conversation about funding Homeland Security.

I found it interesting to read the Wall Street Journal the other day. It refers to immigration restrictionists who want a larger brawl and have browbeat GOP leaders into adding needless policy amendments. That is coming from the Wall Street Journal. They proceed to say in regard to the fight over prioritizing the deportation of folks who are here without legal credentials and who have criminal backgrounds, that the President is “prioritizing” those deportations of

those with criminal backgrounds. The Wall Street Journal says:

That is legitimate prosecutorial discretion, and in opposing it Republicans are undermining their crime-fighting credentials.

So if some of my colleagues want to argue that the President should not prioritize deporting individuals with criminal backgrounds, which I think should be prioritized, have that debate, but do not hold the Homeland Security bill hostage to that particular fight.

In this morning’s paper, there was an article about the funding of the Department of Homeland Security. This is in the Washington Post. It refers to the Grand Old Party at impasse as a measure stalls in the Senate. It quotes the Speaker of the House, Mr. BOEHNER. Speaker BOEHNER says, “It is time for the Senate to do their work,” and he proceeds to give a little lecture to Senators. He says, “You know, in the gift shop out here, they’ve got these little booklets on how a bill becomes a law.” Well, I encourage Speaker BOEHNER to actually read that book because what that book says is that in order to pass through the Senate, it has to get on the floor and it has to have support to be approved by this Chamber.

So, Speaker BOEHNER, I encourage you to actually read the pamphlet you recommended because sending over funding for Homeland Security laden with unrelated policy riders is going to make sure that bill dies here in the Senate. Don’t take my word for it, take the Senate’s version or expression on this. It has come up for three votes in the Senate. We have voted three times to kill this House bill, giving clear instruction to the House: Send us the actual Department of Homeland Security bill free of these political riders, and we will put it on the floor, and we will have that debate, and we will undoubtedly pass that bill. But if you want to play political games rather than looking out for the security of the United States of America, don’t expect the Senate to rubberstamp your political games, Speaker BOEHNER.

So that is where we are now. I do encourage the Speaker to go right down the gift shop—I will be happy to buy him a copy of this, and I will be happy to read the phrases to the Speaker on exactly how a bill becomes law.

It is deeply disturbing to the American people to see these types of political games being played with our Nation’s security. We live in a dangerous world, and we need to take seriously our responsibility to fund this Department.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. BROWN pertaining to the introduction of S. 522 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, are we on the Carter nomination?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, this is an important nomination, at a time when this country faces very significant national security threats.

AUMF

As I commented yesterday, the President came to us yesterday asking us to authorize the use of force, and I think we should do that. I am not necessarily sure we should do it in the way he has asked us to do it. I think it should be a pretty straightforward authorization, and here is what it should say. It should say we authorize the President of the United States to destroy ISIS and to defeat their military. It is up to the Commander in Chief to decide the right way in which to do that.

I have very serious concerns and very serious reservations about our current strategy when it comes to ISIS. I am not sure it is sufficient. I think it is a strategy that will contain them but will not defeat them. In fact, ISIS is now popping up, for example, in Libya, where they have a very significant hub. They have a very significant presence in Benghazi. Just a few days ago they carried out an attack in Tripoli. We are now hearing media reports that ISIS has a presence in Afghanistan, perhaps even terrorist training camps.

So they continue to grow their affiliates, they continue to grow their presence, and we need an authorization of the use of force that allows us to defeat them anywhere in the world where they are to be found.

The President's suggestion has been well received. We thank him for submitting one. But now it is the responsibility of the Senate to do its job and to write one of its own. It may reflect many of the things the President wants, but what I believe it should reflect more than anything else is that we authorize him to defeat ISIS no matter what it takes and no matter how long it takes. If we have problems with the President's strategy, there are different ways to address it. I do have problems with the strategy and I want that to be addressed.

ISRAEL

Mr. Carter's nomination comes at another important moment. In that same

region of the world, one of America's strongest allies and its very existence is under attack. Of course I am talking about Israel, the Jewish State—an extraordinary story in the history of the world. Here is a country founded after the end of World War II as a homeland for the Jewish people so that never again—never again—would they have nowhere to go if they faced the sorts of oppression, the sort of genocide they faced during the Holocaust.

Since that time the Jewish State has had an extraordinary story. From an economic perspective, it is a vibrant, first-rate country with a first-rate economy. What is most interesting is this is not a country with oil or a country with vast supplies of natural gas. This is not a country that is an agricultural superpower, yet it has a world-class economy providing prosperity and upward mobility to millions of its people, and it has done so on the basis of innovation.

There is a very good book recently written called "Start-up Nation" that talks about the extraordinary story of Israel.

It is also a very vibrant democracy—in fact, observers of Israeli politics often joke perhaps a little too vibrant. They have heated debates. But it is a democracy.

So what we have here is a democratic nation with a vibrant free enterprise economy in the middle of the Middle East.

Israel is everything we want that region of the world to become. We wish every nation in that region were a real democracy, a vibrant one. We wish every nation in that part of the world had a first-rate economy that provided upward mobility to everyone. And we wish every nation in the Middle East was as strong an ally of the United States as Israel has been.

This is the extraordinary story of this small but important nation, and this country must continue to be their strongest ally in the world. But they face extraordinary threats to their safety, to their security, and to their existence.

It begins with what I believe is a concerted effort around the world—including in American academia, including in the universities of this very country—to delegitimize Israel's right to exist and its right to exist as a Jewish state, and it is an outrage.

It continues with the growth of anti-Semitism all over the world, increasingly in Europe. Every day we see stories of a mass exodus as more and more Jews are leaving Europe because of the growth of anti-Semitism.

We saw what happened in Paris—not just the attack that happened but how Jews were deliberately targeted for death by terrorists. It was not a random attack. It was a deliberate act to target Jews. It was a deliberate act of violence in the furtherance of anti-Semitism.

In every international body in the world, Israel is often the target of scorn and criticism, without any consideration whatsoever to what its enemies intend to do to them. And now perhaps the greatest risk of all is to its very existence from the threat of an Iranian nuclear program.

I, like everybody else, wish that I would wake up tomorrow morning to the news that the Ayatollah had come to his senses and realized Iran cannot continue down its path; that they have given up their nuclear weapons ambition; that they have given up sponsoring terrorism all over the world; that they have given up their anti-Israeli, anti-Semitic rhetoric; that they have given up oppressing their own people. But I know that is not going to happen because Iran is not governed by a normal leader the way we would consider a leader of a nation. Iran is governed by a radical shia cleric—a radical shia cleric who believes he is not only the head of Iran, he believes he is the head of all Islam everywhere in the world. Iran is where he lives. Iran is where he is based. But Iran is not what he believes is his domain; he believes every Muslim on the planet under the Sun is under his control and leadership.

But here is the scariest thing he believes: He believes it is his job to trigger an apocalyptic showdown between the Muslim and non-Muslim world because that would bring about the emergence of the 13th Imam—the Hidden Imam, the Mahdi, as they call him—who will then come and govern the entire world under the flag of Islam—his version of radical Islam. We may say that stuff sounds a little far-fetched. That is what he believes. That is what he passionately and legitimately believes.

So when someone wants to trigger an apocalyptic showdown between the Muslim and non-Muslim world, when someone says they want to destroy the State of Israel, wipe it off the face of the Earth, and that person is trying to acquire nuclear weapons capabilities, we had better be very concerned, and we had better conclude that is an unacceptable risk for us to take. It is particularly scary for Israel because they are closer to Iran than we are. They are in their crosshairs both verbally and militarily.

The administration would have us believe that we are in the midst of this negotiation and hopefully we will delay the Iranian nuclear program or extend the amount of time they would need to break out. Let me break it to everyone: They are not going to break out. They are going to sneak out. They will concoct some sort of excuse at some point in the future as to why they need a nuclear weapons program.

Let me begin by saying that Iran is an oil-rich nation. They have no need for civilian nuclear power. But if they

want one, they can have it, like most of the other countries in the world do, by importing enriched uranium or reprocessed plutonium and using it for their reactors for peaceful purposes. But instead they insist on the ability to enrich and reprocess, and there is only one reason why they would insist on that—because they want the infrastructure necessary to one day build a weapon when they decide they need it.

But don't take my word for it. That is not the only thing they are doing. There are two other aspects of their program that aren't even being discussed.

The first is that they continue to develop long-range rockets. Why do they need intercontinental missiles? Why do they need long-range rockets? They don't need them for conventional purposes. They don't put a conventional warhead—they don't spend all the time and energy and money that it takes to build that capacity to bomb someone with a conventional weapon. There is only one reason to build long-range rockets such as those, and that is to put a nuclear warhead on them. That is not being discussed in these negotiations, and they continue to make unabated progress toward their long-range rocket capabilities.

The other is a weapons design. The three things they need for a nuclear weapons program: a weapons design, long-range rockets, and the ability to enrich and reprocess. They are already building the rockets. The weapons design they can literally buy from dozens of people around the world who will sell it to them. And the reprocessing? Even under the deal the President is asking for, if it went down exactly the way the President is asking for, they would still keep all the infrastructure, all the things that it takes to enrich to weapons-grade. They would have all the equipment, all the scientists, all the infrastructure.

Here is one more point. Iran has always had a secret component to their nuclear program. They have always had some secret component to their program. And I would venture to guess that right now they have a secret component to their program as well that we do not know about.

That is why I have little hope in this deal, and that is why Prime Minister Netanyahu is so concerned about the deal. See, he doesn't have the luxury of living an illusion. He doesn't have the luxury of pretending that somehow we can work this out, as if somehow we are negotiating with Luxembourg or Belgium. He knows the neighborhood he lives in, and he knows his enemy. He knows their true nature. He knows their true intentions. And it is his obligation not just to protect his people but to fight for that nation's very existence. So he has chosen to come before the Congress at the invitation of the Speaker. I am glad he has accepted

his invitation, and I think we owe him the courtesy to hear what he has to say.

I want you to go back and look at the United Nations rollcall votes. Time and again, when the interests of this country are being challenged around the world, I want you to see how many times Israel is one of the few countries—often the only country—that vote with the United States of America in that international forum. I want you to see all the times that the Israelis have stood with America on issue after issue around the world.

I also want you to think about what it says about us as a nation if we are not prepared to make it very clear that before anything else, we are the friends of our allies. What does it say to our other allies around the world, to other nations in other parts of the world that are counting on the American security guarantee for their own existence and their own security, what does it say to Japan and to South Korea and to our allies in NATO if the United States is prepared to create daylight between us and the State of Israel?

That is exactly the message people will get—that there is a division between us and Israel—if, in fact, Members of Congress carry through on their threat to boycott the Prime Minister's speech before Congress on the 3rd of March. If a significant number of Members of the Senate and the House boycott his speech, that message will be heard not only by Israel's enemies but also by our allies. And the message will be twofold—one, that America is no longer firmly on the side of Israel as it once was, and two, that America is an unreliable ally; look what they just did to Israel.

I think everyone has the right to go or not go to any speech they want, but I hope my colleagues who are thinking about not going will reconsider. You may not like the way this went down. You may not like the fact that the Speaker did it the way he did it. That is your choice. But I want you to think about the implications beyond that. I want you to think about the implications this leaves on Israel. I want you to think about the message this sends to Israel's enemies because what we have seen decade after decade is that anytime Israel's enemies get the perception that somehow America is no longer as committed to Israel's security as it once was, it emboldens them to attack Israel, and Israel has no shortage of enemies that want to not just attack them but destroy them. We have seen what Hamas has done. We have seen what Hezbollah has done. We have seen what Iran wants to do and is doing.

If you boycott this speech, if a significant number of Members of Congress boycott this speech, you will send an incredibly powerful message to Israel's enemies. So I hope you will reconsider.

I don't question anyone's commitment on this issue. I believe there are supporters of Israel who won't attend the speech because they think it is disrespectful to the President. This is a lot bigger than that. We are talking about the existence of this nation. We are talking about whether people in that nation will survive in 20 years or 15 years. That is how important and monumental this moment is.

I am not claiming that by you not attending the speech, somehow that is going to lead to Israel's destruction. I am claiming that if you boycott this speech, you will send a message to Israel's enemies that could embolden them, and I hope you will reconsider that position.

I find it quite frankly outrageous that reports are that the White House has asked Members of Congress to boycott the speech. I find it outrageous that the Vice President of the United States—the Vice President—has decided to boycott that speech. I find it outrageous, for example, that on the one hand we are more than glad to send administration officials at the highest levels to sit down and meet repeatedly with the highest ranking officials that Iran will send, but our strongest ally's Prime Minister is coming to Washington and they won't even meet with him? One of our strongest ally's Prime Minister wants to speak before the Congress and they won't even attend the speech? What do you think the headlines will be read as in Iran, by the terrorists in Gaza, by the terrorists in Judea and Samaria, by the terrorists in all parts of the world, such as in Lebanon, who want to destroy Israel? What do you think they are going to read into it? What they are going to read into it, unfortunately, is that somehow Congress's commitment to the future security of Israel is not as strong as it once was. And I fear what the implications of that will be. We should not take this lightly.

I can think of no nation on Earth that needs our help more right now than Israel, and I can think of no people on Earth who deserve our support more than they do. As I said earlier, they are a reliable, strong, committed ally of this Nation. We have strong links to them on personal, cultural, political, and economic levels. They have stood by us time and again in international forums when America's interests have been challenged. They are everything we want the Middle East to look like in the future—free, prosperous, democratic, aligned with America, peace-loving, desirous of a better future. What more do you want? What more could they do? What else could they be for us to be any stronger an ally of theirs than we should be or are right now? Yet there are people who are talking about boycotting the speech to protest because their feelings are hurt, because they are upset about

the way it went down, because they don't like the way it was scheduled, because it was disrespectful to the President.

You have the right to voice your concerns, but don't do this to an ally. Don't do this to a nation that is as threatened today as it has ever been at any time in its existence. Don't do this to a people who are in the crosshairs of multiple terrorist groups with the capability of attacking them. Don't do this to a nation whose civilians are terrorized by thousands of rockets launched against them at a moment's notice. Don't do this to a country that is facing down the threat of a nuclear weapon annihilating them off the face of the Earth. Don't do this to a people who are being stigmatized all over the world even as we speak, who are being oppressed. Don't do this to a country that in forum after forum has become the subject of delegitimization, as people argue that somehow Israel's right to exist is not real. Don't do this to them.

I hope my colleagues will reconsider their decision to not attend. This is an important speech. It is the Prime Minister's choice, obviously. He must always act in the best interests of his nation and his people. But I hope he will speak to us on March 3, and I hope he will speak to us clearly. I hope that through his speech he will open the eyes of this Congress and the American people that this is not child's play, that what Iran intends to have is not just a nuclear weapon to destroy Israel but ultimately to terrorize the world. I hope he will speak to us bluntly about the true nature of this threat.

I know there is a lot going on in the world, but there is no greater threat to the long-term security of the planet than the Iranian nuclear ambition. No people and no nation on Earth know that better than the people of Israel, and no leader on Earth understands that better than Prime Minister Netanyahu.

I think after years of commitment to this alliance, after the bravery he has shown in his time in office and the bravery the Jewish people of Israel have shown in defending their nation's right to exist after being attacked multiple times throughout their history and even to this modern day, they deserve our unambiguous support. Of course, there are differences between allies. There always have been and always will be.

If we won't stand for Israel, for whom will we stand? If the United States of America will not defend its ally, whom will we defend? What message do we send to our alliances across the planet and what message do we send to our enemies and Israel's enemies?

I hope cooler heads will prevail. I hope Members of the House and Senate who have announced they are boycotting will reconsider. I hope we will

all be there, if we can, to hear what the Prime Minister has to say the first week in March.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, are we in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is in executive session.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTES TO KATHIE ALVAREZ

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, regular C-SPAN viewers, this is your DVR alert. Get your TiVo ready. After today you will no longer hear the dulcet voice of Kathie Alvarez calling the roll in the United States Senate. After nearly 30 years as an integral part of the floor staff, Kathie is leaving the Senate.

Her road to the Senate began as a young seventh grade history teacher in Louisiana. In 1984 she chaperoned her students during a class trip to Washington, DC. During the trip she met an old college friend who told her about a job opening in the Senate Document Room. While her students were touring the Capitol, Kathie interviewed and was hired on the spot. Unfortunately for those students, they lost a great teacher that day, but it turned out to be a gain for the Senate.

In 1985 Kathie was hired as the second assistant bill clerk and was quickly promoted to assistant bill clerk.

In 1991, for the first time, Senators came to this Chamber and heard a woman's voice taking the rollcall vote. It was Kathie Alvarez, the first female bill clerk of the United States Senate. What an achievement.

Before the end of the millennium, Kathie Alvarez was a part of another first when she was 1 of 10 officers—all women—presiding over the Senate at the start of the day. If that were not enough, Kathie once again made history when she was promoted to legislative clerk in 2009. She was the first woman to serve in this role too. What a career.

In 1922, for the history books, Rebecca Latimer Felton was the first woman to sit in the Senate. She served in this body for only 1 day, but during those 24 hours she made a bold prediction for her time about the future role women would play in the Senate. She said:

When the women of the country come in and sit with you . . . you will get ability, you will get integrity of purpose, you will

get exalted patriotism, and you will get untinted usefulness.

Well, I will certainly second that.

As the first woman to serve as the bill clerk and legislative clerk of the United States Senate, I would say Kathie Alvarez has certainly lived up to Senator Felton's prediction. She began her career as a seventh grade history teacher and came to the Senate, where she made history.

Thank you for your service to this body. I know you will be joining your husband John and your high school student daughter Georgia in a much more fulsome way now, but we will miss you in the Senate, and I wish you and your family the very best.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I wish to say a word about a remarkable woman in the Senate we will soon be losing.

Kathie Alvarez, the Senate's legislative clerk, is a bit of a celebrity. Every C-SPAN aficionado knows her voice. All she has to say is "Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE . . ." and it is instantly recognizable.

Kathie has been calling the roll around here for quite a while. In 1991, she became the first woman to ever call the roll in the Senate. In 1999, with Senator COLLINS in the chair, Kathie became a member of the first all-female team to preside over this body, and in 2009 she became the Senate's first female legislative clerk.

So Kathie Alvarez has been making a lot of history since she first arrived here in 1984.

And you will notice, Madam President, that every female floor staffer is paying tribute to her today. They are each wearing something with Kathie's favorite design—animal print.

Along with the love of Cajun food, sartorial distinction is one thing this Louisianan has become known for, a passion for perfection is another.

Kathie has maintained a laser-like focus for three decades. That is good news for the Senate because we rely on her—and the American people rely on her—to ensure that every bill, every amendment, and every message from the House is processed perfectly. That is a lot of pressure.

So we can't blame Kathie for wanting to retire. I know she is looking forward to spending more time with her husband John, and I know Kathie wants to see more of her daughter Georgia.

It will not be as though Kathie is leaving us entirely. We will still be able to hear her voice on the film every

tourist watches when they come to visit the Capitol.

So the Senate thanks Kathie Alvarez, its history-making celebrity, for her many years of service, and we wish the very best to her deputy, John Merlino, as he steps into Kathie's role as the Senate's new legislative clerk.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Ashton B. Carter, of Massachusetts, to be Secretary of Defense?

Mr. INHOFE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 93, nays 5, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 56 Ex.]

YEAS—93

Alexander	Flake	Murray
Ayotte	Franken	Nelson
Baldwin	Gardner	Paul
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Perdue
Bennet	Graham	Peters
Blumenthal	Grassley	Portman
Booker	Hatch	Reed
Boxer	Heinrich	Roberts
Brown	Heitkamp	Rounds
Burr	Heller	Rubio
Cantwell	Hirono	Sanders
Capito	Hoeven	Sasse
Cardin	Inhofe	Schatz
Carper	Isakson	Schumer
Casey	Johnson	Scott
Cassidy	Kaine	Sessions
Coats	King	Shaheen
Cochran	Klobuchar	Shelby
Collins	Lankford	Stabenow
Coons	Leahy	Sullivan
Corker	Lee	Tester
Cornyn	Manchin	Thune
Cotton	Markey	Tillis
Cruz	McCain	Toomey
Daines	McCaskill	Udall
Donnelly	McConnell	Vitter
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Enzi	Merkley	Warren
Ernst	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murkowski	Wicker
Fischer	Murphy	Wyden

NAYS—5

Blunt	Crapo	Risch
Boozman	Kirk	

NOT VOTING—2

Moran	Reid
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, for 2 weeks now Democrats have continued to filibuster funding for the Department of Homeland Security.

They are filibustering Homeland Security for one reason, and that is to defend actions President Obama himself referred to as “unwise and unfair” and “ignoring the law.”

For 2 full weeks, Democrats have prevented the Senate from even considering legislation to fund the Department of Homeland Security. Democrats won't allow the Senate to even debate this funding. Democrats won't allow the Senate to even consider amendments to this funding.

Democrats appear willing to do anything and everything they can to prevent the Senate from taking any action to fund Homeland Security, and all to defend “unwise and unfair”—the President's words, not mine—overreach.

This includes Democrats who claim to be against overreach and who claim to be for funding the Department of Homeland Security. Yet these Democrats continue to filibuster things they claim to want.

Listen to the things Democrats have been saying too. We have heard a claim from them the Democratic filibuster wasn't actually a filibuster. We heard a call from them for the Senate to start with funding legislation of its own. Of course, the Democratic leader has been clear in the past that the Senate can do no such thing.

Well, here is some good news. There is already a funding bill before us. It has already passed the House. It would fund the Department of Homeland Security fully, and we can consider it today, right now. All Democrats have to do is stop blocking the Senate from even debating it. If our Democratic colleagues don't like provisions of the bill the House has passed, the Senate has a process for modifying bills. It is called amending them. But the Senate can only consider amendments to a bill if it is not being filibustered.

This strained logic of our Democratic friends is very hard to swallow. We understand Democrats might be having a tough time kicking this years-long gridlock habit of theirs, but it is about time they did.

I have already offered a fair and open debate to them several times now. It is

a debate that would allow amendments from both parties—that means amendments from our Democratic friends as well. If you want to make changes to the bill, colleagues, that is the way to do it. But to do so you first need to end the weeks-long Democratic filibuster of Homeland Security funding.

Why don't we get serious instead and let the Senate fund the Department of Homeland Security.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to proceed to H.R. 240 be agreed to, and that it be made in order for the managers or their designees to offer amendments in an alternating fashion, with the majority manager or his designee being recognized to offer the first amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The acting minority leader.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I don't understand why the Republicans in the House and the Senate have decided to hold up one appropriations bill of our Federal Government, the appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security, the one agency that is supposed to protect us against terrorism.

Last December, the House Republicans said: We are just not going to give regular funding to this Department—\$48 billion this Department spends on the Coast Guard, border security, and a myriad of different things to keep America safe—but the Republicans said this is one agency we are not going to fully fund. We will put them on temporary funding, called a continuing resolution, and we will get back to you on February 27.

Then what they did is to lash the budget of this Department to the thorny, difficult issue of immigration and insist that we can't fund the Department of Homeland Security unless we take up what I consider to be some rather outrageous riders put on by the House of Representatives on the issue of immigration.

The good news is we have come up with a solution on this side. I am going to make it in the manner of a unanimous consent request, and it is very straightforward.

First, because Senator JEANNE SHAHEEN from New Hampshire has stepped forward and offered, with Senator MIKULSKI, S. 272, we have a clean appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security.

If the Senator would like me to yield for a question, I will yield at this point.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. If I could ask my colleague a question, isn't it true, I say to Senator DURBIN, that the bill you are talking about, the clean bill Senator MIKULSKI and I have introduced, is

the legislation that was agreed to last December by Senator MIKULSKI, when she was chair of the Appropriations Committee, and HAL ROGERS, chair of the House Appropriations Committee? It was a bipartisan agreement, a bicameral agreement, and each side gave some.

What is at issue here is not that underlying bill. What is at issue are the five riders, the amendments the House put on, that have nothing to do with funding the Department of Homeland Security.

Mr. DURBIN. I would answer in the affirmative. That is why the unanimous consent request I am going to make is the easiest, quickest solution to our problem—a clean, bipartisan appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security. But we are not running away from the immigration issue. Because Senator MCCONNELL is now the majority leader and controls the business of the Senate and Speaker BOEHNER controls the business of the House, they can take up the immigration issue immediately after we have funded this Department.

So what I am going to suggest in my unanimous consent request is that they use their power in the majority to take us to this important debate on immigration after we have given a clean appropriation to the one Federal agency empowered with keeping America safe from terrorism.

Let's not play politics with terrorism. Let's not play politics with the budget of the Department of Homeland Security.

Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that following the enactment of the text of S. 272, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2015, at a time to be determined by the majority leader, after consultation with the Democratic leader but no later than Monday, March 16, the Senate proceed to the consideration of the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act, as passed by the Senate by a vote of 68 to 32 on June 27, 2013, the text of which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. MCCONNELL. What is the pending business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion to proceed to H.R. 240.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 240, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015.

Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, Thad Cochran, Tom Cotton, Roger F. Wicker, David Vitter, Jerry Moran, Daniel Coats, Michael B. Enzi, Mike Crapo, Bill Cassidy, John Boozman, John Thune, Tim Scott, John Hoeven, James Lankford, Jeff Sessions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

(The remarks of Mr. CORNYN pertaining to the submission of S. Res. 76 are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Minnesota.

(The remarks of Ms. KLOBUCHAR pertaining to the introduction of S. 491 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 20 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE PROGRAM

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, yesterday the Budget Committee, of which I am the ranking member, held a very important hearing on the Social Security Disability Insurance Program, which is a life-and-death program for nearly 11 million Americans, including more than 1 million veterans and almost 2 million children who rely on this program to get the nutrition they need, to heat their homes, and to pay for their medicine. This is a program that impacts some of the most vulnerable people in this country.

Let me be very clear in describing this program. This is a program American workers have paid into. It is an insurance program. This is not charity.

When Americans pay 6.2 percent of their income in payroll tax, almost 1 percent of that amount goes into the disability insurance program. The average disability insurance benefit is less than \$1,200 a month, and for 30 percent of beneficiaries this is all of the income they have—\$1,200 a month, 30 percent of the beneficiaries of SSDI.

For them this is all of their income. Nobody is getting rich off of disability benefits.

Sadly, on the very first day of the new Congress, House Republicans passed a rule that would lay the groundwork for a 19-percent cut in Social Security disability insurance benefits. Specifically, this rule would prohibit the reallocation of payroll taxes from the Social Security retirement fund to the disability insurance fund, a routine accounting practice that has been done 11 times in the past in a very noncontroversial, nonpartisan way. But Republicans in the House said they will not allow this to happen unless it is accompanied by a cut in Social Security benefits or an increase in taxes.

In other words, what the House Republicans are saying is that either there will be cuts to the disability program or, if that fund is to be replenished, the money will have to come from cuts to the Social Security Retirement Program. In my view, that is very wrong.

If the Social Security disability program was cut by 19 percent, it would mean the average benefit of approximately \$13,980 a year for a disabled person—which is already where the poverty level is—would be cut by 19 percent to \$11,324. That is what a 19-percent cut to the average Social Security disability insurance benefit would mean.

Do any of my colleagues believe a person with a severe disability—maybe that person is facing a terminal illness, maybe that person is paralyzed, maybe that person is an amputee. Does anybody believe a disabled person in America in the year 2015 should be forced to live on \$11,324 a year?

Unfortunately, that is what the House Republicans are laying the groundwork for. That is what a 19-percent cut in disability benefits would mean, and we must not allow that to happen.

In my view, the debate we are having is nothing more than a manufactured crisis which is part of the long-term agenda of a number of Republicans who in fact are trying to cut Social Security. In my view, cutting Social Security is a very bad idea.

Let us be very clear because there is a lot of misinformation about Social Security that is getting out there. The fact is Social Security has a \$2.8 trillion surplus and can pay out every benefit owed to every eligible American for the next 18 years.

Let me repeat that. Social Security has a \$2.8 trillion surplus and can pay out every benefit owed to every eligible American for the next 18 years. That is not the opinion of Senator BERNIE SANDERS. That comes from report of the Social Security trustees.

There are a lot of folks out there who are talking in one way or another about cutting Social Security. Some of

them are saying let's raise the retirement age. Let's have struggling workers work another 1 or 2 years or more before they can get Social Security benefits. Other people are saying these COLA benefits are just too generous. In recent years, Social Security beneficiaries know we have had several years where people have gotten a zero cost-of-living increase and other cost-of-living increases in recent years has been minuscule. Yet some are saying let's move to a so-called chained CPI and lower the cost-of-living adjustments.

Other people are talking in one form or another about a means test, which would mean significant reduction in benefits for many seniors. Others who are bolder—including some of our Republican colleagues—are talking about the privatization of Social Security. As many will remember, under President Bush that proposal in fact was brought forward and pushed very hard by Republicans.

Because of an aging population, because more women are in the workforce today, and because of an increase in the retirement age, it is true there has been an increase in the number of Americans who are receiving disability benefits, but this is not a surprise. This is a demographic reality that the Social Security Administration predicted would happen back in 1994. The fact that the Social Security Disability Insurance Program is facing a funding shortfall next year is a surprise to absolutely no one. It was predicted 20 years ago.

Furthermore, shortfalls in the Social Security Disability Insurance Program or the Social Security Retirement Program is nothing new. It has happened 11 times in the past and has always been resolved in a simple, non-controversial way. That is the reason for the reallocation of payroll taxes between the Social Security retirement fund and the Social Security disability fund.

As this chart shows, reallocation was done in 1968 under President Johnson; in 1970 under President Nixon; in 1978, 1979, and 1980 under President Carter; in 1982, 1983, and 1984 under President Reagan; and in 1994, 1997, and 2000 under President Clinton. In other words, this is a commonplace procedure which has happened under Democratic and Republican Presidents in an absolutely noncontroversial way.

Interestingly, of the 11 times funds were reallocated, it turns out that on 5 occasions it was the disability fund that was reallocated to help the retirement fund. In other words, money was shifted from disability to the retirement fund. This time it is going the other way.

At an interesting committee hearing yesterday, a number of colleagues—Republicans and Democrats—made the point that the reallocation of funds in

order to prevent a 19-percent cut in disability benefits was a short-term solution; that it was not going to solve the overall issue of how do we fund Social Security for our kids and our grandchildren. That point is clearly right. No one can argue with that. What we have to do right now in fact is to prevent a massive cut to the disability program, but at the same time, while Social Security can pay out all benefits for the next 18 years, it is important that sooner than later we begin to address the problem of how do we make Social Security solvent, not just for 18 years but for decades beyond that.

In terms of the disability program and the need to go forward with reallocation, every major senior organization in this country, representing tens of millions of people, wants us to do just that. These organizations include AARP, the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, and the Alliance for Retired Americans, which together represent over 60 million older Americans. What they are saying loudly and clearly is it is imperative we go forward with this reallocation to prevent cuts in the Social Security disability fund. They are united in opposition to the rule passed by the House Republicans to make reallocation more difficult.

Yesterday AARP wrote a letter to the chairman of the Budget Committee, Senator ENZI, and to myself, the ranking member. Let me quote from this letter:

To prevent any imminent reductions in SSDI benefits, we urge you to rebalance the allocation of social security payroll taxes between the OASI trust and the DI trust as Congress has done with success in the past. Because of SSDI, millions of disabled Americans are able to live their lives with dignity, and support their families. The highest priority in the near term is to ensure that SSDI beneficiaries, most of whom are older Americans, are not put at risk of a 20 percent benefit cut in the very near future.

That is from AARP and virtually every major senior organization. Together, they represent some 60 million older Americans and agree exactly with the sentiment expressed by AARP.

I am delighted President Obama proposed this reallocation plan in his budget request. I applaud the President for doing that. As I mentioned, the Social Security trust fund can pay out every benefit owed to every eligible American for the next 18 years.

At yesterday's hearing, my Republican friends—and, again, some Democrats—made the very valid point that we have to go further than just reallocation, that we need a long-term solution to make certain our children and our grandchildren will have all of the benefits to which they were promised. I agree with that sentiment. That is why last year I introduced far-reaching Social Security legislation which in fact would make Social Security solvent for decades to come.

The concept behind this legislation is pretty simple. It would simply apply the Social Security payroll tax on income above \$250,000. In other words, it would scrap the cap that currently exists. Right now in the midst of massive wealth and income inequality in our country, a Wall Street CEO who makes \$20 million a year pays the same amount into Social Security as someone who makes \$118,500. If you make \$20 million or you make \$118,000, the amount of money you put into the Social Security trust fund is the same because the cap is now at \$118,000.

In 2013 I asked the Chief Actuary of the Social Security Administration to estimate how long the solvency of Social Security would be extended if we simply applied the Social Security payroll tax on income above \$250,000. His answer was that Social Security would be made solvent until 2060—45 years from today. I refer my colleagues to the letter from the Social Security Chief Actuary that I had printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on February 5 of this year.

Further, the Center for Economic and Policy Research has estimated that my proposal—my legislation—would only impact the top 1.5 percent of wage earners. More than 98.5 percent of Americans would not see their taxes go up by one dime under this plan.

So I say to my colleagues, if you want to extend the solvency of Social Security—not just for the next 18 years, which is currently the case, but for the next 40 to 45 years—I hope you will join me in making sure the very wealthiest people in our country—the top 1.5 percent—pay their fair share into the Social Security trust fund. To my mind that is a much better idea than raising the retirement age, forcing hard-pressed workers to work another year or two before they get their benefits. It is a much better idea than cutting the cost of living adjustment. It is a much better idea than many of the ideas I have been hearing for the last few years.

We all know that the huge increase that we have seen in this country in wealth and income inequality has resulted in millions of Americans seeing a decline in their income, and we have people from one end of this country to the other working longer hours for lower wages.

In fact, while the wealthiest people have become much richer, real median family income today is almost \$5,000 less than it was in 1999. Incredibly, the typical male worker—the man right in the middle of our economy—made \$783 less last year than he did 42 years ago. The typical female worker—the woman in the middle of the economy—earned \$1,300 less last year than she did in 2007.

Today the top one-tenth of 1 percent owns more wealth than the bottom 90 percent. As this chart shows, the top one-tenth of 1 percent owns as much

wealth as the bottom 90 percent. In terms of income what we are looking at is a situation where almost all of the new income generated since the Wall Street crash goes to the top 1 percent.

Why is this significant? Well, obviously it is significant because millions of Americans have not seen growth in their income. In fact, they have seen a decline in their income. But what makes it also significant is that this decline in income for millions of Americans—this growth in income and wealth disparity—has also had a profound impact on the solvency of Social Security.

I want all of my colleagues to understand that if income inequality remained at the same level today as it was in 1983, Social Security would have \$1.1 trillion more in the trust fund than it does today. Why? Because, obviously, when workers saw their wages go down, less money went into the Social Security trust fund. When people on the top went over the cap, they were no longer contributing from their income that was above the cap. So less money goes into the Social Security trust fund.

If the payroll tax had simply continued to cover 90 percent of all earnings, which it did in 1983, rather than the 83 percent that it covers today, the Social Security trust fund would be able to pay every benefit owed to every eligible American—not just for the next 18 years but for the next 38 years.

So when we talk about income and wealth inequality in this country, that is not only a tragedy unto itself; when we see the middle class shrinking and real wages for American workers going down, in some cases significantly, it is also a major problem for the Social Security trust fund.

Once again, if income levels had remained the same today as they were in 1983—if incomes had gone up rather than gone down—we would see over \$1 trillion more in the Social Security trust fund.

So, I agree with my Republican colleagues who say that doing the reallocation for the disability trust fund is a temporary solution. It is. But it is an important solution, and it is something that has been done 11 times in the past. It is something that is supported by the AARP and every major senior organization. It is something we must do right now to prevent a 19-percent cut in benefits for some of the most vulnerable people in this country. So I won't argue with anyone who says, well, that doesn't go far enough. We need a long-term solution.

So I challenge my Republican friends: Do you have the courage to come up with a solution other than cutting benefits for seniors? Do you have the courage to come up with an idea that says: No, it is bad, it is wrong to raise the retirement age, and it is

wrong to cut cost of living adjustments.

Are you prepared to deal with the reality that because of the growing disparity in income in America, we have lost substantial funding for Social Security, and the way to address that issue—the way to extend Social Security—is to ask the people on top, the people who have been doing phenomenally well in recent years, to pay more into the Social Security trust fund?

I do agree with my Republican colleagues that we have to look at Social Security from a long-term perspective for our kids and our grandchildren.

We have brought forth an idea: Raise the cap. Ask people making more than \$250,000 a year to pay the same percentage of their income into the Social Security trust fund as somebody making \$50,000 a year. I think that is a sensible idea, and I look forward to hearing some of my Republican friends work with us on this concept.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASSIDY). The Senator from Utah.

PATIENT CARE ACT

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, last week I joined my colleague Senator BURR in unveiling the latest version of our legislative proposal to repeal and replace the so-called Affordable Care Act. We are joined this time around by our friend in the House, Chairman UPTON of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

We call our proposal the Patient Choice, Affordability, Responsibility, and Empowerment Act, or the Patient CARE Act for short. As you may recall, we first unveiled this framework last year and in general it received high marks for being a serious, responsible alternative to ObamaCare. We have unveiled the latest version of the proposal in hopes of continuing the conversation we began in the last Congress.

Let's face it. ObamaCare isn't working. It is not working. Sure, its proponents in the Senate and elsewhere have gotten pretty good at cherry-picking data in order to convince the American people that the President's health care law is a success. But the American people know the truth. The law is a disaster for individuals, families, and employers alike.

Despite the claims that ObamaCare would lower health care costs, costs have continued to skyrocket. Due to all the mandates in the law, businesses are slowing hiring and moving employees into part-time work. Of course, the law includes more than a trillion dollars in new taxes that impact consumers and businesses around the country. We need a better path forward and a long-term vision for sustainable health care reform.

I want to take just a few minutes today to talk about the approach we

want to take with the Patient CARE Act and why it is a better approach than the one being taken under ObamaCare. Our plan rests on four simple principles. First, repeal ObamaCare with all its costly mandates, taxes, and regulations. Second, reduce costs by taking the government out of the equation and instead empowering consumers to make choices about their own health care. Third, provide common sense consumer protections, including protections for individuals with preexisting conditions. And fourth, reform our broken Medicaid system by giving States more flexibility to provide the best coverage for their citizens.

Let me talk about each of these principles in a little more detail. For any health care proposal to have a chance of success, it must get rid of ObamaCare. The failures of ObamaCare have been well documented here on the Senate floor and elsewhere. The American people deal with those failures on a daily basis. That is why the first principle of our proposal is to repeal ObamaCare once and for all. Then we move on to address the biggest barrier to health care in this country—skyrocketing costs.

Our plan would give taxpayers affordable options to meet their health care needs by harnessing the power of the marketplace—not through Federal Government mandates. With more options in the private insurance marketplace, people will be better able to find insurance that meets their needs. The lack of choice and draconian coverage mandates is one of ObamaCare's largest shortcomings. Our proposal would allow consumers to find affordable plans that address their particular needs without making them pay for coverage they will never use or want.

Our proposal would also give States more options to provide people with more coverage. Under our plan families earning up to 300 percent of the Federal poverty level would be eligible for a tax credit to purchase insurance of their choosing. In addition, our plan would help small businesses enjoy the same advantages in the marketplace as large businesses by allowing them to band together to leverage their purchasing power to buy insurance for their employees.

The Patient CARE Act also proposes an expansion of the health savings accounts so that people can plan and save for their future medical needs. Under our plan, for the first time consumers would be able to use their pretax dollars to pay premiums and deductibles. Our proposal would inject more transparency into health care costs so people can know what their providers are charging and how successful they are.

In addition, we include other cost-saving measures such as medical malpractice liability reform to help reduce the expensive practice of unnecessary defensive medicine.

Our plan would reduce the distortions in the Tax Code that actually increase the cost of health care in our country by capping the unlimited employee exclusion. This is a key way of restraining costs that has support across the political and economic spectrum.

In our proposal the exclusion is capped at a generous \$30,000 for a family plan, and that threshold will continue to grow at CPI plus one. Most importantly, we make sure we preserve the employer-sponsored health care system for those 160 million Americans who rely on it by leaving the employer deduction untouched and by repealing the job-killing employer mandate. By increasing consumer choice and utilizing the power of the market, our proposal will actually reduce health care costs, something ObamaCare has miserably failed to do.

Our plan also includes a number of commonsense consumer protections. For example, we would make sure a person would not see their coverage get canceled if they get sick. Our plan would also ensure that people with pre-existing conditions could not be denied access to health insurance. Period.

I will repeat that for my friends on the other side, who were confused about this in some of their speeches: No American with a preexisting condition can be denied coverage under our plan. End of story.

We would also let children stay on their parents' plans through age 26 and prevent insurers from putting caps on total benefits paid out over a person's lifetime so that no patient will have to worry about maxing out their coverage.

Finally, our plan would address the current failings of the Medicaid Program. Keep in mind, many of the newly insured people credited to ObamaCare have obtained their coverage through the expansion of Medicaid. Of course, this is absurd as Medicaid is a financially unsound program that continues to swallow up State budgets on a yearly basis. ObamaCare did not improve the stability of Medicaid, it only threatened it further.

The Patient CARE Act includes a key reform that is similar to the Medicaid modernization plan that Chairman UPTON and I proposed in the last Congress.

Currently, Federal taxpayers have an open-ended liability to match State Medicaid spending, which is a significant driver in Medicaid's budgetary challenges. Our proposal would create per capita spending caps—something President Clinton, and many Democrats who remain in this Chamber, supported in the past.

We would couple this structural reform to Medicaid with new flexibility for States to manage their Medicaid populations. On top of that, we would give those on Medicaid the option of

purchasing private health insurance, which is more frequently accepted by quality doctors.

I hope you are grasping a pattern when it comes to this proposal. At virtually every step, our aim with this proposal is to take the Federal Government out of the equation and put individuals and families in charge of making their own health care decisions. We trust the American people to make the best choices for themselves.

The Patient CARE Act represents a sustainable and achievable alternative to ObamaCare, one that will succeed without the tax hikes, the mandates, and the outrageous government spending that came part and parcel with the Affordable Care Act. Most importantly, it will actually reduce the cost of health care in this country.

Once again, our hope with unveiling the latest version of this framework is that we can continue the conversation about improving health care for individuals and families. I have given just a top-line, 35,000-foot overview of the proposal here today. I want to invite my colleagues to take a look at our ideas and give us your feedback. I hope health care experts around the country will continue to do the same.

Unlike ObamaCare, this is a product that will rely on consensus and feedback. We have more work to do. It is important, and I look forward to more discussions and conversations about these issues.

REGULAR ORDER IN THE SENATE

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I also rise today to speak about the recent progress we have made in restoring the Senate as an institution.

After being sworn in as President pro tempore just over a month ago, I rose to address the state of the Senate and how we, as Members, must work together to restore its greatness. This is an opportune moment to take stock and to reflect briefly on our progress toward achieving this goal.

I am pleased to report that we have embarked on a new chapter of thoughtful, productive legislating in this Chamber, just as the Framers intended us to and just as the American people expect us to.

We have had hours upon hours of open, constructive debate with arguments from both sides of the aisle. We have considered dozens of amendments reflecting a full range of political viewpoints. The majority leader promised this body that he would restore regular order, and that is precisely what he has done. Not only have we engaged in fulsome debate and considered dozens of amendments, but we have also already passed four major bipartisan bills in a single month to reform and extend the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program, to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline, to address the critically important issue

of veteran suicides, and—my bill yesterday—to provide effective restitution for victims of child pornography.

That is what voters elected us to do—to craft good legislation, to debate it, to improve it through the open amendment process, and then send it to the President's desk.

In my remarks when I was sworn in as President pro tempore, I noted that in recent years the foundations of the Senate's unique character—meaningful debate and an open amendment process—have come under sustained assault by those who have prioritized scoring political points over preserving the Senate's essential role in our system of government.

What a difference such a short time can make. What a breath of fresh air these last 6 weeks have been for this body on both sides of the aisle. We are moving forward. We are keeping our promises, and we are helping to restore the Senate as the world's greatest deliberative body.

I wish to highlight some specifics of these positive changes we have witnessed over the past work period.

First, robust debate. The late Senator Robert C. Byrd liked to say that “as long as the Senate retains the power to amend and the power of unlimited debate, the liberties of the people will remain secure.” In this new Congress, we are restoring the right to meaningful debate.

As I noted last month, when a full and robust debate has occurred, invoking cloture—a motion to end debate—is often appropriate. But we must not abuse this power by always seeking reflexively to cut off debate before it even begins. In the dark days of the previous Congress, we often saw such motions to cut off debate filed as soon as debate had begun, eviscerating any meaningful opportunity for considering the issues.

The Senate desperately needed to return to a system where all Senators have a say in what the Senate does and are able to express their views without getting cut off at the pass. We are now returning to that system. We have resisted the temptation to cut off debate immediately.

Under the majority leader's leadership, this body spent the better part of 3 weeks considering the Keystone XL Pipeline bill. During that time, Senators—both Republican and Democrat—enjoyed ample opportunity to voice their position on the bill as well as on our energy policy more broadly. This represents the exact sort of deliberate character the Senate was designed to embody.

Indeed, the Democratic minority actually used more hours of floor debate on Keystone than did the Republican majority. To me, this is a remarkable statistic indicative of our new majority's commitment to treat the minority fairly and to approach individual

Senators, regardless of party, as valuable contributors to our work rather than as mindless partisans.

The Senate was also designed to be the institution in our system of republican self-government that produced wise legislation. Popular passions, parochial interests, and factionalism—what Edmund Randolph called the “turbulence and follies of democracy”—were to be defined in the Senate where smaller membership and larger constituencies and longer terms would improve the legislative product.

These structural features of the Senate led to the development of a tradition in which individual Members were allowed to offer amendments freely—one of the primary mechanisms by which this body can refine legislation for the better. For centuries, this notion of an open amendment process has been at the core of the Senate’s identity. But in recent years, many of us have bemoaned the demise of this tradition. In effect, one of this institution’s most defining characteristics was emasculated for partisan political purposes. But the way we dealt with amendments over the course of the last month shows that the open amendment process is making a comeback.

The majority leader shepherded through votes on more than 30 amendments in January, more than double the amendment votes permitted by the Democrats in all of 2014. In fact, in 1 week alone, we voted on more amendments than the previous majority allowed us to vote on all of last year. There could be no clearer evidence of this body’s resurgence.

The facts speak for themselves. While one former Democratic Senator did not receive a vote on any of his amendments during the entire extent of his service in this body over the prior 6 years, the lone freshman Democrat Senator in this Congress, the junior Senator from Michigan, has already received a vote on one of his amendments in just the first few weeks of his service here. Truly, under this new majority, Senators of both parties are individually contributing to our work for the common good.

A key part of returning to regular order is restoring the committee process. A healthy committee process is essential to a well-functioning Senate. In committees, Members are often best able to work together to debate, draft, and amend legislation that ultimately passes the Senate. We began resuscitating the committee process in our consideration of the Keystone XL Pipeline bill.

I commend the tireless efforts of the distinguished Chair and ranking member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, who together masterfully led this body through recently unfamiliar territory of legislating through regular order.

The Senator from Alaska merits particular praise for the skill she dem-

onstrated in guiding this bill through the process, while the Senator from Washington should be lauded for her commitment to a fair and orderly process despite her opposition to the underlying policy. Their admirable work set an important example for the rest of us as we return to regular order in the 114th Congress by working together to improve legislation rather than simply trying to shut each other out of the process.

I heard voices from some corners quibbling over certain elements of the Keystone debate process, but to focus on these criticisms misses the forest for the trees by fixating on one or two nitpicks and ignoring how deliberative and inclusive the process really was. We enjoyed open debate, ample opportunity to amend, and respect for committee expertise. This all contributed to the passage of a bipartisan bill.

The proof is in the votes. Of the almost 50 votes on Keystone-related matters, few followed strict party lines, and the final bill won passage with 62 affirmative votes, including those of 9 Democrats. Twenty percent of Democrats present, nearly one-fifth of the caucus, voted for the Keystone bill. This was real bipartisanship.

The result was a critically important piece of legislation that the President of the United States should sign into law. I urge him to do so. But that is not what we are hearing from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. No, the President has said he will veto the bill. In fact, he said he would veto it before we even took it up—before any amendments had even been offered.

Instead, President Obama appears determined to ignore the will of the U.S. Congress, dismissing bills out of hand that have yet to reach his desk. I fail to see how this recalcitrance advances the cause of responsible governance or responds to the will of the American people who made their preferences clearly known at the ballot box last November.

I, for one, will not let the President’s irresponsible attitude toward this institution diminish my commitment to it. In fact, I call on each Senator to continue working to restore our Chamber’s proper functioning. I urge all of us to participate actively in the committee process, help produce sound legislation, and carry out our institutional duties.

The American people can then see for themselves the stark difference between a Senate that works and a White House that is unwilling to engage in genuine negotiation and compromise.

I will close with a note on civility, that crucial ingredient we must never overlook, even in the heat of political discourse. I recall the words of Senator Chris Dodd, my friend, who represented Connecticut in this body for 30 years. In his final speech here on the Senate floor in late 2010, he reminded us that

the Senate was intended to be a place where every Member’s voice could be heard and where deliberation and even dissent would be valued and respected. As Senator Dodd explained, “Our Founders were concerned not only with what was legislated, but—just as importantly—with how we legislated.”

I have observed that debate on this floor during the past few weeks—although tense at times—has on the whole been genuine, balanced, and respectful. We must remain true to this ethos as we continue to reinvigorate the debate and amendment process.

In the weeks and months ahead, new disagreements will surely arise. This is when civility and statesmanship are most needed. We must each overcome whatever instincts may drive us away from civil discourse and toward anger, bitterness, petulance, or self-promotion.

When this new Congress convened just over six weeks ago, I spoke of our collective duty to restore the Senate. I expressed my confidence that we could make the Senate work again by returning to regular order, promoting robust debate, and enabling an inclusive amendment process. We have made admirable progress over the last month. Our actions are backing up our rhetoric. Let us sustain this momentum.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRESIDENT’S NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, this afternoon the Senate voted to approve Dr. Carter’s nomination as the next Secretary of Defense. I supported his nomination and appreciated the candor he displayed during both his confirmation hearing and in our private meeting.

I believe the many challenges facing our Nation require a fresh perspective and a strong analytical mind. I am confident Dr. Carter possesses both. Despite the fact the international landscape has changed dramatically over the past few years, the Obama administration has failed to modify its policies to meet the new challenges facing our Nation. In fact, top administration officials have emphasized in recent interviews their approach is not changing and instead offer Americans a laundry list of things they will continue to do. This is unacceptable.

I am very concerned this administration actually believes the correct course of action is to continue what we

have been doing. In the Senate, the Armed Services Committee has held a number of hearings to examine the effectiveness of the current U.S. national security strategy.

Witnesses from across the political spectrum have merged on one point. In several key areas, U.S. national security strategy and our regional goals are either ambiguous or divorced from events on the ground. What is needed is a reevaluation, not a continuation.

In Syria, for example, President Obama called on Bashar al-Assad to step down 3 years ago. However, the President has failed to lay out a strategy to accomplish his stated goal. After hundreds of thousands of Syrians have died, terrorist groups have seized control of about half of that country. Further, thanks to assistance provided by Iran and Russia, Assad has fortified his control over much of western Syria.

In response to all of this, President Obama has continued to call for a negotiated transfer of power without any articulation of how this would be accomplished. The President's goal was probably unlikely when it was first conceived, but now it is thoroughly unimaginable.

The Obama administration has also stated the United States intends to degrade and destroy ISIL. While I support this goal, I am concerned we have yet again failed to lay out a strategy to accomplish it.

Yesterday President Obama sent to Congress his authorization of military force. The decision to send young men and women to war is the most serious decision that elected officials will make. This deserves a serious, open, transparent debate that is worthy of the American people. I look forward to a robust committee process on this issue.

I am also eager to hear more from the President about the exact contours of his strategy, particularly when it comes to achieving very clear goals. What exactly do we hope to achieve? Simply stating our objective is to destroy ISIL doesn't reflect the complexities of actually realizing this goal.

The President has waged a campaign of airstrikes against this barbaric terrorist group, but we know airpower alone will not be sufficient to destroy ISIL. While the White House has proposed arming and training Syrian opposition fighters, this effort will take years to produce a force that is strong enough to dislodge ISIL from its strongholds in eastern Syria. What is more, it is unclear how the Syrian fighters—any of whom view Assad as the primary target—will be convinced to first fight ISIL. Questions about the extent to which the United States will provide opposition forces direct air support if they are attacked by ISIL or Assad—those questions remain unanswered. For these reasons, the President has been rightly criticized for not having a clear and effective strategy.

Again, I support the goal of destroying ISIL. But this is a multilayered problem. In Iraq, the administration seems to embrace a growing Iranian role, even though this puts our goal of maintaining a unified Iraq in even greater jeopardy.

With respect to Iran itself, the administration unequivocally states it will not allow that nation to develop a nuclear capability, but we hear reports repeatedly that are suggesting the U.S. negotiators are crafting an agreement that would accept its enrichment program and leave Iran as a threshold nuclear power 1 year away from a bomb, at most.

In Ukraine, the United States imposed sanctions on Russia in March for its intervention. Since that time, Russia has continued to pour heavy weapons and fighters into that conflict. Clearly our policy is not working. We must acknowledge that as Putin continues to build momentum on the battlefield, the incentive for him to honor his diplomatic commitments and end the conflict diminishes.

Additional measures—including defensive weapons for the Ukrainians—are necessary, and they must be implemented. The international community and most Americans are understandably confused by the stark contrast between what they see and what they hear from the White House. They hear vague assertions, but they see no strategy. They hear a goal, but they see no discussion on how to achieve it. This damages our global credibility.

In a world where we rely heavily on partner nations to be our boots on the ground, we cannot afford to have our international allies wondering if we mean what we say.

Dr. Carter will have a lot on his plate in his new role. I hope his appointment will help encourage the strategic reevaluation that is so desperately needed.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BOOKER. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. BOOKER pertaining to the introduction of S. 502 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. BOOKER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I stand before this body this afternoon to encourage my colleagues—particularly my colleagues on the other side of the aisle—to take into account the need to fund the Department of Homeland Security.

The House of Representatives acted responsibly in passing legislation to keep the Department of Homeland Security funded, and they did so acting more than 1 month in advance of the scheduled expiration of the existing funding stream for the Department of Homeland Security. This was a good move. It was likewise a good move of the majority leader to bring up this bill for consideration nearly 1 month before the expiration of the existing funding. I applauded this effort and still do.

One of the reasons it was so important is it would help us avoid the cliff effect. What I mean by that is the dynamic that occurs every time we have a scheduled expiration of funding and the House and the Senate wait until the last minute, sometimes with only 1 or 2 days, sometimes with only 1 or 2 hours to spare before we act.

What this does is effectively shuts out the voices of most Members of the House and most Members of the Senate. It strips us of our right to offer improvements, amendments, to legislation before that legislation has a chance to become law.

Ultimately this enures to the advantage of just a few people, and it results in the effective disenfranchisement of so many people throughout America whose voices don't have an opportunity to be considered through their duly-elected Senators and Representatives.

That is why this time it was going to be different. That is why this time it was so great the House and the Senate acted early in bringing up this legislation.

Nevertheless, it has been 2 weeks since we brought up this bill, the bill passed by the House to keep the Department of Homeland Security funded. Two weeks, and we have cast vote after vote trying to get on the bill—just trying to consider the bill—and we have seen those efforts to get on the bill blocked by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

Earlier today I heard colleagues on the other side of the aisle trying to explain their reasons for continuing to block consideration of this bill. I heard arguments that suggested that although they want to keep the Department of Homeland Security funded, they don't want to consider this bill because, as some of them have put it, they don't like everything the House of

Representatives put into the bill. They don't like the provisions in the bill restricting the administration's ability to use those funds to carry out—to implement—the President's Executive orders issued in November of this last year, Executive orders that would have the effect of granting amnesty to millions of people currently inside the United States illegally.

Look, people are entitled to their opinions about how best we should proceed, how best we should deal with those who are currently inside the country illegally. There are a lot of opinions about this, and everyone is entitled to their own opinion. But Americans are overwhelmingly united behind the uncontroversial proposition that when Congress has established a law in a particular area, as it has with our immigration code, in order for that law to be changed, it needs to be changed by congressional action. The House needs to pass it, the Senate needs to pass it, and the President needs to sign it into law.

As the President has acknowledged repeatedly, he lacks the authority to make those changes on his own. He lacks the authority to act unilaterally. He lacks the authority under our system to behave as if he were a government of one. Ours is not a government of one. In fact, our Founding Fathers, while they disagreed on a number of issues, they were united behind one core principle behind our 227-year-old governing document that has fostered the development of the greatest civilization the world has ever known. They were united behind the proposition that bad things happen when too much power gets consolidated into the hands of the few or, even worse, into the hands of one person.

That is why they put in place this system that would split the powers of government into three coequal branches, and within the legislative branch—which many of them tended to view as wielding potentially the most dangerous power—they split up that power into two bodies and then split up the power within each of those bodies so no one person and no one group of people could accumulate too much power.

They certainly never intended a system in which we would have a virtual monarch, albeit a monarch serving for a term of years who could by the stroke of a pen change the law according to his own will, change the law in order to suit his own political interests, change the law without going through Congress. Yet that is what has happened, which brings me back to arguments made today and over the last few days by my colleagues across the aisle. They say we are fine with funding the Department of Homeland Security, but we don't like all the provisions put in there by the House of Representatives. We don't like those provi-

sions that would restrict the President's authority to spend money implementing the President's Executive amnesty program.

Again, Americans, regardless of how they feel about amnesty, as a matter of policy, are overwhelmingly of the opinion—and correctly so—that this is a decision that needs to be made by Congress and not the President of the United States.

Secondly, this is the kind of issue we deal with, with some regularity, within Congress.

Within the system as it has evolved, within the system as dictated by operation of the rules of the House of Representatives, typically—and for more than a century exclusively—it has been the role of the House of Representatives to initiate appropriations bills when we are trying to fund a government program that starts in the House, and that has been the case for well over a century. So they have the prerogative of starting a bill to fund the government, and that is what they did.

When it comes over here, if you don't like it, that is fine. This is a great place to be if you don't like a bill as it starts out. The U.S. Senate has been called the world's greatest deliberative legislative body with good reason—because our rules, when properly followed, protect the right of every Member to make sure his or her views are adequately aired and protect and preserve the right of each and every Member to offer improvements to bills and offer amendments to make changes to legislation before it is put into law. Our rules are very clear on this.

It is unfortunate that in the last few years under the previous leadership those rights were trampled. Those rights were suppressed. We often didn't have those rights. We often had legislation that came up without a fair, open opportunity for each Member to offer amendments.

But we have moved on. We have a new majority leader, a majority leader who has, to his great credit, stood behind his commitment to protect the right of each Member to offer amendments to legislation. I thank him for that and encourage him to continue following this because it is good for this body. But because it is good for us and because our rules already provide for it and because we are following those rules now, as evidenced by the fact that we have now voted on more amendments on the floor in the form of a rollcall vote to pending legislation just in the last few weeks than we did in the entire last Congress, as evidenced by that, we don't need to fear the old order anymore. We don't need to fear the possibility of legislation coming into this body, and if we proceed to it, that that legislation will be without the opportunity to offer amendments.

So if Members don't like something in this bill, vote at least to proceed to

it, vote at least to allow the debate to begin, but that, alas, is not what my colleagues across the aisle have chosen to do.

What they have chosen to do is to say: No. No, no, no. They are obstructing. They are obstructing the process as it was designed by the Constitution and as contemplated by the rules of the Senate and the rules of the House of Representatives.

They are saying, no, we will not consider this because we don't like some provisions of this bill. Yet they are also saying at the same time we want to keep the Department of Homeland Security funded.

I agree with exactly half of that statement. I agree with them I think when they say they want to keep the Department of Homeland Security funded. At least I will take that at face value. But if they truly do, then why on Earth would they not proceed to it? And if they don't like some of the other provisions, let them offer amendments. Let them change that.

At the end of the day, we have to come to terms with the fact that not all of us are going to like every part of every bill that comes over from the House of Representatives. In fact, I dare say it hardly ever happens that any one Member of this body immediately, automatically feels great about every jot and title, about every section, every syllable, every paragraph of a bill that comes over from the House of Representatives.

That is exactly why we have the rules we do. That is exactly why parliamentary procedures, as they have evolved over the centuries, generally have as their central feature the protection of Members of any body such as this of the right to offer amendments, to offer helpful suggestions. But under our rules in the Senate, that cannot operate, it will not operate, it is not available, it doesn't exist unless we first vote to proceed to the bill.

So I invite my colleagues across the aisle—I challenge them—if they want to keep the Department of Homeland Security funded, vote to get on this bill. If they care about America's national security, there is a way to prove it. There is a way to prove they mean what they say when they say they want to keep it funded. Vote to get on this bill. It doesn't mean they have to agree with me, but it was not only acceptable but entirely appropriate and even necessary for the House to act to protect the constitutional order and to do so by restricting the President's ability to spend money to implement his Executive amnesty program.

People don't have to agree with me on that, but if Members want to keep the Department of Homeland Security funded, they can and they must and they will vote to proceed to this bill. Now we may disagree on what amendments you offer, but the Senate majority leader has repeated his offer, to

make sure that we have an open amendment process, and we will.

In light of that, there is no excuse—there can be no excuse for my Democratic colleagues to continue to insist on the one hand that they care about our Nation's security and funding the Department of Homeland Security, while voting on the other hand against proceeding to this funding bill to keep the Department of Homeland Security funded. There is no excuse and there can be none.

It is most unfortunate that we have gone now 2 weeks without being able to proceed to this bill—2 weeks in which we could have offered amendments, 2 weeks in which my Democratic colleagues may well have succeeded in getting rid of some or perhaps all of the provisions they don't like added by the House of Representatives. They may have ended up with a piece of legislation that is exactly what they would have written had they started it over here, but they didn't do that.

Meanwhile, they have the audacity to accuse Republicans of causing this problem. This is something I don't understand. There are those among them who insist that Republicans did this very thing in the last Congress. Well, there were times when Republicans voted in the last Congress not to proceed to something, but overwhelmingly—and if I recall correctly, perhaps entirely—when Republicans stopped their motion to proceed, when Republicans blocked cloture on a motion to proceed to the legislation, it was on the basis of a well-founded complaint that there would be no open amendment process. But there is no such argument to be made here. That argument has thankfully been taken off the table by our majority leader, who has thankfully opened up the Senate once again and made an amendment process possible.

Perhaps my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are still fearing the shadow cast by the previous leadership exercised in the previous Congress in the Senate that blocked out the amendment process, that made amendments impossible. If that is what they are afraid of, they have no need to fear. The Sun is now shining. The opportunity to offer up amendments and have those amendments considered has been restored to the Senate. There is no reason to be afraid. No reason to be afraid, of course, unless we somehow do the unthinkable—unless we continue to kick this can down the road farther and farther until we have no options left on the table.

We have just a few legislative days remaining between now and the time the existing funding for the Department of Homeland Security will expire. Our next vote has been scheduled on this, as I understand it, a week from Monday. I would implore each of my colleagues to reconsider their current

strategy. Whether you like it or not, the way our system is set up is that the House of Representatives starts our spending bills. They have to pass spending bills first. If you don't like everything in the Homeland Security bill that the House passed—fine, vote to proceed to it and then change it. Change it back however you want. Propose amendments. I might not vote for all of them, I might not agree to all of them, but propose them. Have them aired out, have them considered by this body, by the American people, and let's have the debate, because our clock is ticking and our Nation's homeland security is too important for us to continue to put this off. But that is what we have been doing. That is what my colleagues who have been voting against cloture on the motion to proceed have been doing every time they voted no on this important issue.

The time has come for this body to accept the fact that a new day has dawned and we now have the ability once again to offer amendments, and because that opportunity now exists again, there is no reason to be afraid to move to legislation that has been passed by the House of Representatives to keep one of our government's important departments operating—no reason to fear whatsoever. In fact, if you are worried about what you should be fearful of, you should be fearful of not proceeding to this bill.

The next time we cast a vote on this, I encourage each of my colleagues to vote yes. Let's get on the bill and have an open, robust debate and whatever the outcome of that debate, we will get something passed. We will get it to the President, and we will make sure we keep this Department funded.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BARASSO). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO FEDERAL EMPLOYEE

RAMIRO GARZA, JR.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, here in Congress, as the Presiding Officer knows, we do a lot of oversight. Oversight is focused on what is going right as well as what is going wrong in our government. There is a lot of each, actually. That oversight is critically important work. It is sometimes overlooked, but critically important.

I think it is also important to stop and recognize where things are going right from time to time and the people who are doing the right thing. Following in the footsteps of one of our

former colleagues here—I don't think the Presiding Officer ever had a chance to work with him, but Ted Kaufman was a Senator who served here for 2 years. He succeeded JOE BIDEN who went off to do some other job—Vice President, maybe that is what it is. And then, before Senator CHRIS COONS was elected 2 years later, Ted Kaufman was our Senator, a great guy. He used to be Senator BIDEN's chief of staff for 20 years or so.

Ted used to come to the floor pretty regularly and talk about different Federal employees who are doing exemplary work; people who had gone above and beyond to achieve the mission of solving problems and giving the U.S. taxpayer something to be proud of.

When somebody has a good idea, I like to steal it, and I think Ted Kaufman had a great idea. I have not really stolen it, but we have taken an idea and we have focused it a little bit, to focus on some of the people the Presiding Officer and I, along with Senator RON JOHNSON, met with this last weekend on the U.S. border with Mexico. I have decided to take the Ted Kaufman idea and focus it, put a spotlight on a number of employees within the Department of Homeland Security.

As many of us know, the Department of Homeland Security, which does important work—sometimes heroic work, dangerous work—they suffer from low morale, but it is filled with men and women who, frankly, deserve, I think, in many cases, a lot more credit than they receive.

Today I wish to speak for the next several minutes about one of the people we met, a fellow whose name I think the Presiding Officer will probably remember. His name is Ramiro Garza, Jr., and he goes by Ram. I think he has probably gone by Ram all his life. I will always remember him as Ram. He is an outstanding Border Patrol officer whom we met last week in McAllen, TX, while we were visiting the Mexican border in South Texas—the three of us, the Presiding Officer, Senator RON JOHNSON, and yours truly.

This is Ram. Some of my colleagues may remember the pictures last summer, when an unprecedented surge of Central American children and families arrived at our Texas border. They are the kind of pictures that really burn into our memories for a lot of us. The pictures we are more used to seeing may be from war zones than to see here in our own country, with hundreds upon hundreds of unaccompanied minors and a lot of mothers with young children in search of protection, literally turning themselves in to our Border Patrol agents; not running away from them, but turning themselves in and asking for asylum.

The Rio Grande Valley in South Texas is where Agent Ram Garza works. Ram is the acting patrol agent in charge of the Rio Grande Valley sector of the U.S. Border Patrol. The Rio

Grande Valley where Ram works is the epicenter of that humanitarian crisis we witnessed last year. That is because most of the migrants were from the northern triangle of Central America, and they were fleeing violence, fleeing economic desperation, and fleeing a sense of hopelessness in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.

These migrants had to travel some 1,500 miles through Mexico, risking life and limb to get to the United States. The shortest route—though by no means an easy one—runs up the east side of Mexico from Central America to the South Texas border, and many of the people who are making that 1,500 mile trek did it on top of a train. In fact, they did it on a series of trains—freight trains, not passenger trains—where people actually get on top of the trains and try to hold on for a 1,500 mile trip. Some of them succeeded and some of them didn't. Some of them fell down between the trains and cars and lost their lives. Some made it to the border. Some fell off the train. Some got hurt. Some got on another train. Some didn't make it. But many of them rode on top of those trains to get here, and they suffered violence. If they made it safely on the train, a lot of them suffered violence at the hands of predatory gangs along the way.

When these children showed up in South Texas, they literally overwhelmed the Border Patrol stations along the border. These stations are only supposed to hold detained migrants for a short period of time as they are processed for removal back to where they came from, or for detention. Usually along the border, they deal with the young men. However, last year stations were packed with mothers and young children who were trapped there for days as our government struggled to find suitable shelters and decide what to do with them. There were no adequate meals, no clothing, no diapers. There is literally no room at times for someone to lie down, either.

Faced with this human crisis, Customs and Border Protection agents sprang to action. Among their leaders was our agent here today whom I especially want to put a spotlight on: Ramiro Garza. With the help of his colleagues, Ram went above and beyond to process the arrivals, according to the law, while also responding to the human needs of these people. Agent Garza helped create an emergency operations center to manage the crisis and worked to transfer unaccompanied children to the Office of Refugee Resettlement.

Perhaps most impressive, though, he worked with his colleagues to convert an enormous abandoned warehouse that we visited in McAllen, TX. I will not soon forget that. It is just a few miles from our border with Mexico. He turned it into a processing center for

detained migrants and they did it in 18 days. They looked at a place—and they described what it was like before they started working on it, and then what they did in 19 days, they did pretty remarkable stuff. And Ram, whom we honor especially here today, and those who worked with him deserve our recognition.

This processing center helped greatly relieve the crowded and inadequate conditions in multiple Border Patrol stations along the border. When Senator RON JOHNSON, our Presiding Officer, Senator SASSE, and I visited this past weekend the extraordinary processing center that Agent Garza helped set up, we were amazed to see a cavernous, orderly center equipped with the humanitarian necessities needed for hundreds of children and their parents. The center also had space for Central American officials to work with Customs and Border Protection in order to properly identify migrants and arrange for speedier repatriations, in many cases to their home countries, where appropriate.

Agent Garza was instrumental in designing the processing facility and getting it up and running quickly. Today he is in charge of that facility.

This is just the latest achievement in Agent Garza's career with the Border Patrol. As I said, known most of his life as Ram, he grew up in the Rio Grande Valley. There he attended high school and the University of Texas-Pan American. He joined the Border Patrol in 1996. His first assignment was to the Brownsville station in the Rio Grande sector. In 2004, he was promoted to supervisory Border Patrol agent at the Rio Grande City station. That was followed by tours at the Rio Grande sector's intelligence office and at Harlingen station.

Agent Garza also worked on detail here in Washington, DC, where his duties included supporting the agency's efforts in biometric collection—something we think is very important. While he is helping to humanely process migrants apprehended at the border, Agent Garza also cares for his own family—his wife and their own two children. We thank them for sharing with us their husband and their dad—a very good man.

The Department of Homeland Security and our Nation are truly blessed by Ram's exemplary service.

Agent Garza, if you are out there listening, we want to thank you for what you do each and every day for all of us. We thank you for your tireless service to our Nation for all of these years.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. CARPER. As the Presiding Officer, along with Senator JOHNSON and myself, met the men and women of the Border Patrol last weekend, including

Agent Garza, we heard about their work, and it is hard to ignore the fact that they might not know if they will be getting a paycheck next month when the continuing resolution which funds the Department of Homeland Security expires in actually about 2 weeks, on February 27.

Many of them don't know if they will be able to obtain the technology or supplies they need to do the jobs as effectively as possible either. This is not the way we would want to be treated if we were in their shoes, but it is how I think we are treating the men and women who work around the clock to protect our borders and to keep our Nation safe and secure. Those of us here in Congress can change that, and I think we should.

Two of our colleagues—Senator JEANNE SHAHEEN of New Hampshire and BARBARA MIKULSKI of Maryland—have introduced a clean appropriations bill that would fund the Department of Homeland Security for the balance of the fiscal year, up through the end of September. Overall, the funding provisions in their bill, S. 272, which I understand both Democrats and Republicans on the Appropriations Committee agreed to in December—just 2 months ago—provide just under \$40 billion in discretionary funding for the Department of Homeland Security for the remainder of the fiscal year. I think that is an increase from year to year of about \$400 million. It sounds like a lot of money. It is about a 1-percent increase above 2014 funding. This bill would ensure that Department employees get their paychecks on time and have the resources they need to best meet the Department's critical mission and the security needs of our Nation.

The clean bill put forward by Senators SHAHEEN and MIKULSKI would take additional measures to secure order and enforce our immigration laws—something that I know is a priority to me and I know to our colleagues on both sides of the aisle. In fact, most of the funding increase in the Shaheen-Mikulski bill would go to border security and immigration enforcement.

The bill our colleagues have put forward contains a little more than \$10 million for Customs and Border Protection—an increase of approximately \$118 million above last year's enacted level. This funding level would support the largest operational force levels for the agency in its history—a total of more than 21,000 Border Patrol agents and nearly 24,000 enforcement officers.

But if the Department of Homeland Security remains on a continuing resolution—or worse, shuts down—we just won't be as effective as we ought to be in securing our Nation's borders. If Congress forces a shutdown of the Department—I hope we won't—frontline personnel would be asked to continue

to work without pay. We met some of them just a few days ago when we were on the border. They don't look like fast boats, but they move pretty good. We went zipping up and down the Rio Grande River looking for people trying to slip across the border, looking for folks who were trying to bring contraband—drugs, illegal drugs—across the border.

There are some 40,000 Customs and Border Protection officers who are needed to keep our borders secure. If we allow the funding for the Department to lapse on February 27, we are going to expect these guys and gals to still come to work. We are not going to pay them, at least not in a timely way.

If Congress continues to keep the Department on a continuing resolution, Immigration and Customs Enforcement will see a shortfall—I am told a little over half a billion dollars—to respond to unaccompanied minors and families with children.

In addition, Customs and Border Protection won't be able to replace or upgrade border surveillance technology, including upgrades to obsolete remote and mobile video surveillance systems in the high-risk area of the Rio Grande Valley.

The drone is a pilotless aircraft. We fly aircraft similar to these all over the planet. We fly a number of them along the border of our country with Mexico in an effort to try to see, visualize, and detect people making their way to our border, maybe just to come across, maybe to flee a bad situation in their own country. Maybe it is to bring drugs or other things that are illegal into our country. We are not going to be able to replace or upgrade this kind of technology and bring it to high-risk areas along the Rio Grande Valley.

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson recently said—I want to quote Secretary Johnson just briefly. He said, “Border security is not free. The men and women of [the Department of Homeland Security] need a partner in Congress to fund their efforts.” He added, “Time is running out.” Those were his words. I couldn't agree with him more.

In the next week or so, I pray that those of us in Congress will come together and will do what I believe is the right thing; that is, support the passage of a clean full-year appropriations bill for the remainder of this fiscal year for the Department of Homeland Security and do it by February 27.

After we have done that, for God's sake, let's get to work on crafting thoughtful, comprehensive, bipartisan immigration reform law for our country, one that better secures our borders, one that strengthens our economy, and one that reduces our budget deficit over the next two decades by hundreds of billions of dollars. That is what we ought to do. I would pledge here today to my colleagues, Demo-

crats and Republicans, one or two Independents, and our Presiding Officer, that we will meet you in the middle and do our dead level best to make sure we meet our responsibilities.

With that, I am looking for others on the floor who may want to speak. I don't see anybody.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO DEPARTING STAFFERS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today I would like to pay tribute to two of the hardest working staffers in the Senate: John Ashbrook and Russell Coleman.

RUSSELL COLEMAN

First, there is Russell, a dyed-in-the-wool Kentuckian. He is a huge Wildcats fan. The only words one associates with Russell more often than “affable” are these two: “persuasive” and “determined.” When Russell sets his mind to something, there is not much you can do to stop him—not that you would want to because he is one of the friendliest guys you will ever meet. More than a few times, you will see a group entering a meeting with Russell, spoiling for a fight. Then the door opens, and they are his best friends. It is quite a skill. It is nearly as impressive as this one: Russell Coleman knows just about everybody in Kentucky. His Rolodex is something to behold.

He has done a lot of great work here in the Senate. This one-time FBI agent is passionate about law-enforcement issues. This one-time intern is passionate about mentoring others, letting those around him know, no matter how junior, that their contributions do matter.

Russell is also a great fighter. That tough will has helped Russell push through adversity with grace and with grit. Faith is a big part of Russell's life too. It is something he shares with Chaplain Black every Friday in Bible study.

Russell is ready to share more of himself, too, with his family, his wife Ashley and his children, Annie and Clay. They are all making the move back to Louisville. They will have a lot more time together, and I know they and Russell couldn't be happier.

So congratulations, Russell, and thanks for your service.

JOHN ASHBROOK

Let me tell you about John Ashbrook. John has been with me since I first became Republican leader. He

was a fresh-faced kid back then, a young guy from Cincinnati who wanted nothing more than to work in the White House. I am grateful he chose to work for me instead. I am grateful John was willing to transfer his allegiance across the Ohio River for the past 8 years because John Ashbrook is easy-mannered, matched with unbending will. You don't see that very often. He has been an important player on our staff not only for his professionalism but for his character too.

John is known around the Capitol as a founding member of the Senate Republican Communications Center. With John's help, it has been a real success.

The Capitol is going to be a different place without John's laughter echoing in the corridors. Every reporter knows his name. Every member of my staff knows his smile. It is pretty hard to miss.

John, muffin in hand, is usually the first guy in every morning. Many hours later, he is often the last one out. I appreciate it deeply.

I know John's wife Kate takes a somewhat different view. I can't blame her. Kate is ready for dinners without John's Blackberry at the table, and John is ready to spend more time with his three beautiful daughters—Margaret, Abigail, and Charlotte, all born during his service here. John's daughters and Kate mean everything to him, and I couldn't be happier that John will be seeing more of all of them very soon.

CELEBRATING THE 206TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate one of the most admired, well-known Americans and Presidents this great Nation has ever seen. Just 56 years ago, Carl Sandburg addressed a joint session of Congress and remarked about him: “Not often in the story of mankind does a man arrive on Earth who is both steel and velvet, who is as hard as rock and soft as drifting fog, who holds in his heart and mind the paradox of terrible storm and peace unspeakable and perfect.”

Those words echo today, as it marks the arrival as the 206th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's birth. Born on February 12, 1809, Lincoln had humble beginnings in Kentucky and Indiana before moving to Illinois as a young adult. He began his journey into politics there, serving in the State legislature, the U.S. House of Representatives, and eventually as U.S. President.

As President, he led our Nation through its most perilous times, successfully ended slavery, and saved the Union. His contributions were timeless as he paved the way for America to appreciate the true meaning of freedom, opportunity, and equality. We have come a long way since his time and

continue to work towards the America that President Lincoln envisioned.

Every day we are reminded of President Lincoln's contributions. Symbols of him are found anywhere you go—whether it be on the face of the penny or the monument down the street. We can and should preserve these reminders of his work and his ideals of freedom, opportunity, and equality for generations to come.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate the 206th birthday of the 16th President of the United States, as well as the penny that honors his name. Hailing from the Land of Lincoln, I have long celebrated the life and legacy of President Abraham Lincoln.

For more than 100 years, Abraham Lincoln has been the face of the penny. Lincoln was the first person to appear on an American coin, and the Lincoln penny is the longest used design of any American coin.

For generations of Americans, the penny has served as a memorial to the first President assassinated in office. It is a reminder of the liberation of the African slaves and of the brutal Civil War that threatened to end the American experiment.

Different versions of the penny have been produced throughout the years. In 1959, the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's birth, a representation of the Lincoln Memorial was put on the reverse side of the coin. To honor Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday, four new penny designs were released. One reflects a log cabin, similar to the one in Kentucky where Lincoln was born. The second features Lincoln reading a book with an axe by his foot, showing his formative years and self-education in Indiana. The third penny shows Lincoln speaking in front of the State capitol in Springfield, representing his professional life as legislator from Illinois. Finally, the fourth design features a half-finished Capitol dome during the Civil War to represent his Presidency. The newest reverse design depicts a Union shield with a scroll and carries the words "Preservation of the Union" marking what is seen as Lincoln's greatest achievement.

The Lincoln penny is the most common and most highly circulated coin in the United States. The penny significantly contributes to the U.S. economy, especially in charitable contributions. Tens of millions of pennies have been donated to charities over the past decade.

It may be the lowest coin denomination, but the penny carries a lot of weight in terms of our Illinois and American history, culture, and society. It is an intrinsic part of the American experience and represents the opportunity that many believe is inherent in the American dream.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, in accordance with rule XXVI, paragraph 2, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I submit the rules governing the procedure of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

I ask unanimous consent that they be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

RULES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

GENERAL RULES

Rule 1. The Standing Rules of the Senate, as supplemented by these rules, are adopted as the rules of the Committee and its Subcommittees.

MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

Rule 2. (a) The Committee shall meet on the third Thursday of each month while the Congress is in session for the purpose of conducting business, unless, for the convenience of Members, the Chairman shall set some other day for a meeting. Additional meetings may be called by the Chairman as he may deem necessary.

(b) Hearings of any Subcommittee may be called by the Chairman of such Subcommittee. Provided, That no Subcommittee hearing other than a field hearing, shall be scheduled or held concurrently with a full Committee meeting or hearing, unless a majority of the Committee concurs in such concurrent hearing.

OPEN HEARINGS AND MEETINGS

Rule 3. (a) All hearings and business meetings of the Committee and all the hearings of any of its Subcommittees shall be open to the public unless the Committee or Subcommittee involved, by majority vote of all the Members of the Committee or such Subcommittee, orders the hearing or meeting to be closed in accordance with paragraph 5(b) of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

(b) A transcript shall be kept of each hearing of the Committee or any Subcommittee.

(c) A transcript shall be kept of each business meeting of the Committee unless a majority of all the Members of the Committee agrees that some other form of permanent record is preferable.

HEARING PROCEDURE

Rule 4. (a) Public notice shall be given of the date, place, and subject matter of any hearing to be held by the Committee or any Subcommittee at least one week in advance of such hearing unless the Chairman of the full Committee or the Subcommittee involved determines that the hearing is non-controversial or that special circumstances require expedited procedures and a majority of all the Members of the Committee or the Subcommittee involved concurs. In no case shall a hearing be conducted with less than twenty-four hours' notice. Any document or report that is the subject of a hearing shall be provided to every Member of the Committee or Subcommittee involved at least 72 hours before the hearing unless the Chairman and Ranking Member determine otherwise.

(b) Each witness who is to appear before the Committee or any Subcommittee shall

file with the Committee or Subcommittee, at least 24 hours in advance of the hearing, a written statement of his or her testimony in as many copies as the Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee prescribes.

(c) Each Member shall be limited to five minutes in the questioning of any witness until such time as all Members who so desire have had an opportunity to question the witness.

(d) The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or Subcommittee or the Ranking Majority and Minority Members present at the hearing may each appoint one Committee staff member to question each witness. Such staff member may question the witness only after all Members present have completed their questioning of the witness or at such other time as the Chairman and the Ranking Majority and Minority Members present may agree. No staff member may question a witness in the absence of a quorum for the taking of testimony.

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

Rule 5. (a) A legislative measure, nomination, or other matter shall be included on the agenda of the next following business meeting of the full Committee if a written request by a Member of the Committee for such inclusion has been filed with the Chairman of the Committee at least one week prior to such meeting. Nothing in this rule shall be construed to limit the authority of the Chairman of the Committee to include a legislative measure, nomination, or other matter on the Committee agenda in the absence of such request.

(b) The agenda for any business meeting of the Committee shall be provided to each Member and made available to the public at least three days prior to such meeting, and no new items may be added after the agenda is so published except by the approval of a majority of all the Members of the Committee on matters not included on the public agenda. The Staff Director shall promptly notify absent Members of any action taken by the Committee on matters not included on the published agenda.

QUORUMS

Rule 6. (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c), eight Members shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business of the Committee.

(b) No measure or matter shall be ordered reported from the Committee unless twelve Members of the Committee are actually present at the time such action is taken.

(c) One Member shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting a hearing or taking testimony on any measure or matter before the Committee or any Subcommittee.

VOTING

Rule 7. (a) A rollcall of the Members shall be taken upon the request of any Member. Any Member who does not vote on any rollcall at the time the roll is called, may vote (in person or by proxy) on that rollcall at any later time during the same business meeting.

(b) Proxy voting shall be permitted on all matters, except that proxies may not be counted for the purpose of determining the presence of a quorum. Unless further limited, a proxy shall be exercised only upon the date for which it is given and upon the items published in the agenda for that date.

(c) Each Committee report shall set forth the vote on the motion to report the measure or matter involved. Unless the Committee directs otherwise, the report will not set out any votes on amendments offered

during Committee consideration. Any Member who did not vote on any rollcall shall have the opportunity to have his position recorded in the appropriate Committee record or Committee report.

(d) The Committee vote to report a measure to the Senate shall also authorize the staff of the Committee to make necessary technical and clerical corrections in the measure.

SUBCOMMITTEES

Rule 8. (a) The number of Members assigned to each Subcommittee and the division between Majority and Minority Members shall be fixed by the Chairman in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member.

(b) Assignment of Members to Subcommittees shall, insofar as possible, reflect the preferences of the Members. No Member will receive assignment to a second Subcommittee until, in order of seniority, all Members of the Committee have chosen assignments to one Subcommittee, and no Member shall receive assignment to a third Subcommittee until, in order of seniority, all Members have chosen assignments to two Subcommittees.

(c) Any Member of the Committee may sit with any Subcommittee during its hearings but shall not have the authority to vote on any matters before the Subcommittee unless he is a Member of such Subcommittee.

NOMINATIONS

Rule 9. At any hearing to confirm a Presidential nomination, the testimony of the nominee and, at the request of any Member, any other witness shall be under oath. Every nominee shall submit the financial disclosure report filed pursuant to title I of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978. Such report is made available to the public.

INVESTIGATIONS

Rule 10. (a) Neither the Committee nor any of its Subcommittees may undertake an investigation unless specifically authorized by the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member or a majority of all the Members of the Committee.

(b) A witness called to testify in an investigation shall be informed of the matter or matters under investigation, given a copy of these rules, given the opportunity to make a brief and relevant oral statement before or after questioning, and be permitted to have counsel of his or her choosing present during his or her testimony at any public or closed hearing, or at any unsworn interview, to advise the witness of his or her legal rights.

(c) For purposes of this rule, the terms "investigation" shall not include a review or study undertaken pursuant to paragraph 8 of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate or a preliminary inquiry, undertaken at the direction of the Chairman or the Ranking Member, intended to determine whether there is substantial credible evidence that would warrant an investigation.

SWORN TESTIMONY

Rule 11. Witnesses in Committee or Subcommittee hearings may be required to give testimony under oath whenever the Chairman or Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or Subcommittee deems such to be necessary. If one or more witnesses at a hearing are required to testify under oath, all witnesses at such hearing shall be required to testify under oath.

SUBPOENAS

Rule 12. The Chairman shall have authority to issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses or the production of memoranda,

documents, records, or other materials (1) with the agreement of the Ranking Minority Member, (2) when authorized by a majority of all the Members of the Committee, or (3) when within the scope of an investigation authorized under Rule 10(a).

CONFIDENTIAL TESTIMONY

Rule 13. No confidential testimony taken by or any report of the proceedings of a closed Committee or Subcommittee meeting shall be made public, in whole or in part or by way of summary, unless authorized by a majority of all the Members of the Committee at a business meeting called for the purpose of making such a determination.

DEFAMATORY STATEMENTS

Rule 14. Any person whose name is mentioned or who is specifically identified in, or who believes that testimony or other evidence presented at, an open Committee or Subcommittee hearing tends to defame him or otherwise adversely affect his reputation may file with the Committee for its consideration and action a sworn statement of facts relevant to such testimony or evidence.

BROADCASTING OF HEARINGS OR MEETINGS

Rule 15. Any meeting or hearing by the Committee or any Subcommittee which is open to the public may be covered in whole or in part by web, television, or radio broadcast or still photography. Photographers and reporters using mechanical recording, filming, or broadcasting devices shall position their equipment so as not to interfere with the seating, vision, and hearing of Members and staff on the dais or with the orderly process of the meeting or hearing.

AMENDING THE RULES

Rule 16. These rules may be amended only by vote of a majority of all the Members of the Committee in a business meeting of the Committee: Provided, That no vote may be taken on any proposed amendment unless such amendment is reproduced in full in the Committee agenda for such meeting at least three days in advance of such meeting.

REEMERGENCE OF VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES: EXPLORING THE PUBLIC HEALTH SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of my remarks at the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee hearing earlier this week be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REEMERGENCE OF VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES: EXPLORING THE PUBLIC HEALTH SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES

From smallpox to polio, we have learned in the United States that vaccines save lives. And yet a troubling number of parents are not vaccinating their children.

Last September this committee held a hearing about the Ebola virus. Our witnesses included a brave physician, Dr. Kent Brantly, who worked in Liberia; and a brave father in Sierra Leone who came to warn us about how rapidly the virus was spreading. The number of people being infected with Ebola was doubling every three weeks, and many of those infected were dying—because for Ebola there was and is no cure, and there was and is no vaccine.

This produced a near panic in the U.S.—it changed procedures in nearly every hospital

and clinic. In response, Congress appropriated more than \$5 billion to fight the spread of the virus. The impact of efforts to fight Ebola is that the number of Ebola cases is declining.

At the same time, here in the U.S. we are now experiencing a large outbreak of a disease for which we do have a vaccine. Measles used to sicken up to 4 million Americans each year—and many believed that it was an unpreventable childhood illness—but the introduction of a vaccine in 1963 changed everything. Measles was declared eliminated—meaning absence of continuous disease transmission for greater than 12 months—from the United States in 2000. From 2001 to 2012, the median yearly number of measles cases reported in all of the U.S. was 60.

Today is February 10, 2015. It is the 41st day of the year and we already have seen more cases of measles than we would in a typical year. One measles outbreak—in Palatine, Illinois, a suburb about a half hour from Chicago—has affected at least five babies, all less than a year old.

Infants and individuals who are immunocompromised are traditionally protected by what is called herd immunity—the people around them are vaccinated, so they don't get sick, and that keeps the babies and others who can't get vaccinated from getting sick. That herd immunity is incredibly important. Measles can cause life-threatening complications in children, such as pneumonia or swelling of the brain.

Our witnesses today will talk more not just about what is causing this outbreak, but why some parents are choosing not to vaccinate their children. Measles is only one example. This hearing which was planned before the measles outbreak reminded us of the importance of vaccines. An analysis of immunization rates across 13 states performed by USA Today found the following:

"Hundreds of thousands of students attend schools—ranging from small, private academies in New York City to large public elementary schools outside Boston to Native American reservation schools in Idaho—where vaccination rates have dropped precipitously low, sometimes under 50%."

California is one of the 20 states that allow parents to claim personal belief exemptions from vaccination requirements. In some areas of Los Angeles, 60 to 70 percent of parents at certain schools have filed a personal belief exemption. In those elementary schools, vaccination rates are as low as those in Chad or South Sudan.

The purpose of this hearing is to examine what is standing between healthy children and deadly diseases. It ought to be vaccinations. But too many parents are turning away from sound science.

Sound science is this: Vaccines save lives. They save the lives of the people who are vaccinated. They protect the lives of the vulnerable around them—like infants and those who are ill.

Vaccines save lives. They protect us from the ravages of awful diseases like polio, which invades the nervous system and can cause paralysis. I can remember as a child how parents were frightened by the prospect of polio for their child. I had classmates who lived in iron lungs. Our Majority Leader, Senator MCCONNELL, contracted polio as a child. Or whooping cough, which causes thick mucus to accumulate in the airways and can make it difficult for infants to breathe. Or, diphtheria, a bacterial infection that affects the mucous membranes of your nose and throat and can, in advanced stages, damage your heart, kidneys and nervous system.

We have learned that vaccines save lives. They take deadly, awful, ravaging diseases from horror to history. So it is troubling to hear that before we've even reached Valentine's Day this year, 121 Americans are sick with measles, a disease eliminated in the U.S. 15 years ago. It is troubling that a growing number of parents are not following the recommendations doctors and public health professionals have been making for decades. At a time when we are standing on the cusp of medical breakthroughs never imagined—cutting-edge personalized medicine tailored to an individual's genome—we find ourselves retreading old ground.

WOODSTOCK, MAINE BICENTENNIAL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President. I wish to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Town of Woodstock, ME. Known today as a gateway to the rugged and beautiful Western Maine Mountains, Woodstock was built with a spirit of determination and resiliency that still guides the community today.

Woodstock's incorporation on Feb. 7, 1815, was but one milestone on a long journey of progress. For thousands of years, the banks of the Androscoggin River and its tributaries were the hunting grounds of the Abenaki Tribe. One of the legends that attests to the friendship that developed between the Native Americans and the first European settler concerns the Abenaki Princess Mollyocket, a woman with great spirit and knowledge of healing. A few years before the town was incorporated, she was called to the small settlement of Trap Corner to attend to a seriously ill infant. She nursed the baby back to health and pronounced that he would grow to greatness. Mollyocket's patient was Hannibal Hamlin, who became Abraham Lincoln's first Vice President.

Settlement began in 1787, when 10 lots of 100 acres each were surveyed. The early settlers at what was called The Thousand Acre Squadron were drawn by fertile soil, vast forests, and fast-moving waters, which they turned into productive farms and busy mills. The wealth produced by the land and by hard work and determination was invested in schools and churches to create a true community. In 1815, 5 years before Maine statehood, the settlers' petition for incorporation to the Governor of Massachusetts was readily signed, although, for reasons lost to history, he rejected the proposed name of Sparta and chose Woodstock instead.

The main population center of Woodstock is the Village of Bryant Pond, known for its beauty, recreation opportunities, and hospitality. Bryant Pond also is home to a 14-foot tall, 3,000-pound statue of an old-fashioned, hand-cranked telephone, the kind that had a human operator on the other end, to memorialize the town's distinction as the last place in the United States to use these devices. The townspeople finally gave up their hand-cranked tele-

phones in 1983, but they retain their fondness for the personal touch.

Woodstock is a charming town of involved citizens. The active historical society, volunteer fire department, and library are evidence of a strong community spirit. That spirit will be on full display this June, when Woodstock holds its Great Bicentennial Celebration.

This 200th anniversary is not just about something that is measured in calendar years; it is about human accomplishment, an occasion to celebrate the people who for more than two centuries have pulled together, cared for one another, and built a community. Thanks to those who came before, Woodstock has a wonderful history. Thanks to those who are there today, it has a bright future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING CORPORAL C.G. BOLDEN

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, on February 21, 2015, the city of Clinton, AR will gather for a memorial service for Corporal C.G. Bolden who was killed in action in Korea in 1951.

The service will coincide with the return of his remains for proper burial, over 60 years after he left Clinton to fight in the Korean war.

As a member of the Army Reserve, Corporal Bolden was called upon to serve shortly after the Korean war started. He had been in theater for only a few months when his family back in Clinton received a telegram with terrible news; Corporal Bolden was missing in action.

For the next 64 years, his wife, Geraldine Johnson, would await his return. In the days and months following that telegram, Geraldine would check the paper for news and sneak off to a quiet place to pray for her husband's return.

Corporal Bolden—a light weapons infantryman in Company C, 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division—was taken prisoner by the enemy on January 5, 1951 and died as a prisoner of war on April 30, 1951.

Last month, upon learning his remains had been positively identified, Geraldine recounted to KARK news in Little Rock how her husband would often appear in her dreams over the six decades. "Those dreams would say he is coming home this time, this is really it," she told the reporter.

Corporal Bolden was just 22 years old when he was captured while fighting the enemy in South Korea. He was marched to a prison camp just south of Pyongyang in what his wife told the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette she heard was "the coldest weather there ever was."

About 15 years ago, the military asked for and obtained DNA from Cor-

poral Bolden's remaining siblings to aid in efforts to identify his remains. Last December, the Army contacted Geraldine to notify her of a DNA match. Corporal Bolden became the fifth Arkansan who had disappeared during the Korean war to be identified.

Corporal Bolden was posthumously awarded the Prisoner of War Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, United Nations Service Medal, Republic of Korea War Service Medal, and Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation.

I am grateful that after all these years Corporal Bolden will finally be reunited with his wife, son, and other family members. I appreciate the work of those at the Joint Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Command who helped identify Corporal Bolden. Most of all, we are grateful for Corporal Bolden's service.●

CONGRATULATING UNLV'S LEE BUSINESS SCHOOL

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate the Lee Business School of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, UNLV, for receiving top honors at the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, AICPA, Accounting Competition. UNLV's Accounting REBEL-ation team included Annegenelle Figueroa, Kayla Shim, Brett Sebastian, and Kevin Curry. The students won a total of \$5,000 to benefit the school's accounting department, a contribution that will help future students for years to come.

The annual AICPA Competition assesses students' capabilities in making decisions on management, operations, finance, and strategy. This year's competition drew 140 teams to represent schools across the country and required the students to create a cost-accounting system for a fictional business called Humble Pies, Inc. The UNLV accounting team worked over a 3-month period before advancing to the finals and presenting its ideas to a panel of accounting executives. Teams were judged based upon persuasiveness, technical detail, and creativity. The students representing UNLV were specifically applauded for their real-world business application. These Nevada students are shining examples of how hard work and dedication lead to success and stand as role models for future Rebels.

I am excited to see local students bringing recognition to both Nevada and to UNLV for their advancement in a national competition. The Lee Business School should be proud to call itself a top contender in a competitive environment. I ask my colleagues to join me and all Nevadans in congratulating these students from UNLV's Lee Business School for their unwavering effort and honorable representation of Nevada.●

CONGRATULATING MOUNTAIN RIDGE LITTLE LEAGUE ALL-STAR TEAM

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today, I wish to congratulate the Mountain Ridge Little League team from Las Vegas for receiving first place in the Little League World Series U.S. Championships. This series began back in 1947 and for the first time, in 2014, a team from Nevada represented the greatest Little League team in the Nation. Today, I would like to honor the players and coaches for their tireless efforts in reaching their goals and for representing Nevada with integrity and hard work.

The Mountain Ridge team, with players aged 12 to 13 years old, entered the Little League World Series U.S. Championship game with a 16-0 record in four tournaments, outscoring opponents 184-29. The team showed its true dedication to the State by traveling for weeks, spending time away from family and friends. Its journey began at the Western Regionals Competition on August 1 in San Bernardino, CA, and ended on August 25, after competing in the Little League World Series U.S. Championship game. Austin Kryszczuk, most noted for his batting skills, was labeled best player in the Little League World Series U.S. Championships.

All of the players are role models for future generations of Nevada baseball, and the coaches serve as shining examples of leadership. The Mountain Ridge Little League team's accomplishment should be noted as a special moment to Nevada, after being called the second-most successful sports team in Las Vegas' history after the University of Nevada, Las Vegas' men's basketball national championship team in 1990. This team did more for Nevada than just represent the State on the field. It revealed the strong community that Nevada has to offer with many groups of friends and families coming together to watch the games.

I am excited to see local athletes bringing recognition to Nevada and the Las Vegas community. The Mountain Ridge Little League team should be proud to call itself the top baseball team in the country. I ask my colleagues to join me and all Nevadans in congratulating this team from northwest Las Vegas for their unwavering dedication and honorable representation of Nevada.●

RECOGNIZING LANDRY VINEYARDS

• Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, small businesses have the unique ability to seamlessly fill a niche in their local communities. In many cases, this means they offer a service or product that is completely unique to the region. As Valentine's Day and Mardi Gras quickly approach, I would like to honor a small business that is not

often associated with the State of Louisiana—a beautiful vineyard and winery. This week's Small Business of the Week is Landry Vineyards and Winery of West Monroe, LA.

In 1999 with the help of their family and close friends, Jeff and Libby Landry decided to pursue their dream of owning and operating a vineyard. The Landry family started their business by planting Blanc Du Bois grapes on their 2 acres in Folsom, LA. Four years later, they were licensed as a Louisiana Native Winery, which allowed their wines to be shipped and sold across the State. After the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, however, the Landrys moved their enterprise to higher ground in the hill country of West Monroe. Today, the wines produced at Landry Vineyards are available in over 300 stores throughout Louisiana and can be purchased across the country by simply visiting their Web site.

The Landry family has created an experience for locals and out-of-towners that is well worth the trip. Daily tours of the vineyards are available for small groups on golf carts, and tractor drawn wagons are used for the larger groups. The winery also provides free wine tastings in the nearby tasting room, and guests are encouraged to bring picnic lunches to enjoy on the winery grounds. Each year the winery hosts an outdoor music concert series that caters to families with local bands who perform in all genres like Cajun, funk, and country blues. The 20-acre property also serves as a popular destination for public and private events, including weddings.

In the last 15 years, Landry Vineyards has thrived despite any obstacles—whether it is a natural disaster or burdensome regulations—in its way. As I work to make sure the voices and concerns of small business owners across the country are heard in Washington, the history and success of Landry Vineyards serve as an inspiring reminder of what is worth fighting for. Congratulations to Landry Vineyards and Winery for being selected as this week's Small Business of the Week.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:56 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1. An act to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 431. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Foot Soldiers who participated in Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday, or the final Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March in March of 1965, which served as a catalyst for the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 431. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Foot Soldiers who participated in Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday, or the final Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March in March of 1965, which served as a catalyst for the Voting Rights Act of 1965; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 720. An act to improve intergovernmental planning for and communication during security incidents at domestic airports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on Finance, without amendment:

H.R. 22. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Rept. No. 114-3).

By Mr. BLUNT, from the Committee on Rules and Administration, without amendment:

S. Res. 73. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by committees of the Senate for the periods March 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015, October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016, and October 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. GRASSLEY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Daniel Henry Marti, of Virginia, to be Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, Executive Office of the President.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. SCOTT, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 470. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt certain educational institutions from the employer health insurance mandate, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 471. A bill to improve the provision of health care for women veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. 472. A bill to promote conservation, improve public land, and provide for sensible development in Douglas County, Nevada, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. UDALL:

S. 473. A bill to implement programs and activities to raise children up out of poverty and save the next generation; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 474. A bill to require State educational agencies that receive funding under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to have in effect policies and procedures on background checks for school employees; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. COATS, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HELLER, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 475. A bill to reform the Federal sugar program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 476. A bill to recruit, support, and prepare principals to improve student academic achievement at eligible schools; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 477. A bill to terminate Operation Choke Point; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 478. A bill to promote career readiness indicators and career counseling for students; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. FISCHER:

S. 479. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SCHUMER, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 480. A bill to amend and reauthorize the controlled substance monitoring program under section 399O of the Public Health Service Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 481. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to drug scheduling recommendations by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and with respect to registration of manufacturers and distributors seeking to conduct clinical testing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. DONNELLY):

S. 482. A bill to increase from \$10,000,000,000 to \$50,000,000,000 the threshold figure at which regulated depository institutions are subject to direct examination and reporting requirements of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 483. A bill to improve enforcement efforts related to prescription drug diversion and abuse, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 484. A bill to protect all patients by prohibiting the use of data obtained from comparative effectiveness research to deny or delay coverage of items or services under Federal health care programs and to ensure that comparative effectiveness research accounts for advancements in personalized medicine and differences in patient treatment response; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. COTTON):

S. 485. A bill to prohibit the use of eminent domain in carrying out certain projects; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 486. A bill to amend the Head Start Act to ensure that all children in Head Start and Early Head Start programs are vaccinated, and allow exemptions only for children with underlying medical conditions, for whom vaccines are therefore medically contraindicated; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 487. A bill to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to allow the rebuilding, without elevation, of certain structures that are located in areas having special flood hazards and are substantially damaged by fire, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 488. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to allow physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists to supervise cardiac, intensive cardiac, and pulmonary rehabilitation programs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 489. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to increase the maximum value of articles that may be imported duty-free by one person on one day; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. COTTON):

S. 490. A bill to achieve domestic energy independence by empowering States to control the development and production of all forms of energy on all available Federal land; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. ENZI, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 491. A bill to lift the trade embargo on Cuba; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 492. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 in order to improve environmental literacy to better prepare students for postsecondary education and careers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. GARDNER, and Mr. COTTON):

S. 493. A bill to reduce a portion of the annual pay of Members of Congress for the failure to adopt a concurrent resolution on the budget which does not provide for a balanced budget, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 494. A bill to authorize the exploration, leasing, development, production, and economically feasible and prudent transportation of oil and gas in and from the Coastal Plain in Alaska; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ISAKSON:

S. 495. A bill to revoke the charters for the Federal National Mortgage Corporation and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation upon resolution of their obligations, to create a new Mortgage Finance Agency for the securitization of single family and multi-family mortgages, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. RISCH):

S. 496. A bill to prohibit the use of any Federal funds to finalize, implement, or enforce the proposed rule entitled "Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. COONS, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 497. A bill to allow Americans to earn paid sick time so that they can address their own health needs and the health needs of their families; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BURR, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. MORAN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 498. A bill to allow reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. COATS, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. SCOTT):

S. 499. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to prevent concurrent receipt of unemployment benefits and Social Security disability insurance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. UDALL, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. LEE, and Mr. HATCH):

S. 500. A bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey to a State all right, title, and interest in and to a percentage of the amount of royalties and other amounts required to be paid to the State under that Act with respect to public land and deposits in the State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 501. A bill to make technical corrections to the Navajo water rights settlement in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PAUL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. COONS):

S. 502. A bill to focus limited Federal resources on the most serious offenders; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NELSON:

S. 503. A bill to amend the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act to extend trade preferences for certain articles imported from Haiti and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. DONNELLY):

S. 504. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to protect and restore the Great Lakes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 505. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the Health Coverage Tax Credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. GARDNER):

S. 506. A bill to amend part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to exclude customary prompt pay discounts from manufacturers to wholesalers from the average sales price for drugs and biologicals under Medicare, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. LEE, Mr. ENZI, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. HATCH, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 507. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to permit employers to pay higher wages to their employees; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. FLAKE, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 508. A bill to amend the FLAME Act of 2009 to provide for additional wildfire suppression activities, to provide for the conduct of certain forest treatment projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 509. A bill to establish the African Burial Ground International Memorial Museum and Educational Center in New York, New York, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. HELLER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. CORKER, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 510. A bill to require Senate confirmation of Inspector General of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. REED, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 511. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to require that genetically engineered food and foods that contain genetically engineered ingredients to be labeled accordingly; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. COONS, and Mr. HELLER):

S. 512. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to safeguard data stored abroad from improper government access, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 513. A bill for the relief of Esther Karinge; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. FRANKEN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 514. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish the Promise Neighborhoods program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 515. A bill to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to provide relief during fiscal years 2016 and 2017 from the reductions in the discretionary spending limits imposed by sequestration; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 516. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to permit alternate standards and assessments for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 517. A bill to extend the secure rural schools and community self-determination program, to restore mandatory funding status to the payment in lieu of taxes program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 518. A bill to require States to establish highway stormwater management programs; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. COONS, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 519. A bill to amend the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998 to permanently reau-

thorize the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 520. A bill to amend the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act to reauthorize the Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 521. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of President Station in Baltimore, Maryland, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. REID, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. COONS, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. UDALL, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 522. A bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to extend the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. WARNER, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 523. A bill to coordinate the provision of energy retrofitting assistance to schools; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. COONS, and Mr. KIRK):

S. 524. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 525. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) to reform the Food for Peace Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 526. A bill to sunset the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force after three years; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BURR, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. CORKER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SASSE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. COTTON, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. RISCH, Mr. WICKER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. COATS, Mr. PERDUE,

Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. REID, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. REED, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. COONS, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. CARDIN, and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 527. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Foot Soldiers who participated in Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday, or in the final Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March in March of 1965, which served as a catalyst for the Voting Rights Act of 1965; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 528. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 in order to improve the requirements regarding alternate standards and assessments for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. KIRK):

S. 529. A bill to improve the services available to runaway and homeless youth who are victims of trafficking, to improve the response to victims of child sex trafficking, to direct the Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking to identify strategies to prevent children from becoming victims of trafficking and review trafficking prevention efforts, to protect and assist in the recovery of victims of trafficking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BLUNT:

S. Res. 73. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by committees of the Senate for the periods March 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015, October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016, and October 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017; from the Committee on Rules and Administration; placed on the calendar.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. WARNER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. Res. 74. A resolution declaring that achieving the primary goal of the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease of the Department of Health and Human Services to prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer's disease by 2025 is an urgent national priority; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE)):

S. Res. 75. A resolution designating the month of February 2015, as "National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. COTTON, Mr. LEE, Mr. HELLER, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. MORAN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. VITTER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr.

LANKFORD, Mr. RISCH, Mr. DAINES, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BURR, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. PERDUE, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. COATS, Mr. KIRK, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. ENZI, Mr. PAUL, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. Res. 76. A resolution welcoming the Prime Minister of Israel to the United States for his address to a joint session of Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. BOXER, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. Res. 77. A resolution designating Friday, February 13, 2015, as "\$2.13 Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. Res. 78. A resolution relative to the death of Jerry Tarkanian, former head basketball coach of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. Res. 79. A resolution honoring Dean Edwards Smith, former head coach for the men's basketball team for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KIRK, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. REID, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 80. A resolution recognizing the cultural and historical significance of Lunar New Year; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. Res. 81. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that children trafficked for sex in the United States should not be treated or regarded as child prostitutes because there is no such thing as a "child prostitute", only children who are victims or survivors of rape and sex trafficking; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COATS, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KANE, Mr. KING, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SES-

SIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 82. A resolution commending Kathleen Alvarez Tritak on her service to the United States Senate; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 30

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 30, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the definition of full-time employee for purposes of the employer mandate in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 139

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 139, a bill to permanently allow an exclusion under the Supplemental Security Income program and the Medicaid program for compensation provided to individuals who participate in clinical trials for rare diseases or conditions.

S. 149

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 149, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices.

S. 166

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 166, a bill to stop exploitation through trafficking.

S. 178

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 178, a bill to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

S. 203

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 203, a bill to restore Americans' individual liberty by striking the Federal mandate to purchase insurance.

S. 223

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 223, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a pilot program on awarding grants for provision of furniture, household items, and other assistance to homeless veterans to facilitate their transition into permanent housing, and for other purposes.

S. 239

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr.

UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 239, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to apportionments under the Airport Improvement Program, and for other purposes.

S. 255

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 255, a bill to restore the integrity of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 258

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 258, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services.

S. 262

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 262, a bill to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes.

S. 269

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 269, a bill to expand sanctions imposed with respect to Iran and to impose additional sanctions with respect to Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 271

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 271, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 275

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 275, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of home as a site of care for infusion therapy under the Medicare program.

S. 288

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 288, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to reform the National Labor Relations Board, the Office of the General Counsel, and the process for appellate review, and for other purposes.

S. 301

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Mississippi

(Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 301, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

S. 308

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 308, a bill to reauthorize 21st century community learning centers, and for other purposes.

S. 336

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 336, a bill to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 entirely.

S. 338

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 338, a bill to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

S. 347

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 347, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that the individual health insurance mandate not apply until the employer health insurance mandate is enforced without exceptions.

S. 356

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 356, a bill to improve the provisions relating to the privacy of electronic communications.

S. 373

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 373, a bill to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel.

S. 388

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 388, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to require humane treatment of animals by Federal Government facilities.

S. 391

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr.

GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 391, a bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

S. 404

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 404, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions.

S. 409

At the request of Mr. BURR, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) were added as cosponsors of S. 409, a bill to amend the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act to require the Secretary of Defense to inform the Attorney General of persons required to register as sex offenders.

S. 439

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 439, a bill to end discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity in public schools, and for other purposes.

S. 466

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 466, a bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to improve the quality, health outcomes, and value of maternity care under the Medicaid and CHIP programs by developing maternity care quality measures and supporting maternity care quality collaboratives.

S. 467

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 467, a bill to reduce recidivism and increase public safety, and for other purposes.

S. 469

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 469, a bill to improve the reproductive assistance provided by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to severely wounded, ill, or injured members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their spouses or partners, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 5

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of

S.J. Res. 5, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

S.J. RES. 8

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 8, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to representation case procedures.

S. RES. 52

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 52, a resolution calling for the release of Ukrainian fighter pilot Nadiya Savchenko, who was captured by Russian forces in Eastern Ukraine and has been held illegally in a Russian prison since July 2014.

S. RES. 65

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 65, a resolution supporting efforts to bring an end to violence perpetrated by Boko Haram, and urging the Government of Nigeria to conduct transparent, peaceful, and credible elections.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 478. A bill to promote career readiness indicators and career counseling for students; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, preparing all students to be college and career-ready upon graduating high school is one of the central promises that public education and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, ESEA, should fulfill. However, career readiness has all too often taken a back seat to a focus on traditional college preparation. Strong academic skills are essential to college preparation, but it takes much more to be truly ready for a career.

Today many students graduate high schools with little knowledge of the careers available to them and the technical skills needed to meet the demands of the 21st century job market. "Career readiness indicators" are factors that demonstrate a student's preparedness, including both academic and technical knowledge and skills, for postsecondary education and the workforce. By encouraging school districts to track and report on career readiness

indicators, States can send a signal to schools, communities, parents, and students that it is critical to be prepared for the workforce regardless of postsecondary education plans. Additionally, it provides public data for employers to help locate their operations in regions with a high-skilled workforce.

This is why I am pleased to introduce with my colleagues, Senator PORTMAN and Senator BALDWIN, the Career Ready Act, which will amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to expand on these efforts by encouraging more states to report on courses in their school systems. This includes utilizing multiple indicators of career readiness when states report data to the federal government such as student participation in career and technical education courses or attainment of recognized postsecondary credentials or academic and technical skills including industry-recognized credentials, certifications, licenses, and postsecondary degrees. Tracking and publishing this data provides much-needed information for businesses and workforce leaders that is not provided under current law.

This bipartisan legislation also strengthens the Elementary and Secondary School Counseling grant program in current law by placing an emphasis on career guidance and providing professional development for school counselors to use labor market information and partnerships with community groups such as local workforce investment boards, businesses, industries, and regional economic development agencies to educate students on postsecondary opportunities. The Career Ready Act encourages schools to align career exploration course offerings and counseling to the workforce needs of the local community and coordinate with the requirements of the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act and the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act.

I am proud to introduce this commonsense, bipartisan legislation to improve career readiness and career guidance to ensure students are prepared for the 21st century workforce. I strongly encourage my colleagues on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions committee to consider this legislation in any ESEA reauthorization.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 487. A bill to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to allow the rebuilding, without elevation, of certain structures that are located in areas having special flood hazards and are substantially damaged by fire, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Fire-Damaged Home Rebuilding Act.

This legislation is simple. It allows families living in federally-designated

flood plains to rebuild their home in the event it is destroyed by a fire.

The bill allows communities to waive requirements that were meant to block reconstruction after floods, but which have been applied to block reconstruction of homes after fires and other natural disasters as well.

I was first made aware of this issue by a constituent from Sacramento, Jennifer Taylor. Her home in the Natomas neighborhood burned down, and she was denied when she applied for a permit to rebuild it. The county informed her that Federal floodplain regulations required her to elevate the home 20 feet above ground level because of existing deficiencies in the levee protecting her neighborhood.

Can you imagine what that would look like? Every house in the neighborhood at ground level, and one home towering 20 feet above the rest?

More importantly though, the cost would be exorbitant, and would not be covered by her insurance. Instead, the cost would be imposed on a family trying to get back on its feet after a personal tragedy.

When the home burned down, the family collected \$71,000 from their insurance company. Contractors estimated the cost to restore the home to its original condition was \$170,000—a significant burden, but one the family was willing to bear.

But when the family factored in the cost of elevating their home 20 feet, the cost skyrocketed. Contractors estimated the elevation project would cost an additional \$200,000.

Just to restore their home to its previous size and condition, the family would owe \$300,000 more than what they received from their insurance.

There is a fundamental issue of fairness at stake.

This family tragically lost their home and many of their personal belongings. But instead of helping the family during this difficult time, the Federal Government is instead blocking them from rebuilding. Why? Because the Federal Government has failed to maintain adequate flood protection.

It just doesn't seem fair.

The Fire-Damaged Home Rebuilding Act addresses this issue by allowing local communities to grant variances to federal flood plain regulations without jeopardizing their participation in the program.

The legislation allows waivers to be granted only if all of the following conditions are met: communities must already have taken steps to repair damaged levees, such as seeking Federal authorization of a levee project, and there must be previously existing plans to obtain the requisite 100-year flood protection in the near future.

The destroyed house must be within a deep floodplain where it would be too expensive and unsightly to elevate the home.

The new home must be built within the footprint of the destroyed structure.

The homeowner cannot qualify for new insurance discounts; and the property has never been associated with a claim to the National Flood Insurance Program.

These limitations will only allow families to rebuild very limited circumstances after tragedy strikes that is unrelated to a flooding event. The number of waivers local governments can approve is capped at ten per year so that this authority is not subject to abuse. This limit will ensure that waivers are used prudently and sparingly.

I strongly oppose new development in the flood plain. It is irresponsible to permit new homes or businesses to be constructed without adequate mitigation in an area where you know that flooding is likely.

The Federal floodplain regulations were put in place to block individual homeowners from voluntarily renovating and improving their homes. They were also designed to block homeowners from rebuilding after a flood. By doing so, the Federal Government limits its liability for future flood insurance claims.

Fire-damaged homes clearly represent an exception to these circumstances, however. So we need to adjust the law to eliminate an unfortunate and unintended consequence of an otherwise good policy.

City and county governments must be empowered to make case by case judgments about whether it makes sense to elevate damaged structures by 10, 15, or 20 feet when the rest of the neighborhood remains at ground level.

That is exactly what the Fire-Damaged Home Reconstruction Act does. It provides limited authority to local governments, which will allow them to do what makes sense for their communities and will allow families to rebuild after a fire or other non-flood disaster.

This is a commonsense piece of legislation and I hope my colleagues will work to quickly adopt the bill.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. ENZI, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 491. A bill to lift the trade embargo on Cuba; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss our country's relationship with Cuba. I have long advocated modernizing our relationship with Cuba. The current embargo has been in place for 50 years, and it has greatly constrained opportunities for American businesses by restricting commerce, by restricting our exports—things that are made in America—from going to a place that is only 90 miles off our shores and has 11 million people.

That is why today I introduce the bipartisan Freedom to Export to Cuba Act with Senators ENZI, STABENOW, FLAKE, LEAHY, and DURBIN. This bill lifts the trade embargo on Cuba and knocks down the legal barriers to Americans doing business in Cuba. This bill will help open up new economic opportunities for American businesses, which will mean more jobs. It will also boost opportunities for farmers—something the Chair knows well coming from the State of North Dakota, as we know well in the State of Minnesota. This will also allow Cubans to have access to these products, which we believe is good for their country, good for their people so that they can become a different country.

Freeing our businesses to pursue opportunities for development could greatly help the people of Cuba. Consider for example that Cuba only has a 2G cellular network and that only about one-fourth of the population has Internet access. Ultimately, I believe this legislation will help usher in a new era for Americans and Cubans shaped by opportunities for the future rather than simply a story of the past.

The process the President has jump-started to normalize our ties with Cuba is a positive step forward. My home State of Minnesota exported about \$20 million in agricultural products to Cuba in 2013. I think people are surprised by that, but as many of us know, there are humanitarian exceptions to the current embargo. So our country is already exporting, and my State alone exported \$20 million in products. With the President's action alone, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture estimates that exports could increase by another \$20 million. The United States is already the fourth largest source of imports to Cuba based solely on authorized shipments of agriculture and medical supplies. Over the past decade we have been one of Cuba's top suppliers of food products. So it is not as if we don't already do business there, but unlike every other country, including our own neighbor to the north, Canada, we hamstring our businesses seeking to export their products there. Export and travel restrictions have continued to prevent Americans from seeking opportunities in Cuba, and the embargo prevents Cubans from obtaining food and other goods we take for granted in our country.

Cuban human rights activist Yoani Sanchez wrote:

It is impossible for Cubans to buy staples like eggs or cooking oil without turning to the underground market. Rationing forces people to stand in line for hours for poultry and fish. On the Cuban government's 50th anniversary in 2009, it provided families with an extra half pound of ground beef, but that beef was not from the U.S. It was sponsored by the Venezuelan government . . . a meager gift nicknamed "Hugo Chavez's Hamburger" by everyday Cubans.

I say it is time for America to stop ceding credit for the hamburger to

Venezuela. It is time that we made our hamburger accessible in Cuba. The Freedom to Export to Cuba Act will help us do that. It is simply a targeted repeal of the provisions in current law that keep the embargo in place, including restrictions that prevent American businesses from financing their own exports to the island and requirements for American farms to seek special licenses for any transaction with Cuba.

It is also important to emphasize what this bill does not do. There are many outstanding issues that many of my colleagues have discussed between our two countries that must be dealt with, especially our concerns about the Cuban Government's repressive policies. That is why this bill does not repeal provisions of current law that address human rights in Cuba or that allow individuals and businesses to pursue claims against the Cuban Government for property.

None of us is under any illusion about the nature of the Cuban Government. The Cuban Government must take serious steps to reform politically and economically. It must free political prisoners and stop arbitrarily arresting people for political speech. It must also take steps to liberalize its state-centric economic system if it truly hopes to allow its people to prosper and to benefit from growing commerce with the United States.

We do not minimize the importance of those issues, but we also know the embargo has not helped to solve them. Members on both sides of the aisle recognize that continuing along the same path with respect to Cuba has not achieved our objectives and in fact has constrained Americans' freedom to pursue business opportunities abroad. It has hindered our freedom to travel, which is why I also cosponsored the Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act recently introduced by Senator FLAKE.

Both that bill and the Freedom to Export to Cuba Act that I have introduced today with a bipartisan group of Senators shows that we can work together in this new Congress to support a commonsense relationship between the United States and Cuba.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation. It is a chance to build on our current progress and take additional actions to forge a practical and positive relationship with the people of Cuba and the people of America.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 492. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 in order to improve environmental literacy to better prepare students for postsecondary education and careers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am reintroducing bipartisan legislation to provide support for environmental education in our Nation's classrooms. I thank Senators KIRK, DURBIN, WHITEHOUSE, HEINRICH, and BENNET for joining as original cosponsors of the No Child Left Inside Act of 2015.

Given the major environmental challenges we face today, it is important to prioritize teaching our young people about their natural world. Preparing the next generation to be stewards of our natural environment not only equips them with important skills and knowledge but also, as studies have shown, enhances achievement levels in science and other core subjects and increases student engagement. Another key benefit is that it promotes healthy lifestyles by encouraging kids to spend more time outside.

For more than 3 decades, environmental education has been a growing part of effective instruction in America's schools. Responding to the need to improve student achievement and prepare students for the 21st century economy, many states and schools throughout the Nation now offer some form of environmental education.

Indeed, according to the National Association for Environmental Education, 47 States and the District of Columbia have taken steps towards developing plans to integrate environmental literacy into their statewide educational initiatives. In Rhode Island, organizations such as the Rhode Island Environmental Education Association, Roger Williams Park Zoo, Save the Bay, the Nature Conservancy, and the Audubon Society, as well as countless schools and teachers, are offering educational and outdoor experiences that many children may never otherwise have, helping inspire them to learn. In partnership with the Rhode Island Department of Education, these organizations have developed a statewide environmental literacy plan that is now being put into action.

Yet, environmental education is facing a significant challenge, and remains out of reach for too many children. With many schools being forced to scale back or eliminate environmental programs, fewer and fewer students are able to take part in related classroom instruction and field investigations, however effective or in demand these programs are.

The No Child Left Inside Act would increase environmental literacy among elementary and secondary students by encouraging and providing assistance to States for the development and implementation of environmental literacy plans and promoting professional development for teachers on how to integrate environmental literacy and field experiences into their instruction.

The legislation would also support partnerships with high-need school districts to initiate, expand, or improve

their environmental education curriculum, and for replication and dissemination of effective practices. Finally, the legislation would support interagency coordination and reporting on environmental education opportunities across the Federal Government. This legislation has broad support among national and state environmental and educational groups.

In addition to the benefits that accrue to students, business leaders also increasingly believe that an environmentally literate workforce is critical for long-term success. Indeed, according to a 2011 survey by the GreenBiz Group and the National Environmental Education Foundation, 65 percent of respondents valued environmental and sustainability knowledge as a factor in making hiring decisions, and 68 percent believed that the importance of this knowledge would continue to grow in the future. We must ensure that our students are prepared with the knowledge that employers are looking for, and that increasingly includes environmental literacy.

For these reasons, I encourage my colleagues to cosponsor the bipartisan No Child Left Inside Act and to work together to include its provisions into the upcoming reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. GARDNER, and Mr. COTTON):

S. 493. A bill to reduce a portion of the annual pay of Members of Congress for the failure to adopt a concurrent resolution on the budget which does not provide for a balanced budget, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I join Senator CASSIDY of Louisiana, Senator GARDNER of Colorado, and Senator COTTON of Arkansas in introducing the Balanced Budget Accountability Act. By establishing the principle No Balanced Budget, No Pay, this legislation will bring fiscal responsibility to Washington. The American people deserve a balanced budget. Unfortunately, Washington remains unwilling to take the steps needed to get our country back on solid fiscal ground. The Balanced Budget Accountability Act reflects core principles that work: common sense business practices that protect hardworking taxpayers and making elected officials accountable for delivering results to the people they serve. It is what Washington needs to finally balance the budget.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 493

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Balanced Budget Accountability Act”.

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The Federal debt exceeds \$18,000,000,000,000, continues to grow rapidly, and is larger than the size of the United States economy.

(2) The Federal budget has shown an annual deficit in 45 of the last 50 years.

(3) Deficits and the Federal debt threaten to shatter confidence in the Nation's economy, suppress job creation and economic growth, and leave future generations of Americans with a lower standard of living and fewer opportunities.

(4) It is the duty of Members of Congress to develop and implement policies, including balancing the Federal budget, that encourage robust job creation and economic growth in the United States.

(5) Members of Congress should be held accountable for failing to pass annual budgets that result in a balanced budget.

SEC. 2. REQUIRING ADOPTION OF BUDGET RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR BALANCED BUDGETS.

(a) ADOPTION OF BUDGET RESOLUTION.—Each House of Congress shall adopt a concurrent resolution on the budget for a fiscal year which provides that, for each fiscal year for which a budget is provided under the resolution (beginning not later than with the budget for fiscal year 2025)—

(1) total outlays do not exceed total receipts; and

(2) total outlays are not more than 18 percent of the gross domestic product of the United States (as determined by the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the Department of Commerce) for such fiscal year.

(b) CERTIFICATION BY CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE.—Upon the adoption by a House of Congress of a concurrent resolution on the budget for a fiscal year, the Director of the Congressional Budget Office shall transmit to the Speaker of the House of Representatives or the President pro Tempore of the Senate (as the case may be) a certification as to whether or not that House of Congress has met the requirements of subsection (a) with respect to the resolution.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply with respect to the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2016 and each succeeding fiscal year.

SEC. 3. EFFECT OF FAILURE TO ADOPT RESOLUTION.

(a) RULE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND 2017.—

(1) FISCAL YEAR 2016.—

(A) HOLDING SALARIES IN ESCROW.—If the Director does not certify that a House of Congress has met the requirements of section 2(a) with respect to fiscal year 2016 before April 16, 2015, during the period described in subparagraph (B) the payroll administrator of that House of Congress shall deposit in an escrow account all payments otherwise required to be made during such period for the compensation of Members of Congress who serve in that House of Congress, and shall release such payments to such Members only upon the expiration of such period.

(B) PERIOD DESCRIBED.—With respect to a House of Congress, the period described in this subparagraph is the period that begins on April 16, 2015 and ends on the earlier of—

(i) the date on which the Director certifies that the House of Congress has met the requirements of section 2(a) with respect to fiscal year 2016; or

(ii) the last day of the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress.

(2) FISCAL YEAR 2017.—

(A) HOLDING SALARIES IN ESCROW.—If the Director does not certify that a House of Congress has met the requirements of section 2(a) with respect to fiscal year 2017 before April 16, 2016, during the period described in subparagraph (B) the payroll administrator of that House of Congress shall deposit in an escrow account all payments otherwise required to be made during such period for the compensation of Members of Congress who serve in that House of Congress, and shall release such payments to such Members only upon the expiration of such period.

(B) PERIOD DESCRIBED.—With respect to a House of Congress, the period described in this subparagraph is the period that begins on April 16, 2016 and ends on the earlier of—

(i) the date on which the Director certifies that the House of Congress has met the requirements of section 2(a) with respect to fiscal year 2017; or

(ii) the last day of the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress.

(3) WITHHOLDING AND REMITTANCE OF AMOUNTS FROM PAYMENTS HELD IN ESCROW.—The payroll administrator shall provide for the same withholding and remittance with respect to a payment deposited in an escrow account under paragraph (1) or (2) that would apply to the payment if the payment were not subject to paragraph (1) or (2).

(4) RELEASE OF AMOUNTS AT END OF THE CONGRESS.—In order to ensure that this subsection is carried out in a manner that shall not vary the compensation of Senators or Representatives in violation of the twenty-seventh article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States, the payroll administrator of a House of Congress shall release for payments to Members of that House of Congress any amounts remaining in any escrow account under this section on the last day of the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress.

(5) ROLE OF SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall provide the payroll administrators of the Houses of Congress with such assistance as may be necessary to enable the payroll administrators to carry out this subsection.

(6) PAYROLL ADMINISTRATOR DEFINED.—In this subsection, the “payroll administrator” of a House of Congress means—

(A) in the case of the House of Representatives, the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives, or an employee of the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer who is designated by the Chief Administrative Officer to carry out this section; and

(B) in the case of the Senate, the Secretary of the Senate, or an employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate who is designated by the Secretary to carry out this section.

(b) RULE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018 AND SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEARS.—If the Director of the Congressional Budget Office does not certify that a House of Congress has met the requirements of section 2(a) with respect to fiscal year 2018, or any fiscal year thereafter, before April 16 of the fiscal year before such fiscal year, during pay periods which occur in the same calendar year after that date each Member of that House shall be paid at an annual rate of pay equal to \$1.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term “Director” means the Director of the Congressional Budget Office; and

(2) the term “Member” includes a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to Congress.

SEC. 4. SUPERMAJORITY REQUIREMENT FOR INCREASING REVENUE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the Senate and the House of Representatives, a bill, joint resolution, amendment, conference report, or amendment between the Houses that increases revenue shall only be agreed to upon an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of that House of Congress duly chosen and sworn.

(b) RULES OF SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—Subsection (a) is enacted by Congress—

(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and House of Representatives, respectively, and as such it is deemed a part of the rules of each House, respectively, but applicable only with respect to the procedure to be followed in that House in the case of a bill, joint resolution, amendment, conference report, or amendment between the Houses that increases revenue, and it supersedes other rules only to the extent that it is inconsistent with such rules; and

(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as relating to the procedure of that House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 494. A bill to authorize the exploration, leasing, development, production, and economically feasible and prudent transportation of oil and gas in and from the Coastal Plain in Alaska; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise, along with my colleague Senator SULLIVAN, to introduce a bill to open a small portion of the arctic coastal plain, in my home State of Alaska, to oil and gas development. I am introducing this bill today because I strongly believe that whether oil and gas exploration should be conducted on a small portion of the coastal plain is a question for Congress; not one for unilateral action by Federal agency.

The 1.5 million acres of the Arctic coastal plain that lie within the non-wilderness portion of the 19 million acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge are North America's greatest prospect for conventional onshore production. When Prudhoe Bay, the largest conventional oil field in North America and one of the 20 largest fields in the world was discovered in 1968, estimates at the time projected 9.6 billion barrels of oil would be recovered. The U.S. Geological Survey continues to estimate that this part of the coastal plain has a mean likelihood of containing 10.4 billion barrels of oil and 8.6 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, as well as a reasonable chance of economically producing 16 billion barrels of oil. With potential comparable to Prudhoe Bay, the coastal plain represents an opportunity to ensure the American energy renaissance continues and our domestic energy security is bolstered for decades to come.

Alaska used to provide that foundation for our country. At its peak in

1988, Alaska provided nearly 25 percent of America's domestic production. Today it represents barely 6 percent. Importantly, despite the Federal government owning almost 70 percent of the lands in Alaska, almost all of our oil production is from State lands. The people of Alaska are doing everything they can to contribute to America's energy security by promoting production from State lands. In the past two years the State of Alaska has passed oil tax reforms, improved State permitting and provided more than \$1.2 billion in State tax credits to support the exploration and development of oil from State lands. The only production on federal estate comes from the Northstar project, a small man-made island that straddles state and federal waters in the Beaufort Sea.

For more than 30 years, my State has successfully balanced resource development with environmental protection. Alaskans have proven, over and over again, that these endeavors are not mutually exclusive, and with advances in technology, the footprint of development projects is only getting smaller. Yet at the Federal level, there is an astonishing refusal to acknowledge the record.

With new exploration and development projects on Federal lands stalled or outright blocked, Alaska faces a tipping point. The Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, an engineering marvel that has served as one of America's great energy arteries for decades is facing more and more challenges from lower throughput. A closure of TAPS would shut down all northern Alaska oil production, devastating Alaska's economy and deepening our dependence on unstable petrostates throughout the world. Exploration and development in the Arctic offshore and National Petroleum Reserve Alaska depend on the long-term viability of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System.

The bill I introduce today, would disturb no more than 2,000 acres of the vast coastal plain. To put this in perspective, 2,000 acres is less than 1/10 the size of the local Dulles Airport, or about 1/10 of 1 percent of the refuge. Since these areas are less than 60 miles from TAPS, development in the Coastal Plain is the quickest, most environmentally sound way to increase oil production in Alaska and ensure the pipeline will operate well into the future, providing jobs and supporting the economies of both Alaska and the United States.

The bill includes strong protection for fish and wildlife, fish and wildlife habitat, subsistence resources, and the environment. Development would not move forward if it would cause significant adverse impacts to the coastal plain. The bill also ensures these protections are strong because it provides for strict consultation with the residents of the coastal plain; the City of

Kaktovik as well as the regional government, the North Slope Borough. The bill also provides important impact aid to the local communities from the State's share of revenues due to it under the Mineral Leasing Act and Alaska's Statehood Act.

As we continue to struggle with long-term unemployment, and an unsustainable national debt, we need to pursue development opportunities more than ever. The shale oil and gas boom on 2 state and private lands in the Lower 48 has been the shining light as our economy struggles to recover from the recession. My bill offers us a chance to produce more of our own energy, for the good of the American people, in an environmentally-friendly way and with the meaningful impact of the local people.

For decades, Alaskans, whom polls show overwhelmingly support development of the coastal plain, have been asking permission to explore and develop the resources located there. Consistent with the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, ANILCA, the state of Alaska recently submitted a plan to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct minimal exploration activities in the coastal plain and was rejected. Despite the fact that the State was in court presenting its case, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released an updated Plan for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge that puts areas like the Coastal Plain in de facto wilderness status as Wilderness Study Areas.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service states that they did not consider an oil and gas alternative, as requested by the State of Alaska, North Slope Borough, various Alaska Native Regional and Village Corporations as well as a broad spectrum of Alaskans, because they stated that the decision to conduct oil and gas development is one for Congress to make. I hope this Congress will rise to that challenge and have the common sense to allow America to help itself by developing a small portion of the coastal plain. This is critical to my State and the nation as a whole and one more step we can take to push back against the unilateral executive actions that are threatening our economy and very system of government.

With this in mind, Senator SULLIVAN and I will work to educate members of this chamber about the opportunity we have and the tremendous benefits it would provide. We will show why such development should occur—why it must occur—and how it can benefit all of us and help secure our energy security for decades to come.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BURR, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BOOZ-

MAN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. MORAN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 498. A bill to allow reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 498

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Constitutional Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. RECIPROCITY FOR THE CARRYING OF CERTAIN CONCEALED FIREARMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 926C the following:

"§ 926D. Reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any provision of the law of any State or political subdivision thereof to the contrary—

"(1) an individual who is not prohibited by Federal law from possessing, transporting, shipping, or receiving a firearm, and who is carrying a government-issued photographic identification document and a valid license or permit which is issued pursuant to the law of a State and which permits the individual to carry a concealed firearm, may possess or carry a concealed handgun (other than a machinegun or destructive device) that has been shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce in any State other than the State of residence of the individual that—

"(A) has a statute that allows residents of the State to obtain licenses or permits to carry concealed firearms; or

"(B) does not prohibit the carrying of concealed firearms by residents of the State for lawful purposes; and

"(2) an individual who is not prohibited by Federal law from possessing, transporting, shipping, or receiving a firearm, and who is carrying a government-issued photographic identification document and is entitled and not prohibited from carrying a concealed firearm in the State in which the individual resides otherwise than as described in paragraph (1), may possess or carry a concealed handgun (other than a machinegun or destructive device) that has been shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce in any State other than the State of residence of the individual that—

"(A) has a statute that allows residents of the State to obtain licenses or permits to carry concealed firearms; or

"(B) does not prohibit the carrying of concealed firearms by residents of the State for lawful purposes.

"(b) CONDITIONS AND LIMITATIONS.—The possession or carrying of a concealed handgun in a State under this section shall be subject to the same conditions and limitations, except as to eligibility to possess or carry, imposed by or under Federal or State law or the law of a political subdivision of a State, that apply to the possession or carrying of a concealed handgun by residents of the State or political subdivision who are li-

censed by the State or political subdivision to do so, or not prohibited by the State from doing so.

"(c) UNRESTRICTED LICENSE OR PERMIT.—In a State that allows the issuing authority for licenses or permits to carry concealed firearms to impose restrictions on the carrying of firearms by individual holders of such licenses or permits, an individual carrying a concealed handgun under this section shall be permitted to carry a concealed handgun according to the same terms authorized by an unrestricted license of or permit issued to a resident of the State.

"(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to preempt any provision of State law with respect to the issuance of licenses or permits to carry concealed firearms."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 926C the following:

"926D. Reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms."

(c) SEVERABILITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, if any provision of this Act, or any amendment made by this Act, or the application of such provision or amendment to any person or circumstance is held to be unconstitutional, this Act and amendments made by this Act and the application of such provision or amendment to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this Act shall take effect 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PAUL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. COONS):

S. 502. A bill to focus limited Federal resources on the most serious offenders; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the Smarter Sentencing Act, which I believe is a very critical piece of legislation.

I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of this legislation in this Congress, and I thank the bipartisan coalition of Senators who have come together, led by Senator MIKE LEE from Utah and Senator DICK DURBIN from Illinois. Their leadership on this issue has been absolutely critical.

The Smarter Sentencing Act has essential front-end reforms. These are reforms for when a person gets to the point of incarceration. What they actually do is combat injustices in the Federal sentencing program. They address a real plague in our country; that is, mass incarceration.

Think about this: We are the land of the free. We are a nation that believes in liberty and justice. But we are singular in humanity for an awful distinction: We have 5 percent of the globe's population but we incarcerate 25 percent of the globe's incarcerated people. That is unacceptable unless you believe for some reason that Americans have a higher proclivity for crime, unless you

believe we have something in our water that makes us more likely to do wrong, and that is not the case.

The challenge is that we have seen in the past three decades a profound over-incarceration driven by a drug war that has created unfortunate negative consequences to our society. I thank Members of Congress for stepping up in this Congress to speak to this issue. It is un-American that we should hold the largest amount of incarcerated people per population than any other country. It goes against the very strains of our society dedicated to liberty, dedicated to keeping government focused on what it should be doing, not overreaching, not becoming overly aggressive, not surrendering or taking the liberty unnecessarily of other Americans.

I would like to talk for a few minutes about this broken system. What is broken in our criminal justice system? Well, when about three-quarters of our Federal prisoners are actually non-violent offenders—I am actually one of those people who believe that if you do a violent crime, you should pay a very hefty price for that, that we as a society should have a place where we take stern action against people who promulgate violence, who undermine civil society. But as we look at this mass-incarceration problem where 25 percent of the globe's prison population is in our country, we realize that three-quarters of those people in the Federal prison system are nonviolent offenders.

This is not our history. This is not our tradition. Over the course of all of our Nation's history, we did not have this problem. It has really been the last 30 years where we have witnessed the explosion in the U.S. Federal prison population. In those 30 years alone—think about this—in the last 30 years alone, the prison population at the Federal level has expanded by nearly 800 percent. That is a massive and unacceptable increase, especially when you realize this was driven by the incarceration of nonviolent offenders.

This expansion of our prison population had a harmful effect when those people were released because once someone has a nonviolent felony offense, it is hard to get a job, it is hard to get business licenses, and they cannot get Pell grants. Often those people get caught up and go back to being involved in the drug war. So what happens is that two out of three of those people get rearrested within 3 years.

We are paying for this broken system, this revolving door of arresting nonviolent offenders, releasing them, and bringing them back into our system. It is plaguing the Federal budget and, frankly, State budgets all around our country. Each year more than one-quarter of a trillion dollars is being spent on this broken criminal justice system—money that could be used to empower people to succeed, to repair

our infrastructure, or, how about this, it could stay in taxpayers' pockets.

What makes this system worse is that it undermines our American ideals. As I look across the way from the Capitol Building where I stand now and see the Supreme Court, written above the Supreme Court building, at the top, is this ideal of equal justice under law. The ideal that everyone will be treated equally under the law. But this broken criminal justice system has disproportionately impacted certain Americans and not others, which undermines America's core values of fairness and equal treatment for all.

More than 60 percent of our prison system is comprised of racial and ethnic minorities. The painful reality is that if somehow African Americans or Latinos used drugs at different levels than Whites, that might explain the disparate impact. If they dealt drugs at different levels, yes, that might explain it. But that is not the case. African Americans engage in drug offenses at a lower rate than Whites but are incarcerated at a rate 10 times that of Whites.

What is alarming about the mass incarceration is that people are actually not committing more and more crimes. The National Research Council recently released a report confirming what numerous other studies have actually shown: Incarceration rates are actually not tied to crime rates. We have seen incarceration rates going up and up, but now crime rates are coming down.

What is perpetuating this explosion of our prison population? It is the war on drugs that has created over the last 30 years alone an over-criminalization of nonviolent individuals, which stacked our prison population full of Americans, disproportionately minority and disproportionately poor.

Please understand that the people paying the highest price for this are the poor in our country. The New York Times yesterday published an article detailing how our jails have become warehouses made up primarily of people too poor to pay bail or to hire lawyers or too ill with mental health or drug problems to adequately care for themselves. If you look at our prison population, you will see that poverty, race, mental illness—those are the folks who are being disproportionately incarcerated.

If we follow our core ideals of fairness, democracy, and justice—then we know that mass incarceration is not who we are. That is not right. That the times demand that we examine this broken system and do those commonsense things that are needed to make our justice system just, to work first and foremost for our safety, to not be a gross waste of taxpayer dollars, and to make sure basic ideas of fairness are fulfilled.

This is not just speculation. And what is so powerful about this moment

in time, even though all I have said so far is compelling enough, is that we as Federal actors—the 100 Senators here, the 435 Congressmen and women, the President and the Vice President—don't need to figure out a way forward, make it up, design legislation based on our own ideas. We actually only have to look at the pathway forward by looking at Governors and legislatures in the States. They are so burdened by the costs of this unruly system, a system that is now plaguing—the Federal Bureau of Prisons is plaguing our country with its cost. What the States are doing to bear that cost is they are finding pragmatic, commonsense, bipartisan ways to move forward.

In fact, what gets me excited as a Democrat is that we just have to look at the red States and what the red States are doing to reduce their prison populations. Let me give an example. States such as Texas, Georgia, and North Carolina are leading on this issue, and the Federal Government should follow.

Texas is a State known for law and order, and known for being tough on crime. Yet Texans realize that being smart on crime means saving taxpayer dollars, using that money efficiently and effectively, lowering crime, and guess what, hey, we can also lower our prison population and empower people to be successful in life and not slip down that slope back toward recidivism. They have made tremendous strides in Texas in adopting policies that are designed to reduce their prison population and lower recidivism.

In 2007, Texas boasted the fourth largest incarceration rate in the country. Faced with a budget projection that estimated by 2012 the State would need an additional 17,000 prison beds—think about that for a second. They saw that they were going to need to build more prisons, house 17,000 more prison beds, and it was going to cost them \$2 billion in Texas. The State's legislature said: Enough of this madness. Enough of this craziness.

They enacted bold reforms that would act as a model for us in the Federal legislature. As a result, they passed this broad-based legislation. Texas was able to stabilize their prison population and avert that budgetary disaster.

Texas State Representative Jerry Madden, a Republican, noted in a recent hearing before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and Investigations that the crime rate is now at 1968 levels. They were able to close three prisons and six juvenile facilities, and remarkably the Texas prison system is now operating at a 96-percent capacity. Commonsense reforms.

Georgia is another State. They have made remarkable progress. They are showing that reducing the prison population can lead to dividends for taxpayers, and can lower crime. In fact,

over the past 5 years, in terms of the racial disparities in incarceration, Georgia has reduced the number of Black men incarcerated in the State by 20 percent. And they haven't seen crime go up—quite the contrary. They have seen it go down.

These States are proving that they don't have to lock up more people to create that safety we desire. States such as New Jersey, Texas, California, Virginia, Hawaii, Wyoming, Massachusetts, Kentucky, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Colorado, New York, South Carolina, Alaska, and Georgia have all seen drops in crime rates as they have been implementing commonsense criminal justice reform.

So let's be clear. I am advocating for the Smarter Sentencing Act, but we should also be moving for bold, broad-based criminal justice reforms, copying the successes of red States with Republican Governors. We should be looking at their innovations and following their commonsense solutions and mirroring their success at the Federal level.

I am speaking of reforms at the front end when people get arrested; reforms behind the wall—inside the prison system to address what goes on in prison and helping these people, and reforms on the back end when they come out of prison, to ensure they stay out of prison.

Front-end reforms going on around our country are exciting, such as sentencing reform. What about radical ideas such as letting judges make decisions about sentencing and stop trying to legislate it? Judges are the experts. They know of the brutality of a person's circumstances. They can design sentences.

These policy initiatives should address the entire system. Behind-the-wall efforts should focus on initiatives to change the way prisoners experience life behind bars. To get treatment and job training so they don't commit future crimes. This is commonsense stuff. We shouldn't send people to prison and have them become criminalized or undermine their ability to be successful adults when they come out.

We should also focus on that back end, this idea that we need reentry policies to help people get jobs, reconnect with their families, and become strong, full-fledged American citizens. I am speaking of things such as parole reform.

To move forward we need to think big. This is what I will be advocating for. We can tackle this by taking a systematic approach. We must look at a broad-based reform agenda.

I love the fact that we have conservatives and liberals united on this issue—Republicans and Democrats, red States and blue States. Criminal justice reform is not a partisan issue, it is an American issue.

In 2010, Senators on both sides of the aisle came together to improve our jus-

tice system by passing the Fair Sentencing Act, which the President signed into law. This was a bipartisan piece of legislation that reduced the sentencing disparities between crack and powder cocaine—drugs that are pharmacologically indistinguishable. They changed it from 100 to 1 to 18 to 1, and I thank Senators DURBIN, GRASSLEY, LEAHY, and GRAHAM for their leadership on this issue.

Last year I joined with Senator RAND PAUL from Kentucky. I don't know how many sentences are used by people that contain the names CORY BOOKER and RAND PAUL in them, but we agree on this issue. We have common ground, and we introduced the REDEEM Act. This legislation aims to keep juveniles out of the criminal justice system. We looked to stop acts that many other countries consider torture, such as taking juveniles and routinely putting them into solitary confinement where they are traumatized and often come out of those circumstances more likely to do harm to themselves or others. We are going to reintroduce that bill this year.

Just last month I sat on a criminal justice reform panel right here in the Halls of the Senate, hosted by Van Jones on the left and Newt Gingrich on the right. In the last few months I have talked to Grover Norquist, I have talked to the Koch brothers' representative, their chief counsel, and I have talked to conservative think tanks and Christian evangelicals. All of us agree on this issue. This chorus of voices, this coalition, this courageous commitment to our country's ideals lets us know that whether you consider yourself a liberal or a conservative, whether you consider yourself moderate leaning, left or right, this is an area we can agree on. It will save taxpayer money, uphold our ideals of liberty and freedom, create safer communities, and empower individuals to be successful.

Today I am excited to have joined with Senators LEE, DURBIN, LEAHY, and CRUZ to support the Smarter Sentencing Act. We need to have this conversation about reducing Federal mandatory minimums. In fact, I love that the Urban Institute has stated that mandatory minimums for drug offenses is the single largest factor in the growth of the Federal prison population.

Let me repeat that. Mandatory minimums for drug offenses are the single largest factor in the growth of the Federal prison population. A key factor in that 800-percent growth in the last 30 years has been driven by nonviolent drug offenders and mandatory minimums.

This bill also would do other things. It would expand the Federal safety valve, giving judges greater discretion and allowing them to hand out their sentences. Those people who believe in separation of powers, let the judiciary

have more space to hand down fairer sentences and not shackle them with laws made by legislators who don't know the particulars of a case. Many Federal judges have spoken out about mandatory minimums being unnecessarily restrictive for them in doing their job.

The bill would also make the Fair Sentencing Act retroactive, which would allow persons convicted under the old crack-powder cocaine disparity to now receive a fairer sentence. With the crack-cocaine law changed in 2010, an individual arrested today would receive a lesser sentence. So making this law retroactive to impact people sentenced for crack cocaine offenses prior to 2010 is only fair.

This bill could save a lot of money—hundreds of millions of dollars. It would give us some freedom not only to return some toward debt relief for this country—Lord knows we need to focus on that—but also to invest in other programs many people on both sides of the aisle support, such as reentry programs to help people stay out of prison and get back to a productive lifestyle. If enacted into law as the bill is currently scored, it would save \$3 billion over the next decade alone. This is critically important.

So this is a call to the conscience of the Congress. Every single day we pledge allegiance to our flag. That is not something anybody in this Chamber does as sort of a routine, perfunctory salute. We say those words because they mean something, and we end with this ideal that is a light to all of humanity—this ideal of liberty and justice for all.

If we mean those words, then that, across the board, is what we should be pursuing in this body. We know in our country States are doing things to further uphold these ideals, that they are making commonsense reforms that are keeping people safe and lowering crime, commonsense reforms that are saving taxpayer dollars and relieving the burden on taxpayers and budgets, that they are passing reforms that liberate people from the shackles of an imprisonment that is unnecessary, that is directly addressing the painful disparities of race and poverty, and that it is empowering Americans, our brothers and sisters. In all of our holy texts it talks about the dignity of all people, whether they are behind bars or on our streets, the dignity of worth that empowers people to be successful, to have life and liberty and to pursue their happiness.

So I say I support reforming our criminal justice system. More importantly, I say let's support our ideals. Let's be a nation of liberty and justice for all. Let's follow the lead of courageous governors and legislatures and let's make this Nation even better than it is today. I urge all Senators to promptly pass the Smarter Sentencing Act through the Senate.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. BENNETT, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 517. A bill to extend the secure rural schools and community self-termination program, to restore mandatory funding status to the payment in lieu of taxes program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I am proud to introduce the Secure Rural Schools and Payment in Lieu of Taxes Repair Act with my colleague Senator CRAPO. The bill will ensure that counties across the nation will have three more years of Secure Rural Schools, SRS, payments. Additionally, the bill would restore mandatory funding for Payment in Lieu of Taxes, PILT.

Because Congress failed to take action to reauthorize SRS before the end of the 113th Congress, counties across the country received SRS payments this week that represent a fraction of last year's payment, leaving counties struggling to find ways to fund schools, roads, and emergency services this year. Without certainty and stability, counties will be forced to make cuts to essential services, leaving residents and communities reeling. County payments are a lifeline for cash-strapped rural communities that are already facing shortfalls to pave roads, keep teachers in schools and firefighters on call. This bipartisan bill keeps up the commitment the government made to support rural counties in Oregon and across the country. I am glad to once again partner with Senator CRAPO to get this vital legislation across the finish line.

Right now, this bill is not funded. It will be. Senator CRAPO and I will work with our colleagues to find funding for these important programs that is satisfactory to the left and to the right.

Funding for counties is an issue that impacts almost every State in the country. As Congress considers this bill, I ask my colleagues to talk to county leaders in their home states, visit local communities struggling to fund critical services, and find out how SRS and PILT impact their budgets, their priorities, and their quality of life. Rural communities deserve better than to have politics delay funding for SRS, so I urge my colleagues to join Senator CRAPO and me in our efforts to reauthorize this critical program.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 518. A bill to require States to establish highway stormwater management programs; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I come to the floor to discuss the introduction of my latest legislative proposal to better control the harmful and

volumes of polluted stormwater that is generated from our Nation's Federal aid highways. Highway stormwater is a growing threat to water quality, aquatic ecosystems and the fish and wildlife that depend on the health of these ecosystems. Moreover, the high volumes and rapid flow of stormwater runoff from highways and roads poses a very serious threat to the condition of our Nation's water and transportation infrastructure as well as personal property particularly in urban and suburban communities.

The Environmental Protection Agency has recognized that pollution from point sources have been steadily declining since the enactment of the Clean Water Act. Likewise, we have seen reductions in pollution from certain non-point sources like agriculture which are attributable in part to the success of a wide variety of USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service Programs and farming innovations in soil conservation and nutrient pollution management.

One non-point source sector where we are unfortunately seeing an increasing impact on water quality is from impervious surface that create rapidly moving high volumes of untreated polluted stormwater that rush off of road surfaces, erode unnatural channels next to and ultimately underneath roadways comprising the integrity of roadway infrastructure, and increases the stress on storm sewer systems shortening the useful life of this infrastructure and ultimately lead to the discharge of untreated pollution that is carried off roadways and into our lakes, rivers, streams, and coastal waters.

Impervious surfaces include most buildings and structures, parking lots and of course the nearly 9 million lane miles of roads across our country. The total coverage of impervious surfaces in an area is usually expressed as a percentage of the total land area.

The coverage increases with rising urbanization. In rural areas, impervious cover may only be 1 percent or 2 percent, however road surfaces comprise 80 percent–90 percent of a rural area's total impervious surfaces. In residential areas, impervious surface coverage ranges between 10 percent in low-density subdivisions to over 50 percent in more densely developed communities, where the composition of the impervious surface area coverage works out to be 50 percent roads. In dense urban areas, the impervious surface area is often over 90 percent the total land area, with roads comprising 60 percent–70 percent of that coverage.

According to EPA, urban impervious cover, not just roads, in the lower 48 adds up to 43,000 square miles—an area roughly the size of Ohio. Continuing development adds another quarter of a million acres each year. Typically two-thirds of the cover is pavement, roads and parking lots, and ⅓ is buildings.

According to the Chesapeake Bay Program, impervious surfaces compose roughly 17 percent of all urban and suburban lands in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The greatest concentration of impervious surfaces in the bay watershed is in the Baltimore-Washington Metropolitan Areas of DC, Maryland and Virginia. The Virginia Tidewater area, Philadelphia's western suburbs, and Lancaster, PA, are also regions in the watershed where impervious surfaces are greater than 10 percent of the total land area.

Rainfall on hard surfaces like roads and highways has a very destructive and turbulent affect on nearby waterways and infrastructure. For example, the rain events that occur over a week long period at the end of April brought nearly 8 inches of rain to the Baltimore-Washington region. The urban runoff from roads in Baltimore caused an embankment above the CSX railroad track along East 26th Street, between St. Paul and Charles Street, to collapse. Fortunately no one was injured though homes had to be evacuated for more than a month, nearly a dozen parked cars were destroyed and moreover movement of freight along CSX railroad was disrupted for more than a week. This event shows just how destructive and disruptive poorly managed stormwater from transportation infrastructure can be.

Some may chalk this up to a freak storm of unusually large proportion. It's true this storm was unusual, but so were the polar vortexes and all of the snow New England and Buffalo received this winter, and 2013's 3-mile wide tornado in Alabama, the ongoing drought in California. "Unusual" weather seems to be becoming a lot more usual. As extreme weather events triggered by our changing climate become more frequent it is imperative that we incorporate better designs into our infrastructure to be better handle these types of events.

Under the Clean Water Act, stormwater is considered a non-point source and there are no requirements that stormwater be collected or treated. The exception being for localities where in order to meet the standards set in an MS4, Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System, permit a region may include its transportation infrastructure in its MS4 permit.

However, in most cases stormwater that falls on roadways washes oil, grease, asbestos brake-dust, nitrogen deposits from tailpipe emissions, trash, road salt and de-icing agents, and sediment into nearby waterways. Highway stormwater runoff is most often not treated or adequately managed.

While these organic and inorganic contaminants are legitimate threats to water quality, the greater concern with roadway runoff is the sheer volume and rapid flow rate in which stormwater leaves these hard surfaces and enters

our waterways. Flows and volumes that cause roads to collapse in Baltimore.

Roads are designed for stormwater to flow off of the driving surface quickly, for safety reasons. When stormwater rushes off of road surfaces into storm drains it is usually piped straight into the nearest river or stream without removing contaminants, detaining any of the volume, or slowing down the flow. This creates an enormously destructive set of circumstances for our waterways.

Another example of the destructive force that persistent unmitigated and poorly managed highway runoff can have on the condition and safety of highway infrastructure is in Mobile Alabama along Highway 131 in the Joe's Branch Watershed. The Mobile Bay Estuary Program, part of the National Estuaries Program, in coordination with Alabama Department of Transportation is having to spend millions of dollars to reinforce a highway embankment to keep the highway from slipping down a hill and into the Joe's Branch Creek, restore the hydrology of the river, and help protect private property from the dangerous erosion that's been caused by poorly managed stormwater from Highway 131.

The Mobile Bay Estuary Program described the problem this way: "In the Joe's Branch watershed, on the property of Westminster Village adjacent and parallel to Highway 131, a head cut stream is eroding at an accelerating rate, an ominous condition as ALDOT prepares to undertake improvements to the highway. Identified as a high priority stabilization area in the D'Olive Creek, Tiawasee Creek and Joe's Branch Watershed Management Plan, MBNEP has submitted a funding request to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management on behalf of its partners in Spanish Fort, Daphne, ALDOT and Westminster Village to undertake restoration of the stream using a cutting-edge technology called Regenerative Step Pool Storm Conveyance."

The four entities involved are spending large amount money to repair a problem caused by stormwater damage that could have been prevented at a lower cost by incorporating better stormwater mitigation facilities into the design of the highway.

These high-volume/high-speed flows also hasten the deterioration of water infrastructure. A 2001 study on the erosive power of urban stormwater flows examined how excessive stormwater volumes and flow rates off of urban surface infrastructure caused more than \$1 million in roadway and water infrastructure damage in the Cincinnati metropolitan areas in Ohio and Kentucky in a single year.

While there are serious water quality concerns with not adequately controlling roadway infrastructure runoff,

there are serious infrastructure costs, that are ultimately passed on to taxpayers and ratepayers, that can be avoided if transportation authorities do more to control and manage stormwater runoff with the infrastructure assets they manage and build.

The increased incidence of flash flooding events that occur even during seemingly mild and routine storm events is a direct result of the growing percentage of impervious land cover in urban and suburban communities. Replacement of the "greenscapes" that are lost to pavement is essential to restoring hydrological balance to our urban and suburban communities and impaired watersheds.

According to USGS: an inch of rain on one square foot of pavement produces 1.87 gallons of stormwater. Scaled up, 1 inch of rain on one acre would produce 27,150 gallons of stormwater. Using FHWA design standards for interstate highway lane and shoulder widths, 12 feet per lane, 10 foot right shoulder, 2x, 4 foot left shoulder, 2x, 10 miles of a four lane interstate highway generates nearly 2.5 million gallons of polluted stormwater for every inch of rain. To put that into perspective for the Potomac and Anacostia River Watersheds: The Capital Beltway, not including its 48 interchanges, generates nearly 30 million, 29,920,946, gallons of polluted stormwater for every inch of rain that falls on the 64 mile 8 to 12 lane interstate highway loop. It is volumes of stormwater like that which cause dangerous streambank erosion.

Gillies Creek is an urban waterway located East of Downtown Richmond. It is a tributary of the James River which flows into the Chesapeake Bay. Gillies Creek is surrounded by industrial and residential development and also receives stormwater from State highway 33, Interstate 64, US 60, and hundreds of city streets including Stony Run Parkway which directly adjacent to the creek for several miles. The banks and bed of this creek have eroded so badly as urban development around the creek has added more impervious surfaces to the watershed that streambed sheering has created cliffs more than 10 feet tall at spots along the creek. Trees supporting the bank continually fall into the creek and nearby roadways and other infrastructure as well as homes and business are at risk. Reducing the impacts of the storms by mitigating the flow and volume of stormwater in this watershed will protect against further erosion and save the cost of repair and eventual replacement of the assets located along this endangered creek.

The aim of this legislation is to improve highway designs to better manage stormwater to avoid the costly damage that poorly managed stormwater causes to infrastructure and nearby streams, rivers and coastal waters.

I held a hearing on this issue in the Water and Wildlife Subcommittee on May 13, 2014. I heard many ideas from both the minority and majority witnesses that were invited to present testimony at this hearing. I listened to the concerns of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and I have incorporated provisions into this bill that should alleviate concerns they may have had with previous attempts to better control highway stormwater.

My bill's approach to highway runoff management is one that I hope my colleagues of both parties can support. First of all it put States in the driver's seat for developing hydrological analysis and implementation of best management practices to control highway runoff. The objective of the legislation is to control and manage flow and volume of stormwater from highways not to treat runoff in order to meet water quality standards. By taking this sort of approach we avoid EPA's involvement in the process. Lastly, States would only need to apply these procedures to new construction on major reconfiguration projects that significantly increases the amount of impervious surface in the project area.

Title 23 of the U.S. Code states: "transportation should play a significant role in promoting economic growth, improving the environment, and sustaining the quality of life" through the use of "context sensitive solutions." In 2008, the Government Accountability Office issued a report examining key issues and challenges that needed to be addressed in the next reauthorization of the transportation bill. That report highlighted the clear link between transportation policy and the environment. With 985,139 miles of federal aid highways stretching from every corner of the US, polluted highway runoff is no small problem facing our Nation's waters. I would urge my colleagues to join me trying to address this problem facing America's waterways and infrastructure.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 518

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Highway Runoff Management Act".

SEC. 2. FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAY RUNOFF MANAGEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 23, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 330. Federal-aid highway runoff management program

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) COVERED PROJECT.—The term 'covered project' means a reconstruction, rehabilitation, reconfiguration, renovation, major resurfacing, or new construction project on a

Federal-aid highway carried out under this title that results in—

“(A) a 10-percent or greater increase in impervious surface of the aerial extent within the right-of-way of the project limit on a Federal-aid highway or associated facility; or

“(B) an increase of 1 acre or more in impervious surface coverage.

“(2) **EROSIVE FORCE.**—The term ‘erosive force’ means the flowrate within a stream or channel in which channel bed or bank material becomes detached, which in most cases is less than or equal to the flowrate produced by the 2-year storm event.

“(3) **HIGHWAY RUNOFF.**—The term ‘highway runoff’, with respect to a Federal-aid highway, associated facility, or management measure retrofit project, means a discharge of peak flow rate or volume of runoff that exceeds flows generated under preproject conditions.

“(4) **IMPACTED HYDROLOGY.**—The term ‘impacted hydrology’ means stormwater runoff generated from all areas within the site limits of a covered project.

“(5) **MANAGEMENT MEASURE.**—The term ‘management measure’ means a program, structural or nonstructural management practice, operational procedure, or policy on or off the project site that is intended to prevent, reduce, or control highway runoff.

“(b) **STATE HIGHWAY STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, each State shall—

“(A) develop a process for analyzing the erosive force of highway runoff generated from covered projects; and

“(B) apply management measures to maintain or restore impacted hydrology associated with highway runoff from covered projects.

“(2) **INCLUSIONS.**—The management measures established under paragraph (1) may include, as the State determines to be appropriate, management measures that—

“(A) minimize the erosive force of highway runoff from a covered project on a channel bed or bank of receiving water by managing highway runoff within the area of the covered project;

“(B) manage impacted hydrology in such a manner that the highway runoff generated by a covered project is below the erosive force flow and volume;

“(C) to the maximum extent practicable, seek to address the impact of the erosive force of hydrologic events that have the potential to create or exacerbate downstream channel erosion, including excess pier and abutment scour at bridges and channel downcutting and bank failure of streams adjacent to highway embankments;

“(D) ensure that the highway runoff from the post-construction condition does not increase the risk of channel erosion relative to the preproject condition; and

“(E) employ simplified approaches to determining the erosive force of highway runoff generated from covered projects, such as a regionalized analysis of streams within a State.

“(c) **GUIDANCE.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall publish guidance to assist States in carrying out this section.

“(2) **CONTENTS OF GUIDANCE.**—The guidance shall include guidelines and technical assistance for the establishment of State manage-

ment measures that will be used to assist in avoiding, minimizing, and managing highway runoff from covered projects, including guidelines to help States integrate the planning, selection, design, and long-term operation and maintenance of management measures consistent with the design standards in the overall project planning process.

“(3) **APPROVAL.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall—

“(A) review the management measures program of each State; and

“(B) approve such a program, if the program meets the requirements of subsection (b).

“(4) **UPDATES.**—Not later than 5 years after the date of publication of the guidance under this subsection, and not less frequently than once every 5 years thereafter—

“(A) the Secretary, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall update the guidance, as applicable; and

“(B) each State, as applicable, shall update the management measures program of the State in accordance with the updated guidance.

“(d) **REPORTING.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2)(A), each State shall submit to the Secretary an annual report that describes the activities carried out under the highway stormwater management program of the State, including a description of any reductions of stormwater runoff achieved as a result of covered projects carried out by the State after the date of enactment of this section.

“(2) **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS UNDER PERMIT.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—A State shall not be required to submit an annual report described in paragraph (1) if the State—

“(i) is operating Federal-aid highways in the State in a post-construction condition in accordance with a permit issued under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.);

“(ii) is subject to an annual reporting requirement under such a permit (regardless of whether the permitting authority is a Federal or State agency); and

“(iii) carries out a covered project with respect to a Federal-aid highway in the State described in clause (i).

“(B) **TRANSMISSION OF REPORT.**—A Federal or State permitting authority that receives an annual report described in subparagraph (A)(ii) shall, on receipt of such a report, transmit a copy of the report to the Secretary.”

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The analysis for chapter 3 of title 23, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“330. Federal-aid highway runoff management program.”

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. COONS, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 519. A bill to amend the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998 to permanently reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, authorized under P.L. 105-312 in 1998 and reauthorized by P.L. 107-308 in 2002, the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network helps several million visitors and residents discover,

enjoy, and learn about the special places and stories of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. Today, I am introducing legislation to permanently authorize this successful 17-year-old program.

For visitors and residents, the Gateways are the “Chesapeake connection.” The network members provide an experience of such high quality that visitors indeed connect to the Chesapeake emotionally as well as intellectually, and thus to the Bay’s conservation. Through more than 160 of these sites, the Gateways Network partner sites and water trails enable visitors to experience the authentic Chesapeake.

The Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure. The Chesapeake ranks as the largest of America’s 130 estuaries and one of the Nation’s largest and longest fresh water and estuarine systems. The Atlantic Ocean delivers half the bay’s 18 trillion gallons of water and the other half flows through over 150 major rivers and streams draining 64,000 square miles within 6 states and the District of Columbia. The Chesapeake watershed is among the most significant cultural, natural and historical assets of our Nation.

The Chesapeake is enormously vast and diverse—to the extent that it is impossible to experience all the culture, history and natural beauty in any one place. That is why the gateways program is designed to connect and use the scores of existing public resources to collaborate on presenting the many chapters and tales of the bay’s story. Visitors and residents go to more places for more experiences, all through a coordinated Gateways Network.

Beyond simply coordinating the network, publishing a map and guides, and providing standard exhibits at all Gateways, the National Park Service has helped gateways with matching grants and expertise for several hundred high-quality projects, developing sites to provide fishing, boating, and viewing access to the bay and its major tributaries. This is a great deal for the bay—it helps network members tell the Chesapeake story better and inspires people to care for this National Treasure, in addition to supporting local, State, and national water trails—and it’s a good deal for the Park Service. It serves all 170+ gateways and their 10 million visitors. No other National Park can provide such a dramatic ratio of public dollars spent to number of visitors served.

With the National Park Service’s expertise and support, gateways have made significant progress in their mission to tell the Bay’s stories to their millions of members and visitors, extend access to the Bay and its watershed, and develop a conservation awareness and ethic. It is time to not only reauthorize the Chesapeake Gateways and Watertrails program, but

make the annual \$3 million reauthorization for this program permanent. It is my hope that the Congress will act quickly to adopt this legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 519

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network Reauthorization Act”.

SEC. 2. PERMANENT REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 502(c) of the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998 (16 U.S.C. 461 note; Public Law 105-312) is amended by striking “for” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “for each fiscal year.”.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 520. A bill to amend the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act to reauthorize the Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act. More than half of the bird species found in the U.S. migrate across our borders and many of these spend our winter in Central and South America. This bill promotes international cooperation for long-term conservation, education, research, monitoring, and habitat protection for more than 350 species of neotropical migratory birds. Through its successful competitive, matching grant program, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service supports public-private partnerships in countries mostly in Latin America and the Caribbean. Up to ¼ of the funds may be awarded for domestic projects.

This legislation aims to sustain healthy populations of migratory birds that are not only beautiful to look at but help our farmers by consuming billions of harmful insect and rodent pests each year, providing pollination services, and dispersing seeds. Migratory birds face threats from pesticide pollution, deforestation, sprawl, and invasive species that degrade their habitats in addition to the natural risks of their extended flights. Birds are excellent indicators of the health of an ecosystem. As such, it is troubling that, according to the National Audubon Society, half of all coastally migrating shorebirds, like the Common Tern and Piping Plover, are experiencing dramatic population declines.

The Baltimore Oriole, the State bird of Maryland and one whose song brightens all of the Northeastern U.S., has steadily declined in population despite being protected by federal law under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and the State of Maryland's

Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act. Likewise, the iconic Red Knot bird, whose legendary 9,000 mile migration centers on a stopover in the Mid-Atlantic states, is decreasing in population quickly. Threats to these beloved Maryland birds are mainly due to habitat destruction and deforestation, particularly in the Central and South American countries where the birds winter. In addition, international use of toxic pesticides ingested by insects, which are then eaten by the birds, has significantly contributed to this decline. Conservation efforts in our country are essential, but investment in programs throughout the migratory route of these and countless other migratory birds is critical. This legislation accomplishes this goal.

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act has a proven track record of reversing habitat loss and advancing conservation strategies for the broad range of neotropical birds that populate the United States and the rest of the Western hemisphere. Since 2002, more than \$50.1 million in grants have been awarded, supporting 451 projects in 36 countries. Partners have contributed an additional \$190.6 million, and more than 3.7 million acres of habitat have been affected.

This legislation is cost-effective, budget-friendly, and has been a highly successful Federal program. This simple reauthorization bill will make sure that this good work continues.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 520

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REAUTHORIZATION OF NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACT.

Section 10 of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 6109) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act \$6,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2020.

“(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Of the amounts made available under subsection (a) for each fiscal year, not less than 75 percent shall be expended for projects carried out at a location outside of the United States.”.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 521. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of President Station in Baltimore, Maryland, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today marks an important day in history as our Nation continues to honor the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. There

are many landmarks in my hometown of Baltimore that are significant to Civil War history, which I believe are in the Nation's interests to protect for future generations. As our Nation pays tribute to this trying time in our Nation's history, I am proud to reintroduce the President Street Station Study Act, which would initiate the process for preserving one such landmark in the heart of Baltimore. President Street Station played a crucial role in the Civil War, the Underground Railroad, the growth of Baltimore's railroad industry, and is a historically significant landmark to the presidency of Abraham Lincoln.

The station was constructed for the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore, PW&B, Railroad in 1849 and remains the oldest surviving big city railroad terminal in the United States. This historical structure is a unique architectural gem, arguably the first example and last survivor of the early barrel-vault train shed arches, also known as the Howe Truss. The arch-rib design became the blueprint for railroad bridges and roofs well into the 20th century and was replicated for every similarly designed train shed and roof for the next 20 years.

The growth of President Street Station and the PW&B railroad mirror the expansion of the railroad industry throughout the country in the latter half of the 19th century. This station played an essential role in making Baltimore the first railroad and sea-rail link in the nation and helped the city become the international port hub it is today.

In its heyday, President Street Station was the key link connecting Washington, D.C. with the northeast States. Hundreds of passengers traveling north passed through this station and, by the start of the Civil War, Baltimore had become our Nation's major southern railroad hub. Not surprisingly, the station played a critical role in both the Civil War and the Underground Railroad.

Perhaps the most famous passenger to travel through the station was President Abraham Lincoln. He came through the station at least four times, including secretly on his way to his first inauguration in 1861. President-elect Lincoln was warned by a PW&B private detective of a possible assassination plot in Baltimore as he transferred trains. While it is unclear if this plot existed and posed a serious threat, Lincoln nevertheless was secretly smuggled aboard a train in the dead of night to complete his trip to Washington.

Just a few months later, President Street Station served as a backdrop for what many historians consider to be the first bloodshed of the Civil War. The Baltimore Riot of 1861 occurred when Lincoln called for Union volunteers to quell the rebellion at Fort

Sumter in Charleston. On this day in history, April 19, 1861, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania volunteers were met and attacked by a mob of secessionist and Confederate sympathizers. The bloody confrontation left four dead and 36 wounded. As the war continued, the Station remained a critical link for the Union. Troops and supplies from the north were regularly shuttled through the station to support Union soldiers.

It is well known that Maryland was a common starting point along the Underground Railroad and that many escaped slaves from Maryland's Eastern Shore plantations were destined for Baltimore and the President Street Station to travel north to freedom. Last year, Congress acted to honor Maryland's own Harriet Tubman, the Underground Railroad's most famous "conductor" by enacting the Harriet Tubman National Historical Parks Act, establishing the first set of National Historical Parks to commemorate the life of an African American woman. While Harriet Tubman personally led dozens of people to freedom, her courage and fortitude also inspired others to find their own strength to seek freedom. President Street Station was indeed a station on this secret network. Prior to emancipation in 1863, several renowned escapees, including Frederick Douglass, William and Ellen Craft, and Henry "Box" Brown, traveled through the Station, risking their lives for a better and freer life.

Others' journeys for a better life also passed through President Street Station. From its beginning and into the 20th century, Baltimore was both a destination and departure point for immigrants. New arrivals from Ireland, Russia, and Europe arriving on the eastern seaboard traveled by way of the PW&B railroads to the west.

For decades, President Street Station has long been recognized as having an important place in history: In 1992, it was listed on the National Register of Historic places and the city of Baltimore has dedicated it a local historical landmark. For many years it served as the Baltimore Civil War Museum, educating generations of people about the role Maryland and Baltimore played in the Civil War and the early history of the city. In recent years, the museum, run by dedicated volunteers from the Maryland Historical Society and Friends of President Street Station, have struggled to keep the station's doors open and keeping the station's character true to its historical roots. The area around President Street Station has changed dramatically over the decades, but the Station has worked to preserve its place in place in history. It has been many years since trains passed through the President Street Station and it is clear that today the best use for this building is to preserve the building and use it to tell station's American story.

President Street Station is an American historical treasure. This bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of President Street Station to evaluate the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Station as a unit of the National Park Service. President Street Station, a contributor to the growth of the railroad, and a vital player in the Underground Railroad, Lincoln Presidency and Civil War, is part of this history. I urge my colleagues to join me in giving this station the recognition it deserves and support this bill.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 521

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "President Street Station Study Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) STUDY AREA.—The term "study area" means the President Street Station, a railroad terminal in Baltimore, Maryland, the history of which is tied to the growth of the railroad industry in the 19th century, the Civil War, the Underground Railroad, and the immigrant influx of the early 20th century.

SEC. 3. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a special resource study of the study area.

(b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) evaluate the national significance of the study area;

(2) determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area as a unit of the National Park System;

(3) consider other alternatives for preservation, protection, and interpretation of the study area by the Federal Government, State or local government entities, or private and nonprofit organizations;

(4) consult with interested Federal agencies, State or local governmental entities, private and nonprofit organizations, or any other interested individuals; and

(5) identify cost estimates for any Federal acquisition, development, interpretation, operation, and maintenance associated with the alternatives.

(c) APPLICABLE LAW.—The study required under subsection (a) shall be conducted in accordance with section 8 of Public Law 91-383 (16 U.S.C. 1a-5).

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available for the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

(1) the results of the study; and

(2) any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WYDEN, Mr.

CASEY, Mr. REID, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. COONS, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. UDALL, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 522. A bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to extend the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, we have made great strides in recent years ensuring that Americans of all ages have access to quality health care. Part of this success comes from the Children's Health Insurance Program created in 1997 as a joint State-Federal health insurance program for low- to moderate-income children and pregnant women.

Because of CHIP, 10 million children, including 130,000 children in my State—most of whom are sons and daughters of working parents who are in low-income jobs and not making enough money to afford insurance and for employers that typically don't offer insurance—have access to health care today—health care they may not have received otherwise.

We know CHIP works not just in the number of children insured under the program but because of the flexibility CHIP provides States and the quality of care children receive. It works. It works for children, it works for parents, and it works for communities.

That is the good news. The bad news is, even though the law is on the books until 2019, the funding for CHIP will expire in September. That is why I am proud to introduce legislation today with my colleagues Senators STABENOW, WYDEN, CASEY, and Leader REID to protect the CHIP program and to extend its funding to match the authorization until 2019.

The Protecting and Retaining our Children's Health Insurance Program—PRO-CHIP—Act is straightforward, it is common sense, and will provide much needed budget predictability for our States.

The Republican Governor of my State supports CHIP. He understands they need it in Ohio and across the country sooner rather than later so they can properly budget and plan and avoid gaps in health care for vulnerable children.

Again, these 130,000 children in my State alone are overwhelmingly sons

and daughters of working parents who don't make enough money to pay for health insurance out of pocket, and who are working at companies and businesses that don't provide health insurance.

I am honored that 30 of our Senate colleagues have already joined as cosponsors. Providing health insurance to low-income children isn't just the right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do. Children stay healthier, families function better, neighborhoods are better off, and children do better in school as a result, with fewer sick days. They feel better when they are at school because they have a family doctor, because they have health insurance.

We know it works. Listen to these numbers: Thanks to CHIP, the number of uninsured children has fallen by half, from 14 percent in 1997—when this bill passed with bipartisan support, and it has been extended and reauthorized a couple of times since—to a record low of 7 percent in 2012.

In nearly every State of the Union, Governors planning their State budgets and parents planning their family budgets are relying on us to extend CHIP now. We should not go right up to the deadline, as some are now talking about in terms of shutting the government down. We should not go up to the deadline but do it now. It would provide a sigh of relief for parents, not only for financial reasons but because CHIP means better access to comprehensive care for their kids.

Think about the anxiety parents face knowing they have insurance today under CHIP but not being certain they will have it this time next year. We should act together to protect this vital program that provides comprehensive health care coverage for 10 million children. States will start to roll back their CHIP program and funding for the program will expire at the end of September if we don't act soon.

This has always been bipartisan. It should continue to be. I look forward to working with all my colleagues to prioritize children's health and help pass this PRO-CHIP legislation as soon as possible.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. KIRK):

S. 529. A bill to improve the services available to runaway and homeless youth who are victims of trafficking, to improve the response to victims of child sex trafficking, to direct the Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking to identify strategies to prevent children from becoming victims of trafficking and review trafficking prevention efforts, to protect and assist in the recovery of victims of trafficking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today, I am introducing a measure that would help us make progress in the

fight against domestic human trafficking, a terrible crime. This legislation, titled the Combating Human Trafficking Act of 2015, has three objectives. First, it would encourage federal agencies to devote existing grant resources to initiatives that are designed to protect runaway and homeless youth from human traffickers. Second, it would update the authorizing language for the cyber tipline of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to ensure that the statute specifically references "child sex trafficking." Third, and finally, this legislation would help ensure that trafficking victims' housing needs are met and equip Congress with more information on the best practices to combat human trafficking.

The first title of this measure is based on legislation introduced by U.S. Congressman JOSEPH HECK of Nevada in January. It is titled the Enhancing Services for Runaway and Homeless Victims of Youth Trafficking Act of 2015. Similar language passed the House on January 26 by a unanimous voice vote. This part of the bill would improve the support provided specifically to runaway and homeless youth who are trafficking victims. This title also would enable the Secretary of Health and Human Services to devote existing grant resources to training grantees' personnel on the effects of human trafficking on runaway and homeless youth. Finally, this title would allow the HHS Secretary to provide street-based services to such victims.

The second title of the bill, based on a measure introduced by U.S. Congresswoman JOYCE BEATTY of Ohio, would amend the Missing Children's Assistance Act to ensure that the phrase "child sex trafficking" is incorporated into the statutory language that authorizes the cyber tipline of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Nearly identical language already passed the U.S. House of Representatives earlier this year.

The final title of this legislation is known as the Human Trafficking Prevention, Intervention and Recovery Act of 2015, after a bill introduced by U.S. Congresswoman KRISTI NOEM of South Dakota. It would charge the Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking with several duties, such as identifying best practices and strategies to combat human trafficking and cataloging the anti-trafficking activities of various State and Federal agencies. This task force, which was created under the 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act, must provide a report within one year of its review and findings, under the legislation.

The third title of this legislation also calls for the Government Accountability Office to report to Congress on governmental and law enforcement ef-

forts to combat domestic human trafficking. This title also recognizes that minors who are trafficking victims in the United States are in desperate need of housing. It would ensure that certain grants, which are available from the U.S. Department of Justice under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, can be used for initiatives to assist trafficking victims with their housing needs. Shelters and facilities that are seeking to expand or develop services to trafficking survivors would be eligible to apply for these grant funds, under this title of the legislation. Nearly identical language passed the House last month.

I urge my colleagues to pass this vitally important legislation. I also want to extend my appreciation to my colleague from Illinois, Mr. KIRK, who has agreed to join me as an original cosponsor of this measure.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 73—AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES BY COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE FOR THE PERIODS MARCH 1, 2015 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2015, OCTOBER 1, 2015 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2016, AND OCTOBER 1, 2016 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2017

Mr. BLUNT submitted the following resolution; from the Committee on Rules and Administration; which was placed on the calendar:

S. RES. 73

Resolved,

SECTION 1. AGGREGATE AUTHORIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of carrying out the powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, and under the appropriate authorizing resolutions of the Senate, there is authorized for the period March 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015, in the aggregate of \$57,801,217, for the period October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016, in the aggregate of \$99,087,800, and for the period October 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017, in the aggregate of \$41,286,584, in accordance with the provisions of this resolution, for standing committees of the Senate, the Special Committee on Aging, the Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Indian Affairs.

(b) AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.—There are authorized to be paid from the appropriations account for "Expenses of Inquiries and Investigations" of the Senate such sums as may be necessary for agency contributions related to the compensation of employees of the committees for the period March 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015, for the period October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016, and for the period October 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017.

SEC. 2. COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY.

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of such rules, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as

authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized from March 1, 2015 through February 28, 2017, in its discretion—

(1) to make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) to employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, to use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2015.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015 under this section shall not exceed \$2,463,834, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$200,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$40,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016 under this section shall not exceed \$4,223,716, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$200,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$40,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2017.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017 under this section shall not exceed \$1,759,882, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$200,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$40,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

SEC. 3. COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES.

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of such rules, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Armed Services is authorized from March 1, 2015 through February 28, 2017, in its discretion—

(1) to make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) to employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, to use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2015.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2015 through

September 30, 2015 under this section shall not exceed \$3,783,845, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$46,667 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$17,500 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016 under this section shall not exceed \$6,486,591, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$80,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$30,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2017.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017 under this section shall not exceed \$2,702,746, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$33,334 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$12,500 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

SEC. 4. COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS.

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of such rules, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized from March 1, 2015 through February 28, 2017, in its discretion—

(1) to make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) to employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, to use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2015.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015 under this section shall not exceed \$3,119,153, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$8,370 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$503 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016 under this section shall not exceed \$5,347,119, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$14,348 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$861 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2017.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017 under this section shall not exceed \$2,227,966, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$5,978 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$358 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

SEC. 5. COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET.

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of such rules, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on the Budget is authorized from March 1, 2015 through February 28, 2017, in its discretion—

(1) to make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) to employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, to use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2015.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015 under this section shall not exceed \$3,534,372, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$35,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$21,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016 under this section shall not exceed \$6,058,924, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$60,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$36,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2017.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017 under this section shall not exceed \$2,524,552, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$25,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof

(as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$15,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

SEC. 6. COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION.

(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of such rules, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized from March 1, 2015 through February 28, 2017, in its discretion—

(1) to make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) to employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, to use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2015.**—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015 under this section shall not exceed \$3,879,581, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$50,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$50,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) **EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 PERIOD.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016 under this section shall not exceed \$6,650,710, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$50,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$50,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2017.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017 under this section shall not exceed \$2,771,129, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$50,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$50,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

SEC. 7. COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of such rules, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule

XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized from March 1, 2015 through February 28, 2017, in its discretion—

(1) to make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) to employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, to use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2015.**—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015 under this section shall not exceed \$3,219,522.

(c) **EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 PERIOD.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016 under this section shall not exceed \$5,519,181.

(d) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2017.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017 under this section shall not exceed \$2,299,659.

SEC. 8. COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS.

(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of such rules, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized from March 1, 2015 through February 28, 2017, in its discretion—

(1) to make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) to employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, to use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2015.**—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015 under this section shall not exceed \$3,060,871, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$4,666.67 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$1,166.67 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) **EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 PERIOD.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016 under this section shall not exceed \$5,247,208, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$8,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$2,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2017.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017 under this section shall not exceed \$2,186,337, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$3,333.33 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$833.33 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

SEC. 9. COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of such rules, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Finance is authorized from March 1, 2015 through February 28, 2017, in its discretion—

(1) to make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) to employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, to use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2015.**—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015 under this section shall not exceed \$4,710,670, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$17,500 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$5,833 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) **EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 PERIOD.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016 under this section shall not exceed \$8,075,434, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$30,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$10,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2017.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017 under this section shall not exceed \$3,364,764, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$12,500 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$4,166 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

SEC. 10. COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS.

(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of such rules, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule

XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized from March 1, 2015 through February 28, 2017, in its discretion—

(1) to make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) to employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, to use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2015.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015 under this section shall not exceed \$3,889,028, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$58,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$11,600 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016 under this section shall not exceed \$6,666,904, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$100,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$20,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2017.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017 under this section shall not exceed \$2,777,877, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$42,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$8,400 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

SEC. 11. COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS.

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of such rules, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized from March 1, 2015 through February 28, 2017, in its discretion—

(1) to make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) to employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, to use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2015.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2015 through

September 30, 2015 under this section shall not exceed \$5,105,487, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$75,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$25,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016 under this section shall not exceed \$8,752,264, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$75,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$25,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2017.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017 under this section shall not exceed \$3,646,777, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$75,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$25,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

SEC. 12. COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS.

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of such rules and S. Res. 445, agreed to October 9, 2004 (108th Congress), including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized from March 1, 2015 through February 28, 2017, in its discretion—

(1) to make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) to employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, to use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2015.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015 under this section shall not exceed \$5,591,653, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$75,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$20,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2015 through September 30,

2016 under this section shall not exceed \$9,585,691, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$75,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$20,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2017.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017 under this section shall not exceed \$3,994,038, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$75,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$20,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(e) INVESTIGATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The committee, or any duly authorized subcommittee of the committee, is authorized to study or investigate—

(A) the efficiency and economy of operations of all branches of the Government including the possible existence of fraud, misfeasance, malfeasance, collusion, mismanagement, incompetence, corruption or unethical practices, waste, extravagance, conflicts of interest, and the improper expenditure of Government funds in transactions, contracts, and activities of the Government or of Government officials and employees and any and all such improper practices between Government personnel and corporations, individuals, companies, or persons affiliated therewith, doing business with the Government, and the compliance or noncompliance of such corporations, companies, or individuals or other entities with the rules, regulations, and laws governing the various governmental agencies and the Government's relationships with the public;

(B) the extent to which criminal or other improper practices or activities are, or have been, engaged in the field of labor-management relations or in groups or organizations of employees or employers, to the detriment of interests of the public, employers, or employees, and to determine whether any changes are required in the laws of the United States in order to protect such interests against the occurrence of such practices or activities;

(C) organized criminal activity which may operate in or otherwise utilize the facilities of interstate or international commerce in furtherance of any transactions and the manner and extent to which, and the identity of the persons, firms, or corporations, or other entities by whom such utilization is being made, and further, to study and investigate the manner in which and the extent to which persons engaged in organized criminal activity have infiltrated lawful business enterprise, and to study the adequacy of Federal laws to prevent the operations of organized crime in interstate or international commerce, and to determine whether any changes are required in the laws of the United States in order to protect the public against such practices or activities;

(D) all other aspects of crime and lawlessness within the United States which have an impact upon or affect the national health,

welfare, and safety, including investment fraud schemes, commodity and security fraud, computer fraud, and the use of offshore banking and corporate facilities to carry out criminal objectives;

(E) the efficiency and economy of operations of all branches and functions of the Government with particular reference to—

(i) the effectiveness of present national security methods, staffing, and processes as tested against the requirements imposed by the rapidly mounting complexity of national security problems;

(ii) the capacity of present national security staffing, methods, and processes to make full use of the Nation's resources of knowledge and talents;

(iii) the adequacy of present intergovernmental relations between the United States and international organizations principally concerned with national security of which the United States is a member; and

(iv) legislative and other proposals to improve these methods, processes, and relationships;

(F) the efficiency, economy, and effectiveness of all agencies and departments of the Government involved in the control and management of energy shortages including their performance with respect to—

(i) the collection and dissemination of accurate statistics on fuel demand and supply;

(ii) the implementation of effective energy conservation measures;

(iii) the pricing of energy in all forms;

(iv) coordination of energy programs with State and local government;

(v) control of exports of scarce fuels;

(vi) the management of tax, import, pricing, and other policies affecting energy supplies;

(vii) maintenance of the independent sector of the petroleum industry as a strong competitive force;

(viii) the allocation of fuels in short supply by public and private entities;

(ix) the management of energy supplies owned or controlled by the Government;

(x) relations with other oil producing and consuming countries;

(xi) the monitoring of compliance by governments, corporations, or individuals with the laws and regulations governing the allocation, conservation, or pricing of energy supplies; and

(xii) research into the discovery and development of alternative energy supplies; and

(G) the efficiency and economy of all branches and functions of Government with particular references to the operations and management of Federal regulatory policies and programs.

(2) **EXTENT OF INQUIRIES.**—In carrying out the duties provided in paragraph (1), the inquiries of this committee or any subcommittee of the committee shall not be construed to be limited to the records, functions, and operations of any particular branch of the Government and may extend to the records and activities of any persons, corporation, or other entity.

(3) **SPECIAL COMMITTEE AUTHORITY.**—For the purposes of this subsection, the committee, or any duly authorized subcommittee of the committee, or its chairman, or any other member of the committee or subcommittee designated by the chairman is authorized, in its, his, her, or their discretion—

(A) to require by subpoena or otherwise the attendance of witnesses and production of correspondence, books, papers, and documents;

(B) to hold hearings;

(C) to sit and act at any time or place during the sessions, recess, and adjournment periods of the Senate;

(D) to administer oaths; and

(E) to take testimony, either orally or by sworn statement, or, in the case of staff members of the Committee and the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, by deposition in accordance with the Committee Rules of Procedure.

(4) **AUTHORITY OF OTHER COMMITTEES.**—Nothing contained in this subsection shall affect or impair the exercise of any other standing committee of the Senate of any power, or the discharge by such committee of any duty, conferred or imposed upon it by the Standing Rules of the Senate or by the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946.

(5) **SUBPOENA AUTHORITY.**—All subpoenas and related legal processes of the committee and any duly authorized subcommittee of the committee authorized under S. Res. 253, agreed to October 3, 2013 (113th Congress) are authorized to continue.

SEC. 13. COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY.

(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of such rules, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized from March 1, 2015 through February 28, 2017, in its discretion—

(1) to make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) to employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, to use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2015.**—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015 under this section shall not exceed \$5,461,388, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$200,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$20,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) **EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 PERIOD.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016 under this section shall not exceed \$9,362,379, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$200,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$20,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2017.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017 under this section shall not exceed \$3,900,991, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$200,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legis-

lative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$20,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

SEC. 14. COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION.

(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of such rules, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Rules and Administration is authorized from March 1, 2015 through February 28, 2017, in its discretion—

(1) to make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) to employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, to use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2015.**—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015 under this section shall not exceed \$1,375,819, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$43,750 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$7,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) **EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 PERIOD.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016 under this section shall not exceed \$2,358,546, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$75,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$12,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2017.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017 under this section shall not exceed \$982,728, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$31,250 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$5,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

SEC. 15. COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP.

(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of such rules, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate,

the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized from March 1, 2015 through February 28, 2017, in its discretion—

(1) to make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) to employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, to use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2015.**—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015 under this section shall not exceed \$1,520,944, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$25,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$10,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) **EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 PERIOD.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016 under this section shall not exceed \$2,607,332, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$25,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$10,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2017.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017 under this section shall not exceed \$1,086,388, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$25,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$10,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

SEC. 16. COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS.

(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of such rules, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized from March 1, 2015 through February 28, 2017, in its discretion—

(1) to make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) to employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, to use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2015.**—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015 under this section shall not exceed \$1,283,522, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$10,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of indi-

vidual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$3,500 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) **EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 PERIOD.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016 under this section shall not exceed \$2,200,323, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$20,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$5,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2017.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017 under this section shall not exceed \$316,801, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$8,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$1,500 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

SEC. 17. SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING.

(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions imposed by section 104 of S. Res. 4, agreed to February 4, 1977 (95th Congress), and in exercising the authority conferred on it by such section, the Special Committee on Aging is authorized from March 1, 2015 through February 28, 2017, in its discretion—

(1) to make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) to employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, to use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2015.**—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015 under this section shall not exceed \$1,399,763, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$3,055 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$3,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) **EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 PERIOD.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016 under this section shall not exceed \$2,399,594, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$6,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$6,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such

committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2017.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017 under this section shall not exceed \$999,831, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$2,500 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$1,500 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

SEC. 18. SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE.

(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under S. Res. 400, agreed to May 19, 1976 (94th Congress), as amended by S. Res. 445, agreed to October 9, 2004 (108th Congress), in accordance with its jurisdiction under sections 3(a) and 17 of such S. Res. 400, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by section 5 of such S. Res. 400, the Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized from March 1, 2015 through February 28, 2017, in its discretion—

(1) to make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) to employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, to use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2015.**—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015 under this section shall not exceed \$3,217,448, of which not to exceed \$10,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))).

(c) **EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 PERIOD.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016 under this section shall not exceed \$5,515,626, of which not to exceed \$17,144 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))).

(d) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2017.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017 under this section shall not exceed \$2,298,177, of which not to exceed \$7,143 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))).

SEC. 19. COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS.

(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions imposed by section 105 of S. Res. 4, agreed to February 4, 1977 (95th Congress), and in exercising the authority conferred on it by that section, the Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized from March 1, 2015 through February 28, 2017, in its discretion—

(1) to make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) to employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration,

to use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2015.**—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015 under this section shall not exceed \$1,184,317, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$20,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$20,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) **EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 PERIOD.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016 under this section shall not exceed \$2,030,258, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$20,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$20,000 may be expended for training consultants of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2017.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017 under this section shall not exceed \$845,941, of which—

(1) not to exceed \$20,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$20,000 may be expended for training consultants of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

SEC. 20. SPECIAL RESERVE.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Within the funds in the account “Expenses of Inquiries and Investigations”, there is authorized to be established a special reserve to be available to any committee funded by this resolution as provided in subsection (b) of which—

(1) for the period March 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015, an amount shall be available, not to exceed 7 percent of the amount equal to $\frac{1}{12}$ th of the appropriations for the account that are available for the period October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015;

(2) for the period October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016, an amount shall be available, not to exceed 7 percent of the appropriations for the account that are available for that period; and

(3) for the period October 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017, an amount shall be available, not to exceed 7 percent of the amount equal to $\frac{1}{12}$ th of the appropriations for the account that are available for the period October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017.

(b) **AVAILABILITY.**—The special reserve authorized in subsection (a) shall be available to any committee—

(1) on the basis of special need to meet unpaid obligations incurred by that committee during the periods referred to in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (a); and

(2) at the request of a Chairman and Ranking Member of that committee subject to the approval of the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Rules and Administration.

SENATE RESOLUTION 74—DECLARING THAT ACHIEVING THE PRIMARY GOAL OF THE NATIONAL PLAN TO ADDRESS ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO PREVENT AND EFFECTIVELY TREAT ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE BY 2025 IS AN URGENT NATIONAL PRIORITY

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. WARNER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 74

Whereas the number of individuals in the United States with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias (referred to in this preamble as “Alzheimer’s”) is as high as 5,200,000, which is more than double the number in 1980;

Whereas based on the trajectory of Alzheimer’s, as many as 16,000,000 individuals in the United States may have Alzheimer’s by 2050;

Whereas the increasing prevalence of Alzheimer’s and other dementias is a global health crisis that afflicts an estimated 44,000,000 individuals worldwide as of December, 2013 and may afflict over 135,000,000 individuals by 2050;

Whereas Alzheimer’s is a leading cause of death in the United States with new data indicating that more than 500,000 deaths each year are attributable to the disease;

Whereas Alzheimer’s is the only disease among the top 10 causes of death in the United States without an effective means of prevention, treatment, or cure;

Whereas Alzheimer’s places an enormous financial strain on families, the health care system, and State and Federal budgets;

Whereas the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) and the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) are estimated to bear more than two-thirds of the total costs of this care in 2015;

Whereas a RAND Corporation study published in 2013 and commissioned by the National Institute on Aging found that Alzheimer’s is the costliest disease in the United States, costing more than cancer and heart disease;

Whereas in 2013, an estimated 15,500,000 family members and friends of individuals with Alzheimer’s provided those individuals with 17,700,000,000 hours of unpaid care, an amount valued at more than \$220,000,000;

Whereas Alzheimer’s disease has a disproportionate impact on many populations including women, African Americans, and Latinos;

Whereas the global cost of Alzheimer’s exceeds \$600,000,000,000 each year, an amount equal to approximately 1 percent of the world’s gross domestic product;

Whereas in December 2013, the G-8 nations met and adopted a political declaration supporting the goal of a cure or disease-modifying therapy for dementia by 2025 as well as collectively and significantly increasing resources committed to dementia research;

Whereas Alzheimer’s takes an emotional and physical toll on caregivers that results in a higher incidence of chronic conditions, such as heart disease, cancer, and depression among caregivers;

Whereas the National Plan to Address Alzheimer’s Disease of the Department of Health and Human Services enables family caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer’s to provide care while maintaining personal health and well-being;

Whereas the National Plan to Address Alzheimer’s Disease supports informal caregivers by—

(1) identifying the support needs of caregivers;

(2) developing and disseminating modes for intervention;

(3) providing information that caregivers need, particularly in crisis situations; and

(4) assisting caregivers in maintaining personal health and well-being;

Whereas a strong and sustained research effort is the best tool to slow the progression and ultimately prevent the onset of Alzheimer’s;

Whereas while the cost to the Medicare and Medicaid programs of caring for Alzheimer’s patients is estimated to be \$153,000,000,000 in 2015, the United States, through the National Institutes of Health, will spend about \$586,000,000 on Alzheimer’s research in 2015;

Whereas the Chairman of the Advisory Council on Alzheimer’s Research, Care, and Services created by the National Alzheimer’s Project Act (42 U.S.C. 11225) has testified before Congress that the United States must devote at least \$2,000,000,000 each year to Alzheimer’s research to reach the goal of preventing and effectively treating Alzheimer’s by 2025; and

Whereas the public members of the Advisory Council on Alzheimer’s Research, Care, and Services unanimously agree with the testimony of the Chairman regarding the amount of money required to reach the goal for 2025: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) is committed to strengthening the quality of care and expanding support for individuals with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias (referred to in this resolution as “Alzheimer’s”) and family caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer’s;

(2) declares that achieving the primary goal of the National Plan to Address Alzheimer’s Disease to prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer’s by 2025 is an urgent national priority;

(3) recognizes that bold action and considerable increases in funding are necessary to meet that goal;

(4) encourages greater collaboration between the United States and other global governments, particularly the G-7 nations, to advance a global Alzheimer’s and dementia research plan;

(5) supports innovative public-private partnership and the pursuit of innovative financing tools, incentives and other mechanisms to accelerate the pursuit of disease-modifying therapies; and

(6) strives to—

(A) double the amount of funding the United States spends on Alzheimer’s research in fiscal year 2016; and

(B) develop a plan for fiscal years 2017 through 2020 to meet the target of the Advisory Council on Alzheimer’s Research, Care, and Services for the United States to spend \$2,000,000,000 each year on Alzheimer’s research.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, Alzheimer’s is a terrible disease that takes a tremendous personal and economic toll on the individual, the family, and society. In addition to the human suffering it causes, Alzheimer’s costs the

United States an estimated \$226 billion a year, including \$153 billion from the Medicare and Medicaid Programs. These costs will only skyrocket as the baby boom generation ages. Already our Nation's costliest disease, Alzheimer's is projected to cost more than \$1.1 trillion if nothing is done to change its current trajectory. It is now estimated that nearly one in two of the baby boomers reaching age 85 will develop Alzheimer's. As a consequence, chances are that members of the baby boom generation will either be spending their golden years suffering with Alzheimer's or caring for someone who has it. In many ways Alzheimer's has become the defining disease of this generation.

If we are to prevent Alzheimer's from becoming the defining disease of the next generation, it is imperative that we dramatically increase our investment in Alzheimer's research. At a time when the United States is spending some \$226 billion a year caring for Alzheimer's patients, we are spending less than three-tenths of 1 percent of that amount—under \$600 million a year—on research. This makes no sense. We currently spend \$4.5 billion a year for cancer research, \$3 billion a year for research on HIV/AIDS, and \$2 billion for cardiovascular research—all investments that have paid dividends.

Surely we can do more for Alzheimer's given the tremendous human and economic price of this devastating disease. Investments in research for other diseases have yielded tremendous results. We see that with cancer, with HIV/AIDS. Patients have access to new treatments, and death rates for some of these diseases are decreasing. At the same time, mortality due to Alzheimer's is escalating.

Alzheimer's is one of our Nation's leading causes of death, with recent data revealing that each year more than 500,000 deaths are attributable to Alzheimer's and other dementia, 6 times the amount previously estimated. Moreover, Alzheimer's is the only one of our Nation's top 10 deadliest diseases without an effective means of prevention, treatment or a cure.

Fortunately there is promising research that holds hope for Alzheimer's patients and their families. The research community is poised to make important advances through clinical trials and by investigating new therapeutic targets, but adequate funding is critical to achieve this promise. The National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease was authorized by the bipartisan National Alzheimer's Act, which I coauthored with then-Senator Evan Bayh.

The national plan has as its primary goal to prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer's disease by the year 2025. The chairman of the advisory council that was created by the act, Dr. Ronald

Petersen of the Mayo Clinic, has testified before Congress that the United States should be devoting \$2 billion a year at a minimum to Alzheimer's research in order to reach that goal.

A dramatic increase in funding for Alzheimer's research will not just save lives, it will also save money. According to a report issued by the Alzheimer's Association last year, a Federal investment of \$2 billion a year between now and the year 2025, as recommended by the experts on the Alzheimer's Advisory Council and the scientific community more broadly, would be recouped within the first 3 years after a treatment delaying the onset of Alzheimer's by just 5 years becomes available.

I am therefore pleased to be introducing today, with my colleagues Senators KLOBUCHAR, MIKULSKI, WARNER, DURBIN, and STABENOW, a resolution declaring that the goal of preventing and effectively treating Alzheimer's is an urgent national priority. In recognition of the fact that bold action and considerable increases in funding are necessary to meet that goal, our resolution states that the Senate will strive to double the amount of funding the United States spends on Alzheimer's research in fiscal year 2016 and that we will develop a plan to meet the target of \$2 billion over the next 5 years.

Our bill is supported by a number of organizations including the Alzheimer's Association, UsAgainstAlzheimer's, the Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer's Disease—or the LEAD Coalition—and the Alzheimer's Foundation of America.

I ask unanimous consent that the letters from these organizations be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

LEAD—LEADERS ENGAGED
ON ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE,
February 11, 2015.

Hon. SUSAN COLLINS,
*Chairman, Special Committee on Aging, U.S.
Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN COLLINS: As executive director of Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer's Disease (the LEAD Coalition), I write to thank you for your inspirational leadership in reintroducing the Senate resolution to strengthen care and support, encourage greater international collaboration, incentivize private sector research, double federal investments in Alzheimer's disease and related dementias research in FY 2016, and bring annual federal investments to at least \$2 billion by 2020. Your resolution is an important next step toward each of these vital goals and the LEAD Coalition will continue to work arm-in-arm with you and your colleagues to realize the resolution's promise.

There are few more compelling or complex issues to confront our aging society now and over the coming decades than Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (including vascular, Lewy body or frontotemporal dementia). Its place as a national priority was

made clear by the effort you led resulting in unanimous congressional passage of the National Alzheimer's Project Act. That law directed creation of the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease and, as you know, the National Plan's goal number one is to prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer's disease and related dementias by 2025.

In fact, as your resolution highlights, Alzheimer's disease and related dementias are an urgent national priority that impose enormous costs to our nation's health and prosperity, costs that are skyrocketing. Today, more than five million Americans have dementia at an annual cost to our economy exceeding \$200 billion. Alzheimer's disease contributes to the deaths of approximately 500,000 Americans each year, making it the third leading cause of death in the United States. If the current trajectory of the disease persists, between 13 million and 16 million Americans will have dementia in 2050 and total costs of care are projected to exceed (inflation adjusted 2014 dollars) \$1 trillion annually. The federal government, through Medicare and Medicaid payments, shoulders an estimated 70 percent of all such direct care costs.

Globally, the stakes of American scientific leadership are higher still. Today, 44 million people have dementia with annual costs exceeding \$600 billion or about one percent of the world's GDP. If the current trajectory of the disease persists, upwards of 135 million persons worldwide will have dementia in 2050. American scientific leadership is nowhere more urgent than in Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

Congress, the President and NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins have overcome enormous obstacles to increase funding and prioritization of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias research over the past several years. The National Institute on Aging (NIA) and other NIH institutes—such as the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, the National Institute of Mental Health and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development—are supporting a number of promising research projects to: understand the genetic risk factors, address the disproportionate impact on women, African Americans, Hispanics, and persons with intellectual disabilities; and pursue cutting-edge but costly and time consuming trials aimed at preventing or substantially slowing disease progression by administering treatments much earlier in the disease process. These resources of time, talent and treasure are precious and indefensibly scarce. We owe it to the taxpayers, to the research community and—most of all—to people living with, or at risk of, Alzheimer's disease and related dementias to provide adequate and necessary resources proportionate to the disease burden, unmet medical need, and our nation's ethical and moral compass.

The broad, diverse, and unified Alzheimer's disease and related dementias community—working together as the LEAD Coalition—deeply admires and appreciates your remarkable leadership on this and so many other issues of vital importance to our nation's cognitive health, economic well-being, and global scientific leadership. We look forward to working with you for passage of the resolution and subsequent congressional action on each of its goals.

Sincerely,

IAN KREMER, Esq.,
*Executive Director,
LEAD Coalition.*

USAGAINSTALZHEIMERS,
February 10, 2015.

Hon. SUSAN COLLINS,
Chairman, Special Committee on Aging, U.S.
Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN COLLINS: On behalf of USAgainstAlzheimers, the national movement committed to mobilizing the nation around the goal of stopping Alzheimer's by 2020, I am writing to applaud you for recognizing the mounting threat of Alzheimer's and dementia and for leading the call for the level of public resources that are necessary to stop this disease before it destroys our nation's health and finances.

As you are well aware from your extensive history of leadership against Alzheimer's and dementia, more than five million Americans are currently suffering from this disease, and millions more are impacted as family members and caregivers. Economic estimates suggest that Alzheimer's disease costs the nation upwards of \$200 billion each year, with about 70 percent of costs shouldered by Medicare and Medicaid. Direct care costs of Alzheimer's have been found to be larger than similar costs of cancer and heart disease, and a groundbreaking 2014 study from Rush University indicates that more than 500,000 deaths each year are attributable to Alzheimer's disease, six times more than the levels that have been reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Fortunately, thanks to your leadership several years ago, our nation has a National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease that established as goal one preventing and effectively treating the disease by 2025, a mere 10 years away. As your resolution recognizes, while we can set bold goals, we simply will not achieve them absent the appropriation of necessary resources. I commend you for being a champion in Congress behind measures to substantially increase the amount of public resources committed to Alzheimer's disease research so we can reach the level of \$2 billion in annual funding that multiple experts have estimated as being needed to maximize our chances of achieving the 2025 goal.

I understand the multiple fiscal challenges confronting the nation. At the same time, we must recognize that the question is not whether or not we will pay for Alzheimer's. We are paying, dearly, today, and we will pay even more tomorrow unless we redouble efforts to achieve scientific breakthroughs and develop therapies and means of prevention. Your resolution outlines a sensible track to achieve the necessary level of funding within a timeframe during which we can achieve the necessary impact, and makes clear that preventing and treating Alzheimer's disease must be a national priority.

Thank you, again, for your tremendous leadership on behalf of all Americans impacted by this disease.

Sincerely,
GEORGE VRADENBURG,
Founder and Chairman.

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, February 11, 2015.

Hon. SUSAN COLLINS,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. AMY KLOBUCHAR,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR COLLINS AND SENATOR KLOBUCHAR: On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association and its nationwide network of advocates, thank you for your continued leadership on issues and legislation important to Americans with Alzheimer's and their caregivers. The Alzheimer's Association proudly

supports your most recent Alzheimer's resolution, which supports the goals of National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease.

The Alzheimers Association is the world's leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimers care, support and research. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease and other dementias through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's.

As one of our nation's strongest voices on behalf of Americans living with Alzheimer's, you know that more than 5 million Americans are living with the disease, and without significant action, as many as 16 million Americans will have Alzheimer's by 2050. A 2013 study funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and published in the New England Journal of Medicine further confirmed that Alzheimers disease is the most expensive disease in America. Additionally, as the baby boomer generation ages, one in eight will develop Alzheimer's. This explosive growth will cause Alzheimers costs to Medicare and Medicaid to increase from \$153 billion today to nearly \$800 billion in 2050 (in today's dollars) and threatens to bankrupt families, businesses and our health care system. Unfortunately, our work is only growing more urgent.

The passage of the National Alzheimer's Project Act in 2010, and the subsequent release of the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease, marks a new era for Alzheimers disease and other dementias. Achieving the first goal of the National Plan, to prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer's disease by 2025, and supporting individuals with the disease and their caregivers are critical to the success of this legislation.

The Alzheimers Association deeply appreciates your continued leadership on behalf of all American's living with Alzheimer's. If you have any questions about this or any other legislation, please contact Rachel Conant, Director of Federal Affairs, at rconant@alz.org or at 202.638.7121.

Sincerely,
ROBERT EGGE,
Executive Vice President,
Government Affairs, Alzheimer's Association.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, we have to face the facts that if we do not invest in Alzheimer's research at the levels the experts tell us is necessary to develop effective treatments for this disease or perhaps a means of prevention or eventually a cure, this disease is going to continue to cause untold suffering not only for its victims but for its families, and it will bankrupt America's health care system.

I urge our colleagues to join us as co-sponsors. I want, in particular, to recognize my partner in this effort, the Senator from Minnesota, Ms. KLOBUCHAR. The home of the Mayo Clinic is in her State. She has been stalwart in supporting the efforts to increase funding for Alzheimer's research.

With that, I am very pleased to yield to my partner, Senator KLOBUCHAR.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I come to the Senate floor to join my friend and colleague from Maine, Senator COLLINS, who has for so long been

a leader on this issue. I thank her for that and thank her for her very strong remarks.

This is a horrible disease. Senator COLLINS did a very good job of going through the costs to our country. Mr. President, 5.2 million Americans are already living with Alzheimer's, and by 2050 an estimated 13.5 million Americans will be living with the disease. Also, \$226 billion is being spent in 2015 caring for individuals with Alzheimer's, and by 2050 costs will reach \$1.1 trillion.

Those are the numbers. They are pretty stunning numbers, but I think we all know we are not just here to talk about the numbers. We are here to talk about the people. Every single Senator in this Chamber knows someone who is suffering from Alzheimer's or someone who has died from Alzheimer's. So this resolution, yes, it is about the numbers and being smarter about how we spend our money to prevent this horrible disease from occurring in the first place, but it is also for that daughter who goes to see her mom every day in the assisted living care facility and with each and every day her mom's memory slips away to the point where she does not remember who she is anymore.

It is for that wife who has valiantly cared for her husband as it gets harder and harder and harder as he goes wandering around the neighborhood and gets lost. She does not know if she can leave him at home anymore. That is what this is about. Every single person in this Chamber and every single person back home knows of someone who suffers from this disease.

The only way to stem the tide of this devastating disease is through, as the great Senator from Maine mentioned, through research. Yes, a lot of that research is going on in Minnesota, both at the University of Minnesota and at the Mayo Clinic. If we were able to delay the onset of Alzheimer's by just 5 years, similar to the effect that anticholesterol drugs have had on preventing heart disease, we would be able to significantly cut the government's spending on Alzheimer's care, but more importantly we would be able to give these families extra years, extra time, less time battling this disease.

We all know the answers to Alzheimer's will not just drop out of the sky. If that was true, it would have been cured a long time ago. It will take dedicated scientists, advanced research initiatives, and skilled doctors with knowledge of the disease to conduct trials and care for as many patients as possible until we find a cure.

That is why we are coming together for this important resolution, which resolves simply that the Senate will strive to double the funding the United States spends on Alzheimer's research in 2016 and will develop a plan to meet

the target of \$2 billion a year in Alzheimer's research funding over the next 5 years.

As Senator COLLINS mentioned, this effort is led on the national level by Dr. Ronald Petersen, a Minnesota native and a leading researcher. He agrees this is the time to move forward to get this research done. What kind of research are we talking about? I remember first hearing about some of the work Mayo had done and realizing they were focusing on trying to identify this disease early to be able to figure out if people were getting it early.

I thought: That is great, but how does that help? They still have the disease. What I learned is the earlier they can identify the disease, then the earlier they can start those trials so they can tell what is working or not. If they wait too long to identify the disease, it is nearly impossible to tell what kind of potential cures work and what do not.

This is a very important part of this initiative, which is to be able to immediately identify what those risk factors are when they think someone actually has Alzheimer's. Two years ago the United States launched the BRAIN Initiative, which is a national research effort to map the human brain in hopes of finding new ways to prevent and cure brain diseases. Similar to the Human Genome Project, I think we can expect this initiative to truly be a game-changer that stimulates the next generation of scientific development.

There is always more knowledge we need to get. There are always more treatments to discover. There are more diseases to cure. That is why it is so important that we continue funding and actually increase funding to the National Institutes of Health. Earlier this year I introduced, with Senator DURBIN and others, a bill to boost funding for NIH by 5 percent a year and also other key Federal research agencies. The American Cures Act would reverse the trend of declining Federal investment in medical research and fuel the next generation of biomedical discoveries.

I care a lot about this. During the government shutdown I will never forget Senator COLLINS once again led the effort to find our way out of that with 14 of us in a bipartisan effort. I gave my entire salary to NIH because I wanted to make the point that every day we go without developing that cure for Alzheimer's, without supporting our scientists who are doing that work, is another day where someone else dies of this disease. It is another loved one we lose.

Another effort I think is very important when we look at this is precision medicine. We should be supporting efforts to further the field of precision medicine, which holds the promise of revolutionizing the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases. By

better understanding genetic variations within diseases such as Alzheimer's, we can develop targeted, more effective treatments.

Of course caregivers are the last thing I wish to talk about. If you know someone with Alzheimer's, then you also know their family member or their friend who is taking care of them. Many of the caregivers have children themselves. That is why they are called the sandwich generation. They are literally sandwiched between taking care of their own children and taking care of their aging mother or father.

Just as we addressed the needs of moms and dads in the 1970s, started working on things such as childcare benefits, we must now address the needs of our working sons and daughters and those who are simply devoting their lives to taking care of an aging relative, someone with Alzheimer's. This goes on every day. People have decided to quit their jobs or they have to decide to take a different job or they have to decide to go part time simply to take care of their loved one.

In 2013 more than 15 million family members and friends cared for someone with Alzheimer's disease or another form of dementia, often at the expense of their own jobs and their own well-being. That is why I am continuing to work on legislation called the Americans Giving Care to Elders Act that would give family caregivers a tax credit and other assistance to help alleviate the financial burdens that come with caring for a loved one.

So these are some ideas, but we know at its core the best thing to do is to stop this terrible disease from the beginning. That means living up to the expectations the people of this country have for us; that is, to do what is best for them; that is, to put forward the dollars we need to do the research.

I know some great doctors in Minnesota and across the country who will put that money to good use.

Let's go forward, let's cure this disease, and we call on the Senate to pass the resolution Senator COLLINS and I are submitting.

SENATE RESOLUTION 75—DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2015, AS "NATIONAL TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH"

Mr. DURBIN (for Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE)) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 75

Whereas although dating violence, domestic violence, sexual violence, and stalking affect women regardless of age, teenage girls and young women are especially vulnerable;

Whereas a 2013 survey by the Center for Disease Control found that nearly 10 percent

of high school students reported physical victimization and 10 percent reported sexual victimization from a dating partner in the 12 months before they were surveyed;

Whereas according to the Center for Disease Control, nearly 1,500,000 high school students experience physical abuse from a dating partner each year;

Whereas a 1997 Commonwealth Fund survey found that more than ¼ of high school girls had been either sexually abused, physically abused, or abused by a date or boyfriend;

Whereas the Bureau of Justice Statistics found that females between the ages of 16 and 24 experience intimate partner violence at a rate that is almost triple the national average;

Whereas in 2008, the National Council on Crime and Delinquency reported that approximately 1 in 3 adolescent girls in the United States is a victim of physical, emotional, or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a rate that far exceeds victimization rates for other types of violence affecting young people;

Whereas a 2012 study, as part of an independent evaluation of Start Strong: Building Healthy Teen Relationships, an initiative aimed at building healthy relationships among middle school youth, found that teen dating violence behaviors were common even among seventh grade students, with nearly 1 in 6 students reporting physical dating violence;

Whereas according to data from the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, almost 20 percent of teenage girls who were exposed to physical dating violence did not attend school on 1 or more occasions during the 30 days preceding the survey because the girls felt unsafe at school or on the way to or from school;

Whereas schools are unequipped to handle the issue of teen dating violence, as a recent study by Ball State University found that—

(1) 81 percent of school counselors reported that they did not have a school protocol on how to respond to an incident of teen dating violence; but

(2) 61 percent of school counselors reported that they had assisted victims of dating-related violence in the past 2 years, despite a lack of formal training for some of the counselors;

Whereas a study published in Pediatrics suggests that teen dating violence "is a substantial public health problem" because victims of teen dating violence are—

(1) at increased risk of mood and behavior problems as young adults; and

(2) at increased risk for future violent relationships;

Whereas girls victimized by a teen boyfriend reported more heavy drinking, smoking, depression, and thoughts of suicide, and teens of both sexes who were in aggressive relationships were 2 to 3 times more likely to be in violent relationships as young adults;

Whereas being physically or sexually abused makes teenage girls up to 6 times more likely to become pregnant and more than twice as likely to contract a sexually transmitted disease;

Whereas according to the 2009 Parent/Teen Dating Violence Poll by Liz Claiborne Inc., although 82 percent of parents are confident that they could recognize the signs if their child was experiencing dating abuse, 58 percent of parents could not correctly identify all of the warning signs of abuse;

Whereas 74 percent of teenage boys and 66 percent of teenage girls report that they

have not had a conversation with a parent about dating abuse in the past year;

Whereas 1 in 4 teens in a relationship report having been called names, harassed, or put down by a partner through the use of a telephone, including through texting;

Whereas according to the 2010 College Dating Violence and Abuse Poll by Liz Claiborne Inc., 43 percent of college women who date report experiencing abusive dating behaviors;

Whereas 70 percent of college students who experienced relationship abuse failed to realize that they were in an abusive relationship at the time, and 60 percent of college students who were in an abusive relationship said that no one stepped in to help them;

Whereas the severity of violence among intimate partners has been shown to be greater in cases where a pattern of violence was established during adolescence;

Whereas primary prevention programs are a key part of addressing teen dating violence, and successful examples of these programs include education, community outreach, and social marketing campaigns that are culturally appropriate;

Whereas educating middle school students and the parents of middle school students about the importance of building healthy relationships and preventing teen dating violence is key to deterring dating abuse before it begins;

Whereas skilled assessment and intervention programs are necessary for young victims and abusers; and

Whereas the establishment of the month of February 2015, as National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month will benefit schools, communities, and families regardless of socioeconomic status, race, or sex: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the month of February 2015, as "National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month";

(2) supports communities that are empowering teenagers to develop healthier relationships throughout their lives; and

(3) calls upon the people of the United States, including young people, parents, schools, law enforcement officials, State and local officials, and interested groups to observe National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month with appropriate programs and activities that promote awareness and prevention of teen dating violence in their communities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 76—WELCOMING THE PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL TO THE UNITED STATES FOR HIS ADDRESS TO A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. COTTON, Mr. LEE, Mr. HELLER, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. MORAN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. VITTER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. RISCH, Mr. DAINES, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BURR, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. PERDUE, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr.

COATS, Mr. KIRK, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. ENZI, Mr. PAUL, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 76

Whereas, since its founding in 1948, Israel has been a strong and steadfast ally to the United States in the Middle East, a region characterized by instability and violence;

Whereas the United States-Israel relationship is built on mutual respect for common values, including a commitment to democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, free-market principles, and ethnic and religious diversity;

Whereas the strong cultural, religious, and political ties shared by the United States and Israel help form a bond between our countries that should never be broken;

Whereas Israel continues to serve as a shining model of democratic values by regularly holding free and fair elections, promoting the free exchange of ideas, and vigorously exercising a form of democratic government that is fully representative of its citizens;

Whereas nations such as Iran and Syria, as well as designated foreign terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah and Hamas, refuse to recognize Israel's right to exist, continually call for its destruction, and have repeatedly attacked Israel either directly or through proxies;

Whereas, in particular, the Government of Iran's ongoing pursuit of nuclear weapons poses a tremendous threat both to the United States and Israel;

Whereas the negotiations between the so-called P5+1 countries and Iran over its illicit nuclear weapons program are entering a key phase, and Congress has heard the perspectives, both publicly and privately, of a number of close allies involved in the negotiations; and

Whereas the United States is committed to ensuring that Israel, as a strong and trusted ally, maintains its qualitative military edge: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) warmly welcomes the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, on his visit to the United States, which provides a timely opportunity to reinforce the United States-Israel relationship;

(2) eagerly awaits the address of Prime Minister Netanyahu before a joint session of the United States Congress;

(3) reaffirms its commitment to stand with Israel during times of uncertainty;

(4) continues to strongly support Israel's right to defend itself from threats to its very survival; and

(5) reaffirms its unequivocal and bipartisan support for the friendship between the people and Governments of the United States and Israel.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I want to speak on another matter, and that is an event that should be a historic and momentous event that is scheduled to take place on the other side of the Capitol early next month. For the third time since he has been Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu will be speaking to a joint session of Congress.

In his invitation, the Speaker of the House indicated that the reason for the invitation is because of the grave threats radical Islam and the Iranian regime pose to our security and our

way of life. I cannot think of a more timely or a more critical subject for the American people to hear about from one of the world's great leaders.

For some reason, some people are trying to turn this into a public controversy, but to me and I imagine to many others, it is mystifying and somewhat disappointing. The reasons for supporting and defending the nation of Israel are obvious: Both of our countries are pluralistic democracies with a staunch commitment to liberty, equality, and human rights; both of our countries are threatened by radical Islam; and both of our countries have responded to that threat while remaining free and open societies. Those are the reasons why most Americans stand with Israel and why U.S. aid to Israel enjoys such overwhelming support among Members of both parties here in Congress. Indeed, we have no closer Middle Eastern ally than Israel and I would argue no bigger Middle Eastern adversary than the country of Iran.

I would also argue that we have no bigger foreign policy challenges than stopping the Iranian drive for nuclear weapons and keeping those weapons out of the hands of terrorists. A nuclear Iran would make this world a far more dangerous place. For starters, it would dramatically increase Iranian leverage, Iranian power, and Iranian aggression in the Middle East. We must remember that this is the same regime that has continued to violently target the United States since 1979. It is the same regime that has been on the State Department's terrorism blacklist since 1984. It is the same regime that not too long ago was plotting to blow up a restaurant right here in Washington, DC.

I was reminded that 1983, with the bombing of our Embassy in Beirut—a largely forgotten historical moment—was the beginning of America's deadly encounter with the political Islamist movement. It was also the birth of the Shiite political entity we know today by the name of Hezbollah, supported by Iran.

Perhaps most poignantly, the Government of Iran refuses to recognize Israel's right to exist, has continually called for its destruction, and has repeatedly attacked Israel either directly or through proxies. Make no mistake—Iran's ongoing pursuit of nuclear weapons poses a tremendous threat to the United States and to our ally Israel.

Given the very clear and present danger to the nation of Israel and the dangers they face on a perpetual basis from their neighbors in the region—Iran—the U.S.-Israel alliance has never been more important than it is today.

Israel is a shining model of democratic values for nations around the world. It is a great example for others to follow in the Middle East. The strong cultural, religious, and political ties shared by the United States and

Israel have helped form a bond between our countries that should never be broken.

Now more than ever, the people of Israel need reassurance that we remain committed to seeing that their nation, as a strong and trusted ally, maintain its qualitative military edge in the face of ongoing threats from nations such as Iran and Syria and terrorist groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah. That is why today we have filed a resolution here in the Senate welcoming Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu when he addresses a joint session of Congress next month. This resolution reaffirms the Senate's commitment to stand with Israel during times of uncertainty. It reaffirms this body's strong support for Israel's right to defend itself from threats to its very survival. And it reaffirms the Senate's unequivocal support for the friendship between the governments of our two nations.

As of this morning a majority of the Senate has signed on as a cosponsor to this resolution, and this afternoon we are signing a "Dear Colleague" letter, which, as the Presiding Officer knows, invites all 100 Senators to join in support of this resolution. I hope the rest of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me in welcoming the Prime Minister to Washington so we can continue to work together as he articulates in graphic detail, as no one else can, the threat of a nuclear Iran. During this time of such great instability and danger in the Middle East, the United States cannot afford to waver in our commitment to one of our closest and most important allies.

SENATE RESOLUTION 77—DESIGNATING FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2015, AS "\$2.13 DAY"

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. BOXER, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 77

Whereas \$2.13 per hour is the Federal minimum wage that an employer is required to pay a tipped employee (as defined in section 3(t) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203(t))) as a cash wage under section 3(m) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 203(m)) (referred to in this preamble as the "Federal minimum wage for a tipped employee");

Whereas when the Federal minimum wage for a tipped employee was established in 1966, such wage was linked to the Federal minimum wage for a covered nonexempt employee under section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1));

Whereas while the Federal minimum wage for a covered nonexempt employee increased in 2009, the Federal minimum wage for a tipped employee has not changed in more than 20 years;

Whereas in the 1980s, the Federal minimum wage for a tipped employee reached 60 per-

cent of the Federal minimum wage for a covered nonexempt employee, and in 2015, the Federal minimum wage for a tipped employee is only 29 percent of the \$7.25 per hour Federal minimum wage for a covered nonexempt employee;

Whereas tipped employees work in many occupations, including working as restaurant servers, airport attendants, hotel workers, valets, and salon workers;

Whereas \$2.13 per hour is such a low wage that tipped employees are dependent on the discretionary contributions of consumers for the majority of their income;

Whereas 7 States have 1 minimum wage for both tipped employees and covered nonexempt employees, and the restaurant industry has continued to thrive in such States;

Whereas in States with a minimum wage for a tipped employee that is higher than \$2.13 per hour, the poverty rate for tipped employees is lower than the poverty rate for tipped employees in States without such a higher minimum wage for tipped employees;

Whereas restaurant servers have a poverty rate that is 3 times higher than the poverty rate of the general workforce and are nearly 2 times more likely to depend on the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) than the general workforce;

Whereas States with a minimum wage for a tipped employee of \$2.13 per hour have a poverty rate for employees of color that is more than 10 percent higher than such poverty rate in States that require the same minimum wage for tipped employees as other covered nonexempt employees;

Whereas women account for 67 percent of all tipped employees and approximately 70 percent of food servers and bartenders;

Whereas 25 percent of all tipped employees are parents who work hard to support their families;

Whereas the Bureau of Labor Statistics projected that from 2008 to 2018, the food preparation and serving sector, as defined by the Bureau, would add more than 1,000,000 jobs;

Whereas such food preparation and serving sector has a mean wage of \$24,860, nearly \$25,000 less than the mean wage for all occupations in the United States; and

Whereas raising the Federal minimum wage for a tipped employee would provide hardworking people in the United States with more just wages, lift families in the United States out of poverty, and provide economic security to tipped employees in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate designates Friday, February 13, 2015, as "\$2.13 Day"; and

(2) it is the sense of the Senate that the cash wage that an employer is required to pay a tipped employee (as defined in section 3(t) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203(t))) under section 3(m) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 203(m)) should be increased to 70 percent of the Federal minimum wage for a covered nonexempt employee under section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)).

SENATE RESOLUTION 78—RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF JERRY TARKANIAN, FORMER HEAD BASKETBALL COACH OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS

Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. REID) submitted the following resolu-

tion; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 78

Whereas Jerry Tarkanian was born August 8, 1930, in Euclid, Ohio, graduated from Fresno State in 1955, and earned a Master's degree from the University of Redlands in 1956;

Whereas Jerry Tarkanian is survived by his wife, 4 children, and 11 grandchildren;

Whereas Jerry Tarkanian never had a losing season during the 19 years he coached the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) men's basketball team from 1973 to 1992, leading the "Runnin' Rebels" to a 509-105 record, 4 Final Four appearances, and the 1990 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I Men's Basketball National Championship;

Whereas UNLV won the 1990 championship game by defeating the Duke University Blue Devils 103 to 73, the highest margin of victory in a championship game in NCAA Division I history;

Whereas Jerry Tarkanian unified the Las Vegas community, and became beloved by Nevadans and many more throughout the United States who watched as Tarkanian coached his teams to victory in the Thomas & Mack Center (also known as "the Shark Tank"), often while nervously chewing a towel at courtside;

Whereas over the course of a 38-year career that spanned high school, junior college, Division I of the NCAA, and the National Basketball Association, Jerry Tarkanian won 990 career games and received the 1983 United Press International Coach of the Year award;

Whereas Jerry Tarkanian's immeasurable contributions to the game of basketball, which included his signature usage of the amoeba defense to wear down opposing teams, were recognized when he was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame in 2013; and

Whereas Jerry Tarkanian's off-the-court contributions to Las Vegas and the entire State of Nevada are admired and deeply appreciated by all who call Nevada home: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of Jerry Tarkanian; and

(2) requests the Secretary of the Senate to prepare an official copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Jerry Tarkanian.

SENATE RESOLUTION 79—HONORING DEAN EDWARDS SMITH, FORMER HEAD COACH FOR THE MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. TILLIS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 79

Whereas Dean Edwards Smith, born in Emporia, Kansas, on February 28, 1931, spent 44 years dedicating himself to the sport of collegiate basketball;

Whereas Dean Edwards Smith was educated at the University of Kansas and was a member of the men's basketball team for the University of Kansas, which won a National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as the "NCAA") title in 1952;

Whereas Dean Edwards Smith served as an assistant coach for the men's basketball team for the University of Kansas in 1953 after he graduated;

Whereas Dean Edwards Smith served as an assistant coach for the men's basketball team for the United States Air Force Academy from 1954 through 1958;

Whereas Dean Edwards Smith coached the men's basketball team for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as an assistant coach from 1958 through 1961, and as the head coach from 1961 through 1997;

Whereas Dean Edwards Smith, during his time at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, led the men's basketball program to 11 appearances in the semifinals of the NCAA tournament (commonly known as the "Final Four"), 2 NCAA championships in 1982 and 1993, and 1 National Invitation Tournament in 1971, becoming the most successful men's collegiate basketball coach at the time of his retirement with 879 career victories;

Whereas Dean Edwards Smith led the men's basketball team for the United States to a gold medal in the 1976 Olympics; and

Whereas Dean Edwards Smith made invaluable contributions to his community, State, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) has profound sorrow and deep regret at the announcement of the death of Dean Edwards Smith; and

(2) requests the Secretary of the Senate to prepare an official copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Dean Edwards Smith.

SENATE RESOLUTION 80—RECOGNIZING THE CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF LUNAR NEW YEAR

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KIRK, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. REID, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 80

Whereas Lunar New Year begins on the second new moon following the winter solstice, or the first day of the new year according to the lunisolar calendar, and extends until the full moon 15 days later;

Whereas February 19, 2015, marks the first day of Lunar New Year for calendar year 2015;

Whereas the 15th day of the new year, according to the lunisolar calendar, is called the Lantern Festival;

Whereas Lunar New Year is often referred to as "Spring Festival" in various Asian countries;

Whereas many religious and ethnic communities use lunar-based calendars;

Whereas Lunar New Year began in China more than 4,000 years ago and is widely celebrated in East and Southeast Asia;

Whereas the Asian diaspora has expanded the Lunar New Year celebration into an annual worldwide event;

Whereas Lunar New Year is celebrated by millions of Asian Americans, and by many non-Asian Americans, in the United States;

Whereas Lunar New Year is celebrated with community activities and cultural performances;

Whereas participants celebrating Lunar New Year travel to spend the holiday reuniting with family and friends; and

Whereas Lunar New Year is traditionally a time to wish upon others good fortune, health, prosperity, and happiness: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the cultural and historical significance of Lunar New Year;

(2) in observance of Lunar New Year, expresses its deepest respect for Asian Americans and all individuals throughout the world who celebrate this significant occasion; and

(3) wishes Asian Americans and all individuals who observe this holiday a happy and prosperous new year.

SENATE RESOLUTION 81—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT CHILDREN TRAFFICKED FOR SEX IN THE UNITED STATES SHOULD NOT BE TREATED OR REGARDED AS CHILD PROSTITUTES BECAUSE THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A "CHILD PROSTITUTE", ONLY CHILDREN WHO ARE VICTIMS OR SURVIVORS OF RAPE AND SEX TRAFFICKING

Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 81

Whereas the Federal Bureau of Investigation estimates that hundreds of thousands of children in the United States are at risk of being commercially exploited through sex trafficking;

Whereas children as young as 11 years old may be subjected to the commercial sex market as victims of sex trafficking;

Whereas many child victims of sex trafficking have experienced previous physical or sexual abuse, vulnerabilities that traffickers exploit to manipulate the victims into a life of sexual slavery through sex trafficking;

Whereas many child victims of sex trafficking are hidden in plain view, standing at bus stops, in runaway and homeless youth shelters, and advertised online; and

Whereas many child victims of sex trafficking who have not yet attained the age of consent are arrested and detained for juvenile prostitution or status offenses directly related to their exploitation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) encourages the Departments of Justice, Health and Human Services, and Labor, and all other relevant Federal entities, to treat children trafficked for sex as victims or survivors of rape and sex trafficking;

(2) supports efforts to arrest and prosecute sex traffickers and buyers of children trafficked for sex, in accordance with applicable State and Federal sex trafficking statutes, and State child protection laws against abuse and statutory rape, in order to take all necessary measures to protect the most vulnerable children in the United States;

(3) supports survivors of child sex trafficking, including efforts to raise awareness of this tragedy and of the comprehensive services necessary to heal from the trauma of sexual violence and exploitation;

(4) urges lawmakers, law enforcement, the media, and the public to reframe the trafficking of children for sex as an act of vio-

lence against children and not as mere vice, prostitution, or sex work, because there is no such thing as a "child prostitute", only children who are victims or survivors of rape and sex trafficking; and

(5) supports an end to the demand for children in the commercial sex market, by supporting efforts to ensure that children in the United States are not for sale and that any person who is trafficking or purchasing a child for sex shall be punished under the full force of the law.

SENATE RESOLUTION 82—COMMENDING KATHLEEN ALVAREZ TRITAK ON HER SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COATS, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 82

Whereas Kathie Alvarez Tritak, a native of Louisiana, began her career as a 7th grade history teacher before coming to work in the Office of Secretary of the Senate in 1984;

Whereas Kathie Alvarez Tritak, has served the Senate with distinction as a staff member in the Senate Document Room, as an assistant Bill Clerk, as Bill Clerk, as an assistant Legislative Clerk and as Legislative Clerk;

Whereas Kathie Alvarez Tritak set many milestones in Senate history, including becoming the first female Bill Clerk, the first female Legislative Clerk and, in 1991, the first female to take a roll call vote in the Senate;

Whereas Kathie Alvarez Tritak has, since 2008, served as the Senate's Legislative Clerk and Director of Legislative Services, supervising 36 employees and has at all times discharged her duties faithfully;

Whereas Kathie Alvarez Tritak's distinctive southern accent is known to all in the Senate the press gallery and the C-SPAN audience;

Whereas Kathie Alvarez Tritak has earned the respect and affection of the Senators, their staffs and her colleagues for her dedication to the institution of the Senate; and

Whereas Kathie Alvarez Tritak now retires from the Senate after 30 years to spend more time with her husband, John, and their daughter, Georgia; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate expresses its appreciation to Kathie Alvarez Tritak and commends her for her lengthy, faithful and outstanding service to the Senate.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to Kathleen Alvarez Tritak.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 251. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. CARDIN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 52, calling for the release of Ukrainian fighter pilot Nadiya Savchenko, who was captured by Russian forces in Eastern Ukraine and has been held illegally in a Russian prison since July 2014.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 251. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. CARDIN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 52, calling for the release of Ukrainian fighter pilot Nadiya Savchenko, who was captured by Russian forces in Eastern Ukraine and has been held illegally in a Russian prison since July 2014; as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following: "That the Senate—

(1) condemns the Government of the Russian Federation for its illegal imprisonment of Nadiya Savchenko;

(2) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to immediately release Nadiya Savchenko;

(3) calls on the United States, its European allies, and the international community to aggressively support diplomatic efforts to release Nadiya Savchenko; and

(4) expresses solidarity with the Ukrainian people.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 12, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 12, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 12, 2015, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Regulatory Relief for Community Banks and Credit Unions."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 12, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 12, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 12, 2015, at 9:45 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 12, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Mark Baba, a detailee on the Finance Committee, be allowed on the Senate floor for the remainder of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Maj. Warren Bruce, a Marine fellow in my office, be granted the privilege of the floor for the remainder of the legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES BY COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 18, S. Res. 73.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 73) authorizing expenditures by committees of the Senate for the periods March 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015, October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016, and October 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 73) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF UKRAINIAN FIGHTER PILOT NADIYA SAVCHENKO

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 52 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 52) calling for the release of Ukrainian fighter pilot Nadiya Savchenko, who was captured by Russian forces in Eastern Ukraine and has been held illegally in a Russian prison since July 2014.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise to discuss the plight of Ukrainian fighter pilot Nadiya Savchenko. My resolution, S. Res. 52, which Senators WICKER, BROWN, RUBIO, and GARDNER have co-sponsored, calls for the release of former Ukrainian fighter pilot Nadiya Savchenko, who has been languishing in Russian prisons since she was abducted by pro-Russian forces in eastern Ukraine last July and illegally transferred across the border in handcuffs and with a bag over her head.

In the 8 months Nadiya has been incarcerated on specious and unsubstantiated charges, she has endured interrogations, involuntary psychiatric evaluations, and solitary confinement in the same pretrial detention center where Sergei Magnitsky was tortured and killed in 2009. The resolution is especially timely as Nadiya is in the 62nd day of a hunger strike. Her health is rapidly deteriorating. Her situation is critical. And yet, on Tuesday, a Moscow court extended her detention until

May 13, ignoring clear evidence compiled by the defense proving her non-involvement in the deeds the Russian authorities claim as justification for holding her.

Nadiya is yet another victim of the Putin regime's lawlessness, brutality, and contempt for human life. And we need to recognize that this isn't just about her; it's a highly visible manifestation of Putin's contempt for a Ukraine that wishes to remain free, independent, and democratic. She was elected in absentia to the Ukrainian parliament in October and a member of Ukraine's delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, PACE. As such, she enjoys diplomatic immunity and PACE has called for her immediate release.

According to the September Minsk agreements between Russia and Ukraine, hostages on both sides were supposed to be released. Russia has made a mockery of the Minsk agreements, just as it has the Helsinki Final Act and numerous other Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, OSCE, agreements. The illegal detention of Nadiya and other Ukrainian citizens represents yet another violation of international agreements and the norms of civilized behavior. S. Res. 52 sends a strong message of solidarity to the Ukrainian people and calls on the Putin regime to release Nadiya immediately. I am pleased the Senate is poised to pass this important resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Cardin amendment to the resolution be agreed to; the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; the preamble be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 251) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To provide a complete substitute)

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following: "That the Senate—

(1) condemns the Government of the Russian Federation for its illegal imprisonment of Nadiya Savchenko;

(2) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to immediately release Nadiya Savchenko;

(3) calls on the United States, its European allies, and the international community to aggressively support diplomatic efforts to release Nadiya Savchenko; and

(4) expresses solidarity with the Ukrainian people.

The resolution (S. Res. 52), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 52

Whereas Nadiya Savchenko is the first-ever female fighter pilot in Ukraine's Armed Forces and is an Iraqi war veteran;

Whereas in the ongoing conflict in Eastern Ukraine, Nadiya Savchenko volunteered her services to the Ukrainian Aidar battalion;

Whereas Nadiya Savchenko was elected in absentia from the Batkivshchyna Party to Ukraine's Parliament in October 2014, and appointed to the Parliament Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) as a representative from Ukraine;

Whereas as a member of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, Lieutenant Nadiya Savchenko was conducting operations in eastern Ukraine against pro-Russian forces in the summer of 2014 when she was captured and taken into captivity;

Whereas during her mission in Eastern Ukraine, she was captured by the Donbas People's Militia, detained on Ukrainian territory, deprived of rights to due process, and illegally transferred to the Russian Federation to stand trial on unsubstantiated charges of terrorism;

Whereas, since July 2014, Nadiya Savchenko has endured involuntary psychiatric evaluations and solitary confinement;

Whereas Nadiya Savchenko is currently entering her sixth week of a hunger strike as a symbol of her protest;

Whereas Nadiya Savchenko is denied access to urgently needed medical attention and access to legal counsel;

Whereas the Minsk Protocol of September 2014, signed by Ukraine and the Russian Federation, calls for the "immediate release of all hostages and illegally held persons";

Whereas appeals have been made to the United Nations Human Rights Council and the International Red Cross to secure Nadiya Savchenko's release;

Whereas the international community, including representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and of the United States, have urged her immediate release;

Whereas, on January 26, 2015, the opening day of the Parliamentary Assembly, the global community embarks on a public campaign to bring attention to the plight of Nadiya Savchenko and demand her immediate release; and

Whereas the Government and people of the United States express concern about the deteriorating health of detained pilot Nadiya Savchenko and her continued illegal imprisonment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the Government of the Russian Federation for its illegal imprisonment of Nadiya Savchenko;

(2) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to immediately release Nadiya Savchenko;

(3) calls on the United States, its European allies, and the international community to aggressively support diplomatic efforts to release Nadiya Savchenko; and

(4) expresses solidarity with the Ukrainian people.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed en bloc to the consideration of the following Senate resolutions that were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 78 regarding Jerry Tarkanian; S. Res. 79 regarding Dean Smith; S. Res. 80 regarding the Lunar New Year; and S. Res. 81 regarding trafficking.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.
(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

COMMENDING KATHLEEN ALVAREZ TRITAK ON HER SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 82, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 82) commending Kathleen Alvarez Tritak on her service to the United States Senate.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 82) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that during this adjournment of the Senate, running until February 23, 2015, the majority leader and the junior Senator from Missouri be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses or by order of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Democratic leader, pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 64, adopted March 5, 2013, appoints the following Senators as members of the Senate National Security Working Group for the 114th Congress: DIANNE FEINSTEIN of California (Democratic Administrative Co-Chairman), BARBARA A. MIKULSKI of Maryland (Democratic Co-Chairman), JACK REED of Rhode Island (Democratic Co-Chairman), ROBERT MENENDEZ of New Jersey (Democratic Co-Chairman), RICHARD J. DURBIN of Illinois, BILL NELSON of Florida, BENJAMIN L. CARDIN of Maryland, ROBERT P. CASEY, JR., of Pennsylvania, and HEIDI HEITKAMP of North Dakota.

The Chair, on behalf of the Democratic leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 113-146, appoints the following individuals to serve as members of the Commission on Care: Dr. Ikram Khan of Nevada, Phillip Longman of the District of Columbia, and Dr. Marshall Webster of Pennsylvania.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16 THROUGH MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2015

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted, on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Monday, February 16, at 4:45 p.m., and Thursday, February 19, at 10 a.m. I further ask that the Senate adjourn on Thursday, February 19, until 3 p.m. Monday, February 23, and that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day. I ask that following leader remarks, Senator HOEVEN be recognized to deliver Washington's Farewell Address; further, that following the reading of Washington's Farewell Address, the Senate recess until 4:30 p.m., and that upon reconvening the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 240. Lastly, I ask that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the mandatory quorum call in relation to the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to H.R. 240 be waived, and that the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 240 occur at 5:30 p.m. Monday, February 23.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2015, AT 4:45 P.M.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:34 p.m., adjourned until Monday, February 16, 2015, at 4:45 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

BRODI L. FONTENOT, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, VICE DANIEL M. TANGHERLINI, RESIGNED.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

DEBORAH WILLIS, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2020, VICE CAROL M. SWAIN, TERM EXPIRED.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

ANN ELIZABETH DUNKIN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE MALCOLM D. JACKSON, RESIGNED.

JANE TOSHIKO NISHIDA, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE MICHELLE DEPASS, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

SETH B. CARPENTER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, VICE MATTHEW S. RUTHERFORD, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CHARLES C. ADAMS, JR., OF MARYLAND, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND.

SARAH ELIZABETH MENDELSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

UNITED NATIONS

SARAH ELIZABETH MENDELSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING HER TENURE OF SERVICE AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MARY CATHERINE PHEE, OF ILLINOIS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

DAVID MICHAEL BENNETT, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2018, VICE THURGOOD MARSHALL, JR., TERM EXPIRED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

LT. GEN. ELLEN M. PAWLIKOWSKI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. WILLIAM M. KNIGHT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JOHN B. COOPER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE SURGEON GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 8036 AND 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. MARK A. EDIGER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

BRIG. GEN. JOHN L. DOLAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. LEE K. LEVY II

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. KENNETH E. TOVO

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) LAWRENCE B. JACKSON
REAR ADM. (LH) SCOTT B. J. JERABEK
REAR ADM. (LH) LUKE M. MCCOLLUM

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) CHRISTINA M. ALVARADO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. KATHERINE A. MCCABE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. GRAFTON D. CHASE, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. DANIEL V. MACINNIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPTAIN ALAN D. BEAL
CAPTAIN DARREN J. HANSON
CAPTAIN BRIAN S. HURLEY
CAPTAIN ANDREW C. LENNON

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate February 12, 2015:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

ASHTON B. CARTER, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ARIC MATTHEW
STOREY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Aric Matthew Storey. Aric is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Aric has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Aric has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Aric has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Aric Matthew Storey for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE LOS ALAMOS
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Los Alamos Historical Society for its work to preserve the history of Los Alamos and its advocacy for the Manhattan Project National Park.

The Los Alamos Historical Society has done much to promote the history of Los Alamos. As the largest historical society in New Mexico, the Los Alamos Historical Society plays an important educational role in the community by managing the Los Alamos Historical Museum and Archives, producing lecture series, and publishing books on the area history. Moreover, the Los Alamos Historical Society helped to create the "Voices of the Manhattan Project," a public archive of the oral history collections of Manhattan Project veterans and their families. Not only has the Los Alamos Historical Society helped preserve and communicate the story of Los Alamos for future generations of New Mexicans, but it has also helped spread Los Alamos's legacy to visitors from around the globe.

The Los Alamos Historical Society has also been a strong advocate for the creation of the Manhattan Project National Park. The Manhattan Project changed the course of the 20th century and has had an enduring effect on

American and world history. The new National Park will help future generations understand both the positive and negative impacts of the project, as well as recognize the individuals who played a key role in the national security of our nation. I thank the Los Alamos Historical Society for its efforts to ensure that the legacy and people of the Manhattan Project will not be forgotten, and I applaud the Historical Society for all that they have done to protect and promote the history of Los Alamos.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast a vote on Roll Call 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56 on February 2, 2015 and February 3, 2015. I was in Massachusetts during the severe weather that struck New England and was unable to travel to Washington.

Had I been present for these votes, I would have voted Yes on Roll Call 51 (H.R. 361), Roll Call 52 (H.R. 615); H.R. 623 (Roll Call 53) and Roll Call 56 (approving the Journal). I would have voted No on Roll Call 54 (previous question on H. Res. 70), and Roll Call 55 (H. Res. 70).

I would have voted in favor of H.R. 361 in order to enhance the medical preparedness of the Department of Homeland Security. I would have voted in favor of H.R. 615 in order to increase the ability of agencies within the Department of Homeland Security to communicate more effectively with each other. Finally, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 623 in order to determine possible ways to use social media to effectively prepare for and respond to natural disasters and terrorist attacks.

I would have voted against Roll Call 54, a previous question. Had Roll Call 54 failed, Democrats would have been allowed to bring the American Manufacturing Jobs for Students Act to the floor. I would have voted against H. Res. 70, a resolution that allowed the majority to bring a bill to the floor that would repeal the Affordable Care Act. Should the repeal bill become law, funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program would be ended and 3 million young Americans would be kicked of their parents' health plans. Further, an estimated 10 million people would lose their insurance coverage.

BISHOP GUILFOYLE BRINGS HOME
THE TITLE

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bishop Guilfoyle Marauder Football team, who capped off an undefeated season beating the Clairton Bears in the Division "A" State Championship.

Led by Coach Wheeler, BG's offense plowed through their opponents, posting 715 points this season and while I don't hold it against them, it became obvious BG was destined for a championship when I watched them defeat my nephew Michael Shuster and the Camp Hill Lions 62-21.

But the saying is: Defense wins championships.

And in the final minutes of the PIAA State Championship, the Marauder defense dug in and held the goal-line, defending multiple Clairton red-zone scoring attempts, securing the Maurader's 1-point lead, 19-18 straight to the Title.

And the character displayed by these young men gave all of us another reason to be proud to call Central Pennsylvania home.

I would also like to give special recognition to the seniors for dedicating their time and efforts to a team sport that they love. Many of these seniors have played football together since 4th grade, and for some of them the State Championship will serve as their last game of football, albeit a good note to go out on:

Berger, B. Chadbourn, McCloskey, Gormley, Kitt, Livoti, Luther, Miller, Price, and Wolf.

And the rest of the team: Hagg, Yasulitis, Coyler, Leamer, Degol, S. Donoughe, Little, Kozak, Keating, Irwin, Frederick, Runk, Green, Brumbaugh, Yahner, Callahan, Trexler, E. Chadbourn, Luther, Donnelly, Trybus, Freidenberger, Conrad, Ramsey, Ferrell, Leamer, P. Donoughe, Labroila, Georgiana, Pleva, Wills, Yasulitis, Berish, and Patterson.

And I would be remiss if I did not mention the Marauder's honorary captain, who truly exemplifies the spirit of Bishop Guilfoyle Football—Jorden McClure.

Congratulations to Coach Wheeler, and all of Bishop Guilfoyle for bringing home the State Championship.

HONORING COLE MICHAEL
KOSTELAC

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Cole Michael

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Kostelac. Cole is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Cole has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Cole has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Cole has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Cole Michael Kostelac for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE WASKOM HIGH SCHOOL WILDCATS, 2014 3-A, DIV II STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to recognize today the outstanding season of the Waskom Wildcats football team, who completed the season by capturing the title of 2014 Class 3A Division II Texas State Champions for the first time in the entirety of Waskom's history.

The championship series proved difficult for the Wildcats, but it was not a difficulty that these skilled and devoted athletes could not overcome. In the State semi-final game, the Wildcats trailed the Sonora Broncos until the third quarter, when their defense held the Broncos back while their offense prevailed with a final score of 25-21 to win the game and usher them into the state championship title game.

After the scoreless first quarter of the state title game, the tenacious Waskom Wildcats scored their first touchdown to take the lead over the Newton Eagles, but the Eagles battled back to take an 8-7 lead. In an amazing show of resilience and ability, just fifteen seconds later, the Wildcats ran the ball 88 yards to score a touchdown and take the lead once again. From that play on, the Wildcats only increased their lead. Scoring six touchdowns and running 350 total yards of offense, the Wildcats ended an extraordinary and victorious game with a final score of 41-22.

The Wildcats are a perfect representation of what can be accomplished when a team possesses both perseverance and resolve with proper guidance from the coaching staff. Although the Wildcats suffered a loss during the first game of their season, their determination remained steadfast, and they recovered to end the season with a stellar record of 13-2.

The exceptional athletes who comprise this team of champions are Kevin Johnson, Keileon Johnson, Trace Carter, Jaire Jackson, Junebug Johnson, Kaleb Haynes, Eric Stephens III, Pedro Rodriguez, Lucas Norton, Cullum Ditmore, Dylan Harkrider, Jake Gillard, Chan Amie, Mike Reason, Kyle Kyker, Dillon

Benton, Michael Jaeger, Kyle McInnis, Hernan Rico, Victor Tapia, John Lumpkin, Tony Ratcliff, Morgan Browning, Jose Chavarria, Kyle Adams, Brandon Latham, Logan O'Connor, Christian Smith, Jack Smith, Dylan Powell, Jeremy D'Agostino, Hunter Johnson, Jacob Bennett, Dylan Hudson, Matt Norris, Bradley Cochran, Ty Carter, Jason Jinks, Tay Green, Vicente Segura, and Matt Padron.

The athletic staff and faculty who led the Wildcats to victory must be congratulated, because no team, no matter how talented and committed can rise to the pinnacle of being State Champions without proper direction, correction, and motivation. Led by Head Coach & Athletic Director Whitney Keeling, the Coaching Staff includes Jeremy Kubiak, Greg Pearson, Daniel Swaim, Jeff Lyles, Gary Wilson, Vincent Lee, David Higginbotham, Matt Goode, and Lorenza Thomas; the Ball Boys include Paxton Keeling, Trent Higginbotham, Jalyann Washington, LaZavion Thomas, and Benito Sanchez. And, of course, if a school and school district is not committed to its athletic program and all the life lessons it provides, the team does not have the opportunity to excel. So thanks and congratulations go to the School Principal Andy Chilcoat and his staff, as well as Superintendent Jimmy E. Cox and all of his staff.

It is with great pride that I join with the citizens of Waskom, as well as the entire First District of Texas, in congratulating the Waskom Wildcats on their first State Championship and their impressive season. This outstanding accomplishment is now preserved in the United States CONGRESSIONAL RECORD which will endure as long as there is a United States of America.

HONORING UNIVERSITY OF OREGON PROFESSOR DAVID FRANK

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize University of Oregon (UO) Professor David Frank. In his 32 year career at the UO, Professor Frank has taught, mentored, and inspired generations of students. He has shaped the study of speech and debate as the dean of the Robert D. Clark Honors Program at the UO and as the longtime director of the UO Forensics Program. For his exemplary work and for his leadership, the UO college debate tournament has been renamed the David Frank Tournament of Scholars.

Professor Frank is renowned for his wit, rhetorical flair, and passion for the principles of debate. He is the recipient of five teaching awards, including three university wide recognitions and a career achievement award in forensics. He has overseen the UO Forensics Program since 1981, which won three national championships and international recognition, with a team competing in the semifinal round at the 2006 World Universities Championship in Dublin, Ireland.

As a University of Oregon graduate, it is my pleasure to highlight the outstanding accomplishments of Professor Frank. I am also

proud to note that Oregon forensics dates to the founding of the university in 1876. One of the very first intercollegiate debates in America occurred in 1891 between Oregon and Willamette University. The style of debate now known as policy cross-examination was developed at the University of Oregon in the 1930s.

The UO hosts the first David Frank Tournament of Scholars later this month, an honor Professor Frank so richly merits.

HONORING LORI SAROYA

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lori Saroya for her contributions and tireless efforts in promoting justice, civil rights and mutual understanding among the Minnesota Islamic community and all peoples of faith. As Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Minnesota chapter of the Council on Islamic American Relations (CAIR) Mrs. Saroya has been at the forefront of building coalitions and improving Muslim relations across the state.

Mrs. Saroya was raised in Bloomfield, Iowa. She received her undergraduate degree from St. Catherine University and her Juris Doctor from Hamline University. As a child of the only Muslims in a small town she and her family were subject to messages of hate and unfair treatment. She took these early life experiences and turned them into positive actions. While still in high school Mrs. Saroya organized the Iowa Conference on Islam at the University of Iowa.

Recognizing a lack of Muslim civil rights advocacy groups in Minnesota she decided to fill the void. In 2007, she co-founded the Minnesota chapter of CAIR. The organization has quickly become a powerful voice for Muslim civil liberties and advocacy across the state. CAIR-MN successfully fought for and won the establishment of the Abu Huraira Islamic Center in St. Anthony, MN despite misguided local opposition. CAIR-MN asked the Justice Department to investigate, which led to a negotiated agreement with the city and the opening of a magnificent new center for gatherings and prayer. In 2014, Mrs. Saroya along with members of CAIR-MN led the first ever Jewish-Muslim Youth Day at the Minnesota Legislature. This ground breaking interfaith program trains students on successfully engaging in dialogue with legislators on the pressing issues of racial profiling, immigration, and safe schools. CAIR-MN has become the go-to legal source for those in the Muslim community. Since 2007 the organization has provided hundreds of Muslims with free legal aid and has become a driving force in fighting unlawful discrimination and bullying in work, schools, and the public sphere.

CAIR-MN's outstanding work has been recognized time and time again on the state and national level. Among some of the organization's many awards include the "Nonprofit Mission and Excellence Anti-Racism Award" from the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits and the "Pro Bono Difference Maker Award" from the

American Bar Association. It is through achievements such as these that Mrs. Saroya became the recipient of the prestigious Bush Foundation Fellowship for \$100,000 in 2014. This fellowship stands as a testament and a capstone to the truly amazing work that Ms. Saroya did in her time as Executive Director. Through this grant she will be able to take even greater leaps in her advocacy work.

Thanks to Ms. Saroya's outstanding efforts and hard work, CAIR-MN has immensely benefited the Muslim community in Minnesota. I applaud Ms. Saroya's extraordinary work in advancing the civil rights of the Muslim community and fostering a more vibrant and culturally understanding Minnesota. On behalf of the people of Minnesota's Fifth Congressional District, I wish you continued success and impact in your future advocacy work.

COMMEMORATING THE LIVES OF
ISIL'S VICTIMS

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the horrific ongoing brutality of ISIL and mourn the senseless loss of life in the Middle East.

Just yesterday, the United States confirmed the death of Kayla Mueller, the fourth American to die while a hostage of ISIL. Ms. Mueller had dedicated her young life to serving the struggling people of Syria as they endure a civil war and violence from many sides.

In recent weeks, we have also learned of the murder of two Japanese citizens, Kenji Goto and Haruna Yukawa, and Jordanian Air Force Pilot Lt. Muath Al-Kaseasbeh. These most recent casualties join American, British, and Russian captives as victims of ISIL's de-ranked ideology. All these victims, and their families, will be in our thoughts and prayers.

As co-chair of the Congressional Study Group on Japan, I was especially appalled that ISIL executed the Japanese captives in response to Japan pledging non-military aid to support the victims of ISIL's terror. Millions of Iraqi and Syrian refugees are in desperate need of assistance, and I applaud Japan for standing with the United States and a coalition of nations committed to confronting ISIL's barbarity.

The continued murder of foreign captives and the ongoing atrocities committed against tens of thousands of Iraqis and Syrians are a stark reminder that we cannot allow ISIL to continue unchecked. Instead, as international community we must remain united in our resolve to stop this evil and help work toward a stable, peaceful Middle East.

HONORING CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL
GRAVES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher Mi-

chael Graves. Christopher is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Christopher has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Christopher has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Christopher has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christopher Michael Graves for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

BUFFALO STATE WOMEN'S
BASKETBALL

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize three outstanding members of the senior class at Buffalo State College, Hillary Kollar, Olivia Luciani, and Ashley Wallace. As members of the Buffalo State women's basketball team, these students are known as leaders among their peers and teammates. I commend these young women for their dedication to academics and athletics and congratulate them on the completion of their college careers.

Hillary Kollar played for Buffalo State as a Guard and majored in Fashion Merchandising. Hillary comes from Johnstown, New York where she attended Johnstown High School.

A graduate of East Syracuse Minoa High School in Syracuse, New York, Olivia Luciani studied Public Communication while at Buffalo State and also played as a Guard for the basketball team.

Ashley Wallace comes from Lockport, New York and attended Starpoint High School. Ashley was a Forward who majored in Childhood Education at Buffalo State. Balancing the responsibilities demanded of student athletes is a true challenge, and each of these students handled the test with dignity and grace. As an alumnus of Buffalo State, I will be proud to call them fellow alumni.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing my colleagues to join me in recognizing these extraordinary Buffalo State Bengals and in congratulating them as they obtain their undergraduate degrees. Their dedication and drive will propel them to success, and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, in February, our nation commemorates the significant mile-

stones in Black History as we pay homage to the individuals who shaped America's history. I am proud that many of the great Black leaders and movements in our history came from Harlem. As the epicenter of the Black cultural movement of the 1920s known as the Harlem Renaissance, the historic neighborhood was home to luminaries such as James Baldwin, Madame C.J. Walker, and Duke Ellington. Recently, many great political leaders have called Harlem home, including David Dinkins, Basil Paterson, and Percy Sutton. Our congressional district continues to be a bastion of Black social, political, and artistic development.

I am fortunate to have many excellent organizations in the District that promote Black culture, history, and advancement. Our rich heritage is preserved through the efforts of The Link's Incorporated, 100 Black Men of New York, Coalition of 100 Black Women, Harlem Mothers SAVE, New York Urban League, NAACP New York State Conference, NAACP Mid-Manhattan Branch, Jazzmobile, Inc., Masjid Malcolm Shabazz Mosque, Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement, United Clergy Caucus, Mobilizing Preachers and Community (MPAC), Clergy With a Purpose and Community, United Baptist Missionary Association, Baptist Ministers' Conference of New York & Vicinity, Faison Firehouse Theatre, New Heritage Theater Group, Impact Reparatory Theatre, Manna House, The Falu Foundation, The Caribbean Cultural Center, The Pan-Hellenic Council of New York, The Mama Foundation, and Gospel for Teens.

Throughout Black History Month, we celebrate the contributions of Blacks in every facet of our society: Jackie Robinson of the Brooklyn Dodgers and Bill Russell of the Boston Celtics redefined sports and helped propel the civil rights movement; Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall and Rep. Shirley Chisholm left an indelible mark in government, Louis Armstrong and Langston Hughes influenced generations of musicians and poets. And civil rights leaders such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and my dear friend Rep. JOHN LEWIS forever changed the course of our nation.

As we mark the 50th Anniversary of the historic march from Selma to Montgomery, we pay tribute to our leaders who fought tirelessly for our rights and the artists who communicated the feelings of generations of Black Americans. Today, the rallying call of Black Lives Matter has regenerated a new movement of young social activists such as The Justice League NYC as the struggle continues to raise awareness for justice and equality throughout urban America. Let us honor the memory of the great men and women who paved the path of Black culture and achievement and commit to preserving our history by striving to build on their legacy.

CONGRATULATING KARL KILDOW

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Karl Kildow on his retirement

after 38 years of working in the education industry as both an educator and an advocate.

Mr. Kildow was born in San Diego, California and spent his youth in San Diego and Tustin, California. After completing his high school education, Mr. Kildow attended California State University Fullerton, where he received a degree in Social Science.

After college, Mr. Kildow dedicated his life to the noble profession of teaching. His first teaching job was at Needles High School in Needles, California. While there, he taught English, mathematics, history, and physical education and coached the school's basketball team. In addition launching his career as an educator in Needles, he also met his wife Sandy there.

Mr. Kildow settled in Visalia where he taught at Divisadero Middle School, Mt. Whitney High School, and Redwood High School teaching English, for 1 year, 18 years, and 8 years, respectively. During this time period he received an English credential and got involved in the Visalia Unified Teachers Association (VUTA) and the National Educators Association (NEA). He served as the President of the VUTA for 12 years and currently is an NEA Director.

After 38 years of teaching and advocating on behalf of students and teachers alike, Mr. Kildow will be retiring later this year.

Educators and students throughout the Central Valley of California have been extremely fortunate to have had someone as talented and dedicated as Mr. Kildow working on their behalf. Mr. Kildow touched the lives of countless individuals throughout his career. The Central Valley has benefitted greatly from his insight and perspective.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Karl Kildow for his 38 years of dedicated public service as an educator in the Central Valley and congratulating him on his recent retirement.

RUNNING FOR A CAUSE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate The Fellowship for hosting their 5th annual Run4theChildren race in Katy, Texas. This race raises funds to help families overcome the barriers to adopting children. This wonderful charity event allows families in our community grow and share their love.

Over 160 million orphan children in the world are looking for homes. Sadly, many families that would love to make an orphaned child a member of their family face costly huge financial barriers that can run upwards of \$30,000. Run4theChildren addresses this problem head on. In the past four years, the annual event has raised \$80,000 for grants to help families who want to adopt children.

I commend The Fellowship for extending the warmth of their ministry to all the families they have connected with new sons and daughters and all individuals who seek to participate in the race. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of

Texas, congratulations again to The Fellowship for hosting its 5th annual Run4theChildren race.

RECOGNIZING THE THORNTON FAMILY'S SERVICE TO McDONALD COUNTY, MO

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the Clifford and Susie Thornton family on their well-deserved recognition as the 2015 honoree at the McDonald County Schools Foundation's second annual Heart of Education Banquet.

The Thornton family has blessed McDonald County with their dedication to community service and development. Clifford and Susie opened their family-owned pharmacy in Noel in 1979 and ran this small business for 29 years. They are the proud parents of three McDonald County Schools graduates, all of which have greatly contributed to the community's betterment.

Clifford and Susie's son Matt served as executive director of the McDonald County Community Development Council. While there, Matt played an influential role in the creation of the McDonald County Schools Foundation.

Their son Mike continued in the family profession and is now a pharmacist and small business owner in Anderson within the McDonald County community. Mike is also the current McDonald County Schools Foundation president.

Clifford and Susie's daughter Suzanne Schmidt also remains embedded in the local education as a nurse for the McDonald County School District. She is an avid supporter of the school's sports and extracurricular activities.

I urge my colleagues to join in congratulating the family of Clifford and Susie Thornton as the 2015 McDonald County Schools Foundation honoree.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for roll call votes 69–70 due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted yes on #69 and yes on #70.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF BAKERSFIELD

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Junior League of Bakersfield. This milestone

provides us the opportunity to reflect on the importance of civic responsibility and volunteerism, demonstrated so admirably by the Junior League of Bakersfield's five decades of outstanding service to the community.

In 1952, a few women formed one of the first exclusively service-oriented societies in Bakersfield: the Community League of Kern County. This organization of mothers and daughters from around our community sought to organize for the good of their city as an all-volunteer association. And there was plenty of work to do. 1952 was also the year of the White Wolf Fault Earthquake, a 7.2 magnitude disaster which demolished downtown Bakersfield. In the aftermath, the League began immediately helping our neighbors.

From its first days, the League concerned itself with the vulnerable in Bakersfield. Incorporating as a chapter of the Association of Junior Leagues of America in 1965, the Junior League focused its energies on assisting children and the elderly. While singlehandedly executing long-term projects, such as the construction of the 1966 Bakersfield Community House for Seniors, the Junior League prefers to partner with local institutions for joint projects. In the past fifty years, it has raised more than a million dollars and volunteered hundreds of thousands of hours to help those in need, including hospitalized children, teen mothers, the mentally and physically disabled, the addicted, the homeless, and the abused. Generous in its charity, judicious in its management, our Junior League has long been noted for the efficacy with which it directs resources to those whom would benefit most.

In the years ahead, the League will concentrate on sustaining the Girls Achievement Program, an initiative aimed at protecting emancipated youth, for which they have already granted tens of thousands of dollars to local organizations. The Junior League represents the best part of Bakersfield's social conscience. On behalf of the Bakersfield community, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Junior League of Bakersfield on 50 years of accomplishments as we look forward to many more.

HONORING JEFFREY RYAN REYNA

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jeffrey Ryan Reyna. Jeffrey is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jeffrey has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jeffrey has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jeffrey has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jeffrey Ryan Reyna for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING SUPER BOWL HERO
MALCOLM BUTLER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkably talented individual, Malcolm Butler, who is a native of Mississippi. Butler was born into a family of five children in Vicksburg, Mississippi. Mr. Butler is a prime example of learning from one's mistakes and taking advantage of being given a second chance.

Despite only playing football at the cornerback position his freshman and senior years at Vicksburg High School, Butler was able to receive a scholarship from Hinds Community College after graduating in 2009. After some setbacks in his first season, Butler was dismissed from the team midseason. However, he did not let prior mistakes define him, and as he made major adjustments in his life, he was invited to rejoin the team.

Butler went on to play at Division II University of West Alabama in 2012, where he played exceptionally both seasons. His junior year, he started in all 12 games and recorded 49 tackles and 5 interceptions; the following year he had 45 tackles, 2 interceptions, and a blocked field goal. His seasons were so remarkable that he was named All-Gulf South Conference both years.

Despite such success at West Alabama, Butler went undrafted. Fortunately, he was invited to attend a tryout for the New England Patriots to make their roster going into training camp. With odds that were not in his favor, Butler managed to be a standout player at that tryout, and he ultimately made the team.

Butler had a solid season this year on the Patriots team, playing 52 snaps on special teams and 182 on defense. Though he didn't play in the playoffs versus the Ravens and only 15 snaps against the Colts, Butler made a name for himself in this year's Super Bowl. After the Patriots struggled against Seahawks wide receiver Chris Matthews throughout the first half, the Patriots made adjustments and substituted Butler in the game.

New England was able to contain Matthews, and they held the lead 24-20 with two minutes left in the game. Butler came through in two crucial plays in the home stretch. In the first, after swatting the ball into the air, Butler manages to force receiver Jermaine Kearse out of bounds after Kearse caught it. Two plays later, Butler made a game-winning interception, the first of his NFL career.

Butler's example is proof that one's mistakes do not define him. His persistence, combined with his shrewd football acumen, has cemented his role in NFL history. Malcolm Butler is yet another example of Mississippi's tradition of producing fine athletes that are also honorable human beings.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,132,368,869,938.98. We've added \$7,505,491,821,025.90 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

BUFFALO STATE MEN'S
BASKETBALL

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize five outstanding members of the senior class at Buffalo State College, Roderick Epps, Justin Best, Chris Thompson, Larry Rivers, and Chris Cartwright. As members of the Buffalo State men's basketball team, these students are known as leaders among their peers and teammates. I commend these young men for their dedication to academics and athletics and congratulate them on the completion of their college careers.

Roderick Epps studied Health and wellbeing while at Buffalo State and comes from Uniondale, New York where he attended Uniondale High School. Roderick played the position of Guard during his time on the basketball team.

While at Buffalo State Justin Best majored in Economics & Finance and also played the position of Guard. Justin's hometown is Sleepy Hollow, New York, and he graduated from Sleepy Hollow High School. An economics major, Chris Thompson played for Buffalo State as a Forward. He hails from Far Rockaway, New York where he attended Channel View High School.

A fellow Forward, Larry Rivers studied Criminal Justice during his time at Buffalo State. A native of Syracuse, New York Larry attended Fowler High School.

Chris Cartwright comes from Binghamton, New York and is a graduate of Binghamton High School. He is a communications major and played at Guard for Buffalo State.

Balancing the responsibilities demanded of student athletes is a true challenge, and each of these students handled the test with dignity and grace. As an alumnus of Buffalo State, I will be proud to call them fellow alumni.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing my colleagues to join me in recognizing these extraordinary Buffalo State Bengals and in congratulating them as they obtain their undergraduate degrees. Their dedication and drive will propel them to success, and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

H.R. 596, A BILL TO REPEAL THE
AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, once again, House Republicans are wasting America's time with another pointless vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act. If this bill were to become law, it would rip away affordable health insurance coverage from millions of Americans, allow insurance companies to once again deny coverage based on pre-existing health conditions, and increase costs for seniors with Medicare.

We could spend our time debating and voting on legislation to promote economic growth and ensure that American workers share in the economic gains that they help produce. We could debate and vote on ways to boost middle-class take-home pay through targeted tax reforms, paid for by reducing tax giveaways to special interests and the wealthy. We could have a vote in the House—at long last—on bipartisan immigration reform legislation, or on a plan to replace meat-ax sequestration spending cuts with a smarter deficit-reduction plan.

Instead, we vote for the 56th time on whether to repeal or undermine a law that has already done so much to make insurance companies more accountable, hold down the growth of health spending, and improve American families' economic security by making sure they all have access to affordable health insurance. The Affordable Care Act is not perfect. Like Medicare and Social Security before it, the law will benefit from adjustments over time. If Republicans were serious about improving the United States' health care system, we would sit down and hammer out real improvements to the Affordable Care Act based on what we have learned as the law has taken effect. Instead, we are voting on a bill that basically says we can pretend that more than four years' worth of public- and private-sector actions implementing the Affordable Care Act to make affordable health care in this country a reality can simply be swept aside. This is nothing more than a Tea Party talking-point fantasy masquerading as a piece of legislation. And after four years, we are still waiting for the Republican majority to fulfill their promise to develop a replacement for the Affordable Care Act.

Finally, I am very curious to see how Congressional Republicans will square this vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act with their much-vaunted promise to develop a balanced budget. The Republican budgets for the last two years would not have come anywhere close to balancing without the revenues and health care savings generated by the Affordable Care Act. There is a glaring inconsistency here.

Enough is enough. It is time for our Republican colleagues to get over their fixation on bashing the Affordable Care Act and instead get on with the real work of rebuilding a prosperous American middle class.

TRIBUTE TO DAN ATWOOD

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Temecula, California are exceptional. Temecula has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated people who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Dan Atwood is one of these individuals. On February 21, 2015, Dan will be honored at the Temecula Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Gala where he will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award.

After moving to California in the 1970s, Dan quickly immersed himself into the automotive industry, eventually purchasing his first dealership in 1987. Launching forward from there, Dan opened a second dealership, Temecula Toyota. Dan's business has been a staple of the community which continually keeps pace with the ever-expanding region. In the twenty-five year span that the dealership has been operating, it has always been under the watchful eyes of the Atwood family, even as the dealership has grown to employ over two hundred employees.

Dan has given his time to the community not only as a businessman, but as a dedicated citizen committed to improving and strengthening the Temecula region. He has continually served numerous organizations in order to give back to the community that has always supported his endeavors. The groups that Dan is involved in span from nationally recognized non-profits, such as Habitat for Humanity, to locally started organizations such as the Balloon and Wine Festival. For over ten years, Dan has also opened his doors to Safe Alternative for Everyone and their highly successful Denim and Diamonds fundraiser, bringing in hundreds of thousands of dollars to benefit victims of domestic abuse. Additionally, the gates of the Atwood Estate Winery, another Atwood venture, are often opened on multiple occasions during the year to host fundraisers benefiting the community. As a firm believer in the future of tomorrow, Dan has worked to never miss a chance to participate in events that benefit the youth of the community. From sponsoring events to providing full-ride college scholarships, to serving as a mentor at the Boys & Girls Club, Dan has invested himself in the future generations of community leaders.

In light of all Dan Atwood has done for the community of Temecula, the Temecula Valley Chamber of Commerce announced Dan to be their Lifetime Achievement Award recipient. Dan's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of Temecula, California. He has been the heart and soul of many community organizations and events and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many local citizens are grateful for his service and salute him as he receives this prestigious award.

A TRIBUTE TO SYDNEY GIBSON KING

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as the nation celebrates Black History Month, I rise to celebrate a Philadelphia treasure, Mrs. Sydney G. King. Because of her love and dedication to dance and her desire to train Black ballerinas, Mrs. King opened the Sydney School of Dance in the 1940s for aspiring African American dancers who were not allowed to attend white dance studios in post war segregated Philadelphia.

Born in Kingston, Jamaica in 1919, King came to Philadelphia with her family when she was just two years old and at an early age began studying ballet under the tutelage of dance pioneer Essie Marie Dorsey.

For more than six decades the Sydney School of Dance trained hundreds of Black children and many went on to receive national and international recognition in the dance world.

Those students include dance professionals such as: Joan Meyers Brown, the founder and director of the much acclaimed Philadanco; Billy Wilson, famed director/choreographer and soloist with the National Ballet of Holland; Broadway performer Betsy Ann Dickerson; singer/actress Lola Falana; Carol Johnson, a former principal dancer with the Eleo Pomare Dance Company and founder of an aboriginal dance company in Australia; and Arthur Hall, founder of the Afro American Dance Ensemble.

These dance greats in no way diminish the accomplishments of hundreds of her other students who did not choose careers in dance but because of the empowering and esteem building training at the Sydney School of Dance they are today proud and successful professionals in a variety of fields.

Mrs. King, the mother of three children, is a widow and now at the age of 95 sums her life's dedication to dance by saying simply she wanted to, "train and create Black ballerinas."

WELCOME HOME COLONEL SAM JOHNSON

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, flying in his F-4 Phantom over North Vietnamese was Air Force pilot Colonel SAM JOHNSON. On his second tour of duty in Vietnam, Colonel JOHNSON was flying with the fighter squadron called Satan's Angels, when his plane was shot down by ground fire. It was April, 16, 1966 and Colonel JOHNSON became a POW.

Colonel JOHNSON was a career pilot who had already flown 62 combat missions during the Korean War and was on his 25th in Vietnam in his F-4. On that fateful day in April, a foreign land claimed him captive. He was in the Vietnam prisoner of war camp for 7 years, but Colonel JOHNSON never wavered.

He was put through serious torment for those 7 years; one can't even imagine the hell he lived.

Because of the way he would not give in to torture and interrogation, the enemy moved him to the famous Hanoi Hilton, or "Alcatraz," as it was appropriately coined. It was as bad a POW camp that ever existed. Alcatraz was where they put the most obstinate men. The POWs, calling themselves the "Alcatraz gang," were so hard-nosed they had to be segregated. The North Vietnamese even had a name for Colonel SAM JOHNSON, "Die Hard."

For 7 years, Colonel JOHNSON was beaten and tortured, but they got no information out of him. He was a pillar of patriotism and strength. He never broke. All of his patriotic stubbornness landed him in solitary confinement, where he remained for 4 years. He was subjected to a cell that was 3- by 9-feet. During those 4 years, all that was in the cell was a light bulb above his head that the enemy kept on for 24 hours a day. During the nighttime, they put him in leg irons, and during those 4 years, he never saw or talked to another American. It was brutal, it was harsh, it was cruel, it was mean.

While he was in the POW camp, he and other POWs communicated with each other using a code by tapping on the wall. It was then, that Colonel JOHNSON memorized the names of the other POWs in captivity. He kept this memory close so that when he escaped or was released, he would be able to tell their loved ones who they were and where they were.

The enemy laughed at Colonel JOHNSON. They made fun of him. And his response "Is that the best you can do?" He entered the prisoner of war camp a strong and sturdy 200 pounds. On a diet of weeds, pig fat and rice, he lost 80 pounds, but never let it get to him.

After 7 years of confinement, captivity and nightmare, he was released, 42 years ago, on February 12, 1973. Today we proudly celebrate his "returniversary."

After his release, Colonel JOHNSON continued to serve in the United States Air Force, serving for a total of 29 years. After he left the Air Force, he served in the Texas State House. He had his own business and in 1991, he came to the United States House of Representatives, where he still serves and represents the folks from the great state of Texas.

He is tenacious, unyielding and more than anything he is patriotic. He was willing to risk his own life in a foreign land for people just like you and me. Not only is the Texas Delegation lucky to have such a man serving alongside them, but so is the House of Representatives.

Just simply saying thank you could never suffice. I am honored to know such a man and call him my friend.

To Colonel SAM JOHNSON and all who served in Vietnam: welcome home, welcome home, welcome home.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING GARY MICHAEL
BRUNER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Gary Michael Bruner. Gary is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Gary has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Gary has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Gary has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Gary Michael Bruner for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING NAACP'S 106TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate Founder's Day (February 12) and recognize the 106th Anniversary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the largest and the oldest, the baddest and the boldest, and the only premier civil rights organization in the world dedicated to fighting for the social justice and equality of Blacks in America, and for people of color everywhere. Over the years, the NAACP has played pivotal roles in efforts ranging from universal suffrage to wrongful death investigations. Their continued contributions to the pursuit of equality are a testament to the organization's leadership and its hard-working members.

I commend the New York State Conference and our leader, Dr. Hazel N. Dukes, and the Mid-Manhattan branch of the NAACP for its unwavering commitment to our community. This branch provides vital mentoring and youth development programs and actively encourages activism in our community. Dedicating themselves to the five game changers—civic engagement, education, health, economic development and sustainability, and public safety and criminal justice, the Mid-Manhattan Branch continues to forge new victories ahead. I am proud of their many accomplishments and steadfast defense of the rights of all the people of New York City, because they are "All in for Justice and Equality!"

During Black History Month, it is essential that we recognize the significant contributions the NAACP has made to the Civil Rights movement. Recently, I cosponsored legislation

honoring and praising the NAACP on the occasion of its 106th anniversary. America is stronger and more diverse today because of the NAACP's commitment to fighting for the rights of Black Americans.

TRIBUTE TO DOUGLAS MAGNON

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the remarkable Douglas Magnon who passed away on Wednesday, February 4, 2015 in California. Doug was a pillar of the community in Riverside, California and he will be deeply missed.

Doug was a man of many passions, most notably was for motor racing. Sparked early on in his childhood through accompanying his father, Raymond, to races at the Riverside International Raceway, Doug was inspired to launch the Riverside International Automotive Museum. By means of his active leadership and profound knowledge of automobiles, the museum quickly received resounding support from the greater racing community that still continues today. The Riverside International Automotive Museum is one of the most highly regarded racing collections in Northern America with its extensive collection of unmatched artifacts and materials from throughout racing history. However, Doug did not stop there. In 2013, with the support and partnership of friend Paul Kinsella, the two opened up Newport Italian, a motorcycle dealership specializing in Vespa, Moto Guzzi and Aprilia.

When not hitting high speeds, Doug could often be found honing his culinary skills and sharing his Italian recipes with the community. In 2012, Doug and his sister opened the family restaurant Magnone Trattoria & Market, for which Doug not only created the menus, but also served as executive chef.

As an avid supporter of the Riverside community, Doug also freely gave his time and talents to many local organizations such as the Riverside County Philharmonic and the University of California, Riverside. In addition to serving as a mentor to young and aspiring individuals, Doug would often inspire anyone he crossed paths through his generous heart and unabashed enthusiasm for life.

Doug was the loving husband to Evonne, son to Raymond and Elaine, brother to Deanna, Cheryl, Patti and Ryan, and devoted uncle to many nieces and nephews. On Sunday, February 15, 2015, a memorial service celebrating Doug's extraordinary life will be held. Doug will always be remembered for his incredible contributions to business, his work ethic, generosity, and love of family. The way in which Doug lived his life should serve as a reminder to others that the power of an individual with drive, perseverance and a strong work-ethic can do great things. His dedication to his work, family and community are a testament to a life lived well and a legacy that will continue. I extend my condolences to Doug's family and friends; although Doug may be gone, the light and goodness he brought to the world remains and will never be forgotten.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES L. EDWARDS FOR HIS 25 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE AS PRESIDENT OF ANDERSON UNIVERSITY

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. James L. Edwards on the occasion of his retirement. For 25 years Dr. Edwards has served as President of Anderson University. He is the longest serving president of a university in Indiana's history and has contributed so much to the community. The people of the Fifth Congressional District of Indiana are forever grateful for Dr. Edwards' contributions and commitment to Anderson University and the Hoosier community.

In 1990, Dr. Edwards became the fourth President of Anderson University since its establishment in 1917. He took office July 1, 1990, however his relationship with the school goes back decades before that. Dr. Edwards is a graduate of Anderson University, receiving his bachelor's degree from the school and later his master's degree from the Anderson University School of Theology. Prior to his tenure as President he held two positions with Anderson University, first as Director of Student Recruitment (1966–1970) and later as Director of Church and Alumni Relations (1972–1975).

Growing up as the son of a minister in Ohio, Dr. Edwards has a long history with the church. His expertise and contributions to the church are not limited to his time with Anderson University. After completing his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Anderson University, he went on to receive his Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Policy and Leadership at the Ohio State University. As an ordained minister he has more than 30 years of experience, most notably as Senior Pastor of the Meadow Park Church in Columbus, Ohio as well as other churches throughout Indiana and Michigan. He also served at the national level as President and CEO of Warner Press, a publishing house for the Church of God, where he directed the work of the largest religious publisher in Indiana.

During his tenure as President he presided over the Anderson School of Theology, a graduate program for the training of ministers, the same program from which he received his master's degree. He recognized the importance of resource development and led campaigns that raised more than \$205 million for the school, which included the construction of several campus buildings. Dr. Edwards was not just involved locally, but also at state and national levels. At the state level, he served as chair of the board for Independent Colleges of Indiana and was a member of the Steering Committee of the Indiana Leadership Prayer Breakfast. He served at the national level on the Board of Directors of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities as well as director of the board of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

Dr. Edwards' leadership was most evident at home. He showed extensive commitment to

community at the local level in Anderson, Indiana. He has served on the board of directors for many groups, including the Madison County Community Foundation, the Corporation for Economic Development of Madison County, First Merchants Bank of Central Indiana, St. Vincent Anderson Regional Hospital, Citizens Banking Company, and the United Way. Additionally, he served on the Ministries Council of the Church of God and is a member of the Rotary Club of Anderson, where he was honored with the 2003 Community Image Award.

On behalf of the grateful constituents of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District, I congratulate Dr. Edwards on the occasion of his retirement. I wish the very best to Dr. Edwards, his wife, Deanna, his three children, and his six grandchildren as he enjoys a well-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call #69, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 719, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye.

On Roll Call #70, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 720, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye.

TRIBUTE TO MARTIN J. ZANINOVICH

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a great American, a self-made man, a son of immigrants and founder of an agricultural colossus—Martin J. Zaninovich, who passed away on December 9, 2014 in Santa Barbara at the age of 91.

Martin's father John left Croatia on the eve of the First World War as the Austro-Hungarian Empire teetered toward dissolution. In California, John married Mary, another Yugoslavian émigré, and found in the San Joaquin Valley the familiar arid climate and rich soils of his Dalmatian homeland. On a small farm outside Porterville the Zaninovichs raised grapes and children too, two sons and three daughters by 1940. Martin came first in 1923, and after attending high school in Porterville, he left the valley for the University of Southern California.

The Second World War swept Martin into the United States Army and across the Pacific to the small island of Okinawa. Returning in 1947 to Delano, California, Martin married Margaret Surjak and co-founded Jasmine

Vineyards with his cousin Vincent. The farm marked the beginning of Martin's rise in the table grape industry just as it began to take off. In 1961, production stood at 450 thousand tons. By 2003, output had swollen to 730 thousand tons as aggressive marketing more than doubled domestic per capita consumption.

It was not an easy accomplishment. Facing weak demand in the late 1960s, Martin convinced his fellow growers to pool their resources and press the California legislature to pass the Ketchum Act, which elevated the table grape industry to parity with California's other agricultural commodities. Martin—who at various times chaired the South Central Farmers Committee, the California Fresh Fruit Association, and the Delano Grape Growers Products to promote and expand the market—accompanied the California Table Grape Commission he helped found on its first international trade mission to Japan in 1973.

As a staunch conservative with a firm belief in individual enterprise and market economics, Martin constantly pursued policies and goals on behalf of valley growers. His work ethic went hand in hand with his philanthropy; Martin was one of the original founders of the California State University Bakersfield and a board member of Mercy Hospital.

Martin is survived by his wife, Margaret, and their three children: Katina, Sonya and Jon. Today, Martin's family operates his vineyards with the same hard work and discipline he personified so well. The San Joaquin Valley has lost one of its champions, formidable and tireless, another of those citizens for whom the greatest generation was named. On behalf of our community, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the life and legacy of Martin Zaninovich, and offering our condolences to his family.

SERVING WITH HONOR

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lt. Cheryl Hillegeist on her impending promotion to the rank of captain in the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office. This promotion will make her the highest-ranking female officer ever to serve the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office. As a resident of Fort Bend County, I sleep better at night knowing officers like Lt. Hillegeist are on patrol looking out for my family and the great folks who call our diverse county home.

Hillegeist's distinguished career in law enforcement has spanned three decades. While working with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and the Fort Bend County Sheriff's office, her exemplary character and actions encouraged her rapid rise through the ranks and she earned the recognition and gratitude of her community. This well deserved promotion is a reflection of her stellar commitment to protecting our county.

I thank Lt. Cheryl Hillegeist for her dedication to service and extraordinary conduct in the discharge of her public duties. On behalf

of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional of Texas, congratulations again to Hillegeist for being promoted to captain in the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office.

RECOGNIZING CANADA CONSUL GENERAL ROY B. NORTON'S VISIT TO SPRINGFIELD, MO

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give Consul General of Canada Roy B. Norton an enthusiastic welcome and wish him well on his visit to Southwest Missouri.

Consul General Norton represents Canadian interests in Missouri as well as in Illinois and Wisconsin. He focuses on trade, investment, environmental, cultural and academic policy areas.

Missouri and Canada's alliance runs deep in trade, impacting nearly 164,000 jobs in the state.

Canada is a strong partner with not only Missouri, but the U.S. as a whole. There is deep appreciation for the resources Canada offers such as energy and agricultural trade and our mutual national security interests as we partner to protect our shared borders, our homelands from shared enemies abroad and assisting the defense of our allies from theirs.

I am honored to recognize Consul General Norton, his representation of Canada and the valuable partnership the great state of Missouri and Canada share. I welcome him to my home state and continue looking forward to a strong future and alliance ahead.

HONORING MATTHEW LAWRENCE KNOPP

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Lawrence Knopp. Matthew is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Matthew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Matthew has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew Lawrence Knopp for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING THE LONG SERVICE
OF MARGARET "PEGGY"
THERESA GIERIE

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long and distinguished service to the country of one of my constituents, Margaret "Peggy" Theresa Gierie, who is turning 90 and is, I believe, among our nation's oldest federal employees.

Ms. Gierie comes from a long line of military service. She had a great grandfather who fought in the Battle of Gettysburg, her father survived gas attacks in World War I, and her husband was a U.S. Army Air Corps navigator in World War II. Ms. Gierie added to that legacy in 1945 by enlisting in the WAVES, a women's division of the U.S. Navy in which she served as a telegrapher at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. Her service earned her a World War II Victory Medal.

Ms. Gierie went on to attend college and work at several different jobs while raising three children with her husband.

At this point in her story, no one would have faulted her for taking a well-earned rest in retirement. She has done no such thing. Ms. Gierie re-entered the workforce after her husband of 50 years passed away. And since 2007, she has found a new way to serve the country—as a receptionist at the Sanford Vet Center, which offers a range of services to Maine veterans and their families.

In her time there, she has become a familiar and welcome face to the clients who often come to appointments early just to chat with her. At the same time, she handles demanding duties with a positive attitude, professionalism, dedication, and, above all, a never-ending supply of energy. She goes above and beyond for every veteran who calls or comes through the door.

Mr. Speaker, I truly admire Ms. Gierie for her incredible service, and would like to thank her for the difference she has made in the lives of Maine veterans and wish her a very happy 90th birthday.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 644 AND
H.R. 636

HON. RYAN A. COSTELLO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of 2 bills that will bring tax certainty to small businesses and families in my District.

It is legislation that will make a number of tax provisions permanent. I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation.

We have to fix the tax code for everybody—including hardworking small businesses and families.

I have traveled my District and have heard from many small businesses and families who are looking for tax relief.

H.R. 644—The Fighting Hunger Incentive Act will promote charitable giving which will benefit all communities. It encourages contributions to local food banks such as the Chester County Food Bank in Exton, by making permanent a food-inventory donation in our tax code.

H.R. 636—America's Small Business Tax Relief Act will give small businesses certainty to grow and plan for the future.

We can all agree on the fact that our tax code needs reformed and simplified.

If we move to put these reforms in place we can continue to work towards comprehensive tax reform that is simpler, flatter, fairer, with lower rates for everyone.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL
FREIGHT NETWORK TRUST FUND
ACT OF 2015

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the National Freight Network Trust Fund Act of 2015 along with my Co-Chair of the bipartisan Congressional PORTS Caucus TED POE. This legislation will provide a guaranteed dedicated funding source, at no additional expense to taxpayers, to serve our nations freight movement.

The Port of Los Angeles is in my backyard and when I came to Congress, I was surprised that there was a lack of focus on ports and freight transportation in general. One of the reasons I co-founded the PORTS Caucus is to educate Members about the importance of freight transportation to our nation's economy.

We are a consumer economy. Whether it is a "mom and pop" store on the corner or a large retailer like Target, we don't think twice when we go to these stores to purchase groceries, toys, or clothing. When we go to the store, we expect that milk and the Barbie dolls are on the shelf.

We also want to ensure that goods Made in America—including manufacturing and agriculture—are able to be shipped efficiently across our nation's highways and rail to our ports for export, which is crucial to our nation's continued economic success.

Ultimately, in MAP-21—our last surface transportation bill—we were successful in including provisions to start the conversation about developing a national freight transportation network.

The problem is that today there are not enough funds to keep the Highway Trust Fund solvent—let alone make the necessary investment to modernize and increase the efficiency of our freight network. That will not keep our economy global competitive as we continue progressing through the 21st Century.

For example, goods that leave the Port of Los Angeles take 48 hours to arrive in Chicago and takes 30 hours to travel across the city. This bottleneck is unacceptable and means higher costs for consumers, more congestion, more pollution, and less jobs. The bottom line is that we need to fund our nation's freight network.

If we fail to fund our ports, we will lose our competitive edge and add costs to our goods. A USDOT report, Freight Transportation: Improvements and the Economy, estimates the cost of carrying freight on the highway system at between \$25 and \$200 an hour. Unexpected delays can increase the cost of transporting goods by 50 to 250 percent.

To keep our nation's freight network globally competitive, I am introducing the National Freight Network Trust Fund Act of 2015, which would create a dedicated source of funding for essential projects to improve and modernize our freight network at no new cost to the public.

This legislation would create a National Freight Network Trust Fund and deposit 5% of all import duties collected by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) at Ports of Entry into the Fund to be spent only on freight transportation. Neither businesses nor taxpayers would incur any new cost because it uses a small percentage of funds our CBP officials already are collecting at the border as freight enters our nation.

Five percent of import duties amounts to roughly \$2 billion in the Trust Fund every year at our current rate of imports, a level that would help address the nation's infrastructure funding deficit and allow us to make essential investments in the freight network.

This legislation would create the National Freight Network Trust Fund as an off-budget trust fund to only serve the roads of the National Freight Network and those roads and rail that connect the Network to Ports of Entry.

The legislation would also direct the Secretary of Transportation to work in accordance with the National Freight Strategic Plan to identify improvements to the National Freight Network, on-dock rail, and roads and rail that connect the Network to Ports of Entry, which show the greatest need in providing for the movement of freight and goods across the United States. It would also provide grants at the Secretary's discretion to State, regional and local transportation authorities to make freight network improvements.

This bill will infuse billions back into the economy every year, help create good paying American jobs and keep our nation's ports strong and globally competitive.

This is a win for our ports and for our nation's economy. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING STELLA M. KOCH ON
HER RETIREMENT FROM THE
AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and commend my good friend, Stella M. Koch, on the occasion of her retirement after a distinguished career with the Audubon Naturalist Society, where she led conservation and environmental education and protection efforts throughout Northern Virginia and the Commonwealth. Safeguarding our natural environment has been more than a profession

for Stella, it's been her passion. She truly embodies the famous epithet of the late Connecticut Governor Ella Grasso, "bloom where you're planted."

Stella's environmental advocacy took root in the classroom, when she taught biology and was the science department chair at the Edmund Burke School in Washington, D.C., from 1977 to 1991. A fortuitous call to the Audubon Naturalist Society to inquire about working with its membership on Chesapeake Bay and land conservation issues ultimately led to her being hired by ANS to join its Virginia conservation staff, where she has spent the past 24 years. Through her professional duties and personal engagement in multiple community organizations, Stella has played a vital role in virtually every major environmental initiative in Northern Virginia for the past quarter century.

I was pleased to be among the first to recruit Stella into our effort more than 20 years ago, and she has been a wonderful partner ever since. At the time, I was president of the Fairfax Federation of Citizen's Associations and convinced Stella to become the Federation's Environmental Chair. She wasted no time, diving into weighty issues during her two-year tenure, including helping to prevent a planned roadway from splitting Huntley Meadows Park in southern Fairfax and blocking a private effort to bring public sewer service and new development to Mason Neck, an environmentally sensitive area along the Potomac most notable for its National Wildlife Refuge that was created to protect local bald eagles.

During this time she was instrumental in establishing the Virginia Environmental Network, and its successor the Virginia Conservation Network, which coordinated the activities of local and regional environmental groups across the Commonwealth. Through the Audubon Naturalist Society and her local civic engagement, Stella successfully pushed back on the proposed Disney theme park in Haymarket. Building on the public interest in the region's growth generated by that experience, the environmental community launched an effort that led to the creation of the Coalition for Smarter Growth to focus on educating people and community leaders about the importance and value in building more livable communities with mass transit connections and walkability.

Stella was first appointed to serve on the County's Environmental Quality Advisory Committee in 1996. She has since been reappointed by me and my successor as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Sharon Bulova. Stella has served as chairman of the Committee for several years, and she also serves as one of the County's appointees to the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. Under Stella's leadership, the Committee has become an influential voice, filing an annual report with the Board of Supervisors that serves as the blueprint for most local efforts to improve and protect our natural environment—addressing air quality; climate change; ecological resources; energy efficiency; hazardous materials; land use and transportation; noise, light, and visible pollution; solid waste; water resources; and wildlife. It has become a model nationwide.

Stella was instrumental in crafting Fairfax County's 20-year Environmental Agenda, the

first such long-range vision ever adopted by the County, addressing all facets of the environment from improving air quality to preserving more of the county's green spaces to providing recreational options for residents. As a result of that plan, the County's Environmental Improvement Program won its first Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties, and we built on that success with the Cool Counties initiative, a national effort to help local governments reduce their carbon footprint. Stella also served as one of my appointees to the Tysons Land Use Task Force, a multi-year effort to re-envision the National Capital Region's second largest economic center as a transit-oriented, walkable, green city served by the new Silver Line rather than a collection of disjointed office parks reachable only by automobile. Today, thanks to the leadership of Stella and so many others, that vision is becoming a reality.

In addition to her work in our local community, Stella works on regional water quality issues. She has served on the Boards of the Center for Watershed Protection and the Potomac River Keeper, and as a Virginia appointee to the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Chesapeake Bay Council. Stella also is a founding member of the Fairfax League of Conservation Voters, which assesses the environmental agendas and records of candidates for local public office for endorsement. Her many accomplishments were recognized by the National Association of Biology Teachers' Outstanding Biology Teacher Award in 1989, the Virginia Wildlife Federation's Water Conservationist of the Year award in 1992, and the Fairfax County Park Authority's Sally Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award, which was named for our late friend and fellow champion for the environment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Stella Koch on her retirement and thanking her for many years of dedicated and selfless service. Thankfully, she is only retiring from her professional duties. In fact, she'll now have even more time to continue sharing her expertise and advocating for our environmental agenda. Much like the saplings, stream restoration, conservation easements, and many other projects in which she has had a hand, our community will continue to benefit from Stella's handiwork for generations to come. On behalf of a truly grateful community, I wish her all the best in this semi-retirement.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN KELLIHER

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Temecula, California are exceptional. Temecula has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. John Kelliher is one of such individual. On February 21, 2015, John will be honored at the Temecula Valley Chamber of

Commerce Annual Awards Gala where he will receive the Citizen of the Year award.

Grapeline Wine Tours was founded and introduced in Temecula, California by John and his wife, Kim, in June of 2002. The company's reach now spans through Santa Barbara County and Paso Robles. Prior to their inception, Temecula did not offer many options regarding wine tour operators. Grapeline Wine Tours has now grown to become the largest wine tour operator in Southern and Central California, shuttling over 20,000 visitors through the beautiful vineyards of Temecula. John's Grapeline venture has become so successful, the business has announced their upcoming expansion to Northern California, encompassing wine regions in Sonoma.

Over the past ten years, Temecula has now become even more of a destination for travel and tourism as over hundreds of thousands come to visit the region. Much of this can be accredited to promising businesses such as Grapeline Wine Tours that encourage fun-filled experiences in Southwest County.

In the course of Grapeline Wine Tour's progression, John has won a variety of awards and accolades for its success. The business and its founders have won awards including the 2005 Sterling Business of the Year from the Temecula Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Hospitality Award and Tourism Professional of the Year Award from the Temecula Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau in 2013. With unmatched depth and experience, Grapeline Wine Tours is sure to be successful in their future endeavors throughout California.

John Kelliher's tireless passion for the Southwest County has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Temecula, California. I am proud to call John a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he receives the Temecula Valley Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Award.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DANE A. MILLER

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Dr. Dane A. Miller, a pioneer in his field and a remarkable Hoosier.

Dane was a loving and devoted husband to his wife of 48 years, Mary Louise. Respected and beloved by his colleagues, Dane revolutionized the orthopedic industry when he co-founded Biomet. There, he served as the company's CEO for 29 years, increasing the number of Biomet employees from just eight to more than 6,000 during his tenure. In his spare time, Dane loved helping others and was able to give back to his community by serving both as Director of Kosciusko Community Hospital and as a member of the President's Council for Grace College and Seminary.

Dane Miller was also my friend, and I am grateful for his support of my career. Like so many other elected leaders in Indiana over the last several decades, I could always count on

Dane for wise counsel and a straight answer. He will be missed.

Today, it is my privilege to honor the life of Dane A. Miller. My thoughts and prayers go out to Dane's family, and may God comfort those he left behind with His peace and strength.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF GARLAND LEE THOMPSON, SR., FOUNDER OF THE FRANK SILVERA WRITERS' WORKSHOP

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of Garland Lee Thompson, Sr., a New York theatre producer, writer, director, actor, and co-founder and Executive Director of the Frank Silvera Writers' Workshop. Garland Lee Thompson, Sr. will be memorialized and honored in a Three Act Performance Tribute on Saturday, February 14, 2015, which would have been his 77th Birthday. Garland was recently honored at the "Harlem is . . . Theater" Exhibition at The Interchurch Center in New York, that was on view through January 6, 2015.

Act 1: At 11:00 a.m., New York's theatre and film elite will gather at St. James Presbyterian Church at 409 West 141st Street on St. Nicholas Avenue in Harlem, New York for a memorial tribute in remembrance of Garland Lee Thompson, Sr.

Act 2: At 3:00 p.m., Garland Thompson, Jr. and Sean C. Turner will host an afternoon of readings, poetry, and performances, concluding with a birthday celebration and reception in Garland's honor at the Johnson Theater for the New City, located at 155 First Avenue, between 9th and 10th Streets.

Act 3: The Final Act will take place on Thursday, August 6, 2015 at Harlem's historic National Black Theatre, located at 2031 5th Avenue and Dr. Barbara Ann Teer Way, where Garland created the Readers Theatre Series at the prestigious National Black Theatre Festival.

Born on February 14, 1938 in Muskogee, Oklahoma, Garland Lee Thompson, Sr., passed on November 18, 2014. He was 76 years old. He is survived by his two children, Alexandria Dionne and Garland Lee Thompson, Jr.; his two grandchildren, Colson Oliver and Hazel Duncan; his sisters Shirley Thompson and Addie Jean Haynes; his brother, Jim Thompson; his nephews, Dr. Bryan Haynes and Oscar Haynes Jr.; his niece Karen Haynes; and a host of other cousins and relatives.

Garland is best known to television audiences as Transporter Technician Ensign Wilson on the classic original series, "Star Trek." He also appeared in several other popular television series, including "Bewitched" and "Perry Mason."

Garland co-founded the Frank Silvera Writers' Workshop in 1973, along with famed actor/director Morgan Freeman, director/actress Billie Allen Henderson, and journalist

Clayton Riley, as a living memorial to the life, and work of his mentor, the late actor, director, teacher and producer, Frank Silvera. Under Garland's reputation, for the past 41 years, the Writers' Workshop built a prestigious reputation as a nationally and internationally renowned playwright's development theater for emerging, featured and established writers and artists of color from all over the world. With the workshop, Garland passed on decades of wisdom to rising and established artists of all walks of life. Members of the workshop included the late Ruby Dee, poet Mari Evans, scholar Larry Neal, and playwright Ntozake Shange.

Mr. Speaker, Garland Lee Thompson, Sr. was also a founding member of the Harlem Arts Alliance, Incorporated and served on the Board of Directors. It should also be noted that while Garland did not land many large roles, his greatest impact may have been behind the scenes, where he worked to pass on his gifts to other budding playwrights. Garland's genius and generosity will be greatly missed by all of us. The theater community has lost a colleague, friend, and dedicated actor and producer. I ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring the theatrical life and legacy of Mr. Garland Lee Thompson, Sr.

25 YEARS YOUNG

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Austin Parkway Elementary School for celebrating its 25th anniversary on Tuesday, January 27th. The faculty, inter-scholastic programs, and volunteer network of Austin Parkway Elementary are vital to providing a quality education for the students.

As Austin Parkway Elementary celebrates 25 years of excellence, the community joined faculty and students in recognizing past principals. Their contributions have helped cultivate generations of leaders and their honorable service laid the groundwork for the strong educational foundation this school represents.

On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Austin Parkway Elementary School on celebrating 25 years of quality education for the community. We look forward to its continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LINCOLN PENNY

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our 16th President Abraham Lincoln and his first and most enduring monument, the United States penny. Just three years after adoption of the U.S. Constitution, Congress passed The Coinage Act in 1792

and established the U.S. Mint. In 1793, the first federal building constructed in the then-capital city of Philadelphia, minted the first circulating coins, 11,178 copper cents. Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that the Mint was and remains in my own district and that it continues to produce high quality products for the American people. And true to its Philadelphia roots, the first pennies were designed by one of our town's most famous sons, Benjamin Franklin.

In 1909, after several design and composition changes, the penny's design was changed to honor President Lincoln, the first real person to appear on an American coin. The Lincoln penny is the longest used design of any American coin, and its release was timed to honor his 100th birthday.

The Lincoln penny was the first U.S. coin to carry the motto "In God We Trust," and it preceded by five years the construction of the Lincoln Memorial. For generations of Americans, the penny has served as a memorial to the first President assassinated in office, as well as a reminder of the brutal Civil War that threatened to end the American experiment, and the liberation of the enslaved African.

Mr. Speaker, the penny is the most common and most highly circulated coin in the United States. 62 percent of the 11.2 billion new coins put into circulation by the U.S. Mint in fiscal year 2013 were pennies. The Mint has shipped 90 billion new pennies since 2000. We can clearly see that demand for the penny remains high and we need to keep minting it.

I am proud that my own City of Philadelphia was the first and longest running producer of the penny. As we celebrate President Lincoln's 206th birthday, I am pleased to honor him, and the coin that commemorates his place in our history.

CONGRATULATING JAY OSBORNE, NIXA HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL COACH, ON HIS MILESTONE 500TH WIN

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Coach Jay Osborne, head coach of the Nixa High School's men's basketball program, on his 500th career win.

Coach Osborne reached this impressive feat of 500 wins in his 23rd season at Nixa High School, a public school located in Nixa, Missouri, right outside of Springfield. With this win, Coach Osborne is now one of only 54 Missouri basketball coaches to reach 500 wins.

Through his tenure as head coach, Coach Osborne's teams have reached one state championship title in 1999, eight district championships, and won seven Blue and Gold Tournaments. On top of this impressive record, Coach Osborne has led his teams into three state final four appearances.

Coach Osborne's exemplary devotion to coaching is a testament of his hard work and dedication to the Nixa High School students, both on and off the court. The Nixa community

is justifiably proud of Coach Osborne and the Nixa basketball program. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on his well-deserved victories.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF
CONGRESSMAN BOB McEWEN

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a lawmaker who understood the deep values held by the great people living in the North Country, represented them with integrity, and had the heart of a true public servant. Congressman Bob McEwen passed away in 1995, but it is appropriate to reflect back on a life of service as it has been two decades since his passing.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to read a brief profile of him written by a friend of mine, Cary Brick. Cary was Congressman McEwen's Chief of Staff and remained close to him after his retirement in 1981. Cary's tribute appears in the January 2015 issue of Thousand Islands Life Magazine.

"When Rep. Elise Stefanik raised her right hand in Washington this month, to be sworn in as the North Country's Representative in Washington, she garnered a lot of national media attention as the youngest woman ever elected to Congress.

Exactly a half century earlier, twenty years before she was born, a 45-year-old veteran New York State Republican legislator from Ogdensburg, took the same oath. One of his Congressional friends from the Great Lakes once referred to him as "The St. Lawrence Congressman."

Robert Cameron McEwen, with strong family roots in New York's St. Lawrence County, went on to represent the Congressional district, bordered by the Thousand Islands and Lake Ontario on the West and Lake Champlain on the East, from 1965 until his retirement, in 1981.

Living on the U.S. shore of the St. Lawrence River, he said "almost near enough to see the color of the eyes of the passing captains and pilots," he was the first North Country Congressman with such a strong personal tie to the St. Lawrence and the Thousand Islands.

The United States Customs House in Ogdensburg, the oldest continually occupied Federal building in America, bears his name as a tribute to his public service.

I had the privilege of serving on his Congressional staff from 1969 until his retirement in January of 1981—first as his Press Secretary, later as his Special Assistant and finally as his Executive Assistant.

He never missed an opportunity to promote the island region. In fact, one of his Congressional colleagues once told me "When I saw Bob McEwen I knew I was going to hear a pep talk about either the (Thousand Islands) or the Seaway."

Best Friends Forever:

"Bob" McEwen's Congress was unlike today's; its members debated the issues of the

day with gusto, but at sundown they were friends sharing collegiality, respect and friendship. Two immediate lighthearted instances come to mind.

The first was his hosting of his fellow House member, Rep. Geraldine Ferraro, a downstate Democrat (who later was the Vice Presidential candidate on the 1984 Mondale/Ferraro ticket) through what seemed like ocean seas on a small Coast Guard vessel, from Wellesley Island to Morristown. It was a cold, Fall day. All of us onboard were green at the gills and holding our stomachs when we finally docked. The object was to demonstrate to the influential Democrat, the dangers of winter navigation on the river, a red-hot issue at the time. It worked: she joined him in opposition to the idea. On the flight back to Washington she said "OK, Bob, you've made your point!"

The two were political opposites in both party and political philosophy, but they were friends forever.

The second was his hosting of a senior Southern State Democrat, whose support he needed for legislation, to benefit the eventual expansion of Fort Drum. After the tour of the installation near Watertown, the influential colleague and his wife settled in for a McEwen-arranged weekend at a cottage in the shadow of the Thousand Islands Bridge.

Over the course of their stay, the guests were treated to a private boat tour of the islands, a traditional shore dinner, a visit to Fort Henry at Kingston and several informal "stop-by" visits from local movers and shakers, from both political parties. If that wasn't enough, knowing of his interest in antique firearms, a visit to Ozzie Steele's gun shop in Clayton resulted in the visitor's strong interest in an antique handgun on display. They couldn't agree on a price, however, much to the dismay of Bob McEwen.

That sale eventually took place when unbeknownst to the "good ol' boy" from the South, Bob (quietly) paid Ozzie the difference. Everybody was a winner in that transaction, especially the North Country, when the Southerner became a strong backer of Fort Drum expansion.

That weekend resulted in another "forever" friendship.

A McEwen Fish Story:

He proudly wore a belt buckle depicting a St. Lawrence Muskie.

He caught his first Muskie on an Election Day in the 70s; he displayed it in his Washington office. I jokingly named it after his unsuccessful Congressional challenger of the day. He proudly invited his friends to see it and welcomed the opportunity to describe its fight to stay in the river. It now hangs in my home as a remembrance of his sense of humor and his competitive nature—two requisites for success in Congress.

At a White House reception some time later, President Richard Nixon commented on the buckle and told stories of his own fishing trips to the St. Lawrence, in the months following his 1960 defeat by JFK.

That led to six frozen McEwen Muskie steaks being shipped by air, from St. Lawrence County to the Congressional office, for promised delivery to the President.

My delivery of the wrapped-in-dry-ice steaks to the White House, at the Congressman's behest, certainly caught the attention of the Secret Service, but that's a story for another time.

A Working Retirement:

Bob McEwen returned to his native North Country upon his retirement, in January, 1981. That retirement didn't last too long. President Reagan called him back to work by naming him as Chair of the U.S. section of the International Joint Commission, a State Department entity dealing with American-Canadian border issues. No stranger to those matters, he had been an active member of the U.S./Canada Inter-Parliamentary Group, a low-key association of American Congressmen and Canadian Parliamentarians, who met regularly to discuss issues of mutual concern. He had also been a founder of the Great Lakes Conference of Congressmen, which met in the Capitol to share input on maritime, trade, environmental and other matters affecting the Lakes regions.

Back Home:

Bob McEwen died in 1995. In delivering his eulogy in Ogdensburg, I said: "Bob knew that when the time came for his final roll call vote, as a veteran and member of the House of Representatives, he could be interred beside some of our nation's greatest heroes, statesmen (and) Supreme Court Justices . . . in Arlington National Cemetery. . . . He knew he was entitled to an interment with pomp and circumstance. But Bob was a man of the North Country. He wanted it simple. He wanted it here."

The "St. Lawrence Congressman" is buried in Ogdensburg—not too far from the shore of the river he called home."

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few minutes to share the memory of Congressman Bob McEwen. I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING TALAN LANG

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Talan Lang. Talan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 692, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Talan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Talan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Talan has become a member of the Order of the Arrow and the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, while also serving his troop as Patrol Leader. Talan has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Talan picked up more than 100 bags of trash from the intersection of Interstate 70 and Adams Dairy Parkway in

Blue Springs, Missouri. Talan also planted native grasses to beautify the intersection.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Talan Lang for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for

his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—*Friday, February 13, 2015*

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 13, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN J. DUNCAN, Jr. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We pray for the gift of wisdom to all with great responsibility in this House for the leadership of our Nation.

May all the Members have the vision of a nation where respect and understanding are the marks of civility and where honor and integrity are the marks of one's character.

As Members take time in the coming week for constituency visits, give them the ability to hear the voices of all in their districts, even those with whom they disagree. This is difficult to do, so endow them with patience and a discerning ear.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within these hallowed halls be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a

quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

FACTS ARE STUBBORN THINGS

(Mr. MCCLINTOCK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, as we count down the days to the shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security, a parade of Democrats has appeared on the floor to accuse Republicans of blocking funding.

Have they completely forgotten that the House passed a bill to fully fund the Homeland Security Department back on January 14—31 days ago?

Every House Democrat save two opposed that funding, and, for 31 days, Senate Democrats have blocked it from even being considered.

The fact is that Democrats are willing to block funding for Homeland Security unless they can fund amnesty for millions of illegal aliens. According to a recent ABC-Washington Post poll, the American people want to stop the President's amnesty orders by a whopping 56-41 percent. Nine Senate Democrats have told their constituents they do, too, but they won't.

Those are the facts.

And, as John Adams said, facts are stubborn things.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I guess it is pretty clear that politics continues. Rather than bringing to the floor of the House a bipartisan Homeland Security bill, what the House brought to the floor back in January was a highly political, highly partisan bill—anti-immigrant legislation—that they knew was dead on arrival when it landed in the Senate. So let's make the record clear:

Democrats and Republicans have agreed to a clean Homeland Security bill; but rather than bringing that to the House floor for a vote, we continue to see the House Republican leadership pander to the most extreme, anti-immigrant voices in their party.

That is not what the American people expect of us. It is politics as usual. I do not understand why it continues to be the order of the day here. The American people reject that. We should be focusing our attention on the big questions: building an economy for the American people that works for everybody rather than for the few, rather than an economy rigged for the few.

Look, the American people are tired of this. I know other Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle are tired of this. Bring a clean Homeland Security bill to the floor.

WEST COAST PORT SLOWDOWN CRIPPLES ECONOMY

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, the ongoing slowdown occurring at our west coast ports is causing devastating economic conditions for our agricultural industry and an alarming ripple effect to supply chains across the Nation. Recent estimates have predicted retailers could lose as much as \$7 billion this year and that it will cost the overall economy \$2.1 billion every day if this shutdown continues.

In California, our citrus shippers are reporting delays as long as 4 weeks versus the typical 3 to 4 days for cargo to leave ports, causing their products to spoil and rot on the docks and increasing the already sizable backlog. One California almond company reported they already had to lay off 50 employees due to the slowdown at the port. Without action, these numbers

are only going to worsen as long-term or permanent damage is even done to our export markets.

We cannot afford to sit back as our producers and growers and workers bear the brunt of this labor dispute. I strongly urge both parties and, if necessary, this administration to get involved—to get back to the negotiating table and enact a swift resolution—to prevent serious long-term harm being done to our local and national economy and to our export markets.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, here we go again.

It appears that my colleagues on the other side have short memories and do not remember the consequences that led to a backlash from the American people when they shut down the Federal Government in the last Congress.

Republicans continue to play politics with the Department of Homeland Security funding by insisting that any funding bill overturn the President's executive actions on immigration. If the Republicans fail to pass a DHS funding bill, the consequences will be severe. One direct consequence is that there will be no funding of new nondisaster grants to local and State governments, law enforcement, fire departments, and other emergency responders.

As ranking member on the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, I understand how critically important these grants are to safeguarding our communities. Protecting the Homeland Security Grant Program is critical to ensuring that our cities, transportation systems, and first responders have the capabilities to prepare for and to respond in times of disaster.

Mr. Speaker, simply put, Republicans should stop putting politics ahead of the safety of the American people and join with Democrats to fund the Department of Homeland Security.

MOX ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last year, the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility—MOX—at the Savannah River Site was adequately funded to continue to the completion of its vital missions of converting weapons-grade plutonium into fuel.

A recent Augusta Chronicle editorial urges Congress to prioritize the MOX project and to increase its funding. The

administration allocated \$345 million in the President's budget, and it is my hope that Congress will further strengthen that number. This essential facility will allow the United States to honor its international nonproliferation obligations with the Russian Federation while, at the same time, supporting environmental cleanup.

I look forward to continuing working with Congressman JIM CLYBURN, who also represents the facility, in supporting the Savannah River Site and its vital national security and environmental cleanup missions. We are joined by committed House colleagues RICK ALLEN and JEFF DUNCAN, along with Senators LINDSEY GRAHAM, TIM SCOTT, JOHNNY ISAKSON, and DAVID PERDUE.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

PASS A CLEAN DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING BILL

(Mr. CÁRDENAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I am compelled to call attention to the irresponsible actions of my Republican colleagues. Holding the Department of Homeland Security and our national security hostage is reckless and irresponsible. This politically motivated action puts the physical and economic safety of our people and of our country in jeopardy.

The Republicans claim that they have already passed a bill. Well, on a technicality, they might be right, but when you look at it, they have not, and they have been acting irresponsibly.

More than 130,000 agents and officers from the Border Patrol, the TSA, the Coast Guard, and the Secret Service will continue to work despite having their livelihoods denied them. Not only is this endangering our national security, this is directly harming the men and women who have sworn to protect all of us.

How can we treat those so disgracefully who serve our Nation? What message are we sending to the American people?

I implore my Republican colleagues to put aside their personal politics and consider what is best for our country and our people. We have 15 days left. Let us pass a clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill to protect the safety of our Nation and to respect the people who have sworn to serve us.

ANNIVERSARY OF CONTINENTAL FLIGHT 3407

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday marked the sixth anniversary of when Continental Flight 3407 crashed into a home in Clarence Center, New York, and tragically took the lives of all 49 passengers on board, including one expectant mother.

In the wake of this tragedy, Congress passed the Airline Safety and Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2010, which was the largest overhaul to aviation safety in over 40 years. The legislation introduced many new guidelines for airline safety and required airlines to put well-trained pilots in every cockpit. Although this law has helped to prevent accidents like that of Flight 3407 from happening again, there is still work to be done.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, I met with some of the families of the victims of Flight 3407, and, yesterday, I joined a group of bipartisan Members in urging the committee of jurisdiction to continue to support the implementation of the Airline Safety and Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2010.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the committee for their continued support and their efforts in helping to make commercial airline travel safer. As we move forward, the House should be clearly focused on ensuring tragedies like Flight 3407 never happen again.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ENGELHEIM VINEYARDS

(Mr. COLLINS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate northeast Georgia's Engelheim Vineyards for its success in the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition.

Thanks to the great Peach State winemakers, including Jan and Gary Engel, the owners of Engelheim Vineyards in Ellijay, Georgia wines are rightfully gaining national recognition.

Last month, the Engels entered their northeast Georgia-grown and bottled wine in the prestigious San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition. With more than 6,400 entries from 28 States, the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition is recognized as the largest competition of American wines in the world.

Despite the crowded field and the fact that it was their first showing at the competition, Engelheim Vineyards did Georgia proud by earning four medals. Engelheim brought home a double gold medal for Sweet Molly, silvers for its Traminette and its Merlot, and a bronze medal for Trilogy, a blend of three estate-grown grapes.

This magnificent achievement is just the latest example of northeast Georgia's emergence as a prominent wine

region. Wine critics and a growing number of tourists agree the unique geography of our mountains and the passion of our winemakers make Georgia wines truly special.

I commend the Engels and the hard-working Georgia winemakers, who are making a great name for our State in the world of wine, and I look forward to their continued success.

□ 0915

AMERICA'S SMALL BUSINESS TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2015

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 101, I call up the bill (H.R. 636) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 101, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-6 is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 636

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "America's Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. EXPENSING CERTAIN DEPRECIABLE BUSINESS ASSETS FOR SMALL BUSINESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) DOLLAR LIMITATION.—Section 179(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "shall not exceed—" and all that follows and inserting "shall not exceed \$500,000..".

(2) REDUCTION IN LIMITATION.—Section 179(b)(2) of such Code is amended by striking "exceeds—" and all that follows and inserting "exceeds \$2,000,000..".

(b) COMPUTER SOFTWARE.—Section 179(d)(1)(A)(ii) of such Code is amended by striking "to which section 167 applies, and which is placed in service in a taxable year beginning after 2002 and before 2015" and inserting "and to which section 167 applies".

(c) ELECTION.—Section 179(c)(2) of such Code is amended—

(1) by striking "may not be revoked" and all that follows through "and before 2015", and

(2) by striking "IRREVOCABLE" in the heading thereof.

(d) AIR CONDITIONING AND HEATING UNITS.—Section 179(d)(1) of such Code is amended by striking "and shall not include air conditioning or heating units".

(e) QUALIFIED REAL PROPERTY.—Section 179(f) of such Code is amended—

(1) by striking "beginning after 2009 and before 2015" in paragraph (1), and

(2) by striking paragraphs (3) and (4).

(f) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—Section 179(b) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(6) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any taxable year beginning after 2015, the dollar amounts in paragraphs (1) and (2) shall each be increased by an amount equal to—

"(i) such dollar amount, multiplied by

"(ii) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar year in which the taxable year begins, determined by substituting 'calendar year 2014' for 'calendar year 1992' in subparagraph (B) thereof.

"(B) ROUNDING.—The amount of any increase under subparagraph (A) shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of \$10,000..".

(g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2014.

SEC. 3. REDUCED RECOGNITION PERIOD FOR BUILT-IN GAINS OF S CORPORATIONS MADE PERMANENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (7) of section 1374(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

"(7) RECOGNITION PERIOD.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'recognition period' means the 5-year period beginning with the 1st day of the 1st taxable year for which the corporation was an S corporation. For purposes of applying this section to any amount includible in income by reason of distributions to shareholders pursuant to section 593(e), the preceding sentence shall be applied without regard to the phrase '5-year'.

"(B) INSTALLMENT SALES.—If an S corporation sells an asset and reports the income from the sale using the installment method under section 453, the treatment of all payments received shall be governed by the provisions of this paragraph applicable to the taxable year in which such sale was made..".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2014.

SEC. 4. PERMANENT RULE REGARDING BASIS ADJUSTMENT TO STOCK OF S CORPORATIONS MAKING CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PROPERTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1367(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking the last sentence.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to contributions made in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2014.

SEC. 5. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 90 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 45 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 636, America's Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2015.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I think we are going to have a little bit of a déjà vu here today because we are going to be talking on yet another tax extender bill like we did yesterday. This one involves small businesses.

Let me see if I can sort of lay out the case that is before us and the decision that we as Members of Congress are going to have to make.

Small businesses are the engine of economic growth and job creation in this country. Eighty percent of all businesses in America file their taxes as small businesses under what we call subchapter S corporations or partnerships, and one of the critical ingredients to running a successful small business is to be able to buy equipment for your small business and to hire people to do things. One of the important provisions in the Tax Code to help do this is something we call section 179 of the Tax Code.

Section 179 is really simple. It says to small businesses: We want you to be able to write off the purchase of equipment to run your small business so that you can be successful.

Well, here is what happened. For a number of years, small businesses have been able to write off \$500,000—a small business earning \$2 million—to purchase equipment. The problem is, as of January 1 of this year, that ability to write off \$500,000 to buy a couple of trucks and scaffolding and other kinds of equipment—maybe you want to buy a tractor if you are a farmer, maybe you want to buy a skid steer if you are a contractor—that \$500,000 expensing limit has now gone down to \$25,000.

What typically happens is Congress says: We don't want that to happen. Let's get it back up to where it was so small businesses can plan and invest for their future.

And here is what happened last year. Last year, this expired at the beginning of this year. So, we waited until December 11 to say: No, you can expense up to \$500,000 for these small businesses to purchase things like tractors and all sorts of kinds of equipment.

So this is what we did to the American small business men and women of America last year. We said: You don't know what is going to happen, and we will let you know on December 11, and you will have a few weeks to make all of these decisions before this expires. Just think about that.

So from December 11 to December 31 of last year was the window in which American small business men and women realized they had this incentive to purchase and plan for equipment because on January 1 it went away. And that is where we are today.

So we are saying: Let's stop this monkey business, let's stop this crazy

notion of injecting all this uncertainty into small businesses and make this provision that is bipartisan—this provision that we know creates jobs—let's make it permanent so that small business men and women of America can plan their purchases.

I remember talking to a dealer of Case tractors. We make Case New Holland tractors in Racine, Wisconsin. We call them Case Magnums. These are phenomenal tractors that increase the productivity of farmers and ranchers. They are also used for construction. Well, it is a pretty big purchase. It is about \$200,000, \$250,000 for a nice Case Magnum, and it is a big purchase that somebody needs to think about and plan.

Case, the dealer in Janesville, Wisconsin, had to wait from December 11 to December 31 to be able to try and market these tractors as something that a small business person or a farmer could actually purchase. Think about the kind of uncertainty you are injecting into the economy when people cannot think and plan and invest in their businesses because of Congress.

So what we are simply trying to do here is produce certainty so that the men and women on the line in Racine, Wisconsin, making Case tractors can make those tractors and so that the dealers selling those tractors can sell those tractors so the farmers and ranchers and construction contractors can buy those tractors, knowing that this incentive that has been here and not, up and down is there, and they can plan accordingly, so that we can grow the economy and create jobs.

The purpose of all of this is to get people back to work. The purpose of all of this is to recognize that small business is the backbone of our economy, and one of the biggest things that is threatening small businesses, one of the reasons why we have this middle-income wage stagnation, one of the reasons why we have slower than average economic growth, is because we have all this uncertainty in our economy.

We need to give businesses certainty. We need to help them plan for the future. We need to stop this crazy game of extending a tax benefit that has been on the books for quite some time one year at a time or retroactive one year at a time and give businesses certainty.

This notion that not raising taxes is all of a sudden some tax cut that one must pay for is a notion that we just completely disagree with, which is a difference of opinion between ourselves and the other side of the aisle.

And so I urge adoption of this Tiberi bill to extend the 179 limit to \$500,000, to make it permanent and help small businesses grow and create jobs.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Last year, as we remember so well, Republicans reacted to the tax reform proposal from then-Chairman Dave Camp with a "blah, blah, blah, blah." That reception, echoed in the overall chilly reaction of the Republicans, stemmed in part from that plan's honesty.

Chairman Camp had pledged not to increase the deficit with his proposal. To achieve that goal, he played it straight—at least within the first 10 years. He proposed a tax on banks that drew cringes from his fellow Republicans. He put forward a surtax on the highest earners—essentially, a third tax rate. And he eliminated one of the most widely used provisions in the Tax Code: the State and local sales tax deduction. In the process, he paid for making permanent tax provisions like the bill before us today, this single piece of legislation costing about \$80 billion alone.

Like it or not, it was at least somewhat honest accounting. And so started a Republican ploy to get around the hard realities of tax reform. The gist of that ploy: take a number of provisions separately, make them permanent, and don't pay a dime for them. Not a dime. The reason? The expectation of needing to raise less revenue in tax reform would allow Republicans to more easily cut tax rates.

Republicans feared that by trying to pay for their tax cuts—and they still do fear this—by shifting to the highly uncertain dynamic scoring may not be enough. So they are further trying to rig the system with baseline games and making permanent tax provisions outside of tax reform.

Not having to pay for \$800 billion worth of tax extenders made permanent would make it easier for Republicans to lower taxes, especially on higher income taxpayers, carrying out further their trickle-down tax policies. It would allow them to avoid having to end the abuse of tax savings and incentives to ship jobs overseas.

By massively increasing the deficit—this is so important—through permanent unpaid-for tax revisions, Republicans could later cite this debt that they created as a reason to take a hatchet to programs like Head Start or fail to adequately fund the vital research at the National Institutes of Health. The President blew the whistle on that scheme—the rigging of the system and sound policy—with support from Democrats. Last year, the ploy was stopped in the Senate.

But here, House Republicans are going at it again—before even hinting, by the way, what tax reform might look like; there is no H.R. 1 for tax reform this session—throwing to the wind the statement of the chairman of our committee, Mr. RYAN, about trying to find common ground on common aspects of tax reform, at the same time betraying the GOP preaching on fiscal responsibility.

As chairman of the Budget Committee, Mr. RYAN never assumed tax extenders would be a permanent part of the Tax Code. Otherwise, he would never have been able to say he balanced the budget in 10 years.

So what the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee is proposing now is the opposite of the approach he pursued as the chairman of the Budget Committee.

The bill before us on section 179 addresses an important subject. It is primarily available to small and middle-sized businesses. It will likely be part of any tax reform. And until then, it will be renewed. That is certain.

Republicans control this House, and they control when renewal would occur, absent tax reform, but this provision deserves not to be left out of a tax reform process. It should give careful and comprehensive consideration of all the tax provisions in our Code.

So maybe the best way to expose this Republican gambit is for editorial writers to use their pen and for others to use social media, tweeting to Republicans this message: Stop your efforts at congressional alchemy.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from the great State of Wisconsin (Mr. KIND), a very active and distinguished member of our committee.

□ 0930

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Michigan for yielding me this time.

It is kind of amazing, Mr. Speaker, that today, although it won't be reflected in the final vote count of the legislation before us, there actually is a lot of common ground that exists in this Chamber.

I couldn't agree more with my friend and colleague from Wisconsin, the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, that our Nation is in desperate need of comprehensive tax reform. We have an old, antiquated Tax Code that is not fair. It is too complicated.

It is leading us in a less competitive position in the global economy, and it is long overdue for a thorough scrubbing and a review so that we can simplify it, lower the rates for businesses—large and small—and for our families back home, and lead us in a more competitive position.

I am concerned that the approach that the majority is taking undermines that attempt. This legislation and the legislation that was before us yesterday and the legislation that will be coming up as soon as we get back from the President's Day recess is probably the surest signal that the majority in the Congress, just 6 weeks into this new session, is punting on comprehensive tax reform because this isn't the way to do it.

To cherry-pick certain provisions where, policywise, it may make sense and there is great agreement behind the policy of what is being offered, not paying for it undermines the ability for us to comprehensively reform the Code, making the difficult decisions so we don't leave a legacy of debt for future generations.

My name is on these bills today. I have teamed up with Representative TIBERI from Ohio when it comes to the expensing 179 allowance. I think it makes sense with small businesses and family farmers in Wisconsin and throughout the country to have that cash flow, to have that certainty built into the Code, to make sure that they can immediately expense the investments that they are putting into their business which can help to grow the economy and create jobs.

I have teamed up with my friend from Washington State (Mr. REICHERT) on S corp modernization, but between those bills, it is an \$80 billion cost, according to the Congressional Budget Office, and no effort to find an offset or a pay-for to deal with it, and that is a missed opportunity because this really does come down to fiscal responsibility.

My friend from Wisconsin was once quoted as saying, "The people deserve a government that works for them, not one that buries them in more debt."

We couldn't agree more with that sentiment; yet we have got an example of how well Pay-As-You-Go budgeting can work. During the 1990s, when there was a spending increase offered or a tax cut offered, there had to be an offset to pay for it, and it helped lead, along with a growing economy, 4 years of budget surpluses when we were paying down the national debt, rather than adding to it, but somehow, that element of fiscal discipline and responsibility is absent in the legislation that is before us today.

We can move forward as Chairman Camp did last year in offering his discussion draft on comprehensive reform by making difficult decisions within the Tax Code, finding expenditures that are inefficient and not necessary to promote growth and job creation, and make those decisions while we reform the entire Code.

That is the approach that we should be taking rather than piecemealing very popular proposals, mind you, but doing it in a way that leaves a legacy of more deficits and more debt for future generations to grapple with but also undermines the baseline that we need, the tools that we need to do comprehensive reform the right way.

I would encourage my colleagues—maybe they are doing it because they know it is a message piece rather than a real, substantive proposal. Again, we couldn't agree about the need for greater certainty, more predictability in the Tax Code so our businesses can

start making longer-term decisions and not worrying about whether Congress is going to get its act together at the end of the year and extend short-term measures like this.

But the way to do that is in comprehensive reform and making the difficult decisions that will have to be made, so we don't pile up the debt for future generations.

Again, the policy behind this 179 S corp modernization, I think it is in the right place. We have got to find a way to pay for it.

I encourage my colleagues to vote "no." Let's get back to the real business of reforming a Tax Code that is long overdue.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. At this time, Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), the distinguished House majority leader.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I want to thank more than just the gentleman for yielding. I want to thank him for his work as chairman on the Committee on Ways and Means, knowing where they are going.

We have to reform the Tax Code if we are going to grow this economy, and our chairman we have today, that has been his life's work. There is no one better poised and in a better position of understanding to finally get this done, and I am excited about what the future brings.

Today, we are talking about something much different. Today, we are talking about something that is already in the Code, something that helps bring job growth because it is about small business, and the worst thing about small business is to ever have uncertainty.

So this Congress wants to be a new American Congress. They don't want to have uncertainty for small businesses. They are taking up an issue much earlier so you can plan for the future, so you can make that hire and grow.

Now, why do I care so much about this? Many of you don't know, but I started my first business when I was 19. I got a little luck of winning a lottery. I was saving my money in summer. I took my money out of the stock market, and I took a big risk and took my time out of college.

It is not easy opening a small business. I even built the counter of my business in my dad's garage, trying to save money, but the values I learned in that small business are the same values that every small business owner in America learns: you are the first one to work, you are the last one to leave, and you are the last one to be paid.

The last thing a small business needs is more uncertainty from their government of changing the Tax Code or even whether it is going to go forward.

Today is a day not to debate. Today is a day to invest in America's small

businesses. As I have said a few times on this floor, these are things that should unite us, not divide us; but in this new American Congress, I think we have something different, Mr. Speaker, in the idea of putting veto threats from this administration.

Just moments after we passed another bipartisan bill on the floor to help the food banks, the charitable giving, for those are the most vulnerable across our Nation, this administration offered a veto threat on helping small businesses. I take those seriously.

As the majority leader, I want to understand. I want to work with anyone that wants to work with us, so I read the veto threat to understand where could we make something better, where had something gone wrong, because this was already in law.

Mr. Speaker, the administration's veto threat, on the President's reasons why: first, he says that the House didn't pass a bill last Congress that he wanted; and, second, he said Congress might pass bills in the future that he doesn't like. How does that create any jobs in America?

Mr. Speaker, that sounds more like a schoolyard argument than a debate on the floor of the House. I think it is time the people grow up, understand where jobs are created, understand what uncertainty does across America, not in my district, but in every district that is represented here today.

As someone who is a former small business owner, knows the challenges, knows what he has to do to hire someone, I ask that we look in a new American Congress to put people before politics and pass this bill, so we can grow America's economy.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to myself such time as I shall consume.

I say to the majority leader: this isn't about small business. We favor 179. This is about monkey business, monkeying with procedure, doing the opposite of what the chairman did when he was chairman of the Budget Committee, of trying to rig the system. I wish the majority leader would have cited the entire Statement of Administration Policy. I assume he read it all.

Here is what it said on behalf of the President:

"If this same, unprecedented approach of making certain traditional tax extenders permanent without off-sets were followed for the other traditional tax extenders, it would add \$500 billion or more to deficits over the next ten years, wiping out most of the deficit reduction achieved through the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2013."

"The Administration wants to work with the Congress to make progress on measures that strengthen the economy and help middle-class families, including pro-growth business tax reform. However, H.R. 636 represents the wrong approach."

That is what the President is talking about, and it is really sad when the

majority leader comes here and misrepresents what the administration has said.

We want to work together. We want to find common ground. The answer today is, from the Republicans: Forget about common ground, common elements; stop working together; we'll do it our way; don't worry about tax reform now, we'll worry about that later.

That is what really this is all about.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TIBERI), a member of the Ways and Means Committee, the author of this legislation, be allowed to manage the time for our side of the aisle.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the chairman for his leadership in the area of tax reform and entitlement reform.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is not monkey business. This is serious business, kind of déjà vu all over again. We have now been at trying to do comprehensive tax reform for 5 years, and we should continue to try to do it, but our constituents shouldn't be held hostage for the lack of the ability for us to get it across the finish line. This is bipartisan.

Let me remind my friend from Michigan that the provisions in these bills that I am sponsoring today were part of a package that was being negotiated to be made permanent by a bicameral, bipartisan group of legislators in December, Democrat leadership and Republican leadership, before the President stepped in and said "no."

He said "no" to constituents of mine like Claggett & Sons, a general contractor. I will tell you what the controller of Claggett & Sons said about section 179. This is what he said:

It is an important part of our decision-making process when evaluating equipment purchases.

He went on to say that making the increased expensing levels permanent, as this bill does, will be beneficial for capital purchases planning for small businesses.

Let me tell you, when you look at section 179 in particular, Mr. Speaker, we had section 179 at this level, supported by Democrats and Republicans alike, for 2014. On December 11, 2014, we gave our constituents 20 days to take advantage of this provision, as we have done now 12 times on a temporary basis since 2003.

Claggett & Sons couldn't take advantage of it. My friends have heard about my constituents, farmers Tom and Judy Price, about buying a combine, waiting to see when we would make this permanent or reextend it.

□ 0945

We gave them 20 days to make that decision—20 days. That is no way to run a railroad, none at all, Mr. Speaker.

I understand the points that the other side has made. I want tax reform in a comprehensive way as bad as anybody. The two aren't mutually exclusive here in terms of, we can do this, give our small business owners and farmers the type of certainty they need that will help our economy grow, that will help their businesses grow, rather than do what we have done for 12 years now—over 12 years—making these temporary provisions, extending them for a year or two at the end of the year. That is just no way to do this.

So, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of small business owners like Claggett & Sons and farmers like Tom and Judy Price, I urge us to move the ball forward. We can chew gum and walk at the same time. We can do this, and we can move on to try to find common ground on comprehensive tax reform.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

I say to my friend from Ohio, you are running this railroad. If you want to wait until December, that is your decision. It wasn't ours.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Cincinnati, Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), the chairman of the Committee on Small Business.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. TIBERI for yielding me this time.

One of two Americans gets up each day and heads to a small business. That is where they work. Small firms are critical to America's success. They create seven out of every 10 new job opportunities and provide the means for millions of our neighbors to put a roof over their head and food on their table and to get ahead in life.

The bill before us today would help those small businesses and the working families that rely on them by providing much-needed certainty. It would make permanent several tax policies that end up being retroactively applied anyway at the end of every year, but not without scrambling at the eleventh hour. We have all seen this happen year after year after year. Let's give these small businesses all over the country the certainty that they need.

These provisions will help small businesses purchase equipment and technology to grow and create more jobs; and, after all, that is what we on both sides of the aisle say we are after is creating more jobs in this economy. Right now businesses are oftentimes operating in the dark. They don't know whether they will be able to utilize these progrowth tax provisions or not. That lack of certainty discourages

growth, and it discourages job creation. Passing this bill will make it easier for small businesses to plan for the future, knowing that Washington won't pull the rug from under them.

As chairman of the House Committee on Small Business, I strongly support this measure and any measure that removes barriers to small business job creation. This bill provides relief to our Nation's small businesses and will result in more opportunities to working families all over this country.

I would like to thank my colleague from Ohio, Mr. TIBERI, for his leadership on this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL).

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman LEVIN for this opportunity to speak.

There has been some talk as to whether or not the Democrats have finally recognized the importance of the deficit and the debt and that since we are going to pass these bills anyway, because there is a negative feeling that we are not going to have tax reform, I assume, that we might as well give some confidence to our small business people that they will have this tax incentive.

Well, that is a way of thinking, but it would appear to me that if we can forgo going through the regular procedure in order to give, at this stage of our political calendar, the incentive now, I have heard no reason—and I hope I will—as to why we cannot close the loopholes that exist in the Tax Code now.

It seems to me that it goes without dispute that we have trillions of dollars—certainly hundreds of billions of dollars—in the Tax Code that Republicans and Democrats believe shouldn't be there. While we are anxious to reduce the corporate tax so that we are not embarrassingly the highest in the entire world, we also know that there are so many corporations that don't pay any taxes at all. How can we ignore that?

If we can say that we are going to go into debt for a trillion dollars by extensions, why can't we say we are going to pay for it by closing the loopholes? It is clear to me, if we want to make certain steps in advance of a comprehensive tax reform, that we just can't pick that part that business wants as an incentive and at the same time not look at the part that business really is taking advantage of loopholes that the Congress has provided.

So we cannot charge the corporations with being un-American because they are not paying taxes. It is our responsibility to have a Tax Code, as FOX would say, that is fair and balanced.

But this whole idea of not extending the things that people need, such as education, the homeless, the infrastructure, all of the things that can

make America greater, to select out the low-hanging fruit for tax reform and leave the hard work as to how we are going to raise the money to pay for it for later does not make any legislative sense. So that if we are being charged with being too fiscally responsible because we are concerned as to what this is doing to our national debt, then help us to raise the funds that are there that are not difficult to recognize.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. RANGEL. We do recognize that we have to close these loopholes.

And I might say that it appears as though the corporations and the businesses that receive these obscene tax benefits are the ones that actually contribute the most to the parties that legislate. I am not saying there is a connection, but there is a perception that those people that give high congressional campaign funds are the ones that receive high tax benefits. Certainly it goes without saying that those who are not doing well as relates to fairness and equity in the tax system are those people who don't hire the accountants and the lobbyists.

So let's be fair and balanced and say that if you are going to extend our government to this liability fiscally, then we can raise some money at the same time by closing the tax loopholes.

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), who represents a number of newly created small businesses with the energy boom.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the sponsor of this important legislation for yielding the time.

I just have to respond to the most recent speaker, who I believe is sincere in his concerns, but we are not talking today about corporations and loopholes. We are not talking about education and homelessness. Those are important things that we want to work with them on. We are talking today about small business.

I found it sort of disturbing that the ranking member said that today is not about small business; it is about monkeying around with procedures. Are we so wed to our procedures that that is more important than small businesses?

I also have to say that, for me, in my town halls, in my Coffee with Cramer sessions, my regular town halls—I had more town halls than any Member of Congress last year—the number one issue that is raised not by corporations but by small family business men and women, largely farmers and ranchers, is the issue of 179 expensing and the uncertainty that is created by mid-December extensions to the previous year. Maybe if they are lucky, the farmer gets to buy a new combine for Christmas.

But it is about more than even the farmer or the snow removal business person that needs to buy a new snow blower or the lawn care businessman that needs to buy a new mower. It is about more than the implement dealers. It is about more than even the Case IH plant or John Deere plant or the Melroe Bobcat plants in North Dakota. Those are important. But it is also about the mechanic that works at the implement dealership, who is one paycheck away from not being able to feed his family. It is about the restaurant owner, the cafe owner in a small town who feeds breakfast and lunch and dinner and, yes, occasionally mid-morning coffee over the shaking of dice to that farmer, to that implement dealer, to that mechanic that benefits from the dynamics—the dynamics—of an economy that, yes, provides this, not a loophole, this appropriate deduction in the year in which a piece of equipment is purchased. It makes all the difference in the world not to corporate America, but to middle class families, hardworking farmers and ranchers and mechanics and snow removers and landscapers and all kinds of middle class working people in America.

Let's do the right thing. Let's make this incremental step toward comprehensive tax reform and do the thing that I know we all know is the right thing to do. Let's pass this bill. Let's pass it in the Senate. Let's get it on the President's desk and appeal to him for common sense.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL), who heads up one of our subcommittees as ranking member.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. LEVIN for yielding to me.

I want to speak specifically to what the previous gentleman has just stated. I had not intended to speak because I am going to offer the motion to recommit on our side, but the gentleman appeared in his commentary to belittle the notion of procedure.

Procedure in this institution is sacrosanct based upon the rules that we adopt in the earliest moments of the new Congress. I was struck by the notion that we should just cast aside and denigrate procedure. That is how the institution operates, based upon procedure, established precedent, and settled law.

To suggest that somehow we could just offend procedure, we remind ourselves of what has happened to this institution during the last two decades when virtually all the Members on both sides got elected by running against the institution. They could never step away from the campaign rhetoric to get on with actual governance of the institution. Procedure in this institution means that we adhere to a prescribed set of rules and orders and, yes, goodwill.

Now, again, I had not even intended to get up and talk about this issue, arcane as it might seem, but it underlies the whole notion of a representative democracy and a duly elected legislative institution. Procedure, the basic tenet of which is, oftentimes: Shall the institution simply concur with a motion to proceed? That is the antecedent of the term, "procedure." That is how the body works.

Today, fundamentally what is being proposed here and what we object to in no small measure is the violation of the whole notion of procedure.

□ 1000

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. I now yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), another distinguished member of our committee.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, we come today in the midst of a debate at a time when there are wide areas of agreement in this Congress about things that we should do to help improve the country. We all acknowledge the importance of tax reform. Many people in this Chamber, on both sides of the aisle, have a lot of time and energy invested in it. And in the other Chamber, they are establishing working groups to explore the challenges. The administration has set reform proposals in its budget that could be a basis of discussion in moving forward. Our past chairman produced a substantial draft and was, sadly, maligned for, in fact, achieving his objective of a significant reform that was revenue-neutral.

And what we are seeing today is another in a series of bills that have nothing to do with really achieving that objective. In fact, they run contrary to past reform efforts.

Yesterday in committee, we marked up something that has broad agreement in terms of helping deal with problems of deductibility for sales tax in States that don't have income tax. This was an area that was dealt with by the gentleman from Michigan, then-Chairman Camp, in his reform bill. Our current chairman has called for a different treatment. We understand there are challenges dealing with it. But all of a sudden, we are just moving that forward too, and that is on the conveyor belt that is moving forward.

I think it makes a mockery of the process that it takes to reform the tax process, wherein we have so far already approved over \$300 billion that, if approved, would add to the deficit. Now, mercifully, I don't think they are going to be enacted anytime soon, but it sets us back for the long-term objective and confuses what we could be doing.

I find this at stark variation with how we deal with another area that used to be a bipartisan area of consensus, and that is providing funding

for infrastructure to rebuild and renew the country.

It was interesting, we have a highway trust fund where the current fix runs out this spring. The highway trust fund will be literally going broke by early June. Some States have already listed the projects they have as suspended or canceled due to this uncertainty. And more will act as it becomes clearer that we are in a pickle, and Congress has not yet moved forward.

Last summer, when Congress struggled to pass the 23rd short-term extension to our transportation program, now-Chairman RYAN said that it is important that we follow "a House budget rule that requires general fund transfers to the trust fund to be fully offset. It should not become a recurring practice for taxpayers to bail out the highway and transit programs because Congress and the President are unable to make the changes necessary to avoid future trust fund insolvency."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman an additional 2 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Kind of a different approach.

Here, we roll through, add to the deficit, make tax reform more complicated, and the Republican-controlled Congress has yet, in the entire 50 months that it has been in charge, to have even a hearing on a proposal that is supported by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the AFL-CIO, truckers, AAA, transit, local government, environmentalists, and mirrors something that Ronald Reagan did 33 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I suppose we have to go through this exercise. And we will do it, and we are going to see that there is kind of a two-track system.

If you are on the conveyor belt for things that they want to move, it will go forward—consequences to the deficit be damned—even if it makes more difficult long-term tax reform and repudiates things that have had bipartisan interest in the past.

In the meantime, things that have broad support, that have profound effects on the economy right now and impact people from coast to coast, lie dormant, and we are manufacturing another crisis.

Oh, and before that, we are going to have an artificial crisis with disability funding because of a switch in the rules for those that don't get this favored treatment.

There is a reason that we have got this gulf in terms of our inability to work together. There is a reason because there is a gap between those income disparities, failing to deal with policies that would narrow them rather than widen them. And I hope that we can get past this today and at some point get back to basics on things that will make us stronger, that can bring us together, and make our families

safer, healthier, and more economically secure.

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN), the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I don't think I will use all that time. I appreciate the generosity of the gentleman.

I am intrigued by this debate and the so-called admonishment from the minority as to how this jeopardizes tax reform and how it is not being bipartisan.

Let me see if I can bring some clarity to this debate. I interpret what was just said as, if you don't agree with our higher taxes, if you don't—before negotiating tax reform—agree to our terms of the debate, then you are not being bipartisan.

Look, when we were in the minority, we made similar arguments as well, which were: surrender your beliefs, surrender your principles, agree with us, and then we can be bipartisan. I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I was born at night, but I wasn't born last night. That is not how negotiations occur. That is not how you find common ground. Finding common ground isn't surrendering your ground and agreeing to the other ground. Finding common ground is saying, where do my principles and your principles intersect, overlay, and what can we do?

Just so you understand, Mr. Speaker, here is what this is about: the premise that the minority is offering is, these tax provisions that we all agree on, that we think are good, that we think help the economy, but that have, in law, expiration dates when they expire and those taxes go up, we don't think that is good.

And the minority is saying: If these things expire and go up, we don't want that to happen. So we will work with you and make sure that they don't expire on a year-by-year basis. And we are fine. But if you dare try to make these things that we all agree on, that need to stay in the Tax Code, permanent, you are not paying for it. It is a budget-buster. You are being irresponsible. You are jeopardizing tax reform. Process, process, process.

Here is the problem. What we are trying to do here, we are trying to grow the economy. We are trying to get people back to work. We are trying to increase take-home pay. We are trying to honor and respect the hardworking taxpayers who sent us here in the first place.

So what we don't want to do is tell all those small business men and women in America, wait until December, and then we will let you know what your Tax Code is going to look like. What we want to tell the small business men and women in America is: Washington is out of your way. You can go plan, and you can grow, and you

can invest, and you can hire. That is what we are trying to achieve here.

And this idea that not raising taxes is somehow a big, giant tax cut is an idea and a premise that we don't agree with. What we are being told here is, if we don't agree with that, then we are jeopardizing tax reform. Baloney.

The irony of this issue is compounded by the fact that the minority is telling us already—in their statements from the White House, in their budgets—that there are temporary provisions in the Tax Code that they like that aren't bipartisan, that they are saying make them permanent and don't pay for them. So they are cherry-picking, selective memory. It is an argument, quite frankly, that I don't think holds water because what we are doing here today, we are bringing certainty to the Tax Code. We are helping job creators and taxpayers and families. And we are doing it in a way that we think is honest, we think is fair, and we think advances tax reform.

The way to find common ground is not to ask the other side to surrender their beliefs, surrender their principles, and agree with the other side, and then you can get along. That is not how you find common ground. That is not bipartisanism. That is surrender. Nobody is asking anybody to surrender, at least we are not.

So what I would argue to my colleagues is, support this. Just show the small business men and women in your district that you are there for them, that you don't want to keep doing this to them, which is projecting all this uncertainty.

The other point I would make—and my friend from Oregon, who really is my friend; he is a sincere legislator who does his job very well, cares very deeply about his district—the argument he makes about tax cuts expiring doesn't jibe with the spending argument he is making.

Let me give you a case in point. Trade Adjustment Assistance, the farm bill, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, all of these are spending programs that have expiration dates, just like provisions in the Tax Code that have expiration dates. And when these things on the spending side of the ledger book expire and Congress extends them, it doesn't cost. It is not measured in the baseline as costing anything.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DOLD). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. TIBERI. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. But God forbid if something in the Tax Code expires, you had better raise taxes on somebody else if you want to keep that provision.

So just understand the argument that is being brought to the floor here. They are saying, in order to keep taxes

the same for charities and small businesses, you have got to raise taxes on some other hardworking taxpayer out there. That is the argument that is coming here. And if you don't agree with that, then you are not being bipartisan, and you are not facilitating tax reform. We just don't agree with that.

So we are bringing our ideas to the floor. We are bringing our proposals to the table. And in the interest of growing the economy and finding common ground, this is what we are doing.

We encourage the other side of the aisle to bring their ideas to the floor, to bring their ideas to the committee, to bring their ideas into the public sphere so we can see where they line up and what we can do and where common ground might exist.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I shall consume.

Mr. Chairman, we are not suggesting you surrender your ground for 1 minute, not for 1 second. What we are saying is, let's search for common ground, and don't you come here and cut out pieces of it, piece by piece. That is what we are suggesting.

In terms of a 1-year basis, we are saying, do things comprehensively like your predecessor did.

This isn't a matter just of process, process, process. It is a matter of policy, policy, policy. That is what this is all about.

You come forth, and you then talk about wage inequality. What have you brought up here that relates to that? We are trying to get a vote, for example, on minimum wage. You won't even allow us a vote. Give us a vote.

You talk about TAA. The rules apply there. And we could go into the details in terms of whether it is authorized for a certain period of time, and after that, then if it is permanent, it becomes part of the baseline.

What you are trying to do today is essentially rig the system. You want to do it with dynamic scoring. And now you essentially want to take each of these pieces, make them permanent, unpaid for, to put them in the baseline. You did not do that when you were chairman of the Budget Committee.

You talk about honesty. I won't use that word because I totally respect your honesty more than that. I think it is hypocritical.

□ 1015

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Will the ranking member yield?

Mr. LEVIN. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. The budget resolution reflects law as it is. The budget resolution reflects the CBO as it gives us baselines and laws. What we are doing here are our policy preferences. What we are doing here is what we think that law ought to be, not what it is. The budget resolution is: here is the law, there it is.

What we are trying to do here is fix the law because we think the law is broken. We think the law doesn't work.

Mr. LEVIN. Well, here is the problem: you took the baseline in the budget, and you don't want to take it for this. You want to squeeze \$800 billion permanently unpaid for, change the baseline, and that increases the deficit by that amount, and then you use that deficit to squeeze out needs, whether it is NIH or whatever it is. Infrastructure has been mentioned here also.

We don't have the money for that. It is hypocritical to do one thing in one committee and another thing in another committee. It is not only hypocritical, it is a very dangerous approach.

That is our answer. I am not suggesting you surrender for 1 minute, but don't take pieces out of ground that we want to be common. That is what you are doing, and that is why it is antithetical to tax reform. That is why Dave Camp came here with a comprehensive program, and you guys didn't like it.

You said, "Blah, blah, blah, blah." That was the Speaker, and others of you did not like it—the bank tax—so you don't want to do it comprehensively at first. You want to do it piece by piece. That is bad policy, it is bad for the deficit, and it is bad for the hopes for tax reform.

If you want me to surrender time, I reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to other Members in the second person.

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, as a Roman Catholic, I find it interesting that Mr. Camp is a saint now that he is gone. I would like to remind my colleagues that Mr. Camp worked for several years on comprehensive tax reform with little help from the other side. When I say "the other side," I mean the White House. It was 4 years into his chairmanship that he released a draft.

The new chairman has been in the job for about 42 days, so let's give him some time to work on a comprehensive draft which he said and has continued to say that he can do while we make some important provisions that have been bipartisan that is about putting money in people's pockets.

Everybody knows we have had the worst job recovery in my lifetime—the worst. This provision has been around for a long, long time. We know it works—liberal economists, conservative economists—expensing works. It works for small businesses. Small businesses hire people.

By the way, many small business owners and many farmers pay their taxes quarterly. Most of us have our taxes taken out of our paycheck every time we have a paycheck.

Imagine the debate that we would be having on the floor today if every

American had to send in their taxes quarterly. These small business owners and farmers are at the heart of our economy in trying to improve our economy—improve our economy, grow our economy, and hire more people. We are all for that.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. I say to the gentleman from Ohio, I favor 179, not doing it piecemeal unpaid for this way.

By the way, this is not the worst job recovery. There has been an increase in jobs in the last month, month after month. The problem is it hasn't lifted the incomes of middle-income families. Let's get together to do that.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), who has been working on small business—maybe you will tell us how many years—a few.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Sixteen.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the bill before us today. As we all know, small businesses are critical to sustaining our economic growth, and it only makes sense to cater our economic policy to meet their needs.

Congress needs to continue promoting our ultimate goal of providing small firms with certainty and simplicity in our Tax Code. Expanding section 179 permanently is one way to accomplish this goal.

Unfortunately, H.R. 636 neglects other important provisions in the Tax Code benefiting small firms. What about R&D tax credit or modernizing the depreciation schedule?

These are important tax reforms that small businesses have been asking for, for so long, but here we are again enacting a piecemeal tax bill that does nothing to accomplish our bipartisan goal of passing comprehensive tax reform.

Republicans love to claim that they are fighting for small businesses when it is convenient for them. However, today's bill doesn't provide enough for small firms, and it certainly doesn't meet what the other side of the aisle claims is the most important policy tenet: fiscal responsibility.

This bill will add \$77 billion to our deficit—so much for fiscal responsibility.

While I applaud the effort and agree more can be done to help small businesses, we must enact smart, comprehensive tax reform that truly addresses small business needs.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I would ask if the other side is ready for closing. We have no more speakers at this time, and I reserve the balance of my time to close.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

We have debated this now for 2 days. The issue isn't whether 179 is a useful provision. It is. It will be continued.

That can be sure. It should not be continued essentially forever unpaid for, adding to the deficit, eroding the chances for tax reform, but this really isn't about 179.

The purpose of bringing up this and other provisions outside of tax reform is really essentially to rig the system. It is to play games with the system. It is to try to change the rules so that essentially, if you make it permanent unpaid for, it goes into the baseline; and therefore, after that, you don't have to pay for it.

That is what this is really all about. It means you can do other things like reducing tax rates mainly for the very wealthy, having more room to do that, not having to worry about the money to pay for that because you haven't used the money to pay for the extenders. That is really what this is all about.

It wasn't done in the Rules Committee by Chairman RYAN. It should not be done now. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans are trying to adjust the rules, to change them, so that they can proceed with their approaches. It isn't forthright, and it isn't honest.

They are worried the dynamic scoring won't be enough, so essentially, they are trying to do dynamic things—so-called—with the basis. All of that really is contrary to sound policy, it is contrary to the rules, and it is really contrary to the search for bipartisan ship.

We will sit down tomorrow and talk about 179 as an important part of tax reform. We will do that tomorrow. We haven't even started on tax reform. Now, you essentially want to say we will cut some pieces, and we will do that. That is not sound policy. As Mr. NEAL said, it really abrogates sound practice. That is what this is all about.

Mr. Speaker, I urge very much that we vote "no." There will be, one way or another, enough votes if this ever got through the Senate—and it won't—to sustain a veto. Don't play games. Let's address tax reform and responsibility in terms of the deficits.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Ladies and gentlemen, this isn't a game. This is reality. This is Groundhog's Day. We have been doing this for 12 years. You go ask somebody who is trying to run a business in America on Main Street—they want certainty, they don't want retroactivity.

Heck, we got 10 months left in the year. They would like longer than that. Their business cycle is longer than 10 months. Their business cycle is years. Go ask an accountant at a business in terms of how they have to plan. The rules are rigged against them. The rules—the chairman talked about the rules.

I am going to underline and bold this. Imagine this: this provision is expired,

and my colleagues in the minority are concerned about adding to the deficit because this provision that expired on December 31, we are trying to renew without raising taxes on other people.

When spending expires, the chairman mentioned a few of those programs, and we renew them at the same level, it doesn't add to the deficit. Think about that. Go talk to some constituents at a diner on Main Street in any of our districts and see if they think those rules are fair. They are paying the bill. They are paying all of the bill.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have got to get things done. We have to get things done. The American people are counting on us to get things done. This is as common ground as there is in our Tax Code when it comes to trying to help job creators create jobs.

I don't know anybody who wants a minimum wage job. I know people who want jobs that pay more than the minimum wage. I had a minimum wage job once. I wanted to make more than that. That wasn't my goal. My goal was to make more money than minimum wage.

Each and every one of us knows somebody who can't find a job who wants a job. I know people who want to create more jobs and have their businesses grow. This provision, ladies and gentlemen, we know this provision helps people get jobs. It doesn't have to be that hard. We can walk and chew gum.

Mr. Speaker, we can lay the groundwork for comprehensive tax reform, but we need partners. We need partners in the Senate, and we need partners in the White House.

The White House has said they are for C corp reform. Well, as everybody knows, this provision is going to help a lot more than just C corps. It is going to help small businesses that are pass-through entities, S corps, limited liability companies, and mom-and-pop small businesses on Main Street. We cannot wait. These people have waited long enough.

Ladies and gentlemen, we need long-term certainty. This is an important step to comprehensive tax reform—a very important one—that we need to pass and get on our business to getting to comprehensive tax reform.

□ 1030

So I would plead with my friends in the minority, let's put aside this rhetoric; let's move toward this; let's pass this bill.

We had a debate last summer that is reminiscent of debate today, and we almost got there, ladies and gentlemen. Democrats in the Senate, the Democrat majority leader, our chairman at the time, Dave Camp, were negotiating the framework of what some now are being critical of that would create permanency for policy provisions that we are debating today.

We know Democrats are for this, under the right circumstances, exactly how this is written. So let's put aside all those things, and let's do work today that is good for America and good for Americans.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, because I was attending the President's cybersecurity summit in California, I was not present when the House voted on H.R. 636, the America's Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2015.

I support many of the goals of the tax provisions in this bill and recognize the value of extending them permanently, but I am concerned that H.R. 636 does not pay for them. I am a strong supporter of helping small businesses succeed. Small businesses power the American economy, and some of the provisions in this bill will help these small companies remain healthy, but this one-sided approach of passing bills that offer tax reductions without increasing revenues is unsustainable.

H.R. 636 will add \$79.2 billion to the deficit over 10 years and puts further pressure on the United States' domestic discretionary priorities. By bringing this and similar tax extender bills to the floor or votes, Republicans continue to demonstrate that they are not serious about deficit reduction. It is long past time for Congress to have a reasonable and informed debate on comprehensive tax reform. These piecemeal, unbalanced extender votes are not the way to approach real tax reform.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 101, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. NEAL. I am opposed to the bill in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Neal moves to recommit the bill H.R. 636 to the Committee on Ways and Means with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 6. NO INCREASE IN DEFICIT OR DELAY OF COMPREHENSIVE TAX REFORM.

Nothing in this Act shall result in—

- (1) an increase in the deficit, or
- (2) a delay or weakening of efforts to adopt a permanent extension of the provisions of this Act, so long as it is accomplished in a fiscally responsible manner.

SEC. 7. SHORT-TERM EXTENSION WHILE COMPREHENSIVE TAX REFORM IS UNDER CONSIDERATION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, any temporary provision of law the application of which is otherwise made permanent under this Act shall be hereby only extended for 1 year.

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I reserve a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am opposed to this bill in its current form. I would remind my colleagues that this amendment to the bill will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage, as amended.

Now, I must tell you that I, having served on the Ways and Means Committee for a long time, think that we should label tax reform as "Chairman RYAN's tax reform by ambiguity."

I can't figure this out. We have a set of final decisions that are putting ours in front of the discussion and the debate. Mr. RYAN stands and says: You are supposed to stick to your principles; you are supposed to stick to your beliefs; you don't need bipartisanism. And the majority leader addressed the House 10 minutes before, blaming the President because he sticks to his beliefs and he sticks to his principles and he adheres to some basic policy tenets.

Well, this is Friday the 13th. What an appropriate way to discuss tax reform. But I have figured out what the problem is. They, on the Republican side, are now afraid of doing tax reform. They must be afraid of what they see as the luck that might come to the Democratic Party based on tax reform.

Let me say this today, right now. Every Democrat in this institution favors 179 and favors expensing for small businesses. If anything, we would extend the principle beyond its current form so that we might include even more individuals.

But like garlic to the vampire, the permanent unpaid-for extension of these tax bills harms bipartisan tax reform because it goes out of its way to violate not just procedure, but something that is elusive and hard to put our arms around in this institution, and it is called the principle of goodwill—which, by the way, used to exist, particularly on the Ways and Means Committee. It was the hardest committee to get on. There was deep thinking that you had to adhere to at virtually every tax measure. People spent careers trying to get on and, once they got on, spent careers trying to perfect legislation that might come to the aid of the American family. But not in this instance.

I heard my friend, Mr. TIBERI—and he is my friend—say a few moments ago, he addressed the issue of the framework. Democrats do not object to the framework that David Camp used—or as Mr. TIBERI called him, Saint David Camp—to do fundamental tax reform.

We strongly endorse the principle offered by Chairman Camp of framework and procedure. He included Democrats right through the whole discussion. And then when it failed—and incidentally, as I told you it would. When it failed, Mr. Camp said: Well, we have to do the extenders.

So there is a bit of amnesia at work here today. They were in charge when we had to do the extenders in, what we might call in New England with Super Bowl champions, the 2-minute warning. That is precisely what happened. We had to do this at the very end after the referee came in and said: If we don't get this done quickly—and, by the way, another group that they disdain, the IRS, because the IRS said, for the 2-minute warning, what? They simply said to us: You will not be able to prepare tax reforms for April if we do not get this done right now. So succumbing to what had been a very good framework, we had to do tax extenders because the Republican Party rejected David Camp's tax reform proposal.

Now, our proposal here is essentially the same. And Mr. TIBERI is correct when he says everybody here favors 179. What we object to is you are going to borrow the money to end up paying for it because you violate the principles that in one moment you adhere to and in the next moment you relinquish.

We might think, on this side, tomorrow is Valentine's Day. There could have been some goodwill established here today. There could have been some common ground as we go forward on tax reform.

I saw how Mr. Rostenkowski did it when I joined the committee; I saw how Mr. RANGEL did it. And do you know what? I saw how Mr. Archer and Mr. Camp did it. They were institutionalists by nature. They would not have done what is being done today. All four of those individuals would have said: Well, first of all, to make it work and to make it great, it has to be bipartisan in nature as you relate to tax reform.

When you hear about tax reform in '86, one of the things that comes to mind immediately is the fact that it was done with President Ronald Reagan and Speaker Thomas O'Neill.

Let me say something, Mr. Speaker. As upset as I am today by the manner in which this is being offered, I want to say to our Republican colleagues, Happy Valentine's Day.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The reservation of a point of order is withdrawn.

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I claim the time in opposition to the gentleman's motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TIBERI. I thank the gentleman from New England and oppose his motion.

I don't want to deflate anybody's honor today. Let me just clarify what I said about Mr. Camp and his draft.

What I said is—because the gentleman is right. He was fully engaged in a very comprehensive way, as were others on the committee with Chairman Camp and me and others. But Mr. Camp had one partner in the Senate that he was working with, a very important one; unfortunately, got sent to China, and at that point all opportunities with the other very important body kind of evaporated. And remember, 4 years—actually, his start was when he was actually ranking member, he started putting together a comprehensive draft. I think that is important to note.

I really appreciate the gentleman's attempt today because, remember, last year, last summer, the gentleman correctly observed that this was a waste of time because we are just going to do this retroactively at the end of the year. We could have broken that cycle last year. It took Chairman Camp and Majority Leader REID in December to almost do it. They almost got there. They almost broke the cycle.

We can still break that cycle. We can still stop this vicious cycle of 1 year here, 2 years there, retroactive here, and provide certainty and get to the business of comprehensive tax reform. We can do all that, but we have to pass this bill first and make it permanent.

I oppose the motion. This is simple: permanency versus 1 year.

Happy Valentine's Day.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by 5-minute votes on passage of the bill, if ordered, and agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 173, nays 241, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 81]

YEAS—173

Adams	Beyer	Bustos
Aguilar	Bishop (GA)	Butterfield
Ashford	Blumenauer	Capps
Bass	Bonamici	Capuano
Beatty	Boyle (PA)	Cárdenas
Becerra	Brady (PA)	Carney
Bera	Brownley (CA)	Carson (IN)

Castro (FL)	Huffman	Perlmutter	Lance	Perry	Smith (NE)	Carter (GA)	Hurd (TX)	Price (GA)
Castro (TX)	Israel	Peters	Latta	Pittenger	Smith (NJ)	Carter (TX)	Hurt (VA)	Ratcliffe
Chu (CA)	Jackson Lee	Peterson	LoBiondo	Pitts	Smith (TX)	Chabot	Issa	Reed
Cicilline	Jeffries	Pingree	Long	Poe (TX)	Stefanik	Chaffetz	Jenkins (KS)	Reichert
Clark (MA)	Johnson (GA)	Pocan	Loudermilk	Poliquin	Stewart	Clawson (FL)	Jenkins (WV)	Renacci
Clarke (NY)	Johnson, E. B.	Polis	Love	Pompeo	Stivers	Coffman	Johnson (GA)	Ribble
Clay	Kaptur	Quigley	Lucas	Posey	Stutzman	Cole	Johnson (OH)	Rice (NY)
Cleaver	Keating	Rangel	Luetkemeyer	Price (GA)	Thompson (CA)	Collins (GA)	Johnson, Sam	Rice (SC)
Clyburn	Kelly (IL)	Rice (NY)	Lummis	Ratcliffe	Thompson (PA)	Collins (NY)	Jolly	Rigell
Cohen	Kennedy	Richmond	MacArthur	Reed	Thornberry	Comstock	Jordan	Roby
Connolly	Kildee	Roybal-Allard	Marchant	Reichert	Tiberi	Conaway	Joyce	Rogers (AL)
Conyers	Kilmer	Ruppersberger	Marino	Renacci	Tipton	Cook	Katko	Rogers (KY)
Cooper	Kind	Rush	Massie	Ribble	Trott	Costello (PA)	Kelly (IL)	Rohrabacher
Costa	Kirkpatrick	Ryan (OH)	McCarthy	Rice (SC)	Turner	Cramer	Kelly (PA)	Rokita
Courtney	Kuster	Sánchez, Linda T.	McCaul	Rigell	Upton	Crawford	Kilmer	Rooney (FL)
Crowley	Langevin	Sanchez, Loretta	McClintock	Roby	Valadao	Crenshaw	King (IA)	Ros-Lehtinen
Cuellar	Larsen (WA)	Sarbanes	McHenry	Rogers (AL)	Wagner	Cuellar	King (NY)	Roskam
Cummings	Larson (CT)	Schakowsky	McKinley	Rogers (KY)	Walberg	Culberson	Kinzinger (IL)	Ross
Davis (CA)	Lawrence	Schiff	McMorris	Rohrabacher	Walden	Curbelo (FL)	Kline	Rothfus
Davis, Danny	Levin	Schrader	Rodgers	Rokita	Walker	Davis, Rodney	Knight	Rouzer
DeFazio	Lewis	Scott (VA)	McSally	Rooney (FL)	Walorski	Delaney	Kuster	Royce
DeGette	Lieu (CA)	Scott, David	Meadows	Ros-Lehtinen	Walters, Mimi	DelBene	Labrador	Ruppersberger
Delaney	Lipinski	Serrano	Meehan	Roskam	Weber (TX)	Denham	LaMalfa	Russell
DelBene	Loeb sack	Mica	Messer	Ross	Webster (FL)	Dent	Lamborn	Ryan (WI)
DeSaulnier	Lowenthal	Miller (FL)	Rothfus	Rothfus	Westerman	DeSantis	Lance	Salmon
Deutch	Lowey	Miller (MI)	Rouzer	Rouzer	Westmoreland	DesJarlais	Latta	Sanford
Dingell	Lujan Grisham	Sherman	Royce	Royce	Whitfield	Diaz-Balart	Lawrence	Scalise
Doggett	(NM)	Sinema	Russell	Russell	Williams	Dold	LoBiondo	Schock
Doyle (PA)	Luján, Ben Ray	Sires	Mooney (WV)	Ryan (WI)	Wilson (SC)	Duffy	Loeb sack	Schweikert
Edwards	(NM)	Slaughter	Mullin	Salmon	Wittman	Duncan (SC)	Long	Scott, Austin
Ellison	Lynch	Smith (WA)	Murphy (PA)	Sanford	Womack	Duncan (TN)	Loudermilk	Sensenbrenner
Engel	Maloney,	Takai	Neugebauer	Scalise	Woodall	Ellmers	Love	Sessions
Esty	Carolyn	Takano	Newhouse	Schock	Yoder	Emmer	Lucas	Shimkus
Farr	Maloney, Sean	Thompson (MS)	Noem	Schweikert	Yoho	Esty	Luetkemeyer	Shuster
Fattah	Matsui	Titus	Nugent	Scott, Austin	Young (AK)	Farenthold	Lummis	Simpson
Foster	McCollum	Tonko	Nunes	Sensenbrenner	Young (IA)	Fincher	MacArthur	Sinema
Frankel (FL)	McDermott	Torres	O'Rourke	Sessions	Young (IN)	Fitzpatrick	Maloney, Sean	Smith (MO)
Fudge	McGovern	Tsongas	Olson	Shimkus	Zeldin	Fleischmann	Marchant	Smith (NE)
Gabbard	McNerney	Van Hollen	Palazzo	Shuster	Zinke	Fleming	Marino	Smith (NJ)
Galleo	Meeks	Vargas	Palmer	Simpson		Flores	Massie	Smith (TX)
Garamendi	Meng	Veasey	Paulsen	Smith (MO)		Forbes	McCarthy	Stefanik
Graham	Moore	Vela				Fortenberry	McCaul	Stewart
Grayson	Moulton	Velázquez	Brown (FL)	Gosar	Pearce	Fox	McClintock	Stivers
Green, Al	Murphy (FL)	Visclosky	Cartwright	Hinojosa	Price (NC)	Franks (AZ)	McHenry	Stutzman
Green, Gene	Nadler	Walz	DeLauro	Honda	Roe (TN)	Frelinghuysen	McKinley	Thompson (PA)
Grijalva	Napolitano	Wasserman	Duckworth	Lee	Ruiz	Gabbard	McMorris	Thornberry
Gutiérrez	Neal	Schultz	Eshoo	Lofgren	Speier	Garamendi	Rodgers	Tiberi
Hahn	Nolan	Waters, Maxine	Franks (AZ)	Mulvaney	Swalwell (CA)	Garrett	McSally	Tipton
Hastings	Norcross	Watson Coleman				Gibbs	Meadows	Titus
Heck (WA)	Pallone	Welch				Gibson	Meehan	Trott
Higgins	Pascarell	Wilson (FL)				Gohmert	Meng	Turner
Himes	Payne	Yarmuth				Goodlatte	Messer	Upton
Hoyer	Pelosi					Gowdy	Mica	Valadao

NOT VOTING—18

□ 1106

Messrs. BOST, MULLIN, FLEISCHMANN, WESTMORELAND, and HUIZENGA of Michigan changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 272, noes 142, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 82]

AYES—272

Abraham	Cook	Grothman	Abraham	Benishkek	Brat	Adams	Castro (FL)	Crowley
Aderholt	Costello (PA)	Guinta	Aderholt	Bera	Bridenstine	Bass	Castro (TX)	Cummings
Allen	Cramer	Guthrie	Aguilar	Billirakis	Brooks (AL)	Becerra	Chu (CA)	Davis (CA)
Amash	Crawford	Hanna	Allen	Bishop (GA)	Brooks (IN)	Beyer	Cicilline	Davis, Danny
Amodei	Crenshaw	Hardy	Amash	Bishop (MI)	Brownley (CA)	Blumenauer	Clark (MA)	DeFazio
Babin	Culberson	Harper	Amodei	Bishop (UT)	Buchanan	Bonamici	Clarke (NY)	DeGette
Barietta	Curbelo (FL)	Harris	Ashford	Black	Buck	Boyle (PA)	Clay	DeSaulnier
Barr	Davis, Rodney	Hartzler	Babin	Blackburn	Bucshon	Brady (PA)	Cleaver	Deutch
Barton	Denham	Heck (NV)	Barr	Blum	Burgess	Butterfield	Clyburn	Dingell
Benishkek	Dent	Hensarling	Barton	Boustany	Byrne	Capps	Cohen	Doggett
Billirakis	DeSantis	Herrera Beutler	Beatty	Brady (TX)	Calvert	Capuano	Connolly	Doyle (PA)
Bishop (MI)	DesJarlais	Hice (GA)				Cárdenas	Conyers	Edwards
Bishop (UT)	Diaz-Balart	Hill				Carney	Cooper	Ellison
Black	Dold	Holding				Carson (IN)	Courtney	Engel
Blackburn	Duffy	Hudson						
Blum	Duncan (SC)	Huelskamp						
Bost	Duncan (TN)	Huizenga (MI)						
Boustany	Ellmers	Hultgren						
Brady (TX)	Emmer	Hunter						
Brat	Farenthold	Hurd (TX)						
Bridenstine	Fincher	Hurt (VA)						
Brooks (AL)	Fitzpatrick	Issa						
Brooks (IN)	Fleischmann	Jenkins (KS)						
Buchanan	Fleming	Jenkins (WV)						
Buck	Flores	Johnson (OH)						
Bucshon	Forbes	Johnson, Sam						
Burgess	Fortenberry	Jolly						
Byrne	Fox	Jones						
Calvert	Frelinghuysen	Jordan						
Carter (GA)	Garrett	Joyce						
Carter (TX)	Gibbs	Katko						
Chabot	Gibson	Kelly (PA)						
Chaffetz	Gohmert	King (IA)						
Clawson (FL)	Goodlatte	King (NY)						
Coffman	Gowdy	Kinzinger (IL)						
Cole	Granger	Kline						
Collins (GA)	Graves (GA)	Knight						
Collins (NY)	Graves (LA)	Labrador						
Comstock	Graves (MO)	LaMalfa						
Conaway	Griffith	Lamborn						

NOES—142

Farr	Lowenthal	Ryan (OH)	Chabot	Jeffries	Polis	Johnson, E. B.	Neugebauer	Schock
Fattah	Lowey	Sánchez, Linda	Chu (CA)	Johnson (GA)	Pompeo	Jones	Norcross	Schrader
Foster	Lujan Grisham	T.	Cicilline	Jolly	Posey	Jordan	Nugent	Sewell (AL)
Frankel (FL)	(NM)	Sanchez, Loretta	Clark (MA)	Kaptur	Rangel	Joyce	Palazzo	Shuster
Fudge	Luján, Ben Ray	Sarbanes	Clay	Keating	Reichert	Kilmer	Pallone	Slaughter
Gallego	(NM)	Schakowsky	Cohen	Kelly (IL)	Rice (NY)	Kind	Paulsen	Smith (MO)
Grayson	Lynch	Schiff	Cole	Kelly (PA)	Roby	Kinzinger (IL)	Payne	Stivers
Green, Al	Maloney,	Schrader	Collins (NY)	Kennedy	Rogers (KY)	Kirkpatrick	Peters	Thompson (CA)
Green, Gene	Carolyn	Scott (VA)	Comstock	Kildee	Rohrabacher	Lance	Peterson	Thompson (MS)
Grijalva	Matsui	Scott, David	Conaway	King (IA)	Rokita	Langevin	Pittenger	Thompson (PA)
Gutiérrez	McCollum	Serrano	Connolly	King (NY)	Rooney (FL)	Lawrence	Poe (TX)	Tiberi
Hastings	McDermott	Sewell (AL)	Cook	Kline	Roskam	Levin	Poliquin	Tipton
Heck (WA)	McGovern	Sherman	Cooper	Knight	Rothfus	Lewis	Price (GA)	Torres
Higgins	McNerney	Sires	Courtney	Kuster	Royce	LoBiondo	Ratcliffe	Trott
Himes	Meeks	Slaughter	Crawford	Labrador	Ruppersberger	Luján, Ben Ray	Reed	Turner
Hoyer	Moore	Smith (WA)	Crowley	LaMalfa	Russell	(NM)	Renacci	Valadao
Huffman	Moulton	Takai	Cuellar	Lamborn	Ryan (WI)	Lynch	Ribble	Vargas
Israel	Nadler	Takano	Culberson	Larsen (WA)	Salmon	MacArthur	Rice (SC)	Veasey
Jackson Lee	Napolitano	Thompson (CA)	Davis (CA)	Larson (CT)	Sanford	Maloney, Sean	Rigell	Velázquez
Jeffries	Neal	Thompson (MS)	Davis, Danny	Latta	Scalise	Carolyn	Rogers (AL)	Visclosky
Johnson, E. B.	Norcross	Tonko	DeGette	Lieu (CA)	Schiff	Maloney, Sean	Ros-Lehtinen	Walberg
Jones	O'Rourke	Torres	DelBene	Lipinski	Schweikert	Matsui	Rouzer	Watson Coleman
Kaptur	Pallone	Tsongas	Dent	Loeb sack	Scott (VA)	McDermott	Roybal-Allard	Weber (TX)
Keating	Pascrell	Van Hollen	DeSaulnier	Long	Scott, Austin	Rush	Ryan (OH)	Wenstrup
Kennedy	Payne	Vargas	Deutch	Loudermilk	Scott, David	McKinley	Sánchez, Linda	Wilson (FL)
Kildee	Pelosi	Veasey	Diaz-Balart	Love	Sensenbrenner	Meehan	T.	Wittman
Kind	Perlmutter	Velázquez	Dingell	Lowey	Serrano	Moore	Sanchez, Loretta	Woodall
Kirkpatrick	Pingree	Visclosky	Doggett	Lucas	Sessions	Murphy (FL)	Sarbanes	Yoder
Langevin	Pocan	Wasserman	Doyle (PA)	Luetkemeyer	Sherman	Napolitano	Schakowsky	Young (AK)
Larsen (WA)	Polis	Schultz	Duncan (SC)	Lujan Grisham	Shimkus	Neal		
Larson (CT)	Quigley	Waters, Maxine	Duncan (TN)	(NM)	Simpson			
Levin	Rangel	Watson Coleman	Edwards	Lummis	Sinema			
Lewis	Richmond	Welch	Emmer	Engel	Smith (NE)			
Lieu (CA)	Roybal-Allard	Wilson (FL)	Esty	Marino	Smith (NJ)			
Lipinski	Rush	Yarmuth	Farenthold	Massie	Smith (TX)			

NOT VOTING—18

Brown (FL)	Gosar	Pearce
Cartwright	Hinojosa	Price (NC)
Costa	Honda	Roe (TN)
DeLauro	Lee	Ruiz
Duckworth	Lofgren	Speier
Eshoo	Mulvaney	Swalwell (CA)

□ 1113

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 233, noes 158, answered “present” 1, not voting 40, as follows:

[Roll No. 83]

AYES—233

Abraham	Becerra	Brady (TX)
Aderholt	Beyer	Brat
Allen	Bilirakis	Bridenstine
Amodei	Bishop (GA)	Brooks (AL)
Ashford	Bishop (UT)	Bustos
Babin	Black	Butterfield
Barletta	Blum	Byrne
Barr	Blumenauer	Capps
Barton	Bonamici	Cardenas
Beatty	Boustany	Castro (TX)

Adams	Coffman	Gibson
Aguilar	Collins (GA)	Graves (GA)
Amash	Conyers	Graves (MO)
Bass	Costello (PA)	Green, Al
Benish	Crenshaw	Green, Gene
Bera	Cummings	Griffith
Bishop (MI)	Curbelo (FL)	Gutiérrez
Bost	Davis, Rodney	Hanna
Boyle (PA)	DeFazio	Hastings
Brady (PA)	Delaney	Heck (NV)
Brownley (CA)	Denham	Herrera Beutler
Buchanan	DeSantis	Hice (GA)
Buck	Dold	Higgins
Bucshon	Duffy	Hill
Burgess	Ellison	Holding
Capuano	Ellmers	Hoyer
Carney	Fincher	Huizenga (MI)
Carson (IN)	Fitzpatrick	Hunter
Carter (GA)	Fleming	Israel
Castor (FL)	Flores	Issa
Clarke (NY)	Forbes	Jackson Lee
Clawson (FL)	Fox	Jenkins (KS)
Cleaver	Fudge	Jenkins (WV)
Clyburn	Gibbs	Johnson (OH)

NOES—158

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—1

Tonko

NOT VOTING—40

Blackburn	Gosar	Pearce
Brooks (IN)	Granger	Price (NC)
Brown (FL)	Grijalva	Quigley
Calvert	Hinojosa	Richmond
Carter (TX)	Honda	Roe (TN)
Cartwright	Hudson	Ross
Chaffetz	Johnson, Sam	Ruiz
Costa	Katko	Sires
Cramer	Lee	Speier
DeLauro	Lofgren	Swalwell (CA)
DesJarlais	Meadows	Vela
Duckworth	Mooney (WV)	Westerman
Eshoo	Mulvaney	
Gohmert	Noem	

□ 1122

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed the following votes: rollcall vote No. 81 regarding the “Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 636”. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes”.

Rollcall vote No. 82 regarding the “America's Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2015”. Had I been present, I would have voted “no”.

On Approving the Journal on February 13th, 2015. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes”.

ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2015, TO TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2015

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17, 2015, and that the order of the House of January 6, 2015, regarding morning-hour debate not apply on that day.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POLIQUIN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO UNITED STATES GROUP OF THE NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 1928a, and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, of the following Members on the part of the House to the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly:

Mr. TURNER, Ohio, Chair
Mr. JOHNSON, Ohio
Mr. MILLER, Florida
Mr. MARINO, Pennsylvania
Mr. GUTHRIE, Kentucky
Mr. COOK, California
Mr. KINZINGER, Illinois

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 4355(a), and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, of the following Members on the part of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy:

Mr. POMPEO, Kansas
Mr. WOMACK, Arkansas

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 6968(a), and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, of the following Members on the part of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Naval Academy:

Mr. YOUNG, Indiana
Mr. ROONEY, Florida

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD ACADEMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 14 U.S.C. 194, and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Coast Guard Academy:

Mr. SMITH, Nebraska

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's ap-

pointment, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 9355(a), and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, of the following Members on the part of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Air Force Academy:

Mr. LAMBORN, Colorado
Ms. MCSALLY, Arizona

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 46 U.S.C. 51312(b), and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Merchant Marine Academy:

Mr. KING, New York

HONORING COACH DEAN SMITH

(Mr. WALKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor a great man who left his mark—in fact, a legacy—on our State of North Carolina.

Coach Dean Smith retired as the winningest coach in FBS history, but many will remember Dean Smith as a pioneer in another arena. Dean grew up in a home that valued the inalienable human dignity conferred upon us by our Creator.

When Coach Alfred Smith, Dean's father, brought a young African American student on to his high school team, he did so against the wishes of the State's athletic association. By speaking truth to power, Alfred Smith stood up for a principle that he knew was right. No doubt this had a profound impact on his son, Dean.

Years later, Coach Dean Smith helped integrate ACC basketball by recruiting UNC's first African American player, Charlie Scott, in 1966.

During his tenure, the greatest rivalry in college basketball became Duke and UNC. In fact, Coach K of Duke University said it best:

While building an elite program at North Carolina, he was clearly ahead of his time in dealing with social issues. However, his greatest gift was his unique ability to teach what it takes to become a good man. That was easy for him to do because he was a great man himself.

Thank you, Coach Smith, for your investment into basketball but even more into the lives you touched.

□ 1130

MILITARY VOICES CAMPAIGN

(Mr. ASHFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the men and women from my district in Nebraska who have served and continue to serve our country. Often their service keeps them from their families for extended periods of time and too often leaves them with unnecessary obstacles to overcome when they return home.

For that reason, I am proud to announce that my office is launching our Military Voices Campaign. Over the next 6 weeks, my team and I will be meeting with folks in the military community on ways that we can help men and women who serve. Our goal is to build a network of support throughout the Second Congressional District.

Nebraska is home to some of the finest men and women to serve this country, and our entire congressional delegation is committed to giving them the benefits and opportunities that they have earned.

AMERICA'S SMALL BUSINESS TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2015

(Mr. EMMER of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the House for passing America's Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2015. I want to thank Congressman TIBERI, Chairman RYAN, and leadership for their work to pass this important piece of legislation.

If we want the United States to continue as the most productive economy in the world, we need to modernize our Tax Code. Allowing businesses to plan ahead and allocate their resources will generate wealth, jobs, and a higher standard of living for everyone.

Making section 179 of the Tax Code permanent is one way we can do this. Section 179 enables companies to accelerate depreciation of new and used equipment that is purchased and put into use during the same year. This expensing can stimulate business investment by reducing the cost of capital and increasing cash flow.

Investing in the future of America is critical to long-term growth and economic prosperity for all. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this important legislation.

MARINE DISEASE EMERGENCY ACT

(Mr. HECK of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, part of the wonder of being a kid is discovering the world around us, you know, feeling the trunks of trees, picking up sticks, going to the beach, and picking up whatever you find, overturning rocks and looking for creatures. But around the Puget Sound and

on the Atlantic coast and the Pacific, marine disease is ravaging sea stars, just like this, 20 species dying quickly, literally melting away.

When disease like this breaks out, how are we going to stop it? The truth of the matter is we have absolutely no system in place to respond—none. So today I introduce the bicoastal, bipartisan Marine Disease Emergency Act.

The Marine Disease Emergency Act speeds up the process to address these outbreaks, providing the right resources and the right time to the scientists and researchers so that they can respond quickly. Responding fast is crucial to preventing widespread exposure or, worst case scenario, extinction.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in supporting the Marine Disease Emergency Act.

THE FIGHT AGAINST PANCREATIC CANCER

(Mr. SALMON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, every day more than 116 people are diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. During my first tenure in Congress, I worked very closely with Dr. Sydney Elias Salmon, founding director of the Arizona Cancer Center. Together, we were able to ensure American cancer patients received greater access to lifesaving clinical trials. Shortly thereafter, pancreatic cancer claimed his life.

Pancreatic cancer is the fourth deadliest cancer in the U.S. and the only one of the four that does not have a known cure. In fact, in the last 5 years, 92 percent of those that have been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer died during the first year of their diagnosis.

Sadly, pancreatic cancer is one of the few cancers for which the survival rate has not substantially improved over the last 25 years. It is time that we eradicate the scourge of cancer once and for all. We must again focus American ingenuity, dedication, and resources in the fight against cancer, particularly pancreatic and lung cancers that have lagged behind in diagnosis and survivability. It is vital that Congress champion early detection and research during the 114th Congress.

CONSIDERING THE NEEDS OF ALL AMERICANS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I proudly, over the last 2 days, voted for a temporary extension of the small business tax exemption and the food inventory charitable exemption because I realize that America has many needs that have to be addressed, food stamps that have been denied to many people

with a \$40 billion cut in the last Congress by my friends on the other side of the aisle. I realize that if we continue in the mode of a permanent tax exemption, where will the funding come from? Social Security? Medicare? Medicaid?—a variety of needs that our community has.

So today I want to make sure that the \$1.5 trillion debt that we have, that is now \$440 billion, that we continue to be responsible and be concerned about our children's education and about health care and about many other things. So today we must stand, considering all the needs of Americans.

Finally, let me say that I represent an area that is trying to protect Freedmen's Town bricks laid or bought for by freed slaves. I believe we should come together in the city of Houston with our Freedmen's Town coalition and those citizens in that area and let's resolve this. Let's do trenching, preserve the bricks, and provide a quality infrastructure program that I have helped fund by Federal dollars.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF FITZHUGH FULTON

(Mr. KNIGHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KNIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the loss of a true American hero. Colonel Fitz Fulton lost his life on February 4 of this year, and we lost the true "Dean of Flight Test."

The aerospace community mourns his passing. He had 23 years of service in the Air Force as a colonel and 20 years with NASA. Colonel Fulton was responsible for flying the YF-12 or, as some people would know, the SR-71, the XB-70, the B-52, and many other aircraft in his 16,000 hours in the air.

Where I got my connection to Colonel Fulton was he was the B-52 pilot for dropping my father in the X-15 in the middle 1960s during the record flights.

I will always remember Colonel Fulton as honorable and one of those people that you just looked at those steely eyes and you knew that he had a true sense of commitment to this country and what we believe in, and this country will mourn his passing.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HENRY LOVELACE

(Mr. DESAULNIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Henry Lovelace. Henry was born November 22, 1931, in South Boston, Virginia, and passed away on January 28 of 2015.

Henry was a vibrant, pleasant, peaceful person who always kept a positive attitude. He began to work at the early

age of 16 as a schoolbus driver. Henry joined the United States Army in 1950 and was promoted to the rank of sergeant. He was stationed at Fort Sill Army Base in Oklahoma where he worked as a mechanic. After his military service, he worked as a public transit bus driver and maintenance worker at a local church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

In 2003, Henry moved to California to be closer to his family. He was a beloved father of two children, grandfather of six, great-grandfather of eight, and father-in-law to Pete Longmire, mayor of the city of Pittsburgh, California, in my district. He was an avid storyteller, shared stories about his military life, all of his life experiences, and his many travels. He enjoyed meeting new people, going to church every week, riding the public bus, playing checkers at senior centers, and wearing his crisp white dress shirts, ties, and dress hats.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the remarkable life of Henry Lovelace. I send my deepest condolences to Henry's family, friends, and loved ones.

ANGELMAN SYNDROME

(Mr. ROKITA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness for Angelman syndrome, an extremely rare neurogenetic disorder. This Sunday, February 15, is recognized as International Angelman Day.

Originally described by a pediatrician in 1965, Angelman now affects roughly one out of every 15,000 children or young adults. They are also known as Angels.

My son, Teddy, is one of those Angels. There are hundreds more just like him. My wife and I are extremely blessed by Teddy's presence in our lives, and we are thankful for the joy he brings.

In recognition of International Angelman Day, I encourage you to join me to increase awareness for Angelman syndrome this Sunday. You can participate by using the #angelmanday on Twitter and Facebook or by visiting www.angelman.org.

Together, Mr. Speaker, we can increase awareness and support of Angels everywhere.

THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time.

I would like to begin by yielding to my friend from the Georgia delegation, Mr. LOUDERMILK.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TIMOTHY F. JOHNSON

Mr. LOUDERMILK. I thank the gentleman for the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to a constituent, a friend, and a brother in Christ, Timothy F. Johnson, who, on January 30, left this life to spend eternity with our Savior. However, I stand before you today not to mourn the passing of a friend, but to honor a legacy, a legacy of a statesman, a soldier, and an American patriot.

Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, Tim's compassion towards others was evident through the earliest part of his childhood. Joining the Boy Scouts, Tim was able to develop his natural leadership ability, which advanced him to the rank of Eagle Scout by the age of 14. After completing college, Tim's passion for service led him to join the U.S. Army, where he rose to the rank of major.

After a distinguished 21-year career as an officer, Tim retired from active military service, but not from community service. Tim was always committed to excellence. He believed that although we may do good, we can always do better. Not only did Tim dedicate his life to the service, he also inspired others to do the same.

As a Black American who completely understood the vision of our Founding Fathers that all men are created equal, Tim wanted to help other conservative Black Americans to pursue elected service. Believing that actions speak louder than words, Tim cofounded the Frederick Douglass Foundation, which today is the largest Christ-centered, multiethnic Republican ministry in America.

Tim also felt great compassion for his fellow veterans, especially those returning from combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. To better help them transition back to civilian life, Tim accepted an appointment as the chairman of the Georgia Jail Diversion and Trauma Recovery for Veterans advisory council.

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Tim never stopped serving others and remained active in minority engagement, veterans assistance, and community service until his passing.

My friend, colleague, and constituent, Major Timothy F. Johnson lived a life that epitomizes the traditional American values of faith, family, and freedom. I knew him as a man of strong faith who loved God, his family, and his country. While he will be missed by many of those whose lives were touched by his service, we are comforted to know that what is our loss is Heaven's gain.

Godspeed, Major Tim Johnson. Your legacy lives on.

Mr. WOODALL. I thank my friend from Georgia.

This is a country that is about individuals. It is about individual leadership, and it is about individual opportunity. The story you tell of Tim and the impact that he had on people's lives is going to be known long, long after he has gone to be with our Lord.

I want to talk about opportunity at a much smaller level than what my friend from Georgia was talking about, Mr. Speaker. I want to talk about it in the context of the Keystone pipeline that we passed this week.

At the end of the day, America is about opportunity. And if opportunity doesn't live here anymore, I am not sure what the point of America is. If families can't raise their children and believe that their children, if they play by the rules, if they work hard, can create a better life for themselves than their parents had, if you don't believe that anymore, the promise that is the American Dream is lost. And I think with one minor Federal regulation at a time, followed by a couple of major Federal regulations, followed by more minor regulations, we are eroding the ability of our young people to succeed and for their families to succeed.

The Keystone pipeline we voted on this week, Mr. Speaker, it is about employment opportunities. It is a job-creating program. We have dozens upon dozens of pipelines across this country. Why in the world the President has chosen the Keystone pipeline to use as a political football is a mystery to me.

Building pipelines is honorable work. It is hard work. It is often dangerous work. But it is important work that goes to the price of energy in every single one of our homes back home.

Having passed it in the Senate, having passed it in the House, it now goes to the President's desk. He could create jobs tomorrow.

It is about energy security, Mr. Speaker. It is energy from our friends in Canada, one of our most loyal partners across the globe. We need North American energy security. I don't want to rely on folks across the oceans who oftentimes wish us harm. I want to use those resources here.

Creating this partnership with Canada gives us that energy security. It is enhanced safety, Mr. Speaker. You don't think about it. But if we are not moving oil through a pipeline, we are moving it on trains, we are moving it in trucks. Trains and trucks and their safety record, Mr. Speaker, are much less reliable than pipelines, not just in terms of spills but in terms of lives.

I heard the gentleman from North Dakota down here earlier this week, Mr. Speaker. Of course those trucks and trains are moving through his district. He said if we put in the pipeline instead of using those trucks, lives would be saved. Traffic accidents would be avoided. Lives would be saved, not

just oil spills but real human consequences.

We talk about environmental protection, Mr. Speaker. This is going to be the most advanced pipeline ever constructed in the United States of America. Now that is just the environmental protection of the pipeline.

We go on to talk about, where would that oil be refined if we don't do it here under U.S. safety and environmental standards? Well, the answer is we are going to ship that overseas. It is going to get shipped to China. It is going to get processed in a much less environmentally friendly way. We have an opportunity to take that step.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, we are talking about an exchange with our friends in Canada. Can you imagine if we had a product we were trying to get to market, and the only way to get it there or the simplest way to get it there was to move it through Canada, and the Canadians said: No, I don't care about your economy, America; I don't care about jobs in America; I don't care about your resources; the answer is, no, we won't partner with you.

If you read the comments coming out of the government in Canada, they are just flabbergasted that all they are asking is for this minor connection into the U.S. pipeline system, and the country they thought was their great friend—America—has been so resistant. For 7 years, we have been waiting on this solution, Mr. Speaker, and finally it has passed in this Congress this week.

I want to talk about what is happening in this Congress because when you slow down things like the pipeline, Mr. Speaker, you are slowing down America. You are slowing down economic growth. You are slowing down job creation.

I have here from Atlanta's own CNN a headline titled: "Harry Reid: Dems won't engage in 'obstruction.'" This is from November 12, 2014.

He is making the point as the former—at that time, he was the majority leader in the Senate. He is now the former majority leader in the Senate. He is making the point that America is not helped when the Senate engages in obstructionism. He says this: "I am ready to work with" MITCH MCCONNELL—now the Senate majority leader—"in good faith to make this institution function for the American people." In good faith to make this institution function. He says: "I saw firsthand how a strategy of obstruction was debilitating to our system. I have no desire to engage in that manner."

I am grateful to HARRY REID for that wisdom. I think he is absolutely right about that. There is a right way and a wrong way to run this institution. He has observed the wrong way to do it. Unfortunately, that was back in November.

Fast forward to this month, Mr. Speaker. Look at the headlines from

across the country. Washington Post: "Senate Democrats should be careful about their filibuster strategy." As you know, the filibuster is the definition of obstruction. It is in full force in the Senate as we sit here today.

February 4, from *The Atlantic*: "The new Democratic obstructionists." That is the headline of the article, Mr. Speaker. It was just 3 months ago when Majority Leader HARRY REID said: This is not the right path for America; this is bad for America. And he was right when he said it. It has taken 3 months for him to change his mind and go in the other direction.

Politico: "Democrats learn to love the filibuster; party leaders change tune now that they are in minority." Change tune now that they are in the minority.

Mr. Speaker, America's needs are no less great today. Job creation is no less important today. The American economy is no less fragile today. But the Senate Democratic leaders have changed their tune.

Finally, back to CNN: "Democrats block funding for DHS to protect Obama immigration orders." What that means, Mr. Speaker, is they have blocked debating the bill to fund DHS, that they are so intent on protecting the President and what he alone has done from the White House, they refuse to even allow the Senate to debate the merits of those issues.

If this institution is not about debate, Mr. Speaker, I don't know what it is about.

I begin with that to get us into the economy, Mr. Speaker. And I have to tell you, I have the vice chairman of the House Budget Committee down here today, the gentleman from Indiana, TODD ROKITA.

The Budget Committee right now is involved in the gargantuan task of trying to balance the Federal budget and present that budget to this House before April. But their task is complicated, Mr. Speaker. You can't see the chart that I have, but their task is complicated because economic growth in America is slowing. The obstructionism in the Senate, the obstructionism from the White House can't build simple things like the Keystone pipeline.

Do you know, Mr. Speaker, one of the greatest public works projects in the history of our Nation, the Hoover Dam? The Hoover Dam was built in less time than it has taken the White House to consider the application for this short pipeline connecting America and Canada. We built the Hoover Dam more quickly than we can sign off on the paperwork for a pipeline.

Let me show you what the impact of that is. Economic growth—in 2013, Mr. Speaker, CBO projected that GDP would be growing about 3 percent a year, 2.9 to be precise. By last year, in February, when they gave us their pro-

jections, they lowered it to 2.5 percent. Today, January 2015, they have lowered it to 2.3 percent.

Mr. Speaker, that is not just 2.9 to 2.3 percent. That is trillions of dollars in economic activity. It looks small on this page, but it is giant on the Federal budget, and it is even bigger when you talk about the job creation that hasn't occurred. It is even bigger when you talk about Americans who are trapped in part-time work. It is even bigger when you talk about young people graduating from college who cannot find a job. That is the impact of obstructionism. That is the impact of inaction. That is the impact of having a former majority leader, now minority leader, in the Senate who, as the newspaper headlines say, has changed his tune.

I have heard folks say—I laugh, Mr. Speaker. It is not funny. It is sad. But I have heard folks say, Well, what are you complaining about, ROB? Deficits have come down by half in President Obama's administration. They have come down by half.

Well, that is true. When I showed up here 4 years ago, Mr. Speaker, deficits were at their single highest rate in the history of the Nation. And by "single highest rate," I mean they were four times higher than they had ever before been. So they have dropped from being four times higher than ever before down to just higher than ever before. You can call that progress, but I don't.

I have it charted here as a percentage of the size of the economy, Mr. Speaker. I go all the way back to 1965. We have had Republicans. We have had Democrats. We have had Republicans in Congress, Democrats in Congress; Republicans in the White House, Democrats in the White House. This isn't about the parties. For Pete's sake, if we look here for the only surpluses in our Nation's history, it comes at a time when we had—much like we do today—Republicans here in this institution, Republicans in the United States Senate, and Democrats leading from the White House. It was a bipartisan way we created some economic growth.

But what I want you to see, Mr. Speaker, is that we come here into the current administration, deficits dramatically higher than ever before in American history, dramatically higher. Coming down to the dotted line I have on the chart, Mr. Speaker, is the historical average, from 1965 to 2014.

Now it is embarrassing for the both of us that we have to talk about our Nation's finances by the historical deficit. Neither one of us came here to be involved in deficit spending. We came here to stop borrowing from our children and from our grandchildren, to start being responsible by paying the bills today, to improve opportunity in the future, not to diminish and borrow from opportunity in the future. But that has been the historical average.

What you would see if you could see this chart, Mr. Speaker, is that even as the White House is preaching the good news of declining deficits, they have only declined from those record highs. They have declined to a level where they are going to continue to rise again at levels higher than the historical average.

The President just sent his budget—2 weeks ago now, Mr. Speaker, he sent that budget. It arrived here on time for the first time in his administration. I applaud him for that. But it never balances—never, ever. Not this year, not next year, not 10 years from now, not 20 years from now, not 100 years from now.

The idea of the United States of America and the budget that should control it, from the President's point of view, is a budget that should never, ever balance and, thus, a balance that should continue year after year to borrow from the prosperity of future generations so that we can spend it on ourselves. That is selfish in ways that I can't be a part of.

What is the nature of the problem, Mr. Speaker? We are talking about this in the Budget Committee right now. Total spending in this country is about \$3.5 trillion this year. The little part that Congress has control over, it is the defense and the nondefense discretionary—this little corner of the pie. We are able to control that.

In fact, Mr. ROKITA, the vice chairman of the Budget Committee, arrived here in 2010, as I did. Every single year since you have been here, leading at the Budget Committee, I would say to the gentleman from Indiana, we have reduced that discretionary spending every single year. It hasn't been easy. It has been hard, deliberate, bipartisan work. But you have done it because it was the right thing to do. \$3.5 trillion is a lot of money. But the small part that you have had control over, you have made a difference in. It is the rest of this pot that continues to grow.

I yield to my friend from Indiana.

Mr. ROKITA. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

The gentleman is exactly right. By the way, while I am at it, let me just say that the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL), in my humble opinion, is a blessing not only for this Congress and for the people of Georgia but for this country because of the tenacity you bring, the energy you bring. If I had a list of all the pieces of legislation, all the things that we have gotten done around here for the last 4 years that you and I have been in here, that you have had your fingers on, that you weren't mentioned about, the work you have done behind the scenes, that list would be very long and would probably go out these doors.

One of the things that you have done, that we have done together, is for the first time since the Korean war, we

have cut discretionary spending 4 years in a row. It hasn't been done since the Korean war.

□ 1200

Now, as you pointed out in earlier slides, there is a lot more work to do, and we are going to continue to get to it. We need a partner at some point. We need people to put on what I call their big boy pants and their big girl skirts and get to the bottom of this, and that is getting to a balanced budget.

I will tell you that this pie chart is very good. You are exactly right. Mr. Speaker, Mr. WOODALL is exactly right. The two blue pieces that we pull out for you in this pie chart are what you would get at in a traditional, regular budget process.

This is what we call our discretionary spending both in the non-defense area and in the defense area. As you can see, it is really no more than one-third—or 40 percent—of our total Federal spending. The rest, all that red that you see there is on what we call autopilot spending because the budget, line by line, doesn't touch that. Why? Because it is on autopilot.

That is your Medicare, that is your Medicaid, that is your Social Security, and that is your interest that we owe ourselves and other countries for all this debt because that is a contract. That red is just going to continue to grow as a percentage of that pie until it takes up nearly all of it over the next several years.

Then we are not going to have the money we need to spend on the things that constitutionally we need to spend it on, like defense and like some of the other 167 other agencies around here. That is a bad, bad situation. It is unsustainable.

Until you get to the underlying law, that is Social Security, that is Medicare, that is Medicaid, and that is the other mandatory spending, until you reform those programs, until they fit how we live in the 21st century, so they can be saved for our children and for our grandchildren, then you are really never going to get to balancing the budget or paying down this awful debt.

I can't imagine anything more immoral than passing on to future Americans—our children and grandchildren who do not yet exist—this burden. Talk about taxation without representation.

Well, thank you, Mr. WOODALL. I appreciate your letting me as a member of the Budget Committee, under the excellent leadership of Chairman PRICE, chime in here. We are going to have a budget, the fifth time we will do it in a row here, by the statutory deadline. We intend to get it over to the Senate, and we intend to move this country forward.

Again, I say, Mr. Speaker, chiming in with Mr. WOODALL, I hope we have a partner this time. I hope we have personal responsibility on the floor of this

House and the floor of the other Chamber.

Mr. WOODALL. I thank the vice chairman of the Budget Committee.

Mr. Speaker, people think these things happen in a vacuum. They don't. They happen because folks like Mr. ROKITA take time away from their family and away from their constituents back home sometimes to work the long nights and the early mornings it takes to get a budget like this done.

Just to give you an example, Mr. Speaker, I don't know if you have ever thought about it—\$3.5 trillion is the size of our annual spending—annual spending. People often characterize—and I would tell you mischaracterize—Republicans as folks who want to shut down government. That is nonsense.

You heard the gentleman from Indiana's heart as he was up here talking about his love for people, the needs that people have, and our opportunity to aid people and their families as they struggle with some of those challenges. We spend \$3.5 trillion a year in that effort.

It is not that we don't want to spend the money. It is that we want to spend it effectively, efficiently, and accountably. That is all folks ask for back home. They don't say, Shut the government down. They say, Spend my tax money effectively, efficiently, and accountably—\$3.5 trillion, Mr. Speaker.

If any of the young people who are coming to Congress to watch what goes on here on the floor of the House, Mr. Speaker, if any of those young people were born the day that Jesus Christ was born and, beginning on that day, they spent \$1 million every day, \$1 million every day, 7 days a week, Mr. Speaker, from the day that Jesus Christ was born until today, they would have to continue spending \$1 million a day, every day, 7 days a week, for another 732 years, to spend their first trillion dollars.

As a Federal Government, we are spending \$3.5 trillion every year, and we borrowed from those same young people \$18 trillion that they are going to have to pay back one day. These numbers are mind-boggling, and sometimes, I wonder if we as a Chamber, Mr. Speaker, are taking this crisis as seriously as we must.

It is, at its core, a spending crisis. It is not a revenue crisis. It is not that \$3.5 trillion isn't enough to handle the needs of this country; it is. This chart, Mr. Speaker, you can't see it, but it is a historical chart of spending, which is in the red, and revenues, which is in the green.

Now, when we have had this big economic downturn here, so many families out of work, so many families in part-time work, and so many young people who couldn't find jobs, revenues absolutely went down.

They went down because there were no jobs, and if folks don't have jobs,

they don't have incomes, and if they don't have incomes, they can't pay taxes. We want people to go to work. You can't pay taxes if you don't have a job.

Historically, Americans have been willing to pay about 18 percent of GDP in tax revenue, so I draw that line out for the foreseeable future.

The red line represents spending in this town, Mr. Speaker. The red line represents if we did nothing, if we adjourned the Congress this afternoon, we went down to Pennsylvania Avenue, we picked up the President, and we all left Washington forever—I was wondering if there was going to be a loud group of cheers and applause that broke out when I said that, Mr. Speaker, I am not actually advocating for that—but if that were to happen, the laws that are already on the books have made promises to people that spend the money on this red line, going into historical debt territory, the likes of which we have never seen, and we cannot survive as a nation.

Spending is the problem. The red line is the problem. The green line is what we take from American families in taxes. It has been constant over time—not constant in actual dollars, but constant as a percent of the economy. It is the red line that is growing ever faster.

Now, if you will permit me to scare you just a little bit further, Mr. Speaker, let me talk about interest rates in this country—interest rates in this country.

This chart right here, you can't see it, again, Mr. Speaker, but it is charting the interest rates that America is paying on its debt. We borrow in all sorts of different instruments from short-term, week-long instruments, all the way up to 30-year instruments. I put on the 3-month bills and our 10-year notes on this chart.

This chart covers most of my lifetime, Mr. Speaker. In fact, it goes a little further than my lifetime. What you are going to see, Mr. Speaker, going all the way back to 1965, it is charting the 3-month bills and the 10-year notes.

This is where we are today. This is where we are today, and what you see here, Mr. Speaker, is that we are at the lowest level of interest in the history of our country. In the history of our country, we have never paid less on Federal debt than we are paying today; yet we have never had more of it.

What do you think is going to happen, Mr. Speaker, when these low interest rates that we have today return to these historically high levels? In fact, *The Economist*, as I pointed out here in blue, projects that interest rates will return.

By return, I mean that our 10-year notes are going to more than double, I mean the 3-month bills are going to more than sextuple. We are talking about an interest rate explosion around the corner, Mr. Speaker, that we are not going to be able to sustain.

Now, let me take you back to what we are spending here today. As we sit here today, we are spending \$229 billion in interest on our national debt—\$229 billion—while we are at the lowest interest rates in American history.

Now, if the rates on those 10-year notes are going to double, if the rates on those 3-month bills are going to sextuple, what do you think 229 billion changes into within the next 3 or 4 years, Mr. Speaker?

It doesn't change into 300 billion. It doesn't change into 400 billion. It goes northward to \$500 billion in interest. In fact, as the President lays out his budget, we are looking at almost \$1 trillion a year in interest payments within the next 10 years, in a single year, at year 10.

One trillion dollars, Mr. Speaker—enough money to pay for all of our national security, enough money to pay for all of the Medicaid program and the Medicare program, enough money to pay for the entire Social Security Program for a year, we are going to throw it away in interest payments because we didn't have the discipline to control spending in this bipartisan Congress that we have.

The lowest interest rates in American history, Mr. Speaker, every economist projects a rise, doubling to sextupling in the next 10 years.

We are only borrowing money, Mr. Speaker, because we have lots of spending going on. There are those who believe that the more we spend, the better results we are going to get. I want to tell you that is nonsense.

If this Chamber were full to capacity today, Mr. Speaker, and we asked folks to have a show of hands of when was that great time in the American economy they remember, when were the cares of whether or not you could afford to pay your house note, whether you could afford to pay your car note, whether you could afford to take care of your children, when was the time that those cares were the least?

I daresay most of the hands would think back to the 1990s. Whoo, the economy was on fire. You remember that. The stockmarket was on fire, you had to hide under a rock to keep from finding a good job—again, Republicans controlling this institution, Democrats in the White House. We were working together to constrain spending to grow the economy.

This chart that I have here, Mr. Speaker, shows per capita spending. It is not really meaningful to talk about spending in the abstract. It all distills down to an individual man, an individual woman, an individual family, what are we spending on individuals here in this country?

This is Federal outlays per individual. You will see a constant increase going back to the Truman administration. This is World War II, where we were really fighting for the future of

not just the Republic, but of the world, going through the Truman administration and the Eisenhower administration. This is per capita spending. You see that it increases as inflation does, as government does. It just naturally rises little by little, year after year.

What you will see, Mr. Speaker, if you look here at the Clinton years in blue, that in those years that Americans would look back on with fondness and contentment, those years where the cares of the world seemed just a little bit lighter on their shoulders, we weren't spending more from Washington, D.C. It didn't require more spending from Washington, D.C.

The stimulation of the economy is not dependent on spending from Washington, D.C. In fact, arguably, it is the opposite. The more Washington sucks out of America, the less that individual Americans have to grow their families, grow their businesses, and expand their opportunities.

It is meaningful to me, again, you think about the Reagan years, you think about the first Bush years, and you think about the Clinton years, the economy was on fire and spending from the Federal Government held constant.

Fast forward to today, Mr. Speaker, you see spending begin to grow out of control. It happened in the Bush years. Again, this is not a partisan problem, this is an American problem.

Spending began to grow. We are fighting a war on terror. Folks are beginning to worry about their families and worry about their jobs. Spending today continuing on that rise—well, continuing until I arrived here in 2010, until you arrived here in 2014, when the cavalry arrived here to say, Wait a minute, I know the challenges are vast, but we can't just push the can down the road; we can't pass our problems on to the next generation; we have to confront those problems together.

That is what we have been doing in this budget.

Mr. Speaker, this chart shows if we do nothing, if we do nothing, if we never make another promise—and the budget the President just sent us is full of new promises to the tune of about \$2 trillion over the next 10 years—if we never make another promise, if all we do is keep the promises we already made, if we never pass a new law or a new bill to do something else, simply by the force of the laws already on the books, debt grows to levels higher than we borrowed as a nation to defeat the Nazis in World War II.

Think about that, Mr. Speaker. I was down in front of the White House. I had some friends in town. I took them down to see the White House. All Americans ought to make that journey. It is the center of the executive branch here in Washington, D.C.

We walked over to the Old Executive Office Building because that is a fabulous, fabulous building. On the front

steps of the Old Executive Office Building, they have two cannons from the Spanish-American War, 1898, and they have a little plaque there on the fence.

Of course, you can't get through the fence. In fact, they pushed you back a little further now with the new Secret Service regulations, but you can see the plaque hanging there on the fence. It says that we used to have more than 20 of these historic cannons around town, dating back to the Revolutionary War, but during World War II, we melted most of them down to be a part of the war effort.

□ 1215

Think about that. In World War II, the situation was so dire, Mr. Speaker, we were going around to our national monuments, we were going around to our Nation's history, and we were finding anything made of iron or steel, and we were melting it down. Because World War II wasn't a fight; it was the fight for freedom on the planet.

And amidst that terror, ration stamps across the land, folks standing in lines for food at the end of the Great Depression, amidst all of that turmoil, all of that crisis, arguably the greatest crisis not just this Nation has known but that the world has ever known, America borrowed about 100 percent of the size of its economy. That is a heavy load, but it was for an important cause.

As we sit here today, Mr. Speaker, we have borrowed about three-quarters of that same load. And if we change no law and if we make no new promises, we will borrow not one time, not two times, not three times, but four times more than we borrowed to defeat the greatest evil the world has ever known, just to keep the lights on in the United States of America. That is dangerous and it is irresponsible.

Mr. Speaker, you can count on a budget coming to the floor of this House. It is going to be here. I would guess it is going to be here on the floor by the end of March, because certainly we will have it here by April. It is going to be a budget that brings us back to balance, and it is going to be a budget that makes the hard decisions that have to be made.

No one is saying don't invest in America. What they are saying is don't let growing interest payments on irresponsible borrowing push out the room in the budget to invest in America. Do you know we are investing less in America today, Mr. Speaker, than any other time in my lifetime? We are investing less. Now, we are spending more, but we are investing less because, as I showed you on that pie chart earlier, Mr. Speaker, what we are spending on isn't investments in America. It is income maintenance programs.

If we do nothing, revenues continue and debt grows out of control. 2046, Mr. Speaker, about the time you are entering your retirement, dead at 250 percent of GDP.

Spending \$3.5 trillion today—today—at the lowest rate of interest the country has ever known, and today, in that most favorable of environments, Mr. Speaker, we are almost spending more on interest than we are on our Medicaid program, the health care program that covers children and the poor across this land. We are spending more to pay our creditors than we are to protect our children's health—and that is at the lowest rates of interest the country has ever known.

It only grows, and that is if the only thing that changes are the interest rates, Mr. Speaker. That is if we stop borrowing more money. But the President projects to borrow half trillion after half trillion after half trillion after half trillion. In fact, as I said, the budget he presented never ever, ever comes to balance. It borrows year after year after year after year, as far as the eye can see.

I don't argue that that is not the easier decision to make today, Mr. Speaker. It is. Doing nothing is always easier than doing the heavy lifting. Spending and borrowing more, always easier than tightening your belt and making the tough calls. Sacrificing our children's future so that we don't have to make those tough decisions today, that may be the easy call, but it is immoral. It is immoral, Mr. Speaker.

We have been able to cut budgets, as the gentleman from Indiana said, 4 years in a row for the first time, for the first time in my lifetime. We are moving the needle, but there is more to do. And it can't be done alone. It can't be done with just Republicans, it can't be done with just Democrats, and it can't be done with just the Congress. It requires the House Republicans and Democrats, it requires the Senate Republicans and Democrats, and it requires the President of the United States to come together to make those decisions that matter.

Mr. Speaker, we will be talking a lot more about this in the coming weeks. I want to make sure that every American has all the answers they need about how we are trying to prioritize in this budget.

But I want to be clear: the days of kicking the can down the road ended when Republicans took over this Chamber in 2011. The trust and confidence that we have earned in a bipartisan way over the last 4 years, we are going to continue today, and Senate willing—going back to the obstructionist provisions I noted at the very beginning of this hour, Mr. Speaker—Senate willing, we will conference the first budget, agree on the first budget, have the first American budget in my entire tenure in Congress.

The House has always done its job. This year, we have an opportunity to have the Congress do its job collectively, and I look forward to that conclusion.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to you for being down here with me this afternoon, and I yield back the balance of my time.

PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE RULES

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS FOR THE 114TH CONGRESS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS,
February 13, 2015.

Hon. KAREN HAAS,
*Clerk of the House, The Capitol,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR MS. HAAS: I am submitting the 114th Rules for the Committee on Ethics to be submitted to the Congressional Record.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

CHARLES W. DENT,
Chairman.

Enclosures.

(Adopted February 12, 2015)

FOREWORD

The Committee on Ethics is unique in the House of Representatives. Consistent with the duty to carry out its advisory and enforcement responsibilities in an impartial manner, the Committee is the only standing committee of the House of Representatives the membership of which is divided evenly by party. These rules are intended to provide a fair procedural framework for the conduct of the Committee's activities and to help ensure that the Committee serves well the people of the United States, the House of Representatives, and the Members, officers, and employees of the House of Representatives.

PART I—GENERAL COMMITTEE RULES

RULE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

(a) So far as applicable, these rules and the Rules of the House of Representatives shall be the rules of the Committee and any subcommittee. The Committee adopts these rules under the authority of clause 2(a)(1) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, 114th Congress.

(b) The rules of the Committee may be modified, amended, or repealed by a vote of a majority of the Committee.

(c) When the interests of justice so require, the Committee, by a majority vote of its members, may adopt any special procedures, not inconsistent with these rules, deemed necessary to resolve a particular matter before it. Copies of such special procedures shall be furnished to all parties in the matter.

(d) The Chair and Ranking Minority Member shall have access to such information that they request as necessary to conduct Committee business.

RULE 2. DEFINITIONS

(a) "Committee" means the Committee on Ethics.

(b) "Complaint" means a written allegation of improper conduct against a Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives filed with the Committee with the intent to initiate an inquiry.

(c) "Inquiry" means an investigation by an investigative subcommittee into allegations against a Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives.

(d) "Investigate," "Investigating," and/or "Investigation" mean review of the conduct of a Member, officer, or employee of the

House of Representatives that is conducted or authorized by the Committee, an investigative subcommittee, or the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee.

(e) "Board" means the Board of the Office of Congressional Ethics.

(f) "Referral" means a report sent to the Committee from the Board pursuant to House Rules and all applicable House Resolutions regarding the conduct of a House Member, officer, or employee, including any accompanying findings or other supporting documentation.

(g) "Investigative Subcommittee" means a subcommittee designated pursuant to Rule 19(a) to conduct an inquiry to determine if a Statement of Alleged Violation should be issued.

(h) "Statement of Alleged Violation" means a formal charging document filed by an investigative subcommittee with the Committee containing specific allegations against a Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives of a violation of the Code of Official Conduct, or of a law, rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct applicable to the performance of official duties or the discharge of official responsibilities.

(i) "Adjudicatory Subcommittee" means a subcommittee designated pursuant to Rule 23(a) that holds an adjudicatory hearing and determines whether the counts in a Statement of Alleged Violation are proved by clear and convincing evidence.

(j) "Sanction Hearing" means a Committee hearing to determine what sanction, if any, to adopt or to recommend to the House of Representatives.

(k) "Respondent" means a Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives who is the subject of a complaint filed with the Committee or who is the subject of an inquiry or a Statement of Alleged Violation.

(l) "Office of Advice and Education" refers to the Office established by section 803(i) of the Ethics Reform Act of 1989. The Office handles inquiries; prepares written opinions in response to specific requests; develops general guidance; and organizes seminars, workshops, and briefings for the benefit of the House of Representatives.

(m) "Member" means a Representative in, or a Delegate to, or the Resident Commissioner to, the U.S. House of Representatives.

RULE 3. ADVISORY OPINIONS AND WAIVERS

(a) The Office of Advice and Education shall handle inquiries; prepare written opinions providing specific advice, including reviews of requests for privately-sponsored travel pursuant to the Committee's travel regulations; develop general guidance; and organize seminars, workshops, and briefings for the benefit of the House of Representatives.

(b) Any Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives may request a written opinion with respect to the propriety of any current or proposed conduct of such Member, officer, or employee.

(c) The Office of Advice and Education may provide information and guidance regarding laws, rules, regulations, and other standards of conduct applicable to Members, officers, and employees in the performance of their duties or the discharge of their responsibilities.

(d) In general, the Committee shall provide a written opinion to an individual only in response to a written request, and the written opinion shall address the conduct only of the inquiring individual, or of persons for whom the inquiring individual is responsible as employing authority.

(e) A written request for an opinion shall be addressed to the Chair of the Committee and shall include a complete and accurate statement of the relevant facts. A request shall be signed by the requester or the requester's authorized representative or employing authority. A representative shall disclose to the Committee the identity of the principal on whose behalf advice is being sought.

(f) Requests for privately-sponsored travel shall be treated like any other request for a written opinion for purposes of paragraphs (g) through (l).

(1) The Committee's Travel Guidelines and Regulations shall govern the request submission and Committee approval process for privately-sponsored travel consistent with House Rules.

(2) A request for privately-sponsored travel of a Member, officer, or employee shall include a completed and signed Traveler Form that attaches the Private Sponsor Certification Form and includes all information required by the Committee's travel regulations. A private sponsor offering officially-connected travel to a Member, officer, or employee must complete and sign a Private Sponsor Certification Form, and provide a copy of that form to the invitee(s).

(3) Any individual who knowingly and willfully falsifies, or who knowingly and willfully fails to file, a Traveler Form or Private Sponsor Certification Form may be subject to civil penalties and criminal sanctions pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1001.

(g) The Office of Advice and Education shall prepare for the Committee a response to each written request for an opinion from a Member, officer, or employee. Each response shall discuss all applicable laws, rules, regulations, or other standards.

(h) Where a request is unclear or incomplete, the Office of Advice and Education may seek additional information from the requester.

(i) The Chair and Ranking Minority Member are authorized to take action on behalf of the Committee on any proposed written opinion that they determine does not require consideration by the Committee. If the Chair or Ranking Minority Member requests a written opinion, or seeks a waiver, extension, or approval pursuant to Rules 3(m), 4(c), 4(e), or 4(h), the next ranking member of the requester's party is authorized to act in lieu of the requester.

(j) The Committee shall keep confidential any request for advice from a Member, officer, or employee, as well as any response thereto. Upon request of any Member, officer, or employee who has submitted a written request for an opinion or submitted a request for privately-sponsored travel, the Committee may release to the requesting individual a copy of their own written request for advice or submitted travel forms, any subsequent written communications between such individual and Committee staff regarding the request, and any Committee advisory opinion or travel letter issued to that individual in response. The Committee shall not release any internal Committee staff work product, communications, or notes in response to such a request, except as authorized by the Committee.

(k) The Committee may take no adverse action in regard to any conduct that has been undertaken in reliance on a written opinion if the conduct conforms to the specific facts addressed in the opinion.

(l) Information provided to the Committee by a Member, officer, or employee seeking advice regarding prospective conduct may

not be used as the basis for initiating an investigation under clause 3(a)(2) or clause 3(b) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, if such Member, officer, or employee acts in good faith in accordance with the written advice of the Committee.

(m) A written request for a waiver of clause 5 of House Rule XXV (the House gift rule), or for any other waiver or approval, shall be treated in all respects like any other request for a written opinion.

(n) A written request for a waiver of clause 5 of House Rule XXV (the House gift rule) shall specify the nature of the waiver being sought and the specific circumstances justifying the waiver.

(o) An employee seeking a waiver of time limits applicable to travel paid for by a private source shall include with the request evidence that the employing authority is aware of the request. In any other instance where proposed employee conduct may reflect on the performance of official duties, the Committee may require that the requester submit evidence that the employing authority knows of the conduct.

RULE 4. FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

(a) In matters relating to Title I of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, the Committee shall coordinate with the Clerk of the House of Representatives, Legislative Resource Center, to assure that appropriate individuals are notified of their obligation to file reports required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act and that such individuals are provided in a timely fashion with filing instructions and forms developed by the Committee.

(b) The Committee shall coordinate with the Legislative Resource Center to assure that information that the Ethics in Government Act requires to be placed on the public record is made public.

(c) Any reports required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act filed by Members of the Board of the Office of Congressional Ethics that are forwarded to the Committee by the Clerk shall not be subject to paragraphs (d) through (q) of this Rule. The Office of Congressional Ethics retains jurisdiction over review of the timeliness and completeness of filings by Members of the Board as the Board's supervising ethics office.

(d) The Chair and Ranking Minority Member are authorized to grant on behalf of the Committee requests for reasonable extensions of time for the filing of Financial Disclosure Statements. Any such request must be received by the Committee no later than the date on which the Statement in question is due. A request received after such date may be granted by the Committee only in extraordinary circumstances. Such extensions for one individual in a calendar year shall not exceed a total of 90 days. No extension shall be granted authorizing a non-incumbent candidate to file a statement later than 30 days prior to a primary or general election in which the candidate is participating.

(e) An individual who takes legally sufficient action to withdraw as a candidate before the date on which that individual's Financial Disclosure Statement is due under the Ethics in Government Act shall not be required to file a Statement. An individual shall not be excused from filing a Financial Disclosure Statement when withdrawal as a candidate occurs after the date on which such Statement was due.

(f) Any individual who files a report required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act more than 30 days after the later of—

(1) the date such report is required to be filed, or

(2) if a filing extension is granted to such individual, the last day of the filing extension period, is required by such Act to pay a late filing fee of \$200. The Chair and Ranking Minority Member are authorized to approve requests that the fee be waived based on extraordinary circumstances.

(g) Any late report that is submitted without a required filing fee shall be deemed procedurally deficient and not properly filed.

(h) The Chair and Ranking Minority Member are authorized to approve requests for waivers of the aggregation and reporting of gifts as provided by section 102(a)(2)(C) of the Ethics in Government Act. If such a request is approved, both the incoming request and the Committee response shall be forwarded to the Legislative Resource Center for placement on the public record.

(i) The Chair and Ranking Minority Member are authorized to approve blind trusts as qualifying under section 102(f)(3) of the Ethics in Government Act. The correspondence relating to formal approval of a blind trust, the trust document, the list of assets transferred to the trust, and any other documents required by law to be made public, shall be forwarded to the Legislative Resource Center for such purpose.

(j) The Committee shall designate staff counsel who shall review reports required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act and, based upon information contained therein, indicate in a form and manner prescribed by the Committee whether the Statement appears substantially accurate and complete and the filer appears to be in compliance with applicable laws and rules.

(k) Each report required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act shall be reviewed within 60 days after the date of filing.

(l) If the reviewing counsel believes that additional information is required because (1) the report required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act appears not substantially accurate or complete, or (2) the filer may not be in compliance with applicable laws or rules, then the reporting individual shall be notified in writing of the additional information believed to be required, or of the law or rule with which the reporting individual does not appear to be in compliance. Such notice shall also state the time within which a response is to be submitted. Any such notice shall remain confidential.

(m) Within the time specified, including any extension granted in accordance with clause (d), a reporting individual who concurs with the Committee's notification that the report required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act is not complete, or that other action is required, shall submit the necessary information or take appropriate action. Any amendment may be in the form of a revised report required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act or an explanatory letter addressed to the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

(n) Any amendment shall be placed on the public record in the same manner as other reports required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act. The individual designated by the Committee to review the original report required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act shall review any amendment thereto.

(o) Within the time specified, including any extension granted in accordance with clause (d), a reporting individual who does

not agree with the Committee that the report required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act is deficient or that other action is required, shall be provided an opportunity to respond orally or in writing. If the explanation is accepted, a copy of the response, if written, or a note summarizing an oral response, shall be retained in Committee files with the original report.

(p) The Committee shall be the final arbiter of whether any report required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act requires clarification or amendment.

(q) If the Committee determines, by vote of a majority of its members, that there is reason to believe that an individual has willfully failed to file a report required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act or has willfully falsified or willfully failed to file information required to be reported, then the Committee shall refer the name of the individual, together with the evidence supporting its finding, to the Attorney General pursuant to section 104(b) of the Ethics in Government Act. Such referral shall not preclude the Committee from initiating such other action as may be authorized by other provisions of law or the Rules of the House of Representatives.

RULE 5. MEETINGS

(a) The regular meeting day of the Committee shall be the second Tuesday of each month, except when the House of Representatives is not meeting on that day. When the Committee Chair determines that there is sufficient reason, meetings may be called on additional days. A regularly scheduled meeting need not be held when the Chair determines there is no business to be considered.

(b) The Chair shall establish the agenda for meetings of the Committee and the Ranking Minority Member may place additional items on the agenda.

(c) All meetings of the Committee or any subcommittee shall occur in executive session unless the Committee or subcommittee, by an affirmative vote of a majority of its members, opens the meeting to the public.

(d) Any hearing held by an adjudicatory subcommittee or any sanction hearing held by the Committee shall be open to the public unless the Committee or subcommittee, by an affirmative vote of a majority of its members, closes the hearing to the public.

(e) A subcommittee shall meet at the discretion of its Chair.

(f) Insofar as practicable, notice for any Committee or subcommittee meeting shall be provided at least seven days in advance of the meeting. The Chair of the Committee or subcommittee may waive such time period for good cause.

RULE 6. COMMITTEE STAFF

(a) The staff is to be assembled and retained as a professional, nonpartisan staff.

(b) Each member of the staff shall be professional and demonstrably qualified for the position for which the individual is hired.

(c) The staff as a whole and each individual member of the staff shall perform all official duties in a nonpartisan manner.

(d) No member of the staff shall engage in any partisan political activity directly affecting any congressional or presidential election.

(e) No member of the staff or outside counsel may accept public speaking engagements or write for publication on any subject that is in any way related to the employment or duties with the Committee of such individual without specific prior approval from the Chair and Ranking Minority Member.

(f) All staff members shall be appointed by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Committee. Such vote shall occur at the first meeting of the membership of the Committee during each Congress and as necessary during the Congress.

(g) Subject to the approval of the Committee on House Administration, the Committee may retain counsel not employed by the House of Representatives whenever the Committee determines, by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Committee, that the retention of outside counsel is necessary and appropriate.

(h) If the Committee determines that it is necessary to retain staff members for the purpose of a particular investigation or other proceeding, then such staff shall be retained only for the duration of that particular investigation or proceeding.

(i) Outside counsel may be dismissed prior to the end of a contract between the Committee and such counsel only by a majority vote of the members of the Committee.

(j) In addition to any other staff provided for by law, rule, or other authority, with respect to the Committee, the Chair and Ranking Minority Member each may appoint one individual as a shared staff member from the respective personal staff of the Chair or Ranking Minority Member to perform service for the Committee. Such shared staff may assist the Chair or Ranking Minority Member on any subcommittee on which the Chair or Ranking Minority Member serves. Only paragraphs (c) and (e) of this Rule and Rule 7(b) shall apply to shared staff.

RULE 7. CONFIDENTIALITY

(a) Before any Member or employee of the Committee, including members of an investigative subcommittee selected under clause 5(a)(4) of Rule X of the House of Representatives and shared staff designated pursuant to Committee Rule 6(j), may have access to information that is confidential under the rules of the Committee, the following oath (or affirmation) shall be executed in writing:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will not disclose, to any person or entity outside the Committee on Ethics, any information received in the course of my service with the Committee, except as authorized by the Committee or in accordance with its rules."

Copies of the executed oath shall be provided to the Clerk of the House as part of the records of the House. Breaches of confidentiality shall be investigated by the Committee and appropriate action shall be taken.

(b) No member of the staff or outside counsel may make public, unless approved by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Committee, any information, document, or other material that is confidential, derived from executive session, or classified and that is obtained during the course of employment with the Committee.

(c) Committee members and staff shall not disclose any evidence relating to an investigation to any person or organization outside the Committee unless authorized by the Committee.

(d) Members and staff of the Committee shall not disclose to any person or organization outside the Committee, unless authorized by the Committee, any information regarding the Committee's or a subcommittee's investigative, adjudicatory, or other proceedings, including but not limited to: (i) the fact or nature of any complaints; (ii) executive session proceedings; (iii) information pertaining to or copies of any Committee or subcommittee report, study or other document which purports to express the views,

findings, conclusions or recommendations of the Committee or subcommittee in connection with any of its activities or proceedings; or (iv) any other information or allegation respecting the conduct of a Member, officer, or employee of the House. This rule shall not prohibit the Chair or Ranking Minority Member from disclosing to the Board of the Office of Congressional Ethics the existence of a Committee investigation, the name of the Member, officer or employee of the House who is the subject of that investigation, and a brief statement of the scope of that investigation in a written request for referral pursuant to Rule 17A(k). Such disclosures will only be made subject to written confirmation from the Board that the information provided by the Chair or Ranking Minority Member will be kept confidential by the Board.

(e) Except as otherwise specifically authorized by the Committee, no Committee member or staff member shall disclose to any person outside the Committee, the name of any witness subpoenaed to testify or to produce evidence.

(f) Except as provided in Rule 17A, the Committee shall not disclose to any person or organization outside the Committee any information concerning the conduct of a respondent until it has transmitted a Statement of Alleged Violation to such respondent and the respondent has been given full opportunity to respond pursuant to Rule 22. The Statement of Alleged Violation and any written response thereto shall be made public at the first meeting or hearing on the matter that is open to the public after such opportunity has been provided. Any other materials in the possession of the Committee regarding such statement may be made public as authorized by the Committee to the extent consistent with the Rules of the House of Representatives. If no public hearing is held on the matter, the Statement of Alleged Violation and any written response thereto shall be included in the Committee's final report on the matter to the House of Representatives.

(g) Unless otherwise determined by a vote of the Committee, only the Chair or Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, after consultation with each other, may make public statements regarding matters before the Committee or any subcommittee.

(h) The Committee may establish procedures necessary to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of any testimony or other information received by the Committee or its staff.

RULE 8. SUBCOMMITTEES—GENERAL POLICY AND STRUCTURE

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of these Rules, the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee may consult with an investigative subcommittee either on their own initiative or on the initiative of the subcommittee, shall have access to evidence and information before a subcommittee with whom they so consult, and shall not thereby be precluded from serving as full, voting members of any adjudicatory subcommittee. Except for the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee pursuant to this paragraph, evidence in the possession of an investigative subcommittee shall not be disclosed to other Committee members except by a vote of the subcommittee.

(b) The Committee may establish other noninvestigative and nonadjudicatory subcommittees and may assign to them such functions as it may deem appropriate. The membership of each subcommittee shall provide equal representation for the majority and minority parties.

(c) The Chair may refer any bill, resolution, or other matter before the Committee to an appropriate subcommittee for consideration. Any such bill, resolution, or other matter may be discharged from the subcommittee to which it was referred by a majority vote of the Committee.

(d) Any member of the Committee may sit with any noninvestigative or nonadjudicatory subcommittee, but only regular members of such subcommittee may vote on any matter before that subcommittee.

RULE 9. QUORUMS AND MEMBER DISQUALIFICATION

(a) The quorum for the Committee or an investigative subcommittee to take testimony and to receive evidence shall be two members, unless otherwise authorized by the House of Representatives.

(b) The quorum for an adjudicatory subcommittee to take testimony, receive evidence, or conduct business shall consist of a majority plus one of the members of the adjudicatory subcommittee.

(c) Except as stated in clauses (a) and (b) of this rule, a quorum for the purpose of conducting business consists of a majority of the members of the Committee or subcommittee.

(d) A member of the Committee shall be ineligible to participate in any Committee or subcommittee proceeding in which such Member is the respondent.

(e) A member of the Committee may seek disqualification from participating in any investigation of the conduct of a Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives upon the submission in writing and under oath of an affidavit of disqualification stating that the member cannot render an impartial and unbiased decision. If the Committee approves and accepts such affidavit of disqualification, the Chair shall so notify the Speaker and ask the Speaker to designate a Member of the House of Representatives from the same political party as the disqualified member of the Committee to act as a member of the Committee in any Committee proceeding relating to such investigation.

RULE 10. VOTE REQUIREMENTS

(a) The following actions shall be taken only upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Committee or subcommittee, as appropriate:

- (1) Issuing a subpoena.
- (2) Adopting a full Committee motion to create an investigative subcommittee.
- (3) Adopting or amending of a Statement of Alleged Violation.
- (4) Finding that a count in a Statement of Alleged Violation has been proved by clear and convincing evidence.
- (5) Sending a letter of reproval.
- (6) Adopting a recommendation to the House of Representatives that a sanction be imposed.
- (7) Adopting a report relating to the conduct of a Member, officer, or employee.
- (8) Issuing an advisory opinion of general applicability establishing new policy.

(b) Except as stated in clause (a), action may be taken by the Committee or any subcommittee thereof by a simple majority, a quorum being present.

(c) No motion made to take any of the actions enumerated in clause (a) of this Rule may be entertained by the Chair unless a quorum of the Committee is present when such motion is made.

RULE 11. COMMITTEE RECORDS

(a) All communications and all pleadings pursuant to these rules shall be filed with

the Committee at the Committee's office or such other place as designated by the Committee.

(b) All records of the Committee which have been delivered to the Archivist of the United States shall be made available to the public in accordance with Rule VII of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

RULE 12. BROADCASTS OF COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

(a) Television or radio coverage of a Committee or subcommittee hearing or meeting shall be without commercial sponsorship.

(b) Not more than four television cameras, operating from fixed positions, shall be permitted in a hearing or meeting room. The Committee may allocate the positions of permitted television cameras among the television media in consultation with the Executive Committee of the Radio and Television Correspondents' Galleries.

(c) Television cameras shall be placed so as not to obstruct in any way the space between any witness giving evidence or testimony and any member of the Committee, or the visibility of that witness and that member to each other.

(d) Television cameras shall not be placed in positions that unnecessarily obstruct the coverage of the hearing or meeting by the other media.

PART II—INVESTIGATIVE AUTHORITY

RULE 13. HOUSE RESOLUTION

Whenever the House of Representatives, by resolution, authorizes or directs the Committee to undertake an inquiry or investigation, the provisions of the resolution, in conjunction with these Rules, shall govern. To the extent the provisions of the resolution differ from these Rules, the resolution shall control.

RULE 14. COMMITTEE AUTHORITY TO INVESTIGATE—GENERAL POLICY

(a) Pursuant to clause 3(b) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee may exercise its investigative authority when:

- (1) information offered as a complaint by a Member of the House of Representatives is transmitted directly to the Committee;
 - (2) information offered as a complaint by an individual not a Member of the House is transmitted to the Committee, provided that a Member of the House certifies in writing that such Member believes the information is submitted in good faith and warrants the review and consideration of the Committee;
 - (3) the Committee, on its own initiative, undertakes an investigation;
 - (4) a Member, officer, or employee is convicted in a Federal, State, or local court of a felony;
 - (5) the House of Representatives, by resolution, authorizes or directs the Committee to undertake an inquiry or investigation; or
 - (6) a referral from the Board is transmitted to the Committee.
- (b) The Committee also has investigatory authority over:
- (1) certain unauthorized disclosures of intelligence-related information, pursuant to House Rule X, clauses 11(g)(4) and (g)(5); or
 - (2) reports received from the Office of the Inspector General pursuant to House Rule II, clause 6(c)(5).

RULE 15. COMPLAINTS

(a) A complaint submitted to the Committee shall be in writing, dated, and properly verified (a document will be considered properly verified where a notary executes it with the language, "Signed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me on (date) by (the name of

the person)" setting forth in simple, concise, and direct statements—

(1) the name and legal address of the party filing the complaint (hereinafter referred to as the "complainant");

(2) the name and position or title of the respondent;

(3) the nature of the alleged violation of the Code of Official Conduct or of other law, rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct applicable to the performance of duties or discharge of responsibilities; and

(4) the facts alleged to give rise to the violation. The complaint shall not contain innuendo, speculative assertions, or conclusory statements.

(b) Any documents in the possession of the complainant that relate to the allegations may be submitted with the complaint.

(c) Information offered as a complaint by a Member of the House of Representatives may be transmitted directly to the Committee.

(d) Information offered as a complaint by an individual not a Member of the House may be transmitted to the Committee, provided that a Member of the House certifies in writing that such Member believes the information is submitted in good faith and warrants the review and consideration of the Committee.

(e) A complaint must be accompanied by a certification, which may be unsworn, that the complainant has provided an exact copy of the filed complaint and all attachments to the respondent.

(f) The Committee may defer action on a complaint against a Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives when the complaint alleges conduct that the Committee has reason to believe is being reviewed by appropriate law enforcement or regulatory authorities, or when the Committee determines that it is appropriate for the conduct alleged in the complaint to be reviewed initially by law enforcement or regulatory authorities.

(g) A complaint may not be amended without leave of the Committee. Otherwise, any new allegations of improper conduct must be submitted in a new complaint that independently meets the procedural requirements of the Rules of the House of Representatives and the Committee's Rules.

(h) The Committee shall not accept, and shall return to the complainant, any complaint submitted within the 60 days prior to an election in which the subject of the complaint is a candidate.

(i) The Committee shall not consider a complaint, nor shall any investigation be undertaken by the Committee, of any alleged violation which occurred before the third previous Congress unless the Committee determines that the alleged violation is directly related to an alleged violation which occurred in a more recent Congress.

RULE 16. DUTIES OF COMMITTEE CHAIR AND RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

(a) Whenever information offered as a complaint is submitted to the Committee, the Chair and Ranking Minority Member shall have 14 calendar days or 5 legislative days, whichever occurs first, to determine whether the information meets the requirements of the Committee's rules for what constitutes a complaint.

(b) Whenever the Chair and Ranking Minority Member jointly determine that information submitted to the Committee meets the requirements of the Committee's rules for what constitutes a complaint, they shall have 45 calendar days or 5 legislative days, whichever is later, after the date that the Chair and Ranking Minority Member determine that information filed meets the requirements of the Committee's rules for

what constitutes a complaint, unless the Committee by an affirmative vote of a majority of its members votes otherwise, to—

(1) recommend to the Committee that it dispose of the complaint, or any portion thereof, in any manner that does not require action by the House, which may include dismissal of the complaint or resolution of the complaint by a letter to the Member, officer, or employee of the House against whom the complaint is made;

(2) establish an investigative subcommittee; or

(3) request that the Committee extend the applicable 45-calendar day period when they determine more time is necessary in order to make a recommendation under paragraph (1) or (2) of Rule 16(b).

(c) The Chair and Ranking Minority Member may jointly gather additional information concerning alleged conduct which is the basis of a complaint or of information offered as a complaint until they have established an investigative subcommittee or the Chair or Ranking Minority Member has placed on the agenda the issue of whether to establish an investigative subcommittee.

(d) If the Chair and Ranking Minority Member jointly determine that information submitted to the Committee meets the requirements of the Committee rules for what constitutes a complaint, and the complaint is not disposed of within 45 calendar days or 5 legislative days, whichever is later, and no additional 45-day extension is made, then they shall establish an investigative subcommittee and forward the complaint, or any portion thereof, to that subcommittee for its consideration. If at any time during the time period either the Chair or Ranking Minority Member places on the agenda the issue of whether to establish an investigative subcommittee, then an investigative subcommittee may be established only by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Committee.

(e) Whenever the Chair and Ranking Minority Member jointly determine that information submitted to the Committee does not meet the requirements for what constitutes a complaint set forth in the Committee rules, they may (1) return the information to the complainant with a statement that it fails to meet the requirements for what constitutes a complaint set forth in the Committee's rules; or (2) recommend to the Committee that it authorize the establishment of an investigative subcommittee.

RULE 17. PROCESSING OF COMPLAINTS

(a) If a complaint is in compliance with House and Committee Rules, a copy of the complaint and the Committee Rules shall be forwarded to the respondent within 5 days with notice that the complaint conforms to the applicable rules.

(b) The respondent may, within 30 days of the Committee's notification, provide to the Committee any information relevant to a complaint filed with the Committee. The respondent may submit a written statement in response to the complaint. Such a statement shall be signed by the respondent. If the statement is prepared by counsel for the respondent, the respondent shall sign a representation that the respondent has reviewed the response and agrees with the factual assertions contained therein.

(c) The Committee staff may request information from the respondent or obtain additional information relevant to the case from other sources prior to the establishment of an investigative subcommittee only when so directed by the Chair and Ranking Minority Member.

(d) The respondent shall be notified in writing regarding the Committee's decision either to dismiss the complaint or to create an investigative subcommittee.

RULE 17A. REFERRALS FROM THE BOARD OF THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS

(a) The Committee has exclusive jurisdiction over the interpretation, administration, and enforcement of the Code of Official Conduct pursuant to clause 1(g) of House Rule X. Receipt of referrals from the Board under this rule does not limit the Committee's discretion to address referrals in any way through the appropriate procedures authorized by Committee Rules. The Committee shall review the report and findings transmitted by the Board without prejudice or presumptions as to the merit of the allegations.

(b)(1) Whenever the Committee receives either (A) a referral containing a written report and any findings and supporting documentation from the Board; or (B) a referral from the Board pursuant to a request under Rule 17A(k), the Chair shall have 45 calendar days or 5 legislative days after the date the referral is received, whichever is later, to make public the report and findings of the Board unless the Chair and Ranking Minority Member jointly decide, or the Committee votes, to withhold such information for not more than one additional 45-day period.

(2) At least one calendar day before the Committee makes public any report and findings of the Board the Chair shall notify in writing the Board and the Member, officer, or employee who is the subject of the referral of the impending public release of these documents. At the same time, the Chair shall transmit a copy of any public statement on the Committee's disposition of the matter and any accompanying Committee report to the individual who is the subject of the referral.

(3) All public statements and reports and findings of the Board that are required to be made public under this Rule shall be posted on the Committee's website.

(c) If the OCE report and findings are withheld for an additional 45-day period pursuant to paragraph (b)(1), the Chair shall—

(1) make a public statement on the day of such decision or vote that the matter referred from the Board has been extended; and

(2) make public the written report and findings pursuant to paragraph (b) upon the termination of such additional period.

(d) If the Board transmits a report with a recommendation to dismiss or noting a matter as unresolved due to a tie vote, and the matter is extended for an additional period as provided in paragraph (b), the Committee is not required to make a public statement that the matter has been extended pursuant to paragraph (b)(1).

(e) If the Committee votes to dismiss a matter referred from the Board, the Committee is not required to make public the written report and findings of the Board pursuant to paragraph (c) unless the Committee's vote is inconsistent with the recommendation of the Board. A vote by the Committee to dismiss a matter is not considered inconsistent with a report from the Board that the matter is unresolved by the Board due to a tie vote.

(f) Except as provided by paragraph (g):

(1) If the Committee establishes an investigative subcommittee respecting any matter referred by the Board, then the report and findings of the Board shall not be made public until the conclusion of the investigative subcommittee process. The Committee shall issue a public statement noting the es-

tablishment of an investigative subcommittee, which shall include the name of the Member, officer, or employee who is the subject of the inquiry, and shall set forth the alleged violation.

(2) If any such investigative subcommittee does not conclude its review within one year after the Board's referral, then the Committee shall make public the report of the Board no later than one year after the referral. If the investigative subcommittee does not conclude its review before the end of the Congress in which the report of the Board is made public, the Committee shall make public any findings of the Board on the last day of that Congress.

(g) If the vote of the Committee is a tie or the Committee fails to act by the close of any applicable period(s) under this rule, the report and the findings of the Board shall be made public by the Committee, along with a public statement by the Chair explaining the status of the matter.

(h)(1) If the Committee agrees to a request from an appropriate law enforcement or regulatory authority to defer taking action on a matter referred by the Board under paragraph (b)—

(A) The Committee is not required to make public the written report and findings of the Board pursuant to paragraph (c), except that if the recommendation of the Board is that the matter requires further review, the Committee shall make public the written report of the Board but not the findings; and

(B) The Committee shall make a public statement that it is deferring taking action on the matter at the request of such law enforcement or regulatory authority within one day (excluding weekends and public holidays) of the day that the Committee agrees to the request.

(2) If the Committee has not acted on the matter within one year of the date the public statement described in paragraph (h)(1)(B) is released, the Committee shall make a public statement that it continues to defer taking action on the matter. The Committee shall make a new statement upon the expiration of each succeeding one-year period during which the Committee has not acted on the matter.

(i) The Committee shall not accept, and shall return to the Board, any referral from the Board within 60 days before a Federal, State, or local election in which the subject of the referral is a candidate.

(j) The Committee may postpone any reporting requirement under this rule that falls within that 60-day period until after the date of the election in which the subject of the referral is a candidate. For purposes of calculating any applicable period under this Rule, any days within the 60-day period before such an election shall not be counted.

(k)(1) At any time after the Committee receives written notification from the Board of the Office of Congressional Ethics that the Board is undertaking a review of alleged conduct of any Member, officer, or employee of the House at a time when the Committee is investigating, or has completed an investigation of the same matter, the Committee may so notify the Board in writing and request that the Board cease its review and refer the matter to the Committee for its consideration immediately. The Committee shall also notify the Board in writing if the Committee has not reached a final resolution of the matter or has not referred the matter to the appropriate Federal or State authorities by the end of any applicable time period specified in Rule 17A (including any permissible extension).

(2) The Committee may not request a second referral of the matter from the Board if the Committee has notified the Board that it is unable to resolve the matter previously requested pursuant to this section. The Board may subsequently send a referral regarding a matter previously requested and returned by the Committee after the conclusion of the Board's review process.

RULE 18. COMMITTEE-INITIATED INQUIRY OR INVESTIGATION

(a) Notwithstanding the absence of a filed complaint, the Committee may consider any information in its possession indicating that a Member, officer, or employee may have committed a violation of the Code of Official Conduct or any law, rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct applicable to the conduct of such Member, officer, or employee in the performance of the duties or the discharge of the responsibilities of such individual. The Chair and Ranking Minority Member may jointly gather additional information concerning such an alleged violation by a Member, officer, or employee unless and until an investigative subcommittee has been established. The Chair and Ranking Minority Member may also jointly take appropriate action consistent with Committee Rules to resolve the matter.

(b) If the Committee votes to establish an investigative subcommittee, the Committee shall proceed in accordance with Rule 19.

(c) Any written request by a Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives that the Committee conduct an investigation into such person's own conduct shall be considered in accordance with subsection (a) of this Rule.

(d) An inquiry shall not be undertaken regarding any alleged violation that occurred before the third previous Congress unless a majority of the Committee determines that the alleged violation is directly related to an alleged violation that occurred in a more recent Congress.

(e)(1) An inquiry shall be undertaken by an investigative subcommittee with regard to any felony conviction of a Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives in a Federal, State, or local court who has been sentenced. Notwithstanding this provision, the Committee has the discretion to initiate an inquiry upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Committee at any time prior to conviction or sentencing.

(2) Not later than 30 days after a Member of the House is indicted or otherwise formally charged with criminal conduct in any Federal, State, or local court, the Committee shall either initiate an inquiry upon a majority vote of the members of the Committee or submit a report to the House describing its reasons for not initiating an inquiry and describing the actions, if any, that the Committee has taken in response to the allegations.

RULE 19. INVESTIGATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE

(a)(1) Upon the establishment of an investigative subcommittee, the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall designate four members (with equal representation from the majority and minority parties) to serve as an investigative subcommittee to undertake an inquiry. Members of the Committee and Members of the House selected pursuant to clause 5(a)(4)(A) of Rule X of the House of Representatives are eligible for appointment to an investigative subcommittee, as determined by the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee. At the time of appointment, the

Chair shall designate one member of the subcommittee to serve as the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member shall designate one member of the subcommittee to serve as the ranking minority member of the investigative subcommittee. The Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee may serve as members of an investigative subcommittee, but may not serve as non-voting, ex-officio members.

(2) The respondent shall be notified of the membership of the investigative subcommittee and shall have 10 days after such notice is transmitted to object to the participation of any subcommittee member. Such objection shall be in writing and must be on the grounds that the subcommittee member cannot render an impartial and unbiased decision. The members of the Committee shall engage in a collegial discussion regarding such objection. The subcommittee member against whom the objection is made shall be the sole judge of any disqualification and may choose to seek disqualification from participating in the inquiry pursuant to Rule 9(e).

(b) In an inquiry undertaken by an investigative subcommittee—

(1) All proceedings, including the taking of testimony, shall be conducted in executive session and all testimony taken by deposition or things produced pursuant to subpoena or otherwise shall be deemed to have been taken or produced in executive session.

(2) The Chair of the investigative subcommittee shall ask the respondent and all witnesses whether they intend to be represented by counsel. If so, the respondent or witnesses or their legal representatives shall provide written designation of counsel. A respondent or witness who is represented by counsel shall not be questioned in the absence of counsel unless an explicit waiver is obtained.

(3) The subcommittee shall provide the respondent an opportunity to present, orally or in writing, a statement, which must be under oath or affirmation, regarding the allegations and any other relevant questions arising out of the inquiry.

(4) The staff may interview witnesses, examine documents and other evidence, and request that submitted statements be under oath or affirmation and that documents be certified as to their authenticity and accuracy.

(5) The subcommittee, by a majority vote of its members, may require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers, documents, and other items as it deems necessary to the conduct of the inquiry. Unless the Committee otherwise provides, the subpoena power shall rest in the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee and a subpoena shall be issued upon the request of the investigative subcommittee.

(6) The subcommittee shall require that testimony be given under oath or affirmation. The form of the oath or affirmation shall be: "Do you solemnly swear (or affirm) that the testimony you will give before this subcommittee in the matter now under consideration will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth (so help you God)?" The oath or affirmation shall be administered by the Chair or subcommittee member designated by the Chair to administer oaths.

(c) During the inquiry, the procedure respecting the admissibility of evidence and rulings shall be as follows:

(1) Any relevant evidence shall be admissible unless the evidence is privileged under

the precedents of the House of Representatives.

(2) The Chair of the subcommittee or other presiding member at any investigative subcommittee proceeding shall rule upon any question of admissibility or relevance of evidence, motion, procedure, or any other matter, and may direct any witness to answer any question under penalty of contempt. A witness, witness counsel, or a member of the subcommittee may appeal any rulings to the members present at that proceeding. A majority vote of the members present at such proceeding on such appeal shall govern the question of admissibility, and no appeal shall lie to the Committee.

(3) Whenever a person is determined by a majority vote to be in contempt of the subcommittee, the matter may be referred to the Committee to determine whether to refer the matter to the House of Representatives for consideration.

(4) Committee counsel may, subject to subcommittee approval, enter into stipulations with the respondent and/or the respondent's counsel as to facts that are not in dispute.

(d) Upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the subcommittee members, and an affirmative vote of a majority of the full Committee, an investigative subcommittee may expand the scope of its inquiry.

(e) Upon completion of the inquiry, the staff shall draft for the investigative subcommittee a report that shall contain a comprehensive summary of the information received regarding the alleged violations.

(f) Upon completion of the inquiry, an investigative subcommittee, by a majority vote of its members, may adopt a Statement of Alleged Violation if it determines that there is substantial reason to believe that a violation of the Code of Official Conduct, or of a law, rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct applicable to the performance of official duties or the discharge of official responsibilities by a Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives has occurred. If more than one violation is alleged, such Statement shall be divided into separate counts. Each count shall relate to a separate violation, shall contain a plain and concise statement of the alleged facts of such violation, and shall include a reference to the provision of the Code of Official Conduct or law, rule, regulation, or other applicable standard of conduct governing the performance of duties or discharge of responsibilities alleged to have been violated. A copy of such Statement shall be transmitted to the respondent and the respondent's counsel.

(g) If the investigative subcommittee does not adopt a Statement of Alleged Violation, it shall transmit to the Committee a report containing a summary of the information received in the inquiry, its conclusions and reasons therefore, and any appropriate recommendation.

RULE 20. AMENDMENTS TO STATEMENTS OF ALLEGED VIOLATION

(a) An investigative subcommittee may, upon an affirmative vote of a majority of its members, amend its Statement of Alleged Violation anytime before the Statement of Alleged Violation is transmitted to the Committee; and (b) If an investigative subcommittee amends its Statement of Alleged Violation, the respondent shall be notified in writing and shall have 30 calendar days from the date of that notification to file an answer to the amended Statement of Alleged Violation.

RULE 21. COMMITTEE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

(a) Whenever an investigative subcommittee does not adopt a Statement of Alleged Violation and transmits a report to that effect to the Committee, the Committee may by an affirmative vote of a majority of its members transmit such report to the House of Representatives;

(b) Whenever an investigative subcommittee adopts a Statement of Alleged Violation but recommends that no further action be taken, it shall transmit a report to the Committee regarding the Statement of Alleged Violation; and

(c) Whenever an investigative subcommittee adopts a Statement of Alleged Violation, the respondent admits to the violations set forth in such Statement, the respondent waives the right to an adjudicatory hearing, and the respondent's waiver is approved by the Committee—

(1) the subcommittee shall prepare a report for transmittal to the Committee, a final draft of which shall be provided to the respondent not less than 15 calendar days before the subcommittee votes on whether to adopt the report;

(2) the respondent may submit views in writing regarding the final draft to the subcommittee within 7 calendar days of receipt of that draft;

(3) the subcommittee shall transmit a report to the Committee regarding the Statement of Alleged Violation together with any views submitted by the respondent pursuant to subparagraph (2), and the Committee shall make the report, together with the respondent's views, available to the public before the commencement of any sanction hearing; and

(4) the Committee shall by an affirmative vote of a majority of its members issue a report and transmit such report to the House of Representatives, together with the respondent's views previously submitted pursuant to subparagraph (2) and any additional views respondent may submit for attachment to the final report; and

(d) Members of the Committee shall have not less than 72 hours to review any report transmitted to the Committee by an investigative subcommittee before both the commencement of a sanction hearing and the Committee vote on whether to adopt the report.

RULE 22. RESPONDENT'S ANSWER

(a)(1) Within 30 days from the date of transmittal of a Statement of Alleged Violation, the respondent shall file with the investigative subcommittee an answer, in writing and under oath, signed by respondent and respondent's counsel. Failure to file an answer within the time prescribed shall be considered by the Committee as a denial of each count.

(2) The answer shall contain an admission to or denial of each count set forth in the Statement of Alleged Violation and may include negative, affirmative, or alternative defenses and any supporting evidence or other relevant information.

(b) The respondent may file a Motion for a Bill of Particulars within 10 days of the date of transmittal of the Statement of Alleged Violation. If a Motion for a Bill of Particulars is filed, the respondent shall not be required to file an answer until 20 days after the subcommittee has replied to such motion.

(c)(1) The respondent may file a Motion to Dismiss within 10 days of the date of transmittal of the Statement of Alleged Violation or, if a Motion for a Bill of Particulars has been filed, within 10 days of the date of the

subcommittee's reply to the Motion for a Bill of Particulars. If a Motion to Dismiss is filed, the respondent shall not be required to file an answer until 20 days after the subcommittee has replied to the Motion to Dismiss, unless the respondent previously filed a Motion for a Bill of Particulars, in which case the respondent shall not be required to file an answer until 10 days after the subcommittee has replied to the Motion to Dismiss. The investigative subcommittee shall rule upon any motion to dismiss filed during the period between the establishment of the subcommittee and the subcommittee's transmittal of a report or Statement of Alleged Violation to the Committee or to the Chair and Ranking Minority Member at the conclusion of an inquiry, and no appeal of the subcommittee's ruling shall lie to the Committee.

(2) A Motion to Dismiss may be made on the grounds that the Statement of Alleged Violation fails to state facts that constitute a violation of the Code of Official Conduct or other applicable law, rule, regulation, or standard of conduct, or on the grounds that the Committee lacks jurisdiction to consider the allegations contained in the Statement.

(d) Any motion filed with the subcommittee pursuant to this rule shall be accompanied by a Memorandum of Points and Authorities.

(e)(1) The Chair of the investigative subcommittee, for good cause shown, may permit the respondent to file an answer or motion after the day prescribed above.

(2) If the ability of the respondent to present an adequate defense is not adversely affected and special circumstances so require, the Chair of the investigative subcommittee may direct the respondent to file an answer or motion prior to the day prescribed above.

(f) If the day on which any answer, motion, reply, or other pleading must be filed falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, such filing shall be made on the first business day thereafter.

(g) As soon as practicable after an answer has been filed or the time for such filing has expired, the Statement of Alleged Violation and any answer, motion, reply, or other pleading connected therewith shall be transmitted by the Chair of the investigative subcommittee to the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee.

RULE 23. ADJUDICATORY HEARINGS

(a) If a Statement of Alleged Violation is transmitted to the Chair and Ranking Minority Member pursuant to Rule 22, and no waiver pursuant to Rule 26(b) has occurred, the Chair shall designate the members of the Committee who did not serve on the investigative subcommittee to serve on an adjudicatory subcommittee. The Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall be the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the adjudicatory subcommittee unless they served on the investigative subcommittee. The respondent shall be notified of the designation of the adjudicatory subcommittee and shall have 10 days after such notice is transmitted to object to the participation of any subcommittee member. Such objection shall be in writing and shall be on the grounds that the member cannot render an impartial and unbiased decision. The members of the Committee shall engage in a collegial discussion regarding such objection. The member against whom the objection is made shall be the sole judge of any disqualification and may choose to seek disqualification from serving on the subcommittee pursuant to Rule 9(e).

(b) A majority of the adjudicatory subcommittee membership plus one must be present at all times for the conduct of any business pursuant to this rule.

(c) The adjudicatory subcommittee shall hold a hearing to determine whether any counts in the Statement of Alleged Violation have been proved by clear and convincing evidence and shall make findings of fact, except where such violations have been admitted by respondent.

(d) The subcommittee may require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and production of such books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers, documents, and other items as it deems necessary. A subpoena for documents may specify terms of return other than at a meeting or hearing of the subcommittee. Depositions, interrogatories, and sworn statements taken under any investigative subcommittee direction may be accepted into the hearing record.

(e) The procedures set forth in clause 2(g)(1)–(4), (6)–(7) and (k) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives shall apply to adjudicatory hearings. All such hearings shall be open to the public unless the adjudicatory subcommittee, pursuant to such clause, determines that the hearings or any part thereof should be closed.

(f)(1) The adjudicatory subcommittee shall, in writing, notify the respondent that the respondent and respondent's counsel have the right to inspect, review, copy, or photograph books, papers, documents, photographs, or other tangible objects that committee counsel intends to use as evidence against the respondent in an adjudicatory hearing. The respondent shall be given access to such evidence, and shall be provided the names of witnesses committee counsel intends to call, and a summary of their expected testimony, no less than 15 calendar days prior to any such hearing. Except in extraordinary circumstances, no evidence may be introduced or witness called in an adjudicatory hearing unless the respondent has been afforded a prior opportunity to review such evidence or has been provided the name of the witness.

(2) After a witness has testified on direct examination at an adjudicatory hearing, the Committee, at the request of the respondent, shall make available to the respondent any statement of the witness in the possession of the Committee which relates to the subject matter as to which the witness has testified.

(3) Any other testimony, statement, or documentary evidence in the possession of the Committee which is material to the respondent's defense shall, upon request, be made available to the respondent.

(g) No less than 5 days prior to the hearing, the respondent or counsel shall provide the adjudicatory subcommittee with the names of witnesses expected to be called, summaries of their expected testimony, and copies of any documents or other evidence proposed to be introduced.

(h) The respondent or counsel may apply to the subcommittee for the issuance of subpoenas for the appearance of witnesses or the production of evidence. The application shall be granted upon a showing by the respondent that the proposed testimony or evidence is relevant and not otherwise available to respondent. The application may be denied if not made at a reasonable time or if the testimony or evidence would be merely cumulative.

(i) No later than two weeks or 5 legislative days after the Chair of the Committee designates members to serve on an adjudicatory subcommittee, whichever is later, the Chair

of the adjudicatory subcommittee shall establish a schedule and procedure for the hearing and for prehearing matters. The procedures may be changed either by the Chair of the adjudicatory subcommittee or a by a majority vote of the members of the subcommittee. If the Chair makes prehearing rulings upon any question of admissibility or relevance of evidence, motion, procedure, or any other matter, the Chair shall make available those rulings to all subcommittee members at the time of the ruling.

(j) The procedures regarding the admissibility of evidence and rulings shall be as follows:

(1) Any relevant evidence shall be admissible unless the evidence is privileged under the precedents of the House of Representatives.

(2) The Chair of the subcommittee or other presiding member at an adjudicatory subcommittee hearing shall rule upon any question of admissibility or relevance of evidence, motion, procedure, or any other matter, and may direct any witness to answer any question under penalty of contempt. A witness, witness counsel, or a member of the subcommittee may appeal any ruling to the members present at that proceeding. A majority vote of the members present at such proceeding on such an appeal shall govern the question of admissibility and no appeal shall lie to the Committee.

(3) Whenever a witness is deemed by a Chair or other presiding member to be in contempt of the subcommittee, the matter may be referred to the Committee to determine whether to refer the matter to the House of Representatives for consideration.

(4) Committee counsel may, subject to subcommittee approval, enter into stipulations with the respondent and/or the respondent's counsel as to facts that are not in dispute.

(k) Unless otherwise provided, the order of an adjudicatory hearing shall be as follows:

(1) The Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the subcommittee shall open the hearing with equal time and during which time, the Chair shall state the adjudicatory subcommittee's authority to conduct the hearing and the purpose of the hearing.

(2) The Chair shall then recognize Committee counsel and the respondent's counsel, in turn, for the purpose of giving opening statements.

(3) Testimony from witnesses and other relevant evidence shall be received in the following order whenever possible:

(i) witnesses (deposition transcripts and affidavits obtained during the inquiry may be used in lieu of live witnesses) and other evidence offered by the Committee counsel,

(ii) witnesses and other evidence offered by the respondent,

(iii) rebuttal witnesses, as permitted by the Chair.

(4) Witnesses at a hearing shall be examined first by counsel calling such witness. The opposing counsel may then cross-examine the witness. Redirect examination and recross examination by counsel may be permitted at the Chair's discretion. Subcommittee members may then question witnesses. Unless otherwise directed by the Chair, questions by Subcommittee members shall be conducted under the five-minute rule.

(5) The Chair shall then recognize Committee counsel and respondent's counsel, in turn, for the purpose of giving closing arguments. Committee counsel may reserve time for rebuttal argument, as permitted by the Chair.

(1) A subpoena to a witness to appear at a hearing shall be served sufficiently in ad-

vance of that witness' scheduled appearance to allow the witness a reasonable period of time, as determined by the Chair of the adjudicatory subcommittee, to prepare for the hearing and to employ counsel.

(m) Each witness appearing before the subcommittee shall be furnished a printed copy of the Committee rules, the relevant provisions of the Rules of the House of Representatives applicable to the rights of witnesses, and a copy of the Statement of Alleged Violation.

(n) Testimony of all witnesses shall be taken under oath or affirmation. The form of the oath or affirmation shall be: "Do you solemnly swear (or affirm) that the testimony you will give before this subcommittee in the matter now under consideration will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth (so help you God)?" The oath or affirmation shall be administered by the Chair or Committee member designated by the Chair to administer oaths.

(o) At an adjudicatory hearing, the burden of proof rests on Committee counsel to establish the facts alleged in the Statement of Alleged Violation by clear and convincing evidence. However, Committee counsel need not present any evidence regarding any count that is admitted by the respondent or any fact stipulated. Committee counsel or respondent's counsel may move the adjudicatory subcommittee to make a finding that there is no material fact at issue. If the adjudicatory subcommittee finds that there is no material fact at issue, the burden of proof will be deemed satisfied.

(p) As soon as practicable after all testimony and evidence have been presented, the subcommittee shall consider each count contained in the Statement of Alleged Violation and shall determine by a majority vote of its members whether each count has been proved. If a majority of the subcommittee does not vote that a count has been proved, a motion to reconsider that vote may be made only by a member who voted that the count was not proved. A count that is not proved shall be considered as dismissed by the subcommittee.

(q) The findings of the adjudicatory subcommittee shall be reported to the Committee.

RULE 24. SANCTION HEARING AND CONSIDERATION OF SANCTIONS OR OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) If no count in a Statement of Alleged Violation is proved, the Committee shall prepare a report to the House of Representatives, based upon the report of the adjudicatory subcommittee.

(b) If an adjudicatory subcommittee completes an adjudicatory hearing pursuant to Rule 23 and reports that any count of the Statement of Alleged Violation has been proved, a hearing before the Committee shall be held to receive oral and/or written submissions by counsel for the Committee and counsel for the respondent as to the sanction the Committee should recommend to the House of Representatives with respect to such violations. Testimony by witnesses shall not be heard except by written request and vote of a majority of the Committee.

(c) Upon completion of any proceeding held pursuant to clause (b), the Committee shall consider and vote on a motion to recommend to the House of Representatives that the House take disciplinary action. If a majority of the Committee does not vote in favor of the recommendation that the House of Representatives take action, a motion to reconsider that vote may be made only by a member who voted against the recommendation.

The Committee may also, by majority vote, adopt a motion to issue a Letter of Reproval or take other appropriate Committee action.

(d) If the Committee determines a Letter of Reproval constitutes sufficient action, the Committee shall include any such letter as a part of its report to the House of Representatives.

(e) With respect to any proved counts against a Member of the House of Representatives, the Committee may recommend to the House one or more of the following sanctions:

(1) Expulsion from the House of Representatives.

(2) Censure.

(3) Reprimand.

(4) Fine.

(5) Denial or limitation of any right, power, privilege, or immunity of the Member if under the Constitution the House of Representatives may impose such denial or limitation.

(6) Any other sanction determined by the Committee to be appropriate.

(f) With respect to any proved counts against an officer or employee of the House of Representatives, the Committee may recommend to the House one or more of the following sanctions:

(1) Dismissal from employment.

(2) Reprimand.

(3) Fine.

(4) Any other sanction determined by the Committee to be appropriate.

(g) With respect to the sanctions that the Committee may recommend, reprimand is appropriate for serious violations, censure is appropriate for more serious violations, and expulsion of a Member or dismissal of an officer or employee is appropriate for the most serious violations. A recommendation of a fine is appropriate in a case in which it is likely that the violation was committed to secure a personal financial benefit; and a recommendation of a denial or limitation of a right, power, privilege, or immunity of a Member is appropriate when the violation bears upon the exercise or holding of such right, power, privilege, or immunity. This clause sets forth general guidelines and does not limit the authority of the Committee to recommend other sanctions.

(h) The Committee report shall contain an appropriate statement of the evidence supporting the Committee's findings and a statement of the Committee's reasons for the recommended sanction.

RULE 25. DISCLOSURE OF EXCULPATORY INFORMATION TO RESPONDENT

If the Committee, or any investigative or adjudicatory subcommittee at any time receives any exculpatory information respecting a Complaint or Statement of Alleged Violation concerning a Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives, it shall make such information known and available to the Member, officer, or employee as soon as practicable, but in no event later than the transmittal of evidence supporting a proposed Statement of Alleged Violation pursuant to Rule 26(c). If an investigative subcommittee does not adopt a Statement of Alleged Violation, it shall identify any exculpatory information in its possession at the conclusion of its inquiry and shall include such information, if any, in the subcommittee's final report to the Committee regarding its inquiry. For purposes of this rule, exculpatory evidence shall be any evidence or information that is substantially favorable to the respondent with respect to the allegations or charges before an investigative or adjudicatory subcommittee.

RULE 26. RIGHTS OF RESPONDENTS AND WITNESSES

(a) A respondent shall be informed of the right to be represented by counsel, to be provided at the respondent's own expense.

(b) A respondent may seek to waive any procedural rights or steps in the disciplinary process. A request for waiver must be in writing, signed by the respondent, and must detail what procedural steps the respondent seeks to waive. Any such request shall be subject to the acceptance of the Committee or subcommittee, as appropriate.

(c) Not less than 10 calendar days before a scheduled vote by an investigative subcommittee on a Statement of Alleged Violation, the subcommittee shall provide the respondent with a copy of the Statement of Alleged Violation it intends to adopt together with all evidence it intends to use to prove those charges which it intends to adopt, including documentary evidence, witness testimony, memoranda of witness interviews, and physical evidence, unless the subcommittee by an affirmative vote of a majority of its members decides to withhold certain evidence in order to protect a witness, but if such evidence is withheld, the subcommittee shall inform the respondent that evidence is being withheld and of the count to which such evidence relates.

(d) Neither the respondent nor respondent's counsel shall, directly or indirectly, contact the subcommittee or any member thereof during the period of time set forth in paragraph (c) except for the sole purpose of settlement discussions where counsels for the respondent and the subcommittee are present.

(e) If, at any time after the issuance of a Statement of Alleged Violation, the Committee or any subcommittee thereof determines that it intends to use evidence not provided to a respondent under paragraph (c) to prove the charges contained in the Statement of Alleged Violation (or any amendment thereof), such evidence shall be made immediately available to the respondent, and it may be used in any further proceeding under the Committee's rules.

(f) Evidence provided pursuant to paragraph (c) or (e) shall be made available to the respondent and respondent's counsel only after each agrees, in writing, that no document, information, or other materials obtained pursuant to that paragraph shall be made public until—

(1) such time as a Statement of Alleged Violation is made public by the Committee if the respondent has waived the adjudicatory hearing; or

(2) the commencement of an adjudicatory hearing if the respondent has not waived an adjudicatory hearing; but the failure of respondent and respondent's counsel to so agree in writing, and therefore not receive the evidence, shall not preclude the issuance of a Statement of Alleged Violation at the end of the period referenced to in (c).

(g) A respondent shall receive written notice whenever—

(1) the Chair and Ranking Minority Member determine that information the Committee has received constitutes a complaint;

(2) a complaint or allegation is transmitted to an investigative subcommittee;

(3) that subcommittee votes to authorize its first subpoena or to take testimony under oath, whichever occurs first; and

(4) the Committee votes to expand the scope of the inquiry of an investigative subcommittee.

(h) Whenever an investigative subcommittee adopts a Statement of Alleged

Violation and a respondent enters into an agreement with that subcommittee to settle a complaint on which the Statement is based, that agreement, unless the respondent requests otherwise, shall be in writing and signed by the respondent and the respondent's counsel, the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the subcommittee, and outside counsel, if any.

(i) Statements or information derived solely from a respondent or respondent's counsel during any settlement discussions between the Committee or a subcommittee thereof and the respondent shall not be included in any report of the subcommittee or the Committee or otherwise publicly disclosed without the consent of the respondent.

(j) Whenever a motion to establish an investigative subcommittee does not prevail, the Committee shall promptly send a letter to the respondent informing the respondent of such vote.

(k) Witnesses shall be afforded a reasonable period of time, as determined by the Committee or subcommittee, to prepare for an appearance before an investigative subcommittee or for an adjudicatory hearing and to obtain counsel.

(l) Prior to their testimony, witnesses shall be furnished a printed copy of the Committee's Rules of Procedure and the provisions of the Rules of the House of Representatives applicable to the rights of witnesses.

(m) Witnesses may be accompanied by their own counsel for the purpose of advising them concerning their constitutional rights. The Chair may punish breaches of order and decorum, and of professional responsibility on the part of counsel, by censure and exclusion from the hearings; and the Committee may cite the offender to the House of Representatives for contempt.

(n) Each witness subpoenaed to provide testimony or other evidence shall be provided the same per diem rate as established, authorized, and regulated by the Committee on House Administration for Members, officers and employees of the House, and, as the Chair considers appropriate, actual expenses of travel to or from the place of examination. No compensation shall be authorized for attorney's fees or for a witness' lost earnings. Such per diem may not be paid if a witness had been summoned at the place of examination.

(o) With the approval of the Committee, a witness, upon request, may be provided with a transcript of the witness' own deposition or other testimony taken in executive session, or, with the approval of the Chair and Ranking Minority Member, may be permitted to examine such transcript in the office of the Committee. Any such request shall be in writing and shall include a statement that the witness, and counsel, agree to maintain the confidentiality of all executive session proceedings covered by such transcript.

RULE 27. FRIVOLOUS FILINGS

If a complaint or information offered as a complaint is deemed frivolous by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Committee, the Committee may take such action as it, by an affirmative vote of a majority deems appropriate in the circumstances.

RULE 28. REFERRALS TO FEDERAL OR STATE AUTHORITIES

Referrals made under clause 3(a)(3) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives may be made by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the Committee.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 1. An act to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 22 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, February 17, 2015, at 2 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

450. A letter from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits received February 6, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

451. A letter from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Valuation of Benefits and Assets; Expected Retirement Age received February 6, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

452. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's Major final rule — Hazardous and Solid Waste Management System; Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals from Electric Utilities [EPA-HQ-RCRA-2009-0640; FRL-9149-4] (RIN: 2050-AE81) received February 11, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

453. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to persons undermining democratic processes or institutions in Zimbabwe that was declared in Executive Order 13288 of March 6, 2003; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

454. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Establishing Transit Areas Through Walrus Protection Areas at Round Island and Cape Peirce, Northern Bristol Bay, Alaska; Amendment 107 [Docket No.: 140519437-4999-02] (RIN: 0648-BE24) received February 11, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

455. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Groundfish Fishery; Framework Adjustment 52 [Docket No.: 140507412-5014-02] (RIN: 0648-BE22) received February 12, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

456. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Vessel Monitoring Systems; Requirements for Enhanced Mobile Transceiver Unit and Mobile Communication Service Type-Approval [Docket No.: 130402316-4999-02] (RIN: 0648-BD02) received February 12, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

457. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Trip Limit Adjustment for the Common Pool Fishery [Docket No.: 140106011-4338-02] (RIN: 0648-XD637) received February 12, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

458. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Inseason Adjustment to the 2015 Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pollock, Atka Mackerel, and Pacific Cod Total Allowable Catch Amounts [Docket No.: 131021878-4158-02] (RIN: 0648-XD693) received February 12, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

459. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher/Processors Using Trawl Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 130925836-4174-02] (RIN: 0648-XD713) received February 12, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

460. A letter from the Chief, Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's interim regulations — United States-Australia Free Trade Agreement (RIN: 1515-AD59) received February 10, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

461. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB rule — Price v. Commissioner, T.C. Memo. 2004-149 received February 9, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

462. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Relief for Certain Participants in Section 414(d) Governmental Plans [Notice 2015-07] received February 9, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

463. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only

rule — Section 501(c)(29) Organization Application Procedures (Rev. Proc. 2015-17) received February 9, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

464. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Annual price inflation adjustments for passenger automobiles first placed in service or leased in 2015 (Rev. Proc. 2015-19) received February 9, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

465. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Qualified Zone Academy Bond Allocations for 2014 [Notice 2015-11] received February 9, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

466. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Section 5000A National Average Premium for a Bronze Level of Coverage [2015] (Rev. Proc. 2015-15) received February 9, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

467. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Applicable Federal Rates — January 2015 (Rev. Rul. 2015-1) received February 6, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

468. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB rule — *Mirarchi v. Commissioner*, T.C. Memo. 2004-148 received February 9, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

469. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — New Clean Renewable Energy Bonds [Notice 2015-12] received February 9, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. DOLD (for himself, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. YODER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. POLIS, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. BEYER, Mr. NUNES, Mr. GUINTA, and Mr. MURPHY of Florida):

H.R. 962. A bill to jump-start economic recovery through the formation and growth of new businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Science, Space, and Technology, Appropriations, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. BEYER, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. TONKO, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. TAKAI):

H.R. 963. A bill to modify the requirements applicable to locatable minerals on public domain lands, consistent with the principles of self-initiation of mining claims, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PASCRELL (for himself, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California):

H.R. 964. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an above-the-line deduction for child care expenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PASCRELL (for himself and Mr. BOUSTANY):

H.R. 965. A bill to require the issuance of guidance on the application of the Federal policy for the protection of human subjects with respect to clinical data registries; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. YARMUTH (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CLAY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. RANGEL):

H.R. 966. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to award grants to prepare individuals for the 21st century workplace and to increase America's global competitiveness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. POCAN (for himself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. TONKO, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. ELLISON, and Ms. DELAUNO):

H.R. 967. A bill to prohibit the President from entering into a free trade agreement or investment treaty with a foreign country or countries if the agreement or treaty includes investor-state dispute settlement provisions; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JEFFRIES (for himself, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 968. A bill to make the acquisition, installation, and maintenance of security cameras, safety lighting, and building locking mechanisms in public housing an eligible activity under community development block grant program; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GIBSON (for himself, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. LANCE, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. BEN RAY LUJAN of New Mexico, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. RUSH, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. HIMES, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. JONES, Mr. COURTNEY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. SIREN, Mrs. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. NEAL, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. COOK, Mr. AMODEI, Ms.

WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. FORBES, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Ms. ESTY, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. PETERS, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. POLIS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. COHEN, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. LEE, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. HONDA, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. WALZ, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. JOYCE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. TONKO, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. LATTI, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. REED, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. BARLETTA, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. HIGGINS, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. HANNA, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Ms. MENG, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. ROSS, Mr. MARINO, Mr. PITTS, Mr. BENISHEK, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. SIMPSON, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. YODER, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. COLE, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. OLSON, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. HARDY, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BABIN, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, and Ms. DEGETTE):

H.R. 969. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. FOXX (for herself, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. KLINE, and Mr. SALMON):

H.R. 970. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Education from engaging in regulatory overreach with regard to institutional eligibility under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD):

H.R. 971. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to authorize a 6-month extension of certain exclusivity periods in the case of approved drugs that are subsequently approved for a new indication to prevent, diagnose, or treat a rare disease or condition, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCDERMOTT:

H.R. 972. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by requiring a Federal emission permit for the sale or use of covered substances and to return funds to the American people; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. GUTHRIE,

Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BOST, Mr. FARR, Mr. MASSIE, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. KEATING, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. HANNA, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. COSTA, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. SIRE, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. HONDA, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. LOEBBACH, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. BURGESS):

H.R. 973. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. LUMMIS:

H.R. 974. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to promulgate regulations to allow the use of hand-propelled vessels on certain rivers and streams that flow in and through certain Federal lands in Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan:

H.R. 975. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the transfer of required minimum distributions from a retirement plan to a health savings account; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas (for himself, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. SALMON, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. BUCHSON, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. POMPEO, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. COLE, Mr. BARTON, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. FLORES, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. OLSON, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. THORBERRY, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. GOSAR):

H.R. 976. A bill to repeal changes made by health care reform laws to the Medicare exception to the prohibition on certain physician referrals for hospitals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCHOCK (for himself, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TURNER, Mr. HANNA, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. PAYNE):

H.R. 977. A bill to enable hospital-based nursing programs that are affiliated with a hospital to maintain payments under the Medicare program to hospitals for the costs of such programs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCHOCK (for himself, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. STEFANIK, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut):

H.R. 978. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to increase and adjust for inflation the maximum value of articles that may be imported duty-free by one person on one day, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK (for himself, Mrs.

TORRES, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. NUNES, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. ISSA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. COSTA, Mr. TAKANO, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. HONDA, Mr. FARR, Mr. BERA, Mr. ROYCE, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. LEE, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. DENHAM, Ms. HAHN, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. COOK, Ms. BASS, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. PELOSI, and Mr. MCCARTHY):

H.R. 979. A bill to designate a mountain in the John Muir Wilderness of the Sierra National Forest as "Sky Point"; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HUNTER (for himself, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. LOBIONDO):

H.R. 980. A bill to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BYRNE (for himself, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mrs. ROBY, and Mr. PALMER):

H.R. 981. A bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to improve the Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper fishery by providing flexibility for fishing managers and stability for fisherman, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CAPUANO:

H.R. 982. A bill to ensure that any authority of the Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund to borrow amounts from the Treasury is used only to pay mortgage insurance claims; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. FATTAH, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 983. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to minimum levels of financial responsibility for the transportation of property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY (for himself and Mr. COLE):

H.R. 984. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GUTHRIE (for himself and Ms. CASTOR of Florida):

H.R. 985. A bill to enable concrete masonry products manufacturers to establish, finance, and carry out a coordinated program of research, education, and promotion to improve, maintain, and develop markets for concrete masonry products; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HUDSON (for himself, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. OLSON, Mr. LATTA, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. BRAT, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. REED, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. GOWDY, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. LONG, Mr. MESSER, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. KATKO, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MACARTHUR, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. FLORES, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. YODER, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. SALMON, Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. KLINE, Mr. BARR, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, and Mr. MCCAUL):

H.R. 986. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a means by which nonresidents of a State whose residents may carry concealed firearms may also do so in the State; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KING of Iowa (for himself, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. PERRY, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. HARPER, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, and Mr. HENSARLING):

H.R. 987. A bill to repeal the wage rate requirements commonly known as the Davis-Bacon Act; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. KING of New York (for himself, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. GRAYSON, and Mr. HONDA):

H.R. 988. A bill to reauthorize the Elder Justice Act of 2009; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Energy and Commerce, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KING of New York (for himself, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. HANNA, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. JONES, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. POSEY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. MEEKS):

H.R. 989. A bill to clarify the National Credit Union Administration authority to improve credit union safety and soundness; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. KING of New York (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. DOLD, Mr. LANCE, and Mr. LIPINSKI):

H.R. 990. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the exclusion for transportation benefits; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LATTA (for himself, Mr. MCKINLEY, and Mr. WITTMAN):

H.R. 991. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to recognize the dependent children of members of the Armed Forces who are serving on active duty or who have served on active duty through the presentation of an official lapel button; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LATTA (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio):

H.R. 992. A bill to waive the application fee for veterans with a service-connected disability rated at 50 percent or more who apply to participate in the Transportation Security Administration's PreCheck program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico (for herself, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mr. BEN RAY LUJAN of New Mexico):

H.R. 993. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to repeal the limitation on the number of veterans authorized to be enrolled in programs of independent living services and assistance administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BEN RAY LUJAN of New Mexico (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. PEARCE):

H.R. 994. A bill to amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act to improve compensation for workers involved in uranium mining, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LYNCH (for himself, Mr. BOUSTANY, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. JONES, Mr. KEATING, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. NEAL, and Mr. POCAN):

H.R. 995. A bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to encourage the nationwide observance of two minutes of silence each Veterans Day; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MOORE, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. POCAN, Mr. JONES, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mrs. CAPPS, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. BASS, Ms. CLARKE of

New York, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. HAHN, Mr. CLAY, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. KUSTER, Mrs. BEATTY, and Mr. BEN RAY LUJAN of New Mexico):

H.R. 996. A bill to designate certain National Forest System lands and certain public lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior in the States of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming as wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, wildland recovery areas, and biological connecting corridors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. KING of Iowa:

H.R. 997. A bill to declare English as the official language of the United States, to establish a uniform English language rule for naturalization, and to avoid misconstructions of the English language texts of the laws of the United States, pursuant to Congress' powers to provide for the general welfare of the United States and to establish a uniform rule of naturalization under article I, section 8, of the Constitution; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MEEHAN (for himself, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. LANCE, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, and Mr. MCCAUL):

H.R. 998. A bill to establish the conditions under which the Secretary of Homeland Security may establish preclearance facilities, conduct preclearance operations, and provide customs services outside the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POMPEO (for himself, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. HARPER, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. STEWART, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. KLINE, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. OLSON, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. AMODEI, and Mr. STIVERS):

H.R. 999. A bill to direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the National Academy of Sciences to study the vehicle handling requirements proposed by the Commission for recreational off-highway vehicles and to prohibit the adoption of any such requirements until the completion of the study; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Ms. BASS, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. FARR, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. POCAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SIRES, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. YARMUTH):

H.R. 1000. A bill to establish the National Full Employment Trust Fund to create employment opportunities for the unemployed; to the Committee on Education and the

Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POMPEO (for himself, Mr. JONES, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. DESANTIS, and Mr. AMASH):

H.R. 1001. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to terminate certain energy tax subsidies and lower the corporate income tax rate; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. NEAL, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. KIND, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. PASCRELL):

H.R. 1002. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend for 2 years the exclusion from gross income of discharges of qualified principal residence indebtedness; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROKITA (for himself, Mr. BARR, Mr. POMPEO, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. MESSER, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H.R. 1003. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to permit employers to pay higher wages to their employees; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD:

H.R. 1004. A bill to reauthorize the Enhancing Education Through Technology Act of 2001; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. RUIZ (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SIRES, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HIGGINS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. LOEBACK):

H.R. 1005. A bill to provide for the establishment of a pilot program to train individuals for employment in the renewable energy and energy efficiency industries; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. RUIZ (for himself, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. VELA, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 1006. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to help build a stronger health care workforce; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RUIZ (for himself, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. SWALWELL of California, and Ms. SINEMA):

H.R. 1007. A bill to authorize appropriations for the SelectUSA Initiative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RUIZ (for himself, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. CLAY):

H.R. 1008. A bill to authorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States to use 3 percent of its profits for administrative expenses; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. RUIZ (for himself, Mr. POLIS, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. POCAN, Mr. COOK, Mr. PETERS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. SCHIFF, and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico):

H.R. 1009. A bill to authorize the Federal Emergency Management Agency to award mitigation financial assistance in certain areas affected by wildfires; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. STIVERS (for himself and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas):

H.R. 1010. A bill to provide for the posthumous commission as a captain in the regular Army of Milton Holland, who, while sergeant major of the 5th Regiment, United States Colored Infantry, was awarded the Medal of Honor for gallantry during the Civil War; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WENSTRUP:

H.R. 1011. A bill to require the disclosure of determinations with respect to which Congressional staff will be required to obtain health insurance coverage through an Exchange; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois:

H.J. Res. 33. A joint resolution to authorize the use of the United States Armed Forces against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CULBERSON (for himself and Mr. CUELLAR):

H.J. Res. 34. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States allowing the States to call a limited convention solely for the purposes of considering whether to propose a specific amendment to the Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PITTENGER (for himself, Mr. WALKER, Mr. VARGAS, and Ms. FRANKEL of Florida):

H. Res. 111. A resolution calling on the Government of Iran to immediately release Saeed Abedini and all other individuals detained on account of their religious beliefs; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia):

H. Res. 112. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the Secondary School Student Athletes' Bill of Rights; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LATTA:

H. Res. 113. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that in order to continue aggressive growth in the Nation's telecommunications and technology industries, the United States Government should "Get Out of the Way and Stay Out of the Way"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LEWIS (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. SPEIER, and Mr. HASTINGS):

H. Res. 114. A resolution expressing support for designation of the month of February 2015 as "National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MENG (for herself, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. HONDA, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. PETERS, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. TITUS, and Ms. LEE):

H. Res. 115. A resolution recognizing the cultural and historical significance of Lunar New Year; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. MENG (for herself, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. HONDA, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Ms. BORDALLO):

H. Res. 116. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of International Mother Language Day in bringing attention to the importance of preserving linguistic and cultural heritage through education; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. DENT,

Mr. WELCH, Mr. MARINO, Ms. BASS,

Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia,

Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENAUER,

Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania,

Mrs. BUSTOS, Mrs. CAPPAS,

Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida,

Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARKE of New York,

Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. CROWLEY,

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. DEGETTE,

Mr. DELANEY, Ms. DELAUNO, Mr. DEUTCH,

Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. DOGGETT,

Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ESHOO,

Mr. FARR, Mr. POSTER, Mr. GARAMENDI,

Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HAHN,

Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HONDA,

Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. JACKSON LEE,

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas,

Mr. KEATING, Mr. KIND, Mr. KING of New York,

Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. TED LIEU of California,

Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LOWENTHAL,

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico,

Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. McDERMOTT,

Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCHENRY, Ms. MENG,

Ms. MOORE, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO,

Ms. NORTON, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. PETERS,

Mr. QUIGLEY, Miss RICE of New York,

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California,

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California,

Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHKOWSKY, Mr. SERRANO,

Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SHIMKUS, Ms. SLAUGHTER,

Ms. SPEIER, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi,

Mr. THOMPSON of California,

Ms. TITUS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VARGAS,

Mr. WALZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California,

Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. SWALWELL of California,

Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas,

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mrs. ELLMERS, and Mr. COOPER):

H. Res. 117. A resolution recognizing the importance of vaccinations and immunizations in the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. TAKANO (for himself, Ms. JUDY CHU of California,

Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HONDA,

Ms. MATSUI, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. SPEIER,

Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. KILMER,

Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. TAKAI, Mr. VARGAS,

Mr. BECERRA, Ms. MOORE, Mr. RANGEL,

Ms. LEE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. DESAULNIER,

and Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California):

H. Res. 118. A resolution recognizing the significance of the 68th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and supporting the goals of the Japanese American, German American, and Italian American communities in recognizing a National Day of Remembrance to increase public awareness of the events surrounding the restriction, exclusion, and incarceration of individuals and families during World War II; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 962.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1;

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3;

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 963.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3

By Mr. PASCRELL:

H.R. 964.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. PASCRELL:

H.R. 965.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. YARMUTH:

H.R. 966.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. POCAN:

H.R. 967.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power. . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

H.R. 968.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GIBSON:

H.R. 969.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. FOXX:

H.R. 970.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 3 of Constitution of the United States

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 971.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, which gives the Congress the authority to provide for the general welfare of the United States. Additionally, under Article I, Section 8, Clause 8 which gives Congress the power to promote the progress of science and useful arts by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries.

By Mr. McDERMOTT:

H.R. 972.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 973.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7, giving Congress the authority to control the expenditures of the federal government.

By Mrs. LUMMIS:

H.R. 974.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2: "The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or of any particular state."

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan:

H.R. 975.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause I of the United States Constitution—The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 976.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 (relating to providing for the general welfare of the United States and clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article IV, section 3, clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).

By Mr. SCHOCK:

H.R. 977.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress as stated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SCHOCK:

H.R. 978.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 7, and Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. McCLINTOCK:

H.R. 979.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (the Property Clause), which confers on Congress the power to make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the property belonging to the United States.

By Mr. HUNTER:

H.R. 980.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. BYRNE:

H.R. 981.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. CAPUANO:

H.R. 982.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Sec. 8, clause 1 (relating to the general welfare of the United States); and Article I, section 8, clause 3 (relating to the power to regulate interstate commerce).

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 983.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to the power of Congress to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.)

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 984.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority for this bill is pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 985.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. HUDSON:

H.R. 986.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The 2nd Amendment, which states that "A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."

By Mr. KING of Iowa:

H.R. 987.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This legislation adjusts the formula the federal government uses to spend money on federal contracts, therefore, it is authorized by the Constitution under Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1, which grants Congress its spending power.

By Mr. KING of New York:

H.R. 988.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. KING of New York:

H.R. 989.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. KING of New York:

H.R. 990.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 991.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States

By Mr. LATTA.

H.R. 992.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 14

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces; And

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico:

H.R. 993.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico:

H.R. 994.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 995.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 section 8 Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 996.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2, relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States.

By Mr. KING of Iowa:

H.R. 997.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 of the Constitution.

By Mr. MEEHAN:

H.R. 998.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 1; and Article I, section 8, clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. POMPEO:

H.R. 999.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. CONYERS:

H.R. 1000.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. POMPEO:

H.R. 1001.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 1002.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ROKITA:

H.R. 1003.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States that states "The Congress shall have Power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD:

H.R. 1004.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 1005.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 1006.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution, to provide for the general welfare and make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of Congress.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 1007.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 1008.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 1009.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. STIVERS:

H.R. 1010.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 12 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. WENSTRUP:

H.R. 1011.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 9, Clause 7—No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

By Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois:

H.J. Res. 33.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 11 of the Constitution.

By Mr. CULBERSON:

H.J. Res. 34.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article V of the Constitution of the United States.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 20: Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 114: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 143: Mr. BABIN and Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 167: Mr. KILDEE and Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 169: Mr. NOLAN.

H.R. 173: Mr. HILL and Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 189: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 199: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 232: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.

H.R. 247: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 264: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 270: Mr. HILL and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 284: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 289: Mr. GIBBS.

H.R. 303: Ms. LOFGREN and Ms. ESTY.

H.R. 310: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 313: Ms. ESTY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LANDEVIN, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. TAKAI, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. STIVERS, and Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 321: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H.R. 333: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SIMPSON, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. POCAN, and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 344: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 380: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H.R. 383: Mr. HUELSKAMP.

H.R. 401: Mr. HILL, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. MOOLENAAR, and Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 403: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 427: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 445: Mr. GIBBS.

H.R. 449: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 452: Mr. LANCE.

H.R. 456: Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. POLIQUIN, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. ABRAHAM.

H.R. 484: Ms. SINEMA.

H.R. 485: Ms. FUDGE.

H.R. 494: Mr. POMPEO.

H.R. 509: Mr. BEYER.

H.R. 518: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 519: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 529: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.

H.R. 532: Mr. FOSTER, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 537: Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 546: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 551: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 555: Mr. BURGESS.

H.R. 556: Mr. COFFMAN and Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 572: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. STEWART.

H.R. 578: Mr. POLIQUIN.

H.R. 592: Mr. WELCH, Mr. HILL, and Mr. BLUM.

H.R. 594: Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. FINCHER, Mrs. WALORSKI, and Mr. MOOLENAAR.

H.R. 595: Mr. JORDAN.

H.R. 601: Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. COLLINS of New York, and Mr. BLUM.

H.R. 606: Mr. POE of Texas.

H.R. 612: Mr. HENSARLING.

H.R. 619: Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 622: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H.R. 628: Mr. MEEHAN.

H.R. 642: Ms. BROWNLEY of California and Ms. SINEMA.

H.R. 643: Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 647: Mr. RUSH and Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 648: Mr. RUSH, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 649: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 650: Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 662: Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, and Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 663: Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 670: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. HANNA.

H.R. 673: Ms. SINEMA.
 H.R. 703: Mr. BABIN and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
 H.R. 704: Mr. BABIN.
 H.R. 709: Mr. ROSKAM.
 H.R. 711: Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. RICHMOND, and Mr. OLSON.
 H.R. 721: Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HANNA, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Ms. TITUS, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. SCHOCK, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 722: Mr. BLUM.
 H.R. 723: Ms. ESTY.
 H.R. 729: Mr. JOLLY and Mr. HUFFMAN.
 H.R. 731: Mr. LOEBACK.
 H.R. 732: Mr. POCAN, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. KLINE, Mr. ASHFORD, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. POLIQUIN.
 H.R. 742: Ms. SINEMA.
 H.R. 751: Mr. RIBBLE and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
 H.R. 758: Mr. CHAFFETZ.
 H.R. 782: Mrs. LAWRENCE.
 H.R. 785: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
 H.R. 793: Mr. BLUM.
 H.R. 816: Mr. MULLIN, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. BABIN, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. HARDY, Mr. COLE, Mr. HUDSON, and Mr. ROUZER.
 H.R. 823: Mr. MCGOVERN and Ms. JACKSON LEE.
 H.R. 843: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
 H.R. 845: Mr. BENISHEK and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 846: Ms. DELBENE, Mr. KILMER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. HOYER, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. WELCH, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
 H.R. 850: Mr. SCHOCK.
 H.R. 855: Ms. SINEMA.
 H.R. 861: Mr. BERA, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. GABBARD, Ms. GRAHAM, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. NEAL, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. SABLON, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Ms. SINEMA.
 H.R. 863: Mr. TIPTON, Mr. HANNA, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. NUNES, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mr. CLAWSON of Florida.
 H.R. 868: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. CRAMER, and Mrs. BLACKBURN.
 H.R. 880: Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, and Mr. REED.
 H.R. 884: Mr. NOLAN.
 H.R. 885: Ms. SINEMA.
 H.R. 903: Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. POSEY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. HARPER, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. JONES, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. BABIN.
 H.R. 915: Mr. GRAYSON.
 H.R. 923: Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. BUCK, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Mr. ROSS.
 H.R. 927: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
 H.R. 932: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H.R. 936: Mr. LOBIONDO.
 H.R. 961: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
 H. Con. Res. 10: Mr. LEVIN.
 H. Con. Res. 13: Mr. BABIN.
 H. Res. 14: Mr. POSEY and Mr. YOHO.
 H. Res. 28: Mrs. LOWEY and Mr. PERLMUTTER.
 H. Res. 49: Mr. ZELDIN.
 H. Res. 54: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. TED LIEU of California.
 H. Res. 74: Mr. HUFFMAN.
 H. Res. 92: Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. MOORE, Mr. CICILLINE, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. MCNERNEY.
 H. Res. 102: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. BABIN.
 H. Res. 108: Mr. WALDEN, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. BLUM, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. BARR, Mr. FARR, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. BUCK, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. YODER, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. REED, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. WOODALL, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. CHABOT, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. NUNES.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CAREER OF CHAPLAIN
PAUL S. ANDERSON, USN CDR

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2015

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of our nation's gifted veterans, Commander Paul S. Anderson, Chaplain in the United States Navy. Commander Anderson has enjoyed a long and illustrious career as a Chaplain in the United States Navy. For twenty-five years he served as pastor, counselor and mentor to the thousands of men and women of the Navy and the Marine Corps providing them with moral and spiritual support.

Commander Anderson personifies honor, courage and commitment. He truly is a talented and gifted chaplain who has enjoyed amazing reach and impact to all who have benefitted from his ministry.

On May 1, 2015 the Navy says farewell to one of its best and most dedicated chaplains as Commander Anderson will retire from active duty service. He leaves his watch with the confident assurance that serving in one of the most distinctive ministries in the world was God's specific calling on his life. He has served his country with honor and distinction and today we honor him for his commitment and service.

Chaplain Anderson concludes his Navy career path as the Deputy Chaplain for Joint Forces Headquarters-National Capitol Region at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C. His portfolio included Joint Plans and Operations for Religious Support for ceremonies and circumstances that might overwhelm the capacity of civil authorities. Prior to that assignment, he was the Chief of the Department of Pastoral Care and Clinical Ethicist at the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital in Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Commander Anderson has served nobly at duty stations across the nation and around the world. They include: Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133, Gulfport, MS; USS *MIDWAY* (CV-41), Yokosuka, Japan; Chief of Naval Personnel Command, Washington, D.C.; Marine Corps Base, Okinawa, Japan; Naval District Washington, D.C.; USS *MONTAGUE* (CG-61), Norfolk, VA; Boston University, Boston, MA; Southwest Asia Region, Manama, Bahrain; Maritime Helicopter Strike Wing, Mayport, FL; National Naval Military Medical Center, Bethesda, MD; Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C.; Fort Belvoir Community Hospital, Fort Belvoir, VA; Joint Forces Headquarters-National Capital Region and Naval Sea Systems Command, Washington, D.C.

His decorations include: Joint Meritorious Service Medal; Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal (3); Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal; Meritorious Unit Com-

mendation Award; Good Conduct Award; Humanitarian Service Medal (2); National Defense Service Medal (2); Global War on Terrorism Medal (Expeditionary); Global War on Terrorism Medal; Sea Service Ribbon and Overseas Service Ribbon.

Chaplain Anderson has earned four graduate degrees; a Master of Divinity from Andrews University, a Master of Education in Counseling and Personnel Services from the University of Maryland and a Masters of Sacred Theology in Religion and Culture from Boston University. His Doctor of Ministry degree was conferred by Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. He also holds certifications in Suicide Awareness and Prevention, Civil Mediation, Alternate Workplace Dispute Resolution, Temperament Analysis, Marriage Enrichment, Workforce Diversity and is a certified Life Coach.

Commander Anderson anchors his life with the following text: Psalms 37:4-5; Proverbs 3:5-6; John 14:1-3; Romans 8:28; Galatians 6:9; and 1 John 1:9.

On behalf of a grateful nation we salute you Chaplain Anderson, and wish you fair winds and following seas as you enter retirement and embrace a new chapter in your life.

INTRODUCING THE "MANAGED
CARBON PRICE ACT OF 2015"

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2015

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to re-introduce legislation to put a price on harmful carbon emissions.

Tackling climate change is not merely a warm, fuzzy idea championed by tree huggers. It is a growing crisis with global implications that environmentalists, business leaders, political leaders, and military strategists alike cannot ignore. Earlier this year, the White House included climate change among its "top strategic risks," citing "increased natural disasters, refugee flows, and conflicts over basic resources like food and water." Even the Pentagon has been sounding the alarm on climate change.

In reintroducing this legislation, I call continued attention to an issue of which I have long been a champion. I first introduced legislation to impose a carbon tax in 2009, recognizing the scientific consensus and anticipating the growing call to action precipitated by the increasingly drastic weather events and their growing human, environmental and fiscal cost.

My legislation, the Managed Carbon Price Act of 2015, places a price on carbon emissions that would increase over time. The proceeds from this legislation go into a newly-created Energy and Economic Security Trust Fund where 100 percent of the revenue goes

back to the public to offset any price increases. This bill is good for the environment and good for business.

While Seattleites have long recognized the need to act on climate change, I am pleased to see President Obama and the Environmental Protection Agency take bold actions to confront this growing threat. With our international partners moving forward, multinational and American businesses already accounting for future prices on carbon, and former Republican officials acknowledging the urgency of this growing threat, it is past time for Congressional Republicans to accept the science and work together with Democrats to combat climate change. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING THE TUCSON PEACE
CENTER'S 33RD ANNUAL PEACE
FAIR & MUSIC FESTIVAL

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2015

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the Tucson Peace Center's Peace Fair and Music Festival on its 33rd Anniversary next Saturday, February 28, 2015.

The Tucson Peace Center is an umbrella organization for 150 of Tucson's local peace, social justice, environmental, and labor groups. Regular Peace Fair participants include the Women's International League of Peace and Freedom (WILPF, celebrating their 100th anniversary this year), Move to Amend, Veterans for Peace, the American Civil Liberties Union, AZ4NORML, Jobs With Justice, Nuclear Resister, Physicians for Social Responsibility, and Watershed Management Group among many others. Newly formed organizations like \$15 Now, Arizonans for Gun Safety, Tucson United for Climate Action (TUCAN), and Friends of Rosa will also be on hand.

The Peace Fair and Music Festival is an opportunity for residents to learn what is happening in their community while you catch up with old friends and make new ones. There are free activities for the kids like a labyrinth, face-painting, and a whimsy parade. The Culture of Peace Alliance will offer hands-on activities to entertain young fair-goers.

This year's theme is challenging poverty. Growing income inequality and stagnating working-class wages place many friends and neighbors in precarious financial positions. As a community, we seek answers to the structural problems that exacerbate poverty. We also offer an opportunity to enrich our lives through meaningful engagement and re-envisioning what constitutes true wealth on a planet undergoing massive ecological changes.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

I want to acknowledge all of the dedicated workers from the 150 local peace, social justice, environmental and labor groups who volunteered their time to make the Peace Fair and Music Festival happen every year.

Congratulations and best wishes to the Tucson Peace Center's Peace Fair and Music Festival as we join to celebrate its 33rd year of expanding peace in the Tucson community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2015

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote yesterday because of a serious illness in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted:

Roll Call #77—YEA.

Roll Call #78—AYE.

Roll Call #79—NAY.

Roll Call #80—YEA.

REMEMBERING DEAN SMITH

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2015

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dean Smith, one of North Carolina's most admired and accomplished citizens, who passed away on February 7, 2015. Dean Smith will long be remembered for his successes as head coach of the men's basketball team at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill from 1961 until his retirement in 1997. The statistics are dazzling: two national championships, 11 Final Four appearances, 17 Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season titles and 13 ACC tournament titles, 8-times ACC Coach of the Year, and Head Coach of the gold-medal winning USA Olympic Basketball team in 1976. He retired with 879 victories, which was the NCAA Division I men's basketball record at that time.

Behind these statistics is the coach of whom his long-time rival Coach Mike Krzyzewski of Duke University said, "He was one of a kind . . . one of the greatest basketball minds and a magnificent teacher and tactician." The tributes that have come forth from his players uniformly praise his lifelong loyalty to them and his excellence as a mentor. "He was more than a coach," recalled Michael Jordan, "He was my mentor, my teacher, my second father. Coach Smith was always there for me whenever I needed him and I loved him for it. In teaching me the game of basketball, he taught me about life."

Dean Smith was also a powerful force for good in the community, working actively and courageously for civil rights and equal justice throughout his life. I have known Dean since my student days at UNC, when he was an assistant coach and an active member of Binkley Baptist Church, a fledgling congregation focused on social justice. His sister, Joan Ewing, managed my district office for eight

years, and his daughter Kristen was on my campaign staff. I was honored to join his family at the White House in 2013, when he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. The intervening years mark an unparalleled career, a life well-lived, and thousands of lives positively shaped and influenced.

With Dean Smith it was not a matter of a celebrity endorsing worthwhile causes; Dean was there all along. Long before he was a national figure, in 1958, he accompanied an African-American friend to a restaurant in Chapel Hill, thereby breaking down the barrier of segregation. Much later, when long-time Binkley Baptist pastor Robert Seymour told the story to Washington Post reporter John Feinstein, Coach Smith expressed some irritation: "I wish he hadn't done that." "Dean," the reporter replied, "you should be proud of doing something like that." Dean Smith looked him in the eye, "John, you should never be proud of doing the right thing. You should just do the right thing."

This story captures the essence of what Dean Smith was about. Mr. Speaker, I have selected three complementary pieces to fill out this exceptional story, and I ask that they be included in the record.

[From the Raleigh News and Observer, Feb. 9, 2015]

DEAN SMITH LEAVES A LEGACY FAR BEYOND SPORTS (Editorial)

Jerry Stackhouse, the former basketball All-America for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, remembered his former coach, Dean Smith, with a personal anecdote that had little to do with coaching or a game. He recalled that years after he left Smith's program, he would send his financial records to Smith.

Dean Smith, who died Saturday night at the age of 83 after several years of declining health, did that for a lot of former players, famous and, more often than not, not famous. He found them jobs, called if a child was sick, counseled them through personal crises.

And he did more. Long before integration was common in North Carolina, Smith and his minister and a young African-American student walked into a Chapel Hill restaurant, sat down and ate dinner. Chapel Hill was thereafter integrated. He did, in effect, the same with the men's basketball program, bringing in Charles Scott as the first black player. Today, Scott remembers that Smith always called him "Charles," because that was his name and his preference, in contrast to the more sports-friendly Charlie.

GENUINE AND GENEROUS

He lectured governors on what he believed to be the heinous wrong of the death penalty. He endorsed liberal politicians. He did not like criticism, but he did not fear it.

He contributed to charities, believing in the dignity of others and the obligation to share. He was a sportsman, a thinker, a theologian.

And, yes, he was one of the greatest coaches in the history of sports, all sports. His records and his innovations (the four-corners offense, the huddle at the foul line before shots) will be exhaustively documented in the next days, as the coach is widely mourned.

But so many who played for him, and so many who never played for him or even met him, will remember first his humanity and his genuineness.

For he was the most decent of men. It was bred in him at birth, as his parents taught him the value of all, and they lived those values themselves, pushing for integration of the races in Kansas when that was not a common much less a popular cause. Young Dean Smith learned well, and he, too, lived those values all his life.

If one talked to him about his upbringing, asked the question, "Coach, where did your views on life and values come from?" he would go back to Kansas and his parents, both public school teachers. In 1934, his father coached the Emporia High school team to a state championship, with the first black player ever in the Kansas state tournament.

TIME FOR EVERYONE

Though Smith held strong opinions, he understood that those who didn't agree but were loyal fans and alumni of the institution he represented were due respect as well. It was the way he treated everyone, whether a big booster of the university's athletics program during a golf game or a kid on a playground. Everyone got time, and everyone got a smile.

His way, and his skills, he shared generously. Said one high school coach, exiting a Smith-taught clinic for coaches: "What that man knows . . ."

Make no mistake. He was a ferocious competitor, and he hated to lose. But he won well. Oft-cited in his obituaries was his reaction to his team's victory in the 1982 national championship against Georgetown. It was an emotional, hard-fought and close game. But when UNC won, Smith's first move was to hug John Thompson, the Georgetown coach. Class, all the commentators said.

Yes, but that was simply the man. When coaches against whom Smith had competed got into trouble or needed help in finding another position, he would make the calls himself to other schools, and his blessing was gold. A seeming multitude of his former players became coaches themselves.

But they also became teachers and doctors and principals and successful people in work and in life. Dean Smith took great pleasure in that, primarily in their happiness. Always he would be "the coach." Always he was first the man, and the friend.

GRANTLAND: DEAN SMITH, 1931-2015

(By Charles P. Pierce, Feb. 9, 2015)

One year, when the Final Four was being held in Atlanta and it coincided, as it occasionally does, with Easter, my family and I went to services at the Ebenezer Baptist Church—the new one, across the street from the imposing place in which both Reverend Martin Luther Kings once preached, and in which Alberta Williams King, the wife of Martin Sr. and the mother of Martin Jr., was shot to death while playing the organ in 1974. The old church, still majestic, is now a National Historic Site. After the services, we walked across the street and into the sanctuary. It was cool and dark. Very few people were there.

As part of the experience of the site, recordings of sermons from both Reverend Kings are played in the sanctuary. Looking around, we saw a solitary figure sitting far in the back, his elbows on his knees and his hands folded. His eyes were closed. And he was listening to the recordings with great intensity. It was Dean Smith. I left him alone with his thoughts. He'd earned his private moments in this sacred space.

Before discussing his career as one of the three greatest coaches in the history of college basketball, we must deal with one aspect of Smith's life that trumps all the

championships, all the wins, all the losses, and all the great players who came his way. The fact is that, when this country was finally forced through blood and witness to confront the great moral crisis that grew out of its original sin, Smith was a winter soldier of the first rank.

His father integrated a high school team in Kansas in the early 1930s. Smith himself walked into a Chapel Hill restaurant as part of the first great wave of protests in the 1950s. He tried to recruit Lou Hudson, and then he did recruit Charlie Scott, blowing up the color line in the Atlantic Coast Conference forever. He brought Scott home to dinner, and he brought Scott to church, always the most segregated place in America, even, alas, today.

It's hard today to imagine what profound moral choices these were when Smith made them. It's hard today to imagine how easy it would have been for him to make a different choice, to go along and get along. Smith would have been a great basketball coach if he'd gone along and gotten along. He might have won 879 games eventually, after other coaches had made the choices and changed the world. But he would not have been the man he was, and that makes all the difference today.

Smith died on Saturday. He had been ill a long time with a form of dementia, and that is a fight in which I happen to have a particularly nasty dog. I know from my own family's battles with this cruellest of all diseases, a disease that disappears the individual long before it kills the body, that the work of the kindest mercy is to become the memory that the person has lost. It is something atavistic in us, almost visceral, that awareness that the tribe needs to remember—and that the collective memory is always plural. We tell their stories, even to them, even while they are still alive, because we are their surviving memory, because the person already is lost.

So that is the memory I have of Dean Smith. That, one Easter morning, I saw him in a sacred place and that the air in the place was cool and solemn and as thick with history as the morning sunbeams were thick with dust. He was deep in the shadows, eyes closed, lost in his thoughts, listening to the powerful words of preachers long and sadly dead. I left him alone there and walked back out into the sunlight.

Let's talk about the coach for a moment, though, because that was the heart of his story, the thing that enabled the world to hear the rest of it. There is the undoubted excellence. There are the wins. And there is the incredible array of talent that ran through his North Carolina program. (In the World Tournament of Alumni, I'll take a five of James Worthy, Brad Daugherty, Vince Carter, Michael Jordan, and, what the hell, George Karl and go play anyone, except maybe John Wooden's boys from UCLA.) But one of the most remarkable things about it is that, except for two of the most monumental mistakes in the history of college basketball, Smith might have had the game's most obviously unfinished career. He won his first national title in 1982, when Georgetown's Fred Brown tossed the ball to Worthy as the Hoyas were after the last shot. He won his next one in 1993, when Michigan's Chris Webber had the mother of all vapor locks in the same situation. What it would have been like to have Smith retire without a national championship I have no idea—especially not in the win-or-die way we measure excellence these days—but it would have certainly been one of the greatest statistical anomalies of all time.

In style, Smith was the bench jockey's bench jockey. He rarely rose, but he chewed on officials with the best of them. (Wooden was very much the same, according to a lot of people who played against his teams.) In fact, Smith remains only the second head coach ever to be ejected from a Final Four game (Al McGuire was the first), when he was asked to absent himself from the Hoosier Dome late in a semifinal against Kansas in 1991. He was the most famous sneak-smoker prior to the arrival on the national scene of Barack Obama.

All of which brings me to another Dean Smith story. On March 28, 1977, which actually was a rainy night in Georgia, his Tar Heels were contending with McGuire's last Marquette team for a national championship. The Warriors had led by 12 at halftime, but they had frittered away that lead and North Carolina had caught them and tied the game. These were the days before the shot clock, children, and Smith had devised the four corners offense, which was essentially a very elaborate game of keep-away. His point guard, Phil Ford, happened to be a master of it. With Marquette on the verge of collapse, Smith went into the stall, and he did so with star freshman forward Mike O'Koren on the bench. Astonished by Smith's move, McGuire had his team lay back in a zone, which allowed his players to catch their breath. Finally, with O'Koren at the scorer's table hoping desperately to get back in the game, a North Carolina sub named Bruce Buckley took the ball to the basket. Bo Ellis slapped the shot away, and you could feel the momentum shift back again like the works of a great iron clock. Marquette won. It was the best sports night of my life, and I sent Smith a Christmas card every year after for the next five years. Really, I did.

He was very much an eccentric in his own way, and had his best days before the game was so homogenized and commercialized that the eccentricity was bled out of it. He coached at the same time as Bob Knight at Indiana, and Abe Lemons at Texas, and McGuire at Marquette. It was a game for poets then, not for the slick salesmen of the modern era. Some of them were beat poets, and some of them wrote epics. I always thought of Smith as one of those all-American craftsmen-poets—Longfellow, maybe, or Edgar Lee Masters. His lines were always perfectly metered. Lord, how his game always rhymed.

As I grow older, I grow impatient with the impermanence of memory, with history now considered to be whatever came over your iPhone 15 minutes ago. It is inadequate to what we are. It truncates the collective memory, and that is never a good thing. We are each other's stories, all of us. We keep other stories alive so we can be assured that ours will stay alive too. That is the most devastating thing that happens with the disease that took Smith's life. If we're not very careful, and if we don't make sure to keep the memories we have that are lost to the person with the disease, it breaks that cycle of collective memory and we are all less for that. I learned that watching this disease invade my own family, and it is why I try so very hard to remember my father's voice, even though it's mainly lost to me now.

So remember Dean Smith however you wish—as a coach, as a teacher, as a reluctant celebrity, or as a friend. For me, I will remember him in the cool shadows of the sanctuary on a bright Easter morning, listening to the words of men long dead and gone. I remember him there now, for his sake and for my own. I remember him there in the small

piece of a very sacred place that his life had earned.

TRIBUTE TO DEAN SMITH

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2015

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following article in my remembrance of Dean Smith.

CAROLINA ATHLETICS: THE STORIES ARE TRUE

(By Adam Lucas, 2-8-15)

I have been sitting here staring at this screen for 30 minutes. And what I have finally decided I want you to know the most about Dean Smith is this: it's true.

In the next few hours and days, as the tributes to the legendary man pour in, you are going to hear all of the incredible stories again. Some you may hear for the first time. Some you may hear for the hundredth time. These stories are true, and you should remember all of them, because now it's our job to pass them down. Don't embellish them. They don't need it. They are good enough with just the facts.

You will hear basketball stories. You will hear former players talk about how Smith would tell them exactly what was going to happen in a game. He would tell them what the opponent would do, how the Tar Heels would react, and how the opponent would react to that reaction. Then it would happen, all of it, just as he described.

These stories are true. We know this because we sat in Carmichael in 1974 when his team came back from eight points in 17 seconds against Duke with no three-point line. I just told that story to my children on Saturday night when we drove home from the airport after returning from the win at Boston College. My nine-year-old son was talking about a crazy NBA comeback he'd read about.

"Do you know," I said, "that Carolina came back from eight points down in 17 seconds with no three-point line?"

"Whoa," said my daughter. "Is that true?"

It is true.

Those of us of a different generation than the Carmichael crowd were in the Smith Center when Smith's simple act of calling a timeout so shook a top-20 opponent that they meekly crumbled. I will forever believe that's what happened when Smith took a timeout after Henrik Rodl made a three-pointer against Florida State with less than ten minutes left on the clock in 1993. Rodl's three-pointer had cut the FSU lead to 17 points. 17 points!

It didn't matter. All that mattered was that the Florida State players and coaches knew Smith thought a comeback was possible, or else he wouldn't burn one of his precious timeouts. And if Smith thought a comeback was possible, then it was possible, and he's done this before, you know, and uh oh, there went another turnover, and it's getting kind of loud in here, and pretty soon Carolina had an 82-77 win.

That was true. That happened. Dean Smith called a timeout, and Florida State wilted.

And yet despite all those wins, we know exactly how uncomfortable Smith was with celebrating any of them. I can report, with authority, that with much cajoling from his players, he once did the "raise the roof" gesture after his Tar Heels won the 1997 ACC

Tournament championship, and then again after earning a spot in the Final Four. It was the mid-1990's. Everyone made mistakes.

Otherwise, however, the man who never looked flustered on the sideline looked completely awkward in victory. He would almost apologetically shake the other coach's hand. If it happened to be an ACC or NCAA championship, he would try to disappear while the nets were being cut, so unwilling was he to climb the ladder and be the focal point of the fans and players.

Most of the time, those of us in the stands would chant, "Dean! Dean! Dean!" when he was finally persuaded to cut the final snippet. It seems a little disrespectful now. But it was the 1980s and 1990s. All of us made mistakes.

It didn't really matter, because he would act like he didn't hear us. With scissors in hand, before cutting the first strand, he would point to every manager, player and assistant coach he could find.

That was true. That happened after every championship, and there were a lot of them.

There are also those who will tell you those championships are completely insignificant. Funny thing about the people who most often say that: they are invariably the ones who knew him best, the ones who most understood his true character.

"I can't put his impact on me into words," Phil Ford said of Smith. "I don't know where I'd be without him in my life. He's been such an influence on me, and a friend and a brother and a father figure . . . Before I chose North Carolina, I felt that Coach Smith would be there for me my entire life. I was right."

Imagine that. A 17-year-old boy felt Dean Smith would be there for him for his entire life, and 40 years later, he still believes it. Wouldn't you like to have one person say that about you in your life? Dean Smith has—this is not an exaggeration—hundreds.

"All of that is credited to him," Michael Jordan once said of his career. "It never would have happened without Coach Smith."

These quotes mean a lot to us because they are from Phil Ford and Michael Jordan. But what Smith knew, and what he made every one of his players feel, is that the number of points they scored for him made absolutely no difference. My father and I had a joke in the mid-1990s. Carolina had a player named Pat Sullivan who was not at all flashy. At various times, he played on teams with George Lynch and Eric Montross and Rasheed Wallace and Jerry Stackhouse, much better-known players who were prone to occasionally doing the spectacular.

It never, ever failed: Stackhouse could have had the most ferocious dunk of the season and Wallace could have thrown down an absurd alley-oop and Montross could have had a double-double and Lynch could have had the game-winning steal. Then, in the car on the way home, we would turn on the Tar Heel Sports Network to hear Smith's postgame comments and seemingly every time, they would start with, "Well, Pat had a good game," because he had set a screen to free a teammate for an open shot that the teammate missed.

That happened. Pat had good games. Dean Smith talked about it. At the time, we laughed, and yet 20 years later, we still remember it.

This seems like the right time to point out that without ever really knowing he was doing it, Dean Smith gave all of us some of the best moments of our lives with the most important people in our lives. It doesn't matter whether you attended every game in the

Smith era or whether you watched every game on television. Because of the way Smith did it, and for how long he did it, we could relate through generations.

We cried in the living room (I did that, after Louisville beat Carolina in 1986 in the NCAA Tournament) and we danced around that same living room (my dad and I did that, after Rick Fox hit the shot against Oklahoma in 1990) and we high-fived in the stands.

That's what we did in 1993 in the Louisiana Superdome. My dad is an accountant and therefore spends most of March and April at the office. But when Carolina made the Final Four, he would find a way to get to the game. In 1993, he waited until the Tar Heels defeated Kansas in the national semifinals. He stayed at work two more days, then caught a flight with two connections from Raleigh to New Orleans. He slid into his seat minutes before the national championship game tipped off against Michigan, and so I can say that I watched Carolina win the national title with my dad.

We went to Bourbon Street after the game, because that's what everyone told us you were supposed to do, and so there we were—perhaps the two least Bourbon Street-ish people in all of New Orleans, including one CPA with a pile of unfinished tax returns on his desk back in Raleigh—high fiving the Tar Heel players and taunting Dick Vitale (who had picked Michigan to win the game), and we did all of that because of Dean Smith.

Without Dean Smith and Carolina basketball, I assume and hope we would have found something else to talk about and live together. But because of Dean Smith and Carolina basketball, I never have to know for sure if that's true. The people we cheered and laughed with on all those incredible days are the people we cry with—if we're lucky—today. I told my father the news this morning. Later, he texted me this:

"I am very, very sorry. It is really very sad. He was a large part of our family for many, many years and many, many fun times. We had a lot of good times and he was always there. It doesn't seem possible to me. It seems like he and the good times ought to last forever."

And so that is why this news will be devastating to so many of us, because there are so many families who this morning will be texting and thinking those exact same words. We aren't ready for it to end.

About a year ago, I was at the Smith Center on a typical weekday afternoon. A customized van was parked in the first parking space outside the basketball office, and I knew. As I walked into the basketball office, Dean Smith came out, being pushed in a wheelchair, a Carolina hat on his head.

It was awful, and it makes my eyes moisten even now to think about it. It was not at all the way I wanted to think about him. And I would like to admit something to you now: from then on, when I saw that van, I would sometimes take a different path into the building, because I wanted my Dean Smith to be the one I remembered. I wanted my Dean Smith to be the one who I mentioned my daughter's name to on exactly one occasion, and six months later when passing me in the parking lot, he recalled it perfectly and asked how she was doing.

That's my Dean Smith and I wanted that to be everyone's Dean Smith. I don't want today's students to think of him as old or sick. Understand this: this man could do anything. This man could coach and this man could help integrate a town or a league and this man changed the lives of hundreds

of teenagers who played for him plus thousands of the rest of us who lived vicariously through their exploits.

It still boggles my mind that so many Carolina fans in 2015 don't even remember the era when Smith was on the sideline. He's as much a name on a building as a coach to current UNC students. It's been hard enough living in a basketball world without Dean Smith in it. Now we have to consider living in an overall world without Dean Smith in it.

I don't want to be part of that world. And luckily, I don't have to. On Monday, I will pack my son's lunch, and I will write a Dean Smith quote on the napkin. I don't know yet which one it will be, but I know that when I see him on Monday afternoon, I will ask him about it, and we will talk, and Dean Smith will be the one who enabled that to happen.

That's true. That will happen. And it will keep happening, and we are the ones who get to do it. I guess that pretty soon I will feel lucky for having these experiences and getting the opportunity to cheer for him and learn from him and admire him.

But right now I really think I want to sit down and have a good cry.

RECOGNIZING MR. RAY GREENBERG

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2015

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to extend my congratulations to Ray Greenberg, of Upper Southampton, on being named Person of the Year by the Feasterville Business Association. A certified financial planner, Ray Greenberg is recognized as one who continues to work for the betterment of the association and its members within the Feasterville Business Association he founded. A busy schedule has not deterred him from service to other local charitable and civic groups, such as the Southampton Free Library, where, as a trustee, he has led fundraising efforts for the Library's Access campaign designed to help renovate the library and expand programming for adults and children. A 32nd degree Mason and past president of the Quaker Shriners Club, Ray Greenberg's enthusiasm and spirit of volunteerism is widely recognized and I congratulate him on receipt of this honor, as well as his continued commitment to the economic success of the community and its residents. In so doing, Ray Greenberg inspires others to follow his lead.

FATHER KEVIN CORCORAN

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2015

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Father Kevin Corcoran who, after 16 years of support and service to the Department for Persons with Disabilities will be honored as Person of the Year on Sunday, February 22, 2015 at the 45th Annual Murray House Dinner Dance in Paterson, NJ.

Father Kevin Corcoran is a native of Dover, New Jersey. In 1986, he graduated from Morris Catholic High School in Denville, and upon graduation dedicated the next four years of his life to serving in the United States Air Force. He demonstrated remarkable courage and dedication to serving his country, and would continue to exemplify core Air Force values: "Integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do".

During his time in the Air Force, Father Kevin was stationed in Texas, Colorado, and Korea. While in Korea, he received a Black Belt in Taekwondo from the University of Seoul.

In 1999, Father Kevin answered the call to a vocation in priesthood, and enrolled in St. Mary's seminary and University in Baltimore, Maryland. Specializing in theological studies, he received both a B.A. and M.A. in theology.

His first assignment as a priest was at St. Anthony Parish in Hawthorne, where he served as a parochial vicar from 1999–2007. As such, Father Kevin carried out the functions of teaching, sanctifying and leading the people of St. Anthony's parish. He and his colleagues worked tirelessly to guide and lead the community of St. Anthony's through faith and fellowship.

For several months in 2010, while assisting his mother who was ill, Father Kevin did priestly ministry at St. Mary's Parish, in Goldsboro, North Carolina.

From 2007–2012, as well as 2011 to the present, Father Kevin has served as priest-secretary to Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli of the Diocese of Paterson, in addition to being Vice Chancellor and Master of Ceremonies for Episcopal Liturgical events. Father Kevin has had the privilege to work with Bishop Serratelli, who has shown exemplary leadership within his community, serving on multiple boards such as the Committee on Divine Worship and Chairman of the Ad hoc Sub-Committee for the Review of Scripture Translations.

Through the Department for Persons with Disabilities, Father Kevin and Bishop Serratelli have greatly assisted adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities by providing residential, vocational, spiritual, and social services. Their involvement has empowered persons with disabilities to become active, contributing, and valued members of their community, and have helped them to live life to the fullest with dignity and respect.

The Department for Persons with Disabilities is an organization that is near and dear to my heart. I have attended the Annual Murray House Dinner Dance, and have had the privilege of watching their organization grow and flourish throughout the years. Father Corcoran is an exceptional man and I commend him on his achievements.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the achievements of individuals such as Father Kevin Corcoran.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Father Kevin Corcoran's coworkers, family and friends, all those whose lives he has touched, and me, in recognizing the work of Father Kevin Corcoran.

NAACP ON ITS 106TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2015

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, better known as the NAACP, which is celebrating its 106th Birthday this week.

Since its founding in 1909, the NAACP has been at the forefront of the fight to protect the civil rights of all Americans. The mission statement of the NAACP is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination in the United States. It has done so by advocating and influencing the passage of landmark legislation ranging from the Civil Rights Act to the Voting Rights Act, and monumental court decisions such as the holdings in *Brown v. the Board of Education* and *Smith v. Allwright*.

Maryland's 4th Congressional District, made up of portions of Anne Arundel and Prince George's Counties, is the only majority minority suburban district in the country. So I can speak from personal experience to the accomplishments of the NAACP that have impacted my district and constituents.

The NAACP has had a presence in Anne Arundel County since 1944 and has done much to advance the cause of civil rights for its residents. Just as was the case in many other counties across the nation, Anne Arundel County operated under Jim Crow laws until the latter half of the 20th century. Segregation was the law of the land and the County's African-American residents experienced racial discrimination in all aspects of their lives. The NAACP was central in the fight to combat these injustices and worked over the following decades to expand voter participation, legally challenge the segregated school system, and bring the equality of opportunity to Anne Arundel County.

When Hester V. King founded the Prince George's County chapter of the NAACP in 1935, there were 60,000 people living in the county, approximately 10 percent of whom were African-American. But, as in many parts of Maryland, the population exploded in the decades after the Second World War. African-Americans made up a significant part of this population expansion, but found they continued to encounter racial discrimination and segregation. During this transitional period, the NAACP was involved in numerous civil rights issues in Prince George's County, from the legal challenges that led to the elimination of the dual school system to the creation of the Human Relations Commission just to name a few. Prince George's County is now the wealthiest African American-majority County in the United States. This success is thanks in no small part to the NAACP, which has always resolutely placed them in the vanguard of the struggle for equality.

Yet despite all that has been accomplished over the years there is still much to be done. Racial profiling is a pervasive policy in both the workplace and in many police departments

all over the country, unequal law enforcement on young black men, and threats to voter access shows that the work championed by the NAACP is as important today as it was 106 years ago at its founding. So while it is right that we look back and recognize all the progress that has been made under their leadership, we also must look to the future to what remains to be accomplished under the continued leadership of the NAACP.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2015

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I want to state that on Thursday, February 12, I unfortunately missed two roll call votes as I was attending the bill signing ceremony at the White House for the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act, of which I am a proud original cosponsor. This law will go a long way to increase access to mental health care and suicide prevention resources for military servicemembers and veterans. Had I been present I would have voted:

1. NO—Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 101

I would have voted no in order to allow a vote on H.R. 861, a clean funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security through the end of fiscal year 2015, which would prevent a partial government shutdown and provide certainty that DHS operations to protect Americans will proceed without interruption.

2. NO—Approving H. Res. 101

I would have voted no on H. Res. 101, which prevented the House from considering any amendments to either H.R. 644 or H.R. 636.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for roll call votes 71–76 due to a family emergency.

Had I been present, I would have voted no on #71, no on #72, no on #73, yes on #74, no on #75, and yes on #76.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to illness, I was unable to attend votes the week of January 5, 2015. I would have supported final passage of the following bills:

Roll Call #7 (H.R. 22: Hire More Heroes Act of 2015—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass)

Roll Call #8 (H.R. 26: Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass)

Roll Call #9 (H.R. 37: Promoting Job Creation and Reducing Small Business Burdens Act—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass)

Roll Call #10 (H.R. 23: National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass)

Roll Call #14 (H.R. 30: Save American Workers Act of 2015—On Passage)

Roll Call #16 (H.R. 3: Keystone XL Pipeline Act—On Passage)

Due to illness, I was also unable to attend votes the week of January 19, 2015. I would have supported final passage of the following bills:

Roll Call #41 (H.R. 161: Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act—On Passage)

Roll Call #45 (H.R. 7: No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act of 2015—On Passage)

RECOGNIZING COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION, THOMAS S. WINKOWSKI

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2015

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retiring acting Commissioner of Customs and Border Protection, Thomas S. Winkowski. He has served with distinction, and is now ending his tenure after a 39-year career with CBP and other border security agencies. His tireless efforts have helped keep our borders secure and improved the efficiency and effectiveness of our border operations.

Thomas Winkowski joined the U.S. Customs Service in 1975 as a cooperative education student. Upon graduating from Boston's Northeastern University in 1978, he was assigned to Los Angeles where he became a Customs inspector. He has subsequently served as Miami's port director, director at Los Angeles International Airport as well as Director of field operations in Miami from 2002 to 2007.

Mr. Winkowski assumed the role of acting commissioner on March 30th, 2013, taking the lead role of the 60,000-employee Customs and Border Protection agency. He has been a consistent advocate for innovation and efficiency, and since serving as assistant commissioner in CBP's Office of Field Operations in 2007, he has developed CBP into a world-class law enforcement organization through a stringent process of modernization and expansion of global operations. Mr. Winkowski also served as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement where he led 20,000 employees in more than 400 offices in the United States and 48 foreign countries.

In recognition of his excellent and distinguished service, Mr. Winkowski was awarded the Meritorious Presidential Rank Award by President Bush in 2004. In 2009, his service was also recognized by President Obama, who awarded him the Distinguished Executive Presidential Rank Award.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Thomas S. Winkowski, retiring acting commissioner of Customs and Border Protection. His years of dedication and commitment to our country have truly made this nation safer today. Thank you for this time.

HONORING THE 2014 FELLOWS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF INVENTORS (NAI)

HON. DENNIS A. ROSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2015

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 170 inventors who will soon be recognized at the California Institute of Technology and inducted as the 2014 Fellows of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI). In order to be named as a Fellow, these men and women were nominated by their peers and have undergone the scrutiny of the NAI Selection Committee, having had their innovations deemed as making significant impact on quality of life, economic development, and welfare of society. Collectively, among this elite group holds nearly 5,000 patents.

The individuals making up this year's class of Fellows include individuals from 114 research universities and non-profit research institutes spanning not just the United States but also the world. The now 414 member group of Fellows is comprised of 61 presidents and senior leadership of research universities and non-profit research institutes, 208 members of the other National Academies, 21 inductees of the National Inventors Hall of Fame, 16 recipients of the U.S. National Medal of Technology and Innovation, 10 recipients of the U.S. National Medal of Science, 21 Nobel Laureates, 11 Lemelson-MIT prize recipients, 112 AAAS Fellows, among other awards and distinctions.

The National Academy of Inventors was founded in 2010 by Paul R. Sanberg at the University of South Florida. Its mission is to recognize and encourage inventors with patents issued from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, enhance the visibility of academic technology and innovation, encourage the disclosure of intellectual property, educate and mentor innovative students, and translate the inventions of its members to benefit society.

The contributions made to society through innovation are immeasurable. I commend these individuals, and the organizations that support them, for the work that they do to revolutionize the world we live in. As the following inventors are inducted, may it encourage future innovators to strive to meet this high honor and continue the spirit of innovation.

The 2014 NAI Fellows include:

Ilhan A. Aksay, Princeton University; Nancy L. Allbritton, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Jan P. Allebach, Purdue University; Daniel W. Armstrong, The University of Texas at Arlington; Frances H. Arnold, California Institute of Technology; Kyriacos A. Athanasiou, University of California, Davis; Nadine N. Aubry, Northeastern University; David Baltimore, California Institute of Technology; Amit Bandyopadhyay, Washington State University; Joseph J. Beaman, Jr., The

University of Texas at Austin; James A. Birchler, University of Missouri-Columbia; Donald R. Bobbitt, University of Arkansas; Jeffrey T. Borenstein, The Charles Stark Draper Laboratory; H. Kim Bottomly, Wellesley College; Scott A. Brandt, University of California, Santa Cruz; Steven P. Briggs, University of California, San Diego; Robert A. Brown, Boston University; Karen J.L. Burg, Kansas State University; Robert H. Byrne, University of South Florida; A. Robert Calderbank, Duke University; Emily A. Carter, Princeton University; Alexander N. Cartwright, The State University of New York; H. Jonathan Chao, New York University; Ching-Shih Chen, The Ohio State University; Ashutosh Chilkoti, Duke University; Arul M. Chinnaiyan, University of Michigan; Steven Chu, Stanford University; James J. Coleman, The University of Texas at Dallas; J. Edward Colgate, Northwestern University; Barry S. Collier, The Rockefeller University; R. Graham Cooks, Purdue University; Rory A. Cooper, University of Pittsburgh; Harold G. Craighead, Cornell University; Charles S. Craik, University of California, San Francisco; Alfred J. Crosby, University of Massachusetts Amherst; Marcos Dantus, Michigan State University; Huw M.L. Davies, Emory University; Mark R.D. Davies, University of Limerick; Mark E. Dean, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville; Richard D. DiMarchi, Indiana University; Michael A. Dirr, The University of Georgia; Richard A. Dixon, University of North Texas; John P. Donoghue, Brown University; Jonathan S. Dordich, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; Jennifer A. Doudna, University of California, Berkeley; Anatoly Dritschilo, Georgetown University; Robert V. Duncan, Texas Tech University; Russell D. Dupuis, Georgia Institute of Technology; Victor J. Dzau, Duke University; James H. Eberwine, University of Pennsylvania; Elazer R. Edelman, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; J. Gary Eden, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Jennifer H. Elisseeff, Johns Hopkins University; Sir Martin J. Evans, Cardiff University; David A. Evans, Harvard University; Gregg B. Fields, Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies; Stephen R. Forrest, University of Michigan; Michael W. Fountain, University of South Florida; Ingrid Fritsch, University of Arkansas; Cynthia M. Furse, The University of Utah; Elsa M. Garmire, Dartmouth College; Samuel H. Gellman, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Amit Goyal, Oak Ridge National Laboratory; Bruce D. Hammock, University of California, Davis; Justin Hanes, Johns Hopkins University; Frank W. Harris, The University of Akron; Vikki Hazelwood, Stevens Institute of Technology; Maurice P. Herlihy, Brown University; John C. Herr, University of Virginia; David R. Hillyard, The University of Utah; Jeffrey A. Hubbell, The University of Chicago; Suzanne T. Ildstad, University of Louisville; M. Saif Islam, University of California, Davis; Robert D. Ivarie, The University of Georgia; Allan J. Jacobson, University of Houston; Trevor O. Jones, Case Western Reserve University; Michael E. Jung, University of California, Los Angeles; Kattesh V. Katti, University of Missouri-Columbia; Jay D. Keasling, University of California, Berkeley; Behrokh Khoshnevis, University of Southern California; Marcia J. Kieliszewski, Ohio University; Michael N. Zockicki, Arizona State University;

Juan C. Lasheras, University of California, San Diego; Wen-Hwa Lee, China Medical University; Chiang J. Li, Harvard University; James Linder, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Stuart M. Lindsay, Arizona State University; Robert J. Linhardt, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; Philip S. Low, Purdue University; Yuri M. Lvov, Louisiana Tech University; Asad M. Madni, University of California, Los Angeles; Marc J. Madou, University of California, Irvine; Richard A. Mathies, University of California, Berkeley; Richard D. McCullough, Harvard University; Carver A. Mead, California Institute of Technology; Wen Jin Meng, Louisiana State University; Xiang-Jin Meng, Virginia Tech; Thomas O. Mensah, Florida State University; Antonios G. Mikos, Rice University; Richard K. Miller, Olin College of Engineering; Duane D. Miller, The University of Tennessee Health Science Center; Jan D. Miller, The University of Utah; Sergey B. Mirov, The University of Alabama at Birmingham; Jeffrey R. Morgan, Brown University; Brij M. Moudgil, University of Florida; José M.F. Moura, Carnegie Mellon University; Shuji Nakamura, University of California, Santa Barbara; Jagdish Narayan, North Carolina State University; Shree K. Nayar, Columbia University; Douglas F. Nixon, The George Washington University; Babatunde A. Ogunnaike, University of Delaware; Iwao Ojima, Stony Brook University; Nicholas A. Peppas, The University of Texas at Austin; Michael A. Peshkin, Northwestern University; Victor L. Poirier, University of South Florida; Mark R. Prausnitz, Georgia Institute of Technology; Darwin J. Prockop, Texas A&M University; Alain T. Rappaport, Institute for Human and Machine Cognition; Renee A. Reijo Pera, Montana State University; Daniel E. Resasco, The University of Oklahoma; Rebecca R. Richards-Kortum, Rice University; Yasuko Rikihisa, The Ohio State University; Pradeep K. Rohatgi, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Bärbel M. Rohrer, Medical University of South Carolina; Erkki Ruoslahti, Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute; B. Don Russell, Jr., Texas A&M University; Ram Sasisekharan, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; W. Gregory Sawyer, University of Florida; Axel Scherer, California Institute of Technology; Joseph M. Schimmels, Marquette University; C. Richard Schlegel, Georgetown University; Saïd M. Sebtî, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer & Research Institute; George E. Seidel, Jr., Colorado State University; Arup K. SenGupta, Lehigh University; Wan Y. Shih, Drexel University; Kevin M. Short, University of New Hampshire; Richard B. Silverman, Northwestern University; Marwan A. Simaan, University of Central Florida; Raj N. Singh, Oklahoma State University; Thomas C. Skalak, University of Virginia; Mohamed Y. Soliman, Texas Tech University; Bruce J. Tatarchuk, Auburn University; Gordon A. Thomas, New Jersey Institute of Technology; Mark E. Thompson, University of Southern California; Thomas G. Thundat, University of Alberta; Richard B. Timmons, The University of Texas at Arlington; Mark L. Tykocinski, Thomas Jefferson University; Kamil Ugurbil, University of Minnesota; Anthony J. Vizzini, Wichita State University; Horst Vogel, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne; Nicholi Vorsa, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey; Gordana Vunjak-Novakovic, Columbia

University; Kristiina Vuori, Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute; Kevin M. Walsh, University of Louisville; Christine A. Wang, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Shaomeng Wang, University of Michigan; Paul H. Weigel, The University of Oklahoma; Jonathan A. Wickert, Iowa State University; Alan E. Willner, University of Southern California; Richard C. Willson, III, University of Houston; Chi-Huey Wong, Academia Sinica; John A. Woollam, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Shelby D. Worley, Auburn University; Chris Xu, Cornell University; Ping Xu, Shanghai Jiao Tong University; Zhi Xu, University of Missouri-St. Louis; Janet K. Yamamoto, University of Florida; Shu Yang, University of Pennsylvania; Michael J. Yaszemski, Mayo Clinic; Phillip D. Zamore, University of Massachusetts Medical School

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FIRST COURT HELD IN SCOTT
COUNTY, VIRGINIA

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2015

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the 200th anniversary of the first court held in Scott County, Virginia. The community will celebrate this anniversary at the Scott County Courthouse on Sunday, February 15, 2015.

As noted in press reports by Wayne McClelland, president of the Overmountain Men Chapter Sons of the American Revolution, "It's important to understand this 200th anniversary commemorates the government actually forming in Scott County."

Governor Wilson C. Nicholas on January 4, 1815 signed a commission of the peace for Scott County, which was formed from parts of Washington, Lee, and Russell Counties and named in honor of General Winfield Scott, the most important American military figure of the War of 1812 (news of Colonel Jackson's victory in the battles surrounding New Orleans would not be known of for weeks after the signing of the commission of the peace). "Old Fuss and Feathers" served as Commanding General of the United States Army for twenty years, commanding forces in the Black Hawk War, the Mexican-American War, and the Second Seminole War. He was the leading military figure in the country up to the eve of the War Between the States.

The commission of the peace signed by Governor Nicholas authorized citizens to organize the first court and the first county government. The county's new court first convened on February 14, 1815, and met again the following two days. Governor Nicholas had signed a commission appointing John Anderson to serve as Sheriff and, after taking the oath of office, Sheriff Anderson on February 14, 1815 opened the Court of Scott County. William H. Carter was elected to serve as the first clerk of the court. The court appointed citizens to serve in county leadership positions, and also arranged for the county's first election.

I am proud to honor the history of Scott County and recognize all those who have

served and continue to serve this community since it was founded more than 200 years ago.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,120,857,078,035.52. We've added \$7,493,980,029,122.44 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.4 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for roll call votes 79–80 due to a family emergency.

Had I been present, I would have voted yes on #79 and no on #80.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE ON THEIR 106TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the preeminent civil rights organizations in America, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, on their 106th anniversary. Widely recognized as the nation's oldest and largest civil rights group, this organization has been essential in helping African Americans find and maintain their voice since its founding in 1909.

Founded by W.E.B. Du Bois, Ida B. Wells and a host of other progressive and forward thinking leaders, the NAACP has always been on the front lines for Blacks in this country. Established partly in response to the horrific lynchings of the early 1900s, the group quickly expanded, focusing many of its early battles on the court system and legalized segregation. With the stated purpose of securing the rights guaranteed by the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments for all Americans, the NAACP worked tirelessly to secure equal protection under the law and the right to vote.

With the founding of the NAACP's Legal Defense Fund in 1939, America saw the brilliant litigation strategy of Charles Hamilton Houston

and Thurgood Marshall as they advocated for the famous Brown v. Board of Education decision, which many credit with beginning the modern Civil Rights Movement.

As the 20th century neared its close, and African Americans experienced the transition from the overt racism that plagues the Jim Crow South to urban areas plagued by poverty and crime. Again, the NAACP adopted its mantra to meet this challenge and remains a relevant advocate improving the lives of Blacks in America.

I rise to recognize and celebrate the 106 year history of the NAACP's advocacy. From the early 20th century, fighting for Blacks to serve as officers in World War I, to the present day efforts to address disparities in economic access and the criminal justice system, the NAACP continues to fulfill its mission of providing a voice to the voiceless and improving the quality of life for all Americans.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NORTHERN ROCKIES ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, the destruction caused by natural disasters across the country affirms the need to address climate change. Conservation efforts that protect wildlife ecosystems help to mitigate these climate concerns as well as provide lands for all Americans to enjoy.

Today, I am proud to introduce legislation that helps preserve the northern Rockies—one of our country's vital environmental regions. The Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act will safeguard 23 million acres by establishing a system to connect biological corridors on public lands in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Oregon, and Washington. It prioritizes the health of whole ecosystems by designating all of the inventoried roadless areas as wilderness, including wild and scenic rivers. This designation helps ensure the preservation of native plants and animals.

It's our responsibility to preserve our country's natural treasures for our own and future generations. I thank my colleague Public Lands Subcommittee Ranking Member RAÚL GRIJALVA for his longstanding support. I urge others to join us in helping to protect these public lands.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2015

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed the following votes:

Roll Call vote number 79 regarding the "Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 644". Had I been present, I would have voted "Yes".

Roll Call vote number 80 regarding the "Fighting Hunger Incentive Act of 2015". Had I been present, I would have voted "No".

On the Motion to Adjourn on February 12, 2015. Had I been present, I would have voted "No".

THE "FORT PAYNE 7" REAL WORLD DESIGN TEAM

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2015

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize and congratulate the success of the Fort Payne High School Real World Design Team, known as the "Fort Payne 7."

The "Fort Payne 7" team, with assistance from sponsor Hannah Turner, competed in the Real World Design team state challenge in 2013 and the national challenge in 2014.

The 2013 Real World Design Challenge was to design an unmanned aerial vehicle that detects agricultural pests in a one-mile by one-mile cornfield in Fort Dodge, Iowa. After winning the state challenge, the team utilized the summer and fall months to complete the national challenge.

The national challenge was held in Washington, D.C., on November 15, 2014. The national challenge team was made up of members Hunter Vezertis, Noah Wofford, Matthew Wilding, Joshua Johnston, Hunter Terry, and Regan Anderson with Hannah Turner as the team coach and sponsor. Since then, the team has expanded with the addition of Jayden Parris, Ansley Grider, Harley Tate, and Emma Simpson.

We are very proud of the "Fort Payne 7" and I want to congratulate them on their success, hard work and dedication. Competitions like these and the lessons learned will serve these young people for many years to come. I look forward to forwarding the students and their continued success.

RECOGNIZING MEXICO'S SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, ENRIQUE MARTINEZ Y MARTINEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2015

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Mexico's Secretary of Agriculture, Enrique Martinez y Martinez.

Secretary Martinez y Martinez's career has been characterized by extraordinary leadership and service to the people of Mexico. Before beginning his career, Secretary Martinez y Martinez attended the Monterrey Institute of Technology, where he majored in economics. From 1976 to 1978, he served as State of Coahuila Treasury Undersecretary in charge of revenues. He next served as Mayor of Saltillo, Capital of the State of Coahuila from 1979 to 1981. In 1981, he became Coahuila State General Secretary, and served in this position until 1987.

Other leadership roles Secretary Martinez y Martinez has held include Chairman of the

State Electoral Commission, State of Coahuila Municipal Development Director, Chairman of the National Conference of Governors (CONAGO), Chairman of the Border Governors Conference, Chairman of the Public Administration National Institute in the State of Coahuila, Federal Congressman in Mexico's 54th and 57th Congress, Chairman of the Regional Development and Production Support Committee, and Member of the Treasury and Public Credit Committee. From 1999 to 2005, he served as Governor of the State of Coahuila. He assumed the role Secretary of the Agriculture, Cattle Industry, Rural Development, Fishery and Food Ministry in 2012. Secretary Enrique Martinez y Martinez's service exemplifies a shining example of humility and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize Mexico's Secretary of Agriculture, Enrique Martinez y Martinez for his many accomplishments and great contributions to our neighbor to the south.

RECOGNIZING TOLEDO MAYOR D. MICHAEL COLLINS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2015

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the noble life of Toledo Mayor D. Michael Collins, a true American and public servant whose life was tragically cut short. Mr. Collins was sworn into office one year ago as the 62nd Mayor of Toledo, Ohio, and every day he showed his dedication to the words "duty" and "honor." An Irish-American from the South End of Toledo, he was a son and a father of Toledo. The love that our community felt for Mayor Collins was shown by the thousands who attended his wake and funeral this week.

He served honorably with an honest soul that ferried our great city through a very difficult year. Dedicated to the people of Toledo, he spent his entire adult life and work serving our community and country.

Following his high school graduation he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, attaining the rank of Corporal, and every day exemplified the motto of the Corps, Semper Fidelis, "Always Faithful." After returning home, his public service continued for nearly three decades with the Toledo Police Department. He was later elected President of the Toledo Police Patrolmen's Association. In 2007, he ran for City Council and quickly earned a reputation as a problem solver with deep knowledge of the City's finances and budget. He ran for Mayor in 2013 in a heavily contested race, won with broad public support and was sworn into his first term.

Mayor Collins lived the City's motto "Laborare est Orare," to work and to pray. He assiduously applied himself to every task he undertook. Throughout his life, he was an indefatigable learner attaining many degrees that served him well in his leadership roles. He also taught at his alma mater, the University of Toledo.

During his time as Mayor, he shepherded the City through three major crises: the tragic

loss of two firefighters in an arson-related fire, the shutoff of City water for three days because of contamination by algal blooms in Lake Erie due to cyanotoxins, and, most recently, a snow emergency of the highest level.

Through it all, Mayor Collins' steady leadership, humble manner, and broad smile gave confidence to the public.

On behalf of our entire community, I extend my deepest condolences to his beloved wife

Sandy, who was always at his side, and to his daughters and grandchildren. Our citizenry has been blessed to know him, to work with him and for his service to us. May God bless him and bring him peaceful rest.

SENATE—Monday, February 16, 2015

The Senate met at 4:45 and 3 seconds p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 19, 2015, AT 10 A.M.

adjourned until Thursday, February 19, 2015, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands

Thereupon, the Senate, at 4:45 and 11 seconds p.m., adjourned until Thursday, February 19, 2015, at 10 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the Congressional Record on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, February 17, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 24

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fis-

cal year 2016 for the Department of the Interior.

SD-366

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine recalibrating regulation of colleges and universities, focusing on a report from the Task Force on Government Regulation of Higher Education.

SD-430

FEBRUARY 25

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) reauthorization, focusing on perspectives from owners, operators, and users of the system.

SD-406

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine regional nuclear dynamics.

SR-222

FEBRUARY 26

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Forest Service.

SD-366

MARCH 4

3:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine United States nuclear weapons policy, programs, and strategy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

MARCH 12

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To receive a closed briefing on missile defense programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SVC-217

MARCH 25

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine ballistic missile defense programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, February 17, 2015

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MESSER).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 17, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable LUKE MESSER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

In this moment of prayer, please grant to the Members of this people's House, as they meet with their respective constituents, the gifts of wisdom and discernment, that in their words and actions they will do justice, love with mercy, and walk humbly with You.

We ask as well Your blessing upon those who are especially impacted by the severe winter weather in this city and throughout so much of our country. May those who work to address the needs of the weak and vulnerable at times like this know they do Your work.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2(a) of House Resolution 100, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2(b) of House Resolution 100, the House stands adjourned until 11 a.m. on Friday, February 20, 2015.

Thereupon (at 2 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Friday, February 20, 2015, at 11 a.m.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII,

Mr. SMITH of Washington (for himself, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. KILMER) introduced a bill (H.R. 1012) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the provision of items and services provided to Medicare beneficiaries residing in rural areas, and for other purposes; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

Mr. SMITH of Washington:

H.R. 1012.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 and Clause 14.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 136: Mr. DESAULNIER and Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 213: Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. HANNA, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. RUSSELL.

H.R. 223: Mr. KATKO.

H.R. 248: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 281: Mr. FLORES.

H.R. 402: Mr. SHUSTER and Mr. COLLINS of New York.

H.R. 415: Mr. KILDEE and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 420: Mr. WEBER of Texas and Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 426: Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 453: Mr. FLORES.

H.R. 577: Mr. HARDY, Mr. RUSSELL, and Ms. STEFANIK.

H.R. 624: Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, and Mr. PITTS.

H.R. 676: Mr. TED LIEU of California.

H.R. 699: Ms. STEFANIK and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 734: Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 746: Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 775: Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. SABLON, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 863: Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 882: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 900: Mr. BYRNE.

H.R. 928: Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 963: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 976: Mr. POE of Texas.

H.R. 1000: Mrs. LAWRENCE.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE REPUBLICANS' WAR ON
IMMIGRANTS

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 17, 2015

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, last week I visited with two constituents, Aida and Norma, who have lived and worked in this country for years, rearing their families here and paying taxes. I also saw my former student Blanca after she met with President Obama to talk about the positive impact the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program has had on her life. Like Aida and Norma, Blanca is a long time resident of Southern Nevada and an active member of our community; she holds a degree from UNLV and is planning to attend law school.

Thanks to the Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA) program, Aida and Norma's families no longer live in constant fear of separation. And because of DACA, Blanca can continue to pursue her American Dream without the threat of deportation.

But unfortunately, Republicans are waging a war against immigrants. They are actively working to repeal DACA and DAPA and strip away these critical protections for DREAMers and their families. They refuse to consider comprehensive immigration reform. They are wasting time suing the President for taking executive action to prevent the separation of families. And they are jeopardizing national security by tying anti-immigrant riders to the DHS funding bill.

By refusing to work with House Democrats to find a long-term, comprehensive fix to our broken immigration system, Republicans are turning their backs on women like Aida, Norma, and Blanca. They are keeping people in the shadows and costing our economy over \$800 billion. They'd rather attack families than terrorists.

I urge Republicans to immediately stop waging their morally indefensible, economically foolish, and physically dangerous war on undocumented families, listen to the American people, and immediately pass the immigration reform we need.

HONORING THE LIFE AND MEDICAL
CONTRIBUTIONS OF DR.
JOHN SHEA, JR.

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 17, 2015

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and medical contributions of re-

nowned surgeon, innovator and "father of middle-ear surgery," Memphian Dr. John Shea, Jr. A graduate of the University of Notre Dame and Harvard Medical School, Dr. Shea served in the Korean War before returning to Memphis and taking over his father's medical practice in 1952. Two years later, he traveled to Vienna, Austria where he began extensive research into otosclerosis that would lead to his inventing the world's first prosthetic stapes—the tiny stirrup-shaped bone in the middle ear—and performing the groundbreaking stapedectomy procedure, which has since been used by doctors world-wide.

While in Vienna, he read German manuscripts on otosclerosis, which is a condition of the inner ear that causes calcification of the stapes and is considered a leading cause of deafness. Although the medical community ended surgical attempts to address this condition 50 years earlier, Dr. Shea had a vision to combat this cause of deafness in middle-aged adults by replacing the calcified bone with a prosthetic. While many of his colleagues questioned the procedure as dangerous, Dr. Shea was convinced through his research that the revolutionary surgery would work. On May 1, 1956, he successfully performed the first stapedectomy and went on to repeat the procedure nearly 50,000 times during his career before retiring in 2011.

In addition to inventing the prosthetic stapes and developing the stapedectomy, Dr. Shea contributed to otology surgical instruments including drills and microscopes, and intratympanic perfusion treatment for Meniere's disease or spontaneous vertigo. His ingenuity earned him a spot on the London Times list of "1,000 Makers of the Twentieth Century" and a 1962 featured cover article in LIFE magazine as one of five people who were recognized as part of "The Takeover Generation." In 2013, he donated 406 papers, including over 300 published articles, documenting his life's work to the local Memphis Public Library's Memphis Room. Dr. Shea belonged to more than 50 scientific societies, and was a clinical professor in the otolaryngology departments of the University of Tennessee, the University of Mississippi, the University of North Carolina and Tulane University. Additionally, he received honorary doctorates from Memphis schools Christian Brothers University and Rhodes College, and an honorary fellowship from the Australian and English Royal College of Surgeons.

My father, Dr. Morris D. Cohen, knew Dr. Shea and his father as he, too, was a physician and operated the Children's Clinic at 1155 Madison, down the street from Dr. Shea, Sr.'s Ear Nose and Throat Hospital. He told me about the hospital and spoke admiringly of Dr. Shea and his father. Memphis has long

been home to many great medical institutions, including Campbell Clinic, the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, the Elvis Presley Trauma Center at Regional One Health (formerly The Med) and the Shea Ear Clinic. Many Memphis physicians have received national acclaim but none have been more renowned than Dr. John Shea, Jr.,

In 1985, Dr. Shea opened the Shea Ear Clinic at Poplar and Ridgeway in Memphis where his son, Dr. Paul Shea continues the family practice today. Dr. Shea, Jr. was a pioneer in the field of otology and a legendary doctor who helped usher in a new era of treatment. He came from one family of physicians and leaves behind another. Memphis will miss John Shea, Jr., and I send my condolences to his wife Lynda Lee Mead; sons Paul and Dr. John Shea III (private practice otologist); daughters Susanna Shea and Wendy Canarios; seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren; and his friends and loved ones. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and medical contributions of Dr. John Shea, Jr. His was a life well-lived.

HONORING SANDRA COLLINS

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 17, 2015

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today, I wish to honor an extraordinary woman who testified before the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Resources while I was chairman. Sandra Collins, from my home state of Washington, has seen a lot in her life. She dealt with domestic violence, addiction, homelessness, separation from her children, and depression. She didn't let any of this stop her.

With the help of the WorkFirst Community Jobs Program and Goodwill, she turned her life around. Now, not only is Sandra clean, employed, and reunited with her children, she is succeeding beyond her own expectations. On February 19th, a new Goodwill Outlet Store will open in Olympia, WA. Sandra will be its manager. The new store brings jobs and hundreds of thousands of dollars to the local economy—and when local economies are thriving, so is our national economy.

I could not be more proud of Sandra and what she has achieved. I am honored to have met her and am so pleased that her testimony will help shape future legislation. I congratulate her today, on her success and her hard work. She is an example for all.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

SENATE—Thursday, February 19, 2015

The Senate met at 10 and 2 seconds a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ROY BLUNT, a Senator from the State of Missouri.

—————

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 19, 2015.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ROY BLUNT, a Senator from the State of Missouri, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BLUNT thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

—————

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 23, 2015, AT 3 P.M.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until Monday, February 23, 2015, at 3 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 10 and 33 seconds a.m., adjourned until Monday, February 23, 2015 at 3 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Friday, February 20, 2015

The House met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MESSER).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 20, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable LUKE MESSER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We thank You, once again, that we, Your creatures, can come before You and ask guidance for the men and

women of this assembly. Send Your spirit of peace, honesty, and fairness during this week of constituent visits. May their ears and hearts be open to listen to the hopes and needs of those whom they represent.

Bless the people of this great Nation with wisdom, knowledge, and understanding that they might responsibly participate in our American democracy.

Please keep all who work for the people's House in good health that they might faithfully fulfill the great responsibility given them in their service to the work of the Capitol.

Bless us this day and every day. May all that is done here this day be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2(a) of House Resolution 100, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2(b) of House Resolution 100, the House stands adjourned until noon on Tuesday, February 24, 2015, for morning-hour debate.

Thereupon (at 11 o'clock and 3 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, February 24, 2015, at noon for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the fourth quarter of 2014, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
John Bartrum	10/14	10/16	Vietnam		818.00						
	10/17	10/20	Cambodia		672.00						
	10/20	10/21	Thailand		272.00						
Commercial airfare							12,901.60				
Betsy Bina	10/14	10/16	Vietnam		818.00						
	10/17	10/20	Cambodia		672.00						
	10/20	10/21	Thailand		272.00						
Commercial airfare							12,901.60				
Andrew Cooper	10/14	10/16	Vietnam		818.00						
	10/17	10/20	Cambodia		672.00						
	10/20	10/21	Thailand		272.00						
Commercial airfare							12,901.60				
Marta Hernandez	10/14	10/16	Vietnam		818.00						
	10/17	10/20	Cambodia		672.00						
	10/20	10/21	Thailand		272.00						
Commercial airfare							12,901.60				
Stephen Steigleder	10/14	10/16	Vietnam		818.00						
	10/17	10/20	Cambodia		672.00						
	10/20	10/21	Thailand		272.00						
Commercial airfare							12,901.60				
Hon. Jack Kingston	10/7	10/8	Greece		873.67						
	10/9	10/10	Cyprus		292.65						
	10/10	10/10	Greece								
	10/11	10/12	Albania		285.00						
Commercial airfare							17,583.60				
Rebecca Leggieri	10/7	10/7	Djibouti		63.75						
	10/7	10/8	Ethiopia		349.61						
	10/8	10/9	Uganda		193.00						
	10/9	10/11	Kenya		562.26						
Parking									60.00		
Commercial airfare							12,453.64				
Megan Rosenbusch	10/27	10/30	Israel		1,575.00						
	10/30	10/31	Turkey		530.00						
Commercial airfare							11,495.02				
Taxi							79.15				
Paul Terry	10/27	10/30	Israel		1,580.00						
	10/30	10/31	Turkey		530.00						
Commercial airfare							11,495.02				

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2014—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Brian Barnard	10/13	10/14	Canada		83.00				34.00		
Commercial airfare							893.58				
Hon. Adam B. Schiff	11/21	11/23	Canada		702.62		(³)				
Committee total					16,430.56		118,508.01		94.00		135,032.57

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

HON. HAROLD ROGERS, Chairman, Jan. 29, 2015.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, SURVEYS AND INVESTIGATIONS STAFF, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Laurie A. Mignone	12/14	12/19	France		2,442.00		1,144.30		165.30		3,751.60
John K. Needham	12/14	12/19	France		2,442.00		1,144.30		300.71		3,887.01
Committee total					4,884.00		2,288.60		466.01		7,638.61

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. HAROLD ROGERS, Chairman.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Rep. Todd Rokita	12/13	12/17	New Zealand		698.78						698.78
	12/17	12/20	Antarctica								
	12/20	12/21	New Zealand		174.67						174.67
	12/12	12/21	Multiple				17,348.58				17,348.58
	12/12	12/21	Multiple*		340.00						340.00
Committee total					1,213.45		17,348.58				18,562.03

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

* Member issued debit card from the State Dept. prior to departure from the U.S.

HON. JOHN KLINE, Chairman, Jan. 30, 2015.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Robert C. Alsopach	10/4	10/7	Belgium		878.04		3,301.10		1,670.89		5,850.03
	10/7	10/9	Germany		1,109.65				1,920.13		3,029.78
	10/9	10/9	England						2,350.37		2,350.37
Karen Lightfoot	10/4	10/7	Belgium		878.04		3,431.20				4,309.24
	10/7	10/9	Germany		1,109.65						1,109.65
	10/9	10/10	England		848.55						848.55
Carlyle McWilliams	10/4	10/7	Belgium		878.04		3,431.20				4,309.24
	10/7	10/9	Germany		1,109.65						1,109.65
	10/9	10/10	England		848.55						848.55
Brandon Mooney	10/4	10/7	Belgium		878.04		3,431.20				4,309.24
	10/7	10/9	Germany		1,109.65						1,109.65
	10/9	10/10	England		848.55						848.55
Krista Rosenthal	10/4	10/7	Belgium		878.04		3,431.20				4,309.24
Personal Travel (⁴)	10/7	10/9	Germany		1,109.65						1,109.65
	10/9	10/13	England		848.55						848.55
John Stone	10/4	10/7	Belgium		878.04		3,301.10				4,179.14
	10/7	10/9	Germany		1,109.65						1,109.65
	10/9	10/9	England								
Hon. Gus Bilirakis	10/6	10/9	Greece		873.67		17,341.80		11,460.52		29,675.99
	10/10	10/10									
	10/9	10/10	Cyprus		292.65				1,979.40		2,272.05
	10/11	10/12	Albania		285.00				1,879.00		2,164.00
Thomas Hassenboehler	10/6	10/9	Greece		873.67		12,861.30				13,734.97
	10/10	10/10									
	10/9	10/10	Cyprus		292.65						292.65
	10/11	10/12	Albania		285.00						285.00
David Redl	10/23	10/29	The Republic of Korea		1,520.34		3,714.90		427.54		5,662.78
Grace Koh	10/23	10/29	The Republic of Korea		1,520.34		3,714.90				5,235.24
Shawn Chang	10/23	11/2	The Republic of Korea		1,632.34		3,178.20				4,810.54
Personal travel (⁵)											
Mary Neumayr	11/15	11/21	France		3,109.55		1,464.10				4,573.65
Ben Lieberman	11/15	11/21	France		3,109.55		1,464.10				4,573.65
Mary Neumayr	12/6	12/13	The Republic of Peru		4,168.50		1,899.64				6,068.14
Peter Spencer	12/6	12/13	The Republic of Peru		4,168.50		1,899.64				6,068.14
Phillip Barnett	12/9	12/13	The Republic of Peru		2,382.00		1,030.94				3,412.94

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2014—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Billy Long	12/12	12/14	Romania		510.00		(³)				510.00
	12/14	12/15	Poland		260.19						260.19
	12/15	12/16	Ukraine		370.89						370.89
Hon. Gerald McNeerney	12/16	12/17	Germany		176.00						176.00
	12/13	12/21	New Zealand		884.07		14,531.28				15,415.35
Committee total					42,035.25		83,427.80		21,687.85		147,150.90

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

⁴ On personal travel 10/11–10/13.

⁵ On personal travel 10/30–11/2.

HON. FRED UPTON, Chairman, Jan. 30, 2015.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Michael Fitzpatrick	10/1	10/4	Qatar		679.63						679.63
	10/4	10/5	Turkey		228.33		14,550.65				14,778.98
Committee total					907.96		14,550.65				15,458.61

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. JEB HENSARLING, Chairman, Jan. 29, 2015.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Dana Rohrabacher	12/13	12/16	United Arab Emirates		1,274.00		18,126.40		689.40		20,089.80
	12/16	12/17	Afghanistan		6.00						6.00
	12/18	12/18	Iraq								
	12/18	12/20	Austria		742.00				2,084.00		2,826.00
Rep. Gregory Meeks	12/14	12/16	United Arab Emirates		538.00		17,587.40				18,125.40
	12/16	12/17	Afghanistan		6.00						6.00
	12/18	12/18	Iraq								
	12/18	12/20	Austria		742.00						742.00
Paul Behrends	12/13	12/16	United Arab Emirates		1,274.00				21,704.90		22,978.90
	12/16	12/17	Afghanistan		6.00						6.00
	12/18	12/18	Iraq								
	12/18	12/20	Austria		742.00						742.00
Nilmini Rubin	10/24	10/29	Korea		1,539.10		2,406.10				3,945.20
Robert Lattin	10/24	10/29	Korea		1,539.10		2,406.10				3,945.20
Rep. Gregory Meeks	10/7	10/9	Greece		291.22		14,610.30				14,901.52
	10/9	10/10	Cyprus		291.22						291.22
	10/10	10/11	Greece		291.23						291.23
	10/11	10/12	Albania		285.00						285.00
Eddy Acevedo	12/13	12/14	Jordan		467.56		1,653.02				2,120.58
	12/14	12/16	Israel		925.00						925.00
Golan Rodgers	12/13	12/14	Jordan		472.56		1,653.02				2,125.58
	12/14	12/16	Israel		935.00						935.00
Evan McMullin	10/27	10/28	Turkey		284.00		3,969.00				4,253.00
	10/28	10/31	Saudi Arabia		1,252.00						1,252.00
	10/31	11/3	Qatar		1,013.00				*102.98		1,115.98
Mira Resnick	10/29	10/31	Saudi Arabia		891.41		7,568.90				8,460.31
	10/31	11/3	Qatar		1,013.00						1,013.00
Hunter Strupp	10/5	10/8	Sri Lanka		1,266.88		10,897.43				12,164.31
	10/9	10/13	India		1,381.00				*1,258.67		2,639.67
Sajit Gandhi	10/6	10/9	Sri Lanka		1,085.00		11,687.02				12,772.02
	10/9	10/13	India		1,361.00						1,361.00
Worku Gachou	10/18	10/21	Rwanda		1,130.00		4,541.12				5,671.12
	10/22	10/24	Uganda		895.00				*1,500.00		2,395.00
Jacqueline Quinones	10/18	10/21	Rwanda		1,130.00		4,511.20				5,641.20
	10/22	10/24	Uganda		930.00						930.00
Travis Adkins	10/18	10/21	Rwanda		1,160.00		4,511.20				5,671.20
	10/22	10/24	Uganda		930.00						930.00
Rep. Edward R. Royce	11/5	11/7	Mexico		444.50		(3)				444.50
	11/7	11/9	Peru		455.24		(3)		*12,977.00		13,432.24
	11/9	11/11	Colombia		545.65		(3)		*17,187.00		17,732.65
Rep. Eliot Engel	11/5	11/7	Mexico		483.45		(3)				483.45
	11/7	11/9	Peru		498.24		(3)				498.24
	11/9	11/11	Colombia		612.65		(3)				612.65
Rep. Ted Yoho	11/5	11/7	Mexico		483.45		(3)				483.45
	11/7	11/9	Peru		498.24		(3)				498.24
	11/9	11/11	Colombia		612.65		(3)				612.65
Rep. Matt Salmon	11/5	11/7	Mexico		483.45		(3)				483.45
	11/7	11/9	Peru		498.24		(3)				498.24
	11/9	11/11	Colombia		612.65		(3)				612.65
Rep. Jeff Duncan	11/5	11/7	Mexico		458.45		(3)				458.45
	11/7	11/9	Peru		473.24		(3)				473.24
	11/9	11/11	Colombia		537.65		(3)				537.65
Rep. Gregory Meeks	11/5	11/7	Mexico		483.45		(3)				483.45
	11/7	11/9	Peru		498.24		(3)				498.24
	11/9	11/11	Colombia		612.65		(3)				612.65

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2014—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Amy Porter	11/5	11/7	Mexico		429.45		(3)				429.45
	11/7	11/9	Peru		477.24		(3)				477.24
	11/9	11/11	Colombia		575.65		(3)				575.65
Elizabeth Heng	11/5	11/7	Mexico		423.45		(3)				423.45
	11/7	11/9	Peru		498.24		(3)				498.24
	11/9	11/11	Colombia		597.65		(3)				597.65
Leah Campos	11/5	11/7	Mexico		483.45		(3)				483.45
	11/7	11/9	Peru		498.24		(3)				498.24
	11/9	11/11	Colombia		612.65		(3)				612.65
William F. Weitz	11/5	11/7	Mexico		483.45		(3)				483.45
	11/7	11/9	Peru		498.24		(3)				498.24
	11/9	11/11	Colombia		612.65		(3)				612.65
Eric Jacobstein	11/5	11/7	Mexico		483.45		(3)				483.45
	11/7	11/9	Peru		498.24		(3)				498.24
	11/9	11/11	Colombia		612.65		(3)				612.65
Thomas Hill	11/3	11/4	Czech Republic		411.00		4,519.90				4,930.90
	11/4	11/6	Ukraine		748.00						748.00
	11/6	11/8	Estonia		452.70						452.70
Tim Mulvey	11/3	11/4	Czech Republic		411.00		4,519.90				4,930.90
	11/4	11/6	Ukraine		748.00						748.00
	11/6	11/8	Estonia		452.70						452.70
Luke Murry	10/28	11/1	Afghanistan		7.00		5,670.60				5,677.60
Jeff Dressler	10/28	11/1	Afghanistan		10.00		5,670.60				5,680.60
Eric Jacobstein	10/7	10/8	Chile		322.10		2,077.13				2,399.23
	10/8	10/12	Argentina		1,111.89						1,111.89
	10/7	10/8	Chile		286.00		2,355.63				2,641.63
	10/8	10/12	Argentina		1,125.16						1,125.16
Amy Porter	10/8	10/12	Cambodia		1,175.00		14,414.20				15,589.20
Doug Anderson	10/8	10/12	Cambodia		1,163.00		14,414.20				15,577.20
Janice Kaguyutan	10/8	10/12	Cambodia		1,215.00		11,663.70				12,878.70
Elizabeth Heng	10/8	10/12	Cambodia		1,173.41		14,872.20				16,045.61
Jennifer H. White	10/8	10/12	Cambodia		1,205.00		14,455.70				15,660.70
Rep. Tulsi Gabbard	11/21	11/23	Canada		531.83		336.58				868.41
Rep. Tom Cotton	11/21	11/23	Canada		597.68		(3)				597.68
Rep. Adam Kinzinger	11/21	11/23	Canada		592.72		(3)				592.72
Rep. Juan Vargas	10/18	10/18	United Arab Emirates				13,410.70				13,410.70
	10/18	10/18	Saudi Arabia		459.28		(3)				459.28
	10/19	10/23	Kuwait		1,898.29		(3)				1,898.29
	10/21	10/21	Iraq								
	10/23	10/23	Iraq								
Committee total					61,262.83		214,509.25		57,503.95		333,276.03

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

* Indicates Delegation Costs.

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE, Chairman, Jan. 30, 2015.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
STAFFDEL MANNING											
Erik Peterson	10/12	10/14	UK		1,341.73		288.00				1,629.73
	10/14	10/16	Belgium		680.02		40.31				720.33
	10/16	10/18	Hague/Amsterdam		1,001.39						1,001.39
	10/18	10/22	Estonia		929.15		*2,336.20				3,265.35
Alex Manning	10/12	10/14	UK		1,341.73		288.00				1,629.73
	10/14	10/16	Belgium		680.02		40.31				720.33
	10/16	10/18	Hague/Amsterdam		1,001.39						1,001.39
	10/18	10/22	Estonia		929.15		*2,394.20				3,323.35
Rosaline Cohen	10/12	10/14	UK		1,341.73		288.00				1,629.73
	10/14	10/16	Belgium		680.02		40.31				720.33
	10/16	10/18	Hague/Amsterdam		1,001.38						1,001.38
	10/18	10/22	Estonia		929.15		*2,394.20				3,323.35
Chris Schepis	10/12	10/14	UK		1,341.73		288.00				1,629.73
	10/14	10/16	Belgium		680.02		40.31				720.33
	10/16	10/18	Hague/Amsterdam		1,001.39						1,001.39
	10/18	10/22	Estonia		929.15		*3,874.20				4,803.35
Other Expenses:											
Ground Transportation	10/12	10/14	UK						2,719.01		2,719.01
	10/14	10/16	Belgium						977.22		977.22
	10/16	10/18	Hague/Amsterdam						2,156.90		2,156.90
	10/18	10/22	Estonia						1,344.96		1,344.96
STAFFDEL SHIELDS											
Brendan Shields	10/24	10/25	Athens		552.00						552.00
	10/25	10/28	Istanbul		393.00						393.00
	10/28	10/30	Rome		310.00		*10,690.90				11,000.90
Miles Taylor	10/24	10/25	Athens		552.00						552.00
	10/25	10/28	Istanbul		393.00						393.00
	10/28	10/31	Rome		310.00		*10,690.90				11,000.90
Laura Fullerton	10/24	10/25	Athens		552.00						552.00
	10/25	10/28	Istanbul		393.00						393.00
	10/28	10/31	Rome		465.00		*13,549.80				14,014.80
John Neal	10/27	10/28	Istanbul		131.00						131.00
	10/28	10/30	Rome		310.00		*12,049.30				12,359.30
Committee total					20,170.15		59,292.94		7,198.09		86,661.18

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

* Note—flight costs include all countries.

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL, Chairman, Jan. 30, 2015.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Members on CODEL 1											
Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner	12/13	12/20	England, Belgium, Ukraine, Moldova, Serbia		1,094.00		(³)		2,053.00		3,147.00
Rep. Tom Marino	12/13	12/20	England, Belgium, Ukraine, Moldova, Serbia		1,094.00		(³)		2,053.00		3,147.00
Rep. Blake Farenthold	12/13	12/20	England, Belgium, Ukraine, Moldova, Serbia		1,094.00		(³)		2,053.00		3,147.00
Rep. Jerrold Nadler	12/13	12/20	England, Belgium, Ukraine, Moldova, Serbia		1,094.00		(³)		2,053.00		3,147.00
Rep. Hank Johnson	12/13	12/20	England, Belgium, Ukraine, Moldova, Serbia		1,094.00		(³)		2,053.00		3,147.00
Rep. Steve Cohen	12/13	12/20	England, Belgium, Ukraine, Moldova, Serbia		1,094.00		(³)		2,053.00		3,147.00
Rep. Bob Goodlatte	12/13	12/20	England, Belgium, Ukraine, Moldova, Serbia		1,094.00		(³)		2,053.00		3,147.00
Rep. George Holding	12/13	12/16	England		543.00		(³)		1,071.00		1,614.00
Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee	12/16	12/20	Ukraine, Moldova, Serbia		551.00		(³)		982.00		1,533.00
Rep. Hakeem Jeffries	12/13	12/18	England, Belgium, Ukraine		805.00		(³)		1,557.00		2,362.00
Rep. Steve King	12/14	12/17	England, Belgium, Ukraine		624.00		(³)		957.00		1,581.00
Members on CODEL 2											
Rep. Louie Gohmert	12/15	12/20	Abu Dhabi, Afghanistan, Iraq, Austria		550.00		14,635.37		1,620.00		16,805.37
Rep. Steve King	12/18	12/20	Iraq, Austria		346.00		7,808.20		915.00		9,069.20
Staffers on CODEL 1											
Branden Ritchie	12/13	12/20	England, Belgium, Ukraine, Moldova, Serbia		1,094.00		(³)		2,053.00		3,147.00
Caroline Lynch	12/13	12/20	England, Belgium, Ukraine, Moldova, Serbia		1,094.00		(³)		2,053.00		3,147.00
Kathryn Rexrode	12/13	12/20	England, Belgium, Ukraine, Moldova, Serbia		1,094.00		(³)		2,053.00		3,147.00
Charles Keller	12/13	12/20	England, Belgium, Ukraine, Moldova, Serbia		1,094.00		(³)		2,053.00		3,147.00
John Manning	12/13	12/20	England, Belgium, Ukraine, Moldova, Serbia		1,094.00		(³)		2,053.00		3,147.00
Danielle Brown	12/13	12/20	England, Belgium, Ukraine, Moldova, Serbia		1,094.00		(³)		2,053.00		3,147.00
Committee total					17,641.00		22,443.57		33,791.00		73,875.57

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

HON. BOB GOODLATTE, Chairman, Jan. 30, 2015.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Rep. Stephen Lynch	10/7	10/8	Qatar		341.00						341.00
Commercial airfare	10/8	10/10	Turkey		610.00						610.00
Sang Yi	10/7	10/8	Qatar		341.00		12,635.00				12,635.00
Commercial airfare	10/8	10/10	Turkey		610.00						610.00
Bruce Fernandez	10/7	10/8	Qatar		341.00		10,950.00				10,950.00
Commercial airfare	10/8	10/10	Turkey		610.00						610.00
Commercial airfare							10,950.00				10,950.00
Delegation expenses								3,779.00			3,779.00
Rep. Darrell Issa	10/6	10/7	Australia		564.00						564.00
Commercial airfare	10/7	10/8	East Timor		192.00						192.00
Commercial airfare	10/8	10/9	Australia		564.00						564.00
Commercial airfare	10/9	10/10	Papua New Guinea		464.00						464.00
Commercial airfare							24,447.00				24,447.00
James Lewis	10/6	10/7	Australia		564.00						564.00
Commercial airfare	10/7	10/8	East Timor		192.00						192.00
Commercial airfare	10/8	10/9	Australia		564.00						564.00
Commercial airfare	10/9	10/10	Papua New Guinea		464.00						464.00
Commercial airfare							24,447.00				24,447.00
Delegation expenses								4,807.00			4,807.00
Rep. Darrell Issa	10/18	10/19	Saudi Arabia		460.00						460.00
Commercial airfare	10/19	10/23	Kuwait		1,882.00						1,882.00
Commercial airfare							13,376.00				13,376.00
Delegation expenses								6,536.00			6,536.00
Rep. John Mica	10/18	10/19	Saudi Arabia		460.00						460.00
Commercial airfare	10/19	10/23	Kuwait		1,882.00						1,882.00
Commercial airfare							13,376.00				13,376.00
James Lewis	10/18	10/19	Saudi Arabia		460.00						460.00
Commercial airfare	10/19	10/23	Kuwait		1,882.00						1,882.00
Commercial airfare							13,376.00				13,376.00
Brien Beattie	10/18	10/19	Saudi Arabia		460.00						460.00
Commercial airfare	10/19	10/23	Kuwait		1,882.00						1,882.00
Commercial airfare							13,376.00				13,376.00
Rep. Michael Turner	10/7	10/8	Macedonia		254.00						254.00
Commercial airfare	10/8	10/9	Montenegro		315.00						315.00
Commercial airfare	10/9	10/10	Croatia		562.00						562.00
Commercial airfare							10,100.00				10,100.00
Delegation expenses								7,120.00			7,120.00
John Cuadras	10/7	10/8	Macedonia		254.00						254.00
Commercial airfare	10/8	10/9	Montenegro		315.00						315.00
Commercial airfare	10/9	10/10	Croatia		562.00						562.00
Commercial airfare							10,100.00				10,100.00
Rep. Darrell Issa	12/14	12/17	New Zealand		1,140.00						1,140.00
Commercial airfare	12/17	12/20	Antarctica								
Commercial airfare	12/20	12/21	New Zealand		305.00						305.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2014—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Commercial airfare							14,611.00				14,611.00
Committee total					19,496.00		174,744.00		22,242.00		216,482.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. JASON CHAFFETZ, Chairman, Jan. 30, 2015.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Rachel Jones	12/6	12/14	Peru		4,109.15		1,035.94				5,145.09
Rep. Suzanne Bonamici	12/15	12/17	New Zealand		734.83		21,125.20				21,860.03
	12/17	12/20	Antarctica								
	12/20	12/21	New Zealand		284.84						284.84
Rep. Christopher Collins	12/15	12/17	New Zealand		1,183.30		15,426.48				16,609.78
	12/17	12/20	Antarctica								
	12/20	12/21	New Zealand		395.00						395.00
Ashlee Vinyard	12/15	12/17	New Zealand		1,260.00		15,268.48				16,528.48
	12/17	12/20	Antarctica								
	12/20	12/21	New Zealand		345.00						345.00
Rep. Eric Swalwell	12/15	12/17	New Zealand		690.00		14,728.93				15,418.93
	12/17	12/20	Antarctica								
	12/20	12/21	New Zealand		345.00						345.00
Clifton Shannon	12/15	12/17	New Zealand		1,260.00		17,107.98				18,367.98
	12/17	12/20	Antarctica								
	12/20	12/21	New Zealand		345.00						345.00
Rep. Lamar Smith	12/15	12/17	New Zealand		1,260.00		15,193.48				16,453.48
	12/17	12/20	Antarctica								
	12/20	12/21	New Zealand		345.00						345.00
Ashley Smith	12/15	12/17	New Zealand		1,260.00		15,174.48				16,434.48
	12/17	12/20	Antarctica								
	12/20	12/21	New Zealand		345.00						345.00
Rep. Mo Brooks	12/15	12/17	New Zealand		915.00		15,287.38				16,202.38
	12/17	12/20	Antarctica								
	12/20	12/21	New Zealand		345.00						345.00
Rep. Donna Edwards	12/15	12/17	New Zealand		1,260.00		17,107.98				18,367.98
	12/17	12/20	Antarctica								
	12/20	12/21	New Zealand		327.00						327.00
John Piazza	12/15	12/17	New Zealand		915.00		17,845.98				18,760.98
	12/17	12/20	Antarctica								
	12/20	12/21	New Zealand		345.00						345.00
Rep. David Schweikert	12/15	12/17	New Zealand		1,260.00		14,936.10				16,196.10
	12/17	12/20	Antarctica								
	12/20	12/21	New Zealand		345.00						345.00
Committee total					19,874.12		180,238.41				200,112.53

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. LAMAR SMITH, Chairman, Jan. 30, 2015.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Rep. Sander Levin	10/21	10/28	Australia		3,494.00		14,167.80		2,028.00		19,689.80
Jason Kearns	10/20	10/29	Australia		3,935.98		17,533.80				21,469.78
Stephen Claeys	10/22	10/29	Australia		3,494.00		16,602.80				20,096.80
Angela Ellard	10/20	10/28	Australia		3,459.98		17,367.80				20,827.78
Katherine Tai	11/5	11/9	China		907.12		20,238.30				21,145.42
Stephen Claeys	11/5	11/9	China		930.12		20,238.30				21,168.42
Rep. Dave Camp	10/5	10/7	Belgium		871.29		1,673.10		1,667.00		4,211.39
	10/7	10/7	England		494.48		280.74		2,770.21		3,545.43
Angela Ellard	10/5	10/7	Belgium		871.29		1,848.60				2,719.89
	10/7	10/7	England		449.48		280.74				730.22
Geoff Antell	10/5	10/7	Belgium		871.29		1,644.70				2,515.99
	10/7	10/8	England		406.48		280.74				687.22
Eric Paulsen	10/5	10/7	Belgium		871.29		1,501.20				2,372.49
	10/7	10/8	England		494.48		280.74				775.22
Rep. Kevin Brady	10/5	10/7	Belgium		871.29		1,580.70				2,451.99
	10/7	10/8	England		494.48		280.74				775.22
Committee total					22,917.05		115,800.80		6,465.21		145,183.06

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. PAUL RYAN, Chairman, Jan. 27, 2015.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2014 *

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Rep. Mike Pompeo	10/4	10/5	Middle East		970.00						
	10/5	10/6	Middle East		355.41						
	10/6	10/8	Middle East		0.00						
	10/8	10/10	Middle East		644.00						
Commercial airfare							18,606.46				20,575.87
Katie Wheelbarger	10/4	10/5	Middle East		970.00						
	10/5	10/6	Middle East		355.41						
	10/6	10/8	Middle East		0.00						
	10/8	10/10	Middle East		644.00						
Commercial airfare							13,890.30				15,859.71
Rep. Michele Bachmann	10/6	10/9	Europe		873.67						
Commercial airfare							7,227.30				8,100.97
Bryan Smith	10/19	10/21	Asia		748.94						
	10/21	10/22	Asia		737.76						
	10/23	10/25	Asia		896.62						
Commercial airfare							16,220.22				18,603.54
Shannon Stuart	10/19	10/21	Asia		748.94						
	10/21	10/22	Asia		737.76						
	10/23	10/25	Asia		896.62						
Commercial airfare							16,220.22				18,603.54
Susan Phalen	10/19	10/21	Asia		748.94						
	10/21	10/22	Asia		737.76						
	10/23	10/25	Asia		896.62						
Commercial airfare							16,220.22				18,603.54
Lisa Major	10/19	10/21	Asia		748.94						
	10/21	10/22	Asia		737.76						
	10/23	10/25	Asia		896.62						
Commercial airfare							16,220.22				18,603.54
Carly Blake	10/19	10/21	Asia		748.94						
	10/21	10/22	Asia		737.76						
	10/23	10/25	Asia		896.62						
Commercial airfare							16,220.22				18,603.54
Rep. Mike Rogers	10/19	10/24	Europe		2,532.14						
Commercial airfare							1,658.90				4,191.04
Andy Keiser	10/19	10/24	Europe		2,532.14						
Commercial airfare							1,658.90				4,191.04
Chelsey Campbell	10/19	10/24	Europe		2,532.14						
Commercial airfare							2,018.90				4,551.04
Katie Wheelbarger	11/5	11/8	Middle East				6,885.00				6,885.00
Chelsey Campbell	11/5	11/8	Middle East				6,885.00				6,885.00
Commercial airfare							6,885.00				6,885.00
Michael Bahar	11/5	11/8	Middle East				6,885.00				6,885.00
Commercial airfare											
Rep. Mike Pompeo	11/21	11/23	North America		702.62						702.62
Rep. Adam B. Schiff	11/21	11/23	North America		702.62						702.62
Rep. Thomas J. Rooney	12/15	12/18	South America		362.14						
Commercial airfare							1,822.60				2,909.02
Rep. James A. Himes	12/15	12/18	South America		1,086.42						
Commercial airfare							1,822.60				2,909.02
Amanda Rogers Thorpe	12/15	12/18	South America		1,086.42						
Commercial airfare							1,822.60				2,909.02
Rep. C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger	12/13	12/18	Asia		581.00						
Commercial airfare							11,542.40				12,123.40
Shannon Stuart	12/13	12/18	Asia		581.00						
Commercial airfare							11,542.40				12,123.40
Heather Molino	12/13	12/18	Asia		581.00						
Commercial airfare							11,542.40				12,123.40
Robert Minehart	12/13	12/18	Asia		581.00						
Commercial airfare							11,542.40				12,123.40
Committee total					30,588.93		198,454.26				229,043.99

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

* In accordance with title 22, United States Code, Section 1754(b)(2), information as would identify the foreign countries in which Committee Members and staff have traveled is omitted.

HON. DEVIN NUNES, Chairman, Jan. 28, 2015.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION,
EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at the right to so indicate and return. <input type="checkbox"/>											

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. PAUL RYAN, Chairman, Feb. 6, 2015.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE,
EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Rep. Mike McIntyre	10/1	10/6	Switzerland	Franc	652.00		4,588.00				5,240.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE,
EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2014—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Rep. Michael C. Burgess	10/22	10/28	Ukraine	Hryvnia	480.00	.....	12,422.85	.....	.....	.....	12,902.85
Rep. Christopher H. Smith	11/10	11/12	Germany	Euro	435.85	.....	2,196.10	.....	.....	.....	2,631.95
Mark Milosch	10/2	10/6	Switzerland	Franc	372.19	.....	2,037.80	.....	.....	.....	2,409.99
.....	10/11	10/14	Germany	Euro	426.44	.....	1,917.60	.....	.....	.....	2,344.04
.....	11/11	11/14	Germany	Euro	1,400.30	.....	1,978.20	.....	.....	.....	3,378.50
Committee total					3,766.78	.....	25,140.55	.....	.....	.....	28,907.33

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, Chairman, Feb. 1, 2015.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

470. A letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report to Congress entitled "Incentive Pay for Members of Precommissioning Programs Pursuing Foreign Language Proficiency" for Fiscal Year 2013, pursuant to 37 U.S.C. 316a; to the Committee on Armed Services.

471. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, OUSD(AT&L) DPAP/DARS, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Electronic Submission of Technical Reports (DFARS Case 2014-D001) (RIN: 0750-AI25) received February 12, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

472. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, OUSD(AT&L) DPAP/DARS, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Updated Descriptions of Product Service Groups Subject to Trade Agreements (DFARS Case 2015-D004) (RIN: 0750-AI49) received February 12, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

473. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, OUSD(AT&L) DPAP/DARS, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Defense Contractors Performing Private Security Functions (DFARS Case 2014-D008) (RIN: 0750-AI31) received February 12, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

474. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Management and Oversight of the Acquisition of Services [FAC 2005-80; FAR Case 2014-008; Item II; Docket No.: 2014-0008; Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 9000-AM84) received February 12, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

475. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Technical Amendments [FAC 2005-80; Item III; Docket No.: 2014-0053; Sequence No.: 5] received February 12, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

476. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-80; Small Entity Compliance Guide [Docket No.: FAR 2014-0052, Sequence No.: 8] received February 12, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

477. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on a transaction involving U.S. exports to Norwegian Air Shuttle A.S.A. (Norwegian), of Oslo, Norway, pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

478. A letter from the Secretary, Division of Trading and Markets, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Security-Based Swap Data Repository Registration, Duties, and Core Principles [Release No.: 34-74246; File No.: S7-35-10] (RIN: 3235-AK79) received February 13, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

479. A letter from the Secretary, Division of Trading and Markets, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's Major final rule — Regulation SBSR — Reporting and Dissemination of Security-Based Swap Information [Release No.: 34-74244; File No.: S7-34-10] (RIN: 3235-AK80) received February 13, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

480. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Vocational Rehabilitation Services Projects for American Indians with Disabilities [Docket ID: ED-2013-OSERS-0083] (RIN: 1820-AB66) received February 11, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

481. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's report to Congress on the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended, for Fiscal Year 2013; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

482. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Amendments Related to: Tier 3 Motor Vehicle Emission and Fuel Standards, Nonroad Engine and Equipment Programs, and MARPOL Annex VI Implementation [EPA-HQ-OAR-2011-0135; FRL-9922-31-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AS36) received February 11, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

483. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Redesignation of the Harrisburg-Lebanon-Carlisle-York Nonattainment Areas to Attainment for the 1997 Annual and 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Matter Standard; Correction [EPA-R03-OAR-2014-0525; FRL-9921-32-Region 3] received February 11, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

484. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia's Redesignation Request and Associated Maintenance Plan of the West Virginia Portion of the Martinsburg-Hagerstown, WV-MD Nonattainment Area for the 1997 Annual Fine Particulate Matter Standard; Correction [EPA-R03-2013-0690; FRL-9921-31-Region 3] received February 11, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

485. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; American Samoa [AS123-NBK; FRL-9922-86-Region 9] received February 11, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

486. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Guam [GU122-NBK; FRL-9923-01-Region 9] received February 11, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

487. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; North Dakota; Regional Haze State Implementation Plan; Federal Implementation Plan for Interstate Transport of Pollution Affecting Visibility and Regional Haze; Reconsideration [EPA-R08-OAR-2010-0406; FRL-9922-80-OAR] received February 11, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

488. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Partial Approval and Partial Disapproval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Wyoming; Revisions

to Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations; Nonattainment Permitting Requirements and Chapter 3, General Emission Standards [EPA-R08-OAR-2014-0761; FRL-9922-94-Region 8] received February 11, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

489. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Pendimethalin; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0768; FRL-9921-89] received February 11, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

490. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Pyrimethanil; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0530; FRL-9922-07] received February 11, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

491. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0863; FRL-9921-51-Region 9] received February 11, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

492. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Post-Transition Table of DTV Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations, (Longview, Texas) [MB Docket No.: 14-245] [RM-11740] received February 13, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

493. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's Management Directive — Generic Issues Program (MD 6.4) received February 12, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

494. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 14-61, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance to Australia, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

495. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-120, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

496. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-152, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

497. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report entitled "Human Rights Report for International Military Education and Training Recipients for Calendar Year 2013", in accordance with Section 549 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

498. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency

Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Ukraine that was declared in Executive Order 13660 of March 6, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

499. A letter from the Executive Director, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's summary of the inventories of commercial and inherently governmental activities for fiscal year 2014, as required by the Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act of 1998 (FAIR Act) and the Office of Management and Budget; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

500. A letter from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting five reports pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

501. A letter from the Deputy Director, Administration on Aging, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs (RIN: 0985-AA08) received February 11, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

502. A letter from the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's Fiscal Year 2012 Inventory of Inherently Governmental and Commercial Activities, as required by OMB Circular A-76 and the Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

503. A letter from the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's Fiscal Year 2013 Inventory of Inherently Governmental and Commercial Activities, as required by OMB Circular A-76 and the Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

504. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

505. A letter from the Architect of the Capitol, transmitting the semiannual report of disbursements for the operations of the Architect of the Capitol for the period of July 1, 2014, through December 31, 2014, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 1868a(a); (H. Doc. No. 114-10); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

506. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's sixth annual report to Congress on the North Slope Science Initiative, for 2013-2014, pursuant to Public Law 109-58, section 348(e); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

507. A letter from the Secretary of the Commission, Bureau of Competition, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Revised Jurisdictional Thresholds for Section 7a of the Clayton Act received February 12, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

508. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report to Congress: "North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study: Resilient Adaptation to Increasing Risk", dated January 2015, pursuant to Pub. L. 113-2 and Sec. 3026 of the Water Resources Reform and Development

Act of 2014; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

509. A letter from the Chief, Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Documentation Related to Goods Imported from U.S. Insular Possessions [USCBP-2014-0001] (RIN: 1515-AD97) received February 12, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

510. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting the Economic Report of the President, together with the 2015 Annual Report of the Council of Economic Advisers, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1022(a); (H. Doc. No. 114-2); to the Committee on the Joint Economic Committee and ordered to be printed.

511. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional and Public Affairs, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting a corrected copy of the Administration's fiscal year 2016 proposed budget and performance plan; jointly to the Committees on Agriculture and Oversight and Government Reform.

512. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report to Congress entitled "The Mother and Infant Home Visiting Program Evaluation: Early Findings on the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program", pursuant to Public Law 111-148; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

513. A letter from the Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicare Program; Contract Year 2016 Policy and Technical Changes to the Medicare Advantage and the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Programs [CMS-4159-F2] (RIN: 0938-AS20) received February 11, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

514. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting an update to the Administration's 2011 Cybersecurity Legislative Proposal for the consideration of the Congress; jointly to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, Financial Services, the Judiciary, and Energy and Commerce.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. KLINE: Committee on Education and the Workforce. H.R. 5. A bill to support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 114-24, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 529. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve 529 plans; with an amendment (Rept. 114-25). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Financial Services discharged from further consideration. H.R. 5 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. POLIS (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. POCAN, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. NORTON, Mr. COHEN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. HONDA, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Ms. PINGREE, and Ms. LEE):

H.R. 1013. A bill to decriminalize marijuana at the Federal level, to leave to the States a power to regulate marijuana that is similar to the power they have to regulate alcohol, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, Natural Resources, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Mr. POLIS, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. LEE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. COHEN, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. PINGREE):

H.R. 1014. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the taxation of marijuana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUELSKAMP:

H.R. 1015. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the oversight of contracts awarded by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ROE of Tennessee:

H.R. 1016. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to adopt and implement a standard identification protocol for use in the tracking and procurement of biological implants by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. WALORSKI:

H.R. 1017. A bill to improve the information security of the Department of Veterans Affairs by directing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out certain actions to improve the transparency and the governance of the information security program of the Department, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina (for herself, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

H.R. 1018. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage of certain disposable medical technologies under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROSKAM (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr.

WESTMORELAND, Mr. HOLDING, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. MENG, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. BEYER, Mr. COLE, Mr. HONDA, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. HIMES, Mr. ROYCE, and Mr. SMITH of Washington):

H.R. 1019. A bill to provide high-skilled visas for nationals of the Republic of Korea, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SMITH of Texas (for himself, Ms. ESTY, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. BUCSHON, and Mr. COLLINS of New York):

H.R. 1020. A bill to define STEM education to include computer science, and to support existing STEM education programs at the National Science Foundation; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. LIPINSKI (for himself, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. TONKO, Mr. POCAN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. MCKINLEY, Ms. ESTY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. RUSH, Mr. PETERS, Mr. HONDA, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. GARAMENDI):

H. Res. 119. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Engineers Week; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. POLIS:

H.R. 1013.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution (relating to the general welfare of the United States); and Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution (relating to the power to regulate interstate commerce).

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 1014.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitution of the United States provides clear authority for Congress to pass tax legislation. Article I of the Constitution, in detailing Congressional authority, provides that "Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes . . ." (Section 8, Clause 1). This legislation is introduced pursuant to that grant of authority.

By Mr. HUELSKAMP:

H.R. 1015.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ROE of Tennessee:

H.R. 1016.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. WALORSKI:

H.R. 1017.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution

By Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina:

H.R. 1018.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Commerce Clause: Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution gives Congress the power "to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

By Mr. ROSKAM:

H.R. 1019.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4, which states that Congress has the power to establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization

By Mr. SMITH of Texas:

H.R. 1020.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes; and

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 5: Ms. FOXX, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. MESSER, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. CURBELO of Florida.

H.R. 228: Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 280: Ms. GRAHAM.

H.R. 294: Mr. COLE.

H.R. 304: Ms. MENG, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 344: Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 382: Mr. TIPTON, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. BUCK, and Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 427: Mr. DUFFY and Ms. STEFANK.

H.R. 445: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia.

H.R. 448: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 511: Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. MOOLENAAR, and Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 571: Mr. LAMBORN.

H.R. 577: Mr. HUELSKAMP.

H.R. 592: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. BYRNE, and Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 625: Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 687: Mr. GIBBS.

H.R. 733: Mr. BABIN and Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 746: Mr. LEVIN, Mr. SIREN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 756: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 767: Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. ROSKAM, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 782: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 787: Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 803: Mr. OLSON and Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 823: Ms. SPEIER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 846: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. CASTOR

of Florida, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. BEYER, Mr. FARR, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mrs. CAPPS.

H.R. 915: Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 921: Mr. COLLINS of New York.

H.R. 987: Mr. YOHIO.

H.R. 1000: Mr. VEASEY.

H.J. Res. 29: Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. BYRNE, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. SALMON, and Mr. ALLEN.

H.J. Res. 32: Mr. ROUZER.

H. Con. Res. 13: Mr. PALAZZO.

H. Res. 15: Mr. VARGAS, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. NEAL, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. TONKO, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. COOPER, Mr. RUSH, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HIGGINS, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H. Res. 54: Mr. ELLISON.

H. Res. 108: Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. ISSA, Mr. UPTON, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. TIBERI, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. YOHIO, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. MESSER, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. MEADOWS, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, and Mr. EMMER of Minnesota.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE
JOSEPH M. GAYDOS, SR.

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 20, 2015

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Joseph Matthew Gaydos, Sr., a member of this body for twelve terms and a tireless advocate for working Americans. He passed away on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2015. He was 88 years old.

Born July 3, 1926, Mr. Gaydos was the youngest of seven children. His parents, Helen (Elena) Megella and Joann (John) Gajdosh, (later changed to Gaydos) emigrated from Hungary and first settled in Greene County, Pennsylvania. Mr. Gaydos was born in Brad-dock, but grew up in Glassport where he attended Glassport High School before joining the Navy during World War II.

After returning from the war, he attended Duquesne University and then the University of Notre Dame Law School. Following his graduation in 1951, he served as general counsel to the United Mineworkers Union District 5. He also served as Deputy Attorney General of Pennsylvania and Assistant Solicitor of Allegheny County before entering politics.

Mr. Gaydos served briefly as a state senator for the 45th District from 1967 to 1968 before being elected to fill the seat left vacant by the death of U.S. Representative Elmer Holland. He was sworn in as a Member of Congress on November 5, 1968; he was the first Slovak-American to serve in Congress. He subsequently served nearly 25 years as the Representative for Pennsylvania's former 20th District.

In Congress, Mr. Gaydos was a strong supporter of the steel industry and a dedicated advocate for his constituents. He founded the Congressional Steel Caucus in the early 1970's, and he was one of the first to alert the public to the consequences of subsidized foreign steel being dumped on the American market. Through the Congressional Steel Caucus, Mr. Gaydos encouraged members "to strengthen trade law enforcement from unfairly subsidized and dumped steel imports," United Steel Workers spokesman Gary Hubbard said to the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review. "He sponsored bills for job safety in industrial workplaces and the coal mines."

In addition, Congressman Gaydos played an important part in drafting the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, which protects workers' pensions.

Shortly after retiring, Mr. Gaydos joined his son's law firm in 1992 and the name changed to "Gaydos, Gaydos & Associates". Mr. Gaydos remained with the firm handling Governmental Relations until 1994 when he retired for the second and final time.

In a recent interview, Joseph Gaydos, Jr. described his father as a humble, hardworking man who had a pragmatic attitude and took the concerns of his constituents very seriously.

"He was never somebody who needed to drive a big car and have the fanciest of things," Joseph Gaydos, Jr. said. "He was a regular fellow who told us to always remember where we came from."

Mr. Gaydos was a proponent of actions over words, his son said. "Don't tell me what you're going to do," Joseph Gaydos, Jr. recalled him saying often. "Show me what you've done."

Mr. Gaydos strived to live up to his own advice and often quoted "A Politician's Prayer," a poem his wife wrote early in his career:

So as a public servant / I pray to God above
For guidance and humility / and a little bit
of love.

And after my life's ended / and I lay down to
rest

I'll know I can truly say / I've done my very
best.

Mr. Gaydos' friends, family and constituents can all attest to the fact that he did indeed do his very best. Joe Gaydos was a dedicated, hardworking public servant who spent his life championing the interests of working men and women. We could use more men and women like him in public life today.

Joe Gaydos was a good man. I was proud to know him, and I want to extend my deepest condolences to his family and friends on their loss.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 20, 2015

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on Friday, February 13, 2015 because of a serious illness in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted:

Roll Call #81—NAY

Roll Call #82—AYE

Roll Call #83—AYE

RECOGNIZING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 20, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Lunar New Year and to applaud the significant contributions made by Chinese Americans to American life and culture.

Yesterday, Thursday, February 19, marked the first day of the "Year of the Goat."

The Lunar New Year, or "Nian," is a tradition that has been celebrated for more than a thousand years by the Chinese and other persons of Asian ancestry.

The Lunar New Year is cause for celebration in communities all across our country but might I say that no city does it better than my home city of Houston, which will be hosting the Annual Lunar New Year Houston Celebration this coming weekend.

Celebrants will be treated to a variety of festivities, including parades, festivals, art exhibits, and musical performances.

Mr. Speaker, Americans of Asian Pacific ancestry have positively influenced our country through their strong commitment to family, faith, hard work, and service.

They have enhanced and shaped our national character with centuries-old traditions that reflect the multiethnic and multicultural customs of their communities.

Asian Americans have enriched our culture and economy and made significant contributions in every area of American life from the arts and humanities, to the natural and social sciences, to business and the economy, in government, sports, the military, and technology and innovation.

Notable Chinese Americans who have distinguished themselves in the field of the arts and humanities include the two-time Academy Award winning cinematographer, James Wong Howe; Ang Lee, the Academy Award winning director; Maya Lin, the architect who designed the iconic Vietnam Veterans Memorial; I. M. Pei, the famous architect and designer of the Louvre Pyramid; Amy Tan, the best-selling author of *The Joy Luck Club*; Yo-Yo Ma, the world-renowned cellist; and the legendary Bruce Lee, who revolutionized the martial arts film genre.

In the field of business, American life has been enriched by the contributions of Steve Chen, the co-founder of YouTube; Jen-Hsun Huang, the co-founder and CEO of NVIDIA, the computer graphics card company; Min H. Kao, co-founder of Garmin, the GPS software giant; William Wang, the founder and CEO of Vizio; and Jerry Yang, co-founder of Yahoo!

Mr. Speaker, Connie Chung made history as the first Chinese American woman to co-anchor a major network's national news broadcast, as did Norman Bay, the first Chinese American United States Attorney; and Thomas Tang, the first Chinese American federal judge.

Many contemporary Chinese Americans have risen to occupy some of the most important positions in the nation, including my colleagues, JUDY CHU and GRACE MENG, the first and second Chinese American woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives; Dr. Steven Chu, Nobel laureate in Physics and United States Secretary of Energy from 2009–2013; Hiram L. Fong, the first U.S. Senator of Chinese ancestry; Ed Lee, the Mayor of San Francisco; and Gary Locke, former Secretary

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

of Commerce, Ambassador to China, and only Chinese American ever to serve as a Governor.

Mr. Speaker, Kurt Lee was the first Asian American Marine Corps officer and he was followed by John Liu Fugh, the first Chinese American officer to be promoted to the rank of Major General in the United States Army and Coral Wong Pietsch, the first female Chinese American Army General; and it is a source of great pride that the Congressional Medal of Honor was awarded to Francis Wai, so far the only Chinese American to have been so honored.

In the fields of science, engineering, and medicine, Chinese Americans have made significant contributions that have fundamentally changed the way we live and work, including those of Min Chueh Chang, the co-inventor of the first birth control pill; Charles Kao, the 2009 Nobel laureate in Physics who pioneered the development and use of fiber optics in telecommunications; Yuan-Cheng Fung, the founder of modern biomechanics; and NASA astronauts Leroy Chiao and Edward Lu.

Mr. Speaker, according to most recent data reported by the Census Bureau, there are more than 423,609 businesses owned by Chinese Americans generating \$142.8 billion in economic output towards the U.S. economy, along with creating over 780,000 jobs.

As the Member of Congress from the 18th Congressional District of Texas, I am honored to represent a district rich in cultural and ethnic diversity and with a vibrant Chinese-American community.

Mr. Speaker, there are more than four million Chinese-Americans in the United States and Texas is home to more than 167,000 of them; of this latter number, approximately 25 percent, or 43,940, Chinese-Americans live in Harris County, making it the tenth largest community of persons of Chinese heritage in the nation.

Mr. Speaker, Chinese-Americans have made much progress in the United States since May 10, 1860, the date the first transcontinental railroad was completed.

That massive construction project transformed our country for the better and could not have been completed had it not been for the labor of Chinese immigrants.

Despite the enormous progress made challenges still remain of person of Chinese ancestry, particularly the nation's antiquated immigration system which needs to be reformed to make it fairer and more humane.

Celebrating the Lunar New Year helps us to remember how much our country has benefited from the energy, creativity, and service of Chinese Americans.

I encourage all Americans to take part in activities marking this important occasion.

RECOGNIZING THE PEOPLE OF BAHRAIN

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 20, 2015

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, four years ago, thousands of Bahrainis pro-

tested for basic freedoms like the freedom of assembly and expression.

Today, I recognize the people of Bahrain in their ongoing struggle for fundamental human rights.

In many instances over the last four years, protesters have been met with violence, detention, and an unfair judicial system.

Many protesters have alleged they were tortured while in detention.

The government of Bahrain is an important ally and has taken positive steps in response to protests, but much more must be done.

Today I remind my colleagues of Dr. King's famous words, "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Today, due to rising instability, areas of Bahrain are considered "off limits" to U.S. military and their families stationed there.

If this trend continues, the security of the region and of the United States could be at risk.

The United States must work with the government and the protesters, firmly and respectfully, to ensure stability in the region, for all people of Bahrain.

SUPPORTING THE GERARDO HERNANDEZ SECURITY ACT

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 20, 2015

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 720, the Gerardo Hernandez Airport Security Act of 2015, and in tribute to the bill's namesake.

On November 1, 2013, a gunman opened fire in Los Angeles International Airport, killing TSA Officer Gerardo Hernandez and wounding three others before being apprehended. Mr. Hernandez's death was the first time a TSA officer had been killed in the line of duty since the agency's creation following the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

The tragic shooting at LAX jolted the city of Los Angeles and underscored the need to increase airport preparedness throughout the country. I believe the legislation we are voting on today is an important step in meeting that need.

H.R. 720 is a bipartisan bill that will direct the Department of Homeland Security to identify best practices for airport incident planning and to give necessary technical assistance to all airports under TSA's security supervision. The bill aims to verify that each of these airports have individualized working plans for responding to security incidents, including active shooters, acts of terrorism, and incidents that target passenger-screening checkpoints. The Department will be required to submit a report to Congress detailing its outreach findings so that Congress can continue its oversight role on this issue.

We owe it to Mr. Hernandez and his family to ensure that our airports are prepared and passengers protected. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 720.

IN HONOR OF JAMES "JIM" D.
TACKETT

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 20, 2015

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, Jim began his journey by enlisting and attending basic training December 1, 1972, assigned by the Army to a region in Alaska September of 1973, and left active duty December 22, 1978. Arriving in Colorado in 1983 with his wife and two sons, Jim dabbled in car sales. He joined the Colorado National Guard in 1987 and stayed in until his retirement in 2002. His adventures with the Department of Veterans Affairs began as a work-study student at Fort Carson in March 1986 and then hired by El Paso County February 22, 1988 as an Assistant Veteran Service Officer to assist veterans and surviving spouses with completing disability claims.

During Jim's 27 years of service to veterans with the El Paso County Veteran Services, he received numerous awards for his outstanding efforts to serve local veterans and became a part of the community that he worked so tirelessly to help in any way he could. Jim has also been an invaluable advisor to me on all topics related to veterans' affairs. I greatly appreciated his service when he was a member of my Veterans Advisory Board for 8 years.

In 1999, Jim collaborated with local veteran organizations to create the El Paso County Homeless Standdown Committee. He served on the standdown committee for 15 years and helped coordinate the annual Standdown event to assist homeless veterans.

Since 2000 Jim has served as President of the Colorado Veterans Resource Coalition, a non-profit organization to assist with veterans' homeless issues, which is operated in collaboration with numerous other veteran service organizations. As part of this Coalition, Jim has provided executive oversight of the purchase and operation of the Crawford House, two transitional housing buildings, and an apartment complex, which provides services such as safe emergency housing for veterans who are homeless, receiving mental health care, and/or safe transitional low income housing.

From 2003 to 2008, Jim served on the Executive Board and as the Vice President of the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers. During this time Jim ensured numerous Colorado County Veteran Service Officers were accredited through the National organization.

Jim played a critical role in the planning of the new national cemetery in southern Colorado. In 2006, Jim was appointed to the Pikes Peak National Veterans Cemetery Committee and has been instrumental in the upcoming construction of a Veterans Cemetery in El Paso County that is anticipated to be open in 2018. Jim also served on a joint committee to name the new Colorado Springs VA Clinic.

Jim was appointed as the El Paso County Veteran Service Officer in 2008, and immediately began an expanded outreach program to ensure El Paso County veterans are aware of local veteran services and programs. Since this program, the Veteran Service Office has

almost doubled the yearly office visits which has resulted in a 190 percent increase in the number of claims for veterans and their dependents, and has made the El Paso County Veteran Services Office one of the most active offices in the United States.

In 2014, Jim served on my Veteran Affairs Clinic Naming Committee which honored our local hometown hero, WWII Medal of Honor recipient, PFC Floyd Lindstrom. He also served on the clinic's Grand Opening Committee to open one of the largest VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinics in the United States. During this year, Jim also coordinated with Home Depot to construct a Veterans Memorial at Bear Creek Regional Park that honors El Paso County Veterans and their outstanding service.

Jim is one of the most intelligent, highly respected and dependable service officers in the great state of Colorado. He has given every bit of his heart and soul to the Pikes Peak community and he remains one of the most influential community leaders. I am very proud and grateful for his selfless service to the veterans in Colorado's 5th Congressional District.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MARIJUANA TAX REVENUE ACT OF 2015

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 20, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Marijuana Tax Revenue Act of 2015, legislation to create a federal excise tax on marijuana sales and move this industry out of the shadows and into the daylight. Over two-thirds of people live in a state or local jurisdiction that has decided that some aspect of marijuana use should be legally permitted. Thirty-four states and the District of Columbia have passed laws allowing for medical marijuana in some form and five jurisdictions, Colorado, Washington, Oregon, Alaska and the District of Columbia legalized the recreational use of small amounts of marijuana.

National trends reflect those state efforts. More than 46 percent of Americans over the age of 18 have tried marijuana at least once and public opinion research reveals nearly half of the U.S. population supports legalization. Yet even as states and local governments have taken the lead in finding legal arrangements for marijuana, the federal government spends billions of dollars per year on incarceration and enforcement associated with federal marijuana laws.

In addition, many marijuana businesses around the country—despite operating in compliance with state or local law—are not allowed to deduct their legitimate business expenses and often are unable to make deposits or maintain accounts as a result of federal banking laws.

It is time for Congress to end the federal prohibition on marijuana, remove it from the Controlled Substances Act, and create a tax and regulatory framework similar to the frameworks in place for alcohol and tobacco. This

represents a unique opportunity to save ruined lives, wasted enforcement and prison costs, while simultaneously helping to create a new industry, with new jobs and revenues that will improve the federal budget outlook.

The Marijuana Tax Revenue Act of 2015 phases in an excise tax on the sale of marijuana by a producer (generally the grower) to the next stage of production (generally the processor creating the useable product). This tax is phased in over five years following legalization. It starts at 10% and grows to 25%. The bill requires occupational taxes for those operating marijuana businesses. Those who do not comply with the taxation laws face civil or criminal penalties similar to those in place for the tobacco industry. The bill requires the IRS to produce periodic studies of the industry and make recommendations to Congress. Medical marijuana is exempt from these excise taxes.

As I work with my colleagues and with stakeholders to move forward with this legislation, I emphasize that there remain significant questions and challenges. In particular, in the context of legislation, significant changes will ripple through the marijuana industry, with new products created, new business relationships developed, new consumer standards demanded, and wide variations in state and local laws. As this process evolves, we hope to work with the industry to ensure that the tax rate and framework appropriately reflects federal concerns and the needs of this developing industry. I am committed to ensuring that the legislation's terms are adequately tailored to reflect the realities faced by marijuana businesses and consumers in an ever-shifting market.

It is important to note that states will remain free to make decisions about marijuana policy. Paired with Representative POLIS' "Regulate Marijuana like Alcohol Act" this legislation establishes a starting point for laying out a federal regulatory and taxation framework for marijuana sales that are legal under state law.

HONORING THE 2014 FELLOWS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF INVENTORS (NAI)

HON. DENNIS A. ROSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 20, 2015

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 170 inventors who will soon be recognized at the California Institute of Technology and inducted as the 2014 Fellows of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI). In order to be named as a Fellow, these men and women were nominated by their peers and have undergone the scrutiny of the NAI Selection Committee, having had their innovations deemed as making significant impact on quality of life, economic development, and welfare of society. Collectively, among this elite group holds nearly 5,000 patents.

The individuals making up this year's class of Fellows include individuals from 114 research universities and non-profit research institutes spanning not just the United States but also the world. The now 414 member group of

Fellows is comprised of 61 presidents and senior leadership of research universities and non-profit research institutes, 208 members of the other National Academies, 21 inductees of the National Inventors Hall of Fame, 16 recipients of the U.S. National Medal of Technology and Innovation, 10 recipients of the U.S. National Medal of Science, 21 Nobel Laureates, 11 Lemelson-MIT prize recipients, 112 AAAS Fellows, among other awards and distinctions.

The National Academy of Inventors was founded in 2010 by Paul R. Sanberg at the University of South Florida. Its mission is to recognize and encourage inventors with patents issued from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, enhance the visibility of academic technology and innovation, encourage the disclosure of intellectual property, educate and mentor innovative students, and translate the inventions of its members to benefit society.

The contributions made to society through innovation are immeasurable. I commend these individuals, and the organizations that support them, for the work that they do to revolutionize the world we live in. As the following inventors are inducted, may it encourage future innovators to strive to meet this high honor and continue the spirit of innovation.

The 2014 NAI Fellows include:

Ilhan A. Aksay, Princeton University; Nancy L. Allbritton, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Jan P. Allebach, Purdue University; Daniel W. Armstrong, The University of Texas at Arlington; Frances H. Arnold, California Institute of Technology; Kyriacos A. Athanasiou, University of California, Davis; Nadine N. Aubry, Northeastern University; David Baltimore, California Institute of Technology; Amit Bandyopadhyay, Washington State University; Joseph J. Beaman, Jr., The University of Texas at Austin; James A. Birchler, University of Missouri-Columbia; Donald R. Bobbitt, University of Arkansas; Jeffrey T. Borenstein, The Charles Stark Draper Laboratory; H. Kim Bottomly, Wellesley College; Scott A. Brandt, University of California, Santa Cruz; Steven P. Briggs, University of California, San Diego; Robert A. Brown, Boston University; Karen J.L. Burg, Kansas State University; Robert H. Byrne, University of South Florida; A. Robert Calderbank, Duke University; Emily A. Carter, Princeton University; Alexander N. Cartwright, The State University of New York; H. Jonathan Chao, New York University; Ching-Shih Chen, The Ohio State University; Ashutosh Chilkoti, Duke University; Arul M. Chinnaiyan, University of Michigan; Steven Chu, Stanford University; James J. Coleman, The University of Texas at Dallas; J. Edward Colgate, Northwestern University; Barry S. Collier, The Rockefeller University; R. Graham Cooks, Purdue University; Rory A. Cooper, University of Pittsburgh; Harold G. Craighead, Cornell University; Charles S. Craik, University of California, San Francisco; Alfred J. Crosby, University of Massachusetts Amherst; Marcos Dantus, Michigan State University; Huw M.L. Davies, Emory University; Mark R.D. Davies, University of Limerick; Mark E. Dean, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville; Richard D. DiMarchi, Indiana University; Michael A. Dirr, The University of Georgia; Richard A. Dixon, University of North Texas;

John P. Donoghue, Brown University; Jonathan S. Dordick, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; Jennifer A. Doudna, University of California, Berkeley; Anatoly Dritschilo, Georgetown University; Robert V. Duncan, Texas Tech University; Russell D. Dupuis, Georgia Institute of Technology; Victor J. Dzau, Duke University; James H. Eberwine, University of Pennsylvania; Elazer R. Edelman, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; J. Gary Eden, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Jennifer H. Elisseeff, Johns Hopkins University; Sir Martin J. Evans, Cardiff University; David A. Evans, Harvard University; Gregg B. Fields, Toney Pines Institute for Molecular Studies; Stephen R. Forrest, University of Michigan; Michael W. Fountain, University of South Florida; Ingrid Fritsch, University of Arkansas; Cynthia M. Fuse, The University of Utah; Elsa M. Garmire, Dartmouth College; Samuel H. Gellman, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Amit Goyal, Oak Ridge National Laboratory; Bruce D. Hammock, University of California, Davis; Justin Hanes, Johns Hopkins University; Frank W. Harris, The University of Akron; Vikki Hazelwood, Stevens Institute of Technology; Maurice P. Herlihy, Brown University; John C. Herr, University of Virginia; David R. Hillyard, The University of Utah; Jeffrey A. Hubbell, The University of Chicago; Suzanne T. Ildstad, University of Louisville; M. Saif Islam, University of California, Davis; Robert D. Ivarie, The University of Georgia; Allan J. Jacobson, University of Houston; Trevor O. Jones, Case Western Reserve University; Michael E. Jung, University of California, Los Angeles; Kattesh V. Katti, University of Missouri-Columbia; Jay D. Keasling, University of California, Berkeley; Behrokh Khoshnevis, University of Southern California; Marcia J. Kieliszewski, Ohio University; Michael N. Kozicki, Arizona State University; Juan C. Lasheras, University of California, San Diego; Wen-Hwa Lee, China Medical University; Chiang J. Li, Harvard University; James Linder, University of Nebraska-Lincoln;

Stuart M. Lindsay, Arizona State University; Robert J. Linhardt, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; Philip S. Low, Purdue University; Yuri M. Lvov, Louisiana Tech University; Asad M. Madni, University of California, Los Angeles; Marc J. Madou, University of California, Irvine; Richard A. Mathies, University of California, Berkeley; Richard D. McCullough, Harvard University; Carver A. Mead, California Institute of Technology; Wen Jin Meng, Louisiana State University; Xiang-Jin Meng, Virginia Tech; Thomas O. Mensah, Florida State University; Antonios G. Mikos, Rice University; Richard K. Miller, Olin College of Engineering; Duane D. Miller, The University of Tennessee Health Science Center; Jan D. Miller, The University of Utah; Sergey B. Mirov, The University of Alabama at Birmingham; Jeffrey R. Morgan, Brown University; Brij M. Moudgil, University of Florida; José M.F. Moura, Carnegie Mellon University; Shuji Nakamura, University of California, Santa Barbara; Jagdish Narayan, North Carolina State University; Shree K. Nayar, Columbia University; Douglas F. Nixon, The George Washington University; Babatunde A. Ogunnaike, University of Delaware; Iwao Ojima, Stony Brook University; Nicholas A. Peppas, The University of Texas at Austin; Michael A. Peshkin, Northwestern University; Victor L. Poirier, University of South Florida; Mark R. Prausnitz, Georgia Institute of Technology; Darwin J. Prockop, Texas A&M University; Alain T. Rappaport, Institute for Human and Machine Cognition; Renee A. Reijo Pera, Montana State University; Daniel E. Resasco, The University of Oklahoma; Rebecca R. Richards-Kortum, Rice University; Yasuko Rikihisa, The Ohio State University; Pradeep K. Rohatgi, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Bärbel M. Rohrer, Medical University of South Carolina; Erkki Ruoslahti, Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute; B. Don Russell, Jr., Texas A&M University; Ram Sasisekharan, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; W. Gregory Sawyer, University of Florida; Axel Scherer, California Institute of

Technology; Joseph M. Schimmels, Marquette University; C. Richard Schlegel, Georgetown University; Saïd M. Sebt, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer & Research Institute; George E. Seidel, Jr., Colorado State University; Arup K. SenGupta, Lehigh University; Wan Y. Shih, Drexel University; Kevin M. Short, University of New Hampshire; Richard B. Silverman, Northwestern University; Marwan A. Simaan, University of Central Florida; Raj N. Singh, Oklahoma State University; Thomas C. Skalak, University of Virginia; Mohamed Y. Soliman, Texas Tech University; Bruce J. Tatarchuk, Auburn University; Gordon A. Thomas, New Jersey Institute of Technology; Mark E. Thompson, University of Southern California; Thomas G. Thundat, University of Alberta; Richard B. Timmons, The University of Texas at Arlington; Mark L. Tykocinski, Thomas Jefferson University; Kamil Ugurbil, University of Minnesota; Anthony J. Vizzini, Wichita State University; Horst Vogel, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne; Nicholi Vorsa, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey; Gordana Vunjak-Novakovic, Columbia University; Kristiina Vuori, Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute; Kevin M. Walsh, University of Louisville; Christine A. Wang, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Shaomeng Wang, University of Michigan; Paul H. Weigel, The University of Oklahoma; Jonathan A. Wickert, Iowa State University; Alan E. Willner, University of Southern California; Richard C. Willson III, University of Houston; Chi-Huey Wong, Academia Sinica; John A. Woollam, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Shelby D. Worley, Auburn University; Chris Xu, Cornell University; Ping Xu, Shanghai Jiao Tong University; Zhi Xu, University of Missouri-St. Louis; Janet K. Yamamoto, University of Florida; Shu Yang, University of Pennsylvania; Michael J. Yaszemski, Mayo Clinic; Phillip D. Zamore, University of Massachusetts Medical School.

SENATE—Monday, February 23, 2015

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O Lord, as our lips are open in prayer, so may our hearts be open to receive Your guidance. Help us to bow to Your will and live lives devoted to Your providential leading.

Bless our Senators in their work. Let faith, hope, and love abound in their lives. Help them to seek to heal the hurt in our world. Remind them that they will be judged by their fruits and that You require them to be faithful. May they seek to serve rather than be served, following Your example of humility and sacrifice. Open their minds and give them a vision of the unlimited possibilities available to those who trust You as their guide.

Lord, we thank You for the faith and legacy of our first President, George Washington.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

**READING OF WASHINGTON'S
FAREWELL ADDRESS**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to the order of the Senate of January 24, 1901, as amended by the order of February 9, 2015, the Senator from North Dakota, Mr. HOEVEN, will now read Washington's Farewell Address.

Mr. HOEVEN, at the rostrum, read the Farewell Address, as follows:

To the people of the United States

FRIENDS AND FELLOW-CITIZENS: The period for a new election of a citizen to administer the executive government of the United States being not far distant, and the time actually arrived when your thoughts must be employed in designating the person who is to be clothed with that important trust, it appears to me proper, especially as it

may conduce to a more distinct expression of the public voice, that I should now apprise you of the resolution I have formed, to decline being considered among the number of those out of whom a choice is to be made.

I beg you at the same time to do me the justice to be assured that this resolution has not been taken without a strict regard to all the considerations appertaining to the relation which binds a dutiful citizen to his country—and that, in withdrawing the tender of service which silence in my situation might imply, I am influenced by no diminution of zeal for your future interest, no deficiency of grateful respect for your past kindness, but am supported by a full conviction that the step is compatible with both.

The acceptance of, and continuance hitherto in, the office to which your suffrages have twice called me have been a uniform sacrifice of inclination to the opinion of duty and to a deference for what appeared to be your desire. I constantly hoped that it would have been much earlier in my power, consistently with motives which I was not at liberty to disregard, to return to that retirement from which I had been reluctantly drawn. The strength of my inclination to do this, previous to the last election, had even led to the preparation of an address to declare it to you; but mature reflection on the then perplexed and critical posture of our affairs with foreign nations, and the unanimous advice of persons entitled to my confidence, impelled me to abandon the idea.

I rejoice that the state of your concerns, external as well as internal, no longer renders the pursuit of inclination incompatible with the sentiment of duty or propriety and am persuaded, whatever partiality may be retained for my services, that in the present circumstances of our country you will not disapprove my determination to retire.

The impressions with which I first undertook the arduous trust were explained on the proper occasion. In the discharge of this trust, I will only say that I have, with good intentions, contributed towards the organization and administration of the government the best exertions of which a very fallible judgment was capable. Not unconscious in the outset of the inferiority of my qualifications, experience in my own eyes, perhaps still more in the eyes of others, has strengthened the motives to diffidence of myself, and every day the increasing weight of years admonishes me more and more that the shade of retirement is as necessary to me as it will be welcome. Satisfied that if

any circumstances have given peculiar value to my services, they were temporary, I have the consolation to believe that, while choice and prudence invite me to quit the political scene, patriotism does not forbid it.

In looking forward to the moment which is intended to terminate the career of my public life, my feelings do not permit me to suspend the deep acknowledgment of that debt of gratitude which I owe to my beloved country for the many honors it has conferred upon me, still more for the steadfast confidence with which it has supported me and for the opportunities I have thence enjoyed of manifesting my inviolable attachment by services faithful and persevering, though in usefulness unequal to my zeal. If benefits have resulted to our country from these services, let it always be remembered to your praise and as an instructive example in our annals that, under circumstances in which the passions agitated in every direction were liable to mislead, amidst appearances sometimes dubious, vicissitudes of fortune often discouraging, in situations in which not unfrequently want of success has countenanced the spirit of criticism, the constancy of your support was the essential prop of the efforts and a guarantee of the plans by which they were effected. Profoundly penetrated with this idea, I shall carry it with me to my grave as a strong incitement to unceasing vows that Heaven may continue to you the choicest tokens of its beneficence; that your union and brotherly affection may be perpetual; that the free constitution, which is the work of your hands, may be sacredly maintained; that its administration in every department may be stamped with wisdom and virtue; that, in fine, the happiness of the people of these states, under the auspices of liberty, may be made complete by so careful a preservation and so prudent a use of this blessing as will acquire to them the glory of recommending it to the applause, the affection, and adoption of every nation which is yet a stranger to it.

Here, perhaps, I ought to stop. But a solicitude for your welfare, which cannot end but with my life, and the apprehension of danger natural to that solicitude, urge me on an occasion like the present to offer to your solemn contemplation, and to recommend to your frequent review, some sentiments which are the result of much reflection, of no inconsiderable observation, and which appear to me all important to the permanency of your felicity as a people. These will be offered to you

with the more freedom as you can only see in them the disinterested warnings of a parting friend, who can possibly have no personal motive to bias his counsel. Nor can I forget, as an encouragement to it, your indulgent reception of my sentiments on a former and not dissimilar occasion.

Interwoven as is the love of liberty with every ligament of your hearts, no recommendation of mine is necessary to fortify or confirm the attachment.

The unity of government which constitutes you one people is also now dear to you. It is justly so; for it is a main pillar in the edifice of your real independence, the support of your tranquility at home, your peace abroad, of your safety, of your prosperity, of that very liberty which you so highly prize. But as it is easy to foresee that, from different causes and from different quarters, much pains will be taken, many artifices employed, to weaken in your minds the conviction of this truth; as this is the point in your political fortress against which the batteries of internal and external enemies will be most constantly and actively (though often covertly and insidiously) directed, it is of infinite moment that you should properly estimate the immense value of your national Union to your collective and individual happiness; that you should cherish a cordial, habitual, and immovable attachment to it; accustoming yourselves to think and speak of it as of the palladium of your political safety and prosperity; watching for its preservation with jealous anxiety; discountenancing whatever may suggest even a suspicion that it can in any event be abandoned; and indignantly frowning upon the first dawning of every attempt to alienate any portion of our country from the rest, or to enfeeble the sacred ties which now link together the various parts.

For this you have every inducement of sympathy and interest. Citizens by birth or choice of a common country, that country has a right to concentrate your affections. The name of American, which belongs to you in your national capacity, must always exalt the just pride of patriotism more than any appellation derived from local discriminations. With slight shades of difference, you have the same religion, manners, habits, and political principles. You have in a common cause fought and triumphed together. The independence and liberty you possess are the work of joint councils and joint efforts—of common dangers, sufferings, and successes.

But these considerations, however powerfully they address themselves to your sensibility, are greatly outweighed by those which apply more immediately to your interest. Here every portion of our country finds the most commanding motives for carefully guarding and preserving the Union of the whole.

The North, in an unrestrained intercourse with the South, protected by the equal laws of a common government, finds in the productions of the latter great additional resources of maritime and commercial enterprise and precious materials of manufacturing industry. The South in the same intercourse, benefitting by the agency of the North, sees its agriculture grow and its commerce expand. Turning partly into its own channels the seamen of the North, it finds its particular navigation invigorated; and while it contributes, in different ways, to nourish and increase the general mass of the national navigation, it looks forward to the protection of a maritime strength to which itself is unequally adapted. The East, in a like intercourse with the West, already finds, and in the progressive improvement of interior communications by land and water will more and more find a valuable vent for the commodities which it brings from abroad or manufactures at home. The West derives from the East supplies requisite to its growth and comfort—and what is perhaps of still greater consequence, it must of necessity owe the secure enjoyment of indispensable outlets for its own productions to the weight, influence, and the future maritime strength of the Atlantic side of the Union, directed by an indissoluble community of interest as one nation. Any other tenure by which the West can hold this essential advantage, whether derived from its own separate strength or from an apostate and unnatural connection with any foreign power, must be intrinsically precarious.

While then every part of our country thus feels an immediate and particular interest in union, all the parts combined cannot fail to find in the united mass of means and efforts greater strength, greater resource, proportionably greater security from external danger, a less frequent interruption of their peace by foreign nations; and, what is of inestimable value! they must derive from union an exemption from those broils and wars between themselves which so frequently afflict neighboring countries not tied together by the same government, which their own rivalships alone would be sufficient to produce, but which opposite foreign alliances, attachments, and intrigues would stimulate and embitter. Hence likewise they will avoid the necessity of those overgrown military establishments, which under any form of government are inauspicious to liberty, and which are to be regarded as particularly hostile to republican liberty. In this sense it is, that your Union ought to be considered as a main prop of your liberty, and that the love of the one ought to endear to you the preservation of the other.

These considerations speak a persuasive language to every reflecting and

virtuous mind and exhibit the continuance of the Union as a primary object of patriotic desire. Is there a doubt whether a common government can embrace so large a sphere? Let experience solve it. To listen to mere speculation in such a case were criminal. We are authorized to hope that a proper organization of the whole, with the auxiliary agency of governments for the respective subdivisions, will afford a happy issue to the experiment. It is well worth a fair and full experiment. With such powerful and obvious motives to union affecting all parts of our country, while experience shall not have demonstrated its impracticability, there will always be reason to distrust the patriotism of those who in any quarter may endeavor to weaken its bands.

In contemplating the causes which may disturb our Union, it occurs as matter of serious concern that any ground should have been furnished for characterizing parties by geographical discriminations—northern and southern—Atlantic and western; whence designing men may endeavor to excite a belief that there is a real difference of local interests and views. One of the expedients of party to acquire influence within particular districts is to misrepresent the opinions and aims of other districts. You cannot shield yourselves too much against the jealousies and heart burnings which spring from these misrepresentations. They tend to render alien to each other those who ought to be bound together by fraternal affection. The inhabitants of our western country have lately had a useful lesson on this head. They have seen in the negotiation by the executive—and in the unanimous ratification by the Senate—of the treaty with Spain, and in the universal satisfaction at that event throughout the United States, a decisive proof how unfounded were the suspicions propagated among them of a policy in the general government and in the Atlantic states unfriendly to their interests in regard to the Mississippi. They have been witnesses to the formation of two treaties, that with Great Britain and that with Spain, which secure to them everything they could desire, in respect to our foreign relations, towards confirming their prosperity. Will it not be their wisdom to rely for the preservation of these advantages on the Union by which they were procured? Will they not henceforth be deaf to those advisers, if such there are, who would sever them from their brethren and connect them with aliens?

To the efficacy and permanency of your Union, a government for the whole is indispensable. No alliances, however strict, between the parts can be an adequate substitute. They must inevitably experience the infractions and interruptions which all alliances in all times have experienced. Sensible of

this momentous truth, you have improved upon your first essay by the adoption of a Constitution of government better calculated than your former for an intimate Union and for the efficacious management of your common concerns. This government, the offspring of our own choice uninfluenced and unawed, adopted upon full investigation and mature deliberation, completely free in its principles, in the distribution of its powers uniting security with energy, and containing within itself a provision for its own amendment, has a just claim to your confidence and your support. Respect for its authority, compliance with its laws, acquiescence in its measures, are duties enjoined by the fundamental maxims of true liberty. The basis of our political systems is the right of the people to make and to alter their constitutions of government. But the Constitution which at any time exists, until changed by an explicit and authentic act of the whole people, is sacredly obligatory upon all. The very idea of the power and the right of the people to establish government presupposes the duty of every individual to obey the established government.

All obstructions to the execution of the laws, all combinations and associations under whatever plausible character with the real design to direct, control, counteract, or awe the regular deliberation and action of the constituted authorities, are destructive of this fundamental principle and of fatal tendency. They serve to organize faction; to give it an artificial and extraordinary force; to put in the place of the delegated will of the nation the will of a party, often a small but artful and enterprising minority of the community; and, according to the alternate triumphs of different parties, to make the public administration the mirror of the ill concerted and incongruous projects of faction, rather than the organ of consistent and wholesome plans digested by common councils and modified by mutual interests. However combinations or associations of the above description may now and then answer popular ends, they are likely, in the course of time and things, to become potent engines by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the power of the people and to usurp for themselves the reins of government, destroying afterwards the very engines which have lifted them to unjust dominion.

Towards the preservation of your government and the permanency of your present happy state, it is requisite not only that you steadily discountenance irregular oppositions to its acknowledged authority but also that you resist with care the spirit of innovation upon its principles, however specious the pretexts. One method of assault may be to effect in the forms of

the Constitution alterations which will impair the energy of the system and thus to undermine what cannot be directly overthrown. In all the changes to which you may be invited, remember that time and habit are at least as necessary to fix the true character of governments as of other human institutions, that experience is the surest standard by which to test the real tendency of the existing constitution of a country, that facility in changes upon the credit of mere hypotheses and opinion exposes to perpetual change from the endless variety of hypotheses and opinion; and remember, especially, that for the efficient management of your common interests in a country so extensive as ours, a government of as much vigor as is consistent with the perfect security of liberty is indispensable; liberty itself will find in such a government, with powers properly distributed and adjusted, its surest guardian. It is indeed little else than a name, where the government is too feeble to withstand the enterprises of faction, to confine each member of the society within the limits prescribed by the laws, and to maintain all in the secure and tranquil enjoyment of the rights of person and property.

I have already intimated to you the danger of parties in the state, with particular reference to the founding of them on geographical discriminations. Let me now take a more comprehensive view and warn you in the most solemn manner against the baneful effects of the spirit of party, generally.

This spirit, unfortunately, is inseparable from our nature, having its root in the strongest passions of the human mind. It exists under different shapes in all governments, more or less stifled, controlled, or repressed; but in those of the popular form it is seen in its greatest rankness and is truly their worst enemy.

The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge natural to party dissension, which in different ages and countries has perpetrated the most horrid enormities, is itself a frightful despotism. But this leads at length to a more formal and permanent despotism. The disorders and miseries which result gradually incline the minds of men to seek security and repose in the absolute power of an individual; and sooner or later the chief of some prevailing faction, more able or more fortunate than his competitors, turns this disposition to the purposes of his own elevation on the ruins of public liberty.

Without looking forward to an extremity of this kind (which nevertheless ought not to be entirely out of sight) the common and continual mischiefs of the spirit of party are sufficient to make it the interest and the duty of a wise people to discourage and restrain it.

It serves always to distract the public councils and enfeeble the public ad-

ministration. It agitates the community with ill founded jealousies and false alarms, kindles the animosity of one part against another, fomenters occasionally riot and insurrection. It opens the door to foreign influence and corruption, which find a facilitated access to the government itself through the channels of party passions. Thus the policy and the will of one country are subjected to the policy and will of another.

There is an opinion that parties in free countries are useful checks upon the administration of the government and serve to keep alive the spirit of liberty. This within certain limits is probably true—and in governments of a monarchical cast patriotism may look with indulgence, if not with favor, upon the spirit of party. But in those of the popular character, in governments purely elective, it is a spirit not to be encouraged. From their natural tendency, it is certain there will always be enough of that spirit for every salutary purpose. And there being constant danger of excess, the effort ought to be by force of public opinion to mitigate and assuage it. A fire not to be quenched, it demands a uniform vigilance to prevent its bursting into a flame, lest instead of warming it should consume.

It is important, likewise, that the habits of thinking in a free country should inspire caution in those entrusted with its administration to confine themselves within their respective constitutional spheres, avoiding in the exercise of the powers of one department to encroach upon another. The spirit of encroachment tends to consolidate the powers of all the departments in one and thus to create, whatever the form of government, a real despotism. A just estimate of that love of power and proneness to abuse it which predominates in the human heart is sufficient to satisfy us of the truth of this position. The necessity of reciprocal checks in the exercise of political power, by dividing and distributing it into different depositories and constituting each the guardian of the public weal against invasions by the others, has been evinced by experiments ancient and modern, some of them in our country and under our own eyes. To preserve them must be as necessary as to institute them. If in the opinion of the people the distribution or modification of the constitutional powers be in any particular wrong, let it be corrected by an amendment in the way which the Constitution designates. But let there be no change by usurpation; for though this, in one instance, may be the instrument of good, it is the customary weapon by which free governments are destroyed. The precedent must always greatly overbalance in permanent evil any partial or transient benefit which the use can at any time yield.

Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens. The mere politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and to cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity. Let it simply be asked where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation desert the oaths, which are the instruments of investigation in courts of justice? And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.

It is substantially true that virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government. The rule indeed extends with more or less force to every species of free government. Who that is a sincere friend to it can look with indifference upon attempts to shake the foundation of the fabric?

Promote then, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge. In proportion as the structure of a government gives force to public opinion, it is essential that public opinion should be enlightened.

As a very important source of strength and security, cherish public credit. One method of preserving it is to use it as sparingly as possible, avoiding occasions of expense by cultivating peace, but remembering also that timely disbursements to prepare for danger frequently prevent much greater disbursements to repel it; avoiding likewise the accumulation of debt, not only by shunning occasions of expense, but by vigorous exertions in time of peace to discharge the debts which unavoidable wars may have occasioned, not ungenerously throwing upon posterity the burden which we ourselves ought to bear. The execution of these maxims belongs to your representatives, but it is necessary that public opinion should cooperate. To facilitate to them the performance of their duty, it is essential that you should practically bear in mind that towards the payment of debts there must be revenue; that to have revenue there must be taxes; that no taxes can be devised which are not more or less inconvenient and unpleasant; that the intrinsic embarrassment inseparable from the selection of the proper objects (which is always a choice of difficulties) ought to be a decisive motive for a candid construction of the conduct of the government in making it, and for a

spirit of acquiescence in the measures for obtaining revenue which the public exigencies may at any time dictate.

Observe good faith and justice towards all nations; cultivate peace and harmony with all; religion and morality enjoin this conduct, and can it be that good policy does not equally enjoin it? It will be worthy of a free, enlightened, and, at no distant period, a great nation, to give to mankind the magnanimous and too novel example of a people always guided by an exalted justice and benevolence. Who can doubt that in the course of time and things the fruits of such a plan would richly repay any temporary advantages which might be lost by a steady adherence to it? Can it be, that Providence has not connected the permanent felicity of a nation with its virtue? The experiment, at least, is recommended by every sentiment which ennobles human nature. Alas! is it rendered impossible by its vices?

In the execution of such a plan nothing is more essential than that permanent, inveterate antipathies against particular nations and passionate attachments for others should be excluded and that in place of them just and amicable feelings towards all should be cultivated. The nation which indulges towards another an habitual hatred, or an habitual fondness, is in some degree a slave. It is a slave to its animosity or to its affection, either of which is sufficient to lead it astray from its duty and its interest. Antipathy in one nation against another disposes each more readily to offer insult and injury, to lay hold of slight causes of umbrage, and to be haughty and intractable when accidental or trifling occasions of dispute occur. Hence frequent collisions, obstinate, envenomed, and bloody contests. The nation, prompted by ill will and resentment, sometimes impels to war the government, contrary to the best calculations of policy. The government sometimes participates in the national propensity and adopts through passion what reason would reject; at other times, it makes the animosity of the nation subservient to projects of hostility instigated by pride, ambition and other sinister and pernicious motives. The peace often, sometimes perhaps the liberty, of nations has been the victim.

So likewise, a passionate attachment of one nation for another produces a variety of evils. Sympathy for the favorite nation, facilitating the illusion of an imaginary common interest in cases where no real common interest exists and infusing into one the enmities of the other, betrays the former into a participation in the quarrels and wars of the latter, without adequate inducement or justification. It leads also to concessions to the favorite nation of privileges denied to others, which is apt doubly to injure the nation making the concessions, by unnecessarily part-

ing with what ought to have been retained and by exciting jealousy, ill will, and a disposition to retaliate in the parties from whom equal privileges are withheld. And it gives to ambitious, corrupted, or deluded citizens (who devote themselves to the favorite nation) facility to betray or sacrifice the interests of their own country without odium, sometimes even with popularity, gilding with the appearances of a virtuous sense of obligation, a commendable deference for public opinion, or a laudable zeal for public good, the base or foolish compliances of ambition, corruption, or infatuation.

As avenues to foreign influence in innumerable ways, such attachments are particularly alarming to the truly enlightened and independent patriot. How many opportunities do they afford to tamper with domestic factions, to practice the arts of seduction, to mislead public opinion, to influence or awe the public councils! Such an attachment of a small or weak towards a great and powerful nation dooms the former to be the satellite of the latter.

Against the insidious wiles of foreign influence (I conjure you to believe me, fellow citizens) the jealousy of a free people ought to be constantly awake, since history and experience prove that foreign influence is one of the most baneful foes of republican government. But that jealousy to be useful must be impartial; else it becomes the instrument of the very influence to be avoided, instead of a defense against it. Excessive partiality for one foreign nation and excessive dislike of another cause those whom they actuate to see danger only on one side, and serve to veil and even second the arts of influence on the other. Real patriots, who may resist the intrigues of the favorite, are liable to become suspected and odious, while its tools and dupes usurp the applause and confidence of the people to surrender their interests.

The great rule of conduct for us in regard to foreign nations is, in extending our commercial relations, to have with them as little political connection as possible. So far as we have already formed engagements, let them be fulfilled with perfect good faith. Here let us stop.

Europe has a set of primary interests, which to us have none or a very remote relation. Hence she must be engaged in frequent controversies, the causes of which are essentially foreign to our concerns. Hence therefore it must be unwise in us to implicate ourselves, by artificial ties, in the ordinary vicissitudes of her politics or the ordinary combinations and collisions of her friendships or enmities.

Our detached and distant situation invites and enables us to pursue a different course. If we remain one people under an efficient government, the period is not far off when we may defy

material injury from external annoyance; when we may take such an attitude as will cause the neutrality we may at any time resolve upon to be scrupulously respected; when belligerent nations, under the impossibility of making acquisitions upon us, will not lightly hazard the giving us provocation; when we may choose peace or war, as our interest guided by justice shall counsel.

Why forgo the advantages of so peculiar a situation? Why quit our own to stand upon foreign ground? Why, by interweaving our destiny with that of any part of Europe, entangle our peace and prosperity in the toils of European ambition, rivalship, interest, humor, or caprice?

It is our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world—so far, I mean, as we are now at liberty to do it, for let me not be understood as capable of patronizing infidelity to existing engagements (I hold the maxim no less applicable to public than to private affairs, that honesty is always the best policy)—I repeat it therefore, let those engagements be observed in their genuine sense. But in my opinion it is unnecessary and would be unwise to extend them.

Taking care always to keep ourselves, by suitable establishments, on a respectably defensive posture, we may safely trust to temporary alliances for extraordinary emergencies.

Harmony, liberal intercourse with all nations, are recommended by policy, humanity, and interest. But even our commercial policy should hold an equal and impartial hand; neither seeking nor granting exclusive favors or preferences; consulting the natural course of things; diffusing and diversifying by gentle means the streams of commerce but forcing nothing; establishing with powers so disposed—in order to give to trade a stable course, to define the rights of our merchants, and to enable the government to support them—conventional rules of intercourse, the best that present circumstances and mutual opinion will permit, but temporary, and liable to be from time to time abandoned or varied, as experience and circumstances shall dictate; constantly keeping in view, that it is folly in one nation to look for disinterested favors from another—that it must pay with a portion of its independence for whatever it may accept under that character—that by such acceptance it may place itself in the condition of having given equivalents for nominal favors and yet of being reproached with ingratitude for not giving more. There can be no greater error than to expect or calculate upon real favors from nation to nation. It is an illusion which experience must cure, which a just pride ought to discard.

In offering to you, my countrymen, these counsels of an old and affec-

tionate friend, I dare not hope they will make the strong and lasting impression I could wish—that they will control the usual current of the passions or prevent our nation from running the course which has hitherto marked the destiny of nations. But if I may even flatter myself that they may be productive of some partial benefit, some occasional good, that they may now and then recur to moderate the fury of party spirit, to warn against the mischiefs of foreign intrigue, to guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism—this hope will be a full recompense for the solicitude for your welfare by which they have been dictated.

How far in the discharge of my official duties I have been guided by the principles which have been delineated, the public records and other evidences of my conduct must witness to you and to the world. To myself, the assurance of my own conscience is that I have at least believed myself to be guided by them.

In relation to the still subsisting war in Europe, my proclamation of the 22d of April 1793 is the index to my plan. Sanctioned by your approving voice and by that of your representatives in both houses of Congress, the spirit of that measure has continually governed me, uninfluenced by any attempts to deter or divert me from it.

After deliberate examination with the aid of the best lights I could obtain, I was well satisfied that our country, under all the circumstances of the case, had a right to take—and was bound in duty and interest to take—a neutral position. Having taken it, I determined, as far as should depend upon me, to maintain it with moderation, perseverance, and firmness.

The considerations which respect the right to hold this conduct it is not necessary on this occasion to detail. I will only observe that, according to my understanding of the matter, that right, so far from being denied by any of the belligerent powers, has been virtually admitted by all.

The duty of holding a neutral conduct may be inferred, without anything more, from the obligation which justice and humanity impose on every nation, in cases in which it is free to act, to maintain inviolate the relations of peace and amity towards other nations.

The inducements of interest for observing that conduct will best be referred to your own reflections and experience. With me, a predominant motive has been to endeavor to gain time to our country to settle and mature its yet recent institutions and to progress without interruption to that degree of strength and consistency which is necessary to give it, humanly speaking, the command of its own fortunes.

Though in reviewing the incidents of my administration I am unconscious of intentional error, I am nevertheless

too sensible of my defects not to think it probable that I may have committed many errors. Whatever they may be, I fervently beseech the Almighty to avert or mitigate the evils to which they may tend. I shall also carry with me the hope that my country will never cease to view them with indulgence and that, after forty-five years of my life dedicated to its service with an upright zeal, the faults of incompetent abilities will be consigned to oblivion, as myself must soon be to the mansions of rest.

Relying on its kindness in this as in other things, and actuated by that fervent love towards it which is so natural to a man who views in it the native soil of himself and his progenitors for several generations, I anticipate with pleasing expectation that retreat, in which I promise myself to realize without alloy the sweet enjoyment of partaking in the midst of my fellow citizens the benign influence of good laws under a free government—the ever favorite object of my heart, and the happy reward, as I trust, of our mutual cares, labors and dangers.

GEO. WASHINGTON.
UNITED STATES, 19th September 1796.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 4:30 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 3:47 p.m., recessed until 4:30 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. ERNST).

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 240, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk (Mary Anne Clarkson) read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 5, H.R. 240, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, in just a few minutes Democrats will have another opportunity to end their weeks-long filibuster of Homeland Security. It will be the first opportunity our friends on the other side have to show where they stand after a Federal judge preliminarily enjoined the administration from moving ahead with actions President Obama himself referred to as “ignoring the law.” President Obama said that just over a year ago.

The point is that it is time to allow this Homeland Security funding measure to come to the floor. Democrats

say they want the ability to amend DHS funding legislation, but then they keep voting to block their own ability to offer amendments. It doesn't make any sense. So in a few moments we will give our Democratic friends another opportunity to reconsider. They can vote to allow the Senate to debate the Homeland Security funding bill. They can vote to allow the Senate to consider amendments from both sides, and that is what they actually should do. That is what constituents have a right to expect. Let's take up this funding bill and get to work.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Madam President, in just a few days—5 to be exact—the Department of Homeland Security will run out of money. This unique entity was established right after 9/11. President Bush believed there were too many agencies trying to take care of the security of this Nation, so he got Congress to work with him, and they came up with 22 entities for the Department of Homeland Security. They have protected our homeland since 9/11, and they have done a good job.

I am very disappointed that the political ploy used by my congressional Republican leadership to force a shutdown of Homeland Security will only hurt our Nation, but it does make very clear where Republicans stand on fixing our broken immigration system.

Twenty months ago some valiant Senators, Democrats and Republicans, worked together for almost a year. Democrats were led by Senators SCHUMER, DURBIN, BENNET, and MENENDEZ. Republicans were led by Senators MCCAIN, GRAHAM, RUBIO, and FLAKE. They worked night and day. They came up with a bill that they presented to us, Democrats and Republicans, and we worked hard. We had lots of amendments. There was a wonderful debate. It was one of the great days of this body. And we passed it with a bipartisan vote. It was such a good day for the Senate and our country. But now, after 20 months, suddenly people are not interested.

Even Senators FLAKE, GRAHAM, and MCCAIN have stated that we should fund Homeland Security—fund it. We have all kinds of Republican Senators who have said the same thing in the last few days. Senator JOHNSON said it should be fully funded. He said that today.

I don't understand what my Republican friends are trying to do. They want to hold up DHS funding in order to deport DREAMers and their parents. That doesn't make any sense. Their plan is destined to fail. I have said that many times. Republicans are not listening to me, and I understand why, but my Republican colleagues are not listening to a lot of people.

They are not listening to the President of the United States, who has

warned them that blocking Homeland Security funding will hurt our ability to respond to these new threats.

Tom Ridge and I came to Washington at the same time in 1982, to the House of Representatives. Here is a man who was valiant in Vietnam. He was a highly decorated soldier. He has had a stunning career in government. He was the Governor of the State of Pennsylvania and the Secretary of Homeland Security. He, along with another Republican Secretary of Homeland Security, Michael Chertoff, who has a great record of his own as a prosecutor and Federal judge, and a Democratic Secretary of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano, who was a former Governor of the State of Arizona—so three former Secretaries of Homeland Security—two Republicans and one Democrat—have said the Republicans should do this. In fact, here is what they said in a letter Senator MCCONNELL and I received a month ago:

Funding for DHS is used to protect our ports and our borders; to secure our air travel and cargo; to protect the federal government and our nation's information technology and infrastructure from cyber-security attacks; to fund essential law enforcement activities, and to ensure the safety of the president and national leaders . . . Funding for the entire agency should not be put in jeopardy by the debate about immigration.

That is what the former Secretaries of Homeland Security said. They did not mince words.

In fact, Tom Ridge said yesterday on national TV that the Republicans' plan "irritates the hell out of me. I think it is bad policy . . . The men and women of Homeland Security deserve better."

Jeh Johnson, who has certainly been as down the middle as anyone could be on this issue, said that to not fund Homeland Security is "unacceptable from a public safety and national security view."

The majority leader and Speaker BOEHNER are not listening. They are obviously not listening to me, they are not listening to the President, and they are not listening to former Homeland Security Secretaries.

They are not even listening to their newspaper—it has been referred to as their newspaper—the Wall Street Journal. The Wall Street Journal said that the Republicans' game of Russian roulette with our homeland security is destined for "a spectacular crack-up." Republicans obviously are not listening to the Wall Street Journal. The Fraternal Order of Police has lambasted the Republican scheme. The Republicans are not listening to the police. The United States Conference of Mayors said: Please don't do that. If you do not fund the Department of Homeland Security, and even if you go with a continuing resolution, it is going to affect our ability to protect our cities. The Governors have said the same thing.

Republicans are not listening to anyone. They are bound and determined to see this doomed plan to the end. This is all because Republicans want to overturn DHS directives that prioritize the deportation of national security threats, convicted felons, and individuals apprehended at the border. It doesn't make sense. The administration sought a stay of the proceedings in Texas, but the trial judge in Texas never ever declared anything the President did as unconstitutional. If you read every word he wrote, the word "unconstitutional" is not written. He said the Administrative Procedure Act was not followed.

The President has the right to determine who is to be deported, and the families of these DREAMers are way down the list. So the President is well within his established constitutional authority and legal process to hear this out. So why would we divert resources from real threats just so Republicans can deport DREAMers, long-term permanent residents, mothers and fathers of U.S. citizen children who pose no security risk? Republicans say they are attacking the President's actions, but they are really attacking families.

I suggest to my Republican colleagues that if they won't listen to me, the President, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Wall Street Journal, the Fraternal Order of Police, and the United States Conference of Mayors, maybe they should at least heed what our enemies are saying. We can all picture in our minds what happened just a few weeks ago. They put a Jordanian pilot in a cage and burned him, and they showed the world that for 22 minutes. We have seen the beheadings. They have not stopped. Twenty-one Egyptian Christians were beheaded just a few days ago.

Yesterday on national TV Secretary Johnson said that we must remain vigilant against threats because now they told us they are going to go to malls around America, including the Mall of America. We must listen. Why would our Republican friends want to shut off funding for Homeland Security in this environment? Listen to reason. Let's fully fund Homeland Security and do it now. Republican Senators are saying the same thing. I don't understand what is going on here.

Republicans reportedly have a backup plan—fund Homeland Security by passing short-term continuing resolutions. That is not an answer. It is not an answer. A continuing resolution will prevent the Department of Homeland Security from working with communities and States and their first responders in addressing new threats and emergency situations.

Our Nation is depending on the Department of Homeland Security, and fully funding it is what is needed to keep us safe. More than 230,000 Homeland Security employees are depending

on a paycheck for their families. A simple way of doing this is to fully fund the Department of Homeland Security, not some Rube Goldberg procedure where they make something very simple very complicated. It doesn't need to be complicated. We simply need to give the Department of Homeland Security the resources it needs to do its job, as said by Republican Senators in the past week.

Why are we doing this? Is it to please the House Republicans who cannot agree on anything? It is important that we fully fund this agency and do it now.

Would the chair now announce the business of the day. I am told the motion to proceed is now pending. Is that true?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I rise to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO JOANNE A. EPPS

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, as I have every year since 2007, I rise today to commemorate Black History Month. This year we are privileged to recognize Dean JoAnne A. Epps, the dean of Temple University's Beasley School of Law. Dean Epps is a woman who has made significant contributions to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Nation by promoting opportunity and diversity throughout our legal institutions. JoAnne's life and career have been a testament to hard work and following her dreams. Her achievements are substantial, and she has worked to inspire others to fulfill their dreams, while advancing the cause of social justice to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Today I am proud to honor JoAnne Epps as a leader in law and education and highlight some of the ways in which she has demonstrated the power of dreams by opening doors of opportunity for women and minorities throughout her career.

JoAnne Epps's story serves as an example of where our dreams can take us. She is a native of Cheltenham, PA. For those who don't know the geography of our State, it is in the southeastern corner of our State in Montgomery County. She attended Trinity College in Connecticut. As an undergraduate JoAnne planned to follow in her mother's footsteps and become a legal secretary; however, she distinguished herself throughout her undergraduate career, and her mother and professors encouraged her to dream big. She applied to and was accepted by Yale Law School, where she was one of 40 women and just 10 African Americans in her class of 150. JoAnne entered law school having never known an adult attorney and often experienced discomfort that her

background differed so significantly from those of many of her classmates. Despite these challenges, JoAnne Epps remained focused on the opportunities ahead of her.

Following graduation in 1976, JoAnne devoted herself to public service, becoming a deputy city attorney for the city of Los Angeles, CA, and ultimately returning to Pennsylvania as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

After that work as a prosecutor, in 1985 she joined the faculty of the Beasley School of Law at Temple University, utilizing the experience she had gained as a prosecutor to instruct students on criminal procedure, evidence, and trial advocacy. Exhibiting strong leadership qualities and a gift for teaching, JoAnne was soon named associate dean of academic affairs, and in 2008 was named dean of Temple Law School.

As dean, JoAnne has worked tirelessly not only to advance the quality of legal education but to instill in students the values she believes define the legal profession. They are service, integrity, and passion. JoAnne has expanded opportunities for students at Temple to apply these values to a legal career by implementing programs that focus on hands-on legal experience, both through high-quality clinical programs and through an innovative experiential first-year course as curriculum. This work has led to the creation of the Stephen and Sandra Sheller Center for Social Justice at Temple Law School, and we are honored today to have both Steve and Sandy Sheller with us.

The Sheller Center encourages early community involvement and a commitment to social justice in Temple Law students by facilitating collaboration with community groups, the university community, and the Philadelphia and Pennsylvania legal communities to improve access to justice for underserved communities.

It is a truly inspiring project. Even as JoAnne innovates at a schoolwide level, she has not lost her dedication to the individual connections fostered through teaching. She continues to share her experience and insight with first-year law students by teaching a course in litigation basics each fall.

JoAnne has employed her talent for teaching not only to the benefit of Temple University and the Pennsylvania legal community but to further social justice objectives on an international scale. JoAnne has been an advocacy instructor for attorneys at the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the Beijing Supreme People's Procuratorate. In 2007 and 2008, she worked with a small group of lawyers to provide training for Sudanese lawyers representing victims of the crisis in Darfur on evidence, advocacy, and substantive international

criminal law with a focus on practice before the International Criminal Court.

JoAnne's service and impact on Temple Law School is made all the more impressive in light of the myriad of other roles she has taken on to advance the causes of social justice through legal institutions. In 2001, JoAnne was appointed by the mayor of Philadelphia to chair the Mayor's Task Force on Police Discipline, and in 2011 she was appointed by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania to monitor the city of Philadelphia's compliance with a settlement concerning stop-and-frisk procedures. She has a long history of service on various commissions designed to increase access to justice, including the Philadelphia Bar Association's Committee to Promote Justice, the board of directors of the Defender Association of Philadelphia, the advisory board of the Public Interest Law Center, the Pennsylvania Commission for Justice Initiatives, and too many others to name today.

In recognition of this work, in 2003 Temple Law School presented her with the Gideon Award, given to acknowledge dedication to the cause of justice.

JoAnne Epps has had a great career and has had great success as a lawyer, as a teacher, as an advocate, and as a prosecutor despite the challenges of being an African-American woman entering a field that is predominantly white and male. She consistently worked to open the doors of opportunities to women and minorities who face similar challenges. At Temple, JoAnne served as a member of the Women's Studies Program Steering Committee, and she remains an affiliated member of the Women's Studies Department at the law school. She has also previously served as an adviser to both the Women's Law Caucus and the Black Law Students Association.

Outside of Temple Law, JoAnne served as vice chair of the Pennsylvania Gender Task Force and as a member of the Third Circuit Task Force on Equal Treatment in the Courts, also serving on the Third Circuit task force commission on race and ethnicity.

JoAnne testified on behalf of the National Association of Women Lawyers at the confirmation hearing of Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. In 2014, she was awarded the Justice Sotomayor Diversity Award by the Philadelphia Bar Association in recognition of her work on behalf of women and minorities in the legal profession.

JoAnne has said the following about her legal career, and I am quoting:

I spent much of my career not seeing ahead of me someone who was at all like me, and I've had to make my way without that. I want to be a resource for young people entering the profession that I never had.

Joanne's dedication to both legal education and the legal profession has

helped empower countless young attorneys to exceed expectations and fulfill their dreams.

JoAnne Epps is here today in the gallery of the Senate, and as the rules tell us, we are not allowed to acknowledge those in the gallery. I am saying that for my friend. But she is joined by family and friends, and I am going to go through a list here. If I miss someone, someone will tell me later.

Starting with her husband L. Harrison Jay, her uncle Harold Ashton, and her cousins Eric Ashton, Joan and Tommie Frye, Donnie, Debbie, Adrienne, and Christopher Jackson, and Marcia and Glenn Yarbrough—I will hear if I missed someone a little later, but we are honored she is here with us. We are honored her family is here on this special day. Today we honor JoAnne Epps, the dean of Temple Law School, for her significant work to advance access to justice and for inspiring and empowering new generations of attorneys to emulate their commitment to service, integrity, and passion.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, as I come to the floor today, the Senate is continuing to try to debate a bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security. We have made no progress on this bill for weeks, as Democrats continue to filibuster our efforts to actually even get on the bill, to have a meaningful discussion on the subject. The bill has already passed the House of Representatives.

The way the Senate is supposed to work is that if Democrats don't like something about the bill, then they should offer amendments and change it. That is how the process has worked in the past. It is how the process is supposed to work today.

It is the process as it worked about a month ago when we debated the Keystone XL Pipeline. We had more than 40 different amendments debated on the floor, voted on the floor. That is more than double the number of amendments the Senate Democrats allowed all last year in debate on the floor of the Senate.

We could be debating those and voting on those amendments right now. My question is, why aren't we doing that? It is because Senate Democrats are filibustering to keep us from even considering this bill. This is a very important piece of legislation. Funding for the Department of Homeland Security is scheduled to expire on Friday. Everyone in this Chamber, both sides

of the aisle, should agree that funding the Department of Homeland Security is something we need to do. Why are Democrats being obstructive in the way that they are? Why are the Democrats so eager to cut off funding for the Department of Homeland Security?

The answer is this is a disagreement not about funding Homeland Security, it is about our Nation's immigration policy and the President's Executive amnesty, an action which I believe is illegal. Congress is the appropriate place to make laws about America's immigration policy. It is not something the President gets to decide on his own. It shouldn't be controversial either. At least eight Senate Democrats have said they disagreed with the President's Executive actions or they have doubts about them.

Senator DONNELLY said back in November "the President shouldn't make such significant policy changes on his own."

On the same day Senator HEITKAMP said the President's actions "could poison any hope of compromise or bipartisanship in the Senate before it has even started."

Even the President himself has on 22 separate occasions said he lacked the authority to rewrite immigration law—22 times. He said in March of 2011:

There are enough laws on the books by Congress that are very clear in terms of how we have to enforce our immigration system, that for me to simply, through Executive order ignore those congressional mandates would not conform with my appropriate role as President.

He did it anyway. He knew it wasn't appropriate, but that didn't stop him. Now a Federal judge has made it crystal clear the President does not have the authority to act on his own as he did. The President cannot make a new law just because he doesn't like the laws passed by Congress. This was a U.S. district court ruling in a lawsuit that 26 States brought against President Obama.

Here is how USA TODAY described it in a front-page headline last Wednesday. They said, "Obama Immigration Plan Blocked."

Rollcall ran its own headline the same day that said, "Immigration Ruling Casts Shadow on Obama's Legacy." What the court did was to stop the Secretary of Homeland Security from implementing any and all aspects or phases of the President's plan. The Federal court said, "It is Congress, and Congress alone, who has power under the Constitution to legislate in the field of immigration." Let me repeat that. "It is Congress, and Congress alone, who has power under the Constitution to legislate in the field of immigration."

The judge added that the President's plan "clearly represents a substantive change in immigration policy." This is not just a minor change. It is not the

same thing that other Presidents have done before. The judge completely rejected the Obama administration's claim that it was simply exercising "prosecutorial discretion."

I know the President did not understand the last election. I am starting to think Democrats in this body do not understand why they lost. It is strange that Democrats want to continue trying to protect the President who does not have the strong support of the American people. It was a losing strategy in November and it will be a losing strategy now.

Democrats in this body are continuing to prevent the Senate from doing anything, again, in an effort—they are doing it to protect President Obama. Now that a Federal judge has agreed the President exceeded his own authority, it is time for Democrats to stop defending the President and the White House. Senate Democrats have already voiced their concerns about what the President did and how he did it. It is time for those same Democrats to convince the rest of their Members that enough is enough.

It is time for them to stop pretending this is about immigration, when it is now clear this is about the President's overreach. It is time for Democrats to end their filibuster and to fund the Department of Homeland Security.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COATS). The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, today the Senate will vote for the fourth time on a procedural vote to take up the House Homeland Security funding bill. We are going to be voting on the cloture of the motion to proceed because it is a parliamentary way of dealing with the funding for the Homeland Security Department, which runs out on Friday.

The Presiding Officer is the ranking member on the homeland subcommittee. The Presiding Officer did a fantastic job, working with Senator Landrieu, creating a funding framework that had bipartisan and bicameral support. I congratulate the Presiding Officer and the way the committee worked.

We should be voting on the final passage for a clean Homeland Security bill. The bill—when we say "clean," this is Washington speak. People do not know what a clean bill is. Is there a dirty bill? Is there a dusty bill? Is there a muddy bill? No. What we are talking about is meaning no riders on the bill. In this case, no poison pill riders. There was no disagreement, finally, because of the excellent bipartisan work on the funding of the bill, but the Senate is locked in a game of parliamentary ping-pong on moving this legislation forward, where the losers are the American people.

Look at what is going on in our country right now. We are absolutely relying on Homeland Security for some of

the biggest challenges—not facing in the abstract but facing us right now.

There are the terrorists and there is cold weather and there are other issues. Right now in my Chesapeake Bay there is a Coast Guard cutter called Chock. It is out there breaking the Maryland icy conditions—frigid and windy. What is it they are doing? This enables commerce to get up and down the Bay so people are working and getting important supplies. They even work—because the Bay is in both Maryland and Virginia. They went out to the famous Tangier Island to free residents that were iced in, to take food and fuel. The Coast Guard is on the job. They are working in the cold. They are working in the wind. They are breaking up ice not only in Maryland but all over—to these frozen ports. What do we say? Good job, guys. There they are on TV. We love you, but we might not pay you. What is this? They are out there saving lives. We are playing parliamentary ping-pong.

Then there is this whole issue of this despicable, barbaric group called ISIL who essentially says: We are out to get you. Not only are they out to get us, but then they threatened that there could be attacks on malls, the shopping malls in the United States.

We need then additional security from Homeland Security. We also need to be able to work with our local and State partners. What is Congress's response? We are going to talk about increasing that defense budget in 2016, but we are not going to fund the appropriations from 2015 on Homeland Security. What is wrong with that picture?

I am for a strong national defense and having the muscular way of dealing with the threat of ISIL and any other terrorist group, but they are talking about our malls. They also go on their Web—I hate to even say this in public. They say attack anybody who is in uniform. Well, that is my firefighter, that is my police officer, that is my EMT person. I mean, really. We are worried about lone wolves?

Well, I am worried too. We need to be able to protect them. One way to do it is we need to fund the Homeland Security Department so people who are on the job protecting us can get paid. There are Members on the other side of the aisle who continually ask the President what he is doing to defend America. Let's put boots on the ground. Let's put more missiles in the air. Let's put more flights for airplanes.

Right here in America we have boots on the ground. They are called Border Patrol agents, Customs officers, TSA personnel, intelligence analysts. We have to fund our own Homeland Security boots on the ground. I want to make sure we do it now, so we do not have some big crisis at midnight on Friday.

Where we are is this: We have agreed on the funding on both sides of the

aisle and both sides of the dome. The House has added five riders on immigration. Immigration is an important topic. I do not minimize it. I do not dismiss it. It should be debated but not on this bill.

The other issue is that the courts have now made a decision—the Texas court—on the Obama action on Executive orders and immigration. It is now going to go through the courts. The Texas judge made a decision. That is America. It will go to the Fifth Circuit for an appeal and maybe even higher. While it is working its way through, we are debating it. Let the courts decide whether the President exceeded his Executive authority. Whatever the courts decide, I think we will be able to accept it. We cannot hold up the bill waiting for the courts to decide.

We should not hold up the Homeland Security bill waiting for the courts to decide. So with the court decision pending, I say to my friends on the other side of the aisle—who I know are patriotic, who I know want to protect the homeland—put immigration aside on the Executive orders and all of those others, let the courts decide on the Executive authority, but between now and, say, Wednesday let's pass this Homeland Security bill.

We can pass it, send it to the House, and we can get on with the protecting America rather than what we think about President Obama. I respect what other people think about President Obama. I do not also respect what some people say in their attacks on him: Is he American? Is he patriotic? I think that is despicable to attack our President. But if you think this is a constitutional question on Executive authority, it is now in the courts. That can be a valid consideration.

But right now we have a Homeland Security funding problem. I want to fund the Coast Guard. I want to fund Border Patrol. I want to fund Customs. I want to fund the TSA at the airports. I want to protect us on threats related to cyber security. This is for the 22 subagencies that make up Homeland Security. So I would hope, for the 162,000 people who work for that agency, they do not get IOUs.

Given what they are doing in this cold weather and on this incredible intensity and escalation of chatter and threats to the United States, we have to help them be them. We have to give them respect. We have to pay their salaries. We have to give them the right technology to be able to do their jobs to protect us. I say to the Presiding Officer and to all of my colleagues on the floor: Let's stop playing parliamentary ping-pong with the Homeland Security bill.

The politics in that are over. The issue is going to be resolved in the courts, but what cannot be resolved is the fact that on February 27 the money to fund the salaries for every single

man and woman who works at Homeland Security will run out. The time is running out. The money is running out. We cannot run out on Homeland Security. We have to help them make us a safe country, protect our country, and do their job.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I thank Senator MIKULSKI. She has been joined by Senator SHAHEEN, both of whom have been leading this very important bill to pass this funding for Homeland Security. I thought the points Senator MIKULSKI made were so well taken about the fact that there has been a new development since we left this Chamber; that is, that the courts are taking on some of the immigration provisions our colleagues have been trying to attach to this bill.

I would hope they could look at this in a fresh way now and see that we should just simply allow this bill to go forward while the courts are considering this matter. To me, that is the answer. I do not think they should see it—our colleagues on the other side—as a concession. It is simply a fact. It is something that has changed. So I come to the floor to talk about the importance of the Mikulski-Shaheen bill. The critical importance of this funding has been driven home in the last few days in my State, the State of Minnesota.

Just this weekend the terrorist group al-Shabaab released a video encouraging attacks on shopping malls throughout the world—a shopping mall in Minnesota, the Mall of America, a shopping mall in Canada, in Edmonton, a shopping mall in London. I do not think we could ever think they would be limited in their threats when it comes to shopping malls in America.

This is the same terrorist group that actually carried out a major attack on a shopping mall in Kenya, killing more than 60 people. It has also called for attacks, as I said, in other countries. In this video, an al-Shabaab spokesman bragged about his previous attacks and the chaos future attacks can cause. He talks about if just a handful of fighters could bring Kenya to a complete stop for weeks, he talks about what they could do to—in his words, obviously not mine—American- or Jewish-owned shopping centers across the world.

That is what we saw this weekend. That is what the people in my State awoke to. They awoke to that video and those words. I spoke yesterday with Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson, with our U.S. attorney for Minnesota, Andy Luger. We are working with the FBI, and they have boosted the security at the Mall of America. It already had good security. We have fine law enforcement in Minnesota on the Federal, State, and local levels.

The FBI has advised people, clearly, to go on with their lives in Minnesota.

The Homeland Security Secretary has clearly said people shouldn't be discouraged from going to the mall in any way.

So the people in my State are standing tall when it comes to this threat, and our law enforcement is standing tall when it comes to this threat, but in Congress our message to these terrorists cannot be that we are going to shut down the Department of Homeland Security. That cannot be the message coming from the Senate of the United States of America.

Rather than acting to protect my State from the threat, there are people who are actively contemplating a shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security—the Department we created after 9/11 to protect our homeland, to protect our country from these kinds of terrorist threats.

This would mean—if it was to go forward and we weren't to fund it this week—over 1,700 Department of Homeland Security employees in Minnesota would be forced to work without pay or be furloughed, including 472 Customs and Border Patrol personnel, 953 Transportation Security Administration officers, 156 Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel, and 74 Federal Emergency Management Agency personnel.

We need to act to fund Homeland Security. Think of the people in my State who were going to spend a normal day going to the mall, waking up to see that video. Think about the fact that I have to tell them there are people messing around with this bill over extraneous provisions that are now being battled out in court—and not on a bill that funds our Homeland Security.

Now we also know terrorist organizations such as al-Shabaab and ISIS are trying to recruit people in my State to take up arms and do harm to Americans.

Why do we know that? The first American who was killed fighting for ISIS in Syria was from Minnesota. His name was Douglas McArthur McCain. We also know our law enforcement, because they have worked so well with our Somali community—we are so proud of that community. We have half the Somalis in the Nation in the State of Minnesota.

They were able to work with our law enforcement over the last few years. Twenty people were indicted. Twenty people were indicted for helping al-Shabaab or trying to go over to fight on the terrorists' side. We have already had nine convictions in Minnesota.

Those convictions would not have happened without this community. This Muslim community basically said: We don't want our kids to go over and be suicide bombers. We don't want our kids to go fight next to ISIS.

That community has worked with law enforcement in Minnesota and they will continue to work with law enforce-

ment. We have already had four people from the Twin Cities area who have been charged for crimes relating to travel for the purpose of going to aid ISIS.

But it is not only our national security that the people in my State see as at stake here. I know Senator SHAHEEN, who is on the floor, is also from a border State and understands how important that work is as we go up to our northern neighbor of Canada. This is 5,500 miles—the longest border in the world. Over 400,000 people and nearly \$2 billion in goods and services cross our borders every day.

That is economically significant for my State. Canada is my State's top international trading partner, with over \$19 billion in total business across the board. Over 1 million Canadians visit Minnesota every year—by the way, many of them going to the Mall of America—contributing \$265 million to the local economy.

But that relationship relies on a seamless U.S.-Canadian border, with U.S. Customs and Border Patrol keeping that border secure and efficiently screening all cross-border traffic. We have made important strides in recent years with trusted traveler programs to make our northern border more secure, while encouraging the cross-border tourism and commerce that is the lifeblood of my State. Withholding critical funding from the Department of Homeland Security could threaten that progress, leading to a less secure border and hindering economic opportunity.

Without that critical funding, we risk security. Even a cursory look at world headlines shows the threats the United States and our allies face—from the terrorist attacks in Paris and Sydney to the cyber attacks by North Korea. We need to be stepping up our security, not stepping down our security.

So last night I spoke to a group of workers—about 500 Minnesotans—who were honored in the city of Bloomington, MN, for the work they do in the hospitality industry. These were desk clerks, these were pizza delivery people, these were people who man our hotels and clean the rooms when we have guests. Many of them work in that Mall of America, and I told them I was coming back to Washington and that this Senate would stand tall in the face of threats such as videos from al-Shabaab, people who will not even show their faces but make a video to threaten our country.

We have to show our faces. We have to stand tall. We now have a very good reason—my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. I implore them, they have a good reason. This is in the courts now. It is being battled in the courts. These extraneous measures should not be on this bill and we should fund our Homeland Security. I want to

go back and tell those workers in Bloomington and in Minnesota that we have done that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I applaud Senator KLOBUCHAR for her comments and for pointing out there are real threats that we heard this weekend from al-Shabaab against the Mall of America. I heard a news report this morning about that, and one of the things they have talked about are the very good relations the State of Minnesota and Senator KLOBUCHAR have built with the Somali community.

But her remarks, just as those news reports, underscore the fact that we have to address funding for the Department of Homeland Security. We are just days away from a shutdown, a shutdown of the Department whose mission it is to protect the citizens of this country while we are under threat of attack by terrorist groups. That is reckless and it is dangerous. What kind of message does it send to ISIS, to cyber criminals, to drug cartels if Congress can't keep the Department of Homeland Security open?

Because of the real and dangerous threats we face, we need to have our counterterrorism, our intelligence, and our law enforcement officials functioning at their highest level.

I met this morning with a group of law enforcement officials and firefighters from the sea coast of New Hampshire, and they were talking about how important the funding from the Department of Homeland Security is to them as they do their jobs. They said two things that I think are very important. First, they said they have been able to be proactive about planning to address threats because of the Department of Homeland Security, and second is they can share those resources. New Hampshire, similar to Indiana, is a State with a lot of very small communities, and we need to be able to share those resources if we are going to be prepared for the threats.

It is time for us to put politics aside. We can debate immigration. We can debate the President's Executive orders. I am pleased to do that, but we should do it in another place. We should not be doing it on the bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security.

I hope my colleagues will come together and support a clean funding bill so we can make sure the resources are there to fight the threats that we face.

Mr. NELSON. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I yield to the Senator.

Mr. NELSON. Would the Senator believe that if the Department of Homeland Security is shut down that essential personnel will be required to work, but essential personnel—the following—will not be paid? For the first

time people engaged in the war—namely, the U.S. Coast Guard that is in fact involved in the Middle East in the war, along with the services from the Department of Defense—for the first time in the history of this country they will be essential to continue work but will not be paid.

Would the Senator believe that in addition, Customs and Border Patrol personnel who are essential, as well as TSA, which is essential, will continue to work but without pay and that is what will happen this Friday if we do not fund the Department of Homeland Security?

Mrs. SHAHEEN. My colleague makes a very important point. I visited the Coast Guard station in Portsmouth, NH, on Friday and heard about their drug interdiction efforts and their search and rescue efforts. As the Senator points out, they—similar to so many other Homeland Security employees—will not be paid. We should not let that happen. That is not conducive to making sure we protect this country.

I thank my colleague from Florida.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I am pleased to follow my esteemed colleagues from the State of Florida and the State of New Hampshire in discussing the legislation before this body. I worked with the Senator from New Hampshire on the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee, and we are working to fund Homeland Security. That is what this bill does. The bill we are trying to proceed to fully funds Homeland Security.

My question is, How do we finish a bill if we can't start? All we are asking for is to proceed to a bill that fully funds the Department of Homeland Security. So I have been listening to my colleagues talk about the need to fund Homeland Security and that is exactly what this bill does—fully funds the bill.

Now I understand they want to make changes to the bill, but again I ask the question how do they make changes to a bill if they are not willing to proceed to the bill, get on the bill, debate the bill, and offer their amendments?

So that is where we find ourselves and that is why it is so important that we proceed to this DHS funding bill. This is a bill that has passed the House.

At the end of the day, both Houses of Congress have to pass the bill. We can't just pass it in the Senate and they can't just pass it in the House. The House has passed this bill.

Now we need to take it up. We need to have the debate, we need to offer amendments, have votes on those amendments, and pass the bill—pass the bill that fully funds DHS. Again, I emphasize, this bill fully funds the Department of Homeland Security.

We are ready to legislate. We are willing to go back and forth on amendments, one Democratic amendment for every Republican amendment, but when that was offered last week on this floor by the majority leader, it was rejected by the other side of the aisle.

This leads me to believe that what my Democratic colleagues are asking for is that the only DHS funding legislation the Senate consider is legislation endorsed by the President. Moreover, they don't seem to be interested in amendments, in allowing the Senators and those Americans—whom we represent—to have a voice in this process.

My colleagues know that is not how the Senate works. When our Founders sought to build a government of checks and balances, with a strong legislative branch and mechanisms to prevent the Executive, the President, from imposing his or her will on the rest of government, I doubt this is what they had in mind; that we simply rubberstamp what the President wants.

Today's cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the DHS appropriations bill offers all Senators a choice. We have a choice today. Senators can choose to legislate a solution to this DHS funding impasse to prevent a DHS shutdown or they can choose to defend the President's Executive action.

That is exactly what is going on. As Senators we must be willing to engage with one another to pass a bill. We must be willing to engage, to debate, and to vote on amendments.

Often there are many sides to an issue. In fact, sometimes it feels as though there are 100 different perspectives, and of course there are. But the ability to merge our diverse viewpoints into legislation, that is the strength of the Senate. That is the only way, short of one party possessing 60 votes, the Senate can function. Many of our friends on the other side of the aisle are asking this body to rubberstamp the President's approach, but the Senate was not intended to be a rubberstamp. We must be willing to take that first step toward funding DHS together, and that first step is proceeding to a bill. In order to consider amendments and develop consensus, we simply must be able to move to the legislation and consider it on the floor today.

Let me remind my colleagues why this funding is so vital.

The Department is responsible for so many essential security programs. I think it is important that we take a few minutes to talk about the funding that is in this bill, full funding for the Department of Homeland Security.

This bill provides \$10.7 billion for Customs and Border Protection, CBP, including record levels of personnel, tactical infrastructure, technology, and air and marine assets. It provides \$5.96 billion for Immigration and Customs

Enforcement, ICE, and maintains a record 34,000 adult detention beds and 3,828 family detention beds.

This bill strongly supports the vital missions of the Secret Service and provides for our cyber security efforts. The bill provides more than \$10 billion for the Coast Guard for its many missions, including search and rescue.

Since Homeland Security is a national effort, the bill continues critical funding for grant programs to State and local firefighters, emergency managers, and law enforcement. The bill also provides for research and development, TSA's aviation security screening operations, the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, and E-Verify, which supports businesses across the United States in hiring legal workers.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired.

Mr. HOEVEN. I ask unanimous consent for 1 additional minute to complete my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Hearing none, it is so ordered.

Mr. HOEVEN. This bill does not fund the President's Executive actions—and rightly so.

Since we haven't had regular order in this Chamber in years, it seems there may be some reluctance to allow the Senate to work as it is designed to do: to proceed to legislation so that we, as a legislative body, can engage in a healthy debate. It is time the Senate proceed to the DHS appropriations bill without further delay. I urge my colleagues to vote to proceed to H.R. 240, the DHS appropriations bill.

With that, I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk (John J. Merlino) read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 240, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015.

Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, Thad Cochran, Tom Cotton, Roger F. Wicker, David Vitter, Jerry Moran, Daniel Coats, Michael B. Enzi, Mike Crapo, Bill Cassidy, John Boozman, John Thune, Tim Scott, John Hoeven, James Lankford, Jeff Sessions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 240, an act making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for

other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. SULLIVAN), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) would have voted "no."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 47, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 57 Leg.]

YEAS—47

Alexander	Daines	Murkowski
Ayotte	Enzi	Paul
Barrasso	Ernst	Perdue
Blunt	Fischer	Portman
Boozman	Flake	Risch
Burr	Gardner	Roberts
Capito	Grassley	Rounds
Cassidy	Hatch	Sasse
Coats	Hoeven	Scott
Cochran	Inhofe	Sessions
Collins	Isakson	Shelby
Corker	Johnson	Thune
Cornyn	Lankford	Tillis
Cotton	Lee	Toomey
Crapo	McCain	Wicker
Cruz	Moran	

NAYS—46

Baldwin	Heitkamp	Nelson
Bennet	Heller	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Boxer	King	Schatz
Brown	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Leahy	Shaheen
Cardin	Manchin	Stabenow
Carpenter	Markey	Tester
Casey	McCaskill	Udall
Coons	McConnell	Warner
Donnelly	Menendez	Warren
Durbin	Merkley	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Mikulski	Wyden
Franken	Murphy	
Gillibrand	Murray	

NOT VOTING—7

Graham	Peters	Vitter
Heinrich	Rubio	
Kirk	Sullivan	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 47, the nays are 46.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I enter a motion to reconsider the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today Democrats voted to continue blocking funding for the Department of Homeland Security to protect actions President Obama himself referred to as "ignoring the law." The vote came after a Federal judge enjoined the administration from moving ahead with that overreach. I was certainly glad to see that court decision. The issue will continue winding its way through our courts. In the meantime, Congress is trying to do what it can. Yet even Democrats who had previously been critical of the President "ignoring the law" voted again today to defend his overreach.

My preference is still to debate and pass the funding legislation that is currently before us. It has already passed the House. It is the simplest and easiest way forward. If Democrats think it needs to be amended, I am sure they will try to do that, but first we need to bring it to the floor. As long as Democrats continue to prevent us from even doing that, the new bill I described offers another option we can turn to. It is another way to get the Senate unstuck from a Democratic filibuster and move the debate forward.

MORNING BUSINESS

TRIBUTE TO ERMA H. ROSENHAN

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize Erma H. Rosenhan in honor of her 100th birthday on February 28, 2015.

Erma has devoted years of her life to genealogical research, submitting over 400,000 names—many of them German—to the Family History Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for ordinance work in LDS temples. She has served the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in many different capacities, including as an employee, as a member of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, and as a missionary. Her extensive genealogical work and her service to the LDS Church have blessed both her extended family and all those who know her. On her 100th birthday, she shows no signs of slowing down; in fact, she still conducts research 3 days a week at the Family History Library in downtown Salt Lake City.

Erma H. Rosenhan is an example of kindness, hard work, and humble perseverance. She deserves our recognition for her lifetime of selfless, diligent service.

TRIBUTE TO ROGER COCKRELL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to one of the finest staffers I have encountered in my years in the

U.S. Senate. Roger Cockrell is retiring this week after 15 years of service to the Senate Appropriations Committee, which was preceded by more than 20 years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, mainly in Vicksburg, MS.

I spent many years as either the chairman or ranking Democrat on the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee. It is a great bill. It not only funds a lot of important energy and science priorities, it also provides the annual funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation, both of which are tremendously important to my home State of Nevada. Sorting through all of the projects and programs that are funded through these two agencies is tremendously technical and complicated work.

I realized fairly early in my time at the top of that subcommittee that I needed an experienced engineer to ensure that we were prioritizing and funding these thousands of projects according to both technical merit and also national priorities. So, I brought in Roger as a fellow from the Corps of Engineers and it turned out to be one of the best decisions I ever made. As all Members have been known to do, I kept him as a fellow for as long as the Corps would pay him and then I hired him away.

Roger is exactly what you want in a staffer, particularly one who represents you on the Appropriations Committee: Smart, extremely well-prepared, hard-working, and, in the case of Roger, more willing to work with the staff of other Members to make their priorities work within the rules than anyone I have ever met. If Roger could not make your project work within the rules, regulations, and laws regarding a water project, it is a pretty safe bet that it was a bad project. So far as I know, Roger never turned down a meeting with anyone and his eternally sunny and friendly nature always made him a delight to work with.

I left that subcommittee many years ago now, but Roger stayed there and has gone back and forth to both the Republican and Democratic staffs several times depending upon who is in the majority around here. I can think of no higher compliment to a Senate staffer than to be held in such high esteem by both sides that he or she is retained by the majority year-after-year, Congress after Congress because of his or her expertise and, more importantly, fairness. And Roger is nothing if not fair to all who have appeared in his doorway over the years. The Senate is a better place because of people like Roger Cockrell.

I wish Roger and his wife Anna Lisa all the best as they move on to whatever is next in their lives. I am sad to see him go, but he has earned more time with his family, including his daughter Melissa. I have known him

long enough to know that he won't be able to sit still for long. I join my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in expressing my gratitude for his long and dedicated service to our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTINE PRIETSCH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Christine Prietsch, the director of the Senate's Employee Assistance Program, is leaving the Senate family after 11 years of dedicated service to Senators, staff, and family members. Before joining the Senate, Christy served with the Secret Service, Department of Justice and the Department's Offices of U.S. Attorneys EAP programs. We often celebrate those who dedicate so much to the U.S. Senate with stories from the men and women whose lives were affected. Christy turned this program into an invaluable resource for Senate employees experiencing obstacles and struggles in their professional and personal lives. Her innovative methods for implementing training and programs made her a vital asset to the Senate and a devoted leader to her staff. It is our hope that the irony is not lost, that through the auspices of her professionalism, confidentiality, morality and ethics, we are prevented from hearing many such stories; only those who Christy helped know the true value of her service. Christy is a valued leader within the Sergeant at Arms and a trusted confidant to the Senate family. I thank her for her dedicated service, her unbridled patriotism and unwavering support.

STUDENT NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I support the Student Non-Discrimination Act, a bill first introduced in the 111th Congress and reintroduced again now in the 114th Congress. This bill represents a critical step forward in protecting the rights of our lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth to receive an education free from bullying and harassment on account of who they are and who they love. I thank Senator FRANKEN for his leadership on this issue, and I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this important civil rights legislation.

Education is the cornerstone of our democracy. In order for our system of government to thrive we must promote the education of our citizenry. It is what allows voters to make informed decisions on who they think is best fit to serve as their Representative, Senator, or President. It is a critical element of public debate and the free flow of ideas and it is what drives our economy forward and makes our country strong.

Given the importance of education, no student should be harassed in school. We must do all we can to make

education accessible to all. We must ensure that schools are safe and welcoming to all children so that students can enter the classroom ready and able to learn.

Bullying touches the lives of countless young people. Each school year, LGBT students in New Jersey, and across America, are harassed, bullied, and even assaulted based on their perceived or known status as LGBT. Occasionally, these youth even experience bullying from teachers and administrators. The very people that are supposed to educate and protect these children at times serve as the root cause of the problem. Bullying a student for any reason—but especially for simply being themselves—is simply unacceptable.

The consequences of bullying can be devastating and potentially life threatening. Studies show that discrimination at schools is a major contributor to dropouts, absenteeism, and academic underachievement. LGBT youth are twice as likely as their peers to experience verbal harassment, assault, and exclusion. Suicide rates are disproportionately high among children and young adults that identify as LGBT. In fact, LGBT youth are four times more likely to commit suicide than their peers. Most alarmingly, we have seen bullying and harassment tragically lead to suicides in school districts across the country.

Allowing discrimination of LGBT to go unchecked in our schools deprives our youth from the equal access to education that they deserve. Whether that discrimination is in the form harassment or assault, we cannot stand idly by and watch our children's lives be torn apart.

The Student Non-Discrimination Act is a critical civil rights bill that would ban discrimination against any student on the basis of his or her actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

The legislation expands the Federal definition of harassment to protect the rights of LGBT students. The bill defines harassment to include severe, persistent, or pervasive conduct that would limit a student's ability to participate in a program or activity at a public school.

The bill prohibits harassment of LGBT students as a form of discrimination that is Federally protected.

All of these provisions provide the Federal Government with critical new tools to prevent the scourge of persistent and offensive bullying of youth simply because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the Student Non-Discrimination Act. I urge my fellow Senators to support this bill and promptly pass it through the Senate.

DISCHARGE PETITION—S.J. RES. 8

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States

Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 8, a resolution providing for congressional disapproval of a rule under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to representation case procedures; and further, that the resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Lamar Alexander, Tim Scott, Susan M. Collins, Bill Cassidy, Mike Lee, David Vitter, Mitch McConnell, James Lankford, James E. Risch, John Barasso, John Boozman, Michael B. Enzi, Johnny Isakson, Thad Cochran, Mike Rounds, Joni Ernst, James M. Inhofe, John McCain, Jeff Sessions, Steve Daines, Tom Cotton, Thom Tillis, Marco Rubio, Mike Crapo, Patrick J. Toomey, Ben Sasse, Orrin G. Hatch, John Cornyn, Chuck Grassley, Ron Johnson, Kelly Ayotte, Rand Paul, Pat Roberts, Richard Burr, Roy Blunt, Roger F. Wicker, Mark Kirk, Ted Cruz, Jeff Flake.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING WIL SMITH

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, I rise today on a sad occasion. Yesterday, Bowdoin College—indeed, the entire State of Maine—lost a truly great man. Wil Smith, who was a good friend to countless people in Maine, passed away yesterday at the age of 46 following a courageous 3-year battle with cancer.

It is difficult to encapsulate in words the remarkable depth and breadth of someone like Wil. He grew up in Jacksonville, FL, the youngest of 10 children. His mother, Mildred, passed away when he was 15 years old. After high school, Wil briefly attended Florida A&M University before enlisting in the U.S. Navy and becoming an aviation electronics technician. He served in the first gulf war and was later transferred to the Naval Air Station in Brunswick, ME.

While stationed in Brunswick, Wil began coaching football at Brunswick Middle School. It wasn't long after that when the coach of the Bowdoin College men's basketball team spotted him and was impressed by his talent and natural ability to work with kids. He asked Wil if he had ever thought about attending college. After some convincing, Wil applied to and was accepted at Bowdoin.

It was also during this time that Wil became a father—and only months before his first semester began, he was granted full custody of his 11-month-old daughter Olivia. To say the least, he was a nontraditional student in almost every sense. Matriculating at age 28, he was a decade older than most of his freshmen classmates. He was one of just three African-American students in his class. And he was the first single father in Bowdoin's history to attend the college.

He worked tirelessly—carrying Olivia to class and then to basketball practice, taking evening shifts at the local Staples store, and volunteering at area high schools. He faced challenges unfathomable to most of his classmates at Bowdoin—struggling to balance a commitment to his daughter and his rigorous coursework. But Wil persevered—and he did so with a strength of conviction and determination that would come to define the influence he would have on students who would follow in his footsteps at Bowdoin.

Following graduation, Wil continued to devote his time and energy to his community, and in particular, to young people of nontraditional or underrepresented backgrounds. He continued to serve in the U.S. Navy Reserves, and joined the staff of Bowdoin College, serving as director of multicultural student programs. Driven to continue his education, he then enrolled in the University of Maine School of Law, where 3 years later, he would graduate with a law degree and once again return to Bowdoin.

At Bowdoin, Wil served as a beacon of light to so many students—many of whom, like him, toiled with the challenges of the transition to college. But as a gifted mentor and as someone who had the rare ability to genuinely connect with people, to understand them, and to relate to them, Wil inspired a newfound sense of hope in countless students, and his advice, unfailing support, and encouragement turned around the lives of hundreds and perhaps thousands of people.

And while students were away from Bowdoin during the summer, Wil dedicated his time to the Seeds of Peace International Camp in Otisfield, ME. It was an endeavor that he joined in the summer of 1999, before he graduated from Bowdoin, and it was one he carried on until last summer. At the camp, he mentored children from across the world, and challenged them to look at and judge their peers not by their race, ethnicity, or differences, but by their thoughts and their merit. Wil was truly a team player in this work, serving in numerous positions at Seeds of Peace over the years, from coach to counselor to associate director. But the title was always less important to Wil than knowing he was helping those he worked with at the camp. And true to the camp's mission, Wil cultivated seeds of peace within the heart of every child he met—his reach and impact extending around the world.

That same spirit of mentorship drew him to the basketball courts of Catherine McAuley High School in South Portland, where he coached the girls' varsity team for a decade, amassing nearly twice as many wins than losses and, in a testament to his talent as a coach, bringing home a prized state

championship in 2007. Through the game he loved, he taught young women about the power and virtue of leadership, character, and teamwork—the same traits he worked so hard to instill in students at Bowdoin, in young people at Seeds of Peace, or in anyone who came to him in search of help.

There is a hole in the heart of our community today. But while Wil's loss is felt by countless people, his legacy will be carried on by the thousands who were fortunate enough to know him. Indeed, it is that legacy of caring, of hope, and of understanding which he has given to us and which we will give to future generations along with his story as proof that even the most unlikely of beginnings can yield remarkable outcomes. Today, the world is a lesser place for Wil's loss, but we are all better for him having been in it.

My heart goes out to his daughter Olivia, his partner Maha Jaber, and her son, Nim, his family, and to all the people whose lives were touched by this extraordinary man's unfaltering enthusiasm, caring, and generosity. ●

RECOGNIZING RUTGERS UNIVERSITY FOR WINNING THE NAFSA 2014 SENATOR PAUL SIMON AWARD FOR COMPREHENSIVE INTERNATIONALIZATION

● Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I wish to honor Rutgers University for winning the 2014 Senator Paul Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization from NAFSA: The Association of International Educators. The award is named for the late Senator Paul Simon and is among the most prestigious awards for systemwide comprehensive internationalization. The award recognizes Rutgers' significant strides in providing a global education to its students, tackling global challenges through research, and working with diverse communities at home and abroad.

The award honors the university's significant achievements in enhancing its global reputation over the course of its nearly 250-year history. One hundred and fifty years ago, the university first began this process when it welcomed to campus a handful of students from Japan. Today, Rutgers hosts nearly 1,500 international undergraduate students from over 125 countries each year.

Through the Rutgers' Centers for Global Advancement and International Affairs, GAIA Centers, the university has established hundreds of strong research and education partnerships with key institutions on six continents. The centers' advising services, cross-cultural social events, and immigration processing have streamlined the arrival and cultural adjustment of nearly 7,000 talented international students and scholars. The centers have grown service-learning abroad and study

abroad opportunities from just a couple of programs in the 1960s to over 160 semester and year-long courses. The centers also foster unique and strong relationships with the United Nations, one of only a handful of universities around the globe to do so.

Rutgers actively participates in flagship international programs. Since January 2012, the university has hosted 73 Brazilian students for year-long, non-degree educational programs under the Brazilian Scientific Mobility Program. Rutgers was also one of only 20 universities nationwide selected to host talented young African leaders for a 6-week civic leadership program under President Obama's Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders.

Rutgers students and alumni received 26 Fulbright grants this year, a record number for the university. The Fulbright U.S. Student Program reported that this ties Rutgers for third place among research universities nationwide.

The university's worldwide reception is higher than ever before. In 2013, the Center for World University Rankings, CWUR, ranked Rutgers 33rd out of hundreds of international institutions.

I congratulate Rutgers University for winning the 2014 Senator Paul Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization, and I look forward to their continued success. ●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 636. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 644. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 1928a, and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly: Mr. TURNER of Ohio, Chair, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. MARINO of Pennsylvania, Mr. GUTHRIE of Kentucky, Mr. COOK of California, and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.

The message further announced that pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 9355(a), and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Air Force Academy: Mr. LAMBORN of Colorado and Ms. MCSALLY of Arizona.

The message also announced that pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 4355(a), and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy: Mr. POMPEO of Kansas and Mr. WOMACK of Arkansas.

The message further announced that pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 6968(a), and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Naval Academy: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana and Mr. ROONEY of Florida.

The message also announced that pursuant to 14 U.S.C. 194, and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Coast Guard Academy: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

The message further announced that pursuant to 46 U.S.C. 51312(b), and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Merchant Marine Academy: Mr. KING of New York.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolution was discharged by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 8. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to representation case procedures.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

S. 534. A bill to prohibit funds from being used to carry out certain Executive actions related to immigration and for other purposes.

S. 535. A bill to promote energy efficiency.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. GRASSLEY, from the Committee on the Judiciary:

Report to accompany S. 337, a bill to improve the Freedom of Information Act (Rept. No. 114-4).

By Mr. MCCAIN, from the Committee on Armed Services, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 165. A bill to extend and enhance prohibitions and limitations with respect to the transfer or release of individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. REED:

S. 530. A bill to require the president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Ms. AYOTTE):

S. 531. A bill to permit health insurance issuers to offer additional plan options to individuals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 532. A bill to improve highway-rail grade crossing safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 533. A bill to authorize and strengthen the tsunami detection, forecast, warning, research, and mitigation program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. COLLINS:

S. 534. A bill to prohibit funds from being used to carry out certain Executive actions related to immigration and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. FRANKEN, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 535. A bill to promote energy efficiency; read the first time.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Res. 83. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the Secondary School Student Athletes' Bill of Rights; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WICKER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BURR, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. Res. 84. A resolution celebrating Black History Month; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 85

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 85, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish a simplified income-driven repayment plan, and for other purposes.

S. 122

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 122, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to allow for the personal importation of safe and affordable drugs from approved pharmacies in Canada.

S. 125

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 125, a bill to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2020, and for other purposes.

S. 166

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 166, a bill to stop exploitation through trafficking.

S. 183

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 183, a bill to repeal the annual fee on health insurance providers enacted by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 238

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 238, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to authorize the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to issue oleoresin capsicum spray to officers and employees of the Bureau of Prisons.

S. 257

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 257, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to physician supervision of therapeutic hospital outpatient services.

S. 262

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 262, a bill to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes.

S. 298

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr.

DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 298, a bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option of providing services to children with medically complex conditions under the Medicaid program and Children's Health Insurance Program through a care coordination program focused on improving health outcomes for children with medically complex conditions and lowering costs, and for other purposes.

S. 308

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 308, a bill to reauthorize 21st century community learning centers, and for other purposes.

S. 313

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 313, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to add physical therapists to the list of providers allowed to utilize locum tenens arrangements under Medicare.

S. 332

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 332, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make permanent the extension of the Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) program and the increased payments under the Medicare low-volume hospital program.

S. 356

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 356, a bill to improve the provisions relating to the privacy of electronic communications.

S. 362

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 362, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for investigative leave requirements with respect to Senior Executive Service employees, and for other purposes.

S. 368

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. 368, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to require that the Director of the Bureau of Prisons ensure that each chief executive officer of a Federal penal or correctional institution provides a secure storage area located outside of the secure perimeter of the Federal penal or correctional institution for firearms carried by certain employees of the Bureau of Prisons, and for other purposes.

S. 379

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Washington

(Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 379, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand and modify the credit for employee health insurance expenses of small employers.

S. 380

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 380, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exemption from the tax on early distributions for certain Bureau of Prisons correctional officers who retire before age 55, and for other purposes.

S. 386

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 386, a bill to limit the authority of States to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States.

S. 412

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 412, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to encourage and support parent, family, and community involvement in schools, to provide needed integrated services and comprehensive supports to children for the ultimate goal of assisting students to stay in school, become successful learners, improve their academic achievement, and for other purposes.

S. 423

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 423, a bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual written privacy notice requirement.

S. 435

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 435, a bill to amend chapter 1 of title 1, United States Code, with regard to the definition of "marriage" and "spouse" for Federal purposes and to ensure respect for State regulation of marriage.

S. 497

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 497, a bill to allow Americans to earn paid sick time so that they can address their own health needs and the health needs of their families.

S. 498

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 498, a bill to allow reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms.

S. 527

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) were added as cosponsors of S. 527, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Foot Soldiers who participated in Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday, or in the final Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March in March of 1965, which served as a catalyst for the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

S. 529

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 529, a bill to improve the services available to runaway and homeless youth who are victims of trafficking, to improve the response to victims of child sex trafficking, to direct the Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking to identify strategies to prevent children from becoming victims of trafficking and review trafficking prevention efforts, to protect and assist in the recovery of victims of trafficking, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 40

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 40, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding efforts by the United States and others to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon.

S. RES. 72

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 72, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the January 24, 2015, attacks carried out by Russian-backed rebels on the civilian population in Mariupol, Ukraine, and the provision of lethal and non-lethal military assistance to Ukraine.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED:

S. 530. A bill to require the president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I am reintroducing legislation that would require the head of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

In 2010, I worked to include a provision with similar language in the Senate version of the Wall Street Reform

and Consumer Protection Act, but it was ultimately not included in the final version of this law.

I noted then that, "if the Governors of the Federal Reserve System in Washington are required to be confirmed by the Senate, then the President of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, who played a pivotal and perhaps more powerful role in obligating taxpayer dollars during the financial crisis, should also be subject to the same public confirmation process."

In short, the New York Fed is unlike any of the other 11 regional Federal Reserve Banks.

For instance, along with the seven Governors of the Federal Reserve System who each require Senate confirmation, the president of the New York Fed is a permanent member of the Federal Open Market Committee, FOMC, and also acts as the FOMC's Vice Chairman. This is a significant distinction because the FOMC establishes the Federal Reserve System's monetary policy, which in the wake of the financial crisis resulted in the Federal Reserve's balance sheet growing to almost five times what it was before the crisis in an attempt to reduce long-term interest rates.

Also, the New York Fed is solely responsible for implementing an aspect of monetary policy known as open market operations through which U.S. Treasury securities are purchased and sold on a secondary basis to influence the levels of bank reserves. This means that the New York Fed is in a position to pick and choose its counterparties in these secondary market transactions, giving considerable advantages to one market maker over another, which raises the potential for conflicts of interest.

In addition, the New York Fed is entrusted with protecting the U.S. dollar in foreign exchange markets.

According to the New York Fed itself, "though it serves a geographically small area compared with those of other Federal Reserve Banks, the New York Fed is the largest Reserve Bank in terms of assets and volume of activity." Indeed, the New York Fed in its regulatory role is not only in charge of supervising some of the largest banks in the country, but also some of the most active financial institutions.

While this is not a comprehensive list of the New York Fed's special and distinctive responsibilities, these examples demonstrate the powerful and pivotal role the New York Fed plays in implementing our Nation's monetary policy and enforcing our banking laws. As such, we should have every expectation that the New York Fed has the public interest in mind to the fullest extent when it conducts its duties.

Unfortunately, these expectations have not been met. Last year, the Office of Inspector General, OIG, of the

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System described the New York Fed's oversight efforts with respect to one large banking institution that eventually suffered billions of dollars in trading losses as a "missed opportunity." Additionally, a report aired in September of last year on the public radio program "This American Life" cast doubt on whether changes the New York Fed made after the financial collapse to address regulatory capture were sufficient to ensure it would be a more proactive banking regulator and could prevent a future financial disaster.

All of this is unsettling, and it is past time that we add meaningful layers of accountability so that we can be better assured of the New York Fed's ability to address potential financial pitfalls in advance.

By subjecting the president of the New York Fed to the confirmation process, an important check and balance will be added. The Senate will have an opportunity to evaluate whether a nominee has the experience, character, judgment, and skills to serve effectively as one of the most powerful banking regulators in the country, if not the world. Also, this legislation requires the New York Fed president to testify before the Senate Banking Committee and the House Financial Services Committee at least once a year, so that Congress no longer has to negotiate about whether the New York Fed president will appear before Congress for oversight hearings. Simply put, this legislation is about holding the New York Fed accountable. The New York Fed is just too powerful to be left unchecked.

I thank Americans for Financial Reform, Public Citizen, the AFL-CIO, and the Independent Community Bankers of America for their support, and I urge all my colleagues to join me in moving this legislation forward.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 83—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF THE SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENT ATHLETES' BILL OF RIGHTS

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:.

S. RES. 83

Whereas over 7,700,000 student athletes participated in secondary school athletics during the 2012 to 2013 academic year;

Whereas it is estimated that in 2012, secondary school student athletes participating in 9 of the most popular high school sports, including football, boys' and girls' soccer, girls' volleyball, boys' and girls' basketball, wrestling, baseball, and softball, suffered over 1,300,000 instances of injury;

Whereas every 3 minutes, a child is treated in an emergency department for a sports-related concussion, accounting for more than 8 percent of all sports-related emergency cases;

Whereas the number of sports-related concussion injuries has doubled in the last 15 years among student athletes aged 8 to 19, despite an overall decrease in the number of students participating in sports;

Whereas sudden cardiac arrest ("SCA") is the leading cause of death for youth participating in sports or exercising, with upwards of 80 percent of those suffering from SCA being asymptomatic prior to cardiac arrest;

Whereas instances of heat-related illness have more than doubled since 1997 and affect high school football players at an average rate that is 10 times higher than that of participants in other sports;

Whereas approximately 1,500 children aged 12 to 17 were treated in an emergency department for energy drink-related emergencies in 2011;

Whereas secondary school student athletes with access to certified athletic health care professionals have lower overall injury rates, lower recurrent injury rates, and lower concussion rates than student athletes without access to certified athletic health care professionals;

Whereas in light of the increase in athletic-related injuries to student athletes, schools are encouraged to develop and adopt best practices and standards to prevent and address student athlete injury;

Whereas the Secondary School Student Athletes' Bill of Rights sets forth that secondary school student athletes have the right—

(1) to be coached by individuals who are well-trained in sport-specific safety and to be monitored by athletic health care team members;

(2) to quality, regular pre-participation examinations and each athlete has the right to participate under a comprehensive concussion management plan;

(3) to participate in sporting activities on safe, clean playing surfaces, in both indoor and outdoor facilities;

(4) to utilize equipment and uniforms that are safe, fitted appropriately, and routinely maintained;

(5) to appropriate personnel trained in proper removal of equipment in case of injury;

(6) to participate safely in all environmental conditions where play follows approved guidelines and medical policies and procedures, with a hydration plan in place;

(7) to a safe playing environment with venue-specific emergency action plans that are coordinated by the athletic health care team and regularly rehearsed with local emergency personnel;

(8) to privacy of health information and proper referral for medical, psychosocial, and nutritional counseling;

(9) to participate in a culture that finds "playing through pain" unacceptable unless there has been a medical assessment;

(10) to immediate, on-site injury assessments with decisions made by qualified sports medicine professionals; and

(11) along with their parents, to the latest information about the benefits and potential risks of participation in competitive sports, including access to statistics on fatalities and catastrophic injuries to youth athletes; and

Whereas the Secondary School Student Athletes' Bill of Rights, which sets forth goals and ideals to improve the health, well-

being, and athletic experience of secondary school students, can serve as a valuable resource to reduce injury, promote athlete safety, and encourage well-being: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the principles and values set forth in the Secondary School Student Athletes' Bill of Rights;

(2) recognizes the importance of proper safety measures, timely medical assessments, and appropriate environmental conditions in ensuring the health and well-being of secondary school student athletes;

(3) recognizes the role that teachers, parents, coaches, and athletic health care team members play in ensuring the safety and well-being of secondary school student athletes;

(4) expresses support for secondary schools that have successfully implemented programs, policies, and practices to emphasize and encourage student athlete safety and well-being; and

(5) encourages secondary schools to continue to take all available and reasonable efforts to ensure student athlete safety.

SENATE RESOLUTION 84—CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WICKER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BURR, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 84

Whereas in 1776, people imagined the United States as a new country dedicated to the proposition stated in the Declaration of Independence that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness . . .";

Whereas the first Africans were brought involuntarily to the shores of America as early as the 17th century;

Whereas African Americans suffered enslavement and subsequently faced the injustices of lynch mobs, segregation, and denial of the basic and fundamental rights of citizenship;

Whereas in 2015, the vestiges of these injustices and inequalities remain evident in the society of the United States;

Whereas in the face of injustices, people of the United States of good will and of all races have distinguished themselves with a commitment to the noble ideals on which the United States was founded and have courageously fought for the rights and freedom of African Americans;

Whereas African Americans, such as Lieutenant Colonel Allen Allensworth, Constance Baker Motley, James Baldwin, James Beckwourth, Simeon Booker, Clara Brown, Ralph Bunche, Shirley Chisholm, Frederick Douglass, W. E. B. Du Bois, Ralph Ellison, Medgar Evers, Alex Haley, Dorothy Height, Lena Horne, Charles Hamilton Houston, Mahalia Jackson, Martin Luther King, Jr., the Tuskegee Airmen, Thurgood Marshall, Rosa Parks, Bill Pickett, Jackie Robinson, Aaron Shirley, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Homer Plessy, the Greensboro

Four, Maya Angelou, and Arthur Ashe Jr., along with many others, worked against racism to achieve success and to make significant contributions to the economic, educational, political, artistic, athletic, literary, scientific, and technological advancements of the United States, including the westward expansion;

Whereas the contributions of African Americans from all walks of life throughout the history of the United States reflect the greatness of the United States;

Whereas many African Americans lived, toiled, and died in obscurity, never achieving the recognition they deserved, and yet paved the way for future generations to succeed;

Whereas African Americans continue to serve the United States at the highest levels of government and military;

Whereas the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass inspired the creation of Negro History Week, the precursor to Black History Month;

Whereas Negro History Week represented the culmination of the efforts of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the "Father of Black History", to enhance knowledge of Black history through the Journal of Negro History, published by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, which was founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson and Jesse E. Moorland;

Whereas Black History Month, celebrated during the month of February, dates back to 1926 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson set aside a special period in February to recognize the heritage and achievement of Black people of the United States;

Whereas Dr. Carter G. Woodson stated: "We have a wonderful history behind us. . . . If you are unable to demonstrate to the world that you have this record, the world will say to you, 'You are not worthy to enjoy the blessings of democracy or anything else.'";

Whereas since the founding of the United States, the country imperfectly progressed towards noble goals; and

Whereas the history of the United States is the story of people regularly affirming high ideals, striving to reach such ideals but often failing, and then struggling to come to terms with the disappointment of such failure, before committing to trying again: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges that all people of the United States are the recipients of the wealth of history provided by Black culture;

(2) recognizes the importance of Black History Month as an opportunity to reflect on the complex history of the United States, while remaining hopeful and confident about the path ahead;

(3) acknowledges the significance of Black History Month as an important opportunity to recognize the tremendous contributions of African Americans to the history of the United States;

(4) encourages the celebration of Black History Month to provide a continuing opportunity for all people in the United States to learn from the past and understand the experiences that have shaped the United States; and

(5) agrees that, while the United States began as a divided nation, the United States must—

(A) honor the contribution of all pioneers in the United States who have helped to ensure the legacy of the great United States; and

(B) move forward with purpose, united tirelessly as "one Nation . . . indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 534

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 534) to prohibit funds from being used to carry out certain Executive actions related to immigration and for other purposes.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading and, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 535

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 535) to promote energy efficiency.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading and, in order to place the bill on the calendar under rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2015

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, February 24; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 12:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, and that the first hour be equally divided, with the Democrats controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half. I further ask that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McCONNELL. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senators MERKLEY and COONS for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. McCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I have come to the floor this evening to speak about the impending shutdown this week of the Federal Department of Homeland Security. At a time when the folks I hear from in Delaware, and I suspect what all of the Members in this Chamber are hearing, as we return from a week spent in our home States, are concerns about our national security.

Whether it is the heinous acts of ISIS abroad, or the real threats of the weather and recent weather-related events here at home, a central concern all of us should share in the Senate here tonight is about keeping our country and our constituents safe. Yet shutting down the whole Department of Homeland Security later this week would show a reckless disregard for our national security by the Republican leader and some of the hard-line conservatives who are, sadly, setting this agenda.

In my view, we do not need to be here. The Democrats and Republicans working together on the Appropriations Committee negotiated a strong bipartisan Homeland Security funding bill months ago. It is a bill that if it got a vote before the full Senate would absolutely pass. It makes wide, needed, broad investments in strengthening all sorts of different organs of our government at the Federal, State, and local level that strengthen our homeland security.

Instead, the other party has insisted on attaching political provisions to the bill that would overturn the President's Executive action on immigration. I know I do not need to remind the Presiding Officer or any of our colleagues that we have already debated and passed comprehensive immigration reform in this Chamber which, if taken up by the House, would have made the President's action completely unnecessary.

I think we all agree that congressional action is the preferred path toward fixing our broken immigration system. If that is what my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are really concerned about, then I am eager to discuss how we can fix our badly broken immigration system in a bipartisan manner by the preferred path of congressional action rather than Executive action.

But I think we should separate that debate over immigration and what is the right path toward a resolution of our broken system from a discussion about responsibly and sustainably funding our Department of Homeland Security. If we fail to fund Homeland Security, it would have damaging consequences to our economy, to the security of our communities, and to our reputation around the world. At this time of heightened concern about our cohesion, about our unity, and about our security as a country, failing to fund the Federal Department of Homeland Security I think sends the worst possible message to our allies around the world about our capacity as a mature democracy of reaching responsible resolutions on difficult and divisive issues.

If the Department of Homeland Security shuts down this week, tens of thousands of its staff would be furloughed without pay. They include the FEMA disaster and preparedness staff, the very personnel who check the immigration status of new employees through E-Verify, critical security intelligence analysts, and the folks who run the domestic nuclear detection offices, just to name a few.

The list of these tens of thousands of Homeland Security employees and the vital functions they perform would take longer than the evening could take.

My own State of Delaware has the lowest mean elevation in the country. That means we are a really low-lying State. We are incredibly vulnerable to storms and to flooding, and we simply can't afford to have FEMA's staff suspended, furloughed, laid off.

Whether we shut down or just have a short-term funding bill, funding for Homeland Security grants can't go out. Some of the folks who watch this debate in the week ahead will have difficulty discerning between folks on my side who will advocate for a so-called clean bill and others who will advocate for a CR. This is where the difference really is: in the areas of grants for State and local emergency preparedness—the difference between actually moving forward the bipartisan bill that was worked through the Appropriations Committee in the last Congress and simply continuing by continuing resolution the previous year's authorization. That difference is \$1.5 billion for State and local emergency management all over this country.

In my community, which is part of the Greater Philadelphia area, we are about to welcome the Pope. Something like 2 million people are expected in the Greater Philadelphia area as we welcome His Holiness to Philadelphia for the first time in a long time.

I have heard from State and local law enforcement, first responders, emergency managers, and planners that they are counting on some of the grants from FEMA that are currently on hold, while they wait to discover the outcome of this week's debates, to prepare for that important, very large event. In my own home community, there are volunteer fire companies which even now are working on submitting grants. The SAFER Act and the fire grants act have become an important part of making sure that our local volunteer fire companies have the equipment they need, the training they need to keep our communities safe.

In Delaware the overwhelming majority of the crash response, the fire education, and the fire suppression are done by volunteer fire companies, which often have badly outdated equipment and insufficient funding. To sustain their training and their personnel, they need the grants that have been made available through FEMA and through the Department of Homeland Security over the last decade to upgrade and update their equipment, their materials, and their training. They have been vitally important. They have made a big difference in the fire service in my home State. There are grants to police departments that help ensure they have the tools, the training, and the equipment to be part of emergency preparedness and to keep our communities safe.

If we shut down the Department of Homeland Security, 130,000 other DHS workers will be compelled to remain at work but without pay. I think the idea that there are Americans who work to keep us safe at the border, at our airports, on our coasts and that we don't value them enough to ensure they will receive their pay for a hard day's work just goes against the grain of what we stand for as a country.

So are my colleagues really willing to send a message to everyone at Homeland Security that their work isn't important enough to our Nation to ensure that they can provide for their family? That is the message if the Department of Homeland Security shuts down. It hurts families, it hurts morale, it hurts our preparedness, and it hurts our safety.

I wish to say, as someone who is privileged to serve on the Foreign Relations Committee and regularly gets the chance to meet with and talk with leaders from around the world, it sends the message that our democracy isn't up to the task.

I know this isn't what my Republican friends want to do, and I urge us to

come together and work in a way that will end this era of politics by crisis once and for all—no more shutdowns, no more manufactured crises, and no more demonstrating that we are better at stopping progress than at enacting progress.

Democrats are ready to work together with Republicans to pass a bipartisan, bicameral bill that we all know we can pass and that will fund the Department of Homeland Security and keep our country safe. I hope that after we—this afternoon—voted down for the fourth time a bill that seeks to repeal the President's actions on immigration, we can put aside that partisan issue and come together to find a bipartisan solution to fund the Department of Homeland Security.

We already know what that solution looks like. We just need to come together and give it a vote. In my view, this is too important to trivialize as part of the ongoing posturing and partisan games that for so long have dominated this Chamber.

I urge my colleagues to work with us. Fund Homeland Security and then let's talk meaningfully in this Congress about how we can fix our broken immigration system together.

I know we are all eager to continue that conversation. First, we need to solve this challenge and make sure that our communities, our States, and our country are safe.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I rise tonight to urge Congress to quit playing political games with our national security. It is time to have a clean Homeland Security funding bill on the floor of the Senate to be debated.

We are only days away from a potential shutdown of the Homeland Security Department, and it is very clear that the reason is that Members of the House on Capitol Hill have decided they want to make a clear statement about certain policy statements. They want to have a policy rider that says young children who came to this country and know no other country need to be prioritized for deportation. Why? Well, I think that is just wrong.

But if Members of this body want to put that into a bill and want to put that on the floor of the House and want to put it on the floor of the Senate, I am quite ready to have that debate.

Yet another policy rider says that the President must no longer prioritize the deportation of those with criminal backgrounds. Now, I happen to think we should prioritize deportation of any

individuals who have conducted criminal acts. If some of my colleagues want to have that policy debate, I am fine with that. Put it in a bill, bring it to the floor of the Senate, and let us have that debate. A vote will then be very clearly on that specific policy and people can have some accountability. The American people will have some transparency about what is being voted on. But do not put these policy riders into the middle of the funding bill and work to shut down Homeland Security. That is no way to run a country.

We live in a dangerous world. We lack for many things, but one thing we don't lack is security threats. It was less than 2 years ago that terrorists attacked us at the Boston Marathon. It was just weeks ago that we saw a horrific series of terrorist attacks on our friends in Paris. ISIL is a fierce and growing threat determined to wreak havoc. It is exactly at a time such as this that we should be working together on a bipartisan basis to fund and strengthen Homeland Security, not playing political games with the Nation's security, but here we are.

Is it more important, I ask my colleagues, to have a debate about deporting DREAMers than it is to protect Americans against terrorist threats? If someone feels it is more important, not only do I feel they are wrong, but I invite them to have that debate. Put that into a separate policy bill and have the courage to put it on the floor of the Senate as a separate policy bill. Do not compromise our national security by trying to shut down Homeland Security.

This is a misguided strategy, and the resulting fallout isn't just to national security. There are FEMA grants to disaster-stricken areas that will be stopped, local fire departments will be hampered, and thousands of essential public servants from Homeland Security to FEMA, to our terrific men and women in the Coast Guard will be forced to work without pay.

Just last week I visited a Coast Guard installation in Newport, OR. It is an installation that has advanced rescue helicopters. They have five helicopters that work in rotation to make sure one is in the Newport area and a second ready to back it up if it has troubles.

This is a port that has so much sea traffic. It is a deepwater port. It has commercial fishing, it has sports fishing, it has tourists who play on the rocks of the beach and get trapped by the tide, and it has recreational swimmers who get swept out by riptides. There is every kind of possible ocean-front disaster one could look for and so that rescue helicopter is very important.

One of the young men I was speaking to is a rescue swimmer, an extraordinary individual who does some of the scariest, most courageous work in the

world. These folks are not paid very much. They have bills to meet, similar to all the rest of us. Is this any way to run a country, to say you have to keep coming to work, but we are not going to send you a paycheck? To say to the thousands and thousands of young Americans who are working for our country in national security, "you are so important that you have to come to work whether or not we pay you," is just wrong—wrong that we should be so disorganized, so partisan as to compromise our national security.

Our folks who work in national security will be asked to continue working. They work in dangerous conditions that many of us could hardly imagine. They make sure our safety is improved. At a minimum, can't we just have a debate on the funding bill without these political games? They do their work and they feel a sense of duty. Let's have a sense of duty in doing our work. Let's put the Homeland Security appropriations bill on this floor and let's do so without partisan political riders. That game does no honor to our Nation nor to this institution. The public's opinion of this Chamber has fallen due to exactly these types of games. So let's end them.

There is bipartisan support for ending these types of political theatrics. One of my colleagues from Arizona said, "To attempt to use a spending bill in order to poke a finger in the President's eye is not a good move in my view."

My colleague from Illinois, who serves across the aisle in this Chamber, said:

The American people are pretty alarmed, as they should be, about security . . . the way to go forward is just fund the DHS. We ought to strip the bill of extraneous issues and make it about homeland security.

That is a sentiment I think virtually every citizen feels at this moment. Let's make it about homeland security. Let's make it about us having the honor to do our duty. Our job on this floor is to consider this appropriations bill and not to load it down with favorite policy riders and political theatrics.

Every day that goes by puts us closer to this shutdown. There is no logic in careening from crisis to crisis, but some crises come about due to uncontrollable factors. This one is entirely under our control. This one is entirely under the control of the leadership of the House and the leadership of the Senate.

Earlier this evening I was on a phone call with many folks back home who serve in police departments and fire departments, in rural departments, rural emergency departments, and they were relaying the different types of grants they get that are so important to their communities. Some of them are search and rescue, some of them are disaster preparation, some are grants to fund the fire departments, and some for

funding personnel. Nobody on the phone could understand why this Chamber is afraid to have a simple budget debate and an appropriations debate, a spending debate. They see no reason to load it down with politics that can be debated in separate policy bills.

So I say to the leadership of this Chamber: Let's get our act together. Put policy into policy bills and let's put the spending bill before this body in a clean fashion and proceed to protect our Nation's security, as we are charged to do.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:18 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, February 24, 2015, at 10 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, February 24, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED
FEBRUARY 25

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) reauthorization, focusing on perspectives from owners, operators, and users of the system.

SD-406

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine preserving the multistakeholder model of Internet governance.

SR-253

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine a 21st century regulatory system.

SD-342

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion.

CHOB-345

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Defense

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Air Force.

SD-192

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine America's debt.

SH-216

1:30 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and

Syria (ISIS), focusing on building the coalition and ensuring military effectiveness.

SD-419

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Personnel

To hold hearings to examine healthcare recommendations of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission.

SH-216

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine regional nuclear dynamics.

SR-222

Committee on Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 230, to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation located in Bethel, Alaska, and S. 321, to revoke the charter of incorporation of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma at the request of that tribe; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for Indian programs.

SD-628

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine Serbia's leadership of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), focusing on priorities and insights regarding the ongoing work of the OSCE.

RHOB-2200

FEBRUARY 26

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To resume hearings to examine worldwide threats.

SD-106

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, "End Modern Slavery and Trafficking Initiative Act of 2015".

S-116

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking, S. 166, to stop exploitation through trafficking, and the nominations of Loretta E. Lynch, of New York, to be Attorney General, Michelle K. Lee, of California, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Alfred H. Bennett, George C. Hanks, Jr., and Jose Rolando Olvera, Jr., each to be a United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, Jill N. Parrish, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah, and Nancy B. Firestone, of Virginia, Thomas L. Halkowski, of Pennsylvania, Patricia M. McCarthy, of Maryland, Jeri Kaylene Somers, of Virginia, and Armando Omar Bonilla, of the District

of Columbia, each to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

SD-226

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for Veterans' programs and fiscal year 2017 advance appropriations request.

SR-418

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SR-253

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Forest Service.

SD-366

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine Congress and the United States tariff policy.

SD-215

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine medical and public health preparedness and response, focusing on future threats.

SD-430

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Commerce.

SD-192

2:30 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

MARCH 3

2 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Immigration and the National Interest

To hold an oversight hearing to examine United States citizenship and immigration services, focusing on ensuring agency priorities comply with the law.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine a review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SH-216

MARCH 4

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Environmental Protection Agency.

SD-406

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

10 a.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

SD-G50

3:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine United States nuclear weapons policy, programs, and strategy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

MARCH 5

10 a.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation from multiple veterans service organizations.

CHOB-345

MARCH 12

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To receive a closed briefing on missile defense programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SVC-217

MARCH 18

10 a.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation from multiple veterans service organizations.

SD-G50

MARCH 25

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine ballistic missile defense programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, February 24, 2015

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 24, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JEFF DENHAM to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

CONGRESS OF CLIFFS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of talk of cliffs here in our Nation's Capital. We have fiscal cliffs that we faced with the debt ceiling. There was the sequestration cliff. We had, obviously, the cliffs surrounding the government shutdown.

This week, we face a Homeland Security cliff. Because our Republican friends have been unable to reach agreement and have held hostage the budget of the Department of Homeland Security, we face a situation where we will either shut down those operations or, hopefully, people will come to their senses and take action. But, again, it is government by cliff.

In March, we are facing the SGR cliff. If the government doesn't move forward to deal with a meaningful solution to the sustainable growth rate, we are going to see a dramatic reduction in government reimbursement under Medicare to providers.

And looming in the background—something that we talked about last

summer because Congress refused to deal meaningfully with transportation funding—there will be another cliff May 31 as the transportation fund loses its ability to fund. Already, there are programs around the country in local and State government that are trying to factor in reductions of important construction work that they aren't certain they can do this summer.

Well, we are putting in the background another cliff. It is one that will probably not get the attention that it deserves, but one that deserves people to focus on because it will impact 11 million of our most vulnerable citizens.

Over the course of the years, there have been opportunities within the trust fund that funds retirement and disability, which are basically, for most people, synonymous—they are paid for by the same tax on our earnings and that our employers pay, but they have been segregated into two accounts, one dealing with disability and one dealing with retirement.

Over the history of these two programs they have spent at different rates. Eleven times in the past, under Republican and Democratic Presidents alike, Congress has moved to shift money from one trust fund to another to be able to even it out and not run out of the ability to pay benefits. The last adjustment was made in 1994, but the disability account was only adjusted for about 20 years.

At the time, it was understood that there would be a need for more action dealing with disability because of a very fundamental demographic change: we have a lot more women in the workforce and the baby boom generation is moving into the years in their careers where they are more prone to disability claims. And, sure enough, that projection is right. Around December of next year, we will no longer be able to pay full disability payments unless there is an adjustment.

Well, the fix that has been done 11 times over the years, on a bipartisan basis, has been made infinitely more difficult because of a rule change that our friends on the Republican side have adopted for this Congress. Under what they have approved, it will be impossible to make that simple adjustment that we have done time and time again if a single Member of the House of Representatives objects.

This is setting up an artificial crisis. There is a need to adjust funding for both Social Security and disability because, combined, in about 2033 or 2034 they will not be able to pay out full

benefits. That is why it is important for Congress to be able to step forward and deal with it meaningfully, but it is not something you do in a crisis, and it is not something that should be done by picking out the one area in which 11 million citizens rely on these for disability payments. It should be done thoughtfully and carefully.

If people are concerned about fraud and misuse, I would suggest that my Republican friends look at what they did in the budget process. Over the last 3 years, they have cut 7 percent out of the budget for the Social Security Administration that could have gone to deal with enforcement and that could have gone to deal with fraud and abuse. It could have gone to make sure that the program is operating properly.

Instead, we have set up a crisis to try and force reductions in benefits for some of our most vulnerable. I think it is not the way we should go. We shouldn't be having government by cliff, but we also ought to be dealing with it in a thoughtful and reasonable fashion to make the adjustments that make it sustainable.

In the meantime, the Republican leadership ought to waive that rule—like they routinely do for things that they care about, like passing billions of dollars of unfunded tax cuts—to be able to allow the rebalancing to occur and the decisionmaking to be made in a thoughtful and reasonable fashion.

TWITTER AND FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week we learned that three British school girls between the ages of 15 and 16 left their families and have gone to fight with ISIS in Syria.

How were they recruited to join? Well, apparently through social media. And they are not alone. Terrorists have used Twitter to radicalize thousands of young impressionable minds throughout the world and recruit new jihadists. They have also used it as a way to fundraise millions of dollars for their reign of terror. ISIS also uses Twitter to broadcast its barbaric acts and propaganda to the world.

On February 3, ISIS tweeted a video of its evil, horrific burning of a captured Jordanian pilot. Last August, when ISIS released a gruesome beheading of American journalist James Foley, it did so on, yes, Twitter. There are many more examples.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

All of these groups—ISIS, AQAP, AQIM—are officially listed as designated Foreign Terrorist Organizations by our government. Federal law prohibits giving aid or helping a designated Foreign Terrorist Organization. These FTOs use Twitter, an American company, as a tool, and no one is stopping them.

Why are American companies and the U.S. Government allowing social media platforms to be hijacked by terrorists? Some suggest that if the U.S. Government were to shut down terrorists' social media accounts, such measures would be violating terrorists' free speech rights. They are wrong. There are no constitutional protections to those who incite violence. No one supports the Bill of Rights more than I do, but free speech has its limitations, just as there are no constitutional protections for child pornography.

Terrorists should not have access to an American-controlled social media platform so they can kill, rape, pillage, and burn. There is precedence for this position. The Supreme Court has already ruled and held in the case of *Holder v. Humanitarian Law Project* that if someone has aided a designated Foreign Terrorist Organization, they do not have constitutional protections of free speech.

Twitter has argued that the Feds do not want the terrorists' Twitter accounts taken down because they, the Feds, want to track the bad guys. However, keeping these Twitter accounts up has neither stopped nor slowed the terrorists' recruitment, propaganda, calls for violence, or fundraising efforts. Instead, allowing the terrorists to continue using Twitter has helped radicalize hundreds of foreign fighters and raised millions of dollars for them.

The sad reality is that today, there are more terrorists using social media than ever before. Private American companies should not be operating as the propaganda mouthpiece of designated foreign terrorist organizations.

Mr. Speaker, during World War II, we never would have allowed America's foreign enemies to take out ads in *The New York Times* recruiting Americans to join the Nazis and go abroad and fight and kill Americans. Today is no different. Social media companies need to do more. Private companies not only have a public responsibility but a legal obligation to be proactive.

Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act states that it is unlawful to provide a designated Foreign Terrorist Organization—like ISIS—with “material support or resources,” including “any property, tangible or intangible, or services.” That is about as comprehensive as you can get. You don't need to be a law school professor to understand this law actually applies to Twitter.

It is mind-boggling to think that those who behead and burn others alive

are able to use our own companies against us to further their cause. This is nutty. But that is exactly what is occurring. As a result, there are more than 15,000 foreign fighters, many of whom have been radicalized online, now fighting in Iraq and Syria. That is more than there were in the 14 years of war in Afghanistan.

Designated Foreign Terrorist Organizations should not be allowed to use private American companies to reach billions of people with their violent hate propaganda and recruitment. It is time to put a stop to this. It is time for Twitter to take down terrorists' accounts.

And that is just the way it is.

HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate what the gentleman has just said about those challenges and threats, along with the undermining of our national security, but it is further at risk this week by our own hand; that is, the Congress of the United States.

The Department of Homeland Security will not be funded. There are 230,000 people who work at that Department, and 30,000 of them, mostly administrative personnel, will be laid off. The others, known as critically important—essential employees who are on the front line—will work, but they won't get paid.

We can lament what others have done to undermine our national security and share—I think in a bipartisan way—the conclusion that we ought not to further those enterprises, but as I said, Mr. Speaker, by our own hand we are about to shut down the Department of Homeland Security. We have but 4 days to pass a bill continuing its funding.

I will say with all due respect, Mr. Speaker, to my friends on the other side of the aisle, shutting down the government is a strategy they have employed on a number of occasions. In 1995, we shut it down twice, for almost a month, maybe a little longer.

□ 1215

Just a few months ago, we shut it down again as a strategy—not as a hap-
penstance, but as a strategy.

Again, Mr. Speaker, there are those who are saying in this House: Well, it won't matter if we shut down the Department of Homeland Security. Some of the folks are funded on fees, others will be required to work anyway, so let's just keep playing this Russian roulette with America's security and the safety of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, we are approaching the eleventh hour, and the House has not yet been given the opportunity to vote on a bill that, essentially, was agreed

to by the Republican Appropriations Committee and reported to this floor, and we essentially passed it, but we passed it for a short period of time.

There was no debate on funding levels, Mr. Speaker. There was no debate on whether this provision and that provision should or should not be in the bill. We passed it.

Then the Republicans, Mr. Speaker, to accomplish another objective, have done what they said in the pledge to America they would not do, and that is put two different issues in the same bill. Well, they have put a poison pill in this bill.

If we fail to act and send the President a bill he can and will sign, a bill free from partisan policy riders, then thousands of our Homeland Security agents will be furloughed, and almost—as I said—200,000 others will be forced to work without pay.

Is that what America has come to? Surely not—the impact on our border security, law enforcement, and homeland security will be serious and make our country more vulnerable to threats.

I came to the rostrum after a gentleman on the other side of the aisle correctly expressed concerns about the threats that confront us. I would hope he would join me in advocating and urging the Republican leadership to bring to the floor a clean—and by clean, I simply mean a bill on which both parties have essentially agreed.

Chairman MIKE McCAUL, the Republican who leads the House Committee on Homeland Security said yesterday—Mr. Speaker, this is the Republican chairman of the Homeland Security Committee: “I fully believe we should not be playing politics with the national security agency like the Department of Homeland Security, particularly given the high threat environment that we're in right now.”

What American would say it makes sense to play politics with Homeland Security in light of what the gentleman has just referenced and which all of us know to be the case?

We have people who want to harm us as a people and as a nation. Mr. Speaker, this body has a responsibility to the American people to do everything we can to make them as secure as we can and to make our country as secure as we can.

Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM, with whom I served in this body who now represents South Carolina and is a Republican Member of the Senate and an expert on national security, he told his Republican colleagues this—and, again, I quote: “The worst possible outcome for this Nation is to defund the Department of Homeland Security, given the multiple threats we face to our homeland, and I will not be part of it.”

None of us ought to be part of it. 435 of us ought to vote to fund the Homeland Security Department starting on

Friday. I urge the Republican majority to heed this advice of Mr. McCaul, of Mr. GRAHAM, and, frankly, countless other Republicans in the Senate and some in the House to do the responsible thing and let this House work its will on the single subject of our national security.

If a clean Homeland Security appropriation bill were to come to the floor, I am confident—and I tell my friend and the majority leader, Mr. Speaker, every Democrat will vote for it. We are 188 strong.

Surely, there are 30 responsible Republicans who care more about our national security than their politics who would join us in voting for that bill—I am confident of that—many more, I think, than 30, but at least 30 would be needed, with 188, to get to the 218, and we would fund the Department of Homeland Security, and we could do it tomorrow.

We could probably do it today by unanimous consent—well, no, I don't think we could do it by unanimous consent because there are some who continue to play politics with our national security.

If the majority is dissatisfied with our immigration policy which they articulate and legitimately can have an alternative view to express and to try to enact, that is the democratic process.

Offer a bill to change that which they do not like, not hold hostage the Department of Homeland Security until hopefully, from their standpoint, the President is bludgeoned into signing a bill that he does not agree with and he does not believe is good for our country and believes is bad for our economy.

If the majority is dissatisfied, bring a bill to the floor. Former Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge, also a Republican with whom I have served when he was a Representative from Pennsylvania, subsequently the Governor of Pennsylvania and then our first Secretary of Homeland Security, I want to quote him as well as I have quoted the other two Republicans that I have quoted.

"Political folly" and "bad policy," that is Tom Ridge, former Republican Governor and mentioned for President. He went on to say: "I think the political repercussions could be severe. And, on top of that, the men and women of Homeland Security deserve better."

Who wants to work for an employer that simply takes them hostage every few months and says to them: You may or may not get paid, you may or may not be able to come to work, you may or may not be able to do your job. It depends upon whether or not our political ends are served.

I urge Republican leaders to keep the pledge they made to the American people to consider issues one at a time. Bring a comprehensive immigration reform bill. If you don't like what the

President has done, bring a bill that changes that. We have the power to do that. Do it.

We can work in a bipartisan way to change our immigration policies through legislation and fix what everybody in this body believes is a broken system.

Bring a clean appropriation bill to the floor to fund the Department of Homeland Security, and then, as well, bring a bill to the floor on comprehensive immigration reform or the bill that our Republican friends think is the appropriate bill to fix a broken system, and we will vote and debate on that.

But let the Department of Homeland Security do its job for America, for Americans. Let's exercise responsible, adult legislating this time.

HONORING THE FUGUITT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HONOR GUARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. JOLLY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional group of young men in Pinellas County, Florida, the honor guard at Fuguitt Elementary School in Largo.

Last week, I had the pleasure of visiting with 21 young men of Fuguitt's honor guard who have recognized the importance of respect, discipline, commitment, and speaking out against bullying. These are remarkable young men in third, fourth, and fifth grade.

The honor guard program at Fuguitt was started by former Principal Michael Moss; teacher Rhonda Correa; and her husband, Frank Correa, a Marine Corps veteran. The Correas have continued to lead the program today under the leadership of Fuguitt's principal, Dr. Kathi Bentley.

The purpose of the honor guard is to develop structure, discipline, and leadership in young students who otherwise might face academic or behavioral challenges.

Each student signs the honor guard pledge, which reads: "As a Fuguitt honor guard member, I am a student leader of this school. As a member, I promise to be truthful, respectful, helpful, and hardworking. I will act like an honorable gentleman and respect and honor the flag of the United States of America. I understand my success is my Nation's success."

Each day, the honor guard opens the school with the presentation of colors and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Speaker, the young men committed to this program represent future leaders both in Pinellas County and also in our Nation, and they deserve the recognition and encouragement of this body.

I am honored to recognize Fuguitt Elementary School's honor guard members today: in third grade—Romeo

Greene, Sean Lange, Blake Logan, Levita Maaflu, Troy Mason, George Mercado, Walit Morton, Daniel Mattrass, Micah Timberlake, and Bryce Young; in fourth grade—Domenic Barclay, Johnnie Chattman, Ari Davis, Matthew Kosinski, and Tyrek Tripp; and in fifth grade—Jon Dameron, Anthony Gonzalez, William Maaflu, William Muscu, Steven Suero, and Andra Witchard.

Today, these young men serve as role models to the rest of Fuguitt Elementary School and are held to a high standard, both academically and behaviorally. I rise today to recognize their efforts and commend the leadership at Fuguitt who are committed to the mission to help these students grow into future leaders.

In closing, I would like to share the honor guard's poem that they recited to me at the end of my visit with them. It is a fitting tribute from 21 young men to the exceptionalism of our Nation.

"We are the beacon of light, the hope of mankind, that shining city on a hill, the most beautiful, the most bountiful, the most generous people in the history of the world, the country that has birthed the great titans of science and industry, the country that put a man on the Moon, the country that has liberated tens of millions from the clutches of evil, the home of the brave, the undisputed champion of freedom, the great Republic, the United States of America."

I thank the Fuguitt honor guard for serving as an inspiration to so many, including to this Member of Congress.

May God bless each of them and their families, and may God bless these United States.

2015 FUNDING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, in December of 2014, as leverage against the President's immigration executive order, the Republican leadership irresponsibly decided to hold hostage the 2015 funding for the Department of Homeland Security.

We are now 147 days in fiscal year 2015, just 4 days away from February 28, when the continuing resolution currently funding the Department will expire. The serious consequence of inaction by the Republican leadership is that it will leave the Department without the funds needed to effectively fulfill its mission of protecting our homeland.

It is unbelievable that given the urgency of our national security, House Republicans continue failing to put forward a realistic plan to fund the Department of Homeland Security.

Mistakenly, some Republicans believe the Department is doing just fine under the continuing resolution. Some even say it is okay to let DHS funding expire. Other Republicans suggest the preliminary Texas district court injunction, which blocks implementation of the President's executive action on immigration, is reason enough to continue holding hostage the funding for Homeland Security.

These are dangerously wrong conclusions. Secretary Johnson and agency heads have warned that if the CR is allowed to expire, national security operations will be disrupted, and essential personnel will be required to work without pay. They also warn passing another CR will not address the uncertainty of being able to meet our long-term national security needs.

Our national security cannot wait for the unrelated issue of the President's executive actions on immigration to work its way through the judicial process which, at best, is likely to take several months.

By contrast, Democrats have a responsible solution. Two weeks ago, Appropriations Committee Ranking Member NITA LOWEY and I introduced H.R. 861. It is a clean appropriations bill that funds the Department of Homeland Security for the remainder of fiscal year 2015. It is not a Democratic bill. If it were, it would more closely reflect Democratic priorities.

Rather, H.R. 861 contains the precise language of the November 2014 bipartisan bill negotiated in good faith by chairs and ranking members of the House and Senate Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittees.

This is the bill that was intended to be part of the 2015 omnibus legislation that funded the rest of the Federal Government. It is the bill that will enable the Department of Homeland Security to address our Nation's current and most pressing security needs.

I am pleased that H.R. 861 is cosponsored by every Democrat in the House, and we urge our Republican colleagues to join us.

□ 1230

This bipartisan, bicameral bill will pass the House, pass the Senate, and be signed into law by the President. All it needs is for the Republican leadership to bring the bill to the floor for a vote.

Surely our Nation need not experience attacks like those in Paris and Copenhagen before we show our resolve to fund our Department of Homeland Security. Let us not wait around and hope Senate Republicans do the responsible thing.

House Republicans should lead by bringing H.R. 861 for a vote and making it clear to the American people that our Nation's security takes priority over political and unrelated policy debates. Failure to do so and letting funding for Homeland Security expire

or taking the easy way out by kicking a viable solution down the road with a continuing resolution represents a failure in fulfilling our most basic responsibility as Members of Congress: to protect the American people and our country from harm.

Let's pass H.R. 861 today.

WILKES EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a pioneering school in Wilkesboro, North Carolina.

Established in 2009, Wilkes Early College High School is a partnership between Wilkes County Schools and Wilkes Community College. The school provides a small learning community of students the opportunity to earn both a high school diploma and an associate degree. It is a 5-year school which enrolls approximately 60 ninth graders each year and is located on the campus of Wilkes Community College where students are enrolled in both honors-level high school classes and college courses.

The mission of Wilkes Early College High School is to provide a personalized program of study that will empower students to be lifelong, community-oriented learners who possess the technical and leadership skills needed for personal and professional success in a global community.

The \$40 annual fee, which covers textbooks and enrollment, is an extremely affordable way to help students reach their education goals, especially when you consider that the average tuition and fees was \$2,305 for a public 2-year institution in North Carolina this year and \$6,677 for a public 4-year institution. And those costs have increased 30 percent over the last 5 years.

Many of the students who attend Wilkes Early College High School are the first in their family to attend college. As a result, Principal Dion Stocks and his staff are working hard to outline expectations and guide students through the process of applying to a 4-year institution. Seminar classes are provided to assist students with understanding college expectations, the application process, and financial aid.

Last year, 21 students earned their associate degree in the school's first official graduating class, and 20 students are expected to earn their degree this year.

Wilkes Early College High School provides an advanced educational experience that equips students for success in college, career, and life. America needs more of this type of innovative learning.

FUNDING THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. TAKAI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, today marks 4 days until the Department of Homeland Security runs out of money. We all had the opportunity for the first time this session to go back home last week for our district workweek, and I had an opportunity to speak about this particular issue at the Honolulu International Airport, where many of our DHS officials and employees are very concerned about this lapse of funding. Although some DHS employees would continue to work in the event of a shutdown, they would be forced to do so without pay, creating a significant distraction and dealing a significant blow to morale.

Every single House Democrat has cosponsored clean legislation to fund DHS, and it is clear that there are a sufficient amount of votes to pass this bill now.

Keeping America's families safe is the first responsibility and priority of this Congress. We need to put aside the political gridlock that has plagued this House for too long and fund DHS now. An impasse in funding would close down the bulk of DHS' management and support of Homeland Security infrastructure that was built following the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Essential funding for the Department of Homeland Security is no place for grandstanding against immigration reform that strengthens our economy and our country. Let's remember: it was the inability of this House to act on the Senate's comprehensive immigration reform bill that forced the President to take executive action on immigration in the first place.

I came to Congress telling my constituents that I do not support government shutdowns, Federal furloughs, or sequestration, and now some in this body think they can fix this with further inaction, with further furloughs and further government shutdowns. I think not.

Let's pass a clean bill.

REMEMBERING WILLIE DAVIS "BIG WILL" PRINGLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOXX). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DENHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life of a beloved community leader and friend from Victor Valley College. Willie Davis Pringle, also known as Big Will, was a beloved father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and coach. He died at the age of 62 on Tuesday, January 6, of this year.

Willie began his career at Victor Valley College, where he worked for 33

years. He was an active member of his community, and he advocated for students, the disabled, and the disadvantaged. While at VVC, Willie also met the woman and coworker who later became his wife, Mary.

Willie was a member of the Victor Valley Elementary School Board for 16 years. He assisted the disabled through job opportunities and benefits, served on the Hesperia Truancy Board, and was a member of the City of Victorville Advisory Board and Planning Commission. He also served as a member of the supervisory committee for the Victor Valley Federal Credit Union and was currently serving as president of the board of directors for Excelsior Charter School.

For many years, Willie would help serve meals to the homeless with the Salvation Army. Recently, he was recognized by the Los Angeles County Alliance, the California Alliance, and the National Alliance of Black School Educators for his service as a school board member. In 2009, Victor Valley Community College presented him with the Distinguished Service Award.

Willie was a lot more than that to many of us students. In the 33 years that he spent there, he was a friend; he was a mentor; he would talk to you as you walked through the campus; he would recognize if you weren't in class that day. Many times, he would seek you out in the community to make sure that you were staying out of trouble. This mentor meant so much to so many of us, and he is going to be sorely missed.

In December, Victor Valley College officials hosted a dedication ceremony in honor of the 33-year college employee, naming the college's athletic training room after him. Pringle served as the Rams' head football coach and athletic director, and he later became the director of student services before retiring.

He gave a lot of advice to many of us, encouraging us to seek out other opportunities. For me, I became student body president. And we had many other football players that followed in those same footsteps, at Willie's request. He kept us busy. He mentored us. He got us involved and engaged.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring and recognizing Willie Davis Pringle for his unwavering leadership and many accomplishments and contributions.

THE DHS EMPLOYEE RETROACTIVE PAY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, in 3 short days, absent congressional action, funding for the Department of Homeland Security will lapse and the Department will be forced to shut

down. Should this be allowed, the vast majority of the DHS workforce will be required to work without pay until a funding agreement is reached. The remainder—more than 30,000 dedicated individuals—will be furloughed with no guarantee of backpay.

Congress must act immediately to enact legislation that would fully fund the Department and allow these men and women who live and work in every district in every State to continue to carry out the critical message of keeping our Nation healthy, safe, and strong.

But in the absence of such action, with time running dangerously short, DHS employees, at the very least, must be assured that there is an agreement in Congress that they will receive their full pay in a fair and timely manner. That is why I, along with my friend and colleague from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN), have introduced the DHS Employee Retroactive Pay Fairness Act. This bipartisan proposal ensures that all Federal DHS employees receive retroactive pay for the duration of any shutdown, regardless of furlough status.

Madam Speaker, as we wait for Congress to do its job, we should not stop the men and women of DHS from doing theirs. We must guarantee they receive pay and that they not become collateral damage of Congress' refusal to reach an agreement.

RADICAL ISLAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALKER. Madam Speaker, in traveling throughout the district this past week, people shared with me their frustration at the ambiguous language from this administration in describing the evils of radical Islamist terrorism.

Though I greatly respect the office of the President, I too have grown weary at the timidity. While other world leaders have come to the forefront, our President continues to be defensive, at best.

At first glance, the silence appears to be passive or poor leadership. But I am inclined to believe that the President's posture is not one of weakness but, rather, an intentional directive in both rhetoric and action. It appears that his promise to take our country in a fundamentally new direction is being played out in realtime. Instead of defending our liberty and our way of life, which is the most charitable in the world, our President seems to scoff at the belief that our country has been uniquely blessed by God.

I would be remiss today if I did not pause and remember our Egyptian Christian brothers in the recent barbaric attacks in Libya. ISIS murdered innocent husbands and fathers who

clearly died for their faith and their beliefs.

Just this morning, we hear further reports out of Syria that Islamic State militants have abducted dozens of Christians, including women and children. Weeks prior, the President chastised the Christian community for getting on their judgmental high horses. Yet, in describing our martyred brothers from Egypt, the President refused to even utter the word, "Christian."

The undermining of our beliefs has become an issue with this President. This very week, we face a constitutional crisis that was created solely by this administration. House Republicans have passed legislation to fully fund the Department of Homeland Security, yet this President is now asking me and my colleagues to do something that, for 6 years and on more than 20 occasions, he said was outside the law.

Throughout history, strong leaders have exhibited strength in times of crises. Recently, Tony Blair met with a few of us and gave a great speech on the concerns and the ills of extreme terrorism. He said this, and I haven't forgotten it. He said: America, it is not your job to be loved; it is your job to lead.

Today, I beseech the President to lead by clearly defining this expanding extremism that is ISIS, al Qaeda, Boko Haram, al Shabaab, and other radical Islamic fundamentalists.

□ 1245

There are times when riding the high horse of justice is our only option. The American people are demanding strength. It is time to speak out. Defend our inalienable rights of liberty and life, be courageous, be a leader, Mr. President. The world is watching.

MIRACLE ON ICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK) for 5 minutes.

Ms. STEFANIK. "Do you believe in miracles?"

Madam Speaker, these were the iconic words uttered by legendary sportscaster Al Michaels with just 3 seconds left in the historic match between Team USA and the Soviet national hockey team in the 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid. With the eyes of the world on the Lake Placid games, through sheer grit and determination, an amateur Team USA proudly did what many thought would be impossible by defeating the favored Soviet team.

Decades of cold war politics made this event more than just an ordinary hockey game. For many, it was one more proud reminder of what a determined and united America can accomplish. I grew up hearing this story firsthand from my dad, who was in

Lake Placid with his best friend, Doug Brownell, when the underdog Team USA won and the crowds erupted in cheers. It was an awe-inspiring moment for our entire country and the world.

Our community in Lake Placid and the North Country still celebrate this incredible occasion. This past weekend Lake Placid was proud to host a reunion celebrating the 35th anniversary of this game and hosting the players from the 1980 Team USA men's hockey team. Our North Country community is proud to be a home for this historic and inspiring event, and I am proud to stand on the House floor today to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the "miracle on ice."

THE STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALKER). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, soon the House of Representatives is expected to vote on H.R. 5, the Student Success Act. H.R. 5 represents a long overdue rewrite of the current No Child Left Behind with new policies that aim to ensure that every student in this country has access to a quality public education.

For years our Federal education policy has been failing our Nation's students—the statistics do not lie. Today only 38 percent of seniors in high school can read at grade level, and just 26 percent are proficient in math.

While I do not believe that any Member can be in total agreement with every aspect of the proposed bill, it is important to recognize the underlying goal of reducing the Federal Government's role in education while empowering States and especially local school districts with discretion over academic standards and testing.

While truly well intentioned, the current law places undue pressures upon young learners and has turned hardworking, compassionate teachers into test proctors. This is not fair to those who have worked tirelessly to ensure our children are receiving a quality education, nor is it fair to our children, who are not receiving a well-rounded education but memorizing answers to specific test questions.

It has become overwhelmingly clear that the Washington bureaucrats don't know how to educate our children. I can assure you that parents, administrators, and local school boards understand what is best for their children. It is time for our Federal Government to take a backseat and give power over education back to the States, the true laboratories of innovation.

Mr. Speaker, we are not going to agree upon every issue when it comes to education. However, now is the time to act. Our children deserve as much, and our Nation's future depends on it.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WALKER) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As we meditate on all the blessing of life, we especially pray for the blessing of peace in our lives and in our world. Our fervent prayer, O God, is that people will learn to live together in reconciliation and respect, so that the terrors of war now raging in Ukraine, Syria, and threatening to spread will be no more.

May Your special blessings be upon the Members of this assembly in the important, often difficult work they do. Give them wisdom and charity that they might work together for the common good when issues on so many fronts present seemingly impossible roads to cooperation.

May all that is done this day in the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KILDEE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WORLD LEADERS FOCUSED ON TERRORISM

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, during the Presidents' Day break, I was grateful to chair a delegation to visit with President Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan, King Abdullah II of Jordan, and President Fuad Masum of Iraq, along with Defense Minister Khaled al-Obaidi of Iraq. Each leader clearly wants to protect their citizens from terrorism.

I was joined by the dynamic ELISE STEFANIK of New York, four-tour Iraq veteran SETH MOULTON of Massachusetts, and hardworking BRAD ASHFORD of Nebraska.

It is more clear than ever that Daesh, the Arab interpretation of ISIL, is a growing threat to the American people, and we must forcefully defeat the barbarian murderers with our courageous allies abroad.

Radical Islam has declared war on Americans and targets fellow Muslims, as evidenced during our visit. We have seen in the last 10 days the slaughter of 40 worshippers at a mosque in Pakistan, the burning of over 30 innocent civilians in Iraq, the beheadings of 21 Egyptian Coptic Christians in Libya, and Jews murdered in Copenhagen.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

WE MUST PASS A CLEAN DHS BILL IMMEDIATELY

(Ms. MCCOLLUM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend, Minnesota's Mall of America was the subject of threats from the terrorist organization, al Shabaab.

The Department of Homeland Security is a vital partner with State and local law enforcement in protecting our Nation from terroristic threats; yet, in 72 hours, funding for the Department of Homeland Security will run out.

The Republicans' decision to use the DHS budget to pick a fight with the President is jeopardizing our national security. The Department of Homeland Security must have certainty in their budget to plan, prepare, and protect our country from threats like the one made against the Mall of America.

My Democratic colleagues and I have proposed a clean budget for DHS that would provide the tools they need to protect the American people from very real harm. We must pass a DHS bill immediately.

Then Congress can focus on our efforts on good jobs and strong wages to create even more economic growth for the American people.

FUND DHS IMMEDIATELY

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, well, there are only 4 days left until the Department of Homeland Security shuts down, so I urge all my GOP colleagues to please take up a clean funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security and take away the threat of another government shutdown. Take that threat off the table.

If you won't listen to us on the Democratic side of the aisle, listen to some of your own colleagues. Listen to Senator RON JOHNSON who said: "The political impasse on DHS funding must end."

Or listen to Representative MIKE MCCAUL, who is chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security. He said: "We should not be playing politics with the national security agency like DHS, particularly given the high threat environment we're in right now."

Let's stop the gamesmanship. Let's get back to governing the way the American people want us to. Bring a clean DHS funding bill to the floor.

IT IS TIME TO BE CONSTRUCTIVE,
NOT OBSTRUCTIVE

(Mr. RUPPERSBERGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, as we saw from the horrific terrorist attack in Paris, now is not the time to be cutting funding for programs that protect Americans from enemies intent on doing us harm.

I am dismayed that some lawmakers are supporting punitive and ill-informed legislation to defund the Department of Homeland Security because they disagree with President Obama's recent executive action on the deportation of undocumented immigrants.

It is wrong to play political football with something as sacred as our national security. Even if you disagree with the President's immigration policy, it is irresponsible to withhold funding from the agencies that protect Americans from terrorists.

I know from my experience as ranking member of the House Intelligence Committee that this is a dangerous world. We must fully fund Homeland Security priorities—including Secret Service, the Coast Guard, and border security—through a Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill, while separately debating comprehensive immigration reform.

Let's stop the ideological partisan politics and do what the American people want us to do: protect our homeland, our communities, and our families. It is time to be constructive, not obstructive.

LET'S FUND DHS

(Ms. PINGREE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I think just about every one of us in Congress went through security at an airport in our home State this week, and like millions of Americans who fly every day, we are protected by 40,000 TSA officers that we depend on to keep us safe.

But now, we are on the verge of stopping paychecks to all of those officers and 50,000 Border Patrol agents and 40,000 Active-Duty Coast Guard members who are needed to protect our shores. In my State and many others this winter, they are being called upon to break up the ice and keep our harbors open.

It is not just the people who keep us safe. It is FEMA. Just like much of the country, we have suffered from one of the hardest winters in memory in Maine, but if the Department of Homeland Security is shut down, then FEMA will not be able to process any new disaster relief applications from our States.

This winter has created a crisis for my State and for many local governments. Let's not add to that with a manufactured crisis of our own by forcing the Department of Homeland Security to shut down, just because some people don't like President Obama's immigration policies.

We have the votes right here in the House to pass a bill to fund DHS. Just let's take a vote on it.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
MURRAY KALISH

(Mr. DEUTCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Murray Kalish, a dear friend and constituent who, last week, celebrated his 97th birthday.

Through a lifetime of hard work and dedication to public service, Murray established himself as one of the most committed community leaders in south Florida. He has served on the boards of the county planning and zoning commission, his synagogue board, and the Lake Worth Drainage District Board.

Murray has shown a strong political acumen throughout his career, founding the important United South County Democratic Club, and possessing an uncanny ability to spot up-and-coming leaders and direct them into elected office.

A mentor to many, Murray has been the gatekeeper of the Palm Beach County political landscape. As an aspiring politician, you simply cannot hope to succeed without the guidance and insight that only Murray could provide.

It is a privilege, Mr. Speaker, to represent a district with so many citizens who work tirelessly to make a difference every day, and Florida's public servants have Murray Kalish to thank for their inspiration.

Thank you, Murray, for your friendship. To you and your dear late wife, Roz, you have been a blessing to me, and I am so pleased to stand here representing our community on the House floor to say thank you for your remarkable achievements and our community that has been strengthened as a result.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHIEF
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF
THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, February 18, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a grand jury subpoena for documents, issued by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

ED CASSIDY,
Chief Administrative Officer.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 23, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 23, 2015 at 4:44 p.m.:

Appointments:
Commission on Care.
Senate National Security Working Group for the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1603

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at 4 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

DRINKING WATER PROTECTION ACT

Mr. LATTI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 212) to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide for the assessment and management of the risk of cyanotoxins in drinking water, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 212

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Drinking Water Protection Act".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO THE SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Part E of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 1459. ALGAL TOXIN RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT.

"(A) STRATEGIC PLAN.—

"(1) DEVELOPMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall develop and submit to Congress a strategic plan for assessing and managing risks associated with algal toxins in drinking water provided by public water systems. The strategic plan shall include steps and timelines to—

"(A) evaluate the risk to human health from drinking water provided by public water systems contaminated with algal toxins;

"(B) establish, publish, and update a comprehensive list of algal toxins which the Administrator determines may have an adverse effect on human health when present in drinking water provided by public water systems, taking into account likely exposure levels;

"(C) summarize—

"(i) the known adverse human health effects of algal toxins included on the list published under subparagraph (B) when present in drinking water provided by public water systems; and

"(ii) factors that cause toxin-producing cyanobacteria and algae to proliferate and express toxins;

"(D) with respect to algal toxins included on the list published under subparagraph (B), determine whether to—

"(i) publish health advisories pursuant to section 1412(b)(1)(F) for such algal toxins in drinking water provided by public water systems;

"(ii) establish guidance regarding feasible analytical methods to quantify the presence of algal toxins; and

"(iii) establish guidance regarding the frequency of monitoring necessary to determine if such algal toxins are present in drinking water provided by public water systems;

"(E) recommend feasible treatment options, including procedures, equipment, and source water protection practices, to mitigate any adverse public health effects of algal toxins included on the list published under subparagraph (B); and

"(F) enter into cooperative agreements with, and provide technical assistance to, affected States and public water systems, as identified by the Administrator, for the purpose of managing risks associated with algal toxins included on the list published under subparagraph (B).

"(2) UPDATES.—The Administrator shall, as appropriate, update and submit to Congress the strategic plan developed under paragraph (1).

"(b) INFORMATION COORDINATION.—In carrying out this section the Administrator shall—

"(1) identify gaps in the Agency's understanding of algal toxins, including—

"(A) the human health effects of algal toxins included on the list published under subsection (a)(1)(B); and

"(B) methods and means of testing and monitoring for the presence of harmful algal toxins in source water of, or drinking water provided by, public water systems;

"(2) as appropriate, consult with—

"(A) other Federal agencies that—

"(i) examine or analyze cyanobacteria or algal toxins; or

"(ii) address public health concerns related to harmful algal blooms;

"(B) States;

"(C) operators of public water systems;

"(D) multinational agencies;

"(E) foreign governments;

"(F) research and academic institutions; and

"(G) companies that provide relevant drinking water treatment options; and

"(3) assemble and publish information from each Federal agency that has—

"(A) examined or analyzed cyanobacteria or algal toxins; or

"(B) addressed public health concerns related to harmful algal blooms.

"(c) USE OF SCIENCE.—The Administrator shall carry out this section in accordance with the requirements described in section 1412(b)(3)(A), as applicable.

"(d) FEASIBLE.—For purposes of this section, the term 'feasible' has the meaning given such term in section 1412(b)(4)(D)."

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall prepare and submit to Congress a report that includes—

(1) an inventory of funds—

(A) expended by the United States, for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014, to examine or analyze toxin-producing cyanobacteria and algae or address public health concerns related to harmful algal blooms; and

(B) that includes the specific purpose for which the funds were made available, the law under which the funds were authorized, and the Federal agency that received or spent the funds; and

(2) recommended steps to reduce any duplication, and improve interagency coordination, of such expenditures.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTI) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATTI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. LATTI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 212, the Drinking Water Protection Act, which I reintroduced from last Congress in January. This important, bipartisan legislation requires the EPA to develop and submit a strategic plan to Congress for assessing and managing risks associated with algal toxins in drinking water provided by public water systems.

Unfortunately, from the Great Lakes to other surface freshwaters across the country, algal toxins, produced by harmful algal blooms, are presenting a serious concern to human health and safety.

Last August, half a million people in the Toledo, Ohio, area, including many of my constituents, weren't able to utilize their public drinking water for over 2 days without risking potentially negative health effects due to a high level of algal toxins detected in the city's public water supply. During that time, concerns and questions were and have since been raised about health effects data, testing protocols, treatment processes, and appropriate short- and long-term responses. Furthermore, during hearings in the House Energy and Commerce Committee, witnesses testified about the further complexity of this issue due to the numerous other algal toxins and variants that may have potential negative health effects when present in public drinking water.

I commend the work that the U.S. EPA, the State of Ohio, and others have done since the Toledo water emergency to ensure public safety; however, the situation demonstrated the need for a more strategic, comprehensive, and strong scientific approach to protect our citizens' public drinking water. I believe H.R. 212 does just this.

Specifically, the legislation calls for the EPA's strategic plan to include steps and timelines to: evaluate the

risk to human health from drinking water provided by public water systems contaminated with algal toxins; establish, publish, and update a comprehensive list of algal toxins which the administrator determines may have an adverse effect on human health when present in public drinking water and provide a summary of those known adverse effects; publish health advisories and testing methods if the EPA determines it is warranted based on the published list; recommend feasible treatment options; enter into cooperative agreements and provide technical assistance to affected States and public water systems to manage risks associated with algal toxins; and identify gaps in the EPA's understanding of algal toxins.

I want to thank all the cosponsors of this bill as well as Chairman UPTON, Subcommittee Chairman SHIMKUS, and all the other staff and stakeholders who have worked diligently on this important legislation.

I urge the full support of my colleagues for H.R. 212.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, harmful algal blooms are a serious and growing threat to public health. The toxins they produce threaten communities that draw their water from coastal areas and the Great Lakes. They also pose risks to those who swim in contaminated waters or eat contaminated fish.

Health impacts include skin and eye irritation, gastrointestinal illness, cancer, paralysis, and even death. Economic impacts are also serious, adversely affecting fishing, recreation, and tourism. Estimates of annual costs of these algal blooms in the United States are in the billions of dollars.

This summer, Toledo, Ohio, experienced a profound disruption when citizens woke to a "do not drink" order. The impacts were significant and widespread. But the problem is not limited to Ohio or Lake Erie. Harmful algal blooms have been a recurring problem in my home State of New Jersey for decades. So I appreciate that the majority is taking up this bipartisan legislation to begin to address this most important environmental problem.

This bill is a good step. More needs to be done. I am happy to say that language reported from the Energy and Commerce Committee reflects several changes sought by Democratic members of the committee. The bill was broadened to ensure that EPA will look at all algal toxins that may have an adverse effect on human health and consider source water protection measures, which are the preferred and most effective approach to managing harmful algal blooms.

I thank the chairmen and majority staff for working with Ranking Mem-

ber TONKO, myself, and the Democratic staff to improve the bill.

For too long, Republicans in Congress have been more interested in attacking the EPA than supporting the important work the Agency does to protect human health, and safe drinking water should be a bipartisan issue. Unfortunately, this bill does lack resources.

Addressing cyanotoxins in drinking water is very expensive for States and water utilities. If Congress doesn't make funding available at the Federal level, the money will have to come out of already strained State budgets or out of consumers' pockets. The cooperative agreements envisioned in the bill can address some of these costs, Mr. Speaker, but only if they are funded, and the strategic plan will have no impact if there are no resources to carry it out.

So I hope this bill can be the start of broader drinking water work to address important threats like climate change, fracking, security, and aging infrastructure. As we continue our drinking water work this Congress, I hope the majority will recognize the importance of funding in addressing these needs.

Resources are central to the conversation about safe drinking water. Much of our Nation's drinking water infrastructure is well beyond its useful life and in desperate need of replacement. Algae and other emerging threats, spurred by climate change and other factors, add to the challenge. Investing in drinking water infrastructure protects public health, creates jobs, and boosts the economy, and this is something that we should all support.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA), and my good friend from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for their hard work to address an important environmental threat.

I support this bill. I urge its adoption.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I, too, would ask that the House pass H.R. 212.

I appreciate, again, all of the work from all the members and the staff in putting this bill together and getting it on the floor, and also Chairman UPTON for his work on the legislation as well as Chairman SHIMKUS.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Drinking Water Protection Act, to arm communities against the threats posed by toxic algae.

The water emergency across the Toledo region for three days last August highlighted the need for a more robust federal response to harmful algal blooms in our Great Lakes and around the country.

Nearly half a million people, businesses, and hospitals were without fresh water from the city's system.

First and foremost, Northern Ohio—which draws its sustenance from Lake Erie—has to guarantee our water is safe to drink.

Our communities must be informed and prepared to respond, in the event of another emergency.

This bill is an important step in the right direction.

It is my hope that it expedites work at the U.S. EPA to publish long-overdue guidelines on safe consumption limits and testing protocols, in addition to treatment methods—information the EPA has been working on for more than a decade and a half.

This is information that our mayors, our governor, and our citizens are clamoring for.

Congress needs to pass this bill, and I hope our counterparts in the Senate will take up the measure quickly.

Still, this bill only addresses one facet of the challenge.

We must meet the larger challenge of stopping the growth of these blooms at their source—the nutrients flooding through our rivers, into Lake Erie.

That imperative is not included in this particular bill, but we are working through programs like the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to install conservation projects across our watershed.

Congress should overturn the ill-advised proposed cuts to the GLRI program and fully fund it.

The EPA and Corps of Engineers are also working to better protect our waterways through the Clean Water Act.

If we are interested in protecting our Lakes and rivers and the communities that rely on them, Congress should stop opposing this important progress.

Until the flow of algae-feeding nutrients into the lake is stopped, the risk of further water emergencies will persist.

I urge my colleagues to join me in this broader effort, and that starts by supporting the bill before us today.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 212, the Drinking Water Protection Act.

Last summer, as a result of toxic algae blooms in Lake Erie, hundreds of thousands of residents in Toledo were banned from using the city's drinking water, creating a state of emergency for local counties. This incident, which lasted for multiple days, is a reminder of the serious threat these toxic blooms pose to all of our Great Lakes and the communities that rely on them, and not just the immediately surrounding communities.

The Great Lakes account for over 20 percent of the fresh water drinking supply on the entire planet, and they generate billions of dollars each year through the fishing and shipping industries and recreational activities. We cannot ignore the threat posed by these toxic algae blooms and need to do more to protect our magnificent Lakes.

Assuring that we have adequate resources dedicated to monitoring and managing this threat across the entire Great Lakes Region must be a priority, which is why I introduced legislation last Congress to help advance voluntary assurance programs in Michigan and why I have and will continue to support legislative measures like H.R. 212, the Drinking Water Protection Act.

Michigan farmers have been leading the way when it comes to protecting our Lakes from damage caused by algae blooms, but they should not carry the burden alone. We must all work together to preserve and protect the health of our agricultural and maritime resources. It is my hope that this important legislation will be promptly approved by the Senate and sent to the President's desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 212, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1615

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION CONSOLIDATED REPORTING ACT OF 2015

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 734) to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to consolidate the reporting obligations of the Federal Communications Commission in order to improve congressional oversight and reduce reporting burdens.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 734

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Federal Communications Commission Consolidated Reporting Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. COMMUNICATIONS MARKETPLACE REPORT.

Title I of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 13. COMMUNICATIONS MARKETPLACE REPORT.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—In the last quarter of every even-numbered year, the Commission shall publish on its website and submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the state of the communications marketplace.

"(b) CONTENTS.—Each report required by subsection (a) shall—

"(1) assess the state of competition in the communications marketplace, including competition to deliver voice, video, audio, and data services among providers of telecommunications, providers of commercial mobile service (as defined in section 332), multichannel video programming distributors (as defined in section 602), broadcast stations, providers of satellite communications, Internet service providers, and other providers of communications services;

"(2) assess the state of deployment of communications capabilities, including advanced telecommunications capability (as defined in section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (47 U.S.C. 1302)), regardless of the technology used for such deployment, including whether advanced telecommunications capability is being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion;

"(3) assess whether laws, regulations, or regulatory practices (whether those of the Federal Government, States, political subdivisions of States, Indian tribes or tribal organizations (as such terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b)), or foreign governments) pose a barrier to competitive entry into the communications marketplace or to the competitive expansion of existing providers of communications services;

"(4) describe the agenda of the Commission for the next 2-year period for addressing the challenges and opportunities in the communications marketplace that were identified through the assessments under paragraphs (1) through (3); and

"(5) describe the actions that the Commission has taken in pursuit of the agenda described pursuant to paragraph (4) in the previous report submitted under this section.

"(c) EXTENSION.—If the President designates a Commissioner as Chairman of the Commission during the last quarter of an even-numbered year, the portion of the report required by subsection (b)(4) may be published on the website of the Commission and submitted to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate as an addendum during the first quarter of the following odd-numbered year.

"(d) SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS.—

"(1) ASSESSING COMPETITION.—In assessing the state of competition under subsection (b)(1), the Commission shall consider all forms of competition, including the effect of intermodal competition, facilities-based competition, and competition from new and emergent communications services, including the provision of content and communications using the Internet.

"(2) ASSESSING DEPLOYMENT.—In assessing the state of deployment under subsection (b)(2), the Commission shall compile a list of geographical areas that are not served by any provider of advanced telecommunications capability.

"(3) INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS AND DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION.—The Commission may use readily available data to draw appropriate comparisons between the United States communications marketplace and the international communications marketplace and to correlate its assessments with demographic information.

"(4) CONSIDERING SMALL BUSINESSES.—In assessing the state of competition under subsection (b)(1) and regulatory barriers under subsection (b)(3), the Commission shall consider market entry barriers for entrepreneurs and other small businesses in the communications marketplace in accordance with the national policy under section 257(b).

"(5) CONSIDERING CABLE RATES.—In assessing the state of competition under subsection (b)(1), the Commission shall include in each report required by subsection (a) the aggregate average total amount paid by cable systems in compensation under section 325 during the period covered by such report."

SEC. 3. CONSOLIDATION OF REDUNDANT REPORTS; CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) ORBIT ACT REPORT.—Section 646 of the Communications Satellite Act of 1962 (47 U.S.C. 765e; 114 Stat. 57) is repealed.

(b) SATELLITE COMPETITION REPORT.—Section 4 of Public Law 109-34 (47 U.S.C. 703) is repealed.

(c) INTERNATIONAL BROADBAND DATA REPORT.—Section 103 of the Broadband Data Improvement Act (47 U.S.C. 1303) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b); and
(2) by redesignating subsections (c) through (e) as subsections (b) through (d), respectively.

(d) STATUS OF COMPETITION IN THE MARKET FOR THE DELIVERY OF VIDEO PROGRAMMING REPORT.—Section 628 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 548) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (g);
(2) by redesignating subsection (j) as subsection (g); and
(3) by transferring subsection (g) (as redesignated) so that it appears after subsection (f).

(e) REPORT ON CABLE INDUSTRY PRICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 623 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 543) is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (k); and
(B) by redesignating subsections (l) through (o) as subsections (k) through (n), respectively.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 613(a)(3) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 533(a)(3)) is amended by striking "623(l)" and inserting "623(k)".

(f) TRIENNIAL REPORT IDENTIFYING AND ELIMINATING MARKET ENTRY BARRIERS FOR ENTREPRENEURS AND OTHER SMALL BUSINESSES.—Section 257 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 257) is amended by striking subsection (c).

(g) SECTION 706 REPORT.—Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (47 U.S.C. 1302) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

"(b) DETERMINATION.—If the Commission determines in its report under section 13 of the Communications Act of 1934, after considering the availability of advanced telecommunications capability to all Americans (including, in particular, elementary and secondary schools and classrooms), that advanced telecommunications capability is not being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion, the Commission shall take immediate action to accelerate deployment of such capability by removing barriers to infrastructure investment and by promoting competition in the telecommunications market."

(2) by striking subsection (c);
(3) in subsection (d), by striking "this subsection" and inserting "this section"; and
(4) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

(h) STATE OF COMPETITIVE MARKET CONDITIONS WITH RESPECT TO COMMERCIAL MOBILE RADIO SERVICES.—Section 332(c)(1)(C) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 332(c)(1)(C)) is amended by striking the first and second sentences.

(i) PREVIOUSLY ELIMINATED ANNUAL REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 4 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 154) is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (k); and
(B) by redesignating subsections (l) through (o) as subsections (k) through (n), respectively.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The Communications Act of 1934 is amended—

(A) in section 9(i), by striking “In the Commission’s annual report, the Commission shall prepare an analysis of its progress in developing such systems and” and inserting “The Commission”; and

(B) in section 309(j)(8)(B), by striking the last sentence.

(j) ADDITIONAL OUTDATED REPORTS.—The Communications Act of 1934 is further amended—

(1) in section 4—

(A) in subsection (b)(2)(B)(ii), by striking “and shall furnish notice of such action” and all that follows through “subject of the waiver”; and

(B) in subsection (g), by striking paragraph (2);

(2) in section 215—

(A) by striking subsection (b); and

(B) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (b);

(3) in section 227(e), by striking paragraph (4);

(4) in section 309(j)—

(A) by striking paragraph (12); and

(B) in paragraph (15)(C), by striking clause (iv);

(5) in section 331(b), by striking the last sentence;

(6) in section 336(e), by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

“(4) REPORT.—The Commission shall annually advise the Congress on the amounts collected pursuant to the program required by this subsection.”;

(7) in section 339(c), by striking paragraph (1);

(8) in section 396—

(A) by striking subsection (i);

(B) in subsection (k)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking subparagraph (F); and

(ii) in paragraph (3)(B)(iii), by striking subclause (V);

(C) in subsection (1)(1)(B), by striking “shall be included” and all that follows through “The audit report”; and

(D) by striking subsection (m);

(9) in section 398(b)(4), by striking the third sentence;

(10) in section 624A(b)(1)—

(A) by striking “REPORT; REGULATIONS” and inserting “REGULATIONS”; and

(B) by striking “Within 1 year after” and all that follows through “on means of assuring” and inserting “The Commission shall issue such regulations as are necessary to assure”; and

(C) by striking “Within 180 days after” and all that follows through “to assure such compatibility.”; and

(11) in section 713, by striking subsection (a).

SEC. 4. EFFECT ON AUTHORITY.

Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to expand or contract the authority of the Federal Communications Commission.

SEC. 5. OTHER REPORTS.

Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to prohibit or otherwise prevent the Federal Communications Commission from producing any additional reports otherwise within the authority of the Commission.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in our multiyear effort to update the Communications Act, one of the most common themes we have heard is the convergence of the telecommunications marketplace. No longer are companies just one service over just one medium. Both technology and consumer expectations have completely changed the game. However, the agency tasked with regulating the communications sector still exists in the outdated and siloed structure that reflects decades-old assumptions, even how they evaluate and report on the industry.

While that fractured approach will be a continued focus of our CommActUpdate process, this bill will take an important first step toward modernizing the way we look at this sector and its regulator. This legislation consolidates eight separate reports that require the FCC to evaluate the state of competition in various sectors and combines those eight reports into just a single biennial report to Congress on the communications marketplace as a whole.

This bill also takes the important step of eliminating outdated reports that only serve to junk up the Communications Act and cause confusion. Reports like the ORBIT Act—which I have a copy of here—are aimed at ensuring that satellites that were long ago privatized are procompetitive, an examination that the FCC and the industry recognizes as both outdated, unnecessary, and burdensome. There are still laws on the books that address such outdated technologies as telegraphs. This is a small but significant step toward cleaning up the act and modernizing the laws and the agency that control this very dynamic marketplace.

Ensuring that all of the reports on the books are both necessary and effective helps to reduce the burden on the agency. It also helps the regulatory agency make more informed decisions.

I would like to take a moment to thank my colleagues, Representative SCALISE, Ranking Member ESHOO, and the ranking member of the full committee, Mr. PALLONE, for their work to make this bill a bipartisan success both today and, frankly, in the last two sessions of Congress. I am hopeful that the first bill to pass out of our subcommittee this Congress is an indication of the work that we can get done when we collaborate.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 734, the FCC Consolidated Reporting Act of 2015. Congress has charged the Federal Communications Commission with overseeing industries that make up one-sixth of our national economy. The communications and technology sectors are driving economic growth across the Nation, connecting businesses to markets large and small and delivering innovative new products and services to consumers.

As part of this critical mission, Congress has tasked the FCC with compiling reports to provide the public with information about these dynamic markets. Democrats and Republicans agree that the FCC needs to collect good data. Consumers and businesses rely on this information, and we here in Congress need this information, too, in order to make sound policy decisions and conduct effective oversight of the FCC.

Mr. Speaker, by consolidating certain reports and eliminating references to other outdated reports, this bill allows the FCC to use the agency’s limited resources more wisely and present a more holistic analysis of the communications marketplace. At the same time, we have worked together to ensure this effort to promote efficiency does not undermine important existing FCC obligations and authorities. We were able to come to agreement in the Energy and Commerce Committee on language that preserves the FCC’s duty to provide transparency to consumers about their cable bills and does not alter the FCC’s authority over broadband under section 706.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Communications and Technology Subcommittee Ranking Member ESHOO for her leadership on these issues and Chairman UPTON, Chairman WALDEN, and Representative SCALISE for working with Democrats to address their concerns during the committee’s consideration of the bill.

In short, this bill is an example of the progress we can make when we engage in a truly bipartisan process. The consideration of H.R. 734 should be a model for legislative efforts in our committee and the entire House. Working together through regular order, we crafted legislation that addressed concerns from both sides of the aisle, and I look forward to continuing to work with our Republican and Democratic colleagues in the Senate to help this bill become law.

I reserve the balance of my time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I now yield such time as he may consume to

the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), our majority whip, and a terrific member of our subcommittee.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the subcommittee, Mr. WALDEN, for his leadership in bringing this forward and the ranking member, Mr. PALLONE, as well as Ms. ESHOO, the ranking member of the subcommittee, who has been working very closely I know with myself and others to bring a good, bipartisan bill that actually gets rid of outdated regulations and reports.

This FCC Consolidated Reporting Act actually reduces the workload that the FCC has placed for years and years that has been outdated. If you look at some of the reports that have been required for years that they are supposed to go and consolidate and accumulate, they have reports on competitiveness within the telegraph. Clearly, Mr. Speaker, it is long past time that we update these laws and get the FCC reform in place that will finally bring some consolidation so that industry can look at a full picture instead of a bunch of different silos and reports that are so outdated, like the telegraph, that they are not even being done, yet these laws are still on the books.

This is an important reform, and it is a good bipartisan reform that shows that Congress can work to get these kinds of things done to actually make things simpler in the real world and make an agency like the FCC more efficient in their operations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would urge support of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I join my friend and colleague from New Jersey and ask our colleagues to support passage of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, this legislation, the FCC Consolidated Reporting Act of 2015 (H.R. 734) is a reflection of what our Subcommittee can accomplish when we work together in a bipartisan manner.

Earlier this month, Chairman WALDEN, Rep. SCALISE and I introduced H.R. 734 as a way to streamline Congressionally-mandated reporting requirements under a single, industry-wide report. I've consistently supported this goal because it frees the FCC to focus on its ultimate mission: to protect the public interest and promote competition. These reports and the data collected serve a critical role in supporting the FCC's decision-making and our work as policymakers on issues like broadband deployment and adoption, cable pricing and assessing the state of competition.

As part of the Committee's markup of H.R. 734, two important clarifications were made. First, in our effort to consolidate reporting requirements, the legislation clarifies that the FCC's '706' Report does not in any way impact or alter the explicit grant of broadband

authority that the court affirmed in the Verizon case last year.

Second, the legislation preserves the FCC's obligation to examine how retransmission consent fees impact a consumer's monthly bill.

For all these reasons, I support and urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 734.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is will the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 734.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

STEM EDUCATION ACT OF 2015

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1020) to define STEM education to include computer science, and to support existing STEM education programs at the National Science Foundation.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1020

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "STEM Education Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF STEM EDUCATION.

For purposes of carrying out STEM education activities at the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the Environmental Protection Agency, the term "STEM education" means education in the subjects of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, including computer science.

SEC. 3. INFORMAL STEM EDUCATION.

(a) GRANTS.—The Director of the National Science Foundation, through the Directorate for Education and Human Resources, shall continue to award competitive, merit-reviewed grants to support—

(1) research and development of innovative out-of-school STEM learning and emerging STEM learning environments in order to improve STEM learning outcomes and engagement in STEM; and

(2) research that advances the field of informal STEM education.

(b) USES OF FUNDS.—Activities supported by grants under this section may encompass a single STEM discipline, multiple STEM disciplines, or integrative STEM initiatives and shall include—

(1) research and development that improves our understanding of learning and engagement in informal environments, including the role of informal environments in broadening participation in STEM; and

(2) design and testing of innovative STEM learning models, programs, and other resources for informal learning environments to improve STEM learning outcomes and in-

crease engagement for K-12 students, K-12 teachers, and the general public, including design and testing of the scalability of models, programs, and other resources.

SEC. 4. NOYCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AMENDMENTS.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 10A of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1862n-1a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)(B), by inserting "or bachelor's" after "master's";

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking "and" at the end of paragraph (2)(B);

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by inserting "for teachers with master's degrees in their field" after "Teaching Fellowships"; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(4) in the case of National Science Foundation Master Teaching Fellowships for teachers with bachelor's degrees in their field and working toward a master's degree—

"(A) offering academic courses leading to a master's degree and leadership training to prepare individuals to become master teachers in elementary and secondary schools; and

"(B) offering programs both during and after matriculation in the program for which the fellowship is received to enable fellows to become highly effective mathematics and science teachers, including mentoring, training, induction, and professional development activities, to fulfill the service requirements of this section, including the requirements of subsection (e), and to exchange ideas with others in their fields.";

(3) in subsection (e), by striking "subsection (g)" and inserting "subsection (h)";

(4) by redesignating subsections (g) through (i) as subsections (h) through (j), respectively; and

(5) by inserting after subsection (f) the following new subsection:

"(g) SUPPORT FOR MASTER TEACHING FELLOWS WHILE ENROLLED IN A MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM.—A National Science Foundation Master Teacher Fellow may receive a maximum of 1 year of fellowship support while enrolled in a master's degree program as described in subsection (c)(4)(A), except that if such fellow is enrolled in a part-time program, such amount shall be prorated according to the length of the program."

(b) DEFINITION.—Section 10(i)(5) of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1862n-1(i)(5)) is amended by inserting "computer science," after "means a science,".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the STEM Education Act of 2015 is bipartisan legislation that includes computer science in the definition of STEM education for programs and activities at our Federal science agencies. The bill also supports and strengthens ongoing STEM education efforts at the National Science Foundation. Similar legislation passed the House last year by voice vote.

I thank Representative ELIZABETH ESTY for cosponsoring the bill again this year. I also thank our new Research and Technology Subcommittee Chairwoman BARBARA COMSTOCK, Subcommittee Ranking Member DAN LIPINSKI, Subcommittee Vice Chair JOHN MOOLENAAR, and Representatives RANDY HULTGREN, LARRY BUCSHON, CHRIS COLLINS, DAVID MCKINLEY, and JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER for their support.

Last Congress the Science, Space, and Technology Committee held several hearings on STEM education. Each hearing highlighted the importance of STEM education to keep America on the cutting edge of new products and ideas. Our hearings discussed the merits of ensuring computer science is included as a component of the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics that make up STEM education. Today a variety of jobs in industries from banking to engineering to medicine require familiarity with computer science.

□ 1630

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, computing and mathematics will be one of the top 10 fastest growing major occupational groups from 2010 to 2020, with a growth rate of 4 percent annually compared to 1 percent for all other industries.

Unfortunately, America lags behind many other nations when it comes to STEM education. American students rank 21st in science and 26th in math. That must change for the better.

We need to ensure that our Nation's youth have the scientific and mathematical skills to strive and thrive in a technology-based economy, but we have to capture and hold the desire of young adults to study STEM subjects so they will want to pursue these careers.

H.R. 1020 includes language suggested by Mr. LIPINSKI to support informal STEM education programs and activities at the National Science Foundation. These activities reach students outside of the classroom and strengthen a student's engagement in STEM subject areas.

The STEM Education Act also ensures that teachers working towards a master's degree program in STEM subjects can participate in the Robert Noyce Master Teacher Fellowship program. I thank Ms. ESTY for this good addition to the bill.

This program provides opportunities for teachers who want to bolster their teaching skills. Through the Master Teaching fellowships, individuals receive training in order to become highly effective mathematics and science teachers. With this bill, the program now will encourage more teachers to pursue advanced degrees.

A healthy and viable STEM workforce literate in all STEM subjects, including computer science, is critical to American industries. A well-educated and trained STEM workforce ensures our future economic prosperity. More graduates with STEM degrees means more advanced technologies and a more robust economy.

Support for this bill from organizations like the STEM Education Coalition, STEM4US!, and Code.org illustrate the importance of aligning our Federal STEM programs with workforce needs. We must work to ensure that students continue to go into these fields so that their innovative ideas can lead to a more innovative and prosperous America.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to begin by thanking my friend, Chairman SMITH, for his leadership on the Science Committee, particularly on STEM education.

For the second Congress in a row, we are considering the STEM Education Act on the House floor. I am grateful that we are advancing these important efforts in a bipartisan fashion, thanks in large part to the chairman's willingness to work across the aisle.

I would also like to thank and recognize the work of Representative LIPINSKI for his diligent work on this and many other bills and my good friend EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON for her thoughtful leadership on STEM education and on all issues facing the Science Committee.

The STEM Education Act of 2015 supports teachers who are preparing students to be the engineers, manufacturers, and scientists of tomorrow. We all know that students, particularly elementary school students, learn best when they are engaged and interested.

However, any parent knows that it can be difficult to spark a student's passion for STEM subjects without innovative and creative learning environments. With more and more jobs of the 21st century requiring STEM skills, we need to better prepare our children for these good-paying jobs.

As a mother of three, I remember when my children had incredible teachers who made science and math accessible and fun. We should do all we can to support innovative, passionate teachers for every child in every school.

This bill today includes sections of my STEM Jobs Act, a bill expanding the Robert Noyce Master Teaching Fellowship program at the National Science Foundation. Currently, Master Teaching fellowships provide mentoring, training, and financial support to STEM professionals who want to enter the teaching profession.

In Connecticut, we have two Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship programs. UConn's Teachers for Tomorrow program prepares teachers throughout the State to teach math, biology, physics, and chemistry to students of all ages. At the University of Bridgeport, the Master Teacher Fellowship program places master physics teachers in high-need high schools in southwestern Connecticut.

Our bill today expands the Master Teaching Fellowship so that those who are working towards a master's degree, not just those who already have a master's degree, are also eligible to apply—supporting more passionate teachers and, in doing so, allowing more students to benefit from excellent STEM instructors.

Our bill also promotes learning outside of the classroom. In Connecticut, we have the wonderful Connecticut Science Center, with incredibly creative exhibits like one called "Grossology," where children can explore how to keep their bodies healthy by crawling through an enormous digestive system and experiencing a "larger than life sneeze," perfect for inspiring our Nation's future doctors and biomedical researchers.

In addition to educating and inspiring our children, science centers, planetariums, and aquariums across the country also provide invaluable teacher training. Last year alone, the Connecticut Science Center trained nearly 1,200 teachers who then went on to teach and inspire tens of thousands of their students.

The bill today directs the National Science Foundation to continue to award competitive grants for out-of-school STEM learning experiences for both students and teachers.

Finally, our bill takes the important step of expanding the definition of STEM for Federal programs and grants to include computer science.

As a member of the Science Committee and Representative LIPINSKI's STEM Education Caucus, I have been a strong advocate for increasing literacy in computer science. This winter, I joined students from across the State and more than 100 million worldwide to participate in an hour of code. We learned basic computer programming skills and discovered it is a lot of fun.

I also helped create the Congressional App Challenge and hosted this competition in my district where students created and built apps for their smartphones. The entries submitted by

these high school students were incredibly innovative and useful, technologically advanced, as well as terrific examples of the problem solving we need all of our students to learn.

The winning apps included an app to keep teachers informed during a school emergency, a program to help students know if they are going to be able to catch their bus on time, an app I know that my children would have benefited from greatly on those cold Connecticut winter mornings—like this morning—and an app to help high school freshmen learn their way around a big new school.

The STEM app competition helps students experience for themselves how important and fun computer science can be; but, for example, in Connecticut, where only 65 schools across the State have dedicated computer science programs, it is critical that we continue to expand access to computer science education for all students.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that we are rising above partisan politics to advance the bipartisan STEM Education Act of 2015. This bill demonstrates that we can come together to help our children, to help them thrive, and to help ensure that they will be competitive in the 21st century global economy.

I want, again, to thank Chairman SMITH and Representative LIPINSKI for their leadership and the committee staff for their hard work on the STEM Education Act.

I would also like to thank my friend, Ranking Member JOHNSON, a dedicated STEM champion, who is leading all of us on the Science Committee to truly recognize the importance of a robust and multidisciplinary STEM education and inspire us to do more across the board to support STEM.

I look forward to working with Ranking Member JOHNSON and the rest of the committee to further advance our priorities in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON), my friend, the ranking member of the Science Committee.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1020—although, reluctantly, I must qualify my support. I will begin with the parts of the bill that I strongly support.

I want to thank Ms. ESTY for her language to amend NSF's Noyce Master Teacher Fellowship program. This is an important update to the program to ensure that we are tapping into our entire pool of talented math and science teachers who might serve as master teachers in their schools and districts.

I also want to thank Mr. LIPINSKI for his language to authorize the National

Science Foundation's informal STEM education portfolio. While we know that informal STEM education learning holds great promise to increase engagement in STEM by diverse populations and to enhance learning of STEM content, there is still more R&D to be done to make sure we are developing and implementing the most effective programs.

My support for those sections of this bill is unqualified. However, I must express my concern about the definition for STEM included in this legislation which differs in a significant way from the definition of STEM that Chairman SMITH proposed in last year's version of this same bill.

Specifically, the current version would define STEM as "science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, including computer science." Last year's version, developed in collaboration with the STEM Education Coalition, read as "science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, including other academic subjects that build on these disciplines such as computer science."

This second definition, the one this entire House agreed to last year, was agreed to because it left the door open for other critical fields such as statistics and geology that don't cleanly fit into S, T, E, or M of STEM in K-12 teacher certifications and curricula.

I think we can all agree to the importance of computer science education. The current disconnect between the high demand for information technology jobs and limited opportunities for students to be exposed to computer science at the K-12 level puts American students and American companies at a significant disadvantage.

However, it baffles me as to why we would implicitly devalue such fields as statistics and geology in order to highlight computer science.

Statistics is an essential tool across all fields of science. Without good statistics, the biomedical research results that we count on to develop new diagnostics and therapeutics for diseases would be meaningless.

Without geology, oil and gas companies would not be able to locate and drill for new sources of energy. Without geology, we will never achieve early warning for earthquakes to save lives. Whether we are from Texas or California, we ought to place high value on geology.

I am also baffled why this bill is so urgent that we had to skip regular order to bring it to the floor. I requested that the committee hold a hearing or a markup on this legislation so that we might settle the definition dispute in committee after an open and public debate, but my request was denied.

Mr. Speaker, I will support this bill today, but I hope that the Senate will be wiser than we are being today in de-

fining STEM. This is not simply semantics. How and what science is taught in our Nation's classrooms is essential to our future economic competitiveness, national security, and overall well-being.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1645

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Is it too late for me to yield time to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MOOLENAAR), who I had mentioned a while ago was on the way to the House floor to speak on this particular bill?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from Texas ask unanimous consent to reclaim his time?

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to reclaim my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MOOLENAAR), who is a member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and is also vice chair of the Subcommittee on Research and Technology.

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education is necessary to prepare today's students for future job opportunities. H.R. 1020 will add computer science under the definition of STEM programs while providing STEM grants for the research of new, informal, out-of-school methods for teaching STEM subjects.

Whether it is a hands-on museum, a science competition, or an internship as a lab assistant, finding the best ways to teach these critical subjects outside of the classroom will help students who might not learn these subjects in a traditional setting.

As our Nation's employers look to fill good-paying jobs, STEM education has applications across the board, including skilled trades in construction, manufacturing, and welding. Every student who learns these skills will have the solid academic background to secure employment in a career field.

This important legislation will benefit bright young minds outside of the classroom and help our country remain the world leader in research and innovation.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I offer today my full support for H.R. 1020, the STEM Education Act of 2015. In an increasingly technology-based world, businesses and other organizations continue to invest in, and rely heavily upon, information technology (IT) to increase efficiency, reduce costs, and safeguard information. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that the high tech industry will be among the fastest growing industries in the coming years. We must do more to ensure that our youth are properly prepared and educated to compete in the job market of the future, so that the United States can continue to be an international innovation leader. Unfortunately, our education system has been slow to adapt to the growing demand for computer scientists and software engineers. By 2020, there will be an estimated 1.4 million computer programming jobs, with only 400,000 American computer science students to fill those jobs.

With globalization increasing competition for high paying jobs, I cannot stress enough the importance and value of a strong and innovative computer science education in today's economy. Computer programming jobs are growing at twice the national average rate of job growth and computer science remains one of the highest paying college degrees, more than doubling the national median annual wage. These jobs also provide Americans with a living-wage and an opportunity to be financially secure. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median annual wage in 2010 for computer programmers was \$71,380 while the median annual wage was \$33,840 for all workers.

I support H.R. 1020, because it continues the push for STEM programs to better prepare our youth for the computer programming jobs of the future so that the United States can continue being a world leader in innovation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1020.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro

tempore (Mr. WOMACK) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 212, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 734, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

DRINKING WATER PROTECTION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 212) to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide for the assessment and management of the risk of cyanotoxins in drinking water, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 375, nays 37, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 84]

YEAS—375

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguiar
Allen
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishak
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Capps

Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Clever
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)

Davis (CA)
Davis, Rodney
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DeBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Doyle, Michael
F.
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Fox
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen

Fudge
Gabbard
Galego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Goodlatte
Graham
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Knight
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebach
Lofgren
Loudermilk
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Amash
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Buck

Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascarella
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schock
Schraeder
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NAYS—37

Collins (GA)
Duncan (SC)
Emmer (MN)
Franks (AZ)
Gohmert
Gosar
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Grothman
Hice, Jody B.

Holding	Massie	Scott, Austin
Huelskamp	Palmer	Weber (TX)
Hunter	Posey	Westmoreland
Jones	Ratcliffe	Woodall
Labrador	Rice (SC)	Yoder
Lamborn	Russell	Yoho
Love	Sanford	
Lummis	Schweikert	

NOT VOTING—20

Bost	Gutiérrez	McNerney
Buchanan	Harper	Rice (NY)
Byrne	Hinojosa	Roe (TN)
Davis, Danny	Johnson, Sam	Rush
DeFazio	Kelly (IL)	Speier
Fleming	Lee	Thompson (MS)
Grijalva	Long	

□ 1857

Messrs. EMMER of Minnesota, WEBER of Texas, LAMBORN, AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, GOWDY, GROTHMAN, Mrs. LUMMIS, and Mr. POSEY changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. RIBBLE and THORNBERRY changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: “A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide for the assessment and management of the risk of algal toxins in drinking water, and for other purposes.”

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION CONSOLIDATED REPORTING ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 734) to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to consolidate the reporting obligations of the Federal Communications Commission in order to improve congressional oversight and reduce reporting burdens, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 411, nays 0, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 85]

YEAS—411

Abraham	Bass	Blum
Adams	Beatty	Blumenauer
Aderholt	Becerra	Bonamici
Aguilar	Benishhek	Boustany
Allen	Bera	Boyle, Brendan
Amash	Beyer	F.
Amodei	Bilirakis	Brady (PA)
Ashford	Bishop (GA)	Brady (TX)
Babin	Bishop (MI)	Brat
Barletta	Bishop (UT)	Bridenstine
Barr	Black	Brooks (AL)
Barton	Blackburn	Brooks (IN)

Brown (FL)	Garamendi	Lujan Grisham
Brownley (CA)	Garrett	(NM)
Buck	Gibbs	Lujan, Ben Ray
Bucshon	Gibson	(NM)
Burgess	Gohmert	Lummis
Bustos	Goodlatte	Lynch
Butterfield	Gosar	MacArthur
Calvert	Gowdy	Maloney,
Capps	Graham	Carolyn
Capuano	Granger	Maloney, Sean
Cárdenas	Graves (GA)	Marchant
Carney	Graves (LA)	Marino
Carson (IN)	Graves (MO)	Massie
Carter (GA)	Grayson	Matsui
Carter (TX)	Green, Al	McCarthy
Cartwright	Green, Gene	McCaul
Castor (FL)	Griffith	McClintock
Castro (TX)	Grothman	McCollum
Chabot	Guinta	McDermott
Chaffetz	Guthrie	McGovern
Chu, Judy	Hahn	McHenry
Cicilline	Hanna	McKinley
Clark (MA)	Hardy	McMorris
Clarke (NY)	Harris	Rodgers
Clawson (FL)	Hartzler	McSally
Clay	Hastings	Meadows
Cleaver	Heck (NV)	Meehan
Clyburn	Heck (WA)	Meeks
Coffman	Hensarling	Meng
Cohen	Herrera Beutler	Messer
Cole	Hice, Jody B.	Mica
Collins (GA)	Higgins	Miller (FL)
Collins (NY)	Hill	Miller (MI)
Comstock	Himes	Moolenaar
Conaway	Holding	Mooney (WV)
Connolly	Moore	
Conyers	Moulton	
Cook	Hoyer	
Cooper	Hudson	
Costa	Huelskamp	
Costello (PA)	Huffman	
Courtney	Huizenga (MI)	
Cramer	Hultgren	
Crawford	Hunter	
Crenshaw	Hurd (TX)	
Crowley	Hurt (VA)	
Cuellar	Israel	
Culberson	Issa	
Cummings	Jackson Lee	
Curbelo (FL)	Jeffries	
Davis (CA)	Jenkins (KS)	
Davis, Rodney	Jenkins (WV)	
DeGette	Johnson (GA)	
Delaney	Johnson (OH)	
DeLauro	Johnson, E. B.	
DelBene	Jolly	
Denham	Jones	
Dent	Jordan	
DeSantis	Joyce	
DeSaulnier	Kaptur	
DesJarlais	Katko	
Deutch	Keating	
Diaz-Balart	Kelly (PA)	
Dingell	Kennedy	
Doggett	Kildee	
Dold	Kilmer	
Doyle, Michael	Kind	
F.	King (IA)	
Duckworth	King (NY)	
Duffy	Kinzinger (IL)	
Duncan (SC)	Kirkpatrick	
Duncan (TN)	Kline	
Edwards	Knight	
Ellison	Kuster	
Elmiers (NC)	Labrador	
Emmer (MN)	LaMalfa	
Engel	Lamborn	
Eshoo	Lance	
Esty	Langevin	
Farenthold	Larsen (WA)	
Farr	Larson (CT)	
Fattah	Latta	
Fincher	Lawrence	
Fitzpatrick	Levin	
Fleischmann	Lewis	
Flores	Lieu, Ted	
Forbes	Lipinski	
Fortenberry	LoBiondo	
Foster	Loeb sack	
Fox	Lofgren	
Frankel (FL)	Loudermilk	
Franks (AZ)	Love	
Frelinghuysen	Lowenthal	
Fudge	Lowe	
Gabbard	Lucas	
Gallego	Luetkemeyer	

Roybal-Allard	Slaughter	Wagner
Royce	Smith (MO)	Walberg
Ruiz	Smith (NE)	Walden
Ruppersberger	Smith (NJ)	Walker
Russell	Smith (TX)	Walorski
Ryan (OH)	Smith (WA)	Walters, Mimi
Ryan (WI)	Stefanik	Walz
Salmon	Stewart	Wasserman
Sánchez, Linda	Stivers	Schultz
T.	Stutzman	Waters, Maxine
Sanchez, Loretta	Swalwell (CA)	Watson Coleman
Sanford	Takai	Weber (TX)
Sarbanes	Takano	Webster (FL)
Scalise	Thompson (CA)	Welch
Schakowsky	Thompson (PA)	Wenstrup
Schiff	Thornberry	Westerman
Schock	Tiberi	Westmoreland
Schrader	Tipton	Whitfield
Schweikert	Titus	Williams
Scott (VA)	Tonko	Wilson (FL)
Scott, Austin	Torres	Wilson (SC)
Scott, David	Trott	Wittman
Sensenbrenner	Tsongas	Womack
Serrano	Turner	Woodall
Sessions	Upton	Yarmuth
Sewell (AL)	Valadao	Yoder
Sherman	Van Hollen	Yoho
Shimkus	Vargas	Young (AK)
Shuster	Veasey	Young (IA)
Simpson	Vela	Young (IN)
Sinema	Velázquez	Zeldin
Sires	Visclosky	Zinke

NOT VOTING—21

Bost	Gutiérrez	McNerney
Buchanan	Harper	Peters
Byrne	Hinojosa	Rice (NY)
Davis, Danny	Johnson, Sam	Roe (TN)
DeFazio	Kelly (IL)	Rush
Fleming	Lee	Speier
Grijalva	Long	Thompson (MS)

□ 1906

Mr. BUCK changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 529, SECTION 529 COLLEGE SAVINGS PLANS AMENDMENTS; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5, STUDENT SUCCESS ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. WOODALL, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-28) on the resolution (H. Res. 121) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 529) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve 529 plans; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5) to support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes; and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

CONGRATULATING PENN STATE THON PARTICIPANTS

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend, Penn State University held its annual IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon, more commonly known as THON, at the Bryce Jordan Center on campus.

THON, which is the largest student-run philanthropy in the world, is a yearlong effort to raise funds and awareness for the fight against pediatric cancer.

Since 1977, THON has raised more than \$127 million for the Four Diamonds Fund based out of Penn State Hershey Medical Center. With the support of students all across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and supporters around the world, this year's event raised over \$13 million.

Mr. Speaker, as a graduate of Penn State University, I could not be more proud of these students and future fellow alumni. I congratulate them on yet another spectacular year.

NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, this being National Engineers Week, I rise to recognize the importance of STEM education and training for our future engineers.

It has been projected that our Nation will need almost 2 million engineers by 2018, and that some fields in engineering will experience a 30 to 70 percent growth during that timeframe.

Despite these critical workforce needs, a vast majority of schools do not offer K through 12 education that creates clear pathways into careers in engineering and STEM-related fields.

This week, I visited Tech Valley High School in Albany, New York, in the 20th District, to highlight this need and celebrate the good work being done in my congressional district to close the skills gap we see in this very vital discipline.

The nations that lead the global economy of the future will be those that invest in the education of their next generation—particularly in engineering. I urge my colleagues to recognize this need and to work in their own communities to bolster engineering education nationwide and allow our Nation to become the kingpin of the future international economy. Let's grow and cultivate those engineers.

FIREFIGHTERS, A SPECIAL BREED—CAPTAIN DWIGHT BAZILE

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, he was only 37 years of age—a father, husband, community leader. He was Houston's Fire Captain Dwight Bazile.

Captain Bazile, known as B.B. to his fellow firefighters, was helping to put out a fire at a duplex when he suffered cardiac arrest. He collapsed in the street and was rushed to the hospital, where he died. He was doing his job. He was saving others when his life was taken. B.B. was described as having a gentle and caring personality.

Mr. Speaker, firefighters are a special breed. They run into the flames that everyone else is trying to escape from. They work to restore order from chaos. That is why we call them first responders—because they are the first to help the people.

Firefighters are a courageous and tenacious breed. They are uniquely American.

Mr. Speaker, it has been said that all people are created equal, but few become firefighters. Captain Bazile was one of those people.

We remember Captain Bazile and pray for his family. He was one of Houston's finest. He died on duty—the duty of protecting and serving the people of Houston, Texas. He was quite a man, Mr. Speaker.

And that is just the way it is.

□ 1915

FULLY FUND THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

(Mr. CASTRO of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as part of the growing chorus of Americans calling for Republicans to stop playing politics with the safety of the American people and to fully fund the Department of Homeland Security.

A small group of elected officials are holding our national security hostage and compromising the government's ability to guard our borders, patrol our waters, and protect our airports.

Not only would this bad strategy force more than 40,000 Border Patrol agents and Customs and Border Protection officers out of work, but also 40,000 Active-Duty Coast Guard military members and more than 50,000 TSA aviation security screeners, it would cause all of these folks either to be out of work or to work without pay indefinitely.

In my home State of Texas, there are more than 24,000 Homeland Security employees who could face similar impacts.

If Republicans want to prove that they can lead Congress, they shouldn't manufacture a bogus crisis. They should fund the agency responsible for protecting our Nation at once.

The American people deserve better than these unnecessary political games.

BROTHERS TO THE RESCUE

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today, we commemorate the murder by the Cuban regime of three U.S. citizens and one U.S. resident: Carlos Costa, Armando Alejandro, Mario de la Pena, and Pablo Morales.

Nineteen years ago today, the Castro brothers ordered the shoot-down of the civilian Brothers to the Rescue plane and blew them out of the sky over international air space during an unarmed, humanitarian mission.

These volunteers were devoted to searching the Straits of Florida to aid those who risked their lives on rafts to flee the oppressive yoke of the Castro regime that continues to rule over the island.

It is shameful that this same regime that is responsible for killing these innocent heroes is now sitting across the table from U.S. Government officials and will be hosted by our own Department of State later this week—not a proud week for strong American values, Mr. Speaker.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CAPTAIN B.B. BAZILE

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute a gentle giant by the name of Captain Bazile, a hero, a man who died in the line of fire, and a man who many of us got to know and love.

He started in the Houston Fire Department at the age of 19, and he was called Baby Boy. That ultimately became B.B. Everyone who came in the distance of his heart and mind said that Captain Bazile was a mentor who taught men and women who were incoming firefighters.

This past weekend, I flew into Houston and was able to go to his bedside on Saturday, to be able to see his family and his wonderful son, who he loves with deep and abiding love, and a wife who loved him without question. All of his fire brothers and sisters were all around. They had the opportunity to pray.

Then, unfortunately, he lost his life. He died in the line of duty, and on Saturday night into early morning on Sunday, I joined a throng of firefighters to proceed in the procession to take his body from the Memorial Hermann Medical Center to the medical examiners.

Mr. Speaker, let me simply say, as we rode through those streets, through the neighborhoods that he fought for and fought fires, saved lives, and passed Fire Station 46 and all of his brothers and sisters, I felt a sense that

his spirit had lifted up and that we had honored him by his travel and journey, that we will continue to honor him—Baby Boy, B.B., father, husband, great leader, hero, captain, firefighter—who died in the line of duty.

PROTECT AND EXPAND COLLEGE SAVINGS PLANS

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, it is a question that families all across the country are asking themselves: How can we afford to send our children to college?

The President's plan to tax 529 college savings plans would have punished people who are saving for their children's higher education. Instead of punishing families who are diligently saving for their children's education, we should reward them, we should give them more certainty, and we should strengthen and improve these plans.

529 college savings plans are a very valuable asset for millions of families who put aside money to help ensure that their children or their child will not be burdened with mountains of debt after they graduate from college.

This week, I will be supporting legislation taken up in the House that will strengthen, that will expand, and that will modernize 529 college savings accounts so that more families have the opportunity to send their children to the higher education institution of their choice.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF SERGEANT MICHAEL STRANK

(Mr. ROTHFUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, 70 years ago yesterday, American Armed Forces fought their way to the summit of Mount Suribachi and raised the American flag on Iwo Jima.

Sergeant Michael Strank, from Franklin Borough, Pennsylvania, was one of six men in this iconic photo who helped to raise the flag. Sergeant Strank was part of the Greatest Generation, a generation that rolled back a dark totalitarian tide that broke upon the world in the first half of the 20th century.

The battle for Iwo Jima was hard-fought and is of great significance for the United States Marine Corps. More than 6,800 servicemen died in the battle, including Sergeant Strank, who was killed just 5 days after the flag was raised.

This unforgettable photo captured the unfailing heroism and determination of those who fought. It reminds us that freedom is not free, that it has

been hard-won, and that some—like Michael Strank—have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect it.

I had the privilege to meet members of Sergeant Strank's family this weekend, including his sister Mrs. Mary Pero.

Let us always thank our veterans who served and their families who gave us such heroes.

HONORING WORLD WAR II ICON PRIVATE FIRST CLASS FRANKLIN R. SOUSLEY

(Mr. BARR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a World War II icon, U.S. Marine Private First Class Franklin R. Sousley, of Fleming County, Kentucky.

A graduate of Fleming County High School, Sousley chose to enlist in the Marine Corps where he was assigned to Company E, 2nd Battalion, as a rifleman.

Private First Class Sousley landed on Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945. During the intense fighting, American forces secured Mount Suribachi. Shortly thereafter, Sousley, alongside five other fellow servicemen, raised a large U.S. flag, so it could be seen over the island.

An iconic photograph taken during this raising of the U.S. flag led to an immortalized symbol of the American bravery, perseverance, and sacrifice endured by members of the U.S. Armed Forces during the intense battles of World War II.

Sadly, soon after this photograph was taken, Sousley was killed in combat by a Japanese sniper. His remains were laid to rest in the Elizaville Cemetery in Fleming County, Kentucky, in my district.

Private First Class Sousley paid the ultimate sacrifice defending freedom for generations; however, his memory lives on in the timeless photograph in the image depicted in the Iwo Jima Memorial outside of Washington, D.C., and through the gratitude of all Americans.

MIDDLE CLASS ECONOMICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ZELDIN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, about a month and a half ago, we heard the President speak to us about the economy, about his goals for America. He labeled his speech "middle class economics," and tonight, I want to pick this issue up once again.

We are here most every week discussing this issue, although last time

we were up here, we took up another important issue, Alzheimer's. But I want to come back to middle class economics, why it is important. Well, basically, it is important because it drives our economy.

The great majority of Americans want to be in the middle class, and most of them are. Unfortunately, we have seen the decline of the middle class, their ability to own a home, a car, to provide for their family—but if the middle class is healthy, it will drive our economy, and it will create jobs, so the focus on the middle class becomes very, very important.

We can do this by strengthening their wages. If they are able to earn more money, then they will buy the home, the car, and the economy will grow, and other people will be able to enjoy the fruits of our economy.

I am going to focus on infrastructure in a moment, but I just want to skip that over and go down to the other things.

Health care—who among us doesn't want to have a good health care program, so that if we get sick or injured, we will be able to get to a doctor, get to a hospital, get the care we need to get back on our feet, and to once again be productive or, in our old age, be able to enjoy our retirement?

So the affordable health care becomes really important, and here, we have the Affordable Health Care Act as part of that.

Finally, we need to develop policies to grow the middle class, and one such policy is infrastructure, which is the focus of tonight's discussion. I want to just stay with this infrastructure issue for a few moments, and then I am going to invite my colleague from Minnesota, RICK NOLAN, to join us here.

Let me talk about this also. The other theme, in addition to the middle class economics, is the Make It In America theme that we have been talking about for 4 years now. Trade, taxes, energy, labor, education, research, and infrastructure, these are the elements that we fold into our Make It In America agenda.

We talk about trade. There is going to be a lot of discussion about that here in Congress over the next several months as the Trans-Pacific Partnership comes up. Taxes, which we will pick up with the infrastructure issue in a few moments—energy is also part of the infrastructure issue.

Anyway, Make It In America means bringing the jobs back home, employing Americans, doing the things that we need to do in this country, whether it is the health care sector; the infrastructure; building the roads, the bridges, and the like; or education. That is the Make It In America agenda, and it is part of the middle class economics. In fact, it is the key to it.

Why is infrastructure important? Well, there are certain things like this,

a collapsed bridge. This is on Interstate 5 in the State of Washington. This is a bridge near the Canadian border. About 3 years ago, it went into the river, collapsed—one of about 163,000 deficient bridges here in the United States.

So, yep, we have got a problem. Are we going to be able to address this problem? Well, we had better.

Actually, it is 156,000. I was a little bit overanxious there.

The American Society of Civil Engineers, who build these things, have graded the American infrastructure, and I just want to go through it: aviation, our airports, which I believe the Vice President, in referring to LaGuardia, said even the developing countries have a better airport than LaGuardia in New York City, aviation, a D; bridges, C-plus—as I said, 156,000 deficient; dams, D; running water, D; energy, D-plus; hazardous waste, D; inland waterways, D; levees, to protect us from floods, D; our ports, a C; public parks and recreation, C; our railroads, C-plus—whoa, a C-plus; our highways, a D; our schools, that is where our kids are, a D; solid waste, we are doing pretty well, that is a B; our transit systems, D; wastewater, a D.

Incidentally, in California, we are in the midst of a major drought, and it is perfectly clear that the wastewater systems are inadequate. If we were to also fund the recycling programs which could be connected to the wastewater, we could, in southern California, over the next half decade, create a million acre feet of new water as we recycle the water from the fifth biggest river on the west coast of the Western Hemisphere, the sanitation plants in southern California.

□ 1930

So we have got some work out ahead of us.

Let me bring this home before I invite my colleague from the great State of Minnesota to join us on this issue.

Earlier today, I was reading an article in The Sacramento Bee about the transportation systems in Sacramento. Let me just share some of these thoughts with you.

In Sacramento, the average commuter spends 32 hours each year stuck in traffic. This amounts to \$669 of lost productivity. That is literally wages that could have been earned if they weren't stuck in traffic. For all of the commuters in the Sacramento area, which I represent, that is \$834 million of commuting time. For the truckers in the area that are trying to pass through Sacramento on Interstate 5, on Interstate 80 or Highway 50, it is \$199 million of lost productivity.

There is another alternative. Down in Riverside, a southern California city that I once represented when I was lieutenant governor, they want to build a 13-mile streetcar system in the city of Riverside. It would cost about

\$300 million. The economic analysis that was done on that indicates that if they were to do it, there would be a 4-to-1 return on investment. Now, you tell me which investment banker on Wall Street wouldn't want to have a 4-to-1 return on their investment. Well, the city of Riverside could have a 4-to-1 return on their investment of \$300 million to build that 13-mile streetcar section. That is property values and economic development.

This morning, The Wall Street Journal published an article in which the American Society of Civil Engineers was quoted that between 2012 and 2022, in America, because of the insufficient infrastructure—and remember, I just read you their GPA, mostly Ds—lost sales, \$1 trillion of lost sales. For the United States, the delays will cost \$3.1 trillion. And to bring it home to a single company—a big company but, nonetheless, just one company—United Parcel Service, UPS, all of those big brown trucks that are out there, \$105 million in lost revenue.

There is a solution. The President has put forward to us, the Members of Congress, a 6-year, \$478 billion transportation plan that will be paid for—fully paid for with the current gasoline and diesel tax not increased, keep it the same—and going out to those American corporations that are stiffing the American taxpayer by hiding their profits overseas. The President says: Bring those profits home; pay your fair share of the taxes. So there is a fully paid-for proposal before us here in the House of Representatives for a \$478 billion, 6-year transportation program.

Now, I think our Speaker represents an area in Ohio near Kentucky, and I believe there is a bridge in that area called the Brent Spence Bridge. It crosses the Ohio River between Kentucky and Ohio. It was built for 80,000 cars a day, and now there are over 200,000 cars a day that pass over that bridge—or try to pass over that bridge—creating a monumental traffic jam and slowing down the entire economy in that region.

By the way, don't ever walk or drive underneath the bridge because the concrete in the bridge is falling off. They have a nice little safety net over the road beneath it, so perhaps, therefore, you won't be hit by a falling piece of concrete.

So the issue for us, the Representatives of the American public, is: Are we willing to put together a full transportation program so that these kinds of bridge collapses are pictures of yesterday, not the pictures of tomorrow's future?

I would like to have the gentleman from Minnesota, Mr. RICK NOLAN, join us now. If you would come on down and join us, perhaps here on the floor, and take one of the microphones.

Mr. NOLAN, you have a fascinating history here in the House of Represent-

atives. You were here in the early seventies as a Representative and then decided to go back to Minnesota and build a business, a lumber manufacturing, a timber manufacturing business. It was very successful. Then you came back to straighten us out, bringing all of that history to us.

Welcome, Mr. NOLAN. Thank you so very much for joining us this evening as we talk about transportation and infrastructure in America.

Mr. NOLAN. Well, thank you.

The House historian tells me that my 32-year hiatus is the longest in the history of the House of Representatives.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Well, you had an opportunity to learn about the private sector and learn about the necessity of transportation; and I think your business was dependent on that, both to get the materials to your lumber mill and then to export.

Mr. NOLAN. Very much so.

I also built an export trading company and did a little business all over the globe. People asked me what I sold. I like to tell them I sold, well, just about everything except guns and drugs, which is where all the real money was.

It was really quite an eye-opening experience to see how the rest of the world does business, to get a better feel and understanding for the importance of agriculture and a better feel and understanding of agriculture as it relates to feeding a hungry world, but infrastructure and its importance to building the middle class here in the country, to laying the foundation for job growth and economic growth. And to come back here again after those years in business and in community service, I have got to be frank with you; I feel much better prepared today than I ever was to serve my district and to serve my Nation, and I am grateful to have the opportunity to be here.

I want to particularly thank you for calling this to the attention of the American public, the importance of infrastructure, the importance of infrastructure to the middle class in this country, and the importance that it brings to the fulfillment of the American Dream.

The American Dream is not everybody becoming a billionaire or a Pulitzer Prize winner. It is about contributing. It is about having a good job. It is about having a living wage. It is about having some money left over at the end of the week to take your family or your best friend and go out and have dinner or maybe wet a line and go fishing. And, quite frankly, that is what is getting away from us.

I want to thank you for bringing to the attention of people how transportation and infrastructure and its degradation that is taking place is related to, quite frankly, the demise and the decline of the middle class in this country.

The simple truth is the rich are getting richer, the poor are getting poorer, the middle class is getting crushed, and, simultaneously, our infrastructure is falling apart.

The gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI), you, too, have a background in business and public service and community service that gives you a good grasp and an understanding for the importance of all this.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Well, there is no doubt about the importance of it. If you want to build good middle class jobs, a lot of those jobs are in the infrastructure. It may be a hardhat job out there putting up the steel and the concrete, the ironworkers or the cement masons or the operators of the heavy equipment. All of those are really good middle class jobs, no doubt about it, wherever they happen to be across the Nation. But also, in the back office, somebody has to do the accounting; somebody has to do the design work—the architects, the draftsmen and -women that are involved.

So these jobs permeate the entire economy. And it is absolutely true that if we can fund—that is, pass—a 6-year, robust transportation bill that is fully paid for, Americans would go to work in middle class jobs. That is the first effect: people will have jobs. And in building the infrastructure, you then lay the foundation for future economic growth.

You have seen this in your area. I was thinking about your call for the family to be able to enjoy the fruits of life. And I am thinking about you have got some heavy-duty hunting country up in your area. You are out in the backwoods of Minnesota, if I recall.

Mr. NOLAN. I am. My nearest neighbor is a couple of miles away.

Mr. GARAMENDI. And in between are bear, deer, and fish.

Mr. NOLAN. We have bear. We have duck. We have grouse. We have good hunting and darn good fishing, too.

You mentioned the fact that I had served many years ago, quite frankly, back in the seventies. I like to tell people I was only 10 years old at the time.

When I first got back here, I said to a number of people: Perhaps you knew my father when he had served here back in the seventies. And there were always a couple of old-timers in the back that would laugh. And everyone would say: Well, what is so funny about that? And they would say: Well, it wasn't his father; it was him.

But I have got to tell you, it was quite different. It was quite different than it is today. I had my staff do a little survey. We found that in the terms I served before, there was an average of about 8,000 subcommittee, full committee, and conference committee meetings here in the Congress. What that meant was that we got together 5 days a week in our committees. And all the diverse elements that make up

America were all represented in those meetings, and that is how we found common ground; that is how we came together; that is how we fixed things; that is how we got things done.

And people have to be reminded, I think, that process is important to good government. Because now we are faced with this gridlock; we are faced with this terrible partisanship, the seeming inability to be productive and to get things done. I think experts that study governance here in America are saying now that this immediate last Congress was the most unproductive in the history of the country.

Well, guess what. When we had 8,000 committee meetings in the past, yes, maybe around 1,000 of them were just formal hearings or, you know, you have got to give Jack Nicklaus a gold medal and do a reauthorization of Peanut Butter and Jelly Week. Well, guess what. This last session of Congress, we had about 1,000 of those meetings, and most of them were quite informal.

As you recall, Mr. GARAMENDI, when we started the hearings about a year ago in the Transportation Committee because we knew that the transportation legislation needed to be reauthorized, we had everybody come in before that committee; and, boy, we were laying the foundation for a good reauthorization of a transportation and infrastructure bill. You were there every day.

By the way, I want to commend you for the leadership that you have shown on that committee in so many areas, in so many ways.

But we had everybody, as you recall, from the head of the national Chamber of Commerce to the heads of all the labor unions, the truckers, retail. Everybody came before that committee.

I don't know if you recall. But I asked every one of them, I said: I have three questions. And I remember the committee groaning, saying: Gee, NOLAN, you have only got 5 minutes. How are you going to do that?

I said: Question number one, is there anyone here on this committee who disagrees with the notion that our infrastructure is badly in need of repair and is falling down and dilapidated?

Nobody disagreed.

Second question, is there anybody here—of all that group that was testifying—that disagrees with the notion that our ability to grow an economy and create good jobs is dependent upon a good, strong infrastructure?

Nobody disagreed, as you would recall.

And then lastly, I said: Is there anybody on this committee who doubts that we need to find some new revenue to rebuild our infrastructure?

And nobody disagreed.

And I said: Make a note of it, Mr. Chairman, because we have got to write a bill here. And that is what we were there for.

You know as well as everybody else that the authorization for the Transportation Committee to write a bill was pulled away from the committee. Presumably, in the Speaker's office or someplace else, it was decided that we should do a temporary reauthorization for 8 months; and, as you recall, we borrowed money from people's private pension funds.

□ 1945

We are getting near that 8-month deadline again.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I think it is May 15.

Mr. NOLAN. May 15. So now working people's pension funds are short a little money potentially, and we still haven't fixed the transportation problem. So one of the things I want to do here tonight, and I know you do as well, is to call upon the Speaker to let the committee do its work. We have got a good committee. You know it as well as I do and everybody else. There is a lot of goodwill in this Chamber among Democrats, Republicans, conservatives, and liberals, and if we are allowed to sit down in that committee and advance our ideas and argue the merits of them, we will find that common ground. We will find a way to get this country back on track with rebuilding our infrastructure.

That is what democracy is all about. Someone said to me the other day here, and it almost broke my heart, when I was explaining this and they said: Well, isn't it more efficient here by not using the committees? I said: Yeah, of course, it is. The Nazis and the Communists would love it. Democracy is a lot of hard work. There is so much goodwill in this Chamber, and there are so many good men and women. We get along fine.

Mr. Speaker, let the process work. Let the committee do its job, and we will get a good transportation bill, and we will rebuild this middle class and rebuild our economy in a way that is fair to everyone.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Well, there is no doubt that if we were to pass—well, we don't have a choice. If we don't pass a bill in the next 2 months, 2½ months, all public works, transportation programs, will come to a screeching halt. There will be no more Federal money, and it will simply stop. So we have got work to do. As you say, if the committee could have its way, we could put together a good bill. There has been a long history here of the transportation bill being a bipartisan bill. We can do that.

If we don't—let me just go back through this. I get stacks and stacks of paper, and this one caught my eye. It is entitled, "Infrastructure Investment Creates American Jobs." I said: Well, that is kind of a pretty good cover there. It has roads, bridges, ports, and so forth. It is the Duke Center on

Globalization, Governance & Competitiveness. So it is the Duke University. Here they say:

Old and broken transportation infrastructure makes the United States less competitive than 15 of our major trading partners and makes manufacturers less efficient in getting goods to market.

Underinvestment costs the United States over 900,000 jobs, including more than 97,000 American manufacturing jobs.

Maximizing American-made materials when rebuilding infrastructure has the potential to create even more jobs. Relying on American-made inputs can also mitigate safety concerns related to large-scale outsourcing.

I am with you, Duke—Duke University. I am from the west coast, and I have problems with some of these east coast athletic teams, but, hey, I am with them on this one. Infrastructure creates American jobs.

This is something that I have used over and over again. This is from Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics. He is the former economics adviser for Senator JOHN MCCAIN when the Senator ran for the United States Presidency. He put it this way:

For every dollar invested in infrastructure investment, \$1.57 is pumped back into the American economy with well paying, middle class American jobs.

This is just really critically important. The question for us, and the reason we are here on the floor and the reason we are talking about this issue of middle class economics and now transportation, is that we are up against another timeline here. We have got the transportation cliff, we have got a bridge that is collapsed, and the question is: Will this Congress provide a transportation bill that can bridge this collapsed bridge and rebuild it? I think we can. I know we must.

My fear—my fear—Mr. NOLAN, is that we have become really, really good at something we used to play when I was a kid, and it is called kick the can. We have become really good at kicking the can down the road rather than just coming to grips with the reality that we have to have a long-term transportation bill.

There are many reasons for it. These are long-term projects, and over the last I guess almost 7 years now we have not had a long-term bill. The longest one has been a 2-year bill that passed 2 years ago, and that doesn't give the planners enough time to plan these long-term projects or the assurance that the money, the Federal money, will be there; \$478 billion, 6 years, fully paid for, doesn't increase the gasoline or diesel tax but requires American corporations that have run away from their obligation to this Nation by hiding their profits overseas to bring those profits back and tax them accordingly.

That is the President's plan. It is all there for us. Can we do it? I don't think we have any choice. I think we have to

do it, Mr. NOLAN. I don't know how you feel about it from Minnesota, but I know in California that we are in the midst of a major drought, and this is going to be the fourth year of a major drought in California, and it has been at least 30 years since there have been any major water infrastructure investments in California. Our economy in California is paying dearly for it. About one-third of the rice fields in my district are fallow. If you go further south into the San Joaquin Valley it is probably about the same percentage. Cantaloupes, cotton, and other kinds of row crops, tomatoes, are not being planted.

We have to have in California investments in our water infrastructure. One of the things that my Republican colleague—and Mr. NOLAN, you spoke about bipartisanship—my Republican colleague from my area, Mr. LAMALFA, he and I are going to introduce tomorrow a piece of legislation to build a very large, offstream reservoir called Sites Reservoir. It is about 1.8, 1.9 million acre-feet of water. If that had been built a decade ago, the drought would still be very difficult. There would be a lot of trouble and a lot of lost opportunity. But at least we would have a very significant amount of water available stored in that reservoir to help us along. So we are going to do that. That is a major infrastructure program, and we will see if we can participate here at the Federal level with the participation that the State of California voters have already approved, a \$7.6 billion bond act in which there is money for storage, both aquifer, underground, as well as surface storage, probably including the Sites Reservoir.

So there are things we can do. And this is a piece of legislation, we will present it to the Congress and the Senate and hopefully it will move along. Mr. NOLAN, I am sure that you have projects up in your area that are important, and perhaps you would like to pick up here.

Mr. NOLAN. I sure do, Mr. GARAMENDI. I think the fact that our bridges are falling down could not be more evidenced than in Minnesota, where we had the catastrophic collapse of the I-35 bridge, which killed a number of people and did obviously irreparable damage to their lives and many others.

Mr. GARAMENDI. This was the bridge across the Mississippi in Minneapolis?

Mr. NOLAN. Yes. Very tragic. I have got several thousand bridges in my district alone, and several hundred of them have been certified as obsolete and in disrepair, in need of repair, and, of course, there are thousands and thousands of those bridges across the country. I held three transportation hearings back in Minnesota here recently, and the unanimity of agreement on what needs to be done is really

quite unique. I mean, generally, if you get 50 people in a room in Minnesota you will have at least 40, 45 opinions.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Well, in California, you would have 150 opinions if you had 50 people.

Mr. NOLAN. Well, everybody agreed, as you pointed out, we need a long-term plan so that you can plan accordingly, and then do it responsibly in the most efficient and economical way. Everyone came up and said that we need it for our economic growth and our business, and they understand that, as you were pointing out earlier, good infrastructure is the foundation, it is the foundation for every single successful economy in this world. I have said to people on occasion: If you don't want to pay any taxes, you can move to Zaire. I think they have about 2 miles of roads and no taxes, but you had better bring a little army with you to protect you.

So the other thing, of course—it has become real apparent—is the congestion. You must see that. We are seeing it in Minnesota. People are spending endless hours sitting in their cars trying to get to and from work, time that they could have used to sleep in an extra hour, get home in time for dinner with their family.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Work with the kids on their homework.

Mr. NOLAN. Of course, you mentioned the collapse of the bridge. The other thing they want to see is some bipartisanship. I would like to remind our colleagues, as well as the folks back home, because you and I were there, and we were part of a couple of the few instances where, in the last session of Congress, the process was allowed to work. It was cumbersome, and it was contentious, but at the end of the day, we came together, and we passed a good, bipartisan farm bill. You and I were part of that.

Mr. GARAMENDI. You were on the committee.

Mr. NOLAN. As well as our colleagues here on both sides of the aisle, and then we were allowed on the water resources bill, and we were able to put together a good bill. Not everybody got everything they wanted, but everybody was a part of it. They had a chance to advance their ideas. We had open rules. If you want to have an amendment or a good idea, you got a chance to advance it and get a vote on it. People want to see more of that as well.

Then there is one thing that doesn't get mentioned very often, and I don't mind bringing it up, and a number of my folks back home brought it up. And that is—you mentioned the cost of not doing anything. Well, that would be devastating for America. It would be just devastating for our economy. I pray to God that would never happen. But our hope is, of course, it will be done in a responsible way that solves the problems and fixes these things.

But there is a little factor. I have about a 5-mile dirt road to my farm, and I went through two front ends on my new pickup truck until it became part of a local effort to pave the roads. My road got paved. That was 10 years ago. I am still driving the same pickup truck, and I haven't lost any front ends.

You know the old saying, you pay me now or you pay me later. Boy, I tell you, these potholes and these washboard roads and bridges falling down, there is a heavy price to be paid for not fixing, maintaining, and upkeeping our roads and our bridges.

Mr. GARAMENDI. There is no doubt about it—you can ruin your car real fast. That 5-mile road was a county road, I assume, it was not your personal road?

Mr. NOLAN. No, no. It was not my personal road. No, no, no. It was a combination county and township. But it helped to have been on the township planning committee.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Whatever it took, you got it done.

A couple of things that I think are also important as we go about this infrastructure, and that is: Who is going to provide the material? I want to give you an example of why it is important that we honor the Buy America laws that exist today. We have had Buy America requirements in laws for almost 50 years now, and those requirements simply say that if it is our taxpayer money or your taxpayer money, then it should be used to buy American-made products and materials.

Now, out in California, we have the San Francisco Bay Bridge. This is about a—what do we have here—\$3.9 billion project. Excuse me—it is not \$3.9 billion; it is about \$6 billion. It is \$3.9 billion over budget. This project replaces the old San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge connecting the two cities across the bay that collapsed during the 1989 earthquake. The bridge went out to bid, and the contractor said: I can use Chinese steel, and it will be 10 percent cheaper if we use Chinese rather than American-made steel. So the State waived the Buy America requirements. They didn't use them. They went out and bought Chinese steel.

Well, they got 3,000 jobs in China and overbudget and poor material. In fact, today it is reported in the California newspapers that one of the major bolts, which is a 25-foot bolt, and I don't know, it must be several inches across, that holds down the main pier to the bridge is cracking. So we have a problem here.

□ 2000

Now, New York is undertaking a bridge across the Hudson River. It is called the Tappan Zee Bridge, and it is made with American steel. American steel is being used. The total cost is

\$3.9 billion—notice, that is the cost of the overrun in California. There are 7,728 American jobs, and it is 100 percent made in America.

When we go about this infrastructure, I want to make very, very sure that we maintain the Buy America requirements. We can do it.

I am going to put up one more placard here. This is one of my favorites. This is a brand-new 100 percent American-made electric locomotive for the Washington, D.C., to Boston Northeast corridor. About 70 to 80 of these will be made.

In the American Recovery Act—you remember the stimulus bill—somebody wrote in \$700 million for Amtrak to buy new locomotives, and they said: 100 percent American-made.

General Electric looked at it, other companies looked at it, and a German company looked at this \$700 million or so and 70 to 80 locomotives, 100 percent American-made, and they go: We can do that.

So Siemens, a major international German company, had a manufacturing plant in Sacramento, and they set about to make 100 percent American-made locomotives. They built double the size of their factory, hired several hundred new workers, and they went out across the United States to find all the parts.

They are now building 100 percent American-made locomotives, a major infrastructure project, great for American jobs, great for the future. This is one of the first ones that came off the lot.

Now, my final point and then I want to turn this back to my colleague from Minnesota. Today, on the east coast, Amtrak is going out to bid for 28 new high-speed train sets to travel between Washington, D.C., and Boston at maybe half again as fast as the current trains, so you can zip between the two cities—Washington, D.C., and New York—in, I don't know, 2 hours or less. They want—Amtrak—wants a waiver from the Buy America provisions, and I am saying: No way, period.

This is American taxpayer money that is going to be used. You are going to buy America, we are going to make those train sets in America, and we can do it. Yes, we can—sí se puede.

We can do it. We can build these things in America and create good middle class jobs in America, just like Siemens is doing in Sacramento when they are making 100 percent American-made locomotives in Sacramento.

This is an opportunity for us as we build our infrastructure, as we put together the surface transportation plan, as we take the Water Resources Reform and Development Act. Keep in mind and always keep in place the Buy America provisions, so that your tax money is used on American-made equipment and employing Americans making those things.

I am sure this is important up in your area, as well as it is in Sacramento, California, on the edge of my district, Mr. NOLAN. I know it is important to me, and I think it is important to Americans, that we use our tax money to buy American-made products that are employing Americans.

Mr. NOLAN. Well, indeed, it is. I represent Minnesota's Iron Range, the largest iron mines anywhere in the United States. We are dependent upon a good, strong market for U.S. steel and for Minnesota-made taconite and processed iron ore.

I was so delighted to join you and others recently in petitioning the U.S. Department of Commerce and the International Trade Commission to curtail the importation of cheap Korean steel.

The market for steel in America is very, very good. The problem is that American steel is only providing about 70 to 75 percent of it. Close to over 30 percent of it is being foreign steel that is brought in. Foreign steel that, by the way, is subsidized by the foreign governments.

Our steelworkers, iron mineworkers, can compete with anybody in the world, anybody in America, quite frankly, we can compete with anybody, but it has got to be fair trade. If they have government-subsidized, below market cheap steel coming in here, that is unfair trade.

Guess what, there is about a dozen steel mills left here in America, and there is about 50,000 workers here. If we don't find a way to curtail the importation of this cheap, subsidized steel, we are going to put all 12 of those steel companies out of business, we are going to put 50,000 steelworkers out of business and countless thousands of mining processors and workers in this country.

If we are talking about the middle class, we better start insisting on fair trade in this country, insisting—as you have so eloquently pointed out here—the significance and the importance of making it in America with U.S. steel when we are talking roads, bridges, railroads, pipelines, and all the rest.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Well, here it is, the San Francisco Bay Bridge built with Chinese steel. They built a brand-new, one of the most advanced steel mills, making one of the most advanced types of steel in China—3,000 Chinese jobs, zero American.

Then the Tappan Zee Bridge in New York, American steel—probably some of that iron ore from your district goes into making that steel.

Mr. NOLAN. Oh, it did, no doubt.

Mr. GARAMENDI. No doubt about it.

Mr. NOLAN. And do you know what, John, I found in international trade, when it comes to quality, American steel is considered to be the best quality.

Now, what is the importance of that? Well, it might be the difference between a bridge falling down or standing; it might mean the difference between a pipeline breaking and polluting a wetland versus not doing that.

There is an economic reason here, there is a reason for the middle class, there is a reason for our economy, there is a reason for safety, there is a reason for health, there is a reason for environment, there are so many good reasons to make it in America, JOHN.

Mr. GARAMENDI. You were just singing my song there. This Bay Bridge, why was it \$3.9 billion over? Because the steel was unsatisfactory. It was low quality, it had cracks in it, it didn't meet the requirements, they had to go back and redo the welds—many, many issues. You are absolutely correct about quality, as well as about the jobs in America.

We are going to make it in America. We have an opportunity here.

Can I take up one more issue?

Mr. NOLAN. Well, I am going to depart, but I really want to thank you for this session here and bringing it to the attention of our colleagues and people all across this country that care about America, care about good-paying middle class jobs, and want to see us do what we have got to do here to come together, fix this thing, and continue the great progress that America has enjoyed.

A big part of being an American is paying it forward, and now, it is time for us to step up and do what we have to do for the next generation.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. NOLAN, I thank you so very much. The folks in the northern Minnesota area are blessed to have you return after a 32-year hiatus. You came back with a fire in your belly, and you are ready to go.

Mr. NOLAN. Well, I am honored and thrilled and glad to be here.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Thank you so very much for joining us this evening.

I want to bring up just one more issue, and then we will call it a night. America is blessed with a lot of energy. We have seen a resurgence of American energy here in the United States. We have seen us go from an importing Nation—we can be an exporting Nation.

One of the things that the American gas industry wants to do is to export a strategic national asset, that is our natural gas. It has allowed us to have one of the lower energy prices in the world.

That has allowed for a resurgence of manufacturing in the United States. There are other factors. Clearly, the ability to have low-priced natural gas is one of the ingredients in the resurgence of American manufacturing.

Now, the gas industry wants to import a lot of gas so they can get two or three times more for the gas overseas. I want to be really careful here, I don't want to drive up the price of natural

gas, but if we are going to export this strategic national asset, then we ought to consider two other strategic issues for the United States.

One of them is the merchant marines. These are the American sailors and American ships. Our military is absolutely dependent on the merchant marines. We ship a lot of things through the air on the big C-5As and the C-17s, but it is a small percentage of what we need if we go to Iraq or any other part of the world with our military. The merchant marines have historically, from the very earliest days of this Nation, been one of the key strategic assets in the United States.

A third strategic asset is the U.S. Navy and the shipyards that build the naval ships. Those shipyards are absolutely critical. If we didn't have them, would we go to China to have them build our aircraft carriers and our submarines? I don't think so. The shipyards are a strategic asset, absolutely essential for American defense.

You have got these three things: the natural gas, a strategic asset; the merchant marines; and the shipbuilding.

Here is a key to American jobs, and that is, if we are ever to export natural gas, it will be done in liquefied natural gas. You take the natural gas, you compress it into a liquid, and you put it on an LNG—liquefied natural gas—ship. This is an example of one liquefied natural gas ship.

Sometime this year, a company—Cheniere—located in Texas will begin exporting LNG from a facility in Texas. They will need about 100 ships to export the full capacity of that LNG export facility. My sense of this is let us use that export of a strategic national asset to build and to grow the other two strategics.

We should require that any LNG shipped from the United States be shipped on American-made tankers with American crews, thereby lifting up the ability of our Nation to grow its economy and to maintain its strategic defense industries—shipbuilding and the merchant marines—at the same time we ship and export a strategic asset.

What does it mean? It means that the shipyards in America in the next two decades would be busy. American workers would be in those shipyards, they would be making the ships, so it would be the shipbuilders.

You can imagine what could happen in the ports around the United States—in Baltimore, in the south coast, along the gulf coast, and in California, San Diego, up in Washington, and even San Francisco—an opportunity to build our economy with, once again, infrastructure, a different kind of infrastructure, this is moving infrastructure, the great ships that will be all across the oceans of this Nation and in the harbors around the United States, American ships, American-built ships, American

sailors, exporting American liquefied natural gas.

Si se puede—yes, we can. We can make it in America. We can rebuild the American economy. We can focus on middle class economics with the infrastructure systems that we must build, the foundation for future economic growth, and the foundation for American jobs today.

Make it in America, build America, build our ports, our water systems, our highways, our bridges, our airports, our sanitation systems. Let us have the American Society of Civil Engineers come back with an A-plus rating when they look at our airports, an A-plus rating when they look at our rail lines, our transit lines, when they look at our transit systems, when they look at our waste disposal systems. We don't want to be a backwater.

This is America. We are the people that can build for the future. All it takes is the Senate and the House to pass a 6-year surface transportation bill and infrastructure bills that are fully funded, that provide the foundation for middle class jobs, middle class economics, putting Americans back to work, and building this Nation's future.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2015

REMEMBERING THE ALAMO

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GROTHMAN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it was in the cold, dark, damp, moldy walls of a beat-up old Spanish mission that was already 100 years old at the time. He was a 27-year-old lawyer from South Carolina and also from Alabama. He was the commander of 187 volunteers from 13 countries and most of the States in then the United States. His men were surrounded by several thousand of the enemy. It was the Alamo. It had been turned into a makeshift fort, and the commander was William Barret Travis.

Mr. Speaker, he wrote the following letter 179 years ago this very night, February 24, 1836. It is entitled Commander of the Alamo, February 24, 1836:

To all the people of Texas and all Americans in the world, fellow citizens and compatriots:

I am besieged by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna. I have sustained a continual bombardment and cannon fire for over 24 hours, but I have not lost a man. The enemy has demanded surrender at its discretion; otherwise, the fort will be put to the sword. I have answered that demand with a cannon shot, and the flag still waves proudly over the north wall. I shall never surrender or retreat.

I call upon you in the name of liberty and patriotism and everything dear to our character to come to my aid with all dispatch. The enemy is receiving reinforcements daily and will no doubt increase to 3 or 4,000 in 4 or 5 days.

If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself for as long as possible and die like a soldier that never forgets his honor and that of his country. Victory or death.

Signed, William Barret Travis, Commander of the Alamo.

Besides Travis, there were other famous people: Davy Crockett, Jim Bowie, Jim Bonham, and many others. Mr. Speaker, it is interesting that all of these people were volunteers. They came from most States, 13 foreign countries. They were black, they were brown, and they were white.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the names of the 187 volunteers who were at the Alamo and died on March 6, 1836.

?, John, Unknown, A Black Freedman, Unknown; Abamillo, Juan, Unknown, Garrison Member, Texas; Allen, James L., 21, Garrison Member, Kentucky; Andross, Miles DeForest, 27, Garrison Member, Vermont; Autry, Micajah, 43, Garrison Member, North Carolina; Badillo, Juan Antonio, Unknown, Garrison Member, Texas; Bailey, Peter James, 24, Garrison Member, Kentucky; Baker, Isaac G., 32, Garrison Member, Arkansas; Baker, William, Unknown, Garrison Member, Missouri; Ballentine, John J., Unknown, Garrison Member, Pennsylvania; Ballentine, Richard W., 22, Garrison Member, Scotland; Baugh, John J., 33, Captain, Virginia; Bayliss, Joseph, 28, Garrison Member, Tennessee; Blair, John, 33, Garrison Member, Tennessee; Blair, Samuel, 29, Captain, Tennessee; Blazeby, William, 41, Captain, England; Bonham, James, 29, Second Lieutenant, South Carolina; Bourne, Daniel, 26, Garrison Member, England; Bowie, James, 40, Colonel, Kentucky; Bowman, Jesse, 51, Garrison Member, Tennessee.

Brown, George, 35, Garrison Member, England; Brown, James Murry, 36, Garrison Member, Pennsylvania; Brown, Robert, 18, Garrison Member, Unknown; Buchanan, James, 23, Garrison Member, Unknown; Burns, Samuel E., 26, Garrison Member, Ireland; Butler, George D., 23, Garrison Member, Missouri; Cain, John, 34, Garrison Member, Pennsylvania; Campbell, Robert, 26, Lieutenant, Tennessee; Carey, William R., 30, Captain, Virginia; Clark, Charles Henry, Unknown, Garrison Member, Missouri; Clark, M. B., Unknown, Garrison Member, Mississippi; Cloud, Daniel William, 22, Garrison Member, Kentucky; Cochran, Robert E., 26, Garrison Member, New Hampshire; Cottle, George Washington, 25, Garrison Member, Tennessee; Courtman, Henry, 28, Garrison Member, Germany; Crawford, Lemuel, 22, Garrison Member, South Carolina; Crockett, David (Davy), 50, Colonel, Tennessee; Crossman, Robert, 26, Garrison Member, Pennsylvania; Cummings, David P., 27, Garrison Member, Pennsylvania; Cunningham, Robert W., 32, Private, New York.

Darst, Jacob C., 43, Garrison Member, Kentucky; Davis, John, 25, Garrison Member, Kentucky; Day, Freeman, 30, Garrison Member, Unknown; Day, Jerry C., 18, Garrison Member, Missouri; Daymon, Squire, 28, Garrison Member, Tennessee; Dearduff, William, Unknown, Garrison Member, Tennessee; Dennison, Stephen, 24, Garrison Member,

England or Ireland; Despallier, Charles, 24, Garrison Member, Louisiana; Dewart, Lewis, 24, Garrison Member, New York; Dickinson, Almaron, 36, Captain, Pennsylvania; Dillar, John Henry, 31, Garrison Member, Tennessee; Dimpkins, James R., Unknown, Sergeant, England; Duvalt, Andrew, 32, Garrison Member, Ireland; Espalier, Carlos, 17, Garrison Member, Texas; Esparza, Gregorio, 34, Garrison Member, Texas; Evans, Robert, 36, Garrison Member, Ireland; Evans, Samuel B., 24, Garrison Member, New York; Ewing, James L., 24, Garrison Member, Tennessee; Fautleroy, William H., 22, Garrison Member, Kentucky; Fishbaugh, William, Unknown, Garrison Member, Unknown.

Flanders, John, 36, Garrison Member, Massachusetts; Floyd, Dolphine Ward, 32, Garrison Member, North Carolina; Forsyth, John Hubbard, 38, Captain, New York; Fuentes, Antonio, 23, Garrison Member, Texas; Fuqua, Galba, 16, Garrison Member, Alabama; Garnett, William, 24, Garrison Member, Virginia; Garrard, James W., 23, Garrison Member, Louisiana; Garrett, James Girard, 30, Garrison Member, Tennessee; Garvin, John E., 27, Garrison Member, Unknown; Gaston, John E., 17, Garrison Member, Kentucky; George, James, 34, Garrison Member, Unknown; Goodrich, John C., 27, Garrison Member, Virginia; Grimes, Albert Calvin, 19, Orderly Sergeant, Georgia; Guerrero, José Maria, Unknown, Garrison Member, Texas; Gwynne, James C., 32, Garrison Member, England; Hannum, James, 21, Garrison Member, Pennsylvania; Harris, John, 23, Garrison Member, Kentucky; Harrison, Andrew Jackson, 27, Garrison Member, Tennessee; Harrison, William B., 25, Commanding Officer, Ohio; Haskell, Charles M., 23, Garrison Member, Tennessee.

Hawkins, Joseph M., 37, Garrison Member, Ireland; Hays, John M., 22, Garrison Member, Tennessee; Herndon, Patrick Henry, 32, Garrison Member, Virginia; Hersee, William Daniel, 31, Sergeant, England; Holland, Tapley, 26, Garrison Member, Ohio; Holloway, Samuel, 28, Garrison Member, Philadelphia; Howell, William D., 39, Garrison Member, Massachusetts; Jackson, Thomas, Unknown, Garrison Member, Ireland; Jackson, William Daniel, 29, Lieutenant, Ireland; Jameson, Green B., 27, Lieutenant, Kentucky or Tennessee; Jennings, Gordon C., 56, Corporal, Connecticut; Jiménez, Damacio, Unknown, Garrison Member, Unknown; Johnson, Lewis, 23, Private, Virginia; Johnson, William, Unknown, Garrison Member, Pennsylvania; Jones, John, 26, Lieutenant, New York; Kellogg, John Benjamin, 19, Lieutenant, Kentucky; Kenny, James, 22, Garrison Member, Virginia; Kent, Andrew, Unknown, Garrison Member, Kentucky; Kerr, Joseph, 22, Garrison Member, Louisiana; Kimbell, George C., 33, Lieutenant, Pennsylvania.

King, William Philip, 16, Garrison Member, Mississippi; Lewis, William Irvine, 30, Garrison Member, Virginia; Lightfoot, William John, 31, Third Corporal, Kentucky; Lindley, Jonathan, 22, Garrison Member, Illinois; Linn, William, Unknown, Garrison Member, Massachusetts; Losoya, José Toribio, 27, Private, Texas; Main, George Washington, 29, Second Lieutenant, Virginia; Malone, William T., 18, Garrison Member, Virginia or Alabama; Marshall, William, 28, Garrison Member, Tennessee; Martin, Albert, 28, Garrison Member, Rhode Island; McCafferty, Edward, Unknown, Lieutenant, Unknown; McCoy, Jesse, 32, Garrison Member, Tennessee; McDowell, William, 42, Garrison Member, Pennsylvania; McGee, James, Unknown, Garrison Member, Ireland; McGregor, John, Unknown, Second Sergeant,

Scotland; McKinney, Robert, 27, Garrison Member, Tennessee; Melton, Eliel, 38, Lieutenant, Georgia; Miller, Thomas Redd, 31, Garrison Member, Virginia; Mills, William, 20, Garrison Member, Tennessee; Millsaps, Isaac, 41, Private, Tennessee.

Mitchasson, Edward F., 30, Private, Virginia; Mitchell, Edwin T., 30, Private, Unknown; Mitchell, Napoleon B., 32, Private, Tennessee; Moore, Robert B., 30, Garrison Member, Virginia; Moore, Willis A., 28, Garrison Member, North Carolina; Musselman, Robert, 31, Sergeant, Ohio; Nava, Andrés, 26, Sergeant, Texas; Neggan, George, 28, Garrison Member, South Carolina; Nelson, Andrew M., 27, Garrison Member, Tennessee; Nelson, Edward, 20, Garrison Member, South Carolina; Nelson, George, 31, Garrison Member, South Carolina; Northcross, James, 32, Garrison Member, Virginia; Nowlan, James, 27, Garrison Member, England or Ireland; Pagan, George, 26, Garrison Member, Unknown; Parker, Christopher Adams, 22, Garrison Member, Unknown; Parks, William, 31, Garrison Member, North Carolina; Perry, Richardson, 19, Garrison Member, Texas or Mississippi; Pollard, Amos, 32, Garrison Member, Massachusetts; Reynolds, John Purdy, 29, Garrison Member, Pennsylvania; Roberts, Thomas H., Unknown, Garrison Member, Unknown.

Robertson, James Waters, 24, Garrison Member, Tennessee; Robinson, Isaac, 28, Fourth Sergeant, Scotland; Rose, James M., 31, Garrison Member, Ohio; Rusk, Jackson J., Unknown, Garrison Member, Ireland; Rutherford, Joseph, 38, Garrison Member, Kentucky; Ryan, Isaac, 31, Garrison Member, Louisiana; Scurlock, Mial, 26, Garrison Member, North Carolina; Sewell, Marcus L., 31, Garrison Member, England; Shied, Manson, 25, Garrison Member, Georgia; Simmons, Cleveland Kinloch, 20, Lieutenant, South Carolina; Smith, Andrew H., 21, Garrison Member, Tennessee; Smith, Charles S., 30, Garrison Member, Maryland; Smith, Joshua G., 28, Sergeant, North Carolina; Smith, William, 25, Garrison Member, Unknown; Starr, Richard, 25, Garrison Member, England; Stewart, James E., 28, Garrison Member, England; Stockton, Richard Lucius, 19, Garrison Member, New Jersey; Summerlin, A. Spain, 19, Garrison Member, Tennessee; Summers, William E., 24, Garrison Member, Tennessee; Sutherland, William DePriest, 17, Garrison Member, Unknown.

Taylor, Edward, 24, Garrison Member, Tennessee; Taylor, George, 20, Garrison Member, Tennessee; Taylor, James, 22, Garrison Member, Tennessee; Taylor, William, 37, Garrison Member, Tennessee; Thomas, B. Archer M., 18, Garrison Member, Kentucky; Thomas, Henry, 25, Garrison Member, Germany; Thompson, Jesse G., 38, Garrison Member, Arkansas; Thomson, John W., 29, Garrison Member, Virginia; Thurston, John M., 23, Second Lieutenant, Pennsylvania; Trammel, Burke, 26, Garrison Member, Ireland; Travis, William Barret, 26, Lieutenant Colonel, South Carolina; Tumlinson, George W., 22, Garrison Member, Missouri; Tylee, James, 41, Garrison Member, New York; Walker, Asa, 23, Garrison Member, Tennessee; Walker, Jacob, 36, Garrison Member, Tennessee; Ward, William B., Unknown, Sergeant, Ireland; Warnell, Henry, 24, Garrison Member, Unknown; Washington, Joseph G., 28, Garrison Member, Kentucky; Waters, Thomas, 24, Garrison Member, England; Wells, William, 47, Garrison Member, Georgia; White, Isaac, Unknown, Sergeant, Alabama or Kentucky.

White, Robert, 30, Captain, Unknown; Williamson, Hiram James, 26, Sergeant-Major, Pennsylvania; Wills, William, Unknown, Garrison Member, Unknown; Wilson,

David L., 29, Garrison Member, Scotland; Wilson, John, 32, Garrison Member, Pennsylvania; Wolf, Anthony, 54, Garrison Member, Spain; Wright, Claiborne, 26, Garrison Member, North Carolina; Zanco, Charles, 28, Garrison Member, Unknown.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this hardy band of frontiersmen and patriots, shopkeepers, lawyers were a frightful sight to see. They did not wear uniforms. They wore what they worked in. They entered the Alamo, and they stood there for 13 days, fought here at this place, and all died for Texas freedom.

They fought against a dictatorship, a dictator by the name of Santa Anna. He had abolished the Constitution of Mexico. Texas was a part of Mexico at the time. He had abolished the Constitution and set up a dictatorship. That is what started the Texas war of independence against Mexico.

You notice that the flag that is flying over the Alamo is the Mexican flag. The Mexican eagle has been removed, and it has the date 1824 on it. That is the date that the Republic of Mexico established a Constitution. The defenders of the Alamo were hoping to reestablish a democracy in Mexico, which Texas was a part of.

After the Alamo fell, after 13 days and all 187 of the Texans were killed, other Texans went ahead and rallied for Texas independence from Mexico. As I said, the defenders of the Alamo were from all races. Nine, maybe 11 were Tejanos. Tejano is a uniquely Texas name. Those are individuals of Mexican or Spanish descent that were born in Texas, thus the name Tejano.

The Alamo was important for a lot of reasons, but, one, it stopped Santa Anna's invasion of Texas. Texas was one of several states in Mexico that had rebelled against Santa Anna's dictatorship.

On this other chart here, there are numerous states in Mexico that were established, but several of those, including Texas, Coahuila y Tejas, Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon, Yucatan, all of them rebelled about the same time against Mexico, in 1835, 1836, because Santa Anna established a dictatorship and abolished the democracy.

None of these other states that rebelled were successful in creating independence except Texas. Santa Anna used his army and went through his own country, destroying and defeating any resistance to his dictatorship, and he had taken all of these states back, so to speak, when he invaded what is now the State of Texas. So he had well-seasoned troops when he came into the State of Texas in 1836.

It all started, really, in the year of 1835. In October of 1835, the Mexican Army had come upon a small town in Gonzales, Texas, and had demanded that the townspeople turn over to the Mexican Army a small cannon that they had to defend themselves from Indians in the area. The locals, the Texans, refused to turn over the cannon.

They, in fact, made a flag. They called it the Come and Take It flag, that had a white background and then painted in a cannon that said, "Come and Take It." That is the famous Come and Take It flag that was used, the first flag that was used in the Texas war of independence.

After a skirmish where several shots were fired by both sides—I don't think anybody was hurt very bad—the Mexican Army left, but most importantly they left without taking the arms, the cannon from the Texas people who lived in Gonzales. That was the spark that started the Texas war of independence and revolution.

There were several other skirmishes, and by February of 1836, Travis and his band of volunteers had found themselves in the Alamo to thwart the invasion of the larger army of Santa Anna that was coming from the south. Their defense of the Alamo for 13 days gave the rest of Texas time to build another army to eventually fight Santa Anna. That army was, of course, led by General Sam Houston at the time.

So they were in the Alamo for many reasons, but the primary reason was to fight for liberty for Texas and Texas independence. When Travis realized that he wasn't getting any aid except for a small band of individuals from Gonzales, Texas, that came and volunteered when Travis sent out that first letter, he penned this letter on March 3, 1836. Travis addressed his last letter to the Council at Washington-on-the-Brazos that was not far from the Alamo or San Antonio, Bexar—what it was called at that time—in hopes that they would understand his plight.

His battered walls, according to T. R. Fehrenbach, the noted Texas historian, were still show defenses, still flew the flag. His men were on duty and in combat that day and every day and night. They were exhausted. Travis expected no rescue, and he wrote, according to Fehrenbach, apparently to stir his countrymen into action that the country might be saved. He was speaking of Texas.

Here is what he said in that last letter:

I shall have to fight the enemy on its own terms. I will do the best I can. The victory will cost the enemy so dear that it will be worse for him than defeat. I hope your honorable body will hasten reinforcements. Our supply of ammunition is limited. God and Texas. Victory or death.

William Barret Travis.

Then on March 6, 1836, a few days later, they were all killed in the Alamo, even though they inflicted tremendous losses against the invasion by Santa Anna. But Travis was right, victory would cost the enemy more than defeat. It did give Sam Houston and other Texas volunteers enough time to assemble another army. Not a large army, it was only 600 individuals.

Santa Anna, still with a larger force, met Sam Houston and his 600 volun-

teers, which once again included men from several countries, included men from several States, and had numerous Tejanos involved fighting from the side of the Republic of Texas, including Juan Seguin, Captain Seguin and his volunteers, his cavalry that was there.

It is interesting to note that before the battle took place on April 21, 1836, on the plains of San Jacinto—you have never heard of that, Mr. Speaker, but it is near what is now Houston, Texas, down on the gulf coast, in the marsh area—Juan Seguin made sure that he had all of his Tejanos, the cavalry, put playing cards in the hatbands of their hats so that they wouldn't be mistaken for the enemy. In those days, apparently, the playing cards that were used to gamble were much larger than the small ones we have. So they placed these playing cards in their hatbands so they could be recognized as fighting on the side of the Texas volunteers because, once again, they didn't wear uniforms.

The battle that took place that Travis was able to delay the army of Santa Anna in reaching this battle was an interesting military feat. Most battles take place, have taken place throughout history, in the early hours of the day. At sunrise, two armies get together and fight it out. They have done that for thousands of years. Even still today in World War II, Vietnam, battles were fought at dawn.

□ 2030

This battle—the Battle of San Jacinto—did not take place at dawn; it took place in the middle of the afternoon on April 21 because Santa Anna and his army were taking a siesta in the middle of the day. They didn't expect the battle until the next morning.

Sam Houston and his other commanders didn't want to wait until the next day—the troops were getting restless, as they say—so they decided to have that battle in the afternoon. They lined up in a single column across the high ground and marched in broad daylight.

Santa Anna had not put out pickets, so he had no one to warn him that the Texans were charging. They came down the hill, and the battle began.

In 18 minutes, Mr. Speaker, it was all over. Santa Anna had been completely defeated. More of the enemy were killed than were in the Texas Army. The rest were captured. Only a handful—13 Texans—were killed, and the battle lasted 18 minutes. Santa Anna was captured. He was pretending to change clothes, and he put on the uniform of a Mexican private. He was captured and held.

Travis enters the Alamo on February 23, 1836, and writes this famous letter. He and the defenders were killed on March 6. In between that, on March 2, 1836, Texas had declared independence. Then, just a few weeks later, on April

21, about 200 miles or so from the Alamo, the Battle of San Jacinto took place. Sam Houston won that battle, and Texas became a free and independent country.

We have this map here, Mr. Speaker. You may not have seen something like this. This is what Texas claimed when Texas became an independent country—what is now modern-day Texas—and you see that here on this map; but it also had claimed parts of Oklahoma, Kansas, New Mexico, Colorado, and parts of Wyoming. Texas claimed all of this area when Texas became the Republic of Texas.

Sam Houston was the first President of the Republic of Texas. Texas was an independent country for 9 years, and then it decided to request to join the United States. Even how Texas joined the United States was an interesting phenomena.

Not all of the States wanted Texas to become a part of the United States. Finally, after several tries and failures to become a State in the United States, on a joint resolution—not a treaty—Texas became a State in the United States by one vote when, apparently, a Louisiana Senator changed his mind and voted to annex Texas and make it the next State in the United States.

That took place in 1845. Ever since then, Texas gave up its sovereignty as a republic and became a State. Some say that we still act like we are a foreign country, a sovereign country.

Under Texas law that allowed it to become a part of the U.S., the Texas flag always is supposed to fly level with the American flag, since we were a republic. Texas can divide into five states. I don't ever see that happening, but Texans can make that decision and split the State up to make it five different states.

We have a unique history, as all of America has a unique history, and it goes back to the fact that Texans did not want to live under a dictatorship no matter who it was.

That is why people of all races were at the Alamo. All races fought for Texas independence, for freedom, and for liberty—very similar to the actions that took place with the Thirteen Colonies in how they were being oppressed by Great Britain.

Nobody ever thought they could whip Great Britain—the most powerful empire that had ever existed at the time—and very few people thought that Texas could defeat Mexico. After all, Santa Anna had defeated all of these other parts of Mexico that were in rebellion. He had not lost any battles when he came and invaded Texas.

People were surprised that Texas could defeat them, but it did because some things are worth fighting for and giving their lives for. That is why those 187 individuals from all walks of life, from different parts of the world—Brown, Black, and White—stood to-

gether as volunteers to defend the Alamo and help freedom ring in a part of the world that we call Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I think you are probably old enough to have heard of Marty Robbins. Maybe you haven't. Marty Robbins, years ago, the singer, wrote a ballad in honor of the people who stayed and defied tyranny and gave their lives fighting for freedom, for Texas.

It goes like this:

In the southern part of Texas in the town of San Antone,

There's a fortress all in ruin, and the weeds have overgrown.

You may look in vain for crosses, and you'll never see a one, but sometime between the setting and the rising of the Sun,

You can hear a ghostly bugle as men go marching by;

You can hear them as they answer to that roll call in the sky:

Colonel Travis, Davy Crockett, and 180 more; Captain Dickinson, Jim Bowie stand present and accounted for.

Back in 1836, Sam Houston said to Travis, "Get some volunteers, and go and fortify the Alamo."

Well, the men came from Texas and from old Tennessee and a lot of other places.

They joined up with Travis just to fight for the right to be free.

Indian scouts with squirrel guns and men with muzzle loaders,

Stood together, heel and toe, to defend the Alamo.

"You may never see your loved ones," Travis told them that day.

"Those who want to can leave now. Those who fight to the death, let 'em stay."

So, in the sand, he drew a line with his army sabre;

Out of 185, not a soldier crossed the line.

With his banners a-dancin' in the dawn's golden light,

Santa Anna came prancin' on a horse that was black as the night.

He sent an officer to tell Travis to surrender. Travis answered with a shell and a rousin' yell.

Santa Anna said, "I will show them no quarter. Everyone will be put to our sword."

185 holding back 5,000.

5 days, 6 days, 8 days, 10 days, Travis kept holding again and again.

Then Travis sent for replacements for his wounded and lame,

But the troops that were comin' never came, never came.

So twice Santa Anna charged and then blew recall,

But on that fatal third time, Santa Anna breached the wall, and he killed them one and all.

Now the bugles are silent, and there is rust on each sword,

And the small band of soldiers lies asleep in the arms of the Lord.

In the southern part of Texas, near the town of San Antone,

Like a statue on his pinto rides a cowboy all alone.

He sees the cattle grazin' where a century before,

Santa Anna's guns were blazin' and the cannons used to roar.

His eyes turn a little misty, and his heart begins to glow,

And he takes his hat off slowly to those men of the Alamo,

To the 13 days of glory at the siege of the Alamo.

And that is just the way it is.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

AUTUMN GADOUA

(Mr. YOUNG of Iowa asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a very special seventh-grader from Hamburg, Iowa, in Fremont County, located in the Third Congressional District, which I represent.

Autumn Gadoua is the statewide winner in the Iowa League of Cities' Fifth Annual "If I Were Mayor" contest. This annual essay contest allows students to form and express ideas regarding citizenship and leadership. Autumn and the other district winners are being recognized at a ceremony at the Iowa State Capitol building in Des Moines.

In her essay, Autumn wrote that, if she were mayor of her hometown, she would pursue policies that would preserve the town's history and the historical brick buildings for current and new businesses. She notes that this policy would connect the past to the present and would promote growth for the future.

Mayor Gadoua would also work for opportunities to help businesses thrive, bring new businesses and families to the town, promote green solutions, recycling, and support police officers and firefighters to keep them and the citizens of the community safe.

Autumn concluded her essay by saying:

I would visit the school in my community to teach children the responsibilities of a mayor and give examples of good citizenship. To help children grow and learn, I would establish an afterschool youth club. Being mayor is a big responsibility but one that is rewarding and important to me.

I applaud and congratulate Autumn for her award-winning essay and for proving that the next generation of leaders in Iowa and this Nation is already preparing for its time of service.

I am proud to represent Autumn and her family and her teachers and fellow students in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues join me in congratulating Autumn Gadoua and in wishing her continued success in the future.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. HINOJOSA (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today to March 6.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, February 25, 2015, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

515. A letter from the Under Secretary, Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report to Congress on Fiscal Year 2016 Staff Years of Technical Effort and Estimated Funding for Department of Defense Federally Funded Research and Development Centers, pursuant to Public Law 113-235, Div. C section 8024(e); to the Committee on Armed Services.

516. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report on the Transition of the Stewardship of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) Functions through January 31, 2015, pursuant to Public Law 113-235; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

517. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's Direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Illinois; VOM Definition [EPA-R05-OAR-2014-0504; FRL-9921-44-Region 5] received February 18, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

518. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Attainment Redesignation for Missouri Portion of the St. Louis MO-IL Area; 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standard and Associated Maintenance Plan [EPA-R07-OAR-2014-0900; FRL-9923-14-Region 7] received February 18, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

519. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's Direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Emissions Inventories for the Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston-Galveston-Brazoria Ozone Non-attainment Areas [EPA-R06-OAR-2014-0554; FRL-9923-19-Region 6] received February 18, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

520. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's Direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Revision to Control of Air Pollution from Volatile Organic Compounds; Alternative Leak Detection and Repair Work Practice [EPA-R06-OAR-2010-0611; FRL-9923-24-Region 6] received February 18, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

521. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's

final rule — *Bacillus subtilis* strain IAB/BS03; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0574; FRL-9920-62] received February 18, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

522. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Dimethenamid; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0670; FRL-9922-08] received February 18, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

523. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Fomesafen; Pesticide Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0589; FRL-9922-82] received February 18, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

524. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's Direct final rule — New Source Performance Standards and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Delegation of Authority to Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Air Quality Control Board [EPA-R06-OAR-2007-1205; FRL-9923-05-Region 6] received February 18, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

525. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the Air Emissions Reporting Requirements: Revisions to Lead (Pb) Reporting Threshold and Clarifications to Technical Reporting Details [EPA-HQ-OAR-2004-0489; FRL-9922-27-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AR29) received February 18, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

526. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Temporary Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0457; FRL-9922-53] received February 18, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

527. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Foreign Trade Regulations (FTR): Clarification on Uses of Electronic Export Information [Docket No.: 140626542-4999-02] (RIN: 0607-AA52) received February 18, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

528. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning international agreements other than treaties, entered into by the United States, to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

529. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and section 505(c) of the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1985, 22 U.S.C. 2349aa-9(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

530. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the national emergency with respect to Libya, that was declared in Executive Order 13566 of February 25, 2011, is to continue in effect beyond February 25, 2015, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); (H. Doc. No. 114—11); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

531. A letter from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting two reports pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

532. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Inseason Adjustment to the 2015 Gulf of Alaska Pollock and Pacific Cod Total Allowable Catch Amounts [Docket No.: 130925836-4174-02] (RIN: 0648-XD688) received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

533. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Southeast Region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Framework Action To Modify the Commercial Annual Catch Limit/Annual Catch Target Regulations for Three Individual Fishing Quota Species Complexes [Docket No.: 140828724-4992-02] (RIN: 0648-BE23) received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

534. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer [Docket No.: 121009528-2729-02] (RIN: 0648-XD656) received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

535. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Highly Migratory Species, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Transshipment, Port Inspection, and Vessel Identification [Docket No.: 140324263-4990-02] (RIN: 0648-BE12) received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

536. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Department's notice — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; 2015 Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Specifications and 2015 Commercial Summer Flounder Quota Adjustments [Docket No.: 140117052-4402-02] (RIN: 0648-XD651) received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON
PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 212. A bill to amend the Safe

Drinking Water Act to provide for the assessment and management of the risk of cyanotoxins in drinking water, and for other purposes, with amendments (Rept. 114-26). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 734. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to consolidate the reporting obligations of the Federal Communications Commission in order to improve congressional oversight and reduce reporting burdens (Rept. 114-27). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WOODALL: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 121. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 529) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve 529 plans; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5) to support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes; and for other purposes (Rept. 114-28). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. BRADY of Texas (for himself, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. NEAL, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. PASCARELL, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. NUNES, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. REED, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. HOLDING, and Mr. CARNEY):

H.R. 1021. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the integrity of the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WALKER (for himself and Mr. MCCAUL):

H.R. 1022. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the use of Urban Area Security Initiative and State Homeland Security Grant Program funding to counter violent extremism; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. CHABOT (for himself, Mr. BOST, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mr. HANNA, Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. CICILLINE, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California):

H.R. 1023. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to provide for increased limitations on leverage for multiple licenses under common control; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. DELANEY, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. HOYER, Mr. LYNCH, and Ms. EDWARDS):

H.R. 1024. A bill to provide for the compensation of furloughed Department of Homeland Security employees in the event of a lapse in Department of Homeland Security appropriations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. McDERMOTT (for himself, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, and Ms. JACKSON LEE):

H.R. 1025. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to modify the exception to the work requirement; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. BOUSTANY):

H.R. 1026. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the release of information regarding the status of certain investigations; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. BEYER, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. WELCH, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HONDA, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. LEE, and Mr. DESAULNIER):

H.R. 1027. A bill to cap the emissions of greenhouse gases through a requirement to purchase carbon permits, to distribute the proceeds of such purchases to eligible individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PEARCE (for himself and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska):

H.R. 1028. A bill to provide for the implementation of the negotiated property division regarding Former Fort Wingate Depot Activity in McKinley County, New Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LUCAS (for himself, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. STEWART, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BABIN, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. CRAWFORD):

H.R. 1029. A bill to amend the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 to provide for Scientific Advisory Board member qualifications, public participation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. SMITH of Texas (for himself, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BABIN, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. HARRIS, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. PEARCE, and Mr. CRAWFORD):

H.R. 1030. A bill to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from proposing, finalizing, or disseminating regulations or assessments based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California (for herself, Mr. HECK of Washington, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. HOYER):

H.R. 1031. A bill to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ASHFORD (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Ms. GRAHAM, and Mr. BERA):

H.R. 1032. A bill to withhold the pay of Members of Congress in the event of a shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mrs. BEATTY (for herself, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. NORTON, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. STIVERS, Ms. FUDGE, and Mr. JOYCE):

H.R. 1033. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the John P. Parker House in Ripley, Ohio, as a unit of the National Park System; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BROOKS of Alabama (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. JONES, Mr. RIBBLE, and Mr. ZINKE):

H.R. 1034. A bill to provide for an accounting of total United States contributions to the United Nations; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. CAPPS (for herself and Mr. MEEHAN):

H.R. 1035. A bill to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to create a presumption that a disability or death of a Federal employee in fire protection activities caused by any of certain diseases is the result of the performance of such employee's duty; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CAPUANO:

H.R. 1036. A bill to provide for the repayment of amounts borrowed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac from the Treasury of the United States, together with interest, over a 30-year period, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself and Mr. RIGELL):

H.R. 1037. A bill to require all Members, officers, and employees of the House of Representatives to complete annual ethics training, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 1038. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to retain a copy of any reprimand or admonishment received by an employee of the Department in the permanent record of the employee; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HASTINGS (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. SERRANO):

H.R. 1039. A bill to provide for the establishment of a global affairs strategy and assistance for people of African descent, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 1040. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide taxpayers a flat tax alternative to the current income tax system; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JONES:

H.R. 1041. A bill to make payments by the Department of Homeland Security to a State

contingent on a State providing the Federal Bureau of Investigation with certain statistics, to require Federal agencies, departments, and courts to provide such statistics to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and to require the Federal Bureau of Investigation to publish such statistics; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 1042. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve 21st Century Community Learning Centers; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. KIND (for himself, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. WALZ, and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York):

H.R. 1043. A bill to establish the Railroad Emergency Services Preparedness, Operational Needs, and Safety Evaluation (RESPONSE) Subcommittee under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Advisory Council to provide recommendations on emergency responder training and resources relating to hazardous materials incidents involving railroads, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MULVANEY:

H.R. 1044. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to modify the application of certain provisions regarding the inclusion of entire metropolitan statistical areas within non-attainment areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 1045. A bill to assign the responsibility for conducting prosecutions for violations of the laws of the District of Columbia to the head of a local prosecutor's office designated under local law of the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. NORTON (for himself, Mr. BEYER, and Mr. CONNOLLY):

H.R. 1046. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the rule providing parity for the exclusion from income for employer-provided mass transit and parking benefits; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. MCNERNEY):

H.R. 1047. A bill to authorize private non-profit organizations to administer permanent housing rental assistance provided through the Continuum of Care Program under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. RENACCI (for himself and Mr. HIMES):

H.R. 1048. A bill to clarify that funding for the standard setting body designated pursuant to section 19(b) of the Securities Act of 1933 is not subject to the sequester; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. RENACCI (for himself and Mr. HIMES):

H.R. 1049. A bill to clarify that funding for the Securities Investor Protection Corporation is not subject to the sequester; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. RENACCI (for himself and Mr. HIMES):

H.R. 1050. A bill to clarify that funding for the Public Company Accounting Oversight

Board is not subject to the sequester; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California (for herself, Mr. ROHRBACHER, and Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California):

H.R. 1051. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to designate John Wayne Airport in Orange County, California, as a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) port of entry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCHRADER (for himself, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. DEFazio):

H.R. 1052. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the Molalla River in the State of Oregon as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SIREs:

H.R. 1053. A bill to establish a regulatory framework for the comprehensive protection of personal data for individuals under the aegis of the Federal Trade Commission, to amend the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 to improve provisions relating to collection, use, and disclosure of personal information of children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. YOHO (for himself, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. MULVANEY, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. BABIN, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Ms. GRAHAM, Mr. RIBBLE, and Mr. JONES):

H.R. 1054. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to extend the basis for the denial of retirement credit, for service as a Member of Congress, to include conviction of any felony under Federal or State law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CONAWAY (for himself, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. DENT, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. LONG, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. HURT of Virginia, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. TURNER, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. SALMON, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. ROSS, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. LANCE, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. COOK, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. KLINE, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. BARTON, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. YODER, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MESSER, Mr. KIND, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KEATING, Mr. FLORES, Ms. WIL-

SON of Florida, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. ROSKAM, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mrs. HARTZLER, Ms. FOOX, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. COLE, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. WALDEN, and Mr. MULLIN):

H. Con. Res. 17. Concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia (for himself, Ms. ESTY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. MOORE, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. RUSH, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. MENG, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. ADAMS, and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York):

H. Con. Res. 18. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States Postal Service should issue a commemorative postage stamp honoring civil rights workers Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner, and the "Freedom Summer" of 1964, and that the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee should recommend to the Postmaster General that such a stamp be issued; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. BASS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas):

H. Res. 120. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the designation of January 1, 2015, to December 31, 2024, as the "International Decade for People of African Descent"; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H. Res. 122. A resolution providing assistance to Ukraine for fulfillment of the economic, social, and government reform requirements necessary for membership eligibility to the European Union, in keeping with the will of a majority of the people of Ukraine and their Government; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. HASTINGS (for himself, Mr. TAKAI, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. KILMER, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. WELCH, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. MOORE, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. HONDA, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. LEVIN,

Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. YARMUTH, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida):

H. Res. 123. A resolution expressing support for designation of August 6 as National Voting Rights Day; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

Memorial number 7 was skipped in error.

8. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Ohio, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 54, urging the Congress to continue the full funding and production of the F-35; to the Committee on Armed Services.

9. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Ohio, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 54, urging the Congress to continue the full funding and production of the F-35; to the Committee on Armed Services.

10. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Ohio, relative to House Resolution No. 283, urging the Congress and the Department of Defense to protect and uphold the religious and free speech rights of military service members; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. BRADY of Texas:

H.R. 1021.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. WALKER:

H.R. 1022.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8, Clause 1; Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 1023.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 1024.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power)

By Mr. McDERMOTT:

H.R. 1025.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 1026.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN:

H.R. 1027.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

"This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution."

By Mr. PEARCE:

H.R. 1028.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the power to enact this law.

By Mr. LUCAS:

H.R. 1029.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3:

The Congress shall have power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with Indian tribes.

and

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

The Congress shall have power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Power vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Officer thereof.

By Mr. SMITH of Texas:

H.R. 1030.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3:

The Congress shall have power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with Indian tribes.

and

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

The Congress shall have power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Power vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Officer thereof.

By Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California:

H.R. 1031.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. ASHFORD:

H.R. 1032.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 6 of the Constitution of the United States of America

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 1033.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BROOKS of Alabama:

H.R. 1034.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes; and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have power to

make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 1035.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CAPUANO:

H.R. 1036.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 1 (relating to the general welfare of the United States); and Article I, section 8, clause 3 (relating to the power to regulate interstate commerce).

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 1037.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 1038.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HASTINGS:

H.R. 1039.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. Art. I, §8

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 1040.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The attached bill falls within Congress' constitutionally enumerated power to enact legislation pertaining to an income tax pursuant to Article I, Section VIII, "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect Taxes."

Moreover, Congress was given the authority to tax income at the federal level pursuant to Amendment XVI, "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several states, and without regard to any census or enumeration."

By Mr. JONES:

H.R. 1041.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article 4, section 4 of the United States Constitution: The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened) against domestic violence.

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 1042.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution Article I, Section 8

By Mr. KIND:

H.R. 1043.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8.

By Mr. MULVANEY:

H.R. 1044.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. "The Congress shall have Power To . . . provide for

the . . . general Welfare of the United States. . . .”

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3. “To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.”

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18. “To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.”

Because the federal government has extended Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (the Commerce Clause) beyond its intended boundaries, it follows that efforts to rein in excessive federal government encroachment in this area can be justified by Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 and the other relevant constitutional authorities.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 1045.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 17 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 1046.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 1047.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. RENACCI:

H.R. 1048.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

Article 1, Section 9, Clause 7: No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

By Mr. RENACCI:

H.R. 1049.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

Article 1, Section 9, Clause 7: No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

By Mr. RENACCI:

H.R. 1050.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

Article 1, Section 9, Clause 7: No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

By Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California:

H.R. 1051.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4.

By Mr. SCHRADER:

H.R. 1052.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the authority to act under Article I, §8, clause 3—the Commerce Clause.

By Mr. SIRE:

H.R. 1053.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statement is submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. YOHO:

H.R. 1054.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 6 of the Constitution, which states that “The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States.”

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 24: Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 132: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 160: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 167: Mr. WOMACK.

H.R. 169: Mr. GUTHRIE.

H.R. 178: Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 187: Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 197: Mr. ASHFORD and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 204: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina and Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 209: Mr. DEFAZIO.

H.R. 231: Mr. ROSS, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, and Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.

H.R. 232: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 235: Mr. FOSTER, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. NUNES, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. LATTI, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. LANCE, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. FLORES, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Ms. GRAHAM, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. SCHRADER, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. POLIS, Mr. POMPEO, and Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 266: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 270: Mr. WHITFIELD.

H.R. 284: Mr. BLUM, Mr. RUSH, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. LEWIS.

H.R. 288: Mr. CONNOLLY and Mr. O’ROURKE.

H.R. 290: Ms. JENKINS of Kansas.

H.R. 292: Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. COHEN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LANCE, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 297: Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. TONKO, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. MOORE, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. LEE.

H.R. 314: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 333: Mr. CRAMER, Mr. TURNER, Ms. GRAHAM, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 344: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.

H.R. 358: Mr. COLE, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 402: Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. TURNER, Mr. HURT of Virginia, and Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 411: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 427: Mr. HILL.

H.R. 448: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 452: Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. COLLINS of New York.

H.R. 456: Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, and Mrs. COMSTOCK.

H.R. 461: Mr. GIBBS, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Ms. GRANGER.

H.R. 486: Ms. JENKINS of Kansas.

H.R. 495: Mr. TED LIEU of California.

H.R. 509: Ms. JUDY CHU of California and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 512: Mr. TED LIEU of California and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 523: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 540: Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 556: Mr. GUTHRIE.

H.R. 565: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 572: Mr. LATTI and Mr. NEWHOUSE.

H.R. 577: Mr. THORNBERRY, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. SIMPSON.

H.R. 578: Mr. MILLER of Florida and Mr. HARDY.

H.R. 581: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. HANNA.

H.R. 590: Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. ISRAEL, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 592: Mr. FORBES, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. FUDGE, and Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 600: Mr. DEFAZIO and Mr. HANNA.

H.R. 602: Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. Buchanan, Ms. BROWN of Florida, and Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 604: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.

H.R. 607: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 608: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 612: Mr. BRIDENSTINE and Mr. CARTER of Texas.

H.R. 613: Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 622: Mr. EMMER of Minnesota.

H.R. 624: Mr. LEWIS.

H.R. 638: Mr. BLUM, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. RIBBLE, and Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.

H.R. 648: Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 650: Mr. LUCAS, Mr. SALMON, Mr. HARPER, Mr. PALAZZO, and Mr. MULVANEY.

H.R. 653: Ms. NORTON and Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 658: Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. GABBARD, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. COHEN, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 662: Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.

H.R. 663: Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. HASTINGS, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 664: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 667: Mr. MASSIE, Ms. BORDALLO, and Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 684: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.

H.R. 685: Mr. PAULSEN and Mr. ROTHFUS.

H.R. 699: Mr. DOGGETT and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

- H.R. 711: Mr. STIVERS, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mr. MARCHANT.
- H.R. 712: Mr. HUELSKAMP.
- H.R. 717: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN and Mr. TED LIEU of California.
- H.R. 718: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
- H.R. 721: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Mr. MARINO.
- H.R. 722: Mr. HURT of Virginia.
- H.R. 742: Mr. O'ROURKE.
- H.R. 746: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. GABBARD, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. HONDA.
- H.R. 752: Mr. TAKANO and Ms. DUCKWORTH.
- H.R. 757: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
- H.R. 767: Mr. FARENTHOLD.
- H.R. 768: Mr. BEYER and Ms. WILSON of Florida.
- H.R. 775: Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. POCAN, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.
- H.R. 776: Ms. JENKINS of Kansas and Mr. NUNES.
- H.R. 784: Ms. ESHOO.
- H.R. 793: Mr. FORBES, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. COLLINS of Georgia.
- H.R. 800: Mr. CICILLINE.
- H.R. 814: Mr. BOST, Mr. MESSER, and Mr. NUGENT.
- H.R. 815: Ms. GRANGER, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. HARPER, and Mr. ROE of Tennessee.
- H.R. 816: Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. HURT of Virginia, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. FORBES, and Mr. BRIDENSTINE.
- H.R. 818: Mr. ROYCE and Ms. DUCKWORTH.
- H.R. 823: Ms. MENG, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. HONDA.
- H.R. 825: Mr. STIVERS, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. COOK, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. BABIN, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
- H.R. 835: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 836: Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, and Mr. WITTMAN.
- H.R. 845: Mr. ZINKE and Mr. SIMPSON.
- H.R. 846: Ms. FUDGE, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. BERA, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. HAHN, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. LEE, Mr. VELA, Ms. LOFGREN, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
- H.R. 855: Mr. TURNER and Mr. HIGGINS.
- H.R. 863: Mr. COLLINS of New York and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
- H.R. 864: Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. LEE, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. RANGEL.
- H.R. 868: Mr. MASSIE, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. JONES, Ms. ESTY, Mr. RIBBLE, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Ms. BORDALLO.
- H.R. 876: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. RANGEL.
- H.R. 880: Mrs. COMSTOCK.
- H.R. 881: Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. HUELSKAMP, and Mr. OLSON.
- H.R. 882: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.
- H.R. 894: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 900: Mrs. LOVE.
- H.R. 902: Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
- H.R. 905: Mr. COLLINS of New York.
- H.R. 911: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. HONDA.
- H.R. 913: Ms. LEE, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. RUSH, Mr. TAKANO, and Ms. BORDALLO.
- H.R. 915: Ms. DEGETTE.
- H.R. 920: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.
- H.R. 921: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.
- H.R. 923: Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. MESSER, Mr. ZINKE, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
- H.R. 927: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. LEE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Ms. KUSTER.
- H.R. 928: Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. WENSTRUP, and Ms. JENKINS of Kansas.
- H.R. 931: Mr. ELLISON and Mr. GRIJALVA.
- H.R. 932: Mr. BEYER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. CONYERS.
- H.R. 938: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
- H.R. 954: Mr. FORTENBERRY.
- H.R. 961: Mr. SCHOCK.
- H.R. 969: Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. KATKO, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. MESSER, Mr. KIND, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. HARPER, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
- H.R. 976: Mr. FLEMING.
- H.R. 977: Mr. LONG, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. TIBERI, Ms. MOORE, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
- H.R. 978: Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. PETERS, Ms. FOXX, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. COLLINS of New York.
- H.R. 982: Mr. CLAY and Mr. ELLISON.
- H.R. 985: Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina.
- H.R. 993: Mr. RIBBLE and Mr. SCHIFF.
- H.R. 997: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. SALMON, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, and Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.
- H.R. 1002: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. GIBSON, and Mr. ROSKAM.
- H.R. 1020: Mr. MCKINLEY and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.
- H.J. Res. 9: Mr. SIMPSON.
- H.J. Res. 22: Mr. THOMPSON of California and Mr. SWALWELL of California.
- H.J. Res. 29: Mrs. COMSTOCK.
- H.J. Res. 32: Mr. FORBES.
- H. Res. 12: Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. ROYCE, Ms. HAHN, Mr. BERA, and Mr. NORCROSS.
- H. Res. 17: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.
- H. Res. 28: Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, and Mr. HANNA.
- H. Res. 54: Mr. VEASEY, Mr. KEATING, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. DELBENE, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. PIERLUISI, and Ms. HAHN.
- H. Res. 56: Mr. CLAWSON of Florida and Mr. PIERLUISI.
- H. Res. 66: Ms. ESTY.
- H. Res. 67: Ms. JUDY CHU of California and Mr. KILMER.
- H. Res. 89: Ms. GABBARD, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. RANGEL.
- H. Res. 94: Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. HAHN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. SPEIER, and Mr. TAKAI.
- H. Res. 108: Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. GIBSON, and Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina.
- H. Res. 109: Mr. HONDA, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mr. MCKINLEY.
- H. Res. 112: Mr. HANNA and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.
- H. Res. 114: Ms. MOORE.
- H. Res. 115: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
- H. Res. 116: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
- H. Res. 117: Mr. DUFFY, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

SENATE—Tuesday, February 24, 2015

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Reverend Randy Cash, the American Legion's national chaplain, from Lincolnton, NC, will lead the Senate in prayer.

The guest chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty and Everlasting God, in whose Name we trust and pray, it is fitting to pause, if but momentarily, to recognize You, the One in whom does finally reside all authority and power and by whose grace we are allowed to exercise that which You have committed to us. Accept our homage, O Lord, and hear us when we pray for wisdom to lead with integrity, compassion, and vision.

We are mindful that around the world today our soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coastguardsmen are standing watch to safeguard our peace and liberty. Grant to all who serve, and their families, Your blessings. Accept, O Lord, these prayers and may we perceive and know what things to do, and receive grace and power to fulfill what is expected of us. We commit our best efforts and our Nation to Your keeping. Amen.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Thank you, Reverend Cash. We are grateful to have you here, and for your service.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The Senator from North Carolina.

WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I want to take 60 seconds before the two leaders speak to welcome a North Carolinian, Randy Cash, who was appointed the national chaplain of the American Legion on August 28, 2014, at their annual convention in Charlotte, which I attended, as well as the President.

Randy is a native of North Carolina. He spent part of his life in Myrtle Beach, SC, but he attended a number of schools throughout the region. He was

commissioned as a Navy chaplain in 1980 and he entered Active Service in 1983. He was assigned to Destroyer Squadron Six out of Charleston, SC. His next tour was staff chaplain, Naval Education and Training Center in Newport, RI, and his life continued from spot to spot.

Randy has served as chaplain during Desert Shield, Desert Storm, while he was stationed at Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach. He also had a turn at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, which we all talk about today, and was transferred to the 2nd Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, NC, where he served as regimental chaplain.

Let me say this is a decorated chaplain. Randy Cash retired from Active Duty in 2009. His military awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, two awards, and the Bronze Star. He is a man of conviction, he is a tremendous North Carolinian, and over the next year he will serve as the national chaplain of the American Legion in a most effective way.

Reverend Cash, we are delighted to have you here.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 534 AND S. 535

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

The clerk will report the bills by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 534) to prohibit funds from being used to carry out certain Executive actions related to immigration and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 535) to promote energy efficiency.

Mr. MCCONNELL. In order to place these bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to H.R. 240.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 5, H.R. 240, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

KEYSTONE BILL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Congress is sending the President of the United States another piece of bipartisan legislation today. Americans of both parties are calling on him to sign it. There is no good reason not to. The Keystone jobs bill is just common sense. Construction of this important infrastructure project would support thousands of American jobs. It would pump billions into our economy and the President's own State Department told us this could be achieved with minimal—minimal—environmental impact. That is why this jobs and infrastructure bill passed both Houses of Congress with bipartisan support.

I know powerful special interests and political extremists are pressuring the President to veto American jobs. I hope President Obama will join with us in standing for the middle class instead. It is hard to even imagine what a serious justification for a veto might be. Excuses related to the review process obviously won't work, since this bipartisan bill is a solution for fixing a review the Obama administration broke as it ignored deadlines and interfered for political reasons. Plus, the President has called on Congress to send him infrastructure projects, and Keystone is an important infrastructure project that is shovel ready.

Americans are urging President Obama to finally heed scientific conclusions his own State Department already reached. There is no reason for the President to ignore that science any longer. Republicans and Democrats, labor unions and businesses—we are all calling on him to finally allow American workers to build an infrastructure project that just makes good sense.

Mr. President, last night I took action to allow the Senate to consider commonsense legislation that every Democrat should want to support. This targeted measure would address the President's most recent overreach from November.

The bill isn't tied to DHS funding. There is no excuse for our friends on the other side to oppose it. That is especially true of the Democrats who led their constituents to believe they would stand up for democratic principles in this debate. These colleagues

have hidden behind all manner of excuses to avoid upsetting the far left. Well, this bill removes the excuses and it sets up a simple political equation: Either stand in defense of extreme overreach or stand with constituents in support of shared democratic values.

As I have said already, my preference remains with the legislation that has already passed the House. It is still the simplest way forward. But as long as Democrats continue to prevent us from even debating that bill, I am ready to try another way. I hope our friends across the aisle will demonstrate similar flexibility.

I am calling on Senators of good faith to work with us and move the bill forward as quickly as possible. So let's get to work.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I do appreciate—and that is an understatement—what the majority leader has to go through to try to please the extreme voices on his side. The fact remains we are 4 very short days away from a Homeland Security shutdown—a shutdown, Mr. President. We have a couple of bills on the floor that, unless there is unanimous consent, we can't get to in 4 days. Funding expires on Friday, yet last night the majority leader moved to bring a bill to the floor that does absolutely nothing to fund Homeland Security—nothing.

If the majority leader wanted a vote on this bill, he shouldn't have wasted a month repeating the same failed procedural vote four times with the same result. Albert Einstein said that is the definition of insanity, when you keep doing the same thing over and over again, getting the same result.

We have said all along that we are more than happy to have an immigration debate once Homeland Security is funded. Nevada so badly needs full funding of Homeland Security. State and local governments demand full funding of Homeland Security. It is not only for Nevada, it is all across the country, because the homeland cannot be protected the way the law is now set up unless the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security has the ability to grant. If there is full funding, it would be almost \$2 billion worth of programs to allow the homeland to be protected by State and local governments.

So we are happy to have a debate on immigration, but we have to fully fund Homeland Security. We have said that all along. We have said it not once, not twice, but we have said it many different times.

In fact, there was a proposal brought to the Senate floor 3 weeks ago, sponsored by Senators MIKULSKI and SHAHEEN, only to have the Republicans object to that.

We want a debate on immigration. We are happy to have a debate on im-

migration. We are eager to debate immigration now or any other time, but we can't do that until we fully fund the Department of Homeland Security. We have been saying that for 4 weeks and nothing has changed in the last 24 hours.

The majority leader should allow a vote on the Mikulski-Shaheen funding, which is sitting on the floor right now. It is on the calendar. That is the only way to resolve this mess which the Republicans created. The only thing that can pass the Senate is a clean bill to fund Homeland Security. And then, once that is done, there is a consent pending here on the Senate floor that says once that is done and the President signs that, we will be happy to debate immigration for whatever time the Republicans deem necessary.

Would the Chair announce the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 12:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the first hour equally divided, and with the Democrats controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half.

The assistant Democratic leader.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, by calculation, we have today and 3 more days before the Department of Homeland Security is shut down.

Think about what happened this last weekend all across America. It was disclosed publicly that an extremist group, a terrorist group—Al-Shabab—had some communication among their membership targeting malls in America for extremism and terrorism. God forbid that ever happens.

I know those who are managing these malls look at the terrible situation that occurred in Africa and want to make certain it is never repeated anywhere, let alone in the United States. They are making extraordinary efforts to protect people across America, not only as they are shopping in malls but in other places, as they should.

What is the lead agency to protect America against terrorism? What is the lead agency to make sure we never ever again in our history experience 9/11? The Department of Homeland Security. That Department was created after 9/11, because we felt the way we were protecting America wasn't good enough. We took 22 different Federal

agencies and put them under the roof of the Department of Homeland Security and said to that Department: Now focus; focus all your time and efforts to keep us safe. They have done a good job. I am sure they have made some mistakes along the way, but they have really dedicated themselves—all the men and women who work there—to keeping America safe.

Now what has Congress done for the Department of Homeland Security? Last December, when we considered the appropriations—the budget—for the Department of Homeland Security, the Republicans insisted we take that Department out of the regular budget process and give it only temporary funding, a continuing resolution—temporary funding—which limits the authority of the Secretary of Homeland Security to do his best job to keep America safe. Why would the Republicans pick this appropriation, the single appropriation to keep America safe from terrorism and decide they don't want to properly fund it? They are only giving it temporary funding and a continuing resolution because they disagree with President Obama's position on immigration. That is it.

They want this issue of immigration, separate and apart from the budget of the Homeland Security, to be debated, and they insist they will not fund the Department of Homeland Security until it is debated. So come February 27, in just a few days, this Department of Homeland Security is going to shut down. It is going to shut down.

Many of the employees are essential. They will be asked to come to work even though there is only a promise of a paycheck, and they will show up because they are loyal to this country and they want to do their job to keep it safe. Why won't the Senate and the House do its job?

Why can't we pass a clean appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security? Before we took a break last week for President's week I made a unanimous consent request on the floor to do just that—pass a clean appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security. The majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL of Kentucky, objected. He objected to funding the Department of Homeland Security. I don't understand it. It doesn't make sense for us to put in jeopardy the security of America over a political debate on immigration.

What is ironic is that now that the Republicans have the majority control of the House and the Senate they can call any bill they wish. After funding the Department of Homeland Security, they can turn immediately to a debate on immigration. It is their right. They pick the topics, they dictate the calendar, and those of us in the minority have to accede to their wishes. They are in the majority. They are controlling, but still Speaker BOEHNER and

Senator MCCONNELL, the Republican majority leader, refuse to pass a clean appropriations bill to the Department of Homeland Security.

Luckily some Republicans are stepping up and saying this is wrong. I commend the following Senators on the Republican side who have publicly stated that Congress should pass a clean Homeland Security bill and stop this tactic that came from the House of Representatives. Those Senators include: Senator DEAN HELLER of Nevada, Senator MARK KIRK of Illinois, Senators JEFF FLAKE and JOHN MCCAIN of Arizona, Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM of South Carolina, and Senator RON JOHNSON of Wisconsin. We need eight more Republican Senators to come forward and say we need a clean appropriations bill and we need to pass it now. If eight Republican Senators today will say that, then we can move forward and pass this bill. We can fund this Department and stop this gamesmanship. Then, if the leaders want to move to a debate on immigration, so be it. But let's have eight more Republicans step forward and join us to make this a reality.

I don't understand, frankly, the thinking of many of the Republicans who oppose the President's approach to immigration. Here is what it comes down to. If the President used every penny given to him by Congress to deport those who are undocumented in the United States, he could reach about 4 percent of those who are eligible for deportation—4 percent. What the President has said is: Let me focus then on deporting those who are most dangerous to the United States.

President Obama has said there are people who have been here for years. They are part of our communities. They have good jobs. They have raised families. They go to our churches. We see them every day. They are no threat to us. Let's focus on deporting those who are dangerous—the felons, the criminals. The President has basically said we shouldn't set out to deport families, we ought to deport felons. We shouldn't set out to deport children, we ought to deport criminals. So his priority is deportation of those most dangerous to the United States, and the Republicans have opposed that. Why? Primarily because the President supports it. It has reached that point in the debate. It is so divisive.

The President doesn't want to waste any resources in deporting those who are not dangerous. He wants to get those who are dangerous out of the United States first, and Republicans object to that.

There is something else they want to do too. The House of Representatives wants to challenge the President's right to Executive orders when it comes to prioritizing those who can stay in the United States.

Several years ago at the request of 20 or more Senators, the President initi-

ated an Executive action known as DACA. This Executive action said that if someone qualified as a DREAMer, they would be allowed to stay without threat of deportation. We estimate that 2 million young people in America would qualify as DREAMers, and 600,000 have this protection now. What the Republicans want to do in the House of Representatives is to eliminate this.

Who are these young people? They are young folks in America brought to this country as toddlers and infants, young boys and girls who grew up in this country, went to school in this country, have no problems in their criminal record and want to be part of America. That is it.

What the Republicans have said in the House is we want to deport these people—deport them because they are here undocumented, despite the fact that we have educated them and many of them are successes in life and want to be part of our future. The Republicans have said deport them.

The senior Senator from Maine has authored a bill to address this subject, but as much as I respect her and count her as a friend, it falls short of protecting the DREAMers who are in this country under DACA. I have to say that as one learns the stories of those who are protected by the President's Executive order, we wonder what are the Republicans thinking.

I have tried to tell these stories in light of individuals, not statistics, and here is one I wish to tell everyone today. It is about a young man who came to America when he was 9 years old from Thailand. His name is Jirayut New. He was brought here at the age of 9 from Thailand by his parents.

He grew up in San Francisco and he said:

I forced myself to read mystery novels, dictionary in hand, in order to expand my vocabulary, one word at a time. I mispronounced words, even in the face of ridicule, until I mastered the English language.

It is amazing. These stories have happened many times in the past, but it is incredible to think of a 9-year-old facing that ridicule but learning the English language in San Francisco.

This young man became an excellent student and his dream was to be a doctor. Throughout high school New worked 30 hours a week in his family's Thai restaurant. Here is what he said about that experience:

I spent most of my time in the restaurant working as a waiter, cashier and chef, scrubbing toilets, washing dishes, and mopping floors. It taught me to have faith, work hard, and persevere.

His work paid off. He graduated salutatorian of his high school class with a 4.3 grade point average. He was admitted to the University of California at Berkeley, one of the top schools in California and the Nation. He won a scholarship that would have covered

most of his tuition, but he couldn't accept it because he was undocumented.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 2 additional minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Despite this setback, New persevered. In May of 2012 he graduated with honors from Berkeley with a 3.7 grade point average and a major in molecular and cellular biology. One month after he graduated, President Obama issued his Executive order, DACA, and now New was protected from deportation. As a result he was able to pursue his dream to become a doctor.

Last fall New went to medical school at the University of California in San Francisco. Now what does he do in his spare time as a medical student? He volunteers at a homeless clinic run by students at the University of California in San Francisco. He has cofounded Pre-Health Dreamers, a national network of more than 400 DREAMers who are pursuing careers in health care.

New and other similar DREAMers have so much to contribute to America. But if the Republicans have their way, this man is going to be deported. Instead of being able to stay in the United States as a doctor, to realize his life's dream and make this a better and stronger nation, he will be deported. Will America be better or worse if this young man leaves? I think the answer is obvious.

So why do the Republicans persist? Why are they determined to take this amazing young man and deport him? They have forgotten our legacy in America. We are a nation of immigrants, and our immigrants have come to this country from all over the world because they appreciate the values and opportunity of America. I am lucky. My mother was an immigrant to this country, and I stand on the Senate floor representing the great State of Illinois. It is my story, my family's story, and it is America's story.

The time is clearly upon us to fund the appropriations of the Department of Homeland Security but not at the expense of this amazing young man. Let us fund this Department to keep America safe but also let us dedicate ourselves to passing legislation which fixes our broken immigration system and helps this young man and others like him to be a part of America's future.

I yield the floor.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may speak for 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, before the Senator from Illinois leaves the floor, I just want to thank him for his

amazing leadership on this whole issue of immigration.

The Senator and I share a similar background because my mother also was an immigrant, and the thought of our moms being ripped out of our lives is just untenable. We are not going to let it happen.

I wish to thank him so much because he has been, I would say, the grandfather of the whole DREAMer movement. So thank you, Senator.

We all know Republicans won in huge numbers in the 2014 election and they took over the Senate and they run it. They run it—or at least they are trying to run it.

Let's be clear. Less than 8 weeks after they took over the Senate we are facing a shutdown, a shutdown of the very agency that protects the health, the safety, the lives of the American people—the Department of Homeland Security.

We are 4 days away, and even if they come up with a continuing resolution, a small little patch, they are shutting down the programs that fund our firefighters and our first responders back home. So any way we look at it, this is a national disgrace.

Think about what our friends abroad and those who are not our friends are thinking about this. Republicans say we are in danger. We have to go to war, put combat troops on the ground. But they are willing to shut down the Department that protects Americans in the homeland from a terrorist attack.

This is a self-inflicted crisis made up by the Republicans. It is dangerous. It is the height of irresponsibility and it is unnecessary.

Let me tell you, how does it make sense in the very same week that terrorists are threatening our shopping malls that we would shut down the very agency charged with protecting those malls?

How does it make sense at a time when we are facing serious threats to our national security to furlough 30,000 Department of Homeland Security workers and to force more than 100,000 frontline Homeland Security personnel to work without pay? Why don't these Senators go without their pay? Give up your pay. Do you want to come to work every day and stand there and look for threats to our homeland and worry about how you are going to pay the bills for your kids? Go without pay before you do this. You tell me how that makes sense not to pay people who are in charge of our security. It is a disgrace.

Give up your pay—give up your pay, give up your health care, give up your benefits, if this is so important to you.

Oh, no. They will collect their pay. Tell me, how does it make sense to shut off the grants that protect our cities, our ports from terrorist attacks, and how does it make sense to stop local communities from being able to hire police officers and firefighters?

The Department of Homeland Security is very large. When it was created I was troubled by that because it includes so many important things in one department, including FEMA. So when we have a natural disaster such as an earthquake, fire or flood, that is the Department that deals with it. How does it make sense to disrupt disaster recovery operations such as the efforts in California to recover from our devastating Napa Earthquake and the Rim Fire in Yosemite?

So not only are they disrupting Homeland Security and the protections of our perhaps most-targeted places in America, but they are disrupting recovery from natural disasters, and God forbid if we have another one. And the reason they are throwing a hissy fit is because the President stepped in and has a policy to take care of immigration. Why did the President step in? Because Republicans refused to take up a bipartisan bill, pass it, and take care of the immigration problem the way they are supposed to. They are paralyzed on that point. They cannot do it.

We had a bill that garnered 68 votes in the last Congress. All they have to do is bring it up, pass it here, and then pass it in the House. It will pass with overwhelming majorities. The President will sign it, and that would make his Executive order unnecessary. The only reason he issued an Executive order is that we are facing a crisis in this country. There are 11 million undocumented folks. Some of those undocumented folks are DREAMers. To me, that is the most important category. They are young people who were brought here when they were children. They know no other home. All they want to do is stay here and give back to America. Republicans want to deport them and their parents. They want to deport the parents of American citizens. I thank God these people were not in charge of Congress when I was growing up or else they might have deported my mother. It took her awhile to get through her naturalization. What if they passed something such as what the Republicans are proposing?

I thought they were the party of family values. Show me where that is true—ripping families apart. I thought they were the party of economic prosperity. Show me how that is true when we know from study after study that one of the greatest things we can do for our economy and job creation is to get people out of the shadows so they can go and buy a home and hold a good job. They can't or won't pass an immigration bill. They will not do their job.

So when the President steps in and does his job, they say: Oh, this is terrible. Let's shut down a totally unrelated department, the Department of Homeland Security.

Again I say, let's look at fiscal responsibility. According to the Center for American Progress, it would cost

more than \$50 billion to deport the entire population that the President is protecting. And here is the deal: I never heard a Republican—and I will stand corrected if any Republican corrects me—complain when President Eisenhower used his Executive power to help immigrants or when President Nixon did the same thing to protect immigrants or when President Ronald Reagan, their hero, protected immigrants or when George Bush, Sr., protected immigrants or when George W. Bush protected immigrants. They all used their authority. Show me one Republican who stood up and said: This is outrageous. Let's impeach the President. But they are annoyed because it is President Obama, and he won twice. Sorry. Wake up and smell the roses. He is the President, and he is doing the right thing for America because he loves America and he understands that these people, who the Republicans want to deport, are going to help America move on to an era of greatness and keep us going.

Let's look at some of the young people Republicans want to deport. Alexis Bux is a 21-year-old student from central California. He is the oldest of three siblings. His younger two siblings were born in the United States, but he was not. So these great family-value Republicans want to rip away the oldest child from this family. His parents were farm workers in the fields of San Joaquin Valley. Alexis received immigration relief under DACA in 2012, and he will transfer to UC San Diego this fall where he will pursue his dream of a career in biomedical engineering.

Tell me, Republicans, how our country is better off when you deport a young man such as him. He hopes to use his education to develop a sophisticated medical application and tools that will help cure deadly diseases. All he wants to do is contribute to the Nation he loves.

If the Republicans had their way, they would deport people such as Ana Albarrán, who left Mexico at age 8. She came to this country with her younger brother and sister to join her parents. Her parents worked 11 hours a day as trimmers for a landscaping company in downtown Los Angeles.

After Ana received immigration relief, she felt confident enough to begin applying for jobs, and now she is finishing her final year at UC Merced so she can begin her career as a bilingual first grade teacher.

Tell me, Republicans, how does it make sense to deport people such as Ana and split her up from her parents when all they want to do is contribute to the country they love? How does it make sense just because you are too incompetent to hold a vote on your immigration plan? If you want to kick people out of the country, put it to a vote. Let's go. If you want to deport 11 million people, then put it to a vote.

Don't hide behind the Homeland Security bill and hold the President's work hostage. You never did it to the other Presidents. Don't do it to this President. How does it make sense to deport these moms, these dads, and these young kids?

I mentioned before that I am the daughter of an immigrant mother. I tried to think of what my life would have been like without my mother. She gave me my conscience. She gave me my values. She gave me all the love and support I needed to pursue my dreams. I am the daughter of an immigrant mother who never graduated from high school. I am a Senator in the U.S. Senate. But they would have deported my mother. I would not be here today if it were not for my mom. So tell me how it makes sense to deport moms and dads and rip apart the lives of children.

Our national security is at stake, our family values are at stake, and our economy is at stake here. So get over the fact that you don't like the President. We get it. You couldn't beat him. It is too bad for you. You are in charge here in the Senate. Do your job. Bring an immigration bill to the floor. Let's let this Homeland Security bill go. It is a bipartisan bill. It is funding for the most important issue we are dealing with today. Let's get to it. Don't hold it hostage because of your hatred of this President—and I use that word because that is what I think. That is what I think.

In California alone, the President's Executive actions could boost California's economy by as much as \$27.5 billion. The President's action will aid our economy. It will raise the Nation's gross domestic product by up to \$90 billion over the next 10 years by expanding the labor force and allowing immigrant workers the flexibility to seek new jobs.

Why is that the case? Why does every independent study show us this is the case? The reason is simple. When workers come out of the shadows, their wages rise, they open bank accounts, buy homes, start businesses, and spend money in their communities.

So I say this to my Republican friends. There is a Presidential race coming up. Forget the last one. Get over it. Let's work together.

Listen, I served with five Presidents. I am a strong Democrat. Everyone will tell you that. But I have respect for the office of the Presidency. If I didn't agree with Ronald Reagan, I came down here and said it. We had respect back and forth. If we lost, we lost, and we moved on. That went both ways.

I know how it feels not to like the policies of a President. I get it. But don't overdo it and make it so personal. Get on with it. Grow up. Do your job. Have respect for the Office of the President. Don't suddenly say Executive orders are bad when the President

you don't like does it, but you don't say one word when a Republican President does the same thing. It doesn't pass the smell test.

Three things could not be more important in this battle. We need to fund our Department of Homeland Security—especially when we are facing serious threats to our security. We need to uphold our family values and not split up loving families, and we need to protect and grow our economy.

We can do this in the simplest way. First, I say to House Speaker BOEHNER—because under the Constitution all funding bills start in the House: Send us a clean bill. Send us the bill that everybody supported before you took it hostage on this immigration issue. Send it over clean. Let's fund everything in that bill to protect our shopping malls, to give grants to our first responders, and to give grants to our local fire departments. Send it over. We will pass it, and immediately following that, we will bring up an immigration bill.

We have it all ready for you. It passed with 68 votes. There is not much work to do. If you do that, the President's Executive order will not be necessary because we will have taken the steps ourselves to fix our broken immigration system.

Let's stop the lawsuits. We have one judge who said there was overreach, but the next judge may say there is no overreach. Let's keep this out of the courts. Let's do our job. Let's stop the self-inflicted crisis. Let's stop the shadow that is hanging over the Nation. Let's do the right thing here.

We can protect the American people from threats to our national security. We can protect and grow our economy, and we can treat hard-working immigrants and their families with the dignity and respect they deserve. It all lies in the hands of Speaker BOEHNER and Leader MCCONNELL.

When you took over the Senate, you said: no more threats of shutdowns. Eight weeks later—not even 8 weeks—we are facing a shutdown of one of the most important departments. This is a disgrace, and it is self-inflicted. All you have to do is talk to Speaker BOEHNER. Send over a clean bill so we can vote on it. Then we will take up immigration, and you can show us all your great ideas on immigration.

Let's hear it. Do you want to deport the DREAMers? Come on with it, and we will have a vote. You want to deport the parents? Come on with it, and we will have a vote. You want to kick 11 million people out of this country? Come on with it, and we will have a vote and debate on it. But don't hold the Department of Homeland Security hostage because of this issue.

If there is one thing the American people hate more than anything else, it is attaching unrelated matters to spending bills. I don't care if they are

conservative Republicans or liberal Democrats or Independent voters. They think it is the dumbest idea. They really do. They don't understand it.

Pass your funding bills. Then battle your ideological issues separately and apart from that. Don't hold these departments hostage to your decision that President Obama did the wrong thing. If you don't like what he did, put forward your own bill. You have not even done that.

I have been here a long time. I will tell you something. I have never seen anything like this. It is a self-inflicted wound. Who gets hurt? Not the Republicans—they will keep getting their pay. They are fine. The people who will be hurt are those whom we trust and count on and the families that thought they could stay together. They are on the verge of that. That is what this party—the Grand Old Party, the GOP—have brought to us, but they can get out of it in 5 minutes.

Speaker BOEHNER can pass a funding bill that will pass in a heartbeat. Send it over here, and we will pass it, turn to immigration, and then we can have it out on that subject. I think it is worthy of a debate. But don't hold an important funding bill hostage to that debate. It is ridiculous, unnecessary, destructive, and cruel.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FLAKE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

HARRIET TUBMAN AND THE HARRIET TUBMAN UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise to celebrate the life of Harriet Tubman and the establishment of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park. Harriet Tubman was an American hero who championed freedom and was most famously known as a leader of the Underground Railroad whose roots were on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

Harriet Tubman was an iconic figure in our Nation's history for whom liberty and freedom were not just ideas but were God-given rights she fought tirelessly and at great personal peril to spread to others in bondage. The woman who is known to us as Harriet Tubman was born in approximately 1822 in Dorchester County, MD, and given the name Araminta "Minty" Ross. Born into slavery, she spent nearly 30 years of her life toiling for various families on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Even as a young, enslaved girl, she demonstrated impressive mental and physical strength. One of her jobs was to set and check muskrat traps in the swamps of the Blackwater River during blazing hot summers and freezing cold winters. Even though Harriet was slight in physical stature, she frequently worked with the men in the forest cutting timber and carrying logs.

It was in this work setting, where both free and enslaved people worked together harvesting timber, that she first heard stories about what life was like for free Blacks in Northern States.

As a teenaged slave, one of her first acts of defiance was sticking up for an enslaved boy who was being harassed by a shopkeeper. In helping the boy out of this situation, she took a serious blow to the head when the shopkeeper threw a lead weight that struck her in the head. Tubman recalled later in life that the mark of the weight on her skull never fully healed and after this incident she would see visions that later inspired her to escape slavery.

As an adult she took the first name Harriet, and when she was 24 years old she married John Tubman. In her late twenties, Harriet Tubman escaped from slavery in 1849. She fled in the dead of night, navigating the maze of tidal streams and wetlands that to this day comprise the Eastern Shore's landscape. She did so alone, demonstrating courage, strength, and fortitude that became her hallmark.

Not satisfied with attaining her own freedom, she returned repeatedly for more than 10 years to places of her enslavement in Dorchester and Caroline Counties where, under the most adverse conditions, she led away many family members and other slaves to freedom in the Northeastern United States and Canada.

She helped develop a complex network of safe houses and recruited abolitionist sympathizers residing along secret routes connecting the Southern slave States and Northern free States.

No one knows exactly how many people she led to freedom or the number of trips between the North and the South she led, but the legend of her work was an inspiration to the multitude of slaves seeking freedom and to abolitionists fighting to end slavery. Tubman became known as the Moses of her people by African Americans and White abolitionists alike.

Tubman once proudly told Frederick Douglass that in all her journeys she "never lost a single passenger." She was so effective that in 1856 there was a \$40,000 reward offered for her capture in the South. She is the most famous and the most important conductor of the network of resistance known as the Underground Railroad.

But Tubman was more than a conductor on the Underground Railroad. She was a scout and a spy for the

Union Army, she was active in the women's suffrage movement after the Civil War, and ultimately she served aging African Americans by running a home for the aged in Auburn, NY.

In 1903 she bequeathed the Tubman home to the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Auburn, where it stands to this day. Just this month I was able to attend the midwinter meeting of the Board of Bishops/International Ministers and Lay Association of the AME Zion Church, where we honored Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass, and Harriet Tubman.

The AME Zion Church, or the "Freedom Church," as many refer to it, was an important part of Harriet Tubman's life and was involved in the forefront of both the abolition and civil rights movements. She was a dedicated member of the church and actively supported the construction of the Thompson AME Church in Auburn, NY, where she lay in state after her death. Harriet Tubman died in Auburn in 1913, and she is buried in the Fort Hill Cemetery.

Fortunately, many of the structures and landmarks in New York remain intact, in relatively good condition. For the past 7 years, I have championed legislation to establish the creation of the Harriet Tubman Historical Parks in Maryland and New York. The creation of these parks has been years in the making and long overdue, and I am very grateful for the support my colleagues gave this bill in the last Congress.

Recently I was able to celebrate this park's formal designation during a ceremonial event at the Harriet Tubman Museum and Educational Center in Cambridge, MD, just a few miles from where she grew up. I was able to meet some of Harriet Tubman's descendants, which was incredibly meaningful to me.

I am so pleased Harriet Tubman's legacy will live on in these parks. My cosponsors and I all share a deep appreciation for how establishing this park is preserving the legacy of this remarkable historic figure in American history and will also show how important this park will be to communities where they are located.

Every February our Nation's children learn lessons about the many contributions African Americans have made to our democracy and to the growth and prosperity of our Nation. Preserving places significant to Harriet Tubman's life story for future generations creates a learning opportunity that our kids and grandkids can't get in the classroom or learn from a textbook.

The park will educate the public about the historical significance of the Underground Railroad and Harriet Tubman's early life and also is expected to increase tourism, create jobs, and strengthen local economies.

The final passage of this bill to create the park was the result of an

unyielding bipartisan effort, including Representative ANDY HARRIS, Senator MIKULSKI, and me, along with our partners from New York, Senators SCHUMER, GILLIBRAND, and former Secretary Clinton when she represented New York in this body, along with Congressmen Dan Maffei and RICHARD HANNA.

This was a bipartisan effort and involved Members from both New York and Maryland. The effort on this legislative work was started by my predecessor, Senator Sarbanes, when he passed legislation commissioning the national service to conduct a special resource study on Harriet Tubman.

The establishment of the national historical park commemorating the life of Harriet Tubman and protecting the serene and almost untouched landscape is an ideal way to celebrate and honor the outstanding life and incredible work of Harriet Tubman, while establishing an important destination for tourists to come visit, learn, and experience Maryland's Eastern Shore.

The vision for the Tubman National Historical Parks is to preserve the places significant to the life of Harriet Tubman and tell her story through interpretive activities, while continuing to discover aspects of her life and the experiences of passage along the Underground Railroad through archaeological research and discovery.

The buildings and structures in Maryland have mainly disappeared. Slaves were forced to live in primitive buildings even though many slaves were skilled tradesmen who constructed the substantial homes of their owners.

Not surprising, few of the structures associated with the early years of Tubman's life remain standing today. The landscape of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, however, is still evocative of the time when Harriet Tubman lived there. Farm fields and loblolly pine forests dot the lowland landscape, which is also notable for its extensive network of tidal rivers and wetlands that Tubman and the people she guided to freedom used under cover of night. In particular, a number of places significant to Tubman's life—including the homestead of Ben Ross, her father; Stewart's Canal, where he worked; the Brodess Farm, where she worked as a slave; and others—are within the master plan boundaries of the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. Similarly, Poplar Neck, the plantation from which she escaped, is still largely intact in Caroline County. The properties in Talbot County, immediately across the Choptank River from the plantation, are currently protected by various conservation easements. Were she alive today, Tubman would recognize much of the landscape that she knew intimately as she secretly led freedom seekers of all ages to the North. This park helps connect people today to America's history.

Only recently has the Park Service begun establishing units dedicated to the lives of African Americans. Places such as Booker T. Washington National Monument on the campus of Tuskegee University in Alabama, the George Washington Carver National Monument in Missouri, the National Historic Trail commemorating the march for voting rights from Selma to Montgomery, and most recently the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial on the Mall are all important monuments and places of historical significance that help tell the story of the African-American experience.

As the National Park Service continues its important work to commemorate and preserve African-American history by providing greater public access and information about the places and people who have shaped the African-American experience, there are very few units dedicated to the lives of African-American women. This historic park is the first national park in honor of a woman—obviously the first historical park for an African-American woman.

As we celebrate Black history this month and women's history next month, I cannot think of a more fitting hero than Harriet Tubman to be the first African-American woman to be memorialized with national historical parks. These parks tell both her personal story and her lifelong fight for justice and freedom, from her fight against the cruel institution of slavery and the establishment of the Underground Railroad that she led, to her work in the women's suffrage movement.

I encourage my colleagues to seek inspiration from the heroes of their own States and work to preserve the physical remnants of their legacy so that future generations of Americans might better know who helped form this great Nation.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate resumes the motion to proceed to H.R. 240 at 2:15 p.m. today, Senators be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR AMERICA

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, at a press conference the day after the elections in November, President Obama said: "I am eager to work with the new Congress to make the next 2 years as productive as possible."

Well, Republicans couldn't have been happier to hear that. After years of dysfunction in the Democrat-led Senate, Republicans were eager to get Washington working again for Americans and working with the President to get things done for the American people. We are still eager to work with the President, but, unfortunately, despite his words, the President hasn't shown much of an inclination to work with Congress.

Between January 7 and February 10 of this year, President Obama issued a total of 13 veto threats. That is more than two veto threats per week during that period. He has announced his intention to veto everything from a bipartisan jobs bill to national security legislation to bills to protect the unborn. And, of course, he has threatened to veto the Keystone XL Pipeline bill—a threat he is likely to make good on this week.

One would think that if President Obama were at all serious about wanting to work with Congress, Keystone would be the first bill he would sign. The American people support Keystone by a wide margin. Unions support Keystone because they are eager for the jobs that it would create. Substantial numbers of Democrats support Keystone.

Here is what one Democrat had to say about the pipeline: "We have everything to gain by building this pipeline, especially since it would help create thousands of jobs right here at home and limit our dependence on foreign oil." That is from a Democrat here in the Senate.

Approving Keystone is a no-brainer. It would support 42,000 jobs during construction, would contribute billions to our economy, and would bring in substantial revenue to State and local governments which would mean more money for local priorities such as schools and teachers, roads and bridges. It would do all of this without spending a dime—not a single dime of taxpayer money.

The President's refusal to approve this legislation is a signal of just how unserious he is about wanting to work with Congress to get things done. Unfortunately, after a promising start Democrats in the Senate are starting to imitate President Obama's obstruction. Yesterday Democrats again voted to filibuster the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill for the fourth time this month. What is their reason? They are desperate to protect the President's Executive action on immigration.

Before President Obama decided to implement his Executive amnesty, he said 22 times he did not have the authority to take this action. In fact, in March of 2011 he told an audience:

With respect to the notion that I can just suspend deportation through executive order, that is just not the case, because there are laws on the books that Congress has passed. . . . we've got three branches of government. Congress passes the law. The executive branch's job is to enforce and implement those laws.

That is from the President of the United States in March of 2011. At least eight Democrats have expressed similar concerns. This is from a Democrat here in the Senate: "I have to be honest, how this is coming about makes me uncomfortable."

An independent Senator from Maine stated: "I also frankly am concerned about the constitutional separation of powers."

This is an example of the reservations that have been expressed by Democrats right here in the Senate about the President's Executive amnesty.

Last week a Federal judge agreed with the legal concerns the President had raised and ordered the administration to halt amnesty proceedings. Despite this, Democrats continue to try to protect funding for the President's unconstitutional action by preventing consideration of the Homeland Security appropriations bill.

If Democrats object to parts of the bill, they need to vote to get on the bill so they can offer proposals to amend it. That is the way this place works. Republicans have made it very clear that we are ready and willing to vote on Democratic amendments. The leader on our side has said that when we get on the bill we will alternate amendments. It will be a free-flowing process, just as we committed to when we took the majority in the Senate.

The Democrats object to the bill's lack of funding for the President's amnesty. Then they should offer amendments to restore the funding. That is simply how it works in the Senate. All we have to do is get on the bill. That just takes six Democrats to get us onto that legislation to give us an opportunity to actually debate this.

When the Republicans took over the Senate in January, we made it our goal to get Washington working again. That is exactly what we have done. Our Democrat-controlled Senate was run on a strictly partisan line basis. The minority party was shut out of the debate and the amendment process, and the Senate spent much of its time on narrow, partisan legislation.

Under Republican control the Senate floor has become once again an open forum for debate and amendments by Members of both parties. Republicans have allowed almost three times as many amendments in January alone as Democrats allowed in the entire calendar year of 2014.

The Keystone XL Pipeline bill was passed with bipartisan support with amendments from Members of both parties. Republicans are eager to continue this bipartisan process going forward. That is why the obstruction of the President and the Democrats in this particular circumstance is so disappointing.

Nobody around here expects Democrats and Republicans to always agree. They certainly don't expect the President to never issue a veto threat. But the President's apparent determination to obstruct everything is pretty discouraging.

If the President continues to make veto threats at the same rate he has so far, we will be looking at almost 90 veto threats by the end of 2015. The American people deserve and expect better. Americans sent a clear message in the last election. They were tired of business as usual in Washington. They want Members of Congress and the President to work together to address the challenges facing our Nation. Clearly, the President still hasn't managed to process that message.

THE PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN POLICY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, before I close, I would like to take a minute to talk about the President's foreign policy. The Congress has received the President's request for authorization for the use of military force in Iraq and Syria, and we will take a hard look at this request. But we still haven't seen a comprehensive strategy from the President for confronting and defeating ISIS. ISIS represents a barely comprehensible level of evil. Wherever its members go they leave a trail of blood. Their reign of terror in the Middle East has included the systematic persecution and murder of Christians and other minorities, rape, torture, burnings, beheadings, as well as reports of the crucifixion and burying alive of children.

Just 2 weeks ago ISIS beheaded 21 Coptic Christians in Libya. The men's only crime was professing their faith. This morning's news included reports of another 90 Assyrian Christians being abducted by ISIS from a village in northern Syria.

My heart sinks each time I hear any report of abductions of this nature because we know the fate that is likely in store for these people. Evil like this cannot be ignored. It must be confronted. The United States should be a leader in the effort to defeat this hellish organization and its reign of brutality.

The President should have articulated a plan for responding to ISIS months ago, but, unfortunately, his lack of decision is par for the course when it comes to this administration's foreign policy. Time and again, the

President has been confronted with a foreign policy crisis and has simply failed to respond. That needs to end now. With crises multiplying around the world, it is time for the President to step up and start leading. We cannot afford for him to sit on the sidelines any longer.

I yield the floor.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m., with all other provisions of the previous order remaining in effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:27 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. PORTMAN).

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, Senators are permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. BENNET. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 10 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, this week marks the final week of Black History Month, an annual tradition that celebrates Black history and culture but also is a call to action to continue our Nation's march, as halting as it sometimes is, toward equality.

This week we take an important step toward awarding a Congressional Gold Medal to the foot soldiers who participated in Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday, or the Selma to Montgomery

Voting Rights March. Senator SCOTT and I and Senators SHELBY and SESSIONS and the banking committee moved forward on that earlier today. I am proud to be one of the 65 cosponsors. I am also introducing a resolution this week instructing the Postal Service to issue a commemorative stamp honoring the 50th anniversary of the Selma marches.

It is far past time for us to honor the brave men and women who risked life and limb to demand full participation in our democracy. We can do this on the Senate floor. We can do it by traveling to Selma. Next week Senator SCOTT and I will lead a delegation to Selma for the anniversary of the march. I understand my colleague from Ohio may be joining us. I took my daughters Emily and Elizabeth there a number of years ago. I look forward to the journey to Selma with my wife in a couple of weeks, marking the 50th anniversary.

Fifty years ago, Dr. King led thousands in that 54-mile march—the second Selma bridge crossing, if you will. They arrived in Montgomery 4 days later to a crowd of 25,000 Black and White supporters. In his speech that day, Dr. King told a story of one of the marchers: Sister Pollard, a 70-year-old African-American woman who lived in Montgomery during the bus boycott a little less than a decade earlier.

She was asked if she wanted a ride during the march instead of walking. She said: "No."

The person said: "Aren't you tired?"

She said: "My feet are tired, but my soul is rested."

Progress is never easy, and as we celebrate Black History Month, we are reminded of the long journey we have traveled and how far we still have to go.

This month we celebrate the contributions African Americans have made to the fabric of our Nation.

When Carter G. Woodson started what became Black History Month in 1926, my State of Ohio—the Presiding Officer's State—had already produced 19th-century poet Paul Laurence Dunbar; Columbus native Granville T. Woods had already invented the telegraph device that sent messages between moving trains and train stations; Mary Jane Patterson had already become the first Black woman to graduate from Oberlin College, in my part of Ohio; Garrett Morgan, a Cleveland, had already invented the traffic signal; Ohio State Representative John P. Green had introduced a bill to establish Labor Day in Ohio, which later became Labor Day, which we all celebrate; and COL Charles Young, who found freedom in Ripley, OH, in the Presiding Officer's old congressional district, became the highest ranking African-American commanding officer in the U.S. Army in 1894—120 years ago—and the first African-American superintendent of a national park.

This month we celebrate these and other pioneering Ohioans: two Pulitzer Prize winners—Nobel Prize-winning writer Toni Morrison from Lorain and former Poet Laureate of the United States Rita Dove from Akron.

Olympic Gold Medalist Jesse Owens grew up in Cleveland. Jesse Owens spoke at my brother's high school graduation in Mansfield.

Howard Arthur Tibbs from Salem served with the Tuskegee Airmen, and I was honored to meet his family in 2007 when this body posthumously awarded him the Congressional Gold Medal.

Congressman Louis Stokes, who so many in this body know, rose from one of the first Federal housing projects in the Nation, in Cleveland, to prominence as a lawyer and legislator. Yesterday Louis Stokes celebrated his 90th birthday. He argued before the Supreme Court in his legal practice, and during his two decades in Congress he was a forceful advocate for the city he loves.

This month we honor them and many others. These achievements have come in the face of centuries of oppression, making these achievements all the more remarkable. They have not come to be recognized simply through chance. It took a century of concerted effort—longer than that, really—led by Black Americans such as Dr. King, to give voice to the struggles and the stories, the triumphs and the traditions of the African Americans who have shaped who we are as a country and as a people. These stories are the ones we celebrate this month and the ones we must do more to honor and tell.

This month I am introducing legislation to begin the process of designating the Parker House in Ripley, OH, as a national monument. John Parker was a slave who purchased his freedom, became a successful businessman, and helped many others to freedom on the Underground Railroad through crossing the Ohio River and heading north, some to Oberlin and ultimately many to Canada.

Stories such as these are too often untold and overlooked. They show us how African Americans have shaped their own destiny in this country.

I hope today my colleagues will join me in honoring the African Americans who have made us who we are as a nation. I would add that I hope this 50th anniversary, this trip that a number of colleagues and I will take to Selma, will mark progress in voting rights.

We took huge strides in voting rights in the last 50 years. In fact, in 1964 it was a conservative Republican Congressman from north of Dayton by the name of William McCullough, who was the senior Republican on the House Judiciary Committee—Jacqueline Kennedy and others credited Congressman McCullough, perhaps more than any other single Member—even more than

Hubert Humphrey or Everett Dirksen—for the Civil Rights Act and Voting Rights Act passing the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate and being signed by the President.

Unfortunately, in the last few years we have seen State legislators and far too many Members of this body try to scale back and roll back some of those gains in voting rights—all in the name of stopping fraud, when in fact voting fraud is much exaggerated by them. It barely exists. But the efforts to roll back voting rights has resulted from that. It is wrong, and it is shameful, especially as we celebrate the 50th anniversary.

I am hopeful we can move forward in spite of what this very conservative Supreme Court has done, move forward in voting rights as we honor Black History Month, as we honor 50 years of Selma, and as we honor the work African Americans and Whites have done to make this country a better place to live.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, as my colleagues know, for weeks now Senate Democrats have repeatedly blocked the Senate from even considering a \$40 billion funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security that would extend through the end of the fiscal year, the end of September. They have done it not once, not twice, not three times, but four times. Four times they have filibustered this Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would pay the salaries of the men and women who protect our ports, our airports, and our border.

Meanwhile, our friends across the aisle are telling the American people: No, it is not us blocking this funding, it is the Republicans. Well, I beg to differ. The House of Representatives has actually passed a Homeland Security appropriations bill—the bill we tried to get on four different times and the Democrats don't seem satisfied with the ability to offer amendments to change it or modify it in any way that they can command 60 votes to do. Their attitude is: We are not even going to consider it unless we get everything we want right upfront.

I guess I can kind of understand why they are of that frame of mind because over the last few years, the Senate has become completely dysfunctional. Under the previous majority leader, there wasn't any opportunity to offer amendments and get votes on those amendments on legislation. It was a "my way or the highway" proposition.

In other words, what I am saying is the Senate was broken, and after years of running the Senate as an incumbent protection program and voting on only poll-tested messages and blocking amendments, last November the American people said, enough is enough; no

more dysfunction. Let's have a Senate and a Congress that represents our interests, not the interests of protecting incumbents against taking tough votes.

I believe our colleagues who have blocked consideration of this funding amendment should be, frankly, ashamed of themselves. It doesn't seem as though they have gotten the message.

The senior Senator from New York, Senator SCHUMER, who is a member of the leadership and my friend, told the Huffington Post recently that "it is really fun to be in the minority." By that, I guess he means it is fun to block Homeland Security appropriations bills not once, not twice, not three times, but four separate times. But filibustering this critical funding for the men and women who protect us every day is not my idea of fun, nor is it, I suspect, for the thousands of men and women who work in the Department of Homeland Security, from the Coast Guard to the Border Patrol to all of the people who work day in and day out to try and help keep us safe in the homeland.

When given the opportunity four times over the last few weeks to fully fund the Department of Homeland Security while rolling back the President's unconstitutional Executive action, four times Senate Democrats have taken the low road and continued to obstruct.

Over the last several weeks, we pointed out the tough talk that came from some Senate Democrats last fall when the President issued his Executive action on immigration back when the President made his intent clear to follow through with a series of unilateral actions that he had previously said, on 22 different occasions, he didn't have the authority to do. Twenty-two times the President said publicly he didn't have the authority to do it, and last November, after being encouraged to wait until after the election so it didn't have a negative blowback on people running for the Senate, he went ahead and did it anyway.

As I noted before, some of our colleagues on the other side expressed their concerns at the time. Some said it made them feel uncomfortable, and some said: I wish he wouldn't do it. Well, no kidding.

When the President usurps the authority given under the Constitution to the legislative branch of government and seeks to arrogate to himself the power to unilaterally change the law, they should feel uncomfortable. One by one these same folks who were so concerned and so uncomfortable with what the President did last November have come down to the floor and voted in lockstep. They voted, in effect, to reaffirm the President's actions.

In justifying these votes, we heard the common refrain, we don't necessarily agree with the President's Executive actions, but an appropriations bill is not the proper vehicle to address them. That is what they said time and time again. So now we have a pretty simple and straightforward message to our Democratic friends who were so concerned and so uncomfortable and who wished the President had not gone around Congress on immigration. We are here to say: Here is your chance.

This week the Senate will take up a bill that will address the President's Executive actions that were announced last November. Senator McCONNELL, the majority leader, made it clear last night that this targeted bill is not tied to the Department of Homeland Security funding.

Under the regular rules of the Senate, the process he set in order last night will come to fruition on Friday, and that will be the time for all of our colleagues on this side of the aisle and the ones on the other side of the aisle who expressed disapproval of the President's Executive action to vote for a bill that expresses that disapproval—the so-called Collins bill.

My strong preference would be to pass the House bill—that has been filibustered four separate times by our Democratic friends—because it fully funds the Department while reining in the President's overreach. But since the Democrats have refused on four different occasions to even allow the bill to come to the floor with the excuse that it is tied to the Department of Homeland Security funding, we are going to give them an opportunity to put their money where their mouth is. In other words, we are going to see if they can take yes for an answer.

If all of the occasions where my colleagues said they were uncomfortable with the President's actions are not enough—if the 22 times the President himself said he didn't have the authority to issue this Executive action—well, we now know that during the recess last week a Federal judge in Texas has given us one more reason.

A week ago U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen in Brownsville, TX, ruled in a lawsuit brought by 26 different States, including Texas, that what the President did was illegal. He issued a temporary injunction blocking implementation of the President's Executive action.

If that were the end of it, any amount of money that was appropriated by the Congress to fund the Department of Homeland Security could not legally be used to fund the President's Executive action because there is an injunction in place issued by a Federal court that says you can't do it, and, indeed, the administration has acknowledged that. They stood down, but now they have come back to the judge and asked for a stay of the judge's tem-

porary injunction. They said if they don't get that, they will go to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans and ask the appellate court to stay the judge's temporary injunction.

Judge Hanen's ruling enforces what I and many others have been saying for a long time, that the President acted outside of the law when he went around Congress to unilaterally change our Nation's immigration laws.

But the judge's ruling gets to a broader issue, and there is one part of it that I found particularly important. In writing his opinion explaining his ruling, Judge Hanen looked at the Obama administration's case and imagined how you could take their argument and apply it across the board.

It is easy to overlook and overreach what the President has said if you perhaps agree with what he actually accomplished, which is, in effect, to give legal status to roughly 5 million people. If you think that is a good idea, you are likely to turn a blind eye to the way the President did it. But if the courts establish the precedent that this President—or any future President, Republican or Democrat—can pick and choose which laws to enforce, what could end up happening? Well, it doesn't take a lot of imagination. Judge Hanen writes: “then a lack of resources”—which is the argument that was made by the administration—“would be an acceptable reason to cease enforcing environmental laws, or the Voting Rights Act, or even the various laws that protect civil rights and equal opportunity.”

That is what Judge Hanen said in his opinion in repudiating the argument made by the administration that the President had this authority and talked about what kind of dangerous precedent it would set if it were accepted by the court as legal.

I am sure I am not the only one who would hate to see our country head down that sort of lawless path where the laws don't make any difference, it is just the preference of whoever is President which determines the direction the country should take. That is a dangerous path. It is completely inconsistent with who we are as a country that believes in the rule of law.

So now that the President's actions have been settled in the court of public opinion, where they are deeply unpopular, and ruled upon by a court of law, my friends from the other side of the aisle need to take note because they have a very clear choice. They can continue to give excuses for why they are filibustering this \$40 billion Homeland Security appropriations bill or, as I said, they can put their money where their mouth is and vote to stop the President's 2014 Executive action separate and apart from any issue of funding of the Department of Homeland Security.

At the end of the day, the Senate will make sure the people who protect our

borders and our ports and our skies get paid because that is the responsible thing to do. Senate Democrats, who were so concerned and so uncomfortable with what the President did last fall, are out of excuses, and they are going to have a chance to vote on the Collins amendment on Friday or at some other time mutually agreed upon by the majority and the minority.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I listened carefully to the remarks of my friend and my colleague from Texas.

If my friend has a moment as he walks out this door, he should take a sharp left and stop at the staircase and look up. At the top of the staircase the Senator from Texas will see this amazing portrait that has been copied and referred to over and over again. It is an incredible painting that shows President Abraham Lincoln signing the Emancipation Proclamation in the midst of the Civil War while surrounded by his Cabinet. This Emancipation Proclamation freed 3 million slaves in America from involuntary servitude.

Was the President signing a bill that had been passed by Congress? No. He was signing an Executive order—the same type of Executive order used by President Obama to address the issue of immigration.

All right, Senator DURBIN, you found one moment in history. According to arguments you heard on the floor, there could not be very many more. Let's fast forward to the late 1940s with President Harry Truman. President Harry Truman, after World War II, decided to finally end racial discrimination in the ranks of our military. How did he do it? Did he do it by signing a law passed by Congress? No. He signed an Executive order ending the discrimination and segregation taking place in our military.

I don't argue that Presidents can exceed their constitutional powers. It has happened. But to argue that Executive orders that have been used by President after President are inherently unconstitutional defies any accurate, honest reading of history.

Here are some realities. The immigration system in the United States of America today is broken—broken terribly—to the point where we may have 12 to 13 million undocumented people in this country, where our borders are stronger now than they have ever been, but still have to be fortified to make sure we don't have the unnecessary migration of people into the United States in an illegal status. There are so many things we need to do to fix this broken immigration system, and we addressed them.

Two years ago eight Senators came together—four Democrats and four Republicans. I was honored to be part of

it. We sat down for months and wrote a comprehensive immigration reform bill. We brought it to the floor of the Senate after considering 100 amendments in the Senate Judiciary Committee, and it passed on the floor with 68 positive votes. Fourteen Republicans joined the Democrats for the bipartisan bill which was supported by the Chamber of Commerce, the AFL-CIO, and conservatives and liberals across America.

Pretty good work for a Congress that is blamed many times for just being obstructionists. We passed it with 68 votes, sent it to the House of Representatives, where it languished for almost 2 years, never being called for a vote—never.

At that point the President stepped forward and said: I have to do something to deal with the problems of illegal immigration in America. Here is what he proposed—two things, basically. He said: If you are here in America and are the parent of a child who is a U.S. citizen or the parent of a child who is a legal resident alien, you can come forward, pay about \$500 as a fee, subject yourself to a criminal background check. If you clear it or you committed no serious crimes and are no threat to America, then we will give you a temporary work permit to be in the United States and work. We want to know who you are, where you live, the members of your family, and where you work. That is what the President proposed, and that is what they want to stop.

We would continue the current situation with millions of undocumented people working without background checks, working without any registration to this government, so we know their whereabouts and what they do. That is what they want to end. They think the President went way too far in setting up this process. I think they are wrong.

The Republicans had a chance to pass a comprehensive immigration bill and they refused. In refusing, they left the President no alternative. He is trying to make sense out of a broken immigration system. It would be better if the Republicans joined us in the House and the Senate in a bipartisan effort to achieve that.

The last point I want to make is this: I think one of the most heartless things I have seen in my time in the House and Senate is the effort by the Republicans to end DACA. DACA was the protection the President gave to DREAMers. DREAMers are children brought to America—children, infants, toddlers, and young kids—by their parents, who grew up in America and went to school, have no serious criminal issues in their background, and who simply want the chance to be part of America's future. That is all they are asking for.

The President's Executive order gives them that chance to prove themselves,

and the Republicans want to eliminate that order. I don't understand it. If they take the time to meet some of these young people, they would realize what a waste it would be of such great skill and talent and love of America.

I will close—and I see my friend and colleague Senator MURRAY—and say this: We are a nation of immigrants. Our diversity is our strength. The people who are willing to risk everything in their lives to come to this country, to be part of this great American experiment, to have an opportunity for their next generation to have a chance for a better life, that is what defines us. That is who we are.

I stand here—and I have said it so many times and proudly so—the son of an immigrant mother who was brought here at the age of 2. She was the first DREAMer in my house, and she raised a son to serve in the U.S. Senate. That is my story. That is my family's story. That is America's story.

It is time for us to fund the Department of Homeland Security and protect America and then have an honest debate about an immigration policy consistent with American values.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Illinois for his passionate remarks. That rings so true to all of us. I thank him for all his work on the DREAM Act and making sure young people who are raised in this country have the opportunities that all of us do.

As we count down the final days before funding for the Department of Homeland Security potentially runs out, I want to take a few minutes to talk about how we got to this point. As this deadline gets closer and closer, I have been continually reminded we have been down this road many times before. This is a manufactured crisis, and it is no different than so many others we have faced in Congress over the last few years. What is happening in Congress right now is not a debate over government spending policies or priorities. That much is certain. This is not a debate over how the Department of Homeland Security should function. It is certainly not a debate about our national security. This is, pure and simple, a political fight Republicans are having with themselves across the two Chambers of the Capitol and across the different factions of the Republican Party. That is not the case for every Republican in the Senate. Several Members have said clearly we should fund the Department of Homeland Security without any strings attached.

The fact remains some Republicans are making it clear they are willing to hold hostage the basic operation of our government over rightwing politics and nothing else. While this process might seem complicated, it is actually very simple.

Democrats—along with national security experts, law enforcement experts, State and local officials, and three former Secretaries of Homeland Security, including two Republicans—want to do nothing more than fund the Department of Homeland Security cleanly, no strings or unrelated political amendments attached. But because they are so angry about the President's actions months ago to improve our country's immigration laws, some Republicans are demanding to pass a bill that will tear apart families who are working hard to make it in America, put our security at risk, and seriously threaten all of the work we have done recently—including the budget agreement I reached with Congressman PAUL RYAN—to keep our government functioning. That is not only bad policy. It doesn't make any sense.

The bill passed by Speaker BOEHNER and House Republicans would be devastating to families across the country, and it would make day-to-day operations for the Department of Homeland Security needlessly difficult. For example, TSA agents who work to keep our airports safe and secure would be forced to work without pay. These men and women should be worrying about doing their jobs, not knowing whether they are going to be able to pay their bills and put food on their table. That is not what we want them worrying about. But because of political pressure from the extreme anti-immigration, rightwing party, that is what Republican leaders in the House are demanding.

This looming shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security has become to them nothing more than collateral damage. The national impacts of not funding the Department of Homeland Security have been discussed for weeks now. This would also cause problems all the way down to individual fire departments in our local communities.

Right now the Whatcom County Fire District 18 located in my State—close to the northern Canadian border and it is about an hour north of Seattle—is applying for an assistance to firefighters grant which is funded through the Department of Homeland Security. This is a very rural fire district. They only have one paid employee—it happens to be the fire chief—along with a volunteer firefighting force of 16 and a volunteer EMT force of 6.

They have applied for a very small \$24,000 Federal grant to replace their heavily used and outdated equipment—everything from boots and helmets to gloves and fire hoods—that are now over 11 years old. I have been working with them to help them get that needed equipment which protects those volunteers who put their lives on the line to save others, but if Congress does not fund this department those grants are at risk. That is unacceptable. It is

proof this political mess the Republicans have made is not a hypothetical problem. It is something that will have real impacts on every one of our communities across the country.

My colleagues are not going to give in and let the Republicans play politics with the Department of Homeland Security. For years now we have seen that strategy doesn't work. It holds us back. I am encouraged the majority leader has said they are willing to bring up a clean Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill to the floor. We need the same commitment from the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Time is running out. The country is waiting. We need to fund Homeland Security.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). Without objection, it is so ordered.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE APPROVAL ACT—VETO

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair lays before the Senate the President's veto message on S. 1, which the clerk will read and which will be spread in full upon the Journal.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Veto message to accompany S. 1, a bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the veto message on S. 1 be considered as having been read; that it be printed in the RECORD, spread in full upon the Journal, and held at the desk; and that the Senate proceed to its consideration at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Democratic leader but no later than March 3.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The veto message of the President is printed in today's RECORD under "Presidential Messages.")

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, a number of things have been happening today with regard to the funding for the Department of Homeland Security. There has been a lot of spin that somehow the Republicans are blocking the funding of the Department of Homeland Security. This gives new meaning to the word obfuscation, I suppose, or disingenuousness.

The truth is the House of Representatives has fully funded the Department of Homeland Security. It has provided the level of funding the President asked for. It has kept all accounts in Homeland Security as approved through the congressional process. It simply says: Mr. President, we considered your bill—this amnesty bill—that would provide work permits, photo IDs, Social Security numbers, Medicare benefits, and Social Security benefits, and you can't do that. We consider that and reject it. So we are not going to fund that.

Now, the President has already told us and the staff they have across the river in Crystal City where they are leasing a new building, and this building is going to house 1,000 workers paid for by the taxpayers of the United States as part of Homeland Security. Are those 1,000 workers going to be utilized to enforce the laws of the United States? Are they going to process applications for citizenship or visas? No, those 1,000 people—costing several hundred million dollars, in truth—are going to be processing and providing these benefits to people unlawfully in America.

So Congress said: Wait a minute. We didn't authorize money for that. You can't spend money to fund exactly the opposite of what we have enacted. So we are just going to put some language in the bill—the normal bill that funds Homeland Security—and say you can't spend the money to violate the law. You can only spend the money to enforce the law, as it was created to do.

The bill then comes to the Senate; and what spectacle do we have? We have Democratic Members in lockstep unity blocking even proceeding to this bill, contending we are not funding Homeland Security. Can you imagine that?

Now, my colleague, the senior Senator from Illinois, Mr. DURBIN, the Democratic whip, came down a couple of weeks ago and said: I am trying to figure out what is blocking this bill. So I took the floor and I said: Senator DURBIN, you and your filibusterers are filibustering the bill. That is why it is not being passed.

Does anybody want to dispute that? The Republican Senate has repeatedly brought up this bill and filed cloture to move to the bill so we can fund Home-

land Security, and the Democrats are relentlessly and unanimously filibustering it, blocking even moving to the bill. Although Senator MCCONNELL said if we did move to the bill, he would allow them to have amendments. So this is the situation we are in.

Colleagues, this goes to the core of our constitutional principles about who controls the money in America. Congress is a coequal branch. It is not subordinate to the President. If anything, the legislative branch, through the Constitution, provides maybe even more power to Congress than it does to the Executive and more than it provides the courts. And the most powerful power of Congress is the power of the purse.

Congress is not obligated to pay for anything it believes is unwise, and it has an absolute duty not to fund anything that is unconstitutional or illegal, which is what we are dealing with here. So Congress—the House of Representatives—acted wisely and properly in funding Homeland Security and not allowing activities to be carried out that are unlawful and that Congress has rejected.

This is so fundamental, so basic. How my colleagues have the gall to come to the floor and have a press conference this afternoon and blame Republicans for shutting down Homeland Security is beyond me. I don't believe the American people are buying it.

Now, there are some, even on the Republican side, who say: Oh gosh, the President will blame us even if it is not our fault. So we might as well cave in and give him what he wants. But what he wants is something he can't be given. What he wants is for Congress to capitulate and erode its powers and responsibility. He wants Congress to violate its duty to fund something that is illegal and contrary to Congress's wishes. He can't demand that. He has no right to demand that.

Congress cannot fund—cannot and must not fund—an illegal action in hopes that another branch of government will intervene. Now, I say that because some have said: Well, a court in Texas has ruled that a part of this action by the President is unlawful. The court was narrow in its decision. It fundamentally said something similar to: It looks like a regulation to me, and if you are going to pass a regulation, you need to go through a process. And the President didn't go through a process. It is not lawful. It is not legal. You can't enforce it. The judge issued an injunction barring the President from carrying out these plans, he announced, which is plain law, it seems to me. They didn't even go into some of the other ideas of the constitutionality and separation of powers. He just blocked it on that basis.

So we are hearing it said that we can fully fund Homeland Security without any restrictions, allowing the President to do this, because the courts

stopped it. I think that is unwise for a number of reasons. The first one is we don't know what the courts are going to do. This Congress has a duty to fund only things it believes are appropriate and lawful. So Congress shouldn't fund it on that basis, period. We should stand up for Congresses in years to come—for our children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren—and defend the power of the purse and defend the integrity of this Congress.

We know how this country was founded. It was founded on an understanding of the British Parliament, and the British Parliament wrested from the king the power of taxes and money. That was a huge historical development, and it has been part of our tradition since, that Congress has the power of the purse. The Executive can't do it. So we replaced the king with the President, and we adhered in our Constitution to that great tradition of restraint on the Executive by the legislative branch—by the Congress, by the Senate.

In the Texas court's injunction, let me go further and note the reasons why I think it is unwise for Congress to say that we, the Senate, have no duty to speak on this issue. The House has already spoken and said we are not going to fund this. But the Senate needs to ask what its position will be.

I would point out that the Texas court's injunction addresses only a part of Obama's lawless actions and could be lifted at any time. So the injunction could be lifted at any time. It only covers a part of his actions. If Congress relinquishes the power of the purse, then nothing will be able to prevent the lawlessness or amnesty from going forward.

As the Texas court noted in issuing its injunction, "This genie would be impossible to put back in the bottle."

That is absolutely true. He is evaluating whether to issue an injunction. Sometimes you don't have to issue an injunction because there is not anything much happening right then. But he says, correctly, that: If this goes forward and millions of people are given amnesty, you can't put that genie back in the bottle in any practical sense. It would be a nightmare to try to do that.

Let me point this out:

One, the Texas court's injunction only addresses a small part of the President's recent Executive actions in November.

The Texas lawsuit challenges only the President's November 20 unconstitutional Executive action. And of that, the injunction prevents the administration from implementing only deferred action for parents of Americans and lawful permanent residents.

The Texas court injunction does not address the problematic enforcement priorities encompassed in the President's Executive actions.

He set all kinds of priorities that Congress disapproves of and that are bad—unless you don't want the laws enforced, in which case it is good. And we have some who believe in open borders in this country. They deny it when challenged, but they vote that way every time.

On November 20, 2014, the memo revised the administration's enforcement priorities which do not encompass certain criminal aliens nor do they encompass all aliens deemed to be subject to mandatory custody under the Immigration and Nationality Act. In fact, these new priorities effectively gut the enforcement of our immigration laws for all but a few select criminal aliens.

Congress passed the law that requires the deportation of persons involved in criminal activities and convicted of those activities. The President eviscerated large portions of that in this order, and he should not be allowed to do so. The judge did not address it.

Indeed, in response to the ruling, Secretary Johnson stated that the Texas court's order does not "affect this Department's ability to set and implement enforcement priorities."

Well, that is a big deal. They set priorities that violate statutory law, and they should not be allowed to do that. We can't effectively eviscerate law by prosecutorial guidelines.

According to a February 18, 2015 email from Customs and Border Protection Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske regarding the injunction, he said:

Officers and agents should continue to process individuals consistent with the enforcement priorities announced by the Secretary in his memorandum of November 20, 2014, titled Policies for the Apprehension, Detention and Removal of Undocumented Immigrants.

It deals in large part with criminal activities, people convicted of crimes who are supposed to be deported.

The funding bill the House passed would do much more to stop President Obama's unlawful Executive actions on immigration, so the administration does not intend to change its course as it is still actively preparing for its rollout of Executive amnesty.

On February 17, just a few days ago, the President told reporters that the administration is still "doing the preparatory work because this is a big piece of business." He said:

The Department of Homeland Security will continue in the planning because we want to make sure as soon as these legal issues get resolved, which I anticipate they will in our favor, that we are ready to go.

So he is telling the Department of Homeland Security to spend money now to be ready to move forward and immediately process his Executive amnesty—providing Social Security numbers, photo IDs, Medicare and Social Security benefits for people here unlawfully. He says go ahead and do it.

The Texas court injunction is only temporary and could be set aside at

any time. The administration has already filed for a stay of the injunction in the district court and has announced its intention to appeal.

Indeed, as I just read, the President said he expects to win. I don't think he will, but it is a technical part of the ruling. The judge still has many more that he could deal with that could overrule the President's action. He just chose one of them, and that one is rather technical. So who knows for sure what a court might rule.

In addition, the ruling does not address the substance of the case. It will take many months to resolve this litigation, and during that time there is a reasonable chance that some court will lift the stay and allow the President to begin implementing the amnesty pending a final ruling on the merits of the case. But Congress can stop it and has a duty to stop it in its appropriations bill.

In addition, Democrats refused to fund the lawful functions of the Department of Homeland Security. And this is important: The House-passed Department of Homeland Security funding bill funds all of the lawful, statutorily authorized functions of the Department, including the immigration law enforcement component of the agencies that, under the Obama administration, has been prevented from enforcing the laws.

Colleagues, Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers—now, I guess, 2 years ago—filed a lawsuit against their own supervisors declaring that they were being forced to violate their oath to enforce the laws of the United States.

I have never seen that. It is so bad that the ICE officers have filed a lawsuit to stop the administration from ordering them to violate plain law.

Let me note that the President has already shut down the Department by ordering immigration officers and agents to violate the laws and sabotaging enforcement in a number of ways. These are direct orders of this administration, dismantling systemic enforcement of our laws.

So I think the Senate Democrats and the President must answer why they believe funding Executive amnesty and unlawful immigration policies would make this country safer.

They say: Well, you won't pass a Homeland Security bill like we want it. You are not making America safe.

I say their policies eviscerating law enforcement are making America less safe, as the Immigration and Customs agents do, the ones who process the applicants.

Ken Palinkas, the President of the National Citizenship and Immigration Services Council, has written that: This amnesty executed by the President will make us less safe.

His amnesty makes us less safe. Passing a bill that stops his amnesty will

make us more safe. As a matter of fact, he said that more than one time—a number of times. He is very concerned, as his officers are, that if they carry out these policies, the American people are going to be less safe. In fact, they have said explicitly there is no way they can carry out in any effective manner the unlawful orders of the President of the United States.

Is anybody listening to the people who do the work every day? Does anybody care what they think? Apparently not.

So they are going to come to the floor and accuse Republicans in the House and on this side of the aisle of not making America safe when their own officers say the President's policies are making America less safe.

They say there is no way they can effectively process the individuals they are asked to process. They can't process the numbers today, much less what will happen under this bill when they have to process another 5 million. It is just a very unwise thing.

So what did the courts say? I think this is an important quote from the Texas court. A Federal court found that the President had overstepped his bounds. That is what the court fundamentally declared, stating:

It is Congress, and Congress alone, who has the power under the Constitution to legislate in the field of immigration.

That is absolutely true. It is in the Constitution. As he said:

It is Congress, and Congress alone, who has the power under the Constitution to legislate in the field of immigration.

So after the President issued his order and his Department issued orders of amnesty on November 20, 2014, the President, amazingly, said this: "I just took an action to change the law." Don't we know from elementary school that Congress passes the law? The President doesn't pass the law. He said 22 times that he didn't have the power to do this, but now he has moved forward and admitted he is changing the law.

Well, some of our colleagues think: Oh, if we resist this, the President is going to accuse us of not funding Homeland Security, not protecting the Republic.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROUNDS). The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 1 additional minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. But I don't think that is so.

They say: Well, the press is unfair.

Well, not always. I think sometimes we Republicans are right to complain but not always.

This is what the headlines are today. The headlines aren't saying Republicans are blocking the bill.

Politico: "Democrats filibuster Department of Homeland Security bill."

The Hill: "Shutdown looms as Dems block DHS bill."

McClatchy: "Filibuster continues as Senate Dems block DHS funding bill."

CNN: "Senate Dems block Homeland Security funding bill again."

Washington Post: "Senate Democrats block DHS spending bill targeting Obama's immigration actions."

Associated Press: "Dems Block Action on DHS-Immigration Bill."

New York Times: "Senate Democrats Block Vote on Homeland Security Bill."

Politico: "Dems filibuster DHS bill."

Well, that is absolutely true. We are bringing the bill to the floor. We are not blocking it. We want to fully fund Homeland Security. We want the laws enforced. We don't want to spend money from Homeland Security to eviscerate the law of the United States and undermine immigration law in America, and we don't want to fund an unlawful action by the President.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

KEYSTONE PIPELINE

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise today to applaud the President's veto of legislation that would have rubberstamped the construction of the Keystone Pipeline. This legislation allowed a circumvention of Federal review processes and allowed corporations not to adhere to various environmental safety standards that are important for the American people. So I am glad the President is vetoing this legislation.

The rules for siting cross-border pipelines are well established, and time and time again TransCanada has shown that it doesn't want to play by the rules. So with this veto by the President of the United States, he is clearly saying TransCanada must play by the rules.

The President's veto recognizes three important implications for Congress in the intervening and trying to pass this Keystone Pipeline process.

First, this bill was premature because it authorized the construction of the pipeline while legal and administrative processes were still ongoing in Nebraska and North and South Dakota and where landowners and tribes are seeking review in the courts and before regulatory bodies.

The legislation also eliminates the need for a national interest determination, which is associated with the process of the pipeline, which was a key authority for the U.S. Government to insist on safety and environmental regulations. It is a process that should have allowed the State Department and the President to insist on pipeline safety conditions.

Finally, this legislation did not address the loophole for tar sands oil

companies to avoid paying for oilspill cleanups.

By vetoing this bill, the President refused to throw hundreds of conditions out the window. These are things from 59 different pipeline safety conditions that would have been legally binding—but not if the legislation had passed.

My colleagues also remember that we talked about work—that we now have concerns on the existing Keystone Pipeline. So I am glad the President of the United States vetoed this legislation.

I hope we will get on to working on other important energy opportunities. I hope my colleagues will not try to override this veto but instead focus on renewing the energy tax credits that help employ hundreds of thousands of people in various industries—anything from solar, to wind, to hybrid electric vehicles—and get on to the other issues that are so important for us in talking about a 21st-century energy strategy.

Again, I am glad the President of the United States has vetoed this legislation that would have been a rubberstamp by Congress for a special interest. Instead, let's make sure all environmental and safety conditions are met.

I thank the Presiding Officer, and I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, one of the measures that took place in this Executive amnesty that has been too little commented upon since the President signed these orders in November is another program which has not been authorized by law which would add several hundred thousand new workers to our country.

This is the headline from an article today: "DHS Extends Eligibility for Employment Authorization to Certain H-4 Dependent Spouses of H-1B Non-immigrants Seeking Employment-Based Lawful Permanent Residence."

The H-1B program was set up for certain individuals to come and work for 3 years and then extend maybe another 3 years only, to take a job in those industries and fields where there is a shortage of workers, and it does allow the spouses to come. But since its beginning it has barred spouses from working; otherwise we would be doubling the number of workers. So this bill now just up and approves spouses of H-1B workers to work.

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service, USCIS, estimates that "the number of individuals eligible to apply for employment authorization

under this rule could be as high as 179,600 in the first year and 55,000 annually in subsequent years." This is a very large addition to the workforce.

One might say: Well, it is good that spouses can work.

Well, what if your child wants a job? What if you want a job? What if your spouse wants a job and is looking for a job? Now we will have another 250,000 job applicants, contrary to law.

There are many other aspects of the President's Executive order that have not been given attention. I think this one is worth commenting about.

There has been no sense at all by President Obama, the Department of Homeland Security, Jeh Johnson, the Democratic Members of this Congress—no concern about the employment prospects of lawful immigrants, green card holders, and native-born Americans. We have high unemployment and the lowest percentage of Americans in the working age group actually holding jobs in America that we have had since 1970. Wages are down. Professor Borjas at Harvard documents that excessive immigration pulls down wages. Since 2007 wages of median-income families are down \$4,000.

I would say to colleagues that the first thing we should do is focus on getting jobs for Americans who are unemployed. Are we going to keep Americans on welfare and benefits while we bring in more and more foreigners to take jobs when we have Americans ready and willing to take those jobs?

They like to suggest these guest workers are doing farm work. They are not. The overwhelming majority of guest workers admitted to the U.S. are not farm workers, but are taking jobs throughout the economy. A farm worker program, with temporary labor, if properly managed, is a good program. I do not oppose that. People come and work for a period of time, and if they return home and come back the next season and make enough money to take care of their families maybe for the whole year, that can work if properly managed. But look at this. The H-1Bs are people with high-tech degrees, high-tech skills. They are competing against college graduates who have computer skills and other skills.

This is what we get. This is how it is working in this country. A bunch of companies got together and they signed a letter to Speaker BOEHNER and NANCY PELOSI, the Democratic leader in the House, asking for immigration reform back in September 2013. They said they needed more H-1B workers, and they pushed for that.

I would just note this: Byron York from the Washington Examiner has written about this, and this is what the facts are. They are not hiring people. They don't have a shortage of workers. They are laying off workers in very large numbers. Hewlett-Packard had 29,000 job cuts in 2012—29,000. They

signed the letter. Cisco Systems eliminated 4,000 jobs in August 2013 in addition to 8,000 cut in the last 2 years. They signed the letter asking for more H-1B workers. United Technologies cut 3,000 jobs in 2013; American Express, 5,400 jobs in 2013; Procter & Gamble, 5,700 jobs in 2012; and T-Mobile, 2,250 layoffs in 2012. These are companies that are asking for more foreign workers.

This is another report that was in the Los Angeles Times just a few days ago: "A loophole in immigration law is costing thousands of American jobs."

Since last summer, [Southern California] Edison—

The biggest utility company in California—which serves nearly 14 million customers, has been firing its domestic IT workers and replacing them with outsourced employees from India. . . . The pay for Edison's domestic IT specialists is about \$80,000 to \$160,000 not including benefits.

Good pay.

The two Indian outsourcing firms providing workers to Edison, Tata Consultancy Services and Infosys, pay their recruits an average of about \$65,000 to \$71,000, according to federal filings.

They are laying off hundreds and requiring the California Edison employees to train the H-1B workers who shouldn't be coming into America unless there is a job need that is unfilled. How can you say we don't have qualified people? They are doing the job, and they are expected to train them. This is the kind of thing that is out of control. Somebody needs to defend the legitimate interests of middle America.

We need to ask ourselves: Does this make sense? Should the President be doubling up on it with his Executive amnesty that would add 179,600 new workers in the first year of his order and 55,000 more annually on top of the H-1B flow? We have legislation that has moved in this Senate that would more than double the number of H-1B workers coming into the country when the evidence indicates they are not needed. It might make businesses happy; they can pay half the salary of what they would otherwise be paying. But it would not be good for Americans who invested in education, trained themselves, worked themselves into a good job, and have it pulled out from under them.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I wish I could rise today to talk about the underlying legislation we are supposed to be talking about, which is a bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security, and also address the President's Executive order on immigration, which went around the Congress but also went around the American people.

A judge in Texas agrees with those of us on this side of the aisle who look at

this as an illegal act. Instead, the President ought to work with us. The President should work with the House and the Senate and the elected representatives of the American people to actually pass a law to help fix what is broken in our immigration system.

We are not able to get on that legislation, and it is not because we have differences about the bill that we could talk about. We could have votes on amendments and debate this issue, but there are those on the other side of the aisle who have decided they don't even want us to have the opportunity to hash out those differences so we can vote. I think the constituents I represent in Ohio expect us to have that debate, and they want us to have that debate. I hope those on the other side of the aisle will let us have that debate, and we could have a good, honest discussion about this and address both of these problems—the need to fund the Department and also the need to address this Executive order. I think it is another example where Washington has let down the people I represent.

In the meantime, this is no time for political games. It is a dangerous world. We have a real problem, not just here at home in protecting the homeland, but also with fires burning all around the world. It is time we showed some leadership both here in this Chamber and down the street at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. It is time for Presidential leadership.

If you turn on the TV tonight, what you will see is those fires burning. You will see a world more dangerous than the one we had after 9/11. You will see threats to the United States and our allies that seem to grow with every passing day. But even as these threats grow, it seems as though our President is increasingly hesitant to lead.

Iran, despite the platitudes of the Obama administration, which seems really eager to find an agreement and make a deal, continues its march toward developing nuclear weapons.

ISIS, the group the President once described as the JV team when they were in Iraq flying the black flag of Islam extremism over cities such as Fallujah and Mosul, cities where American marines gave their lives to liberate—the President called them the JV team.

Russian soldiers now move freely through eastern Ukraine, and the separatists there are using Russian equipment, they are trained by the Russian military, led by Russian special forces, and they continue to wage war on an American ally, Ukraine. While we all hoped the recent cease-fire would hold, all indications are that Russia and its proxies are taking advantage of that cease-fire in Ukraine to continue their aggression.

Across Europe—in France, Denmark, and Belgium—innocent people have been murdered. Some were murdered

for opposing terrorists aims, and some for the simple fact they are Jewish. These attacks are not random, as has been suggested by the administration. Unfortunately, they are designed to incite fear and weaken our resolve to oppose Islamic terrorism wherever we find it.

We must not allow them to succeed any more than we must stand silent in the face of Iranian threats and Russian aggression. What we must do is take a long, hard look at how we got here and what we must do going forward to change the situation.

In my view, a lot of the chaos we are seeing across the globe stems from a lack of leadership. Into that void, chaos ensues. The defining themes in the Obama administration's approach to foreign policy have been a preference for disengagement and an unwillingness to shoulder the responsibility of global leadership the way previous Presidents—Democrat and Republican alike—have done. As the administration itself has said, they prefer to lead from behind.

The President has said that “the trajectory of this planet overall is one toward less violence, more tolerance.” I don't know about that. I don't think history moves inexorably toward more justice and more peace. These trajectories don't just happen, people make them happen. Leadership is the key.

When America is strong, when we stand unequivocally for freedom and justice and the right of all people to choose their own destiny, when we do not back down in the face of threats and intimidation, that is when we see a world that is more stable, less dangerous, and more free.

More wars, more conflicts, more threats to our security—these don't typically arise from American strength. They arise from American weakness. When we look around the world—whether it is in Gaza or Eastern Europe or Iraq or Iran or Syria, the increase in violence and instability has coincided with the growing perception that the United States of America is either unwilling or unable to take a stand against threats to international security and stability. Addressing these complex challenges—and many of them are very complex—requires a sustained and proactive American leadership role and American engagement. It requires strategies that seek to shape outcomes, not be shaped by them.

There is a lot at stake. Events in Ukraine, the Middle East, and elsewhere are a direct challenge to the United States-led international order, which has led to unprecedented global prosperity and stability for both the United States and for the world. Confidence in America's willingness to use our unmatched economic, political, and military capabilities to uphold our system deters potential challengers and incentivizes other countries to

play by the rules, which reduces the chances of war. If the credibility of this commitment is in doubt, then the stability and openness upon which U.S. economic prosperity and national security depend is jeopardized and the chance for violence, instability, and economic collapse increases. The world is watching. They are watching to see whether this American-led order can withstand these challenges or if we really are entering into a period of the post-American world.

In Ukraine, the administration's response has been incomplete, reactionary, and ineffective. There are many political and economic dimensions of this conflict, and Ukraine needs Western support to implement crucial reforms in these areas. But there is also a military dimension to this crisis that we cannot continue to ignore. Sanctions alone have not worked. The so-called cease-fire agreements have not worked. As President Obama, Angela Merkel, and Francois Hollande debate and discuss cease-fires and timelines, Russia is deciding the outcome on the ground in eastern Ukraine this afternoon as we talk. Unless we help provide Ukraine with the tools they need to prevent that from happening, any future agreements will only solidify this reality. Let's allow them to defend themselves. Russia continues to believe that military force is a viable option to achieve its goals, and unless the United States and its European allies and NATO help the Ukrainians prove otherwise, this behavior is unlikely to change.

It is well known by now that the President has refused to adopt policies that actually provide Ukraine with the capabilities it needs. A bipartisan coalition, on the other hand, has emerged here in Congress on the need to do more, and we will continue to advocate for a change in course and pursuit of a proactive, comprehensive strategy that actually works.

In the Middle East, proactive American leadership requires upholding our commitment to stand unequivocally with Israel. No other nation in the world would be expected to put up with tunnels into their cities with rockets raining down on people's homes. The press got it wrong last year, and with all due respect, I believe the President got it wrong too. There is no moral equivalence in Gaza.

I have made a few trips to Israel. I met with their people. I have walked the streets of Sderot and have seen the remains of missiles that were targeted against innocents with hatred and an intent to kill and maim. I have been out to the bomb shelters and the indoor fortified playgrounds built so children can have a chance to play without fear. I have spent time with an Iron Dome battery crew outside Ashkelon. I can tell you this: From what I have learned, the people of Israel want peace.

Unfortunately, we know the biggest winner from this administration's waver support of Israel is Iran. Iran continues to stall on negotiations meant to end their nuclear weapons program. They continue to ask for more time, and the administration continues to grant it. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is coming to the United States next week to speak of the threat that Iran poses not only to Israel but to the world, and the President seems to be too busy to meet with him. Truly, the world has turned upside down.

A key test of U.S. leadership is ensuring that Iran does not retain nuclear capability in their continued march toward weaponization. If it were in my power, I would put the Kirk-Menendez Iran sanctions bill—of which I am an original cosponsor—here on the floor on the Senate today, and, by the way, it would pass. I believe it would pass with over 60 votes because Republicans and Democrats alike recognize that Iran will not negotiate in good faith unless the United States is unequivocal in our commitment to ending the nuclear threat Iran poses.

You will recall that this legislation does not impose new sanctions that would be imposed now. These sanctions would be imposed if the Iranians do not agree to halt their nuclear weapons program as required, by the way, by the United Nations. These are leveraged for the White House, and the White House should use that leverage.

American leadership is needed for a more stable and peaceful world. I believe the future does not belong to bigotry and hate, but to freedom-loving people of the world, and the United States of America must lead the way.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. PORTMAN. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the funding for the Department of Homeland Security and the continuing need for immigration reform.

We need to fund the Department of Homeland Security and we should pass a clean DHS funding bill. That is the only bill that can pass the Senate, and that is the only bill that should pass the Senate. Once that bill has passed the Senate and the House and becomes law, then we can and should move on to consider immigration legislation.

Republican leadership in the Senate has wasted a lot of time over the past month politicizing immigration and mixing it up with the issue of funding this Federal agency that helps to protect the United States from terrorists and other threats, and those threats are real. Just this past weekend, the terrorist organization al-Shabaab issued a threatening video suggesting that the Mall of America in my State

of Minnesota could be a target for a terrorist attack.

Look, this issue is not something we should be politicizing. We should enact into law a clean funding bill for DHS, and we should fund the Department for the whole year and not make the Department run for a short time on a continuing resolution and just revisit the issue in the near future. That is not what we want. And then we should and can debate immigration.

I have always believed the best way to accomplish meaningful and sustainable immigration reform is through congressional action. In the last Congress, the Senate took such action. As a member of the Judiciary Committee, I was very proud to play an active role in the comprehensive immigration bill the Senate passed with broad bipartisan support. For me, this was a model of how the Senate was supposed to work. Four Senators from each side of the aisle, known as the Gang of 8, came together and crafted a bill which we then marked up in the Judiciary Committee, and I was very pleased that a number of my amendments were included in the bill, which then went to the Senate floor and passed with 68 votes. That bill would have provided a real and comprehensive overhaul of our broken immigration system.

It would have significantly strengthened our border security, and it would have helped a lot of people—from small businesses to families in our legal immigration system to the many undocumented immigrants who would have an opportunity, through a tough but fair path, to get right with the law. There are millions of people in our country who want the same things that all of us want—a steady job, excellent education for our children, and a brighter future for their families. But they are living in limbo and often in fear. Our bill would help them come out of the shadows and get right with the law.

The Senate passed our bill in June of 2013. I was very hopeful the House would take up and pass the Senate bill. If the House had allowed a vote on the Senate bill, it would have passed the House and been enacted into law. That would have meant real and lasting reform to our broken immigration system. Unfortunately, over the course of the next year and a half the Republican leadership in the House failed to act on the bipartisan immigration reform bill passed in the Senate—again, with 68 votes. The President took a step forward that will help a lot of people and will help to address fixing our broken immigration system.

While I still believe Congress needs to act, I think we need to keep the Executive actions in place until we do. I will not support any legislative effort to undo President Obama's Executive actions. We are presented with a choice. Once we pass a bill into law to fund the Department of Homeland Se-

curity, we can take a step forward and help a lot more people by passing comprehensive immigration reform or we can take a step backward and harm a lot of people without getting any closer to the comprehensive immigration reform we need.

I will vote to move forward, not backward. We need a fully funded Department of Homeland Security, and we need a comprehensively overhauled immigration system.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. AYOTTE). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CHILDHOOD POVERTY

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, it is a privilege to be here with my colleague from Colorado.

I rise to talk about our schools and really to talk about our values and our morality—what we stand for as a country—and to ask whether we are able to look forward and create a better future for our children.

To set the record straight, let me be clear. When it comes to our children, I have fallen short, you have fallen short, and this body has fallen short. Let me explain why.

We have learned in the last couple of weeks that over half of the public school children in this country are now poor enough that they qualify for free or reduced lunches at school—children who, through no fault of their own, are reaping the whirlwind of 15 years of stagnant middle-class family income and the effects of the worst recession since the Great Depression.

By many measures, as the Presiding Officer knows, Colorado's economy leads the Nation. But even in our home State, we see more children living in poverty. In fact, the number of children in poverty is growing faster in Colorado than in most of the other 50 States.

As a country and as a State, we are making a lot of progress in a number of dimensions, but we are headed in the wrong direction when it comes to our kids. That is a bad sign for any country but particularly for a democracy that aspires to be the land of opportunity.

A girl in poverty in the United States is five times more likely to be a young single mother than a child from a middle-class family, and a boy in poverty is twice as likely to be incarcerated as his middle-class peers. Children from low-income families in this country are about three times less likely to graduate from high school. Someone from a family in poverty stands only a 9-in-100 chance of earning a college degree. Think about that. There are 100 seats

in this Chamber. There are 100 desks in this Chamber. If they represented children living in poverty in the United States, that desk, that desk, that desk, those three desks, and three of those desks would represent college graduates. The entire rest of this Chamber would be people that would never earn a college degree or its equivalent and who would be constrained to the margins of our economy and our democracy as a result after that.

Interestingly enough, the equivalent number for children in the top quarter of income earners is almost 80 out of 100. So 80 of these desks from a more affluent family—80 of these desks would represent a person who graduated with a college degree or its equivalent, and 20 would represent people that had fallen short, but nine poor children would have a college degree. In other words, in a way that is profoundly at war with our founding ideals, poverty breeds deeper poverty, lack of educational achievement reaps deeper academic failure, and broken families are the surest predictor of more broken families in the next generation and the generations beyond that. This is a sentence of unequal opportunity for all poor Americans, no matter the color of their skin. It is a generational sentence for 7 out of 10 children who will remain at the bottom of the income scale their entire lives.

Are there people who defy these odds? Of course there are. As superintendent of the Denver public schools and in this job, I have met scores of children who have overcome the odds—sometimes alone—but often also with the help of a parent who wouldn't quit, a teacher who wouldn't take "no" for an answer, a former gang member whose sworn duty is to keep young people out of gangs, a philanthropist who insisted that Denver's kids would go to college. In these exceptional children I have seen the indomitable nature of the human spirit persevere against all odds and have recognized how little I and most of us have achieved by comparison.

I have met kids who take three buses both ways to school leaving as early as 5:30 in the morning just to have the benefit of a better school all the way on the other side of town, kids who can't get up in the morning because they have to work until 11 o'clock or 12 o'clock at night in a fast food restaurant to help pay the rent, kids who pour their heart and soul out into their studies and communities only to learn that college is not for them because of an immigration status they did not even know that they had.

I met kids who were the primary caregivers of younger brothers and sisters who are taking care of ailing parents and grandparents, who have made it to college for the first time in their family's history who are that 9 in 100, who represent the best of our human spirit. They are our heroes.

As one of our Denver public school students, Chaunsea Dyson from South High School, recently told a radio reporter, "When you are growing up in poverty, when you are 15 or 16 that means you are grown."

That means you are grown.

As the father of three girls who are 15, 14, and 10, I would say that is an awful lot to expect of a 16-year-old, especially one coming from circumstances few in this Chamber could overcome. My point is that while there are many heroic people in our schools—kids, teachers, principals—succeeding in our school system today, heroism is not a standard we tend to count on for the success of human enterprise. We simply can't scale heroism. I wish we could—but we can't—to address the scope of our achievement gap. It is too much to ask, and it is not fair to our kids who have no control over the circumstances of their birth.

I don't think there is one Member in this Chamber who could come and say that is not true, that a child could control somehow the circumstances of his or her birth, because one of the enduring truths of being a human being is that we don't get to choose our parents. We don't choose to be born into a home of wealth or poverty, a home that values books or learning or a home which for whatever reason does not. That is a matter of good and bad luck. Yet those circumstances beyond our children's control—absolutely beyond their control—today almost always determine educational outcomes in the United States of America.

So the question is, What is our obligation? What is our obligation as a nation to remedy the burden of bad luck for millions of American children?

I believe at a minimum it means we have a moral duty to assure that our less lucky children have educational opportunities that let them make the most of their God-given potential. That is certainly what I would want for my own daughters. If we are honest, then by any reckoning we are failing to meet this moral duty and I would say failing very badly. If we ask ourselves why we are failing to do our duty—how can this be—in my mind it comes down to a sad and simple reality: We are treating America's children as if they were someone else's children rather than our own.

To demonstrate this let's consider what conditions we have allowed to exist for a child born, through no fault of her own, into poverty in the United States of America in the year 2015. We know that by the age of 4 she will have heard 30 million fewer words than her more affluent peers—30 million. Ask any elementary schoolteacher in the country whether that will make a difference in how prepared she is for kindergarten. Fewer than half of poor children start school with the skills they need to be ready to succeed in kinder-

garten. Every elementary schoolteacher in America knows that. What are the odds her neighborhood school will meet her needs? How about a school 1 mile away? How about a school 5 miles away? It is not likely in many American cities and rural communities.

When she reaches the fourth grade her odds are no better. She is 9 years old and there are 30 children in her classroom. On average, 24 of her classmates cannot read at grade level—24 out of 30. Her chances of being a proficient reader—20 percent—one in five. One in five poor children cannot read at grade level in the fourth grade in the United States of America this week, today, this year. Would any of us accept those odds or outcomes for our own children? Would any one person in this Chamber accept that? Would any of us still be in Washington engaged in the Potemkin debates we are having if our child couldn't read by the fourth grade? Of course not—of course we wouldn't. But we act as if it is not our children who are the casualties, and so we smile and we stroke our chins on the cable TV and pretend this is all somehow out of our hands, too hard to solve, someone else's problem.

Here is where it ends. In this knowledge-based global economy, this unforgiving global economy, only 9 out of 100 kids, as I said in poverty, will graduate with a college degree or its equivalent and 91 will not. These are the results we have produced for our children in this unforgiving global economy.

But for once let's put aside the finger-pointing and the blame—although we should take our fair share of responsibility—and let's ask the questions our children might reasonably ask to judge their Nation's leaders.

For example, they might ask: Why do we trail behind 35 other developed countries in our math scores? Why does the United States rank 20th in increasing educational attainment from one generation to the next—20th; the least likely country to produce more educated people coming after us than there were before us.

Why are American children much more likely to be stuck in the economic class into which they are born than children in at least 12 other countries, including Canada, Japan, Germany, Australia, and Denmark?

These seem like reasonable questions. You wouldn't know they were on anybody's mind around here with what concerns us on this floor, but I can tell you it is of concern to people at home.

Why are we consigning, they might ask, our children and ourselves to a social economic framework that is increasing, not decreasing, inequality in this country, when other countries in the world are headed in the opposite direction?

Why are we putting up with a set of circumstances in which income and

equality in America has grown significantly much faster than other industrialized countries in the world? If I were a child living in poverty in this country, those are the questions I would want to know, in addition to the fact that I can't find a school, not just down the street, not just in my neighborhood but in my city or even in the region of my State to go to. To put it another way, I can't find a school in my community that any Member of the Senate would be proud to send their child to.

Why can't I find that school?

I didn't pick my parents. That was a question of good luck or bad luck. In my case it was bad luck.

I know there are profound disagreements about whether the Federal, State or local government should serve our kids and how. I am even sympathetic, believe me, as a former school superintendent, to many arguments about how poorly Washington is often situated to help. But surely as a nation, one way or another, we have a moral obligation. That is our legacy as Americans "in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity."

Imagine how less powerful the Preamble to the Constitution would have been if it stopped with ourselves, period—but it didn't. It resolves the question in favor of our posterity—our posterity, not someone else's—our children, not someone else's. What would this debate sound like if we were serious about this moral obligation?

Without deciding today who would deliver and pay for these important social goods, something we should debate and understand, consult with our States and our school districts, our parents and our communities; but, without making those decisions today, if we just were treating the country's children as our own children, what would this debate sound like? What would we do?

We surely would provide every parent and her child with the choice to access early childhood education from birth to age 5 in order to attack that 30 million word deficit. Surely we would do that.

I am not saying we should do it. I don't think we should do that from here, but as a nation we should do that. Surely we would ensure that every child, without exception and regardless of where they live, has the choice to attend a high-performing school from kindergarten to 12th grade. Surely we would do that.

We would enable every young person, consistent with most of our postwar history, the chance to attain a college degree or other advanced technical training without bankrupting their family. I saw some data this weekend

about this that showed that in 1975—and admittedly it was the high-water mark—the Pell grants covered roughly 76 percent of what it cost to go to college, the average cost of college. Do you know what that number is now? It is 22 percent, mostly because the cost of college has increased so much.

Bankruptcy is a real issue. These goals—early childhood education, a great K–12 school, affordable college—might seem obvious and even unimaginative to many of us in this Chamber, but that might be because we take them for granted for our own children. Of course we want high-quality early childhood education, of course we want a high-quality K–12 school, of course we want our young people to have access to college without bankrupting our family, and that is the experience of a lot of people in this Chamber. The terrible reality for most poor children in America in 2015 is that these simple goals are as out of reach as flying to the Moon, all over this country.

Some say we can't afford to change, and I say we can't afford not to change. The costs of failure, as we know, are simply too high. Since the Industrial Revolution, we have had the greatest economy the world has ever known, and if we are to remain so in the 21st century, we must educate our people. We have no other choice. They are our greatest asset. We can do it.

I am not proposing today a new Federal program of any kind. However, I will say if it were left up to me, we would have a standing committee in the Senate focused exclusively on our children and their future. Such a committee would, for example, examine every funding stream in the Federal budget related to kids and ask what is working and what is not working. What redundancies exist? How are we going to align every single taxpayer dollar or tax credit to help support the health, education, and well-being of our children?

I suspect that in addition to increasing efficiency, we would decide to spend more of our resources in and around schools. That is where our kids are, after all, and that is where the people who have served them in our communities need to be instead of tied up in the redtape of compliance and outdated and unimaginative Federal rules and regulations.

In addition to that, we need to explore more efficient ways to finance social welfare programs, promote more creative ways to weave our social safety net in this country, and reform our criminal justice system. A good start would be to graduate children from high school, since around 80 percent of our prison inmates are high-school dropouts. That would help a lot. We need to better engage with the private and nonprofit sectors when the government isn't working well enough. This is all part of a broader but essential

conversation, one this body continues to avoid while it wanders from one phony conflict to the next, and one that becomes more difficult and more expensive the longer we wait.

Our kids are waiting for us to have this conversation. We are wasting their time. It is one thing for us to waste our own time—although the capacity for doing that around here is beyond belief—but we ought to stop wasting our kids' time. As I said, it is only going to become more difficult and more expensive the longer we wait.

In the meantime, we have before us the potential to rewrite the Elementary and Secondary School Act. Fixing so-called No Child Left Behind is only one piece of the puzzle. Given where we are, this is all pretty modest stuff. There are some very encouraging signs, although the law has plenty of flaws. In fact, I said many times that if we had a rally out in front of the Capitol to keep No Child Left Behind the same—if that is what the rally was for—not a single person in America would show up for that rally.

Incidentally, while we have this reauthorization in front of us, it is a reauthorization that should have happened 7 years ago. It expired 7 years ago. We are running education policy in this country by waivers from the Department of Education because this Congress cannot do its job. Almost 40 of 50 States have waivers from the law as it exists today. Let's change the law. Let's write it properly. Let's do our work around here instead of spending our time on things the American people don't want us to spend our time on.

Although everybody loves to hate No Child Left Behind, and I put myself in that category, it has some good things. It required us to face the facts about how our kids in poverty are doing in our schools. It shed light for the first time on the achievement gap—the brutal achievement gap—we have in this country, and some school districts stepped up. Denver Public Schools is one such district.

Over the last decade, Denver Public Schools has implemented a number of changes and has seen real results. My schoolboard and my principals and my teachers and our kids and I would be the first to say we have not yet gotten to a place where you can say the ZIP Code you were born into doesn't determine the education you are going to get, but we are a lot closer in Denver. We are a lot closer there than we are in a lot of other cities in this country. We have seen some real results.

Almost 30 percent more students graduated and went to college last year than in 2005. That is not enough. We are not satisfied with that. But if you could say that about every single city in this country, that we were graduating and sending 30 percent more students to college than we were in 2005, that might give us some hope for

the future. That might suggest that some outcomes other than the ones we have been seeing with the result of 9 out of 100 poor kids getting a college degree is not where we have to end up, is not where we have to land.

I am here to tell you, not as a U.S. Senator, but as someone who was a superintendent of the Denver Public Schools, this is possible. It is possible to change these outcomes in urban districts and in rural districts for children who are unlucky enough to be born into poverty in the greatest Nation on the planet—unlucky enough to be born poor and not born rich.

Denver has recognized the importance of providing access to high-quality, early childhood education, and now an estimated 70 percent of Denver's 4-year-olds are enrolled in preschool. That was not true in 2005.

As the Presiding Officer knows, we live in a State that doesn't require or pay for 5-year-olds to go to kindergarten. That is a shame. But because of the changes we made in Denver, our 5-year-olds go to kindergarten—a full day if they want it, which most of them do—and 70 percent of the fourth graders in Denver have early childhood education, and it is not only delivered by the Denver Public Schools, but by other providers as well and the Denver public schools.

This seems to be having an effect as kids who attend the Denver preschool program track higher in school readiness. They know more about the alphabet, words, and books. They have a higher vocabulary and are able to comprehend basic math. And in kindergarten, first, and second grade, they showed better literacy and math skills than their peers.

The dropout rate in Denver has decreased since 2005 by 60 percent. Incidentally, the teen pregnancy rate has also fallen by 60 percent. Denver Public Schools has gone from being the district with the lowest rate of academic growth among major districts in the State to the highest for 3 straight years. I am not taking responsibility for that. I am here, not there.

Last year DPS students from low-income families had stronger growth in math and writing than nonfree- and reduced-lunch students Statewide. And Denver's nonfree- and reduced-lunch students showed more growth than their State counterparts in math by nine points.

This was once labeled the failing school district in our State, but because of the data that we have as a result of No Child Left Behind, we can actually see what is happening—which kids are growing and which kids are not, which schools are driving growth among kids and which schools are not.

You can look at a map of our city and find a school that looks just like your low-performing school with the same percentage of free- and reduced-

lunch kids where kids are succeeding beyond their wildest dreams. Then what parents can do is say: I want that school, not this school, for my kid. Because we have a robust system of choice in Denver, parents are able to take advantage of that data, and we simply would not have had the proliferation of high-performing charter schools if it had not been for No Child Left Behind. In addition, Denver has gone beyond that.

We have 33 innovation schools where teachers and administrators have the flexibility to modernize their teaching practices and have more autonomy to make decisions at the school level to better meet the needs of individual students. And it is not just Denver. We have seen progress all across the country—not remotely enough, but we have seen progress, and we cannot go backward.

In the 3 decades prior to No Child Left Behind being passed—30 years—the average 9-year-old's reading score on the National Assessment of Educational Progress increased only 4 points—4 points in 30 years. Is that acceptable? Contrast that to the gains from 1990 to 2012, which is roughly the life of No Child Left Behind. During that span, 9-year-olds gained 9 points in reading, about 7 times as much annual progress. We have seen similar progress in math—9-year-olds only increased 2 points from 1990 to 1999, but from 1999 to 2012, they gained 12 points. In that same span, African-American students improved by 15 points and Latino students improved by 21 points.

The achievement gap shrunk as well. In reading, the gap between White and African-American 9-year-old students dropped from 35 to 23 points. It is still too big, but it is moving in the right direction. This represents progress, but as I have said, in the face of stiff competition worldwide, it is nowhere near enough.

Since the year 2000, we have dropped from second to twelfth in the world in the production of college graduates. We need to write a bill that builds on our successes and turns us away from the failed practices of the past, and we cannot do it if we are constrained by the typical politics—the small politics of Washington. We cannot afford to have the same tired fights. We won't always agree on everything, but I know we can find a way to pass a bill that helps our schools and school districts to make the decisions they think are best for the kids they are educating.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

We are under a 10-minute time limitation.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 7 more minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BENNET. I appreciate the indulgence of my colleague from Louisiana.

In a significant demonstration of leadership around here, Chairman ALEXANDER and Senator MURRAY have told us they intend to write a bipartisan bill. Their process has the potential to be a rare exception to the gridlock that has gripped this Senate, along with our bipartisan work on the farm bill and immigration.

Senators ALEXANDER and MURRAY have both expressed a willingness to work together because they appreciate the importance of this task. They understand the consequences of failure. They know enough about this issue, and they care enough about it.

In January of 1941, during one of the Nation's most difficult times—the height of the Great Depression and on the eve of our entry into the Second World War, Franklin Roosevelt declared that there were four universal freedoms that all persons possessed—freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear.

Today, in the 21st century, some of these freedoms may be obtainable, but an honest assessment tells us it would be impossible to achieve all of them without something additional, and that is freedom from ignorance. In the end, freedom from ignorance is the surest relief from the shackles of poverty.

Where does this leave us as we begin this important but long overdue national conversation on the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary School Act?

First, for all the reasons I have mentioned, America's children would benefit if we treated our work less as legislators than as parents and grandparents with a real stake in the outcome of what we decide.

Second, we must be clear-eyed about the Federal Government's proper role in American education and what is not. As a superintendent, I learned there are many things the Federal Government cannot and should not do when it comes to educating our children. And above all else, Washington cannot and should not micromanage our schools or our school districts or cultivate systems driven by compliance rather than creativity.

I believe the evidence of our failures and our successes over the last 15 years suggest three primary Federal responsibilities: equity, accountability, and innovation. After all, the deep and intractable inequities that persisted along lines of race and class and geography in America of the 1960s drove Lyndon Johnson to pass the first Elementary and Secondary Schools Act. They drove the creation of title I, specific funds targeted to the kids who needed the greatest support.

Sadly, for all the reasons I said, half a century later the data reveals these profound inequities persist and our students need our help now more than ever. But there is also reason for hope

in this data, and maybe that is the most important message I can bring. We now have evidence that sustains support to make the difference in closing the pernicious gaps that remain for low-income kids around the country. Our deep commitment to equity, therefore, is as important today as it was in 1963.

This means not just committing title I resources, but continuing to expand efforts to open the best schools and attract the best teachers and principals to our communities in the greatest need. In particular, we must help teachers who are saying they want better preparation, they want an excellent principal in their school, they want a better compensation system and opportunities for leadership that allow them to continue working with students.

At DPS we have made some strides. We created the Denver Teacher Residency Program and introduced differentiated pay. We used Federal innovation dollars to help us improve and expand early on. We are creating leadership roles for teachers who demonstrate results with their students. We survey our teachers every year, and their satisfaction rates are higher than the national average. But there is still much more for us to do.

Second, those of us working in the field know we must have a clear, shared system of accountability, a system that allows us to monitor, understand, and improve outcomes for students. This requires annual assessments that monitor progress and growth across all our cities and States. It requires breaking down data to show how and if we are closing the gaps for all students in our school districts. It means requiring States to take courageous action to turn around those schools that consistently fail our children.

That is not just about paying attention to how we are serving our low-income students in Detroit or Denver. It means examining how well we serve our historically disadvantaged students even when they live in some of the most advantaged neighborhoods. As we do this, we need to work to reduce the amount of testing in our schools. As the father of three daughters in the Denver public schools, I am concerned about how much they are tested. But as their father, I also want to know every year how they are doing against a set of rigorous standards and compared to kids in Denver, across Colorado, and around the world. Will they be ready for college? Do they have the skills they need to succeed in this global economy?

Third, we have learned over the last decade there is a vital Federal role when it comes to innovation in our schools. We can help provide the preconditions for success by providing incentives for educators on the ground to apply their own creative thinking to

address our most persistent education problems.

I say to my colleague from Louisiana, through the Chair, I am coming to the end. I owe him 10 minutes whenever he would like it. I thank him for his indulgence.

We will never solve the challenges our teachers and students face in Washington, period. We will not do it from here. We can help local leaders break free from a status quo that will never succeed for enough of America's children.

We should help identify the challenges, provide resources to local educators to overcome them in the context that works best for their communities and their students, and we should continue to be the clearinghouse that gathers these stories of successful innovation and provide the resources to invest in scaling what works and sharing these practices across communities and States.

Equity, accountability, innovation—that is our charge and the commitment we must keep if we are to build an America where we treat every child as if she were our own.

As a parent myself, I am well aware the first responsibility any parent has is the education of her child. I am also aware that many people believe a bad education is just one more outcome produced by corrosive poverty in this country. Fix poverty, and you will fix education. Maybe so, but that is cold comfort for millions of children in our schools today.

In the end, we have a duty as a nation to ensure that education liberates our children, rather than reinforces the circumstances into which they were born. In that sense, America's children are our children, our responsibility, not someone else's. Can you really accept an America in which your little girl has just a 1-in-5 chance of being able to read well or a 9-in-100 chance to graduate from college? Can you really demand heroism as a precondition for success? If this were your child, would you still be in the Senate, or would you go home and solve the problem?

It has been said the future has no lobby in Washington, DC. Are we really content to have that depressing observation be the ultimate verdict on our leadership? I doubt we are. I would raise this as a bipartisan challenge as I close.

I know the Senator from Louisiana knows a lot about what I came to talk about today, and I look forward to working with him on the health committee.

Here is my bipartisan challenge. Let's forge a lobby for the future. Let's agree that the obligation we owe the Founders is to create more opportunity, not less, for the children coming after us. Let's pledge that every child in America is our child, and our future rests with her, as it most assuredly does.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the House-passed Homeland Security appropriations bill. This bill is not just about whether we should fund the Department of Homeland Security to carry out the very important work of protecting our Nation, but also whether we will provide amnesty to those here illegally.

First, let's establish that the Constitution says Congress has authority over our immigration and naturalization laws. The President does not have the authority to waive legal requirements. The Supreme Court has upheld this on numerous occasions. The President has admitted more than 20 times he does not have this authority. That said, now his administration is attempting to block the ruling the judge recently made to protect his amnesty plan. As has been reported in the papers, Judge Hanen in Texas has put an injunction against proceeding with the President's amnesty bill. It is reported the Department of Homeland Security, at the President's direction, is moving forward with plans to seal large contracts with companies to process deferred-action applications for millions of illegal immigrants as soon as possible.

American families have seen President Obama rewrite the laws many times, and the outcomes of the recent elections show they do not support President Obama's Executive overreach. The President intends to grant amnesty to 5 million people. This will not be done on a case-by-case basis as the law suggests it should be. It is going to be a rubberstamp, a rubberstamp at the expense of those who are legally attempting to come to our country. It will take longer for those who are attempting to come legally to gain admittance under the law. I support the efforts of those coming to the United States to make a better life for themselves and their family. We all believe in immigration. We just think immigration should be legal.

The President has rewritten the law to allow illegal immigrants the ability to receive work permits and drivers licenses which also includes receiving a Social Security number. After a certain period of time they will be eligible for Social Security. This goes far beyond his legal authority. By the way, many of my Democratic colleagues have expressed concerns about the President's action and whether he had the constitutional authority to take the action he has taken. Clearly he does not. While the President says this legal status is temporary, the reality is once work permits have been issued and Social Security cards are given, folks will be allowed to stay. They would not be deemed a priority for removal. On top of that, the temporary status may be renewed.

In 2011, the President took Executive action for the Department of Homeland Security to start prioritizing illegal immigrants for removal. In April 2014, several months before he took his most recent action, the Los Angeles Times quoted former ICE Director John Sandweg in an article where he said, If you are a run-of-the-mill immigrant here illegally, your odds of getting deported are close to zero.

The Associated Press reported in September 2014 the Department of Homeland Security admitted to a group of immigrant advocates during a confidential meeting that about 70 percent of illegal immigrants traveling as families failed to report back to ICE as ordered after they were released at the border.

A few weeks ago Louisiana school administrators and I met, and they expressed concern about how the President's immigration policies have stressed our school systems. Classroom sizes have grown. Their associated costs to hire more teachers, buy textbooks, and the required resources to educate these students all have grown. President Obama is giving Executive amnesty to suit his agenda but is stretching limited local and State resources. By stretching them, it is making it tougher on Americans who are born here.

The administration says only 5 million people will be impacted by the President's Executive order. The reality is with numerous options for illegal immigrants to remain in this country, people are going to hear about it. They will attempt to come. This will be a magnet for others to come here illegally. Illegal behavior is being rewarded.

If the President's supporters feel compelled to continue blocking the funding bill, it must be clear they feel that Executive amnesty is legal regardless of how the courts have ruled. It is clear they believe that protecting the President's illegal action is more important than providing our men and women with the resources to protect our border.

We must fund the Department of Homeland Security. As I have said, many of my colleagues who expressed serious concerns with the President's Executive actions in November are now voting to protect these actions. It is unfortunate they voted four times to prevent this bill—the Homeland Security funding bill—from coming up for debate. They won't even allow debate. Folks say they want funding for the Homeland Security Department, but they won't allow debate. This is unconscionable.

I believe it is important we move forward to avoid a shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security. I urge my colleagues to please stop blocking this important legislation we must pass to protect our country and give

the men and women of Homeland Security the resources they need and, most importantly, to protect the Constitution.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the role.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAINES). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, in 3½ days, the Department of Homeland Security may well shut down. I speak as the senior Democrat on the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs for the last 2 years and, along with Dr. Tom Coburn, our former colleague from Oklahoma, chaired that committee that he and I led.

But in 3½ days, if Congress fails to act responsibly—78 hours, I think, from right now—the Department of Homeland Security may shut down. I have spoken on the floor a number of times in recent weeks about the complex, consistent, and very real threats that our country faces. We are familiar with a lot of them—maybe not all.

But over the past several months we have seen horrific images of beheadings, of mass murders, brutal executions at the hands of the Islamic State. Some of our Nation's largest companies and Federal agencies have been victims of massive cyber attacks. They continue to this day.

This weekend another terrorist group, the Al Qaeda-linked terrorist group in Somalia called al-Shabaab, vowed they would seek revenge against the United States. They cited the Mall of America in Minnesota as a potential target. It is not just these groups or the lone wolf terrorists they inspire that we need to worry about.

Last fall, Ebola ravaged several nations in western Africa and even came to our shores as well. Threats from Mother Nature persist too. Communities and cities in some parts of our country are trying to get through a winter that has already broken snowfall records, and more records are likely to fall. Yet today, here in the Congress, there are some who are questioning whether even to fund the very agencies charged with keeping us safe from these and other evolving threats. That goes beyond being irresponsible. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson nailed it recently when he said what it was. Here is what he said: "It is bizarre and absurd that we are even having this discussion." I could not agree more. Is this really the message we want to be sending to all those folks across the world who wish us harm? God, I hope not.

Here we are, days before this key agency could be forced to shut down

preparing for the worst. Some of our colleagues have said that it is not a big deal if the Department shuts down. I could not disagree more strongly, and here is why. If we continue this behavior and fail to pass a clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill by midnight on Friday, this is what will happen at the Department of Homeland Security: Much of the Department's workforce, up to 200,000 people, will be expected to show up for work but work without pay.

That includes Border Patrol agents who protect our borders. That includes Coast Guard crews who patrol our waters. That includes the TSA employees who keep our skies safe and make it safe to fly on airplanes and get in and out of our airports. Many of these courageous men and women put their lives in harm's way every day. We expect them to continue doing that. We just are not going to pay them.

That is right. We want you to keep doing your job of protecting our Nation. Eventually, those in Congress will get around to doing our job. When we do, you will get paid. Let me ask: How would we like to be treated that way? How would we like to be treated that way? Well, we would not. I think it is shameful that we would even contemplate treating some of our bravest fellow employees like that.

It is shameful. Even worse, treating our people like this does not make America any safer. In fact, it makes us less safe in the end. Even if we did avoid a shutdown, we would keep the Department running on a stopgap continuing resolution. We would prevent the men and women who work there from doing their jobs as efficiently and as effectively as they could be, should be, and would like to be.

Secretary Johnson described that putting the Department on another continuing resolution—these are his words—"is a little like trying to drive cross-country with no more than five gallons of gas [in the tank] at a time and you don't know when the next gas station is. You can't plan except days and weeks at a time."

For example, if we pass another stopgap continuing resolution, the Department will not be able to replace obsolete surveillance technology along high-risk areas of our border. We need to replace that. In addition, our Nation will have significantly fewer resources to respond to any future surges of unaccompanied minors along our southwest border. Moreover, we will put construction of a badly needed national security cutter for the Coast Guard on hold. Why does that matter? It matters because our Coast Guard fleet is aging and needs to be modernized. These ships are essential to stopping illegal trafficking off our coasts, such as drug trafficking, human trafficking, and illegal immigration—some of it in vessels that travel at speeds of greater than 50 knots.

If that is not enough, try this: It is widely known that employee morale at the Department of Homeland Security is the lowest of all major Federal agencies. Passing yet another continuing resolution I promise you will not make it any better—quite the opposite. Morale will only get worse, and in doing so threaten to degrade the performance of the people we rely on, perhaps more than any other, to keep Americans safe.

So let me say it again. This is not the way we should be treating the public servants who in many cases risk their lives to keep our Nation and all Americans safe. This is no way to run a key national agency. Furthermore, as we have learned over the years, this kind of crisis budgeting costs taxpayers millions of dollars in lost productivity, in hiring freezes, in contracts that will have to be renegotiated—not at a lower cost to taxpayers—at higher costs.

Now, I understand why some of our colleagues are concerned about the policies and procedures set forth in the President's Executive action on immigration. I get it. They have every right to express those concerns. But the budget of the Department of Homeland Security is not the place to have that debate. A Federal district court in South Texas recently examined what the President put forward and blocked its implementation. Why cannot we just let the judicial process play out and meanwhile do our job by funding the Department of Homeland Security for the balance of this fiscal year?

Some of our Republican colleagues agree with this approach. One of our colleagues, LINDSEY GRAHAM, said earlier this week: "I hope Republicans will come together and back the court case, file a friend of the court brief with the court and fund DHS."

He added:

I am willing and ready to pass a DHS funding bill and let this play out in court. The worst possible outcome for this nation is to defund the Department of Homeland Security given the multiple threats we face to our homeland.

Our friend, LINDSEY's friend, JOHN MCCAIN, also said recently—these are his words, not mine:

It's not a good idea to shut down the Department of Homeland Security. . . . Now we have the perfect reason to not shut it down because the courts have decided, at least initially, in our favor.

"Our favor" is that of the Republican Governors who filed the lawsuit in the South Texas district court. I want to urge my Republican colleagues to go ahead and pursue this potential judicial remedy to address the concerns they have. But while they are doing that, for God's sake, let's bring a clean, fiscal year 2015 appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security—the same bill that both Democrats and Republicans agreed to last

December—let's bring it to the floor so we can give the Department the funding and the certainty that it desperately needs.

Regardless of what happens in the courts, at the end of the day comprehensive immigration reform is the only way we can fix our broken immigration system for the long term. It is the only way we can address the issues the President was trying to resolve in his Executive action in a straightforward way, as we did in the last Congress when we passed by a big bipartisan vote right on this floor—by a 2-to-1 margin—comprehensive immigration reform.

We owe the American people an honest and thorough debate on immigration reform. But let's do it the right way. We have shown that we can do that. We did it a year and a half ago. Let's do it again. Let's do it this year after approving a clean, full-year funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security.

I might just add this. The comprehensive immigration reform that we passed here by a 2-to-1 margin a year and a half ago was priced out by the Congressional Budget Office, which is not Democratic or Republican. They looked at it and did all the numbers and everything. They concluded that rather than increasing the budget deficit, that comprehensive immigration reform bill reduced the budget deficit for the next 10 years by \$200 billion. Further, for the second 10 years, it reduced our budget deficit by \$700 billion.

A different study further suggested that the impact on our Nation's economy and on our gross domestic product by the implementation of that same comprehensive immigration reform was that it would not diminish the growth to our economy. It would actually increase it by 5 percent—5-percent GDP growth over a two-decade period of time.

Those of us who are privileged to serve in the Senate were sent here by our constituents with a critical responsibility: to work together and pass laws that help our Nation and help our economy to grow and to thrive.

This debate—or any debate, for that matter—should not be about one political party winning or losing, because the only people who are losing are the constituents we are supposed to serve. As long as we continue to spend our time debating these manufactured funding crises, our constituents—American taxpayers from coast to coast—are going to continue to lose. We as a Congress, I think, lose as well.

I believe American voters made it clear in last fall's election. They are tired of all of this kind of behavior. I do not blame them either. But it is simple. They want us to do our job. They want us to work together across these aisles. They want us to get things done that need to get done. They want us to find ways to strengthen the—

I ask unanimous consent for 2 additional minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARPER. In closing, let me just note that I am encouraged to hear that Senate Majority Leader MCCONNELL now seems to be moving toward allowing a vote on a clean bill. I hope this change of course is the beginning of the end of this crisis for the Department of Homeland Security and for our country. Whatever we do, it is critical that we consider and pass a clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill first. At this point, every hour that goes by without one creates more uncertainty and more waste.

After we do that, let's roll up our sleeves and let's get back to work on a thoughtful, 21st century immigration reform policy for our country, a policy that is fair, a policy that will significantly reduce our Nation's budget deficit, and a policy that will strengthen the economic recovery now underway.

I want to thank my friend from Iowa for the kindness in allowing me to proceed for an extra few minutes.

I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTY PRIETSCH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this week, the Senate will bid a fond farewell to the director of its Employee Assistance Program, Christy Prietsch.

Christy is retiring after more than a decade of dedicated service in the Senate. She has made quite an impression since coming here in 2004. Senate employees know Christy as a warm and inviting person they can go to whenever they need someone to talk to. She is experienced in helping others overcome obstacles both personal and professional, and it is clear that her care and concern for the Senate community is as genuine as it is deep.

But for Christy, we also know that such a fulsome commitment to serving the Senate has meant spending less time with her husband and her son than she would like. So we hope this decision to retire will give Christy the opportunity to see more of her family. We also hope that, after helping so many others for so many years—not only in the Senate, but before that in agencies such as the Secret Service and Department of Justice—Christy will have a little more time to pursue her own passions too.

So the Senate sends its thanks to this dedicated professional who has touched the lives of many, Christy Prietsch, and we wish her well in retirement.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, the rules governing the procedures of the Committee on Armed Services have not changed for the 114th Congress. Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 2, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, on behalf of myself and Senator REED, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a copy of the committee rules.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

1. REGULAR MEETING DAY.—The Committee shall meet at least once a month when Congress is in session. The regular meeting days of the Committee shall be Tuesday and Thursday, unless the Chairman, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, directs otherwise.

2. ADDITIONAL MEETINGS.—The Chairman, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, may call such additional meetings as he deems necessary.

3. SPECIAL MEETINGS.—Special meetings of the Committee may be called by a majority of the members of the Committee in accordance with paragraph 3 of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

4. OPEN MEETINGS.—Each meeting of the Committee, or any subcommittee thereof, including meetings to conduct hearings, shall be open to the public, except that a meeting or series of meetings by the Committee or a subcommittee thereof on the same subject for a period of no more than fourteen (14) calendar days may be closed to the public on a motion made and seconded to go into closed session to discuss only whether the matters enumerated below in clauses (a) through (f) would require the meeting to be closed, followed immediately by a record vote in open session by a majority of the members of the Committee or subcommittee when it is determined that the matters to be discussed or the testimony to be taken at such meeting or meetings—

(a) will disclose matters necessary to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or the confidential conduct of the foreign relations of the United States;

(b) will relate solely to matters of Committee staff personnel or internal staff management or procedure;

(c) will tend to charge an individual with a crime or misconduct, to disgrace or injure the professional standing of an individual, or otherwise to expose an individual to public contempt or obloquy or will represent a clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of an individual;

(d) will disclose the identity of any informer or law enforcement agent or will disclose any information relating to the investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense that is required to be kept secret in the interests of effective law enforcement;

(e) will disclose information relating to the trade secrets or financial or commercial information pertaining specifically to a given person if—

(1) an Act of Congress requires the information to be kept confidential by Government officers and employees; or

(2) the information has been obtained by the Government on a confidential basis,

other than through an application by such person for a specific Government financial or other benefit, and is required to be kept secret in order to prevent undue injury to the competitive position of such person; or

(f) may divulge matters required to be kept confidential under other provisions of law or Government regulations.

5. PRESIDING OFFICER.—The Chairman shall preside at all meetings and hearings of the Committee except that in his absence the Ranking Majority Member present at the meeting or hearing shall preside unless by majority vote the Committee provides otherwise.

6. QUORUM.—(a) A majority of the members of the Committee are required to be actually present to report a matter or measure from the Committee. (See Standing Rules of the Senate 26.7(a)(1)).

(b) Except as provided in subsections (a) and (c), and other than for the conduct of hearings, nine members of the Committee, including one member of the minority party; or a majority of the members of the Committee, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of such business as may be considered by the Committee.

(c) Three members of the Committee, one of whom shall be a member of the minority party, shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of taking sworn testimony, unless otherwise ordered by a majority of the full Committee.

(d) Proxy votes may not be considered for the purpose of establishing a quorum.

7. PROXY VOTING.—Proxy voting shall be allowed on all measures and matters before the Committee. The vote by proxy of any member of the Committee may be counted for the purpose of reporting any measure or matter to the Senate if the absent member casting such vote has been informed of the matter on which the member is being recorded and has affirmatively requested that he or she be so recorded. Proxy must be given in writing.

8. ANNOUNCEMENT OF VOTES.—The results of all roll call votes taken in any meeting of the Committee on any measure, or amendment thereto, shall be announced in the Committee report, unless previously announced by the Committee. The announcement shall include a tabulation of the votes cast in favor and votes cast in opposition to each such measure and amendment by each member of the Committee who was present at such meeting. The Chairman, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, may hold open a roll call vote on any measure or matter which is before the Committee until no later than midnight of the day on which the Committee votes on such measure or matter.

9. SUBPOENAS.—Subpoenas for attendance of witnesses and for the production of memoranda, documents, records, and the like may be issued, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, by the Chairman or any other member designated by the Chairman, but only when authorized by a majority of the members of the Committee. The subpoena shall briefly state the matter to which the witness is expected to testify or the documents to be produced.

10. HEARINGS.—(a) Public notice shall be given of the date, place and subject matter of any hearing to be held by the Committee, or any subcommittee thereof, at least 1 week in advance of such hearing, unless the Committee or subcommittee determines that good cause exists for beginning such hearings at an earlier time.

(b) Hearings may be initiated only by the specified authorization of the Committee or subcommittee.

(c) Hearings shall be held only in the District of Columbia unless specifically authorized to be held elsewhere by a majority vote of the Committee or subcommittee conducting such hearings.

(d) The Chairman of the Committee or subcommittee shall consult with the Ranking Minority Member thereof before naming witnesses for a hearing.

(e) Witnesses appearing before the Committee shall file with the clerk of the Committee a written statement of their proposed testimony prior to the hearing at which they are to appear unless the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member determine that there is good cause not to file such a statement. Witnesses testifying on behalf of the Administration shall furnish an additional 50 copies of their statement to the Committee. All statements must be received by the Committee at least 48 hours (not including weekends or holidays) before the hearing.

(f) Confidential testimony taken or confidential material presented in a closed hearing of the Committee or subcommittee or any report of the proceedings of such hearing shall not be made public in whole or in part or by way of summary unless authorized by a majority vote of the Committee or subcommittee.

(g) Any witness summoned to give testimony or evidence at a public or closed hearing of the Committee or subcommittee may be accompanied by counsel of his own choosing who shall be permitted at all times during such hearing to advise such witness of his legal rights.

(h) Witnesses providing unsworn testimony to the Committee may be given a transcript of such testimony for the purpose of making minor grammatical corrections. Such witnesses will not, however, be permitted to alter the substance of their testimony. Any question involving such corrections shall be decided by the Chairman.

11. NOMINATIONS.—Unless otherwise ordered by the Committee, nominations referred to the Committee shall be held for at least seven (7) days before being voted on by the Committee. Each member of the Committee shall be furnished a copy of all nominations referred to the Committee.

12. REAL PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS.—Each member of the Committee shall be furnished with a copy of the proposals of the Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, submitted pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2662 and with a copy of the proposals of the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, submitted pursuant to 50 U.S.C. App. 2285, regarding the proposed acquisition or disposition of property of an estimated price or rental of more than \$50,000. Any member of the Committee objecting to or requesting information on a proposed acquisition or disposal shall communicate his objection or request to the Chairman of the Committee within thirty (30) days from the date of submission.

13. LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR.—(a) The clerk of the Committee shall keep a printed calendar for the information of each Committee member showing the bills introduced and referred to the Committee and the status of such bills. Such calendar shall be revised from time to time to show pertinent changes in such bills, the current status thereof, and new bills introduced and referred to the Committee. A copy of each new revision shall be furnished to each member of the Committee.

(b) Unless otherwise ordered, measures referred to the Committee shall be referred by the clerk of the Committee to the appro-

priate department or agency of the Government for reports thereon.

14. Except as otherwise specified herein, the Standing Rules of the Senate shall govern the actions of the Committee. Each subcommittee of the Committee is part of the Committee, and is therefore subject to the Committee's rules so far as applicable.

15. POWERS AND DUTIES OF SUBCOMMITTEES.—Each subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive evidence, and report to the full Committee on all matters referred to it. Subcommittee chairmen, after consultation with Ranking Minority Members of the subcommittees, shall set dates for hearings and meetings of their respective subcommittees after consultation with the Chairman and other subcommittee chairmen with a view toward avoiding simultaneous scheduling of full Committee and subcommittee meetings or hearings whenever possible.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, in accordance with rule XXVI, paragraph 2 of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I ask unanimous consent for myself as chairman of the Select Committee on Ethics and for Senator BOXER as vice chairman of the committee that the Rules of Procedure of the Select Committee on Ethics, which were adopted February 23, 1978, and revised November 1999, be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for the 114th Congress.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

RULES OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

PART I: ORGANIC AUTHORITY

SUBPART A—S. RES. 338 AS AMENDED

S. Res. 338, 88th Cong., 2d Sess. (1964)

Resolved, That (a) there is hereby established a permanent select committee of the Senate to be known as the Select Committee on Ethics (referred to hereinafter as the "Select Committee") consisting of six Members of the Senate, of whom three shall be selected from members of the majority party and three shall be selected from members of the minority party. Members thereof shall be appointed by the Senate in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 1 of Rule XXIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate at the beginning of each Congress. For purposes of paragraph 4 of Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, service of a Senator as a member or chairman of the Select Committee shall not be taken into account.

(b) Vacancies in the membership of the Select Committee shall not affect the authority of the remaining members to execute the functions of the committee, and shall be filled in the same manner as original appointments thereto are made.

(c) (1) A majority of the members of the Select Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business involving complaints or allegations of, or information about, misconduct, including resulting preliminary inquiries, adjudicatory reviews, recommendations or reports, and matters relating to Senate Resolution 400, agreed to May 19, 1976.

(2) Three members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of routine business of the Select Committee not covered by the first paragraph of this subparagraph, including requests for opinions and interpretations concerning the Code of Official Conduct or any other statute or regulation under the jurisdiction of the Select Committee, if one member of the quorum is a member of the majority Party and one member of the quorum is a member of the minority Party. During the transaction of routine business any member of the Select Committee constituting the quorum shall have the right to postpone further discussion of a pending matter until such time as a majority of the members of the Select Committee are present.

(3) The Select Committee may fix a lesser number as a quorum for the purpose of taking sworn testimony.

(d)(1) A member of the Select Committee shall be ineligible to participate in—

(A) any preliminary inquiry or adjudicatory review relating to—

(i) the conduct of—

(I) such member;

(II) any officer or employee the member supervises; or

(III) any employee of any officer the member supervises; or

(ii) any complaint filed by the member; and

(B) the determinations and recommendations of the Select Committee with respect to any preliminary inquiry or adjudicatory review described in subparagraph (A).

For purposes of this paragraph, a member of the Select Committee and an officer of the Senate shall be deemed to supervise any officer or employee consistent with the provision of paragraph 12 of Rule XXXVII of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

(2) A member of the Select Committee may, at the discretion of the member, disqualify himself or herself from participating in any preliminary inquiry or adjudicatory review pending before the Select Committee and the determinations and recommendations of the Select Committee with respect to any such preliminary inquiry or adjudicatory review. Notice of such disqualification shall be given in writing to the President of the Senate.

(3) Whenever any member of the Select Committee is ineligible under paragraph (1) to participate in any preliminary inquiry or adjudicatory review or disqualifies himself or herself under paragraph (2) from participating in any preliminary inquiry or adjudicatory review, another Senator shall, subject to the provisions of subsection (d), be appointed to serve as a member of the Select Committee solely for purposes of such preliminary inquiry or adjudicatory review and the determinations and recommendations of the Select Committee with respect to such preliminary inquiry or adjudicatory review. Any Member of the Senate appointed for such purposes shall be of the same party as the Member who is ineligible or disqualifies himself or herself.

Sec. 2. (a) It shall be the duty of the Select Committee to—

(1) receive complaints and investigate allegations of improper conduct which may reflect upon the Senate, violations of law, violations of the Senate Code of Official Conduct and violations of rules and regulations of the Senate, relating to the conduct of individuals in the performance of their duties as Members of the Senate, or as officers or employees of the Senate, and to make appropriate findings of fact and conclusions with respect thereto;

(2)(A) recommend to the Senate by report or resolution by a majority vote of the full committee disciplinary action to be taken with respect to such violations which the Select Committee shall determine, after according to the individual concerned due notice and opportunity for a hearing, to have occurred;

(B) pursuant to subparagraph (A) recommend discipline, including—

(i) in the case of a Member, a recommendation to the Senate for expulsion, censure, payment of restitution, recommendation to a Member's party conference regarding the Member's seniority or positions of responsibility, or a combination of these; and

(ii) in the case of an officer or employee, dismissal, suspension, payment of restitution, or a combination of these;

(3) subject to the provisions of subsection (e), by a unanimous vote of 6 members, order that a Member, officer, or employee be reprimanded or pay restitution, or both, if the Select Committee determines, after according to the Member, officer, or employee due notice and opportunity for a hearing, that misconduct occurred warranting discipline less serious than discipline by the full Senate;

(4) in the circumstances described in subsection (d)(3), issue a public or private letter of admonition to a Member, officer, or employee, which shall not be subject to appeal to the Senate;

(5) recommend to the Senate, by report or resolution, such additional rules or regulations as the Select Committee shall determine to be necessary or desirable to insure proper standards of conduct by Members of the Senate, and by officers or employees of the Senate, in the performance of their duties and the discharge of their responsibilities;

(6) by a majority vote of the full committee, report violations of any law, including the provision of false information to the Select Committee, to the proper Federal and State authorities; and

(7) develop and implement programs and materials designed to educate Members, officers, and employees about the laws, rules, regulations, and standards of conduct applicable to such individuals in the performance of their duties.

(b) For the purposes of this resolution—

(1) the term "sworn complaint" means a written statement of facts, submitted under penalty of perjury, within the personal knowledge of the complainant alleging a violation of law, the Senate Code of Official Conduct, or any other rule or regulation of the Senate relating to the conduct of individuals in the performance of their duties as Members, officers, or employees of the Senate;

(2) the term "preliminary inquiry" means a proceeding undertaken by the Select Committee following the receipt of a complaint or allegation of, or information about, misconduct by a Member, officer, or employee of the Senate to determine whether there is substantial credible evidence which provides substantial cause for the Select Committee to conclude that a violation within the jurisdiction of the Select Committee has occurred; and

(3) the term "adjudicatory review" means a proceeding undertaken by the Select Committee after a finding, on the basis of a preliminary inquiry, that there is substantial credible evidence which provides substantial cause for the Select Committee to conclude that a violation within the jurisdiction of the Select Committee has occurred.

(c) (1) No—

(A) adjudicatory review of conduct of a Member or officer of the Senate may be conducted;

(B) report, resolution, or recommendation relating to such an adjudicatory review of conduct may be made; and

(C) letter of admonition pursuant to subsection (d)(3) may be issued, unless approved by the affirmative recorded vote of no fewer than 4 members of the Select Committee.

(2) No other resolution, report, recommendation, interpretative ruling, or advisory opinion may be made without an affirmative vote of a majority of the Members of the Select Committee voting.

(d) (1) When the Select Committee receives a sworn complaint or other allegation or information about a Member, officer, or employee of the Senate, it shall promptly conduct a preliminary inquiry into matters raised by that complaint, allegation, or information. The preliminary inquiry shall be of duration and scope necessary to determine whether there is substantial credible evidence which provides substantial cause for the Select Committee to conclude that a violation within the jurisdiction of the Select Committee has occurred. The Select Committee may delegate to the chairman and vice chairman the discretion to determine the appropriate duration, scope, and conduct of a preliminary inquiry.

(2) If, as a result of a preliminary inquiry under paragraph (1), the Select Committee determines by a recorded vote that there is not such substantial credible evidence, the Select Committee shall dismiss the matter. The Select Committee may delegate to the chairman and vice chairman the authority, on behalf of the Select Committee, to dismiss any matter that they determine, after a preliminary inquiry, lacks substantial merit. The Select Committee shall inform the individual who provided to the Select Committee the complaint, allegation, or information, and the individual who is the subject of the complaint, allegation, or information, of the dismissal, together with an explanation of the basis for the dismissal.

(3) If, as a result of a preliminary inquiry under paragraph (1), the Select Committee determines that a violation is inadvertent, technical, or otherwise of a de minimis nature, the Select Committee may dispose of the matter by issuing a public or private letter of admonition, which shall not be considered discipline. The Select Committee may issue a public letter of admonition upon a similar determination at the conclusion of an adjudicatory review.

(4) If, as a result of a preliminary inquiry under paragraph (1), the Select Committee determines that there is such substantial credible evidence and the matter cannot be appropriately disposed of under paragraph (3), the Select Committee shall promptly initiate an adjudicatory review. Upon the conclusion of such adjudicatory review, the Select Committee shall report to the Senate, as soon as practicable, the results of such adjudicatory review, together with its recommendations (if any) pursuant to subsection (a)(2).

(e) (1) Any individual who is the subject of a reprimand or order of restitution, or both, pursuant to subsection (a)(3) may, within 30 days of the Select Committee's report to the Senate of its action imposing a reprimand or order of restitution, or both, appeal to the Senate by providing written notice of the basis for the appeal to the Select Committee and the presiding officer of the Senate. The presiding officer of the Senate shall cause

the notice of the appeal to be printed in the Congressional Record and the Senate Journal.

(2) A motion to proceed to consideration of an appeal pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be highly privileged and not debatable. If the motion to proceed to consideration of the appeal is agreed to, the appeal shall be decided on the basis of the Select Committee's report to the Senate. Debate on the appeal shall be limited to 10 hours, which shall be divided equally between, and controlled by, those favoring and those opposing the appeal.

(f) The Select Committee may, in its discretion, employ hearing examiners to hear testimony and make findings of fact and/or recommendations to the Select Committee concerning the disposition of complaints.

(g) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, no adjudicatory review shall be initiated of any alleged violation of any law, the Senate Code of Official Conduct, rule, or regulation which was not in effect at the time the alleged violation occurred. No provisions of the Senate Code of Official Conduct shall apply to or require disclosure of any act, relationship, or transaction which occurred prior to the effective date of the applicable provision of the Code. The Select Committee may initiate an adjudicatory review of any alleged violation of a rule or law which was in effect prior to the enactment of the Senate Code of Official Conduct if the alleged violation occurred while such rule or law was in effect and the violation was not a matter resolved on the merits by the predecessor Select Committee.

(h) The Select Committee shall adopt written rules setting forth procedures to be used in conducting preliminary inquiries and adjudicatory reviews.

(i) The Select Committee from time to time shall transmit to the Senate its recommendation as to any legislative measures which it may consider to be necessary for the effective discharge of its duties.

Sec. 3. (a) The Select Committee is authorized to (1) make such expenditures; (2) hold such hearings; (3) sit and act at such times and places during the sessions, recesses, and adjournment periods of the Senate; (4) require by subpoena or otherwise the attendance of such witnesses and the production of such correspondence, books, papers, and documents; (5) administer such oaths; (6) take such testimony orally or by deposition; (7) employ and fix the compensation of a staff director, a counsel, an assistant counsel, one or more investigators, one or more hearing examiners, and such technical, clerical, and other assistants and consultants as it deems advisable; and (8) to procure the temporary services (not in excess of one year) or intermittent services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof, by contract as independent contractors or, in the case of individuals, by employment at daily rates of compensation not in excess of the per diem equivalent of the highest rate of compensation which may be paid to a regular employee of the Select Committee.

(b) (1) The Select Committee is authorized to retain and compensate counsel not employed by the Senate (or by any department or agency of the executive branch of the Government) whenever the Select Committee determines that the retention of outside counsel is necessary or appropriate for any action regarding any complaint or allegation, which, in the determination of the Select Committee is more appropriately conducted by counsel not employed by the Government of the United States as a regular employee.

(2) Any adjudicatory review as defined in section 2(b)(3) shall be conducted by outside counsel as authorized in paragraph (1), unless the Select Committee determines not to use outside counsel.

(c) With the prior consent of the department or agency concerned, the Select Committee may (1) utilize the services, information and facilities of any such department or agency of the Government, and (2) employ on a reimbursable basis or otherwise the services of such personnel of any such department or agency as it deems advisable. With the consent of any other committee of the Senate, or any subcommittee thereof, the Select Committee may utilize the facilities and the services of the staff of such other committee or subcommittee whenever the chairman of the Select Committee determines that such action is necessary and appropriate.

(d) (1) Subpoenas may be authorized by—
(A) the Select Committee; or
(B) the chairman and vice chairman, acting jointly.

(2) Any such subpoena shall be issued and signed by the chairman and the vice chairman and may be served by any person designated by the chairman and vice chairman.

(3) The chairman or any member of the Select Committee may administer oaths to witnesses.

(e) (1) The Select Committee shall prescribe and publish such regulations as it feels are necessary to implement the Senate Code of Official Conduct.

(2) The Select Committee is authorized to issue interpretative rulings explaining and clarifying the application of any law, the Code of Official Conduct, or any rule or regulation of the Senate within its jurisdiction.

(3) The Select Committee shall render an advisory opinion, in writing within a reasonable time, in response to a written request by a Member or officer of the Senate or a candidate for nomination for election, or election to the Senate, concerning the application of any law, the Senate Code of Official Conduct, or any rule or regulation of the Senate within its jurisdiction to a specific factual situation pertinent to the conduct or proposed conduct of the person seeking the advisory opinion.

(4) The Select Committee may in its discretion render an advisory opinion in writing within a reasonable time in response to a written request by any employee of the Senate concerning the application of any law, the Senate Code of Official Conduct, or any rule or regulation of the Senate within its jurisdiction to a specific factual situation pertinent to the conduct or proposed conduct of the person seeking the advisory opinion.

(5) Notwithstanding any provision of the Senate Code of Official Conduct or any rule or regulation of the Senate, any person who relies upon any provision or finding of an advisory opinion in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs (3) and (4) and who acts in good faith in accordance with the provisions and findings of such advisory opinion shall not, as a result of any such act, be subject to any sanction by the Senate.

(6) Any advisory opinion rendered by the Select Committee under paragraphs (3) and (4) may be relied upon by (A) any person involved in the specific transaction or activity with respect to which such advisory opinion is rendered: Provided, however, that the request for such advisory opinion included a complete and accurate statement of the specific factual situation; and, (B) any person involved in any specific transaction or activity which is indistinguishable in all its mate-

rial aspects from the transaction or activity with respect to which such advisory opinion is rendered.

(7) Any advisory opinion issued in response to a request under paragraph (3) or (4) shall be printed in the Congressional Record with appropriate deletions to assure the privacy of the individual concerned. The Select Committee shall, to the extent practicable, before rendering an advisory opinion, provide any interested party with an opportunity to transmit written comments to the Select Committee with respect to the request for such advisory opinion. The advisory opinions issued by the Select Committee shall be compiled, indexed, reproduced, and made available on a periodic basis.

(8) A brief description of a waiver granted under paragraph 2(c) [NOTE: Now Paragraph 1] of Rule XXXIV or paragraph 1 of Rule XXXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate shall be made available upon request in the Select Committee office with appropriate deletions to assure the privacy of the individual concerned.

Sec. 4. The expenses of the Select Committee under this resolution shall be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate upon vouchers approved by the chairman of the Select Committee.

Sec. 5. As used in this resolution, the term "officer or employee of the Senate" means—
(1) an elected officer of the Senate who is not a Member of the Senate;

(2) an employee of the Senate, any committee or subcommittee of the Senate, or any Member of the Senate;

(3) the Legislative Counsel of the Senate or any employee of his office;

(4) an Official Reporter of Debates of the Senate and any person employed by the Official Reporters of Debates of the Senate in connection with the performance of their official duties;

(5) a Member of the Capitol Police force whose compensation is disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate;

(6) an employee of the Vice President if such employee's compensation is disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate; and

(7) an employee of a joint committee of the Congress whose compensation is disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate.

SUBPART B—PUBLIC LAW 93-191—FRANKED MAIL, PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE

Sec. 6. (a) The Select Committee on Standards and Conduct of the Senate [NOTE: Now the Select Committee on Ethics] shall provide guidance, assistance, advice and counsel, through advisory opinions or consultations, in connection with the mailing or contemplated mailing of franked mail under section 3210, 3211, 3212, 3218(2) or 3218, and in connection with the operation of section 3215, of title 39, United States Code, upon the request of any Member of the Senate or Member-elect, surviving spouse of any of the foregoing, or other Senate official, entitled to send mail as franked mail under any of those sections. The select committee shall prescribe regulations governing the proper use of the franking privilege under those sections by such persons.

(b) Any complaint filed by any person with the select committee that a violation of any section of title 39, United States Code, referred to in subsection (a) of this section is about to occur or has occurred within the immediately preceding period of 1 year, by any person referred to in such subsection (a), shall contain pertinent factual material and shall conform to regulations prescribed by the select committee. The select committee,

if it determines there is reasonable justification for the complaint, shall conduct an investigation of the matter, including an investigation of reports and statements filed by that complainant with respect to the matter which is the subject of the complaint. The committee shall afford to the person who is the subject of the complaint due notice and, if it determines that there is substantial reason to believe that such violation has occurred or is about to occur, opportunity for all parties to participate in a hearing before the select committee. The select committee shall issue a written decision on each complaint under this subsection not later than thirty days after such a complaint has been filed or, if a hearing is held, not later than thirty days after the conclusion of such hearing. Such decision shall be based on written findings of fact in the case by the select committee. If the select committee finds, in its written decision, that a violation has occurred or is about to occur, the committee may take such action and enforcement as it considers appropriate in accordance with applicable rules, precedents, and standing orders of the Senate, and such other standards as may be prescribed by such committee.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no court or administrative body in the United States or in any territory thereof shall have jurisdiction to entertain any civil action of any character concerning or related to a violation of the franking laws or an abuse of the franking privilege by any person listed under subsection (a) of this section as entitled to send mail as franked mail, until a complaint has been filed with the select committee and the committee has rendered a decision under subsection (b) of this section.

(d) The select committee shall prescribe regulations for the holding of investigations and hearings, the conduct of proceedings, and the rendering of decisions under this subsection providing for equitable procedures and the protection of individual, public, and Government interests. The regulations shall, insofar as practicable, contain the substance of the administrative procedure provisions of sections 551–559 and 701–706, of title 5, United States Code. These regulations shall govern matters under this subsection subject to judicial review thereof.

(e) The select committee shall keep a complete record of all its actions, including a record of the votes on any question on which a record vote is demanded. All records, data, and files of the select committee shall be the property of the Senate and shall be kept in the offices of the select committee or such other places as the committee may direct.

SUBPART C—STANDING ORDERS OF THE SENATE REGARDING UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION, S. RES. 400, 94TH CONGRESS, PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE

SEC. 8. * * *

(c) (1) No information in the possession of the select committee relating to the lawful intelligence activities of any department or agency of the United States which has been classified under established security procedures and which the select committee, pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this section, has determined should not be disclosed, shall be made available to any person by a Member, officer, or employee of the Senate except in a closed session of the Senate or as provided in paragraph (2).

(2) The select committee may, under such regulations as the committee shall prescribe to protect the confidentiality of such infor-

mation, make any information described in paragraph (1) available to any other committee or any other Member of the Senate. Whenever the select committee makes such information available, the committee shall keep a written record showing, in the case of any particular information, which committee or which Members of the Senate received such information. No Member of the Senate who, and no committee which, receives any information under this subsection, shall disclose such information except in a closed session of the Senate.

(d) It shall be the duty of the Select Committee on Standards and Conduct to investigate any unauthorized disclosure of intelligence information by a Member, officer or employee of the Senate in violation of subsection (c) and to report to the Senate concerning any allegation which it finds to be substantiated.

(e) Upon the request of any person who is subject to any such investigation, the Select Committee on Standards and Conduct shall release to such individual at the conclusion of its investigation a summary of its investigation together with its findings. If, at the conclusion of its investigation, the Select Committee on Standards and Conduct determines that there has been a significant breach of confidentiality or unauthorized disclosure by a Member, officer, or employee of the Senate, it shall report its findings to the Senate and recommend appropriate action such as censure, removal from committee membership, or expulsion from the Senate, in the case of a Member, or removal from office or employment or punishment for contempt, in the case of an officer or employee.

SUBPART D—RELATING TO RECEIPT AND DISPOSITION OF FOREIGN GIFTS AND DECORATIONS RECEIVED BY MEMBERS, OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE SENATE OR THEIR SPOUSES OR DEPENDENTS, PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Section 7342 of title 5, United States Code, states as follows:

Sec. 7342. Receipt and disposition of foreign gifts and decorations.

“(a) For the purpose of this section—

“(1) ‘employee’ means—

“(A) an employee as defined by section 2105 of this title and an officer or employee of the United States Postal Service or of the Postal Rate Commission;

“(B) an expert or consultant who is under contract under section 3109 of this title with the United States or any agency, department, or establishment thereof, including, in the case of an organization performing services under such section, any individual involved in the performance of such services;

“(C) an individual employed by, or occupying an office or position in, the government of a territory or possession of the United States or the government of the District of Columbia;

“(D) a member of a uniformed service;

“(E) the President and the Vice President;

“(F) a Member of Congress as defined by section 2106 of this title (except the Vice President) and any Delegate to the Congress; and

“(G) the spouse of an individual described in subparagraphs (A) through (F) (unless such individual and his or her spouse are separated) or a dependent (within the meaning of section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) of such an individual, other than a spouse or dependent who is an employee under subparagraphs (A) through (F);

“(2) ‘foreign government’ means—

“(A) any unit of foreign governmental authority, including any foreign national, State, local, and municipal government;

“(B) any international or multinational organization whose membership is composed of any unit of foreign government described in subparagraph (A); and

“(C) any agent or representative of any such unit or such organization, while acting as such;

“(3) ‘gift’ means a tangible or intangible present (other than a decoration) tendered by, or received from, a foreign government;

“(4) ‘decoration’ means an order, device, medal, badge, insignia, emblem, or award tendered by, or received from, a foreign government;

“(5) ‘minimal value’ means a retail value in the United States at the time of acceptance of \$100 or less, except that—

“(A) on January 1, 1981, and at 3 year intervals thereafter, ‘minimal value’ shall be redefined in regulations prescribed by the Administrator of General Services, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to reflect changes in the consumer price index for the immediately preceding 3-year period; and

“(B) regulations of an employing agency may define ‘minimal value’ for its employees to be less than the value established under this paragraph; and

“(6) ‘employing agency’ means—

“(A) the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct of the House of Representatives, for Members and employees of the House of Representatives, except that those responsibilities specified in subsections (c)(2)(A), (e)(1), and (g)(2)(B) shall be carried out by the Clerk of the House;

“(B) the Select Committee on Ethics of the Senate, for Senators and employees of the Senate, except that those responsibilities (other than responsibilities involving approval of the employing agency) specified in subsections (c)(2)(d), and (g)(2)(B) shall be carried out by the Secretary of the Senate;

“(C) the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, for judges and judicial branch employees; and

“(D) the department, agency, office, or other entity in which an employee is employed, for other legislative branch employees and for all executive branch employees.

“(b) An employee may not—

“(1) request or otherwise encourage the tender of a gift or decoration; or

“(2) accept a gift or decoration, other than in accordance with, the provisions of subsections (c) and (d).

“(c)(1) The Congress consents to—

“(A) the accepting and retaining by an employee of a gift of minimal value tendered and received as a souvenir or mark of courtesy; and

“(B) the accepting by an employee of a gift of more than minimal value when such gift is in the nature of an educational scholarship or medical treatment or when it appears that to refuse the gift would likely cause offense or embarrassment or otherwise adversely affect the foreign relations of the United States, except that

“(i) a tangible gift of more than minimal value is deemed to have been accepted on behalf of the United States and, upon acceptance, shall become the property of the United States; and

“(ii) an employee may accept gifts of travel or expenses for travel taking place entirely outside the United States (such as transportation, food, and lodging) of more than minimal value if such acceptance is appropriate, consistent with the interests of the United States, and permitted by the employing agency and any regulations which may be prescribed by the employing agency.

“(2) Within 60 days after accepting a tangible gift of more than minimal value (other

than a gift described in paragraph (1)(B)(ii), an employee shall—

“(A) deposit the gift for disposal with his or her employing agency; or

“(B) subject to the approval of the employing agency, deposit the gift with that agency for official use. Within 30 days after terminating the official use of a gift under subparagraph (B), the employing agency shall forward the gift to the Administrator of General Services in accordance with subsection (e)(1) or provide for its disposal in accordance with subsection (e)(2).

“(3) When an employee deposits a gift of more than minimal value for disposal or for official use pursuant to paragraph (2), or within 30 days after accepting travel or travel expenses as provided in paragraph (1)(B)(ii) unless such travel or travel expenses are accepted in accordance with specific instructions of his or her employing agency, the employee shall file a statement with his or her employing agency or its delegate containing the information prescribed in subsection (f) for that gift.

“(d) The Congress consents to the accepting, retaining, and wearing by an employee of a decoration tendered in recognition of active field service in time of combat operations or awarded for other outstanding or unusually meritorious performance, subject to the approval of the employing agency of such employee. Without this approval, the decoration is deemed to have been accepted on behalf of the United States, shall become the property of the United States, and shall be deposited by the employee, within sixty days of acceptance, with the employing agency for official use, for forwarding to the Administrator of General Services for disposal in accordance with subsection (e)(1), or for disposal in accordance with subsection (e)(2).

“(e)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), gifts and decorations that have been deposited with an employing agency for disposal shall be (A) returned to the donor, or (B) forwarded to the Administrator of General Services for transfer, donation, or other disposal in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949. However, no gift or decoration that has been deposited for disposal may be sold without the approval of the Secretary of State, upon a determination that the sale will not adversely affect the foreign relations of the United States. Gifts and decorations may be sold by negotiated sale.

“(2) Gifts and decorations received by a Senator or an employee of the Senate that are deposited with the Secretary of the Senate for disposal, or are deposited for an official use which has terminated, shall be disposed of by the Commission on Arts and Antiquities of the United States Senate. Any such gift or decoration may be returned by the Commission to the donor or may be transferred or donated by the Commission, subject to such terms and conditions as it may prescribe, (A) to an agency or instrumentality of (i) the United States, (ii) a State, territory, or possession of the United States, or a political subdivision of the foregoing, or (iii) the District of Columbia, or (B) to an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 which is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code. Any such gift or decoration not disposed of as provided in the preceding sentence shall be forwarded to the Administrator of General Services for disposal in accordance with paragraph (1). If the Administrator does not dispose of such gift or

decoration within one year, he shall, at the request of the Commission, return it to the Commission and the Commission may dispose of such gift or decoration in such manner as it considers proper, except that such gift or decoration may be sold only with the approval of the Secretary of State upon a determination that the sale will not adversely affect the foreign relations of the United States.

“(f)(1) Not later than January 31 of each year, each employing agency or its delegate shall compile a listing of all statements filed during the preceding year by the employees of that agency pursuant to subsection (c)(3) and shall transmit such listing to the Secretary of State who shall publish a comprehensive listing of all such statements in the Federal Register.

“(2) Such listings shall include for each tangible gift reported—

“(A) the name and position of the employee;

“(B) a brief description of the gift and the circumstances justifying acceptance;

“(C) the identity, if known, of the foreign government and the name and position of the individual who presented the gift;

“(D) the date of acceptance of the gift;

“(E) the estimated value in the United States of the gift at the time of acceptance; and

“(F) disposition or current location of the gift.

“(3) Such listings shall include for each gift of travel or travel expenses—

“(A) the name and position of the employee;

“(B) a brief description of the gift and the circumstances justifying acceptance; and

“(C) the identity, if known, of the foreign government and the name and position of the individual who presented the gift.

“(4) In transmitting such listings for the Central Intelligence Agency, the Director of Central Intelligence may delete the information described in subparagraphs (A) and (C) of paragraphs (2) and (3) if the Director certifies in writing to the Secretary of State that the publication of such information could adversely affect United States intelligence sources.

“(g)(1) Each employing agency shall prescribe such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this section. For all employing agencies in the executive branch, such regulations shall be prescribed pursuant to guidance provided by the Secretary of State. These regulations shall be implemented by each employing agency for its employees.

“(2) Each employing agency shall—

“(A) report to the Attorney General cases in which there is reason to believe that an employee has violated this section;

“(B) establish a procedure for obtaining an appraisal, when necessary, of the value of gifts; and

“(C) take any other actions necessary to carry out the purpose of this section.

“(h) The Attorney General may bring a civil action in any district court of the United States against any employee who knowingly solicits or accepts a gift from a foreign government not consented to by this section or who fails to deposit or report such gift as required by this section. The court in which such action is brought may assess a penalty against such employee in any amount not to exceed the retail value of the gift improperly solicited or received plus \$5,000.

“(i) The President shall direct all Chiefs of a United States Diplomatic Mission to in-

form their host governments that it is a general policy of the United States Government to prohibit United States Government employees from receiving gifts or decorations of more than minimal value.

“(j) Nothing in this section shall be construed to derogate any regulation prescribed by any employing agency which provides for more stringent limitations on the receipt of gifts and decorations by its employees.

“(k) The provisions of this section do not apply to grants and other forms of assistance to which section 108A of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 applies.”

PART II: SUPPLEMENTARY PROCEDURAL RULES

145 Cong. Rec. S1832 (daily ed. Feb. 23, 1999)

RULE 1: GENERAL PROCEDURES

(a) OFFICERS: In the absence of the Chairman, the duties of the Chair shall be filled by the Vice Chairman or, in the Vice Chairman's absence, a Committee member designated by the Chairman.

(b) PROCEDURAL RULES: The basic procedural rules of the Committee are stated as a part of the Standing Orders of the Senate in Senate Resolution 338, 88th Congress, as amended, as well as other resolutions and laws. Supplementary Procedural Rules are stated herein and are hereinafter referred to as the Rules. The Rules shall be published in the Congressional Record not later than thirty days after adoption, and copies shall be made available by the Committee office upon request.

(c) MEETINGS:

(1) The regular meeting of the Committee shall be the first Thursday of each month while the Congress is in session.

(2) Special meetings may be held at the call of the Chairman or Vice Chairman if at least forty-eight hours notice is furnished to all members. If all members agree, a special meeting may be held on less than forty-eight hours notice.

(3) (A) If any member of the Committee desires that a special meeting of the Committee be called, the member may file in the office of the Committee a written request to the Chairman or Vice Chairman for that special meeting.

(B) Immediately upon the filing of the request the Clerk of the Committee shall notify the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the filing of the request. If, within three calendar days after the filing of the request, the Chairman or the Vice Chairman does not call the requested special meeting, to be held within seven calendar days after the filing of the request, any three of the members of the Committee may file their written notice in the office of the Committee that a special meeting of the Committee will be held at a specified date and hour; such special meeting may not occur until forty-eight hours after the notice is filed. The Clerk shall immediately notify all members of the Committee of the date and hour of the special meeting. The Committee shall meet at the specified date and hour.

(d) QUORUM:

(1) A majority of the members of the Select Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business involving complaints or allegations of, or information about, misconduct, including resulting preliminary inquiries, adjudicatory reviews, recommendations or reports, and matters relating to Senate Resolution 400, agreed to May 19, 1976.

(2) Three members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the routine business of the Select Committee not covered by the first subparagraph of this paragraph, including requests for opinions and

interpretations concerning the Code of Official Conduct or any other statute or regulation under the jurisdiction of the Select Committee, if one member of the quorum is a Member of the Majority Party and one member of the quorum is a Member of the Minority Party. During the transaction of routine business any member of the Select Committee constituting the quorum shall have the right to postpone further discussion of a pending matter until such time as a majority of the members of the Select Committee are present.

(3) Except for an adjudicatory hearing under Rule 5 and any deposition taken outside the presence of a Member under Rule 6, one Member shall constitute a quorum for hearing testimony, provided that all Members have been given notice of the hearing and the Chairman has designated a Member of the Majority Party and the Vice Chairman has designated a Member of the Minority Party to be in attendance, either of whom in the absence of the other may constitute the quorum.

(e) **ORDER OF BUSINESS:** Questions as to the order of business and the procedure of the Committee shall in the first instance be decided by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, subject to reversal by a vote by a majority of the Committee.

(f) **HEARINGS ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The Committee shall make public announcement of the date, place and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted by it at least one week before the commencement of that hearing, and shall publish such announcement in the Congressional Record. If the Committee determines that there is good cause to commence a hearing at an earlier date, such notice will be given at the earliest possible time.

(g) **OPEN AND CLOSED COMMITTEE MEETINGS:** Meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public or closed to the public (executive session), as determined under the provisions of paragraphs 5 (b) to (d) of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate. Executive session meetings of the Committee shall be closed except to the members and the staff of the Committee. On the motion of any member, and with the approval of a majority of the Committee members present, other individuals may be admitted to an executive session meeting for a specific period or purpose.

(h) **RECORD OF TESTIMONY AND COMMITTEE ACTION:** An accurate stenographic or transcribed electronic record shall be kept of all Committee proceedings, whether in executive or public session. Such record shall include Senators' votes on any question on which a recorded vote is held. The record of a witness's testimony, whether in public or executive session, shall be made available for inspection to the witness or his counsel under Committee supervision; a copy of any testimony given by that witness in public session, or that part of the testimony given by the witness in executive session and subsequently quoted or made part of the record in a public session shall be made available to any witness if he so requests. (See Rule 5 on Procedures for Conducting Hearings.)

(i) **SECRECY OF EXECUTIVE TESTIMONY AND ACTION AND OF COMPLAINT PROCEEDINGS:**

(1) All testimony and action taken in executive session shall be kept secret and shall not be released outside the Committee to any individual or group, whether governmental or private, without the approval of a majority of the Committee.

(2) All testimony and action relating to a complaint or allegation shall be kept secret

and shall not be released by the Committee to any individual or group, whether governmental or private, except the respondent, without the approval of a majority of the Committee, until such time as a report to the Senate is required under Senate Resolution 338, 88th Congress, as amended, or unless otherwise permitted under these Rules. (See Rule 8 on Procedures for Handling Committee Sensitive and Classified Materials.)

(j) **RELEASE OF REPORTS TO PUBLIC:** No information pertaining to, or copies of any Committee report, study, or other document which purports to express the view, findings, conclusions or recommendations of the Committee in connection with any of its activities or proceedings may be released to any individual or group whether governmental or private, without the authorization of the Committee. Whenever the Chairman or Vice Chairman is authorized to make any determination, then the determination may be released at his or her discretion. Each member of the Committee shall be given a reasonable opportunity to have separate views included as part of any Committee report. (See Rule 8 on Procedures for Handling Committee Sensitive and Classified Materials.)

(k) **INELIGIBILITY OR DISQUALIFICATION OF MEMBERS AND STAFF:**

(1) A member of the Committee shall be ineligible to participate in any Committee proceeding that relates specifically to any of the following:

(A) a preliminary inquiry or adjudicatory review relating to (i) the conduct of (I) such member; (II) any officer or employee the member supervises; or (ii) any complaint filed by the member; and

(B) the determinations and recommendations of the Committee with respect to any preliminary inquiry or adjudicatory review described in subparagraph (A).

For purposes of this paragraph, a member of the committee and an officer of the Senate shall be deemed to supervise any officer or employee consistent with the provision of paragraph 12 of Rule XXXVII of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

(2) If any Committee proceeding appears to relate to a member of the Committee in a manner described in subparagraph (1) of this paragraph, the staff shall prepare a report to the Chairman and Vice Chairman. If either the Chairman or the Vice Chairman concludes from the report that it appears that the member may be ineligible, the member shall be notified in writing of the nature of the particular proceeding and the reason that it appears that the member may be ineligible to participate in it. If the member agrees that he or she is ineligible, the member shall so notify the Chairman or Vice Chairman. If the member believes that he or she is not ineligible, he or she may explain the reasons to the Chairman and Vice Chairman, and if they both agree that the member is not ineligible, the member shall continue to serve. But if either the Chairman or Vice Chairman continues to believe that the member is ineligible, while the member believes that he or she is not ineligible, the matter shall be promptly referred to the Committee. The member shall present his or her arguments to the Committee in executive session. Any contested questions concerning a member's eligibility shall be decided by a majority vote of the Committee, meeting in executive session, with the member in question not participating.

(3) A member of the Committee may, at the discretion of the member, disqualify himself or herself from participating in any

preliminary inquiry or adjudicatory review pending before the Committee and the determinations and recommendations of the Committee with respect to any such preliminary inquiry or adjudicatory review.

(4) Whenever any member of the Committee is ineligible under paragraph (1) to participate in any preliminary inquiry or adjudicatory review, or disqualifies himself or herself under paragraph (3) from participating in any preliminary inquiry or adjudicatory review, another Senator shall be appointed by the Senate to serve as a member of the Committee solely for purposes of such preliminary inquiry or adjudicatory review and the determinations and recommendations of the Committee with respect to such preliminary inquiry or adjudicatory review. Any member of the Senate appointed for such purposes shall be of the same party as the member who is ineligible or disqualifies himself or herself.

(5) The President of the Senate shall be given written notice of the ineligibility or disqualification of any member from any preliminary inquiry, adjudicatory review, or other proceeding requiring the appointment of another member in accordance with subparagraph (k)(4).

(6) A member of the Committee staff shall be ineligible to participate in any Committee proceeding that the staff director or outside counsel determines relates specifically to any of the following:

(A) the staff member's own conduct; (B) the conduct of any employee that the staff member supervises;

(C) the conduct of any member, officer or employee for whom the staff member has worked for any substantial period; or

(D) a complaint, sworn or unsworn, that was filed by the staff member. At the direction or with the consent of the staff director or outside counsel, a staff member may also be disqualified from participating in a Committee proceeding in other circumstances not listed above.

(1) **RECORDED VOTES:** Any member may require a recorded vote on any matter.

(m) **PROXIES; RECORDING VOTES OF ABSENT MEMBERS:**

(1) Proxy voting shall not be allowed when the question before the Committee is the initiation or continuation of a preliminary inquiry or an adjudicatory review, or the issuance of a report or recommendation related thereto concerning a Member or officer of the Senate. In any such case an absent member's vote may be announced solely for the purpose of recording the member's position and such announced votes shall not be counted for or against the motion.

(2) On matters other than matters listed in paragraph (m)(1) above, the Committee may order that the record be held open for the vote of absentees or recorded proxy votes if the absent Committee member has been informed of the matter on which the vote occurs and has affirmatively requested of the Chairman or Vice Chairman in writing that he be so recorded.

(3) All proxies shall be in writing, and shall be delivered to the Chairman or Vice Chairman to be recorded.

(4) Proxies shall not be considered for the purpose of establishing a quorum.

(n) **APPROVAL OF BLIND TRUSTS AND FOREIGN TRAVEL REQUESTS BETWEEN SESSIONS AND DURING EXTENDED RECESSES:** During any period in which the Senate stands in adjournment between sessions of the Congress or stands in a recess scheduled to extend beyond fourteen days, the Chairman and Vice Chairman, or their

designees, acting jointly, are authorized to approve or disapprove blind trusts under the provision of Rule XXXIV.

(o) **COMMITTEE USE OF SERVICES OR EMPLOYEES OF OTHER AGENCIES AND DEPARTMENTS:** With the prior consent of the department or agency involved, the Committee may (1) utilize the services, information, or facilities of any such department or agency of the Government, and (2) employ on a reimbursable basis or otherwise the services of such personnel of any such department or agency as it deems advisable. With the consent of any other committee of the Senate, or any subcommittee, the Committee may utilize the facilities and the services of the staff of such other committee or subcommittee whenever the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee, acting jointly, determine that such action is necessary and appropriate.

RULE 2: PROCEDURES FOR COMPLAINTS, ALLEGATIONS, OR INFORMATION

(a) **COMPLAINT, ALLEGATION, OR INFORMATION:** Any member or staff member of the Committee shall report to the Committee, and any other person may report to the Committee, a sworn complaint or other allegation or information, alleging that any Senator, or officer, or employee of the Senate has violated a law, the Senate Code of Official Conduct, or any rule or regulation of the Senate relating to the conduct of any individual in the performance of his or her duty as a Member, officer, or employee of the Senate, or has engaged in improper conduct which may reflect upon the Senate. Such complaints or allegations or information may be reported to the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, a Committee member, or a Committee staff member.

(b) **SOURCE OF COMPLAINT, ALLEGATION, OR INFORMATION:** Complaints, allegations, and information to be reported to the Committee may be obtained from a variety of sources, including but not limited to the following:

(1) sworn complaints, defined as a written statement of facts, submitted under penalty of perjury, within the personal knowledge of the complainant alleging a violation of law, the Senate Code of Official Conduct, or any other rule or regulation of the Senate relating to the conduct of individuals in the performance of their duties as members, officers, or employees of the Senate;

(2) anonymous or informal complaints;

(3) information developed during a study or inquiry by the Committee or other committees or subcommittees of the Senate, including information obtained in connection with legislative or general oversight hearings;

(4) information reported by the news media; or

(5) information obtained from any individual, agency or department of the executive branch of the Federal Government.

(c) **FORM AND CONTENT OF COMPLAINTS:** A complaint need not be sworn nor must it be in any particular form to receive Committee consideration, but the preferred complaint will:

(1) state, whenever possible, the name, address, and telephone number of the party filing the complaint;

(2) provide the name of each member, officer or employee of the Senate who is specifically alleged to have engaged in improper conduct or committed a violation;

(3) state the nature of the alleged improper conduct or violation;

(4) supply all documents in the possession of the party filing the complaint relevant to or in support of his or her allegations as an attachment to the complaint.

RULE 3: PROCEDURES FOR CONDUCTING A PRELIMINARY INQUIRY

(a) **DEFINITION OF PRELIMINARY INQUIRY:** A "preliminary inquiry" is a proceeding undertaken by the Committee following the receipt of a complaint or allegation of, or information about, misconduct by a Member, officer, or employee of the Senate to determine whether there is substantial credible evidence which provides substantial cause for the Committee to conclude that a violation within the jurisdiction of the Committee has occurred.

(b) **BASIS FOR PRELIMINARY INQUIRY:** The Committee shall promptly commence a preliminary inquiry whenever it has received a sworn complaint, or other allegation of, or information about, alleged misconduct or violations pursuant to Rule 2.

(c) **SCOPE OF PRELIMINARY INQUIRY:**

(1) The preliminary inquiry shall be of such duration and scope as is necessary to determine whether there is substantial credible evidence which provides substantial cause for the Committee to conclude that a violation within the jurisdiction of the Committee has occurred. The Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly, on behalf of the Committee may supervise and determine the appropriate duration, scope, and conduct of a preliminary inquiry. Whether a preliminary inquiry is conducted jointly by the Chairman and Vice Chairman or by the Committee as a whole, the day to day supervision of a preliminary inquiry rests with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly.

(2) A preliminary inquiry may include any inquiries, interviews, sworn statements, depositions, or subpoenas deemed appropriate to obtain information upon which to make any determination provided for by this Rule.

(d) **OPPORTUNITY FOR RESPONSE:** A preliminary inquiry may include an opportunity for any known respondent or his or her designated representative to present either a written or oral statement, or to respond orally to questions from the Committee. Such an oral statement or answers shall be transcribed and signed by the person providing the statement or answers.

(e) **STATUS REPORTS:** The Committee staff or outside counsel shall periodically report to the Committee in the form and according to the schedule prescribed by the Committee. The reports shall be confidential.

(f) **FINAL REPORT:** When the preliminary inquiry is completed, the staff or outside counsel shall make a confidential report, oral or written, to the Committee on findings and recommendations, as appropriate.

(g) **COMMITTEE ACTION:** As soon as practicable following submission of the report on the preliminary inquiry, the Committee shall determine by a recorded vote whether there is substantial credible evidence which provides substantial cause for the Committee to conclude that a violation within the jurisdiction of the Committee has occurred. The Committee may make any of the following determinations:

(1) The Committee may determine that there is not such substantial credible evidence and, in such case, the Committee shall dismiss the matter. The Committee, or Chairman and Vice Chairman acting jointly on behalf of the Committee, may dismiss any matter which, after a preliminary inquiry, is determined to lack substantial merit. The Committee shall inform the complainant of the dismissal.

(2) The Committee may determine that there is such substantial credible evidence,

but that the alleged violation is inadvertent, technical, or otherwise of a de minimis nature. In such case, the Committee may dispose of the matter by issuing a public or private letter of admonition, which shall not be considered discipline and which shall not be subject to appeal to the Senate. The issuance of a letter of admonition must be approved by the affirmative recorded vote of no fewer than four members of the Committee voting.

(3) The Committee may determine that there is such substantial credible evidence and that the matter cannot be appropriately disposed of under paragraph (2). In such case, the Committee shall promptly initiate an adjudicatory review in accordance with Rule 4. No adjudicatory review of conduct of a Member, officer, or employee of the Senate may be initiated except by the affirmative recorded vote of not less than four members of the Committee.

RULE 4: PROCEDURES FOR CONDUCTING AN ADJUDICATORY REVIEW

(a) **DEFINITION OF ADJUDICATORY REVIEW:** An "adjudicatory review" is a proceeding undertaken by the Committee after a finding, on the basis of a preliminary inquiry, that there is substantial cause for the Committee to conclude that a violation within the jurisdiction of the Committee has occurred.

(b) **SCOPE OF ADJUDICATORY REVIEW:** When the Committee decides to conduct an adjudicatory review, it shall be of such duration and scope as is necessary for the Committee to determine whether a violation within its jurisdiction has occurred. An adjudicatory review shall be conducted by outside counsel as authorized by section 3(b)(1) of Senate Resolution 338 unless the Committee determines not to use outside counsel. In the course of the adjudicatory review, designated outside counsel, or if the Committee determines not to use outside counsel, the Committee or its staff, may conduct any inquiries or interviews, take sworn statements, use compulsory process as described in Rule 6, or take any other actions that the Committee deems appropriate to secure the evidence necessary to make a determination.

(c) **NOTICE TO RESPONDENT:** The Committee shall give written notice to any known respondent who is the subject of an adjudicatory review. The notice shall be sent to the respondent no later than five working days after the Committee has voted to conduct an adjudicatory review. The notice shall include a statement of the nature of the possible violation, and description of the evidence indicating that a possible violation occurred. The Committee may offer the respondent an opportunity to present a statement, orally or in writing, or to respond to questions from members of the Committee, the Committee staff, or outside counsel.

(d) **RIGHT TO A HEARING:** The Committee shall accord a respondent an opportunity for a hearing before it recommends disciplinary action against that respondent to the Senate or before it imposes an order of restitution or reprimand (not requiring discipline by the full Senate).

(e) **PROGRESS REPORTS TO COMMITTEE:** The Committee staff or outside counsel shall periodically report to the Committee concerning the progress of the adjudicatory review. Such reports shall be delivered to the Committee in the form and according to the schedule prescribed by the Committee, and shall be confidential.

(f) **FINAL REPORT OF ADJUDICATORY REVIEW TO COMMITTEE:** Upon completion of an adjudicatory review, including any

hearings held pursuant to Rule 5, the outside counsel or the staff shall submit a confidential written report to the Committee, which shall detail the factual findings of the adjudicatory review and which may recommend disciplinary action, if appropriate. Findings of fact of the adjudicatory review shall be detailed in this report whether or not disciplinary action is recommended.

(g) COMMITTEE ACTION:

(1) As soon as practicable following submission of the report of the staff or outside counsel on the adjudicatory review, the Committee shall prepare and submit a report to the Senate, including a recommendation or proposed resolution to the Senate concerning disciplinary action, if appropriate. A report shall be issued, stating in detail the Committee's findings of fact, whether or not disciplinary action is recommended. The report shall also explain fully the reasons underlying the Committee's recommendation concerning disciplinary action, if any. No adjudicatory review of conduct of a Member, officer or employee of the Senate may be conducted, or report or resolution or recommendation relating to such an adjudicatory review of conduct may be made, except by the affirmative recorded vote of not less than four members of the Committee.

(2) Pursuant to S. Res. 338, as amended, section 2(a), subsections (2), (3), and (4), after receipt of the report prescribed by paragraph (f) of this rule, the Committee may make any of the following recommendations for disciplinary action or issue an order for reprimand or restitution, as follows:

(i) In the case of a Member, a recommendation to the Senate for expulsion, censure, payment of restitution, recommendation to a Member's party conference regarding the Member's seniority or positions of responsibility, or a combination of these;

(ii) In the case of an officer or employee, a recommendation to the Senate of dismissal, suspension, payment of restitution, or a combination of these;

(iii) In the case where the Committee determines, after according to the Member, officer, or employee due notice and opportunity for a hearing, that misconduct occurred warranting discipline less serious than discipline by the full Senate, and subject to the provisions of paragraph (h) of this rule relating to appeal, by a unanimous vote of six members order that a Member, officer or employee be reprimanded or pay restitution or both;

(iv) In the case where the Committee determines that misconduct is inadvertent, technical, or otherwise of a de minimis nature, issue a public or private letter of admonition to a Member, officer or employee, which shall not be subject to appeal to the Senate.

(3) In the case where the Committee determines, upon consideration of all the evidence, that the facts do not warrant a finding that there is substantial credible evidence which provides substantial cause for the Committee to conclude that a violation within the jurisdiction of the Committee has occurred, the Committee may dismiss the matter.

(4) Promptly, after the conclusion of the adjudicatory review, the Committee's report and recommendation, if any, shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the Senate, and a copy shall be provided to the complainant and the respondent. The full report and recommendation, if any, shall be printed and made public, unless the Committee determines by the recorded vote of not less than four members of the Committee that it should remain confidential.

(h) RIGHT OF APPEAL:

(1) Any individual who is the subject of a reprimand or order of restitution, or both, pursuant to subsection (g)(2)(iii), may, within 30 days of the Committee's report to the Senate of its action imposing a reprimand or order of restitution, or both, appeal to the Senate by providing written notice of the appeal to the Committee and the presiding officer of the Senate. The presiding officer shall cause the notice of the appeal to be printed in the Congressional Record and the Senate Journal.

(2) S. Res. 338 provides that a motion to proceed to consideration of an appeal pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be highly privileged and not debatable. If the motion to proceed to consideration of the appeal is agreed to, the appeal shall be decided on the basis of the Committee's report to the Senate. Debate on the appeal shall be limited to 10 hours, which shall be divided equally between, and controlled by, those favoring and those opposing the appeal.

RULE 5: PROCEDURES FOR HEARINGS

(a) RIGHT TO HEARING: The Committee may hold a public or executive hearing in any preliminary inquiry, adjudicatory review, or other proceeding. The Committee shall accord a respondent an opportunity for a hearing before it recommends disciplinary action against that respondent to the Senate or before it imposes an order of restitution or reprimand. (See Rule 4(d).)

(b) NON-PUBLIC HEARINGS: The Committee may at any time during a hearing determine in accordance with paragraph 5(b) of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate whether to receive the testimony of specific witnesses in executive session. If a witness desires to express a preference for testifying in public or in executive session, he or she shall so notify the Committee at least five days before he or she is scheduled to testify.

(c) ADJUDICATORY HEARINGS: The Committee may, by the recorded vote of not less than four members of the Committee, designate any public or executive hearing as an adjudicatory hearing; and any hearing which is concerned with possible disciplinary action against a respondent or respondents designated by the Committee shall be an adjudicatory hearing. In any adjudicatory hearing, the procedures described in paragraph (j) shall apply.

(d) SUBPOENA POWER: The Committee may require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such correspondence, books, papers, documents or other articles as it deems advisable. (See Rule 6.)

(e) NOTICE OF HEARINGS: The Committee shall make public an announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted by it, in accordance with Rule 1(f).

(f) PRESIDING OFFICER: The Chairman shall preside over the hearings, or in his absence the Vice Chairman. If the Vice Chairman is also absent, a Committee member designated by the Chairman shall preside. If an oath or affirmation is required, it shall be administered to a witness by the Presiding Officer, or in his absence, by any Committee member.

(g) WITNESSES:

(1) A subpoena or other request to testify shall be served on a witness sufficiently in advance of his or her scheduled appearance to allow the witness a reasonable period of time, as determined by the Committee, to prepare for the hearing and to employ counsel if desired.

(2) The Committee may, by recorded vote of not less than four members of the Committee, rule that no member of the Committee or staff or outside counsel shall make public the name of any witness subpoenaed by the Committee before the date of that witness's scheduled appearance, except as specifically authorized by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly.

(3) Any witness desiring to read a prepared or written statement in executive or public hearings shall file a copy of such statement with the Committee at least two working days in advance of the hearing at which the statement is to be presented. The Chairman and Vice Chairman shall determine whether such statements may be read or placed in the record of the hearing.

(4) Insofar as practicable, each witness shall be permitted to present a brief oral opening statement, if he or she desires to do so.

(h) RIGHT TO TESTIFY: Any person whose name is mentioned or who is specifically identified or otherwise referred to in testimony or in statements made by a Committee member, staff member or outside counsel, or any witness, and who reasonably believes that the statement tends to adversely affect his or her reputation may—

(1) Request to appear personally before the Committee to testify in his or her own behalf; or

(2) File a sworn statement of facts relevant to the testimony or other evidence or statement of which he or she complained. Such request and such statement shall be submitted to the Committee for its consideration and action.

(i) CONDUCT OF WITNESSES AND OTHER ATTENDEES: The Presiding Officer may punish any breaches of order and decorum by censure and exclusion from the hearings. The Committee, by majority vote, may recommend to the Senate that the offender be cited for contempt of Congress.

(j) ADJUDICATORY HEARING PROCEDURES:

(1) **NOTICE OF HEARINGS:** A copy of the public announcement of an adjudicatory hearing, required by paragraph (e), shall be furnished together with a copy of these Rules to all witnesses at the time that they are subpoenaed or otherwise summoned to testify.

(2) PREPARATION FOR ADJUDICATORY HEARINGS:

(A) At least five working days prior to the commencement of an adjudicatory hearing, the Committee shall provide the following information and documents to the respondent, if any:

(i) a list of proposed witnesses to be called at the hearing;

(ii) copies of all documents expected to be introduced as exhibits at the hearing; and

(iii) a brief statement as to the nature of the testimony expected to be given by each witness to be called at the hearing.

(B) At least two working days prior to the commencement of an adjudicatory hearing, the respondent, if any, shall provide the information and documents described in divisions (i), (ii) and (iii) of subparagraph (A) to the Committee.

(C) At the discretion of the Committee, the information and documents to be exchanged under this paragraph shall be subject to an appropriate agreement limiting access and disclosure.

(D) If a respondent refuses to provide the information and documents to the Committee (see (A) and (B) of this subparagraph), or if a respondent or other individual violates an agreement limiting access and disclosure, the Committee, by majority vote,

may recommend to the Senate that the offender be cited for contempt of Congress.

(3) **SWEARING OF WITNESSES:** All witnesses who testify at adjudicatory hearings shall be sworn unless the Presiding Officer, for good cause, decides that a witness does not have to be sworn.

(4) **RIGHT TO COUNSEL:** Any witness at an adjudicatory hearing may be accompanied by counsel of his or her own choosing, who shall be permitted to advise the witness of his or her legal rights during the testimony.

(5) **RIGHT TO CROSS-EXAMINE AND CALL WITNESSES:**

(A) In adjudicatory hearings, any respondent and any other person who obtains the permission of the Committee, may personally or through counsel cross-examine witnesses called by the Committee and may call witnesses in his or her own behalf.

(B) A respondent may apply to the Committee for the issuance of subpoenas for the appearance of witnesses or the production of documents on his or her behalf. An application shall be approved upon a concise showing by the respondent that the proposed testimony or evidence is relevant and appropriate, as determined by the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

(C) With respect to witnesses called by a respondent, or other individual given permission by the Committee, each such witness shall first be examined by the party who called the witness or by that party's counsel.

(D) At least one working day before a witness's scheduled appearance, a witness or a witness's counsel may submit to the Committee written questions proposed to be asked of that witness. If the Committee determines that it is necessary, such questions may be asked by any member of the Committee, or by any Committee staff member if directed by a Committee member. The witness or witness's counsel may also submit additional sworn testimony for the record within twenty-four hours after the last day that the witness has testified. The insertion of such testimony in that day's record is subject to the approval of the Chairman and Vice Chairman acting jointly within five days after the testimony is received.

(6) **ADMISSIBILITY OF EVIDENCE:**

(A) The object of the hearing shall be to ascertain the truth. Any evidence that may be relevant and probative shall be admissible unless privileged under the Federal Rules of Evidence. Rules of evidence shall not be applied strictly, but the Presiding Officer shall exclude irrelevant or unduly repetitious testimony. Objections going only to the weight that should be given evidence will not justify its exclusion.

(B) The Presiding Officer shall rule upon any question of the admissibility of testimony or other evidence presented to the Committee. Such rulings shall be final unless reversed or modified by a recorded vote of not less than four members of the Committee before the recess of that day's hearings.

(C) Notwithstanding paragraphs (A) and (B), in any matter before the Committee involving allegations of sexual discrimination, including sexual harassment, or sexual misconduct, be a Member, officer, or employee within the jurisdiction of the Committee, the Committee shall be guided by the standards and procedures of Rule 412 of the Federal Rules of Evidence, except that the Committee may admit evidence subject to the provisions of this paragraph only upon a determination of not less than four members of the full Committee that the interests of justice require that such evidence be admitted.

(7) **SUPPLEMENTARY HEARING PROCEDURES:** The Committee may adopt any additional special hearing procedures that it deems necessary or appropriate to a particular adjudicatory hearing. Copies of such supplementary procedures shall be furnished to witnesses and respondents, and shall be made available upon request to any member of the public.

(k) **TRANSCRIPTS:**

(1) An accurate stenographic or recorded transcript shall be made of all public and executive hearings. Any member of the Committee, Committee staff member, outside counsel retained by the Committee, or witness may examine a copy of the transcript retained by the Committee of his or her own remarks and may suggest to the official reporter any typographical or transcription errors. If the reporter declines to make the requested corrections, the member, staff member, outside counsel or witness may request a ruling by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly. Any member or witness shall return the transcript with suggested corrections to the Committee offices within five working days after receipt of the transcript, or as soon thereafter as is practicable. If the testimony was given in executive session, the member or witness may only inspect the transcript at a location determined by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly. Any questions arising with respect to the processing and correction of transcripts shall be decided by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly.

(2) Except for the record of a hearing which is closed to the public, each transcript shall be printed as soon as is practicable after receipt of the corrected version. The Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly, may order the transcript of a hearing to be printed without the corrections of a member or witness if they determine that such member or witness has been afforded a reasonable time to correct such transcript and such transcript has not been returned within such time.

(3) The Committee shall furnish each witness, at no cost, one transcript copy of that witness's testimony given at a public hearing. If the testimony was given in executive session, then a transcript copy shall be provided upon request, subject to appropriate conditions and restrictions prescribed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman. If any individual violates such conditions and restrictions, the Committee may recommend by majority vote that he or she be cited for contempt of Congress.

RULE 6: SUBPOENAS AND DEPOSITIONS

(a) **SUBPOENAS:**

(1) **AUTHORIZATION FOR ISSUANCE:** Subpoenas for the attendance and testimony of witnesses at depositions or hearings, and subpoenas for the production of documents and tangible things at depositions, hearings, or other times and places designated therein, may be authorized for issuance by either (A) a majority vote of the Committee, or (B) the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly, at any time during a preliminary inquiry, adjudicatory review, or other proceeding.

(2) **SIGNATURE AND SERVICE:** All subpoenas shall be signed by the Chairman or the Vice Chairman and may be served by any person eighteen years of age or older, who is designated by the Chairman or Vice Chairman. Each subpoena shall be served with a copy of the Rules of the Committee and a brief statement of the purpose of the Committee's proceeding.

(3) **WITHDRAWAL OF SUBPOENA:** The Committee, by recorded vote of not less than

four members of the Committee, may withdraw any subpoena authorized for issuance by it or authorized for issuance by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly. The Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly, may withdraw any subpoena authorized for issuance by them.

(b) **DEPOSITIONS:**

(1) **PERSONS AUTHORIZED TO TAKE DEPOSITIONS:** Depositions may be taken by any member of the Committee designated by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly, or by any other person designated by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly, including outside counsel, Committee staff, other employees of the Senate, or government employees detailed to the Committee.

(2) **DEPOSITION NOTICES:** Notices for the taking of depositions shall be authorized by the Committee, or the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly, and issued by the Chairman, Vice Chairman, or a Committee staff member or outside counsel designated by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly. Depositions may be taken at any time during a preliminary inquiry, adjudicatory review or other proceeding. Deposition notices shall specify a time and place for examination. Unless otherwise specified, the deposition shall be in private, and the testimony taken and documents produced shall be deemed for the purpose of these rules to have been received in a closed or executive session of the Committee. The Committee shall not initiate procedures leading to criminal or civil enforcement proceedings for a witness's failure to appear, or to testify, or to produce documents, unless the deposition notice was accompanied by a subpoena authorized for issuance by the Committee, or the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly.

(3) **COUNSEL AT DEPOSITIONS:** Witnesses may be accompanied at a deposition by counsel to advise them of their rights.

(4) **DEPOSITION PROCEDURE:** Witnesses at depositions shall be examined upon oath administered by an individual authorized by law to administer oaths, or administered by any member of the Committee if one is present. Questions may be propounded by any person or persons who are authorized to take depositions for the Committee. If a witness objects to a question and refuses to testify, or refuses to produce a document, any member of the Committee who is present may rule on the objection and, if the objection is overruled, direct the witness to answer the question or produce the document. If no member of the Committee is present, the individual who has been designated by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly, to take the deposition may proceed with the deposition, or may, at that time or at a subsequent time, seek a ruling by telephone or otherwise on the objection from the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Committee, who may refer the matter to the Committee or rule on the objection. If the Chairman or Vice Chairman, or the Committee upon referral, overrules the objection, the Chairman, Vice Chairman, or the Committee as the case may be, may direct the witness to answer the question or produce the document. The Committee shall not initiate procedures leading to civil or criminal enforcement unless the witness refuses to testify or produce documents after having been directed to do so.

(5) **FILING OF DEPOSITIONS:** Deposition testimony shall be transcribed or electronically recorded. If the deposition is transcribed, the individual administering the

oath shall certify on the transcript that the witness was duly sworn in his or her presence and the transcriber shall certify that the transcript is a true record of the testimony. The transcript with these certifications shall be filed with the chief clerk of the Committee, and the witness shall be furnished with access to a copy at the Committee's offices for review. Upon inspecting the transcript, within a time limit set by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly, a witness may request in writing changes in the transcript to correct errors in transcription. The witness may also bring to the attention of the Committee errors of fact in the witness's testimony by submitting a sworn statement about those facts with a request that it be attached to the transcript. The Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly, may rule on the witness's request, and the changes or attachments allowed shall be certified by the Committee's chief clerk. If the witness fails to make any request under this paragraph within the time limit set, this fact shall be noted by the Committee's chief clerk. Any person authorized by the Committee may stipulate with the witness to changes in this procedure.

RULE 7: VIOLATIONS OF LAW; PERJURY; LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS; EDUCATIONAL MANDATE; AND APPLICABLE RULES AND STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

(a) **VIOLATIONS OF LAW:** Whenever the Committee determines by the recorded vote of not less than four members of the full Committee that there is reason to believe that a violation of law, including the provision of false information to the Committee, may have occurred, it shall report such possible violation to the proper Federal and state authorities.

(b) **PERJURY:** Any person who knowingly and willfully swears falsely to a sworn complaint or any other sworn statement to the Committee does so under penalty of perjury. The Committee may refer any such case to the Attorney General for prosecution.

(c) **LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:** The Committee shall recommend to the Senate by report or resolution such additional rules, regulations, or other legislative measures as it determines to be necessary or desirable to ensure proper standards of conduct by Members, officers, or employees of the Senate. The Committee may conduct such inquiries as it deems necessary to prepare such a report or resolution, including the holding of hearings in public or executive session and the use of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses or the production of materials. The Committee may make legislative recommendations as a result of its findings in a preliminary inquiry, adjudicatory review, or other proceeding.

(d) **Educational Mandate:** The Committee shall develop and implement programs and materials designed to educate Members, officers, and employees about the laws, rules, regulations, and standards of conduct applicable to such individuals in the performance of their duties.

(e) **APPLICABLE RULES AND STANDARDS OF CONDUCT:**

(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, no adjudicatory review shall be initiated of any alleged violation of any law, the Senate Code of Official Conduct, rule, or regulation which was not in effect at the time the alleged violation occurred. No provisions of the Senate Code of Official Conduct shall apply to or require disclosure of any act, relationship, or transaction which occurred prior to the effective date of the applicable provision of the Code.

(2) The Committee may initiate an adjudicatory review of any alleged violation of a rule or law which was in effect prior to the enactment of the Senate Code of Official Conduct if the alleged violation occurred while such rule or law was in effect and the violation was not a matter resolved on the merits by the predecessor Committee.

RULE 8: PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING COMMITTEE SENSITIVE AND CLASSIFIED MATERIALS

(a) **PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING COMMITTEE SENSITIVE MATERIALS:**

(1) Committee Sensitive information or material is information or material in the possession of the Select Committee on Ethics which pertains to illegal or improper conduct by a present or former Member, officer, or employee of the Senate; to allegations or accusations of such conduct; to any resulting preliminary inquiry, adjudicatory review or other proceeding by the Select Committee on Ethics into such allegations or conduct; to the investigative techniques and procedures of the Select Committee on Ethics; or to other information or material designated by the staff director, or outside counsel designated by the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

(2) The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee shall establish such procedures as may be necessary to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of Committee Sensitive information in the possession of the Committee or its staff. Procedures for protecting Committee Sensitive materials shall be in writing and shall be given to each Committee staff member.

(b) **PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING CLASSIFIED MATERIALS:**

(1) Classified information or material is information or material which is specifically designated as classified under the authority of Executive Order 11652 requiring protection of such information or material from unauthorized disclosure in order to prevent damage to the United States.

(2) The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee shall establish such procedures as may be necessary to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of classified information in the possession of the Committee or its staff. Procedures for handling such information shall be in writing and a copy of the procedures shall be given to each staff member cleared for access to classified information.

(3) Each member of the Committee shall have access to classified material in the Committee's possession. Only Committee staff members with appropriate security clearances and a need-to-know, as approved by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly, shall have access to classified information in the Committee's possession.

(c) **PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING COMMITTEE SENSITIVE AND CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS:**

(1) Committee Sensitive documents and materials shall be stored in the Committee's offices, with appropriate safeguards for maintaining the security of such documents or materials. Classified documents and materials shall be further segregated in the Committee's offices in secure filing safes. Removal from the Committee offices of such documents or materials is prohibited except as necessary for use in, or preparation for, interviews or Committee meetings, including the taking of testimony, or as otherwise specifically approved by the staff director or by outside counsel designated by the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

(2) Each member of the Committee shall have access to all materials in the Committee's possession. The staffs of members shall

not have access to Committee Sensitive or classified documents and materials without the specific approval in each instance of the Chairman, and Vice Chairman, acting jointly. Members may examine such materials in the Committee's offices. If necessary, requested materials may be hand delivered by a member of the Committee staff to the member of the Committee, or to a staff person(s) specifically designated by the member, for the Member's or designated staffer's examination. A member of the Committee who has possession of Committee Sensitive documents or materials shall take appropriate safeguards for maintaining the security of such documents or materials in the possession of the Member or his or her designated staffer.

(3) Committee Sensitive documents that are provided to a Member of the Senate in connection with a complaint that has been filed against the Member shall be hand delivered to the Member or to the Member's Chief of Staff or Administrative Assistant. Committee Sensitive documents that are provided to a Member of the Senate who is the subject of a preliminary inquiry, adjudicatory review, or other proceeding, shall be hand delivered to the Member or to his or her specifically designated representative.

(4) Any Member of the Senate who is not a member of the Committee and who seeks access to any Committee Sensitive or classified documents or materials, other than documents or materials which are matters of public record, shall request access in writing. The Committee shall decide by majority vote whether to make documents or materials available. If access is granted, the Member shall not disclose the information except as authorized by the Committee.

(5) Whenever the Committee makes Committee Sensitive or classified documents or materials available to any Member of the Senate who is not a member of the Committee, or to a staff person of a Committee member in response to a specific request to the Chairman and Vice Chairman, a written record shall be made identifying the Member of the Senate requesting such documents or materials and describing what was made available and to whom.

(d) **NON-DISCLOSURE POLICY AND AGREEMENT:**

(1) Except as provided in the last sentence of this paragraph, no member of the Select Committee on Ethics, its staff or any person engaged by contract or otherwise to perform services for the Select Committee on Ethics shall release, divulge, publish, reveal by writing, word, conduct, or disclose in any way, in whole, or in part, or by way of summary, during tenure with the Select Committee on Ethics or anytime thereafter, any testimony given before the Select Committee on Ethics in executive session (including the name of any witness who appeared or was called to appear in executive session), any classified or Committee Sensitive information, document or material, received or generated by the Select Committee on Ethics or any classified or Committee Sensitive information which may come into the possession of such person during tenure with the Select Committee on Ethics or its staff. Such information, documents, or material may be released to an official of the executive branch properly cleared for access with a need-to-know, for any purpose or in connection with any proceeding, judicial or otherwise, as authorized by the Select Committee on Ethics, or in the event of termination of the Select Committee on Ethics, in such a manner as may

be determined by its successor or by the Senate.

(2) No member of the Select Committee on Ethics staff or any person engaged by contract or otherwise to perform services for the Select Committee on Ethics, shall be granted access to classified or Committee Sensitive information or material in the possession of the Select Committee on Ethics unless and until such person agrees in writing, as a condition of employment, to the non-disclosure policy. The agreement shall become effective when signed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman on behalf of the Committee.

RULE 9: BROADCASTING AND NEWS COVERAGE OF COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

(a) Whenever any hearing or meeting of the Committee is open to the public, the Committee shall permit that hearing or meeting to be covered in whole or in part, by television broadcast, radio broadcast, still photography, or by any other methods of coverage, unless the Committee decides by recorded vote of not less than four members of the Committee that such coverage is not appropriate at a particular hearing or meeting.

(b) Any witness served with a subpoena by the Committee may request not to be photographed at any hearing or to give evidence or testimony while the broadcasting, reproduction, or coverage of that hearing, by radio, television, still photography, or other methods is occurring. At the request of any such witness who does not wish to be subjected to radio, television, still photography, or other methods of coverage, and subject to the approval of the Committee, all lenses shall be covered and all microphones used for coverage turned off.

(c) If coverage is permitted, it shall be in accordance with the following requirements:

(1) Photographers and reporters using mechanical recording, filming, or broadcasting apparatus shall position their equipment so as not to interfere with the seating, vision, and hearing of the Committee members and staff, or with the orderly process of the meeting or hearing.

(2) If the television or radio coverage of the hearing or meeting is to be presented to the public as live coverage, the coverage shall be conducted and presented without commercial sponsorship.

(3) Personnel providing coverage by the television and radio media shall be currently accredited to the Radio and Television Correspondents' Galleries.

(4) Personnel providing coverage by still photography shall be currently accredited to the Press Photographers' Gallery Committee of Press Photographers.

(5) Personnel providing coverage by the television and radio media and by still photography shall conduct themselves and the coverage activities in an orderly and unobtrusive manner.

RULE 10: PROCEDURES FOR ADVISORY OPINIONS

(a) WHEN ADVISORY OPINIONS ARE RENDERED:

(1) The Committee shall render an advisory opinion, in writing within a reasonable time, in response to a written request by a Member or officer of the Senate or a candidate for nomination for election, or election to the Senate, concerning the application of any law, the Senate Code of Official Conduct, or any rule or regulation of the Senate within the Committee's jurisdiction, to a specific factual situation pertinent to the conduct or proposed conduct of the person seeking the advisory opinion.

(2) The Committee may issue an advisory opinion in writing within a reasonable time

in response to a written request by any employee of the Senate concerning the application of any law, the Senate Code of Official Conduct, or any rule or regulation of the Senate within the Committee's jurisdiction, to a specific factual situation pertinent to the conduct or proposed conduct of the person seeking the advisory opinion.

(b) FORM OF REQUEST: A request for an advisory opinion shall be directed in writing to the Chairman of the Committee and shall include a complete and accurate statement of the specific factual situation with respect to which the request is made as well as the specific question or questions which the requestor wishes the Committee to address.

(c) OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENT:

(1) The Committee will provide an opportunity for any interested party to comment on a request for an advisory opinion—

(A) which requires an interpretation on a significant question of first impression that will affect more than a few individuals; or

(B) when the Committee determines that comments from interested parties would be of assistance.

(2) Notice of any such request for an advisory opinion shall be published in the Congressional Record, with appropriate deletions to insure confidentiality, and interested parties will be asked to submit their comments in writing to the Committee within ten days.

(3) All relevant comments received on a timely basis will be considered.

(d) ISSUANCE OF AN ADVISORY OPINION:

(1) The Committee staff shall prepare a proposed advisory opinion in draft form which will first be reviewed and approved by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly, and will be presented to the Committee for final action. If (A) the Chairman and Vice Chairman cannot agree, or (B) either the Chairman or Vice Chairman requests that it be taken directly to the Committee, then the proposed advisory opinion shall be referred to the Committee for its decision.

(2) An advisory opinion shall be issued only by the affirmative recorded vote of a majority of the members voting.

(3) Each advisory opinion issued by the Committee shall be promptly transmitted for publication in the Congressional Record after appropriate deletions are made to insure confidentiality. The Committee may at any time revise, withdraw, or elaborate on any advisory opinion.

(e) RELIANCE ON ADVISORY OPINIONS:

(1) Any advisory opinion issued by the Committee under Senate Resolution 338, 88th Congress, as amended, and the rules may be relied upon by—

(A) Any person involved in the specific transaction or activity with respect to which such advisory opinion is rendered if the request for such advisory opinion included a complete and accurate statement of the specific factual situation; and

(B) any person involved in any specific transaction or activity which is indistinguishable in all its material aspects from the transaction or activity with respect to which such advisory opinion is rendered.

(2) Any person who relies upon any provision or finding of an advisory opinion in accordance with the provisions of Senate Resolution 338, 88th Congress, as amended, and of the rules, and who acts in good faith in accordance with the provisions and findings of such advisory opinion shall not, as a result of any such act, be subject to any sanction by the Senate.

RULE 11: PROCEDURES FOR INTERPRETATIVE RULINGS

(a) BASIS FOR INTERPRETATIVE RULINGS: Senate Resolution 338, 88th Congress, as amended, authorizes the Committee to issue interpretative rulings explaining and clarifying the application of any law, the Code of Official Conduct, or any rule or regulation of the Senate within its jurisdiction. The Committee also may issue such rulings clarifying or explaining any rule or regulation of the Select Committee on Ethics.

(b) REQUEST FOR RULING: A request for such a ruling must be directed in writing to the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Committee.

(c) ADOPTION OF RULING:

(1) The Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly, shall issue a written interpretative ruling in response to any such request, unless—

(A) they cannot agree,

(B) it requires an interpretation of a significant question of first impression, or

(C) either requests that it be taken to the Committee, in which event the request shall be directed to the Committee for a ruling.

(2) A ruling on any request taken to the Committee under subparagraph (1) shall be adopted by a majority of the members voting and the ruling shall then be issued by the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

(d) PUBLICATION OF RULINGS: The Committee will publish in the Congressional Record, after making appropriate deletions to ensure confidentiality, any interpretative rulings issued under this Rule which the Committee determines may be of assistance or guidance to other Members, officers or employees. The Committee may at any time revise, withdraw, or elaborate on interpretative rulings.

(e) RELIANCE ON RULINGS: Whenever an individual can demonstrate to the Committee's satisfaction that his or her conduct was in good faith reliance on an interpretative ruling issued in accordance with this Rule, the Committee will not recommend sanctions to the Senate as a result of such conduct.

(f) RULINGS BY COMMITTEE STAFF: The Committee staff is not authorized to make rulings or give advice, orally or in writing, which binds the Committee in any way.

RULE 12: PROCEDURES FOR COMPLAINTS INVOLVING IMPROPER USE OF THE MAILING FRANK

(a) AUTHORITY TO RECEIVE COMPLAINTS: The Committee is directed by section 6(b) of Public Law 93-191 to receive and dispose of complaints that a violation of the use of the mailing frank has occurred or is about to occur by a Member or officer of the Senate or by a surviving spouse of a Member. All such complaints will be processed in accordance with the provisions of these Rules, except as provided in paragraph (b).

(b) DISPOSITION OF COMPLAINTS:

(1) The Committee may dispose of any such complaint by requiring restitution of the cost of the mailing, pursuant to the franking statute, if it finds that the franking violation was the result of a mistake.

(2) Any complaint disposed of by restitution that is made after the Committee has formally commenced an adjudicatory review, must be summarized, together with the disposition, in a report to the Senate, as appropriate.

(3) If a complaint is disposed of by restitution, the complainant, if any, shall be notified of the disposition in writing.

(c) **ADVISORY OPINIONS AND INTERPRETATIVE RULINGS:** Requests for advisory opinions or interpretative rulings involving franking questions shall be processed in accordance with Rules 10 and 11.

RULE 13: PROCEDURES FOR WAIVERS

(a) **AUTHORITY FOR WAIVERS:** The Committee is authorized to grant a waiver under the following provisions of the Standing Rules of the Senate:

(1) Section 101(h) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, as amended (Rule XXXIV), relating to the filing of financial disclosure reports by individuals who are expected to perform or who have performed the duties of their offices or positions for less than one hundred and thirty days in a calendar year;

(2) Section 102(a)(2)(D) of the Ethics in Government Act, as amended (Rule XXXIV), relating to the reporting of gifts;

(3) Paragraph 1 of Rule XXXV relating to acceptance of gifts; or

(4) Paragraph 5 of Rule XLI relating to applicability of any of the provisions of the Code of Official Conduct to an employee of the Senate hired on a per diem basis.

(b) **REQUESTS FOR WAIVERS:** A request for a waiver under paragraph (a) must be directed to the Chairman or Vice Chairman in writing and must specify the nature of the waiver being sought and explain in detail the facts alleged to justify a waiver. In the case of a request submitted by an employee, the views of his or her supervisor (as determined under paragraph 12 of Rule XXXVII of the Standing Rules of the Senate) should be included with the waiver request.

(c) **RULING:** The Committee shall rule on a waiver request by recorded vote with a majority of those voting affirming the decision. With respect to an individual's request for a waiver in connection with the acceptance or reporting the value of gifts on the occasion of the individual's marriage, the Chairman and the Vice Chairman, acting jointly, may rule on the waiver.

(d) **AVAILABILITY OF WAIVER DETERMINATIONS:** A brief description of any waiver granted by the Committee, with appropriate deletions to ensure confidentiality, shall be made available for review upon request in the Committee office. Waivers granted by the Committee pursuant to the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, as amended, may only be granted pursuant to a publicly available request as required by the Act.

RULE 14: DEFINITION OF "OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE"

(a) As used in the applicable resolutions and in these rules and procedures, the term "officer or employee of the Senate" means:

(1) An elected officer of the Senate who is not a Member of the Senate;

(2) An employee of the Senate, any committee or subcommittee of the Senate, or any Member of the Senate;

(3) The Legislative Counsel of the Senate or any employee of his office;

(4) An Official Reporter of Debates of the Senate and any person employed by the Official Reporters of Debates of the Senate in connection with the performance of their official duties;

(5) A member of the Capitol Police force whose compensation is disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate;

(6) An employee of the Vice President, if such employee's compensation is disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate;

(7) An employee of a joint committee of the Congress whose compensation is disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate;

(8) An officer or employee of any department or agency of the Federal Government whose services are being utilized on a full-time and continuing basis by a Member, officer, employee, or committee of the Senate in accordance with Rule XLI(3) of the Standing Rules of the Senate; and

(9) Any other individual whose full-time services are utilized for more than ninety days in a calendar year by a Member, officer, employee, or committee of the Senate in the conduct of official duties in accordance with Rule XLI(4) of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

RULE 15: COMMITTEE STAFF

(a) **COMMITTEE POLICY:**

(1) The staff is to be assembled and retained as a permanent, professional, non-partisan staff.

(2) Each member of the staff shall be professional and demonstrably qualified for the position for which he or she is hired.

(3) The staff as a whole and each member of the staff shall perform all official duties in a nonpartisan manner.

(4) No member of the staff shall engage in any partisan political activity directly affecting any congressional or presidential election.

(5) No member of the staff or outside counsel may accept public speaking engagements or write for publication on any subject that is in any way related to his or her employment or duties with the Committee without specific advance permission from the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

(6) No member of the staff may make public, without Committee approval, any Committee Sensitive or classified information, documents, or other material obtained during the course of his or her employment with the Committee.

(b) **APPOINTMENT OF STAFF:**

(1) The appointment of all staff members shall be approved by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly.

(2) The Committee may determine by majority vote that it is necessary to retain staff members, including a staff recommended by a special counsel, for the purpose of a particular preliminary inquiry, adjudicatory review, or other proceeding. Such staff shall be retained only for the duration of that particular undertaking.

(3) The Committee is authorized to retain and compensate counsel not employed by the Senate (or by any department or agency of the Executive Branch of the Government) whenever the Committee determines that the retention of outside counsel is necessary or appropriate for any action regarding any complaint or allegation, preliminary inquiry, adjudicatory review, or other proceeding, which in the determination of the Committee, is more appropriately conducted by counsel not employed by the Government of the United States as a regular employee. The Committee shall retain and compensate outside counsel to conduct any adjudicatory review undertaken after a preliminary inquiry, unless the Committee determines that the use of outside counsel is not appropriate in the particular case.

(c) **DISMISSAL OF STAFF:** A staff member may not be removed for partisan, political reasons, or merely as a consequence of the rotation of the Committee membership. The Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly, shall approve the dismissal of any staff member.

(d) **STAFF WORKS FOR COMMITTEE AS WHOLE:** All staff employed by the Committee or housed in Committee offices shall work for the Committee as a whole, under

the general direction of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, and the immediate direction of the staff director or outside counsel.

(e) **NOTICE OF SUMMONS TO TESTIFY:** Each member of the Committee staff or outside counsel shall immediately notify the Committee in the event that he or she is called upon by a properly constituted authority to testify or provide confidential information obtained as a result of and during his or her employment with the Committee.

RULE 16: CHANGES IN SUPPLEMENTARY PROCEDURAL RULES

(a) **ADOPTION OF CHANGES IN SUPPLEMENTARY RULES:** The Rules of the Committee, other than rules established by statute, or by the Standing Rules and Standing Orders of the Senate, may be modified, amended, or suspended at any time, pursuant to a recorded vote of not less than four members of the full Committee taken at a meeting called with due notice when prior written notice of the proposed change has been provided each member of the Committee.

(b) **PUBLICATION:** Any amendments adopted to the Rules of this Committee shall be published in the Congressional Record in accordance with Rule XXVI(2) of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

PART III—SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION

Following are sources of the subject matter jurisdiction of the Select Committee:

(a) The Senate Code of Official Conduct approved by the Senate in Title I of S. Res. 110, 95th Congress, April 1, 1977, as amended, and stated in Rules 34 through 43 of the Standing Rules of the Senate;

(b) Senate Resolution 338, 88th Congress, as amended, which states, among others, the duties to receive complaints and investigate allegations of improper conduct which may reflect on the Senate, violations of law, violations of the Senate Code of Official Conduct and violations of rules and regulations of the Senate; recommend disciplinary action; and recommend additional Senate Rules or regulations to insure proper standards of conduct;

(c) Residual portions of Standing Rules 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the Senate as they existed on the day prior to the amendments made by Title I of S. Res. 110;

(d) Public Law 93-191 relating to the use of the mail franking privilege by Senators, officers of the Senate; and surviving spouses of Senators;

(e) Senate Resolution 400, 94th Congress, Section 8, relating to unauthorized disclosure of classified intelligence information in the possession of the Select Committee on Intelligence;

(f) Public Law 95-105, Section 515, relating to the receipt and disposition of foreign gifts and decorations received by Senate members, officers and employees and their spouses or dependents;

(g) Preamble to Senate Resolution 266, 90th Congress, 2d Session, March 22, 1968; and

(h) The Code of Ethics for Government Service, H. Con. Res. 175, 85th Congress, 2d Session, July 11, 1958 (72 Stat. B12). Except that S. Res. 338, as amended by Section 202 of S. Res. 110 (April 2, 1977), and as amended by Section 3 of S. Res. 222 (1999), provides:

(g) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, no adjudicatory review shall be initiated of any alleged violation of any law, the Senate Code of Official Conduct, rule, or regulation which was not in effect at the time the alleged violation occurred. No provisions of the Senate Code of Official Conduct shall apply to or require disclosure of

any act, relationship, or transaction which occurred prior to the effective date of the applicable provision of the Code. The Select Committee may initiate an adjudicatory review of any alleged violation of a rule or law which was in effect prior to the enactment of the Senate Code of Official Conduct if the alleged violation occurred while such rule or law was in effect and the violation was not a matter resolved on the merits by the predecessor Select Committee.

APPENDIX A—OPEN AND CLOSED MEETINGS

Paragraphs 5 (b) to (d) of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate reads as follows:

(b) Each meeting of a standing, select, or special committee of the Senate, or any subcommittee thereof, including meetings to conduct hearings, shall be open to the public, except that a meeting or series of meetings by a committee or a subcommittee thereof on the same subject for a period of no more than fourteen calendar days may be closed to the public on a motion made and seconded to go into closed session to discuss only whether the matters enumerated in classes (1) through (6) would require the meeting to be closed followed immediately by a record vote in open session by a majority of the members of the committee or subcommittee when it is determined that the matters to be discussed or the testimony to be taken at such meeting or meetings—

(1) will disclose matters necessary to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or the confidential conduct of the foreign relations of the United States;

(2) will relate solely to matters of committee staff personnel or internal staff management or procedure;

(3) will tend to charge an individual with crime or misconduct, to disgrace or injure the professional standing of an individual, or otherwise to expose an individual to public contempt or obloquy, or will represent a clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of an individual;

(4) will disclose the identity of any informer or law enforcement agent or will disclose any information relating to the investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense that is required to be kept secret in the interests of effective law enforcement;

(5) will disclose information relating to the trade secrets or financial or commercial information pertaining specifically to a given person if—

(A) an Act of Congress requires the information to be kept confidential by Government officers and employees; or

(B) the information has been obtained by the Government on a confidential basis, other than through an application by such person for a specific Government financial or other benefit, and is required to be kept secret in order to prevent undue injury to the competitive position of such person; or

(6) may divulge matters required to be kept confidential under other provisions of law or Government regulations.

(c) Whenever any hearing conducted by any such committee or subcommittee is open to the public, that hearing may be broadcast by radio or television, or both, under such rules as the committee or subcommittee may adopt.

(d) Whenever disorder arises during a committee meeting that is open to the public, or any demonstration of approval or disapproval is indulged in by any person in attendance at any such meeting, it shall be the duty of the Chair to enforce order on his own initiative and without any point of order

being made by a Senator. When the Chair finds it necessary to maintain order, he shall have the power to clear the room, and the committee may act in closed session for so long as there is doubt of the assurance of order.

APPENDIX B—“SUPERVISORS” DEFINED

Paragraph 12 of Rule XXXVII of the Standing Rules of the Senate reads as follows:

For purposes of this rule—

(a) a Senator or the Vice President is the supervisor of his administrative, clerical, or other assistants;

(b) a Senator who is the chairman of a committee is the supervisor of the professional, clerical, or other assistants to the committee except that minority staff members shall be under the supervision of the ranking minority Senator on the committee;

(c) a Senator who is a chairman of a subcommittee which has its own staff and financial authorization is the supervisor of the professional, clerical, or other assistants to the subcommittee except that minority staff members shall be under the supervision of the ranking minority Senator on the subcommittee;

(d) the President pro tempore is the supervisor of the Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, the Chaplain, the Legislative Counsel, and the employees of the Office of the Legislative Counsel;

(e) the Secretary of the Senate is the supervisor of the employees of his office;

(f) the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper is the supervisor of the employees of his office;

(g) the Majority and Minority Leaders and the Majority and Minority Whips are the supervisors of the research, clerical, and other assistants assigned to their respective offices;

(h) the Majority Leader is the supervisor of the Secretary for the Majority and the Secretary for the Majority is the supervisor of the employees of his office; and

(i) the Minority Leader is the supervisor of the Secretary for the Minority and the Secretary for the Minority is the supervisor of the employees of his office.

THANKING SENATOR BILL NELSON FOR HIS SUPPORT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION AND RECOVERY ACT OF 2014

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, today I wish to thank my friend Senator BILL NELSON for his support of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2014, S. 2839, which I introduced with Senators PORTMAN, KLOBUCHAR, AYOTTE, and LEAHY in the 113th Congress. Senator NELSON asked to be added as a cosponsor of the legislation in October, but his name was not recorded appropriately. I regret the oversight and wish to recognize Senator NELSON for his ongoing commitment to this important cause. I look forward to working together to address the Nation's opiate epidemic in the 114th Congress.

BAHRAIN

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, this month marks another important anniversary for many Bahrainis. Four years ago, more than a 100,000 people took to the streets of Manama, camping out at

Pearl Roundabout and peacefully protesting their lack of access to Bahrain's political system and their government's abuse of basic human rights. Bahrain's rulers responded to these calls for reform as authoritarian regimes so often do: with force. In the years since, an estimated 3,000 Bahrainis have been arrested, more than 150 protestors have been killed and more than 100 people have had their citizenship revoked. Indeed, the Bahraini regime continues to go to great lengths to stifle peaceful protest and quell any dissent by closing down media outlets and filling up already overcrowded prisons with political prisoners and human rights defenders. While many Bahrainis feel their struggle has been forgotten by the world, I want them to know that it will not go unremembered or unmarked here in the U.S. Senate.

The regime continues to go to great lengths to convince the world that it is making progress but I am sad to report that I cannot share that conclusion. Not while the regime refuses to permit a visit by Juan Mendez, the U.N.'s top torture investigator. Not while opposition leaders sit in Bahraini jails. And not while the State Department's last Human Rights Report lists abuses that include “restrictions on civil liberties,” “arbitrary deprivation of life,” and “arrest and detention of protesters on vague charges, in some cases leading to their torture in detention.”

Four years after the peaceful protests began, Bahrain's rulers continue to commit human rights violations while taking only superficial steps toward a meaningful political solution. As a result, several attempts to conclude a national dialogue among Bahrain's interests and parties have only resulted in stalemate. Unsurprisingly, the regime cracked down on the largest political opposition bloc in the lead-up to the November 2014 elections, resulting in a large-scale boycott of the election by voters. The regime arrested a senior opposition leader 1 month later, an action that the State Department warned “will only inflame tensions” and further dampen potential for a renewed political dialogue. The regime responded not by releasing that leader, but by doubling down and moving to criminalize the political party he leads.

On this somber anniversary, I want to take the occasion to urge the Bahraini regime to implement true and meaningful reforms, to cease the use of violence and repression against peaceful protesters, and to engage in credible dialogue about the future of Bahrain. To be clear, my aim is not to dictate to Bahrain's rulers what their government ought to look like; indeed, those decisions can only be made by the people of Bahrain. But Bahrain has long been an ally of the United States,

and I believe this country has an obligation to hold friends to a higher standard.

To those who will say that human rights abuses are bad but that stability and cooperation in the region must come before such concerns, I say that you are offering a false choice. I worry there will come a day when peaceful protesters, seeing no hope for redress, ask themselves if they, too, should not resort to violence. Indeed, the prospect of further violence and instability—or full-blown civil war—could have a profound impact on regional security and on the thousands of United States military personnel stationed in Bahrain. That is why I will continue coming down to this floor on this sad anniversary and keep using my voice in this body to raise awareness of this important issue.

TRIBUTE TO ALCYIA FARRELL

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, it is sometimes said that the work of the staff is little noticed until something goes wrong. Today, I wish to make comments about a member of the staff of the Appropriations Committee for a different reason: the outstanding record of service to the Senate and the Nation by Alycia Farrell.

Alycia came to Washington, DC, to study at the Elliott School of International Affairs at the George Washington University. She joined the Senate Committee on Appropriations under the late chairman, Ted Stevens, in 2001. A year later, she was promoted to a professional staff member for the Subcommittee on Military Construction and in 2003 moved to the Subcommittee on Defense.

Alycia's responsibilities on the Subcommittee on Defense for the last 12 years have been varied and complex. Her areas of expertise have included oversight of military health programs, where she has been instrumental in pushing for reforms to better serve the men and women in uniform and their families. She has tackled the most important issues in military health care over the last decade, including increasing funding for traumatic brain injury, suicide prevention, and implementing electronic health record systems for our veterans.

She has also excelled in oversight of missile defense programs, where Alycia has been a key voice in promoting the defense of our country while also calling for accountability in these technologically complex and expensive programs. She is a notable expert in the cooperative programs between the United States and Israel, where Alycia has played a key part in obtaining funding for programs such as Iron Dome, which have helped protect a key American ally from harm.

But no description of Alycia's contributions to the Senate are complete

without mentioning what she has brought to the people who have worked with her for the last decade and a half. She is a bundle of cheerful energy who takes great enthusiasm in everything she does. This is especially true in her love of the outdoors and commitment to hockey.

Alycia Farrell is soon to depart the Senate for new challenges. Raised in Alaska, she has heard the call of the northern climate from her youth and will soon move to Alberta, Canada, where she will establish a new life with her fiancé.

I send Alycia Farrell my heartfelt gratitude for outstanding service to the Senate, and I wish her all the very best on her future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING JANET MURNAGHAN

Mr. TOOMEY. Today I wish to honor Delaware County's Janet Murnaghan, who will be receiving the Women of Achievement Award from the Delaware County Women's Commission on March 11. Mrs. Murnaghan was chosen as an awardee for representing women of Delaware County in an extraordinary way, specifically by displaying incredible thoughtfulness, persistence and passion in caring for her daughter, Sarah.

It was my privilege to nominate Janet for this accolade in celebration of Women's History Month. Janet, her husband, Fran, and I first met 2 years ago at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Their daughter was battling cystic fibrosis and was in dire need of new lungs to save her young life. Though their daughter, Sarah, would have likely ranked near the top of the donor list for a new lung because of her medical need, a Federal policy prevented children under the age of 12 from being considered for mature lungs until all adult candidates in the region were ruled out. Sarah faced long odds at receiving a lifesaving transplant due to the short supply of pediatric donors. This obstacle would not stop Janet and the Murnaghan family. Sarah's mother took the fight to social media, to national TV and eventually directly to then Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. Janet argued that children under age 12 should be considered for adult lung transplants using the same criteria as adults as long as doctors demonstrated the operation's viability.

The Murnaghan family was eventually forced to pursue legal action to prevent Secretary Sebelius from enforcing the under-12 rule. Even in the most difficult moments, Mrs. Murnaghan remained levelheaded and resilient. Her determination was rewarded as a Federal judge issued a temporary restraining order, allowing young Sarah to receive the lifesaving transplant. While the first set of lungs

failed due to their poor quality, the second set was perfect. Sarah is now breathing on her own, bike riding with her siblings, and has already returned to school.

Janet and Sarah could not declare victory just yet. Though there was success in Sarah's specific case, the rule preventing children from receiving adult lungs was still in place. Last summer, thanks to Janet Murnaghan and other advocates, the transplant network permanently revised the under-12 policy. Without Janet taking a leadership role on behalf of her daughter and children across the Nation, this policy might not have been changed. She has certainly set herself apart as a woman of achievement.

On behalf of the Senate, I wish to extend my compliments to my friend, Janet Murnaghan, as she receives this much-deserved, prestigious award.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING ALAN ARKATOV

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Alan Arkatov as he celebrates his recent appointment as the Katzman/Ernst chair in educational entrepreneurship, technology and innovation at the University of Southern California's Rossier School of Education.

Alan has long been an innovative leader in the field of education. His remarkable career has included roles as the founder and chairman of OnlineLearning.net, CEO of the Teaching Channel, president of Changing.edu, and a creator and executive vice president of 2U, the technology company that pioneered USC Rossier's online master of arts in teaching program. He has also served as a member of the California State Board of Education, California Postsecondary Education Commission, Los Angeles Commission for Children, Youth and Their Families, and the Los Angeles Information Technology Agency.

A man of many talents, Alan is also a skilled communications and public relations expert and has served as a strategist for academic institutions, nonprofits, governments, corporations, and political campaigns.

In announcing Alan's appointment, USC Rossier Dean Karen Symms Gallagher said, "With his broad and unique experience in education, communications, public policy and the arts, he is someone who can make important projects, programs and initiatives a reality at Rossier and USC."

I have known Alan for many years and have had the opportunity to see his immense talents and his passion for education. I congratulate him on his recent appointment at USC's Rossier School of Education and wish him the very best as he writes this next exciting chapter in his extraordinary career.●

REMEMBERING DOMINGO ENRIQUE MOREL SENIOR

• Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I wish to extend my most sincere condolences on the passing of Domingo Enrique Morel Senior. Domingo was a pillar of the community during his time in my hometown of Union City, NJ, and he will be deeply missed.

As the saying goes, all politics is local. The foundations of our democratic system do not lie in the Halls of the Capitol but in the neighborhoods and cities spread across our great country. The critical progress we must make as a nation only occurs when groups of dedicated citizens selflessly contribute their time and efforts toward improving the lives of their families and communities. Domingo was one of these committed citizens.

As a resident of Union City, Domingo chose to give back to his neighbors through the political process. He spent many hours organizing neighborhoods and people in support of issues he believed would make his city and State a better place for people to live and work. Domingo did the hard, behind-the-scenes job of organizing communities at the grassroots level. I am eternally grateful for the effort Domingo gave on my behalf; it is because of his loyal public service that I am able to do my work on behalf of the citizens of New Jersey today.

My thoughts and prayers are with Domingo's family at this difficult time. I am proud to have called Domingo a friend. Though he may have passed, the goodness he brought to the world remains and will never be forgotten.●

REPORT OF THE VETO OF S. 1, THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE APPROVAL ACT—PM 6

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States; which was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, spread in full upon the Journal, and held at the desk:

To the Senate of the United States:

I am returning herewith without my approval S. 1, the "Keystone XL Pipeline Approval Act." Through this bill, the United States Congress attempts to circumvent longstanding and proven processes for determining whether or not building and operating a cross-border pipeline serves the national interest.

The Presidential power to veto legislation is one I take seriously. But I also take seriously my responsibility to the American people. And because this act of Congress conflicts with established executive branch procedures and cuts short thorough consideration of issues that could bear on our national interest—including our security,

safety, and environment—it has earned my veto.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 24, 2015.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE
RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the order of the Senate of January 6, 2015, the Secretary of the Senate, on February 13, 2015, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 1. An act to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 6, 2015, the enrolled bill was signed on February 12, 2015, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 719. An act to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE
CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 534. A bill to prohibit funds from being used to carry out certain Executive actions related to immigration and for other purposes.

S. 535. A bill to promote energy efficiency.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, February 24, 2015, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1. An act to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER
COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-644. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pirimethanil; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9922-07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 11, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-645. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pendimethalin; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9921-89) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 11, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-646. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 10, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-647. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs), Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 10, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-648. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Operational Energy, Plans and Programs), Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 10, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-649. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 10, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-650. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Readiness and Force Management), Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 10, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-651. A communication from the Acting Chief Financial Officer, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2012 and fiscal year 2013 FAIR Act Commercial and Inherently Governmental Activities Inventory; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-652. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Section 501(c)(29) Organization Application Procedures" (Rev. Proc. 2015-17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-653. A communication from the Chief of the Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "United States-Australia Free Trade Agreement" (RIN1515-AD59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 10, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-654. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the

report of a rule entitled "Gracia v. Commissioner, T.C. Memo 2004-147" (AOD 2015-01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-655. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Estate of Martinez v. Commissioner, T.C. Memo 2004-150" (AOD 2015-01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-656. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Price v. Commissioner, T.C. Memo 2004-149" (AOD 2015-01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-657. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Mirarchi v. Commissioner, T.C. Memo 2004-148" (AOD 2015-01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-658. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Qualified Zone Academy Bond Allocations for 2014" (Notice 2015-11) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-659. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "New Clean Renewable Energy Bonds" (Notice 2015-12) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-660. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Annual Price Inflation Adjustments for Passenger Automobiles First Placed in Service or Leased in 2015" (Notice 2015-19) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-661. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Relief for Certain Participants in Section 414(d) Governmental Plans" (Notice 2015-07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-662. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendments Related to: Tier 3 Motor Vehicle Emission and Fuel Standards, Nonroad Engine and Equipment Programs and MARPOL Annex VI Implementation" ((RIN2060-AS36) (FRL No. 9922-31-OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 11, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-663. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmit-

ting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Redesignation of the Harrisburg-Lebanon-Carlisle-York Nonattainment Areas to Attainment for the 1997 Annual and the 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Matter Standard; Correction" (FRL No. 9922-32-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 11, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-664. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia's Redesignation Request and Associated Maintenance Plan of the West Virginia Portion of the Martinsburg-Hagerstown, WV-MD Nonattainment Area for the 1997 Annual Fine Particulate Matter Standard; Correction" (FRL No. 9921-31-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 11, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-665. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; American Samoa" (FRL No. 9922-86-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 11, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-666. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Guam" (FRL No. 9923-01-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 11, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-667. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; North Dakota; Regional Haze State Implementation Plan; Federal Implementation Plan for Interstate Transport of Pollution Affection Visibility and Regional Haze; Reconsideration" (FRL No. 9922-80-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 11, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-668. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Partial Approval and Partial Disapproval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Wyoming; Revisions to Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations; Nonattainment Permitting Requirements and Chapter 3, General Emission Standards" (FRL No. 9922-24-Region 8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 11, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-669. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District" (FRL No. 9921-51-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 11, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-670. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "HAZARDOUS AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM; DISPOSAL OF COAL COMBUSTION RESIDUALS FROM ELECTRIC UTILITIES" ((RIN2050-AE81) (FRL No. 9919-44-OSWER)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 11, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-671. A communication from the Deputy Director, Administration for Aging, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "State Long Term Care Ombudsman Program" (RIN0985-AA08) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 11, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-672. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Technical Collection for the New START Treaty (OSS-2015-0137); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-673. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13-114); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-674. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-152); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. SHELBY, from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, without amendment:

S. 527. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Foot Soldiers who participated in Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday, or in the final Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March in March of 1965, which served as a catalyst for the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. UDALL (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 536. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income payments under the Indian Health Service Loan Repayment Program and certain amounts received under the Indian Health Professions Scholarship Program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. 537. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase and make permanent the alternative simplified research credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. RISCH):

S. 538. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, with respect to the operation of

longer combination vehicles on the Interstate System in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 539. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. 540. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require the Secretary of Agriculture to make loan guarantees and grants to finance certain improvements to school lunch facilities, to train school food service personnel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 541. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the John P. Parker House in Ripley, Ohio, as a unit of the National Park System; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. COATS:

S. 542. A bill to enhance the homeland security of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 543. A bill to amend the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 to provide for Scientific Advisory Board member qualifications, public participation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. FLAKE):

S. 544. A bill to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from proposing, finalizing, or disseminating regulations or assessments based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. THUNE:

S. 545. A bill making continuing appropriations for Coast Guard pay in the event the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2015 expires and the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2015 is not enacted; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Mr. KING, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 546. A bill to establish the Railroad Emergency Services Preparedness, Operational Needs, and Safety Evaluation (RESPONSE) Subcommittee under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Advisory Council to provide recommendations on emergency responder training and resources relating to hazardous materials incidents involving railroads, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 547. A bill to establish a regulatory framework for the comprehensive protection of personal data for individuals under the aegis of the Federal Trade Commission, to amend the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 to improve provisions relating to collection, use, and disclosure of personal information of children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 548. A bill to clarify that funding for the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board is not subject to the sequester; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 549. A bill to clarify that funding for the Securities Investor Protection Corporation is not subject to the sequester; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 550. A bill to clarify that funding for the standard setting body designated pursuant to section 19(b) of the Securities Act of 1933 is not subject to the sequester; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. REED, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 551. A bill to increase public safety by permitting the Attorney General to deny the transfer of firearms or the issuance of firearms and explosives licenses to known or suspected dangerous terrorists; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 552. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to provide for increased limitations on leverage for multiple licenses under common control; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. CORKER (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. COONS, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 553. A bill to marshal resources to undertake a concerted, transformative effort that seeks to bring an end to modern slavery, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. UDALL, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WARNER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 554. A bill to provide for the compensation of Federal employees affected by a lapse in appropriations; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. Con. Res. 4. A concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. Con. Res. 5. A concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the International Decade for People of African Descent; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 28

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 28, a bill to limit the use of cluster munitions.

S. 71

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 71, a bill to preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects.

S. 155

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 155, a bill to promote freedom, fairness, and economic opportunity by repealing the income tax and other taxes, abolishing the Internal Revenue Service, and enacting a national sales tax to be administered primarily by the States.

S. 166

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 166, a bill to stop exploitation through trafficking.

S. 178

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 178, a bill to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

S. 203

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 203, a bill to restore Americans' individual liberty by striking the Federal mandate to purchase insurance.

S. 207

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 207, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to use existing authorities to furnish health care at non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities to veterans who live more than 40 miles driving distance from the closest medical facility of the Department that furnishes the care sought by the veteran, and for other purposes.

S. 262

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 262, a bill to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes.

S. 263

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Arkansas

(Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 263, a bill to protect the right of individuals to bear arms at water resources development projects.

S. 264

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 264, a bill to require a full audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal reserve banks by the Comptroller General of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 269

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. 269, a bill to expand sanctions imposed with respect to Iran and to impose additional sanctions with respect to Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 275

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 275, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of home as a site of care for infusion therapy under the Medicare program.

S. 283

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 283, a bill to prohibit the Internal Revenue Service from modifying the standard for determining whether an organization is operated exclusively for the promotion of social welfare for purposes of section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

S. 291

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 291, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for extensions of detention of certain aliens ordered removed, and for other purposes.

S. 305

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 305, a bill to protect American job creation by striking the Federal mandate on employers to offer health insurance.

S. 313

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 313, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to add physical therapists to the list of providers allowed to utilize locum tenens arrangements under Medicare.

S. 338

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAK-

SON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 338, a bill to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

S. 373

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 373, a bill to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel.

S. 439

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 439, a bill to end discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity in public schools, and for other purposes.

S. 441

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 441, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to clarify the Food and Drug Administration's jurisdiction over certain tobacco products, and to protect jobs and small businesses involved in the sale, manufacturing and distribution of traditional and premium cigars.

S. 474

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 474, a bill to require State educational agencies that receive funding under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to have in effect policies and procedures on background checks for school employees.

S. 490

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 490, a bill to achieve domestic energy independence by empowering States to control the development and production of all forms of energy on all available Federal land.

S. 491

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 491, a bill to lift the trade embargo on Cuba.

S. 498

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 498, a bill to allow reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms.

S. 505

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 505, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the Health Coverage Tax Credit.

S. 510

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 510, a bill to require Senate confirmation of Inspector General of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes.

S. 512

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 512, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to safeguard data stored abroad from improper government access, and for other purposes.

S. 517

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 517, a bill to extend the secure rural schools and community self-determination program, to restore mandatory funding status to the payment in lieu of taxes program, and for other purposes.

S. 524

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 524, a bill to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use.

S. 527

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) were added as cosponsors of S. 527, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Foot Soldiers who participated in Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday, or in the final Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March in March of 1965, which served as a catalyst for the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

S. RES. 84

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 84, a resolution celebrating Black History Month.

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 84, supra.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 539. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise in support of the Medicare Access to Rehabilitation Services Act, which I am

introducing today with my colleague Senator COLLINS. This important bill repeals the monetary caps that limit Medicare beneficiaries' access to medically necessary outpatient physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology services.

Limits on outpatient rehabilitation therapy services under Medicare were first imposed in 1997 as part of the Balanced Budget Act. The decision to impose limits on these services was not based on data, quality-of-care concerns, or clinical judgment—its sole purpose was to limit spending in order to balance the federal budget. Since 1997, Congress has acted over 12 times to prevent the implementation of the therapy caps through moratoriums and an exceptions process. While these short-term actions have provided necessary relief to our seniors, a long-term solution is essential to bring permanent relief and much-needed stability for both patients and providers.

We need a full repeal of the existing caps on physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology services. These annual financial caps limit services often needed after a stroke, traumatic brain injury, or spinal cord injury, or to effectively manage conditions such as Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, and arthritis. Arbitrary caps on these vital Medicare outpatient therapy services are simply unacceptable. They also discriminate against the oldest and sickest Medicare beneficiaries, who typically require the most intensive therapy, and disadvantage Medicare beneficiaries who live in regions with higher health care costs.

In a 2009 report issued by the Medicare Payment Advisory Committee, MEDPAC, it was estimated that the therapy cap, if enforced without an exceptions process, could negatively impact 931,000 Medicare beneficiaries. Arbitrarily capping outpatient rehabilitation therapy services would likely cause some beneficiaries to delay necessary care, force others to assume higher out-of-pocket costs, and disrupt the continuum of care for many seniors and individuals with disabilities.

I urge my colleagues to join me and Senator COLLINS in supporting the Medicare Access to Rehabilitation Services Act to ensure that our seniors have access to the outpatient rehabilitation therapy services that they need.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 539

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Medicare Access to Rehabilitation Services Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. OUTPATIENT THERAPY CAP REPEAL.

Section 1833 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395(l)) is amended by striking subsection (g).

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. 540. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require the Secretary of Agriculture to make loan guarantees and grants to finance certain improvements to school lunch facilities, to train school food service personnel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am pleased today to join my friend and colleague from North Dakota, Senator HEITKAMP, in introducing the School Food Modernization Act to assist schools in providing healthier meals to students throughout the country.

School meals play a vital role in the lives of our young people. More than 30 million children participate in the National School Lunch Program every school day. In Maine, 40 percent of children qualify for free or reduced-price meals based on household income.

The food served at schools to these children affects their health and well-being. Many children consume up to half their daily caloric intake at school. In fact, children often get their most nutritious meal of the day at school instead of at home. At the same time, too many of our children are at risk of serious disease. One-third of the children in this country are overweight or obese, which increases their risk for heart disease, high blood pressure, Type 2 Diabetes and other chronic diseases. These conditions may have a lifelong effect on their health as they grow to adulthood.

In response to concerns about the health of our children, our schools have stepped up to the plate. Nationwide, schools are working diligently to meet the new U.S. Department of Agriculture standards and serve healthier meals. For example, in the New Sweden Consolidated School in Aroostook County, ME, food service manager Melanie Lagasse prepares meals from scratch instead of opening cans or pushing a defrost button. The school's 64 students, ranging from preschool to eighth grade, have grown to relish the chicken stew, baked fish, and meatloaf that she makes fresh.

Many schools, however, lack the right tools for preparing meals rich in fresh ingredients and must rely on workarounds that are expensive, inefficient, and unsustainable. Schools built decades ago lack the tools and the infrastructure necessary beyond reheating and holding food for meal service.

To serve healthier meals to their students, 99 percent of Maine school districts need at least one piece of equipment and almost half, 48 percent, of districts need kitchen infrastructure upgrades. The median equipment need per school is \$45,000.

Even more costly would be making the required changes to infrastructure. Forty-eight percent of Maine schools need some kind of infrastructure change to serve healthy meals. For example, 41 percent of schools need more physical space, 22 percent need more electrical capacity, 21 percent need more plumbing capacity, and 19 percent need more ventilation.

Add the equipment costs together with the infrastructure costs and it is estimated that overall, \$58.8 million would be needed just in Maine to serve healthy meals to all of our students. That far exceeds the \$111,000 in grants that the USDA awarded Maine during the last two fiscal years for new equipment.

Our bill authorizes loan guarantee assistance and grants for school equipment and infrastructure improvements, thereby helping food service personnel meet nutrition standards. First, it would establish a loan guarantee assistance program within USDA to help schools acquire new equipment to prepare and serve healthier, more nutritious meals to students. School administrators and other eligible borrowers could obtain Federal guarantees for 80 percent of the loan value needed to construct, remodel, or expand their kitchens, dining, or food storage infrastructure.

Second, the bill would provide targeted grant assistance to give school administrators and food service directors the seed funding needed to upgrade kitchen infrastructure or to purchase high-quality, durable kitchen equipment such as commercial ovens, steamers, and stoves.

Finally, to aid school food service personnel in meeting the nutrition guidelines, the legislation would strengthen training and provide technical assistance by authorizing USDA to provide support on a competitive basis to highly qualified third-party trainers to develop and administer training and technical assistance, including online programs.

We need to start our school children off on the right food every day. If they are going to be able to learn and compete, they need to be healthy and their minds and bodies fully nourished. This bill will help us achieve that goal.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. REED, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 551. A bill to increase public safety by permitting the Attorney General to deny the transfer of firearms or the issuance of firearms and explosives licenses to known or suspected dangerous terrorists; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to address what I believe is

a national security and public safety weakness.

The United States currently has a system in place to keep known or suspected terrorists off of airplanes. But even though they can't fly, these very same terrorists can walk into any gun store anywhere in the country and purchase a firearm.

If a terrorist is too dangerous to board an airplane, that same individual is too dangerous to possess a gun.

That's why we are introducing the Denying Firearms and Explosives to Dangerous Terrorists Act, a bill to fix this glaring loophole in our background check system.

This is not a hypothetical issue.

Individuals with links to terrorism regularly purchase guns in the United States.

According to data just received from the Government Accountability Office, between February 2004 and December 2014, there were at least 2,233 cases in which a known or suspected terrorist—individuals who at the time were on federal terrorist watch lists—tried to buy a firearm or obtain a firearm or explosives license or permit.

In 91 percent of these cases, a total of 2,043 separate occasions, those known or suspected terrorists successfully passed a background check.

The Kouachi brothers, the terrorists who killed 12 people at Charlie Hebdo in Paris, are reportedly on the U.S. no fly list.

However, if they had made it to the United States, the fact that they were on terrorist watch lists would have done nothing to prevent them from legally buying firearms or explosives.

One of the alleged Boston Marathon bombers, Tamerlan Tsarnaev, was reportedly placed on two terrorist watch lists in 2011.

He later killed three and injured 170 with homemade explosives and killed a police officer with a handgun.

In 2009, Abdulhakim Mujahid Muhammad opened fire at a military recruiting station in Little Rock, Arkansas. He killed one and critically injured another.

According to press reports, Muhammad had been under investigation by the FBI for suspected links to terrorism after traveling to Yemen, where he was arrested for using a Somali passport. Those actions certainly would have placed him on terrorist watch lists, but would not have kept him from buying firearms.

The bill that we are introducing today is very simple.

It would close this dangerous loophole by giving the Attorney General discretion to prevent someone from buying explosives or a gun if that individual is a known or suspected terrorist and may use the firearm in connection with terrorism.

It would also give the Attorney General discretion to prevent someone

from obtaining a license to sell guns or explosives if that individual is a known or suspected terrorist and may use the firearm in connection with terrorism.

The Attorney General could use a range of tools to make this decision, most notable terrorist watch lists and the no fly list.

In addition to making the decision at the discretion of the Attorney General, the bill includes other safeguards to make sure innocent individuals are not denied the ability to buy firearms or explosives.

The first safeguard is that very high standards already exist for an individual to be designated as a known or suspected terrorist.

The FBI or the National Counterterrorism Center must nominate the individual to be included in the Terrorist Screening Database.

There must be sufficient identifying data about the person to ensure they can be accurately matched with the terrorist on the watch list.

The circumstances must meet the "reasonable suspicion" standard. This means the facts of the case must be strong enough to reasonably determine the person is known or suspected to be engaged in terrorism.

The second safeguard is that every provision in current law allowing individuals to appeal the denial of a firearm or explosive purchase will also apply to this bill.

The office within the FBI that handles the background check system, known as the NICS Section, or the National Instant Criminal Background Check System Section, must provide the reason for denial upon request.

Individuals then have the right to correct any inaccurate records in the background check system. If a purchase is still denied, individuals can take the Justice Department to court to overturn the decision.

Gun safety bills are often labeled as Democratic bills. That is not the case here.

This bill was first proposed by the Justice Department under President George W. Bush, who recognized that keeping guns away from terrorists is good policy.

Attorney General Holder has also testified that the Justice Department under President Obama continues to support this proposal.

The bill has also been endorsed by Everytown for Gun Safety. This group represents more than 1,000 current and former mayors, both Republican and Democrat.

The legislation has also been endorsed by the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, the Violence Policy Center, Americans for Responsible Solutions, and the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence.

I would also like to thank the bill's cosponsors: Senators WHITEHOUSE, SCHUMER, DURBIN, BLUMENTHAL, BOXER,

REED, MENENDEZ, GILLIBRAND, MURPHY, WARREN, and MARKEY. All of you are champions for stronger gun safety laws.

The terrorist attack in Paris should be a wake-up call for everyone.

This sort of terrorist attack is very possible here in the United States, and the ability for known and suspected terrorists to buy guns and explosives makes it even more likely.

Congress should close this loophole in our background check system and ensure that known and suspected terrorists can't easily gain access to these weapons.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 552. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to provide for increased limitations on leverage for multiple licenses under common control; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I am pleased join my colleague, Senator Risch, in introducing the Small Business Investment Company Capital, SBIC, Act of 2015. And I am pleased that Congressman Chabot, Chairman of the House Small Business Committee, is introducing the same bill on the House side today.

This bipartisan legislation makes a common-sense change to the Small Business Investment Company, SBIC, program run by the Small Business Administration, SBA. This change will provide increased support to some of the program's most successful participants, SBICs that run multiple funds at a time. At no additional cost to the taxpayer, the SBIC Act will raise the limit that a "family of funds" can borrow with an SBA guarantee from \$225 million to \$350 million.

The SBIC program guarantees loans to qualified investment funds, or SBICs. In turn, these SBICs invest in promising small businesses by combining the SBA loan with privately raised capital, often at a 2:1 ratio. It is important to note that while these SBICs are licensed and regulated by the SBA, they are privately owned and operated.

Since its inception, the SBIC Debenure program has been incredibly successful. SBICs have invested more than \$70 billion in nearly 170,000 small businesses. Recently, the program has experienced rapid growth. In 2013, SBA guaranteed loans to SBICs equaling \$3.5 billion, a 70 percent increase in financing dollars from three years ago and the highest amount of financings in the past decade.

This success is largely attributed to Congressional action that raised the ceiling for maximum investments for the SBIC program each year from \$3

billion to \$4 billion. Senator LANDRIEU, Senator RISCH, and I worked with a bipartisan coalition to increase this ceiling and ensure SBIC funds have access to sufficient capital to invest in promising small businesses.

Nowhere is the success of this increase seen more than in Maryland. Since the start of fiscal year 2015, SBICs have already invested nearly \$65 million in Maryland small businesses. Yet, this success could be enhanced even more if Congress increased the amount SBICs with a family of funds can borrow from the SBA.

SBICs that run multiple funds at a time are known as “families of funds.” While many of our Nation’s most successful and reliable SBICs have a family of funds, their success is being restricted by the current lending limit. Simply raising the limit from \$225 million to \$350 million would provide these proven fund managers the additional capital needed to invest in small businesses and stimulate local economies.

Put simply, by increasing the “family of funds” lending limit to \$350 million, proven investors can invest in more promising small businesses. The SBIC Act enhances the SBA’s ability to support these successful investors as they finance small businesses that will continue to create jobs in this country.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 4—SUPPORTING THE LOCAL RADIO FREEDOM ACT

Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Ms. HEITKAMP) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

S. CON. RES. 4

Whereas the United States enjoys broadcasting and sound recording industries that are the envy of the world, due to the symbiotic relationship that has existed among those industries for many decades;

Whereas, for more than 80 years, Congress has rejected repeated calls by the recording industry to impose a performance fee on local radio stations for simply playing music on the radio, as such a fee would upset the mutually beneficial relationship between local radio and the recording industry;

Whereas local radio stations provide free publicity and promotion to the recording industry and performers of music in the form of radio air play, interviews with performers, introduction of new performers, concert promotions, and publicity that promotes the sale of music, concert tickets, ring tones, music videos, and associated merchandise;

Whereas committees in the Senate and the House of Representatives have previously reported that “the sale of many sound recordings and the careers of many performers have benefitted considerably from airplay and other promotional activities provided by both noncommercial and advertiser-supported, free over-the-air broadcasting”;

Whereas local radio broadcasters provide tens of thousands of hours of essential local news and weather information during times

of national emergencies and natural disasters, such as on September 11, 2001, and during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, as well as public affairs programming, sports, and hundreds of millions of dollars worth of time for public service announcements and local fund raising efforts for worthy charitable causes, all of which are jeopardized if local radio stations are forced to divert revenues to pay for a new performance fee;

Whereas there are many thousands of local radio stations that will suffer severe economic hardship if any new performance fee is imposed, as will many other small businesses that play music including bars, restaurants, retail establishments, sports and other entertainment venues, shopping centers, and transportation facilities; and

Whereas the hardship that would result from a new performance fee would hurt businesses in the United States, and ultimately the consumers in the United States who rely on local radio for news, weather, and entertainment, and such a performance fee is not justified when the current system has produced the most prolific and innovative broadcasting, music, and sound recording industries in the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress should not impose any new performance fee, tax, royalty, or other charge relating to the public performance of sound recordings on a local radio station for broadcasting sound recordings over the air, or on any business for such public performance of sound recordings.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 5—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

Mr. CARDIN submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 5

Whereas, in recognition of the African Diaspora, on December 23, 2013, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 68/237, designating the decade commencing on January 1, 2015, and ending on December 31, 2024, as the “International Decade for People of African Descent”, with the theme “People of African descent: recognition, justice and development”;

Whereas the African Diaspora is expansive, spanning across the globe from the Americas and the Caribbean to Asia and Europe, with persons of African descent having had a historical presence and currently residing on every continent;

Whereas the historical bonds and shared experiences that tie the African continent with the world must be recalled;

Whereas the global contributions of people of African descent must be recognized as a means of preserving that heritage;

Whereas the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, done at Helsinki August 1, 1975, states that “participating States will respect human rights and fundamental freedoms . . . for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion”;

Whereas the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Organization of American States, and other international organizations have undertaken efforts to address the human rights situation of people of African descent;

Whereas, on December 10, 2014, United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations Samantha Power stated, “The United States comes to the International Decade for People of African Descent with a full and robust commitment to ensuring the rights of persons of African descent, and to combating racism and discrimination against them.”; and

Whereas a central goal of the International Decade for People of African Descent is to strengthen national actions and regional and international cooperation for the benefit of people of African descent in relation to the full enjoyment of economic, cultural, social, civil, and political rights for people of African descent; the participation and integration of people of African descent in all political, economic, social, and cultural aspects of society; and the promotion of greater knowledge of, and respect for, the diverse heritage and culture of people of African descent; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of the “International Decade for People of African Descent”;

(2) encourages the recognition and celebration of the collective history and achievements made by people of African descent;

(3) reaffirms the importance of inclusion and the full and equal participation of people of African descent around the world in all aspects of political, economic, social, and cultural life;

(4) recognizes bilateral and multilateral efforts to promote democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, including those efforts that target the eradication of poverty, hunger, and inequality; and

(5) reaffirms the commitment of Congress to address racism, discrimination, and intolerance in the United States and around the globe.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 252. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. MENENDEZ) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 65, supporting efforts to bring an end to violence perpetrated by Boko Haram, and urging the Government of Nigeria to conduct transparent, peaceful, and credible elections.

SA 253. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. MENENDEZ) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 65, supra.

SA 254. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. RUBIO) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 253 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. MENENDEZ) to the resolution S. Res. 65, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 252. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. MENENDEZ) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 65, supporting efforts to bring an end to violence perpetrated by Boko Haram, and urging the Government of Nigeria to conduct transparent, peaceful, and credible elections; as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following: “That the Senate—

(1) condemns Boko Haram for its violent attacks, particularly the indiscriminate targeting of civilians, especially women and girls, and the use of children as fighters and suicide bombers;

(2) stands with—

(A) the people of Nigeria in their right to live free from fear or intimidation by state or nonstate actors, regardless of their ethnic, religious, or regional affiliation;

(B) the people of Cameroon, Chad, and Niger who are increasingly at risk of becoming victims of Boko Haram's violence; and

(C) the international community in its efforts to defeat Boko Haram;

(3) supports the Abuja Accord, and calls on candidates, party officials, and adherents of all political movements to comply with the code of conduct spelled out therein, by refraining from any rhetoric or action that seeks to demonize or delegitimize opponents, sow division among Nigerians, or otherwise inflame tensions;

(4) condemns any and all abuses of civilians by security forces of the Government of Nigeria;

(5) urges the Government of Nigeria to—

(A) adhere to the new timeline for elections announced by INEC on February 7, 2015;

(B) refrain from using security concerns as a pretext for impeding the democratic process and using the security apparatus for political purposes in connection with the elections;

(C) ensure elections are credible, transparent, and peaceful;

(D) prioritize the safety and security of Nigerians vulnerable to Boko Haram attacks;

(E) implement a comprehensive, civilian security-focused response to defeat Boko Haram that addresses political and economic grievances of citizens in the north;

(F) improve the capacity and conduct of Nigeria's security forces, including respect for human rights, and take steps to hold accountable through a transparent process those members of the security forces responsible for abuses;

(G) recognize that security forces are intended to protect the safety and security of all citizens equally; and

(H) cooperate with regional and international partners to defeat Boko Haram;

(6) urges all Nigerians to engage in the electoral process, to insist on full enfranchisement, and to reject inflammatory or divisive rhetoric or actions; and

(7) reaffirms that the people of the United States will continue to stand with the people of Nigeria in support of peace and democracy.

SA 253. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. MENENDEZ) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 65, supporting efforts to bring an end to violence perpetrated by Boko Haram, and urging the Government of Nigeria to conduct transparent, peaceful, and credible elections; as follows:

Whereas Nigeria is the most populous nation in Africa, with the largest economy;

Whereas the Governments of the United States and Nigeria have had a strong bilateral relationship, and Nigeria has been a valued partner of the United States since its transition to civilian rule;

Whereas the Government of Nigeria is currently confronted with threats to internal security by terrorists, insurgents, and communal violence that have caused considerable population displacement, and at the same time must administer transparent and peaceful elections with a credible outcome;

Whereas the government and those who aspire to hold office in Nigeria must demonstrate the political will to address both of

these challenges in a responsible way, including by ensuring full enfranchisement, with particular emphasis on developing a means for enfranchisement for the hundreds of thousands displaced by violence;

Whereas the members of Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad, commonly known as Boko Haram, have terrorized the people of Nigeria with increasing violence since 2009, targeting military, government, and civilian sites in Nigeria, including schools, mosques, churches, markets, villages, and agricultural centers, and killing thousands and abducting hundreds of civilians in Nigeria and the surrounding countries;

Whereas the Department of State named several individuals linked to Boko Haram, including its leader, Abubakar Shekau, as Specially Designated Global Terrorists in 2012, and designated Boko Haram as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) in November 2013;

Whereas, in May 2014, the United Nations Security Council added Boko Haram to its al Qaeda sanctions list, and on January 19, 2015, the United Nations Security Council issued a presidential statement condemning the recent escalation of attacks in northeastern Nigeria and surrounding countries and expressing concern that the situation was undermining peace and security in West and Central Africa;

Whereas Boko Haram calls for the universal implementation of what it considers "pure" Shari'ah law, has called on all Christians to leave northern Nigeria, and perpetrates targeted violent attacks against Christians, churches, schools, mosques, and Muslim critics;

Whereas the over 200 school girls abducted by Boko Haram on April 14, 2014, from the Government Girls Secondary School in the northeastern state of Borno, whose kidnapping sparked domestic and international outrage spawning the Twitter campaign #BringBackOurGirls, are still missing;

Whereas the militant group is an increasing menace to the countries along Nigeria's northeastern border, prompting the African Union, the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the European Union, and the United Nations Security Council to recognize that there must be a regional response;

Whereas the United States Government has stepped forward to offer assistance through intelligence sharing, bilateral and international sanctioning of Boko Haram leaders, counterterrorism assistance through the Global Security Contingency Fund program for countries in the region to counter the militant group, and humanitarian services to populations affected by and vulnerable to Boko Haram violence;

Whereas Boko Haram emerged partially as a response to underdevelopment in northeastern Nigeria, and inequality, elite impunity, and alleged human rights abuses by security forces may be fueling anti-government sentiment;

Whereas it is clear that a military approach alone will not eliminate the threat of Boko Haram, and gross human rights abuses and atrocities by security forces causes insecurity and mistrust among the civilian population;

Whereas it is imperative that the Government of Nigeria implement a comprehensive, civilian security focused plan that prioritizes protecting civilians and also addresses legitimate political and economic grievances of citizens in northern Nigeria;

Whereas Nigeria is scheduled to hold national elections in the coming weeks, and

the elections appear to be the most closely contested in Nigeria since the return to civilian rule;

Whereas election-related violence has occurred in Nigeria in successive elections, including in 2011, when nearly 800 people died in clashes following the presidential election;

Whereas President Goodluck Ebele Azikiwe Jonathan, General Muhammadu Buhari, and other presidential candidates pledged to reverse this trend by signing the "Abuja Accord" on January 14, 2015, in which they committed themselves and their campaigns to refraining from public statements that incite violence, to running issue-based campaigns that do not seek to divide citizens along religious or ethnic lines, and to supporting the impartial conduct of the electoral commission and the security services;

Whereas Secretary of State John Kerry visited Nigeria on January 25, 2015, to emphasize the importance of ensuring the upcoming elections are peaceful, nonviolent, and credible;

Whereas, despite the Nigerian Independent National Electoral Commission's (INEC) views that preparations were "sufficient to conduct free, fair and credible elections as scheduled," at the repeated urging of security officials, INEC announced on February 7, 2015, the postponement of the elections by six weeks, and elections will now take place on March 28 and April 11, 2015;

Whereas tensions in the country remain high, and either electoral fraud or violence could undermine the credibility of the upcoming election;

Whereas the people of Nigeria aspire for a fair, competently executed, and secure electoral process, as well as an outcome that can be accepted peacefully by all citizens; and

Whereas it is in the best interest of the United States to maintain close ties with a politically stable, democratic and economically sound Nigeria: Now, therefore, be it

SA 254. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. RUBIO) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 253 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. MENENDEZ) to the resolution S. Res. 65, supporting efforts to bring an end to violence perpetrated by Boko Haram, and urging the Government of Nigeria to conduct transparent, peaceful, and credible elections; as follows:

Insert after the seventh whereas clause of the preamble the following:

Whereas Boko Haram calls for the universal implementation of what it considers "pure" Shari'ah law, has called on all Christians to leave northern Nigeria, and perpetrates targeted violent attacks against Christians, churches, schools, mosques, and Muslim critics;

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 24, 2015, at 9:30 a.m., in room SR-328A of the Russell Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "The Agricultural Act of 2014 implementation

after one year and Farm Credit Administration pending nominations.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 24, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 24, 2015, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 24, 2015, at 2 p.m., in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a subcommittee hearing entitled “U.S. Human Exploration Goals and Commercial Space Competitiveness.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 24, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 24, 2015, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Review of Resources, Priorities and Programs in the FY 2016 State Department Budget Request.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 24, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Tax Reform, Growth and Efficiency.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 24, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Recalibrating Regulation of Colleges and Universities: A Report from the Task Force on Government Regulation of Higher Education.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 24, 2015, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Improving the Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Independence of Inspectors General.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 24, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Human Trafficking in the United States: Protecting the Victim.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 24, 2015, at 2 p.m., in room SD-G50 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 24, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO BRING AN END TO VIOLENCE PERPETRATED BY BOKO HARAM, AND URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA TO CONDUCT TRANSPARENT, PEACEFUL, AND CREDIBLE ELECTIONS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of

S. Res. 65 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 65) supporting efforts to bring an end to violence perpetrated by Boko Haram, and urging the Government of Nigeria to conduct transparent, peaceful, and credible elections.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. I further ask unanimous consent that the Menendez amendment to the resolution be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 252) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To provide a complete substitute)

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following: “That the Senate—

(1) condemns Boko Haram for its violent attacks, particularly the indiscriminate targeting of civilians, especially women and girls, and the use of children as fighters and suicide bombers;

(2) stands with—

(A) the people of Nigeria in their right to live free from fear or intimidation by state or nonstate actors, regardless of their ethnic, religious, or regional affiliation;

(B) the people of Cameroon, Chad, and Niger who are increasingly at risk of becoming victims of Boko Haram’s violence; and

(C) the international community in its efforts to defeat Boko Haram;

(3) supports the Abuja Accord, and calls on candidates, party officials, and adherents of all political movements to comply with the code of conduct spelled out therein, by refraining from any rhetoric or action that seeks to demonize or delegitimize opponents, sow division among Nigerians, or otherwise inflame tensions;

(4) condemns any and all abuses of civilians by security forces of the Government of Nigeria;

(5) urges the Government of Nigeria to—

(A) adhere to the new timeline for elections announced by INEC on February 7, 2015;

(B) refrain from using security concerns as a pretext for impeding the democratic process and using the security apparatus for political purposes in connection with the elections;

(C) ensure elections are credible, transparent, and peaceful;

(D) prioritize the safety and security of Nigerians vulnerable to Boko Haram attacks;

(E) implement a comprehensive, civilian security-focused response to defeat Boko Haram that addresses political and economic grievances of citizens in the north;

(F) improve the capacity and conduct of Nigeria’s security forces, including respect for human rights, and take steps to hold accountable through a transparent process those members of the security forces responsible for abuses;

(G) recognize that security forces are intended to protect the safety and security of all citizens equally; and

(H) cooperate with regional and international partners to defeat Boko Haram;

(6) urges all Nigerians to engage in the electoral process, to insist on full enfranchisement, and to reject inflammatory or divisive rhetoric or actions; and

(7) reaffirms that the people of the United States will continue to stand with the people of Nigeria in support of peace and democracy.

Mr. McCONNELL. I know of no further debate on this measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any further debate?

Hearing none, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 65), as amended, was agreed to.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the Menendez substitute amendment to the preamble be considered; that the Rubio amendment to the Menendez amendment to the preamble be considered and agreed to; that the Menendez substitute, as amended, be agreed to; that the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 253) is as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

Amend the preamble to read as follows:

Whereas Nigeria is the most populous nation in Africa, with the largest economy;

Whereas the Governments of the United States and Nigeria have had a strong bilateral relationship, and Nigeria has been a valued partner of the United States since its transition to civilian rule;

Whereas the Government of Nigeria is currently confronted with threats to internal security by terrorists, insurgents, and communal violence that have caused considerable population displacement, and at the same time must administer transparent and peaceful elections with a credible outcome;

Whereas the government and those who aspire to hold office in Nigeria must demonstrate the political will to address both of these challenges in a responsible way, including by ensuring full enfranchisement, with particular emphasis on developing a means for enfranchisement for the hundreds of thousands displaced by violence;

Whereas the members of Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad, commonly known as Boko Haram, have terrorized the people of Nigeria with increasing violence since 2009, targeting military, government, and civilian sites in Nigeria, including schools, mosques, churches, markets, villages, and agricultural centers, and killing thousands and abducting hundreds of civilians in Nigeria and the surrounding countries;

Whereas the Department of State named several individuals linked to Boko Haram, including its leader, Abubakar Shekau, as Specially Designated Global Terrorists in 2012, and designated Boko Haram as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) in November 2013;

Whereas, in May 2014, the United Nations Security Council added Boko Haram to its al Qaeda sanctions list, and on January 19, 2015, the United Nations Security Council issued a presidential statement condemning the recent escalation of attacks in northeastern

Nigeria and surrounding countries and expressing concern that the situation was undermining peace and security in West and Central Africa;

Whereas the over 200 school girls abducted by Boko Haram on April 14, 2014, from the Government Girls Secondary School in the northeastern state of Borno, whose kidnapping sparked domestic and international outrage spawning the Twitter campaign #BringBackOurGirls, are still missing;

Whereas the militant group is an increasing menace to the countries along Nigeria's northeastern border, prompting the African Union, the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the European Union, and the United Nations Security Council to recognize that there must be a regional response;

Whereas the United States Government has stepped forward to offer assistance through intelligence sharing, bilateral and international sanctioning of Boko Haram leaders, counterterrorism assistance through the Global Security Contingency Fund program for countries in the region to counter the militant group, and humanitarian services to populations affected by and vulnerable to Boko Haram violence;

Whereas Boko Haram emerged partially as a response to underdevelopment in northeastern Nigeria, and inequality, elite impunity, and alleged human rights abuses by security forces may be fueling anti-government sentiment;

Whereas it is clear that a military approach alone will not eliminate the threat of Boko Haram, and gross human rights abuses and atrocities by security forces causes insecurity and mistrust among the civilian population;

Whereas it is imperative that the Government of Nigeria implement a comprehensive, civilian security focused plan that prioritizes protecting civilians and also addresses legitimate political and economic grievances of citizens in northern Nigeria;

Whereas Nigeria is scheduled to hold national elections in the coming weeks, and the elections appear to be the most closely contested in Nigeria since the return to civilian rule;

Whereas election-related violence has occurred in Nigeria in successive elections, including in 2011, when nearly 800 people died in clashes following the presidential election;

Whereas President Goodluck Ebele Azikiwe Jonathan, General Muhammadu Buhari, and other presidential candidates pledged to reverse this trend by signing the "Abuja Accord" on January 14, 2015, in which they committed themselves and their campaigns to refraining from public statements that incite violence, to running issue-based campaigns that do not seek to divide citizens along religious or ethnic lines, and to supporting the impartial conduct of the electoral commission and the security services;

Whereas Secretary of State John Kerry visited Nigeria on January 25, 2015, to emphasize the importance of ensuring the upcoming elections are peaceful, nonviolent, and credible;

Whereas, despite the Nigerian Independent National Electoral Commission's (INEC) views that preparations were "sufficient to conduct free, fair and credible elections as scheduled," at the repeated urging of security officials, INEC announced on February 7, 2015, the postponement of the elections by six weeks, and elections will now take place on March 28 and April 11, 2015;

Whereas tensions in the country remain high, and either electoral fraud or violence

could undermine the credibility of the upcoming election;

Whereas the people of Nigeria aspire for a fair, competently executed, and secure electoral process, as well as an outcome that can be accepted peacefully by all citizens; and

Whereas it is in the best interest of the United States to maintain close ties with a politically stable, democratic and economically sound Nigeria: Now, therefore, be it

The amendment (No. 254) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To illustrate the extreme degree of religious intolerance demonstrated by Boko Haram)

Insert after the seventh whereas clause of the preamble the following:

Whereas Boko Haram calls for the universal implementation of what it considers "pure" Shari'ah law, has called on all Christians to leave northern Nigeria, and perpetrates targeted violent attacks against Christians, churches, schools, mosques, and Muslim critics;

The amendment (No. 253) in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 65

Whereas Nigeria is the most populous nation in Africa, with the largest economy;

Whereas the Governments of the United States and Nigeria have had a strong bilateral relationship, and Nigeria has been a valued partner of the United States since its transition to civilian rule;

Whereas the Government of Nigeria is currently confronted with threats to internal security by terrorists, insurgents, and communal violence that have caused considerable population displacement, and at the same time must administer transparent and peaceful elections with a credible outcome;

Whereas the government and those who aspire to hold office in Nigeria must demonstrate the political will to address both of these challenges in a responsible way, including by ensuring full enfranchisement, with particular emphasis on developing a means for enfranchisement for the hundreds of thousands displaced by violence;

Whereas the members of Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad, commonly known as Boko Haram, have terrorized the people of Nigeria with increasing violence since 2009, targeting military, government, and civilian sites in Nigeria, including schools, mosques, churches, markets, villages, and agricultural centers, and killing thousands and abducting hundreds of civilians in Nigeria and the surrounding countries;

Whereas the Department of State named several individuals linked to Boko Haram, including its leader, Abubakar Shekau, as Specially Designated Global Terrorists in 2012, and designated Boko Haram as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) in November 2013;

Whereas, in May 2014, the United Nations Security Council added Boko Haram to its al Qaeda sanctions list, and on January 19, 2015, the United Nations Security Council issued a presidential statement condemning the recent escalation of attacks in northeastern Nigeria and surrounding countries and expressing concern that the situation was undermining peace and security in West and Central Africa;

Whereas Boko Haram calls for the universal implementation of what it considers “pure” Shari’ah law, has called on all Christians to leave northern Nigeria, and perpetrates targeted violent attacks against Christians, churches, schools, mosques, and Muslim critics;

Whereas the over 200 school girls abducted by Boko Haram on April 14, 2014, from the Government Girls Secondary School in the northeastern state of Borno, whose kidnapping sparked domestic and international outrage spawning the Twitter campaign #BringBackOurGirls, are still missing;

Whereas the militant group is an increasing menace to the countries along Nigeria’s northeastern border, prompting the African Union, the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the European Union, and the United Nations Security Council to recognize that there must be a regional response;

Whereas the United States Government has stepped forward to offer assistance through intelligence sharing, bilateral and international sanctioning of Boko Haram leaders, counterterrorism assistance through the Global Security Contingency Fund program for countries in the region to counter the militant group, and humanitarian services to populations affected by and vulnerable to Boko Haram violence;

Whereas Boko Haram emerged partially as a response to underdevelopment in northeastern Nigeria, and inequality, elite impunity, and alleged human rights abuses by security forces may be fueling anti-government sentiment;

Whereas it is clear that a military approach alone will not eliminate the threat of Boko Haram, and gross human rights abuses and atrocities by security forces causes insecurity and mistrust among the civilian population;

Whereas it is imperative that the Government of Nigeria implement a comprehensive, civilian security focused plan that prioritizes protecting civilians and also addresses legitimate political and economic grievances of citizens in northern Nigeria;

Whereas Nigeria is scheduled to hold national elections in the coming weeks, and the elections appear to be the most closely contested in Nigeria since the return to civilian rule;

Whereas election-related violence has occurred in Nigeria in successive elections, including in 2011, when nearly 800 people died in clashes following the presidential election;

Whereas President Goodluck Ebele Azikiwe Jonathan, General Muhammadu Buhari, and other presidential candidates pledged to reverse this trend by signing the “Abuja Accord” on January 14, 2015, in which they committed themselves and their campaigns to refraining from public statements that incite violence, to running issue-based campaigns that do not seek to divide citizens along religious or ethnic lines, and to supporting the impartial conduct of the electoral commission and the security services;

Whereas Secretary of State John Kerry visited Nigeria on January 25, 2015, to emphasize the importance of ensuring the upcoming elections are peaceful, nonviolent, and credible;

Whereas despite the Nigerian Independent National Electoral Commission’s (INEC) views that preparations were “sufficient to conduct free, fair and credible elections as scheduled,” at the repeated urging of security officials, INEC announced on February 7, 2015, the postponement of the elections by six weeks, and elections will now take place on March 28 and April 11, 2015;

Whereas tensions in the country remain high, and either electoral fraud or violence could undermine the credibility of the upcoming election;

Whereas the people of Nigeria aspire for a fair, competently executed, and secure electoral process, as well as an outcome that can be accepted peacefully by all citizens; and

Whereas it is in the best interest of the United States to maintain close ties with a politically stable, democratic and economically sound Nigeria: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns Boko Haram for its violent attacks, particularly the indiscriminate targeting of civilians, especially women and girls, and the use of children as fighters and suicide bombers;

(2) stands with—

(A) the people of Nigeria in their right to live free from fear or intimidation by state or nonstate actors, regardless of their ethnic, religious, or regional affiliation;

(B) the people of Cameroon, Chad, and Niger who are increasingly at risk of becoming victims of Boko Haram’s violence; and

(C) the international community in its efforts to defeat Boko Haram;

(3) supports the Abuja Accord, and calls on candidates, party officials, and adherents of all political movements to comply with the code of conduct spelled out therein, by refraining from any rhetoric or action that seeks to demonize or delegitimize opponents, sow division among Nigerians, or otherwise inflame tensions;

(4) condemns any and all abuses of civilians by security forces of the Government of Nigeria;

(5) urges the Government of Nigeria to—

(A) adhere to the new timeline for elections announced by INEC on February 7, 2015;

(B) refrain from using security concerns as a pretext for impeding the democratic process and using the security apparatus for political purposes in connection with the elections;

(C) ensure elections are credible, transparent, and peaceful;

(D) prioritize the safety and security of Nigerians vulnerable to Boko Haram attacks;

(E) implement a comprehensive, civilian security-focused response to defeat Boko Haram that addresses political and economic grievances of citizens in the north;

(F) improve the capacity and conduct of Nigeria’s security forces, including respect for human rights, and take steps to hold accountable through a transparent process those members of the security forces responsible for abuses;

(G) recognize that security forces are intended to protect the safety and security of all citizens equally; and

(H) cooperate with regional and international partners to defeat Boko Haram;

(6) urges all Nigerians to engage in the electoral process, to insist on full enfranchisement, and to reject inflammatory or divisive rhetoric or actions; and

(7) reaffirms that the people of the United States will continue to stand with the people of Nigeria in support of peace and democracy.

Senate National Security Working Group for the 114th Congress: MARCO RUBIO of Florida (Republican Administrative Co-Chairman), THAD COCHRAN of Mississippi (Republican Co-Chairman), LINDSEY GRAHAM of South Carolina (Republican Co-Chairman), JEFF SESSIONS of Alabama (Republican Co-Chairman), BOB CORKER of Tennessee, JOHN MCCAIN of Arizona, JAMES RISCH of Idaho, ROY BLUNT of Missouri, and JAMES INHOFE of Oklahoma.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2015

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, February 25; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business for up to 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the majority controlling the first half and the Democrats controlling the second half.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of my colleague from Iowa, Senator GRASSLEY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Iowa.

H-1B VISA PROGRAM

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, many of my colleagues know I have been fighting for years to end the abuse of the H-1B visa program and help disadvantaged U.S. workers who are harmed by that program. Today I wish to draw the attention of my colleagues to a recent incident that highlights how some employers are potentially using legal avenues to import foreign workers, lay off qualified Americans, and then export jobs overseas. I was shocked by the heartless manner in which U.S. workers were injured in the case I am about to describe.

First, I wish to remind my colleagues about how the H-1B program is supposed to work. Under the terms of the H-1B program, U.S. employers may import into the United States each year up to 65,000 so-called specialty occupation workers. The jobs being filled must be a job for which a bachelor’s degree is necessary. Even though the annual cap is 65,000, the actual number of

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 64, adopted March 5, 2013, appoints the following Senators as members of the

foreign workers being imported is much more because of numerous exemptions. In fiscal year 2012, for example, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services approved a total of 262,569 H-1B petitions—way above the legal limit of 65,000 or I should say the supposed limit of 65,000.

About 60 percent of H-1B workers come to fill computer-related occupations. Every year the list of the top 10 H-1B employers is dominated by foreign-based companies offering information technology or IT consulting services to the clients.

Under the law, H-1B employers are also required to: No. 1, pay the workers the greater of the prevailing wage for that job in that area or the wage the employer pays to similarly qualified U.S. workers doing the same job and at the same time—or the No. 2 condition—provide working conditions that will not adversely affect other similarly employed U.S. workers.

Additionally, H-1B employers may not displace a U.S. worker within the period beginning 90 days before and ending 90 days after the date of filing any H-1B petition by that employer.

Now I will describe what the program lacks. Most people believe employers try to recruit Americans before they petition for H-1B workers. Yet under the law, not all employers are required to prove to the Department of Labor that they tried to find an American to fill the job first. That is right. American workers do not get the first chance at these jobs in the United States, and if there is an equally or even better qualified U.S. worker, the company does not have to offer him or her that job.

I have pushed for changes in the legislation in that law. In fact, I offered several pro-U.S. worker amendments during consideration of the immigration bill in 2013. Every amendment I offered was defeated. The majority at that time—meaning the Democratic majority, and it was a bipartisan majority that helped defeat it—defeated these pro-American worker amendments. They pushed through S. 744, the 2013 immigration bill, without this significant, much needed change.

Let me describe to my colleagues the appalling instance referenced above.

I have described what the H-1B law was and how, during the immigration debate of 2013, I tried to amend it and improve it, and I wasn't successful. I started my remarks tonight by talking about the abuse of H-1B, the law not being followed, overseas companies bringing workers in here for an American company to employ, and then in turn these jobs are going to be shipped overseas. So now I wish to describe this appalling incident I referenced earlier.

Last August, Southern California Edison started laying off 400 American workers from its IT department. The company replaced them with foreign

H-1B workers. According to the company, 100 additional American workers who will also be replaced by H-1B workers will leave supposedly voluntarily. According to Computerworld, the final major batch of layoffs is scheduled for March 6 or March 7.

The foreign workers who are replacing the American workers at Edison are employees of two overseas-based IT consulting companies that are also two of the largest users of H-1B visas. In 2013 one of the two companies paid the largest immigration fine in U.S. history. That company paid \$34 million in a civil settlement after allegations of systemic visa fraud and abuse.

The jobs being filled by H-1B workers are manifestly not jobs for which Americans are unavailable. I say that because the jobs are currently filled by skilled American workers. It is disturbing that not only have these American workers been laid off, but also some of them have reportedly had to train their very own replacements.

A columnist for the Los Angeles Times writes that by laying off hundreds of its American IT staff and replacing them with relatively low-wage foreign contract workers, Edison stands to save as much as 40 percent in wage costs per laid-off worker. One laid-off Edison worker told the columnist that company supervisors told a group of workers last year: "We can get four Indian guys far cheaper than the price of you."

Worse yet, most of the 500 jobs that had been held by Americans will eventually just move overseas. According to the Los Angeles Times, Edison admits that eventually about 70 percent of the work will shift overseas permanently.

Edison describes the 400 layoffs as a "transition" to the foreign IT consulting companies that "will lead to enhancements that deliver faster and more efficient tools and applications for services that customers rely on."

Then it adds further: "[T]hrough outsourcing, [Edison's] information technology organization will adopt a proven business strategy commonly and successfully used by top U.S. companies that [Edison] benchmarks against."

With respect to replacing American workers with H-1B workers, Edison says the company "is not hiring H-1B workers to replace displaced employees." Edison's cynical defense is built upon a very shameless exploitation of a loophole in the H-1B laws. That loophole says that technically Edison isn't the H-1B workers' employer; the two foreign consulting companies are. The H-1B workers are just contracted out for extended, potentially multiyear periods from the foreign consulting companies to the American company, Edison. Thus, Edison argues that it is not subject to the requirements under the immigration laws that I spoke of ear-

lier. They argue that because they are not the employer who petitioned directly for the H-1B workers, they—Edison—don't have to abide by the working condition requirements or the 90-day rule.

The condemnation of this attack on American workers has been very quick and, quite frankly, bipartisan. On February 10 over 300 members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers rallied in Irvine, CA, in support of their fellow Edison employees. Several Members of Congress have expressed concern about the situation. On February 17 the Economic Policy Institute sent a letter to the Secretary of Labor asking him to investigate the Edison layoffs. Specifically, the institute asked the Secretary of Labor to determine whether Edison, the foreign consulting companies, or any of the parties involved in these layoffs violated the requirements that the hiring of H-1B workers not "adversely affect the wages and working conditions of U.S. workers comparably employed."

I echo the request of the Economic Policy Institute. The prohibition on adversely affecting U.S. workers can reasonably be applied to situations, such as in the Edison case, where the H-1B workers are contractors at a worksite rather than employees.

I also draw your attention to a powerful February 16 Los Angeles Times editorial entitled "End H-1B visa program's abuse." The Los Angeles Times calls Edison's action "part of a years-long trend among companies of misusing H-1B visas to undercut wages and offshore high-paying American jobs." The Los Angeles Times concludes that the H-1B program, although perhaps well-intentioned, is "broken" and that "Congress needs to fix it." And, of course, I could not agree more, as evidenced by all the amendments I offered in 2013 on the immigration bill.

This situation with Southern California Edison is not new. It is happening time and time again. American workers are losing out because the law is not strong enough to protect them, so it needs to be fixed.

Any proposal to reform the H-1B program must include substantially increased protections for U.S. workers such as I have proposed many times in the past. These protections must at a minimum include the requirement that companies first recruit here at home before they import more foreign workers. We also need to reform the H-1B wage requirements so that U.S. workers' wages would no longer be undercut by H-1B workers' wages. There also needs to be more oversight of the program, including random audits of those who use the program.

Tightening the law to ensure that U.S. workers have the first opportunity at high-paying, high-skilled jobs in this country is a no-brainer. Yet there is so much opposition to this philosophy. I

just cannot believe the opposition. As I stated earlier, the majority in the last Congress—and that happened to be a bipartisan majority—pushed for changes to the H-1B program but voted against every single amendment I offered to ensure that U.S. workers were given priority.

Now there is a lot of fanfare and a lot of talk about a high-skilled bill that has been reintroduced in the Senate that would increase the annual number of H-1B visas. The sponsors of the bill claim it will “boost our competitiveness in the global economy.” This bill only makes the problems worse. It doesn’t plug the loopholes. It doesn’t make sure American workers are put before foreign workers. It doesn’t en-

sure that employers don’t use the program to pay cheaper wages, which then in turn disadvantages U.S. workers.

The H-1B program could be a very worthwhile program. According to the original intent, I obviously would support it because we want workers to do the jobs that need to be done in America, but it should first be people who are already here.

Our employment-based immigration programs could have served and could again serve a valuable purpose if used properly. However, they are being misused and abused. They are failing the American worker. Reforms are needed to put integrity back into the programs and to ensure that American workers and students are given every

chance to fill vacant jobs in this country. So I am putting my colleagues on notice that I am committed to this effort. As chairman of the Judiciary Committee, I don’t intend on allowing legislation to move through this body without reforms to the H-1B program that protect American workers.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:05 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, February 25, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CIVIL RIGHTS PIONEER
MAJOR GENERAL JOSEPH
MCNEIL, USAF RESERVE, RE-
TIRED

HON. KATHLEEN M. RICE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize retired United States Air Force Major General Joseph McNeil, a resident of New York's fourth congressional district who is being honored today by the Franklin Square Historical Society.

Fifty-five years ago this month, General McNeil was a 17 year old freshman at North Carolina A&T State University when he and three other freshmen entered a Woolworth's store in Greensboro, North Carolina and sat down at the whites-only counter. They were denied service and asked to leave, but they kept their seats until the store closed. The next morning, they came back with more students. Again they were denied service, and again they refused to leave. They were ridiculed and taunted, but they resisted provocation in their commitment to non-violence. By the fourth day, as news spread, hundreds of students had joined the sit-in, and soon, similar peaceful protests had begun in other towns across North Carolina and beyond the state's borders.

The young men who initiated this wave of civil disobedience live on in American history as the Greensboro Four. Their actions reflect the very best of the American character—the commitment to freedom and justice and equality, and the courage to confront injustice with the force of truth and disciplined nonviolence.

As Black History Month draws to a close, I wish to recognize General McNeil for his instrumental role in a movement that has made the United States of America a better nation and the American people a better people. I wish also to recognize his distinguished service as a decorated officer in the United States Air Force and Air Force Reserves for more than three decades. I am tremendously grateful for General McNeil's contributions to our communities in New York's fourth congressional district, and it is my distinct honor to serve as his representative in Congress.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL R. SCOTT
JARVIS, USAF

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, in a few short weeks an inspirational military leader will retire after serving his country proudly for over three

decades. Today I recognize and commend Colonel R. Scott Jarvis for his exceptional leadership over those 30 years, most recently as the Deputy Director for Installations and Mission Support, and Command Civil Engineer at Headquarters Air Force Space Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado.

The son of a career Air Force officer, Colonel Jarvis graduated from Iowa State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering and was commissioned a Civil Engineer officer in the United States Air Force in 1985. Throughout his career, he earned additional Masters degrees in International Relations, Military Operational Art and Science, and National Security and Strategic Studies.

An outstanding leader throughout his distinguished career, Colonel Jarvis' service has spanned the country with assignments in North Dakota, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Alabama, Rhode Island, and Washington, DC, and stretched across the world with tours in the United Kingdom, Japan, and Germany. He commanded at the squadron and group levels at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, and Kadena Air Base, Japan, respectively. Additionally, he commanded a 13-person deployed Civic Action Team in the remote location of Chuuk, Micronesia, with politico-military responsibilities. Early in his career, Colonel Jarvis also deployed to Turkey and northern Iraq as commander of a 19-person well-drilling team supporting Operation PROVIDE COMFORT I.

Colonel Jarvis has served at both major command and Air Force levels in the programming and housing arenas. Most notably, as Chief of the Unaccompanied Housing Program for the Air Force Civil Engineer, he was one of the original architects of the Air Force Dorm Master Plan, which served as the foundation for the Air Force initiative to replace or renovate every dorm in its inventory. The program vastly improved quality of life for over 70,000 Airmen living in 875 dorms throughout the Air Force.

Prior to his current assignment, Colonel Jarvis served as the Deputy Director for Installations, Logistics, and Mission Support, and Command Civil Engineer, at Headquarters United States Air Forces in Europe, Ramstein Air Base, Germany. In that capacity, he was responsible for all civil engineering activities for over 9,000 civil engineer personnel operating and maintaining USAFE's \$15.7 billion physical plant at 10 major installations and numerous smaller installations.

Colonel Jarvis has been recognized for excellence at all levels in the Air Force, to include accolades at the Squadron, Group and Wing levels. In addition to numerous military decorations, his significant recognition includes the 2008 Air Force Major General Robert H. Curtin Award for Most Outstanding Large Civil Engineer Unit, the 1996 Air Force Civil Engineering Staff Action Officer of the Year, and the 1991 Third Air Force Civil Engi-

neering Military Manager of the Year. Additionally, Colonel Jarvis was recognized for invaluable contributions to the engineering profession in 2013, when he was named to the Society of American Military Engineers Academy of Fellows. This honor is bestowed to a select few engineers each year for dedication to mentorship and outstanding service to the Society and the military engineering profession.

Colonel R. Scott Jarvis epitomizes excellence, integrity and commitment to service. He has dedicated his life to serving our nation and advancing the engineering profession. I join my colleagues today in honoring his admirable service to our nation and all the Airmen, Sailors, Soldiers, Marines, and civilians who have served alongside him. We offer our heartfelt appreciation to Scott, his wife Meg, and their daughters, Maddie and Lucy, and hearty congratulations on his retirement from the United States Air Force.

HONORING MRS. ALMA WALTON
UPON THE OCCASION OF HER
90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Alma Walton upon the joyous occasion of her 90th birthday, which was celebrated with her church family on February 22, 2015 at Mt. Zion Church of God Holiness in Buffalo, New York.

Mrs. Walton was born in Lexington, Georgia on February 28, 1925, to her beloved parents Mrs. Annie Sue and Mr. Johnny Wymbs. In 1943, she married Thurmond Walton, and the couple settled in Buffalo the same year. Mrs. Walton has five children, three boys and two girls, and is the proud and adored grandmother of seven.

A longtime member of Mt. Zion Church of God Holiness, Mrs. Walton serves as "Mother" of the church, as well as president of the Sick Committee. She is deeply devoted to and valued by her church community, and is known as "Mother Walton" by her fellow members. Mrs. Walton attends Sunday school faithfully and formerly served as an usher.

Mrs. Walton is well-known for her generosity and spirit. She enjoys sharing her love of gardening and cooking, as well as community service. Mrs. Walton makes lap robes for patients at the VA Medical Center, and has volunteered at many food pantries in the city of Buffalo.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to celebrate the life of Mrs. Alma Walton. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Mrs. Walton a very happy birthday and congratulate her for reaching this exciting milestone. I wish Mrs. Walton and all those who

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

worship with her at Mt. Zion Church of God Holiness all the best for years to come.

RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY AS NATIONAL MARFAN AWARENESS MONTH

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize February as National Marfan Awareness Month with the hope that increased awareness of Marfan syndrome and related heritable connective tissue disorders will save lives.

Raising awareness of Marfan syndrome, a rare genetic condition affecting 1 in 5,000 Americans, is imperative to finding and funding effective treatment. This debilitating condition affects individuals both externally and internally.

Connective tissue, as a result of the overproduction of a protein called transforming growth factor beta (TGFB), is affected and therefore symptoms manifest throughout the entire body, causing disproportionately long limbs, a protruding or indented chest bone, curved spine, and loose joints.

Understanding the signs and features of Marfan syndrome are important and can save lives. This condition can affect all aspects of a person's internal structures, most notably their cardiovascular system. Often times, the aorta, the larger artery that carries blood away from the heart, is weakened and prone to enlargement and potential rupture. Because of the excess TGFB, Marfan patients are also at risk of aortic aneurysm.

However, early diagnosis and treatment can help to prevent cardiac events. For this reason, I believe States should consider developing programs to include Marfan syndrome testing in their sports screening criteria for at-risk young athletes.

I am proud to represent the Marfan Foundation, the leading organization working to support the Marfan community, based in Port Washington, New York. Since the group's inception, the Foundation has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of those affected by this condition through advancing research, raising awareness, and providing support over the past two decades. Through their efforts, patient care has improved and lives have been saved.

I urge my colleagues to stand with me to recognize National Marfan Awareness Month and reflect on the progress that has been made as well as the work that remains in order to ensure that those suffering from rare conditions can expect to see improvements in their health and healthcare.

SARAH GARVEY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Sarah Garvey

as the West Chamber's Young Professional of the Year.

Sarah has served as the president of the West Chamber's Young Professionals Group for the last two years. She has been instrumental in raising funds for the Chamber's annual "Pub Crawl for a Cause" and other young professional events. She is also a member of the West Chamber through her company, Shred-It.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Sarah Garvey for her honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same commitment to her community in the future.

LIAM FAIRBRASS APPOINTMENT TO UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. JODY B. HICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to congratulate Mr. Liam Fairbrass on his appointment to the United States Military Academy.

Mr. Fairbrass is an incredibly accomplished young man from Milledgeville, Georgia. Liam is the son of Mark and Emily Fairbrass, and will graduate from the prestigious Georgia Military College Preparatory School. During his time there, Liam has exhibited dedication to leadership while serving as the High School JROTC Battalion Rank Commander, the highest ranking possible at the institution.

Among his many accolades, Liam also showcased academic prowess by his involvement with the National Honor Society, the Mu Alpha Theta Society, and served as a student government representative.

Mr. Speaker, Liam Fairbrass is also a young man who is also dedicated to improving his community through service. Liam led fundraising efforts for the worthy cause of Wreaths Across America, an organization which works with the Georgia War Veterans Memorial in order to lay wreaths on the graves of veterans.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I understand that Mr. Fairbrass is no stranger to the rigorous work ethic required to be considered as a candidate for the United States Military Academy. With several family members serving as mentors and graduates of the same institution, I am confident that Liam will accomplish his ultimate goal of serving his nation as a United States soldier.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate Mr. Liam Fairbrass.

IN HONOR OF LIEUTENANT
RANDALL E. PARKER, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance

that I rise today to pay tribute to a respected public servant, outstanding citizen, and hero to his community, Lt. Randall E. Parker, Jr. Sadly, Lt. Parker passed away in the line of duty on Wednesday, February 11, 2015. Funeral services will be held on Monday, February 16, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at the Macon City Auditorium in Macon, Georgia.

Lt. Parker was a native to Georgia and had served as a firefighter with the Macon Bibb County Fire Department since July 2, 1990.

In addition to risking his life everyday to fight fires in the area, Lt. Parker was very active in his community and went above and beyond to show his love and compassion for those around him. He was heavily involved in his church, Christ Chapel Sportstowne in Macon, and also spent time doing work for United Way, the American Cancer Society, and the Macon Cherry Blossom Festival. He was a loving family man to his wife and sons, and his legacy will live on in the minds and hearts of all those whose lives he touched in Middle Georgia.

George Washington Carver once said, "No individual has any right to come into the world and go out of it without leaving behind him distinct and legitimate reasons for having passed through it." Although his passing was tragic and before his time, Lt. Parker proved to us all what it truly means to be a hero. He left this world doing what he loved most—serving the people of Macon, Georgia. His impression on this earth extends beyond himself to the very well-being of the Macon community, and for it he will be remembered by the community for time to come.

Lt. Parker is survived by his beloved wife of 14 years, Sandie; sons, Andrew and Chandler; mother and stepfather, Gwendolyn and Fred Dixon; brother and sister-in-law, Marcus and Teri Parker; and a host of other family members and friends.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with the more than 700,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District salute Lt. Randall E. Parker, Jr. for his exemplary service to Macon, Georgia as a firefighter and for the ultimate sacrifice he made in the line of duty. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in extending our deepest sympathies to Lt. Parker's family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

NAACP ON ITS 106TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, first, let me thank Congressman AL GREEN, who served as president of the Houston Branch of the NAACP for more than 10 years, for hosting this important Special Order. We appreciate your leadership in coordinating this special order to honor the 106th Anniversary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

More than a century ago, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded in New York City. The month was February and would later come to mark Black History Month.

As a child of the Civil Rights Movement, I witnessed firsthand the leadership of the NAACP in fight for human rights. I vividly remember the role the NAACP played in shattering segregation in my birthplace of El Paso, Texas, and in my personal life.

When I was in high school, it was nearly impossible for young women of color to become cheerleaders. At the time, I was participating in a work-study program at Pacoima Memorial Lutheran Credit Union and my boss, John Mance, was a member of the local NAACP Board. Together, he and Carl McCraven, the CEO of the credit union, worked to change the rules so anyone could try out to be a cheerleader. Thanks to them, I was able to cheer for the Tigers!

We all know their great contributions that the NAACP has made to our nation:

From their largest legal victory in *Brown vs. the Board of Education*, under the leadership of Special Counsel Thurgood Marshall—to their central role in the successful battles to overturn Jim Crow.

Today, the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization continues to engage in groundbreaking and critical work to combat disparity and inequality in our society.

Today, they boldly stand against repressive voter ID laws, economic inequality and mass incarceration.

We know that inequality persists—the unemployment rate among African Americans is nearly twice the rate of their white counterparts and the African American poverty rate is nearly three times the poverty rate of white Americans.

These statistics paint a clear picture of inequality in America.

The American dream of equality, freedom, liberty, justice and opportunity should be open to all and the NAACP is working day-in and day-out to ensure that all Americans have an opportunity to achieve the American dream.

I am proud that the NAACP has been a dedicated and constant partner and advocate.

I am proud to join my colleagues in honoring the NAACP's 106th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

EVANGELINE BEST

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the outstanding and invaluable contributions of African Americans during Black History Month and all year long. I am proud to pay tribute to African American men and women who exemplify the spirit of selfless and patriotic service.

I rise today to pay tribute to a truly gifted leader of the Tampa Bay community, Evangeline Best. Her boundless energy and unending civic engagement are an inspiration

to all. Today, I am grateful to recognize her innumerable contributions to Hillsborough County.

Evangeline Best is a native Floridian who was raised in Tampa. She earned a Bachelor's degree from St. Augustine's College in Raleigh, North Carolina and a Masters in Education at Florida A&M University. Ms. Best has been a tireless advocate for community development and education as a means of ending poverty. Ms. Best's impressive career in education began in Tampa where she worked for over 27 years as a Family Services Worker for Hillsborough County Schools and completed the last 5 years as the Family Services Coordinator.

Beyond Ms. Best's professional career, she also committed her personal life to the betterment of her neighbors in Hillsborough County. She served as Chairman of the East Tampa School Community Partnership as well as Vice Chairwoman of the Heart of East Tampa-Front Porch, Inc. Both are organizations critical to the success of East Tampa and Hillsborough County. Currently she serves on a number of vital committees including Vice Chair of the Corporation to Develop Communities in Tampa, Inc., and as a member of the Board of Directors with the West Central Florida Area Aging Advisory Committee, as well as a member of the Florida State Fair Diversity Committee. She also volunteers weekly with the Abe Brown Ministries Family Reunification Video Visitation Program and is a consultant for REACH UP, Inc.

Given her outstanding efforts, Ms. Best has received a number of honors and awards including the 2010 Bank of America "Volunteer Hero Award", the 2005 National Head Start Association "Lifetime Achievement Award", and the 2005 Neighborhood Works New Horizons "Dorothy Richardson Award" for Community Leadership and Commitment Revitalization America's Neighborhoods. Her accomplishments include 50 years of community involvement as a member of the First Baptist Church of College Hill, the Tampa Urban League, as well as the Hillsborough Educators Association.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Best's diligent and unrelenting service has made my Tampa Bay community a better place to live—one filled with more hope and opportunities because of her attention and love for others. She has set an example of how to be a devoted public servant, mother, and friend. Please join me in celebrating her outstanding efforts to make this world a better place.

GLYN AND ALAN MASI

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the West Chamber's Ambassadors of the Year, Glyn and Alan Masi, for their outstanding commitment to the local community.

Glyn and Alan own Ticker Tuners, a local business in Morrison with a mission they are both passionate about: helping people identify,

treat and monitor their heart health. In addition, Glyn and Alan attend every ribbon cutting, open house or other event where help is needed and involve West Chamber members and local businesses.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Glyn and Alan Masi for the honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt they will exhibit the same commitment to their community in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE 149TH ANNIVERSARY OF ANTIOCH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH IN HOUSTON, TEXAS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the legendary Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in Houston, Texas, which this year celebrates 149 years of service to the greater Houston community and the nation.

For more than a half century, under the leadership of the Rev. F.N. Williams, Sr., the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, now led by Rev. O.B. Winkley, has provided material support and spiritual sanctuary to the least of God's children and used the prophetic voice of the church to speak truth to power.

Mr. Speaker, in January 1866, seven months after slaves were freed in Texas (June 19, 1865), a small group of freed slaves, assisted by the First Baptist Church and missionaries, organized the first African American Baptist Church in Houston, Texas.

After holding worship services at the First Baptist Church and the German Baptist Church, church members began to hold services on Buffalo Bayou in "Brush Arbor."

Later, the church moved to "Baptist Hill" located at Rusk and Bagby until the present site was purchased.

In 1868, one of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church's members, Jack Yates, was ordained at the first meeting of the Association of African American Baptist Churches.

Rev. Jack Yates became the first pastor of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church and as the membership grew and additional space was needed, Rev. Yates led the church to purchase its present site and build a brick structure.

Antioch Missionary Baptist Church's new home was the first brick structure built and owned by African-Americans in Houston, and was located in the center of Freedman's Town and was the center of activity for the African-American community.

Antioch Missionary Baptist Church provided the former slaves with opportunities to worship the Lord, but also established ministries to help them develop educationally, economically and socially.

With the help of two missionaries, Rev. Yates began the Baptist Academy, which taught such fundamental skills as reading, writing, and arithmetic, and provided vocational training to enable men and women to start their own businesses.

Mr. Speaker, Baptist Academy would later become Houston College, the forerunner of Texas Southern University.

Under Rev. Yates' leadership, church members were encouraged and assisted in buying property, owning homes, and developing businesses.

The Old Landmark Baptist Association of Texas was organized at Antioch and Emancipation Park was purchased in a joint venture with Trinity Methodist Church to provide green space to engage in recreational activities and hold community celebrations, such as Juneteenth.

Mr. Speaker, I take great pride in recognizing the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church and the Rev. O.B. Winkley on the occasion of its 149th Anniversary and its nearly century and half of service to the Houston community.

HONORING WORLD WAR II
VETERAN WARREN S. PAYNE, SR.

HON. CHRIS COLLINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor Warren Payne Sr., a World War II veteran whose service to our country and love for his family embody the values of the Greatest Generation.

Mr. Payne was born in Niagara Falls in 1921 and enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in August of 1942. He served in the European Theater of Operations with the 452nd Bomb Group, participating in the air campaign to fight for our nation's freedom. In July 1944, his bomber crashed while on a mission over Germany, and he and his crew became prisoners of war. Following a long, forced march in the snow, he and his fellow servicemen were finally freed in April 1945.

After he returned home from the war, Mr. Payne decided to join the family business, Payne's Hardware and Floor Covering. He ran this business in Niagara Falls for 50 years until his retirement in 1997. He is remembered by his family and friends for his kindness and generosity and was an active volunteer at St. Mary of the Cataract Church in Niagara Falls.

Warren passed away on July 7, 2007, survived by Grace, his wife of 61 years, 11 children—Warren Jr., William, John, James, Michael, Suzanne, Michele, Tricia, Christine, Laurie, and Caroline—31 grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren.

I am proud to honor a veteran, small businessman, and hero from New York's 27th district.

HONORING 1ST SERGEANT
RICHARD PINTER

HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 1st Sergeant Richard Pinter of New Jersey's Third Congressional District, and to

express my deepest condolences to his family and friends.

Sgt. Pinter served our country as a 1st Sergeant in the Army and is well known in our district as the "Lone Bugler" for honoring fallen soldiers and veterans at their funerals. Sgt. Pinter served as a bugler in the Army for thirty-eight years and eventually rose to the position of Commander and Enlisted Bandleader of the 267th Army Band in Philadelphia.

Sgt. Pinter has also given much of his time to his community as an active member of the American Legion of Bordentown Township, Association of the National Guard, Vietnam Veterans Association and the American Hungarian Civic Association.

Mr. Speaker, the people of New Jersey's Third Congressional District are tremendously grateful for Sgt. Richard Pinter's service to our nation and unique place in our district's culture. It is my honor to recognize his life and achievements before the United States House of Representatives. May he rest in peace.

INTRODUCING THE AFRICAN DESCENT AFFAIRS ACT IN RECOGNITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill recognizing persons of African descent and to support a resolution authored by my colleague Representative HANK JOHNSON to commemorate the start of the International Decade for People of African Descent.

As our country fights to realize justice for Eric Garner, Tamir Rice, Aiyana Jones, John Warner, Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, and many others, we must not forget the names—Stephen Lawrence, Oury Jalloh, Mark Duggan, Zyed Benna, Bouna Traore and many others who are victims of similar injustices in Europe and elsewhere around the world.

The International Decade provides an opportunity to join efforts with countries across the globe to, over the next decade, develop and implement national strategies honoring the vast contributions of people of African Descent, and to combat continuing issues of prejudice and discrimination such as those currently gripping our nation. To aid these efforts, I am proud to support Representative JOHNSON's resolution commemorating the International Decade.

I have also introduced the African Descent Affairs Act. The Act to improve the situation of people of African descent around the world, by establishing a Global Office of African Descent Affairs within the U.S. State Department that would implement strategies for people of African descent; create a "President Obama Fund" to support anti-discrimination and empowerment efforts by African descent led civil society organizations; and require that the Annual State Department Human Rights Reports include a section on discrimination faced by

people of African descent. U.S. foreign policy strategies such as these have improved the situation of vulnerable groups internationally. Furthermore, it would greatly assist in responding to the increasing levels of prejudice and discrimination faced by people of African descent around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, the International Decade reaffirms the importance of inclusion, as well as full and equal participation of people of African descent around the world in all aspects of political, economic, social, and cultural life. I encourage my colleagues to join me in recognizing and celebrating the collective history and achievements made by people of African descent on the occasion of the launch of the International Decade by supporting this important resolution.

ROCKLEY MUSIC CENTER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the Rockley Family for their outstanding service and commitment to their community with their business, the Rockley Music Center.

Founded in 1946 at Colfax and Wadsworth, Melvin and Mildred Rockley, the first generation, began selling print music, record players, band and orchestral instruments, along with washers, dryers and other appliances. The business was passed on to Melvin's son Bob and his wife Nina in the 1960s at which time the business was expanded and added teaching studios. In the 1980s, the third generation, Tobin and Robin, joined the business.

Today the center includes a foundation run by Tobin and his wife Diane. Over the years, the Rockley Family has become a Lakewood icon. It is for their ongoing support of the community, Colfax BID and the Jefferson County Public Schools that the Rockley Family and the Rockley Music Center is a deserving recipient of the Steve Burkholder Diamond Legacy Award.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the Rockley Family for their honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt the Rockley Family will exhibit the same dedication and service in all future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for votes taken on Thursday, February 12, and Friday, February 13, because I was traveling with the President and participating in a forum on cybersecurity. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll Call Vote Number 77 (Previous Question Motion on H. Res. 101): No

Roll Call Vote Number 78 (Passage of H. Res. 101): No

Roll Call Vote Number 79 (Motion to Re-commit H.R. 644, the America Gives More Act of 2015): Yes

Roll Call Vote Number 80 (Passage of H.R. 644, the America Gives More Act of 2015): Yes

Roll Call Vote Number 81 (Motion to Re-commit H.R. 636, the America's Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2015): Yes

Roll Call Vote Number 82 (Passage of H.R. 636, the America's Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2015): No

Roll Call Vote Number 83 (Approving of the Journal): Yes

REMEMBERING MR. HOWARD CALVIN EDWARDS

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Howard Calvin Edwards. Mr. Edwards served his country in the United States Army, was respected in his community, and dedicated his life to his family.

Mr. Edwards was born on April 24, 1928, the youngest of John and Cora Edwards' 10 children, and he grew up in Woodland, North Carolina. He loved everything about school and thrived as a student and an athlete. He played basketball and ran track, but he found the most success on the football gridiron.

Mr. Edwards continued his education at Virginia State University and Howard University. A proud soldier, Mr. Edwards served his country in the United States Army and loved the experience of traveling the world. After completing his tour, he relocated to the Washington, DC, area to be near to his older sister, Mabel. It was here that he met his wife, Mary, who was one of his sister's best customers. Their love story was one for the ages. He succeeded in his tireless pursuit to earn her hand in marriage, and their 53 years of marriage produced three children, Kenny, Robert, and Yvette.

Mr. Edwards retired after many years of working as a guard at the National Gallery of Art here in Washington. He also worked for several years in security at the YWCA. He will be remembered within the community as a man of great dignity and generosity to all who had a need. In his signature hat and tie, he stood tall, walked straight, and greeted everyone with a broad smile and the love of God. He passed from this life on February 10, 2015 at age 86.

I offer my sincerest condolences to Mr. Edwards' beloved wife, Mary Edwards; his son, Bobby; three grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; his nieces and nephews; and a host of friends and neighbors. They are all in my thoughts during this very difficult time.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF COL. JOHN G. CHIARELLA, SR.

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, last weekend, the State of Connecticut lost one of its great sons with the passing of Col. John G. Chiarella, Sr., a veteran from Waterbury who continued to serve his nation, state and community long after his military career ended.

Col. Chiarella entered the United States Army in 1950 and was deployed to Korea in October 1952. He became a Reservist in 1953 and was called back to active duty during the Berlin Crisis. He achieved the rank of colonel in 1975 and retired from the military after 34 years of exemplary service.

When he returned to his hometown of Waterbury, Col. Chiarella dedicated himself to the community he loved. Reflecting his commitment to all who have served in the Armed Forces, "the Colonel," as everyone knew him, led the Waterbury Veterans Memorial Committee for over 25 years. As chairman, he helped countless veterans and their families receive the services, benefits, and recognition they deserved.

In 2011, John Chiarella was inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame, in recognition of his extraordinary commitment to his fellow veterans, as well as his dedication to future generations, which he demonstrated by establishing patriotic programs for school children.

Col. Chiarella was also a devoted family man. He loved his late wife, Ann—who he called "the General"—with all of his heart. They were married for 59 years before her death in 2011. He and Ann raised a beautiful family with three sons, and seven grandchildren.

I had the great fortune to know Col. Chiarella and call him my friend. His warm heart, wonderful sense of humor, infectious smile, and love of life touched all who knew him. He truly left the world a better place.

Col. Chiarella's life embodied the spirit of civic engagement that strengthens our communities, and makes our country a better place. His contributions to the City of Waterbury, the State of Connecticut, and to the United States will not be forgotten.

Colonel, we love you and miss you.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LOCAL PROSECUTOR ESTABLISHMENT ACT OF 2015

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Local Prosecutor Establishment Act of 2015, to give District of Columbia residents another element of the self-government enjoyed by all other American citizens. The bill would establish a local pro-

secutor's office designated under local law, to prosecute all local crimes in the District. Under the Home Rule Act, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, a federal entity, is responsible for prosecuting most local crimes here, the greater part of its caseload, in addition to prosecuting federal crimes. This bill is special because it effectuates a 2002 advisory referendum, approved by 82 percent of D.C. voters, to create a local prosecutor's office.

There is no law enforcement issue of greater importance to D.C. residents on which they have less say than the prosecution of local crimes here. A U.S. Attorney has no business prosecuting the local crimes of a jurisdiction, an anachronism that is out of place in any American self-governing jurisdiction. The goal of the legislation is to give the District the same jurisdiction over the criminal justice matters that state and local jurisdictions justifiably regard as mandatory. The U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia would continue to handle federal matters, like the other U.S. Attorneys in our country. As presently constituted, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia is the largest in the country, only because it also serves as the local city prosecutor. The U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia needs to be freed up to handle national security and other vital federal cases, particularly in the post-9/11 nation's capital.

Amending the Home Rule Act to create a local prosecutor would be an important step toward our goal of achieving true self-government. I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

DR. KELLY JACKSON CONDON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the West Chamber's Woman-Owned Business of the Year, Table Mountain Vision, for their outstanding service to the local community.

For the last 17 years, Dr. Kelly Jackson Condon has operated Table Mountain Vision and provided the finest vision care experience in Golden. In addition, Dr. Jackson Condon is very involved in the local community, and has served on various boards and committees including: Leadership Golden; Downtown Merchants; The Original Shopping Districts; and numerous others. Dr. Jackson Condon was also elected as chair of the Golden Chamber of Commerce in 2004 and again in 2009.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Table Mountain Vision for the honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt Table Mountain Vision will exhibit the same service and dedication in all future accomplishments.

HONORING MS. MAURA BREEN

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Maura Breen, who is retiring from her position as Chairwoman of the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America (CCFA).

Ms. Breen has had a remarkable tenure as Chairwoman of CCFA. Using her extensive experience in the areas of innovation and business development, she has lead CCFA as it improved access to treatments for inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)—the collective terms for Crohn's disease and Ulcerative Colitis—and mobilized patient advocates across the country to raise awareness of IBD.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Ms. Maura Breen for her lifelong dedication to improving the lives of so many people affected by IBD. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating her for her tremendous leadership and exemplary efforts as Chair of CCFA, and wish her success in her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, on February 10, 2015, on Roll Call #69 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 719—TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act of 2015, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On February 10, 2015, on Roll Call #70 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 720—Gerardo Hernandez Airport Security Act of 2015, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On February 11, 2015, on Roll Call #71 on Ordering the Previous Question for H. Res. 100, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On February 11, 2015, on Roll Call #72 on H. Res. 100, Providing for consideration of S. 1, the Keystone XL Pipeline Approval Act, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On February 11, 2015, on Roll Call #74 on the Democratic Motion to Commit S. 1, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On February 11, 2015, on Roll Call #75 on Passage of S. 1—Keystone XL Pipeline Approval Act, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On February 11, 2015, on Roll Call #76 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 431—To award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Foot Soldiers who participated in Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday, or the

final Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March in March of 1965, which served as a catalyst for the Voting Rights Act of 1965, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On February 12, 2015, on Roll Call #77 on Ordering the Previous Question for H. Res. 101, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On February 12, 2015, on Roll Call #78 on H. Res. 101, Providing for consideration of H.R. 644, the Fighting Hunger Incentive Act of 2015 and H.R. 636, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On February 12, 2015, on Roll Call #79 on the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 644, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On February 12, 2015, on Roll Call #80 on Passage of H.R. 644—Fighting Hunger Incentive Act, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On February 13, 2015, on Roll Call #81 on the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 636, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On February 13, 2015, on Roll Call #82 on Passage of H.R. 636—America's Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2015, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

DESIGNATION OF FEBRUARY 19,
2015 AS NATIONAL ANTHRO-
POLOGY DAY**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the designation of February 19, 2015 as National Anthropology Day. Throughout the third week of February, but particularly on the 19th, anthropological societies, museums, and student clubs in more than 100 American cities will celebrate the anthropology's contributions to advancing understanding of the human condition and applying this understanding to addressing some of the world's most pressing problems.

The American Anthropological Association, together with the Archaeological Institute of America and American Association of Physical Anthropologists, represent a combined total of more than 200,000 members, and will lead in a host of public educational activities to demonstrate the ways in which anthropology produces a body of facts about how we identify ourselves and create communities, beliefs, cultures, and how we can live sustainably in our natural and built environments.

Anthropology teaches respect for cultural differences—a sensibility that is crucial in today's increasingly mobile and interconnected world. The field of knowledge contributes to the well-being of humanity in nearly every facet of our lives, including, promoting health and strengthening health care delivery systems, developing appropriate technology that meets individual and societal needs, understanding and preserving the past to help us face collective future challenges, identifying best practices in education, environmental and cultural resource protection, and preservation of our diverse linguistic heritage, and celebrating our nation's ethnic, racial, and cultural diversity.

As lawmakers, we must do all we can to support these efforts. I am proud to join with communities across the country in recognizing February 19th as National Anthropology Day.

HONORING BOSMA ENTERPRISES
OF CENTRAL INDIANA**HON. TODD C. YOUNG**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the great work of Bosma Enterprises as they celebrate their 100th anniversary. For the past century, Bosma Enterprises has been dedicated to creating opportunities for people who are blind or visually impaired across the great state of Indiana. Located in Indianapolis, Bosma Enterprises' commitment has made a difference in the lives of thousands of Hoosiers, showing them how to live life to its fullest.

The loss of one's eyesight is a significant disability that impacts the lives of more than 140,000 Hoosiers and over 6 million individuals nationwide. Since 1915, Bosma Enterprises has continued to provide hope to those who are blind or visually impaired by showing them that vision loss does not have to mean a loss of independence. They have done this by providing blind or visually impaired individuals with job training, employment services, rehabilitation programs, and outreach programs, empowering those Hoosiers to reach their own personal goals while giving them the tools to live independently.

Over the last 100 years, Bosma Enterprises has been able to change the lives of many by helping them navigate the complexities of finding meaningful employment, teaching critical daily living skills, and working to fight the 70 percent unemployment rate for people who are blind or visually impaired. I hope the entire House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Bosma Enterprises on their monumental milestone.

RACHEL GRACE HULTIN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Rachel Grace

Hultin for receiving the 2014 Wheat Ridge City Council Partnership Award.

The Wheat Ridge City Council Partnership Award recognizes a company or individual for their overall contributions to the City. It incorporates business achievements as well as contributions in volunteerism, leadership, and community investment and involvement.

Rachel Grace Hultin is very active in the Wheat Ridge community with an emphasis on health and wellness. She was instrumental in leading the charge to have Wheat Ridge designated as a Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) city. In addition Rachel leads the Active Transportation Advisory Team. This group was formed to provide citizen input to the Wheat Ridge City Council in order to create a community which encourages citizens to participate in physical activity by making it safer to walk and bicycle to local merchants.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Rachel Grace Hultin for this well-deserved recognition by the City of Wheat Ridge and the Wheat Ridge Business Association. Thank you for your dedication to the health and wellness of the citizens of Wheat Ridge, Colorado.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KNOXVILLE KERBELA SHRINERS

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, one of the things that make the U.S. the greatest country in the world is volunteerism.

No other country in the world has as many civic and charitable groups doing volunteer work like the United States.

The government could not come close to replacing the hundreds of billions of dollars in work done by these organizations, and one of the most respected charitable groups in the U.S. is the Shrine.

I have been fortunate to be a member of the Kerbela Shrine Temple in Knoxville for approximately 40 years.

The Kerbela Shrine Temple recently celebrated its 100th Anniversary on February 18, 2015.

For the past century, this group has touched the lives of needy children in my District in many positive ways.

On Thanksgiving Day 1950, the Knoxville Kerbela Shriners began a paper sale to benefit the East Tennessee Crippled Children's Fund, raising \$19,000 the first year.

Over the next 75 years, with the help of the Blue Lodge Masons, the Kerbela Shrine Temple raised \$13 million for handicapped and burned children through this one tradition.

Mr. Speaker, even in a state known for its Volunteers, the Kerbela Shriners stand out as an example of community service and charity. I call this important work to the attention of my Colleagues and other readers of the RECORD and wish them a happy 100th anniversary and many more years of success in serving our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during roll call vote numbers 77, 78, 79, and 80 on February 12, 2015, and roll call vote numbers 81, 82, and 83 on February 13, 2015, because I was participating in a cybersecurity summit with the President in my Congressional District.

I would like to reflect how I would have voted:

On roll call vote no. 77 I would have voted NO.

On roll call vote no. 78 I would have voted NO.

On roll call vote no. 79 I would have voted YES.

On roll call vote no. 80 I would have voted NO.

On roll call vote no. 81 I would have voted YES.

On roll call vote no. 82 I would have voted NO.

On roll call vote no. 83 I would have voted YES.

CALLING UPON HOUSE LEADERSHIP TO PASS CLEAN DHS FUNDING BILL

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, our hearts and prayers are with the victims of the Metrolink train crash that took place this early morning in Oxnard, California.

As of right now, there are no confirmed casualties and I pray that it stays that way and all of the injured have a speedy recovery.

I also wish to commend the first responders who arrived at the scene so rapidly to treat the victims of the crash.

The nation can be proud of the first responders at the local, state, and federal level who selflessly answer the call to service and risk their lives to keep us safe.

Mr. Speaker, first responders ask little in return for the risks they willingly incur.

All they ask is that we support them and provide them the resources needed to protect the homeland.

That is why it is absolutely critical that Speaker BOEHNER bring to the floor immediately a clean Homeland Security funding bill.

House Republicans should stop risking the security of the homeland to appease the Tea Party extremist wing of their conference.

Mr. Speaker, there are only 4 days remaining until funding for the Department of Homeland Security runs out.

If House Republicans were to let that happen, DHS would be required to shut down much of the homeland security infrastructure put in place in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Although some DHS employees would continue to work in the event of a shutdown, they

would be forced to do so without pay, creating significant disruptions and dealing a blow to morale.

Among those who would be expected to protect Americans without getting paid would be:

1. More than 40,000 Border Patrol agents and Customs and Border Protection officers;

2. More than 50,000 TSA aviation security screeners;

3. More than 13,000 Immigration and Customs Enforcement law enforcement agents and officers;

4. More than 40,000 active duty Coast Guard military members;

5. More than 4,000 Secret Service law enforcement agents and officers.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for House Republicans to stop politicizing the funding of this most essential function of the federal government and bring to the floor for debate and passage of a clean DHS funding bill so that we can keep our homeland safe.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROLLING MEADOWS, ILLINOIS

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the incorporation of Rolling Meadows, Illinois.

From its early origins, Rolling Meadows has been a model for other cities and towns to follow, through its continued dedication to building a friendly and welcoming community for residents and visitors alike.

In the years since its founding in 1955 by Orrin Ford, Rolling Meadows has become a center of culture and commerce, serving as a home to families, businesses, professionals, churches and organizations that have made this a vibrant and thriving community. Over the years, Rolling Meadows has developed a well-deserved reputation as a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family.

Rolling Meadows has a lasting legacy of service and prosperity. On this special occasion, in addition to celebrating the incorporation of their town, the community will also be honoring 60 original residents and two local businesses that have operated for the entirety of the last 60 years. This impressive milestone is a testament to the strong foundation built at Rolling Meadows' founding and maintained still today.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing the 60th anniversary of the incorporation of Rolling Meadows, Illinois and wishing her residents a very successful year ahead.

KAISER PERMANENTE COLORADO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kaiser

Permanente Colorado for their outstanding service and commitment to the community.

Kaiser Permanente Colorado is the state's largest nonprofit health plan, proudly working to improve the lives and health of Colorado residents for more than 45 years. As one of the largest businesses in our community, Kaiser Permanente Colorado provides comprehensive health care services to 630,000 members through 29 medical offices and a network of affiliated hospitals and physicians.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kaiser Permanente Colorado for their honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt they will exhibit the same commitment to healthcare and service to residents in the future.

**SUTTON NORRIS APPOINTMENT TO
UNITED STATES MILITARY
ACADEMY**

HON. JODY B. HICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to congratulate Mr. Sutton Norris on his appointment to the United States Military Academy.

Mr. Norris is an incredibly accomplished young man from Athens, Georgia. Sutton is the son of Tab and Elizabeth Norris, and will graduate from the prestigious Prince Avenue Christian School. During his time there, Sutton has exhibited his dedication to leadership while attending the Summer Leadership Experience at USMA and was awarded the Outstanding Leader Award.

Among his many accolades, Sutton also showcased academic prowess while serving as the president of the National Honor Society and the National Junior Honor Society.

Mr. Speaker, Sutton Norris is also a young man who is also dedicated to improving his community through service. Sutton organized Prince Avenue Christian School's initial participation in Relay for Life, an organization dedicated to raising awareness about cancer and funds to combat the disease.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I understand that Mr. Norris is no stranger to the rigorous work ethic required to be considered as a candidate for the United States Military Academy. With several family members serving in different branches of the armed services, I am confident that Sutton will accomplish his ultimate goal of serving his nation as a United States soldier.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate Mr. Sutton Norris.

LEW WILLIAMS

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the outstanding and invaluable contributions of African Americans

during Black History Month and all year long. I am proud to pay tribute to African American men and women who exemplify the spirit of selfless and patriotic service.

I rise today to honor the life of a true champion of education, Lew Williams. His 36-year career in public service and his tireless efforts to improve the lives of children will be remembered forever. Born in Baker County, Georgia, Mr. Williams grew up in poverty and knew education was his ticket to a better life. He earned his Bachelor's Degree from Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina and his Masters Degree from South Carolina State University. He married his beloved wife, Arthurene Sims and they had two children: Brandi, a literacy specialist at Melrose Elementary, and Brandon, a student at Stetson University College of Law.

In 1970, Mr. Williams began his career in education as a social studies teacher at Dunedin Middle. He soon rose to be principal of Fairmount Park, South Ward, Dunedin Elementary, and Seminole Middle as well as Pinellas Park High. He became the Director of School Operations in 1987 and was promoted to Associate Superintendent for Pupil Assignment and Area II Superintendent of Pinellas County Schools before his retirement in 2005. Mr. Williams was elected to Pinellas County School Board in 2010.

Although Mr. Williams was a soft-spoken man, when he spoke people listened. In his tireless dedication to his students, he wanted not only to educate them through books, but to equip them with life skills to succeed. He recognized the challenges that low-income and minority students faced, so he worked tirelessly to build relationships and connect with children and their families. He constantly pushed to create opportunities for those students some may have forgotten.

Mr. Williams always seemed to have the pulse of the district's needs and how to address them. He faced budget crises head-on while closing the achievement gap between races and income levels. He saw the need and spearheaded an effort to implement measures that dealt with chronically disruptive students in ways that integrated rather than alienated. He strived to give parents the tools they need to help their children succeed in academics and life.

After his retirement in 2005, he and his wife ran a preschool and he subsequently won the School Board seat. His slogan was "Keep the main thing the main thing." And that philosophy defined his approach of always putting children first regardless of status or race. Mr. Williams passed away December 3, 2011 but his legacy will live on through the many student's lives he has changed for the better.

TRIBUTE TO AUTUMN GADOUA

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a very special 7th grader from Hamburg, Iowa, located in the 3rd Congressional District which I represent. Autumn Gadoua is

the statewide winner in the Iowa League of Cities 5th Annual "If I Were Mayor" essay contest.

This annual essay contest allows students to form and express ideas regarding citizenship and leadership. Autumn and the other district winners are being recognized today at a ceremony at the Iowa State Capitol Building in Des Moines.

In her essay Autumn wrote that if she were mayor of her hometown she would pursue policies that preserve the town's history and the historical brick buildings for current and new businesses. She notes that this policy would connect the past to the present and promote growth for the future.

Mayor Gadoua would also work for opportunities to help businesses thrive, bring new businesses and families to the town, promote green solutions, recycling, and support police officers and firefighters to keep them and the citizens of the community safe.

Autumn concluded her essay by saying, "I would visit the school in my community to teach children the responsibilities of a mayor and give examples of good citizenship. To help children grow and learn, I would establish an after school youth club. Being mayor is a big responsibility, but one that is rewarding and important to me."

I applaud and congratulate Autumn for her award winning essay and for proving that the next generation of leaders in Iowa and this nation are already preparing for their time of service. I am proud to represent Autumn and her family, her teachers and fellow students in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues join me in congratulating Autumn Gadoua and wishing her well and continued success in the future.

HONORING ADAM CEARLEY

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional young man whose financial acumen just made his college expenses less of a burden. In the process of doing so, he's learned some valuable life skills.

Round Rock High School freshman Adam Cearley was awarded a \$20,000 scholarship after ranking sixth among 11,000 students nationwide in the H&R Block Budget Challenge. This innovative two-month, in-school simulation tasked students to manage money online based on a fictional profile. Students received a virtual salary, which they used to pay bills, invest in retirement, and manage loans to get points. Adam took to the challenging project early on, impressing both his peers and his teachers with his sound money management.

Not only does the simulation serve as a fun activity to ease students into business lessons, it's important for teenagers to learn financial lessons early. The skills teens like Adam learn from this will serve them well throughout their lives.

Young leaders like Adam Cearley show that the future for our nation is a bright one. I congratulate him on his great achievement and

wish him nothing but the best in the years ahead.

JIM AND KATE CURTIS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jim and Kate Curtis for their outstanding dedication to their local community.

Owners of the Village Roaster since 1979, Jim and Kate Curtis have been proudly providing Jefferson County and Lakewood residents with some of the best coffee, tea, spices and gift selections from around the world. In addition to running the Village Roaster, the two have worked to support their community for their entire lives continually giving of themselves and their coffee.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jim and Kate Curtis for their honor as Members of the Year by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt they will exhibit the same community service and dedication in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TRANSIT TAX PARITY ACT OF 2015

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Transit Tax Parity Act of 2015. The bill would expand federal commuter tax benefits for transit and make them equal to those for parking. Currently, the transit benefit is half the level of the parking benefit. This bill would permanently raise the transit benefit to equal the parking benefit for commuters, in an effort to equalize the commuter options and to reduce congestion and pollution.

This bill would encourage commuters to use transit by equalizing tax benefits for mass transit and parking benefits at a time when transit systems have precipitously lost riders because of the inequality in benefits. Congress did the sensible thing when it increased the commuter benefit cap to be the same as parking in previous years, but when that parity ended, transit benefits decreased to \$130, just over half the benefits for driving. The decrease in transit benefits has led to a striking reduction in transit system ridership across the country. For example, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), the second largest transit system in the nation, runs throughout the national capital region and has seen a 25 percent decrease in Metrorail commuters, with riders switching to alternative means of commuting once they reach the \$130 limit. Congressional action is urgently needed to make federal tax benefits for transit and parking equal at \$250.

Millions of people commute in and out of cities every day, bolstering the American economy and improving the overall well-being of

the country. Why would we want to encourage people to drive rather than use mass transit? At the very least, there is no excuse for preferential treatment of driving. There are also environmental benefits that result from encouraging commuters to use mass transit and commuter rail instead of driving. Greater use of transit is consistent with the goals of reducing pollution from auto emissions, improving public health and reducing traffic congestion, which adds huge costs to the American economy and disrupts family life.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

JETIE WILDS

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the outstanding and invaluable contributions of African Americans during Black History Month and all year long. I am proud to pay tribute to African American men and women who exemplify the spirit of selfless and patriotic service.

I rise today to pay tribute to a truly gifted leader of the Tampa Bay community, Mr. Jetie Wilds. Mr. Wilds dedicated his life to educating people about public service, bringing communities together, and inspiring a way forward for all people in Tampa. Today it is a privilege for me to honor his incredible legacy.

Mr. Wilds was born in Tampa, Florida to a family of 12 children. At a young age, Mr. Wilds volunteered on political campaigns and developed a passion for political activism and engagement. This strong commitment to bettering the community led him to Morehouse College in Atlanta where he obtained a Bachelor's degree. He was deeply involved in the civil rights movement by regularly participating in peace marches and sit-ins. During this time, Mr. Wilds married his wife of over 49 years, Ozepher. Mr. Wilds then began his career staying true to his roots as a public servant by becoming a middle school math teacher.

Mr. Wilds' public advocacy was not limited to civil rights; he was an ardent environmentalist who served as a community organizer for greater environmental regulations in Portland, Oregon. While there, he obtained a Master's degree in urban planning at Portland State University. His knowledge of environmental policy later led him to Washington, D.C. where he conducted research on the impact of environmental regulations on the African American community.

Mr. Wilds returned to Tampa in 1996 and spearheaded his now locally renowned radio show, Citizen's Report. During each broadcast, Mr. Wilds brought to light the significant issues facing the Tampa Bay community. He quickly developed a rapport with his audience because of his intellect and candor that kept the show on air for over 15 years. His efforts to educate and inspire action on important political issues continued through his weekly column in Tampa's trilingual newspaper, La Gaceta. This column consistently provided a profound perspective on issues that transcended cultural and racial boundaries.

Mr. Wilds' leadership and tireless work earned him numerous accolades including Man of the Year from the Portland Junior Chamber of Commerce, Boss of the Year from the Professional Women's Organization and Distinguished College Alumnus from the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education.

Mr. Wilds will always be remembered as a leader who united people of all races and ethnicities for the common cause of community betterment. Whether he was running for office, teaching a class or providing an insightful voice for our community on the radio—Jetie Wilds was a true public servant. On September 21, 2014, Mr. Wilds passed away at the age of 74. Mr. Speaker, I join the Tampa Bay community in thanking Mr. Jetie Wilds, Jr. for his lifelong service to the State of Florida.

IN HONOR OF MRS. MILDRED PARISH MASSEY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional woman and outstanding citizen, Mrs. Mildred Parish Massey. Sadly, Mrs. Massey, the mother of our dear friend and colleague, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, passed away on Monday, February 16, 2015. Funeral services will be held on Thursday, February 26, 2015 at Allen Temple Baptist Church in Oakland, California.

Mildred Parish Massey was born in El Paso, Texas on June 6, 1924 to William Calhoun and Willie Pointer Parish. With her sisters, Juanita and Lois, Mrs. Massey attended Douglass Elementary and High School in El Paso, where she played the saxophone in the band and marched in the Sun Bowl Parade. She then earned a scholarship to attend Tillotson College in Austin, Texas and later transferred to Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana to study business administration. After college, Mrs. Massey worked for a time as registrar and secretary to the president of what is now Norfolk State University in Portsmouth, Virginia. She then returned to El Paso and gave birth to three daughters between 1946 and 1952, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, Mrs. Mildred Whitfield and Mrs. Beverly Hardy.

Mrs. Massey's daughters never had to look far for an outstanding role model. While at Southern University, Mrs. Massey had boycotted a sorority which barred a friend from pledging because of the darkness of her skin. She even organized for revered civil rights leader Mary McLeod Bethune to go to the university to help change the policy. Because of Mrs. Massey's efforts, the discriminatory practice was ended. Then, when El Paso began integrating its public schools, she was one of the first seven African-American students to integrate Texas Western College, now the University of Texas at El Paso.

Mrs. Massey made history by being the first African American to be hired in not one, but

multiple positions. She was the first black clerical worker at Ft. Bliss, Texas in the Postal Locator. After she moved to San Fernando, California in 1960, she was the first African American to work at the Raymond Lamp Company, at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Sylmar, California, as Assistant Manager of the Lerner Dress Store in Panorama City, California, and as Manager of the Rembrandt Sign Company in San Fernando. In short, Mrs. Massey's life in and of itself was a testament to the advancement of African Americans before, during, and after the Civil Rights Movement.

Mrs. Massey was not only a trailblazer but also a devoted mother. At one point, she worked three jobs to support her daughters and aging father. Mrs. Massey was so dedicated to her children that after her retirement, she worked for another twelve years to help found and manage her daughter Congresswoman BARBARA LEE's business. Throughout her life, this love and devotion continued to extend to not just her daughters, but her seven grandchildren, sixteen great grandchildren and one great, great grandchild as well.

Maya Angelou once said, "A great soul serves everyone all the time. A great soul never dies."

Mrs. Massey is one such great soul, who served humanity in a special way. Each day she graced the people around her with an enthusiastic sincerity of presence. Her impression on this earth extends beyond herself to those whom she inspired and supported, and for it she will be remembered for time to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me and my wife, Vivian, in paying tribute to Mrs. Mildred Parish Massey for the inspiring life that she led. We stand united with Congresswoman BARBARA LEE and we extend our deepest sympathies to her family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SNAP WORK OPPORTUNITY ACT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, due to a policy oversight, 1 million adults who are looking for work but are unsuccessful at risk to lose their eligibility for Supplement Nutrition Assistance Benefits in 2016. My Colleague Representative SUZAN DELBENE and I are introducing simple legislation today that would address this issue, and ensure no one falls through the cracks. Our bill is called the SNAP Work Opportunity Act.

The SNAP work requirement was established on the assumption that anyone who couldn't find work would take part in a job training or workfare program in order to continue receiving SNAP benefits. Unfortunately, as former President Clinton highlighted when

he signed the bill into law, there is not also a requirement for states to offer their unemployed citizens an opportunity to participate in a job training or workfare program. While many states may have qualifying programs, only five states guarantee a spot to those adults subject to the work requirement. As a result, even if someone is actively looking for work but can't find it, they can lose their eligibility for SNAP benefits.

Recently, this issue hasn't been at the forefront. The economic downturn has made states eligible for waivers to the work requirement because of high and sustained in-state unemployment. Almost all states—42—are eligible for and using a waiver in 2015. However, the economy's continued growth is expected to prevent most states from qualifying for the waivers in 2016. While economic growth is a great thing, it doesn't mean that everyone has a job nor does it mean that everyone looking for a job is able to get one. As a result of the loss of waivers, the CBPP predicts more than 1 million adults who are unable to find jobs and aren't offered an opportunity to take part in a job training or workfare program could lose their eligibility for SNAP benefits in 2016.

The SNAP Work Opportunity Act would make the 3 month limit for eligibility only apply if a person was offered a job training or workfare opportunity. With this fix, those who are looking for work aren't penalized because their state doesn't have the resources to offer a job training or work program.

SEYFER SPECIALTIES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Seyfer Specialties for receiving the 2014 Wheat Ridge Reinvestment Award. This award recognizes a business that invests in a significant improvement or maintains an excellent level of quality in a business property.

Seyfer Specialties was established in 1961 and is primarily focused on restoring classic cars and building hotrods, so it is fitting that they purchased an old dilapidated barn and rebuilt it into a modern performance garage while still emphasizing the classic barn-style. Seyfer delivers a great service with a knowledgeable and friendly staff, and they are a classic component of the Wheat Ridge Community.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Seyfer Specialties for this well-deserved recognition by the City of Wheat Ridge and the Wheat Ridge Business Association.

HONORING MR. ROY L. CLAY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Mr. Roy L. Clay.

Known throughout the San Francisco Bay Area and the nation as a computer engineer, investor, community leader and a dedicated husband and father, Mr. Clay has left an indelible mark on our nation.

Mr. Roy L. Clay was born in Kinloch, Missouri on August 22, 1929. Even at a young age, Mr. Clay was inspired to learn. In 1947, seven years prior to the Supreme Court's 1954 decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, Mr. Clay was granted an academic scholarship to attend Saint Louis University. He graduated in 1951 with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and, by 1956, he was among the first modern computer programmers.

After serving as a computer programmer in what is now the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California, Mr. Clay was invited to join David Packard, co-founder of Hewlett-Packard Co., to build the first reliable computer. Mr. Clay established software development, directed research and development of all computer products, and served as the General Manager of the computer division. By the time he left Hewlett-Packard, he was the highest ranking African American employee in the company.

Mr. Clay's contributions to the information technology sector continued to grow. In 1971, Mr. Roy L. Clay consulted with Kleiner Perkins Caulfield and Byers, a venture capital firm, to evaluate their investments in computer related firms such as Tandem Computer Company, Compaq Computer Company, and Intel. Then, in 1977, Mr. Clay founded ROD-Electronics to develop the first electronically controlled Dielectric Withstand tester. This test ensured that a product is safe from fire or electrical shock. Hewlett-Packard Co., IBM, AT&T, and Xerox adopted his Dielectric Withstand tester and added it to their production lines. In 2003, in recognition of his many accomplishments in Silicon Valley, Mr. Clay was inducted into the Silicon Valley Engineering Council's Hall of Fame.

Beyond his contributions to the information technology sector, Mr. Roy Clay has been a dedicated member of his community. He was the first African American to serve as City Councilman and Vice Mayor for the City of Palo Alto in 1973. Mr. Clay is also a Founder and Emeritus Board Member of the Olympic Club of San Francisco Foundation; founded with the purpose of generating funds to support underprivileged children in the nine counties of the San Francisco Bay Area.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes and honors an outstanding individual, Mr. Roy L. Clay. His dedication and efforts in the information technology sector have impacted so many lives and helped to break the barrier for many African Americans throughout California and the nation.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DANE A. MILLER

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker I rise today to honor a distinguished Hoosier, Dr. Dane A. Miller, whom passed away on February 10,

2015. I would like to express my appreciation for his community and economic development leadership in our state and nation. Most important to me, he was a friend who always gave me good, direct advice.

Although Dr. Miller was born and raised a Buckeye, Hoosiers are proud to claim him as one of our own. Dr. Miller graduated from General Motors Institute with a B.S. in Mechanical Materials Science Engineering, and a Masters degree in Materials Science from the University of Cincinnati. While performing as Director of Biomedical Engineering for Zimmer U.S.A. in Warsaw, Indiana, Dr. Miller simultaneously earned his Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Cincinnati.

Shortly after earning his doctorate, Dr. Miller served as Director of Biomedical Engineering for Cutter Biomedical. After three years he returned to Warsaw and joined three others to form Biomet, Inc. which eventually became one of the premier orthopedic manufacturing companies in the world. He would later start several more companies in the medical device industry, helping cement Warsaw, Indiana, as "The Orthopedic Capital of the World".

Dr. Miller had served on numerous boards, including as Director of Biomet 3i, LLC, Biomet Sports Medicine, LLC, Soft Tissue Regeneration, Inc., and 1st Source Corporation. He also devoted his time and entrepreneurial spirit to his adopted home as Director of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation. As a proud alumnus, Dr. Miller also served as Trustee to the University of Cincinnati Foundation.

Dr. Miller was highly regarded in his community for his philanthropic and business endeavors. He was often recognized for this leadership earning many awards and honors throughout his life including: Outstanding Small Business Person in the State of Indiana, Business Week's Top Performing CEO, Warsaw Chamber of Commerce Man of the Year, and the Phoenix Lifetime Achievement Award for the Healthcare Industry. Dr. and Mrs. Miller established the Dr. Dane and Mary Louise Miller Foundation in order to provide financial assistance to various charitable organizations and educational scholarships.

Dr. Miller leaves his beloved wife Mary Louise, two daughters and four grandchildren to carry on his innovative and entrepreneurial spirit. His work helped drive advancements in biomaterials and implant design that helped patients around the world live better lives. His academic and economic contributions, both direct results of his pioneering efforts, to our state and its citizens will be an endearing legacy for future generations of Hoosiers.

LOGAN HUGHES APPOINTMENT TO
UNITED STATES MILITARY
ACADEMY

HON. JODY B. HICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to congratulate Mr. Logan Hughes on his appointment to the United States Military Academy.

Mr. Hughes is an incredibly accomplished young man from Evans, Georgia. Logan is the son of Michael and Laura Hughes, and will graduate from Greenbrier High School. During his time there, Logan has exhibited dedication to leadership while serving as the High School NJRTOC Battalion Executive Officer.

Among his many accolades, Logan also showcased academic prowess by his involvement with the National Honor Society, and the Spanish Honor Society.

Mr. Speaker, Logan Hughes is also a young man who is dedicated to improving his community through service. Logan led service efforts at Wesley United Methodist Church as a service acolyte.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I understand that Mr. Hughes is no stranger to the rigorous work ethic required to be considered as a candidate for the United States Military Academy. With Mr. Hughes' grandfather as outstanding example of an Army Officer, I am confident that Logan will accomplish his ultimate goal of serving his nation as a United States soldier.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate Mr. Logan Hughes.

BANNER SIGNS AND DECALS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Banner Signs and Decals for their outstanding service and commitment to the community.

Dan, Carol and Jeff Lundin bought the company in 2007 with a vision to ultimately make Banner Signs and Decals one of the best sign companies in Colorado. The original business had been located at Colfax and Carr for more than 11 years. The Lundins recently moved the business to the new 40 West Arts District at Teller and Colfax. This Small Business of the Year goes above and beyond for their customers and their local community each and every day.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the Lundin family and Banner Signs and Decals for their honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt they will exhibit the same commitment and service in all future accomplishments.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING AUGUST 6TH AS NATIONAL VOTING RIGHTS DAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution designating August 6th as National Voting Rights Day.

On August 6, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law. The Act not only outlawed discriminatory voting practices and exponentially expanded the level of African American voter registration

and participation, but also vastly increased the number of African American and other minority elected officials. For nearly five decades the Voting Rights Act has served as our nation's most important safeguard against racial discrimination in our electoral system. As we prepare to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of its passage, establishing a day recognizing its magnitude will pay homage to this transformative law, which remains one of the most effective pieces of civil rights legislation ever enacted, and will serve as a critical reminder of the importance of continued efforts to ensure that all Americans are able to fully participate in our electoral process.

I am pleased to be joined by 36 of my colleagues in introducing this resolution. They include: Representatives: MARK TAKAI (D-HI), ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON (D-DC), JOHN GARAMENDI (D-CA), GREGORY MEEKS (D-NY), DEREK KILMER (D-WA), CHARLES RANGEL (D-NY), BETTY MCCOLLUM (D-MN), PETER WELCH (D-VT), TED DEUTCH (D-FL), TERRI SEWELL (D-AL), ROBERT BRADY (D-PA), FREDERICA WILSON (D-FL), SANFORD BISHOP, Jr. (D-GA), PATRICK MURPHY (D-FL), MAXINE WATERS (D-CA), DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (D-FL), CHERI BUSTOS (D-IL), JUAN VARGAS (D-CA), JUDY CHU (D-CA), MARCY KAPTUR (D-OH), GWEN MOORE (D-WI), ANDRÉ CARSON (D-IN), JOYCE BEATTY (D-OH), MIKE HONDA (D-CA), LOUISE SLAUGHTER (D-NY), ADAM SMITH (D-WA), AL GREEN (D-TX), BOBBY SCOTT (D-VA), CORRINE BROWN (D-FL), ELIJAH CUMMINGS (D-MD), MARCIA FUDGE (D-OH), STEVE COHEN (D-TN), EARL BLUMENAUER (D-OR), JOHN YARMUTH (D-KY) and KATHY CASTOR (D-FL).

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Black History Month, I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this resolution, so that we may all properly recognize the significance of the Voting Rights Act by designating August 6th as National Voting Rights Day.

HONORING SOUTH TOMS RIVER MAYOR OSCAR CRADLE

HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Black History Month, I rise to recognize a prominent leader in my district who has gone above and beyond to help better our community. That man is Mayor Oscar Cradle from South Toms River. Through his work and his life, Oscar has greatly improved our community for his neighbors, friends, and all those who are lucky enough to know him.

Mayor Cradle has been a resident of Ocean County for sixty years. Growing up in South Toms River, Oscar was a member of youth choir and Sunday school at Wells Chapel AME Church. After graduating from Toms River High School, he enrolled in Hampton Institute and studied mathematics. After facing issues with addiction, Oscar overcame his struggles and decided he wanted to focus on helping others in his community battle this terrible disease.

Oscar became involved with several different organizations in South Toms River. With

his own journey in mind, he helped create the South Toms River Alcoholics Anonymous, the South Toms River Narcotics Anonymous, and the South Toms River Neighborhood Watch Committee. But his work didn't stop there—he recently founded the South Toms River Historical Society to help preserve the history of this great town. At Wells Chapel AME Church, Oscar has been ordained as a Reverend and helped to create the church's Community Outreach Center. Additionally, Oscar has served his community as an elected member of the South Toms River Borough Council for seven terms and was elected as the town's mayor on November 4, 2014.

Oscar's dedication to improving the lives of those around him is remarkable. Mr. Speaker, we are all blessed to know Oscar, and are grateful for the impact that he has made in our community. South Toms River would not be the same without him.

GWEN REESE

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the outstanding and invaluable contributions of African Americans during Black History Month and all year long. I am proud to pay tribute to African American men and women who exemplify the spirit of selfless and patriotic service.

I rise today to honor a dedicated community leader and equal rights champion, Gwen Reese of St. Petersburg, Florida. Ms. Reese was born in St. Petersburg and is a proud graduate of Gibbs High School as well as St. Petersburg Junior College. Ms. Reese has dedicated her career to supporting initiatives that lift families. She began as a counselor for Adolescent Pregnancy and Parenting Services for the YWCA of Tampa Bay. Thanks to her passion and diligent work, she was consistently promoted, rising to become the Director of Administrative Services of the YWCA of Tampa from 1994–1999. Ms. Reese continued to be a voice for Florida families by serving as a Coordinator for both Healthy Start of Pinellas and the Midtown Health Council. In both capacities she focused on reducing infant mortality as well as other initiatives designed to improve the effectiveness of health care delivery and outcomes.

Ms. Reese's unrelenting service has led her to play an important role in numerous service organizations and projects in Tampa Bay. Currently, she serves as the District Manager of Professional Opportunities Program for Students (POPS) Inc. which provides career seminars, college tours, internships, and community service projects to assist area high school students in exploring and experiencing different career goals. Furthermore, Ms. Reese organizes the annual Stand Against Racism event and the Week Without Violence activities. These events bring attention to significant issues facing our community.

Ms. Reese has been an outspoken advocate for preserving the history of African Americans' contributions to the St. Petersburg

community. Her passion led to her selection as the President of the African American Heritage Association. Under her leadership, the African American Heritage Association developed a walking trail through historic neighborhoods in St. Petersburg. It captured the oral histories of the great people like those who built tracks for the Orange Belt Railway, laid Augusta blocks in the Historic Old Northeast, and made the prized hex blocks seen on some city sidewalks.

Ms. Reese brought the St. Petersburg community together through this project. She has witnessed great moments in the community created by the project. Her favorite instance was when 25 high school students from Gibbs High School, Pinellas County's first public high school for black students, interviewed the residents who had witnessed immense changes in the community on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

We truly appreciate the outstanding work that Ms. Reese has done to preserve and venerate the history and contributions of African Americans. Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Ms. Reese for her wonderful service to Pinellas County and to the State of Florida.

EXTRAORDINARY AMBASSADOR

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, during the President's Day break, I was grateful to chair a House Armed Services Committee delegation to the United Arab Emirates, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Jordan, and Iraq.

With Congressmen BRAD ASHFORD, SETH MOULTON, and ELISE STEFANIK, we met world leaders in the midst of forcefully protecting their citizens in the Global War on Terrorism.

Coordinating the itinerary were House professional staffers Pete Villano and Lindsay Kavanaugh, with military input by Major Brad Grane, U.S. Army, Colonel Dan Greenwood, U.S. Marine Corps, and Major Tony Garofano, U.S. Marine Corps.

At each step we were greeted and briefed by experienced, dedicated, and enthusiastic U.S. Ambassadors, including Barbara Leaf at Abu Dhabi in the UAE, Michael McKinley in Afghanistan, Alice Wells in Jordan, Douglas Silliman in Kuwait, and Stuart Jones in Iraq. Each has recruited talented foreign-service officers to promote warm relations with our allies in the Middle East and Central Asia.

A key way to protect American citizens at home from terrorists is to promote stable, prosperous, and unified allies abroad. Radical Islamists have declared war on Americans and plan to exterminate Jews. Moreover, in the last ten days, they have slaughtered their fellow Muslims from Peshawar, Pakistan, in a mosque, to burning alive over 30 innocent civilians in al-Baghdadi, Iraq, while beheading 21 Egyptian Coptic Christians in Libya, and murdering Jews in Copenhagen.

In conclusion, God Bless our Troops, and may the President by his actions never forget

September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

CASA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children (CASA) of Jefferson and Gilpin Counties for their outstanding service to the local community.

CASA's mission is to provide trained volunteers to advocate in court for the safety and well-being of abused and neglected children. CASA volunteers attend 35 hours of intensive training before being appointed to a case of child abuse or neglect. Each volunteer commits to stay with the case until it has concluded to ensure they are able to advocate for the child's best interests in the areas of education, health, foster placement, and most importantly a permanent and safe home.

I extend my deepest congratulations to CASA of Jefferson and Gilpin Counties for their honor as Nonprofit of the Year by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt they will exhibit the same service and dedication in all future accomplishments.

IN MEMORY OF MRS. MARY GAILE EDWARDS WINGARD

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mary Gaile Edwards Wingard, who died peacefully in the presence of her beloved family on Tuesday, January 27, 2015. Gaile was a pillar of the Jacksonville community. An avid volunteer and both loving mother and grandmother, she was dearly loved by everyone who knew her. The First Coast will truly miss this incredible woman.

With a ready smile, quick wit, and abundant southern charm, Gaile made everyone she met feel at ease. She lived her life with a passionate devotion to her loved ones and her family. Whether it was volunteering for one of the numerous organizations around town or simply living the role of loving grandmother, Gaile never did anything half-way. Jacksonville will be forever thankful for her selfless dedication.

Gaile's quiet strength and loving spirit will long be remembered by our city. She is survived by her husband, Dr. Joseph Theodore Wingard, Jr.; her children, Joseph Theodore Wingard III and his wife Pam, Jonathan David Wingard and his wife Heather, and Katherine Wingard Sherman and her husband Nate; her grandsons, Matthew Alexander Wingard, Jonathan Michael Wingard, Jonathan Ramsay

Wingard, Joseph Theodore Wingard, Nathaniel Alden Sherman, Jr., and an unborn granddaughter to be named Beatrice Gaile Sherman; her sister Jeanne Edwards Yarborough; and six nieces.

My thoughts and prayers go out to the Wingard family. I am forever grateful to have known such an amazing woman.

IN HONOR OF THE UNI-CAPITOL
WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program. This program is a wonderful educational and cultural exchange for both the congressional intern and office. The Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program annually delivers some of Australia's best and brightest university students for two month internships in our offices. During their time in our nation's Capitol, these student-ambassadors continue to develop their commitment to civic engagement and public service.

This year I welcomed student-ambassador Emma Lee who has been a great example of the high quality students who are involved in this program. Emma is a Masters candidate from the University of Sydney, with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Wollongong where she was a Dean's Scholar. She has been an invaluable asset to our office these past two months.

Throughout her time in this office, she has had the chance to pursue her interests on a range of issues, from foreign affairs, human rights, and diplomacy to food security and the environment. She has attended committee briefings, drafted constituent correspondence, and assisted my staff with research. Her Australian accent has garnered the attention of many of my constituents on tours and over the phone. She is often asked to share her experiences in Washington, DC.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the contributions of the Uni-Capitol Internship Program and to thank Emma Lee for her participation, time, and hard work.

REMEMBERING THE LIVES LOST
DURING THE KHOJALY MASSACRE AND "BLACK JANUARY"
IN AZERBAIJAN

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for very important reasons. First, I would like to commemorate the tragedy that took place in Khojaly, Azerbaijan, where on February 25, 1992, 23 years ago, 444 mostly elderly men, 106 women and 63 children were brutally killed. Please join me in recognizing the horrific atrocities that took place during the month of February in Khojaly, Azerbaijan.

Secondly, I would like to recognize the night of January 19, 1990, as "Black January." On this day, 26,000 Soviet troops invaded the capital city of Baku and surrounding areas. By the end of the following day, more than 130 people had died, 611 were injured, 841 were arrested and 5 were missing. This event is memorialized as "Black January," and, for the citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan this event left an indelible mark on their minds and hearts.

Although Azerbaijan thrives today, the people of Azerbaijan recognize those who lost their lives in Black January, 1990, and honor their sacrifice through their commitment to the ideals of democracy.

Mr. Speaker, Azerbaijan is a strong ally of the United States in a strategically important and complex region of the world. I ask my colleagues to join me and our Azerbaijani friends in commemorating the tragedy that occurred in the town of Khojaly as well as Black January.

CONGRATULATING KORINNA
BROWN ON BEING NAMED A TOP
HONOREE BY THE 2015 PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY
AWARD PROGRAM

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate and honor a young student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Ms. Korinna Brown of Bunker Hill has just been named one of the top honorees in Indiana by the 2015 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor bestowed upon the most impressive student volunteers in every state, including the District of Columbia.

Ms. Brown is being recognized for her passion of volunteer service that began with her diagnosis of primary immune deficiency at age six. Since that time, she has raised \$150,000 through organizing Relay for Life teams and creating the iroK Foundation in 2009 to help support children diagnosed with cancer and blood diseases.

Given the challenges we face today, it is vital that we encourage and recognize the kind of selfless contributions that these young citizens have made. Young volunteers like Ms. Brown are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

The program that brought this young role model to our attention—The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards—was created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995. It is used to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critical and highly valued, and inspire other young people to follow their example. Over the past 20 years, the program has become the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, and has honored more than 100,000 young volunteers at the local, state and national level.

Ms. Brown should be extremely proud to have been singled out from the thousands of dedicated volunteers who participated in this year's program. I heartily applaud Ms. Brown for her initiative in seeking to make her community a better place to live, and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Her actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and continue to hold tremendous promise for our future.

HONORING BRYAN BILL

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life, legacy and love of Bryan Bill, a man who touched everyone he met throughout his life.

Bryan was born and raised in San Rafael, California and loved his time in the beautiful Golden state. It was there, from a very young age, that Bryan developed an intense curiosity, explosive creativity and strong artistic inclination. His mother Cheryl vividly recalls: "From the time he was a little boy he could draw beautifully, he became more inventive—there was never a time when he wasn't sketching." It was clear that Bryan was a talented, exceptional individual.

Still, like any child, Bryan had his obstacles. Parents, Cheryl and Bill, were told that their 7 year old son had behavioral problems, and like any loving parents they sought to remedy the situation. Bryan began regularly seeing a child psychologist. It wasn't until an obscure car pulled up along their house and dropped off their son, that Bill and Cheryl began to really worry—Bryan was 12 years old and drunk.

Bryan would go on to achieve so much during his life. As a graphic designer he was always developing innovative ways to reach an audience and craft a new project, but his specialty was cartooning—he just had a knack for it. I remember my conversations with him: he had this comedic humor; he was charming, daring and a witty conversationalist. If you talked to anyone who met Bryan they would tell you he had an incredible zest for life and his exuberant joy could light up any room.

And yet, Bryan was chronically depressed, repeatedly abused hard drugs, and had dependency issues with alcohol. On February 24, 2012, three years from this very day, Bryan took his life.

It tells us something that someone so talented, so inspired, and so beautiful can be taken from us so unexpectedly. Mental health is something we all deal with; it doesn't know race, it doesn't know socioeconomic status, whether you are tall or short, big or small, it affects everybody. Let's improve behavioral health services, break down the stigma surrounding suicide and encourage meaningful dialogue on mental health issues. It means saving lives like my cousin Bryan's.

Mr. Speaker, I join family, friends and all those who have felt Bryan's warm embrace in celebrating the wonderful life he lived and knowing that he is at peace. We will continue fighting to give our loved ones the strength they need to carry on.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN LOUIS STOKES

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to commemorate the 90th birthday of my friend and colleague, former Congressman Louis Stokes.

Louis Stokes rose from local housing projects in Cleveland, Ohio to serve 30 years in the U.S. House, first elected in 1968. Reluctant to enter the political arena, Stokes was persuaded to run for office by his younger brother, Carl B. Stokes, the first Black mayor of a major American city, elected in 1967. Prior to serving in Congress Louis served for decades as a civil rights lawyer. Louis Stokes was the first black to represent the State of Ohio in Congress and was a founding Member of the Congressional Black Caucus. Throughout his tenure in the House, Stokes chaired several congressional committees and was the first African American to win a seat on the House Appropriations Committee.

During his long tenure in Congress, Louis Stokes headed and participated in several major House investigations. In March 1977 he was appointed to lead the Select Committee on Assassinations, formed to conduct an investigation of the circumstances surrounding the deaths of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Stokes also served as chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, becoming the first Black Member of Congress to head this committee.

Stokes was the dean of the Ohio Congressional Delegation. His work in the area of health led to his appointment as a member of the Pepper Commission on Comprehensive Health Care, and he was the founder and chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Brain Trust. In 1991 Stokes chaired the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. When Louis Stokes retired in 1998, he became the first African American in the history of the U.S. Congress to have completed 30 years in office.

Following his service in Congress, he became senior counsel at Squire, Sanders, and Dempsey L.L.P., a global law firm, and Distinguished

Visiting Professor at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University. Stokes also served as vice chairman of the PEW Environmental Health Commission at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and was appointed by former Health and Human Services Secretary, Donna E. Shalala, as chairman of the Advisory Committee on Minority Health.

Mr. Speaker, I join with his wife Jay, children, Shelley, Angela, Louis and Lori, grandchildren, family and friends in wishing Congressman Louis Stokes a very happy and blessed 90th birthday. You have been a trailblazer for so many. May you have many, many more.

**IN MEMORY OF JOHN GREGG
McMASTER, JR.**

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, a Service of Worship was conducted on Sunday, February 22, 2015, at the First Presbyterian Church of Columbia, South Carolina, in Remembrance of and Thanksgiving for the Life of John Gregg McMaster, Jr.

Participating in the service were The Rev. Dr. Derek W. H. Thomas, Senior Minister, The Rev. Dr. John R. deWitt, Mr. Ronald E. Miller, Organist, and Mr. Christian Markle, Bagpiper. Honorary Pallbearers were The Elders and Deacons of the First Presbyterian Church. The following obituary was published in the Service program:

John Gregg McMaster, Jr., 100, passed away in Columbia early Friday morning, February 20, 2015. Born March 16, 1914, in Florence, the son of Dr. and Mrs. John Gregg McMaster, he received a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of South Carolina in 1936, an L.L.B. from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1938, and a J.D. degree in 1970.

In 1944 he married Ida Bacot Dargan of Florence, whose nickname was "Pet." They had six children, all boys, four of whom became lawyers.

Mr. McMaster was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives in 1944, serving two terms. From 1953–1954, he served as Code Commissioner for South Carolina, and from 1952–1967 he served on the SC Aeronautics Commission, the last eleven years as chairman.

He was elected president of the Richland County Bar Association in 1976. From 1982–1988, he served on the board of the Richland County Public Defender Corporation, the last two years as chairman. He was elected to the

American College of Trial Lawyers in 1968; awarded membership in the Cum Laude Club by Fellows of the Foundation, the USC Education Foundation, in 1969; elected a Fellow in the International Academy of Trial Lawyers in 1981; awarded the John W. Williams Distinguished Service Award by Richland County Bar Association in 1991; and awarded the Order of the Palmetto by Governor Carroll Campbell in 1991. He was honored in 1991 by the Resolution of the South Carolina House of Representatives for distinguished service to the South Carolina Association Trial Lawyers Association in 2004; awarded membership in the American Board of Trial Associates in 2004; received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Richland County Bar Association in 2012; and received a Resolution of congratulations from the South Carolina House of Representatives on his ninety-ninth birthday in 2013.

Admitted to practice in all state and federal courts in SC, Mr. McMaster was a member of the Richland County Bar Association, the South Carolina Bar, the National Association of Railroad Trial Counsel, the South Carolina Defense Trial Attorneys Association and the Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference. For years he was the senior practicing attorney in South Carolina, having been at the bar over seventy-five years upon his retirement in 2013. He tried his last case at age 93.

Mr. McMaster was a member of the Saint Andrews Society of Columbia, The Torch Club, Forest Lake Club, The Forum Club, The Centurion Society and The Columbia Ball. He was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Columbia from his college days and served as Sunday school teacher, Deacon, Elder, and Elder Emeritus.

Mr. McMaster was predeceased by his wife, Ida Dargan; his sister, Eleanor "Sis" McMaster Bradham (Riley, Jr.) of Sumter; and his brother Hugh Buchanan McMaster (Jean Kelly) of Columbia.

He is survived by his six sons, John Gregg McMaster, III (Judy Cook), Lieutenant Governor and former Attorney General Henry Dargan McMaster (Peggy McAbee), George McMaster, William Gourdin McMaster (Elizabeth Laffitte), Frank Barnwell McMaster, all of Columbia, and Joseph Dargan McMaster of Charlotte; grandchildren, John Gregg McMaster, IV (Laurel Briggs) of Columbia, Henry Dargan McMaster, Jr. of Columbia, Mary Rogers McMaster of New York, William Gourdin McMaster, Jr. MD, of Nashville, Dargan McMaster Rain (Rob) of Spartanburg, George Hunter McMaster, II of New York, Joseph Dargan McMaster, Jr. of Columbia, Eleanor Gourdin McMaster of Columbia; and great grandson, Shawn McMaster of Columbia; and great granddaughter, Elizabeth Laffitte Rain of Spartanburg.

SENATE—Wednesday, February 25, 2015

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

We acknowledge today, O Lord, Your power, mercy, and grace. We need Your journey, for the challenges we face require more than human wisdom and strength. We need Your mercy, for we transgress Your law and fall short of Your glory. We need Your grace, for we cannot offer anything to merit Your favor or gain Your love.

Empower our Senators for today's journey. Lord, give them confidence to draw near to You, that they may find grace to help them in this time of need. In an unstable world, where freedom lovers are challenged to live courageously, guide our lawmakers to be models of courage. May they send the right signals to an unstable and dangerous world.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PAUL). The majority leader is recognized.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to H.R. 240.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 5, H.R. 240, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday President Obama took the extreme step of vetoing good American jobs. He sided with partisan extremists and powerful special interests over the middle class.

It says a lot about the priorities of this administration. But if the White

House thinks this is the end of the new Congress's push for American jobs, it is wrong. I will soon have more to say about this and what the Senate plans to do.

For the moment, the Senate is focused on overcoming another extreme idea: the Democrats' Homeland Security filibuster to defend Executive overreach.

Many Senate Democrats led their constituents to believe they would do something about the kind of Executive overreach President Obama referred to as "unwise and unfair" and ignoring the law. Those are the words of the President of the United States. We have since heard excuses from Democrats to cover for their refusal to do so. But the time for excuses has now passed. Democrats will soon have another chance to prove they were serious.

Later this week, the Senate will consider a bill from the senior Senator from Maine that is about as reasonable as you can get. Obviously, President Obama was right to refer to the kind of overreach he took in November as ignoring the law. Senator COLLINS' sensible bill focuses simply on preventing the most egregious example of Executive overreach from taking effect. It is as simple as that.

The Collins bill is not tied to funding of DHS, either. So there are no excuses left. Democrats should join us in voting for this commonsense legislation.

In the meantime, we have offered Democrats a chance to prove they were serious about something else, and that is funding the Department of Homeland Security.

It is really something to watch Democrats vote and block funding for this Department one day and then hold a hypocritical press conference the next. Democrats need to end their weeks-long filibuster of Homeland Security funding and end it right now.

We have continually offered them sensible opportunities to do so. Yesterday, we offered them yet another. But it will require their cooperation to achieve.

The dual-pronged approach I have outlined—allowing the Senate to stop unwise and unfair overreach on the one hand and to fund DHS through the fiscal year on the other—is a sensible way forward, but it can't be achieved without cross-partisan cooperation.

The onus continues to be on the Democratic Party to keep the Department of Homeland Security funded. Democrats can fund DHS now—not by holding more hypocritical press conferences but by ending their senseless

filibuster and cooperating across the aisle.

That is what Americans expect. That is what Democrats can finally work together with us on to get done now.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, and with the majority controlling the first half and the Democrats controlling the final half.

The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, it is my understanding that we are in morning business with permission to speak for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

WASTEFUL SPENDING

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, when I reran for the Senate in 2010, there were two major issues that dominated the campaign and that continue to dominate the discussion and debate in the Senate postelection. One was the Affordable Care Act, now called ObamaCare, which was pushed through without any bipartisan support. There was a lot of concern among the American people about the impact this would have on their lives. That was an issue of intense discussion and debate during that campaign.

The second was the plunge into debt at a level Americans had never seen before in the history of the country. It took nearly 200 years, from the beginning of our Nation until 1981, to reach the \$1 trillion debt mark. That is a lot of governing. That is a lot of growth of America. But we were essentially on a path—including expenditures for war and so forth—that didn't take us deeply into debt relative to our gross domestic product.

All of a sudden, in 2010, there was the revelation that debt held by the public was rapidly nearing the \$10 trillion mark—a tenfold increase in less than 30 years. It took 190 plus years to get to the first \$1 trillion and only 30 years to add ten times that amount. That was a hot topic of debate during the 2010 election. During that election, the American people came out in significant numbers and said: Get to Washington and do something about this.

In the background, a debt clock was ticking away, and not only on my website but clocks around the country at different times, and people were astonished at how fast those numbers were churning.

That led to a pretty intense effort on the part of both parties and on the part of many organizations. I can remember Simpson-Bowles—a former Chief of Staff of President Bill Clinton along with a former distinguished Senator from Wyoming, a Republican and a Democrat together—Simpson-Bowles. The public was getting behind this—a \$4 trillion, over 10 year fix to the problem. It was pretty dramatic, yet there was a lot of momentum for it. That was shot down, unfortunately, by the President when it was presented.

Following that, we had the Gang of 6, a bipartisan effort, and the Joint Committee on Deficit Reduction—the group of 12, 6 Democrats and 6 Republicans working diligently to try to put something together, along with outside organizations, to fix the debt. There were any number of these—the Domenici Rivlin task force—proposals that were worked on together in a bipartisan way, realizing that as the debt was continuing to accumulate it was going to have major negative consequences to the future of our children and grandchildren and perhaps even our own generation.

We stand here today, having gone through all that—the Vitter committee, which I was a part of; eight of us agreeing with the President, with no staff and no press, closed room, months and months and months of negotiation—only once again to come up short. Ultimately, we sacrificed so many things we thought we needed to do just to get something going. But once again it was shot down in the end by a President who really wasn't willing to accept even the provisions he had proposed in his budget proposal that was publicly proposed. We took those and said: Can we at least do these, Mr. President? You have announced this is your initiative. But it was a no go.

Well, as a member of the Committee on Appropriations, I then tried to work with various agencies. They all had to come before us to make their requests known for the coming year. I asked them: Do you have a plan B in place? What do you mean plan B? What is plan B all about?

Plan B is the fact that mandatory spending is running away with our budget and the available amount of money for your discretionary spending is shrinking every year. So what is your plan B in terms of having less money available, whether it is for health care, for education, for building roads? All of the discretionary issues that fall under the discretionary spending that we are in control of, we no longer have control of. That is shrink-

ing and you are going to have to do more with less. And I asked that they provide a plan B before they could get my clearance in terms of supporting their requests.

They never came forward. No, we have to stay with what the President's budget is and so forth. So here we are now, over \$8 trillion more than where we were in 2010, and an \$18 trillion-plus deficit.

Everyone knows this is unsustainable. Everyone in America knows we are careening toward insolvency, with an inability to cover even some of the most basic functions of government.

I talk to agencies about a policy of triage. I suggested they separate out what they absolutely essentially have to do and we will fund it. Then part B is what they would like to do if they had the money to do it. Part C is their asking: Why are we doing that in the first place or that program is long past its need, its existence or it hasn't worked. Let's start there, with part C, and let's get rid of excess spending that has no real function going forward or it is duplication or fraud or waste or whatever.

That leads me now to this poster. I have kind of gone from acting like the President's Chief of Staff to the co-chair of the "go big guy" in terms of what we need to do. We can't go there, but maybe we can go a little. And we are all the way down now to what I call "waste of the week."

Let us at least identify those things that the Government Accountability Office and the Congressional Budget Office have identified as those things we know don't work, that we know are a waste, that we know are duplication, and let's see if we can get at least some start in terms of dealing with this debt.

Senator Coburn took the lead on that in the last several sessions of Congress. We are going to miss him because no one can do it better than he did in pointing out and really embarrassing a lot of us in asking: Why are we funding that? I am not trying to take his place. But I did, with my staff, come up with the idea to at least let our colleagues know—those who say we can't cut a penny more, we have cut too much—that, yes, we can cut more. We can at least do something to address this debt or have money to offset a needed funding program.

So we are going to inaugurate "waste of the week" today. In its debut, I will go back to something I tried to amend when we were addressing the unemployment insurance issue. Ultimately, I was not able to offer the amendment thanks to the majority leader's filling of the tree and not allowing any amendments. I made a big stink about it. I didn't understand why we could not at least take that up.

So waste of the week this week is the cost to the taxpayer for those in the

safety net receiving Social Security Disability Insurance or unemployment insurance and getting checks from both agencies.

Now, if you can prove to the appropriate government agency that you can't work, you can be eligible if you go through the process for Social Security Disability Insurance. But if you go to the Social Security Disability Insurance agency and make your claim, you can't then go to the unemployment insurance agency and say you can't work, that you can't find work, that you are able to work but that you need to get that check from that agency. What has been documented now is the fact that there are very significant numbers of people who are gaming this issue and receiving checks from both agencies.

Either you can work or you can't work. You are eligible for one safety net program or the other, but not both. That totals \$5.7 billion of duplication.

My amendment that I had offered under the unemployment insurance extension in the last Congress was simply to say you can't do both, and we are going to put procedures in place so we can find out who is doing both.

One would think this would be pretty simple, even in the paper age, but we are in the digital age. I don't understand why the people administering this can't simply take the Social Security number and plug it into unemployment insurance and say: Do you have this person's name with this Social Security number? Are they receiving unemployment insurance? Or vice versa. It ought to be the push of a button on a computer so that it is not all that costly and makes a great deal of sense.

The worst they would have to do is pick up the phone and say: I have John Doe here whose Social Security number is X. He is applying for Social Security Disability Insurance. Do you have him on the unemployment role? Or vice versa. I am sorry, Mr. Doe, but you can't do both, and you are gaming the system. This duplication of benefits costs \$5.7 billion. That is a pretty good savings.

This is the first of what will be a weekly presentation of programs that are no longer needed, that are duplicative, where there is fraud or waste involved. I am going to bring this forward every week, and we are going to try to add it all up.

We start here with \$5.7 billion, and I have my spending thermometer going up to \$100 billion. I think we can go much higher than that. Tom Coburn said we could, through his Wastebook and the work he has done.

So we have already inked it in here. We are going to start filling this in by coming here every week.

People may say: Well, that is small change. Look, \$5.7 billion is not small change. In comparison to our debt, does it solve the problem? Absolutely

not. It is at least a start. Can we at least not come together in sensible things such as this and at least get started in the right direction?

In the meantime, I think we are still going to be pushed into situations by crisis, when no longer the countenance of the investment world in America in terms of the rate of return is acceptable, because the debt continues to accumulate.

So here we are, back to 2010, back to where we were. I know it is not talked about very much at this stage. We have foreign policy issues and domestic issues we have to engage in. But the clock is ticking away, minute after minute, second after second, and it is a continued plunge of the deficit spending—borrowing money we don't have in order to pay for things we need, but also paying for things we don't need.

So I will be here every week with a new proposal. We will be filling in this chart, and hopefully at least start us on the process once again of getting through to one major challenge we have here in this Senate, the Congress, and the executive branch, and that is dealing with our debt. It is generational theft. It is putting the burden on our children and grandchildren, and even on workers here today. It is holding down our economy. It is one of the major challenges this Congress has not successfully addressed and which this administration has not successfully addressed. It is kicking the can down the road to the extreme, and we do not need to forget that. We need to emphasize it. This is my small step, after many large steps that have failed, to try to continue to alert the American people and alert my colleagues that there is money we can save and spend and run a much more efficient, effective government.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRINCIPLED STEWARDSHIP OF THE AMERICAN WEST

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, over the past week while I was home in Wyoming traveling around our State, I had a chance to talk with students about their hopes for the future, and I talked with many small business owners about their efforts in trying to create jobs.

The people of Wyoming work hard and take seriously the Western values of family and community. They are committed—they are committed—to preserving the West's role in providing

natural resources that improve the lives of millions of people all across America.

This commitment is shared by the Senate Western Caucus—a caucus which I chair in the Senate—as well as is shared by the Congressional Western Caucus under the leadership of Wyoming Congressman CYNTHIA LUMMIS.

Recently, we released a joint report titled “Principled Stewardship of the American West.” This new report has details about specific things we should be doing right here in Congress, specific things Washington should let the people in the West do for themselves. The whole report is available on my Web site, Barrasso.senate.gov.

Now I want to talk about four specific principles that guide the work of the Western Caucus that are contained in this very report. These principles are based on the idea that the people who live on the land are the best stewards of the land. Our main goal is to empower the residents, the workers, and the leaders in the West and local leaders throughout the country to make the decisions that best serve their families and their communities. These principles stand in stark contrast to the failed approach Washington has taken for far too long.

The first principle in our report has to do with energy. The members of the Western Caucus are united. We will promote access to our Nation's abundant, affordable, secure, diverse, and reliable energy and mineral resources. That means increasing energy security for the United States. We can do that by producing more energy responsibly right here at home. It also means opening access to international markets so we can help the energy security of our allies as well.

The second principle we talk about in the report “Principled Stewardship of the American West” focuses on environmental stewardship in the West. We take very seriously our commitment to ensuring the health of the land, the wildlife, and the environment. Thousands of people are working across the West to protect our communities. These are people who live in the West, not bureaucrats in Washington, DC. Nobody is better qualified than the people who actually walk the land and breathe the air they are trying to protect.

Our report encourages locally led conservation partnerships to build on the work being done by people who rely on the health and the safety of the land. This means making sure regulators base their decisions on science, not on personal ideology, and that their work is done out in the open. On this front I will be introducing legislation to stop the Environmental Protection Agency's takeover of the waters of the United States.

The third principle in this report focuses on agriculture and forestry. As

an environmental stewardship, the Western Caucus believes the States are better equipped than Washington to develop good farm policies. Crops, breeds of livestock, soil types, and the growing seasons vary greatly across this country. These factors come together in the West very differently from what might be seen in the Northeast or in the South. A bureaucrat in Washington simply cannot write regulations that cover every part of the country with any hope of success. Western States must be allowed to make these decisions for themselves to help the farming and ranching way of life continue to thrive in America.

One task we can do at the national level is to promote active management of our forests to ensure that our forests remain healthy. As many as 82 million acres of our National Forest System need treatment to deal with the threats of fire, insects, and invasive species. When forests deteriorate, they are more vulnerable to wildfire. Fires cause erosion and threaten water quality. When forests get overgrown and unhealthy, they stifle habitats critical for deer, elk, wild turkeys, and other animals. The members of the Western Caucus know how important it is to responsibly manage our national forests, and we will push for legislation to make sure that continues to happen.

Finally, the report focuses on a Western approach to judicial and regulatory reform. This includes stopping the lawsuit abuse that special interest groups have used to set public policy without the public actually being involved. It includes protecting private property owners from excessive Washington regulations.

Agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Forest Service have a history of interfering with the use of private property. These agencies have fined and bullied landowners throughout the West. Too often the goal of the bureaucrats is to protect their own turf, not to protect the land or to serve the people. Honest, hard-working taxpayers get crushed beneath the resources of a Federal legal system that operates without oversight. The Western Caucus favors conservation through local cooperation and partnership, not through intimidation and an attitude that “Washington knows best.”

This report's four principles and the ideas it discusses are based on what members in the Western Caucus hear back home. These are the topics I hear from people as I travel around Wyoming. These principles promote responsible energy, food and timber production, while preserving what makes the West a unique place in America.

Last year more than 10 million people from around the world visited Wyoming. They are drawn by its beauty and natural splendor. The people of Wyoming and all Western States know

they have a responsibility to manage and protect the land and waters in a way that allows all of us to enjoy them. The goal of the Senate and Congressional Western Caucus is to preserve and protect everything that is special about the West so that families who have lived there for generations can continue to live there for generations in the future.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant Democratic leader.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AIRLINE SMOKING BAN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today marks the 25th anniversary of a law that has affected millions of Americans. It was a law that came about because of a dare. It happened in an airport in Phoenix, AZ. I was catching a flight from Phoenix to St. Louis—I think to Chicago—and I was late. I ran up to the United Airlines counter, and the ticket agent started processing my ticket to get on the flight.

She said to me, “Here is your boarding pass,” and I looked at it and noticed she had put me in the smoking section on the airplane.

I said to her, “I don’t want to sit in the smoking section. Isn’t there something you can do about this?”

She said, “You came here too late. And incidentally, Congressman, there is something you can do about it.”

I got on that airplane and got stuck in the middle seat in the smoking section in the back of the plane, surrounded by smokers, wedged in there, and I looked around the plane and thought: This makes no sense at all. There is an older person who may have a pulmonary problem. There is a mother with a baby sitting in a nonsmoking section two rows away from me. And I thought to myself: I am going to do something to change this.

I went back to the House of Representatives. I was a relatively new Member of Congress. I introduced a bill to ban smoking on airplanes. My staff thought it was crazy. Nobody had ever beaten the tobacco lobby at anything. To take them and most of the airline industry on was a fool’s errand, but I did it anyway. I got a lot of help along the way from some amazing colleagues. I finally got a chance to bring it to the floor for a vote, and to the shock and surprise of the tobacco lobby, we won. We banned smoking on airplane flights of 2 hours or more.

I called my friend Frank Lautenberg, who was a Senator from New Jersey, and I asked him if he would take up the cause in the U.S. Senate. He agreed to, and he passed the same measure.

So this day marks the 25th anniversary of the signing into law a ban on smoking on airplanes. It is obvious why it passed. Members of Congress are

part of the largest frequent flyer program in the world, and they hated it as much as I did on that flight from Phoenix to Chicago. But it did something I never imagined. Malcolm Gladwell wrote a book called “The Tipping Point.” It turns out that moment was a tipping point because people all across America 25 years ago started asking a very basic question: If second-hand smoke is dangerous in an airplane, isn’t it dangerous in a train, on a bus, in an office, in hospitals, in restaurants, in a tavern, in a bingo hall—and the list went on and on. All across the United States, States started changing laws and banning smoking.

Today, if you walked into the doors of the Capitol here smoking a cigarette, somebody would stop you and say: Wait a minute, we don’t do that here. In the old days, nobody would think twice and there were ashtrays all over.

When I first came to the Senate, there were no rules when it came to smoking—none. We developed them after I made a few points to those in charge. But that was the culture and the situation 25 years ago.

I think that effort to take smoking off airplanes has led to a lot of other dramatic efforts to protect Americans from secondhand smoke and from dangerous situations. I think lives have been saved. There are so many of us who can tell family stories about losses related to lung cancer and pulmonary disease. I can tell my story.

I was 14 years old when my father died of lung cancer. He was 53 years old and smoked two packs of Camels a day. He died an early death. I didn’t stand by his bed at the hospital and say “I will get even with that tobacco lobby,” but I remembered him as I started this ban.

So I just wanted to make a note in the RECORD today in the Senate to salute the memory of my friend Frank Lautenberg, who was my partner in passing this important legislation, and to remind us there are other things we can do to make this world a little better and a little safer. One of those things relates to e-cigarettes, a new invention tobacco companies are jumping up and down to market to children in America. We have seen in a short period of time the number of kids using these electronic cigarettes double. It has a chemical in it, the same one that is in cigarettes—nicotine—that is addictive. Tobacco companies know that if they can lure children into cigarettes or e-cigarettes, they are going to create an addiction in these young people that will be tough to break and won’t be healthy at all.

I hope the Food and Drug Administration will step up and do their job and regulate these products and these e-cigarette products to protect the children across America.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this week we are deciding whether we are going to shut down the Government of the United States of America again. Again, I think it was about a year and a half ago that the Senator from Texas on the other side of the aisle took to the floor and called for shutting down the Government of the United States of America, protesting President Obama’s Affordable Care Act. He did it, and the hardship that created for people all across the United States who relied on essential government services is well documented. The impact it had on the men and women who work in our government was also documented. It cost our economy. It was a bad thing to do. It was a political strategy which on reflection was the absolute worst, to shut down our government.

Well, this week we face another shutdown, and this time it is the Department of Homeland Security. This Department is the one Department that is charged with keeping America safe from the threat of terrorism. It was created after 9/11 because we wanted to make sure we put together 22 agencies that worked together to protect us. You see them in so many different places. This agency runs the Coast Guard. Its cutters are patrolling Lake Michigan and our coastline—the Atlantic and Pacific and the Gulf of Mexico as well. You see them when you go to the airport—TSA is under the supervision of the Department of Homeland Security. You may not know it, but your local fire department is depending on grants from this same agency so they can buy new equipment and train the people who are responding to fires in their community.

Over and over again the Department of Homeland Security invests in the safety of America. So why in God’s name would we have a political strategy to stop funding the Department of Homeland Security? That is exactly what we are faced with—exactly. Come the end of this week, this Department will basically lose its funding and be on emergency status. Why would we do that at a time when we have been warned about terrorist groups attacking malls across America? We are going to shut down the agency, stop funding the agency that protects us against terrorism in the streets of America.

At a time when ISIS is kidnapping people from all over the world, beheading them, burning them to death, killing them by execution, we are going to drop our guard and say: Well, we are not going to fund the Department of Homeland Security. Why in the world would any politicians in either House of Congress think this is a wise tactical move?

It turns out this funding bill was sent to us by the House of Representatives

on the condition that we take up the debate over immigration policy in America. I think we need to debate that policy. I have no objection to it. I feel very strongly about some aspects of it. But why would we make the Department of Homeland Security play the role of hostage over this debate on immigration? The right thing to do to protect America and the people who live here is to fund the Department of Homeland Security.

I offered a unanimous consent on the floor 2 weeks ago asking the Republicans to join the Democrats in funding this Department. Senator MCCONNELL, the majority leader, objected. I think that was a mistake. Now I think we understand, as we reach this deadline of shutting down this valuable agency of our government, that we cannot let this happen.

What is it about this immigration debate that has driven some politicians in Congress to the point where they are threatening to shut down this Department, to cut off its funding? It turns out they object to some of the Executive orders issued by the President on immigration.

Remember, it was the Senate that passed a comprehensive immigration bill 2 years ago. I was part of the group that wrote it. We passed it on the floor with 68 votes, and the Republican House of Representatives refused to even call the bill, or any bill, on the subject. And when they failed to do anything to fix our broken immigration system, the President said: I am going to issue some Executive orders to deal with this problem if Congress refuses to act, and he did.

The Republicans hated those Executive orders by President Obama like the devil hates holy water. They hate them so much that they would shut down the Department of Homeland Security in protest over the President's action. One of the things that troubles them the most is something called DACA. DACA is a shorthand description of the President's Executive order which allows those who would qualify under the DREAM Act to stay in the United States and not be deported.

The DREAM Act is a bill I introduced 14 years ago. I introduced it because I learned there were children brought to America by their undocumented parents, who grew up in this country, went to school in this country, were good citizens in America, but had no future because they had no home. My DREAM Act said if you were one of those children brought here by your parents, we are not going to hold you responsible for your parents' decision. We will give you a chance to become legal in America. That is what the DREAM Act said. That is all it said. The President's Executive order said: We are not going to deport these young children now growing up in America. We are going to give them a chance to stay here, to study

here, and to work here. Many of the Republicans hate the idea of giving these young people a chance. Sadly, what they are doing is turning down an opportunity for America to benefit from some of these extraordinary young people.

Time and again I have come to the floor of the Senate to tell the stories of these young DREAMers, and I will tell another one today.

This lovely young woman is Mithi Del Rosario. Her parents brought Mithi to the United States from the Philippines when she was 5 years old. There was no question about whether she was going to come; she was part of the family.

She grew up in California. She was an excellent student and her lifetime goal was to be a medical doctor. In high school she was on the principal's honor roll and an AP scholar. She received a Golden State Seal Merit Diploma and a Governor's Scholar Award. She was quite the student.

Mithi was admitted to the University of California at Los Angeles, one of the Nation's top universities. At UCLA she volunteered as a research assistant. She wanted to get into a lab that studied the high risk of infants to develop autism.

Mithi also volunteered, while a student at UCLA, as a crisis counselor for their peer helpline, advising students who were the victim of rape, child abuse, and substance abuse. She eventually became a trainer for new counselors. Mithi also volunteered as a mentor and tutor for at-risk middle school children in the city of Los Angeles.

She graduated from UCLA with a degree in psychology. Her options were limited in terms of medical school because she is undocumented. She was unable to pursue her dream to become a doctor. Then in 2012, President Obama issued an Executive order establishing the DACA Program, allowing students such as her a chance to stay in America and not be deported. Her whole world changed.

She began working as a research assistant at the UCLA School of Medicine, and she has applied to attend medical school. She still volunteers at the autism research lab where she started her research career 7 years ago. Her ambition is to be part of the treatment and research effort to help children with autism. She also has served as peer mentor to 10 undergraduate students at UCLA.

She wrote me a letter and asked that I relay a message to the Members of Congress who are engaged in the debate on whether to shut down the DACA Program which gives her a chance to stay in the United States. These are her words:

Please, please listen to our stories. This is my home, and the only country I know. DACA gives us greater opportunities to give back to the country we love.

This young lady, and millions like her, grew up in the classrooms of America pledging allegiance to that flag. It is the only flag they have ever known. They can only sing one national anthem—the national anthem that is closest to their heart for the United States of America. But now there is an effort underway by some politicians in Congress to deport her and send her back to the Philippines, and to say: Despite all you have done with your young life, despite all the talents which you bring to Los Angeles and to California, despite your promise to enter into the medical profession and to serve in a cause that all of us realize is so important, autism research—despite all of that, leave America. That is the message that comes through in this bill sent to us by the House Republicans.

They want to deport Mithi Del Rosario. They want to send her out of this country and toss her away despite all of the investment we made, and she has made, in her life. Mithi, and other DREAMers like her, have so much to contribute.

The Republican bill that is before us would deport hundreds of thousands of young people just like her, and it would stop the President's effort to give the parents of citizens—American citizen children—a chance to work temporarily and legally in the United States.

It is hard to imagine that so many on the other side of the aisle have lost sight of who we are as a nation. We are a nation of immigrants, and that immigrant spirit has made us different in this world we live in.

The people who risked everything to come to the United States, to a country where they may not have even spoken the language and gave up everything and came here—they are a special brand of risk takers, and we have a little bit of their DNA in our blood.

My mother was an immigrant. She was brought here at the age of 2, and her son now serves in the U.S. Senate. As I have said so many times on the floor, that is my story, it is my family's story, and it is America's story.

I cannot believe my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have forgotten America's history and America's story and are willing to turn their backs on a young woman such as this and say: We don't need you. You can leave. In fact, we are going to make you leave. We are going to force you out of this country.

America won't be a stronger country if we deport Mithi and others like her. We are not going to be a better country if we tear apart American families. We are not going to be safer when we should be deporting criminals, not those who aspire to be medical researchers.

Instead of trying to deport DREAMers and mothers and fathers, congressional Republicans should support a

clean appropriations bill. Let's do that. Let's pass a bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security. Let's get that done so once again we don't have a Republican shutdown of any branch of our Federal Government. Let's get that part done. And then if we are going to engage in a real debate on immigration, let's do it. The majority is controlled by the Republicans in the House and the Senate and they can do that any time they want. Let's engage in that debate and let's do it in an honest fashion. Let's do it in a hopeful and positive view of what America's future will be when young people such as Mithi Del Rosario have their chance to become part of an America that embraces talent and skill and thanks young people for the sacrifice they made to make a better life for all of us who live in this Nation.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess for 5 minutes subject to the call of the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 10:27 a.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 10:29 a.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. COTTON).

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate resumes the motion to proceed to H.R. 240 following morning business today, that Senators be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULIVAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, Senators are permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes.

The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed such time as I may consume as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE MIDDLE EAST AND UKRAINE

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, a lot of us are deeply concerned about the situation in the Middle East, in Ukraine, in China, to which we have paid very little attention to as they expand their territory.

I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to engage in a colloquy with the Senator from South Carolina.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, there is a huge credibility gap. The Washington Post probably said it better than I probably could, and it is entitled "A credibility gap," in the Washington Post, by Fred Hiatt, editorial page editor, February 22. He says: "If his negotiators strike an agreement next month, we already know that it will be far from ideal," talking about the Iranian nuclear deal.

He continues:

The partisanship needs no explanation, but the record of foreign-policy assurances is worth recalling:

This is very interesting and I think deserves the attention of all Americans.

In 2011, when he decided to pull all U.S. troops out of Iraq, Obama belittled worries that instability might result. Iraq and the United States would maintain "a strong and enduring partnership," Obama said. Iraq would be "stable, secure and self-reliant," and Iraqis would build a future "worthy of their history as a cradle of civilization."

Today [as we know] Iraq is in deep trouble, with a murderous "caliphate" occupying much of its territory and predatory Shiite militia roaming through much of the rest.

The same year, Obama touted his bombing campaign in Libya as a model of U.S. intervention and promised, "That's not to say that our work is complete. In addition to our

NATO responsibilities, we will work with the international community to provide assistance to the people of Libya."

My friends, we all know what has happened in Libya and the reason is—despite what Senator GRAHAM and our then-former colleague Senator Lieberman said—we had to do some things in Libya to make sure there was stability in Libya. Obama then walked away.

Continuing from the article:

Obama also said then, "Some nations may be able to turn a blind eye to atrocities in other countries. The United States of America is different. And as president, I refused to wait for the images of slaughter and mass graves before taking action." That was before Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad's barrel bombs, systematic and well-documented prison torture and other depredations of civil war killed 200,000 of his compatriots, and drove millions more from their homes.

In August 2011, Obama declared that Assad must "step aside." In a background briefing a senior White House official added, "We are certain Assad is on the way out." In August 2013 came Obama's statement that "the worst chemical attack of the 21st century . . . must be confronted . . . I have decided that the United States should take military action against Syrian regime [military] targets."

As a personal aside, the Senator from South Carolina came over to the White House, and the President of the United States assured us that he was going to take military action and we were going to degrade Bashar al-Assad and upgrade the Syrian Army, and, obviously, the article states that "no military action was taken, and Assad remains in power."

Defeating the Islamic State is one we have successfully pursued in Yemen and Somalia for years—successful in Yemen and Somalia that we have pursued for years. Just last month in the State of the Union Address, President Obama presented his Ukraine policy as a triumph of ". . . American strength and diplomacy. We are upholding the principle that bigger nations can't bully the small by opposing Russian aggression supporting Ukraine's democracy," he said.

We all know. We have watched Ukrainians slaughtered, slaughtered with the most modern equipment that Vladimir Putin has. That great national bloodletting is going on, and we are watching, thanks to the assistance of the Chancellor of Germany and the President of France—in the finest traditions of Neville Chamberlain—we are standing by and watching that country be dismembered.

What the Senator from South Carolina and I are trying to say is what General Keane said the other day:

. . . al Qaeda and its affiliates exceeds Iran and is beginning to dominate multiple countries. In fact, al-Qaeda has grown fourfold in the last five years.

Radical Islam is clearly on the rise, and I think our policy of disengaging from the Middle East has contributed to that rise.

So there is no policy in Iraq, there is no policy in Syria, there is no combating or assisting even the Ukrainians as they attempt to defend themselves against the wholesale slaughter of their countrymen by Vladimir Putin.

My friends, we have had ample testimony before the Armed Services Committee, people who served this country with distinction for many years—Republican and Democratic administrations. All of them have said they have never seen the world in more turmoil, and these things don't happen by accident. It is not like hurricanes or earthquakes, it is a matter of a failed, feckless foreign policy that began in 2009 and the chickens are coming home to roost.

May I mention—my friend from South Carolina—this is where we are with the Islamic State. We are hearing from the administration, I believe, that we are gaining. Look at the Islamic State, January 10, of Syria in red—this is the Islamic State and contested places—and look at August 31. Obviously, there are significant gains. One more chart, please.

Looking at this chart, these are the areas of all of that part of the world that are now controlled or under attack by ISIS, including, by the way, we now see ISIS gaining a foothold in Libya.

Mr. GRAHAM. I thank the Senator from Arizona.

What I would like the body to recognize is that our Presiding Officer, who just left, Senator COTTON, was an infantry officer in Iraq, and I can't imagine how he must feel. Our current Presiding Officer is a reservist in the Marine Corps who has served in harm's way in battlefield areas, and he was a commander in the Marine Corps. It is great to have people in the Senate who have worn the uniform and they understand what is at stake here.

Senator MCCAIN and I have tried to be consistent, if nothing else, about this situation. Here is the first question America has to answer: Is this someone else's war? I have heard very prominent commentators on cable television say: I am tired of fighting other people's wars.

Does ISIL represent a threat to our homeland? I think it does. And more importantly, they indicate they mean to hit us here. The head of ISIL, the Islamic State and the Levant is what I want to call it, served time in a military prison in Camp Bucca in Iraq, where I did some reserve duty, and when he was released from the camp and turned over to the Iraqis he told the colonel in charge of his release: I will see you in New York.

They are recruiting foreign fighters coming in by the thousands. They hold passports that would allow them to go to Europe and come back to our country, and their goal is not only to purify their religion, to kill or convert every

Christian they find, but also to attack us.

So to those who say this is not our fight, I think you are making a huge mistake, as we did before 9/11.

Regional forces have to be part of the mix. The goal to degrade and destroy ISIL is the right goal. The strategy will fail as currently being considered unless we visit this issue.

As Senator MCCAIN said, what you see on this map is not an accident. It is a predictable outcome of three things. The President's decision in 2011 not to leave a residual force behind in Iraq to secure our gains has come back to haunt us. The military command infrastructure of this country advised a minimum of 10,000 troops to be left behind as a residual force.

I visited Baghdad, along with Senators MCCAIN and Lieberman, to try to persuade the Iraqi political leadership to enter into an agreement to allow us to have a residual force. Prime Minister Maliki said: I am willing to do it if the other groups in Iraq are willing to do it. They were all willing to do it. He asked me: How many troops are you talking about? I turned to our ambassador and our commander at the time, and they tell him and me: We are still working on that.

Press reports simultaneously were suggesting the White House, led by the Vice President, by the way, was driving the residual force to below 3,000—a number incapable of making a difference.

So when the President of the United States says he was willing to leave a residual force behind, that is not accurate. In a debate with Governor Romney, Governor Romney suggested he would support a residual force of 10,000, as President Obama was contemplating, and President Obama interrupted him and said: No, I am not contemplating that.

He held our departure in Iraq as the fulfillment of a campaign promise. He said: We can leave with our heads held high. We have accomplished our task.

Here is what I said on April 3, 2011:

If we're not smart enough to work with the Iraqis to have 10,000 to 15,000 American troops in Iraq in 2012, Iraq could go to hell. I'm urging the Obama administration to work with the Maliki administration in Iraq to make sure we have enough troops—10,000 to 15,000—beginning in 2012 to secure the gains we have achieved. This is a defining moment in the future of Iraq, and in my view they are going down the wrong road in Iraq.

I am referring there to the Obama administration when I say "they are going down the wrong road."

No voice was louder than that of Senator MCCAIN. Senator MCCAIN advocated, above all others, the surge when Iraq was slipping away under the Bush administration. When Senator MCCAIN told President Bush his strategy was not working, President Bush, to his great credit, adjusted his strategy.

Senator MCCAIN, 3 years ago, was the leading voice in this country to argue

for a no-fly zone in Syria so that Assad, who was on the ropes, could be taken down, and to train a Free Syrian Army at a time when it really would have mattered. The President ignored the advice not only of Senator MCCAIN and myself but his entire national security team.

So the President got the answer he wanted in Iraq. He pulled the plug on troops. And what we hoped wouldn't happen did happen. When he said no to a no-fly zone and the training of a Free Syrian Army, the vacuum that had been created in Syria was filled by ISIL. ISIL is a direct result of Al Qaeda in Iraq, which was on its knees in 2010, being able to come back because we withdrew troops and we allowed a safe haven to be formed in Syria.

So, President Obama, this map is the result of bad policy choices on your part, and you are doubling down on bad policy choices.

The third thing that was a huge mistake is drawing a redline when Assad used chemical weapons against his own people and virtually doing nothing about it. I am glad the chemical weapons have been taken out of Syria—at least we think all of them have been taken out—but 220,000 Syrians have been killed with initial forces by Assad, and Assad is stronger than ever. He is nowhere near going or leaving.

Between Assad and ISIL, they represent the dominant military force inside Syria. Syria is truly hell on Earth, and all of this is going to come back to haunt us here at home.

So the reason we are here on the floor today is to learn from the past. I have made mistakes. Everybody has made mistakes. But the key is to adjust when you make mistakes. The strategy President Obama is employing to degrade and destroy ISIL will fail, and let me tell you why.

If you could liberate Mosul with the Iraqi security forces and the Kurds, we are going to need more than 3,000 U.S. forces to accomplish that task, because they do not have the capability that our military possesses to ensure victory.

Once you liberate Mosul, you have to hold and build Mosul. Anbar Province has yet to be liberated. We have to convince the Sunni tribal leaders in Anbar to disassociate with ISIL and join us, and they are not going to do that unless we are part of a team on the ground. They don't trust the Iraqi security forces that are mainly Shia. So unless we get more capacity on the ground to ensure success, we will fail in Iraq. But Syria is the weak link in the chain.

Mr. MCCAIN. Before my colleague leaves Iraq, is it not true that the only real fighting being done now is the Peshmerga Kurds but also the Shia militia, who are inflicting human rights violations on the Sunni, and the same people we fought against during the

surge that my colleague talked about before, which is Iranian backed and Iranian trained?

Mr. GRAHAM. Right. The Iraqi security forces have crumbled. The most dominant power on the ground is the Shia militia, backed by Iran and the Kurds in the north. And by the way, the aid we are providing to the Kurds never gets up to Erbil, and we need to fix that.

Iran has inordinate influence in Baghdad. So to get the Sunni tribes to pull off of ISIL, they have to believe that Baghdad is going to be a better venue for them in terms of their political grievances, but they also need to see Americans on the ground to make sure this thing will work. They are not going to pull off ISIL unless we are there. They do not trust the Iraqi security forces.

As to Syria, Syria is the biggest problem of all. That is where most of ISIL resides. That is where their leadership resides. That is where they have the largest number of fighters. There is no ground game in Syria. There is no Kurdish presence that has the capability to dislodge ISIL. The Free Syrian Army are being killed as fast as we can train them.

Here is the flaw. The goal is to train the Free Syrian Army's young men throughout the region and send them into Syria to destroy ISIL. The problem with that is the moment we send them into Syria to defeat ISIL, Assad will attack them because he knows one day they will turn on him.

So we have asked the question, under the authorization to use military force that is being sent over from the White House, could we stop an air attack by Assad's forces so they will not kill the people we train to fight ISIL, and they said no.

So we are training people to go into Syria to fight ISIL who will be slaughtered by Assad if we do not have the ability under this authorization to protect the people we train. Senator MCCAIN said this over and over again. That is immoral and militarily unsound. There is no strategy indeed to deal with Syria that has any chance of success. And if we don't get Syria right, we can't hold the gains we make in Iraq.

So the President, after all these years, with 220,000 people being killed, having the largest terrorist army in the history of terrorism occupying a space the size of Indiana, with 30,000 to 50,000 fighters, depending on who you believe, still hasn't come to grips with a strategy that will protect this nation. He doesn't understand the mistakes he has been making for the last 3 or 4 years. He is not self-correcting. He is perpetuating what I think is a military fraud.

The longer it takes to destroy ISIL, the more exposed we are here. And at the end of the day, the Iranians are

sizing us up and they see us as a paper tiger.

The last thing I would say about Ukraine is that Russia has invaded Ukraine. When they say they have no weapons inside Ukraine, when they say they have no troops, they are liars.

Russia has dismembered their neighbor, Ukraine. We in the Western world have sat on the sidelines and watched this happen. They have trampled all over the Budapest memorandum, where we persuaded Ukrainians to give up their nuclear weapons in the late 1990s and we would guarantee their sovereignty. When they need us to provide defensive weapons, we are absolutely absent at their time of dire need. The Iranians are watching our response to Putin. How could they feel we are serious about stopping their nuclear program when we seem not to be serious about anything else?

The reason we will not be more aggressive in Syria is because President Obama doesn't want to deal with Assad, who is a puppet of Iran. He doesn't want to jeopardize the negotiations we have ongoing with the Iranians regarding their nuclear ambitions. His desire to get a deal with Iran is preventing us from degrading and destroying ISIL, and we will pay a heavy price for these mistakes.

How would my colleague sum up where we are?

Mr. MCCAIN. Could I just mention to my colleague—and it has been made perhaps larger than it should have been, with all of the crises and the tragedies that are transpiring, but the President of the United States refuses to refer to this as radical Islam. Why that is is hard to understand because it is clearly radical Islam. It is a perversion of an honorable religion, but everything they are doing is based on their perverted interpretation of the Koran. They are Islamic. While we respect the religion and we respect the people, we don't respect radical Islam and we have to recognize it for what it is.

Let me read this, from February 24:

Scores of Syrian Christians Kidnapped by Islamic State—Islamic State militants swept into several of Assyrian Christian villages in northeastern Syria in recent days, taking scores of hostages, including both civilians and fighters, according to numerous interviews with residents. . . . The attacks have displaced hundreds of families and sharpened Middle Eastern Christians' fears of the Islamic State.

Which the President of the United States refuses to recognize as radical Islam. When you don't even recognize it or identify it for what it is, how in the world are you going to be able to combat it?

Finally, I would say to my friend one more time, if he would respond, that the Ukrainians wanted to defend themselves. One of the richest and proudest aspects of American history is that we have helped people who are struggling

for freedom, whether it be in Afghanistan after Russia's invasion or others. And others have helped us, going all the way back to our Revolution when the French and Polish and others came in and helped us. How can we rationalize our failure to give them weapons to defend themselves by saying: Well, they can't beat the Russians anyway.

Why don't we listen to their pleas for help? Why don't we listen to their cries? Why don't we listen to the fact they have lost 5,000; that right now the most sophisticated weaponry the Russians provided these "separatists" is being used to slaughter them?

To me it is the most unbelievable view, that somehow we don't want to provoke Vladimir Putin, who has taken Crimea—they have written that off—shot down an airplane, at least with Russian equipment; moved and dislocated eastern Ukraine; and has caused an economic crisis. And we don't want to provoke Vladimir Putin? It is staggering.

Mr. GRAHAM. In conclusion, in 1998 we were a signatory to Budapest memorandum that asked the Ukrainian people to give up over 2,000 nuclear weapons housed on their soil in return for a guarantee of their sovereignty.

Mr. MCCAIN. That included the State of Crimea as part of the territorial integrity of Ukraine.

Mr. GRAHAM. Exactly. The Russians were a signatory to that Budapest memorandum.

Clearly, the Russians have stepped all over it, and we are not doing anything. So in the future, would you give up your nuclear weapons relying on a promise by the United States?

This is important because we want to deter Iran from trying to get a nuclear weapon. I think this emboldens them to get a nuclear weapon.

As to radical Islam, it is hard to defeat an enemy if you don't understand what motivates them.

The Nazis did not want just the German-speaking regions surrounding Germany. It wasn't about the Sudetenland. It wasn't about the Rheinland. It wasn't about the issues Hitler claimed at the time. He wrote a book telling us what he wanted to do. People should have read the book. It was about creating a master race to govern other races. The Aryan race would be the dominant race on the planet—with some people not worthy of living, such as the Jews, and others would be slaves.

When we listen to what ISIL is saying and what motivates them, they want a master religion for the world, not a master race. If you are a Christian, you can pay a tax and convert or die. If you are a Muslim outside of their view of the faith, you just die. If you are an agnostic, you die. If you are a libertarian, you die. If you are an American—Republican or Democrat; they could care less—you die.

They are taught by their interpretation of the Koran literally to kill all that stands in their way of the caliphate. We can close Gitmo tomorrow. We could throw the Palestinians under the bus or give the Palestinians everything they want and throw Israel under the bus. It wouldn't matter.

We didn't bring this war on ourselves. These people are motivated by religious doctrine not widely accepted in the faith. But that doctrine requires them to kill everything in their path and to turn the world into a religion where they dominate, and there is no alternative to their religion.

That may sound crazy to you. It sounds a little crazy to me. Hitler is crazy to me. I can't explain why somebody wants to kill all the Jews. I can't explain why somebody believes that one race should rule the world and everybody else be under their boot. I can't explain what makes these people tick. I can only tell you what they do and why they do it. There is no appeasement with radical Islam, any more than there would be an appeasement with Hitler. We tried that in the 1930s, and 50 million people got killed.

So here is our choice: Face the enemy as it is, degrade and destroy in a way that will work; or accept the fact that they are coming here, not to conquer America—that is not going to happen—but to hit us hard and break our will so they can have that part of the world for which they have been longing for over 1,000 years.

Here is what I would say to America. Every time we have chosen to sit on the sidelines and watch other people suffer and did nothing about it, it wound up hurting us too. If you think we can live in a world where Christians over there are being raped, tortured, and crucified, and it won't affect Christians here, you are kidding yourself. If you think you can allow a force this evil to go unchecked because it is over there and it won't affect us here, you are making the mistake of a lifetime.

My biggest fear is that radical Islam—which is exactly what it is—will get a weapon of mass destruction one day and do a lot of harm to us here. Every day that goes by over there, that they get stronger, the more exposed we are here.

Finally, on 9/11, 3,000 Americans died only because they didn't have the ability to kill more. If they could have killed 3 million of us, they would have. Every day we let this problem grow unchecked they are closer to having the technology to kill millions of people here and elsewhere. So the sooner we deal with this, the safer we will be.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the article titled "Credibility Gap" from the Washington Post and also the International New York Times article "Scores of Syrian Christians Kidnapped by Islamic State" be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the International New York Times, Feb. 24, 2015]

SCORES OF SYRIAN CHRISTIANS KIDNAPPED BY ISLAMIC STATE
(By Anne Barnard)

ISTANBUL.—Islamic State militants swept into several Assyrian Christian villages in northeastern Syria in recent days, taking scores of hostages, including both civilians and fighters, according to numerous interviews with residents and representatives of the many factions fighting in the area.

The attacks have displaced hundreds of families and sharpened Middle Eastern Christians' fears of the Islamic State, which considers non-Muslims, along with many Muslims who disagree with its tenets, infidels.

The extremist group displaced entire Christian communities from northern Iraq when it swept through Mosul and the surrounding area last year.

The new attacks came as some Christians in northeastern Syria, seeking to avoid the fate of northern Iraq's Christians and other minority sects like the Yazidis that were singled out by the Islamic State, had taken a more assertive role, fighting alongside Kurdish and other militias.

The latest fighting took place in a string of villages along the Khabur River, a tributary of the Euphrates. The central village, Tel Tamer, is a strategic crossroads, with a bridge over the river that connects northeastern Syria with the country's northern hub, Aleppo; residents reported that Islamic State militants bombed the bridge on Tuesday.

The area has long been controlled by Kurdish militias but has lately come under attack from the Islamic State, also known as ISIS or ISIL.

In recent weeks, villages have changed hands several times as the Kurdish groups, some Arab Muslim factions and a Christian group called the Syriac Military Council have joined forces against the Islamic State.

In the chaos Tuesday, the exact number of hostages seized remained unclear, with estimates ranging from several dozen to more than 100. Nuri Kino, an Assyrian-Swedish activist with family ties to northeastern Syria, said that Islamic State fighters were holding about 60 women and children in the village of Tel Shamiran, and that they had taken 90 men up into a mountainous area they control, perhaps seeking to exchange them for Islamic State prisoners.

Mr. Kino, who founded A Demand for Action, a group that advocates for religious minorities in Iraq and Syria, said he had gleaned the information by talking to residents over Skype from Los Angeles.

Dawoud Dawoud, the deputy president of the Assyrian Democratic Party in the area, reached in Hasaka, said that the villages had long been largely left alone, but that in early February, Islamic State fighters had demanded that crosses be removed from churches.

The jihadists raided the village of Tel Hermez, driving away a local group, the Guardians of Khabur, that had protected churches there, said Omar Abd al-Aziz, a local antigovernment activist who uses a nom de guerre for his safety. Called to help, Kurdish militias entered the town with fighters from the Syriac Military Council, who filmed themselves retaking the area and leading away bound men they said were Islamic State members.

Now, the Islamic State appears to be retaliating with even greater numbers and heavy weapons.

"It's the new Kobani," said Mr. Kino, referring to the Kurdish enclave bordering Turkey whose encirclement by the Islamic State prompted American-led airstrikes that helped drive the group back. He called for United States intervention to prevent massacres and displacements.

The threats to minority enclaves, as in Kobani and the attacks on Yazidis in Iraq's Sinjar mountains last summer, have galvanized international action when other fighting did not.

Another activist in the area, who gave only his first name, Siraj, because of concern for his safety, accused the Kurds of leaving the Assyrians vulnerable in order to provoke a Kobani-like international reaction.

But Nawaf al-Khalil, a spokesman for the Kurdish Democratic Union, a political party, tried to find a bright side, saying the events were "a good sign of stronger ties between the Kurds, the Arabs and the Christians" against the Islamic State.

[From the Washington Post, Feb. 22, 2015]

A CREDIBILITY GAP
(By Fred Hiatt)

If his negotiators strike an agreement next month, we already know that it will be far from ideal: Rather than eradicating Iran's nuclear-weapons potential, as once was hoped, a pact would seek to control Iran's activities for some limited number of years.

Such a deal might be defensible on the grounds that it is better than any alternative, given that most experts believe a military "solution" would be at best temporary and possibly counterproductive.

But making that kind of lesser-evil defense would be challenging in any circumstances. Three conditions will make it particularly hard for Obama to persuade Congress and the nation to accept his assurances in this case: the suspicious, poisonous partisanship of the moment here, with Israeli politics mixed in; worries that he wants a deal too much; and the record of his past assurances.

The partisanship needs no explanation, but the record of foreign-policy assurances is worth recalling:

In 2011, when he decided to pull all U.S. troops out of Iraq, Obama belittled worries that instability might result. Iraq and the United States would maintain "a strong and enduring partnership," Obama said. Iraq would be "stable, secure and self-reliant," and Iraqis would build a future "worthy of their history as a cradle of civilization."

Today Iraq is in deep trouble, with a murderous "caliphate" occupying much of its territory and predatory Shiite militia roaming through much of the rest.

That same year, Obama touted his bombing campaign in Libya as a model of U.S. intervention and promised, "That's not to say that our work is complete. In addition to our NATO responsibilities, we will work with the international community to provide assistance to the people of Libya."

The United States and its NATO allies promptly abandoned Libya, which today is in the grip of civil war, with rival governments in the east and west and Islamist terrorists in between.

Obama also said then, "Some nations may be able to turn a blind eye to atrocities in other countries. The United States of America is different. And as president, I refused to wait for the images of slaughter and mass graves before taking action."

That was before Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad's barrel bombs, systematic and well-

documented prison torture and other deprivations of civil war killed 200,000 of his compatriots, and drove millions more from their homes.

In August 2011, Obama declared that Assad must “step aside.” In a background briefing a senior White House official added, “We are certain Assad is on the way out.” In August 2013 came Obama’s statement that “the worst chemical attack of the 21st century . . . must be confronted. . . . I have decided that the United States should take military action against Syrian regime targets.”

No military action was taken, and Assad remains in power.

In September, the president said his strategy for defeating the Islamic State “is one that we have successfully pursued in Yemen and Somalia for years.” Shortly thereafter, an Iran-backed rebellion deposed Yemen’s pro-U.S. government, forcing the United States to abandon its embassy and much of its anti-terror operation.

Just last month, in the State of the Union address, Obama presented his Ukraine policy as a triumph of “American strength and diplomacy.”

“We’re upholding the principle that bigger nations can’t bully the small by opposing Russian aggression and supporting Ukraine’s democracy,” he said.

Since then Russian forces have extended their incursion into Ukraine, now controlling nearly one-fifth of its territory. Russia’s economy is hurting, but Ukraine’s is in far worse shape.

This litany of unfulfilled assurances is less a case of Nixonian deception than a product of wishful thinking and stubborn adherence to policies after they have failed. But inevitably it will affect how people hear Obama’s promises on Iran, as will his overall foreign policy record.

That record includes successes, such as the killing of Osama bin Laden, warming ties with India and a potentially groundbreaking agreement with China on climate change. By most measures, though, the world has not become safer during Obama’s tenure. Islamist extremists are stronger than ever; democracy is in retreat around the globe; relations with Russia and North Korea have worsened; allies are questioning U.S. steadfastness.

Openings as well as problems can appear unexpectedly in foreign affairs, but the coming two years offer only two obvious opportunities for Obama to burnish this legacy: trade deals with Europe and with Pacific nations, and a nuclear agreement with Iran. That limited field fuels worries that administration negotiators will accept the kind of deal that results from wanting it too badly.

Whatever its contours, Obama would be making a big mistake to try to implement such a momentous pact, as administration officials have suggested he might, without congressional buy-in. But it’s not surprising that he would be tempted to try.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I appreciate the patience of my friend and colleague from the State of Texas.

It is with a heavy heart that we see the events transpiring according to this chart.

It is with a heavy heart that we see our friends in Ukraine, who only want to be like us, being slaughtered, and we are refusing to assist them. I have assured them that I will never give up—ever—until we see a free, prosperous, democratic Ukraine which is part of the community of nations, which we

would admire, and in which we include them.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, when given the opportunity four times over the last few weeks to fully fund the Department of Homeland Security, while at the same time rolling back the President’s unconstitutional Executive action on immigration, four times our Senate Democratic friends have filibustered this funding. At the same time, they have been pointing to this side of the aisle and saying: If there is a shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security, you are at fault. It is hypocrisy, to say the least.

But of all the Democrats who voted to filibuster the funding of the Department of Homeland Security—which, again, expires at midnight on this Friday night—there are 11 of our Senate Democratic colleagues who come from States which are parties to a lawsuit in Brownsville, TX, where the Federal judge issued a temporary injunction just last week saying that what the President did in his Executive action was illegal—illegal.

So how our colleagues on the other side of the aisle can filibuster the Department of Homeland Security funding because they say it includes a disapproval of the President’s action at the same time the States they represent are parties to a lawsuit complaining about the illegality of the President’s actions—how they can reconcile that is beyond me. Perhaps they can come to the floor and talk about that. But I think they should be asked that question, and I would be very interested in their answer.

Of course, as we all know, now the Obama administration—after the Federal judge agreed with what the President said 22 different times, that he didn’t have the authority to do what he did—and, obviously, he changed his mind. But after the Federal judge agreed with what he said the first 22 times, that he didn’t have the authority, now they have asked for a stay of that temporary injunction.

If the reports in the press are correct, Judge Hanen in Brownsville, in the Southern District of Texas, has given the States, the plaintiffs in the lawsuit, until March 2 to respond to this request for emergency stay.

One by one, the folks who criticized what the President was doing in one fashion or another came to the floor and have voted in effect to affirm what he did. As I said yesterday, in justifying these votes we heard a common refrain from several of our Democratic colleagues, including some of those 11 whose States have joined the lawsuit against the President’s Executive action. They have said to us: We don’t necessarily agree with the President’s action, but you shouldn’t attach that

to an appropriations bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security.

Similarly, from Senate Democratic leadership came the demands for a “clean bill”—a clean funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security—without these provisions addressing the Executive action attached.

Just 2 days ago here on the floor, the Democratic leader himself called for the Senate to vote on such a bill. A press release issued from Senator REID’s office was unequivocal: “REID Remarks Calling On Senate GOP To Avoid A Shutdown By Passing A Clean DHS Funding Bill.”

Monday wasn’t the first time we heard this from Democratic leadership. We heard it over and over and over, as the Democrats, in lockstep, filibustered the Department of Homeland Security funding bill.

So imagine my surprise when Senator MCCONNELL, the Senate majority leader, offered to consider two bills, one that would address the President’s Executive action from last November—the Collins bill—and a separate one that would fully fund the Department of Homeland Security.

You would, I guess, if logic prevailed in this place, expect that the Democratic leader would embrace that wholeheartedly, instantaneously, saying: That is exactly what we have been demanding, and now we have been offered it. We will take it.

Well, that didn’t happen. This place can be very confusing sometimes, and you would be wrong if you thought the Democratic leader embraced what he had been demanding for the last few weeks. So after spending weeks demanding a clean funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security, including as recently as Monday, 24 hours have passed and the Democratic leader has still refused to agree to hold a vote on a so-called clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill.

Let me just repeat that so I am absolutely clear. The Democratic leader has so far refused to agree to vote on a clean funding bill for the Department, even after he called on Senate Republicans to pass exactly that as recently as Monday.

So I don’t know how to sugar coat it. Call it a flip-flop, call it disingenuous. I don’t know what to call it. But when you are offered exactly what you have been demanding and you don’t accept it, it tells me you are not particularly serious about wanting to solve the problem. It is this kind of doubletalk which I think causes the Senate to be held in low regard by the American people, where they think that what you say doesn’t necessarily translate into action. It is becoming abundantly clear that our friends across the aisle do not seem to have gotten the message from the last election on November 4.

I mentioned this yesterday, and I will repeat it, with reference to some of the

gamesmanship that appears to be going on here, at the time when the clock is ticking and the Department of Homeland Security funding runs out at midnight on Friday. Recently, the senior Senator from New York told the *Huffington Post* that “it’s really fun to be in the Senate Minority,” as if creating obstacles, slowing things down, and impeding progress toward a goal that we all hold in common—funding the Department of Homeland Security—is somehow having fun. But filibustering critical funding for the men and women that protect us every day and protect the homeland is not what I call fun.

At the end of the day, the Senate will make sure that those who protect our borders, our ports, and our skies get paid. That is what the American people voted for last November. They were sick and tired. If I heard it once, I heard it 100 times: We are sick and tired of the dysfunction in Washington, DC, and that is why we are voting for a change.

That is why we have nine new colleagues in the Senate—to break that logjam of dysfunction.

So I would implore the Democratic leader to heed his own call for a clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill and to quit playing games. Quit playing games with the lives of the people who work at the Department of Homeland Security. Quit playing games with the American people, whose security is on the line if for some reason the ability of the Department to perform its important functions is disrupted because of the lack of funding. Quit playing games with the funding that pays the salaries of the men and women who protect our ports, who protect our airports, and who protect our border from transnational drug cartels.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, everyone agrees that our immigration system is broken. The immigration system we have now hurts our economy, and it hurts our national security. The Senate passed a bipartisan immigration bill; the House of Representatives chose not to act. Again, the Senate passed a comprehensive immigration bill. That is why I supported the Executive action by President Obama to address our immediate immigration crisis. We cannot wait for the House of Representatives’ Republicans to act, and that is because immigration is one of our country’s greatest strengths. Immigrants are a vital part of the fab-

ric of Massachusetts and of our country. They start businesses, they create jobs, and they contribute to our communities.

The President’s Executive order recognizes the value of immigrants to our country. President Obama’s Executive order will bring millions of law-abiding immigrants out of the shadows and help to keep those families together. The order allows law enforcement to focus its resources where they belong: reinforcing security at our borders and prosecuting and deporting dangerous criminals who pose threats to public safety. This Executive action cannot and should not be viewed as the final word on the matter of immigration reform. It is the beginning of an effort to permanently fix our broken immigration system.

What unites us in Massachusetts and all across America is the unshakable belief that no matter where you come from, no matter what your circumstances, you can achieve the American dream. The immigration system we have now doesn’t reflect those values.

Unfortunately, instead of working to fix the problems with our immigration system, the majority of the Senate has been manufacturing a government shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security, even as our Nation faces real threats to our safety and to our national security if we don’t fully fund the Department of Homeland Security. The majority seems more interested in undermining President Obama’s border policy than funding actual border protection in our country.

Let’s look at what could happen if Homeland Security funding lapses.

No. 1, FEMA efforts. FEMA is a part of the Department of Homeland Security. FEMA efforts in Massachusetts to develop a preliminary damage assessment for disaster relief funding may be interrupted.

The people in my home State of Massachusetts are suffering from the second snowiest winter in our history. We have endured more than 8 feet of snow. Those snow piles are climbing even higher. Seawalls that protect our shores are crumbling. Roofs are collapsing. Homes are being destroyed. Small businesses are shuttered while owners struggle to make ends meet. Cities and towns across the Commonwealth have overspent their budgets by tens of millions of dollars responding to one snowstorm after another.

But instead of the relief that should come with the assurance that FEMA assistance is on the way, the people of Massachusetts have to worry that this Republican-manufactured government shutdown threat is jeopardizing this critical assistance. The last thing the people of Massachusetts should have to worry about is whether their disaster assistance will be delayed by the politics of immigration reform. This is ab-

solutely outrageous. Massachusetts needs the disaster relief today.

No. 2, an estimated 30,000 Homeland Security employees would have to be furloughed, including those who process Federal grants for local police, fire, and other first responders. Firefighters might not get the best oxygen masks. Bomb squads might not get the right equipment they need. These are hard-working people who help protect our Nation and help our first responders do their jobs.

No. 3, a Department of Homeland Security shutdown would compromise our national security by stopping command and control activities at Department of Homeland Security headquarters, disrupting important programs such as detecting weapons of mass destruction. Homeland Security employees remaining on the job will not get paid, and those who are furloughed will be left to wonder whether they will ever be paid for the work they missed. This uncertainty hurts morale and puts families in financial jeopardy.

It is time for Republicans to end this brinkmanship and help pass a clean Homeland Security budget free of unrelated policy riders. Then we should get to work on comprehensive immigration reform. The immigration system we have now doesn’t reflect our time-honored values as a melting pot of diversity and innovation. It hurts our economy and national security. In short, our immigration system is broken.

But for millions of immigrants who are living in the shadows, who are working every day to support their families, who have been brought up here from a young age, who are serving our country in the military or pursuing the dream of higher education—these people deserve a path that allows them to earn citizenship. That is why we need to work together on comprehensive immigration reform. It will give more families and individuals a real shot at the American dream. It will encourage immigrants who are educated here to innovate here.

This is an important debate, and we should have it, and we should not have it at the expense of the safety and the security of our Nation.

I call on my Republican colleagues to bring forward a clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill, free of unrelated policy riders dealing with immigration. Let’s give the people of our country the confidence that the Department of Homeland Security is going to protect against al-Shabaab launching a successful attack against the Mall of America, that a terrorist group cannot now be put together, thinking, perhaps erroneously, that the Department of Homeland Security has taken its eye off the ball while worrying about the funding levels that are necessary in order to secure our country.

I lived through this in Boston. Mohamed Atta and the other nine who hijacked the two planes on September 11, 2001, thought they could find an opening—and they did—in our airline security. In 2013 the Tsarnaev brothers thought they could find a hole in our security, and they attacked again in Boston.

We should not have any question raised about the Department of Homeland Security being on the job protecting our citizens and providing the security our country needs. That is where we are right now, and the Republicans are holding up the funding of this vital agency under the misguided notion that they are going to be able to write the entire comprehensive immigration bill inside a Department of Homeland Security budget. It is not going to happen. Everyone in this country knows it is not going to happen. The Republicans are playing a dangerous game with the security of our country.

I ask all who make the decisions in the Republican Party to please tell their most radical Members that the Department of Homeland Security must be funded. It must be funded this week. We must not only pay those who work for us, but we should thank them every day for the security they provide to our country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I would say to the Senator from Massachusetts, Amen. We can't play around with our national security by holding somebody's legislative ideal as a means of holding up the national security and holding the national security of this country hostage.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND PRIVACY RIGHTS

Mr. President, I came to talk about another issue. In the first part of the week, the Washington Post had an article that followed a series of articles in other newspapers, such as the Wall Street Journal and the New York Times, about a device that was given certification by the Federal Communications Commission called a stingray.

This device, when used properly by law enforcement—specifically, the FBI—not only can locate and absorb the content of communications over cell phones but can also locate the specific location of that cell phone. It does so by making the cell phone think that it, the device, is the cell phone tower. So instead of the cell phone radio waves going to the normal cell phone tower, they would come to this device called a stingray. If used properly, it can be used to go after the bad guys—terrorists and criminals. Of course, that is one of the reasons this device was created and certified by the Federal Communications Commission.

Part of the protections, as used by the FBI and local law enforcement, to

get content is to treat it as if they were going to break into somebody's home to get evidence. Our constitutional protections regarding the right of privacy require that the law enforcement agency go to a judge—an impartial part of the judicial branch—in order to get a court order to show probable cause that a crime has been committed and therefore the constitutional right of privacy is trumped, and with this court order, law enforcement can go in and get the evidence.

Well, as technology continues to evolve and explode, of course, questions about our constitutional right of privacy get a lot more difficult, and so now law enforcement wants to pinpoint the location of a cellphone so they can go in and grab that person. Again, it would seem that the constitutional right of privacy needs to have the protection of a judge's order, and it is this Senator's belief that the FBI, when employing this type of device, would, in fact, use those constitutional protections.

Different news articles have raised questions about how this device is handled once it is turned over to local law enforcement and whether they are being adequately trained on judicial protections, and indeed, are they employing those protections. The news articles, as evidenced by the Washington Post this past Monday, would indicate that those judicial protections are not being employed.

So this Senator, as one of the co-leaders of the commerce committee, along with the chairman of the committee, JOHN THUNE, has written to the FCC and asked them what information they have about the rationale behind the restrictions placed on the certification of the stingray—the device that was certified by the FCC—and whether those similar restrictions have been put in place for other devices. As technology continues to improve, we are going to see a lot more of these types of devices.

We need to know whether the FCC has inquired about the oversight that may be in place in order to ensure that the use of the devices complies with the manufacturer's representations to the FCC at the time of the certification. We are asking for a status report of the task force that was previously formed so we can look at these questions surrounding the use of the stingray.

This is not the last time we are going to be asking these questions—not necessarily about this device, the stingray. There is a multiplicity of devices that are coming out on the market, and the question is: What about our privacy? Of course we are reminded about this issue every day because every day we read about another data breach in the newspaper.

I have filed legislation with regard to data breaches to ensure that at least

the company has the obligation to notify the poor customers that their data is suddenly out there in the Internet ether because of that data breach. A lot of these questions are going to continue to be asked.

What about the device called the Pineapple? I had no idea this device existed. Here is what it does: If I go into a Starbucks and use their wireless Internet, someone could be sitting outside of that Starbucks in their car, or at one of the outside tables, with this device called a Pineapple, and instead of my wireless device using Starbucks' Internet system, it is on that Pineapple device and all of my communications are going directly to that person, and that person is able to steal all of my private information. That is a major theft. This is scary. Yet that device has been around for several years.

We have major privacy questions. The Presiding Officer, who is a member of the commerce committee, knows that we are going to be grappling with these issues, along with other committees, such as judiciary, on the right to privacy.

In the meantime, we have raised these issues with the FCC on this most recent detailed expose about this device called the stingray. If it is employed for our national security and our personal safety, which is the job of the government, then it is a good thing; however, if it is employed for other reasons, such as invading our constitutional right of privacy, that is another thing.

It is time for us to stand up for the individual citizens in this country and their right to privacy.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Missouri.

PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE ORDER

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, last week I was glad to see that a Federal judge in Texas issued a preliminary injunction against the President's Executive order on immigration. This ruling, if upheld—and I believe it will be—reaffirms that President Obama was right when he said at least 22 times that he didn't have the authority to take the action he now has taken on immigration.

In December of last year I joined in an amicus brief with Senator CRUZ and Senator CORNYN and, I believe, the attorneys general from 26 States—not the State of Missouri but 26 States. I was glad that my joining allowed Missouri to be represented in support of

this lawsuit brought by the State of Texas against President Obama's illegal decision to allow amnesty to be established. The brief states the Obama administration exceeded its constitutional authority and disrupted the delicate balance of power between the Congress, whose job it is to pass the law, and the President, whose job it is to carry out the law.

Executive means just that. The job of the Executive is to execute the law. It is not to pass the law. There is no constitutional provision anyone has been able to show me or that I have ever been able to find that says the Congress doesn't do something, the President can decide it needs to be done and the President just does it on his own. There is certainly no law that suggests the President can just willfully ignore the law.

The brief we joined asserts that the Obama administration exceeded the bounds of its so-called prosecutorial discretion. The idea that they can have some discretion about how vigorously they enforce certain laws is, both in this case and in the court ruling, held up to the standard it really should be allowed to meet. The idea that the President can say that there is too much law here to enforce and we can't afford to enforce the law—but then by not enforcing the law, it creates substantially more economic burden on the States and the Federal Government than enforcing the law would have created—by any standard makes no sense. This is not a determination that at some level there are just too many violations of some law that is not very significant that you could have some prosecutorial discretion. This is the law that impacts whether people can come into the country or not and whether they can stay in the country not being legally here.

The bill that Leader MCCONNELL introduced this week will put every Senator on record on this topic. I look forward to a chance to vote on that bill and to see my colleagues vote on this bill. Who will stand with the President's clear power grab on immigration, and who will stand by the rule of law? At least half a dozen Democrats and perhaps more have said they disagree with what the President did with this November action. A vote on Senator MCCONNELL's bill will give them a chance to show whether they really disagree or not. It is specific to the November action. It is specific to the action the Federal judge in Texas said puts undue burdens on the State and exceeded the President's authority.

As I have said a number of times, I would like to see our friends on the other side of the aisle be willing to debate this issue. I have also admitted a number of times that if I were them and if the President of the United States had said 22 times he couldn't do something, I would have some reluc-

tance—I suppose as they clearly do—to come to the floor and defend why now those 22 statements don't matter.

If the Democrats would simply allow the Senate to begin debating the bill, Members on both side of the aisle could offer amendments, and we could actually be doing the job we are expected to do as legislators. Unfortunately, they decided to repeatedly say: No, we don't want to debate this bill. No, we are not going to go forward. No, we are not going to let the normal process work. No, we are not going to deal with the bill sent over by the co-equal branch of the Congress, the House of Representatives. Hopefully, we will see what happens as this debate moves forward and the President's activities are held not only now to a standard of law but also to his own standard.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a list of the 22 times the President has said he didn't have the authority to do what he has now done.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

22 TIMES PRESIDENT OBAMA SAID HE COULDN'T IGNORE OR CREATE HIS OWN IMMIGRATION LAW

1. The biggest problems that we're facing right now have to do with [the president] trying to bring more and more power into the executive branch and not go through Congress at all. And that's what I intend to reverse when I'm President of the United States of America." (3/31/08)

2. "We've got a government designed by the Founders so that there'd be checks and balances. You don't want a president who's too powerful or a Congress that's too powerful or a court that's too powerful. Everybody's got their own role. Congress's job is to pass legislation. The president can veto it or he can sign it. . . . I believe in the Constitution and I will obey the Constitution of the United States. We're not going to use signing statements as a way of doing an end-run around Congress." (5/19/08)

3. "Comprehensive reform, that's how we're going to solve this problem. . . . Anybody who tells you it's going to be easy or that I can wave a magic wand and make it happen hasn't been paying attention to how this town works." (5/5/10)

4. "[T]here are those in the immigrants' rights community who have argued passionately that we should simply provide those who are [here] illegally with legal status, or at least ignore the laws on the books and put an end to deportation until we have better laws. . . . I believe such an indiscriminate approach would be both unwise and unfair. It would suggest to those thinking about coming here illegally that there will be no repercussions for such a decision. And this could lead to a surge in more illegal immigration. And it would also ignore the millions of people around the world who are waiting in line to come here legally. Ultimately, our nation, like all nations, has the right and obligation to control its borders and set laws for residency and citizenship. And no matter how decent they are, no matter their reasons, the 11 million who broke these laws should be held accountable." (7/1/10)

5. "I do have an obligation to make sure that I am following some of the rules. I can't

simply ignore laws that are out there. I've got to work to make sure that they are changed."

6. "I am president, I can't do these things just by myself. We have a system of government that requires the Congress to work with the Executive Branch to make it happen. I'm committed to making it happen, but I've got to have some partners to do it. . . . The main thing we have to do to stop deportations is to change the laws. . . . [T]he most important thing that we can do is to change the law because the way the system works—again, I just want to repeat, I'm president, I'm not king. If Congress has laws on the books that says that people who are here who are not documented have to be deported, then I can exercise some flexibility in terms of where we deploy our resources, to focus on people who are really causing problems as opposed to families who are just trying to work and support themselves. But there's a limit to the discretion that I can show because I am obliged to execute the law. That's what the Executive Branch means. I can't just make the laws up by myself. So the most important thing that we can do is focus on changing the underlying laws." (10/25/10)

7. "America is a nation of laws, which means I, as the President, am obligated to enforce the law. I don't have a choice about that. That's part of my job. But I can advocate for changes in the law so that we have a country that is both respectful of the law but also continues to be a great nation of immigrants. . . . With respect to the notion that I can just suspend deportations through executive order, that's just not the case, because there are laws on the books that Congress has passed. . . . [W]e've got three branches of government. Congress passes the law. The executive branch's job is to enforce and implement those laws. And then the judiciary has to interpret the laws. There are enough laws on the books by Congress that are very clear in terms of how we have to enforce our immigration system that for me to simply through executive order ignore those congressional mandates would not conform with my appropriate role as President." (3/28/11)

8. "I can't solve this problem by myself. . . . [W]e're going to have to have bipartisan support in order to make it happen. . . . I can't do it by myself. We're going to have to change the laws in Congress, but I'm confident we can make it happen." (4/20/11)

9. "I know some here wish that I could just bypass Congress and change the law myself. But that's not how democracy works. See, democracy is hard. But it's right. Changing our laws means doing the hard work of changing minds and changing votes, one by one." (4/29/11)

10. "Sometimes when I talk to immigration advocates, they wish I could just bypass Congress and change the law myself. But that's not how a democracy works. What we really need to do is to keep up the fight to pass genuine, comprehensive reform. That is the ultimate solution to this problem. That's what I'm committed to doing." (5/10/11)

11. "I swore an oath to uphold the laws on the books. . . . Now, I know some people want me to bypass Congress and change the laws on my own. Believe me, the idea of doing things on my own is very tempting. I promise you. Not just on immigration reform. But that's not how our system works. That's not how our democracy functions. That's not how our Constitution is written." (7/25/11)

12. "So what we've tried to do is within the constraints of the laws on the books, we've

tried to be as fair, humane, just as we can, recognizing, though, that the laws themselves need to be changed. . . . The most important thing for your viewers and listeners and readers to understand is that in order to change our laws, we've got to get it through the House of Representatives, which is currently controlled by Republicans, and we've got to get 60 votes in the Senate. . . . Administratively, we can't ignore the law. . . . I just have to continue to say this notion that somehow I can just change the laws unilaterally is just not true. We are doing everything we can administratively. But the fact of the matter is there are laws on the books that I have to enforce. And I think there's been a great disservice done to the cause of getting the DREAM Act passed and getting comprehensive immigration passed by perpetrating the notion that somehow, by myself, I can go and do these things. It's just not true. . . . We live in a democracy. You have to pass bills through the legislature, and then I can sign it. And if all the attention is focused away from the legislative process, then that is going to lead to a constant dead-end. We have to recognize how the system works, and then apply pressure to those places where votes can be gotten and, ultimately, we can get this thing solved." (9/28/11)

In June 2012, President Obama unilaterally granted deferred action for childhood arrivals (DACA), allowing "eligible individuals who do not present a risk to national security or public safety . . . to request temporary relief from deportation proceedings and apply for work authorization." He then argued that he had already done everything he could legally do on his own:

13. "Now, what I've always said is, as the head of the executive branch, there's a limit to what I can do. Part of the reason that deportations went up was Congress put a whole lot of money into it, and when you have a lot of resources and a lot more agents involved, then there are going to be higher numbers. What we've said is, let's make sure that you're not misdirecting those resources. But we're still going to, ultimately, have to change the laws in order to avoid some of the heartbreaking stories that you see coming up occasionally. And that's why this continues to be a top priority of mine. . . . And we will continue to make sure that how we enforce is done as fairly and justly as possible. But until we have a law in place that provides a pathway for legalization and/or citizenship for the folks in question, we're going to continue to be bound by the law. . . . And so part of the challenge as President is constantly saying, 'what authorities do I have?'" (9/20/12)

14. "We are a nation of immigrants. . . . But we're also a nation of laws. So what I've said is, we need to fix a broken immigration system. And I've done everything that I can on my own[.]" (10/16/12)

15. ". . . I am the head of the executive branch of government. I'm required to follow the law. And that's what we've done. But what I've also said is, let's make sure that we're applying the law in a way that takes into account people's humanity. That's the reason that we moved forward on deferred action. Within the confines of the law we said, we have some discretion in terms of how we apply this law." (1/30/13)

16. "I'm not a king. You know, my job as the head of the executive branch ultimately is to carry out the law. And, you know, when it comes to enforcement of our immigration laws, we've got some discretion. We can prioritize what we do. But we can't simply

ignore the law. When it comes to the dreamers, we were able to identify that group and say, 'These folks are generally not a risk. They're not involved in crime. . . . And so let's prioritize our enforcement resources.' But to sort through all the possible cases of everybody who might have a sympathetic story to tell is very difficult to do. This is why we need comprehensive immigration reform. To make sure that once and for all, in a way that is, you know, ratified by Congress, we can say that there is a pathway to citizenship for people who are staying out of trouble, who are trying to do the right thing, who've put down roots here. . . . My job is to carry out the law. And so Congress gives us a whole bunch of resources. They give us an order that we've got to go out there and enforce the laws that are on the books. . . . If this was an issue that I could do unilaterally I would have done it a long time ago. . . . The way our system works is Congress has to pass legislation. I then get an opportunity to sign it and implement it." (1/30/13)

17. "This is something I've struggled with throughout my presidency. The problem is that I'm the president of the United States. I'm not the emperor of the United States. My job is to execute laws that are passed. And Congress right now has not changed what I consider to be a broken immigration system. And what that means is that we have certain obligations to enforce the laws that are in place even if we think that in many cases the results may be tragic. . . . [W]e've kind of stretched our administrative flexibility as much as we can[.]" (2/14/13)

18. "I think that it is very important for us to recognize that the way to solve this problem has to be legislative. I can do some things and have done some things that make a difference in the lives of people by determining how our enforcement should focus. . . . And we've been able to provide help through deferred action for young people. . . . But this is a problem that needs to be fixed legislatively." (7/16/13)

19. "My job in the executive branch is supposed to be to carry out the laws that are passed. Congress has said 'here is the law' when it comes to those who are undocumented, and they've allocated a whole bunch of money for enforcement. And, what I have been able to do is to make a legal argument that I think is absolutely right, which is that given the resources that we have, we can't do everything that Congress has asked us to do. What we can do is then carve out the DREAM Act folks, saying young people who have basically grown up here are Americans that we should welcome. . . . But if we start broadening that, then essentially I would be ignoring the law in a way that I think would be very difficult to defend legally. So that's not an option. . . . What I've said is there is a there's a path to get this done, and that's through Congress." (9/17/13)

20. "[I]f, in fact, I could solve all these problems without passing laws in Congress, then I would do so. But we're also a nation of laws. That's part of our tradition. And so the easy way out is to try to yell and pretend like I can do something by violating our laws. And what I'm proposing is the harder path, which is to use our democratic processes to achieve the same goal that you want to achieve. . . . It is not simply a matter of us just saying we're going to violate the law. That's not our tradition. The great thing about this country is we have this wonderful process of democracy, and sometimes it is messy, and sometimes it is hard, but ultimately, justice and truth win out." (11/25/13)

21. "I am the Champion-in-Chief of comprehensive immigration reform. But what

I've said in the past remains true, which is until Congress passes a new law, then I am constrained in terms of what I am able to do. What I've done is to use my prosecutorial discretion, because you can't enforce the laws across the board for 11 or 12 million people, there aren't the resources there. What we've said is focus on folks who are engaged in criminal activity, focus on people who are engaged in gang activity. Do not focus on young people, who we're calling DREAMers. . . . That already stretched my administrative capacity very far. But I was confident that that was the right thing to do. But at a certain point the reason that these deportations are taking place is, Congress said, 'you have to enforce these laws.' They fund the hiring of officials at the department that's charged with enforcing. And I cannot ignore those laws any more than I could ignore, you know, any of the other laws that are on the books. That's why it's so important for us to get comprehensive immigration reform done this year." (3/6/14)

22. "I think that I never have a green light [to push the limits of executive power]. I'm bound by the Constitution; I'm bound by separation of powers. There are some things we can't do. Congress has the power of the purse, for example. . . . Congress has to pass a budget and authorize spending. So I don't have a green light. . . . My preference in all these instances is to work with Congress, because not only can Congress do more, but it's going to be longer-lasting." (8/6/14)

Mr. BLUNT. Let me mention a few of those, but I will submit all 22 for the RECORD. As early as March of 2008, the President said: I take the Constitution very seriously. The biggest problems that we are facing right now are things that don't go through Congress at all.

In November of 2010 the President said: I am the President, not a king. I can't do these things just by myself. I have to have partners to do it.

In January of 2013, the President, again, still believes he is not a king, because he says: I am not a king. He says that at two different events on that day. He says: We can't simply ignore the law.

The truth is, in November of 2014 the President does decide we can simply ignore the law. The 22 times the President said we couldn't ignore the law I agree with him. For those who believe I don't find enough opportunities to agree with the President, here are 22 times I agree with the President's view that he cannot do these kinds of things on his own and by himself.

On February 14, 2013—2 years ago—the President said: The problem is that I am the President of the United States.

I could actually quit right there and maybe that would say all I need to say, but of course he said:

The problem is that you know I'm the president of the United States. I'm not the emperor of the United States . . . we have certain obligations to enforce the laws that are in place.

It goes on. I get to that point, and I don't know quite how to explain—as I am sure the President doesn't know how to explain—what he has said and what he has now done.

On September 2013: "My job in the executive branch is supposed to be to carry out the laws that are passed," still in full agreement with what the President said his job is.

As late as August of this last year, the President said: There are some things we can't do. Congress has the power of the purse, for example. Congress has to pass a budget and authorize spending. So I don't have a green light.

He goes on to suggest to do whatever the President might like to do. That is basically what this debate is about right now. It is not about whether the Department of Homeland Security would continue to function. In fact, what I wish to see is the President engaged as the principal officer responsible for the administration of the government.

I think something like that is what President Kennedy said after the Bay of Pigs, when he said: I am responsible here because I am the principal officer responsible for the administration of the government.

The President created this problem. He created this funding problem for States, he created this funding problem for the Federal Government, and he created this problem of exceeding his authority as President of the United States. But the President, once again, is missing from the discussion of how to solve the problem.

That could very well be, as is often the case, the person who would know how to solve the problem is the person who created it. But we are not hearing anything from that person because clearly people at the White House believe it is to their temporary political advantage to act as though the people in the Congress don't want the government to function, rather than to act as though people in the Congress believe the President was right the 22 times he said he couldn't do what he has now done.

I have heard several of my colleagues in the last few days—in fact, even one or two this morning on early news shows—say: We need a way for Congress to settle these kinds of disputes outside of the appropriations process.

One way to do that would be to pass a law I filed in the last Congress that the House of Representatives passed in a bipartisan way—the Senate was not allowed to vote on it and I would like to see us vote on it in this Congress—which is the ENFORCE the Law Act, which simply does allow the Congress, if a majority of the Members of the House or Senate believes the President is not enforcing the law as written, to go to a judge and seek an early determination, rather than wait for some aggrieved citizen who disagrees with a rule or regulation to have to hire their own lawyer after the rule is in effect, and in the 2 years or so it might take to get that case to the Supreme Court,

other individuals impacted by the rule or regulation are trying to comply with it, only to find out later, as the Court ruled a handful of times during the recent years of this Presidency that, no, the President doesn't have the authority to do that.

They said: No, you don't have the authority to appoint people to the National Labor Relations Board when the Senate is in session just because you have decided somehow the Senate is not in session. You don't get to decide whether the Senate is in session, Mr. President, if they have met all the requirements to be in session. You particularly don't get to decide whether the Senate is in session if that same session of the Senate approves some things that you thought needed to be done and that was good enough for you.

Then they said: Mr. President, by the way, when you appoint these people illegally, whatever rules and regulations they put forward aren't legal either.

So the couple of years of businesses trying to comply with the National Labor Relations Act rules and regulations, all of that is to the wayside. Those rules are all gone, but that doesn't restore the time, effort, money, and needless compliance that happens when the President exceeds his authority or when the President's agencies, such as the Environmental Protection Agency, decide they could do something they would like to do without ever arguing before the Congress that we would like the authority to do this.

So passing the ENFORCE the Law Act would be a way to seek an earlier or quicker remedy. It does appear to me that the Federal judges are likely to decide pretty quickly—Federal judges, the court of appeals level and then the circuit level—that, no, Mr. President; you have gone beyond where you were in fact. You were right the first 22 times, not the November 2014 time that you decided if you don't like the law, you don't have to enforce the law.

I think we should move forward with that ability that the Congress currently doesn't have, but also I think we should continue to express our desire for this process to work the way it is supposed to work.

The House of Representatives, which is supposed to initiate spending bills, has done that. It is the job of the Senate to debate those spending bills. It is the job of Senators to offer amendments if they don't like them, and so far our friends on the other side have insisted they don't want to do that part of this job. Maybe we all should understand why they don't want to defend what the President has done because of all the times he said he couldn't do it.

RECESS

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now stand in recess until 2 p.m. today.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:51 p.m., recessed until 2 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. HOEVEN).

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I want to commend both of our leaders, Leader MCCONNELL and Leader REID, for coming to the floor and agreeing to a path forward to fully fund Homeland Security, and I want to speak for a moment about how critical this is and how really—if we cannot get the House of Representatives to agree, if they are not willing to move forward and support this path—we have actually not one shutdown but the possibility of two different kinds of shutdowns that will happen within 3 days.

I am talking about the fact there are 3 days left before the funding for the Department of Homeland Security expires—on February 27, at the end of the day on Friday. We are in a situation where those who protect us from terror threats all around us will be in a situation where they either aren't at work or are working without pay. We will be working with pay but they won't be working with pay, which of course is an outrageous situation for us to put them in.

Every week we know there is a new terrorist threat. That is literally true now, and it is shocking, as we turn on the television and we read the papers and listen to the radio. The most recent threat we know is from al-Shabaab, a Somali terrorist group with ties to Al Qaeda. A video appeared this last week where we know they called for an attack at the Mall of America near Minneapolis, as well as at other shopping centers in the United States and Canada and Great Britain.

We also know that an attack on that mall would endanger as many as 100,000 people—men, women, and children. That is how many people come to that mall, that big mall, every single day. Al-Shabaab terrorists have attacked a mall before so we know this is not an idle threat. In 2013, they attacked the Westgate Mall in Nairobi, Kenya, where 63 innocent people were killed.

On February 14, a shooter at a synagogue in Copenhagen killed three people. In late January, an American was 1 of 10 people killed in a terrorist attack in Libya. Earlier in January, in Paris, an attack by a terrorist claimed 16 lives. I could go on and on. In October alone, gunmen attacked the Canadian Parliament in Ottawa, killing a Canadian soldier.

Michigan has the busiest northern border crossing in the country between Detroit and Windsor. Every day over \$1 billion in goods and people are crossing that border—every single day. We actually have three crossings—two of the busiest in the country—and we count on border and Customs security. We count on our Homeland Security people to be on the job doing their job every single day.

We also count on the people at the airports—all of us. Most of us are on planes one or two times a week. We all understand the critical importance of the airport. And for those of us who are surrounded by water, the Coast Guard is absolutely critical.

I could go on and on with all of the ways in which the men and women of Homeland Security, border security, Customs, the Coast Guard, as well as police and firefighters, our first responders, are keeping us safe every single day.

If the House does not agree to what we are doing here, in 3 days we will see the Department of Homeland Security shut down—an entire infrastructure put together after 9/11, which we all worked together on in a bipartisan way because we saw and we felt what had happened in terms of the threats to our country and the loss of lives.

It is critical this not be just a game. This can't be just a trick, where we are somehow voting straight up on Homeland Security funding without other riders on immigration or other things where there are differences with the President. If it is straight-up funding, then we vote, and then it goes to the House and it gets completely changed again, that is not going to work. We are going to stand with the men and women who stand with us, put their lives on the line, and work hard every single day to keep us safe. It is critical the House decide to join us if in fact the Senate acts today to fully fund Homeland Security, which I hope we will.

There is another thing I am deeply concerned about, and that is the fact we have heard a lot of people talk about we will just do a continuing resolution from last year. That is effectively a shutdown of the first responders, because when we look at the list—immigration, Customs enforcement, detention, antitrafficking, smuggling—of those things that are funded under a continuing resolution, which is a fancy word for last year's funding, those things don't continue.

The new grants that keep firefighters in Michigan and across the country going—in Detroit alone we have 150 firefighters—were supposed to start in October. Because we haven't fully funded Homeland Security, they have been waiting. We have people who will be laid off—police officers, firefighters in Michigan and across the country under a CR—under a continuing resolution. It

is effectively a first responders shutdown.

So that is the second shutdown I am concerned about. We could see Customs and Border Protection unable to award new contracts for new video surveillance. How many times do we talk about the need to protect the borders? But if we don't fully fund Homeland Security, if we do what it sounds like may happen from the House, some short-term funding from last year, we will stop first responders, we will stop surveillance equipment, we will stop the ability to upgrade our Coast Guard, and we prevent and delay contracts for police and fire.

Also without a fully funded Homeland Security, nuclear detection equipment can't be replaced. That deals with our enemies trying to smuggle nuclear devices or dirty bombs into this country.

And what about emergency communications? Think about the malls or think about things such as FEMA and the unprecedented storms and snow that we have seen in parts of our country, the cold.

The idea we would somehow not fund upgrades to emergency equipment and effectively have a first responder shutdown is outrageous. I can't imagine the public, and rightly so, will understand this. I certainly don't understand it. We have all heard concerns about the Secret Service and the ability to upgrade those operations. I could go on and on as it relates to first responder funding.

So I am, on the one hand, pleased that it appears we may in fact have a path forward to separate the debate on fully funding our Homeland Security, our protections at the borders and airports, and so on, as well as police and fire and first responders across the country from a debate on immigration. I appreciate the differences, and we can have that debate. I appreciate that has been proposed to be separated. But we have to make sure there are no tricks and no doublecrosses when it comes to the House of Representatives, because we are not going to support an effort to go back again and hold Homeland Security funding hostage to other policies and disagreements with the President.

Finally, let me stress if the House does less than what the Senate is going to do on fully funding Homeland Security, they are shutting down first responders in this country. That is what they are doing. If we see a funding bill that has last year's numbers, they are putting in place a shutdown of our first responders in this country with threats all around us and new threats every day.

People in this country deserve a lot better. We can do better than that. So I hope we will come together today to do the right thing: Fund Homeland Security fully so our police and fire-

fighters are available and on the streets, and we are securing our borders and our homeland operations. I dearly hope the House of Representatives will step up and join us in getting this done.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, the distinguished Senator from Michigan has made an eloquent speech about the importance of fully funding the Department of Homeland Security. What is astonishing to me is that she didn't listen to her own speech the first time the Republican majority leader brought up the House-passed bill to fully fund the Department of Homeland Security and the Democrats blocked it; and why she didn't listen to that speech the second time the Republican majority leader brought up the House-passed bill to fully fund the Department of Homeland Security and the Democrats blocked it; and why she didn't listen to that speech the third time the Republican majority leader brought up the House-passed proposal to fully fund the Department of Homeland Security and the Democrats blocked it; and why not the fourth time the Republican leader brought up a bill passed by the House of Representatives to fully fund the Department of Homeland Security and the Democrats blocked it.

This is the fifth vote to fully fund the Department of Homeland Security, which we want to do, and which we voted to do four times. So let us not confuse the issue here. I am amazed that Senate Democrats come up with this stuff on the other side. One would think they were living in a different world than we are.

The House has passed legislation to fully fund the Department of Homeland Security. Senate Republicans have brought up a bill to fully fund the Department of Homeland Security four times. The Presiding Officer knows that. Four times we voted yes and four times they voted no. This is the fifth opportunity they will have to fully fund the Department of Homeland Security, and I hope we can do that.

But let us not recreate events that never happened. Let us recognize the fact that for 2 weeks Senate Republicans have been prepared to fully fund the Department of Homeland Security and the Democrats themselves have blocked it not once, not twice, not three times, but four times.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Now, Mr. President, if I may switch gears, I came to the floor to talk on another subject which fortunately has bipartisan support. I am glad to speak about something like that because I think the people of this country gave us and the Republican majority an opportunity this year to come to Washington and shake things up, but also get things done.

In the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, we are working hard to do just that with Senator MURRAY, the ranking Democrat on the committee, and just as I worked with Senator Harkin in the last Congress when our committee reported out 25 different pieces of legislation which became law. So we got things done in the last Congress, and I am fully confident that Senator MURRAY and I and the other members of our committee can do that in this Congress.

That doesn't mean we agree on everything. We don't agree on a lot of things. If you had to pick a group of liberals and a group of conservatives and line them up, our committee would probably have as much difference as any committee in the Congress. But we also have about 30 percent of the jurisdiction in the Congress. That is what Senator Ted Kennedy used to say when he was in the Senate. And we know it is our responsibility to get things done.

We are working hard on fixing No Child Left Behind. We are working with Secretary Burwell and the President on finding ways to move discoveries and devices through the National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration into the medicine cabinets.

I see the Senator from Maryland on the floor. Yesterday we worked together to receive a report that Senator MIKULSKI from Maryland and I, Senator BENNET from Colorado, and Senator BURR from North Carolina, asked for 2 years ago to take a look at all the Federal regulations governing our 6,000 colleges and universities and give us an assessment of how much they cost, and how much confusion and duplication there is since the eight different times we have reauthorized the Higher Education Act of 1965. We asked how often we failed to weed the garden, how often we instead just dumped new laws and regulations on top of old ones, and to tell us exactly what to do.

Chancellor Zeppos of Vanderbilt University and Chancellor Kirwan of the University System of Maryland gave us this report. Senator MIKULSKI was there, I was there, and Senator MURRAY, Senator BURR, and Senator BENNET were there. It was a very impressive report. I won't speak for long about it because I see the Senator from Maryland would like to speak, but I wish to take 5 minutes and say these things. It is sometimes best to tell a story to underscore a point, and here is the first story. Vanderbilt University hired the Boston Consulting Group to tell the university how much it spent complying with Federal rules and regulations for higher education in a single year.

According to the Boston Consulting Group, Vanderbilt University spent \$150 million complying with Federal rules and regulations last year. That is 11 percent of Vanderbilt's non-hospital

expenditures. That adds up to about \$11,000 of the tuition for each one of the 12,000 students at the university. It is absolutely absurd that somehow or another that could happen.

A second example is the student aid form 20 million families fill out every year. It is 108 questions long. Our committee has been told that two questions would provide all the necessary information for 95 percent of families: What is your income from two years ago and what is your family size? A bipartisan group of Senators have introduced a bill to do just that. This would save millions of hours and dollars across the country.

Here is a third example. Surveys conducted by the National Academy of Sciences found that 42 percent of a principal investigator's time on a research project is spent on administrative tasks instead of research.

I asked the head of the National Academy of Sciences what would be a reasonable time?

He said about 10 percent.

We spend 30 billion in taxpayer dollars a year on research and development at colleges and universities. If we could save \$1 billion of that \$30 billion by reducing that 42 percent to closer to 10 percent, then we could fund a 1,000 more multiyear grants to investigate cancer research, Ebola research, and vaccines, and we should do that.

This is an enormously promising report.

Ten years ago the Senator from Maryland and I worked on a report called "Rising Above the Gathering Storm." We asked a group of distinguished Americans to tell us the 20 things that we might do in Congress to help make our country more competitive in the world. They gave us the 20 things, which formed a blueprint, and we passed most of them and eventually funded most of them.

So I think this report we received yesterday has the opportunity to be as important as "Rising Above the Gathering Storm," which later helped establish the America COMPETES Act. It is a blueprint for how we can reduce overregulation, simplify rules, save money, make consumer protection clear, keep tuition down, find more money for research, and let colleges and universities spend their time and money educating students instead of filling out forms.

I thank Senator MIKULSKI from Maryland, Senator BENNET from Colorado, Senator BURR from North Carolina, and my partner Senator MURRAY on the HELP Committee.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my opening statement from yesterday's hearing, followed by pages 1 through 6 of the report presented to us yesterday, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

TASK FORCE ON GOVERNMENT REGULATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of my remarks at the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee hearing earlier this week be printed in the RECORD.

TASK FORCE ON GOVERNMENT REGULATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

This morning we are holding our first hearing this Congress on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act which will focus on the final report from the Task Force on Government Regulation of Higher Education.

Over a year ago, Vanderbilt University hired the Boston Consulting Group to determine how much it costs the university to comply with federal rules and regulations.

The answer: \$150 million, or 11 percent of the university's total non-hospital expenditures last year.

Vanderbilt Chancellor Nick Zeppos says that this adds about \$11,000 in additional tuition per year for each of the university's 12,757 students.

Each year, 20 million American families fill out a complicated, 108-question form called the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to obtain a grant or loan to help pay for college. Several experts testified before our committee that just two questions would tell the Department of Education 95 percent of what it needs to know to determine a student's eligibility for a grant or loan: One, what is your family size? And, two, what is your family income?

So, in January a bipartisan group of six Senators introduced legislation to simplify the student aid application and repayment process, including reducing the 108-question FAFSA form to just two questions. If our legislation becomes law, then families, guidance counselors, and admissions officers would save millions of hours.

Most important, according to financial aid expert Mark Kantrowitz, the complicated, 108-question form discourages up to 2 million Americans each year from applying for aid. Last fall, the president of Southwest Tennessee Community College in Memphis told me that the complex form turns away from his campus 1,500 students each semester.

Tennessee has become the first state to make community college tuition-free for qualifying students. But first, each student must fill out the FAFSA. Now that tuition is free, the principal obstacle for a qualified Tennessee student to obtain two more years of education after high school is not money: it is this unnecessarily complicated federal form. Ten years ago, then again three years ago, surveys by the National Academy of Sciences found that principal investigators spend 42 percent of their time associated with federal research projects on administrative tasks instead of research.

I asked the head of the National Academies what a reasonable percent of time would be for a researcher to spend on administrative tasks. He replied: perhaps 10 percent or even less.

How many billions could we save if we reduced the administrative burden?

Taxpayers spend more than \$30 billion a year on research and development at colleges and universities.

This year, the average annual cost of an NIH research project grant is \$480,000. If we reduce spending on unnecessary red tape by \$1 billion, the an NIH could potentially fund more than a thousand multi-year grants.

These should not be excused as normal, run-of-the-mill problems of government.

These examples, and others like them, represent sloppy, inefficient governing that wastes money, hurts students, discourages productivity, and impedes research.

Such waste should be an embarrassment to all of us in the federal government.

And let me make clear: let's not just blame President Obama and Education Secretary Arne Duncan. They have contributed to the problem, but so has every President and every education secretary—and that includes me—since 1965 when the first Higher Education Act was enacted.

And the list of those embarrassed should also include the Congress of the United States for year after year adding to and tolerating a pile of conflicting, confusing regulations.

The Higher Education Act totals nearly 1,000 pages; there are over 1,000 pages in the official Code of Federal Regulations devoted to higher education; and on average every workday the Department of Education issues one new sub-regulatory guidance directive or clarification.

No one has taken the time to “weed the garden.”

The result of this piling up of regulations is that one of the greatest obstacles to innovation and cost consciousness in higher education has become—us, the federal government.

So if all of us created this mess, then it is up to all of us to fix it.

That is why more than a year ago, four members of this committee—two Democrats and two Republicans—asked a group of distinguished educators to examine the current state of federal rules and regulations for colleges and universities. We asked them not just to tell us the problem, but to give us specific solutions.

They have done so in a remarkable document entitled “Recalibrating Regulation of Colleges and Universities,” in which they outline 59 specific regulations, requirements and areas for Congress and the Department of Education to consider—listing 10 especially problematic regulations.

I thank Vanderbilt University Chancellor Nick Zeppos and University System of Maryland Chancellor Brit Kirwan for leading the effort.

In their own words, America's 6,000 colleges and universities live in a “jungle of red tape” that is expensive and confusing and unnecessary.

The report makes clear that colleges and taxpayers expect appropriate regulation. But neither taxpayers nor colleges are well-served by the jungle that exists today. Consumer information that is too complicated to understand is worthless.

Colleges must report the amount of foreign gifts they receive; disclose the number of fires drills that occurred on campus. “Gainful employment” disclosures require 30 different pieces of information for each academic program subject to the regulation.

When a student withdraws from college before a certain time period, a student's federal money must be returned to the government. This is a simple concept.

Yet the regulations and guidance implementing this are ridiculously complex—200 paragraphs of regulatory text accompanied by 200 pages in the Federal Student Aid handbook.

The University of Colorado reports that they have two full-time staff devoted to this issue. One to do the calculation and the other one to recheck the other's work. Ohio State University estimates that it spends around \$200,000 annually on compliance for this regulation.

Institutions offering distance education are subject to an additional set of bureaucracy that can result in additional costs of \$500,000 to a million dollars for compliance.

All of these are examples of colleges and universities spending time and money on compliance with federal rules and not on students.

Senator Murray and I will discuss how to develop a bipartisan process to take full advantage of the recommendations in this report and to include many of them in reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, which we plan to do this year.

We will schedule additional hearings to gather comment on the report from institutions not directly involved with the report and consumers of higher education, including parents, students, and taxpayers.

Some of the recommendations require a change in the law. Many can be fixed by the Department itself.

I have talked with Secretary Duncan more than once about this effort and he is eager to do his part to solve the problem. I look forward to working with him and with President Obama on eliminating unnecessary red tape, saving students money, and removing unnecessary regulatory obstacles to innovation in the best system of higher education in the world.

This is not a new subject for me. One of the first things I did as a Senator was try to simplify student aid and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). And I'm told the net result was the reduction of approximately 7 questions. Those have been replaced by many more now.

Although I voted against the final reauthorization of the Higher Education Act of 2008, I authored a provision in the bill that required the Secretary of Education to publish a “compliance calendar” so schools can see all of their deadlines.

Unfortunately, 7 years later, the Department of Education has yet to implement this provision.

With bipartisan support and this groundbreaking report we have today, I'm counting on this effort to get farther than that one.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The federal government's substantial fiscal investment in higher education recognizes that postsecondary education is a linchpin in the nation's social and economic strength. Through that support, the government helps ensure that colleges and universities continue to contribute broadly to the fabric of American society. To ensure prudent stewardship of federal support for higher education, the Department of Education is charged with developing procedures to carry out laws passed by Congress in regard to higher education and with overseeing institutional compliance. Institutions of higher learning recognize the important role regulations play in the oversight of federal investments.

Over time, oversight of higher education by the Department of Education has expanded and evolved in ways that undermine the ability of colleges and universities to serve students and accomplish their missions. The compliance problem is exacerbated by the sheer volume of mandates—approximately 2,000 pages of text—and the reality that the Department of Education issues official guidance to amend or clarify its rules at a rate of more than one document per work day. As a result, colleges and universities find themselves enmeshed in a jungle of red tape, facing rules that are often

confusing and difficult to comply with. They must allocate resources to compliance that would be better applied to student education, safety, and innovation in instructional delivery. Clearly, a better approach is needed.

In 2013, a bipartisan group of U.S. Senators recognized that the pending reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA) creates an opportunity to consider these issues in depth. They established a task force of college and university presidents and chancellors to study federal regulation of higher education broadly and identify potential improvements.

Looking at the landscape of regulation of colleges and universities writ large, the Task Force on Federal Regulation of Higher Education identified a number of challenges that are particularly problematic. As described in Section II of this report, we concluded that many rules are unnecessarily voluminous and too often ambiguous, and that the cost of compliance has become unreasonable. Moreover, many regulations are unrelated to education, student safety, or stewardship of federal funds—and others can be a barrier to college access and innovation in education.

Based on extensive discussions, consultations with experts, and site visits to campuses, the Task Force identified specific regulations that are of major concern to higher education institutions. Section III details those concerns, which include problematic financial responsibility standards, confusion and inconsistency in reporting requirements for campus crime, overreach in authorization of distance education programs, inefficient rules concerning verification of financial aid eligibility, counterproductive micromanagement of the accreditation process, and policies that result in consumers being inundated with information of questionable value.

The Task Force also reviewed the processes by which higher education regulations are developed and implemented, and offers several specific ideas for improvement. Section IV outlines recommendations that include asking the Government Accountability Office to review the Department of Education's methodology for estimating institutional costs of compliance with regulations; the creation of clear “safe harbors” for institutional compliance; the recognition of “good faith” efforts to comply; and several proposals for better practices by the Department.

To help policy makers think about the most effective and efficient way to regulate higher education, the Task Force developed the following Guiding Principles to govern the development, implementation, and enforcement of regulations by the Department: Regulations should be related to education, student safety, and stewardship of federal funds.

Regulations should be clear and comprehensible.

Regulations should not stray from clearly stated legislative intent.

Costs and burdens of regulations should be accurately estimated.

Clear safe harbors should be created.

The Department should recognize good faith efforts by institutions.

The Department should complete program reviews and investigations in a timely manner.

Penalties should be imposed at a level appropriate to the violation.

Disclosure requirements should focus on issues of widespread interest.

All substantive policies should be subject to the “notice-and-comment” requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act.

Regulations that consistently create compliance challenges should be revised.

The Department should take all necessary steps to facilitate compliance by institutions.

The Task Force believes that adherence to these principles would help improve regulation of higher education, and urges their adoption.

Again, to be clear: Regulations serve an important role in ensuring institutional accountability. But requirements that have an excessive reach, or that are unnecessarily costly and difficult to implement—or worse still, that hinder student access to college and drive costs up—are counterproductive. Smarter rules are needed. In the context of the forthcoming reauthorization of the HEA, this report from the Task Force on Federal Regulation of Higher Education proposes many specific avenues to improve the regulation of higher education.

THE TASK FORCE ON FEDERAL REGULATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

The pending reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA) provides an opportunity for Congress to examine how institutions of higher education are regulated and to identify ways to streamline and simplify regulatory policies and practices. With that goal in mind, a bipartisan group of U.S. Senators—Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), Richard Burr (R-NC), and Michael Bennet (D-CO) created the Task Force on Federal Regulation of Higher Education in the fall of 2013 and directed it to consider these issues in depth.

The Senators articulated a three-part charge for the group:

- 1) Provide specific recommendations to consolidate, streamline, and eliminate burdensome, costly, and confusing regulations, laws, and reporting requirements;

- 2) Review and quantify the extent of all federal requirements with which institutions must comply, including estimates of the time and costs associated with specific regulations; and,

- 3) Provide recommendations for reform to ensure future regulations are promulgated in a manner that appropriately considers existing law and accurately examines the costs and benefits to taxpayers, institutions, and students.

The Senators appointed Task Force members representing institutions from across all sectors of higher education, and named Chancellors William E. Kirwan of the University System of Maryland and Nicholas S. Zeppos of Vanderbilt University (TN) as co-chairs. In addition to Chancellors Kirwan and Zeppos, the Task Force includes these members:

William L. Armstrong, President, Colorado Christian University

Bruce D. Benson, President, University of Colorado

Molly Corbett Broad, President, American Council on Education (DC)

Thomas V. Chema, President Emeritus, Hiram College (OH)

Margaret L. Drugovich, President, Hartwick College (NY)

Dana G. Hoyt, President, Sam Houston State University (TX)

Brice W. Harris, Chancellor, California Community College System

Jonathan A. Kaplan, Chief Executive Officer, Laureate Online Education (MD)

Cornelius M. Kerwin, President, American University (DC)

J. Michael Locke, Former CEO, Rasmussen College (IL)

Harold L. Martin Sr., Chancellor, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

Claude O. Pressnell Jr., President, Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association

Thomas W. Ross, President, University of North Carolina

Robert G. Templin Jr., President, Northern Virginia Community College

In addition, the Senators asked the American Council on Education (ACE) to support the work of the Task Force.

SCOPE OF WORK AND TASK FORCE ACTIVITIES

The word “regulation” can be viewed broadly or narrowly. Narrowly defined, federal regulation means only a requirement imposed on institutions through the Code of Federal Regulations, the codification of all the regulations promulgated by federal agencies. Considered more broadly, it means any requirement placed on colleges and universities in order to participate in the federal student aid program. For the purposes of this Task Force and our report, we use “regulation” in this broader sense.

The Task Force engaged in extensive consultations for this project and solicited insights from higher education associations, campus officials, and other organizations and stakeholders. To gather input from individuals on campuses who are responsible for implementing regulations, ACE staff conducted extensive site visits and met with representatives from more than 60 institutions around the country.

Our aim was not simply to reduce the number of regulations imposed by the Department of Education, but rather to foster more effective and efficient rules that still meet federal objectives. To that end, we sought to accomplish these goals:

Summarize the increasing burden of federal regulation on higher education.

Identify regulations of particular concern to institutions of higher education, explain why they are problematic, and recommend changes to ameliorate them.

Offer longer-term process improvements that would minimize similar concerns about regulations in the future.

Section I of this report frames the current regulatory landscape for higher education. Section II describes specific current challenges. Section III details 10 regulations that colleges and universities find especially problematic, and recommends solutions. Finally, Section IV proposes ways to improve the regulatory process.

Effective oversight can help colleges and universities keep costs down, keep students safe, focus on educating students, and be good stewards of federal funds. In that spirit, the Task Force developed the following Guiding Principles to help govern the development, implementation, and enforcement of regulations by the Department:

Regulations should be related to education, student safety, and stewardship of federal funds.

Regulations should be clear and comprehensible.

Regulations should not stray from clearly stated legislative intent.

Costs and burdens of regulations should be accurately estimated.

Clear safe harbors should be created.

The Department should recognize good faith efforts by institutions.

The Department should complete program reviews and investigations in a timely manner.

Penalties should be imposed at a level appropriate to the violation.

Disclosure requirements should focus on issues of widespread interest.

All substantive policies should be subject to the “notice-and-comment” requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act.

Regulations that consistently create compliance challenges should be revised.

The Department should take all necessary steps to facilitate compliance by institutions.

We believe that these principles would help improve the regulation of higher education, and we urge their adoption.

While the primary focus of this report is on requirements imposed by the Department of Education, institutions of higher education are also regulated by every Cabinet-level agency, as well as many sub-Cabinet-level agencies. In that regard, we acknowledge the important work by other groups and organizations, including the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Science Board, to examine regulations stemming from other agencies, particularly in connection with federally funded research.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I come to the floor to speak about the issue of funding for Homeland Security. However, I wish to note and acknowledge the comments just made by my colleague from Tennessee, Senator ALEXANDER, the chair of the HELP Committee. I couldn't agree with him more.

Hello, America. Two Senators, different parts of the country, different political parties, different political views on some social issues or whatever, but I couldn't agree more with this outstanding report whose original idea came from the gentleman from Tennessee.

When we worked on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act about 5 years ago now, we agreed upon goals to make college more accessible, to make college more affordable, to always insist that that college offer a quality education and that students on the campus be safe and secure so they could be in a true learning environment.

I am a student loan/student grant person, so I was focusing on the students. I taught at Loyola University in Baltimore, in the community college, but my colleague, who was the president of a university, said: We ought to look at regs. Regulation could have a tremendous impact.

So we put our heads together. Our co-chairs came from Tennessee. The Maryland cochair was Dr. Kirwan, a retiring but very able chancellor. And it is a terrific report. It is exactly what we wanted.

Where are the regs that, No. 1, are duplicative—the same darned report after report, and then you do a report on the reports so that then they can ask you questions and ask for a followup addendum. Then there are also instances where the requirements are

contradictory. So there they are, the administrators of both the colleges and universities themselves or of an individual grant program. So we want to clarify that.

Not only under Senator ALEXANDER's leadership did we go for what were the top 10 concerns that were really burdensome, duplicative, or contradictory, they gave us a checklist on what would constitute criteria for a good reg. I think they gave us a great roadmap, and now it is our part to use the report. So we are not like everybody else where we got them to do a report and we don't do anything with it.

When we did "Rising Above the Gathering Storm," which I was so excited to be part of, it was truly a bipartisan effort. It led to legislation, and it led to other executive branch input.

So I thank my colleague from Tennessee. I think this is the way we should be working together—put our heads together, get the best advice from what is out there in the real world, and then let's put our shoulders to the wheel and get it done.

Does the Senator have a sense of when he would like to move or the timetable to implement this?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Maryland for her comments and her leadership.

I would say to the Senator from Maryland that I will need to sit down and talk to the Senator from Washington, Mrs. MURRAY, which we plan to do in March. My hope would be that in April we could begin five or six hearings aligned with the recommendations in the report, and on other matters such as accreditation, form working groups within our committee, and then by the fall move ahead with the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act and complete it by the end of the year.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I thank the Senator from Tennessee and look forward to working with him.

Mr. President, this is the way it ought to be, where Senators come together and bring our best ideas. We also bring our concerns and we put them all on the table. But we began with civility, we began with respect, and we established what were agreed-upon goals and how each one of us thought we could get to the roadmap to do that. This is the way I would hope we would work.

Now, as we come to almost a crisis with the funding for Homeland Security running out on Friday, this is the time for us to put our party differences aside, put our pet projects aside, and focus not on what is good for our politics but what is good for America.

I understand that our leadership on both sides of the aisle—Senator MCCONNELL and Senator REID—have arrived now at a framework where we

will go through a set of parliamentary procedures, which is our way, to then arrive at a point where we could be voting on a full year's funding for Homeland Security without any additional riders that could derail the bill placed on it. I wish to compliment the leadership for beginning a communication and establishing a parliamentary choreography where we could actually get the job done. The leaders have been working on this. We know they will be coming here on the floor in a few minutes to share with us that idea and begin the procedures where every Senator can exercise their will and their judgment.

But I just want to say this as the ranking member or the vice chair of the Appropriations Committee: We have to fund the Department of Homeland Security. We just have to do it. We have to do it, and we have to do it now. I hope we can do it in the Senate this afternoon and that the House really follows what we are doing here.

This is so crucial because of the very nature of what the bill is—homeland security. This isn't about a new agency that might be duplicative of another. This isn't about new programs. It is not even about great big new sums of money. This Appropriations Committee arrived at its recommendations when we were working on the omnibus.

The Presiding Officer is the chair of the Subcommittee on Homeland Security. I know that in the way he does his due diligence, he has reviewed this bill. So the money part I don't think is controversial and it actually does the job. And the job is to do the full funding to protect the homeland.

I really worry about our country. Here we are, and we have ISIL making additional threats to the United States about the security of our malls. While we were all pondering what our strategy would be and parsing what the politics would be, our great Federal agents were on the scene making sure that four Americans didn't go to join ISIL to fight against us and perhaps organize predatory attacks against us. Our people are on the job, and now it is time that we do our job and fully fund this agency.

America is at risk. We face terrorism. We face the consequences of natural disasters, which FEMA and the Coast Guard are really helping us with right now. We face cyber threats. We need the Department of Homeland Security funded in a way to prevent and respond to these situations.

When I look at this, it is really standing sentry in terms of all we need to do in terms of port security, airport security, guarding our borders through our Border Patrol agents, 23,000 Border Patrol agents. But I also look at the first responders. If anything happens in our country, it is local law enforcement and local firefighters who are the first to respond. We have helped them

with this response by providing them with Federal funds. I am really proud of what we have done on this.

I want to speak particularly about the Fire Grant Program. Now think about what they do. Every day when they report to duty, our first responders don't know what they will face. In my own home State of Maryland, will they face a train derailment? We have had those. Will they face a Metro fire? We have had that. Will we have a multiple-vehicle accident on 95 that could involve a horrific accident that requires rescue from hazardous and toxic waste? Because of who we are, with our airports and our seaports, we also are a big threat for a terrorist attack. Our first responders are asking us to give them the money they need to pay the bills and also help them with these necessities.

Over 10 years ago I joined with one of my Republican counterparts, Senator Kit Bond of Missouri. We were both concerned with what was happening to our volunteer fire departments. As he crisscrossed Missouri and I crisscrossed Maryland, we were shocked to find out that a new firetruck could cost as much as \$1 million, that wonderful SCBA protective gear that would be fire retardant or fire resistant could cost \$2,000, that the special breathing apparatus that is being developed can cost over \$5,000. When we put our heads together and listened to our firefighters, we realized you could not fund that on tip jars, pancake breakfasts, crabcake dinners, or oyster fries in my own State. We wanted to help them. We wanted to make sure we helped them so they could protect us.

So we looked at the Fire Grant Program. It has been a tremendous success in my own State in the decades since we passed it. Over 600 fire departments have been helped with the new equipment they need. When I travel my State, I have people who defend and protect me in my community shake my hand. The Presiding Officer knows what the volunteer firefighters do. I am sure it is the same situation in North Dakota as it is western Maryland. They say: You have helped me be able to do the job. Volunteer fire departments do all of this on their own time and on their own dime.

So what happens if we don't fund Homeland Security? It means that those \$2 billion grants for emergency firefighters, port security, for local efforts and so on will not be funded. Make no mistake. For those people perhaps in the Senate or in the House that say that we just do a continuing resolution, a continuing resolution means that grants cannot be funded.

Under current law, for any program with an agency that is on a CR, it cannot issue grant money at all. So that means right now they are getting ready to take the Fire Grant Program proposals. Secretary Jeh Johnson can't

put out communication to say it is now the annual time for fire chiefs to come in with their requests.

So we are placing America at risk—not only with the really big picture stuff. Often the big picture comes back home. On that terrible, terrible day of 9/11, who ran up into those burning buildings? Who ran up those steps of the World Trade Center? It was our firefighters.

I am flinching, flagging, abashed at their heroism and their desire to rescue. And every day—right this minute—one of them somewhere is doing something. Certainly we can fund the grant program so they can have the truck they need, so they have the breathing apparatus they need, so they have the protective gear they need, so we can protect them while they are protecting us—rather than protecting our political butts. We have got to get off our butts and fund this bill.

I look forward to the leadership on both sides of the aisle coming forward with a program to do it. I hope we have a sense of urgency. There is a saying from Tip O'Neill that "all politics is local," but ultimately, all homeland security is local.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I appreciate our Democrat colleagues joining us and proceeding to the House-passed bill. I have spoken to the Democratic leader and my colleagues on the Republican side and commit to offering an amendment to the House bill to fully fund the Department of Homeland Security, while addressing the President's Executive actions on a separate adjacent track through consideration of the Collins bill.

When the Senate proceeds to H.R. 240, I will offer a clean substitute and work to expedite consideration of the bill, as amended, to get it back over to the House this week. I would welcome bipartisan cooperation to pass the DHS funding bill as well as the common-sense Collins bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the majority leader and I have had very good discussions in the last 24 hours or so. We have agreed that, in order to pass a clean Homeland Security appropriations bill for the remainder of this fiscal year, the Democrats will support getting on the House Homeland Security funding bill. In exchange, the majority leader will provide that the only

amendment will be a clean Homeland Security funding substitute, which he just outlined. The substance of this amendment is the same as the bill that was introduced by Senators MIKULSKI and SHAHEEN about a month ago.

The Senate will adopt that amendment and send the amended bill to the House in an expedited fashion. The Senate will then vote on cloture on the motion to proceed to the Collins bill.

Personally, I don't believe the Collins bill is a compromise. It would undermine law enforcement and tear families apart. So until full-year funding for the Homeland Security Department is enacted, I will vote against going to the Collins bill.

After a clean bill is signed into law, I will be happy to have a vigorous debate on immigration and the best way to fix our broken system.

I want to be very clear that Democrats would be willing to expedite the plan we have before us by consent.

In conclusion, I thank the majority leader for working with Democrats to come to a solution of this impasse that we have been faced with for the last 4 weeks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to the motion to reconsider vote No. 53, the vote by which cloture was not invoked on the motion to proceed to H.R. 240.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 240.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 240, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015.

Mitch McConnell, Thad Cochran, Tom Cotton, Roger F. Wicker, David Vitter, Jerry Moran, Daniel Coats, Michael B. Enzi, Mike Crapo, Bill Cassidy, John Boozman, John Thune, Tim Scott, John Hoeven, James Lankford, Jeff Sessions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 240, an act making ap-

propriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close, upon reconsideration?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 98, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 58 Leg.]

YEAS—98

Alexander	Fischer	Murray
Ayotte	Flake	Nelson
Baldwin	Franken	Paul
Barrasso	Gardner	Perdue
Bennet	Gillibrand	Peters
Blumenthal	Graham	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Reed
Booker	Hatch	Reid
Boozman	Heinrich	Risch
Boxer	Heitkamp	Roberts
Brown	Heller	Rounds
Burr	Hirono	Rubio
Cantwell	Hoeven	Sanders
Capito	Isakson	Sasse
Cardin	Johnson	Schatz
Carper	Kaine	Schumer
Casey	King	Scott
Cassidy	Kirk	Shaheen
Coats	Klobuchar	Shelby
Cochran	Lankford	Stabenow
Collins	Leahy	Sullivan
Coons	Lee	Tester
Corker	Manchin	Thune
Cornyn	Markey	Tillis
Cotton	McCain	Toomey
Crapo	McCaskill	Udall
Cruz	McConnell	Vitter
Daines	Menendez	Warner
Donnelly	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Enzi	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Wyden
Feinstein	Murphy	

NAYS—2

Inhofe Sessions

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TOOMEY). On this vote, the yeas are 98, the nays are 2.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion, upon reconsideration, is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I just want to applaud the vote we just had. A 98-to-2 vote shows very clearly that our colleagues in the Senate want to see funding for Homeland Security. Everybody understands that the risks to this country are too great for us not to provide the resources the Department needs so they can continue to do their jobs.

We just heard that the Department of Homeland Security was involved with the FBI in the case of three people in Brooklyn who were threatening this country because they wanted to go to the Middle East and join ISIS. We need to make sure DHS has the funding they need. This is real progress. I applaud Senators MCCONNELL and REID for their efforts to get to this point.

I hope we can continue down this road to get funding for the Department, and that when we send the bill

over to the House, the House will also work together in a bipartisan way to get a clean funding bill before the resources run out, before the money runs out for the Department of Homeland Security this Friday. We have a little bit of time. We need to get this done. The Senate took a giant step forward today to do that. I applaud my colleagues. I hope we can keep this going and that we can get this done very soon.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

INCOME INEQUALITY

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I do not agree with Speaker of the House JOHN BOEHNER on very much, but I do agree that it is an excellent idea for there to be a joint session of Congress in the fall to hear from Pope Francis. To my mind, in the last few years the Pope has played an extraordinary role in speaking out on issues of enormous consequence that impact every man, woman, and child, not just in our country but on the planet. He has shown great courage in raising issues that we very rarely discuss here in the Congress or in parliaments around the country.

What I want to do briefly this afternoon is quote and discuss some of the statements that the Pope has made that I think we need to listen to. I think it is a wonderful idea that Speaker BOEHNER has invited the Pope, but I think it is important we also listen to what he has said. This is from Pope Francis.

We have created new idols. The worship of the golden calf of old has found a new and heartless image in the cult of money and the dictatorship of an economy which is faceless and lacking any truly humane goal.

On another occasion what he says is: "Man is not in charge today, money is in charge, money rules."

Then he says in another quote:

Today everything comes under the laws of competition and the survival of the fittest, where the powerful feed upon the powerless. As a consequence, masses of people find themselves excluded and marginalized: without work, without possibilities, without any means of escape.

Then he says this on an issue that is, I think, very relevant to this body:

In this context, some people continue to defend trickle-down theories which assume that economic growth, encouraged by a free market, will inevitably succeed in bringing about greater justice and inclusiveness in the world. This opinion, which has never been confirmed by the facts, expresses a crude and naive trust in the goodness of those wielding economic power and in the sacralized workings of the prevailing economic system.

Then he says:

... these things become the norm: that some homeless people die of cold on the streets is not news. In contrast, a ten point drop on the stock markets of some cities, is a tragedy.

In other words, when people die because they are poor and hungry and cold, that is not news. But a 10-point drop in the stock market becomes a tragedy.

Then he says:

We must say "we want a just system! A system that enables everyone to get on". We must say: "we don't want this globalized economic system which does us so much harm!"

Here we have the leader of the Catholic Church raising profound issues about the state of the economy—certainly not just to the United States but all over the world. I don't want to paraphrase him, but my interpretation of what he is saying is that money cannot be an end in itself. The function of an economic system is not just to let the marketplace reign and end up in a situation where a small number of people have incredible wealth while so many people have virtually nothing.

That is true not just of the United States, but it is even more true around the world. We have a situation right now—incredible as it may sound—where the wealthiest 85 people in the world own more wealth than the bottom half of the world's population. So 85 phenomenally wealthy billionaires are here, and half of the world's population are over here—over 3 billion people. Does anybody in the wildest stretch of their imagination think this is anything close to a just world economic system?

Oxfam recently told us that within the global economy within a year or two, the top 1 percent of the world's wealthiest people will own more wealth than the bottom 99 percent. What religion condones this type of economic disparity? What political party should condone this type of economic disparity?

What the Pope is essentially saying is we need to pay attention to those people who are hurting—not just the homeless, not just the hungry, but those people who are working longer hours for low wages and at exactly the same time when in this country we have seen a proliferation of millionaires and billionaires. Is that what our economy is supposed to be about?

Let me just amplify what the Pope was saying by giving you some cold statistics in terms of what is going on in the United States of America. I am not talking about the global economy. I am not talking about Greece, where unemployment is 25 percent and where their economy has contracted by a quarter in the last 6 years. I am talking about the American economy.

Since 1999 the median middle-class family—that family right in the middle of the American economy—has seen its income go down by almost \$5,000 after adjusting for inflation. Incredibly, that family earned less income last year than it did 26 years ago, back in 1989.

Do you want to know why people in America are angry? Whether they are

in the Occupy Wall Street movement and consider themselves progressive, whether they are in the tea party movement and consider themselves conservative, the median male worker—that man right in the middle of the American economy—earned \$783 less last year than he did 42 years ago. In other words, you have seen an explosion of technological productivity, but the male worker in the middle of the economy—inflation adjusted for dollars—made \$783 less last year than he did 42 years ago, while the median female worker—the woman in the middle of the American economy—earned \$1,300 less last year than she did in 2007.

All over this country we are seeing men and women working longer hours for lower wages. We are seeing people working not one job but two jobs or three jobs in order to cobble together the income they need and maybe some health care as well. But while the middle class continues to disappear on a 40-year trajectory, the wealthiest people and the largest corporations are doing phenomenally well. The gap between the very, very rich and everybody else is growing wider.

This is what the Pope means, I think, when he says this:

While the income of a minority is increasing exponentially, that of the majority is crumbling. This imbalance results from ideologies which uphold the absolute autonomy of markets and financial speculation, and thus deny the right of control to States, which are themselves charged with providing for the common good.

This is from Pope Francis. So what does he mean when he talks about the income of a minority increasing exponentially while the majority is crumbling? Let me give you some examples. I talked about male wages, female wages, and median family income. Let me talk about what is going on in the top 1 percent.

Today the top 1 percent in America now own about 41 percent of the entire wealth of our country while the bottom 60 percent own less than 2 percent. Let me repeat that. The top 1 percent own over 40 percent of the wealth. The bottom 60 percent own less than 2 percent. Today, incredibly, the top one-tenth of 1 percent now own almost as much wealth as the bottom 90 percent—one-tenth of 1 percent. So 16,000 families own almost as much wealth as the bottom 300 million people in our country. Today the Walton family—the owners of Walmart and the wealthiest family in America—is now worth \$153 billion. That is more wealth in one family than the bottom 40 percent of Americans. Over the past decade, the net worth of the top 400 billionaires in this country has doubled, up to an astronomical \$1 trillion in just 10 years.

In terms of income as opposed to wealth, almost all of the new income generated in recent years, since the Wall Street crash, has gone to the top 1 percent. In fact, the last information

that we have indicates that over 99 percent of all new income generated in this country goes to the top 1 percent.

The top 25 hedge fund managers on Wall Street made more than \$24 billion in 2013, equivalent to the full salaries of more than 425,000 public school teachers. What we are seeing in this country is growing income and wealth inequality. What we are seeing around the world is the same.

What troubles me very much is that in the midst of a disappearing middle class, at a time when we have more people living in poverty today than at almost any time in recent history, I believe my Republican colleagues on the Budget Committee will bring forth a budget in the next few years which will move us in exactly the wrong direction. When the rich get richer, their proposal will be let's give more tax breaks to millionaires and billionaires.

When large corporations are enjoying huge profits, and major corporation after major corporation is paying nothing in Federal income tax, their proposal will be let's give more tax breaks to large multinational corporations.

Then after giving tax breaks to the rich and large corporations, they say: Well, we want a balanced budget, and the way we are going to balance the budget is on the backs of a disappearing middle class, on the backs of millions of working families, and on the backs of the poorest and most vulnerable people in this country.

This is the Robin Hood principle in reverse. This is taking from the poor and working people and giving it to the millionaires and billionaires.

I would hope the American people say: Enough is enough. We don't need more tax breaks for the rich and large corporations. We don't need to cut Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, education, nutrition programs for hungry people, and Pell grants so the kids can go to college. That is not what we should be doing. In fact, we should be moving in exactly the other direction.

From 1983 to a few years ago, what we have seen in this country is an incredible transfer of wealth from the bottom 90 percent to the top 1 percent. We are talking about trillions of dollars in wealth going from the bottom 90 percent to the top 1 percent. Most Americans are saying: Enough is enough. We don't need more austerity for the middle class. We don't need to cut Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. Maybe it is time for some austerity for the top 1 percent.

I hope when we come together to discuss the budget, Members of the Senate will listen to what Pope Francis has been talking about and give us a budget which works for the most vulnerable people in this country, which works for tens of millions of working families, and does not simply work for large campaign donors.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, somebody asked me a little while ago, shouldn't we be voting on the mish-mash on Homeland Security that the House of Representatives sent over because of the immigration matters in it.

I reminded them that the Senate in the last Congress voted by a 2-to-1 margin, on a bipartisan comprehensive immigration bill which we sent to the House of Representatives and the Speaker refused to bring the bill up. It probably would have passed.

Had it passed, it would have been signed into law and President Obama would not have issued any Executive orders. There would be no need to. We had everything from border security, which Republicans and Democrats voted for, to minors and the DREAMers, which Republicans and Democrats voted for.

In fact, we had hundreds of hours of hearings and markups. We had around 140 amendments that were brought up, and I would call for one Republican amendment and one Democratic amendment. We went back and forth day after day, night after night. We did 140 or 141 amendments.

All but one of them passed by a bipartisan vote. We then had dozens of amendments on the floor, all of which passed with bipartisan votes. The final bill got 68 votes.

We have done the work on immigration. Let's not play games and endanger the needed funding for the Department of Homeland Security at a time when we face all kinds of dangers in this country. Let's not close down Department of Homeland Security on a made-up mission of doing something for immigration.

We passed an immigration bill. They could take out the draft of that old bill, vote it up, and vote it down. Sixty-eight Senators, Republicans and Democrats alike, voted for it. Let's bring up something similar. Let's have a real debate. Let's have amendments. Let's go to immigration. Then in the meantime, let's pass the Department of Homeland Security bill.

Millions upon millions of taxpayer dollars are being wasted even today as they prepare for a shutdown, not knowing whether these tactics are going to close down the Department, that major part of our government, or not. They have to spend the money. That is money wasted, to say nothing about the job that's not being done.

I refer to my speech about Groundhog Day because we have seen this one.

Our friends across the way in the Capitol closed down the government before.

In just 2 days, unless Congress acts, the doors at the Department of Homeland Security, one of the country's primary national security agencies, will shutter. Unless we act, 30,000 workers will be furloughed without pay. Another 130,000 will be asked to work in defense of our nation's security, without pay.

This is another needless, made-in-Washington crisis. We find ourselves here today because of the House's initial failure to act for more than a year and a half on bipartisan legislation that the Senate passed to help fix our broken immigration system. The House's inaction forced the President to do what he could through the executive authorities available to him. Those actions are welcomed. But they are not permanent, legislative fixes. Now, because Republicans in the House are angry that the President acted where they would not, they are threatening the functions of the very agency that helps protect our borders, our airspace, our waterways, and our communities.

Every State in this country will be affected by a shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security. In the midst of a fiercely cold winter, when the Northeast has been devastated by life-threatening storms, we put at risk important recovery resources available through FEMA. We put at risk counterterrorism efforts and analysis of critical intelligence, as we continue to mount and improve our national security in the face of unprecedented violent threats from enemies overseas. It is appalling that in the face of reports that terrorists want to target such domestic sites as the Mall of America, some in Congress are playing petty politics with the vital operations of the Department of Homeland Security.

A short-term continuing resolution will not solve this problem. A continuing resolution for the Department of Homeland Security recognizes neither the evolving threats to our Nation's security, nor the continuing stresses on our immigration system. A continuing resolution for the Department will tear immigrant families apart, rather than support keeping them together. A continuing resolution will not support an increase of \$400 million for the Department. It will freeze FEMA resources at their current levels.

And let's remember one key fact that I do not hear these reckless voices in Congress acknowledging: The funding bill we should be considering—the Shaheen-Mikulski bill—already is a compromise bill. It is far from perfect. For example, I strongly oppose the new funding for family detention. Incarcerating women and children fleeing violence runs contrary to our long history

as a nation that offers refuge to those most in need. Nonetheless I am prepared to support the bill, because it will help State and local communities with disaster recovery, with law enforcement activities, and will support our national security and counterterrorism efforts.

The Shaheen-Mikulski bill is the product of bipartisan negotiations between Republicans and Democrats in both the Senate and the House. But for the President's executive actions in November, it would have been included in the omnibus spending bill that was signed into law last year. Now we are on the brink of a potential shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security. This is a fabricated crisis. The solution is simple. The Senate should approve the Shaheen-Mikulski bill, send it to the House, and end this stalemate. The House should promptly consider the bipartisan, comprehensive immigration legislation approved overwhelmingly by the Senate in 2013.

If there is another debate to be had about fixing our immigration system, let's have that debate. But let's stop holding the operations of one of the Nation's key national security agencies captive, while asking tens of thousands of hardworking Americans—including more than 2,500 Vermonters—to either work without pay or take an unpaid leave of absence. This is not the way to run a country. Unlike in so many other questions facing our country, the solution to this contrived disaster is easy. Members of Congress just need to have the courage to act.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

UKRAINE

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise once again in support of the people of Ukraine in their struggle against Russian aggression. The most recent diplomatic efforts seem to have only emboldened President Putin.

Since Minsk II, which is the last time they came to an agreement with reference to a ceasefire, there have been hundreds of ceasefire violations and the city of Debaltseve has fallen under rebel control. Putin's forces now threaten Mariupol, which would provide a key land bridge to Crimea, and his intentions are clear.

In my view, we need to urgently increase the cost to Putin with tougher sanctions and by providing more security assistance to the Ukrainian military.

At a press conference on February 9 with Chancellor Merkel, the President

said that his team was considering options including the provision of defensive military equipment if the diplomatic effort with respect to Russia has failed.

As recent events have shown, Minsk II is clearly dead, and we need to take a different approach.

At so many points in history, there have been opportunities for the international community to deter rogue actors from violating the sovereignty of other countries. Unless bullies such as Putin are confronted, they will always bully, they will always force a response, and they will always be an even greater problem for their neighbors and the broader international community.

Putin took Crimea, then he took Donetsk, then he took Luhansk, and last week he took Debaltseve. While he has paid a price because of the sanctions regime, that price has not changed his behavior. So now is the time to increase the cost to Putin. Now is the time to increase sanctions on Russia and work with Europe to consider additional sanctions in other sectors of the economy. Now is the time for the President to abide by his words on February 9—to provide badly needed defensive weapons to the Ukrainian Government and to rethink our strategic response to Russia's encroachment in Ukraine and across the former Soviet territories.

The international community simply cannot remain passive in the face of such unbridled aggression that will only invite further aggression. So I call upon the administration to fully implement measures this body authorized when it passed the Ukraine Freedom Support Act, which the President signed into law on December 18.

Last month I wrote to Secretary Kerry in the wake of the bloodiest period since the start of this crisis. I urged the administration to fully implement the authorities provided in the law and to comply with the clear reporting deadlines.

The legislation passed with unanimous consent in both Houses of Congress. It authorizes the President to provide much needed military and humanitarian aid to Ukraine, and it imposes additional sanctions against Russia in this time of crisis. The legislation was necessary in December, and it is even more necessary today.

We know the sanctions implemented by the United States and the European Union have had a tangible effect on the Russian economy. Combined with the decrease in global energy markets, they have put unprecedented pressure on President Putin. But he is undeterred. He continues to provide illegitimate and illegal support to separatists in eastern Ukraine, evidenced by OSCE and NATO reports cataloging the growing number of Russian troops and artillery that remain in the region and as evidenced by the spiking vio-

lence by so-called Russian-backed separatists against both military troops and civilians. Russian troops and these so-called Russian-backed rebels have carried out deadly attacks on civilians in eastern Ukraine. They have killed scores—they have killed women, they have killed children. They have ignored Minsk I. They have ignored Minsk II. And now they have gained control of Debaltseve and have made moves towards Mariupol. This must end. The violence must end and the killing must stop.

We must renew our commitment to the people of Ukraine and stand against Putin's blatant aggression. I appreciate the administration's comprehensive efforts to counter Russian aggression, but I also believe it is not enough. We must act immediately to influence the course of events on the ground and urge the President to fully implement the Ukraine Freedom Support Act. The violence threatening Ukraine's territorial integrity is threatening the region. The international community has an obligation to respond to Putin's clear signals that his intention is to escalate tensions in Ukraine and across the region.

Since Senator CORKER and I, along with other committee members, introduced the Ukraine Freedom Support Act, Putin has escalated his belligerent and aggressive tactics. NATO has deployed more than 400 times last year to intercept Russian military flights near members' European airspace.

In July of 2014, Ukrainian pilot Nadiya Savchenko was captured by Russian forces and is being illegally detained in Russia despite Russia's commitment to Minsk to free her.

In September of last year, Russians abducted the Estonian security service officer Eston Kohver from Estonian territory. He was taken from Estonian territory to Moscow where he has been languishing in prison without due process.

In October, Sweden's military discovered what it believed was a Russian submarine outside of Stockholm. In December, about a dozen Russian aircraft, including bombers, flew into the Baltic Sea region. In January, attacks on civilian buses took the lives of 20 Ukrainians. It is time for the international community to say enough is enough.

Fully implementing the sanctions and assistance in the Ukraine Freedom Support Act will help restore its sovereignty, it will help restore its territorial integrity, and it will help deter Russia from further destabilizing the region.

I urge the President to implement these measures immediately, without delay. That said, I understand there are individuals on the European Union and Canadian targeted sanctions list who do not appear on the American list of sanctions. Now why is this the case?

Perhaps the most egregious example is Alexander Bortnikov, the head of the Russian FSB. Mr. Bortnikov is not on the U.S. lists in relation to either Ukraine or the Magnitsky act, but he is on the European Union and Canadian lists. To make matters worse, Mr. Bortnikov was here in the United States last week for President Obama's CVE conference. To say that I am puzzled would be an understatement.

The fact is there are almost 150 individuals and entities on the Canadian and EU sanctions lists that are not on the U.S. lists. If there is no justifiable reason for excluding these individuals, then they should be added.

Yesterday before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Secretary Kerry indicated that these lists will be synced, harmonized, in the coming days, and I will keep a close eye on this process. Clearly, for the international effort to be effective, we need to be in lockstep with our Canadian and European allies. When we passed this legislation last December, it coincided with a Wall Street Journal report about the fortune that Russians were spending to lobby Washington against passing that very bill. They claimed the sanctions would affect the West's willingness to invest in Russia, and I say that is exactly what these sanctions should do.

Putin is using his military power to impose his will in Ukraine, but he is also using every economic tool at his disposal, and we must do the same. We must make it clear to Mr. Putin that there will be consequences for his actions.

This is not only obviously important in the context of Ukraine, which it certainly is in the first instance, but it is also about sending a very clear global message that if you violate and upend the international order, there will be consequences for doing so. Because in the absence of real consequences to doing so, there are other actors in the world who are looking at what is happening in Ukraine who will say, well, what did the United States, what did the West do to stop the aggression of Russia? And if the answer is not very much, at the end of the day—certainly not enough to stop that aggression—then other actors in the world who may be more powerful than their neighbors, who may have nuclear weapons in their possession, such as North Korea, will think about what they want to do. And whether that is China in the South China Sea which has had territorial disputes with our allies South Korea and Japan, or whether it is the challenge we have in North Korea of a nuclear armed North Korea, whether it is Maduro in Venezuela oppressing his people—I can go through a list of global actors who will wonder that if, at the end of the day, there isn't much consequence for violating the international order, then I will do what I wish to do because I have the power to

do it without consequences. That is an incredibly risky world to live in.

So I urge the President to implement our bill now. The military situation on the ground is clear. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, NATO, the Ukrainian National Security Defense Council, have all reported on the presence of Russian military convoys and troops in eastern Ukraine.

As a matter of fact, I was there last year in the midst of the invasion—and I call it an invasion, because last time I checked, where I come from, if you have Russian troops crossing from Russia into another sovereign country, if you have surface-to-surface missiles, if you have armored vehicles and tanks and all of them are crossing without provocation, then you clearly have an invasion—and that has only mounted. You can take a soldier and take his Russian insignia off and put something else on, but they are still Russian soldiers coming into Ukraine from Russia.

Fear is mounting in Mariupol that pro-Russian rebels with Russian support will conduct further attacks to ease land access to Crimea from Russia. If Russia gets its land access to Crimea, despite all of our talk that we will not forget that Crimea was taken by force illegally in violation of international law, Crimea is gone. If Russia continues down this path, its illegal occupation will be solidified and Putin clearly intends to continue to play his game.

Prior to Minsk II, Oleksandr Zakharchenko, the head of the separatists in Donetsk, said “there will be no ceasefires” and that the separatists will not stop their attacks until they have “reached the borders of the former Donetsk region.”

He has stayed true to his word. There are no more ceasefires. He issued an order to “take no prisoners,” claiming that the separatists were no longer interested in prisoner swaps.

So I say to my colleagues, the situation is dire and it is becoming increasingly clear we are not doing enough to change it. We must raise the costs to Putin and his cronies by providing Ukraine with the assistance it needs to defend itself. The world is watching and waiting and the time is now. The Ukraine Freedom Support Act explicitly authorizes the provision of defensive military assistance. Let's provide it.

We have sent over night vision goggles, and I guess those are great to see the enemy, but if they can't stop the enemy, what good is that? What good is that?

Let's provide anti-tank and anti-armor weapons, crew weapons, and ammunition. Let's provide counterartillery radar to identify and target artillery batteries, fire control, range finder, and optical and guidance control equipment. Let's provide tactical

troop-operated surveillance drones and secure command and communications equipment.

The administration was required to report to Congress on February 15 regarding its plan for increasing military assistance to the Government of Ukraine. Ten days later, we are still waiting on this report. I urge the President to impose the more stringent sanctions on Russia's defense and energy sectors that we outlined in the law. I urge him to enact further sanctions on Rosoboroneexport and other Russian defense firms that we know contribute to the instability in Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, and Syria. These firms outfit pro-Russian rebels and Russian troops who have invaded eastern Ukraine and established illegitimate republics recognized by no one but President Putin. It is time to enact those sanctions. It is time that we put an end to the chaos and violence these firms spread around the world. It is time to impose additional targeted sanctions on the Russian energy sector to add to existing sanctions that are already costing the Russian economy about \$140 billion a year, or about 7 percent of its economy.

By imposing the energy sanctions called for in the act, the administration will tighten restrictions on shale deposits, arctic drilling, and offshore drilling.

The Ukraine Freedom Support Act calls for the administration to impose sanctions on other defense industry targets as well as on special Russian crude oil projects by January 31. We are still waiting to see the administration's response.

On September 18, Petro Poroshenko, the President of Ukraine, addressed a joint session of Congress. We applauded his message of solidarity. Now it is time to move past the applause. Now is the time to stand together in solidarity with the people of Ukraine. President Poroshenko asked for defensive arms, he asked us for aid, and he asked us for tougher sanctions on Russia. We all want a diplomatic solution to this problem, but I believe this can only come about when Putin believes the cost of continuing to ravage Ukraine is simply too high. We have a responsibility to increase that cost.

I ask the President to heed our call and to fully exercise the authority granted by the Ukraine Freedom Support Act and to do it now.

If we do that, not only do we save a key country that is presently bleeding—the eastern part of Ukraine is one of the most productive parts of the country. It is tough to keep providing financial support to it when it cannot openly stabilize itself because of the violence and the economic bleeding that goes on by virtue of the war in the East. This is about a country that is looking westward toward democracy, toward the European Union. We should

be helping countries that want to make that decision and have made that decision by themselves be able to achieve their sovereign right to do so. We should be sending a clear international message about not violating the international order, and we should be sending a clear and powerful message that when you do, there are repercussions.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LEE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, the Senate Appropriations Committee has adopted rules governing its procedures for the 114th Congress. Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 2, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, on behalf of myself and Vice Chairwoman MIKULSKI, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the committee rules be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE RULES—114TH CONGRESS

I. MEETINGS

The Committee will meet at the call of the Chairman.

II. QUORUMS

1. Reporting a bill. A majority of the members must be present for the reporting of a bill.

2. Other business. For the purpose of transacting business other than reporting a bill or taking testimony, one-third of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

3. Taking testimony. For the purpose of taking testimony, other than sworn testimony, by the Committee or any subcommittee, one member of the Committee or subcommittee shall constitute a quorum. For the purpose of taking sworn testimony by the Committee, three members shall constitute a quorum, and for the taking of sworn testimony by any subcommittee, one member shall constitute a quorum.

III. PROXIES

Except for the reporting of a bill, votes may be cast by proxy when any member so requests.

IV. ATTENDANCE OF STAFF MEMBERS AT CLOSED SESSIONS

Attendance of staff members at closed sessions of the Committee shall be limited to those members of the Committee staff who have a responsibility associated with the matter being considered at such meeting.

This rule may be waived by unanimous consent.

V. BROADCASTING AND PHOTOGRAPHING OF COMMITTEE HEARINGS

The Committee or any of its subcommittees may permit the photographing and broadcast of open hearings by television and/or radio. However, if any member of a subcommittee objects to the photographing or broadcasting of an open hearing, the question shall be referred to the full Committee for its decision.

VI. AVAILABILITY OF SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

To the extent possible, when the bill and report of any subcommittee are available, they shall be furnished to each member of the Committee thirty-six hours prior to the Committee's consideration of said bill and report.

VII. AMENDMENTS AND REPORT LANGUAGE

To the extent possible, amendments and report language intended to be proposed by Senators at full Committee markups shall be provided in writing to the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member and the appropriate Subcommittee Chairman and Ranking Minority Member twenty-four hours prior to such markups.

VIII. POINTS OF ORDER

Any member of the Committee who is floor manager of an appropriations bill is hereby authorized to make points of order against any amendment offered in violation of the Senate Rules on the floor of the Senate to such appropriations bill.

IX. EX OFFICIO MEMBERSHIP

The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the full Committee are ex officio members of all subcommittees of which they are not regular members but shall have no vote in the subcommittee and shall not be counted for purposes of determining a quorum.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, the Select Committee on Intelligence has adopted rules governing its procedures for the 114th Congress. Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 2, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, on behalf of myself and Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a copy of the Committee rules.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

RULE 1. CONVENING OF MEETINGS

1.1. The regular meeting day of the Select Committee on Intelligence for the transaction of Committee business shall be every other Tuesday of each month, unless otherwise directed by the Chairman.

1.2. The Chairman shall have authority, upon notice, to call such additional meetings of the Committee as the Chairman may deem necessary and may delegate such authority to any other member of the Committee.

1.3. A special meeting of the Committee may be called at any time upon the written request of five or more members of the Committee filed with the Clerk of the Committee.

1.4. In the case of any meeting of the Committee, other than a regularly scheduled meeting, the Clerk of the Committee shall notify every member of the Committee of the time and place of the meeting and shall give reasonable notice which, except in extraordinary circumstances, shall be at least 24 hours in advance of any meeting held in Washington, D.C. and at least 48 hours in the case of any meeting held outside Washington, D.C.

1.5. If five members of the Committee have made a request in writing to the Chairman to call a meeting of the Committee, and the Chairman fails to call such a meeting within seven calendar days thereafter, including the day on which the written notice is submitted, these members may call a meeting by filing a written notice with the Clerk of the Committee who shall promptly notify each member of the Committee in writing of the date and time of the meeting.

RULE 2. MEETING PROCEDURES

2.1. Meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public except as provided in paragraph 5(b) of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

2.2. It shall be the duty of the Staff Director to keep or cause to be kept a record of all Committee proceedings.

2.3. The Chairman of the Committee, or if the Chairman is not present the Vice Chairman, shall preside over all meetings of the Committee. In the absence of the Chairman and the Vice Chairman at any meeting, the ranking majority member, or if no majority member is present the ranking minority member present, shall preside.

2.4. Except as otherwise provided in these Rules, decisions of the Committee shall be by a majority vote of the members present and voting. A quorum for the transaction of Committee business, including the conduct of executive sessions, shall consist of no less than one third of the Committee members, except that for the purpose of hearing witnesses, taking sworn testimony, and receiving evidence under oath, a quorum may consist of one Senator.

2.5. A vote by any member of the Committee with respect to any measure or matter being considered by the Committee may be cast by proxy if the proxy authorization (1) is in writing; (2) designates the member of the Committee who is to exercise the proxy; and (3) is limited to a specific measure or matter and any amendments pertaining thereto. Proxies shall not be considered for the establishment of a quorum.

2.6. Whenever the Committee by roll call vote reports any measure or matter, the report of the Committee upon such measure or matter shall include a tabulation of the votes cast in favor of and the votes cast in opposition to such measure or matter by each member of the Committee.

RULE 3. SUBCOMMITTEES

Creation of subcommittees shall be by majority vote of the Committee. Subcommittees shall deal with such legislation and oversight of programs and policies as the Committee may direct. The subcommittees shall be governed by the Rules of the Committee and by such other rules they may adopt which are consistent with the Rules of the Committee. Each subcommittee created shall have a chairman and a vice chairman who are selected by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively.

RULE 4. REPORTING OF MEASURES OR RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1. No measures or recommendations shall be reported, favorably or unfavorably, from

the Committee unless a majority of the Committee is actually present and a majority concur.

4.2. In any case in which the Committee is unable to reach a unanimous decision, separate views or reports may be presented by any member or members of the Committee.

4.3. A member of the Committee who gives notice of intention to file supplemental, minority, or additional views at the time of final Committee approval of a measure or matter, shall be entitled to not less than three working days in which to file such views, in writing with the Clerk of the Committee. Such views shall then be included in the Committee report and printed in the same volume, as a part thereof, and their inclusion shall be noted on the cover of the report.

4.4. Routine, non-legislative actions required of the Committee may be taken in accordance with procedures that have been approved by the Committee pursuant to these Committee Rules.

RULE 5. NOMINATIONS

5.1. Unless otherwise ordered by the Committee, nominations referred to the Committee shall be held for at least 14 days before being voted on by the Committee.

5.2. Each member of the Committee shall be promptly furnished a copy of all nominations referred to the Committee.

5.3. Nominees who are invited to appear before the Committee shall be heard in public session, except as provided in Rule 2.1.

5.4. No confirmation hearing shall be held sooner than seven days after receipt of the background and financial disclosure statement unless the time limit is waived by a majority vote of the Committee.

5.5. The Committee vote on the confirmation shall not be sooner than 48 hours after the Committee has received transcripts of the confirmation hearing unless the time limit is waived by unanimous consent of the Committee.

5.6. No nomination shall be reported to the Senate unless the nominee has filed a background and financial disclosure statement with the Committee.

RULE 6. INVESTIGATIONS

No investigation shall be initiated by the Committee unless at least five members of the Committee have specifically requested the Chairman or the Vice Chairman to authorize such an investigation. Authorized investigations may be conducted by members of the Committee and/or designated Committee staff members.

RULE 7. SUBPOENAS

Subpoenas authorized by the Committee for the attendance of witnesses or the production of memoranda, documents, records, or any other material may be issued by the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, or any member of the Committee designated by the Chairman, and may be served by any person designated by the Chairman, Vice Chairman or member issuing the subpoenas. Each subpoena shall have attached thereto a copy of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress, and a copy of these rules.

RULE 8. PROCEDURES RELATED TO THE TAKING OF TESTIMONY

8.1. NOTICE.—Witnesses required to appear before the Committee shall be given reasonable notice and all witnesses shall be furnished a copy of these Rules.

8.2. OATH OR AFFIRMATION.—At the direction of the Chairman or Vice Chairman, testimony of witnesses shall be given under oath or affirmation which may be administered by any member of the Committee.

8.3. INTERROGATION.—Committee interrogation shall be conducted by members of the Committee and such Committee staff as are authorized by the Chairman, Vice Chairman, or the presiding member.

8.4. COUNSEL FOR THE WITNESS.—(a) Any witness may be accompanied by counsel. A witness who is unable to obtain counsel may inform the Committee of such fact. If the witness informs the Committee of this fact at least 24 hours prior to his or her appearance before the Committee, the Committee shall then endeavor to obtain voluntary counsel for the witness. Failure to obtain such counsel will not excuse the witness from appearing and testifying.

(b) Counsel shall conduct themselves in an ethical and professional manner. Failure to do so shall, upon a finding to that effect by a majority of the members present, subject such counsel to disciplinary action which may include warning, censure, removal, or a recommendation of contempt proceedings.

(c) There shall be no direct or cross-examination by counsel. However, counsel may submit any question in writing to the Committee and request the Committee to propound such question to the counsel's client or to any other witness. The counsel also may suggest the presentation of other evidence or the calling of other witnesses. The Committee may use or dispose of such questions or suggestions as it deems appropriate.

8.5. STATEMENTS BY WITNESSES.—Witnesses may make brief and relevant statements at the beginning and conclusion of their testimony. Such statements shall not exceed a reasonable period of time as determined by the Chairman, or other presiding members. Any witness required or desiring to make a prepared or written statement for the record of the proceedings shall file a paper and electronic copy with the Clerk of the Committee, and insofar as practicable and consistent with the notice given, shall do so at least 48 hours in advance of his or her appearance before the Committee.

8.6. OBJECTIONS AND RULINGS.—Any objection raised by a witness or counsel shall be ruled upon by the Chairman or other presiding member, and such ruling shall be the ruling of the Committee unless a majority of the Committee present overrules the ruling of the chair.

8.7. INSPECTION AND CORRECTION.—All witnesses testifying before the Committee shall be given a reasonable opportunity to inspect, in the office of the Committee, the transcript of their testimony to determine whether such testimony was correctly transcribed. The witness may be accompanied by counsel. Any corrections the witness desires to make in the transcript shall be submitted in writing to the Committee within five days from the date when the transcript was made available to the witness. Corrections shall be limited to grammar and minor editing, and may not be made to change the substance of the testimony. Any questions arising with respect to such corrections shall be decided by the Chairman. Upon request, the Committee may provide to a witness those parts of testimony given by that witness in executive session which are subsequently quoted or made part of a public record, at the expense of the witness.

8.8. REQUESTS TO TESTIFY.—The Committee will consider requests to testify on any matter or measure pending before the Committee. A person who believes that testimony or other evidence presented at a public hearing, or any comment made by a Committee member or a member of the Committee staff, may tend to affect adversely

that person's reputation, may request to appear personally before the Committee to testify or may file a sworn statement of facts relevant to the testimony, evidence, or comment, or may submit to the Chairman proposed questions in writing for the cross-examination of other witnesses. The Committee shall take such action as it deems appropriate.

8.9. CONTEMPT PROCEDURES.—No recommendation that a person be cited for contempt of Congress or that a subpoena be otherwise enforced shall be forwarded to the Senate unless and until the Committee has, upon notice to all its members, met and considered the recommendation, afforded the person an opportunity to oppose such contempt or subpoena enforcement proceeding either in writing or in person, and agreed by majority vote of the Committee to forward such recommendation to the Senate.

8.10. RELEASE OF NAME OF WITNESS.—Unless authorized by the Chairman, the name of any witness scheduled to be heard by the Committee shall not be released prior to, or after, appearing before the Committee. Upon authorization by the Chairman to release the name of a witness under this paragraph, the Vice Chairman shall be notified of such authorization as soon as practicable thereafter. No name of any witness shall be released if such release would disclose classified information, unless authorized under Section 8 of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress or Rule 9.7.

RULE 9. PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING CLASSIFIED OR COMMITTEE SENSITIVE MATERIAL

9.1. Committee staff offices shall operate under strict precautions. At least one United States Capitol Police Officer shall be on duty at all times at the entrance of the Committee to control entry. Before entering the Committee office space all persons shall identify themselves and provide identification as requested.

9.2. Classified documents and material shall be stored in authorized security containers located within the Committee's Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF). Copying, duplicating, or removing from the Committee offices of such documents and other materials is prohibited except as is necessary for the conduct of Committee business, and in conformity with Rule 10.3 hereof. All classified documents or materials removed from the Committee offices for such authorized purposes must be returned to the Committee's SCIF for overnight storage.

9.3. "Committee sensitive" means information or material that pertains to the confidential business or proceedings of the Select Committee on Intelligence, within the meaning of paragraph 5 of Rule XXIX of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and is: (1) in the possession or under the control of the Committee; (2) discussed or presented in an executive session of the Committee; (3) the work product of a Committee member or staff member; (4) properly identified or marked by a Committee member or staff member who authored the document; or (5) designated as such by the Chairman and Vice Chairman (or by the Staff Director and Minority Staff Director acting on their behalf). Committee sensitive documents and materials that are classified shall be handled in the same manner as classified documents and material in Rule 9.2. Unclassified committee sensitive documents and materials shall be stored in a manner to protect against unauthorized disclosure.

9.4. Each member of the Committee shall at all times have access to all papers and other material received from any source.

The Staff Director shall be responsible for the maintenance, under appropriate security procedures, of a document control and accountability registry which will number and identify all classified papers and other classified materials in the possession of the Committee, and such registry shall be available to any member of the Committee.

9.5. Whenever the Select Committee on Intelligence makes classified material available to any other committee of the Senate or to any member of the Senate not a member of the Committee, such material shall be accompanied by a verbal or written notice to the recipients advising of their responsibility to protect such materials pursuant to section 8 of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress. The Security Director of the Committee shall ensure that such notice is provided and shall maintain a written record identifying the particular information transmitted and the committee or members of the Senate receiving such information.

9.6. Access to classified information supplied to the Committee shall be limited to those Committee staff members with appropriate security clearance and a need-to-know, as determined by the Committee, and, under the Committee's direction, the Staff Director and Minority Staff Director.

9.7. No member of the Committee or of the Committee staff shall disclose, in whole or in part or by way of summary, the contents of any classified or committee sensitive papers, materials, briefings, testimony, or other information in the possession of the Committee to any other person, except as specified in this rule. Committee members and staff do not need prior approval to disclose classified or committee sensitive information to persons in the Executive branch, the members and staff of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and the members and staff of the Senate, provided that the following conditions are met: (1) for classified information, the recipients of the information must possess appropriate security clearances (or have access to the information by virtue of their office); (2) for all information, the recipients of the information must have a need-to-know such information for an official governmental purpose; and (3) for all information, the Committee members and staff who provide the information must be engaged in the routine performance of Committee legislative or oversight duties. Otherwise, classified and committee sensitive information may only be disclosed to persons outside the Committee (to include any congressional committee, Member of Congress, congressional staff, or specified non-governmental persons who support intelligence activities) with the prior approval of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee, or the Staff Director and Minority Staff Director acting on their behalf, consistent with the requirements that classified information may only be disclosed to persons with appropriate security clearances and a need-to-know such information for an official governmental purpose. Public disclosure of classified information in the possession of the Committee may only be authorized in accordance with Section 8 of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress.

9.8. Failure to abide by Rule 9.7 shall constitute grounds for referral to the Select Committee on Ethics pursuant to Section 8 of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress. Prior to a referral to the Select Committee on Ethics pursuant to Section 8 of S. Res. 400, the Chairman and Vice Chairman shall notify the Majority Leader and Minority Leader.

9.9. Before the Committee makes any decision regarding the disposition of any testi-

mony, papers, or other materials presented to it, the Committee members shall have a reasonable opportunity to examine all pertinent testimony, papers, and other materials that have been obtained by the members of the Committee or the Committee staff.

9.10. Attendance of persons outside the Committee at closed meetings of the Committee shall be kept at a minimum and shall be limited to persons with appropriate security clearance and a need-to-know the information under consideration for the execution of their official duties. The Security Director of the Committee may require that notes taken at such meetings by any person in attendance shall be returned to the secure storage area in the Committee's offices at the conclusion of such meetings, and may be made available to the department, agency, office, committee, or entity concerned only in accordance with the security procedures of the Committee.

RULE 10. STAFF

10.1. For purposes of these rules, Committee staff includes employees of the Committee, consultants to the Committee, or any other person engaged by contract or otherwise to perform services for or at the request of the Committee. To the maximum extent practicable, the Committee shall rely on its full-time employees to perform all staff functions. No individual may be retained as staff of the Committee or to perform services for the Committee unless that individual holds appropriate security clearances.

10.2. The appointment of Committee staff shall be approved by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly, or, at the initiative of both or either be confirmed by a majority vote of the Committee. After approval or confirmation, the Chairman shall certify Committee staff appointments to the Financial Clerk of the Senate in writing. No Committee staff shall be given access to any classified information or regular access to the Committee offices until such Committee staff has received an appropriate security clearance as described in Section 6 of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress.

10.3. The Committee staff works for the Committee as a whole, under the supervision of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee. The duties of the Committee staff shall be performed, and Committee staff personnel affairs and day-to-day operations, including security and control of classified documents and material, shall be administered under the direct supervision and control of the Staff Director. All Committee staff shall work exclusively on intelligence oversight issues for the Committee. The Minority Staff Director and the Minority Counsel shall be kept fully informed regarding all matters and shall have access to all material in the files of the Committee.

10.4. The Committee staff shall assist the minority as fully as the majority in the expression of minority views, including assistance in the preparation and filing of additional, separate, and minority views, to the end that all points of view may be fully considered by the Committee and the Senate.

10.5. The members of the Committee staff shall not discuss either the substance or procedure of the work of the Committee with any person not a member of the Committee or the Committee staff for any purpose or in connection with any proceeding, judicial or otherwise, either during their tenure as a member of the Committee staff or at any time thereafter, except as directed by the Committee in accordance with Section 8 of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress and the pro-

visions of these rules, or in the event of the termination of the Committee, in such a manner as may be determined by the Senate. The Chairman may authorize the Staff Director and the Staff Director's designee, and the Vice Chairman may authorize the Minority Staff Director and the Minority Staff Director's designee, to communicate with the media in a manner that does not divulge classified or committee sensitive information.

10.6. No member of the Committee staff shall be employed by the Committee unless and until such a member of the Committee staff agrees in writing, as a condition of employment, to abide by the conditions of the nondisclosure agreement promulgated by the Select Committee on Intelligence, pursuant to Section 6 of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress, and to abide by the Committee's code of conduct.

10.7. As a precondition for employment on the Committee staff, each member of the Committee staff must agree in writing to notify the Committee of any request for testimony, either during service as a member of the Committee staff or at any time thereafter with respect to information obtained by virtue of employment as a member of the Committee staff. Such information shall not be disclosed in response to such requests except as directed by the Committee in accordance with Section 8 of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress and the provisions of these rules or, in the event of the termination of the Committee, in such manner as may be determined by the Senate.

10.8. The Committee shall immediately consider action to be taken in the case of any member of the Committee staff who fails to conform to any of these Rules. Such disciplinary action may include, but shall not be limited to, immediate dismissal from the Committee staff.

10.9. Within the Committee staff shall be an element with the capability to perform audits of programs and activities undertaken by departments and agencies with intelligence functions. The audit element shall conduct audits and oversight projects that have been specifically authorized by the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee, acting jointly through the Staff Director and Minority Staff Director. Staff shall be assigned to such element jointly by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, and staff with the principal responsibility for the conduct of an audit shall be qualified by training or experience in accordance with accepted auditing standards.

10.10. The workplace of the Committee shall be free from illegal use, possession, sale, or distribution of controlled substances by its employees. Any violation of such policy by any member of the Committee staff shall be grounds for termination of employment. Further, any illegal use of controlled substances by a member of the Committee staff, within the workplace or otherwise, shall result in reconsideration of the security clearance of any such staff member and may constitute grounds for termination of employment with the Committee.

10.11. All personnel actions affecting the staff of the Committee shall be made free from any discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, or disability.

RULE 11. PREPARATION FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS

11.1. Under direction of the Chairman and the Vice Chairman designated Committee staff members shall brief members of the Committee at a time sufficiently prior to

any Committee meeting to assist the Committee members in preparation for such meeting and to determine any matter which the Committee member might wish considered during the meeting. Such briefing shall, at the request of a member, include a list of all pertinent papers and other materials that have been obtained by the Committee that bear on matters to be considered at the meeting.

11.2. The Staff Director and/or Minority Staff Director shall recommend to the Chairman and the Vice Chairman the testimony, papers, and other materials to be presented to the Committee at any meeting. The determination whether such testimony, papers, and other materials shall be presented in open or executive session shall be made pursuant to the Rules of the Senate and Rules of the Committee.

11.3. The Staff Director shall ensure that covert action programs of the U.S. Government receive appropriate consideration by the Committee no less frequently than once a quarter.

RULE 12. LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

12.1. The Clerk of the Committee shall maintain a printed calendar for the information of each Committee member showing the measures introduced and referred to the Committee and the status of such measures; nominations referred to the Committee and their status; and such other matters as the Committee determines shall be included. The Calendar shall be revised from time to time to show pertinent changes. A copy of each such revision shall be furnished to each member of the Committee.

12.2. Measures referred to the Committee may be referred by the Chairman and/or Vice Chairman to the appropriate department or agency of the Government for reports thereon.

RULE 13. COMMITTEE TRAVEL

13.1. No member of the Committee or Committee Staff shall travel abroad on Committee business unless specifically authorized by the Chairman and Vice Chairman. Requests for authorization of such travel shall state the purpose and extent of the trip. A full report shall be filed with the Committee when travel is completed.

13.2. No member of the Committee staff shall travel within this country on Committee business unless specifically authorized by the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

RULE 14. CHANGES IN RULES

These Rules may be modified, amended, or repealed by the Committee, provided that a notice in writing of the proposed change has been given to each member at least 48 hours prior to the meeting at which action thereon is to be taken.

APPENDIX A

S. Res. 400, 94th Cong., 2d Sess. (1976)¹

Resolved, That it is the purpose of this resolution to establish a new select committee of the Senate, to be known as the Select Committee on Intelligence, to oversee and make continuing studies of the intelligence activities and programs of the United States Government, and to submit to the Senate appropriate proposals for legislation and report to the Senate concerning such intelligence activities and programs. In carrying out this purpose, the Select Committee on Intelligence shall make every effort to assure that the appropriate departments and agencies of the United States provide informed and timely intelligence necessary for the executive and legislative branches to make sound decisions affecting the security and

vital interests of the Nation. It is further the purpose of this resolution to provide vigilant legislative oversight over the intelligence activities of the United States to assure that such activities are in conformity with the Constitution and laws of the United States.

SEC. 2. (a)(1) There is hereby established a select committee to be known as the Select Committee on Intelligence (hereinafter in this resolution referred to as the "select committee"). The select committee shall be composed of not to exceed fifteen Members appointed as follows:

(A) two members from the Committee on Appropriations;

(B) two members from the Committee on Armed Services;

(C) two members from the Committee on Foreign Relations;

(D) two members from the Committee on the Judiciary; and

(E) not to exceed seven members to be appointed from the Senate at large.

(2) Members appointed from each committee named in clauses (A) through (D) of paragraph (1) shall be evenly divided between the two major political parties and shall be appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate upon the recommendations of the majority and minority leaders of the Senate. Of any members appointed under paragraph (1)(E), the majority leader shall appoint the majority members and the minority leader shall appoint the minority members, with the majority having a one vote margin.

(3)(A) The majority leader of the Senate and the minority leader of the Senate shall be ex officio members of the select committee but shall have no vote in the Committee and shall not be counted for purposes of determining a quorum.

(B) The Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Armed Services (if not already a member of the select Committee) shall be ex officio members of the select Committee but shall have no vote in the Committee and shall not be counted for purposes of determining a quorum.

(b) At the beginning of each Congress, the Majority Leader of the Senate shall select a chairman of the select Committee and the Minority Leader shall select a vice chairman for the select Committee. The vice chairman shall act in the place and stead of the chairman in the absence of the chairman. Neither the chairman nor the vice chairman of the select committee shall at the same time serve as chairman or ranking minority member of any other committee referred to in paragraph 4(e)(1) of rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

(c) The select Committee may be organized into subcommittees. Each subcommittee shall have a chairman and a vice chairman who are selected by the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the select Committee, respectively.

SEC. 3. (a) There shall be referred to the select committee all proposed legislation, messages, petitions, memorials, and other matters relating to the following:

(1) The Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the Director of National Intelligence.

(2) The Central Intelligence Agency and the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

(3) Intelligence activities of all other departments and agencies of the Government, including, but not limited to, the intelligence activities of the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, and other agencies of the Department of Defense; the Department of State; the Department of

Justice; and the Department of the Treasury.

(4) The organization or reorganization of any department or agency of the Government to the extent that the organization or reorganization relates to a function or activity involving intelligence activities.

(5) Authorizations for appropriations, both direct and indirect, for the following:

(A) The Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the Director of National Intelligence.

(B) The Central Intelligence Agency and the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

(C) The Defense Intelligence Agency.

(D) The National Security Agency.

(E) The intelligence activities of other agencies and subdivisions of the Department of Defense.

(F) The intelligence activities of the Department of State.

(G) The intelligence activities of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(H) Any department, agency, or subdivision which is the successor to any agency named in clause (A), (B), (C) or (D); and the activities of any department, agency, or subdivision which is the successor to any department, agency, bureau, or subdivision named in clause (E), (F), or (G) to the extent that the activities of such successor department, agency, or subdivision are activities described in clause (E), (F), or (G).

(b)(1) Any proposed legislation reported by the select Committee except any legislation involving matters specified in clause (1), (2), (5)(A), or (5)(B) of subsection (a), containing any matter otherwise within the jurisdiction of any standing committee shall, at the request of the chairman of such standing committee, be referred to such standing committee for its consideration of such matter and be reported to the Senate by such standing committee within 10 days after the day on which such proposed legislation, in its entirety and including annexes, is referred to such standing committee; and any proposed legislation reported by any committee, other than the select Committee, which contains any matter within the jurisdiction of the select Committee shall, at the request of the chairman of the select Committee, be referred to the select Committee for its consideration of such matter and be reported to the Senate by the select Committee within 10 days after the day on which such proposed legislation, in its entirety and including annexes, is referred to such committee.

(2) In any case in which a committee fails to report any proposed legislation referred to it within the time limit prescribed in this subsection, such Committee shall be automatically discharged from further consideration of such proposed legislation on the 10th day following the day on which such proposed legislation is referred to such committee unless the Senate provides otherwise, or the Majority Leader or Minority Leader request, prior to that date, an additional 5 days on behalf of the Committee to which the proposed legislation was sequentially referred. At the end of that additional 5 day period, if the Committee fails to report the proposed legislation within that 5 day period, the Committee shall be automatically discharged from further consideration of such proposed legislation unless the Senate provides otherwise.

(3) In computing any 10 or 5 day period under this subsection there shall be excluded from such computation any days on which the Senate is not in session.

(4) The reporting and referral processes outlined in this subsection shall be conducted in strict accordance with the Standing Rules of the Senate. In accordance with

such rules, committees to which legislation is referred are not permitted to make changes or alterations to the text of the referred bill and its annexes, but may propose changes or alterations to the same in the form of amendments.

(c) Nothing in this resolution shall be construed as prohibiting or otherwise restricting the authority of any other committee to study and review any intelligence activity to the extent that such activity directly affects a matter otherwise within the jurisdiction of such committee.

(d) Nothing in this resolution shall be construed as amending, limiting, or otherwise changing the authority of any standing committee of the Senate to obtain full and prompt access to the product of the intelligence activities of any department or agency of the Government relevant to a matter otherwise within the jurisdiction of such committee.

SEC. 4. (a) The select committee, for the purposes of accountability to the Senate, shall make regular and periodic, but not less than quarterly, reports to the Senate on the nature and extent of the intelligence activities of the various departments and agencies of the United States. Such committee shall promptly call to the attention of the Senate or to any other appropriate committee or committees of the Senate any matters requiring the attention of the Senate or such other committee or committees. In making such report, the select committee shall proceed in a manner consistent with section 8(c)(2) to protect national security.

(b) The select committee shall obtain an annual report from the Director of National Intelligence, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Such reports shall review the intelligence activities of the agency or department concerned and the intelligence activities of foreign countries directed at the United States or its interest. An unclassified version of each report may be made available to the public at the discretion of the select committee. Nothing herein shall be construed as requiring the public disclosure in such reports of the names of individuals engaged in intelligence activities for the United States or the divulging of intelligence methods employed or the sources of information on which such reports are based or the amount of funds authorized to be appropriated for intelligence activities.

(c) On or before March 15 of each year, the select committee shall submit to the Committee on the Budget of the Senate the views and estimates described in section 301(c) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 regarding matters within the jurisdiction of the select committee.

SEC. 5. (a) For the purposes of this resolution, the select committee is authorized in its discretion (1) to make investigations into any matter within its jurisdiction, (2) to make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate, (3) to employ personnel, (4) to hold hearings, (5) to sit and act at any time or place during the sessions, recesses, and adjourned periods of the Senate, (6) to require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance of witnesses and the production of correspondence, books, papers, and documents, (7) to take depositions and other testimony, (8) to procure the service of individual consultants or organizations thereof, in accordance with the provisions of section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, and (9) with the prior consent of the govern-

ment department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, to use on a reimbursable basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) The chairman of the select committee or any member thereof may administer oaths to witnesses.

(c) Subpoenas authorized by the select committee may be issued over the signature of the chairman, the vice chairman or any member of the select committee designated by the chairman, and may be served by any person designated by the chairman or any member signing the subpoenas.

SEC. 6. No employee of the select committee or any person engaged by contract or otherwise to perform services for or at the request of such committee shall be given access to any classified information by such committee unless such employee or person has (1) agreed in writing and under oath to be bound by the rules of the Senate (including the jurisdiction of the Select Committee on Ethics) and of such committee as to the security of such information during and after the period of his employment or contractual agreement with such committee; and (2) received an appropriate security clearance as determined by such committee in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence. The type of security clearance to be required in the case of any such employee or person shall, within the determination of such committee in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, be commensurate with the sensitivity of the classified information to which such employee or person will be given access by such committee.

SEC. 7. The select committee shall formulate and carry out such rules and procedures as it deems necessary to prevent the disclosure, without the consent of the person or persons concerned, of information in the possession of such committee which unduly infringes upon the privacy or which violates the constitutional rights of such person or persons. Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent such committee from publicly disclosing any such information in any case in which such committee determines the national interest in the disclosure of such information clearly outweighs any infringement on the privacy of any person or persons.

SEC. 8. (a) The select committee may, subject to the provisions of this section, disclose publicly any information in the possession of such committee after a determination by such committee that the public interest would be served by such disclosure. Whenever committee action is required to disclose any information under this section, the committee shall meet to vote on the matter within five days after any member of the committee requests such a vote. No member of the select committee shall disclose any information, the disclosure of which requires a committee vote, prior to a vote by the committee on the question of the disclosure of such information or after such vote except in accordance with this section.

(b)(1) In any case in which the select committee votes to disclose publicly any information which has been classified under established security procedures, which has been submitted to it by the Executive branch, and which the Executive branch requests be kept secret, such committee shall—

(A) first, notify the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the Senate of such vote; and

(B) second, consult with the Majority Leader and Minority Leader before notifying the President of such vote.

(2) The select committee may disclose publicly such information after the expiration of a five-day period following the day on which notice of such vote is transmitted to the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader and the President, unless, prior to the expiration of such five-day period, the President, personally in writing, notifies the committee that he objects to the disclosure of such information, provides his reasons therefore, and certifies that the threat to the national interest of the United States posed by such disclosure is of such gravity that it outweighs any public interest in the disclosure.

(3) If the President, personally, in writing, notifies the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the Senate and the select Committee of his objections to the disclosure of such information as provided in paragraph (2), the Majority Leader and Minority Leader jointly or the select Committee, by majority vote, may refer the question of the disclosure of such information to the Senate for consideration.

(4) Whenever the select committee votes to refer the question of disclosure of any information to the Senate under paragraph (3), the Chairman shall not later than the first day on which the Senate is in session following the day on which the vote occurs, report the matter to the Senate for its consideration.

(5) One hour after the Senate convenes on the fourth day on which the Senate is in session following the day on which any such matter is reported to the Senate, or at such earlier time as the majority leader and the minority leader of the Senate jointly agree upon in accordance with paragraph 5 of rule XVII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Senate shall go into closed session and the matter shall be the pending business. In considering the matter in closed session the Senate may—

(A) approve the public disclosure of all or any portion of the information in question, in which case the committee shall publicly disclose the information ordered to be disclosed,

(B) disapprove the public disclosure of all or any portion of the information in question, in which case the committee shall not publicly disclose the information ordered not to be disclosed, or

(C) refer all or any portion of the matter back to the committee, in which case the committee shall make the final determination with respect to the public disclosure of the information in question.

Upon conclusion of the consideration of such matter in closed session, which may not extend beyond the close of the ninth day on which the Senate is in session following the day on which such matter was reported to the Senate, or the close of the fifth day following the day agreed upon jointly by the majority and minority leaders in accordance with paragraph 5 of rule XVII of the Standing Rules of the Senate (whichever the case may be), the Senate shall immediately vote on the disposition of such matter in open session, without debate, and without divulging the information with respect to which the vote is being taken. The Senate shall vote to dispose of such matter by one or more of the means specified in clauses (A), (B), and (C) of the second sentence of this paragraph. Any vote of the Senate to disclose any information pursuant to this paragraph shall be subject to the right of a Member of the Senate to move for reconsideration of the vote within the time and pursuant to the procedures specified in rule XIII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and the

disclosure of such information shall be made consistent with that right.

(c)(1) No information in the possession of the select committee relating to the lawful intelligence activities of any department or agency of the United States which has been classified under established security procedures and which the select committee, pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this section, has determined should not be disclosed shall be made available to any person by a Member, officer, or employee of the Senate except in a closed session of the Senate or as provided in paragraph (2).

(2) The select committee may, under such regulations as the committee shall prescribe to protect the confidentiality of such information, make any information described in paragraph (1) available to any other committee or any other Member of the Senate. Whenever the select committee makes such information available, the committee shall keep a written record showing, in the case of any particular information, which committee or which Members of the Senate received such information. No Member of the Senate who, and no committee which, receives any information under this subsection, shall disclose such information except in a closed session of the Senate.

(d) It shall be the duty of the Select Committee on Ethics to investigate any unauthorized disclosure of intelligence information by a Member, officer or employee of the Senate in violation of subsection (c) and to report to the Senate concerning any allegation which it finds to be substantiated.

(e) Upon the request of any person who is subject to any such investigation, the Select Committee on Ethics shall release to such individual at the conclusion of its investigation a summary of its investigation together with its findings. If, at the conclusion of its investigation, the Select Committee on Ethics determines that there has been a significant breach of confidentiality or unauthorized disclosure by a Member, officer, or employee of the Senate, it shall report its findings to the Senate and recommend appropriate action such as censure, removal from committee membership, or expulsion from the Senate, in the case of a Member, or removal from office or employment or punishment for contempt, in the case of an officer or employee.

SEC. 9. The select committee is authorized to permit any personal representative of the President, designated by the President to serve as a liaison to such committee, to attend any closed meeting of such committee.

SEC. 10. Upon expiration of the Select Committee on Governmental Operations With Respect to Intelligence Activities, established by Senate Resolution 21, Ninety-fourth Congress, all records, files, documents, and other materials in the possession, custody, or control of such committee, under appropriate conditions established by it, shall be transferred to the select committee.

SEC. 11. (a) It is the sense of the Senate that the head of each department and agency of the United States should keep the select committee fully and currently informed with respect to intelligence activities, including any significant anticipated activities, which are the responsibility of or engaged in by such department or agency: *Provided*, That this does not constitute a condition precedent to the implementation of any such anticipated intelligence activity.

(b) It is the sense of the Senate that the head of any department or agency of the United States involved in any intelligence activities should furnish any information or

document in the possession, custody, or control of the department or agency, or person paid by such department or agency, whenever requested by the select committee with respect to any matter within such committee's jurisdiction.

(c) It is the sense of the Senate that each department and agency of the United States should report immediately upon discovery to the select committee any and all intelligence activities which constitute violations of the constitutional rights of any person, violations of law, or violations of Executive orders, Presidential directives, or departmental or agency rules or regulations; each department and agency should further report to such committee what actions have been taken or are expected to be taken by the departments or agencies with respect to such violations.

SEC. 12. Subject to the Standing Rules of the Senate, no funds shall be appropriated for any fiscal year beginning after September 30, 1976, with the exception of a continuing bill or resolution, or amendment thereto, or conference report thereon, to, or for use of, any department or agency of the United States to carry out any of the following activities, unless such funds shall have been previously authorized by a bill or joint resolution passed by the Senate during the same or preceding fiscal year to carry out such activity for such fiscal year:

(1) The activities of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the Director of National Intelligence.

(2) The activities of the Central Intelligence Agency and the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

(3) The activities of the Defense Intelligence Agency.

(4) The activities of the National Security Agency.

(5) The intelligence activities of other agencies and subdivisions of the Department of Defense.

(6) The intelligence activities of the Department of State.

(7) The intelligence activities of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

SEC. 13. (a) The select committee shall make a study with respect to the following matters, taking into consideration with respect to each such matter, all relevant aspects of the effectiveness of planning, gathering, use, security, and dissemination of intelligence:

(1) the quality of the analytical capabilities of United States foreign intelligence agencies and means for integrating more closely analytical intelligence and policy formulation;

(2) the extent and nature of the authority of the departments and agencies of the Executive branch to engage in intelligence activities and the desirability of developing charters for each intelligence agency or department;

(3) the organization of intelligence activities in the Executive branch to maximize the effectiveness of the conduct, oversight, and accountability of intelligence activities; to reduce duplication or overlap; and to improve the morale of the personnel of the foreign intelligence agencies;

(4) the conduct of covert and clandestine activities and the procedures by which Congress is informed of such activities;

(5) the desirability of changing any law, Senate rule or procedure, or any Executive order, rule, or regulation to improve the protection of intelligence secrets and provide for disclosure of information for which there is no compelling reason for secrecy;

(6) the desirability of establishing a standing committee of the Senate on intelligence activities;

(7) the desirability of establishing a joint committee of the Senate and the House of Representatives on intelligence activities in lieu of having separate committees in each House of Congress, or of establishing procedures under which separate committees on intelligence activities of the two Houses of Congress would receive joint briefings from the intelligence agencies and coordinate their policies with respect to the safeguarding of sensitive intelligence information;

(8) the authorization of funds for the intelligence activities of the Government and whether disclosure of any of the amounts of such funds is in the public interest; and

(9) the development of a uniform set of definitions for terms to be used in policies or guidelines which may be adopted by the executive or legislative branches to govern, clarify, and strengthen the operation of intelligence activities.

(b) The select committee may, in its discretion, omit from the special study required by this section any matter it determines has been adequately studied by the Select Committee To Study Governmental Operations With Respect to Intelligence Activities, established by Senate Resolution 21, Ninety-fourth Congress.

(c) The select committee shall report the results of the study provided for by this section to the Senate, together with any recommendations for legislative or other actions it deems appropriate, no later than July 1, 1977, and from time to time thereafter as it deems appropriate.

SEC. 14. (a) As used in this resolution, the term "intelligence activities" includes (1) the collection, analysis, production, dissemination, or use of information which relates to any foreign country, or any government, political group, party, military force, movement, or other association in such foreign country, and which relates to the defense, foreign policy, national security, or related policies of the United States, and other activity which is in support of such activities; (2) activities taken to counter similar activities directed against the United States; (3) covert or clandestine activities affecting the relations of the United States with any foreign government, political group, party, military force, movement or other association; (4) the collection, analysis, production, dissemination, or use of information about activities of persons within the United States, its territories and possessions, or nationals of the United States abroad whose political and related activities pose, or may be considered by any department, agency, bureau, office, division, instrumentality, or employee of the United States to pose, a threat to the internal security of the United States, and covert or clandestine activities directed against such persons. Such term does not include tactical foreign military intelligence serving no national policymaking function.

(b) As used in this resolution, the term "department or agency" includes any organization, committee, council, establishment, or office within the Federal Government.

(c) For purposes of this resolution, reference to any department, agency, bureau, or subdivision shall include a reference to any successor department, agency, bureau, or subdivision to the extent that such successor engages in intelligence activities now conducted by the department, agency, bureau, or subdivision referred to in this resolution.

SEC. 15. (a) In addition to other committee staff selected by the select Committee, the select Committee shall hire or appoint one employee for each member of the select Committee to serve as such Member's designated representative on the select Committee. The select Committee shall only hire or appoint an employee chosen by the respective Member of the select Committee for whom the employee will serve as the designated representative on the select Committee.

(b) The select Committee shall be afforded a supplement to its budget, to be determined by the Committee on Rules and Administration, to allow for the hire of each employee who fills the position of designated representative to the select Committee. The designated representative shall have office space and appropriate office equipment in the select Committee spaces. Designated personal representatives shall have the same access to Committee staff, information, records, and databases as select Committee staff, as determined by the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

(c) The designated employee shall meet all the requirements of relevant statutes, Senate rules, and committee security clearance requirements for employment by the select Committee.

(d) Of the funds made available to the select Committee for personnel—

(1) not more than 60 percent shall be under the control of the Chairman; and

(2) not less than 40 percent shall be under the control of the Vice Chairman.

SEC. 16. Nothing in this resolution shall be construed as constituting acquiescence by the Senate in any practice, or in the conduct of any activity, not otherwise authorized by law.

SEC. 17. (a)(1) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c), the Select Committee shall have jurisdiction to review, hold hearings, and report the nominations of civilian individuals for positions in the intelligence community for which appointments are made by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

“(2) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c), other committees with jurisdiction over the department or agency of the Executive Branch which contain a position referred to in paragraph (1) may hold hearings and interviews with individuals nominated for such position, but only the Select Committee shall report such nomination.

“(3) In this subsection, the term ‘intelligence community’ means an element of the intelligence community specified in or designated under section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)).

“(b)(1) With respect to the confirmation of the Assistant Attorney General for National Security, or any successor position, the nomination of any individual by the President to serve in such position shall be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary and, if and when reported, to the Select Committee for not to exceed 20 calendar days, except that in cases when the 20-day period expires while the Senate is in recess, the Select Committee shall have 5 additional calendar days after the Senate reconvenes to report the nomination.

“(2) If, upon the expiration of the period described in paragraph (1), the Select Committee has not reported the nomination, such nomination shall be automatically discharged from the Select Committee and placed on the Executive Calendar.

“(c)(1) With respect to the confirmation of appointment to the position of Director of

the National Security Agency, Inspector General of the National Security Agency, Director of the National Reconnaissance Office, or Inspector General of the National Reconnaissance Office, or any successor position to such a position, the nomination of any individual by the President to serve in such position, who at the time of the nomination is a member of the Armed Forces on active duty, shall be referred to the Committee on Armed Services and, if and when reported, to the Select Committee for not to exceed 30 calendar days, except that in cases when the 30-day period expires while the Senate is in recess, the Select Committee shall have 5 additional calendar days after the Senate reconvenes to report the nomination.

“(2) With respect to the confirmation of appointment to the position of Director of the National Security Agency, Inspector General of the National Security Agency, Director of the National Reconnaissance Office, or Inspector General of the National Reconnaissance Office, or any successor position to such a position, the nomination of any individual by the President to serve in such position, who at the time of the nomination is not a member of the Armed Forces on active duty, shall be referred to the Select Committee and, if and when reported, to the Committee on Armed Services for not to exceed 30 calendar days, except that in cases when the 30-day period expires while the Senate is in recess, the Committee on Armed Services shall have an additional 5 calendar days after the Senate reconvenes to report the nomination.

“(3) If, upon the expiration of the period of sequential referral described in paragraphs (1) and (2), the committee to which the nomination was sequentially referred has not reported the nomination, the nomination shall be automatically discharged from that committee and placed on the Executive Calendar.”.

APPENDIX B

INTELLIGENCE PROVISIONS IN S. RES. 445, 108TH CONG., 2D SESS. (2004) WHICH WERE NOT INCORPORATED IN S. RES. 400, 94TH CONG., 2D SESS. (1976)

TITLE III—COMMITTEE STATUS

* * * *

SEC. 301(b) INTELLIGENCE.—The Select Committee on Intelligence shall be treated as a committee listed under paragraph 2 of rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate for purposes of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

TITLE IV—INTELLIGENCE-RELATED SUBCOMMITTEES

SEC. 401. SUBCOMMITTEE RELATED TO INTELLIGENCE OVERSIGHT.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Select Committee on Intelligence a Subcommittee on Oversight which shall be in addition to any other subcommittee established by the select Committee.

(b) RESPONSIBILITY.—The Subcommittee on Oversight shall be responsible for ongoing oversight of intelligence activities.

SEC. 402. SUBCOMMITTEE RELATED TO INTELLIGENCE APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Committee on Appropriations a Subcommittee on Intelligence. The Committee on Appropriations shall reorganize into 13 subcommittees as soon as possible after the convening of the 109th Congress.

(b) JURISDICTION.—The Subcommittee on Intelligence of the Committee on Appropriations shall have jurisdiction over funding for intelligence matters, as determined by the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

APPENDIX C

RULE 26.5(b) OF THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE (REFERRED TO IN COMMITTEE RULE 2.1)

Each meeting of a committee, or any subcommittee thereof, including meetings to conduct hearings, shall be open to the public, except that a meeting or series of meetings by a committee or a subcommittee thereof on the same subject for a period of no more than fourteen calendar days may be closed to the public on a motion made and seconded to go into closed session to discuss only whether the matters enumerated in clauses (1) through (6) would require the meeting to be closed, followed immediately by a record vote in open session by a majority of the members of the committee or subcommittee when it is determined that the matters to be discussed or the testimony to be taken at such meeting or meetings—

(1) will disclose matters necessary to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or the confidential conduct of the foreign relations of the United States;

(2) will relate solely to matters of committee staff personnel or internal staff management or procedure;

(3) will tend to charge an individual with crime or misconduct, to disgrace or injure the professional standing of an individual, or otherwise to expose an individual to public contempt or obloquy, or will represent a clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of an individual;

(4) will disclose the identity of any informer or law enforcement agent or will disclose any information relating to the investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense that is required to be kept secret in the interests of effective law enforcement;

(5) will disclose information relating to the trade secrets of financial or commercial information pertaining specifically to a given person if—

(A) an Act of Congress requires the information to be kept confidential by Government officers and employees; or

(B) the information has been obtained by the Government on a confidential basis, other than through an application by such person for a specific Government financial or other benefit, and is required to be kept secret in order to prevent undue injury to the competitive position of such person; or

(6) may divulge matters required to be kept confidential under other provisions of law or Government regulations.

ENDNOTES

¹ As amended by S. Res. 4, 95th Cong., 1st Sess. (1977), S. Res. 445, 108th Cong., 2d Sess. (2004), Pub. L. No. 109-177, §506, 120 Stat. 247 (2005), and S. Res. 50, 110th Cong., 1st Sess. (2007), S. Res. 470, 113th Cong., 2d Sess. (2014).

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF VFW POST 1322

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I wish to honor the oldest Veterans of Foreign War post in Arkansas. VFW Post No. 1322 in Van Buren, AR is celebrating its 90th anniversary.

Founded February 13, 1925, the post was named in honor of Robert W. Jack—the first casualty of World War I from Crawford County. Robert Jack was 23-years-old when he was killed by

shrapnel on September 22, 1918, in the fourth day of the famous allied drive of St. Mihiel.

As a member on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I understand the importance of acknowledging the bravery and valor of the young men and women who fought in defense of our country. Men like Robert Jack, and members of VFW Post 1322, set their personal lives aside to fight for our country. This post recognizes their service, sacrifice and courage.

Members are dedicated to improving the community and the lives of its members; offering scholarships to students, teaching flag etiquette to classes, providing local transportation for veterans and hosting community events.

As the Robert Jack VFW Post 1322 proudly celebrates its 90th anniversary, the building is also celebrating the 65th anniversary of its groundbreaking. In recent years, the building was in desperate need of maintenance. Members banded together and worked with local organizations and businesses to provide funds for extensive repairs. This is a true testament to the importance of Post 1322 in the community.

I congratulate VFW Post 1322 on its 90th anniversary. I wish members the best of luck and many more years of camaraderie, service and investment in the community.●

REMEMBERING JAMES KOLLER

● Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I wish to remember Mr. James Koller, a devoted father, husband and Pennsylvania leader. Jim passed away on February 3, 2015, after a 6-year battle with ALS.

Jim's life was defined by his many passions. A successful lawyer and businessman, he was also deeply engaged with his community. A graduate of Marquette University and the Dickinson School of Law, he practiced real estate law in Philadelphia before co-founding Vesterra Corporation, a commercial real estate development company through which Jim built many strong community relationships. Alongside his professional success, Jim maintained an active role in his church and enjoyed an active lifestyle.

Jim's diagnosis with ALS 6 years ago did not slow him down; rather, it pushed him to do even more to combat the disease. Along with his family and friends, he started Team Koller, a fund-raising group that participated in local ALS awareness events and raised tens of thousands of dollars for research and treatment. Even at the most difficult times, Jim stayed focused on solutions, seeking answers and help for those afflicted by ALS.

Although we mourn Jim's passing, his selfless and passionate efforts give me hope that we may soon find a cure for this menacing disease. May we continue to live and fight as James Koller

did, with courage and fortitude. My thoughts and prayers are with Jim's wife Marianne, his sons, James and Kevin, and the rest of his family in this difficult time.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO CUBA AND OF THE EMERGENCY AUTHORITY RELATING TO THE REGULATION OF THE ANCHORAGE AND MOVEMENT OF VESSELS, AS AMENDED—PM 7

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the national emergency declared on March 1, 1996, with respect to the Government of Cuba's destruction of two unarmed U.S.-registered civilian aircraft in international airspace north of Cuba on February 24, 1996, as amended and expanded on February 26, 2004, is to continue in effect beyond March 1, 2015.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 25, 2015.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:23 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 212. An act to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide for the assessment and management of the risk of algal toxins in drinking water, and for other purposes.

H.R. 734. An act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to consolidate the reporting obligations of the Federal Communications Commission in order to improve congressional oversight and reduce reporting burdens.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 734. An act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to consolidate the reporting obligations of the Federal Communications Commission in order to improve congressional oversight and reduce reporting burdens; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-675. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country (OSS-2015-0171); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-676. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country (OSS-2015-0173); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-677. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's Alternative Fuel Vehicle (AFV) program for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-678. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2015-0011 - 2015-0017); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-679. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Domestic Source Restrictions on Certain Naval Vessel Components" ((RIN0750-A136) (DFARS Case 2014-D022)); received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 23, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-680. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Deletion of Obsolete Text Relating to Acquisition of Commercial Items" ((RIN0750-A150) (DFARS Case 2014-D002)) received in the Office of the President

of the Senate on February 23, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-681. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Raymond P. Palumbo, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-682. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the continuation of the national emergency with respect to Libya declared in Executive Order 13566; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-683. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pollock in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands" (RIN0648-XD728) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-684. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Post-Transition Table of DTV Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations. (Longview, Texas)" ((MB Docket No. 14-245) (DA 15-150)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 13, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-685. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 12, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-686. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the progress made in licensing and constructing the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-687. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, reports entitled "Report to the Congress: 2014 Compact Analysis" and "Impact of the Compacts of Free Association on Guam: Fiscal Year 2004 through Fiscal Year 2013"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-688. A communication from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the North Slope Science Initiative; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-689. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Interior, transmitting the report of proposed legislation entitled "Bureau of Land Management Foundation Act"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-690. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Annual Report to Congress on the Use of Mandatory Recall Authority Submitted Pursuant to Section 206 of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act, Public Law 111-353"; to

the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-691. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Implementation of Section 3507 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010: Final Report"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-692. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Performance Report of the Food and Drug Administration's Office of Combination Products for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-693. A communication from the Executive Analyst (Political), Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Children and Families (Family Support), Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 23, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-694. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year 2013 Report to Congress: Older Americans Act"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-695. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Generic Issues Program" (Management Directive 6.4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 11, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-696. A communication from the Chief of the Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Documentation Related to Goods Imported from U.S. Insular Possessions" (RIN1515-AD97) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 12, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-697. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on the Administration, Cost and Impact of the Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) Program for Medicare Beneficiaries for Fiscal Year 2011"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-698. A communication from the Director, Mississippi River Commission, Department of the Army, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Annual Report for calendar year 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-699. A communication from the Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The Impact of Recruitment Strategy on Fair and Open Competition for Federal Jobs"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-700. A communication from the Director of Public Affairs, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Service's fiscal year 2014 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation (No FEAR) Act of 2002; to the Com-

mittee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-701. A communication from the Director, Office of Management, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's 2012 list of Government activities determined to be inherently governmental and those to be not inherently governmental in nature; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-702. A communication from the Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States, transmitting, a report of three recommendations adopted by the Administrative Conference of the United States at its 61st Plenary Session; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-703. A communication from the Executive Director, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Commission's commercial and inherently governmental activities for 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-704. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The District of Columbia Board of Elections Election Day Preparation and Administration Can Be Improved"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-705. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "ANC 8E Did Not Properly Support all Reported Expenditures"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-706. A communication from the Acting Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Automobile or Other Conveyance and Adaptive Equipment Certificate of Eligibility for Veterans or Members of the Armed Forces with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis" (RIN2900-AP26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 23, 2015; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-707. A communication from the Acting Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Supportive Services for Veterans Families Program" (RIN2900-AO50) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 23, 2015; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-5. A resolution adopted by the City Council of Clarksville, Tennessee expressing support for the maintenance of current troop levels at Fort Campbell and urging Congress to oppose any reductions; to the Committee on Armed Services.

POM-6. A resolution adopted by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Minneapolis, Minnesota, expressing strong support for the Executive Order issued on November 20, 2014, by the President of the United States, on the issue of immigration and immediate protections for long-term, law-abiding residents who are parents of United States citizens; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. NELSON, Mr. COATS, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. CRUZ, and Ms. AYOTTE):

S. 555. A bill to require the Secretary of State to offer rewards for information on the kidnapping and murder of James Foley, Peter Kassig, Steven Sotloff, Kayla Mueller, or any other United States citizen by a foreign terrorist organization; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 556. A bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. FRANKEN:

S. 557. A bill to promote Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, and Ms. AYOTTE):

S. 558. A bill to amend title 44, United States Code, to require information on contributors to Presidential library fundraising organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BURR (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. HATCH, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ROBERTS, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. ENZI, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 559. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Education from engaging in regulatory overreach with regard to institutional eligibility under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 560. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for an exception from infringement for certain component parts of motor vehicles; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. RISCH):

S. 561. A bill to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to allow the importation of polar bear trophies taken in sport hunts in Canada before the date on which the polar bear was determined to be a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. RISCH):

S. 562. A bill to promote exploration for geothermal resources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 563. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the Physician Ambassadors Helping Veterans program to seek to employ physicians at the Department of Veterans Affairs on a without compensation basis in practice areas and specialties with staffing shortages and long appointment waiting times; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 564. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to include licensed hearing aid specialists as eligible for appointment in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 565. A bill to reduce the operation and maintenance costs associated with the Federal fleet by encouraging the use of remanufactured parts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mr. BURR, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. UDALL):

S. 566. A bill to reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 through fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 567. A bill to protect the right of law-abiding citizens to transport knives interstate, notwithstanding a patchwork of local and State prohibitions; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WARNER, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 568. A bill to extend the trade adjustment assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 569. A bill to reauthorize the farm to school program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 570. A bill to improve access to oral health care for vulnerable and underserved populations; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WICKER, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. MORAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BARASSO, and Mr. KING):

S. 571. A bill to amend the Pilot's Bill of Rights to facilitate appeals and to apply to other certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, to require the revision of the third class medical certification regulations issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KIRK:

S. 572. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a penalty for knowingly selling advertising that offers certain commercial sex acts; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 573. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue or revise regulations with respect to the medical certification of certain small aircraft pilots, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCOTT (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 574. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employers a credit against income tax for employees who participate in qualified apprenticeship programs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 575. A bill to continue operation of the Human Exploitation Rescue Operative (HERO) Child Rescue Corps, a Cyber Crimes Center, a Child Exploitation Investigations Unit, a Computer Forensics Unit, and a Cyber Crimes Unit to support the mission of the Homeland Security Investigations Directorate of United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement to combat the exploitation of children; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. NELSON):

S. Res. 85. A resolution honoring the life and legacy of Georgia Jones-Ayers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. KIRK, Mr. KING, and Mr. PETERS):

S. Res. 86. A resolution recognizing March 3, 2015, as the centennial of the Navy Reserve; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REID, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. COATS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. KING, Mr. HELLER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. MARKY, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MORAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. McCASKILL, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PETERS, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BROWN, Mr. NELSON, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. SCOTT):

S. Res. 87. A resolution to express the sense of the Senate regarding the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe and to encourage greater cooperation with the European governments, the European Union, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in preventing and responding to anti-Semitism; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 11

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 11, a bill to protect the separation of powers in the Constitution of the United States by ensuring that the President takes care that the laws be faithfully executed, and for other purposes.

S. 117

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 117, a bill to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, to relocate to Jerusalem the United States Embassy in Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 139

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 139, a bill to permanently allow an exclusion under the Supplemental Security Income program and the Medicaid program for compensation provided to individuals who participate in clinical trials for rare diseases or conditions.

S. 144

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 144, a bill to prohibit the Federal Government from mandating, incentivizing, or making financial support conditioned upon a State, local educational agency, or school's adoption of specific instructional content, academic standards, or curriculum, or on the administration of assessments or tests, and for other purposes.

S. 148

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 148, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require State licensure and bid surety bonds for entities submitting bids under the Medicare durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS) competitive acquisition program, and for other purposes.

S. 153

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) were added as cosponsors of S. 153, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to authorize additional visas for well-educated aliens to live and work in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 166

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 166, a bill to stop exploitation through trafficking.

S. 170

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 170, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum age for children eligible for medical care under the CHAMPVA program, and for other purposes.

S. 185

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr.

ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 185, a bill to create a limited population pathway for approval of certain antibacterial drugs.

S. 200

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 200, a bill to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to provide for macroeconomic analysis of the impact of major revenue legislation.

S. 223

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 223, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a pilot program on awarding grants for provision of furniture, household items, and other assistance to homeless veterans to facilitate their transition into permanent housing, and for other purposes.

S. 226

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 226, a bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law.

S. 239

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 239, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to apportionments under the Airport Improvement Program, and for other purposes.

S. 246

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 246, a bill to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes.

S. 253

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 253, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to consolidate the reporting obligations of the Federal Communications Commission in order to improve congressional oversight and reduce reporting burdens.

S. 262

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 262, a bill to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes.

S. 269

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 269, a bill to expand sanctions imposed

with respect to Iran and to impose additional sanctions with respect to Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 275

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 275, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of home as a site of care for infusion therapy under the Medicare program.

S. 284

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 284, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, and for other purposes.

S. 289

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 289, a bill to prioritize funding for an expanded and sustained national investment in biomedical research.

S. 299

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 299, a bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 308

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 308, a bill to reauthorize 21st century community learning centers, and for other purposes.

S. 313

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 313, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to add physical therapists to the list of providers allowed to utilize locum tenens arrangements under Medicare.

S. 318

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 318, a bill to prioritize funding for the National Institutes of Health to discover treatments and cures, to maintain global leadership in medical innovation, and to restore the purchasing power the NIH had after the historic doubling campaign that ended in fiscal year 2003.

S. 332

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 332, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make permanent the extension of the Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) program and the increased payments under the Medicare low-volume hospital program.

S. 335

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. McCONNELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 335, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve 529 plans.

S. 356

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 356, a bill to improve the provisions relating to the privacy of electronic communications.

S. 371

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 371, a bill to remove a limitation on a prohibition relating to permits for discharges incidental to normal operation of vessels.

S. 373

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 373, a bill to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel.

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 373, *supra*.

S. 394

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 394, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the 15-year recovery period for qualified leasehold improvement property, qualified restaurant property, and qualified retail improvement property.

S. 399

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 399, a bill to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to increase transparency in Federal budgeting, and for other purposes.

S. 403

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 403, a bill to revise the authorized route of the North Country National Scenic Trail in northeastern Minnesota and to extend the trail into Vermont to connect with the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and for other purposes.

S. 409

At the request of Mr. BURR, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator

from Florida (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 409, a bill to amend the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act to require the Secretary of Defense to inform the Attorney General of persons required to register as sex offenders.

S. 421

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 421, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for greater transparency and efficiency in the procedures followed by the Federal Communications Commission, and for other purposes.

S. 431

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 431, a bill to permanently extend the Internet Tax Freedom Act.

S. 437

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 437, a bill to provide for congressional approval of national monuments and restrictions on the use of national monuments, to establish requirements for the declaration of marine national monuments, and for other purposes.

S. 474

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 474, a bill to require State educational agencies that receive funding under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to have in effect policies and procedures on background checks for school employees.

S. 489

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 489, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to increase the maximum value of articles that may be imported duty-free by one person on one day.

S. 498

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 498, a bill to allow reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms.

S. 505

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 505, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the Health Coverage Tax Credit.

S. 517

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 517, a bill to extend the

secure rural schools and community self-determination program, to restore mandatory funding status to the payment in lieu of taxes program, and for other purposes.

S. 527

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 527, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Foot Soldiers who participated in Bloody Sunday, Turn-around Tuesday, or in the final Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March in March of 1965, which served as a catalyst for the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

S. 532

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 532, a bill to improve highway-rail grade crossing safety, and for other purposes.

S. 539

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 539, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 546

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 546, a bill to establish the Railroad Emergency Services Preparedness, Operational Needs, and Safety Evaluation (RESPONSE) Subcommittee under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Advisory Council to provide recommendations on emergency responder training and resources relating to hazardous materials incidents involving railroads, and for other purposes.

S. 553

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 553, a bill to marshal resources to undertake a concerted, transformative effort that seeks to bring an end to modern slavery, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 4

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 4, a concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 569. A bill to reauthorize the farm to school program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, 5 years ago, the President signed into law the

Healthy and Hunger-Free Kids Act. This law has made improvements to our school lunch program by making healthy food choices a reality for students nationwide. One of the best ways to help students make healthy choices is to teach them about their food and how it is grown. That is why I championed the inclusion of funding for a farm-to-school grant program, which was included in the Healthy and Hunger-Free Kids Act. The program has had tremendous success and interest nationwide, and has awarded grants in 42 States—showing the reach and diversity of farm-to-school. In order to improve upon this successful program and expand its reach, I am glad to be joined today by Senator COCHRAN, and Representatives FUDGE and FORTENBERRY in the House, to introduce the Farm to School Act of 2015.

We all know that hungry children cannot learn. Studies have shown that healthy nutrition in a young person's diet is crucial to cognitive ability and better health in the long run. With food insecurity on the rise, more than 30 percent of all children in the United States struggle with obesity, resulting in poor health, and learning and behavioral difficulties at school. The school meal program has made tremendous strides in recent years to ensure not only that children have access to meals throughout the school day, but that those meals are nutritious. The Farm to School program has given children and schools across the country the tools to craft farm-fresh, healthy, and delicious meals that students enjoy.

The Farm to School grant program offers support to farmers and local economies, while teaching kids about nutritious foods and where they come from. The program has helped schools across the country meet the new nutrition standards by offering children local, fresh produce that tastes great. Just as importantly, the program has a strong educational component, making our school cafeterias an extension of the classroom, giving students an opportunity to learn about nutrition, well-balanced meals, and even how to grow the food themselves.

In Vermont, I have seen first-hand how farm to school efforts have better connected children with the food in their cafeteria. Students participate in school gardens, sustainability projects, and taste tests for new school menu items. The Burlington School Food Project created a half-acre Healthy City Youth Farm, connecting schools to the farm by engaging individuals in local agricultural production. Organizations in Vermont such as Vermont Food Education Every Day, now the Northeast regional leader of the National Farm to School Network; Shelburne Farms; and the Northeast Organic Farming Association have been able to expand their programs to link more farms to the classroom throughout Vermont.

Farm to school is equally crucial to farmers and ranchers, who currently receive only 16 cents out of every dollar spent on food. The program opens another market to them to sell their locally grown and locally harvested goods. By incorporating farm fresh products in school meals, children learn the importance of where their food comes from. The program links the classroom with the farm to engage students in the importance of farming and contributing to the local economy.

The Farm to School Act of 2015 would build upon these successes and expand the program's scope by increasing the funding for the program to \$15 million per year. The bill also recognizes the importance of growing the program to include preschools, summer food service program sites, and after school programs.

Improving childhood nutrition is a goal we all share. Small changes in eating habits by children will result in lifelong health benefits for generations to come. The Farm to School program empowers children and their families to make healthy choices now and in the future. As the Senate begins considering reauthorizing the child nutrition bill this year, I look forward to including these improvements in the Farm to School program.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 569

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Farm to School Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. ACCESS TO LOCAL FOODS: FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

Section 18(g) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769(g)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking the paragraph designation and heading and all that follows through "In this subsection, the" and inserting the following:

"(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

"(A) AGRICULTURAL PRODUCER.—The term 'agricultural producer' means a farmer, rancher, or fisher (including of farm-raised fish).

"(B) ELIGIBLE SCHOOL.—The"; and

(B) in subparagraph (B) (as so redesignated), by inserting ", including the summer food service program for children under section 13 and the early care and afterschool portions of the child and adult care food program under section 17," after "under this Act";

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking "and nonprofit entities through grants and technical assistance" and inserting "land-grant colleges and universities, and nonprofit entities through grants, technical assistance, and research";

(3) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (i), by inserting "and technical assistance" after "training";

(ii) by redesignating clauses (vi) and (vii) as clauses (vii) and (viii), respectively; and

(iii) by inserting after clause (v) the following:

"(vi) implementing agricultural literacy and nutrition education"; and

(B) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

"(C) IMPROVED PROCUREMENT AND DISTRIBUTION.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—In awarding grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall seek to improve local food procurement and distribution options for agricultural producers and eligible schools.

"(ii) AGGREGATION, PROCESSING, TRANSPORTATION, AND DISTRIBUTION.—In advancing local food procurement options and other farm to school objectives, the Secretary may provide funding for projects that include innovative approaches to aggregation, processing, transportation, and distribution.

"(D) AWARDS.—

"(i) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The total amount provided to a grant recipient under this subsection shall not exceed \$200,000.

"(ii) TERM.—The term of an award shall not exceed 3 years.

"(iii) PURPOSE AND SCOPE.—In making awards under this subsection, the Secretary shall seek to make awards of diverse amounts and duration in order to best match the award to the purpose and scope of the project to be funded.

"(E) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not award a grant under this subsection if the grant funds would be used solely for the purpose of carrying out a conference.";

(4) in paragraph (5)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (G) as clauses (i) through (vii), respectively, and indenting the clauses appropriately;

(B) in clause (ii) (as so redesignated), by striking "lunches" and inserting "meals";

(C) in the matter preceding clause (i) (as so redesignated), by striking "To the maximum extent practicable" and inserting the following:

"(A) IN GENERAL.—To the maximum extent practicable";

(D) in clause (vi) (as so redesignated), by striking "and" at the end;

(E) by redesignating clause (vii) (as so redesignated) as clause (viii);

(F) by inserting after clause (vi) (as so redesignated) the following:

"(vii) expand the selection of local commodities for eligible schools; and"; and

(G) by adding at the end the following:

"(B) TRIBAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS.—In the case of projects serving tribal communities, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, give highest priority to projects that best use products from tribal agricultural producers, as determined by the Secretary.";

(5) in paragraph (7)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (C) as clauses (i) through (iii), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(B) by striking the paragraph designation and heading and all that follows through "nonprofit entities—" and inserting the following:

"(7) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND RESEARCH.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide technical assistance, research, and information to assist eligible schools, State and local agencies, Indian tribal organizations, agricultural producers or agricultural producer groups, and nonprofit entities—";

(C) in subparagraph (A) (as so designated)—

(i) in clause (ii) (as so redesignated), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) in clause (iii) (as so redesignated), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(iv) to increase awareness of, and participation in, farm to school programs among agricultural and aquaculture producers or agricultural producer groups, including beginning, veteran, and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) REVIEW.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Farm to School Act of 2015 and every 3 years thereafter, the Secretary shall review and submit to the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that describes the progress that has been made in identifying and eliminating regulatory and other barriers related to developing farm to school programs.

“(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—In preparing the report, the Secretary shall examine—

“(I) the direct and indirect regulatory compliance costs affecting the production and marketing of locally or regionally produced agricultural food products to school food programs; and

“(II) barriers to local and regional market access for small-scale production.”;

(6) in paragraph (8)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “\$5,000,000” and inserting “\$15,000,000”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) ADMINISTRATION.—Of the funds provided to the Secretary under subparagraph (A), not more than 5 percent may be used to pay administrative costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out this subsection.”; and

(7) in paragraph (9), by striking “2011 through 2015” and inserting “2016 through 2021”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 85—HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF GEORGIA JONES-AYERS

Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. NELSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 85

Whereas Georgia Jones-Ayers was a lifelong resident and prominent community leader in South Florida;

Whereas effective relationships between communities and the police departments that serve those communities promote more effective policing and further the interests of justice;

Whereas Georgia Jones-Ayers worked tirelessly to promote dialogue and foster trust between the police and the community;

Whereas career criminals prey on their communities, destroy lives, and waste their God-given potential;

Whereas the prevention of recidivism, especially by first-time offenders, is an important goal of the criminal justice system, civil society, and faith communities;

Whereas Georgia Jones-Ayers founded and served as Executive Director of Alternative

Programs, Inc., a nonprofit agency committed to preventing first-time offenders from reoffending;

Whereas Alternative Programs, Inc. has helped hundreds of first-time offenders become productive members of society;

Whereas Georgia Jones-Ayers retired in October 2013, after nearly 4 decades leading Alternative Programs;

Whereas Georgia Jones-Ayers engaged in many other efforts for the betterment of the community, including cofounding the Daily Bread Food Bank;

Whereas Georgia Jones-Ayers was honored by numerous organizations in Florida, including the Miami Police Department and the Florida Commission on Human Relations;

Whereas Georgia Jones-Ayers was the loving mother of 6 children, grandmother of 9 grandchildren, and great-grandmother of 20 great-grandchildren; and

Whereas Georgia Jones-Ayers passed away on February 17, 2015, at the age of 86: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and honors the life of Georgia Jones-Ayers;

(2) recognizes—

(A) the lifelong commitment of Georgia Jones-Ayers to bettering the lives of the people of South Florida; and

(B) the landmark work of Georgia Jones-Ayers in steering troubled young people away from a life of crime;

(3) offers heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and loved ones of Georgia Jones-Ayers; and

(4) in memory of Georgia Jones-Ayers, calls on the people of the United States to redouble their commitment to their neighbors and their communities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 86—RECOGNIZING MARCH 3, 2015, AS THE CENTENNIAL OF THE NAVY RESERVE

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. KIRK, Mr. KING, and Mr. PETERS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 86

Whereas the roots of patriotic Americans serving in maritime service trace back to even before the existence of the Continental Navy, when residents from seaside towns engaged in combat with British warships in defense of their homes;

Whereas the tradition of maritime service to the country continued through the robust United States merchant marine, and later the formation of State naval militias in the late 19th century to meet the need for additional naval support;

Whereas during the Spanish-American War, the Navy augmented its force with 4,000 sailors from the State naval militias;

Whereas the emergence of the United States as a world power in the early 20th century required a more robust and multi-layered naval force;

Whereas the Act of March 3, 1915 (38 Stat. 928, chapter 83), established the Naval Reserve, which became the “Navy Reserve” in 2006;

Whereas by the end of World War I, there were 290,000 members of the Naval Reserve, more than half of the total manpower of the Navy, who fought valiantly during the war;

Whereas 84 percent of the sailors serving in World War II were members of the Naval Reserve, a group that included 100,000 women;

Whereas the more than 2,600,000 enlisted personnel and 269,000 officers in the Naval Reserve in 1945 served in every theater of World War II and on every type of vessel and aircraft;

Whereas 5 Presidents, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard M. Nixon, Gerald R. Ford, and George H. W. Bush, served honorably in the Naval Reserve;

Whereas in United States conflicts and national emergencies, including the Berlin Crisis, the Korean War, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Vietnam War, Operation Desert Storm, and hurricanes and other natural disasters, the Navy Reserve has responded to calls promptly and effectively;

Whereas following the attack on the Navy destroyer, USS Cole, on October 12, 2000, the Naval Reserve immediately responded with coastal warfare security;

Whereas since the attacks on our homeland of September 11, 2001, the Navy Reserve has mobilized more than 72,000 members of the Navy Reserve worldwide to counter threats to national security;

Whereas the Navy benefits from the military experience, civilian skills, and diverse backgrounds of the members of the Navy Reserve;

Whereas as the Senate recognizes the distinguished service of the members of the Navy Reserve, who are proud individuals of the United States, there are more than 2,000 members of the Navy Reserve deployed around the world; and

Whereas March 3, 2015, marks 100 years since the Act of March 3, 1915 (38 Stat. 928, chapter 83), establishing the Naval Reserve: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes March 3, 2015, as the centennial of the Navy Reserve;

(2) recognizes the indispensable and valuable contributions and sacrifices that individual members of the Navy Reserve have made throughout the history of the United States and continue to make in 2015;

(3) celebrates the commitment and service of members of the Navy Reserve, their families, and their employers; and

(4) encourages communities to seize the opportunity to honor and support these patriots in 2015, the centennial of the Navy Reserve.

SENATE RESOLUTION 87—TO EXPRESS THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE RISE OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN EUROPE AND TO ENCOURAGE GREATER COOPERATION WITH THE EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS, THE EUROPEAN UNION, AND THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE IN PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO ANTI-SEMITISM;

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REID, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. COATS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. KING, Mr. HELLER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr.

MCCAIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MORAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. McCASKILL, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PETERS, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BROWN, Mr. NELSON, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. SCOTT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 87

Whereas an alarming increase in anti-Semitic attacks and incidents targeting Jewish institutions, places of worship, and individuals continue to take place in Europe and remain a challenge to stability and security;

Whereas on January 9, 2015, 4 members of France's Jewish community were murdered in an attack on a kosher supermarket following the deadly terrorist attack on the Paris offices of newspaper Charlie Hebdo;

Whereas, in a 2014 Anti-Defamation League survey of attitudes towards Jews in more than 100 countries around the world—

(1) 24 percent of those surveyed in Western Europe expressed anti-Semitic views;

(2) 34 percent of those surveyed in Eastern Europe expressed anti-Semitic views; and

(3) a majority of those surveyed worldwide either—

(A) had not heard of the Holocaust; or

(B) do not believe that the factual accounts and recorded history of the Holocaust are accurate;

Whereas the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights issued a report in 2013 on anti-Semitism in the 8 countries in which 90 percent of Europe's Jews reside, namely France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Belgium, Sweden, and the United Kingdom, in which 76 percent of respondents believed that anti-Semitism had worsened where they lived during the previous 5-year period;

Whereas France, which is home to Europe's largest Jewish population, reported that—

(1) twice as many French Jews immigrated to Israel during 2014 than had immigrated during 2013; and

(2) for the first time ever, more Jews moved to Israel from France than from any other country in the world;

Whereas anti-Semitic acts committed and recorded in European countries in 2014 included—

(1) murders and death threats against Jews; and

(2) arson, graffiti, and property desecration at Jewish sites, including Jewish cemeteries, places of worship, schools, and community centers;

Whereas such acts led many Jewish individuals to conceal their religious affiliation;

Whereas on May 24, 2014, a gunman killed 4 people when he opened fire at the Jewish Museum of Belgium in Brussels, Belgium;

Whereas on July 29, 2014, Molotov cocktails were thrown at the synagogue in Wuppertal, Germany, which had been burned to the ground by the Nazis during the 1938 Kristallnacht, and was rebuilt as recently as 2002;

Whereas the foreign ministers of France, Germany, and Italy issued a joint statement in July 2014, proclaiming: "Anti-Semitic rhetoric and hostility against Jews, attacks on people of Jewish belief and synagogues have no place in our societies";

Whereas in September 2014, British Prime Minister David Cameron declared: "There

can never be any excuse for anti-Semitism, and no disagreements on politics or policy should ever be allowed to justify racism, prejudice or extremism in any form";

Whereas on January 13, 2015, French Prime Minister Manuel Valls spoke before the French National Assembly and declared that anti-Semitism must be dealt with "powerfully" and that "there has been an intolerable rise in acts of anti-Semitism in France [that] have not aroused the outrage expected by our Jewish compatriots";

Whereas at the Tenth Anniversary of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's (OSCE) Berlin Conference on Anti-Semitism in November 2014, Samantha Power, the United States Ambassador to the United Nations, noted, "Rising anti-Semitism is rarely the lone or the last manifestation of intolerance in society. . . . When the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Jews are repressed, the rights and freedoms of other minorities and other sectors are often not far behind";

Whereas the OSCE's December 2014 Basel Declaration on Enhancing Efforts to Combat Anti-Semitism condemned "manifestations of anti-Semitism, intolerance and discrimination against Jews", and protected the commitment to "declare unambiguously that international developments or political issues, including those with regard to the situation in the Middle East, never justify anti-Semitism";

Whereas the Government of the United States has consistently supported efforts to address the rise of anti-Semitism through diplomatic efforts including engagement in international organizations such as the OSCE;

Whereas the Office to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism in the Department of State, which is headed by the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, has consistently supported European efforts to combat Anti-Semitism; and

Whereas, at the urging of the United States and 36 other countries, including all European Union States, the United Nations General Assembly convened the first ever meeting on anti-Semitism on January 22, 2015, to consider ways to confront the longstanding and growing problem of anti-Semitism worldwide.

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate urges the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and other relevant United States Government agencies and officials to work closely with the European Union and European governments to encourage further efforts to address anti-Semitism by—

(1) undertaking prompt, impartial, and effective investigations of any acts of violence motivated by anti-Semitism and fully prosecuting those responsible for such violence within the extent of the law;

(2) encouraging European countries and the European Union to designate senior-level special envoys to monitor, prevent, and combat anti-Semitism regionally and domestically;

(3) cooperating with European counterparts on developing programs to counter violent extremists engaged in anti-Semitic activity;

(4) encouraging the European Union and its Member States to integrate measures to combat anti-Semitism into relevant national strategies and action plans by including measures to protect human rights, religious tolerance, and equality, and to ensure hate crime and violence prevention;

(5) increasing cooperation on training initiatives related to hate crimes, particularly

crimes motivated by anti-Semitism, for law enforcement personnel, and improving monitoring and reporting efforts;

(6) empowering civil society, including diverse religious and ethnic groups, civil and human rights organizations, and the business community, to fight anti-Semitism and discrimination;

(7) convening regular consultations with Jewish community organizations and non-Jewish civil and human rights organizations to demonstrate visible support, listen to concerns, and solicit recommendations on improving security and supporting victims; and

(8) reaffirming and implementing the recommendations in the OSCE's December 2014 Basel Declaration on Enhancing Efforts to Combat Anti-Semitism.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 25, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled "Preserving the Multistakeholder Model of Internet Governance."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 25, 2015, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "The Importance of MAP-21 Reauthorization: Perspectives from Owners, Operators, and Users of the System."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 25, 2015, at 1:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "The Fight Against ISIS: Building the Coalition and Ensuring Military Effectiveness."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 25, 2015, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Toward a 21st Century Regulatory System."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 25, 2015 at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "The President's FY2016 Budget Request for Indian programs."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 25, 2015 at 10 a.m., to conduct a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 25, 2015 at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 25, 2015 at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CENTENNIAL OF THE NAVY
RESERVE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 86, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 86) recognizing March 3, 2015, as the centennial of the Navy Reserve.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 86) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President of the

Senate, pursuant to Public Law 106-286, appoints the following Member to serve on the Congressional Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: the Honorable MARCO RUBIO of Florida.

The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 85-874, as amended, appoints the following individual to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: the Honorable ROY BLUNT of Missouri.

The Chair, on behalf of the Democratic leader, pursuant to Public Law 96-114, as amended, appoints the following individual to the Congressional Award Board: the Honorable JOE MANCHIN of West Virginia.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 26, 2015

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 11 a.m., Thursday, February 26; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following leader remarks, the Senate then resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 240 postcloture, and all time during the adjournment or recess of the Senate count against postcloture time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator WHITEHOUSE for up to 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am here for the 90th time to urge my colleagues in the Senate to take action on climate change. The science is clearly worthy of our trust, and it is indeed time to wake up.

The human contribution to climate change is no longer up for legitimate debate. We know that carbon pollution

accumulates in the atmosphere. We know that carbon dioxide traps the sun's heat. We have actually known that since Abraham Lincoln was President. We know that the atmosphere and the oceans are heating up. We can measure that.

Ocean acidification and sea level rise are also measurable, and they are caused by carbon pollution. These risks to our environment, to our health, to our economy, and to our national security are every week more apparent.

News this week from New York City was that an advisory panel of scientists, engineers, and risk management experts just reported that the sea level rise along that city's shoreline—approximately 12 inches since 1900—may have expanded Superstorm Sandy's flood area by as much as 25 square miles, flooding the homes of some 80,000 people. That is pretty real.

The report's prognosis for the future puts the city in pretty deep water. New York City expects its local sea levels to rise by 11 to 21 inches more by 2050 and as much as 6 feet by 2100.

When he was mayor, Michael Bloomberg began in the wake of Hurricane Sandy an ambitious plan to shore up New York with levees, with storm barriers, and with other coastal defenses to make that great city more resilient in the face of rising seas. That plan is estimated to cost nearly \$20 billion to fortify just one city, albeit a great one—New York City—against rising seas.

Let's look south to another major American metropolitan area, Miami-Fort Lauderdale, which also faces daunting projections of rising sea levels.

This map I have in the Chamber shows 3 feet of sea level rise in Miami-Dade County. This is before. This is after. As we can see, they have lost acres. All of this back to the coast is gone, acre upon acre of that city. This nuclear power station right here, Turkey Point, and this sewage treatment plant which serves that municipal area have both become islands.

I visited Florida last year to hear firsthand about the threats that climate change poses to the Sunshine State. I met Glenn Landers, a senior engineer at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Everglades Division. He has worked on water resources and restoration projects in Florida for nearly 20 years. This is the map he used to show me what just 2 feet of sea level rise would mean for South Florida. There is a lot less of it.

Like New York, they have measured almost 1 foot of sea level rise in South Florida in the last 100 years. And like New York, the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Compact—which is a bipartisan coalition of four South Florida counties—once we get away from this building, it turns out this can actually be a bipartisan issue; that cloud

of special interest money that wraps the Congress isn't as apparent when you get to Florida counties. That bipartisan coalition predicts, like New York, again, continued sea level rise. Indeed, the waters around southeast Florida could surge up to another 2 feet in less than 50 years. As we can see, most of the iconic Everglades—which is the largest tract of wilderness east of the Rocky Mountains and home to some of the most rare and endangered species in America—will be under seawater.

Now, there is some resemblance between New York and Florida in the threat of sea level rise. But the resemblance to New York diverges when we look at some of the unique features of the Florida peninsula.

First is its low elevation. Miami is just 6 feet above sea level. Six feet of sea level rise goes a long way.

Second, southern Florida, as the Army Corps of Engineers constantly attests, rests on porous limestone. In New York, levees and dams can be built that will hold the ocean back. They can fortify New York City and wall it in like Holland. In Miami, they would be building those structures on a geological sponge. The rising water will just seep right under. And even in the higher areas that might still stay dry, saltwater will infiltrate the underground drinking water.

Of all the people and all the homes in the Nation at risk from rising seas, an estimated 40 percent are in the State of Florida. The Risky Business Project estimates that between \$127 billion and \$150 billion worth of property in Florida will be under the mean high tide by 2050. You might want to be careful where you buy in Florida these days if you plan to be around a while.

If we take into account damage from coastal storms, Florida could face an additional \$4 billion in damage per year.

Luckily, Florida is home to a number of the country's leading research institutions. Scientific experts at Florida universities are actively researching and trying to plan for the State's changing climate.

Professor Harold Wanless of the University of Miami puts it pretty bluntly:

Everyone wants a nice happy ending. But that's not reality. We're in for it. We have really done a job warming our ocean, and it's going to pay us back.

The Florida Climate Institute is a network of universities and public organizations that provides Florida policymakers and businesses with reliable, region-specific, factual information. The group includes the University of Florida, Florida State, the University of Miami, Florida A&M, the University of Central Florida, Florida Atlantic University, the University of South Florida, and Florida International University.

Let me focus on Florida International University in Miami. FIU

leads the Florida Coastal Everglades Long Term Ecological Research Program to study the effect of climate change and human activity on freshwater availability in the Everglades. FIU hosts the International Hurricane Research Center on its campus and recently established the Extreme Events Institute, devoted to making communities more resilient to extreme weather.

Institute director Richard Olsen, who is an international expert on disaster response and resiliency, has called sea level rise "a slow onset disaster" for South Florida.

Four professors of FIU's School of Journalism and Mass Communication set up a media outreach initiative called Eyes on the Rise. Students in this program have produced documentaries to air on local television about the effect of sea level rise on local communities, on real estate prices, and on economic growth in southern Florida.

FIU is a member of the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, a network of schools taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote climate research. FIU has adopted a plan to bring emissions 25 percent below 2007 levels before 2030.

On my Florida visit, Dr. Mike Heithaus, a marine scientist and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at FIU, said:

We're really standing here at ground zero. There's just about nowhere else on the planet where there is more at risk from sea level rise so fast.

He gets it. They get it. That is why Florida International University is at the fore of climate research and education, particularly as it affects the State of Florida.

But there is another member of that faculty who doesn't seem to get it, one of our Senate colleagues, the junior Senator from Florida. He teaches political science part time at FIU. Last month, however, that junior Senator from Florida voted against amendments to the Keystone XL bill stating that climate change is real and that humans contribute to it. Apparently the message from experts across Florida and frankly from experts across campus that manmade climate change, especially sea level rise, is a big problem for southern Florida—well, apparently that message hasn't gotten through.

What are Florida's other elected officials doing? Fort Lauderdale mayor Jack Seiler is working with NOAA, State and Broward County officials, and the South Florida Regional Planning Council to protect his city from flooding and climate change. Miami Beach mayor Philip Levine showed me the huge pumps his city has installed to pump out the flooding that comes in on high tides and from storms. Republican mayor Sylvia Murphy of Monroe

County, which covers all of the Florida Keys and some of the Everglades, is a remarkable lady, and she has put climate and energy policy at the heart of her 20-year growth plan for the county. She is going to lose a lot of her county if we don't get ahead of this. And the senior Senator from Florida, my friend BILL NELSON, is an outspoken advocate for preserving the Florida coast and the Florida economy in the face of climate change.

The Miami Herald recently wrote:

South Florida owes Senator Nelson its thanks for shining a bright light on this issue. Everyone from local residents to elected officials should follow his lead, turning awareness of this major environmental issue into action. It is critical to saving our region.

So said the Miami Herald.

Unfortunately, the junior Senator does not seem to have followed his senior colleague's lead either in shining a bright light on this issue or in turning awareness into action.

It is a little bit surprising that, according to a recent New York Times poll, an overwhelming majority of Americans support us taking action on climate change, including half of Republicans. Again, this is not that partisan of an issue once you get away from the pollster money that surrounds this building. Two-thirds of respondents said they would be more likely to vote for a candidate for President or for the Senate who explicitly campaigned on a platform of climate action.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to continue for an additional 2 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. That includes 48 percent of Republicans as opposed to only 24 percent of Republicans who said they would be less likely to vote for such a candidate. So even among Republican voters, the balance tips in favor of climate action. If you look at young Republican voters—as I have said over and over on this floor—under the age of 35, they think climate denial is ignorant, out of touch, or crazy. Those are the words they selected in the poll, not my words.

Let's move west to Arizona. The folks at NASA—a pretty reputable organization—have a rover driving around on Mars right now that they control. These are people who know something about what they are doing, and the folks at NASA have made understanding our planet and its systems their life's work. This month their researchers released a study showing an 80-percent chance of a decades-long what they call "megadrought" in the American Southwest, a multi-decade drought between 2050 and 2099 unless we act aggressively to mitigate the effects of climate change. Arizona could see half as much precipitation in the

second half of the century as it did in the second half of the last century. It is a call to arms to protect the State of Arizona.

Finally, here is this morning's newspaper headline: "As ice melts, the future fades. Climate change may force Alaska natives to abandon their village." LISA MURKOWSKI, the Senator from Alaska, is quoted here. Senator MURKOWSKI acknowledges the impacts of climate change on Alaska's coastal community.

So maybe we are beginning to make some progress, but all around the country these effects are ones we have to begin to take more seriously. It is indeed time to wake up.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands adjourned until 11 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:23 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, February 26, 2015, at 11 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

MONICA C. REGALBUTO, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ENERGY (ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT), VICE INES R. TRIAY, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

AMIAS MOORE GERETY, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, VICE CYRUS AMIR-MOKRI, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

WILLIE E. MAY, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY, VICE PATRICK GALLAGHER, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

ANNE ELIZABETH WALL, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, VICE ALASTAIR M. FITZPAYNE, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

KATHERINE SIMONDS DHANANI, OF FLORIDA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA.

SHEILA GWALTNEY, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

MICKEY D. BARNETT, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2020. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CONO R. NAMORATO, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, VICE KATHRYN KENEALLY, RESIGNED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

GEN. ROBIN RAND

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. JEFFREY B. CLARK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. BARBARA R. HOLCOMB

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be brigadier general

COL. RONALD J. PLACE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be brigadier general

COL. RAYMOND S. DINGLE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

JACINTO ZAMBRANO, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be colonel

CHERYL D. ANDERSON
CHARLES G. KEMPER IV
JAMES D. MOORE
CARLTON G. SMITH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be colonel

EUGENE S. ALKIRE
DAVID A. GAGNON
SHAUGHNESSY D. HODGE
ANTHONY T. LIEGGI
CHRISTOPHER F. REESE
DENNIS J. SORENSEN
PATRICK R. STARESINA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

RONALD D. SCHOW

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

SEAN M. MILLER
JOSEPH B. POWELL

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be major

ANDREW J. COPELAND
DANIEL R. GABLE
YONG J. LEE
BRIAN A. LIONBARGER

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, February 25, 2015

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARDY).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 25, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CRESENT HARDY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

BRING A CLEAN DHS BILL TO THE FLOOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with a question: Should America be brought to the brink of her own security and safety? With that question, I ask my friends on the other side of the aisle, the Republicans and the Speaker, to put on the floor of the House the full funding of the Department of Homeland Security.

Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of beginning my tenure on this committee in the aftermath of the tragedy on 9/11. Some of us who served at that time were able to go to the site after 9/11. We were able to go soon enough to see some of those who were in the midst of recovering, since the first responders of New York refused to leave anyone behind.

It was a devastating and emotional time, but the resilience of that time also reflected America's values. I remember very strongly standing on the steps of the House, Republicans and Democrats, singing the song "God Bless America."

What we have come to today is that we are frivolously using these political tactics of taking political security over national security and rejecting our responsibility of ensuring that the men and women who are on the front lines for the security of this Nation can continue their jobs.

First, Mr. Speaker, let me say that there is a court order that has temporarily issued an injunction. That court in Texas did not in any way assess the constitutionality of the President's executive actions. Why? Because he has the authority. His comments that have been repeated over and over again about his lack of authority were, yes, he does not have the authority to convey an immigration status. His executive actions are not on immigration status. They are simply keeping families from being torn apart and mothers and fathers and children from being deported. It is not an immigration status. It is a stay of deportation.

And so the fuss that is being made impacts the TSA officer tragically shot in a Los Angeles airport, or New York or Houston or Dallas or Chicago or Raleigh-Durham; that TSA officer who stands on the front lines of our security and we look them in the eye and tell them they cannot be paid. You know, Mr. Speaker, when the shutdown happened before, it was Democrats who had to retroactively ensure that those workers were paid.

We want border security? We won't be paying our Border Patrol agents or ICE agents. Even though it is suggested that fees will take care of it, there are 30,000 employees that the fees will not take care of.

So I rise today pleading to have my friends acknowledge that, first of all, they are wrong on the executive actions. As we go to a hearing in Judiciary, I will be able to show that these individuals will probably be vetted more extensively than many others in the immigration process. Fourteen provisions have to be utilized before they can be eligible for the executive action the President has suggested.

But what I am going to say, Mr. Speaker, as I started by saying, is that we are bringing America to the brink. In the midst of my comments, I indicated that I remember how we came together in the tragedy of 9/11. Well, we have a tragedy right now. We have a raging ISIS and ISIL, we have an unknown terrorist threat, and we know that the United States, although strong, stands, as the rest of the world does, needing to be prepared for those

who want to be individualized, franchised terrorists.

I take my responsibility seriously. I believe in the Constitution. I even believe in language that indicates, as we say often in the Declaration of Independence, that we all are created equal, and language in the Constitution that says we have come to form a more perfect Union.

This is not perfect, and this can be remedied. I ask the Speaker to put this bill on the floor of the House in the name of firefighters and police officers and ICE officers and grants going to cities for using their best tactics; fusion centers that deal with terrorism—in their name, and many others, like Border Patrol; ICE, as I indicated; the Secret Service, as I indicated; TSA agents; parts of FAA; and FEMA, when the North is freezing and needs that kind of assistance.

In the name of the people of the United States of America, how much pleading do I need to do? As a member of the Homeland Security Committee believing in those innocent families who have come here to do nothing more than to work on behalf of their families and desire to be united, on behalf of the mothers and fathers, Mr. Speaker, I ask that the Speaker put on the floor of the House a clean DHS bill so that we can vote now, now, now.

SERVING OUR NATION'S VETERANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, the Veterans Affairs Office of the Inspector General issued a report last Wednesday on their investigation into the nearly 14,000 veteran benefits claims that were found in a filing cabinet in Oakland, California.

Last year, these claims were brought to our attention by VA staff members, who have known about these claims for many years—despite their best efforts to raise awareness of the injustice in how these claims were being handled.

In July 2014, the former Deputy Under Secretary of the VA for Field Operations testified before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs that the 14,000 claims that were found in a file cabinet had been brokered so that they would receive attention by the VA's highest performing offices.

Just 2 weeks prior to that on a site visit to the Oakland VA, the regional

and division management told me that these 14,000 claims basically never existed. As a matter of fact, they claim it was a story made up by disgruntled employees.

The VA's Office of Inspector General's investigation confirmed the discovery of 14,000 claims in a filing cabinet, confirmed that some of these claims dated back to the 1990s, confirmed that thousands of these claims had not been processed, and confirmed that the staff at the Oakland VA had not been directed to properly store these claims.

Oakland VA's management claimed after my visit that they then had discovered 13,184 veteran benefit claims and 2,155 claims which required action or review. But during an onsite review, the Office of Inspector General could not confirm the existence of these claims due to the Oakland VA management's "poor recordkeeping practices."

How was the Oakland VA able to arrive at such exact numbers without maintaining records that allowed the OIG to verify the existence of these claims? It just doesn't make sense, and we have to get to the bottom of these numbers. The VA is required by law to respond to every initial claim they receive, to safeguard Federal records, and to protect private information of the veterans they work with.

When the Oakland VA managers discovered that 2,155 claims were more than several years old and required action or review, a special projects team was formed to complete this urgent task. Members of this team have told my staff that many of those claims belonged to veterans who had passed away while waiting for benefits to be processed and that their families were never contacted.

Inexplicably, the Office of Inspector General later discovered that 537 initial claims that had been marked by this special team as processed were never actually processed. Some of these claims were as old as June 2002, yet another troubling instance of the Oakland VA managers failing to provide the type of service northern California's veterans deserve.

The VA Office of Inspector General viewed only 34 of these unprocessed claims, though for some reason they declined to select a random sample. Instead, the 34 claims were selected "judiciously," which didn't make any sense. Of the 34 claims that were reviewed by the Inspector General's office, seven still remain unprocessed. In fact, though, these claims had been reviewed several times from December 2012 to June 2014 without any action being taken. In one instance, a veteran with PTSD was underpaid almost \$3,000 because his initial claim was not processed correctly.

This type of dysfunction and complete lack of oversight and accountability cannot continue in Oakland or

at any VA regional offices across the country.

Sadly, this report sheds very little light on who should be accountable for these failures and is incomplete.

I am grateful the report was done and that the inspector general did delve into this issue at Oakland and many other offices, but the fact that no real conclusions were made on who is to be held accountable means much work remains to be done. We must continue to search for these answers and work to make sure the VA regional offices are properly serving our veterans.

I am also grateful, on the positive, for the many staff members of the VA—many, former veterans themselves—who care about this. They process many of these claims and make sure veterans are served. But we see there are a lot of holes in the system, obviously, that are making many veterans not have the confidence that they are going to be served, that they are going to get their claims processed, or indeed get health care if they need it later.

Indeed, the tragedy we have is that anywhere from 12 to 22 veterans give up each day in this country and commit suicide. Because they have no hope left of having the promise kept to them shows that we have much to do.

So I am grateful for those VA staffers that come to us blowing the whistle on what is wrong with the system when they can't get help from their management to make things right. We ask them to please keep coming forward.

Contact my office, contact my staff on what needs to be done to get the word out to help make this right, because we want the VA to function well. We want the employees to feel like they are part of a system that is serving veterans and to have a good relationship within their office, but also to ultimately serve what we need as taxpayers and Americans that revere our veterans.

PASS A DHS FUNDING BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I stand here this morning as a member of the Appropriations Committee and its Subcommittee on Homeland Security. Our subcommittee is responsible for setting and overseeing funding for the operations of the Department of Homeland Security.

In 2 days, on February 27, astoundingly, funding for the Department of Homeland Security runs out because the Republican majority can't agree on a bill due to their internal disagreements on the immigration provisions which are contained in the same bill because it is in the same Department.

Although a clean funding bill, H.R. 861, could quickly be brought to this

House floor for a vote to fund the entire Department for the remainder of this fiscal year, Republicans have defaulted to the rightwing extremists in their own party and instead have chosen to hold the security of our Nation hostage in order to contort the legislative process.

They would defund the President's immigration executive order merely because they want a partisan win more than they want to govern. What a tragedy.

□ 1015

To quote an editorial from yesterday's Washington Post: "The fervor of Republican partisanship, especially in the House, is immune to logic beyond an insistence on victory at any cost."

This is a Republican Party that just a year and a half ago shut our Nation's government down for 16 days, stopping critical services and doing significant harm to the U.S. economy; then, too, they seemed more interested in a political win than responsible governance.

Recall, their party also had the opportunity last Congress to bring a bipartisan comprehensive immigration bill to the floor for a vote but declined to act. They have chosen not to address a concern that an overwhelming number of Americans believe needs to be resolved.

There are grave consequences for forcing the Department of Homeland Security into a shutdown. The Republican Congress would cripple the Federal Emergency Management Agency's preparations for future disasters as more than a fifth of personnel are furloughed.

The Republican Congress would end the Federal Emergency Management Agency's training activities with local law enforcement for weapons of mass destruction.

The Republican Congress would cut off pay to thousands of Department of Homeland Security employees who are personally tasked with protecting our homeland.

The Republican Congress would stop research and development work on countermeasures to protect us against devastating biological threats, on nuclear detection equipment, and on cargo and passenger screening technologies.

The Republican Congress would shutter the Department of Homeland Security's Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, meaning there will be no alerts or coordination efforts with local law enforcement agencies if a nuclear event occurs.

This is so utterly irresponsible. In an era of amplified global threats, brutal terrorist attacks throughout Europe, and escalating tension throughout the Middle East, to cut off funding for the Department tasked with ensuring our homeland security is safe and secure is truly dangerous.

This sort of behavior throws sand into the gears of a great society, of a great country, the oldest Republic on the face of the Earth. The American people surely are looking for reassurance that their government will offer them the security and dependability they expect.

We have a responsibility to protect their security, even if it means we no longer can indulge in political brinksmanship.

Mr. Speaker, we have a working bipartisan majority here in this House that holds the power to govern this Nation. All it needs is the will.

Let's bring the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill to the floor today. Let's stop playing political games with the safety and security of the American people.

We owe it to them to govern and to do the job we were elected to do.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 17 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Tierian Cash, National Chaplain for the American Legion, Longs, South Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Almighty and everlasting God, in whose name we trust and pray, it is fitting to pause, if but momentarily, to recognize You, the One in whom does finally reside all authority and power and by whose grace we are allowed to exercise that which You have committed to us.

Accept our homage, O Lord, and hear us when we pray for wisdom to lead with integrity, compassion, and conviction.

We are mindful that around the world today our soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coastguardsmen are standing the watch to safeguard our peace and liberty.

Grant to all who serve and their families Your blessings.

Accept, O Lord, these prayers, and may we perceive and know what things to do and receive grace and power to fulfill what is expected of us. We commit our best efforts and our Nation to Your keeping.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND TIERIAN "RANDY" CASH

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, please join me in welcoming to the House of Representatives today our guest chaplain, my constituent and fellow resident of Lincoln County, North Carolina, Reverend Randy Cash.

A native North Carolinian, Reverend Cash was commissioned as a Navy chaplain in 1980. During his 26 years of Active Duty, Reverend Cash has done tours supporting both the Navy and Marines with time in Liberia, the Congo, and Albania and supporting Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, and, most recently, Operation Enduring Freedom.

Additionally, Reverend Cash has served as deputy chaplain to the U.S. Marine Corps and multiple roles for the Naval Chaplaincy School, including commanding officer.

Reverend Cash is visiting Washington this week for the 55th annual conference of the American Legion, for which he currently serves as national chaplain for that fine organization.

Please join me in welcoming Reverend Cash to the House of Representa-

tives, and thank him for his years of dedicated service to our Nation, our Nation's men and women in the military, and our veterans.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCCLINTOCK). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

EDUCATION

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I believe in an opportunity society where hard work, education, innovation, and risk are rewarded and we empower individuals, not government.

Unfortunately, Washington's broken reflex these days is: when in doubt, regulate. That type of thinking must cease if we are to reach this Nation's full potential. One of the clearest examples of unnecessary and unsuccessful Federal intervention is the law currently governing our K-12 education system.

This week, the House will consider the Student Success Act, which empowers the people closest to students with the authority to make education choices in their respective States and communities.

Local control always delivers programs and services more efficiently and effectively. By scaling back Washington's one-size-fits-all micromanagement of classrooms, this legislation takes positive steps toward ensuring local educators have the flexibility required to meet the diverse needs of their students.

FUNDING THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

(Ms. KUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Homeland Security is charged with safeguarding our Nation from acts of terrorism, drug trafficking, and many other serious threats.

Whether they serve in the Coast Guard, Border Patrol, Customs and Border Protection, or elsewhere, the men and women who work for the Department of Homeland Security in my home State of New Hampshire and across this country play a vital role in keeping our families safe; yet Congress is poised to shut down DHS this Friday for partisan political reasons.

This would undermine our security and impact hardworking men and women from across my district, like

Darrell, from Groveton, New Hampshire, who serves in the Coast Guard, and Lee, another Granite Stater, who works for Customs and Border Protection. She wrote to me recently and said: "No one wins if this political standoff continues."

I agree. We were elected to work together in the best interest of those we represent, not to play partisan political games.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department of Homeland Security open so it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

FEDERAL TEXAS JUDGE IMMIGRATION RULING

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my constituents and a majority of Americans oppose President Obama's executive amnesty. His amnesty is unconstitutional, which is why I am pleased that U.S. district court Judge Andrew Hanen has blocked Obama's amnesty from going into effect. Not surprisingly, the administration is now appealing.

As the legal process works its way through the courts, Congress must continue to stand strong and fight the President's unlawful amnesty. Just this month, I exposed Obama's empty words that illegals getting amnesty would be paying taxes. The IRS Commissioner confirmed that Obama's amnesty will, in fact, allow the IRS to give illegals thousands of dollars.

These tax refunds aren't refunds in the usual sense but amnesty checks from the IRS. This is wrong. I am working on legislation to stop it. Law-abiding and hardworking American taxpayers deserve nothing less.

COUNTING DOWN TO GOP SHUTDOWN

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans are playing politics with the security of the American people, and the American people deserve better.

What was absolutely laughable a few days ago, it now appears that they are prepared to shut down the Department

of Homeland Security. They won't budge, even though they have known all along that the House version of the bill will never pass the Senate, and if it did, the President would surely veto it, as he should.

They are willing to burden this entire country with all the dangers and disruptions that a funding lapse would bring. They are willing to shut down funding for the security in the New York City rail system, communications equipment in Los Angeles, bomb-sniffing dogs in Massachusetts, and firefighter positions across this Nation, just so that they can put on another hollow, pointless political show.

This legislation is failure by design. I find it scandalous that the Islamic terrorists are fully funded; yet the Department of Homeland Security that protects our citizens may not be.

I urge a vote on a clean Homeland Security bill for the protection of our citizens.

THE PRESIDENT NEEDS TO CHANGE COURSE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, during the Presidents' Day break, I served on a delegation meeting with the leaders of Afghanistan, Jordan, and Iraq. Each was grateful for the support given in their fight against terrorists who seek mass murder of innocent civilians.

Daesh, the Arab translation of ISIL, has spread as a cancer across the region and threatens to attack the American people. President Obama's failing policies are weakening defense, and he needs to change course, as he did with the 2009 Afghan surge.

In Syria, the President's strategy has set the stage for Daesh to expand. In Iraq, his failure to achieve a status of forces agreement has led to instability. The attack on Libya has led to a failed state. The pitiful negotiations with Iran puts America at risk. His claimed success in Yemen has proven inaccurate.

Radical Islamists have declared war on the West, intend to exterminate Jews, and seek to destroy modern democratic civilizations. The first mass slaughters have been of fellow Muslims at mosques, at soft targets, but safe havens anywhere are a threat to American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

THREE DAYS UNTIL THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY SHUTDOWN

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, well, there are only 3 days left until the Department of Homeland Security shuts down, forcing thousands of TSA, Customs, Border Patrol, and Secret Service agents to put their lives on the line to protect American citizens without being paid.

This has gone on far too far. We have taken weeks of time on the floor of this House, waiting for what we know ultimately would be passed, and that is a clean Homeland Security bill.

Every Democrat has cosponsored legislation to fully fund this Department, without trying to overreach and get through the appropriations process that which the majority is unwilling to do legislatively.

If you were so interested in immigration policy, the majority would long ago have brought comprehensive immigration reform to the floor of the House. Have we seen that? No—neither have we seen any legislation that the American people are really looking for, legislation that would put America back to work, build new infrastructure, and create jobs in this country.

This has gone on far too far. We have got to get this essential function of government fully funded and get back to the business that the American people sent us to.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry out its essential mission.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

PRESIDENT OBAMA VETOES KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, despite overwhelming bipartisan support from my colleagues in both the House and the Senate, the President vetoed the Keystone XL pipeline project in the name of political expediency; rather than listening to a majority of the American public, the President's veto kowtows to a vocal minority of extreme environmental groups.

Mr. Speaker, the President's decision yesterday is a giant leap backwards on a road to energy independence, effectively saying "no" to the creation of over 40,000 American jobs and lower energy prices for businesses and families.

Mr. Speaker, President Obama had the opportunity to stand up and show true leadership, but unfortunately, he chose to, once again, hide behind political motives.

□ 1215

DHS SHUTDOWN

ECONOMIC GROWTH FOR NEVADA

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, just this morning, Nevada Attorney General Laxalt testified before the House Judiciary Committee, claiming that the implementation of DAPA and extension of DACA would cause undue economic hardship for our State. Well, I would like to see his evidence, because data show that granting administrative relief to qualified undocumented immigrants would actually contribute to economic growth.

Thanks to these executive actions, the legal workforce will expand, and average wages for all workers will increase by \$170 a year. The Federal deficit will be reduced by \$25 billion, and GDP will grow from \$90 billion to \$210 billion over the next decade. Furthermore, it is estimated that expanding DACA and DAPA will increase Nevada's GDP from \$700 million to \$1.7 billion over the next 10 years and lead to \$21 million in additional tax revenue for the State over the next 5 years.

So, in short, General, not implementing the President's actions is not only morally indefensible, but also economically foolish. And, I might add, holding up DHS funding for this purpose is a shameful political act that puts Americans at risk.

M-855 AMMO BAN

(Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand up for the rights of law-abiding Americans to protect their homes, and I am standing in opposition to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' unreasonable proposal to ban entire classes of ammunition.

As an American, I personally use this ammunition to defend my home and my family, and that is my constitutional right. I find it ironic that the President of the United States continues to say, well, if we would just arm the people of other countries, then ISIS wouldn't exist, while he uses each and every means possible to violate our Second Amendment right to protect ourselves.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to set the record straight, and I look forward to meeting with the ATF and discussing their budget and making sure that they don't have the legal authority or the funding to take away Americans' constitutional rights to keep and bear arms and ammo.

(Ms. ESTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, in 3 days, the Department of Homeland Security will needlessly run out of funding—yes, 3 days. Shutting down the Department of Homeland Security will jeopardize local disaster relief grants. It will stall critical safety training for firefighters and first responders and will force thousands of Border Patrol agents, Active Duty Coast Guard servicemembers, and airport security screeners across the country to work without pay.

House Republicans are threatening the safety and security of our Nation and our families by refusing to pass a clean security funding bill, instead, pushing for anti-immigration amendments. This is unwise, this is unnecessary, and this is wrong. We should not play partisan politics when our Nation's security is on the line.

We must pass a funding bill that does not include harmful provisions, so that our Nation remains safe and secure. That is why I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

STRENGTHENING TAX-FREE 529 COLLEGE SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

(Mr. MARCHANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 529, a bill I have co-sponsored that strengthens tax-free 529 college savings accounts. The cost of higher ed has increased by more than 500 percent since 1985, yet the President recently proposed a tax hike on 529 savings of students and middle class families.

There is a big difference between being able to afford college and being able to pay for it. The 529s help bridge that gap for millions of working Americans who make too little to cover tuition but just enough to be ineligible for financial aid.

Our Nation's long-term prosperity depends on our ability to prepare the next generation for success. Let's start now by passing H.R. 529.

DHS SHUTDOWN

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to demand that a clean, straightforward Department of Homeland Security funding bill be brought to the House floor for a vote immediately. After today, there are only 2 more days until the entire Department of Homeland Security is shut down, 2 days until the men and women who work to protect our national security stop receiving a paycheck, 2 days until the doors are shut at the Department responsible for ensuring America's safety.

If my colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to debate the merits of immigration reform, then bring an immigration bill to the floor. We would welcome that debate. We are ready to work on a comprehensive bill to fix a broken system. In the meantime, don't play games with our national security.

Again, I urge the House leadership to bring a clean funding bill. It is H.R. 861. We need to keep the Department of Homeland Security open so it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe, and we need to be able to move forward to work on the pressing matters facing our country.

DHS SHUTDOWN

(Mr. DOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, the American people expect us to deliver solutions and to fix problems; they expect us to act responsibly and govern. We can do this by working together and averting a shutdown at the Department of Homeland Security.

Let me be clear: shutting down the Department of Homeland Security should not be an option, and I am adamantly opposed to letting this happen.

Our first and foremost responsibility, Mr. Speaker, is to protect our Nation. Ever since the attacks of September 11, 2001, the need for the Department of Homeland Security became clear, and the Department of Homeland Security has proven vital to keeping the American people safe amid an ongoing war against terror.

Terror threats do not just go away until Washington is able to come to a compromise. There is certainly broad disagreement, Mr. Speaker, in this country over the President's executive actions. By shutting down DHS, it only makes us more vulnerable to attacks. It is absolutely the wrong approach to addressing this disagreement. There is no room for political brinkmanship when the security of the American public is at stake.

SELMA VOTING RIGHTS

(Mr. CARNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of the voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery and to urge my colleagues to pass voting rights legislation in this Congress.

In 1960, there were only 66,000 African Americans registered to vote in Alabama. In 1965, there were 15,000 Black residents of Dallas County, Alabama, where Selma is located, but fewer than 200 were registered to vote. African Americans who attempted to vote faced intimidation, discrimination, and worse.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the unrelenting efforts of heroes like our colleague from Georgia, JOHN LEWIS, helped correct these injustices. But the fight isn't over. State legislation, ballot initiatives, and court cases across the country in recent years have jeopardized the voter registration protections that JOHN LEWIS and others fought so hard for.

We need to stay vigilant, and we need new legislation today. As we celebrate Black History Month, let's recognize how far we have come. Let's pass voting rights legislation in this Congress for the good of the country.

KEYSTONE PIPELINE VETO

(Mr. MCCLINTOCK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, for more than 6 years, the President has called for taxpayer-funded infrastructure projects. In the first year of his administration, he squandered nearly \$1 trillion on so-called shovel-ready projects that he later joked weren't shovel ready at all. Mr. Speaker, \$1 trillion is \$8,000 taken from every family in America, on average. That is what we spent. That is what he joked about when it turned out we got very little for it.

Now along comes the Keystone pipeline. It promises \$8 billion of private investment at no cost to taxpayers. That major infrastructure project would have produced 42,000 construction-related jobs and, when finished, more than a half million barrels a day of Canadian crude oil entering the American economy. That is what he vetoed after it was sent to him with bipartisan votes out of both Houses.

He calls this middle class economics. The reality is it is a war on the middle class. And that is no joke.

DHS SHUTDOWN

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the imminent danger our country faces in 3 days. Right now, Republicans have decided that it

is more important to listen to the Tea Party and their extremist views rather than funding the Department of Homeland Security.

And I don't want to hear this mess from Republicans about, oh, the workers are still going to get paid. Let me tell you something. We are talking about 250,000 essential employees that could go without pay—that are airport screeners and are doing important things like keeping us safe—and sending them to work without pay, where they don't know how they are going to make their car note; they don't know if they are going to be able to pay their mortgage or bring groceries home. That is putting America in danger.

We need to keep Homeland Security open. We need to stop playing this reckless game that the Republicans are putting us through because it is the duty of Congress to keep American families safe and govern responsibly.

Republicans need to realize that the only path through this is having us do a clean DHS bill. It is time for Republicans to join the 192 House Democrats that have already signed up. We need to do the right thing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DOLD). As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

ISIS

(Mr. STUTZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, over the last several months, Islamic State has shown just how barbaric they can be. They are willing to kill and torture innocent people in the most savage ways to intimidate the United States and the civilized world. With the recent beheadings in the Middle East and the multiple shootings in Europe, it is very clear that terrorism is a problem that only continues to grow.

Islamic State might be the most well-trained, well-equipped, and well-financed terror group we have seen; and if an international coalition is not willing to stop them, no one will.

I have supported President Obama's use of airstrikes since they began several months ago to push back on Islamic State, and I still strongly believe that we should continue these strikes with our Arab partners.

Throughout our history, we have shown that we can overcome any obstacle and defeat any enemy if we are willing to stand up to it.

However, I have so far been disappointed that the President has asked

for an Authorization for Use of Military Force without articulating a clear strategy on how to ultimately defeat the enemy. If President Obama would present such a plan, I believe both Republicans and Democrats in both Chambers would stand with him and show the world that we are united in confronting this dangerous enemy.

I hope the President takes this opportunity to lead and unite the American people toward defeating our latest adversary in the war on terror.

DHS SHUTDOWN

(Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, there are only 3 days until the Department of Homeland Security shuts down, forcing more than 50,000 TSA airport security screeners and tens of thousands of Customs and Border Protection officers to work without pay. Many of these dedicated public servants work at Los Angeles International Airport, LAX, which is in my congressional district. They screen the passengers and examine the cargo to keep the airports secure.

LAX is the sixth busiest airport in the world and third busiest in the United States. In 2013, LAX served more than 66 million passengers and processed more than 1.9 million tons of cargo with a value of over \$91.6 billion.

The security of LAX is critical for the people of Los Angeles and the entire country, and the public servants who work hard every day to keep our airports safe deserve to be paid for the work that they do. Let's fund DHS now.

I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

□ 1230

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION

(Mr. BENISHEK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, today, as we consider many issues surrounding the education of our Nation's youth, I rise to draw attention to the importance of career technical education. Having raised five kids, I understand how access to quality learning is critical to ensuring that every child has an opportunity to achieve their potential.

That is why I have worked to support career and technical education and teach students the relevant skills they need to get a good-paying job. Often referred to as vocational, or voc-ed, CTE courses frequently offer on-the-job training that translates into employment right after graduation. That means more opportunities for students and less debt.

I was proud to learn that Cheboygan Area High School in my congressional district was named one of the top schools in northern Michigan in CTE, an achievement for which Cheboygan Area Schools should be justifiably proud. It is my hope that students in northern Michigan and all over the United States will take advantage of quality CTE programs to further their careers and continue to grow our economy.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to supporting measures that help to return control of education to States and parents, allowing families to choose an educational program that fits their needs.

CELEBRATING WEST COAST PORTS AND ILWU, PMA DEAL

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I, along with the rest of the country, am breathing a sigh of relief that full-time work has resumed at our west coast ports. I wanted to publicly thank the ILWU and the PMA for staying at the table and finally reaching an agreement. I want to thank President Obama and our Labor Secretary Perez for their help in bringing about a resolution.

Many of my colleagues here in Congress were calling me daily for updates because the workers, the farmers, the businesses, and the consumers in their districts were also impacted by what happens on the west coast ports.

I represent the men and women who work on those ports, so our economy in the harbor area was greatly affected, but we also realize that these ports are an economic engine for the entire country. Our west coast ports support millions of American jobs and provide a vital link to global commerce. So today I am going to testify before the Budget Committee to remind Congress that we should fully fund all the ports in this country because they are such an important link to our economy.

NET NEUTRALITY

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, as you can see, we have quite a variety of issues that we are talking about today.

Whether it is the President's executive amnesty and overreach, the overreach of the DHS, or the veto of the Keystone pipeline, people are concerned about what is happening.

Mr. Speaker, I want to turn our attention to another issue: the takeover of the Internet by the Federal Communications Commission. We just completed a hearing at the Energy and Commerce Committee on this issue. I tell you there is great concern about what the FCC would do with the Internet.

The Internet is not broken, and it does not need the Federal Government to fix it. So people are rightfully concerned about that. The FCC, in taking control of the Internet, would do a couple of things. First of all, it would be a loss of some of our freedoms because the FCC would reclassify the Internet to title II. Now, title II of the Communications Act is the 1930s-era law that regulates telephones and telecommunications. It would thereby subject the Internet, which is an information service, to a host of taxes, regulation, and international consideration. This is not the direction we want to go with the Internet. Let's not use 1930s-era laws on an information service. Let's make certain that the FCC delays their net neutrality order and that we work together to keep the Internet open and free.

DHS SHUTDOWN

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, as I stand before this body today, it is with a tremendous amount of concern for the brave men and women who are protecting our country and work for the Department of Homeland Security. We are only about 48 hours or so away from a potential shutdown, and I am concerned about these people, who are going to have to continue to work because they are dedicated, loyal, and patriotic Americans but won't be getting paid if we allow this government to shut down.

Now, all we have to do in this House of Representatives is to bring up a clean Homeland Security funding bill. That is all we have to do. The Senate majority leader said he would do that. So we can get this problem solved right away.

This situation is being handled in the courts, and this body of ours, this House of Representatives, is no place to try to work out some sort of ideological partisan divide around immigration. This is an occasion for us to look out after the safety and security of the American people and to fund and pay the salaries of the workers who guarantee that security, not a time for partisan ideological chicanery.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861,

the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry on its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee). As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

THE IRS' PUTATIVE LACK OF FUNDS FOR TAX FORMS AND INSTRUCTION BOOKLETS

(Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to shed light on an issue that many constituents brought to my attention. Tax Day is right around the corner, and as many folks prepare to file their taxes, they are having issues locating the proper forms.

The IRS has notified local libraries—and even congressional offices like mine—that it does not have the money to distribute enough tax forms and instruction booklets so that taxpayers can file their returns accurately and on time. As a result, Mr. Speaker, seniors and those without access to the Internet are scrambling to find 1040 instruction booklets and tax schedules they need to accurately file their taxes. My office distributed nearly 40 tax instruction books and tax forms during a recent community office hours event in Lebanon County, and the demand continues to grow daily.

Mr. Speaker, the IRS' claim that they can no longer afford to send tax forms to local libraries due to budget cuts is disingenuous. And while needing more than 40 pages of instructions to complete the least complicated tax return is proof enough for simplifying the Tax Code, it is no excuse for the IRS to make paying your Federal taxes an even bigger headache by making it more difficult for my constituents to get the documents they need. Let's get our tax forms where they are needed.

THE CONCERNS OF OUR DISTRICTS

(Mr. HASTINGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, one of the privileges we have here in the House of Representatives is to speak to any issue during this period of time.

Regrettably, I rise today to speak of the death of an iconic figure, a dynamic force for social justice, Georgia Jones Ayers, who was not from my congressional district but from Congresswoman FREDERICA WILSON's district, and I am sure that the two of us will add additional remarks.

I also happily today come to the floor to congratulate the Dillard High School girls basketball team and the Palm Beach Lakes High School basketball teams. Dillard and Coach Pinder, my dear friend, have had such a consecutive run that they are becoming a real force nationally as well as locally, and Palm Beach County took theirs as well. So I am fortunate that I have girls basketball teams that are champions, and I proudly congratulate them.

CADILLAC TAX

(Mr. GUINTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the estimated 12 million Americans in the middle class who are paying more than \$1,000 extra per year because of the excise tax on health care plans included in the ObamaCare legislation called the Cadillac tax. This legislation is set to take effect in 2018; however, employers, labor unions, and municipalities all back home are already preparing for this devastating tax.

In order to comply with this 40 percent penalty on health care plans, Mr. Speaker, employers and municipalities are looking at increasing deductibles, reducing benefits, and shifting costs to consumers as well as property taxpayers. In fact, in Manchester, our State's largest city, an anticipated cost of 5 to \$6 million alone will impact the property taxpayers. This will undoubtedly result in an increase in our local property taxes, which, as every Granite Stater knows, are already sky high.

Mr. Speaker, Americans simply can't afford this tax, which is why I introduced a repeal bill. I look forward to working with Republicans and Democrats to get this bill passed.

HONORING SISTER CLARE CARTY

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great leader and visionary in my community, Sister Clare Carty, who passed away on Saturday, February 14, at the age of 78. Sister Clare was born in Philadelphia and entered the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia in 1955, beginning her career as an elementary school teacher. In 1980, she joined the St. Mary Medical Center system as an assistant administrator, where I happened to be working as a hospital pharmacy clerk. I will never forget her kind interaction with her staff. Nobody was more proud of the colleagues, physicians, and volunteers at St. Mary's than Sister Clare.

In 1982, Sister Clare rose to the rank of president and CEO at St. Mary. Her persistence and leadership led to the development of one of the first community hospital open heart surgery programs in the area, as well as the establishment of the only trauma center in my home community of the County of Bucks.

After two decades of work, Sister Clare left St. Mary to serve in the development of Home Health Services for Catholic Health East, and once she retired from health care administration, she devoted her time to the Sisters of St. Francis. Sister Clare was instrumental in establishing the Mother Bachmann Maternity Center, Children's Health Center, Family Resource Center, and Bucks County Health Improvement Project.

Mr. Speaker, you won't meet many people with the compassion, character, and very capable leadership of Sister Clare. She touched and improved not just the medical center but our entire community. I celebrate her life and her legacy, her faithful example, and her leadership. We are certainly grateful to know Sister Clare, and I am thankful for everything she did for the people of Pennsylvania and all those that she served.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 529, SECTION 529 COLLEGE SAVINGS PLANS AMENDMENTS; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5, STUDENT SUCCESS ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 121 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 121

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 529) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve 529 plans. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. At any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5) to support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform

parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. After general debate, the Committee of the Whole shall rise without motion. No further consideration of the bill shall be in order except pursuant to a subsequent order of the House.

SEC. 3. The requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House is waived with respect to any resolution reported through the legislative day of March 2, 2015, relating to a measure making or continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015.

SEC. 4. It shall be in order at any time through the calendar day of March 1, 2015, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules as though under clause 1 of rule XV, relating to a measure making or continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM). The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), my friend, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

□ 1245

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, there is a lot going on in this rule today, a lot to be proud of.

I would like to start by thanking the folks on the Parliamentarian staff and Mr. Steve Cote on the Rules Committee. Folks don't pay a lot of attention to what goes on down here sometimes, what goes on behind the scenes, in order to bring a bill to the floor. We did a little extra work this time around. I am grateful to folks for working with me to get that done.

House Resolution 121 is a closed rule, but it makes in order the consideration of two bills. One is H.R. 529, a bill that passed by unanimous consent out of the Ways and Means Committee, that goes into these college savings plans and corrects some provisions that made it difficult for folks to redeposit money into those plans—again, all about trying to educate our children,

to make sure they have the opportunities that we would want for them.

The second provision made in order by this rule is the general debate of H.R. 5, the Student Success Act. Folks may not know the Student Success Act yet, Mr. Speaker, though they will. It will become as normalized of a term as No Child Left Behind.

That was the last time we reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Mr. Speaker. I don't believe we will find much disagreement in this Chamber about the need to go back into that language now, 13 years later, and make some improvements in order to better serve our children.

We might disagree about what those improvements are, but we know it is time to go back and get into that language and really try to make a difference for those families, students, and schools back home. H.R. 5 intends to do just that.

This rule also provides suspension authority for any time through March 1 to bring up a resolution that either makes appropriations for or continues appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security.

You heard a lot about it during the 1 minutes this morning, Mr. Speaker. What we have is Department of Homeland Security funding which, as you know, funds so much of the immigration services function of our government.

As you know, a Federal judge has said that the plans the President has laid out cannot be completed lawfully. This House went forward and said: If it can't do those things lawfully, we are certainly not going to fund them in this bill.

Now, the Senate has not even been able to bring that bill up for debate, blocked on the Senate side from any discussion whatsoever.

We are going to hopefully find a resolution between now and the end of this week. I don't know when that resolution is going to come. When that resolution comes, I don't want to see this House delayed in bringing that resolution to the floor. Again, we have already done our work. My hope is the Senate can pass that bill, and we can go ahead and send it directly to the President's desk.

Whatever those machinations may need to be, this rule makes bringing an additional provision in order as soon as that language becomes available. That is maximum flexibility to do what I think folks on both sides of this Chamber want to do, and that is to ensure the steady, continuous, deliberate functioning of this government.

Mr. Speaker, No Child Left Behind, it was passed by a Republican House and a Republican Senate and sent to a Republican President for his signature. Today, that same Republican House is bringing forward a rewrite of that bill.

As much as we all have a love and affection for children, as much as we

want public education in this country to succeed, sometimes, we don't get it right.

Again, I want to celebrate the bipartisanship in that. It is not everybody just looking to find somebody to blame. I think folks went into that process trying to do the very best that they could; but, in fact, we ended up with some top-down solutions that did not serve our districts as well as we would have hoped.

I am very fortunate, Mr. Speaker. I come from a district with wonderful public schools, just wonderful public schools. In fact, we are the fastest growing congressional district in the State of Georgia.

It is not because of any particular strong business presence, though we have a tremendously strong business presence. It is not because of our location in some pleasant area, though it is a particularly pleasant area. It is because our school systems are second to none.

It is hard when we have to have these conversations about funding for local schools because the money that I spend on these children is money that I am borrowing from these children.

It has to be an investment in these children. It has to be something that enables them to succeed even more tomorrow than they are today because I am borrowing it from their future. I am mortgaging their future in order to invest in them today. We all want those dollars to be used as well as they can.

It would be easy to have a conversation about funding children to say: Well, if \$1 is good, then \$2 must be better, and if \$2 is good, then \$4 must be better, and if \$4 is good, then \$1 million must be better, and if \$1 million is good, then \$1 trillion must be better.

I would dispute the attestation of any colleague who can find that direct correlation between dollars and performance. Dollars are critically important, and this bill provides those, but performance is tied to parents, it is tied to teachers, it is tied to principals, it is tied to communities. We cannot mandate that performance. We can only try to help those local folks succeed.

I know a lot of my colleagues are concerned that unless we mandate a solution from Washington, we will allow local communities to fail. I know that concern is heartfelt. I don't come from one of those communities.

The community I come from says: Washington is not getting it so right, but, trust us, we will take care of children down here because no one in Washington loves our children more than we do.

Again, we see that.

There is no question, Mr. Speaker, that children are going to succeed in this country, but there is an achievement gap. There is a gap, Mr. Speaker,

depending on what your ZIP code is, between what success we expect to come from your family and what success you can actually attain.

I come from a county, Mr. Speaker, that is widely diverse, that has all the economic challenges you can imagine and all the economic successes that you can imagine as well. We come together to make sure that no child is left behind and to make sure that no child is held back.

We have both schools that are succeeding in ways that I could stand on this floor and brag about for hours, taking students from which the system expects so little and creating an opportunity for them to succeed so extraordinarily. I would like to see that replicated in school districts across the Nation. I see it back home in my school.

But we also have the Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology, GSMST. U.S. News & World Report names it the third best high school in the United States of America. I, of course, think U.S. News & World Report got it wrong. We are the absolute best high school in the United States of America.

A majority of that student body, Mr. Speaker, are minority students. A majority of that student body had an opportunity to go anywhere in the county they wanted to go, but they stood in line, hoping to win the lottery to get out of a school that was already performing well to get into this school where they could be exceptional.

Mr. Speaker, there are children standing in line across this country waiting to be exceptional. This bill aims to clear that line away and allow every child in America to achieve the excellence that you and I both know they deserve.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I would like very much at this time to be able to accommodate the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, Mrs. LOWEY. She was going to be scheduled to speak earlier. I am going to allow that she go forward now to discuss something that is very important, and then I will proceed with my opening, if the Speaker will allow.

There are only 3 days left until funding for the Department of Homeland Security expires, which will shut down many of the crucial operations that keep our country safe.

Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I am going to offer an amendment to the rule that will allow for consideration of a clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill. With such serious consequences, it is time to put politics aside and prioritize the safety and security of the American people.

To discuss that particular aspect of the proposal, I am very pleased to yield

3 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), my good friend, the distinguished ranking member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge this House to immediately take up and pass a clean funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security.

Delaying the full-year bill limits the Department's ability to advance the Secretary's unity of effort initiative designed to improve coordination in our security missions; limits the ability of the Secretary to move ahead with the Southern Border and Approaches Campaign; creates uncertainty regarding ICE's capacity to detain and deport dangerous criminals; complicates the Department's ability to deal with another influx of unaccompanied children at our border stations; delays implementation of the new security upgrades at the White House and hiring increases of the U.S. Secret Service; delays terrorism preparedness, my colleagues, and response grants for State and local public safety personnel and from fusion centers.

I understand that many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle feel quite strongly about the President's use of executive orders on immigration policy; but do they have the courage of their convictions to look the first responders they represent in the eye and to tell them that they are holding up critical assistance to firefighters, law enforcement, EMTs, and emergency managers because of a fight that is ideological over immigration?

This is disgraceful. The Homeland Security bill should never have been held hostage with only 3 days left until the Republican shutdown. Hasn't this gone on long enough? Isn't it time to abandon this failed strategy and pass a clean Homeland Security bill?

To that end, I urge this whole House to join me today in defeating the previous question so that my colleague Mr. HASTINGS can offer an amendment to provide a clean, full-year appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank my friend, the gentleman from Georgia, for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

I rise, obviously, in opposition to the rule and underlying bill because neither of these measures will keep the Department of Homeland Security from shutting down in 3 days, something that I am sure is of vital interest to my friend from Georgia who is an advocate, continuously and has been since being on the Rules Committee and here in Congress, of having an open process.

I would only urge that we understand that the last Congress, the 113th, was the most closed Congress in the history

of all of the House of Representatives; yet, at this point, in this, the 114th Congress, we find ourselves in this position. In the last Congress, 38 percent of the rules were closed at this point, six out of 16.

As of today, this House has approved 75 percent of its rules that are closed. In other words, this Congress is on a path to be twice as closed as the last, which had the most, in history, closed rules.

Now, my friend Mr. WOODALL certainly understands that, and every Member of this House understands that. A lot of times, constituents hear us, and it sounds a whole lot like Washington speak, but the fact is, just simply, that when a rule is closed, as this one is, with the exception of one portion that is open for yet another provision in the measure, H.R. 5, but when a rule is closed, that means all of the other Members, all of your constituents who do not have an opportunity if they so choose, are precluded from offering an amendment to the base bill that is being discussed.

□ 1300

Congress has 3 days to act before we shut down; and truthfully, I don't believe that my friends on the Republican side are crazy enough to shut down the government at this point, so I think something is going to happen. I don't know what.

It is not like this debacle caught us by surprise. It was obvious way back when Congress funded the rest of the government for the year but funded DHS for only a few months. Yet each week my Republican friends continue to consider bills that will do nothing and go nowhere. And now, without a road map out of this quagmire, my Republican friends are threatening to double down on their politics by shutting down the agency responsible for our national security, yet somehow we find ourselves talking about completely unrelated measures.

You can disagree with the President—and many of you do, and sometimes some of us do. Great. It is a beautiful free country that we live in—but don't put our national security at risk to do it.

Now, I have heard my Republican colleagues' talking point—oh, no, don't worry about national security; most of the DHS employees will still work, and very little will change—but that is just a guess, because those employees will be expected to work without pay.

Among those who are expected to work without pay are more than 40,000 Border Patrol agents and Customs and Border Protection officers, more than 50,000 TSA aviation security screeners, more than 13,000 Immigration and Customs Enforcement law enforcement agents and officers, more than 40,000 Active Duty Coast Guard military members, and more than 4,000 Secret

Service law enforcement agents and officers.

Footnote right there. Very occasionally when we are talking budget matters and when we are talking authorization and appropriations, we talk about the need for certainty for the agencies that have to implement the measures that are before them. Well, that could not be truer at any point any more than with DHS needing that certainty as well.

To add insult to injury, when all this gets fixed—and it will need to be fixed—we will need to pass another measure to retroactively ensure that they receive their paychecks. But until then, there is no way for them to know when they will be paid. That kind of gamble is not the best way to ensure the stability of our national defense, and it is not fair to ask of the men and women keeping us safe.

We talk a lot about job creation here in this institution. My friends across the aisle gut clean air and water protections in the name of job creation. In the name of job creation, my friends hack away at the policies implemented to keep big banks from preying on hardworking Americans. If, by chance, DHS shuts down, approximately 30,000 employees would be furloughed. That is 30,000 families with jobs taken away.

Who knows how long a shutdown will last. We have already had months to address this lapse in funding. Why do we do this? Why is it every time we get ready to do something important, we play brinksmanship, we come up until the day of? It is really the kind of holding up of our process that is deleterious to the good of this country.

Just because DHS employees are furloughed or not being paid but still must go to work, that doesn't mean that their mortgage payment or their car payment or any other bills are going to go away. What are they supposed to say? "Don't worry. I will pay you retroactively"? You can't run your household that way, and we certainly should not be running our government that way. For the life of me, I cannot understand why my Republican friends will not join House Democrats in supporting clean legislation to fund the Department of Homeland Security.

So, after all that, what do these two education bills that are in this particular rule have to do with keeping DHS open? I have no idea. I consider them to be important, but they don't have anything to do with what is the most germane issue before us today, the most pertinent issue.

If the goal is to make college more affordable, there is no reason to focus on provisions used by only 3 percent of families. We need to make higher education more affordable for all Americans. Moreover, my friends have yet to explain what makes these 529 provisions so important that they are willing—listen to me carefully—to add \$51

million to the deficit for these particular measures, \$51 million added to the deficit that they talk so much about.

The other measure, H.R. 5, makes even less sense. It would have catastrophic consequences for our Nation's most vulnerable youth and their educators. I respect my colleague from Georgia immensely. I respect his intellect immensely. I am proud that his schools are doing extremely well in the community that he is privileged to serve. But I can tell you, based on what I know, that any changes to the No Child Left Behind program must adhere to the spirit of the law. In Florida, we didn't only leave children behind; we lost them and couldn't find them.

Somehow or another, we keep changing these things without having the accountability and the transparency. We cannot and we should not leave any child in America behind. Children with disabilities, English learners, families with less financial resources, and those from racial and ethnic minority groups of underserved communities all deserve quality education, and our Nation would be better for it if they all received quality education.

These two bills are distractions from the main event, side shows for the center ring of the circus. It is time for Congress to focus on the things that matter, because even as our economy grows stronger, we still have plenty of real work to do.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Just to be clear—we are down here talking about education today—I share my friend's passion for proper funding of this government. This House passed its funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security on January 14—January 14. This isn't something that has happened to us this week. January 14, the House did its business. The Senate has tried over and over and over to bring up a bill, and the Democrats haven't allowed them to even have the debate on the bill.

This all being said, this is a bill that refuses to fund what a Federal Court said would be illegal to do. How in the world we have been able to define the House work product that refuses to fund what the court said it would be illegal to do as somehow the wrong bill to bring to the floor is just a testimony to the messaging machine that my friends had. I wish we had more of that machine here. With that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to get back on the topic of the day, what does matter for our children back home.

I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the rule and of both of the bills that this rule brings to the floor: H.R. 529 and the Student Success Act. I want to

thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I am especially pleased that the Student Success Act is a major rewrite of the No Child Left Behind law. I was the only member from the Tennessee delegation—the 11-member delegation in the House and Senate, and I think one of 45 in the House—that voted against the original No Child Left Behind law, which was a great overreaction to failed school systems in a few of our Nation's biggest cities, and we certainly didn't need it in east Tennessee. That, much to my surprise, turned out to be one of the most popular votes I ever cast among public schoolteachers in east Tennessee.

I am here primarily today to speak in support of H.R. 529, which this rule also includes. Richard Vedder, an economist from Ohio University, wrote a few years ago a book called "Going Broke By Degree," talking about how difficult it was to pay for higher education in this country today. Around the same time, U.S. News & World Report came out with a report that said college educations were almost becoming out of reach for most middle class families. We need to be doing everything we can to help families pay for college education, and we certainly don't need to be encouraging students to go further into debt.

It shocks students at the University of Tennessee when I tell them that it cost me \$90 a quarter my first year at the University of Tennessee, \$270 for the whole year. I heard the minority, the respected minority leader, Mr. HOYER, give a speech one time. He said his first year at the University of Maryland it cost him \$87 a semester.

But then in the mid-1960s, the Federal student loan program came in, and the colleges and universities around the country started using that as a way to tamp down any opposition to tuition or fee increases, and college tuition and fees have just gone out of sight since that time.

I have been speaking out for years about how harmful the Federal student loan program has become for college students and their families. Now many others are saying the same thing. Kathleen Parker, writing in *The Washington Post* in January of 2013, said:

Since 1985, the cost of higher education has increased 538 percent, while the consumer price index (inflation) over the same period has gone up 121 percent.

That is four-and-a-half times as much on the increases in college education.

Floyd Norris, writing in the international *New York Times* last February said: "Student loans are creating large problems that may persist for decades. They will impoverish some borrowers and serve as a drain on economic activity."

Hedge fund manager James Altucher wrote: "We are graduating a generation of indentured" students.

I can tell you, when I went to the University of Tennessee, people could work part time, as I always did, to pay all their tuition and fees. Almost no one got out of school with a debt; now, almost everyone does. Total outstanding student loan debt is now well over a trillion dollars. I think it is \$1.3 trillion, and some people think it may be one of the next bubbles to burst.

So what does H.R. 529 do? It makes it easier for families to save for college educations. We need to do this. We also need to give bigger grants and so forth to the universities and colleges that hold their tuition and fees below the rate of inflation. We need to incentivize the colleges and universities to stop raising their tuition and fees at four and five times the rate of inflation. Until we do that, H.R. 529 is the least we can do to help out the middle class families of this country that are having so much trouble paying for their students, their children to have college educations.

I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. I support these two bills.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, would you be kind enough to tell both of us how much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida has 17 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Georgia has 17 minutes remaining.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY), a good friend of mine, a member of the Committee on Financial Services.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague from Florida for allowing me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 5, Student Success Act. This bill would continue unnecessary and arbitrary K-12 education funding cuts and erode accountability for historically underserved students. We should be preparing the next generation, but this bill is a step backwards in achieving academic excellence for 90 percent of the Nation's students.

Mr. Speaker, diverse organizations across not only my State, the great State of Ohio, but across this Nation, educational organizations, educational funding organizations, parents and lawyer advocacy groups, business leaders and groups, disability and exceptional children's groups, and the NAACP and civil rights organizations are against this and very concerned about this bill.

Mr. Speaker, the way we fund all of our schools and educate all of our young scholars is a reflection on our values and commitment to equality.

□ 1315

Access to education is a civil right. It is the key to the middle class and to a prosperous nation. This bill would constrain educational opportunity and equality. We need an education bill that improves education and that invests in all of our children. H.R. 5 fails

our children, Mr. Speaker, and H.R. 5 fails our Nation.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds to say to my friend that I can feel her heart in those words. I am just tremendously proud to serve in a place where people really do care about the next generation, making sure that we are able to achieve those goals. I regret we are not finding the agreement on that today, but I am certain, as long as there are folks here who believe in achieving that goal together, as my friend does, we will get there.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be joined today by a freshman Member from the Georgia delegation, an incredibly hardworking Member.

I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to come before you to talk about and support H.R. 5, the Student Success Act.

Mr. Speaker, this is legislation to replace No Child Left Behind, to restore local control over education, and to empower parents and local education leaders to hold schools accountable for effectively teaching students.

I spent last week in my district, and I visited elementary and high schools, specifically schools that would be affected by the Student Success Act. These schools were located in some of the most impoverished areas of my district. I listened in classrooms, held forums to hear from parents and local education leaders, and spoke to teachers and administrators about the challenges they are facing. What I heard across the board was that the Federal Government and their compliance issues in the classroom are holding back our educators from effectively teaching our students.

Top-down education mandates have failed to help students and have forced educators to waste valuable time and resources filling out paperwork and worrying about compliance with Federal requirements. Instead of this one-size-fits-all approach, we need policies that enhance teachers' abilities to focus on the individual needs of the students. We need bottom-up reforms that give authority to the parents, teachers, and local education leaders, who work with their children and students every day and who know them best.

H.R. 5 includes a number of conservative reforms to push back against the growing reach of the Federal Government into schools and to restore local control. It replaces the current national accountability system for school performance and replaces it with State-led performance standards. It gets rid of more than 65 unnecessary or ineffective Federal education programs, repeals Federal requirements for teacher quality, and protects local and State autonomy over decisions in

the classroom. H.R. 5 returns responsibility to parents, States, and local leaders to hold schools accountable instead of Washington bureaucrats.

I saw that example work in a city that is in one of the most impoverished areas of my district, where parents actually lined up at 3:30 in the morning to enroll their students into theme schools. Each elementary school was broken up into a theme. The superintendent there had no idea that parental involvement would be that significant. I was there to witness the success of this theme school concept. I asked: Where did this idea come from? It did not come from Washington. It did not come from the Federal Government. It came from the creativity of the teachers and from the input of the parents and of the local administrators.

Mr. Speaker, no one knows the needs of students better than the people who work and spend time with them every day. By empowering parents, teachers, and local education leaders, H.R. 5 takes strong steps forward in putting the control of education back in the right hands and in helping to provide every student with the opportunity to receive a good education. There is no debate today that every child deserves a good education. The debate is whether the Federal Government is in charge or whether we empower our local citizens to get the job done.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry out its essential mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would advise that all time has been yielded for the purpose of debate only.

Does the gentleman from Georgia yield for the purpose of this unanimous consent request?

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I continue to yield for the purpose of debate only. If we can pass this rule, this rule makes in order the immediate consideration with the same-day authority of any funding bills that come before this House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia does not yield. Therefore, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 15 seconds to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), my friend.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, this is pretty immediate. We need to get this done this week. Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland

Security funding bill, that will keep the Department open so we can keep the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from Georgia yield for the purpose of this unanimous consent request?

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, if I understood my friend, he is asking that we bring up a bill that will fund what it is the court said would be illegal to fund. I cannot yield for that kind of request.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia does not yield. Therefore, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 10 seconds to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill, that would keep the Department open so it can carry out its vital mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from Georgia yield for the purpose of a unanimous consent request?

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to yield back my time when my friend is. As soon as we pass this resolution, it will be in order to bring up any additional funding bills that come before the House today, but I cannot yield during this debate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia does not yield. Therefore, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the distinguished leader of the Democratic Caucus, for purposes as she sees fit.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill, that will keep the Department open so it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair understands that the gentleman from Georgia has not yielded for that purpose. Therefore, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. DESAULNIER) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill, that would keep the Department open so it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair understands that the gentleman from Georgia has not yielded for that purpose. Therefore, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD), my classmate and good friend, for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill, that would keep the Department open so it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair understands that the gentleman from Georgia has not yielded for that purpose. Therefore, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill, that would keep the Department open so it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair understands that the gentleman from Georgia has not yielded for that purpose. Therefore, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN), my classmate and good friend, for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill, that would keep the Department open so it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair understands that the gentleman from Georgia has not yielded for that purpose. Therefore, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE), a new Member of Congress who is on the Oversight Committee.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose H.R. 5. The legislation represents a significant backward step in the efforts to help all of our Nation's children and their families prepare for their futures.

I speak as a parent, as a grandparent, and as a past school board president. H.R. 5 abandons the historic Federal role in education at elementary and secondary levels. It is the role of ensuring the educational process of all of America's students, including students from low-income families, students with disabilities, English learners, and students of color. It also fails to maintain the core expectation that States

and school districts will take serious, sustained, and targeted action, when necessary, to correct achievement gaps and to reform low-performing schools.

Additionally, H.R. 5 fails to identify opportunity gaps or to correct inequities in access to resources and supports that students need to succeed, such as challenging academic courses, excellent teachers and principals, after-school enrichment or expanded learning time, and other academic and non-academic supports.

The bill's caps on Federal education spending would lock in recent budget cuts for the rest of the decade, and the bill would allow funds currently required to be used for education to be used for other purposes, such as spending on sports stadiums or tax cuts for the wealthy.

Finally, H.R. 5 fails to make critical investments for our Nation's students, including high-quality preschool for America's children, support for America's teachers and principals, and investment in innovative solutions for the public education system.

For these reasons, I oppose H.R. 5. It would deny Federal funds to the classrooms that need them the most, and it fails to assure parents that policymakers and educators will take the action students need when they are not learning.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I have not had an opportunity to meet the gentlewoman from Michigan, but because I serve on the Rules Committee, I have had an opportunity to see all of the amendments that she has submitted for this bill. I know one of those amendments that she submitted is to make sure that all of our learning plans take special note of children in foster care and to make sure those folks are not forgotten, and I am grateful to her for her attention to that issue.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my friend from Florida if he has any further speakers remaining.

Mr. HASTINGS. I do.

Mr. WOODALL. Then I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON), a member of the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. ELLISON. I want to thank the gentleman for yielding and thank the gentleman for his long service.

Mr. Speaker, the passage of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 was created to address the enormous inequality in America's educational system, which created widespread poverty and segregation. Today, we know that we are still not educating Black and Latino students at the same level we educate White students. Fifty years after the enactment of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-

cation Act, educating all children, regardless of their backgrounds, is still one of the most important challenges we face as a nation.

That is why equity must start at the heart of any attempt to overhaul our education system, but the Student Success Act does little to help kids in Minnesota who are struggling in schools with too few resources. Rather than eliminating the disparities in our education system, the bill today will only increase the achievement gap and leave behind students from low-income neighborhoods and students with disabilities.

□ 1330

Education matters, far beyond the individual student. Three-fourths of the return on early education goes back to the community and ensures a healthier society and more stable economy.

One of the biggest gaps in literacy in the U.S. is between the children of college-educated and non-college-educated parents. We must be more committed to maximizing the potential of all students. Our students and teachers deserve better. I urge that we all oppose H.R. 5 so we can create education reform legislation that ensures every student can realize their goals and dreams.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am grateful to the chair for permitting me earlier to allow Mrs. LOWEY to speak to the previous question. As I indicated, if we are not successful in defeating this measure then I am going to ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment in the RECORD, along with extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question, if I may.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" when we get to this.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD), my classmate and good friend.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise again to urge my colleagues to defeat the previous question on the rule, amend it, and make in order H.R. 861.

We are just 3 days away from the Department of Homeland Security being without the funds it needs to protect our Nation. Secretary Johnson and agency heads have warned us that if the continuing resolution to fund the Department expires, national security operations will be disrupted and essential personnel will be required to work

without pay. They also warn that passing another CR will not address the uncertainty of being able to meet our long-term security needs.

Democrats have a responsible solution. Two weeks ago, Appropriations Committee Ranking Member NITA LOWEY and I introduced H.R. 861, which contains the precise language of the November 2014 bipartisan bill negotiated in good faith by the chairs and ranking members of the House and Senate Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittees.

H.R. 861 is cosponsored by every House Democrat. This bill would pass the House, pass the Senate, and be signed into law by the President. All it needs is for the Republican leadership to do the responsible thing and bring H.R. 861 to the floor for a vote. By doing this, we will demonstrate to the American people that we know our Nation's security takes priority over politics and unrelated policy debates.

To let funding for Homeland Security expire or, instead of a full-year funding bill, take the easy way out by kicking a viable solution down the road with a continuing resolution, is to fail the American people and the trust that they have placed in us as Members of Congress to protect them and our country from harm.

Let's pass H.R. 861 today.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, there are 3 days left until the Department of Homeland Security will shut down. As I have said earlier, I don't believe that is going to happen. I believe my friends will be about the business of making sure that it does not occur. I hope they do because our country needs to make sure that we are not in any insecure position going forward.

Notwithstanding that, the brinksmanship continues, and we are here considering two bills that will go nowhere. That, to me, is the state of play right now. If my friends want to pass these education measures, they need to take care of business first. And it is time to quit messing around.

Mr. Speaker, there is a list of extraordinary organizations in this country that are against H.R. 5. I lift from a list that I will insert into the RECORD the names of the Congressional Tri-Caucus; the American Association of People With Disabilities; the American Association of University Women; the American Federation of Teachers; the American Foundation for the Blind; the Association of University Centers on Disabilities; the Autism National Committee; the Center for American Progress; the Children's Defense Fund; the Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund; Easter Seals, which most of us contribute to; the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network; the NAACP; the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the National Asso-

ciation of School Psychologists; and the National Down Syndrome Congress.

Disability plays a major role in this particular legislation, and the fact that all of these organizations are standing up saying that they are opposed to it should get our attention.

In addition, the United Negro College Fund, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, and the United States Chamber of Commerce.

OPPOSITION TO H.R. 5

Congressional Tri-Caucus, The Advocacy Institute, Afterschool Alliance, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, American Association of People with Disabilities, American Association of University Women, American Federation of Teachers, American Foundation for the Blind, Association of University Centers on Disabilities, Autism National Committee, Autistic Self Advocacy Network, Center for American Progress, Center for Law and Social Policy, Children's Defense Fund, Committee for Education Funding, Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, Council of Great City Schools, Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates, Democrats for Education Reform, Disability Right Education and Defense Fund.

Easter Seals, Education Post, Education Law Center, First Focus Campaign for Children, Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, Human Rights Campaign, The Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Leading Educators, League of United Latin American Citizens, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, NAACP, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, National Association of School Psychologists, National Center for Learning Disabilities, National Council on Independent Living, National Council on Teacher Quality, The National Center on Time and Learning, National Congress of American Indians, National Council of La Raza.

National Coalition for Public Education, National Disability Rights Network, National Down Syndrome Congress, National Education Association, National Urban League, Partners for Each and Every Child, Poverty & Race Research Action Council, Public Advocates Inc., Stand for Children, Southeast Asia Resource Action Center, TASH, Teach Plus, TNTF, The Education Trust, United Negro College Fund, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. HASTINGS. All of these people are opposed to this measure, and yet we find ourselves going forward. It is time for us to get real in this Congress, stop having closed rules, and let all of the Members in this body participate in the decisional process as we argue measures that are needed on behalf of our country.

This is a great institution, and the people that serve here are absolutely wonderful people, but somehow or another we have gotten stuck. And by getting stuck, we are not able to do the things that are vital for the Nation. We need to unstuck it and get on with the business, knowing that we can sit in a room together and come to conclusions not only about education, but about energy and every aspect of American life that we have a responsibility for.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I have lots of agreement with my friend from Florida. I always do. I am always a little surprised by how much I agree with him when he comes down here to talk, but we do need to unstuck this place.

We are talking about two issues today. One is H.R. 5, the Student Success Act, where every Member in this room wants to see our children succeed. Every Member in this room wants to see the achievement gap closed, and yet we grapple with how to achieve that goal together.

We have also in this rule, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 529. That measure passed unanimously out of the Ways and Means Committee. We found a problem, and we found a solution that we could agree on together to move it forward. It is moving forward.

And in the tradition of being unstuck, I am told that just in the last few minutes the Senate has found a pathway to move forward on a DHS funding bill. Again, we passed that bill back on January 14. The Senate has been struggling to find a pathway forward. I don't mean a pathway to pass it. I mean a pathway to even debate it. Apparently, we have seen that wall be broken down here in the last few minutes, and I am glad to hear that.

There is a role to be played, Mr. Speaker. There is a role for this House to play in our constitutional Republic. There is a role for the Senate to play and there is a role for the White House to play. That is true when we are talking about Federal education policy. It is true when we are talking about Homeland Security policy. It is true when we are talking about immigration policy. I am not always satisfied with how well we in the House defend that constitutional prerogative.

Again, we are here today to talk about H.R. 5, which is going to fix a bill passed by an entirely Republican infrastructure here in Congress that today Republicans disavow as being a terrible mistake. They wish we could have done better. I am glad we are striving to do better. It is not a Republican issue, it is not a Democratic issue. It is an American issue. And what could be more American than trying to help our public schools succeed?

You hear a lot of worry in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker. You hear folks worried that if we change this provision or if we change that provision, what will be the impact on those children who right now are threatened by a substantial achievement gap in this country? But in the same moment, Mr. Speaker, someone will stand up on the other side of the aisle talking about those very same children and say: If we do not change these provisions today, we will sentence these children to a lifetime of

underperformance, of not being able to meet their full potential.

I don't question anyone's motive on this floor. In fact, I am grateful for the passion that folks have on this floor.

This rule is only step one of H.R. 5, Mr. Speaker, and I am glad for that. When my colleague from Florida spoke earlier about the closed nature of the process and how much better and brighter this institution is when the process is opened, he is exactly right. He is right every time he says it, and I am right every time I say it. It is absolutely true.

It is not fast. It is not efficient. Arguably, sometimes it even borders on dysfunctional. But it is the right thing to do in order to end up with the best product that we can at the end of the day. And to the degree that we are able to do that, Mr. Speaker, I believe we will continue to strive to do that. This bill today is an example of that.

This rule, Mr. Speaker, just so folks know what they are coming to vote on, doesn't deal with the amendments to the Student Success Act. We are planning on going back to the Rules Committee this afternoon for a completely new hearing in order to make as many amendments as we can available to the underlying bill. This rule is only to have general debate on H.R. 5 before the amendment process begins and to have debate on H.R. 529, that bill that passed unanimously out of the Ways and Means Committee hearing.

So often we come down here and we are talking about divisive issues, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to be down here today talking about something on which we can agree: a good bipartisan bill coming out of Ways and Means, an opportunity to open up the process and have voices be heard on H.R. 5 today and tomorrow.

The gentleman from Florida had it right, Mr. Speaker. I am blessed to be from a part of the country where folks understand that education isn't just something. It is everything.

Don't talk to me about loving opportunity in this country if you don't have a commitment to education. Don't talk to me about lifting folks up from this rung of the ladder to this rung of the economic ladder if you don't have a commitment to education. And don't talk to me about taking somebody else's dollars and spending them on education and thinking that alone is going to create better outcomes for that child.

You need money, absolutely you do, but you need that commitment locally. You need the commitment of teachers, you need the commitment of principals, you need the commitment of mothers and fathers. You need the commitment of communities. And we have yet to figure out how to mandate that commitment from Washington, D.C.

I am grateful that I live in a community where we figured out how to grow

it from within. You can walk into the worst school in my district, Mr. Speaker, and you will find folks headed off to Stanford on scholarships—first-generation Americans; you will find folks headed off to the University of Chicago on full scholarships—folks who come from generational poverty; you will find folks headed off, of course, to the University of Georgia, the finest institution in the United States, because they want to be close to their family and they want to invest in the community that has been so good to them. Hope lives there. Opportunity lives there.

I am grateful to Chairman KLINE and the folks on the Education Committee for doing what they can. It is not all that I would like to see, but to do what they can to get out of the way of those innovators in my community, to do what they can to allow folks to experiment with some things and find out what works, as we have, and then take those local ideas and spread those ideas locally, do what they can to prevent the Federal Government from saying: We know best how to educate children, and instead turning the Federal Government just into a funding stream, where we can, to say: You know how to educate children. We trust you.

So often we conflate issues in this body, Mr. Speaker. The issue is not that children can't learn. They can. The issue is not that public schools can't teach. They can and they do. But there is an issue with generational poverty. There is an issue with an achievement gap.

I am not sure that H.R. 5, no matter who crafted it and how long we work to do it, I am not sure that we can solve that problem with H.R. 5. In fact, I don't believe that we could—not with any Elementary and Secondary Education Act bill.

We are doing what we can today, and I hope we will be back in this institution tomorrow to do more. Goodness knows, we do a lot of things in this town that disadvantage that next generation of Americans. I am proud today to be working on at least one bill that will do something to advantage those young people and their future.

The material previously referred to by Mr. HASTINGS is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 121 OFFERED BY
MR. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 5. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 861) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the

chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 6. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 861.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's *Precedents of the House of Representatives* (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. WOODALL. With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on ordering the previous question will be followed by 5-minute votes on adopting House Resolution 121, if ordered, and suspending the rules and passing H.R. 1020.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 241, nays 181, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 86]

YEAS—241

Abraham	Comstock	Gosar
Aderholt	Conaway	Gowdy
Allen	Cook	Granger
Amash	Costello (PA)	Graves (GA)
Amodei	Cramer	Graves (LA)
Babin	Crawford	Graves (MO)
Barletta	Crenshaw	Griffith
Barr	Culberson	Grothman
Barton	Curbelo (FL)	Guinta
Benishek	Davis, Rodney	Guthrie
Bilirakis	Denham	Hanna
Bishop (MI)	Dent	Hardy
Bishop (UT)	DeSantis	Harper
Black	DesJarlais	Harris
Blackburn	Diaz-Balart	Hartzler
Blum	Dold	Heck (NV)
Bost	Duffy	Hensarling
Boustany	Duncan (SC)	Herrera Beutler
Brady (TX)	Duncan (TN)	Hice, Jody B.
Brat	Ellmers (NC)	Hill
Bridenstine	Emmer (MN)	Holding
Brooks (AL)	Farenthold	Hudson
Brooks (IN)	Fincher	Huelskamp
Buchanan	Fitzpatrick	Huizenga (MI)
Buck	Fleischmann	Hultgren
Bucshon	Fleming	Hunter
Burgess	Flores	Hurd (TX)
Calvert	Forbes	Hurt (VA)
Carter (GA)	Fortenberry	Issa
Carter (TX)	Fox	Jenkins (KS)
Chabot	Franks (AZ)	Jenkins (WV)
Chaffetz	Frelinghuysen	Johnson (OH)
Clawson (FL)	Garrett	Johnson, Sam
Coffman	Gibbs	Jolly
Cole	Gibson	Jones
Collins (GA)	Gohmert	Jordan
Collins (NY)	Goodlatte	Joyce

Katko	Nugent	Shimkus
Kelly (PA)	Nunes	Shuster
King (IA)	Olson	Simpson
King (NY)	Palazzo	Smith (MO)
Kinzinger (IL)	Palmer	Smith (NE)
Kline	Paulsen	Smith (NJ)
Knight	Pearce	Smith (TX)
Labrador	Perry	Stefanik
LaMalfa	Pittenger	Stewart
Lamborn	Pitts	Stivers
Lance	Poe (TX)	Stutzman
Latta	Poliquin	Thompson (PA)
LoBiondo	Pompeo	Thornberry
Loudermilk	Posey	Tiberi
Love	Price, Tom	Troott
Lucas	Ratcliffe	Turner
Luetkemeyer	Reed	Upton
Lummis	Reichert	Valadao
MacArthur	Renacci	Wagner
Marchant	Ribble	Walberg
Marino	Rice (SC)	Walden
Massie	Rigell	Walker
McCarthy	Roby	Walorski
McCaul	Rogers (AL)	Walters, Mimi
McClintock	Rogers (KY)	Weber (TX)
McHenry	Rohrabacher	Webster (FL)
McKinley	Rokita	Wenstrup
McMorris	Rooney (FL)	Westerman
Rodgers	Ros-Lehtinen	Westmoreland
McSally	Roskam	Whitfield
Meadows	Ross	Williams
Meehan	Rothfus	Wilson (SC)
Messer	Rouzer	Wittman
Mica	Royce	Womack
Miller (FL)	Russell	Woodall
Miller (MI)	Ryan (WI)	Yoder
Moolenaar	Salmon	Yoho
Mooney (WV)	Sanford	Young (AK)
Mullin	Scalise	Young (IA)
Mulvaney	Schock	Young (IN)
Murphy (PA)	Schweikert	Zeldin
Neugebauer	Scott, Austin	Zinke
Newhouse	Sensenbrenner	
Noem	Sessions	

NAYS—181

Adams	DeSaunier	Larsen (WA)
Aguilar	Deutch	Larson (CT)
Ashford	Dingell	Lawrence
Bass	Doggett	Levin
Beatty	Doyle, Michael	Lewis
Becerra	F.	Lieu, Ted
Bera	Duckworth	Lipinski
Beyer	Edwards	Loeb
Bishop (GA)	Ellison	Lofgren
Blumenauer	Engel	Lowenthal
Bonamici	Eshoo	Lowe
Boyle, Brendan	Esty	Lujan Grisham
F.	Farr	(NM)
Brady (PA)	Fattah	Lujan, Ben Ray
Brown (FL)	Foster	(NM)
Brownley (CA)	Frankel (FL)	Lynch
Bustos	Fudge	Maloney
Butterfield	Gabbard	Malone
Capps	Galleo	Maloney, Sean
Capuano	Garamendi	Matsui
Cárdenas	Graham	McCollum
Carney	Grayson	McDermott
Carson (IN)	Green, Al	McGovern
Cartwright	Green, Gene	Meeks
Castor (FL)	Grijalva	Meng
Castro (TX)	Gutiérrez	Moore
Chu, Judy	Hahn	Moulton
Cicilline	Hastings	Murphy (FL)
Clark (MA)	Heck (WA)	Nadler
Clarke (NY)	Higgins	Napolitano
Clay	Himes	Neal
Cleaver	Honda	Nolan
Clyburn	Hoyer	Norcross
Cohen	Huffman	O'Rourke
Connolly	Israel	Pallone
Conyers	Jackson Lee	Pascarelli
Cooper	Jeffries	Payne
Costa	Johnson (GA)	Pelosi
Courtney	Johnson, E. B.	Perlmutter
Crowley	Kaptur	Peters
Cuellar	Keating	Peterson
Cummings	Kelly (IL)	Pingree
Davis (CA)	Kennedy	Pocan
Davis, Danny	Kildee	Polis
DeFazio	Kilmer	Price (NC)
DeGette	Kind	Quigley
Delaney	Kirkpatrick	Rangel
DeLauro	Kuster	Richmond
DelBene	Langevin	Roybal-Allard

Ruiz	Sinema	Vargas
Ruppersberger	Sires	Veasey
Rush	Slaughter	Vela
Ryan (OH)	Smith (WA)	Velázquez
Sanchez, Loretta	Swalwell (CA)	Visclosky
Sarbanes	Takai	Walz
Schakowsky	Takano	Wasserman
Schiff	Thompson (CA)	Schultz
Schrader	Thompson (MS)	Waters, Maxine
Scott (VA)	Titus	Watson Coleman
Scott, David	Tonko	Welch
Serrano	Torres	Yarmuth
Sewell (AL)	Tsongas	
Sherman	Van Hollen	

NOT VOTING—10

Byrne	McNerney	Sánchez, Linda
Hinojosa	Rice (NY)	T.
Lee	Roe (TN)	Speier
Long		Wilson (FL)

□ 1411

Ms. BASS, Mr. SIREs, and Ms. PIN-GREE changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—aye 243, noes 178, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 87]

AYES—243

Abraham	Crawford	Hanna
Aderholt	Crenshaw	Hardy
Allen	Culberson	Harper
Amash	Curbelo (FL)	Harris
Amodei	Davis, Rodney	Hartzler
Babin	Denham	Heck (NV)
Barletta	Dent	Hensarling
Barr	DeSantis	Herrera Beutler
Barton	DesJarlais	Hice, Jody B.
Benishek	Diaz-Balart	Hill
Bilirakis	Dold	Holding
Bishop (MI)	Duffy	Hudson
Bishop (UT)	Duncan (SC)	Huelskamp
Black	Duncan (TN)	Huizenga (MI)
Blackburn	Ellmers (NC)	Hultgren
Blum	Emmer (MN)	Hunter
Bost	Farenthold	Hurd (TX)
Boustany	Fincher	Hurt (VA)
Brady (TX)	Fitzpatrick	Issa
Brat	Fleischmann	Jenkins (KS)
Bridenstine	Fleming	Jenkins (WV)
Brooks (AL)	Flores	Johnson (OH)
Brooks (IN)	Forbes	Johnson, Sam
Buchanan	Fortenberry	Jolly
Buck	Fox	Jones
Bucshon	Franks (AZ)	Jordan
Burgess	Frelinghuysen	Joyce
Calvert	Garrett	Katko
Carter (GA)	Gibbs	Kelly (PA)
Carter (TX)	Gibson	King (IA)
Chabot	Gohmert	King (NY)
Chaffetz	Goodlatte	Kinzinger (IL)
Clawson (FL)	Gosar	Kline
Coffman	Gowdy	Knight
Cole	Granger	Labrador
Collins (GA)	Graves (GA)	LaMalfa
Collins (NY)	Graves (LA)	Lamborn
	Graves (MO)	Lance
	Griffith	Latta
	Grothman	LoBiondo
	Guinta	Loudermilk
	Guthrie	Love

Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Pittenger
Pitts

Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
McClintock
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Robby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)

Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)

Blumenauer
Byrne
Hinojosa
Lee

Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez

NOT VOTING—11

Long
McNerney
Rice (NY)
Roe (TN)

Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Yarmuth

Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Fox
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)

Latta
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Loftgren
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble

Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schock
Schraeder
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Stwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)

□ 1418

So the resolution was agreed to.
The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on
the table.

STEM EDUCATION ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1020) to define STEM education to include computer science, and to support existing STEM education programs at the National Science Foundation, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 412, nays 8, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 88]

YEAS—412

NOES—178

Adams
Aguilar
Ashford
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clever
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett

Doyle, Michael
F.
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loeb sack

Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maloney
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schraeder
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishke
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess

Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Clever
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw

Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Delham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Doyle, Michael
F.
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick

Holding
Honda
Hoyer
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Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)

Messersmith
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
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Murphy (FL)
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O'Rourke
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Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble

Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schock
Schraeder
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
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Stutzman
Stwell (CA)
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Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)

Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth

Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)

Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NAYS—8

Amash
Brat
Buck

Duncan (SC)
Garrett
McClintock

Sanford
Westmoreland

NOT VOTING—12

Byrne
Hinojosa
King (IA)
Lee
Long

McNerney
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Roe (TN)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Speier
Wilson (FL)

□ 1429

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REQUESTING UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO CALL UP H.R. 861, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House now bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill to protect America that would keep the Department open so that we can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe and, as well, protecting our national security over political security.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

SECTION 529 COLLEGE SAVINGS PLANS AMENDMENTS

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 121, I call up the bill (H.R. 529) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve 529 plans, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 121, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means, printed in the bill, shall be considered as adopted, and the bill, as amended, shall be considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 529

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) When the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 became law, the

tax treatment of section 529 college savings plans was changed so that qualified distributions were no longer taxed as income. The favorable tax treatment of college savings plans was made permanent with the passage of the Pension Protection Act of 2006.

(2) Section 529 college savings plans empower middle-class families to accumulate savings to offset the rising costs of attending college.

(3) The latest data from the College Savings Plan Network shows that there are 11.83 million 529 accounts open throughout all 50 states, which represent \$244.5 billion in total assets. The average 529 account size is \$20,671.

(4) States that sponsor 529 college savings plans have taken steps to ensure these plans are a tool that all families can use to save for college, including setting minimum contributions as low as \$25 per month to encourage participation by families of all income levels.

(5) The President's fiscal year 2016 Budget proposes raising taxes by taxing certain future distributions made from 529 college savings plans.

(6) The tax proposed by the President would discourage the use of 529 college savings plans, requiring families and students to take on more debt.

(7) Purchase of a computer represents a significant higher education expense and therefore should be eligible for qualified distributions under 529 college savings plans.

(b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to—

(1) enact policies that strengthen 529 college savings plans, and

(2) make 529 plans more modern, consumer-friendly, and responsive to the realities faced by students today.

SEC. 2. COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT PERMANENTLY ALLOWED AS A QUALIFIED HIGHER EDUCATION EXPENSE FOR SECTION 529 ACCOUNTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 529(e)(3)(A)(iii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“(iii) expenses for the purchase of computer or peripheral equipment (as defined in section 168(i)(2)(B)), computer software (as defined in section 197(e)(3)(B)), or Internet access and related services, if such equipment, software, or services are to be used primarily by the beneficiary during any of the years the beneficiary is enrolled at an eligible educational institution.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2014.

SEC. 3. ELIMINATION OF DISTRIBUTION AGGREGATION REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 529(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking subparagraph (D).

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to distributions after December 31, 2014.

SEC. 4. RECONTRIBUTION OF REFUNDED AMOUNTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 529(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended by section 3, is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) SPECIAL RULE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS OF REFUNDED AMOUNTS.—In the case of a beneficiary who receives a refund of any qualified higher education expenses from an eligible educational institution, subparagraph (A) shall not apply to that portion of any distribution for the taxable year which is recontributed to a qualified tuition program of which such individual is a beneficiary, but only to the extent such recontribution is made not later than 60 days after the date of such refund and does not exceed the refunded amount.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendment made by this section shall apply with respect to refunds of qualified higher education expenses after December 31, 2014.

(2) TRANSITION RULE.—In the case of a refund of qualified higher education expenses received after December 31, 2014, and before the date of the enactment of this Act, section 529(c)(3)(D) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as added by this section) shall be applied by substituting “not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this subparagraph” for “not later than 60 days after the date of such refund”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 529, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve 529 plans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Kansas?

There was no objection.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman RYAN for his leadership on this critical and timely issue and my colleague Congressman KIND of Wisconsin for 4 years of bipartisan efforts to encourage families to invest for their children's future.

I rise today in support of H.R. 529, my legislation that reaffirms Congress' commitment to not only preserving, but strengthening, expanding, and modernizing 529 college savings plans.

Currently, there are nearly 12 million 529 accounts open in all 50 States. Considering there were only 1 million accounts open in 2001, the growth in popularity of these accounts is truly remarkable and is still on an upward trajectory.

The popularity of 529 accounts among American families is no mystery. Higher education costs across the country are rising at a pace that exceeds the rate of inflation, and folks are looking for ways to plan responsibly for the future.

A 2014 Gallup Poll of America's top financial concerns showed that among adults between the ages of 30 and 49, “not having enough money to pay for your children's college” is a top concern for families, trailing only retirement concerns.

It is natural that folks would turn toward 529 savings accounts. These accounts are easy to set up and use and account holders can make a monthly contribution as small as \$10 to invest to their children's future on a tax-deferred basis.

The 12 million 529 accounts today have an average balance of around \$20,000, which will go a long way toward helping families offset college costs and helping students to begin their careers with a lighter debt burden.

When the President proposed a plan in his 2016 budget to tax future distributions from 529 savings accounts, Members on both sides of the aisle were appalled.

His billion-dollar tax proposal on families saving for college would have completely eliminated the purpose of saving responsibly for higher education in the first place and would have inevitably moved more students toward student loans and other sources of financial aid.

We fundamentally disagree with the direction of the President's policy proposal, and instead, we want to make 529 college savings plans more consumer friendly and reflective of the realities faced by students today.

This legislation will make computer purchases with 529 plans a qualified expense. Computers are an essential part of higher education, and the law should be updated to reflect that.

A Pew Research Center report in 2011 found that a vast majority of undergraduate, graduate, and community college students use some sort of computer to participate in a college experience that now features online courses, class work, and e-textbooks. I believe this is a commonsense modernization measure.

The bill will also remove distribution aggregation requirements, which are an outdated burden on 529 plan administrators and States. When 529 college savings plans were originated back in 1996, the funds were taxed before they were deposited into the account and then taxed a second time when they were used to pay for higher education expenses.

At that time, it made sense for plan administrators to aggregate accounts for beneficiaries with multiple 529 accounts in order to determine the taxable dollars dispersed among the accounts.

However, the law was changed back in 2001 so that 529 savings are only taxed once now, before they are put into the 529 account. The only taxable funds at disbursement are for non-qualified expenses. According to a GAO report from 2012 that has the most recent data on the topic, nonqualified distributions from 529 plans only made up 5.3 percent of total distributions in 2010.

Because of the past changes to tax treatment of 529s, it no longer makes sense for plan administrators to aggregate these accounts for tax purposes. It represents an undue burden, which could potentially raise the administrative cost for operating these plans. This is why this legislation will remove these requirements.

Finally, the bill will allow a student who receives a refund on any 529 qualified expenses to redeposit those funds into their 529 without penalty.

Refunds of 529 dollars could happen for any number of reasons: a student may withdraw from a certain course, may receive a scholarship offer or other financial aid after their 529 plans have already been used, or may have to withdraw from school because of an illness.

Whatever the reasons, subjecting these funds to a penalty works against the spirit of 529 college savings plans, and this bill will correct that.

These are sensible yet important improvements to 529 college savings plans that should receive resounding support from both sides of the aisle. As we continue our work in the House to empower hardworking families with bottoms-up solutions, I urge my colleagues to support the passage of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am a strong supporter of 529 college savings plans. When I cochaired the Education and Family Tax Working Group with Representative DIANE BLACK from Tennessee during the 113th Congress, we heard from education stakeholders that education tax benefits should reflect a three-legged stool with one leg helping families save for college, one leg helping families pay for college, and one leg helping families repay college.

College is, indeed, expensive, and it is a wise public investment to use Federal incentives to encourage families to save for college.

H.R. 529 makes three important improvements to 529 accounts: one, it makes computer technology an allowable expense; two, it improves the calculation for taxing distributions to better reflect one's earnings; and, three, it allows distributions that are refunded by a college upon a student's withdrawal to be reinvested in 529 accounts within 60 days without being subject to a tax.

I support these important improvements to 529 education plans. In addition, I hope that the Republican leadership will advance the bill's sister bill, the Savings Enhancement for Education in College Act, which was H.R. 529 in the last Congress and also championed by Representatives JENKINS and KIND.

This former H.R. 529 bill includes the two substantive improvements to 529s that advocates explain would best help middle-income families save more for college.

We know that low- and moderate-income families have a harder time saving for college because they have less extra cash available to put away in a savings account.

The Savings Enhancement for Education in College Act would substantially help low- and middle-income families save by allowing low-income taxpayers to take advantage of the saver's credit and allowing employers to match up to \$600 a year in 529 contributions.

I think that these provisions are excellent. The saver's credit currently helps offset part of the first \$2,000 that low-income workers voluntarily contribute to IRA and 401(k) plans. Extending this tax benefit for 529 plans is a commonsense way to help increase college savings by low- and moderate-income families.

Further, I think that the employer match is an especially promising tool to improve college savings by lower-income Americans because it adds \$600 a family didn't have for college before that can grow and support education over time.

These two improvements are needed because the savings data show that 529 savings have dropped tremendously since 2009. From 2005 to 2009, around 60 percent of the accounts saw contributions; however, in the last few years, the account contributions have been closer to 45 percent.

I am a bit surprised that these substantive improvements are not included in the bill before us today, and I truly hope that Republican leadership will advance these 529 provisions that would tremendously improve savings for lower- and middle-income Americans.

In the interest of fairness, I also hope that we make computer technology an allowable expense for the American opportunity tax credit.

Currently, computers and software are not qualified expenses for the AOTC, and I think that the definition of qualified expenses should be uniform across 529s and AOTC benefits. These are all great improvements that have, in fact, been made.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1445

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN), the chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it won't be all that much time. I just simply want to congratulate the gentlelady from Kansas on bringing this legislation forward. We brought this out of committee. We had no resistance because this is just a commonsense bill.

This upgrades the law to reflect the realities of a college education. You ought to be able to buy a computer. You ought to be able to buy software with your college savings dollars because it is an essential ingredient to your education.

More importantly, if a person gets a refund if they cancel a class, if for

some reason the college rebates money to you, you ought to be able to put it back into your savings plan. These are commonsense ideas that make this important vehicle for savings more workable and reflects the common problems that people have in this 21st century.

It is essential that we give people and families the ability to save for education. This bill also sends a signal: we believe in the 529 plans; 529 plans are going to stay; they are a good thing; we are not going to attack them; we are going to develop and grow them.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND), who is a cosponsor of this legislation and a tireless advocate for education.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Illinois for yielding me this time.

I want to thank my partner in crafting this legislation, Representative JENKINS. This has been the product of a few years of hard work, of listening to various outside groups and trying to understand the difficulty of saving for higher education that many working families are experiencing today.

The legislation before us, H.R. 529, as the chairman of the committee just pointed out, is a commonsense proposal with some reasonable technical corrections to the 529 savings plans that already exist in all 50 States, allowing for the qualification expense for computers and software, which is a new learning tool that sometimes is required in the classroom for higher education. It allows for the refund of tuition and expenses if you had to withdraw from college for some reason, and it also reduces and minimizes the unnecessary bureaucratic and administrative paperwork. In that respect, there are some commonsense steps that we can do to modernize the 529 program and make sure that it is working for more families.

I do agree with my colleague from Illinois that we have a challenge of trying to democratize these programs a lot more. We have roughly 3 percent participation rate in 529s throughout the entire Nation. We have got to figure out a way to do a better job of increasing those savings opportunities for more families, but especially lower income families that don't have the disposable income right now in order to participate in these programs, whether it is the tax credit that Representative DAVIS was talking about, employer matches, by thinking creatively of how we can democratize these so more families can take advantage of them. That is going to be crucial.

In Wisconsin alone, we have got roughly 257,000 accounts in the State Edvest program and Tomorrow's Scholar 529 plans. The families have saved about \$3.7 billion for college or their

technical schools, reducing the need for greater student loans, helping them access college. These programs not only encourage savings for college but help middle class families get in the habit of saving for other important life events, such as retirement, that we have to do a better job at.

I also think, given that the Congressional Budget Office has a cost associated with it, which is roughly \$5 million a year—not a lot in Federal budget terms—that there is no reason at all why we couldn't have brought this legislation to the floor today with an acceptable pay-for so we are not adding any deficit to future generations.

In fact, again, Representative DAVIS offered, during the committee markup, a responsible amendment that would have done a better job of means testing the 529 contributions and cutting it off to families that earn up to \$3 million. Now, to put this in perspective, the top 1 percent of income earners in Wisconsin earn less than \$1 million. So it was still a very generous, high threshold, but it was enough money to pay for the \$51 million expense over the next 10 years that the Congressional Budget Office scored this at. There is no reason why we can't be making these type of tough decisions as well when it comes to policy changes that make sense for working families and act in a more fiscally responsible manner.

I think these 529 accounts have been established. They do work well for those who can participate. And this is especially important for a State like Wisconsin today, whose Governor just submitted a budget proposal calling for a cut of over \$300 million out of our university system, a university system that is really the pride and joy of the State of Wisconsin, has given us a competitive advantage, not only in the upper Midwest, but throughout the Nation and the world, where we had some of the top scholars and researchers wanting to come there to do their work, students wanting to stay in the State so they can participate in these UW system colleges and universities that we have.

Obviously, the Governor wants to take it in a different direction; \$300 million worth of cuts gets into the bone. So, again, we have got to think creatively of how we can make it affordable for families to be able to send their kids on to school. This is one way to do it: savings in 529s.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

We ought not also ignore other important financial aid programs that especially speak to the needs of low-income children: the Pell grant program,

work-study opportunities on and off campus, the GEAR UP and TRIO programs. This, too, helps many students—including myself, who is the first generation that went on to school—to be able to afford higher education so we are not driving these kids deeper and deeper into debt. The average undergrad in Wisconsin, by the time they graduate, has \$28,000 worth of debt. It is the second largest debt in the Nation behind mortgages. At \$1.2 trillion, it exceeds all credit card debt.

So the 529 is another vehicle to try to alleviate that student indebtedness issue that is affecting more and more kids and families throughout the Nation. We ought to fix it by making a pay-for. This is a good first step, necessary policy changes. I encourage my colleagues to support the legislation.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM), an esteemed member of the House Committee on Ways and Means and subcommittee chair of the Subcommittee on Oversight.

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, do you notice something? Did you notice that, as Speaker and the person who is presiding over this Chamber today, oftentimes you hear a great deal of difficulty between the two parties and a lot of wrangling and a lot of different positions and so forth that manifests itself in arguing and so forth, but did you notice something? You are hearing both sides of the aisle coming before you and coming before this House and saying the same thing, and that is we ought to move H.R. 529.

There is a recognition, and I think my constituency in suburban Chicago is breathing a collective sigh of relief right now because they are saying: Hey, people are paying attention to things that matter to me and matter to my future and matter to my children, that is, they are taking a bill or a provision in the law that has been successful and they are improving it. They are bringing it up to date under the leadership of the gentlelady from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS), and she is joined by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS), and everybody is coming together around that idea that says 529s need to be protected and defended. And we need to make sure that they are kept up to date, because back home this makes all the difference in the world. I think this is one of these types of moments that is very significant and that we can build on.

I thank the gentlelady for her leadership. I thank Mr. DAVIS for his, and I rise in strong support of this measure.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois, I thank the gentlelady, and I thank the Speaker.

It is good news to be able to come on the floor of the House and be able to speak to hardworking parents and the basis of all of our joy when we are giving an opportunity for our young people to be able to participate in higher learning, in this instance, college education. The 529 fix, if you will, deals with the savings accounts and tax-free disbursements for the purpose of paying for college tuition, purchasing college credits, and other qualified educational expenses.

I do want to join my colleague from Wisconsin and add that the idea of other equipment dealing with the new technology special needs services is crucial.

I want to thank Mr. DAVIS for his astute work in the committee, looking to make this a little bit more balanced. Certainly we are appreciative of those who have been successful and have achieved financial success. I enjoy that. But I do think with our concern about a deficit—which, by the way, has been reduced substantially under President Barack Obama—that this idea that Mr. DAVIS had would have been a worthy inclusion into this legislation.

However, I am grateful, again, that we are now high tech and the 529 accounts include computers and software as qualified educational expenses. It would also allow for refunded tuition, educational expenses, particularly if a student withdraws due to illness.

I was talking to one of my young people, college students, and also my husband is a part of the team of higher education and sees it all the time where youngsters leave because they are ill and fail to let the professor know, and all of a sudden they are running up a bill.

I do want to say that this fix is urgent because we need to help people save, but it is also urgent, Mr. Speaker, that we immediately move to put the Homeland Security funding on the floor of the House. I had asked yesterday for it to be immediately put on the floor of the House last night or today in order to do our duty, and our duty is to ensure the safety and security of this Nation.

It is sad for me to note that those like Border Patrol agents and ICE agents and TSOs whom we pass by every day will be some of those who will be unpaid. They are essential, and we will go past them and thank them for their services—I often do in airports across America—but yet we will stand here and not have a resolution and a solution to pay them their salary.

We had a hearing today in Judiciary. I was very glad to note that I think the weight was on the side of the President that he had constitutional authority,

that he is not rendering any immigration status, that he is doing what he is allowed under the law; the Attorney General is allowed to have discretion as to employment status; no benefits will be conveyed on these individuals; and, frankly, we have an emergency and we need to pass that bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. I yield an additional 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I won't take that. I thank the gentleman for his kindness.

Let me just say that I think we appropriately are on the floor dealing with H.R. 529. I again thank the work of the Committee on Ways and Means ranking members and, as well, the ranking member and chairman of the full committee.

But as we frame the work that this Congress must do, I don't know how we stand here on Wednesday, 24 to 48 hours out from a collapse of the Department of Homeland Security, no funding, and actually are here and looking out at the face of first responders and those who are on the front lines of borders, airports, FAA, ICE officers, and we would stand and hold hostage these hardworking Americans who, in this climate when we are looking to malls or we are hearing, seeing videos and various charges of those who want to do harm, that we would not want an orderly process for 5 million people who have about 14 items—14 items—that they must comply with to even be eligible, but 5 million people who simply want us to know that they are here and they are here to do good and not to do harm. That is an orderly process for knowing how to secure this Nation.

Again, I thank the gentleman from Illinois.

With that, I ask for a vote for H.R. 529 and H.R. 5 and the funding of Homeland Security.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded not to traffic the well while another Member is under recognition.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), our majority leader.

□ 1500

Mr. MCCARTHY. I want to thank the gentlewoman for yielding and for her work on 529 and bringing this bill to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, during the President's speech on the State of the Union, he presented what he called "middle class economics." It didn't take long for people to realize that the President's plan meant taxing the middle class to pay for bigger government and pipe dream projects. Nothing demonstrated this anti-middle class agenda more than the

President's plan to attack education opportunity for middle class families by taxing 529 saving accounts. Now, after families cried out against the President's plan, he dropped it, and I am happy about that. The President has rightly chosen to not do harm, but now he should work with the House to do some positive good.

My wife and I have two children—Connor and Meghan. Connor is in college today, and Meghan is a senior about to enter college. When we found out, with joy, that we were to have children, we didn't have much great wealth, but we started putting away \$50 a month. Why? Because we dreamt like every other American. It was no longer what you could become but what opportunities your children will have.

Education has been the great equalizer in this country, and there is no greater way to do that than by allowing those who may not have great wealth but who have a great opportunity with their children to have a 529 account. But, like anything, we should modernize it because education changes just as technology has changed.

Could you imagine today sending your children to college but telling them to learn without having a computer? Isn't that a part of the education system, too? That is what this 529 account will also expand to. So, today, when we talk on the floor, it is really about the future, but it is about the future of every single family from every walk of life.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I differ with the President on many issues, and I would say the majority of this House differs with the President in that he would tax every parent or every grandparent who wanted to put away for a brighter future for their child or grandchild. Luckily, he turned back. Today is a chance to work with us, to work with us on a greater America with something that is stronger. What that means today is that we can all join so the 21st century can be even stronger, and we can keep the promise we made to every American—that every generation will improve on the generation before him. That is the opportunity that this 529 account gives us.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

I agree with my colleague from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM) that this is, indeed, a bipartisan piece of legislation and that it is good for higher education and for those who are attempting to access it.

I want to commend Ms. JENKINS and Mr. KIND for their leadership in developing it. I agree with its purpose, and I urge its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for engaging in this informative and productive debate. If America is going to remain competitive, I cannot imagine a more important thing than maintaining the affordability of higher education. There is much to be done, but today's vote is a critical and simple step that Congress should take to empower folks to save for higher education and, ultimately, to make it more attainable for more hardworking Americans.

I hope that Congress passes this legislation today with the broad support that it deserves so that we can give American families an improved way to invest in their 529 college savings plans.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, as a supporter of 529 college savings plans—including the College Savings Plans of Maryland—I am pleased to support today's legislation, which makes three common sense technical changes to these valuable savings tools.

First, H.R. 529 makes the purchase of a computer and internet access a qualified expense for 529 accounts, reflecting the reality that computers and the internet are a modern necessity for today's college students. Second, the bill allows students who receive refunds from colleges to reinvest those refunds back into their 529 accounts, provided that reinvestment occurs within 60 days of a student leaving college. And finally, the bill eliminates the existing aggregation requirement for purposes of calculating distributions that are includible in a beneficiary's taxable income.

Mr. Speaker, unlike other tax bills that have come before us recently, today's legislation does not seek to permanently extend temporary provisions of the code without paying for that permanence—and it does not add tens of billions of dollars to the national debt. Rather, H.R. 529 makes several modest improvements to a program already permanently authorized in law—and it does so at a much lower cost.

Accordingly, I will cast a yes vote.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I will vote for H.R. 529, a bill that would expand section 529 college savings plans, when it passed the House today. I strongly believe in improving access to higher education, and encouraging families to save for college is a critical part of this in an era of rising tuition costs and deepening student debt. Since 1996, 529 plans have saved American families more than \$225 billion. H.R. 529 makes several changes to update 529 plans, including removing penalties for students who are forced to withdraw from college and expanding the eligible uses. While I will vote for this bill, I wish this Congress would do more. The cost of higher education continues to increase and millions of American students carry non-dischargeable debt that totals over \$1 trillion. At the same time, my Republican colleagues have slashed Pell grants, refused to provide students with the low interest rates granted to America's big-

gest banks, and continue to support predatory, for-profit institutions that shortchange our most vulnerable students. I support the modest improvements in H.R. 529, but I urge my colleagues to take up further measures to improve access to college and reduce student loan debt.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 121, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. TED LIEU of California. I am opposed to it in its current form.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I reserve a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A point of order is reserved.

The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Ted Lieu of California moves to recommit the bill H.R. 529 to the Committee on Ways and Means with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 5. PARENTS' RIGHT TO KNOW COST OF BROKERAGE FEES AND IMPACT ON LONG-TERM SAVINGS.

Section 529(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking "REPORTS.—Each officer" and inserting the following: "REPORTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Each officer", and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(2) FEES.—Each such officer or employee shall make an annual report to each designated beneficiary of an account under such program—

"(A) disclosing the type and amount of fees with respect to such account,

"(B) demonstrating the impact of such fees on the investment returns of such account over a 10-year and 20-year period, and

"(C) disclosing the range of fees for investments available to accounts under such program."

SEC. 6. RATES OF RETURN AND LOW FEES.

Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(g) RATES OF RETURN AND LOW FEES.—Each officer or employee having control of the qualified tuition program shall take such steps as are necessary to ensure, to the extent practicable, high rates of return and low fees under such program."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, this is a final amendment to the bill which will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted,

the bill will immediately proceed to final passage, as amended.

Let me start by thanking my Republican colleagues for introducing this bill. It makes changes to 529 plans that many on my side of the aisle have also been calling on for years. I support 529 plans, as do many of my constituents. It helps people plan and pay for college, and my wife and I currently invest in 529 plans.

There is one amendment to this bill that, I believe, will make it far better, and that is disclosure. The motion to recommit would put in an amendment that says that there has to be a separate report that talks about the types and numbers of fees and how much these fees are and how they impact the performance of the product over 10 to 20 years.

Prior to entering politics, I served as a corporate vice president at a financial services company, and it is clear that the foundation upon which Wall Street rests is disclosure. It is the social compact that Wall Street has with Main Street. It is the compact that they have with investors in that they will describe a product—how it works, the fees on that product, and how it performs. By having a separate report that parents can see, one that talks about the fees on these products and how these fees impact the performance, it will allow middle class families to better gauge for themselves how their investments are doing and which investments to select. Does this make a difference? Yes, it does. Let me give you an example.

Savingforcollege.com offers this scenario:

If an annual return for a 529 account is 7 percent and if one account charges 20 basis points and another charges 40 basis points, here is the difference on an investment of \$5,000: over the course of 18 years, the 529 plan charging the lower fees will save the investor \$542. The underlying bill would change existing law to allow 529 funds to be used to purchase a laptop computer for school, and \$542 would allow you to buy a laptop.

Right now, every State has different rules for disclosure, and they have different fees. For example, in my State of California, we have relatively low fees that range between \$142 to \$154 over 10 years, but then you have States like Montana and Arkansas, which have some of the highest low-end fees, which could range between \$1,100 to \$1,200 over 10 years. That makes a huge difference to middle class families.

I urge my colleagues to support this motion to recommit, which merely provides disclosure to middle class families so they can better understand their 529 plans.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The reservation of the point of order is withdrawn.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I claim the time in opposition to the gentleman's motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

This motion would do the exact opposite of what this legislation is trying to accomplish. This bill is attempting to simplify 529s, but this motion would add unneeded complexity, leading to fewer people saving for a college education. It would burden all families who are saving as well as burden States and plan administrators with more red tape. As the former State treasurer of Kansas, I believe I can offer a unique insight from my experiences with 529 plan administration.

This simply adds an undo administrative burden. It increases the costs, which would leave less money for students to spend on their higher education costs. It seems to mandate the increase of rates of return, and Congress should not be in the business of setting the risk of a personal investment. It increases administrative expenses, and it goes in the opposite direction of the underlying bill. I urge my colleagues to defeat this motion to recommit.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by 5-minute votes on passage of the bill, if ordered; and agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 176, nays 243, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 89]

YEAS—176

Adams	Brown (FL)	Clark (MA)
Aguilar	Brownley (CA)	Clarke (NY)
Ashford	Bustos	Clay
Bass	Butterfield	Cleaver
Beatty	Capps	Clyburn
Becerra	Capuano	Cohen
Bera	Cárdenas	Connolly
Beyer	Carney	Conyers
Bishop (GA)	Carson (IN)	Cooper
Blumenauer	Cartwright	Courtney
Bonamici	Castor (FL)	Crowley
Boyle, Brendan F.	Castro (TX)	Cuellar
Brady (PA)	Chu, Judy	Cummings
	Cicilline	Davis (CA)

Davis, Danny	Keating	Pingree	McMorris	Renacci	Stivers
DeFazio	Kelly (IL)	Pocan	Rodgers	Ribble	Stutzman
DeGette	Kennedy	Polis	McSally	Rice (SC)	Thompson (PA)
Delaney	Kildee	Price (NC)	Meadows	Rigell	Thornberry
DeLauro	Kilmer	Quigley	Meehan	Roby	Tiberi
DelBene	Kirkpatrick	Rangel	Messer	Rogers (AL)	Tipton
DeSaulnier	Kuster	Richmond	Mica	Rogers (KY)	Trott
Deutch	Langevin	Roybal-Allard	Miller (FL)	Rohrabacher	Turner
Dingell	Larsen (WA)	Ruiz	Miller (MI)	Rokita	Upton
Doggett	Larson (CT)	Ruppersberger	Moolenaar	Rooney (FL)	Valadao
Doyle, Michael F.	Lawrence	Ryan (OH)	Mooney (WV)	Ros-Lehtinen	Wagner
	Levin	Sanchez, Loretta	Mullin	Roskam	Walberg
Duckworth	Lewis	Sarbanes	Mulvaney	Ross	Walden
Edwards	Lieu, Ted	Schakowsky	Murphy (FL)	Rothfus	Walker
Ellison	Lipinski	Schiff	Murphy (PA)	Rouzer	Walorski
Engel	Loeb	Schrader	Neugebauer	Royce	Walters, Mimi
Eshoo	Loftgren	Newhouse	Newhouse	Russell	Weber (TX)
Esty	Lowenthal	Scott (VA)	Noem	Ryan (WI)	Webster (FL)
Farr	Lowey	Scott, David	Nugent	Salmon	Wenstrup
Fattah	Lujan Grisham	Serrano	Nunes	Sanford	Westerman
Foster	(NM)	Sewell (AL)	Olson	Scalise	Westmoreland
Frankel (FL)	Luján, Ben Ray	Sherman	Palazzo	Schock	Whitfield
Fudge	(NM)	Sires	Palmer	Schweikert	Williams
Gabbard	Maloney,	Slaughter	Paulsen	Scott, Austin	Wilson (SC)
Gallego	Carolyn	Smith (WA)	Pearce	Sensenbrenner	Wittman
Garamendi	Maloney, Sean	Swalwell (CA)	Perry	Sessions	Womack
Graham	Matsui	Takai	Pittenger	Shimkus	Woodall
Grayson	McCollum	Takano	Pitts	Shuster	Yoder
Green, Al	McDermott	Thompson (CA)	Poe (TX)	Simpson	Yoho
Green, Gene	McGovern	Thompson (MS)	Poliquin	Sinema	Young (AK)
Grijalva	Meeke	Titus	Pompeo	Smith (MO)	Young (IA)
Gutiérrez	Meng	Tonko	Posey	Smith (NE)	Young (IN)
Hahn	Moore	Torres	Price, Tom	Smith (NJ)	Zeldin
Hastings	Moulton	Tsongas	Ratcliffe	Smith (TX)	Zinke
Heck (WA)	Nadler	Van Hollen	Reed	Stefanik	
Higgins	Napolitano	Vargas	Reichert	Stewart	
Himes	Neal	Veasey			
Honda	Nolan	Vela			
Hoyer	Norcoss	Velázquez	Byrne	Lynch	Sánchez, Linda
Huffman	O'Rourke	Visclosky	Costa	McNerney	T.
Israel	Pallone	Walz	Hinojosa	Rice (NY)	Speier
Jackson Lee	Pascarella	Wasserman	Lee	Roe (TN)	Wilson (FL)
Jeffries	Payne	Schultz	Long	Rush	
Johnson (GA)	Pelosi	Waters, Maxine			
Johnson, E. B.	Perlmutter	Watson Coleman			
Jones	Peters	Welch			
Kaptur	Peterson	Yarmuth			

NAYS—243

Abraham	Davis, Rodney	Hice, Jody B.
Aderholt	Denham	Hill
Allen	Dent	Holding
Amash	DeSantis	Hudson
Amodei	DesJarlais	Huelskamp
Babin	Diaz-Balart	Huizenga (MI)
Barletta	Dold	Hultgren
Barr	Duffy	Hunter
Barton	Duncan (SC)	Hurd (TX)
Benishek	Duncan (TN)	Hurt (VA)
Bilirakis	Ellmers (NC)	Issa
Bishop (MI)	Emmer (MN)	Jenkins (KS)
Bishop (UT)	Farenthold	Jenkins (WV)
Black	Fincher	Johnson (OH)
Blackburn	Fitzpatrick	Johnson, Sam
Blum	Fleischmann	Jolly
Bost	Fleming	Jordan
Boustany	Flores	Joyce
Brady (TX)	Forbes	Katko
Brat	Fortenberry	Kelly (PA)
Bridenstine	Fox	Kind
Brooks (AL)	Franks (AZ)	King (IA)
Brooks (IN)	Frelinghuysen	King (NY)
Buchanan	Garrett	Kinzing (IL)
Buck	Gibbs	Kline
Bucshon	Gibson	Knight
Burgess	Gohmert	Labrador
Calvert	Goodlatte	LaMalfa
Carter (GA)	Gosar	Lamborn
Carter (TX)	Gowdy	Lance
Chabot	Granger	Latta
Chaffetz	Graves (GA)	LoBiondo
Clawson (FL)	Graves (LA)	Loudermilk
Coffman	Graves (MO)	Love
Cole	Griffith	Lucas
Collins (GA)	Grothman	Luetkemeyer
Collins (NY)	Guinta	Lummis
Comstock	Guthrie	MacArthur
Conaway	Hanna	Marchant
Cook	Hardy	Marino
Costello (PA)	Harper	Massie
Cramer	Harris	McCarthy
Crawford	Hartzler	McCauley
Crenshaw	Heck (NV)	McClintock
Culberson	Hensarling	McHenry
Curbelo (FL)	Herrera Beutler	McKinley

NOT VOTING—13

Byrne	Lynch	Sánchez, Linda
Costa	McNerney	T.
Hinojosa	Rice (NY)	Speier
Lee	Roe (TN)	Wilson (FL)
Long	Rush	

□ 1541

Mrs. BLACKBURN, Messrs. LABRADOR, ISSA, SANFORD, Ms. SINEMA, Messrs. DUFFY, WALDEN, FLORES, and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi changed his vote from "nay" to "yea." So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair wishes to reiterate the announcement of March 25, 2014, concerning floor practice.

Members should periodically rededicate themselves to the core principles of proper parliamentary practice that are so essential in maintaining order and deliberacy here in the House. The Chair believes that a few of these principles bear emphasis today.

Members should refrain from trafficking in the well when another, including the presiding officer, is addressing the House.

Members should wear appropriate business attire during all sittings of the House, however brief their appearance on the floor may be.

Members should refrain from engaging in still photography or audio or video recording in the Chamber. Taking unofficial photographs detracts from the dignity of the proceedings and presents security and privacy challenges for the House.

Members who wish to speak on the floor should respectfully seek and obtain recognition from the presiding officer, taking the time to do so in proper form, including 1-minute. The proper form would be to ask unanimous consent to address the House for 1 minute.

□ 1545

Members should take care to yield and reclaim time in an orderly fashion, bearing in mind that the Official Reporters of Debate cannot properly transcribe two Members simultaneously.

Members should address their remarks in debate to the presiding officer and not to others in the second person or to some perceived viewing audience.

Members should not embellish the offering of a motion, the entry of a request, the making of a point of order, or the entry of an appeal with any statement of motive or other commentary, and should be aware that such utterances could render the motion, request, point of order, or appeal untimely.

Members should attempt to come to the floor within the 15-minute period as prescribed by the first ringing of the bells. This has been an ongoing problem and Members should make every attempt to be here within the prescribed 15 minutes. Members should be advised that if they are in the Chamber attempting to vote, the Chair will try to accommodate them. But as a point of courtesy to each of your colleagues, voting within the allotted time would help with the maintenance of the institution.

Following these basic standards of practice will foster an atmosphere of mutual and institutional respect. It will ensure against personal confrontation, among individual Members or between Members and the presiding officer. It will facilitate Members' comprehension of, and participation in, the business of the House. It will enable accurate transcriptions of proceedings. In sum, it will ensure the comity that elevates spirited deliberations above mere argument.

The Chair appreciates the attention of the Members to these matters.

Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 401, noes 20, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 90]

AYES—401

Abraham	DelBene	Johnson, Sam
Adams	Denham	Jolly
Aderholt	Dent	Jordan
Aguilar	DeSantis	Joyce
Allen	DeSaulnier	Katko
Amash	DesJarlais	Keating
Amodei	Deutch	Kelly (IL)
Ashford	Diaz-Balart	Kelly (PA)
Babin	Dingell	Kennedy
Barletta	Doggett	Kildee
Barr	Dold	Kilmer
Barton	Doyle, Michael	Kind
Bass	F.	King (IA)
Beatty	Duckworth	King (NY)
Becerra	Duffy	Kinzing (IL)
Benish	Duncan (SC)	Kirkpatrick
Bera	Duncan (TN)	Kline
Beyer	Edwards	Knight
Bilirakis	Ellmers (NC)	Kuster
Bishop (GA)	Emmer (MN)	Labrador
Bishop (MI)	Engel	LaMalfa
Bishop (UT)	Eshoo	Lamborn
Black	Esty	Lance
Blackburn	Farenthold	Langevin
Blum	Farr	Larsen (WA)
Blumenauer	Fattah	Larson (CT)
Bonamici	Fincher	Latta
Bost	Fitzpatrick	Lawrence
Boustany	Fleischmann	Levin
Boyle, Brendan	Fleming	Lewis
F.	Flores	Lieu, Ted
Brady (PA)	Forbes	Lipinski
Brady (TX)	Fortenberry	LoBiondo
Brat	Foster	Loebach
Bridenstine	Fox	Lofgren
Brooks (AL)	Frankel (FL)	Loudermilk
Brooks (IN)	Franks (AZ)	Love
Brown (FL)	Frelinghuysen	Lowenthal
Brownley (CA)	Gabbard	Lowey
Buchanan	Gallego	Lucas
Buck	Garamendi	Luetkemeyer
Bucshon	Garrett	Lujan Grisham
Burgess	Gibbs	(NM)
Bustos	Gibson	Lujan, Ben Ray
Butterfield	Gohmert	(NM)
Calvert	Goodlatte	Lummis
Capps	Gosar	Lynch
Capuano	Gowdy	MacArthur
Cárdenas	Graham	Maloney,
Carney	Granger	Carolyn
Carson (IN)	Graves (GA)	Maloney, Sean
Carter (GA)	Graves (LA)	Marchant
Carter (TX)	Graves (MO)	Marino
Cartwright	Grayson	Massie
Castor (FL)	Green, Al	Matsui
Castro (TX)	Green, Gene	McCarthy
Chabot	Griffith	McClintock
Chaffetz	Grothman	McDermott
Chu, Judy	Guinta	McGovern
Cicilline	Guthrie	McHenry
Clark (MA)	Gutiérrez	McKinley
Clawson (FL)	Hahn	McMorris
Clay	Hanna	Rodgers
Cleaver	Hardy	McSally
Clyburn	Harper	Meadows
Coffman	Harris	Meehan
Cohen	Hartzler	Meeks
Cole	Heck (NV)	Meng
Collins (GA)	Heck (WA)	Messer
Collins (NY)	Hensarling	Mica
Comstock	Herrera Beutler	Miller (FL)
Conaway	Hice, Jody B.	Miller (MI)
Connolly	Higgins	Moolenaar
Conyers	Hill	Mooney (WV)
Cook	Himes	Moore
Cooper	Holding	Moulton
Costello (PA)	Honda	Mullin
Courtney	Hudson	Mulvaney
Cramer	Huelskamp	Murphy (FL)
Crawford	Huffman	Murphy (PA)
Crenshaw	Huizenga (MI)	Nadler
Crowley	Hultgren	Neal
Cuellar	Hunter	Neugebauer
Culberson	Hurd (TX)	Newhouse
Cummings	Hurt (VA)	Noem
Curbelo (FL)	Israel	Nolan
Davis (CA)	Issa	Norcross
Davis, Danny	Jackson Lee	Nugent
Davis, Rodney	Jeffries	Nunes
DeFazio	Jenkins (KS)	O'Rourke
DeGette	Jenkins (WV)	Olson
Delaney	Johnson (GA)	Palazzo
DeLauro	Johnson (OH)	

Pallone	Ruiz	Tipton
Palmer	Ruppersberger	Titus
Pascarella	Russell	Tonko
Paulsen	Ryan (OH)	Torres
Payne	Ryan (WI)	Trott
Pearce	Salmon	Tsongas
Pelosi	Sanchez, Loretta	Turner
Perlmutter	Sanford	Upton
Perry	Sarbanes	Valadao
Peters	Scalise	Van Hollen
Peterson	Schakowsky	Vargas
Pingree	Schiff	Veasey
Pittenger	Schock	Vela
Pitts	Schweikert	Velázquez
Poe (TX)	Scott (VA)	Wagner
Poliquin	Scott, Austin	Walberg
Polis	Scott, David	Walden
Pompeo	Sensenbrenner	Walker
Posey	Serrano	Walorski
Price (NC)	Sessions	Walters, Mimi
Price, Tom	Sewell (AL)	Walz
Quigley	Sherman	Wasserman
Rangel	Shimkus	Schultz
Ratcliffe	Shuster	Weber (TX)
Reed	Simpson	Webster (FL)
Reichert	Sinema	Welch
Renacci	Sires	Wenstrup
Ribble	Slaughter	Westerman
Rice (SC)	Smith (MO)	Westmoreland
Rigell	Smith (NE)	Whitfield
Roby	Smith (NJ)	Williams
Rogers (AL)	Smith (TX)	Wilson (SC)
Rogers (KY)	Smith (WA)	Wittman
Rohrabacher	Stefanik	Womack
Rokita	Stewart	Woodall
Rooney (FL)	Stivers	Yarmuth
Ros-Lehtinen	Stutzman	Yoder
Roskam	Swalwell (CA)	Yoho
Ross	Takal	Young (AK)
Rothfus	Takano	Young (IA)
Rouzer	Thompson (PA)	Young (IN)
Roybal-Allard	Thornberry	Zeldin
Royce	Tiberi	Zinke

NOES—20

Clarke (NY)	Jones	Schrader
Ellison	Kaptur	Thompson (CA)
Fudge	McCollum	Thompson (MS)
Grijalva	Napolitano	Visclosky
Hastings	Pocan	Waters, Maxine
Hoyer	Richmond	Watson Coleman
Johnson, E. B.	Rush	

NOT VOTING—11

Byrne	Long	Sánchez, Linda
Costa	McNerney	T.
Hinojosa	Rice (NY)	Speier
Lee	Roe (TN)	Wilson (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1552

Ms. BASS changed her vote from "no" to "aye."

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote today because of a serious illness in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 84, "yea" on rollcall No. 85, "yea" on rollcall No. 86, "yea" on rollcall No. 87, "yea" on rollcall No. 88, "no" on rollcall No. 89, and "yea" on rollcall No. 90.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 124

Resolved, That the following named Members be and are hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES.—Mrs. Capps and Mr. Polis.

(2) COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY.—Mr. Takano and Mr. Foster.

(3) COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS.—Ms. Clarke of New York.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 121 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 5.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from New York (Mr. COLLINS) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1558

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 5) to support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes, with Mr. COLLINS of New York in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time. The gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5, the Student Success Act. This week, we have an opportunity to advance bold reforms that will strengthen K-12 education for children across America.

A great education can be the great equalizer. It can open doors to unlimited possibilities and provide students the tools they need to succeed in life. Every child in every school deserves an excellent education, yet, Mr. Chairman, we are failing to provide every child that opportunity.

Today, approximately one out of five students drops out of high school, and many who do graduate are going to college or entering the workforce with a subpar education. The number of students proficient in reading and math is abysmal. The achievement gap separating minority students from their peers is appalling. Parents have little to no options to rescue their children from failing schools.

A broken education system has plagued families for decades. Year after year, policymakers lament the problems and talk about solutions, and once in a while, a law is enacted that promises to improve our education system.

Unfortunately, past efforts have largely failed because they are based on the idea that Washington knows what is best for children. We have doubled down on this approach repeatedly, and it is not working.

Federal mandates dictate how to gauge student achievement, how to define qualified teachers, how to spend money at the State and local levels, and how to improve underperforming schools. And now, thanks to the unprecedented overreach of the current administration, the Department of Education is dictating policies concerning teacher evaluations, academic standards, and more.

No one questions whether parents, teachers, and local education leaders are committed to their students, yet there are some who question whether they are capable of making the best decisions for their students.

Success in school should be determined by those who teach inside our classrooms, by administrators who understand the challenges facing their communities, by parents who know better than anyone the needs of their children. If every child is going to receive a quality education, then we need to place less faith—less faith—in the Secretary of Education and more faith in parents, teachers, and State and local leaders. That is why I am a proud sponsor of the Student Success Act.

By reducing the Federal footprint, restoring local control, and empowering parents and education leaders, this commonsense bill will move our country in a better direction.

□ 1600

The Student Success Act provides States and school districts more flexi-

bility to fund local priorities, not Washington's priorities. The legislation eliminates dozens of ineffective or duplicative programs so that each dollar makes a direct, meaningful, and lasting impact in classrooms. The bill strengthens accountability by replacing the current national scheme with State-led accountability systems, returning to States the responsibility to measure student performance and improve struggling schools. The Student Success Act also ensures parents have the information they need to hold their schools accountable. It is their tax money, but more importantly, it is their children, and they deserve to know how their schools are performing.

Mr. Chairman, the bill reaffirms that choice is a powerful lifeline for families with children in failing schools by extending the magnet school program, expanding access to high quality charter schools, and allowing Federal funds to follow low-income students to the traditional, public, or public charter school of the parents' choice.

Finally, the Student Success Act reins in the authority of the Secretary of Education. We must stop the Secretary from unilaterally imposing his will on schools, and this bill will do just that. Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, that is why the White House and powerful special interests are teaming up to defeat this legislation. They fear the bill will lead to less control in Washington and more control in States and school districts. Let me assure the American people: that is precisely what this bill will do.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to help all children, regardless of background, income, or ZIP Code, to receive an excellent education by supporting the Student Success Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 5, a bill to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, ESEA, a landmark civil rights law enacted under President Lyndon B. Johnson. As we approach the 50-year anniversary of its enactment, we cannot take lightly ESEA's mission, goals, and achievements over the course of five decades. It is by that yardstick of history that we must judge H.R. 5 today and determine if it will move our education system closer to meeting the challenges of the 21st century and prepare our students for the global economy.

We all know too well that quality education is even more vital today than it was generations ago. In our rapidly changing economy, our Nation's continued success depends on a well-educated workforce. A competitive and educated workforce strengthens the very social fabric of America: people with higher levels of education are less

likely to be unemployed, less likely to need public assistance, less likely to become a teen parent, and less likely to get caught up in the criminal justice system. Over the course of ESEA's history, we have recognized that for many politically disconnected populations, equitable access to an education has not been a reality. It was necessary for the Federal Government to fill in the gaps of funding our public school systems.

Inequality was inevitable when most school systems are funded by real estate taxes, and further by virtue of the fact that in our democratic society, we respond to political pressure. For 50 years, Congress has recognized that low-income students were not getting their fair share of the pie and that supplemental resources were absolutely necessary to ensure that all children had access to quality public education. As a result, Congress has a long-standing policy to target our limited Federal funding to schools and students who get left behind in an unequal system.

Mr. Chairman, one of this bill's most troubling provisions, which strikes at the heart of ESEA's long history of targeting resources to our neediest students, is the so-called portability provision. Now, present law gives greater weight to funding in areas of high concentration of poverty. Under H.R. 5, portability, a State agency could use all of its title I funds to districts based solely on the percentage of poor children, regardless of the concentration of poor people in a district.

As a result, much of the title I support intended towards those areas of concentration of poverty would be reallocated to those wealthier areas. In other words, the low-income areas would get less, and the wealthy areas would get more. I ask: If that is the solution, then I wonder what you think the problem was? Analysis from a number of organizations, including the Department of Education, demonstrates title I portability will take money from the poorer schools and school districts and give more to affluent districts. This disproportionately affects students of color, and this is just simply wrong.

Data shows that H.R. 5 would provide the largest 33 school districts with the highest concentration of Black and Hispanic students over \$3 billion less in Federal funding than the President's budget over the next 6 years. Furthermore, the Center for American Progress found in its review of portability that districts with high concentrations of poverty could lose an average of \$85 per student, while the more affluent areas would gain more than \$290 per student.

There is an overwhelming body of research that shows that targeting resources to schools and districts with the highest concentrations of poverty

is an effective way to mitigate the effects of poverty. Current law reflects this evidence and targets funding to schools where there are greater concentrations of poverty, and this bill rolls the clock back and reverses that.

To add insult to injury, H.R. 5 eliminates what is called maintenance of effort, a requirement of ESEA that States maintain their effort and that the Federal money will supplement what they are doing. As a result of this bill, States could use their education funds to fund tax cuts or other noneducation initiatives, thus turning ESEA into a glorified slush fund where politics would drive funding allocations. And we know who is going to lose when politics are at play—our children.

There are other flaws with H.R. 5. This bill sets no standards for college or career readiness and allows students with disabilities to be taught with lesser standards. It limits our investment in education over the next 6 years because there are no adjustments for inflation. It block grants important programs, diluting the purpose and the outcome. Taken as a whole, these policies will have a disproportionate impact on students of color, students with disabilities, and our English language learners. It is no wonder that business groups, labor groups, civil rights, disabilities, and education groups have all expressed deep concerns about this legislation.

Mr. Chairman, I stand in strong opposition to H.R. 5, as it will turn the clock back on American public education. In its current form, the bill abandons the fundamental principles of equity and accountability in our education system, it eviscerates education funding, it fails to support our educators, and it leaves our children ill-prepared for success in the classroom and beyond. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, it is now my great pleasure to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROKITA), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman for his great leadership on this bill and in the committee generally.

I rise in strong support this afternoon because every student, Mr. Chairman, every student deserves an effective teacher, an engaging classroom, and a quality education that paves the path for a bright and prosperous future. That is what we all want. Unfortunately, despite the best of intentions, the Nation's current K-12 education law has failed to provide students this fundamental right. In fact, the law has only gotten in the way.

Far from taking us back to the past, this bill will take us to the future, where we should have been for a while

now in terms of education, so that we can maintain competitiveness with the rest of the world and win in the 21st century.

No Child Left Behind's onerous requirements and the Obama administration's waiver scheme and pet projects have created a one-size-fits-all system that hinders innovation and stymies local efforts to improve student learning. As a result, too many young adults leave high school today without basic knowledge in reading, math, and science. They are ill-equipped to complete college and compete in the workforce, and consequently they are deprived of one of the best opportunities they have to earn a lifetime of success. We shouldn't shackle any student to that kind of future.

Americans have settled for the status quo for far too long, and today we have an opportunity to chart the new course. The Student Success Act departs from the top-down approach that has inefficiently and ineffectively governed elementary and secondary education and restores that responsibility to its rightful stewards: parents, teachers, State and local education leaders, and the local taxpayers.

First, the bill gets the Federal government out of the business of running our schools. It eliminates the dizzying maze of Federal mandates that has dictated local decisions and downsizes the bloated bureaucracy at the Department of Education that has focused on what Washington wants rather than what students need. The whole theme of this bill is that we trust teachers, parents, local education officials, and our local taxpayers much more than we would ever trust a Federal bureaucrat.

Mr. Chairman, I find it funny that the other side, those who are against this bill, actually cite the Department of Education in arguing what a bad bill this is. Imagine a Federal bureaucrat actually arguing to devolve its power back to its rightful owners. Of course they are going to be for the status quo. They benefit from the status quo. The students do not.

Second, the bill empowers parents and education leaders with choice, transparency, and flexibility. It ensures parents continue to have the information they need to hold schools accountable and helps more families escape underperforming schools by expanding alternative education options such as quality charter schools. It also provides States the flexibility to develop their own systems for addressing school performance and the autonomy to use Federal funds in the most efficient way.

This bill respects, Mr. Chairman, that it is the people's property. It is their tax dollars. We shouldn't be forcing any kind of maintenance of effort requirement on States or local jurisdictions. It is their decision to decide what to do with their money.

With the Student Success Act, we have an opportunity to overcome the failed status quo of high stakes testing and Federal waivers. We have an opportunity to reduce the Federal footprint in our Nation's classrooms. We also have an opportunity to signal to moms, dads, teachers, administrators, and State officials that we trust them to hold schools accountable for delivering a quality education to every child.

As my good friend, former colleague and fellow Hoosier Governor Mike Pence, said before the House Education and the Workforce Committee earlier this month:

There is nothing that ails education that can't be fixed by giving parents more choices and teachers more freedom to teach.

That is exactly what this bill does. This bill fosters an environment to accomplish that very thing. So I urge my colleagues to join me in replacing a broken law with much-needed, commonsense education reforms and ask you to vote "yes"—"yes"—on the Student Success Act.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI), a member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Ms. BONAMICI. Thank you, Mr. Ranking Member, for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, there is overwhelming bipartisan consensus that we need to replace No Child Left Behind. And there is overwhelming bipartisan consensus that a rewrite of No Child Left Behind should promote local flexibility and support schools, not punish them. So I am deeply disappointed that the House has not come together to produce a bipartisan bill.

Despite a common goal and a long history of setting aside differences to work together on this important legislation, this bill does not adequately support America's students. Unfortunately, the Student Success Act shifts resources away from communities where poverty is most concentrated and freezes funding for America's most needy students at a time when public school enrollment is on the rise and more than half the students come from low-income families.

H.R. 5 does not support a well-rounded education for all students, it does not ensure college- and career-ready standards for all students, it does not promote quality afterschool programs, and it does not do enough to reduce emphasis on high-stakes tests.

The original goal of ESEA was laudable—equity. ESEA deserves a full review by the House so we can implement thoughtful solutions that reflect the current needs in our schools. But this bill does not protect historically underserved students.

Mr. Chairman, I oppose this act, and I ask my colleagues to do the same. We need a law that is serious about addressing the challenges educators and students face today.

□ 1615

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON), who has been active in this bill.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I want to ask, if I could, for the chairman of the Education and the Workforce Committee to engage in a colloquy with me concerning the importance of ensuring the Federal Government does not interfere with States' rights over public education.

Mr. KLINE. I, as the chairman of the full committee, would be happy to engage in that colloquy.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I believe there is no constitutional role for the Federal Government in education.

However, I understand that the funds under this act are accepted voluntarily by each State, but I am concerned that State bureaucrats often simply accept these funds and all the strings without any input from our constituents or locally elected officials. I saw this in the Texas House.

I very much appreciate that the gentleman from Indiana and Chairman KLINE worked with me to protect the 10th Amendment and to ensure that States knowingly accept the strings attached to these programs before they receive any funding under this bill.

I want to be clear that this provision simply ensures that locally elected officials, parents, and other interested stakeholders have the opportunity to stand up and voice concern or support for accepting Federal funding at their State capital before any unelected, unaccountable bureaucrat can accept that money and all the strings that come with them.

I want to ask if the chairman concurs that this is the intent and the result of the language that you have included in the Student Success Act?

Mr. KLINE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Let me thank my colleague from Texas for his leadership on this important issue. I understand and appreciate your concern about this Federal role in education policy.

That is why we were happy to include your amendment in the underlying bill. It made the bill stronger and gave another tool to parents and local officials to protect their rights when it comes to educating our children.

This amendment, in combination with other strong provisions to rein in the Secretary, including an absolute ban on his ability to force any State to adopt the Common Core State Standards or any other particular standards, ensures the Federal Government cannot dictate what is taught in schools, what assessments are given, or what standards are used.

In fact, this amendment ensures States willfully accept the limited requirements that will come with these

funds and reaffirms what decisions should be left to the States.

I thank the gentleman for offering this provision and his commitment to a limited Federal role in education, and I yield back to the gentleman.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for protecting the 10th Amendment rights of the States to control their public school system and affirming a parents' right to control their child's education.

I appreciate you confirming the intent of this amendment. It will mean a far greater role for States and parents in their child's education.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY), a member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Chairman, I hate to throw cold water on the last colloquy, but I think it is important to note as we debate this bill, which never had the benefit of a public hearing or a single subcommittee hearing, is that the Federal mandate for annual testing does not change as a result of this law.

What does change regarding that testing requirement is that the dedicated funding stream, which Congress at least had the decency to pass back in 2002, that is eliminated.

What you are doing is you are maintaining a mandate and you are eliminating the funding to pay for that mandate for testing. What we are ending up with, for all the talk about reducing the Federal footprint, is that we are doubling down on the Federal requirement that States have to have annual testing in schools, which every Member in this Chamber has heard about in loud protest over the last 13 years.

What this shows is that when the process is broken—and it was broken in this case, no committee-subcommittee meetings, no hearings, rushing it to the floor on a hyperpartisan basis, not one single Democratic amendment was accepted at the committee during markup, that is what you end up with, is a deformed bill, which should be defeated.

I urge in the strongest terms possible a "no" vote. Let's go back and do this the right way.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 1 minute.

Just to address a notion of what is done in secret and what is not done in secret and whether or not people have had a chance to weigh in on this legislation, as my friend knows—and I do thank him for not mentioning basketball, by the way—as my friend knows, this bill has had multiple hearings over several years.

It has been debated in committee. It has been debated on the floor of the House. It has been debated in the media. It is much discussed and much

known—in contrast to the bill, the amendment, a substitute that my friends and colleagues on the other side of the aisle brought forward in committee, 851 pages, that nobody had seen outside the Democrat Caucus, so I believe this bill is well known, and it is the right direction to move us forward into the future to make sure that all of our children receive the quality education they deserve.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 30 seconds just to respond to the idea that our substitute was produced.

I would apologize to the gentleman for having sprung the substitute on him.

However, 2 legislative days after his bill was introduced, he scheduled a markup on the bill, so we produced a response to his bill in 2 legislative days. That is all the time we were allowed.

We would have allowed hearings. We would have liked hearings on his bill and our bill, but that just wasn't to take place because of the rush to judgment.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE), the ranking member of the Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Subcommittee.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Chairman, I strongly oppose H.R. 5, the Student Success Act.

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act reaffirmed the Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* that every child has the right to an equal educational opportunity. H.R. 5 undermines the law's original intent, turning back the clock on equity and accountability in American public education.

As we commemorate the 50th anniversary of ESEA, Republicans have chosen to honor the anniversary by bringing a partisan bill to the House floor that tears apart the historic Federal role in education.

H.R. 5 should be known as the "Ensure Students Don't Succeed Act." The bill is a backward leap in our country's education system, not a forward one.

Every student in America has a right to a quality education. It is our job as Members of Congress to make sure that right is protected, something that H.R. 5 does not do.

I refuse to fail our children and their families because our children deserve so much more than this legislation provides.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I am very, very pleased to yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), the chair of the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman of the committee.

Mr. Chairman, the current K-12 education system is failing our students,

and State and local attempts to make it better have been hampered by an enormous Federal footprint.

Parents and education leaders have lost much of their decisionmaking authority to Washington bureaucrats, and the Secretary of Education has bullied States into adopting the Obama administration's pet projects.

Unsurprisingly, student achievement levels remain worrisome. Just 36 percent of eighth grade students read at grade level, and only 35 percent are proficient in math.

For far too long, our schools have been governed by a top-down approach that stymies State and local efforts to meet the unique needs of their student populations. We can't continue to make the same mistakes and expect better results. America's students deserve change.

Fortunately, this week, the House of Representatives has an opportunity to chart a new course with the Student Success Act, legislation that reduces the Federal footprint in the Nation's classrooms and restores control to the people who know their students best: parents, teachers, and local leaders.

The Student Success Act gets Washington out of the business of running schools. It protects State and local autonomy by prohibiting the Secretary of Education from coercing States into adopting Common Core or other standards or assessments and by preventing the Secretary from creating additional burdens on States and school districts.

The bill reduces the size of the Federal education bureaucracy. Currently, the Department of Education oversees more than 80 programs geared towards primary and secondary education, most of which are duplicative and fail to deliver adequate results for students. The bill eliminates over 65 of these programs and requires the Secretary of Education to reduce the Department's workforce accordingly.

The Student Success Act repeals onerous, one-size-fits-all mandates that dictate accountability, teacher quality, and local spending that have done more to tie up States and school districts in red tape than to support education efforts. It returns responsibility for classroom decisions to parents, teachers, administrators, and education officials.

The bill also provides States and school districts the funding flexibility to efficiently and effectively invest limited taxpayer dollars to boost student achievement by creating a local academic flexible grant. It provides the public with greater transparency and accountability over the development of new rules affecting K-12 schools.

Education is a deeply personal issue. After years of the Secretary of Education running schools through executive fiat, we understand that people are concerned about what a new K-12 education law will do.

That is why a number of key principles have guided our efforts to replace the law since we began the process more than 4 years ago: reducing the Federal footprint, restoring local control, and empowering parents and education leaders.

Those principles are reflected throughout the legislation, including specific safeguards that protect the right of States to opt out of the law, as well as the autonomy of home schools, religious schools, and private schools.

Organizations such as the Council for American Private Education, the Home School Legal Defense Association, and Committee on Catholic Education of U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops have expressed support for the Student Success Act because they know it will keep the Federal Government out of their business and preserve their cherished rights.

A host of administration bureaucrats is attempting to defeat these much-needed changes. They know each reform that returns flexibility and choice to parents and school boards represent a loss of power in D.C.

It is time we put the interests of America's students above the desires of Washington politicians.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. KLINE. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 1 minute.

Ms. FOXX. By reversing the top-down policies of recent decades, the Student Success Act offers conservative solutions to repair a broken education system.

It would finally get Washington out of the way and allow parents, teachers, and State and local education leaders the flexibility to provide every child in every school a high-quality education.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS), a member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I thank Ranking Member SCOTT.

I have to ask the majority: When did local control come to mean spend Federal dollars but ditch the Federal oversight?

During our markup last week—and I certainly heard today Member after Member arguing how removing Federal standards would help local leaders make tough decisions. This is absolutely backwards.

For 9 years, I served on the second largest school board in California, the sixth in the Nation, and I distinctly remember every school in the district making a compelling case for extra resources.

Which is why, frankly, we should be debating how to increase the size of the pie that goes to education, rather than only arguing on how to cut it up.

I still remember particularly one board meeting agonizing over the decision to move money from one needy

school to another. We had to cut our budget, and we had to make a decision. In the end, the law and the safeguards around title I helped direct us to make sure the money went to the students that needed it most.

Ultimately, the direction in the law helps us balance competing needs, and I urge opposition to the bill.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), a member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

□ 1630

Mr. TAKANO. I thank the gentleman from Virginia for yielding time.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 5, also known as the Student Success Act. Having spent 24 years as a classroom teacher, I am especially concerned about the title I funding mechanism in this legislation. We have seen time and time again that block grants often redirect funding away from intended populations and are a prelude to further cuts.

I also oppose the Republican bill's portability provision, which betrays the original intent of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. ESEA is meant to promote equitable opportunity and education for all and to help raise the academic achievement of low-income children. This legislation will do the opposite.

Finally, I object to the utter lack of Federal accountability in H.R. 5. While I oppose the current test-driven, high-stakes accountability system, I want the right accountability system, not no accountability system.

Mr. Chairman, this legislation goes too far. It cuts too deep and takes too many steps backward. I oppose H.R. 5. I call on my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just want to address this issue of grants and block grants and so forth we are starting to hear a little bit about.

I have been hearing for years, as I talk to superintendents in Minnesota and around the country, their frustration with the maze of Federal programs, 80-some Federal programs, each with its soda straw of funding and requirements for action and reporting. They have told me again and again: I have got money here, and I don't need it there. I need money here, and I can't move that money. I don't have the flexibility to move that money. I need to be able to put the resources where my students need it.

So, by eliminating 65 of those soda straws of individual controls and giving that flexibility to superintendents, we allow the money to be spent where it is needed the most. I think that is one of the great strengths of this bill, and it is one of the reasons why the

American Association of School Superintendents does support this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN), a member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Chairman, I thank Ranking Member SCOTT.

Mr. Chairman, this bill breaks the promise made 50 years ago to help all kids get a good, quality public education and to recognize the challenges faced by kids living in poverty.

When talking about the problems with this Republican bill, one wonders where to start. Is it the tearing apart of public education that comes in the form of dismantling title I funding? or the fact that the portability scheme is a slippery slope to turning our public school system into one big taxpayer-funded voucher program with public dollars sent to private schools? or the fact that Republicans have failed to address the need for early education or the maintenance of efforts of education? or that this bill diminishes the focus on professional development for teachers or the clear protections for collective bargaining agreements that are already part of State laws? or, ultimately, that this bill provides insufficient funding lower than what the title I authorization for last year authorized under the current law?

This bill doesn't provide real student success, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. KLINE. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK), a member of the committee.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. I thank the gentleman from Virginia for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act was passed 50 years ago to embody the promise that education is a right, not a privilege. We are supposed to be guardians of that promise, not the architects of its demise.

This reauthorization was an opportunity for Congress to delve in and debate the most pressing issues facing our schools. Sadly, the Republican majority chose to introduce a partisan bill behind closed doors without a single public hearing. Now we have a bill that reflects that lack of inclusion, takes hundreds of millions of dollars from our most vulnerable children, and weakens the safeguards that govern taxpayer money.

When I served on my local school committee, a tough economy meant some really difficult decisions. Not everyone was happy, but we listened. We listened to teachers, administrators, parents, students, experts, and fiscal watchdogs, and we were guided by one

simple principle: what is best for our students. It is a shame Congress couldn't find the will to do the same.

I urge my colleagues to reject H.R. 5.

Mr. KLINE. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS), a former college professor and now a member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Chairman, I thank Ranking Member SCOTT.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5.

Two weeks ago, our committee came together expecting to seriously consider this bill, but instead Republicans said "no": "no" to moving beyond the status quo, "no" to investing in the futures of our kids, "no" to supporting our teachers and principals, and "no" to ensuring the success of our neediest students.

Guess what. You said "yes" to taking money from our poorest students like Robin Hood in reverse, "yes" to erasing the gains we have made over the past 50 years, and "yes" to denying students success. This bill ignores the obvious needs of our students and turns its back on some of our most vulnerable.

I hope we are not fooled by the name of the bill. Student Success is a failure. It clearly sets up our students to fail. H.R. 5 fails on all accounts. It fails our neediest students. It fails to invest in our teachers and our principals. It fails to prepare students for college and careers. This bill deserves an F.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

Mr. KLINE. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, could you advise how much time is available to both parties?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia has 15 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Minnesota has 13 minutes remaining.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE), a former mayor.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

It is our responsibility to provide America's young people with every opportunity to obtain a world-class education in the best possible environment so they can compete in an increasingly global economy. That is why it is critical that we reauthorize ESEA the right way. Schools and educators deserve certainty, continuity, and direction based on new research and informed by our experience from the last decade, and students deserve the best education we can provide. H.R. 5 is not the right way to do it.

H.R. 5 would freeze funding at current levels for 6 years, representing over \$800 million in cuts compared to

presequester funding. By funding programs with block grants and introducing title I portability, this fails to support greater achievement of low-income students, students of color, students with disabilities, and English language learners. This fails students in so many ways.

We should be working together to ensure that a reauthorized ESEA improves student achievement, supports teachers and principals, and provides high-quality education for all students. This bill does not accomplish this.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

Mr. KLINE. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), the ranking member on the Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies.

Ms. DELAURO. Upon signing the original Elementary and Secondary Education Act, President Johnson described education as "the only valid passport from poverty." This bill threatens to tear up that passport. It caps Federal education funding at 2015 levels, levels which are already woefully inadequate after years of drastic cuts, and makes no provision for inflation, let alone the growing need for Federal education programs.

The bill allows States to direct Federal dollars away from schools in districts with the greatest poverty. It permits States to reduce education funding with no accountability. It allows schools in wealthier neighborhoods to use title I funding without having to target funds to the students with the greatest needs. It is a blatant betrayal of the ESEA's fundamental purpose, which is to level the playing field for low-income kids.

It weakens or eliminates many successful programs, including 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative, which provides quality after school, summer school programs for disadvantaged children.

Mr. Chairman, it used to be that hard work in schools and on the job was the surest ticket to the middle class. Today, that compact is broken. Millions of hardworking families do not earn enough to make ends meet, let alone move up in the world. The cuts proposed in this bill would make matters even worse. Kids from poor neighborhoods are already being neglected, while those from wealthy areas get an ever-increasing slice of the pie. These disparities reverberate throughout their lives to create an increasingly divided, unequal society.

Let me put it simply: Without broad access to quality education, there is no future for the middle class. With this legislation, the majority is saying to America's low-income kids: You are on your own.

Mr. Chairman, that is not who we are. I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BISHOP), a new member of the committee.

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 5, the Student Success Act, because our system, education system, is failing. Where I come from, we call trying to do things over and over again and expecting a different outcome insanity. I believe our system is broken to the extent that it is a moral imperative for Congress, at this point, to step up and act. Our students, our parents, our teachers should not have to settle for a failing system.

Before Congress, I worked in the private sector, and I also had an opportunity to work in State government, including the opportunity to serve as the majority leader of the Michigan Senate. At that time, I saw firsthand how much more effective we can be at the State level to use State resources and control where they are going than to have the Federal Government come in, step in and use, and expect the State to spend it in a certain way.

This system of top-down does not help the States; it puts us in a bad position. As a State legislator, had I the opportunity, I would have come here and supported the cause as well because it is the right thing to do. I do believe it is high time that we defend the 10th Amendment and rein back the Federal Government's role, especially in our children's education. Local teachers and parents know our children better than the Department of Education in Washington, D.C., ever could; and the result is that our system is broken, and that becomes clearer and clearer every day.

I just want to mention a couple statistics that I find alarming but instructive. First of all, 35 percent of our fourth graders are reading at a proficient level. Only 26 percent of our high school seniors are proficient in math. Just a couple examples that I mention. Those examples are unacceptable.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. KLINE. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. The Student Success Act gives authority back to our States and expands opportunities so our children can get the best education opportunity possible. That is what they deserve, and that is what I was sent to Washington, D.C., to support.

This bill is also critical in ensuring the Federal Government cannot force a failed program like Common Core on the States. When looking at education

reform, it is also important to make sure that we continue to protect the rights of our home schoolers and our private schools. That is exactly what this bill does.

Mr. Chairman, we must reduce the Federal Government's footprint in our children's classrooms because it is making a mess of the education system. We are long overdue for change, and I believe the Student Success Act will move our Nation in the right direction.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, because this bill limits the amount of funding available, it moves money from low-income areas to wealthy areas, eliminates targeted funds for English learners and those with disabilities; it fails to set meaningful standards.

A lot of organizations oppose the legislation, including business organizations, child advocacy groups, civil rights groups, the organizations supporting those with disabilities and health groups, including the Congressional Tri-Caucus; the Advocacy Institute; the Afterschool Alliance; the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee; the American Association of People With Disabilities; the American Association of University Women; the American Federation of Teachers; the American Foundation for the Blind; the Association of University Centers on Disabilities; Autism National Committee; Autistic Self Advocacy Network; the Center for American Progress; the Center for Law and Social Policy; the Children's Defense Fund; the Committee for Education Funding; the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities; the Council of the Great City Schools; the Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates, Inc.; Democrats for Education Reform; Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund; Easter Seals; Education Post; Education Law Center; First Focus Campaign for Children; Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network; Human Rights Campaign; the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law; Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law; Leading Educators; the League of United Latin American Citizens; the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund; the NAACP; the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund; the National Association of School Psychologists; the National Center for Learning Disabilities; the National Council on Independent Living; the National Council on Teacher Quality; the National Center on Time & Learning; the National Congress of American Indians; the National Council of La Raza; the National Coalition for Public Education; the National Disability Rights Network; the National Down Syndrome Congress; the National Education Association; the National Urban League; the National

Women's Law Center; Partners for Each and Every Child; the Poverty & Race Research Action Council; Public Advocates Inc.; Stand for Children; Southeast Asia Resource Action Center; TASH; Teach Plus; TNTF; the Education Trust; the United Negro College Fund; the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. They are all in opposition to this legislation.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1645

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL).

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Chairman, I often don't come to the floor to speak, but I felt compelled on this particular bill, H.R. 5, to talk about it. Why? Because I represent a district that has 90 percent of the public schoolchildren who live and receive reduced or free lunches and it is important for me to just state for the record that I think that a bill that takes away funding from public schools—targeted funding for low-income and poverty students—would be an abomination.

This bill is here because of the work of Lyndon Johnson 50 years ago. It was a civil rights bill, frankly. Why? It was an acknowledgment that socially disadvantaged children needed additional help. Somewhere along the line, Mr. Chairman, we have lost as a nation the notion of "our children."

It is always "my child," not "our children."

The CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Until the parents of more affluent children see that their lives are intrinsically linked to children who are poor, we as a nation will never be the beloved community that so many civil rights leaders fought and died for.

I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia for the opportunity to speak on this underlying bill, and I want to urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 5.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), a member of the committee.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. I want to thank the gentleman from Minnesota for his work on this bill. It is a very important bill, and it is certainly very applicable to what is going on in our country right now.

Mr. Chairman, Federal intervention in our Nation's classrooms is at an all-time high, and the Obama administration continues to believe that they think they know what is best for our children. However, despite the contin-

ued intrusion into our children's classrooms, student achievement remains stagnant.

Out of 34 countries, students in the U.S. rank 20th and 27th in science and math respectively, so it is clear that our education system is not adequately serving our children, and it is not going to be fixed by Washington bureaucrats. Our education system can only be fixed by parents, teachers, aunts, uncles, coaches, and community leaders—the people who actually know what is best for our Nation's children.

That is why I am supporting H.R. 5. I am supporting this bill to put some restraints on the administration, to rein in the Department of Education, and to put the keys to our children's educations and futures back in local control where it belongs.

It repeals out-of-touch teacher qualification programs, and it allows State and local officials to determine who is qualified to teach their children. It also eliminates 65 programs and creates a grant program with greater flexibility for school districts.

We all know that children learn differently and at their own pace, and without this bill, the Secretary of Education can prohibit funds from being sent to States unless they adopt certain one-size-fits-all standards, like Common Core.

I will be the first one to say that additional reforms to our education system are needed. No, this is not the silver bullet, but it is a great start, and it is a great bill. I support this bill, and I urge all of my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just want to state for the record that graduation rates have been up since No Child Left Behind was passed. Black and Latino children are doing better, so it has been working, but we need to continue to improve.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to read the Statement of Administration Policy, which speaks to the administration position on H.R. 5. The Statement of Administration Policy goes as follows:

The administration strongly opposes H.R. 5, the Student Success Act, as approved by the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. Congress must act in a bipartisan way to reform the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to help States prepare all children for college and careers by giving them flexibility from No Child Left Behind mandates. However, H.R. 5 represents a significant step backwards in the efforts to help all of the Nation's children and their families prepare for their futures.

H.R. 5 abdicates the historic Federal role in elementary and secondary education of ensuring the educational progress of all of America's children, including children from low-income families, students with disabilities, English learners, and students of color. It fails to maintain the core expectation that States and school districts will take serious,

sustained, and targeted actions when necessary to remedy achievement gaps and reform persistently low-performing schools. H.R. 5 fails to identify opportunity gaps or remedy inequities in access to the resources and supports students need to succeed, such as challenging academic courses, excellent teachers and principals, afterschool enrichment or expanded learning time, and other academic and nonacademic supports.

Rather than investing more in schools, H.R. 5 would allow States to divert education funding away from the schools and students who need it the most through the so-called "portability" provision. The bill's caps on Federal education spending would lock in recent budget cuts for the rest of the decade, and the bill would allow funds currently required to be used for education to be used for other purposes, such as spending on sports stadiums or tax cuts for the wealthy. H.R. 5 fails to make critical investments for the Nation's students, including high-quality preschool for America's children, support for America's teachers and principals, and investment in innovative solutions for the public education system.

The administration agrees on the need for high-quality statewide annual testing as required in H.R. 5, so parents and teachers know how children and schools are doing from year to year and to allow for consistent measurement of school and student performance across the State. However, this bill should do more to reduce redundant and unnecessary testing, such as asking States to limit the amount of time spent on standardized testing and requiring parental notification when testing is consuming too much classroom learning time.

The administration opposes H.R. 5 in its current form for all of these reasons but particularly because it would deny Federal funds to the classrooms that need them the most and fails to assure parents that policymakers and educators will take action when students are not learning.

If the President were presented with H.R. 5, his senior advisers would recommend that he veto the bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I am happy to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections.

Mr. WALBERG. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, since No Child Left Behind was put in place, the Federal Government has dictated how States and school districts spend money, gauge student learning and school performance, and hire classroom teachers.

Frankly, Mr. Chairman, it isn't working. Washington bureaucrats, no matter how well meaning they are, will never have the personal understanding of the diverse and special and unique needs of students than the teachers, administrators, and parents who spend time with them.

Mr. Chairman, I stand here today because I have to speak for Erin and Moses. Erin is my daughter-in-law and the mother of my four grandchildren. Moses was a student who tested her teaching ability and her passion for teaching.

Erin came to teach in a fourth and fifth grade classroom for special needs

students in Cicero, Illinois. Freshly minted out of her educational training and master's program, she came in with a passion for teaching.

She came in because she was sent in that classroom as a full-time, continuing substitute because the teacher of that classroom had gotten up one day, had walked out of the classroom, and had never come back.

Erin was given the opportunity of a lifetime of teaching these students, and she began to invest her life into those students, especially in one young student, a fourth grader by the name of Moses.

Moses came from a difficult situation. Moses at that time in the fourth grade was not even fully potty-trained, but Erin invested her time and talent and, frankly, her treasure in the life of that student, as well as of the others. She had a wonderful outcome in working with the parent in the home, as well as with Moses in the classroom.

The next year, Erin was given the opportunity to be a full-time teacher, not a sub anymore. I will never forget the day when Erin came to me, with tears in her eyes, and said: "Dad, I'm not sure I'm cut out for teaching."

I said: "Erin, why? You had an amazing impact for that 6 months of time you spent in the same classroom last year."

She said: "Now, all I'm doing is filling out paperwork for Illinois, for Chicago, and for the Federal Government."

She ultimately had our twin grandsons and went from the classroom to the home, but there will be a day that comes when those four kids are at the stage when she can go back to the classroom. I want Erin to go back and have the ability to teach, to love on those kids, to direct them, to work with the parents, and not spend time filling out bureaucratic forms.

Mr. Chairman, that is why I support the Student Success Act. It replaces Federal control with State and local control.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. KLINE. I yield the gentleman another 1 minute.

Mr. WALBERG. The bill allows States to establish and implement their own standards and assessments. The bill allows States to develop their own accountability plans for improving underperforming schools by eliminating federally prescribed school improvement and turnaround interventions. The bill provides State and local school districts flexibility.

Mr. Chairman, that is what we are speaking for. It is for the Erins and for the Moseses of the world—educational opportunities that should lead us into the future in great ways for this country and to lead the world.

□ 1700

This is what we are talking about, Mr. Speaker. The Student Success Act

places control back in the hands of education's rightful stewards: the teachers, the administrators, the States, the parents, and, ultimately, the students.

Let's pass this bill.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, how much time is remaining?

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. ABRAHAM). The gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE) has 4 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) has 4 minutes remaining.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, the Consortium for Citizens With Disabilities says:

The Student Success Act does not fully support students with disabilities, and in fact, it creates incentives for schools and districts to take students with disabilities, unchecked, off the track from having equitable access to and achieving a regular high school diploma.

Incidence data reflects that less than 1 percent of all students have the significant cognitive disabilities, which corresponds to about 10 percent of students with disabilities.

Without this limitation, we fear that schools may inappropriately assign students to the alternative assessment. Data show assignment to these alternative assessments may lead to reduced access to the general curriculum and limit a student's access to earn a regular diploma.

That is why the disability groups oppose the legislation.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to end with a reminder that this limits the funding. It transfers money from low-income areas to high-income areas. That is not just urban areas. There are over 2,400 low-income rural districts that will lose about \$150 million, or 15 percent, of their total allocation, under the current law. The legislation eliminates targeting for English learners and those with disabilities. Finally, it fails to set meaningful standards.

For those reasons, we should join the administration in opposing H.R. 5, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

As is always the case in these debates on the floor, we hear a lot of things. Some of them are actually factual; some of them are not. There is, shockingly, some hyperbole that comes along with this.

We did hear some things, though, from both sides of the aisle that I think are worth underscoring. One of the speakers on the other side of the aisle talked about how schools and States need continuity—I think was his word—predictability. That is exactly what we do not have now.

Right now, this country is operating under the law of the land, which is No Child Left Behind, and under a big, convoluted scheme of temporary conditional waivers which provide no continuity, no predictability, and that is why we are hearing on both sides of the

aisle—from coast-to-coast and off the coast, as a matter of fact—that we need to replace No Child Left Behind.

I believe that as we replace No Child Left Behind, we need to put responsibility in the hands of parents and teachers and school boards and States, and not in the hands of Washington, D.C.

I think that it is not fair to say that there is not a problem. We heard from the ranking member that graduation rates have gone up. On the other hand, they haven't gone up much, and we are still in a position where a fourth, or 26 percent, of high school seniors are proficient in math. That means 74 percent—maybe I need to have a little math here—are not. Only 38 percent of those high school seniors can read at grade level. We have a problem with one in five students dropping out. We need to address that problem.

We heard a lot of talk about where title I funds go and portability to public schools. It is a question, I understand. There is a disagreement here, but we happen to believe it is fair that if you are a poor kid, if you are eligible for title I funds, you ought to get those funds. There is a disagreement. I think the children, if they are eligible, if they are in poverty, ought to get their share of title I funds.

One of the things we didn't talk much about today as we talked about the problems out there, we know that in some areas of the country you have children trapped in absolutely failing schools where less than half of the kids graduate and those that graduate are nowhere near ready to go to college or go to work.

So we have seen across the country and in most States public charter schools popping up, giving parents hope, giving them a chance to get those kids out of failing schools.

I said this the other day in the Rules Committee, because it was so moving to me. I went to a charter school in north Minneapolis. There were 430 kids in that school. Their parents are delighted with the education they are getting now and thrilled to get their kids out of failing schools.

When I asked the principal and the founder of the school if she could take more kids, she said: No, this is the right size for this school. She would like to replicate the school—and that is what this bill allows—so she can have another successful charter school. And how successful is it? There are a thousand kids, Mr. Chairman, on the waiting list to get in that charter school because their parents want to get out of a failing school system. This bill allows that to happen.

It comes down to, fundamentally: Who do you trust, Washington or local government? We want to put the control in the hands of parents and local school boards and States.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition of H.R. 5, the ill-named Student Success Act. H.R. 5 would undermine significant gains made by No Child Left Behind, and eviscerate the Elementary and Secondary Education Act by dismantling its foundation of equity and accountability.

Under this bill, school districts with the highest concentrations of Hispanic students would lose more than \$1.9 billion in federal funding. Los Angeles Unified School District which is more than 74 percent Hispanic faces the largest cut in Title I funds, over \$80 million, which amounts to nearly 25 percent of their budget.

School districts with a high concentration of students living in poverty could lose \$700 million in funding and high-poverty districts could see cuts as large as 74 percent. The portability of Title I funds would divert and dilute limited funds from schools with high needs and high concentrations of poverty. This undermines the fundamental purpose of Title I: to assist high needs and high poverty schools. With 35 percent of Latino children under the age of five living in poverty, this is the time to increase, not decrease funding.

Education is our nation's great equalizer. I would not be where I am today if it were not for the quality public education I received. For over 50 years, ESEA has been our nation's driving force for educational equity. Unfortunately, this Republican bill would dismantle the foundation of equality and accountability that ESEA has built over the last half-century. If we want our nation to remain a leader in the world, we must improve equal access to quality education for the next generation. Our students are the future of tomorrow, and we simply cannot let them down.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise today to express my opposition to H.R. 5, the Student Success Act. This bill undermines the fundamental purpose of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which was created to ensure that disadvantaged children are provided a high-quality education that allows them to compete on a level playing field with their more-advantaged peers.

Among its many problematic provisions, this bill cuts crucial education funding, fails to hold states and districts accountable for supporting and improving the achievement of all students, eliminates and weakens protections for disadvantaged students, and lacks critical support systems for our nation's educators.

I believe No Child Left Behind (NCLB) is flawed and must be reformed, and reauthorization presents a tremendous opportunity to make much-needed improvements and bring our education system into the 21st century. However, instead of fixing the problems of NCLB, the Student Success Act does not reflect best practices and fails to strike the appropriate balance between flexibility and accountability.

Reauthorization should support college and career-ready standards, address the overuse of testing in teacher and school evaluations that currently forces educators to substitute test preparation for instruction, and feature an accountability system that includes meaningful targets for improving student attainment that

gives schools and districts flexibility in how they achieve those goals.

I urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 5 and instead support reauthorization that restores our nation's commitment to providing equal opportunity for all students regardless of their background and protect our country's students including the most vulnerable, which was the intention of this landmark civil rights law.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5, the "Student Success Act," which would harm the education of our nation's youth.

I thank Chairman KLINE, Ranking Member SCOTT, and all the members of the Committee on Education and the Workforce for their work to improve education for our nation's children.

Unfortunately, the bill before the House for consideration, should it become law, would harm our most vulnerable children, including those who attend urban and rural schools, and special needs children who need equal access to an excellent education.

The bill as it exists now allows for the establishment of separate, lower standards for students with developmental disabilities.

As a result of these standards, opportunities available for students with disabilities later in life would suffer considerably.

H.R. 5 converts much of the funding currently directed at English learners, migrant students, or at-risk students into block-grants, which would enable those funds to be spent outside the target populations.

Support for these students would also be eroded by suspending requirements that school districts improve the English-speaking ability of such students.

One of the most dangerous provisions of this bill is the proposal to allow "portability" of funds under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

This proposal, if enacted, would allow states to redirect funds away from districts with the highest concentrations of poverty, and into more affluent districts with less need for such support.

This proposal is especially harmful for Houston school districts, where an estimated 31.5% of children live below the poverty line. The vast majority of these children are Black or Hispanic.

As legislators, as Americans, we have a generational responsibility to enhance the lives of those who will follow us, especially the most vulnerable.

It is sobering to me, as the founder and co-chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus and someone who has long advocated on behalf of young people from all backgrounds, to see a bill that would have such a negative impact on the very children who need our help the most.

In addition to these sad truths, the bill currently under consideration would strike a devastating blow to our schools' ability to provide the variety of programs that our children deserve.

It repeals dedicated funding for programs such as student safety, after and summer school programming, STEM education, education technology, arts education, literacy and block-grants support, forcing high-need districts to choose between funding vital services.

It should not be overlooked that one of these programs that is considered expendable is STEM-focused education, an area of importance both nationally and to my constituents in Houston.

The Houston region is one of the most important industrial bases in the world and was recently ranked the No. 1 US manufacturing city by Manufacturers' News Inc.

Houston is also home to the largest medical complex in the world—the Texas Medical Center—and provides clinical health care, research and education at its 54 institutions.

These jobs, and truly the middle class of this decade as a whole, are dependent on workers who get the right STEM education and job training today.

Brookings' Metropolitan Policy Program's report "The Hidden STEM Economy" reported that in 2011, 26 million jobs or 20 percent of all occupations required knowledge in 1 or more STEM areas.

The same report stressed that fully half of all STEM jobs are available to workers without a 4 year degree and these jobs pay on average \$53,000 a year, which is 10 percent higher than jobs with similar education requirements.

To eliminate federal funding aimed at enhancing STEM education is to cripple an entire generation of America's youth, leaving them without skills that may be essential in securing their own future and the economic prosperity of our nation.

Finally, it must be addressed that the defining characteristic of our primary and secondary education system has been to prepare our students for college.

H.R. 5 does not contain any provisions that states consult with institutes of higher education in order to ensure that their academic standards are consistent with what will be demanded of those students once they graduate.

As a result, many students, even after receiving a high school diploma, will find themselves unprepared to pursue a college degree if they choose to.

Furthermore, the bill eliminates the current requirements that districts take action when their schools are under resourced and unable to meet the needs of all students.

Together with the lack of consideration and support for at-risk and low-income youth, this will result in those students being marginalized and denied educational opportunity rather than given the support and resources they so desperately need.

There is no greater testament to the substantial and wide-ranging harm done by this bill than the coalition of organizations that have voiced their opposition, including:

- National Education Association
- American Federation of Teachers
- Committee for Education Funding
- Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD)
- American Association of People with Disabilities
- Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
- NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund
- League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
- National Council of La Raza
- U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Business Roundtable

I urge all members to join with me in heeding their counsel and opposing H.R. 5.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 5, the so-called Student Success Act, which should really be called the Letting Our Students Down Act.

Instead of making much needed improvements to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), H.R. 5 would weaken critical federal protections for our most vulnerable—including students of color, students with disabilities, low-income students, English-language learners (ELL), migrant students and LGBT students. It would gut our nation's education funding by foolishly locking in Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 funding levels for the next 6 years—with no exceptions to adjust for inflation.

H.R. 5 would also divert critical Title I funds away from the highest poverty schools and districts—undermining our nation's commitment to ensuring that all students—regardless of their zip code or where they were born—should have equal access to high-quality education.

This is outrageous and it is wrong.

Simply put, H.R. 5 undermines our promise to students that they will have equal access to high-quality education.

So let's defeat this egregious bill and work to reauthorize ESEA that will reinvest in our future, help close the achievement gap, and prepare our students for a 21st Century workforce.

I urge my colleagues to vote NO on H.R. 5.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5, the "Student Success Act," which would harm the education of our nation's youth.

I thank Chairman KLINE, Ranking Member SCOTT, and all the members of the Committee on Education and the Workforce for their work to improve education for our nation's children.

Unfortunately, the bill before the House for consideration, should it become law, would harm our most vulnerable children, including those who attend urban and rural schools, and special needs children who need equal access to an excellent education.

In my 18th District of Texas, over 30% of students in the Houston Independent School district (HISD) live below the poverty line.

H.R. 5 threatens to cut over \$17 million from HISD, one of the largest reductions in Title I funding in the state of Texas.

I cannot stand by and support legislation that takes funds and resources away from children who are already struggling to meet their own basic needs.

This bill allows Title I "portability" which would allow states to redirect funds away from high concentrations of poverty and siphon monies to low-poverty schools.

This proposal, if enacted, would allow states to redirect funds away from districts with the highest concentrations of poverty, and into more affluent districts with less need for such support.

The vast majority of the children affected by "portability," are black or Hispanic.

As legislators, as Americans, we have a generational responsibility to enhance the lives of those who will follow us, especially the most vulnerable.

H.R. 5 guts education funding, while diverting funds away from high-poverty schools by freezing funding at FY 2015 levels for six years, which represents over \$800 million in cuts to these programs compared to pre-sequester funding.

Mr. Chair, what does it say about our commitment to our youth that we are willing to cut funding for the future leaders of America?

For decades, we threw money at education without making sure our schools were actually improving, or whether we were giving teachers the tools they need, or whether our taxpayer dollars were being used effectively.

And our students too often paid the price.

The bill as it exists now allows for the establishment of separate, lower standards for students with developmental disabilities.

As a result of these standards, opportunities available for students with disabilities later in life would suffer considerably.

H.R. 5 converts much of the funding currently directed at English learners, migrant students, or at-risk students into block-grants, which would enable those funds to be spent outside the target populations.

Support for these students would also be eroded by suspending requirements that school districts improve the English-speaking ability of such students.

It is my concern as H.R. 5 is currently drafted abdicates the historic Federal role in elementary and secondary education of ensuring the educational progress of all of America's students, including students from low-income families, students with disabilities, English learners, and students of color.

'No Child Left Behind' needs to be fixed, but Republicans are pushing a bill that would gut education funding, eliminate and weaken protections for disadvantaged students, does not provide a well-rounded education for all students, and does not support educators.

The Statement of Administration Policy from the Obama administration agrees on the need for high-quality statewide annual testing as required in H.R. 5, so parents and teachers know how children and schools are doing from year to year and to allow for consistent measurement of school and student performance across the State.

However the administration has stated that this bill should do more to reduce redundant and unnecessary testing, such as asking States to limit the amount of time spent on standardized testing and requiring parental notification when testing is consuming too much classroom learning time.

In its current state the Obama administration recommends a veto of H.R. 5.

It is sobering to me, as the founder and co-chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus and someone who has long advocated on behalf of young people from all backgrounds, to see a bill that would have such a negative impact on the very children who need our help the most.

In addition to these sad truths, the bill currently under consideration would strike a devastating blow to our schools' ability to provide the variety of programs that our children deserve.

It repeals dedicated funding for programs such as student safety, after and summer school programming, STEM education, edu-

cation technology, arts education, literacy and block-grants support, forcing high-need districts to choose between funding vital services.

It should not be overlooked that one of these programs that is considered expendable is STEM-focused education, an area of importance both nationally and to my constituents in Houston.

The Houston region is one of the most important industrial bases in the world and was recently ranked the No. 1 U.S. manufacturing city by Manufacturers' News Inc.

Houston is also home to the largest medical complex in the world—the Texas Medical Center—and provides clinical health care, research and education at its 54 institutions.

These jobs, and truly the middle class of this decade as a whole, are dependent on workers who get the right STEM education and job training today.

Brookings' Metropolitan Policy Program's report "The Hidden STEM Economy" reported that in 2011, 26 million jobs or 20 percent of all occupations required knowledge in 1 or more STEM areas.

The same report stressed that fully half of all STEM jobs are available to workers without a 4 year degree and these jobs pay on average \$53,000 a year, which is 10 percent higher than jobs with similar education requirements.

To eliminate federal funding aimed at enhancing STEM education is to cripple an entire generation of America's youth, leaving them without skills that may be essential in securing their own future and the economic prosperity of our nation.

Finally, it must be addressed that the defining characteristic of our primary and secondary education system has been to prepare our students for college.

H.R. 5 does not contain any provisions that states consult with institutes of higher education in order to ensure that their academic standards are consistent with what will be demanded of those students once they graduate.

As a result, many students, even after receiving a high school diploma, will find themselves unprepared to pursue a college degree if they choose to.

We must look at the environments in which we are asking these students to succeed and ensure we have the best protections in place to provide safe educational institutions.

Amendment #93 of this bill, Jackson Lee Amendment, supports accountability-based programs and activities that are designed to enhance school safety, which may include research-based bullying prevention, cyberbullying prevention, disruption of recruitment activity by groups or individuals involved in violent extremism, and gang prevention programs as well as intervention programs regarding bullying.

H.R. 5 eliminates the current requirement that districts take action when their schools are under resourced and unable to meet the needs of all students.

Together with the lack of consideration and support for at-risk and low-income youth, this will result in those students being marginalized and denied educational opportunity rather than given the support and resources they so desperately need.

I urge all my colleagues to join with me and oppose the passage of H.R. 5.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5 The Student Success Act. I rise in opposition to this bill because education is a civil right. The Elementary and Secondary Schools Act, also known as ESEA, was initially passed in 1965 as part of President Johnson's "War on Poverty." President Johnson understood that without a good education, economic stability was impossible and poverty inevitable.

The goal of the original ESEA was to provide a fair and equitable education to every child in America. Unfortunately, H.R. 5 is neither fair nor equitable. This bill creates the warped concept of Title I Portability, which would shift resources from poor school districts such as the ones in my district of Brooklyn, New York to wealthier communities. Children in poor districts stand to lose upward of \$85 per student, while children in wealthier communities would gain an average of \$290 dollars per student.

It ends the Safe and Drug Free Schools Program, among 70 other programs also slated for elimination. You would think that with the rise in school shootings and rampant school violence, that if we ever needed a Safe and Drug Free School Program it would be now.

It also eliminates Title III, which helped to ensure that English Language Learners attain English proficiency. H.R. 5 not only figuratively, but also literally, silences the voices of our Hispanic students and in doing so relegates them to a life of inequity and poverty.

Under H.R. 5, New York State is projected to receive \$1.52 billion in 2016 and \$6.943 billion over the 2016–2021 period. This is \$46 million less in 2016 and \$606 million less over the 2016–2021 period than under the President Obama's budget. In fact, my district of Brooklyn, New York is in Kings County. Kings County, with a poverty rate of 33.3 percent, will see a \$39.9 million cut in Title I funding under this bill.

Today, we Democrats are shining a light on H.R. 5 so that America can see how ugly, dangerous and divisive this bill really is. And just like during the civil rights movement, we won't back down! We won't give up! We will fight until every child in America—Black, Brown, Asian or White—has a fair, equitable, and quality public school education—because Education is a Civil Right.

The Acting CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) having assumed the chair, Mr. ABRAHAM, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5) to support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

NATIONAL EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS WEEK

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Eating Disorders Awareness Week. This time is dedicated to educating parents and children about the causes and serious health conditions and consequences of eating disorders.

Eating disorders affect more than 14 million Americans and have disproportionate impacts on teens and young adults. Beyond genetic links, factors such as consistent exposure to misleading advertising that distort one's own body image can lead to eating disorders. The key to containing this growing health issue is to spread awareness and promote authentic, healthy body images.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, along with a bipartisan coalition, we have urged the Federal Trade Commission to uphold their duty to protect American consumers by working with health professionals and the advertising industry to promote fair and responsible advertisements, especially for products geared for children and teens.

If you suspect that your child has an eating disorder, please seek professional help. There are many local resources available to families.

THE IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL BROADCASTERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ABRAHAM). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the topic of today's Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Dakota?

There was no objection.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate so much this opportunity that we have this evening to inform and to educate my colleagues in the House, fellow Members of Congress, and even the American people through C-SPAN, about the importance of local radio and television broadcasters. They are important not only to our country, but I want to talk about how important they are to our communities—the communities we live in, the communities they live in, the communities they work in.

For decades, these broadcasters have been the first ones to respond to disasters and emergencies. They have saved

numerous lives by their ability to be on the scene and to broadcast widely. They have helped communities pick up the pieces after a natural disaster or a manmade disaster. The broadcasters of our country, of our communities, have played a vital role in the quality of life in our communities.

I have been blessed throughout my career not just in public service but in other positions to work with local broadcasters hosting telethons to help find cures for diseases like muscular dystrophy, cancer, and many other diseases that our communities have tackled together.

Now, we need to remember that these radio and television stations are not monolithic corporations. They are owned and run and managed by our friends and neighbors, the people that we see every day.

Today is a big day. It is an appropriate day to celebrate—not just inform and educate but celebrate—the role of America's broadcasters in our communities. Because today, hundreds of Members of Congress were able to meet with their local television and radio station personalities and managers and representatives. Today, nearly 600 broadcasters came to Capitol Hill to tell their story of public service and to remind their Representatives of their role.

You may not know that these broadcasters are required by statute to serve the public interest. When I hear about the stories they cover, when I see the types of stories they cover, the lives they have touched, the service that they are providing, I am heartened to know that we have a vibrant, thriving system of local broadcasting in this country.

Unlike many other countries around the world, where national and regional news is what is available to their citizens, here in the United States, here in places like North Dakota and Texas and Arkansas and others, we have a system of local radio and TV stations so folks living in the same community are bound together by weather events, sporting events, news of the day, and human interest, all provided by an accurate local source.

I know in North Dakota we have seen weather emergencies where information from our local broadcasters was all that was available for those suffering the impacts of a storm. Several years ago, I myself, with my family, in 1984, spent all night—this was before cell phones, I know—spent all night in a car in a blizzard that came upon North Dakota suddenly. We were just off the interstate. The only communication we had was through KFGO Radio, which won a Peabody that year for broadcasting to us and to several others that were stranded in that storm.

So, today, we are going to hear a number of stories from Members of

Congress across the country also touched by their local TV and radio stations. I thank them for sharing stories about their local stations. I will share some of mine as we go throughout this Special Order, but I want to call on somebody who knows a fair bit about broadcasting, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD).

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. CRAMER, I appreciate the opportunity. It is an honor to be able to stand up and advocate on behalf of our broadcasters, who are not only my constituents and your constituents, but my colleagues, because I am, as you mentioned, a former broadcaster, and I know firsthand the importance of broadcasting, as you indicated, to local and national communities.

You talked about a weather occurrence. Last week, my district and most of Arkansas was blanketed with ice.

□ 1715

I can tell you with certainty that a good number of my constituents were tuned in to their local radio station, their local television station, to hear about school closures and to hear about road conditions and to hear about other community closures and shelters that might be available and any number of things that are necessary in times of weather that could put them in a position of distress, so it is very, very important.

I have got some statistics here that really speak to the value proposition that they bring to our economy. In my district alone, there are 20 local television stations and 233 local radio stations in the State of Arkansas. That is statewide, not districtwide.

These broadcasters contribute \$9.83 billion to our State's GDP, and they have provided roughly 22,000 jobs in the State of Arkansas.

Beyond Arkansas, in the entire country, local broadcasters account for 2.65 million jobs, and they provide—get this—\$1.24 trillion to our GDP.

As we talked about, they provide a variety of services to communities that they support. One of the things that I didn't mention, as a broadcaster, I was a farm broadcaster, so you can appreciate this, being from North Dakota.

Most farmers rely on those market reports, weather reports, bug reports, disease reports, any number of things, information that is relevant to production agriculture that they rely on, so that was one of the things that helped launch my career. I was able to start a farm news network, operated it, started with four stations, and it is now up to 53 in a five-state area.

All of that is very specific to the local community and what is grown and raised in those communities, and so farmers have come to rely on that, and I am sure it is the same in your home State of North Dakota.

But I think the point that we are trying to make here is that every commu-

nity is unique. Every community has their own needs, and no one knows those needs better than the broadcasters who serve those communities.

I just want to say, as a Congress, I think it is our duty to support broadcasters who do so much for the region and their communities, and I appreciate you taking the time to make this hour happen.

Mr. CRAMER. If the gentleman wouldn't mind, I would like to ask a question. I know we didn't rehearse this, but in this era of all kinds of new information technologies available and ways of getting information, streaming and cell phones and smartphones and the like, maybe you could just share a minute or two about why it is still important, what role the broadcaster, the free, over-the-air broadcast through the public spectrum, why that matters in this era of new IT.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Well, you touched on it right there. It is free, over the air, they can access it. They don't have to have any special tool other than a radio.

Everybody's got a radio in their car or in their tractor, in their truck, in the office, whatever; and when everything else fails, you can't get a cell signal, you can't get your Internet, whatever, the radio is reliable.

From the farmers' perspectives, which obviously I have an interest in, they rely heavily on that, and there is an element of trust. Their local broadcaster is usually a trusted source of information, so that is why it is so important and why they rely so heavily on their local broadcaster, whether that be their 6 p.m. news.

I have been a news anchor on our local television station, and folks do become accustomed to hearing from you, and they trust that.

Here is the other thing that is interesting about broadcasters: they are integrating new media in conjunction with their broadcasting, so it sort of supplements what their core mission is, to provide that service to the community over the airwaves.

The great thing about broadcasters is they are very innovative. They are not a static business model. They are developing new technology, they are integrating new technology, and it all works together, with the core mission being to serve their communities.

You see fundraising efforts for the Make-A-Wish Foundation on the local radio station. That is important. Radio stations and television stations are innovative in community support activities.

AMBER Alerts, not only are they broadcasting those AMBER Alerts, but they are using texts and social media to supplement that and really help enhance their broadcasting efforts, too.

There is a lot of these things that you can't get along without, I think, without our public broadcasters, our

local community broadcasters—television and radio—who operate on the airwaves.

Mr. CRAMER. Great points. Thank you so much for participating.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE).

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the gentleman for having this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, let me bring an additional perspective to the importance of local broadcasters, TV, radio. I live down on the gulf coast. We call where I live in my district "hurricane alley."

Just since I have been in Congress, Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Rita, Hurricane Humberto, Hurricane Ike, and Hurricane Gustav have all hit my congressional district. Now, some blame me. It is not my fault, but here they come, all of these hurricanes.

We are down on the gulf coast, and as soon as the hurricanes come through, guess what, there goes the power—electricity. Besides all of the flooding, the damage, the wind, all of this happens when hurricane season comes upon us in the summer.

The local folks, to get information, if they are still at home, they are watching local TV. Many are not because they have to leave because of rising water and wind damage.

When Hurricane Ike came into Galveston, Texas, it went across the island, and then when the wind shifted, it came back across the island, but that saltwater went across and came back. Tremendous damage in Galveston, Texas.

The only thing the people could listen to or find information, really, was their car radio as they are trying to leave the area. The radio stations and TV stations that are still on the air are very vital for public safety and information and about the weather. People listen to the local broadcasters about what is happening right there.

When Hurricane Rita came into Houston in 2005, approximately 2.5 million to 3 million people evacuated. Now, some say that this is the largest evacuation in American history. I don't know. That is a lot of people on the road, and they are all headed north to get away from the wind and the rain and the flooding that is taking place.

What people were listening to in the car was local radio stations that were on the air broadcasting, not just the weather, but the traffic that was taking place. Eventually, the freeways, the interstates all allowed traffic to move on all lanes north.

The way the folks found out about that was on the radio, the announcements being made by the Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas highway department, that the lanes had been shifted so that everybody could travel in all of the lanes that took place, so that information was so vital.

It is not just important during hurricane season. As already stated by the

gentleman from Arkansas, it is important during even normal weather, if we can call what is taking place here in Washington normal weather, but the snow and the ice. People want to listen to local radio to find out—and local television.

Also, even go back to Katrina. We all remember Hurricane Katrina. Folks in Louisiana left Louisiana, and they came to Texas, and as they were getting to Texas, guess what, Hurricane Rita hit Texas.

Houstonians, primarily, when those folks from Louisiana were coming our way, were told by local media on where they could go to take things for those neighbors from Louisiana, everything from food and blankets, and go volunteer to help out to find shelter for these individuals.

Local radio, local television is broadcasting how that can be done, how that can be help to those individuals. That couldn't have been done if we didn't have our local broadcasters who know the area, know the people.

We have AMBER Alerts. That is throughout the country. 206 Texas children that were abducted had been rescued because of the AMBER Alert system that was created in 1998 by the Dallas-Ft. Worth broadcasters.

The other issue that I want to mention is our—well, there are two more, and they are just as important. Local radio and television has local political issues and debates on our community, from the local politicians, the local officeholders, and even others. That is all done locally by our broadcasters on television; it is done on radio all the time. There is political argument and debate by our local media.

Something that is important to us—I don't know about the Dakotas, but it is important to us. We like football in Texas. We like high school football. Let's be a little specific. On Friday night, everybody is playing football at the high schools, at the stadiums.

Our local broadcasters, yes, they are out there at the stadiums, and at 10 p.m. news, they have a little bit of news, and then they have a little bit of weather, and then they spend most of the rest of the news broadcasting tapes from the high school football games in the Houston area.

They are very important, Mr. Speaker, to know exactly who won the game, who the visiting team was, high school football. We are not going to see that unless we have local broadcasting. Of course, high school football is on the radio as well. I do want to mention that important service that local broadcasters give us.

We have a lot of great broadcasters in the Houston area, both on radio and on television. I would like to mention some of them. Channel 13 has Dave Ward. I think he has been on television, nightly news—I don't know, I would hate to say 30 years, but maybe

it has been that long or more—along with Gina Gaston.

On channel 26, we have got Jose Grinan; channel 2, Bill Balleza and Dominique Sachse; then channel 11, Greg Hurst and Lisa Hernandez.

Years ago, there was this local television celebrity that worked for channel 13. He turned out to be a celebrity named Marvin Zindler. He is an icon in the Houston area.

He is a local broadcaster, and he spent time going around in the Houston restaurants examining restaurants and, as he said, looking for slime in the ice machine. He did a nightly broadcast on restaurants that just weren't up to the health standards of the city of Houston.

Other investigative reporters are doing something very similar on the local basis as well, but it is all local. It is the local broadcasters that are doing it.

I commend the gentleman, Mr. CRAMER. I am sorry I talked so long. The local folks, we certainly couldn't exist without them. Radio, television, we appreciate what they do, not just for football, but for the other things as well.

Mr. CRAMER. I thank the gentleman from Texas, and I especially thank him for raising the football illustration, just because it is an opportunity—while he wondered if it was important in North Dakota, North Dakotans have become very accustomed to coming to Texas for football games because, for the last 4 years, the North Dakota State University football team has won the national FCS championship game in Frisco, Texas.

Thank you for reminding us of that, and we look forward to a trip next year, perhaps.

That said, I appreciate what you raised about how many broadcast stations really—they are tools of the First Amendment, and they are also, obviously, an important part of the First Amendment because that is where they derive their rights to express and to broadcast.

Where would politicians be without broadcasting debates? So I appreciate that as well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE), just to let everybody know this is obviously a very important bipartisan Special Order because it a very important bipartisan issue.

Mr. CICILLINE. I thank the gentleman for the time and for organizing this Special Order.

To be sure that folks do not think that local broadcasters are only important in the Midwest, I am here representing New England. We have many, many examples where our local broadcasters have really made a difference in Rhode Island.

□ 1730

I think sometimes the best way to illustrate that is to give real examples of where that happened.

So, for example, there was a documentary made about a homeless man finding help at Crossroads, which is the largest homeless services organization in the State of Rhode Island. WPRI-TV, a local broadcaster in the city of Providence, secured the rights to this documentary and took the opportunity to create a telethon around its airing. Viewers were asked to open their hearts and their pocketbooks and pledge by phone or online, and that effort raised \$85,000 for the shelter, providing greatly needed funding as the housing crisis and economy created an ever-growing demand for the shelter services. So that is one example.

Another example is, while residents of our capital city, the city of Providence, waited for their electricity to be restored in their homes after Hurricane Irene cut off power to many in our State, WJAR-TV Providence simulcast the audio portion of its newscast on Clear Channel's WHJJ-AM Providence. This arrangement allowed locals to receive the TV station's around-the-clock coverage on battery-operated radios, which was obviously a very important service.

In our State, we have a wonderful facility, a school called Meeting Street, which is an organization that provides individual learning programs for thousands of children with developmental disabilities. And Meeting Street is really allowed to tell the story of its wonderful school to the community each year during its annual telethon on WPRI-TV. This 4-hour, commercial-free telethon preempts prime-time programming, and all production for the event is done in-house by the station. Last year, the telethon generated \$500,000 from phone donations and long-term corporate commitments tied to the event, and it has raised billions of dollars over the years.

The local newspaper and WNRI-AM in Woonsocket, Rhode Island, carry on the Milk Fund, which is a local tradition that started in 1936 as a way to help struggling families. Each year through the month of December, multiple fundraising efforts in Woonsocket raise money toward the purchase of milk vouchers.

Another example: this past fall, listeners tuned in to WKKB-FM in Providence for its 2-day Promesa y Esperanza—Promise and Hope—Radiothon, which raises funds for St. Jude Children's Hospital. The broadcast is carried out in partnership with 15 sister stations throughout the country to raise awareness of childhood cancer within the Hispanic community and to help St. Jude continue to offer treatment to all children, regardless of their family's ability to pay. This year's effort raised more than \$100,000

in WKKB's listening area alone, and more than \$630,000 between the 16 stations combined.

And just one final example: LIN Media, which owns WPRI-TV in East Providence, established the Minority Scholarship and Training Program. Each recipient will receive a 2-year scholarship for up to \$10,000 per year, which can be used for school expenses. In addition, LIN Media will provide each student with hands-on training through a paid internship program at one of its television stations around the country. Minority Scholarship recipients are assigned full-time positions at LIN Media upon graduation and successful completion of the training program.

So these are just some examples, and I know there are examples like this all across the country where local broadcasters are really making a difference, not only helping raise needed resources for nonprofit organizations, getting information to listeners and viewers during emergencies, but really helping to strengthen our communities. And I, for one, want to acknowledge the local broadcasters and to say thank you. I hope these examples help illustrate the value of our local broadcasters.

I really thank the gentleman for organizing this Special Order hour and for yielding.

Mr. CRAMER. I appreciate the gentleman's recognition of that and the very thorough list of examples of the incredible public service that our broadcasters do in the Northeast. Thank you very much for that.

It occurs to me, Mr. Speaker, as I listen to my colleagues talk about the importance of local broadcasters that they really have multiple public service roles.

Certainly it is a public service to be able to give the news, to deliver the sporting games, to deliver the weather, to deliver emergency information for public safety, to let people know what is going on in the community. That is an important service. But the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) brings up, of course, many other charitable things.

I have participated in many charitable events that were good, that raised decent money for important causes. But when a broadcaster gets involved, it adds value; it raises awareness; it sometimes brings celebrity to it. And you can see a charity lifted up by virtue of the fact that a local TV station or a local radio station or, in some cases, multiple stations took on the cause—not because there is anything in it for the broadcast station, not because there is anything in it for the managers. Sure, sometimes there are programs that have a sales component to it that you can go out and sell, but by and large, these are pure acts of public service, pure acts of charity that with just a little bit of airtime, just a

little bit of local personality that is attached to a cause can validate the cause, elevate the cause, bring awareness to the cause, and create momentum for a cause that generates all kinds of other private sector involvement, whether it is volunteers or money—in most cases, both. We can solve a lot of problems when we get a broadcaster involved.

I have had the opportunity to be part of a very special program that I know a lot of my colleagues have been a part of, whether out here or back at home, and that is Honor Flights. It was a local broadcaster in Fargo, North Dakota, that saw a national story about the Honor Flight program that flies World War II veterans to see the memorial built in their honor.

So WDAY radio and television took it on in Fargo and created the Red River Valley Honor Flight and flew four flights of veterans. During that time, they broadcast leading up to it to bring awareness so that the veterans, themselves, could sign up. Then they broadcast the trips themselves to bring awareness and to honor these men and women, these heroes of the Greatest Generation and then, of course, brought the celebration home in a way that you couldn't do without that involvement.

That resulted in another Honor Flight chapter being raised up in Bismarck, where I live, and I became the chairman of the Roughrider Honor Flight. We had five flights out of Bismarck.

The KX television network in North Dakota became our broadcast partner. Not only did they help by raising awareness, which helped me raise money, which helped us get more veterans signing up, but it got the whole community involved. At the end of it all, they provided a video documentary of the experience so that every veteran and their families who participated had that wonderful memory in a DVD that they could watch for the rest of their lives.

Just this last weekend, I was on a radio show in Fargo called "Heroes of the Heartland." It is on for an hour every Saturday, where a local veteran hosts the show, and it is all about veterans. I hope the show wins an award for what it does for veterans.

While I was on the show answering questions about legislation dealing with veterans' issues, people would call in and say: Did you know that the VA in Fargo is holding a public information meeting in a neighboring city on Saturday at whatever time, where veterans can come and air their grievances or give their appreciation or learn about the VA? And I thought: Wow, how cool is this, that because somebody knew of something, not only was the radio station there able to spread the information, but the listener became the newsmaker. They became the broadcaster.

That is the other neat thing about local radio, especially: it provides an opportunity where everybody is a broadcaster. If you see an accident or you find bad weather or you see something happen that you want to alert the public about, you have that opportunity now with new media, meaning broadcast media. So it was an honor to be on "Heroes of the Heartland."

I have the great privilege of representing the entire State of North Dakota. That is a big congressional district. Now, it is not as big as Montana or Wyoming or Alaska, but it is pretty big. I try to have a lot of town halls, like many of us do. We have a lot of town halls. But I have the opportunity, working with broadcast partners now, where every week I have a 1-hour talk radio town hall on multiple stations. KFYY-AM 550 in Bismarck was sort of the flagship station. KPLC out in Dickinson carries it. AM 1100 The Flag is really where it was birthed, in Fargo. KTGO up in the Bakken, the heart of the Bakken, in Tioga, carries the talk radio town hall.

People have the opportunity to either call me live on the air and ask a question or call on an 800 number and leave a message for me if they can't call during the show itself. It is broadcast statewide, and then it is broadcast again in the evening on delay. It provides a great opportunity for me to be in touch with my constituents and for them to talk to me and for me to be able to talk to them.

As you can tell, Mr. Speaker, I am a big advocate for free over-the-air broadcast media, whether it is radio or television—or certainly both. And I think that even in the new media era, and I appreciated the gentleman from Arkansas, Mr. CRAWFORD's thoughts on this, that we have this opportunity still, but that there is still an important role for free broadcast radio and television, that even with all the new media, that it only, in fact, enhances the importance of free over-the-air broadcasts.

With that, I yield to another Member from Texas.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Thank you very much. It is an honor and a privilege to be here to speak about the value our local broadcasters bring to our communities.

I am a long-time radio guy. At 15 years old, I started hanging around the radio station and ended up getting a job there through high school and college and have worked on and off in radio ever since.

I can tell you, our local broadcasters are such a value to our community. We have got a market now with all sorts of new technology for people to get music and entertainment—there is satellite radio; there is the Internet; there is Pandora—but nothing compares to what the local broadcasters can bring. Actually, all this competition, I think,

is bringing a resurgence to local broadcasters. You are going away from lots of syndicated programs to more locally created programs that are more in tune to the needs of the community than something coming out from a central location piped over a satellite.

You have got great opportunities. Local businesses now have more opportunities to advertise, targeting local audiences. You have got news departments that are beginning a resurgence in local radio and television stations as people realize they need local news in addition to the national news. And in times of an emergency, nobody comes to the aid of a community like the broadcast facilities. Typically, they will suspend programming in the event of a hurricane or some other disaster. It is your first source for information, where you can go to get fresh water, other disaster and emergency aid. It really brings out the best.

Local broadcasters are committed to their community. Much like people who run for elected office, in order to get people to know you, to like you, to listen to you, and to watch you on a TV station, they have got to be out in the community, too. They have got to be at the local events, the chamber of commerce events. They have got to sponsor the charitable events. Broadcasters I know spend and donate millions of dollars in airtime just to support local charities and community activities. It is the backbone of America.

We have got to be careful up here in Washington. We have got lots of stuff on our agenda here that could potentially adversely affect broadcasters. We have got to strike the right balance.

We have got copyright reform on the agenda. We have got to find the right balance, where content creators are properly compensated for their creative works but broadcasters aren't penalized such that they have got to shut down news departments or lay off employees in order to meet those demands. We have got to make sure that we have got licensing and the Communications Act reformed.

Our Communications Act is very old. We have got to take a look at it and bring it into the 21st century. But we have got to be careful that we don't cripple our local broadcasters, many of whom live in the communities and are valuable parts of the community and are basically, in some cases, the heartbeat of the community.

I do want to reiterate that I think we are at a time where we really can see a resurgence in local broadcasting, local content, the return of more full service. It is not just wall-to-wall hits on the radio now.

In order to garner a market competing with XM, our local folks have to be out in the community. They have to be out with live remotes. They have got to be at community events. They have got to be bringing local news and

local content and stuff that is relevant to people's lives. They have done it for decades, and it is really great to see that resurgence and to be a part of it. It is a great time for broadcasters in America right now.

Mr. CRAMER. If the gentleman from Texas would yield, you raised an important point that I hadn't thought about that is sort of natural and obvious, and that is, if you are going to be a good local broadcaster, obviously you have to be a good local citizen.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Absolutely. You have got to be out at the events. You have got to say "yes" to the folks that come in and say: Could you give us a public service announcement for our cancer walk? Could you give us a public service announcement for our whatever event?

The community bulletin boards that you used to hear on the radio all the time are coming back, and that is something XM or satellite providers just can't do.

□ 1745

Sure, they are getting the technology to localize some of the ads by downloading them into your devices. But it is not like the local broadcaster who is a part of the community.

Mr. CRAMER. You raise very important points.

Again, I appreciate the reminder that, while we are, today, educating, informing, and celebrating local broadcasting, it is at risk; that we can take our eye off the ball, that we can assume or presume some things and wake up one day and find out that when that accident happens on the railroad tracks or the storm is coming that suddenly there is nobody there to tell us about it.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. You need somebody that has a local news presence. You don't need somebody that has to bring a satellite truck in from a few hundred miles away and can't get there immediately. Sure, The Weather Channel will send Jim Cantore down. I think they want to kill him because they send him to all the dangerous locations. But he doesn't know the community like the local weathercaster.

We have got Dale Nelson in Corpus Christi. He has been doing the weather on our NBC affiliate. We jokingly call him "Dead Wrong Dale." What other profession can you be in besides being a TV meteorologist and get it wrong half the time and still keep a job? But Dale knows the community, and he gets it right a whole lot more than he gets it wrong. We just like to rib him. But he knows the places that are going to flood. He knows the areas in the neighborhoods that are most susceptible to damage. Those out-of-town reporters don't.

The members of the media in local broadcasting are citizens of the community, and what they do improves the

lives of everybody in the community. They know the people. They shop at the grocery store with the folks. Their children are in school in the community. They know what is going on, and they can reflect what is going on and can react to what is going on in the community and really be a valuable asset for good.

Mr. CRAMER. Well, you are a very articulate spokesman and advocate on behalf of local broadcasting, and I appreciate your taking the time and your expertise. By the way, you did pose it in the form of a question. I suppose some people can look at Congress and say: There is a group that can be wrong more than half the time and keep their jobs too. But at any rate, I have noticed that if you stay in good contact through your broadcast community with your constituents that helps as well.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. I appreciate your yielding the time and organizing this wonderful Special Order.

Mr. CRAMER. Well, it is very important because as I said, Mr. Speaker, at the beginning, over 600 broadcasters are in town today calling on the Members of Congress, calling on us, reminding us of the important role that they play in public safety, in public information, in public service, in many ways, in many ways, not just in delivering the news, weather, and sports and being active in our communities and elevating those important causes that make for a quality community, contributing their talent, contributing their, of course, their broadcast spectrum, which is really the people's. I think that is really an important point that we sometimes forget—that there is a reason that broadcasters have this legal obligation to public service because the people own the airwaves, and we rent them, if you will.

It is important that broadcasters and Congress stay in close touch because, as the gentleman from Texas pointed out, this is a fragile relationship, and we can sometimes take them for granted while presuming that there will always be other ways to communicate when we know, in fact, that when the lights go out, when the electricity goes off, when a storm hits, whatever the case may be, as long as you have a car radio and a good battery, or you have a battery-operated radio and the broadcasters are on the air, you can always get that information from your local, reliable, familiar, friendly broadcasters.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time and I appreciate my colleagues from both sides of the aisle from across our country who have taken the time today to help inform, educate, and celebrate the American broadcaster.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the invaluable service that local

broadcasters bring to North Carolina's 8th Congressional district.

From coverage on the most serious issues facing our communities to commentary on local sports teams, we often turn to our local television and radio stations to provide us with timely and relevant news coverage.

Just this week, North Carolina experienced a winter storm that impacted my constituents. It was local broadcasters who were there to deliver emergency communications, weather forecasts, tips on staying safe, and information regarding school closures.

Time and time again, the tireless efforts of our local broadcasting teams produce in-depth reporting that keeps citizens informed on a variety of topics that are important to their lives.

They often lead the way in generosity in our communities and encourage citizens to lend a helping hand to their fellow neighbor.

It is an honor to extend these remarks thanking the local broadcasters in North Carolina's 8th Congressional district for their service to our communities.

THE FUTURE FORUM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ALLEN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, tonight is the inaugural Special Order hour of the Future Forum. Today young people across America are asking themselves how they are going to afford their education. And if they are even lucky enough to get an education, how they are going to be able to afford to pay off that education, how they are going to find a well-paying job that can help them pay off that education, buy their first home, start a family, and send their own kids to school. That is the issue that the Future Forum is going to address. We are going to address this issue, the American Dream of homeownership, and something very important to millennials, diversity and equality.

Millennials make up about 75 million people of the American population. It is the most diverse generation in America's history. We believe in the Future Forum that we are uniquely suited for this because we are a part of the future too, and it is time that the party of the future starts talking to the future. We will be taking time on the House floor and at events around the country to meet with and listen to younger Americans about how we in government can better ensure that younger Americans have the opportunities that will allow them not only to dream but to achieve. This is a two-way conversation. We will use technology and a collaborative approach in our communications and in our outreach.

Our policy priorities are very simple: college access and affordability, job security and entrepreneurship, and

equality and diversity. Many of the members of the Future Forum were called to public service because of what happened on September 11. A recent Center for American Progress survey found that the defining issue for millennials is September 11.

As I stand in this well, we are just 3 days from the Department of Homeland Security being shut down. I have invited members of the Future Forum to share their own personal story about how they were called to service and what homeland security means to them and their constituents.

I would first like to invite down a freshman Member. I yield time to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE).

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the previous speaker for exercising tremendous leadership in helping to forge this, the Future Forum. I am proud to join him in being a founding member of this important caucus, one that I hope will go out and touch the lives of many young people throughout the country.

In having a conversation with the previous speaker about what brought him to public service and what brought me to public service, I was relaying my personal story, and that happened to involve September 11. I was not one of the heroes by any means, just one of the ordinary Americans working in the private sector straight out of college, attempting to pay off a ton of student loans, and right here in the Washington, D.C., area, just a couple miles from the Pentagon, that bright blue-skied beautiful morning when the world suddenly changed.

Mark Twain had said a long time ago that America's two best friends in the world are Miss Atlantic and Mr. Pacific. September 11, 2001, proved that that was no longer the case, that we were not a separate fortress unto ourselves and completely removed from the problems around the world. That was, as the previous speaker mentioned, such an important event in my life and in the lives of so many people in their thirties and younger.

As a member of this September 11 generation, I decided right then that I would devote my life to public service. The very next year, actually, on September 11, 2002, I began my graduate program in public policy and embarked on a path that about 14 years later has led here to serving in the Halls of the House of Representatives, attempting to make a difference, solve problems, and do so on a bipartisan basis.

I know there are many people on the other side of the aisle, good Republicans, who feel the same way I do; that we can have our legitimate debates, that we can have our debates on public policy, but that when it comes, of all things, to the security of the American people, we need to put the nonsense

aside and actually focus on protecting our people.

So, Mr. Speaker, when we had come down here and planned to speak about the Future Forum, I had expected that my speech would be about the student loan debt crisis, something that is deeply affecting our generation, a generation that is more indebted than any other in our Nation's history. But, instead, we are here to talk about the fact we are just 3 days away from seeing the Department of Homeland Security completely shut down, seeing the furloughing of 35,000 employees of the Department of Homeland Security.

On the very same day that information was released, three American citizens attempted to join ISIS, which should be called Daesh, the so-called Islamic State, who truly are evil and would do whatever they could to harm any one of the 310 million of us living in this country.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I would ask the gentleman from Pennsylvania, you talk about your call to service and after September 11, and you think back to that day, and I don't know if you remember, but I remember Members of Congress, Republicans and Democrats, standing on the stairs of the Capitol, on the steps of the Capitol and singing "God Bless America" and "America the Beautiful." It was such a moment of collaboration. Every day since that day, up until now, homeland security and our Nation's security has always been about collaboration and bipartisanship. I just wonder, to hear that the Department of Homeland Security could be shutting down, hearkening back to what you thought about collaboration back then, does that gel, is that the collaboration that you had in mind and you always thought of around our Nation's security?

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. The gentleman asks a great question. Actually it is the exact opposite of the sort of spirit that was invoked on September 11. I remember seeing the pictures of—I believe it was a spontaneous gathering of both Democratic and Republican Members serving in Congress at that time who came together on the Capitol steps to sing "God Bless America."

I think it is a sad commentary that just a decade and a half later that we are here at an incredibly dangerous time, mind you, in some ways actually more dangerous than the days immediately following September 11, and instead of talking about how we can come together in an overwhelmingly bipartisan fashion, pass this what should be noncontroversial bill to fund our Department of Homeland Security, the fact that we are right here caught up in a partisan fight over this is deeply disappointing and does not at all jibe with the spirit of September 11, and I think the spirit of a generation

that was called to serve in the wake of those events.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. TED LIEU), someone who has served our country not just in California's Legislature and not just in the Congress but also in our armed services, and is currently serving in the Air Force Reserves.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, let me start off by saying elections have consequences. I respect the American voter. I respect what the voters in our Nation did last November when they gave Republicans control of the United States Senate and control of the U.S. House of Representatives. My sincere plea and request to my Republican colleagues across the aisle who control Congress is: Please do not shut down the Department of Homeland Security.

The Republican leader in the U.S. Senate is now poised to delink the issue of funding for security for our homeland from immigration reform. I hope my colleagues across the aisle will do the same. That is because immigration reform has very little to nothing to do with protecting our homeland. I would love to have a debate on immigration reform. I think we need to do that. I would love to vote for bills on immigration reform. But they are not linked to funding for Homeland Security.

Let me just give you an example. Let's talk about DREAMers who came as children to our Nation and who can serve in the United States military. I served in Active Duty in the Air Force, and I am still in the Reserves. So DREAMers can serve in the U.S. military. To say that we are going to deport them because they are a homeland security risk and we are not going to fund Homeland Security because of that is ridiculous. There is no reason to link those two issues. If you don't like DREAMers, if you want to deport DREAMers, fine. Let's have a debate on that. But they are not a homeland security risk. To link these two issues doesn't make any sense. The Republican leader in the United States Senate has figured that out. I hope that this House does it as well.

There are some grave consequences to this. In my State of California alone, nearly 27,000 employees of Homeland Security will either be furloughed or will get no pay and cannot come to work.

□ 1800

These folks are folks that protect our homeland. It is unacceptable that this is going to happen.

The other way Homeland Security works is they provide grants to local first responders across the Nation to law enforcement, to firefighters. On Friday, if Homeland Security shuts down, those grants stop, and these local responders stop.

This is a very real issue, and we, in Congress, our first priority is to protect the American public. Shutting down Homeland Security will be the exact opposite of that. I really hope that the Republicans who control both Houses do not shut down Homeland Security.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. I also wonder, Mr. Speaker, what the gentleman from California thinks, as somebody who is serving in the Reserves right now and serving shoulder to shoulder with some young DREAMers, what would it do to the morale of the ranks if DREAMers who are putting themselves on the front lines, willing to go serve the country they call their own, the United States, in battle, if the House GOP had their way and those DREAMers were removed and deported from our country?

What would that do to the morale of our troops?

Mr. TED LIEU of California. That is a great question. Let me just explain a little bit what are some of the professions that the DREAMers do in the military.

Because of their language skills, the U.S. military needs some of these language skills, so that the U.S. military knows what these terrorists are doing in other parts of the world.

To have the language skills that DREAMers possess, that is one reason that we have them serve in the U.S. military. They have a direct effect on trying to prevent terrorist attacks into our homeland. To say that "we are not going to fund Homeland Security because we want to deport you" is ridiculous.

Mr. POLIS. Will the gentleman yield for another question?

There are a few categories that the DREAMers are able to serve in the military. You mention their language talent.

As somebody who, himself, is in the military, don't you think we are missing out on a lot of potential among kids that have already gone through the DACA program, but we are still not admitting as regular enlistees or no less given the chance to become officers?

I know a kid in my district, his whole life, he wanted to be in the military. He didn't even find out that he wasn't American until he was 15. He went through DACA, he did everything right, and they are still not letting him join the military.

What kind of talent are we missing out on by not letting these DACA kids enlist in the regular manner?

Mr. TED LIEU of California. That is a fantastic question. Having now been in the military for 19 years, it is very clear that their main criteria for military service is: Can you complete the mission?

How good you are at completing the mission has nothing to do with whether

or not you have a piece of paper that says if you are documented or not. The U.S. military is losing out on a significant amount of talent, people who otherwise would do great things for our military to protect our homeland and so on.

Again, it makes very little to no sense to link these two issues, which really shouldn't be linked; really, that is what this is all about. Let's just have separate debates on both issues. The U.S. Senate is about to do that.

I hope the House can do that as well.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. I thank the gentleman from California.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite to join our conversation another freshman Member from Massachusetts, somebody who has also served our country very honorably in the Marines, SETH MOULTON.

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. SWALWELL.

I think our Republican colleagues have a point, which is that we need to have a debate about immigration. This is an issue facing our country, it is a serious issue, and in many respects, it has reached crisis proportions. We need to talk about it, we need to have that debate, but it cannot be at the expense of our Nation's security.

I just returned from a weeklong trip to the Middle East—to Iraq, to Afghanistan, to the UAE, to Kuwait, and to Jordan—to try to understand the situation on the ground and especially the threat that ISIL or Daesh poses to the United States of America.

I can tell you that that threat is serious and severe. There are those who think that this will just be a Middle Eastern problem, that it won't ever come to infect our homeland. I don't share that view. I think it is a serious threat. ISIL has brutally killed Americans abroad and made clear their intentions to kill Americans here at home.

That is the kind of protection from threats like that that the Department of Homeland Security provides. We cannot put our Nation's security at risk for a debate that is critical, that needs to happen, but that is separate from keeping Americans safe.

Our most sacred responsibility as Members of Congress is to protect our homeland. Right now, the partisan brinksmanship around funding the Department of Homeland Security is putting that safety at risk.

I served my country for four tours in Iraq. I was proud to serve, I was proud to go every time, but I don't want to see Americans have to keep going back to that part of the world because we can't provide for our security here at home.

We have a lot of work to do in this Congress, and a lot of it requires bipartisan cooperation. Immigration is one of those issues. It is an issue that we need to debate on the floor of the House.

We need to take up the Senate bill for comprehensive immigration reform, debate its merits, and decide whether it does enough to ensure the safety of our borders and the future of those who aspire to be Americans, but none of that should happen at the expense of our Nation's security.

The crisis that we are facing today is the result of partisan politics that places the safety and the lives of the American people at risk.

Last week I returned from a trip to the Middle East, and I learned that the threat of a terrorist attack on the United States is real. Terrorist organizations including ISIL pose a serious national security threat and have made clear their intentions to commit acts of terrorism both abroad and here at home.

Our number one responsibility as members of Congress is to prevent that from happening and keep Americans safe.

Holding hostage the funding for the Department of Homeland Security over the President's executive action on immigration is a disservice to the men and women who put their lives on the line everyday both at home and abroad to protect us all.

There is no doubt that Congress needs to address immigration reform. It is an issue that is deserving of a debate and I look forward to participating in that discussion with both Democrats and Republicans. However, attaching immigration policy to this appropriations legislation is simply irresponsible and hijacks the intellectual debate that should take place on this Floor.

If you disagree with the President's actions, then let's have that debate.

However, with such threats to the security of the American people, now is not the time to play political games with an agency that is charged with protecting the homeland from acts of terrorism.

If Congress fails to fund the Department of Homeland Security, agencies and grant programs critical to the safety of Americans will no longer be able to carry out the responsibilities that they were created to uphold, including the TSA, U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the United States Coast Guard. 85% of all enlisted Coast Guard personnel do not live on base—they cannot afford to miss a rent or mortgage payment on their homes. Many Americans don't realize this, but not only are Coast Guardsmen important to the safety of fishermen in my home state of Massachusetts and to all coastal states, but they are also deployed globally alongside our military in support of critical national security missions.

When I was in Iraq, I needed to focus on the mission. For Coast Guard personnel performing high-risk drug cartel interdictions or patrolling the Persian Gulf, we needed their 100% focus on the mission at hand. So last summer when an Iranian boat aimed a 50 caliber machine gun at American Coast Guardsmen deployed in international waters in the Persian Gulf, those are the American men and women in harm's way who would still be required to put their lives on the line despite not receiving a paycheck so that their families at home can put food on the table and pay rent.

In my home state of Massachusetts, we recently experienced a series of historic snow

storms that resulted in record-breaking snow accumulation and caused millions of dollars in damages to homes, business and roadways. Without the support of funding from FEMA, Massachusetts will have to bear the brunt of the clean-up and repair costs in spite of the likelihood that Massachusetts will be eligible for federal disaster aid relief.

Further, failure to pass an appropriations bill for DHS would furlough or deny payment to the 4,735 law enforcement officials, disaster response officials and many other homeland security personnel in Massachusetts.

Republicans know that the right thing to do is to fund the department. This is why, earlier today, the Senate passed a clean bill to fund the department.

This is not a partisan issue. This is an American issue. I implore the Republicans to have the debate on immigration, and have it soon. Talk about our differences there, but let's not put our citizens, our country, and our allies at risk by holding funding for the Department of Homeland Security hostage.

I'd like to thank my friend from California again for the opportunity to speak this evening.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Actually, I have a question for the gentleman from Massachusetts. I know you are active on social media, I follow you, and I see you are very in touch with your constituents, particularly those on social media.

I am wondering: What are you hearing from young people about the House GOP's inability to fund the Department of Homeland Security? What do young people think about the inability to separate an important immigration issue, as you talked about, and something so critical and as important as homeland security?

Mr. MOULTON. What I hear from young people is they want the Congress to get things done for the American people. Our job is to come here and debate the important issues of the day, but, ultimately, it is to get things accomplished, it is to pass bills, it is to make laws, it is to fund important institutions of our government.

What people say is they want us to get it done. They want us to have that debate on immigration reform, they want us to do that, too, but they need funding for the Department of Homeland Security.

My generation has grown up under the threat that we came to face on September 11. Many of my friends were in New York on that perilous day and watched the planes crash into the World Trade Center towers. It is a remarkable testament to the success of the Department of Homeland Security that, over the past decade, we have not had another attack. It is a remarkable achievement. We should not put that achievement at risk.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts, and I invite to join the conversation a leader in our party, someone who serves on the House Rules Com-

mittee and also the House Appropriations Committee, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS).

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for getting this time for this important message and to just talk with people. That is really what this body, at its very best, does: we talk amongst ourselves, we solve problems.

What you are hearing about today, namely, that we are 3 days away from shutting down our own national security, is an example of this body not solving a problem—in fact, causing a problem.

You think: Who is causing this? Why is our security going to shut down in 3 days? Who is doing this? Who is shutting down the Department of Homeland Security?

The sad answer is that we are doing it to ourselves. There is no reason for this manufactured crisis.

I want to share my story from 9/11. 9/11 is something that, in our generation, we all remember where we were. It is like the Kennedy assassination or like the Moon landing. Everybody knows exactly where they were and what they were doing when we heard about the Twin Towers.

I was at a conference near Washington, D.C., here. Like anybody who was near one of the sites, it was scary because we didn't know what was going on. The rumor was: all planes are flying into buildings, we are under attack.

They thought there were bombs at one point. It was a madhouse to try to escape the area and get out of the city. We drove all the way back to Colorado, and I never got to see what was happening to the towers in realtime or the immediate aftermath because, for the next 25 hours, I was just listening to it on the radio in the car, and my friend and I took turns driving.

That was a unique moment when people came together. It didn't matter if you were Democrat or Republican. Our petty differences melted by the wayside as we came together around a national response.

In many ways, it is sad to see our Nation go back to those same kind of partisan divisions which, unfortunately, reduce our national security. When we are talking about the Department of Homeland Security—which I would point out was set up after 9/11. That was set up to ensure that something like 9/11 doesn't happen again.

It coordinated agencies in a new way that didn't occur before, encouraged intelligence sharing among the agencies about domestic threats, and now, a lot of that work is just 3 days away from being defunded over a totally different issue, one that we are happy to talk about, by the way.

I mean, we talk about DREAMers and what a pathway to citizenship could look like and immigration reform and what the President can do

and can't do, and those are all important discussions, and there are many diverse opinions in this body about them.

I would hope nobody with any opinion, no matter how extreme, would hold our national security hostage over this. I am reminded of what one of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle said, disappointed in his own party over this particular strategy.

He said: "Unfortunately, we have taken a hostage that we don't want to shoot." I think that is very much the case. Yes, they are taking our own security of our Nation and the Department of Homeland Security hostage. Do they actually want to shoot that hostage?

Our friends and colleagues on the other side of the aisle, they are not bad people. They believe in protecting our country. I hope they don't go through with it, but they have gotten themselves into this predicament over rhetoric that threatens to jeopardize our national security.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. I would ask my colleague, knowing that, as we speak—and the gentleman from Pennsylvania pointed this out, Mr. BOYLE—three Americans are in custody right now because of their intent and the steps they took to want to join ISIL. As we speak, our enemies are plotting against us.

Although my colleagues across the aisle, the House Republican leadership, wish to shut down the Department of Homeland Security, our enemies do not intend on shutting down their efforts to attack America.

What do you think, knowing that Colorado is home to a large airport, Denver International Airport, what is going to happen to the TSA officers who are charged with detecting these hidden bombs that al Qaeda has put out there that they would like to put on our airliners, detecting people who are trying to come back to the United States after fighting alongside with ISIL, what is this going to mean in places like Denver and across Colorado?

Mr. POLIS. We had a young lady from our district—you mentioned people—we had a young lady from our district, 19, from Lafayette, Colorado, who tried to get over to Turkey and then to Syria to join ISIS.

Fortunately, for her parents, for her family, frankly, for her own life, thanks to the efforts of the Department of Homeland Security, it was interdicted. Her travel plans were detected, and she was detained at the airport and not allowed to join ISIS.

Thank goodness we had the Department of Homeland Security connecting those difficult-to-connect dots. I don't even know how they did it to this day because, obviously, people go to Turkey on tourism all the time, but they used several points of information to

figure out that this young lady was trying to join ISIS, and, thankfully, they were able to return her to her family.

That is the kind of thing that, unfortunately, happens every day across our country. If in 3 days this Congress doesn't take action, we are tying our own hands behind our back in our fight against terrorism, which makes absolutely no sense.

Look, you and I, Mr. SWALWELL, I am sure, were equally passionate about our views on immigration. We would love to see DACA expanded, and I would love to see a pathway to citizenship, but it would never cross my mind, no matter how I want to see those things, that I would shut down the security of the country just to get it.

I think most Americans don't think that way. I mean, here we are as some of the young Members, I think that perhaps some colleagues on the other side are acting even younger, like preschoolers and kindergartners here, where they either get all the toys or they are not letting anybody else play with them.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. We haven't named that generation yet.

Mr. POLIS. We haven't named them yet.

That is the approach here. If they don't get their exact way, well, fine, we are not going to keep the Nation safe. I mean, that just doesn't make sense in any deliberative body, like we all grew up thinking that Congress was the lofty deliberative body.

That just doesn't make sense, that kind of reasoning.

□ 1815

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Thank you, Mr. POLIS.

Mr. SWALWELL, I would just take issue. My wife, as you may know, is a kindergarten teacher and is teaching that generation, and I think she would take issue with you comparing Members of Congress to the kids she teaches. I think she would say the kids she teaches are much better behaved than many of us here in Congress.

But, you know, I do want to just circle back to a point that Mr. POLIS made, Mr. SWALWELL made, a number of the speakers here tonight have made. This is a false choice. We can have the necessary debate on immigration and immigration reform. There has been a great American tradition going back to the very beginning of, on the one hand, praising the immigrants of yesteryear while simultaneously expressing concern about the immigrants of the present day. That was the case in the 1840s and in the 1880s and in the 1920s, and so it is today.

That debate will always be a part of who we are as a nation of immigrants and as a nation of laws. I think that debate needs to happen, and we need to have that here on the floor of the

House, the same way they did in the Senate where they passed the bill with 70 votes on a bipartisan basis.

So let's get to that debate. Let's not allow this sideshow over holding up a Homeland Security bill that I think all of us agree here, all 435 of us agree that we need. These are real, dangerous threats we face, people who actually thought that al Qaeda was not extreme enough so they wanted to go, instead, join an even more murderous, more barbaric group. As the sign that Mr. SWALWELL had up was showing, our enemies are certainly not shutting down their efforts, nor should we.

I do want to ask Mr. SWALWELL a question—and I think this is important whether you are near the Denver Airport or the Philadelphia Airport or the bay area—and that is: What message do you think it sends to ordinary citizens who are looking to their Congress to just get things done and protect them, the people who aren't necessarily strongly ideological one way or the other, who just want to believe that their government can work, what kind of message do you think we are sending to them this week with this sort of behavior?

Mr. SWALWELL of California. It is a message of dysfunction.

And I know Mr. POLIS, just like Mr. MOULTON, is also very much in touch with the doers and DREAMers who are defining the innovation economy, whether it is in the bay area or Colorado or Philadelphia or Boston and Cambridge. These folks, they see the shortest distance between two points as a straight line. They don't see it as a partisan line. They are problem solving by nature, and they can't understand why politics would get in the way of something so simple as funding the Department of Homeland Security.

My own personal September 11 story, as Mr. POLIS was saying, is: I was headed to Capitol Hill that morning. I was an intern for Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher. I remember the gray suit that I was wearing was the one I wore every day at that time as I was wracking up my own student debt. As I got to the Capitol, I was turned around because the building had been evacuated. What I do remember, though, in addition to the color of the suit I wore and the phone call that I got from the staff assistant telling me to go home, I remember those Members of Congress singing "God Bless America."

I remember in the weeks and the months and the years afterwards the bipartisan 9/11 Commission Report. I remember the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, and I felt so honored when I was elected to come to Congress to be asked to serve on the Committee on Homeland Security. I felt so honored in my second term to be asked to serve on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

I cannot believe that just 14 years later, after all this bipartisanship and

collaboration, while every other issue around us seems to be mired in gridlock, we have always agreed that we fund the Department of Homeland Security that was created out of September 11. Today, to think that we are so close to shutting down that Department, it really does defy the collaboration that came out of September 11.

I would ask my colleague from Colorado, who is in the Future Forum, but he is one of the more senior Members of Congress in the Future Forum—I think he is now serving his fourth term—what do you think about the collaboration that we have seen around Homeland Security up until now?

Mr. POLIS. As I like to remind my friend from California, there is not really a strict age limit, per se, of the Future Forum, but I am very proud to still be under the 40 number, at least for another half year.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. We are all in our thirties here.

Mr. POLIS. Good. Good. We are all still in our thirties.

But look, I think that what is happening is that when people of all ages, but particularly young people look at Congress and they look at this kind of thing with, “Well, you, yourselves, are shutting down security?” when they look at that, when they look at when the whole government shut down, again, do we remember why? Not really. I don’t remember why the Republicans shut down government. There wasn’t really a reason. They gave up, and they reopened it. It didn’t make sense. When people see that, they lose faith in this institution; they lose faith in democracy; they lose faith in themselves. We can’t allow that to happen.

The only way for this body to change, for the quality of government to change, is for people to be invested in that change, to have that same sense of solidarity that came after 9/11, not just around disasters, but every day; when it is election day, to make sure to vote; when it is time to write and call your Congressperson, if you have a Congressperson who thinks it is okay to shut down the Department of Homeland Security, call that Congressperson, show up at their town hall meeting. Guess what. It is not okay to play games with our national security.

As my colleague from Pennsylvania pointed out, many kindergartners are more mature than somebody who either wants to have it their way or not at all and to send all the toys home. That is really what we face here in this scenario. I think we have really hit upon one of the reasons that people of all ages, but particularly younger people, are losing faith not just in this institution, but as a part of the democracy it represents and how it really is our role to try and reinfuse that hope in not just, again, the competency of this institution, but the institution of

representative government and the vision that our Founding Fathers put in place through the Constitution.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Thank you, Mr. POLIS.

Something we haven’t really talked too much about yet, and we have alluded to the fact that we are charging these transportation safety officers with detecting these hidden bombs that al Qaeda is determined to put on our airplanes, we are charging the Border Patrol agents to protect our border and make sure that is secure, but if this shutdown happens, they still have to do that job. The threats continue to elevate and escalate, but those employees will not get paid.

I wonder what my colleague from Massachusetts, Mr. MOULTON, someone who flies home, logs a lot of miles going back and forth between Washington and his district, flying into Logan, you look those transportation safety officers in the eye every week when you are coming to Washington and getting off the plane in Boston, what is the morale going to be among our TSA workforce, among our Border Patrol workforce if they still have to do the job as the threats escalate but we are not going to pay them?

Mr. MOULTON. Thank you, Mr. SWALWELL.

There is no question that their morale and their mission effectiveness will be hurt. In fact, it will hurt my own morale because I am very proud to serve in the United States Congress, but I am not going to be proud to walk through that security gate and have to look them in the eye when they recognize that I am partly responsible, as a Member of this body, for not giving them the basic pay that they need for their families.

You know, another element of the Department of Homeland Security is the U.S. Coast Guard, and many of us know that the U.S. Coast Guard protects our shores. I represent the fishing community of Gloucester north of Boston, and Gloucester has gone through some hard times and has often had to rely on the Coast Guard to save its fishermen in the worst storms. Those Coast Guardsmen not only protect fishermen in Gloucester. They also work with our military and Department of Defense overseas. There are Coast Guardsmen and -women stationed in the Middle East today.

Can you imagine having to do such a difficult mission, to be in the Persian Gulf defending American ships against the threat of an Iranian attack and yet not knowing whether your rent will be paid back at home? That is an unacceptable risk for us to take, and it is an unacceptable burden for us to ask them to bear. You are absolutely right, sir, this is going to severely impact their morale. When morale is impacted, it hurts their ability to do this incredibly important job.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. While the workers are going to still have to do the job and not get paid, much of the Department will shut down, and an important part that will shut down will be Department of Homeland Security grants.

I have had the opportunity in just the last few weeks to go and visit about a half dozen firehouses. I call them firehouse chats. I just pop in and meet with the brave men and women who are serving as firefighters in our community. If this shutdown happens, for example, we will see all of the assistance to firefighters’ grants stopped. So the men and women who are responding to car accidents, building fires, God forbid, if a terrorist attack occurred, the people who are going to run into the burning buildings, who rely upon these grants to hire firefighters, to give them the equipment they need, that is all going to be stopped.

So I am wondering if you have heard in your district or if you have talked to your law enforcement and public safety officials about the grants they depend upon and what it would mean if that funding just went cold.

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. It would be, in a word, devastating.

I am proud of the fact that a part of the district I represent is the city of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Fire Department, one of the largest and oldest in our Nation, also a number of volunteer fire departments in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. There are so many of them around the country. To put them in this position is just deeply unfair.

I am also thinking, as I am looking to my friend to the right, fellow freshman, Mr. MOULTON, he happens to be from Massachusetts. They right now are devastated with mountains of snow that fortunately most of us in the rest of the country, while we have had snow, not nearly the way they have had it in New England. It is important to note that a number of those who work in FEMA are the officials who receive those grant applications, those emergency applications that so many in Massachusetts and Vermont and other parts of New England and other parts of the country are applying for right now because they have been so overstretched, given this incredible winter that we have had and record breaking in terms of snow. So they can keep on doing the applications and applying for assistance. The only problem is, come Saturday, we shut down the Department of Homeland Security, there will be no one on the other end to receive them.

I want to make one final point, and I think that this really strikes at the heart of why we are here and why the Future Forum was created.

This is my first year in the House. I might end up serving one term, might

end up serving 10, who knows? For anyone who serves here, they all talk about the fact that it goes by extremely quickly. We, right now, are Members of a body with an approval rating of approximately 9 percent. I don't want to dedicate my life to public service in an area that is so poorly regarded by the American people. That is not something I want to do. I don't think that is something that other Members on the other side want to do.

It is important to our American democracy that whatever your ideology may be, whatever political positions you may have, we have to show the American people that their institutions of government can work. The American people, the overwhelming majority of Democrats and Republicans, have lost confidence in us, in all of us. I don't think this kind of a political fight, frankly, benefits either side. I think it is only a race to who loses less. We can end this now. Let's do the responsible thing, the mature thing, the right thing. Fund Homeland Security, and then get on to the important debates that we must be having.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. That is right, Mr. BOYLE. Mr. MOULTON talked about this. We are taking an issue—immigration—that there are two sharply different sides on in this House, and that is fine. That debate needs to happen. Most people on our side, almost everyone on our side wants a pathway to citizenship. But that debate must happen.

Because of that debate, what we are seeing is the one issue that we have always agreed on since the Department of Homeland Security was created is now as divisive as the immigration issue, meaning that the Republicans would like to politicize an issue that has always had bipartisan support and make that just as divisive as they have made the immigration issue. I think that is, frankly, unfortunate.

Mr. MOULTON, I would invite you to close here on just your overall perspective on why we should or should not tie immigration to Department of Homeland Security funding.

Mr. MOULTON. Thank you, Mr. SWALWELL.

You are absolutely right, because immigration is a debate that we need to have. It is a national security debate in and of itself. We cannot hold the Department of Homeland Security hostage to that debate. It needs to occur. We ought to have that debate. We ought to have it here on the floor of the House. But our most sacred responsibility and the present threat here is to make sure that our people are safe.

□ 1830

I want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania, my friend and colleague, Mr. BOYLE, for bringing up the issue of FEMA grants. We have been faced with unprecedented snowfall in Massachu-

setts, and it has put our first responders to the test. They are providing for the security of the people of Massachusetts right now, and we are all banding together to make sure that we get the FEMA grants that we need and deserve. In fact, it is a great example of a crisis that is bringing Republicans and Democrats together. The Democratic delegation of Massachusetts is working hand in hand with our Republican Governor to make sure that we get these applications in so that we can get this funding that we desperately need. Yet that is all going to grind to a halt if the Department of Homeland Security is not funded.

Right here, today, we can see the effects that failing to fund the Department, shutting it down, will have. Even worse would be if we had to see the effects of another attack on our homeland. Having been to the Middle East in the past week, having seen the unprecedented challenges that our first responders face at home, we cannot afford to put our Nation's security at risk. All of the young people out there—those who are our age in the Future Forum—want a government that works. They want a government they can believe in, and they want a government that will make them safe.

Let's pass a clean funding bill. Let's fund the Department of Homeland Security. And let's show the American people that our Congress can do its job.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts. I thank my colleagues from California, Colorado, and from Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, I will close by saying, as Mr. MOULTON alluded to, our principal responsibility can be found in, literally, the first sentence of the Constitution, which is: We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union . . . to provide for the common defense of the United States.

There is no agency that has a harder job or a job that is more important in protecting our homeland than the Department of Homeland Security. We should be here today, on our first evening of the Future Forum, talking about the rising amount of student debt that millennials carry. We should be here today talking about how hard it is to get a job if you are a young person and if you have just finished college. We should be here today talking about how hard it is to buy a home if you are carrying all of this student debt. We should be talking about the need for diversity and about having a pathway to citizenship for immigration.

Instead, bizarrely, we are here talking about the real possibility that the Department of Homeland Security, created out of a bipartisan coalition in the early 2000s, could shut down and leave us more vulnerable.

I hope that our better angels will guide us. I hope that the spirit that those House Members had when they stood on the steps of the Capitol after September 11 prevails, that we work more collaboratively, and that we remember, at the end of the day, we are charged with protecting the people.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

THE PRESIDENT'S CONSTITUTIONAL OVERREACH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. JOLLY) for 30 minutes.

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to address the House this evening, and I appreciate the opportunity to continue the conversation that was started by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle tonight.

Listen, there is a future in this body that, hopefully, is going to look a lot different than what it has looked like in past decades. I would fully concur that government should work and that we should keep the government open, but we must also defend the Constitution, and that is the paradox that we are faced with this week. I rise with some frustration from my side of the aisle and from what I have seen from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle in recent days.

I have seen speeches upon speeches upon speeches about a partial shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security. I have seen big signs in the well of this House, scaring the American people about a potential partial shutdown. I have seen press conferences across the country, including in my hometown of the Tampa Bay area, scaring the American people about something that has not yet happened. Recognize that all of these speeches, all of these signs are coming not from members of our community, not from the people who elected us; these speeches, these signs—the “sky is falling” mentality—are coming from our elected leaders, from Members of this body.

Why does that matter? Why do I rise tonight to continue the conversation started by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle?

It is this: all we are hearing are speeches, and all we are seeing are signs. We are not hearing solutions.

To this entire body—to both sides of the aisle—our constitutional authority was infringed upon when the President

signed his executive order. That is not a partisan issue. We have a responsibility to confront that constitutional overreach. Yes, one mechanism we used to do that was the power of the purse. That is a fundamental power of this body, the power of the purse, and it was appropriate that we responded to the President's unconstitutional overreach by exercising our constitutional privilege, that of the appropriations process.

Here is what I would point out to the American people tonight about the speeches that they hear from my friends and colleagues on the other side of the aisle. Recognize something very important: what is being presented in the midst of this debate over the constitutional overreach of the President is merely an "all or nothing" approach. It is either we pass a clean bill—and as the leader on the other side said, he will deliver 188 votes if we pass a clean bill—or it is nothing. Friends, colleagues, that is not legislating. That is using the bully pulpit. That is politics. That is not legislating.

So what I would ask tonight is: Where are the solutions? Where is the conviction on the other side of the aisle? Where are the efforts to pass a bill that accommodates all Members of this body, Members on the other side, and, yes, something the President can sign?

You see, I am actually a Member of Congress who thinks that the first priority of this body is to fund the government and to fund the Department of Homeland Security. I am looking to work with colleagues on the other side of the aisle to say: How do we do that? We have a responsibility to do that.

I have three Coast Guard installations in my district. They are men and women—it is absolutely true what is talked about—who will have to go to work on Saturday morning with only the promise to be paid later. That is wrong. That is a failure of this Congress if we let that happen.

We do have until Friday evening to solve this, and I believe we will, but I am asking, actually, for accommodation and cooperation from the other side of the aisle. What will it take? What will it take?

Think about this: Rather than putting signs on the floor, rather than condemning our side of the aisle for trying to respond to the constitutional overreach of the President, what if we talk about provisions that will actually build consensus and get a majority of this body, regardless of Republican, Democrat, Independent—whoever you are—to fund the Department of Homeland Security and to also respond to the constitutional overreach of the President? I think we can get there.

Do you know what I have never heard from the other side of the aisle? I have never heard: What if we remove the funding prohibition in the original

House bill that prohibited the implementation, the further exercise, of DACA? They criticized it. If we remove it, does that get us the votes to pass a bill?

I understand there is disagreement over the President's executive order from last September. I think it was wrong. Members on the other side don't. A Federal judge has said it is unconstitutional. The President of the United States said over 20 times he didn't have the authority to do it. Yet he did it. What if we allowed 6 months to let the courts work their will? It is perfectly reasonable.

If you are a Member of this Congress who stood up on opening day and took the oath to defend and protect the Constitution of the United States, to defend and protect the obligation of your office, why don't we agree upon a 6-month delay in the implementation of the President's executive order, an executive order a Federal judge has already put a hold on? Does that get us there? Does that get us the votes necessary?

What my colleagues on the other side of the aisle tonight said is absolutely true: Congress should work, Congress should govern. The American people should expect that of all of us.

It doesn't matter our partisan affiliations, but it does matter whether or not we truly exercise the convictions about which we pontificate on the floor here tonight. It is not about signs. It is not about the bully pulpit. It is not about press conferences.

Any Member who stands up here tonight, Republican or Democrat, and says that we will be worse off as a nation on Friday night if we have not funded the Department of Homeland Security is absolutely right. We must fund the government. But where is the effort on the other side of the aisle to actually reach a compromise? It is not there.

I promise you that I have watched my colleagues from the time I got here this week—every speech. The leader on the other side of the aisle made an impassioned speech about the importance of funding Homeland Security, and he is right.

My question is this: When will you abandon your "all or nothing" approach? Because exactly what you criticize this side of the aisle for is exactly the type of behavior that my colleagues on the other side are engaging in as well. We have failed the American people if we let that lack of cooperation overtake this body and lead us off a cliff on Friday night.

The question to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle is: Who is willing to step forward with a proposal that gets us there as a body?

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time this evening. I look forward to ensuring that our Department of Homeland Security is fully funded come Friday night.

I yield back the balance of my time.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO CUBA AND OF THE EMERGENCY AUTHORITY RELATING TO THE REGULATION OF THE ANCHORAGE AND MOVEMENT OF VESSELS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 114-12)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the national emergency declared on March 1, 1996, with respect to the Government of Cuba's destruction of two unarmed U.S.-registered civilian aircraft in international airspace north of Cuba on February 24, 1996, as amended and expanded on February 26, 2004, is to continue in effect beyond March 1, 2015.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 25, 2015.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 42 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2156

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. VALADAO) at 9 o'clock and 56 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5, STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

Ms. FOXX, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-29) on the resolution (H. Res. 125) providing for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5) to support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local

authority, inform parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. WILSON of Florida (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business with POTUS.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 57 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, February 26, 2015, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

537. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Clothianidin; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0253; FRL-9919-59] received February 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

538. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's Direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Ohio; PSD Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2008 Lead, 2008 Ozone, 2010 NO₂, and 2010 SO₂ NAAQS [EPA-R05-OAR-2011-0888; EPA-R05-OAR-2011-0969; EPA-R05-OAR-2012-0991; EPA-R05-OAR-2013-0435; FRL-9923-48-Region 5] received February 28, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

539. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's Direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Ohio; Transportation Conformity [EPA-R05-OAR-2014-0662; FRL-9923-45-Region 5] received February 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

540. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Mississippi; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R04-OAR-2012-0698; FRL-9923-55-Region 4] received February 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

541. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; South Carolina; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 8-

Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R04-OAR-2012-0694; FRL-9923-56-Region 4] received February 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

542. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's Direct final rule — Direct Final Approval of Other Solid Waste Incineration Units State Plan for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Indiana [EPA-R05-OAR-2009-0554; FRL-9923-35-Region 5] received February 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

543. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Implementation of the 2008 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone: State Implementation Plan Requirements [EPA-HQ-OAR-2010-0885; FRL-9917-29-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AR34) received February 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

544. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's Direct final rule — National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Delegation of Authority to Oklahoma [EPA-R06-OAR-2008-0063; FRL-9923-22-Region 6] received February 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

545. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's Direct final rule — New Source Performance Standards and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Delegation of Authority to Louisiana [EPA-R06-OAR-2010-1054; FRL-9923-11-Region 6] received February 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

546. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's Direct final rule — Promulgation of State Air Quality Implementation Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants: Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming; Negative Declarations; Control of Emissions from Existing Sewage Sludge Incineration Units [EPA-R08-OAR-2014-0811; FRL-9923-40-Region 8] received February 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

547. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Protection System Maintenance Reliability Standard [Docket No.: RM14-8-000; Order No.: 803] received February 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

548. A letter from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Sudanese Sanctions Regulations received February 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

549. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2015 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Re-

sources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic [Docket No.: 001005281-0369-02] (RIN: 0648-XD709) received February 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

550. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) Out Performance Requirements To Support Air Traffic Control (ATC) Service; Technical Amendment [Docket No.: FAA-2007-29305; Amdt. No.: 91-334] (RIN: 2120-A192) received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

551. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's Immediately adopted final rule — Removal of Special Federal Aviation Regulation No. 87 — Prohibition Against Certain Flights Within the Territory and Airspace of Ethiopia [Docket No.: FAA-2000-7360; Amdt. No.: 91-335] (RIN: 2120-AK59) received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

552. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Seaway Regulations and Rules: Periodic Update, Various Categories (2135-AA36) received February 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

553. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0146; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-243-AD; Amendment 39-18094; AD 2015-02-25] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

554. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0750; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-147-AD; Amendment 39-18097; AD 2015-03-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

555. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0079; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-091-AD; Amendment 39-18085; AD 2015-02-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

556. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0624; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-005-AD; Amendment 39-18072; AD 2015-02-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

557. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-

2014-0142; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-161-AD; Amendment 39-18093; AD 2015-02-24] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

558. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Technify Motors GmbH (Type Certificate Previously Held by Thielert Aircraft Engines GmbH) Reciprocating Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2010-0683; Directorate Identifier 2010-NE-25-AD; Amendment 39-18065; AD 2015-02-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

559. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Agusta S.p.A. (Type Certificate Currently Held By AgustaWestland S.p.A.) (Agusta) Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0465; Directorate Identifier 2013-SW-044-AD; Amendment 39-18089; AD 2015-02-21] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

560. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0230; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-242-AD; Amendment 39-18070; AD 2015-02-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

561. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Viking Air Limited Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0096; Directorate Identifier 2014-CE-040-AD; Amendment 39-18077; AD 2015-02-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

562. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Costruzioni Aeronautiche Tecnam srl Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0876; Directorate Identifier 2014-CE-032-AD; Amendment 39-18076; AD 2015-02-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

563. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0087; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-234-AD; Amendment 39-18098; AD 2015-03-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

564. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0078; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-235-AD; Amendment 39-18084; AD 2015-02-17] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

565. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of

Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2009-1088; Directorate Identifier 2008-SW-76-AD; Amendment 39-18091; AD 2014-12-11 R1] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

566. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (formerly Eurocopter France) [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0133; Directorate Identifier 2014-SW-066-AD; Amendment 39-18088; AD 2014-22-51] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Ms. FOXX: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 125. Resolution providing for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5) to support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-29). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CUMMINGS (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. RANGEL, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 1055. A bill to improve access to oral health care for vulnerable and underserved populations; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, the Judiciary, Natural Resources, Veterans' Affairs, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER (for himself, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. CONYERS, and Ms. JACKSON LEE):

H.R. 1056. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for protection of maritime navigation and prevention of nuclear terrorism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. SENSENBRENNER):

H.R. 1057. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for an exception from infringement for certain component parts of motor vehicles; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROSKAM:

H.R. 1058. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify that a duty of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue is to ensure that Internal Revenue Service employees are familiar with and act in accord with certain taxpayer rights; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROSKAM:

H.R. 1059. A bill to prohibit the Internal Revenue Service from asking taxpayers questions regarding religious, political, or social beliefs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LAMALFA (for himself and Mr. GARAMENDI):

H.R. 1060. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to take actions to support non-Federal investments in water infrastructure improvements in the Sacramento Valley, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY (for himself and Ms. FUDGE):

H.R. 1061. A bill to reauthorize the farm to school program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri (for himself, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. ROKITA):

H.R. 1062. A bill to amend the Pilot's Bill of Rights to facilitate appeals and to apply to other certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, to require the revision of the third class medical certification regulations issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. BLACK (for herself, Mr. NEAL, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. MEEHAN, and Mr. BECERRA):

H.R. 1063. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to eliminate tariffs on technological goods providing educational value for children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. BUSTOS (for herself, Mr. LOEBACK, and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 1064. A bill to reinstate year-round Federal Pell Grants under the Higher Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CLAY:

H.R. 1065. A bill to require that States receiving Byrne JAG funds to require sensitivity training for law enforcement officers of that State; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COLLINS of New York (for himself and Mr. POMPEO):

H.R. 1066. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to promote the use of adaptive trial designs, Bayesian methods, and other innovative statistical methods in clinical protocols for drugs, biological products, and devices, and with respect to the requirement to conduct post-approval studies and clinical trials, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 1067. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the temporary expansion of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, to ensure that judges of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims may enroll in the Federal Employee Group Life Insurance program, and

for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska):

H.R. 1068. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to carry out a tribal transportation self-governance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee (for himself and Mr. CUMMINGS):

H.R. 1069. A bill to amend title 44, United States Code, to require information on contributors to Presidential library fundraising organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. FATTAH:

H.R. 1070. A bill to provide for adequate and equitable educational opportunities for students in State public school systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. FATTAH:

H.R. 1071. A bill to amend section 1120A(c) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to assure comparability of opportunity for educationally disadvantaged students; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. FLEMING:

H.R. 1072. A bill to establish a commission to conduct a comprehensive review of Federal agencies and programs and to recommend the elimination or realignment of duplicative, wasteful, or outdated functions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, and Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona (for himself and Mr. SESSIONS):

H.R. 1073. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to secure critical infrastructure against electromagnetic threats, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. GABBARD (for herself, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. TAKAI):

H.R. 1074. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to exempt certain flights from increased aviation security service fees; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. GALLEGOS, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. GOSAR):

H.R. 1075. A bill to designate the United States Customs and Border Protection Port of Entry located at First Street and Pan American Avenue in Douglas, Arizona, as the "Raul Hector Castro Port of Entry"; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KING of New York (for himself, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. HIMES, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. TONKO, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. FARR):

H.R. 1076. A bill to increase public safety by permitting the Attorney General to deny the transfer of a firearm or the issuance of firearms or explosives licenses to a known or

suspected dangerous terrorist; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK (for herself, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. GALLEGOS):

H.R. 1077. A bill to modify the boundary of the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LANCE (for himself, Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. SPEIER, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas):

H.R. 1078. A bill to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to exempt from sequestration certain user fees of the Food and Drug Administration; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. COHEN, Mr. KEATING, Mr. CICILLINE, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. KENNEDY):

H.R. 1079. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide grants to States to establish a comprehensive school counseling program; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico (for himself and Ms. MICHELLE LUJÁN GRISHAM of New Mexico):

H.R. 1080. A bill to amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in order to limit the penalties to a State that does not meet its maintenance of effort level of funding to a one-time penalty, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico (for himself, Ms. MICHELLE LUJÁN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. PEARCE, and Mr. CÁRDENAS):

H.R. 1081. A bill to assist coordination among science, technology, engineering, and mathematics efforts in the States, to strengthen the capacity of elementary schools, middle schools, and secondary schools to prepare students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico (for himself, Ms. MICHELLE LUJÁN GRISHAM of New Mexico, and Mr. PEARCE):

H.R. 1082. A bill to strengthen Indian education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. McDERMOTT:

H.R. 1083. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to apply the Medicare restriction on self-referral to State plan requirements under Medicaid, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. O'ROURKE (for himself, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. RUSSELL, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. COLE):

H.R. 1084. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to modify the criteria for selecting communities to participate in the Small Community Air Service Development Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. PITTS:

H.R. 1085. A bill to repeal the Prevention and Public Health Fund; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ROKITA (for himself, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. FLORES, Mr. HANNA, and Mr. POMPEO):

H.R. 1086. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue or revise regulations with respect to the medical certification of certain small aircraft pilots, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER (for himself and Mr. ZINKE):

H.R. 1087. A bill to ensure that methods of collecting taxes and fees by private citizens on behalf of State and local jurisdictions are fair and effective and do not discriminate against interstate commerce for wireless telecommunications services; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. KILMER):

H.R. 1088. A bill to extend the trade adjustment assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TIPTON (for himself, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. COLE, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. HONDA, Ms. MICHELLE LUJÁN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. TAKAI, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska):

H.R. 1089. A bill to help fulfill the Federal mandate to provide higher educational opportunities for Native American Indians; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. WAGNER (for herself and Mr. GARRETT):

H.R. 1090. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to provide protections for retail customers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 1091. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to use negotiated rulemaking to develop a rule about agriculture quarantine inspection, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 1092. A bill to designate the Federal building located at 2030 Southwest 145th Avenue in Miramar, Florida, as the "Benjamin P. Grogan and Jerry L. Dove Federal Bureau of Investigation Miami Field Office"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BECERRA:

H. Res. 124. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. LEE:

H. Res. 126. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding United States efforts to promote Israeli-Palestinian peace; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MULVANEY:

H. Res. 127. A resolution recognizing linemen, the profession of linemen, the contributions of these brave men and women who protect public safety, and expressing support for the designation of March 31, 2015, as National Lineman Appreciation Day; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. SIRES:

H.R. 1053

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States, "to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes."

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 1055.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 1056.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, of the Constitution

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, of the Constitution

Article II, Section 2, Clause 2, of the Constitution

By Mr. ISSA:

H.R. 1057.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 8 of the Constitution which says, "To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries."

By Mr. ROSKAM:

H.R. 1058.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, which states that "The Congress shall have Power To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. ROSKAM:

H.R. 1059.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, which states that "The Congress shall have Power To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. LAMALFA:

H.R. 1060.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to regulate commerce between the states, and has previously been used to authorize the Bureau of Reclamation, which this bill addresses.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 1061.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority for this bill is pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 1062.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

"Congress shall have the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian Tribes."

General Aviation contributes \$150 billion to the U.S. economy and supports 1.2 million jobs. This legislation will both protect the rights of over 400,000 general aviation pilots currently flying and encourage more to participate in this community.

By Mrs. BLACK:

H.R. 1063.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, the Taxing and Spending Clause: "The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . ."

By Mrs. BUSTOS:

H.R. 1064.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CLAY:

H.R. 1065.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Commerce Clause, Article 1

Section 8

By Mr. COLLINS of New York:

H.R. 1066.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 1067.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 1068.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee:

H.R. 1069.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2. The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in

this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

By Mr. FATTAH:

H.R. 1070.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, the Congress shall have the power "[t]o regulate commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

By Mr. FATTAH:

H.R. 1071.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, the Congress shall have the power "[t]o regulate commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

By Mr. FLEMING:

H.R. 1072.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution, which states "The Congress shall have Power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona:

H.R. 1073.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. GABBARD:

H.R. 1074.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The U.S. Constitution including Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 1075.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. art. I, §§1 and 8.

By Mr. KING of New York:

H.R. 1076.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 6

The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK:

H.R. 1077.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 18 To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. LANCE:

H.R. 1078.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8, Clause 1, of the United States Constitution

This states that "Congress shall have power to . . . lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and

provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States

By Mr. LANGEVIN:

H.R. 1079.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1.

By Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico:

H.R. 1080.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico:

H.R. 1081.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico:

H.R. 1082.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. McDERMOTT:

H.R. 1083.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. O'ROURKE:

H.R. 1084.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have Power * * * To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. PITTS:

H.R. 1085.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. ROKITA:

H.R. 1086.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 of the United States Constitution, which reads "The Congress shall have Power To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with Indian Tribes."

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 1087.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, clauses 1 and 3

By Mr. SMITH of Washington:

H.R. 1088.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 Clause 3—"To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and within the Indian Tribes."

By Mr. TIPTON:

H.R. 1089.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 (relating to the power of Congress to provide for the general welfare of the United States) and clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

By Mrs. WAGNER:

H.R. 1090.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power * * * To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 1091.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3's authority to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18, the Necessary and Proper Clause.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 1092.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 27: Mr. BRIDENSTINE.

H.R. 178: Mr. ROKITA and Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia.

H.R. 188: Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. HASTINGS, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 197: Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 199: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 217: Mr. BRIDENSTINE and Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 231: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. DESANTIS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 249: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. ROKITA, and Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 281: Mr. BRADY of Texas and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 284, Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, and Mr. ROTHFUS.

H.R. 335: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 353: Mr. NEWHOUSE and Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 354: Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 358: Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 438: Mr. VEASEY.

H.R. 451: Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, and Mr. LUCAS.

H.R. 452: Mr. BOST.

H.R. 456: Mr. ZINKE, Mr. PALAZZO, and Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 461: Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 465: Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 532: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. SARBANES, Mrs. COMSTOCK, and Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.

H.R. 546: Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. LAMALFA, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, and Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 555: Mr. MARCHANT and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.

H.R. 571: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 583: Mr. FORBES and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.

H.R. 584: Mr. COLLINS of New York.

H.R. 590: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 594: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. RUSSELL, Ms. STEFANIK, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, and Mr. PALMER.

H.R. 600: Mr. HECK of Washington and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 609: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 620: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 654: Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia.

H.R. 663: Mr. TIPTON and Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.

H.R. 674: Mr. BEYER and Mr. MACARTHUR.

H.R. 680: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 689: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 699: Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 700: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. HECK of Washington.

H.R. 703: Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mr. LOUDERMILK.

H.R. 704: Mr. VEASEY, Mr. MCCAUL, and Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.

H.R. 707: Mr. GOWDY, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. GOHMERT.

H.R. 712: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 716: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 727: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, and Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 729: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 732: Mr. LEVIN and Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 751: Mr. HURT of Virginia.

H.R. 756: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H.R. 757: Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COOK, and Mr. REICHERT.

H.R. 767: Mr. HILL.

H.R. 774: Mr. SABLAN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mrs. CAPPS.

H.R. 797: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 803: Ms. FOXX and Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 818: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SIREN, Mr. PAULSEN, and Mr. LOEBACK.

H.R. 823: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. LEE.

H.R. 842: Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. TURNER, Mr. COOPER, Mr. HAHN, Mr. COLE, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 843: Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 850: Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 855: Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 864: Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 867: Mr. BOUSTANY.

H.R. 880: Mr. BLUM.

H.R. 882: Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 887: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. BURGESS.

H.R. 894: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York and Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 902: Mr. HOYER.

H.R. 903: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. SMITH of Texas.

H.R. 916: Mr. RYAN of Ohio and Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 918: Mr. COLE, Mr. STUTZMAN, and Mr. HILL.

H.R. 919: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. VELA, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. SPEIER, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 923: Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 924: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.

H.R. 940: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. JONES, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.

H.R. 955: Mr. KNIGHT, Ms. MCSALLY, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 963: Mr. POLIS and Mr. SABLAN.

H.R. 975: Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. PITTINGER, Mr. YOHO, Mr. CHAFFETZ, and Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 981: Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. BOUSTANY.

H.R. 986: Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. NUNES, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BLUM, Mr. BARLETTA, and Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 988: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
 H.R. 996: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
 H.R. 1004: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
 H.R. 1005: Mr. POLIS.
 H.R. 1006: Mr. SARBANES and Mr. HASTINGS.
 H.R. 1009: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Mr. GRIJALVA.
 H.R. 1017: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania and Mr. AMODEI.
 H.R. 1021: Mr. DIAZ-BALART.
 H.R. 1024: Mr. TAKAI, Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. POCAN, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. TONKO, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SABLAN, and Mrs. BUSTOS.
 H.R. 1026: Mr. ROSKAM.
 H.R. 1031: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. HIMES, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. BERA, Mr. PETERS, Mr. KIND, Mr. VELA, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. HAHN, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. WALZ, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. KEATING, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. KILMER, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. ESTY, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. HONDA, Mr. COHEN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr.

PERLMUTTER, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. POLIS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. MENG, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. TONKO, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. BEYER, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. TAKAI, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. BASS, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SIRES, Mr. LOEBBACH, Ms. GABBARD, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. FUDGE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. WELCH, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. NADLER, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. FARR, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.
 H.R. 1032: Mr. COOPER.

H.J. Res. 9: Mr. TIBERI.
 H.J. Res. 33: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. HUNTER.
 H. Res. 15: Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. ESTY, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. WELCH, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. SIRES, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. POCAN, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. NOLAN.
 H. Res. 28: Ms. HAHN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. COOK, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, and Mr. TAKAI.
 H. Res. 45: Mr. NEWHOUSE.
 H. Res. 54: Ms. LEE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. COOK.
 H. Res. 93: Mr. PETERS.
 H. Res. 112: Ms. BROWN of Florida.
 H. Res. 122: Mr. MARINO.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered by Representative KLINE, or a designee, to H.R. 5, Student Success Act, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO TARBUT V'TORAH
COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL

HON. MIMI WALTERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize Tarbut V'Torah Community Day School (TVT) for recently having been ranked the number one private school for academics in Orange County, California from niche.com. TVT was also recognized as being the number one Jewish school for academics in the nation by Niche. As a result of their outstanding accomplishments, TVT was recently presented with a certificate of recognition from the County of Orange for achieving these excellent honors. Today, I applaud TVT for their tremendous academic accomplishments.

TVT, a Jewish day school with over 500 students, is a nurturing, caring community that embraces pluralism, cultivates Jewish identity and inspires students to lead meaningful Jewish lives. The school is known for its individualized college preparatory environment, which challenges students to think critically, work collaboratively, and explore creatively in order to realize their fullest potential. TVT also strives to encourage students to be inquisitive learners, compassionate citizens and courageous leaders in their community and in the world.

The success of TVT students is demonstrated through their exceptional standardized test scores and high acceptance rates into our nation's top universities. For example, the acceptance rate of TVT students to Stanford University is 12.1 percent, in comparison with the 5.1 percent national average. The acceptance ratios for other top universities are as follows: UC Berkeley, 41.7 percent vs. 17 percent; USC, 53 vs. 17.8 percent, and UCLA, 31 vs. 18.2 percent. Furthermore, TVT SAT scores surpassed the national average by more than 400 points, and TVT ACT scores outranked the national average 29 to 21.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the students, faculty, and those who govern the school, for their accomplishments and academic success within the community. It is an honor to represent such an accomplished school in the United States Congress, and I wish them the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING PHILIP B. PHILLIPS
FOR BEING SELECTED FOR THE
NAIOP OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA
COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE
TRADE ASSOCIATION'S LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great Floridian businessman, Mr. Philip B. Phillips, founder of the real estate development firm Phillips & Co, on receiving the NAIOP of Northeast Florida commercial real estate trade association's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr. Phillips founded Phillips & Co in 1986, and since then his firm has completed more than 1 million square feet of projects in Jacksonville, Orlando and Pensacola. He is a pillar in the Jacksonville business community, and a valuable partner in the economic growth and development of Northeast Florida.

Under Mr. Phillips' skillful leadership, his commercial real estate firm was responsible for constructing some of the largest projects in the Jacksonville area. He has developed the five-building Meridian complex in Deerwood Park, the four-building Greystone Project, and the 214,000 square foot multi-phase Central Park development. These projects have added countless jobs to the Jacksonville community as well as contributed to the economic success of our Northeast Florida economy.

NAIOP is one of the foremost commercial real estate industry organizations in the United States. It provides its members with numerous networking opportunities, educational programs, industry innovations, and strong legislative representation for the commercial real estate community. NAIOP's Lifetime Achievement Award is one of the greatest honors that the organization can bestow. The award recognizes those distinguished individuals for their lifetime work in the commercial real estate industry.

Mr. Phillips is truly deserving of this very distinguished honor; and the First Coast is proud to count him among our own. His lifework exemplifies everything for which NAIOP's Lifetime Achievement Award stands for. The Jacksonville business community is forever indebted to Mr. Phillips for his lifetime contributions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and Members of the House to join me in this very special congressional salute to this Jacksonville Business leader, Philip B. Phillips.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to a death in my immediate family I was unable to be present for votes on the House floor the week of February 9, 2015. Below is an explanation of how I would have voted and why.

I would have voted for H.R. 719, the TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act of 2015 because the bill requires Transportation Security Administration Criminal Investigators to spend at least half of their time investigating individuals suspected of committing a crime.

I would have voted for H.R. 720, the Gerardo Hernandez Airport Security Act of 2015 to ensure the Transportation Security Administration has adequate emergency plans in place to handle a shooting attack at an airport.

I would have voted for H.R. 431, to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Foot Soldiers who participated in Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday, or the final Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March in March of 1965, which served as a catalyst for the Voting Rights Act of 1965. I am a cosponsor of the bill.

I would have voted against S. 1, the Keystone XL Pipeline Approval Act because the bill allows a Canadian company to be exempt from paying its fair share into the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, which could leave taxpayers on the hook for an expensive clean-up in the event of an oil spill. Furthermore, the current planned route for the pipeline runs directly over the Ogallala aquifer, putting at risk a critical freshwater supply.

I would have voted for H.R. 644, the Fighting Hunger Incentive Act of 2015 to encourage donations to charitable organizations. The bill would expand tax deductions for food donations, property conservation donations, and charitable foundations.

I would have voted for H.R. 636, the America's Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2015 because the bill is designed to help small businesses grow and create new jobs. This bill would facilitate investment in new equipment, new property, and technology upgrades for small businesses. Providing tax relief will help level the playing field for small businesses, which will stimulate economic growth and create jobs across the country.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 431—CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL FOR SELMA FOOT SOLDIERS

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I stand today in strong support of H.R. 431, a bill that will bestow the Congressional Gold Medal upon the courageous Foot Soldiers who participated in "Bloody Sunday," "Turnaround Tuesday," and the final March from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama in 1965.

As we commemorate the 50th anniversary of their displays of courage and determination, I am inspired by the thousands of citizens, from all walks of life—including my good friend and colleague, Congressman JOHN LEWIS—who came together to march for equal voting rights for future generations.

I commend these brave men and women for following their conviction and sacrificing their blood, sweat, and tears to bring about the change that this country so desperately needed.

However, Mr. Speaker, our work is not yet done!

It was only two years ago, when the Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act by ruling Section 5 unconstitutional. Since this ruling, we have seen an unprecedented number of bills introduced in state legislatures intended to restrict the precise right that the men and women we are honoring today fought to gain.

Not only are minority and low-income Americans' voting rights under assault, but the persistent opportunity gaps in employment, education, life skills, and career preparation continue to make the American Dream elusive for far too many Americans.

We must follow the example of these brave Foot Soldiers, and continue to fight injustice and inequality to create economic opportunities for everyone.

WELCOMING AUNJANUE ELLIS TO "MOVING FORWARD AND SETTING THE WORLD"

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Ms. Aunjanue Ellis to the annual Black History Month event "Moving Forward and Setting the World," organized by the Canisius College Academic Talent Search Program.

The Moving Forward and Setting the World event will feature the African-German Art Exhibition from Homestory, Germany to honor Black History Month.

The Canisius College Academic Talent Search Program, the host of this event, has shaped positive impact on many Western New York communities. The program is among eight federally funded TRiO programs established under Title IV of the Higher Education

act of 1965. The Academic Talent Search Program provides educational, social and career support services for individuals with disadvantaged backgrounds in local schools and community service organizations.

Ms. Aunjanue Ellis, who I welcome to this event, is a famed actress who will star as the lead character in the 2015 miniseries "The Book of Negroes." Ms. Ellis has also been a star in award winning films such as "The Help," "Men of Honor," and "Ray."

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to welcome the accomplished Ms. Aunjanue Ellis. I ask you to join me in thanking Ms. Ellis for speaking at this valued local event. I wish Ms. Ellis continued success in her acting career, and to continually see Ms. Ellis in influential roles.

HONORING GONZALO ARROYO

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Gonzalo Arroyo for his nearly two decades of commitment to helping low-income and immigrant families in Aurora, Illinois, through his leadership of Family Focus Aurora.

Gonzalo began working at Family Focus' Aurora Center in 1996, and has served as the director of the facility since 1998. During that time, he has helped countless families and individuals through the organization's many programs, from counseling new parents to computer classes aimed at improving work skills. Under Gonzalo's direction, Family Focus also has become a leader in providing guidance for recent immigrants looking to start a new chapter of their lives in Illinois.

I would like to congratulate Gonzalo for his hard work and his commitment to Family Focus Aurora and the people of our community. Although Gonzalo's leadership will be missed, I have no doubt that the work he has done and the lessons he has passed on will continue to serve and inspire the people of Aurora for many years to come.

HONORING MARTINSVILLE CANDY KITCHEN OF MARTINSVILLE, IN

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, mom-and-pop businesses are a vital part of local economies. Martinsville Candy Kitchen, located in Martinsville, Indiana, is a primary example of a small, family-owned business that has maintained a tradition of community involvement and devotion to making quality products. The Candy Kitchen not only influences the local economy but also serves as an important landmark in the Martinsville community.

The Martinsville Candy Kitchen has been in operation since 1919, producing 16 flavors of

candy canes and other sweet treats. Over 30,000 candy canes are handmade in this shop every year. Considering that a batch takes more than 3 hours, we can understand the immensity of the task they take on each year. The owners of the business, Pam and John Badger, have been known to spend late nights in the kitchen working on large batches of candy canes. Therefore, I am proud to honor the Martinsville Candy Kitchen in this installment of the 9th District's "Hoosier Small Business Spotlight."

Following 95 years of business, the Martinsville Candy Kitchen continues to be a staple within the area in which it operates. People from all across Indiana visit the business to see candy canes being made during "pour times," becoming a Christmas tradition for many families. In addition, the alleyway adjacent to the shop has been officially named "Candy Cane Lane" in recognition of the Candy Kitchen's presence in the community.

The history of Martinsville Candy Kitchen begins with its founder, Jim Zapapas, who learned the candy trade in St. Louis before moving to Indianapolis in 1916. His business originated as a short-order restaurant, soda fountain, and candy shop two years later. Over time, the company has had several owners. In early 2004, Pam and John Badger bought the Candy Kitchen from Bob and Karen Boyce, who were on the verge of having to close the doors of their business. The Badgers decided to buy the company in order to keep the historic business as a living part of Martinsville. Balancing their time between working full-time jobs and owning a business, they demonstrated their dedication to the community and the work ethic necessary to run a successful organization.

The Badgers' devotion to their customers and to the quality of their products has sustained their company's legacy. Their efforts serve as a testimony to the longstanding success of their business. The Candy Kitchen has been a Martinsville attraction since opening over 95 years ago, and it will continue to be a significant landmark for years to come.

HONORING GUSTAVO SAMBRANO

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to recognize Mr. Gustavo Sambrano, a native El Pasoan with a commendable record of service to his community and our nation.

Mr. Sambrano was born on March 26, 1932. He attended Bowie High School, a local institution with a rich and distinguished history of overcoming adversity and a consistent dedication to service. Mr. Sambrano was a proud member of the 1949 Texas state championship baseball team. This team primarily consisted of economically disadvantaged, Mexican-American students from El Paso's historic Segundo Barrio neighborhood. While traveling to Austin to play in the state championship, the team faced rampant racial discrimination. Upon arrival and against all odds, the Bears

beat the most favored team in the state, the Austin Maroons. Mr. Sambrano would continue to remain engaged with his teammates and participate in community initiatives throughout his lifetime. In 2006, the El Paso Baseball Hall of Fame recognized the accomplishments of the team. Additionally, Sports Illustrated wrote a 2011 feature on the team further amplifying recognition of their profound accomplishment.

Following graduation from high school in 1950, Mr. Sambrano enlisted in the United States Air Force. Mr. Sambrano served honorably in numerous locations throughout the world to include England, Greenland, Italy, Korea, Spain and Thailand.

Following retirement after 20 years of faithful service from the U.S. Air Force, Mr. Sambrano attained a B.A. from The University of Texas at El Paso. Mr. Sambrano continued to serve his local community as an educator with the El Paso Independent School District and his nation through federal civilian service in numerous capacities, with his career eventually culminating in retirement from the Defense Logistics Agency in Alexandria, Virginia. Following the completion of his civilian career, Mr. Sambrano once again returned home to El Paso, the community he held dearly.

I thank Mr. Sambrano for being an honorable ambassador of our community to the world through his notable service. While his road to success was often filled with adversity, Mr. Sambrano represents the ambition, dedication, perseverance and resilience that is so indicative of the many great El Pasoans I have the distinct privilege to represent.

IN HONOR OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the University of Kentucky, which celebrates its sesquicentennial anniversary this month. As an original land grant research university and Kentucky's flagship public institution of higher learning, UK is the cornerstone of education in the Commonwealth, having prepared graduates of exceptional quality and character for 150 years.

With humble beginnings in 1865, the school began as the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Kentucky University. In the time since its founding, the University of Kentucky has maintained its traditional values while also extending and enhancing its multifaceted mission of teaching, research, service, and health care. The University of Kentucky has progressed from its early innovative roots to become a vibrant and diverse place of development and potential.

Its faculty, staff, students, and alumni are deeply devoted to the University's central value of service to others. Students are civically engaged and most take advantage of the volunteer, leadership, service, and activism opportunities on the University's diverse and creative campus.

The University of Kentucky now looks to the next 150 years of higher learning, innovative discovery, transformative outreach and sophisticated care, as it honors the legacy of those who established its campus, nurtured its early work, upheld and enhanced its mission in the present, and who will deliver a new century of promise in the future. Athletics have also been an important part of the school's heritage, with the Kentucky Wildcats laying claim to more than 30 NCAA Championships and 270 conference titles across 22 intercollegiate sports. In particular, the University of Kentucky is home to the "Greatest Tradition in College Basketball" as the winningest program of all-time, in both the number of total wins and total win percentage. The Cats have also proven dominant in the postseason, with the most NCAA tournament appearances, the most tournament game wins, and eight national championships.

There is no doubt that the University will continue to accrue both academic and athletic achievements into the 21st Century. I encourage my colleagues to join in congratulating my alma mater, the University of Kentucky on this milestone. Kentuckians are proud of the progress this distinguished institution has made over the past 150 years in preparing our nation's next generation of leaders for success, and look forward to seeing all of the prosperity that the next 150 years will bring.

Go Cats.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GREGG HARPER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 84 on H.R. 212, I am not recorded due to inclement weather resulting in a travel delay.

Had I been present, I would have voted Aye.

RECOGNIZING GABRIELLE DEBINSKI AND MILLICENT ALLAN OF THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, for decades the United States and Australia have shared a special union, being one of our nations closest cultural, economic, and security partners. I rise today to recognize a unique international exchange program between our two nations: the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program.

For the past 16 years, the Uni-Capitol Program has paired students from Australia with offices on Capitol Hill. Since the program's inception, more than 170 students, from 10 partner Australian universities located across 5 of the 6 Australian states and the Australian Capital Territory, have participated. The students in this program are the best and the

brightest that Australia has to offer. They bring a unique perspective to the House and Senate offices that they serve—strengthening the special alliance between our two nations and fostering greater understanding and mutual respect between us.

This year, it has been my pleasure to host two outstanding Australian students in my Washington office: Ms. Gabrielle Debinski and Ms. Millicent Allan. Gabrielle and Millicent are great examples of the high-caliber students this program provides Congressional offices. They both proved themselves to be very intelligent and hard working. Furthermore, they excelled in drafting correspondence to my constituents, researching legislative issues, and attending briefings, all while demonstrating a desire to learn about, and engage in, the important policy issues facing our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that Gabrielle and Millicent will go on to do great things in their future. I wish them both all the very best, and the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program many more years of continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on February 24, 2015 and missed roll call votes on H.R. 212 and H.R. 734. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call 84, and Yea on Roll Call number 85.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,141,409,083,212.36. We've added \$7,514,532,034,299.28 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING WILKINSON MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT TANNER BARNDOLLAR

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize an eighth grade student from my district, Tanner Barndollar, for his work in designing a mission patch that was recently flown to the International Space Station. Tanner attends

Wilkinson Middle School in Madison Heights, Michigan.

Mission patches have been used on NASA flights since the early days of the U.S. space program. The tradition was for the astronauts to design a patch to symbolize their flight. To this day, I remember the mission patch for the *Apollo 11* flight to the Moon. The patch for that mission was designed by the pilot of the command module, Michael Collins, and showed a bald eagle landing on the Moon carrying an olive branch in its talons. That patch became an iconic emblem of the first Moon landing.

To this day, mission patches remain important symbols of all NASA flights. The patch designed by Tanner Barndollar accompanied a microgravity experiment designed by four other Wilkinson students. Unfortunately, the first attempt to get this experiment and the mission patch up to the international space station failed when the unmanned rocket carrying them exploded shortly after liftoff last October. Fortunately, NASA was able to find space on another rocket to the space station that launched in January, and the Wilkinson microgravity experiment and Tanner's mission patch were carried into orbit on that flight.

Tanner's patch shows his obvious pride in his country, community and school, as well as his fellow students' participation in the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program. His design was selected from more than 51,000 student designs from around the country.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing Tanner Barndollar and all the other young Americans who participated in the NASA Student Spaceflight Experiments Program.

HONORING WILLIAM WOLFE

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William Wolfe for his exceptional service to our nation and Missouri. Mr. Wolfe began his twenty years of military service with the United States Army at the age of seventeen. During his years in the Army, he served as a pilot in the Vietnam War and flew AH-1 Cobra helicopters in combat. Two Purple Hearts were awarded to him for the wounds he endured during combat. He retired in 1980 at the rank of Captain.

After having served in the military, he returned home and began to explore different venues of business. He operated and owned a general store in Grandin, Missouri, for a number of years and in 1995 he formed a privately held company in Gravois Mills, Missouri, called Chevron Sierra Land Co. This company sells parcels of land in Carter, Ripley, Iron, Washington, Camden, and Morgan counties.

William Wolfe's service in the military has been truly admirable and his businesses have greatly benefited our Missouri community. It is my pleasure to recognize his achievements and service before the House of Representatives.

A TRIBUTE TO SALLY KNOWLES-JACKSON AND THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, as one of our closest allies, the nation of Australia has stood steadfast with the United States as we tackle issues of great importance to both nations. Like any strong friendship, our bilateral relationship requires that we collaborate and exchange ideas. I have been fortunate to work with Ambassador Kim Beazley to foster commerce between Connecticut and Australia, and have had the pleasure of hosting the Ambassador in my home state. And for many years, I have continued learning about Australia's goals and priorities by hosting a series of intelligent, dedicated, and curious young professionals in my office through the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program.

The program places 15 students of Australia's best and brightest students in internships in Congressional offices, federal agencies, and committees to lend an able hand to office operations, learn about American government, and serve as what they often call themselves: Unofficial Ambassadors.

I would be remiss not to note that this important relationship would not be possible without the dedication of Mr. Eric Federer, who year after year shepherds a new generation of Australian students into our nation's capital. Over the course of its 16 years, the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program has brought an impressive 170 students from 10 Australian universities to the United States Congress.

This year I was privileged to have Sally Knowles-Jackson join our office from the University of Melbourne where she is studying to be a lawyer. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Sally for her hard work and dedication. Curious and positive, she quickly adjusted to the fast-paced life of a Congressional office and eagerly took on the tasks and responsibilities of her position. While in the UniCapitol program, she has had the opportunity to meet with officials from the Australian Embassy and the UN, attend briefings and hearings, meet with White House officials, members of the DC media, and learn the ins and outs of the Capitol building's historic halls. Sally has been able to learn not only about life in D.C., but also about our constituents back home in Connecticut.

When she returns to Melbourne next week it is my hope that Sally will bring with her an understanding of the American legislative process, knowledge of Washington, DC, and an appreciation for the enduring friendships our two nations have maintained.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to once more thank Eric, Sally, my colleagues who have also hosted their own Unofficial Australian Ambassadors, as well as the nation of Australia for sharing in this truly one-of-a-kind experience. I look forward to welcoming future Uni-Capitol Washington Internship students into my office.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BLOOMINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the centennial celebration of the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce. Since 1915, the Chamber of Commerce has been a vital resource for the betterment of business in the Bloomington, Indiana community.

Over the past 100 years, the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce has offered exceptional leadership opportunities, meaningful volunteer activities and exclusive business-building programs. The Chamber is the region's principal advocate for business. By providing chief support for local and statewide transportation projects, the development of public water resources and downtown revitalization projects, the Chamber demonstrates itself as a forward-thinking organization that is deeply concerned about the well-being of the community. In addition, its workforce preparedness programming, aimed at the area's large population of students and young professionals, exhibits a commitment to building better business for future generations in Bloomington.

Bloomington's local economy has greatly benefited from the Chamber's work over the past century. As a result of its efforts, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce named Bloomington its 2011 Chamber of Year and its 2014 Community of the Year. In 2012, the Chamber received the national Chamber of Year Award from the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives, an accomplishment that is a testament to its outstanding service to the business community.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce for its tireless years of dedication. I wish the Chamber continued success in its service to local business for the next 100 years.

COMMEMORATING THE LIVES LOST DURING THE KHOJALY MASSACRE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to again ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the devastating atrocities that took place in Azerbaijani town of Khojaly on February 26, 1992. Thanks to Armenian and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) forces over the course of 22 hours, 613 civilian lives were lost. Innocent children, women and elderly men were brutally murdered.

Since this tragedy took place in the early 1990's, Azerbaijan has worked to heal and become a successful country, with a booming economy. As a result, the economy of Azerbaijan is the fastest growing among the CIS

states. In the turbulent geopolitical region, Azerbaijan is a reliable partner of the United States. Moreover, Azerbaijan is a close ally and trade partner with another strong American ally—Israel—in the region.

Mr. Speaker, we must stand close by our allies. That is why I urge my colleagues to recognize the human tragedy that occurred in Azerbaijan 23 years ago. Please, join me and all of our Azerbaijani friends in commemorating the lives lost during the Khojaly massacre.

**CONGRATULATIONS LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS OF THE SAN
BERNARDINO AREA FOR ITS
60TH ANNIVERSARY**

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the League of Women Voters of the San Bernardino Area celebrating its 60th year anniversary.

Irmagard Blum, Margaret Chandler, Sibyl Disch, Joan Fallert, Jane Hall, Sally Hartley, Jerry Keller, Jane Kotterm, Ruth Kekkonen, Gerry Pico, Jackie Russler, and Nancy Smith founded the League of Women Voters of San Bernardino on March 17, 1955. The League of Women Voters of San Bernardino objective is to promote political participation amongst citizens, especially women, without partisan bias. The League of Women voters of San Bernardino continue their commitment to support political action and advocacy. For its past 60 years, this organization has committed over six decades to support local services for voters, from registration, serving as a witness, and partake in other acts to ensure citizen participation in and oversight of the election process.

The League of Women Voters in San Bernardino Area educates citizens on issues and candidates, supports voter registration, and encourages citizens to create and implement positive policy in Congress.

**RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
ANDREW MARSHALL**

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Andrew Marshall, the recently retired Director of the Pentagon's Office of Net Assessment, and the more than 41 years of distinguished and dedicated service that he has rendered to his office and his country. Always one to avoid the limelight and shun the recognition he deserves, Mr. Marshall has quietly but ably served twelve different Secretaries of Defense and been appointed and reappointed to his long-held position by no fewer than eight U.S. Presidents—Republican and Democrat alike. His accomplishments as a practitioner and proponent of net assessment and

truly strategic thinking have shaped U.S. policy for decades and changed the way that generations of strategists and policymakers thought—and will continue to think—about defense. He has my thanks and those of a grateful nation.

PATRICK SULLIVAN TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patrick Sullivan, Rio Grande County's Road and Bridge Supervisor and the 2014 recipient of the Colorado Association of Road Supervisors and Engineers Supervisor of the Year Award.

In addition to his 35 years with Rio Grande County, the glowing letters of recommendation he received from his community speak to Mr. Sullivan's dedication. In addition to his duties as Road and Bridge Supervisor, he also serves as assistant fire chief for the Monte Vista Fire Department. He received recommendations from the Colorado State Patrol and the SLV Hazardous Substance Board, who both emphasized his unflagging devotion to Rio Grande County.

According to his coworkers, Mr. Sullivan goes above and beyond, and performs his duties with a commitment to excellence and dedication to his team. Their recommendations and the nomination speak to the mutual commitment he and his team has to public safety and their community. For Mr. Sullivan, his duties are more than a job; they are a way to serve and strengthen his community.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Patrick Sullivan. He is not only a hard working civil servant but a dedicated husband and father. His contributions have and will continue to make Rio Grande County a great place to live for those who call it home.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for roll call votes 84–85 due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted yes on #84 and yes on #85.

**IN RECOGNITION OF KYLEE
MCCUMBER**

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of the founder of Kylee's Kare Kits for Kidz, Inc., Kylee McCumber. Currently a 7th grader at Sky View Middle School in Leominster, Massachusetts, Kylee is an ex-

ceptional young activist who began this non-profit organization at the age of 10 to help food insecure children in her school.

In 2012, Kylee recognized that there were children going hungry on the weekends because they didn't have enough food to eat. Kylee started out with a goal to help 10 children per week by providing them with a "kare kit" of non-perishable food items to take home over the weekend. Today, Kylee, along with the help of her family and fellow classmates have been providing "kare kits" of non-perishable food items to over 200 students every Friday.

Last fall, as part of the Unilever Project Sunlight program, Kylee traveled to Mumbai, India to film a commercial to raise awareness about child hunger. In the commercial Kylee states, "The enemy is hunger—not the hungry." When asked why she does what she does, she simply states "It is better to give than receive and I receive so much more than what I give. It is so important to be grateful for all we have and pay it forward when we can." The work that Kylee is doing to end hunger is truly inspirational. She is a leader and role model. I am proud to represent Kylee, and I thank Kylee for her extraordinary service to the City of Leominster. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in paying tribute to this remarkable young woman.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, on February 24, 2015 I was unable to be present and missed the following votes:

On Roll Call vote 84, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, As Amended, H.R. 212, the Drinking Water Protection Act, I would have voted Yes.

On Roll Call Vote 85, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and pass H.R. 734, the FCC Consolidated Reporting Act of 2015, I would have voted Yes.

**IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. TERRY
WAGONER ON THE OCCASION OF
HER RETIREMENT**

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Terry Wagoner of Royal Oak, Michigan, on her retirement from William Beaumont Hospital after 44 years of dedicated service as a Registered Nurse.

Mrs. Wagoner began her nursing career at Beaumont after graduating from Grace Nursing School in Detroit, Michigan, in 1970. Her time at Beaumont spanned the hospital's growth from a community hospital to one of the nation's leading hospitals.

Predominantly working with medical and geriatric patients throughout her career, Mrs.

Wagoner's kindness and compassion have made her one of Beaumont's top nurses and a mentor to the generations that have followed in her footsteps. Mrs. Wagoner's dedication to the care and well-being of her patients often included taking care of the emotional needs of their family members. Holidays with her own family often included a family member of a patient who had nowhere to go.

Mrs. Wagoner has given tirelessly to William Beaumont Hospital, to her patients, to her colleagues and to her family. I am proud to congratulate her on this accomplishment, and wish her well in a retirement that is so richly deserved.

THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF BROADCASTERS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to formally recognize the contribution of broadcasters across the country and from my home state of Georgia. Every community is impacted by broadcasters, the individuals who have dedicated their lives to disseminating important information by radio and television. As north Georgia prepares for snow, ice and sleet today and tonight—broadcasters are my constituents' go-to source for the latest on road conditions, power outages and school closings. We turn to broadcasters first—whether we are in our cars listening to the radio, or watching the news on television at home.

There are over 500 local radio and television stations in Georgia. In 2014 alone, local radio and television stations in Georgia produced over 50,000 hours of original over-the-air news programming, representing an increase from 2013. Broadcasters have created over 85,000 jobs in Georgia and the radio and television industry had an economic impact on Georgia of over \$39 billion in 2012.

COMMENDING THE CITY OF HATTIESBURG FOR DECLARING THE MONTH OF MARCH AS MARCH FOR MEALS MONTH

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincerest appreciation and admiration to the City of Hattiesburg, the Honorable Mayor Johnny Dupree, and all who were involved in declaring the month of March as March for Meals Month in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. March for Meals commemorates the hard-work and selfless dedication of the MEALS ON WHEELS program, which brings hot meals to the homes of those in need.

I especially want to acknowledge the men and women who volunteer and work tirelessly to ensure that the MEALS ON WHEELS pro-

gram at Christian Services, Inc. is a success. The program has proven to be a valuable resource to older adults and homebound individuals in the City of Hattiesburg and its surrounding areas. In 2014, over 78,000 meals were delivered through MEALS ON WHEELS. Providing hot meals everyday not only meets the physical needs of the elderly and homebound but the smiles and kind words that MEALS ON WHEELS volunteers bring with each meal offer joy and hope with each delivery.

With the increasing need for programs to feed the homebound and seniors in our area, Christian Services has partnered with the City of Hattiesburg and the national MEALS ON WHEELS "No Senior Goes Hungry" campaign to raise awareness to the program and its contribution to the community. On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Mississippi and the United States House of Representatives, I wish MEALS ON WHEELS continued success in their valiant effort to help their fellow man and commend the City of Hattiesburg for declaring March to be March for Meals Month.

AUTISM SOCIETY OF AMERICA'S 50TH YEAR CELEBRATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the Autism Society of America's 50th Year Celebration and commemorate the organization on five decades of extraordinary service and effective advocacy on behalf of the autism community.

In 1964, concerned parents of children with autism—including Ruth Sullivan, Dr. Bernie Rimand and Dan Torisky—joined together to form what is now called the Autism Society of America. Continuing to implement the vision of its founders, the Society today is a grassroots organization that ensures parents have quality options and the supports necessary for their child to live and prosper in our communities.

The Autism Society of America and its 104 local and state affiliates work towards one goal: to help each individual with autism maximize his or her quality of life.

Having worked with the Society's remarkable president Scott Badesch—a tenacious and wise leader—I can attest to the dedication and commitment of the organization's leadership, and its staff and volunteers. Each person who comes to the Autism Society gains the knowledge that accompanies 50 years of experience to help ensure a life of dignity, respect and opportunity.

The organization has played a critical role in the enactment of many landmark pieces of legislation for individuals with disabilities—including the three laws I have written that provide federal resources for research, services and supports for children and adults with autism.

Today, the Society's mission and work has never been more important or more timely. We as a nation are in the midst of a huge yet largely invisible crisis that begs serious focus and durable remedies.

I am referring to the aging out crisis.

Every year, 50,000 young people on the autism spectrum matriculate into adulthood and are in the process of losing essential services. Individuals with autism in the aging out generation and their parents find themselves entering into a system unprepared to meet their needs, and one that disincentivizes the opportunity and independence the Society has worked to achieve.

With the strong support and hard work of the Society, last Congress, we enacted my Autism CARES Act which calls for an agency report that lays the foundation for better addressing the aging out crisis.

The Society provided extremely valuable input into my legislation, now P.L. 113–157, which authorizes \$1.3 billion over five years to continue the critical pipeline of federal research dollars, and was the first piece of enacted legislation to address aging out. The Autism CARES Act tasked multiple Federal agencies to provide a comprehensive study on the needs of autistic young adults and transitioning youth and how they can better shape policies and programs to meet these needs.

This important law—like so many critical policy changes over the past 50 years—would not have been possible without the Autism Society of America.

I am so proud of and deeply grateful for the work of all of the volunteers and staff of the Autism Society of America and their affiliates. Thank you for your hard work and daily commitment to improving the lives of individuals with autism.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GREGG HARPER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 85 on H.R. 734, I am not recorded due to inclement weather resulting in a travel delay. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye.

WELCOMING ONA BROWN TO "MOVING FORWARD AND SETTING THE WORLD"

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Ms. Ona Brown to the annual Black History Month event "Moving Forward and Setting the World," organized by the Canisius College Academic Talent Search Program. The Moving Forward and Setting the World event will feature the African-German Art Exhibition from Homestory, Germany to honor Black History Month.

The Canisius College Academic Talent Search Program, the host of this event, has shaped a positive impact on many Western New York communities. The program is among eight federally funded TRIO programs

established under Title IV of the Higher Education act of 1965. The Academic Talent Search Program provides educational, social and career support services for individuals with disadvantaged backgrounds in local schools and community service organizations.

Ms. Ona Brown, whom I welcome to this event, has recently been named one of the top five speakers in the world by Toastmasters International. With more than fifteen years of public speaking experience Ms. Brown works with her consulting firm World Network Now to inspire and empower individuals around the world.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to welcome the accomplished Ms. Ona Brown. I ask you to join me in thanking Ms. Brown for speaking at this valued local event. I wish Ms. Brown the best on her mission to change the lives of individuals across the globe.

IN RECOGNITION OF KATHLEEN
HODEL

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exemplary Arizonan, volunteer and fundraiser. Kathleen Hodel has become one of Lake Havasu City's greatest assets over her 20-year career. During this time she has been involved with and served on the boards of some 18 community organizations.

Two years ago, Kathy Hodel was diagnosed with an aggressive form of bone cancer. The irony of the situation that Kathy has spent years of her life fundraising for cancer research and cancer patients is not lost. She still continues fundraising and is an active member of her community.

Some of Ms. Hodel's most lasting efforts can be attributed to the fundraising she has done on behalf of Mohave Community College Foundation, resulting in a new library, classroom buildings, and scholarships for students.

Her list of achievements and awards is long and well-deserved. Most recently, in November of 2014, Kathy Hodel was recognized by the Greater Arizona Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals with the Spirit of Philanthropy Award at the 30th Annual Leadership in Philanthropy Awards Dinner.

It is my honor to commend Kathy Hodel for being such a shining beacon of positive influence and selflessness in the Mohave County community. She is an example to us all of what can be achieved with hard work, determination, enthusiasm and compassion. Kathy, we thank you for your lifetime of service.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL WILLIAM B.
WALKUP—TENNESSEE AIR NA-
TIONAL GUARD

HON. SCOTT DesJARLAIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel William B. Walkup, Com-

mander of the Tennessee National Guard's 118th Wing, Mission Support Group.

After 32 years of dedicated service to our state and country, Colonel Walkup has announced his retirement, effective April 18, 2015.

Through the numerous roles and positions of leadership, Colonel Walkup has made a lasting impact on the guardsmen of the 118th Wing and our state's Air National Guard.

Over the past three decades, Colonel Walkup was a Squadron Navigator, Chief of Current Operations, Chief Navigator, Operations Support Squadron Commander, Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Commander and Maintenance Group Commander. Colonel Walkup has participated in deployments to the Middle East, Europe, Central and South America, and Southwest Asia. He has flown combat and support missions in Somalia, Bosnia and Southwest Asia.

While deployed abroad during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Colonel Walkup served as the 485th Deputy Maintenance Group Commander, in charge of the largest C-130 contingent in the war with 46 assigned aircrafts. In addition, Colonel Walkup served as the 486th and 332nd Maintenance Group Commander, during which he successfully lead over two hundred members in humanitarian, logistics and aircraft maintenance support with deployments to Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Kuwait for Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Joint Forge, the Global War on Terrorism, and Operation Unified Response.

Colonel Walkup's success as a guardsman is the product of hard work, an exceptional level of dedication, and a love for country that is unparalleled.

Mr. Speaker, this recognition is certainly well-deserved and is a testament to the heroism and dedication to duty that has marked Colonel Walkup's exemplary service in the Tennessee Air National Guard. I, along with the citizens of a grateful state and nation, extend a heartfelt thanks for his outstanding service to this great country and wish him the very best upon his retirement.

THE MEDICAID PHYSICIAN SELF-
REFERRAL ACT OF 2015

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Medicaid Physician Self-Referral Act of 2015. This bill makes a necessary clarification to Section 1902 of the Social Security Act. It provides that Medicaid designated health services claims are subject to the same requirements as Medicare designated health services claims under the Physician Self-Referral Law.

Currently, there is uncertainty among stakeholders regarding the extent to which the requirements of the Physician Self-Referral Law apply to Title XIX of the Social Security Act. As a result, an important tool for fighting fraud in the healthcare system—which has successfully been employed for many years in the

Medicare program—is underutilized in the Medicaid context. Congressional action is needed to provide legislative clarity that will strengthen the integrity of the Medicaid program in this area.

Health care providers subject to the Physician Self-Referral Law should not be able to avoid penalties simply because a claim is a Medicaid claim rather than a Medicare claim. Both programs involve taxpayer money and we need to ensure that law enforcement officials have the tools they need to combat fraud, waste, and abuse.

Although the law has long provided that the Medicaid and Medicare programs are on equal footing with respect to the Physician Self-Referral Law, this bill leaves no doubt that Congress intends this to be the case.

HONORING LARRY SHARP

HON. PETE AGUILAR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of Larry Sharp, a community leader from California's Inland Empire. Over the course of his career, Larry Sharp was a consistent advocate for working families. From his leadership on crucial economic projects, to his devotion to public education, to his dedication to support local businesses, Larry was an integral part of our community.

While Larry was the successful CEO and President of Arrowhead Credit Union, he was better known in the community as a leader, activist, father, and grandfather. He was a true community leader, never failing to stand up and defend his friends or neighbors when they were in need. During one of the most difficult times in recent memory, the 2008 economic crisis, Larry was at the forefront of helping Inland Empire residents facing housing and financial challenges. He worked with Republicans and Democrats at all levels of government, as long as it meant he was working on behalf of his community.

Larry was a leader, an advocate, but most importantly—he was a dear friend and mentor. He served his community for decades, and we are so much better for it. He will be dearly missed by his wife Cassie, five children, four grandchildren, and the entire Inland Empire Community. We will always be indebted to him for his devotion and work that bettered the lives of San Bernardino County's working families.

HONORING THE LIFE AND MED-
ICAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF DR.
JOHN SHEA, JR.

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and medical contributions of renowned surgeon, innovator and "father of middle-ear surgery," Memphian Dr. John Shea,

Jr. A graduate of the University of Notre Dame and Harvard Medical School, Dr. Shea served in the Korean War before returning to Memphis and taking over his father's medical practice in 1952. Two years later, he traveled to Vienna, Austria where he began extensive research into otosclerosis that would lead to his inventing the world's first prosthetic stapes—the tiny stirrup-shaped bone in the middle ear—and performing the groundbreaking stapedectomy procedure, which has since been used by doctors worldwide.

While in Vienna, he read German manuscripts on otosclerosis, which is a condition of the inner ear that causes calcification of the stapes and is considered a leading cause of deafness. Although the medical community ended surgical attempts to address this condition 50 years earlier, Dr. Shea had a vision to combat this cause of deafness in middle-aged adults by replacing the calcified bone with a prosthetic. While many of his colleagues questioned the procedure as dangerous, Dr. Shea was convinced through his research that the revolutionary surgery would work. On May 1, 1956, he successfully performed the first stapedectomy and went on to repeat the procedure nearly 50,000 times during his career before retiring in 2011.

In addition to inventing the prosthetic stapes and developing the stapedectomy, Dr. Shea contributed to otology surgical instruments, including drills and microscopes, and intratympanic perfusion treatment for Meniere's disease or spontaneous vertigo. His ingenuity earned him a spot on the London Times list of "1,000 Makers of the Twentieth Century" and a 1962 featured cover article in Life magazine as one of five people who were recognized as part of "The Takeover Generation." In 2013, he donated 406 papers, including over 300 published articles, documenting his life's work to the local Memphis Public Library's Memphis Room. Dr. Shea belonged to more than 50 scientific societies, and was a clinical professor in the otolaryngology departments of the University of Tennessee, the University of Mississippi, the University of North Carolina and Tulane University. Additionally, he received honorary doctorates from Memphis schools Christian Brothers University and Rhodes College, and an honorary fellowship from the Australian and English Royal College of Surgeons.

In 1985, Dr. Shea opened the Shea Ear Clinic at Poplar and Ridgeway in Memphis where his son, Dr. Paul Shea, continues the family practice today. Dr. Shea, Jr. was a pioneer in the field of otology and a legendary doctor who helped usher in a new era of treatment. He came from one family of physicians and leaves behind another. My father, Dr. Morris D. Cohen, taught me about Dr. Shea, Sr. and Jr. and always spoke admiringly of them and their level of professionalism. While many Memphis physicians have received national acclaim, none have been more renowned than Dr. John Shea, Jr. Memphis will miss Dr. John Shea, Jr., and I send my condolences to his wife Lynda Lee Mead; sons Paul and Dr. John Shea III (private practice otologist); daughters Susanna Shea and Wendy Canarios; seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren; and his friends and loved ones. I ask my colleagues to join me in

recognizing the life and medical contributions of Dr. John Shea, Jr. His was a life well-lived.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN FLEMING

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be in Washington for votes on Tuesday, February 24, 2015. Winter weather conditions in Northern Louisiana caused my flight to be cancelled. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted NAY on H.R. 212 and AYE on H.R. 734.

HONORING DR. ERNO DANIEL

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of Dr. Erno Scipades Daniel who passed away on February 21, 2015. Dr. Daniel was a devoted and renowned physician in our local community of Santa Barbara, California and although he has passed, his legacy will remain with us for years to come.

Dr. Daniel was born on December 15, 1946 in Budapest, Hungary and as a child lived through the Hungarian Revolution of 1956. As a teenager he immigrated to the United States with his mother and sister to reunite with his father who left for the U.S. a decade earlier. In 1964, Dr. Daniel not only earned his American citizenship, but also a high school diploma from Santa Barbara High School. He continued his studies at the California Institute of Technology earning an undergraduate degree in chemistry, later receiving a master's degree and PhD from the University of California, San Diego. An outstanding and hard-working student, Dr. Daniel then graduated from medical school at the University of California, Los Angeles, where he also completed his residency in internal medicine.

Dr. Daniel is known as a dedicated and distinguished physician throughout our community where he practiced at the local Sansum Clinic since 1978. Later in his life he also served as the medical director of the Vista del Monte Rehabilitation and Care Center, was on the medical and scientific advisory board of the Center for Cognitive Fitness and Innovative Therapies of Santa Barbara, and devoted his time at Santa Barbara's Cottage Hospital teaching in the internal medicine residency program. Known for his expertise in geriatric medicine, Dr. Daniel established himself as a leading educator in dementia and Alzheimer's disease. He traveled across the United States lecturing on these diseases and was the author of a variety of educational sources discussing the topic.

Not only was Dr. Daniel a brilliant physician, but also a loving husband, father, and grandfather. Married to the love of his life for over 38 years, there was nothing that brought him

greater happiness than his family. His medical legacy and kindness towards others will live on through both his family and the numerous patients whose lives he touched throughout his professional career. He will be greatly missed by his colleagues, patients, family, and the greater Santa Barbara community.

I offer my heartfelt condolences to Dr. Daniel's family and friends, and ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exemplary citizen and member of the Santa Barbara community.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 3

9 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Commerce and the Department of Transportation.

SR-253

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine a review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SH-216

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine Federal Reserve accountability and reform.

SD-538

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Immigration and the National Interest

To hold an oversight hearing to examine United States citizenship and immigration services, focusing on ensuring agency priorities comply with the law.

SD-226

MARCH 4

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Environmental Protection Agency.

SD-406

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of the Interior.

SD-124

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine wasteful duplication in the Federal government.

SD-608

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security

To hold hearings to examine surface transportation reauthorization, focusing on oversight and reform of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

SR-253

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, "Inspector General Empowerment Act of 2015", S. 280, to improve the efficiency, management, and interagency coordination of the Federal permitting process through reforms overseen by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, H.R. 460, to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to train Department of Homeland Security personnel how to effectively deter, detect, disrupt, and prevent human trafficking during the course of their primary roles and responsibilities, H.R. 615, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to take administrative action to achieve and maintain interoperable communications capabilities among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, an original bill entitled, "Federal Improper Payments Coordination Act", an original bill entitled, "Presidential Library Donations Act", an original bill entitled, "Federal Vehicle Repair Costs Savings Act", S. 546, to establish the Railroad Emergency Services Preparedness, Operational Needs, and Safety Evaluation (RESPONSE) Subcommittee under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Advisory Council to provide recommendations on emergency responder training and resources relating to hazardous materials incidents involving railroads, S. 242, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide leave to any new Federal employee who is a veteran with a service-connected disability rated at 30 percent or more for purposes of undergoing medical treatment for such disability, S. 86, to amend title 44 of the United States Code, to provide for the suspension of fines under certain cir-

cumstances for first-time paperwork violations by small business concerns, and S. 136, to amend chapter 21 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that fathers of certain permanently disabled or deceased veterans shall be included with mothers of such veterans as preference eligibles for treatment in the civil service.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine whistleblower retaliation at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, focusing on improving protections and oversight.

SD-226

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

SD-G50

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Defense

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Navy and Marine Corps.

SD-192

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

SD-192

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Personnel

To hold hearings to examine the Active, Guard, Reserve, and civilian personnel programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-232A

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 438, to provide for the repair, replacement, and maintenance of certain Indian irrigation projects.

SD-628

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the Economic Report of the President 2015.

SD-106

3:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine United States nuclear weapons policy, programs, and strategy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

MARCH 5

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the postures on the Department of the Army and the Department of the Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine opportunities for the United States to build on its status as an Arctic nation for the betterment of the nation and those who live in the Arctic.

SD-366

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine America's health information technology (IT) transformation, focusing on translating the promise of electronic health records into better care.

SD-430

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation from the American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Military Officers Association of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, Vietnam Veterans of America, Blinded Veterans Association, and the National Council on Aging.

CHOB-345

MARCH 12

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To receive a closed briefing on missile defense programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SVC-217

MARCH 17

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the state of technological innovation related to the electric grid.

SD-366

MARCH 18

10 a.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation from multiple veterans service organizations.

SD-G50

MARCH 24

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine management reforms to improve forest health and socioeconomic opportunities on the nation's forest system.

SD-366

MARCH 25

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine ballistic missile defense programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

SENATE—Thursday, February 26, 2015

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

We have thought, O God, of Your loving-kindness. You have blessed our Nation far more than we deserve. You have provided us with a goodly land of spacious skies and golden waves of grain. You have helped us create a durable government of, by, and for the people. You have protected us through wars and rumors of war.

May our lawmakers show their gratitude for Your loving-kindness by being responsible stewards of Your generous gifts. Give them the wisdom to protect the fragile gift of freedom. Lord, unite them in their commitment to do what is required to keep America one Nation controlled by Your sovereignty, with liberty and justice for all.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it was good to see Democrats finally bring an end to their weeks-long filibuster of the Homeland Security funding bill. Once the measure we voted on yesterday is complete, the Senate will consider sensible legislation from Senator COLLINS.

The Collins bill is really quite simple. It would protect our democracy from the most egregious example of Executive overreach we saw back in November. It is overreach described by President Obama himself as "ignoring the law." The Collins measure simply takes the President at his word and helps him follow the law instead of ignoring it.

It is hard to see how any Senator could oppose such a good, common-sense idea. So we look forward to that vote.

NET NEUTRALITY RULE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on a different matter, later today the Obama administration's FCC will take up a proposal by the President to strike a blow to the future of innovation in our country. It is the so-called net neutrality rule.

The growth of the Internet and the rapid adoption of mobile technology have been a great American success story, and they were made possible by a light regulatory touch. In fact, it is this bipartisan light touch consensus that allowed innovators to develop and sell the products people want and to create the kind of high-quality jobs Americans need without waiting around for government permission.

The Obama administration needs to get beyond its 1930s rotary telephone mindset and embrace the future. That means encouraging innovation, not suffocating it under the weight of an outdated bureaucracy and poorly named regulations such as this one.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the essential Department of Homeland Security faces a shutdown in less than 48 hours. At 12:01 a.m. Saturday morning the government will be forced to shut down the most essential part of our government set up to protect the homeland.

It is really unthinkable that America is less than 2 days away from letting its guard down in the midst of such rampant global terrorism. Yesterday, three Brooklyn men were arrested for joining ISIS. FBI Director Comey said yesterday that his agency is investigating suspected ISIS supporters in every State—all 50 States.

As Republican Congressman PETER KING said:

We can't allow DHS not [to] be funded. People think we're crazy. There are terrorist attacks all over the world, and we're talking about closing down Homeland Security.

And listen to this sentence:

This is like living in the world of the crazy people.

Republican Congressman PETER KING of New York has said that what is going on with the work of the Republicans here in the Senate and the House is like living in the world of crazy people.

Yesterday the Senate voted to begin the process of considering passing a clean Homeland Security funding bill. Without an agreement to speed up the process, a vote on final passage would take place on Sunday. As I said yesterday, we on this side of the aisle are willing to expedite passage of this bill by consent. We are ready to do it right now.

Once a clean full-year funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security is passed and signed into law, we look forward to debating how to best fix our Nation's broken immigration system, just as we did 20 months ago with the help of the Presiding Officer and others.

Would the Chair announce the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RUBIO). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 240, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 5, H.R. 240, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess from 12:45 p.m. until 1:45 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. RUBIO. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Are we in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are on the motion to proceed.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I will be speaking on the bill before us.

Madam President, we are just days away from an unthinkable government shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security. A government shutdown of the Department whose mission is to protect the citizens of this country is reckless and dangerous while we are under threat of attack by terrorist groups.

What kind of message does it send to ISIS, to cyber criminals, and to criminal drug gangs if Congress can't keep the Department of Homeland Security open?

This weekend we learned that a terrorist group from Somalia, al-Shabaab, released an online video calling for attacks on the Mall of America in Minnesota, as well as malls in Canada and England.

Just yesterday we learned that three Brooklyn, NY, men were arrested for plotting to travel to Syria to join ISIS. If they weren't successful in getting to Syria, they allegedly planned to commit an act of terrorism in the United States, and one even offered to kill President Obama if ordered to do so.

The role of the Department of Homeland Security in protecting our country from these threats and from so many others cannot be overstated. It is DHS that is working with State and local officials in Minnesota to coordinate a response to the Mall of America threat, and it is DHS and the Secret Service that help provide the counterterrorism and intelligence-gathering efforts that led to the arrests of the Brooklyn men who wanted to do harm in this country.

Referencing yesterday's arrests in Brooklyn, New York City Police Commissioner Bill Bratton said that this is not the time to engage in activities that would threaten our counterterrorism capabilities and effectively hold our counterterrorism agencies hostage to political machinations. This is not the time to be engaging in political rhetoric and political grandstanding.

I think Commissioner Bratton is right. Our Nation is already on high alert for terror threats after attacks in Sydney, Australia, and Ottawa, Canada, and in Paris. The Mall of America threat and the Brooklyn arrests reinforce the fact that we need our law enforcement community operating on all cylinders. Sadly, these aren't isolated threats.

A few weeks ago I spoke with the deputy commissioner of the New York City Police Department. He told me about the many terror attacks that have been thwarted in New York City since 9/11. He credited DHS, the fund-

ing, and programs that are coordinated through DHS and the personnel there for helping New York to prevent attacks from happening.

I have heard the same thing at home in New Hampshire from our law enforcement and first responders. I was in the town of Hampton, which is a coastal community, on Monday of this week. They talked about the importance of DHS support in developing a unified command for all of law enforcement in New Hampshire. They talked about the importance of the fusion center that is funded through the Department of Homeland Security because of the intelligence-gathering they do there and how they share that information with law enforcement agencies all across New Hampshire. Then they took me in and showed me a diagram of a human trafficking case that they are working on with the help of the Department of Homeland Security.

So this is not just about the big cities in the United States, it is about our rural communities, and it is about States across this country that rely on the Department of Homeland Security to help with their internal security. Yet here we are, less than 2 days away from shutting down the Department of Homeland Security because of unrelated ideological disagreements.

I am, however, very encouraged by recent developments here in the Senate, with yesterday's 98-to-2 vote to allow the Senate at some point in the future—hopefully sometime today—to pass a clean, full-year funding bill for DHS. I again applaud Senators MCCONNELL and REID for their efforts to get us to this point. I think we need leaders who are willing to work together, who are willing to encourage us here in the Senate. We saw that in the last few days with Senators MCCONNELL and REID.

Once the Senate acts, however, we will need the House of Representatives to join us in putting aside our ideological and political differences and passing a bill without controversial riders, a bill that will fund the Department of Homeland Security.

As we have discussed in this Chamber, there are disagreements about immigration and about the President's Executive action. I am certainly happy to have debate about that. I know there are others who are happy to have a debate. But first we need to fund the Department of Homeland Security. We need to put safety and security ahead of our ideological differences. We are just 2 days away from a devastating shutdown of DHS. We do not have time to waste. I certainly hope that we will act quickly here and that the House will also act quickly.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

NET NEUTRALITY

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, a battle has been raging online in the

past year. Millions of citizens, companies, innovators, and entrepreneurs have been sounding an alarm calling us to electronic arms. These 21st-century Netizens took to the street and they took to the Net. They raised their voices and demanded that the FCC protect the world's greatest platform for communications and commerce.

Today we declare victory. Today we say the economy and the free expression of ideas depend on Net neutrality. Today we say an open and free Internet is as important as keeping our air and water clean and our roads and highways safe. Today we say Net neutrality is here to stay. Today is Internet freedom and innovation day.

Just today the Federal Communications Commission is making historic decisions to enshrine Net neutrality protections. The Commission is voting to use its power to protect the tremendous power of the Internet. This battle for Net neutrality means that the Internet is protected for decades to come. It is protected for all the students and startups, for all the businesses and online buyers, for all of the inventors, the innovators, and the Internet users.

By banning paid prioritization, blocking, and throttling, the FCC is applying the principles of nondiscrimination—which is what Net neutrality really is—nondiscrimination to the broadband world. This is the next chapter in the history of American innovation. It is our country's declaration of innovation. Chairman Wheeler and the FCC are on the right side of history.

This battle for Net neutrality was not fought without opposition. The deep-pocketed broadband barons want to turn the Internet into a set of gated communities. They say it will raise taxes. They say it is an overreach. They say it will not stand up in court. Some claim it will harm investment. But then companies such as Sprint and Verizon say it will not, in fact, influence how they invest. So I say to the critics: Do you want to return to the days when a few telecommunications giants—which today we would call big broadband barons—control the vital wires and spectrum we use to communicate or do we want a free, dynamic, open market where the best in ideas survives and thrives? The choice is clear.

The FCC Commissioners supporting the open Internet order have made the right choice. Today the people won. I applaud the FCC and Chairman Wheeler for standing up for students in their dorm rooms, engineers in their basements, and innovators in their garages. I applaud the FCC for standing up for the best ideas, not merely the best funded ideas. The FCC has chosen the right path forward. I commend the Commission for that action.

Reclassifying broadband under title II is a major victory for consumers, for

our democracy, and for our economy. Consider that in 2013, 62 percent of the venture capital funds invested in this country went toward Internet-specific and software companies. The free flow of ideas supported by the Internet are creating the companies launching the global revolution and supporting the communications that we rely on every day. We want a free, dynamic, open market where the best in ideas survives and thrives.

Today is a historic, revolutionary day for consumers, innovators, entrepreneurs—anyone who counts on the Internet to connect to the world. I applaud and I thank the millions of American revolutionaries who stood up and fought for Net neutrality. The fight is not over. There is much more work to be done. But today is a historic victory. It is Internet freedom and innovation day.

Let's celebrate this transformative power of the Internet today and for generations to come. We are going to ensure that the architecture of the Internet remains one where the smallest entrepreneurs who can go to the capital markets and raise the funding for the new ideas, for the follow-on ideas to Google and eBay and Amazon and Hulu and YouTube, are able to be joined by new companies like Dwolla, like Etsy, like Vimeo, and like hundreds and thousands of others whose names we do not yet know, because now they are going to have the capacity to be able to say to their investors: We now have the capacity to reach a market. With our ideas, we can transform some part of the way in which people communicate in this country and on this planet.

That is what we are celebrating today—the power of the Net, the power of individuals to come up with the capital so they can then transform some part of the way in which we communicate in this life.

So just remember that when the 1996 Telecommunications Act passed, there were no companies like the ones I just mentioned. That was because it was an old world. But in the blink of an eye, a technological eye, we have moved to this new world where each of us is carrying a device in our pockets. Each of us is wondering how we ever got along without the capacity to be able to tap into all of these wonderful new companies and the products they provide. That is what today is all about—Net neutrality day. It will not impact the investments of the big companies, but it will ensure that the small companies—those that received 62 percent of all venture capital in America in the last year—will be able to provide their new products, their new innovations, their new challenges to the way in which we communicate. I think that is the whole key. We need to maintain the Darwinian paranoia-inducing competition that the Net has introduced. If

we do that, then I think America will be No. 1, looking over its shoulder at Nos. 2, 3, and 4 in the world in terms of our innovation in the communications sector.

Congratulations to the Federal Communications Commission, and congratulations to all entrepreneurs across America. Today is a day when you should be celebrating.

RECESS

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess until 1:45 p.m., as provided under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:30 p.m., recessed until 1:47 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. BARASSO).

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, with 1 day before the funding expires for the Department of Homeland Security, I rise to urge the adoption of a clean funding bill.

It seems we are on a path to ensure that, at least in the Senate, we are going to adopt a bill that funds the critical safety and national security functions of the Department of Homeland Security without extraneous immigration riders. I encourage my colleagues in both Chambers to embrace what Members on both sides of the aisle have acknowledged is the best way to resolve this issue—avoid a shutdown, enact the clean bipartisan Homeland Security bill, and address the immigration policies through regular order on the floor.

By now, we have all heard from a host of people spelling out the many negative impacts of a shutdown—our colleagues, Secretary Johnson, previous Secretaries, and many of our Nation's mayors. We would be unnecessarily disrupting funding which all of our States' emergency managers rely on and which allows for programs that function to keep us safe and keep people and goods moving securely and efficiently throughout our country.

My home State of Hawaii is 2,500 miles from the closest landmass. It hosts the Nation's fourth largest airport for international arrivals and is currently responding to and recovering from presidentially declared disasters related to lava threats and tropical storms.

For these and many other reasons, I am concerned that Congress would consider risking timely funding for the agencies that keep our airports safe, our coasts and waters secure, and pro-

vide for critical planning and response support to our States' first responders.

Additionally, I don't think anyone should attempt to trivialize a shutdown based on the argument that many Department of Homeland Security employees will have to report to work regardless. What an insult. For the thousands of Hawaii residents employed by the Department of Homeland Security, this is significant. These are middle-class jobs helping to support middle-class families. These employees will still have to make rent, pay a mortgage, buy gas, food, childcare and the like, and the Coast Guard's men and women will have to report for duty—not for pay. We owe them better than that. We shouldn't subject these families to uncertainty about their next paycheck.

Our path forward is actually totally simple: pass the original funding bill that was negotiated in good faith by both parties and both Chambers last December. Because of where we are right now, it is important to remember that the underlying Department of Homeland Security funding bill was the result of a bipartisan negotiation and compromise between both Chambers and both parties.

That means we have to resist the temptation in either Chamber to make political decisions that have no chances of success in the Senate or would be vetoed by the President. For example, reinserting partisan immigration riders into this bill is a non-starter. The Senate has not wavered on this point, and that dynamic is not going to change.

Let's just do our jobs. Let's fund the Department of Homeland Security, and then we can debate comprehensive immigration policy any time the leadership desires to bring it to the floor.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, tomorrow, on February 27, the Department of Homeland Security will run out of money and be forced to at least partially shut down. This is the Department responsible for protecting America against terrorism. It faces a government shutdown in about 24 hours.

Last year the congressional Republicans insisted that when we pass the overall Federal budget we cut out of it the Department of Homeland Security and not fully fund the Department. They insisted on this so they could enter into a debate with the President over the issue of immigration, and the

House of Representatives sent us funding for this Department contingent on five anti-immigration riders going after the President's position on immigration. They have created an artificial, unnecessary, dangerous funding crisis.

I have come to the floor over the last several weeks while this has been under consideration in the Senate urging the passage of a clean appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security. I was heartened yesterday by the overwhelming vote of 98 to 2 to move toward passing this clean appropriations bill. It appears we have finally come together on a bipartisan basis to fund this critical agency at the eleventh hour.

Sadly, there is no response from the House of Representatives as to whether they will even consider the timely funding for this Department, so we run the real risk we will have to shut down this Department and put America at risk as a result. That is unfortunate because we know how important this Department is and we know the threats are real.

It was just last weekend when we disclosed intelligence gathered that there were extremist groups threatening the malls of America. There were specific threats to malls that were owned by Jewish enterprises, whatever that meant, but that is what they said. That is what we are up against. We see it around the world, real terrorism and real extremism, and now the question is, Does the Speaker of the House see this threat? Do the Republicans who are in the majority in the House see this threat? Do they see it enough to want to fund this critical agency?

This morning on television there was an interview of one of the Republican Congressmen from Alabama. He said: No, this is really a debate about the Constitution, not about convenience.

Convenience? I don't understand that word when we talk about protecting America from terrorism. This is not a convenience, this is a necessity. This is part and parcel of why we exist as a Congress—to keep America safe.

So now the ball is in the court of the Republicans in the House. I think we will pass a clean bill here, and I think it will be overwhelmingly positive and bipartisan.

What is the issue that is sticking in their craw over there that troubles them so much that the House Republicans would jeopardize funding the agency assigned to keep America safe? It is the issue of immigration, particularly Executive orders issued by the President.

One particular part just absolutely gnaws at them as they think about the possibility the President's order of 2012—the so-called DACA order—will be carried out in the future. What is that order? It is an order which said: If someone was brought to the United

States as a child—an infant, a toddler, a small child—undocumented, and they went to school in this country and they have no criminal record, we are going to give them a chance to stay here and not be subject to deportation. They can go to school here, they can work here, and they are protected by the President's Executive order—the so-called DACA.

The Republicans in the House hate this idea like the devil hates holy water. They can't understand why these young people who had no wrongdoing in coming to this country should be given this chance, and they are prepared to shut down the Department of Homeland Security if we don't relent.

I come to the floor regularly to tell stories about these young people, and today I want to tell you the story of one of these DREAMers. Her name is Maria Ibarra-Frayre. She was brought to the United States from Mexico at the age of 9, grew up in Detroit, MI, and is an excellent student. She spent a lot of her spare time in community service and as a member of the National Honor Society, the Key Club, and the school newspaper. She volunteered twice a week tutoring middle school students, performed over 300 hours of community service, and graduated from high school with a 3.97 grade point average. There aren't too many of us in the Senate who can boast that kind of grade point average.

Maria was admitted to the University of Michigan, one of the top State colleges in the Nation. She couldn't attend because she is undocumented. Instead, she entered the University of Detroit Mercy, a private Catholic school. She was elected vice president of the student senate. She also helped found the Campus Kitchen, taking leftover meals from the school cafeteria and delivering them to seniors who had difficulty staying in homes.

She participated in the alternative spring break, where she spent her vacation time helping those in need. One year, she went to South Carolina and helped rebuild an elderly couple's house, and another year she worked with the homeless in Sacramento, CA.

Maria graduated as valedictorian of her class, with a major in English and social work. After graduation, her options were limited because she was undocumented. I might add that she didn't have a penny of government assistance going through college—undocumented students don't qualify. But she dedicated herself to community service and volunteered for the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, a Catholic nonprofit organization.

Then in 2012 President Obama issued his order to give protection to a young person like herself. She was able to get a temporary work permit to work in the United States. She didn't run out and get a high-paying corporate job. She continued her community service,

and now she is a full-time program coordinator for the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. She has applied to graduate school for social work. She wants to become an advocate for victims of domestic violence.

She wrote me a letter and talked about this Executive order which many House Republicans can't wait to rescind and defund. Here is what she said:

DACA means showing the rest of the country, society, and my community what I can do. I have always known what I'm capable of, but DACA has allowed me to show others that the investment and opportunity that DACA provides is worth it.

If the Republicans have their way, Maria will be deported. Having spent the majority of her life in this country, pledging allegiance to that flag, singing our national anthem—the only one she knows—they want her out of this country as quickly as possible.

America is better if Maria can stay. People will get a helping hand from her as they have throughout her entire life. I cannot understand this mean-spirited political strategy that cannot wait to deport this wonderful, amazing young woman from America. And 600,000 young people, many just like her, are only asking for a chance to make this a better Nation.

I hope that we do have a debate on immigration. I hope Members of the Senate and Congress will reflect on the fact that we are a nation of immigrants. Our diversity is our strength. Young people such as this who come to America make us a better Nation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, 3 weeks ago I came to the Senate floor to speak on an amendment which I had hoped would provide a framework that would accomplish three goals:

First, to provide funding for the Department of Homeland Security so that it could perform its vital mission of protecting the people of our country;

Second, to put the Senate on record as opposing the President's extraordinarily broad immigration actions issued by Executive order in November of 2014;

And, third, to ensure that individuals who were brought to this country as children and qualify for treatment under the June 2012 Executive order on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals—the so-called DREAMers that Senator DURBIN has just spoken of—could continue to benefit under that program.

I am very pleased that it looks like we are moving forward on a bill to fully fund the Department of Homeland Security. We had a very strong vote on that yesterday. Indeed, I have not heard a single Senator on either side of the aisle say that we should shut down the Department of Homeland Security. Each of us recognizes its vital mission.

As someone who served as the chairman or ranking member of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee for a decade, I certainly understand how vital the mission of this Department is.

I am keenly aware, as a member of the Intelligence Committee, of the threats against our country and the risks that we face from those who would do us harm.

At the same time, as members of the legislative branch, we have an obligation to speak out and to register our opposition when we believe that the President has exceeded his grant of Executive authority under the Constitution in a way that would undermine the separation of powers doctrine. I wish to read what a constitutional scholar has said about the President's Executive order and how far the President could or could not go. This is what this constitutional scholar says:

Congress has said "here is the law" when it comes to those who are undocumented. . . . What we can do is to carve out the DREAM Act, saying young people who have basically grown up here are Americans that we should welcome. . . . But if we start broadening that, then essentially I would be ignoring the law in a way that I think would be very difficult to defend legally. So that's not an option.

Who was that constitutional scholar? It was the President of the United States, Barack Obama. He said this in September of 2013. President Obama got it right back then. I believe that he was within the scope of his Executive authority when he issued the 2012 Executive orders that created DACA, which allowed for the DREAMers to stay here.

Let me also make clear that I am a supporter of comprehensive immigration reform. While I was disappointed that immigration reform legislation of some sort did not become law when we passed it a few years ago, I reject the notion that its failure can serve as justification for the actions taken by the President last November. He simply cannot do by Executive fiat what Congress has refused to pass regardless of the wisdom of Congress's decision. Such unilateral action is contrary to how our constitutional system is supposed to work, and it risks undermining the separation of powers doctrine, which is central to our constitutional framework.

That is really what this debate is about. It is about the proper constitutional constraints on unilateral Executive action. It happens to be an Executive action that deals with immigration, but it could be an Executive action on any other issue. That is why it is important that we draw those lines.

Indeed, the legislation I proposed, which we will be voting on at some point, is fully consistent with the court ruling in Texas, which my colleague, the senior Senator from Texas, is very familiar with and knows much more

about than I do. But it is fully consistent with that ruling which lets stand the 2012 Executive order but stayed the implementation of the 2014 Executive order. There is a difference.

Now, I consider the Senator from Illinois to be an excellent Senator and a dear friend, and it truly pains me to disagree with his analysis of my amendment. I know that he acts in good faith. But there are either misunderstandings or misinterpretations or just plain disagreements. So I would like to go through some of the points that he has made about my amendment.

One of the chief objections of the Senator from Illinois to my bill is that it strikes provisions of the November 2014 immigration action that would expand—that is the key word; it would expand—the 2012 DACA Program to add certain individuals who are not eligible under that program.

He talks about expanding the age limit, for example.

Now, let's take a look at exactly what the criteria are for DREAMers under the 2012 Executive order. These are criteria that were praised by my friend from Illinois and numerous other Senators on the Democratic side of the aisle when the President issued his Executive order. I, too, agree with these criteria.

In order to qualify, an individual has to have come to the United States under the age of 16, has to have continually resided in the United States for at least 5 years preceding the date of this memorandum, and has to be present on the date of the June 15, 2012, memorandum.

The individual has to be currently either in school, have graduated from high school, have obtained a general education development certificate or has to be an honorably discharged member of the Coast Guard or our military. In addition, the individual has to have a pretty good record. The person cannot have been convicted of a felony offense, a significant misdemeanor offense, multiple misdemeanor offenses or otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety. And they cannot be above the age of 30.

These are reasonable criteria that the President came up with.

Frankly, I am not enthralled with the one that allows for multiple misdemeanors, and the Executive order also states that the individual cannot have multiple misdemeanors. The form that is used by DHS says the individual can have up to three misdemeanors. I personally would require an absolutely clean record. But these are reasonable criteria, and these are not changed by the Collins bill in any way. The 2012 Executive order stands.

So the argument of my friend from Illinois is focused on the fact that he wants an expansion of these criteria and to add other categories of individ-

uals, and that is what the November 2014 immigration action does. It has nothing to do with the status of the individuals who were allowed to stay in this country as a result of the 2012 Executive order. My amendment protects the 2012 Executive order and those who benefited from it.

So we have a sincere disagreement over what is appropriate to be done by Executive action and what needs to be done by legislation. Even though I support many of the policies that are in the 2014 Executive order, I just don't think the President can unilaterally proclaim those changes.

Mr. DURBIN. Will Senator yield for a question?

Ms. COLLINS. If the Senator's question is a brief one, I will be very happy to yield.

Mr. DURBIN. I will make it very brief. If the Senator acknowledges—and I believe she does—that the President had the authority in 2012 to issue an Executive order under DACA and to spell out the criteria, which includes, at the very bottom of her chart, that the person is not above the age of 30, why does the Senator disagree with this situation: someone who was 29 years old in June 2012, eligible for DACA, the Executive order, and now it is 2½ years later, and the President tried to amend in November 2014 that last line to expand it so that those who have aged out would still have a chance because Congress has not acted otherwise. Why would the Senator from Maine draw that distinction saying that the President has the authority to write this order but not the authority to amend this order?

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am happy to respond to the point made by the Senator from Illinois.

The point is that the President's 2014 Executive order goes far beyond those who would "age out," in his words; it adds entirely new categories of people. In fact, the estimates are that some 5 million undocumented individuals would be covered by the 2014 Executive order. Should the President unilaterally be allowed to make that kind of Executive order, that kind of change in our immigration law? The court has said no, and I believe the court is right about that. In fact, when these criteria were issued in 2012, the Senator from Illinois said in a press release as recently as June of last year, before the November Executive order, that this was a smart and lawful approach.

So the answer is, how do you draw the line, and what is the appropriate role of the executive branch vis-à-vis the legislative branch? And I say that as someone who believes and hopes that later this year we will take up a comprehensive immigration bill, and I hope to be able to support it again. But this is an issue of what is the proper role of Congress vis-à-vis the President under our constitutional system. And I

was not surprised when the Texas court kept the 2012 Executive order but blocked the 2014 Executive order.

There is another issue the Senator from Illinois has raised that I think is a very important point to make. He has said that my bill could bar some of those who received the ability to stay in this country through the 2012 Executive order from renewing their status.

That is simply not how I read the Executive order, and I think it is very clear. Let's look at the 2012 Executive order. This is what it says. This is what Janet Napolitano talked about in "exercising prosecutorial discretion." The June 15, 2012, DACA Executive order grants deferred action "for a period of two years"—here are the key words—"subject to renewal." So there is nothing in my amendment that prevents children and young adults—people up to age 30—from getting a renewal of the deferred status that they have been granted through this Executive order. It says it right there: "subject to renewal."

But let's look further at the data. This is on DHS's Web site. According to the data from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the government has renewed more than 148,000 2012 applications as of the first quarter of this fiscal year, and many of them were completed before the November 2014 Executive orders were even issued.

So there is nothing in my bill that prevents the renewal of those individuals who received this status. It is very clear—148,000 of them have had their applications renewed.

The Senator from Illinois has said that I would prevent DHS from issuing a memorandum that allows for the renewal. There is no need for such a memorandum; otherwise, 148,000 of these young people would not have been able to get a renewal—and before the 2014 Executive order was even issued.

The Senator has also said that my bill calls into question the very legality of the 2012 DACA order because it is a "very similar program to the 2014 Executive action."

To restate my basic point, my bill does not affect the 2012 DACA Program. It is substantially different from the 2014 Executive order. In fact, if you read the language of the 2014 Executive order, it embraces that distinction. It specifically states that it does not rescind or supersede the 2012 DACA order.

Let me say that again. The 2014 Executive order specifically states that it does not rescind or supersede the Executive order that was issued in 2012. Instead, it says it seeks to supplement or amend it.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. HOEVEN. The Senator from Texas.

Ms. COLLINS. I will be happy to yield to the Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. I appreciate the leadership of the Senator from Maine on this issue, and in her typical diligence and attention to detail, I think she has shown that the objections to a vote on the Collins amendment, which would be scheduled for Saturday unless moved up, are not well-taken.

I would ask the Senator from Maine whether her interpretation of the President's Executive action in November of 2014 is any different from what the President himself said 22 different times, when he said he did not have the authority to issue such an Executive action?

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, if I could respond to the senior Senator from Texas, he raises an excellent point. I would bring up a quote that is just one of those 22 quotes in which the President has said over and over again that he would like to do more on immigration, that he was very disappointed the House didn't take up the comprehensive immigration bill but that his hands were tied. I believe at one point he even said, "I am not a king."

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, will the Senator yield for a further question?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I would ask the Senator from Maine—you are not alone—and the President is not alone—in stating your objections to the 2014 order. Your amendment would seek to get a vote and to put Senators on record. Is the Senator aware that there are a number—perhaps seven or eight Senators on the other side of the aisle who at different times around the November 2014 order said they were uncomfortable with the President taking this authority unto himself? In other words, I think the junior Senator from Maine was one who said that while he may agree with the outcome, this is not the right way to do it. Are you familiar with the fact that there are many of our Democratic friends who have expressed similar concerns about the illegality of the President's Executive action?

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, it doesn't surprise me that there are both Democratic Senators and Republican Senators who are extremely uncomfortable with what the President did last November because it is so outside of the scope of his authority as President that I think that most of my colleagues, in their hearts, on the other side of the aisle must have qualms and misgivings about what the President did. In fact, I would almost guarantee that if a Republican President had exceeded his Executive authority to that degree, there would have been an uproar. So I think this is important in terms of our protecting the checks and balances that our Founding Fathers so wisely incorporated into the Constitution. And I do believe there are even more Senators on the other side who

may not have said what they were thinking but who really do have qualms about it even if they agree with the policy.

We need to distinguish between the policy—whether or not some Members agree with the policy; some Members don't—but the question is, Does the President's frustration with Congress's failure to pass immigration reform allow him to unilaterally write the law?

The Senator from Texas is a former Supreme Court justice in Texas, and through the Chair I would pose that question to him.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. I have to say to my friend, the Senator from Maine, that the Constitution is written in a way that divides government's authority between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. And I, of course, agree that there can be no justification on the part of the President that somehow Congress hadn't acted enough or quickly enough or expansively enough to justify the extension of his authority under the Constitution.

I wish to ask my friend from Maine another question in order to drill down on her earlier point. It seems to me that the Senator from Illinois, the distinguished minority whip, is making the suggestion that we are mad about people benefiting from this Executive action, which, to my mind, could not be further from the truth. We all understand the aspirations of people wanting a better way of life and to have opportunities, but isn't it true that when we all take an oath to uphold the constitutional laws of the United States—whether you are the President or a Senator—we have a sacred obligation to make sure no branch, including the President, usurps the authority of another branch or violates those constitutional limitations?

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, the Senator from Texas, who has a fine legal mind and has served on the Texas Supreme Court, is exactly right.

Moreover, I wish to read what President Obama himself said about the very point the Senator from Texas made about the oath when we held up our right hand and were sworn into this body, and the oath the President took when he became President. Here is what the President said in July 2011:

I swore an oath to uphold the laws on the books . . . Now, I know some people want me to bypass Congress and to change the laws on my own . . . But that's not how our system works. That's not how our democracy functions. That's not how our Constitution is written.

President Obama had it exactly right when he stated that reality.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. The Senator from Maine has been very patient with me. If I could ask two final questions.

Given the 22 different public statements the President of the United States himself said about his lack of authority to do what he did in November of 2014, given the reservations publicly expressed and reported by a number of Members on that side of the aisle about what the President has done, and given the fact there are 11 Democratic Senators who come from States that filed a lawsuit to block the President's Executive action, can the Senator from Maine understand why the Democratic minority would try to block the Senator's amendment, which would put all Senators on record as to whether they agree with the President when he said that 22 times, whether they agree with the court that issued the preliminary injunction, and whether they agree with their own States that participated in this litigation to block the implementation of this unlawful order?

Can the Senator think of any reason why they would try to block or defeat the Senator's amendment and put all Members of the Senate on record?

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, to respond to the Senator from Texas, I hope that will not happen. I have put forth a way forward for this body. I want to ensure that the Department of Homeland Security is fully funded throughout the fiscal year. I want to ensure that we do not overturn the 2012 DACA Executive order, which is narrow enough that it does not raise the very troubling issues the Senator from Texas has so eloquently outlined. But I do believe it is important for each of us to take a stand against the President's overreach here. This is important. This matters.

It is our job to protect the Constitution and to uphold our role, and that is what I am trying to do here—accomplish those three goals—and that is what the Senator from Texas is discussing.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, if I could ask the Senator from Maine one final question.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. My friend has been enormously patient with me. We are trying to drill this issue down here so all of the Members of the Senate understand exactly what the Collins amendment does and does not do.

We have talked about the fact that not only are there Members of the Senate who are on record saying what the President did was an overreach, there are 11 Democratic Senators who come from States that filed a suit claiming irreparable damages to their States and will have an opportunity to vote for the Collins amendment—hopefully here soon.

I wish to ask the Senator: There is one part of what the President's Executive order does that, to me, stands out above and beyond the constitutional issues, and that is the ability of people

who have committed domestic violence, child exploitation, sexual abuse, and child molestation to somehow get kicked back to the end of the line when it comes to being repatriated to their state.

For example, we all understand, as I said earlier, immigrants come here for a better life. We all understand that. We would hope they would come and play by the rules as opposed to not playing by the rules. Why in the world would the President want to reward, in effect, people who have committed domestic violence, child exploitation, sexual abuse, and child molestation by moving them down to a second-tier status of priority when it comes to repatriation?

Is the Senator familiar with what I am referring to? Perhaps my friend can enlighten us further on that.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am familiar with the issue the Senator from Texas refers to, and I kept a provision included in the bill that we will be voting on at some point, on that issue. It seems to me, if you are a convicted sex offender, why do we want you in this country?

The irony is that just this week the Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing on sex trafficking, and we heard heartbreaking stories of very young girls who had been abused by men, who had been taken from State to State, coerced into prostitution. I do not want those individuals, if they come from another country, to be allowed to stay here. All 20 of the women of the Senate requested this hearing from the Judiciary Committee, and the Senator from Texas and the Senator from Minnesota have bills that deal with this kind of human trafficking. We are trying to send a message that these individuals should be a high priority for deportation, but I want to make it clear that contrary to allegations that have been made about my bill—and, frankly, it is a completely specious argument—there is nothing in my bill that deprives the Department of Homeland Security of the authority it needs to pursue those who would seek to harm our country—those, for example, who are terrorists or belong to gangs or pose some sort of public safety or national security threat.

Indeed, the public safety threat is big enough to cover the people we are talking about, but we think they merit special mention in our bill. Why would we want to keep someone in our country who is deportable, who is a sex offender, who has been convicted of child molestation or domestic violence? It makes no sense.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, if I could close with a followup question.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. I thank the Senator from Maine for her leadership on this important amendment. To me it is un-

thinkable that Senators would block a vote on the Collins amendment at some point in the process this week because what it does, as the Senator has pointed out, is basically reinforce what the President said himself 22 different times when he said he didn't have the authority. It reaffirms what the Federal District Court held in Brownsville recently, and which 26 States filed suit on. I share the Senator's bewilderment, really, at how on one hand we can be condoning people coming into the country and showing disrespect not only for our immigration laws but compounding that disrespect with these heinous offenses, such as domestic violence, child exploitation, sexual abuse, and child molestation, particularly after we voted unanimously out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on a bipartisan basis these anti-trafficking bills the Senator spoke about.

I want to close by thanking the Senator and the women of the Senate for leading us toward passage of this anti-trafficking legislation, but to also point out, once again, the complete unacceptability of this idea that somehow we are going to play games by blocking the Collins amendment vote and somehow condoning the same conduct on one hand and on the other hand we are condemning them through the passage of this anti-trafficking legislation.

I thank the Senator and the Presiding Officer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Texas for his contributions to this very important debate. I believe he helped to clarify a lot of important issues that I hope Members on both sides of the aisle will consider as they cast their votes.

I am for comprehensive immigration reform. I have voted that way. That is not what this is about. My bill simply prevents the executive branch from usurping the legislative power by creating categorical exceptions from the law for whole classes of people. That power belongs to Congress. Whether Congress was wrong or whether Congress was right, it does not give the President the authority to write the law on his own, and that is what he has done with his November 2014 Executive order.

I wish to make two other points before I close. The first point is there is nothing in my legislation that in any way undoes the more limited 2012 Executive order that applies to the DREAMers—nothing. It doesn't prevent them from being renewed nor does it take away their status. There is nothing that changes that Executive order. The first version of the House bill did, and I opposed that provision and it is not in my bill.

The second point I will make is that this debate is not about immigration.

It really is about the power of the President versus the powers delineated in our Constitution for Congress and the judicial branch.

I will close, once again, with President Obama's own words, because he got it right back in September of 2013. He said:

Congress has said "here is the law" when it comes to those who are undocumented . . . What we can do is to carve out the DREAM Act—

And that is what he did with his 2012 Executive order.

saying young people who have basically grown up here are Americans that we should welcome . . . But if we start broadening that—

Which is exactly what he did in his 2014 Executive order.

then essentially I would be ignoring the law in a way that I think would be very difficult to defend legally. So that's not an option.

That is why the court stayed the implementation of the 2014 Executive order.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

NET NEUTRALITY

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about a historic decision by the Federal Communications Commission. It was a 3-to-2 decision in a landmark case that will go down as a way to protect an open Internet economy. Consumers all across America should applaud this decision—and I know they will in the Pacific Northwest—because we will be protecting an aspect of our economy that has created thousands of jobs and millions of dollars.

This decision, known as Net neutrality, simply says that cable companies and telecom companies cannot artificially charge more on the Internet, thereby slowing down traffic or making a two-tier system in which some applications would be given access to faster service and others not, based on what they paid for.

This is an important decision because it champions an open Internet economy that has built so many new aspects of the way we communicate, the way we educate, and the way we continue to transact business around the globe. In 2010 the Internet economy accounted for 4.7 percent, or approximately \$68 billion, of America's gross domestic product. Next year that Internet economy is expected to pass \$100 billion and comprise 5.4 percent of our country's estimated \$18 trillion GDP. So in 6 years the Internet's value has climbed over 30 percent.

What this decision says is: Let's protect the Internet. Let's not artificially tax it, let's not artificially slow it down, and let's not artificially create two tiers of an Internet system and stymie innovation. So many of us now know and enjoy the benefits the Inter-

net provides when we buy a Starbucks coffee and use an app to pay for it or use an app to get on an airplane—and so many other ways that we communicate in an information age. Slowing all that down by just one second causes big problems and curtails an economy of growth.

We all know we have questions about the way cable companies and phone companies charge us for data. Let's make sure the Federal Communications Commission does its job by overseeing those companies that might want to charge more for those services than they need to charge. Let's keep an open Internet. Let's have Net neutrality be the law of the land.

I applaud the FCC for this historic decision today.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I rise today in partnership with Senator THAD COCHRAN from Mississippi having just submitted a resolution recognizing and celebrating Black History Month here in the United States of America.

I wish to take a few moments before that to address an issue that very poignantly has been anguishing my heart for my entire life. From the time I was growing up in the small town of Harrington Park, NJ, through my career in school and college, this has been grieving my heart. It has been grieving my heart since I started working in a predominantly minority city—a city I love—Newark, NJ.

I bring this up in the context of a previous speech I gave about our broken criminal justice system that makes us singular, among all of humanity on planet Earth, for the amount of our population that we incarcerate. We have 5 percent of the globe's population but about 25 percent of all of the globe's imprisoned people. This explosion is not consistent with our history. In fact, it is inconsistent with our history. It is incongruent with our values. To be very specific, the explosion of our prison population is because of the war on drugs.

The bottom line is that there were fewer people incarcerated in 1980 for any reason than there are today in prison and jails for drug offenses alone. Let me say that again, we have more people incarcerated today, either in prisons or in jails, just for drug crimes than all of the people incarcerated in the year 1980. In fact, due to this drug war our Federal prison population has exploded about 800 percent.

In the context of what I am about to talk about in this resolution recognizing African-American history, I wish to particularly point to today this

grievous reality that our war on drugs has disproportionately affected African Americans, Latinos, minorities, and the poor in general.

It is painful for me to have seen in my lifetime, in the town I grew up in or at Stanford or Yale, many of my friends using drugs such as marijuana, many of them buying drugs such as marijuana, and many of them selling drugs such as marijuana. But the reality is the justice system they experienced for breaking the law was very different than the justice system I saw in Newark, NJ. The reality is we don't have a system of equal justice under law, but a system that disproportionately affects minorities in a way that is stunning and an affront to our nation's values. Arrest rates for drug use have a disparate impact on people of color. There is no questioning that. This is unacceptable. When it comes to people who break the law in America, there is actually no difference between blacks and whites who have committed drug crimes—none whatsoever, but African Americans, for example, when it comes to marijuana, are arrested at 3.7 times the rate that whites are in this country. While their usages were similar in Newark or Stanford, law enforcement has arrested and incarcerated far more minorities living in urban communities than whites living in suburban communities.

Between 2007 and 2009, drug sentences for African American men were longer than those for white men. Drug sentences for black men were 13.1 percent longer for the same crime than those for white men. So not only are more African Americans and Latinos and people of color being targeted and arrested at higher rates than whites for the same crimes, but they are also getting and serving longer sentences.

Human Rights Watch put it simply. They found that even though the majority of illegal drug users and dealers nationwide are white, three-quarters of all people imprisoned for drug offenses are minorities. This should call out to the conscience of everyone in our country.

We believe fundamentally, at the core of our American values, in this ideal of equal justice under the law. The punishing thing about this is that not only are arrest rates higher, not only are they receiving longer sentences, but when we get such a disproportionate amount of people being arrested and incarcerated, the collateral consequences which they see at the end of the system become even more punishing on those communities. We now have cities in America that for certain age demographics, almost 50 percent of African American men have been arrested, and over 40 percent of Latino men have been arrested. And what that means is that once someone has a felony conviction for the non-violent use of drugs, one's ability to go

to college, to get a Pell grant, to get a job, and even to get many business licenses, is undermined.

Right now we see this punishing impact destroying many communities. Instead of empowering people to succeed, we are getting people trapped in our criminal justice system. Instead of the solid rock of success, people are being sucked into the quicksand of a broken criminal justice system. For example, the blacks and Latinos in the United States are 29 percent of the population but make up almost 60 percent of the prison population. In New Jersey, blacks and Latinos are 32 percent of the total State population, but blacks and Latinos make up 81 percent of our prison population.

An often overlooked group in this discussion on the disproportionate impact on minorities is Native Americans. For instance, in North Dakota, Native Americans make up 5 percent of the total State population but 29 percent of the prison population. These numbers, again, go against the truth of who we are as a country.

So at this moment, when we are celebrating our history, when blacks and whites and Christians, Jews, and Muslims come together to advance our Nation—indeed, I stand here today because of the collective conviction of this country to live up to its values and ideals that all of us are created equal under God and that all of us should have an equal opportunity to succeed and be seen equally by our government.

It is at this moment that I say we can and must do better. In fact, many States, including red States, led by Republicans, are showing that there is a different way. For example, States such as Texas, Georgia, and North Carolina are leading on this issue. Texas is known for its law and order, but it has made tremendous strides in adopting policies that have decreased its prison population and positively affected minorities in the State. In fact, the Governor of Georgia continually talks about the fact that he has been able to lower his black male incarceration rate by about 20 percent over the past 5 years.

So as I prepare to join with the great Senator from Mississippi, I just want to say from the bottom of my heart that it is time to reform our legal system to make it truly a justice system. We want it so that everyone under the law faces equal treatment and so that we empower our entire community in America to be successful, not tie them up unnecessarily when even though they have paid the price for their crime. Punishment should not haunt someone for the rest of their existence.

I remember these words spoken by the great Langston Hughes, one of our great American poets, an African-American man who once said: There is a dream in this land with its back

against the wall; to save this dream for one, we must save it for all.

This is the dream of America. We can do better. Indeed, many communities are committing themselves to creating a justice system which we can be proud of. We know in the Senate—Members on both sides of the political aisle; whether it is Senator LEE or Senator DURBIN or whether it is Senator CORNYN or Senator WHITEHOUSE—that together we can evidence these values.

With that, I recognize and yield for a moment to a friend and an ally, the Senator from Mississippi, THAD COCHRAN.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am very pleased to join my friend in introducing legislation celebrating Black History Month. This opportunity provides us with an excuse, if we need one, to remember the challenges and the failures of the past, and the embarrassments and the criminalities, and so many challenging and horrible things that have characterized the treatment of citizens in the United States with injustice, with discrimination, with segregation, and all of the horrors we can remember as we contemplate this subject.

Today, the Senator from Mississippi is joining the Senator from New Jersey and others in giving us another opportunity to not only remember past injustice and celebrate victories over it but also to commemorate contributions being made today throughout our country to ensure equality and justice and opportunity for all Americans.

The rich history we have as a nation should include a promise for the future carved by African Americans as central contributors. They were here during the darkest times. They are still here, and they are continuing to make huge and important contributions to our Nation.

So I am pleased to join my friend, the distinguished Senator from New Jersey, to support the adoption of our resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I cannot tell you how grateful I am for those good words from my colleague. Truly, they resonate with my heart and my spirit. The gravity of this historic moment is not lost on me. It is a tribute to his character that he cosponsored this with me, as he understands, as he said so clearly, that American history is a beautiful mosaic, with contributions from every corner of the globe being made in this great country that we call the United States of America.

It is with that spirit and that recollection of our past, with a commitment to forge an even brighter future, that I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 88, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 88) Celebrating Black History Month.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BOOKER. I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 88) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I am grateful for that. Again, I thank my colleague for his partnership.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Republicans control the next hour and that the Democrats control the following hour.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Under the previous order, the majority will control the next hour, and the Democrats will control the following hour.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, on July 14 of last year, I wrote a letter to lawmakers on both sides of the aisle warning that the President was planning to issue an Executive amnesty for 5 million illegal aliens—people unlawfully in America. Congress was at the time considering a supplemental funding measure for the Department of Homeland Security.

I wrote:

Congress must not acquiesce to spending more taxpayer dollars until the President unequivocally rescinds his threat of more illegal executive action... If Congress simply passes a supplemental spending bill without these preconditions, it is not a question of if the President will suspend more immigration laws, but only how many he will suspend.

Executive amnesty became a major issue in the election last November.

Many Members of the Senate and House who had supported these immigration policies of the President didn't come back. They were sent home, and many returning on both sides of the aisle said during their campaigns that they opposed these policies.

Still, on November 20, after a historic midterm election defeat, President Obama defied the will of the American people and Congress and issued his Executive amnesty for 5 million persons. This amnesty included not just the right to stay in America but an explicit photo ID, work authorization, work permits, Social Security numbers and Social Security benefits, Medicare benefits, cash tax credits, and the right to basically take any job in America—at a time of high unemployment and falling wages, as economists have told us is happening.

Each of these measures had been considered and explicitly rejected by Congress. It wasn't as if this was something the President just conceived. It had been considered and rejected. Congress acted decisively to oppose the President's legislation and to maintain in effect the current laws of the United States as codified in the Immigration and Nationality Act. President Obama's Executive action nullified the immigration laws we do have and replaced them with the very measures Congress and the American people have time and time again rejected.

Not even King George III had the power to act without Parliament. President Obama himself described such an action as being something only an emperor could do. Those were his words. Twenty-two times the President declared such an action would be illegal. President Obama ignored his own warnings and issued an edict that defies the Congress, the Constitution, and centuries of legal heritage that gave birth to our present Republic.

The Founders, in their wisdom, gave the Congress the tools it would need to stop a President who overreaches. First, it gave the power to pass laws to the Congress, as every child in school knows. Congress passes the laws, not the President. This is a matter of great fundamental importance. Then it gave the Congress the tools it would need to stop a President because they anticipated Presidents may overreach in the future. Chief among those powers is the power of the purse, and that is what we are talking about today: Should Congress fund the President's actions that are contrary to law, contrary to congressional wishes, and contrary to the American people's wishes? That is the question.

Let me now read from the Federalist Papers, Federalist 58, authored by the great Father of the Constitution, James Madison. He is talking about the House of Representatives, and the House of Representatives now has funded Homeland Security fully. Every-

thing that needs to be passed to fund the Homeland Security operations they passed. They simply said: You cannot spend money to provide amnesty and these benefits and these Social Security and ID cards. You can't spend money on that. We don't approve spending money on that.

So what has happened in the Senate? Our Democratic colleagues have filibustered the bill. They will not even let it come up on the floor, not even to vote on amendments. Senator MCCONNELL told them they would have amendments. It has put the Congress and the country in a very difficult position.

This is what Madison said:

The House of Representatives cannot only refuse, but they alone can propose, the supplies requisite for the support of government. They, in a word, hold the purse, that powerful instrument, by which we behold, in the history of the British Constitution, an infant and humble representation of the people gradually enlarging the sphere of its activity and importance, and finally reducing, as far as it seems to have wished, all the overgrown prerogatives of the other branches of government. This power over the purse may, in fact, be regarded as the most complete and effectual weapon with which any constitution can arm the immediate representatives of the people, for obtaining a redress of every grievance, and for carrying into effect every just and salutary measure.

It is a complete power of the elected representatives by the people of America. First of all, the American people through their elected representatives rejected the President's policies on immigration. They chose to keep current law, but this did not satisfy the President. He asked Congress to change it, and Congress refused. They refused in 2006, 2007, 2010, 2013, 2014. It has been rejected by Congress repeatedly. So that is where we are.

Congress has no duty to do this. Congress has no obligation to fund those actions which it believes simply are unwise. It has an absolute duty, it seems to me, not to fund actions which are unlawful and unconstitutional. Congress cannot fund an action which dissolves its own powers.

Congress shouldn't fund Presidential actions that are against the law, and Congress certainly cannot fund an action which dissolves its own powers. Congress cannot become a museum piece, a marble building that tourists visit to hear about great debates from long ago, but which now exists merely to approve that which the President demands. It doesn't have to approve one thing the President asks for if it is not a correct thing.

So consider the precedent being established here: Congress passes a law, just as Congress passed the Immigration and Nationality Act. A President proposes a new law to replace the current one. Hearing vast public opposition, Congress rejects the new law the President has proposed. Frustrated, the President then issues an edict elimi-

nating the current law and replacing it with measures he has proposed but which the people's representatives had rejected. The President then demands Congress provide him with the money to execute his unlawful program. The Congress says no. The President then accuses Congress of shutting down the government for not funding his unlawful program. Congress surrenders, quits, gives up, and the President gets what he wants.

Have the people of the United States been served in that fashion? Has the Constitution of the United States been served? Has the Congress of the United States not acquiesced in its own diminishment, violating its duty to ensure that every dollar spent by the Government of the United States is spent on policies that are appropriate?

Well, is this to be the new normal? Congress must provide the President with the funds he wants for any project he dreams up, no matter how illegal or unconstitutional? Is the power of the purse now a historic concept never to be used again when it is needed most? There is no more basic application of congressional power than to establish where funds may or may not be spent. Indeed, that is the very definition of an appropriations bill. There could never be a more important time to exercise such a power than when free government, our republican heritage itself, is at stake.

We cannot let this Congress go down in the history books as the Congress that established a new precedent that we will fund any imperial decree that violates established American law.

And this is not a minor constitutional violation; it is an explosive violation. It threatens our very sovereignty, the extent of which exceeds anything I have ever seen in my time in the Senate. I cannot imagine and cannot recall one in the past—so blatant a violation. Essential to any sovereign nation is the enforcement of its borders, the application of uniform rules for exit and entry, and the delivery of consequences for any who violate those rules.

But the President has suspended those borders, erased those rules, and replaced consequences with rewards. People who have entered unlawfully, stayed here unlawfully, are being rewarded with work permits, Social Security benefits and Medicare benefits, ID cards, legal status. He has arrogated for himself the sole and absolute power to decide who comes to the United States. That is, in effect, what it is. He gets to decide unilaterally who can stay and live in the United States and who works in the United States.

At this very moment, he continues—despite a court order—to allow new illegal immigrants by the thousands to stream across the border, to violate their visas, and to wait for their amnesty too, which they expect will occur

sometime in the future. Why not? Every officer and expert in the Border Patrol and USCIS has told us if this stands, it will encourage more illegal immigration in the future.

I cannot vote for any legislation that funds this illegal amnesty. There must be a line in the sand and a moment where people say: This is where it stops. That is why I will oppose the legislation if these amnesty restrictions are removed from the House bill. I will support the House bill, but I cannot support the bill if the restrictions are removed. I will urge my colleagues to do the same.

Look, the American people are right and just and good and decent people. They have asked of Congress, begged of Congress, pleaded with Congress for years for our laws to be enforced. They want us to have a lawful system of immigration that serves the national interests, one they can be proud of, one that people can rely on when they apply to come to the United States.

They have demanded—and Congress responded and has passed laws over the years to protect the jobs and the wages of the American people. They have elected lawmaker after lawmaker, however, who has pledged to do this and make this system work, and to end the lawlessness.

But each time their will has been nullified. Each time their laws that have been passed have been ignored. Each time the special interests, the open-border billionaires, the global elites, get their way.

In the simplest of terms, here is where we stand now, truly: Six of our Democratic colleagues need to switch their votes and end the filibuster of the House bill. Six Senate Democrats are standing in the way of the interests of 300 million Americans. Six Senate Democrats are keeping from protecting American workers and American borders.

They are uniform, in lockstep, blocking the consideration of the House bill that funds Homeland Security but does not fund the unlawful actions of the President. So we will have to take this case to the American people and see whether it is indeed possible these Democrats are able to defy the hopes, dreams, and sacred rights of every law-abiding American citizen.

AWARDING A CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO THE FOOT SOLDIERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN BLOODY SUNDAY, TURNAROUND TUESDAY, OR THE FINAL SELMA TO MONTGOMERY VOTING RIGHTS MARCH IN MARCH OF 1965

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I am excited about an event today. I had the honor—Senator BOOKER was on the floor earlier today. He is a cosponsor with me. We celebrate today the passage of a gold medal bill.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 24, S. 527.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 527) to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Foot Soldiers who participated in Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday, or the final Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March in March of 1965, which served as a catalyst for the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 527) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 527

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) March 7, 2015, will mark 50 years since the brave Foot Soldiers of the Voting Rights Movement first attempted to march from Selma to Montgomery on “Bloody Sunday” in protest against the denial of their right to vote, and were brutally assaulted by Alabama state troopers.

(2) Beginning in 1964, members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee attempted to register African-Americans to vote throughout the state of Alabama.

(3) These efforts were designed to ensure that every American citizen would be able to exercise their constitutional right to vote and have their voices heard.

(4) By December of 1964, many of these efforts remained unsuccessful. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., working with leaders from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, began to organize protests throughout Alabama.

(5) On March 7, 1965, over 500 voting rights marchers known as “Foot Soldiers” gathered on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama in peaceful protest of the denial of their most sacred and constitutionally protected right—the right to vote.

(6) Led by John Lewis of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and Rev. Hosea Williams of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, these Foot Soldiers began the march towards the Alabama State Capitol in Montgomery, Alabama.

(7) As the Foot Soldiers crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge, they were confronted by a wall of Alabama state troopers who brutally attacked and beat them.

(8) Americans across the country witnessed this tragic turn of events as news stations broadcasted the brutality on a day that would be later known as “Bloody Sunday.”

(9) Two days later on Tuesday, March 9, 1965, nearly 2,500 Foot Soldiers led by Dr. Martin Luther King risked their lives once more and attempted a second peaceful march starting at the Edmund Pettus Bridge. This second attempted march was later known as “Turnaround Tuesday.”

(10) Fearing for the safety of these Foot Soldiers who received no protection from

federal or state authorities during this second march, Dr. King led the marchers to the base of the Edmund Pettus Bridge and stopped. Dr. King knelt and offered a prayer of solidarity and walked back to the church.

(11) President Lyndon B. Johnson, inspired by the bravery and determination of these Foot Soldiers and the atrocities they endured, announced his plan for a voting rights bill aimed at securing the precious right to vote for all citizens during an address to Congress on March 15, 1965.

(12) On March 17, 1965, one week after “Turnaround Tuesday”, U.S. District Judge Frank M. Johnson ruled the Foot Soldiers had a First Amendment right to petition the government through peaceful protest, and ordered federal agents to provide full protection to the Foot Soldiers during the Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March.

(13) Judge Johnson’s decision overturned Alabama Governor George Wallace’s prohibition on the protest due to public safety concerns.

(14) On March 21, 1965, under the court order, the U.S. Army, the federalized Alabama National Guard, and countless federal agents and marshals escorted nearly 8,000 Foot Soldiers from the start of their heroic journey in Selma, Alabama to their safe arrival on the steps of the Alabama State Capitol Building on March 25, 1965.

(15) The extraordinary bravery and sacrifice these Foot Soldiers displayed in pursuit of a peaceful march from Selma to Montgomery brought national attention to the struggle for equal voting rights, and served as the catalyst for Congress to pass the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which President Johnson signed into law on August 6, 1965.

(16) To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Movement and the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, it is befitting that Congress bestow the highest civilian honor, the Congressional Gold Medal, in 2015, to the Foot Soldiers who participated in Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday or the final Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March during March of 1965, which served as a catalyst for the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design to the Foot Soldiers who participated in Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday, or the final Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March during March of 1965, which served as a catalyst for the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) AWARD OF MEDAL.—Following the award of the gold medal described in subsection (a), the medal shall be given to the Selma Interpretative Center in Selma, Alabama, where it shall be available for display or temporary loan to be displayed elsewhere, as appropriate.

SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including

labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses, and the cost of the gold medal.

SEC. 4. STATUS OF MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, this marks the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and that historic event in Selma, AL, in March of 1965. So this bill, I believe, is a fitting honor that recognizes the courage and determination of the civil rights marches at Selma 50 years ago.

The Selma-to-Montgomery march was a pivotal event in the drive to achieve the right to vote for all Americans, a right which was being systematically denied in that area and other places in the country. This action was historic. It dealt a major blow to deliberate discrimination. It produced a positive and lasting change for Americans.

Those who stood tall for freedom on that fateful day deserve to be honored with the Congressional Gold Medal. It is a rare thing. We do not give it out often. But this is a very special occasion. I think these courageous individuals are greatly worthy of this high recognition from the Congress.

I would note that two Alabama Congresswomen, new, younger Members of the House of Representatives, MARTHA ROBY, a Republican, and TERRI SEWELL, a Democrat, introduced similar bills in the House of Representatives, which passed unanimously, 420 to 0. The Senate bill today that Senator BOOKER and I have moved out of the Senate banking committee, which my colleague from Alabama, Senator SHELBY, chairs—it moved out of that committee unanimously. It now has been passed through the Senate.

It was a very historic day. It marked an alteration in the history of America. It changed an unacceptable abuse of American rights, the right to vote, and it created a more positive world, country, and region. I grew up not too far from there. I was in high school or junior high school when that happened. I remember reading about it, thinking about it, but I do not think I fully understood the significance of it until time had gone by.

I think this is a very fitting honor. I am pleased it has passed today. I am pleased for those who will receive the honor.

I yield the floor.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I support S. 527, a bill to honor the foot soldiers of the historic civil rights march that led thousands from Selma to Montgomery in a peaceful protest for their right to vote.

I am proud to cosponsor this bill, which would award the Congressional Gold Medal to those who gave their blood, sweat, and tears in the name of ending unfathomable injustices in our country. In honor of the 50th anniversary of the march, this award will recognize those whose groundbreaking efforts acted as a catalyst for the Voting Rights Act and made our Nation a more free and equitable place.

Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday, and the final 54-mile march from Selma to the Alabama state capitol in Montgomery were defining moments in the never-ending struggle for equal treatment under the law. On Bloody Sunday, peaceful marchers at the Edmund Pettus Bridge by Selma were met by State troopers and locals, resulting in a brutal conflict. Seventeen members of the march were hospitalized, and shameful images of protesters being beaten with nightsticks focused national and worldwide attention on the event. Following Turnaround Tuesday, in which 2,500 marchers held a silent prayer at the same bridge, and a court battle to stop police interference with the march, a final march took place with over 25,000 people flooding the State capitol.

The Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday, and Montgomery marches created undeniable momentum for change, and the events left an indelible mark on our national consciousness. President Johnson presented the Voting Rights Act to Congress shortly after Turnaround Tuesday, and by August of the same year, the bill passed Congress.

This bill would provide the plainly warranted recognition to these brave men and women. It would provide a Congressional Gold Medal to be displayed at the Selma Interpretive Center near the Edmund Pettus Bridge, a fitting tribute to the Foot Soldiers who made that fateful march.

Our country was founded on the precept that the power of government is derived from the people it governs. The primary form of expressing opinions in our democracy is through voting. The marchers who risked everything were committed to ensuring our democracy was truly representative, leaving a lasting and positive effect on our Nation. I salute these Foot Soldiers today, and I urge the Senate to swiftly pass this important legislation.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized to speak as in morning business for such time as I shall consume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to use a visible example of the cold weather during my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I am reminiscent, with the snow on the ground, of 5 years ago. The Presiding Officer was not here at that time. He does not have the advantage of knowing the story of what is behind this. The story that is behind this is that back when they started all the hysteria on global warming, there happened to be another snowstorm that was unprecedented. It set a record that year.

There is a charming family of six, I say to my friend in the chair, who built this. Their picture is here. That happens to be my daughter and her family of six. At that time it got a lot of attention. It actually got a lot of national attention.

In case we have forgotten, because we keep hearing that 2014 has been the warmest year on record, I ask the Chair: Do you know what this is? It is a snowball. That is just from outside here. So it is very cold out, very unseasonable. So, Mr. President, catch this.

We hear the perpetual headline that 2014 has been the warmest year on record. Now the script has flipped. I think it is important, since we hear it over and over and over again on the floor of this Senate. Some outlets are referring to the recent cold temperatures as the "Siberian Express," as we can see with the snowball out there. This is today. This is reality.

Others are printing pictures of a frozen Niagara Falls. And 4,700 square miles of ice have formed on the Great Lakes in 1 night. That has never happened before.

Let's talk more about the warmest year claim. On January 16, NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, concluded that 2014 was the warmest year in modern record, which starts in 1880.

NASA relied on readings from over 3,000 measuring stations worldwide, and only found an increase of just two one-hundredths of a degree over the previous record. Now an important point that was left out of the NASA press release was that the margin of error, which on average is 0.1 degree Celsius, was several times greater than the amount of warming. So, in reality, it is so far within the margin of error that it is not really recordable. This discrepancy was questioned at a press conference, and NASA's GISS Director backtracked.

This is the Goddard Institute for Space Studies. He backtracked on the warmest year headline saying there was only a 38-percent chance that 2014 was the warmest year on the record. Another recent report issued by the

Berkeley Earth surface temperature project, using data from more than 30,000 temperature stations, concluded that if 2014 was the warmest year on record, it was by less than 0.01 degrees Celsius—again, below the margin of error ultimately making it possible to conclude that 2014 was the warmest record on year.

Additional climate experts, including University of Oklahoma geophysicist David Deming, have stated that the warmest year on record statement is only as relevant as when the record actually began. Others state that record-setting conclusions issued in January require the use of incomplete data because the preponderance of the data arrives much later from underdeveloped and developing nations.

The media was quick to ditch the warmest year on record claim as cold weather has left most of the country experiencing record low temperatures.

Tuesday's Washington Post highlighted all of the longstanding records that were broken in the Northeast and Midwest.

My State is Oklahoma and that is not even included in this article. But we set 146 records—alltime records—in my State of Oklahoma just during that time.

According to the National Weather Service, 67 record lows were broken on Monday and Tuesday of this week.

Whether news cycles or climate cycles, variations in hot and cold are really nothing new. Recent climate change discussions like to focus on climate trends post-1880, but the reality is that climate change has been occurring since the beginning of time.

The chart behind me is very interesting because it shows two things that everyone agrees with. The first is that we had the medieval warm period. This is a period of time starting about 1000 A.D. and going to about 1400 A.D. This is a major warming period that led into what they call the little ice age, which was about 1500 A.D. to about 1900 A.D.

The interesting thing is that many of us in this room remember that when they first started talking about global warming, a scientist named Michael Mann developed what they call the hockey stick theory, and that had a hockey stick showing that for a long period of time we had temperatures that were level, and then all of a sudden they started going up like the blade of a hockey stick.

The problem was they neglected to note that the two periods were, in reality, in his sketch of a hockey stick. So in his opinion then, as portrayed by the hockey stick, there was no medieval warm period or little ice age.

By the way, this Michael Mann is the same one who was featured as the main person who was guilty of violations that created this term called the climate change, which was characterized as the most outrageous. I don't have it

in my notes, but one of the publications in England talked about the worst scientific disgrace in national history.

Time magazine had a chart, and this is interesting because people who look at the weather and get concerned about all the warming periods and the cold, to them the world is coming to an end. This one shows that in 1974 another ice age was coming. That is the actual cover of the magazine. So everyone is concerned that the world is coming to an end, and at the same time they were talking about the fact that there is going to be another ice age.

In the past 2000 years there was the medieval warm period followed immediately by the little ice age. These two climate events are widely recognized in scientific literature. No one has refuted these. These are incontrovertible.

In 2006 the National Academy of Sciences released its study "Surface Temperature Reconstructions for the Last 2000 Years," and that acknowledged that there were relatively warm conditions during that period of time.

So that is history, and that is behind us.

While that is still up, I will go on and fast forward. That same magazine, Time magazine, had as its cover a short time after that this poor, typical, polar bear that is standing on the last piece of ice—and we are all going to die because global warming is coming.

This is something that has been happening over long periods of time. Every time it does, everyone tries to say that the world is coming to an end and that somehow man is so important and so powerful that he can change that.

In 1975 Newsweek published an article titled "The Cooling World," which argued that global temperatures were falling and terrible consequences for food production were on the horizon—and all of that. Well, we know about that.

This highlights that the climate is changing, and it always has been changing.

In fact, our recent vote during the Keystone XL Pipeline debate showed that 97 of us in this Chamber—Democrats and Republicans—agreed that climate has always been changing. I made a little talk on the floor at that time and I said: You know, I think this is something on which we can all agree. If we look at archaeological diggings, history, the Scriptures, climate has always been in changing.

Despite a long list of unsubstantiated global warming claims, climate activists and environmental groups will cling to any extreme weather-related headline to their case for global warming and to instill the fear of global warming in the American people. People sometimes ask me why. Why do you suppose they are doing this, spending all this time?

They tried it through legislation. We defeated it. Now it is through regula-

tions that would cost between \$300 billion and \$400 billion a year. Yet it wouldn't have any effect on what they perceive to be global warming. So that is the question. Why is it?

There is a scientist by the name of Richard Lindzen. Richard Lindzen is with MIT. Some of us have argued he is the most knowledgeable of all the climate scientists. He answered that question. He said: You know, regulating carbon is like regulating life. If you regulate carbon, it is a bureaucrat's dream, because regulating carbon regulates life. So it is a power struggle.

I think that is probably the best answer. I am not a scientist. I don't claim to be. But I quote scientists, and they have the answers to these questions.

TERRORISM

Now, President Obama is using a similar tactic in order to scare Americans into supporting his extreme climate change agenda. In a recent interview, President Obama agreed that the media overstates the dangers of terrorism while downplaying the risks of climate change. His Press Secretary, Josh Earnest, later reiterated that President Obama believes climate change affects far more Americans than terrorists.

Now, that is the first time we heard that. But wait until we hear later what the President himself and his Secretary of State said. According to the President, the biggest challenge we face is not the spread of Islamic extremist terrorism in Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia, Yemen or Nigeria. The greatest threat that we face is not Russian aggression in NATO and the United States, as well as its invasion of Georgia and Ukraine. It is not the expansion of Iranian influence and sponsorship of terrorism throughout the Middle East or its pursuit of a nuclear weapons system to deliver it and to be able to hit the United States of America. The greatest threat is not North Korea's continued development of its nuclear weapons stockpile and the improving of their delivery systems to include the January 23 launch of a sea-launched ballistic missile that was called the KN-11. I think we are all aware of that. And the greatest threat is not the continued capture and killing of reporters, missionaries, businessmen, Christians, and other non-Muslims in what has clearly been a religious confrontation being pursued. The President's position is that global warming is our greatest threat—greater than all the things I just mentioned. It is underscored by the fact that he won't even publicly state that the 21 Egyptians executed by ISIL in Libya were Christians. He won't recognize that, and he won't recognize that it has anything to do with radical Islam.

He goes out of his way to downplay the actions and dangers of ISIS even

though the group continues to terrorize the world. Just this past weekend, ISIS abducted over 70 Syrian Christians, including women and children from villages in eastern Syria. To my knowledge, we don't know what they have done with them yet. But there are 70 of them, and the previous 21 were killed because of their Christianity.

According to the President, our biggest threat is not the continued threats made by extremists against the United States and its citizens. It is not the successful attacks carried out in the United States and other places such as New York, Boston, Fort Hood or potential attacks of lone wolves or sleeper cells against soft targets such as the Mall of America, which is the most recent subject of an ISIL threat. Even as these atrocities are taking place, President Obama is telling the world that climate change is a greater threat to our Nation than terrorists. This is just another illustration that this President and his administration are detached from the realities that we are facing today and into the future.

His repeated failure to understand the real threat to our national security and his inability to develop a coherent national security strategy has put this Nation at a level of risk that has been unknown for decades.

His failure of leadership and his gutting of our military have weakened our ability to influence and respond to crises. This all comes at a tremendous cost to our national security.

The President has accused the media of overstating the problem, heightening the fears of the population. As he downplays the threats, we see photos of young children standing in military-like formation, being brainwashed into ISIS or ISIL extremism. We shouldn't be surprised. It is a natural outgrowth of the President's failed leadership.

In 2012 and 2013 President Obama spoke of helping Libya and Yemen fight terrorism. Yet as he addressed this Nation, both countries spiraled toward chaos, creating terrorist safe havens. Just days after his speech, Yemen's Prime Minister and his Cabinet resigned amidst a coup by the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels.

The administration aided instability in Afghanistan by releasing the most senior leaders of the Taliban, the Taliban dream team. We all remember that.

We had just passed a law saying that the President cannot release anyone from Gitmo—from Guantanamo Bay—without giving 30 days' notice to Congress. Yet he totally ignored that and let these people go. Some of the terrorists out of Gitmo—I carry this card with me because it is really not believable. Of the five that he turned loose, one was named Mohammed Fazil, and the Taliban commander said that Mohammed Fazil's release "is like pour-

ing 10,000 Taliban fighters into the battle on the side of jihad. Now the Taliban have the right lion to lead them in the final moment before victory against Afghanistan."

Now, I don't know where these are. I suggest that all five have returned to the battle. The record is that of those who have been released, some 29 percent have gone back to the battle.

So that is taking place. Mullah Omar, the Taliban's leader, called the release a great victory.

This action allowed these men to rejoin the fight against our service men and women. This is a big deal.

The President quickly withdrew from Iraq, leaving a vacuum for ISIS to fill, which is now requiring our military to return. The President wants to repeat our errors with a speedy withdrawal from Afghanistan, and that is despite the advice of his commanders on the ground and the request by Afghanistan's newest President, Ashraf Ghani, to reexamine our withdrawal plan.

He has de-Reaganized Europe by drastically cutting our forces, acquiescing to Russian influences by cutting our ballistic missile defense site in Poland and our radar in the Czech Republic. I remember when that happened. I was so concerned about that because we put the radar site and the ballistic missile defense site in Poland and the Czech Republic because—that was for the protection of Western Europe and Eastern United States because we don't have the capacity to offer protection the American people should expect. But the President did that anyway. He failed to provide assistance—apart from the MREs and blankets. Instead of sending weapons to the Ukrainians, he sends blankets.

We had Poroshenko, the President of Ukraine, come in and give a speech to a joint session of Congress. In that speech he said we need to have some defense against what Putin and the Russians are doing with the separatists in his country of Ukraine.

I happened to be over there. I was over there during the parliamentary elections. Not many people in America realize that in the Ukraine—our very good friends in Ukraine had their parliamentary elections in October, and President Poroshenko looked me in the eyes and said very proudly how good the outcome was. This was the first time in 96 years that the Ukraine had parliamentary elections and didn't elect one Communist to a seat in the Parliament. That was the first time that had ever happened. Yet the President said in his State of the Union message:

We're upholding the principle that bigger nations can't bully the small—by opposing Russian aggression, supporting Ukraine's democracy, and reassuring our NATO allies.

That is what he said, standing in the House Chamber, in his State of the Union speech. Yet, under the Presi-

dent's failed leadership, we have seen two ceasefire failures in the Ukraine, thousands of civilians displaced, and approximately 5,000 people killed.

America's assistance is vital to denying Putin's attempts to destabilize the region. Yet it is not happening. It is not happening under the Obama administration. This administration is overwhelmed by world events and blind to the fact that terrorists are at war with America and our way of life. We now live in a world where our allies don't trust us and our enemies don't fear us. When will the President and his administration take the steps required to minimize the risk to Americans and our allies by providing this country with a national security strategy—one that addresses today's global security environment, grows back our military and its readiness, and deals with our enemies from a position of strength, not weakness and not appeasement?

These are the biggest threats facing our Nation today. It is decidedly not global warming. The threat of war, terrorism, and extremism has plagued the Earth for centuries. The United States is not immune. We must take all threats seriously and take every responsible action to secure our freedom. Threats to our national security are always the most serious threats we face. Issues such as global warming or global cooling 40 years ago are simply not what we need to be worrying about in the same breath when we are talking about national defense.

I say this because I have a deep concern. I was the ranking member on the Senate Armed Services Committee, and I am in a position to see what is happening around the world. The threats we are facing are unprecedented.

Just yesterday we had a hearing, and we had James Clapper, the Director of National Intelligence. This is one of the things he has been quoted as saying:

Looking back over my now more than half a century in intelligence, I've not experienced a time when we've been beset by more crises and threats around the globe.

In the hearing we held yesterday, the Director said:

When the final accounting is done, 2014 will have been the most lethal year for global terrorism in the 45 years such data has been compiled.

So this goes on and on. This is what the military says. This is the threat we face. Everyone understands it except the White House.

On February 25, just yesterday, Secretary of State Kerry said—and keep in mind he said this with all these threats we are facing:

Today is actually, despite ISIL, despite the visible killings that you see and how horrific they are, we are actually living in a period of less daily threat to Americans and to people in the world than normally—less deaths, less violent deaths today than through the last century.

We all know better than that. We know how threatened we are. Everyone knows it except the White House, and they are going to have to wake up to save our Nation.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. INHOFE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for 3 minutes notwithstanding the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO LOUIS STOKES

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, at a quarter after, I am leading a group of seven or eight Senators to talk about the trade promotion authority and the transpacific partnership, but I would like to take this opportunity while the floor is empty—and I thank my Republican colleagues—to talk about Ohio civil rights pioneer Congressman Louis Stokes. I have known him for 35 years. We celebrated his 90th birthday on Monday, and I had the opportunity to speak to him.

Lou Stokes is a proud son of Cleveland, the city in which I live. He was born in that city nine decades ago and grew up in one of the first Federal housing projects in the country.

Lou rose to prominence as a lawyer and a legislator. His father worked in a laundromat and his mother cleaned houses. Lou himself shined shoes to earn extra money. He served in the Army during World War II and went to college at night on the GI bill. He is the American success story.

Lou was stationed in the Deep South during segregation. He was appalled by the discrimination he witnessed, even for those wearing the uniform and serving our country. That experience compelled him to dedicate his life to fighting injustice.

He handled matters big and small in his legal practice. He argued the landmark case of *Terry v. Ohio* before the U.S. Supreme Court. The Court's ruling in *Terry* addressed the police stop-and-frisk policy and defined what constitutes a reasonable search and seizure.

As the first African American to represent Ohio in the U.S. Congress and the first African American to serve on the Committee on Appropriations, his mere presence was groundbreaking. But Lou never rested on his laurels. While serving as a Congressman for 15 terms, he was a fierce advocate for the city he loves and for civil rights. Lou didn't use his success to seek glory for

himself; he used his powerful position to expand opportunities for men and women, for people of all colors, and young people and old people.

After retiring from Congress, he didn't retire; he returned home to Cleveland and played a key role in Cleveland's civic life. His role at Squire Sanders was instrumental in the firm's growth. Working alongside his longtime friend and my friend John Lewis—the lawyer John Lewis in Cleveland, not Congressman JOHN LEWIS in Washington—he made a difference in so many ways.

Lou served on the Ohio Task Force on Community-Police Relations. He is known always to fight for his neighborhood, the projects where he and his brother Carl, who was the first Black mayor of a major American city, grew up. Carl was elected as mayor right before Lou was elected to Congress. It has been their labor of love to work to improve schools and opportunities in Cleveland.

The Cleveland VA center is named after Lou Stokes, as are buildings throughout the Nation. They illustrate his hard work and his dedication. It is fitting that as we celebrate his milestone birthday this week, the final week of Black History Month, we renew our commitment to the cause of Lou Stokes's 90 years.

Lou means so much to me personally, he means so much to Cleveland, and he means so much to our country. I know the Presiding Officer, Senator INHOFE, got to serve with him in the House, as I did, and it was an honor to do that and a privilege to call Lou Stokes my friend.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, before we get underway with this colloquy on trade, I wish to respond briefly to what I understand was a presentation made by one of the Republican Senators suggesting that the continued existence of snow disproves climate change.

First, that is not the only measure. We can take a look at sea-level rise, which we can measure from Fort Pulaski in Georgia up to Alaska where LISA MURKOWSKI has acknowledged that climate change is causing sea-level rise, eroding her native villages, to the sea-level rise in my hometown State at the naval station. We can look at the pH changes in the ocean which we actually measure. It is not com-

plicated. Kids measure the pH in their aquarium all the time. We can measure ocean temperature, which is absolutely clear. It involves something called a thermometer. It really isn't all that complicated.

And if we want to understand why the existence of snow might actually be consistent with climate change, I urge people to get their personal device here—their iPad, whatever it is they have—and load up the EarthNow! app. The EarthNow! app is run by a group called NASA. NASA is pretty capable. They are driving a rover around on Mars right now. These are folks who know a little bit about what they are talking about. They map the temperature of the planet, and we can see the cold arctic air drawn down to New England, drawn down to our area, and it is in large part because the ocean is warming offshore that we have this snow.

So not only does the continued existence of snow not disprove global warming—if you actually know what is going on and take the least bit of effort to understand it—you would see it is completely consistent with global warming as it is understood by scientists such as those from NASA.

I will have more later, but let's get on with this other business.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY AND THE TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I know there is a UC order for seven or eight Senators. Senators CASEY, MERKLEY, WHITEHOUSE, MARKEY, WARREN, BALDWIN, and SANDERS we believe will be here for the next 45 minutes under an agreed-to order to talk about our concerns with trade promotion authority and the Trans-Pacific Partnership. I will lead off, then Senator CASEY will speak, and then Senators MERKLEY and WHITEHOUSE.

We know a number of things. We know that American workers are the most competitive and productive in the world. We also know that far too many have been left behind because of wrong-headed trade deals.

In the 20th century, we built the strongest economy in the history of the world by building the strongest middle class in the history of the world. We invested in the health and safety of our workforce, guaranteed workers the right to bargain for fairer pay and reasonable hours. It was a fight to do so and more remains to be done. We expanded opportunity for women and people of color, which society had never done, to realize their full potential in the labor force.

Americans up and down the income spectrum reaped the awards. Workers got more productive, wages went up, profits were good, communities were

strong. We led the world with a booming economy fueled by a skilled and powered workforce.

The talent and tenacity of American workers has not changed, but our leaders—including in this body—commitment to those workers, frankly, and, unfortunately, has.

Nowhere has that abandonment been more clear than the free trade agreements we now approve with little oversight and minimal debate. These binding trade agreements affect all American workers. They cut into small business and industry, and they cut to the heart of the values we hold dear—or say we hold dear—as a sovereign democracy. Too often they are pushed through this body so quickly that the corporations pushing them hope we won't notice these agreements are loaded with corporate handouts that weaken our Nation's ability to chart its own course.

The last thing we need is another NAFTA. We know what the North American Free Trade Agreement did to us 20 years ago when it passed. We know the damage it did to workers in Philadelphia. We know the damage it did to small companies in Oregon. We know what it did to communities in Rhode Island. And I know up close what it has done to far too many communities—from Troy to Piqua to Toledo to Dayton—in my State.

We always talk about American exceptionalism. We give lip service to American exceptionalism. Our Nation is exceptional. We see these same people who always talk about American exceptionalism—and criticize anyone who doesn't talk about it—pushing trade agreements that undermine American laws and bypass our legal system. For what end? To benefit big companies that can't get what they want through our democratic system.

I urge my colleagues and anyone else to read the article today written by Senator WARREN of Massachusetts about something called “investor-state dispute settlement.” This is what I want to talk about for a moment.

Take the issue of tobacco. Tobacco use is the world's leading cause of preventable death. Tobacco companies have been one of the most successful group of companies of any in American history. More trade deals give Big Tobacco a new tool to peddle its poison.

How does that work? Big Tobacco turns to trade deals as the most fertile avenue for defeating international public health efforts. Big Tobacco knows it can't win in this body, even with a conservative majority that too often does the bidding of Wall Street and large companies. Senator MERKLEY and Senator BLUMENTHAL have helped to lead this charge to make our tobacco law strong.

So what do tobacco companies do if they can't win in a democratic body here? They use a trade provision called

investor-state dispute settlement. In the case of Big Tobacco, it uses ISDS to challenge public health measures around the globe. Let me give an example.

Big Tobacco and its supporters are suing Australia for its Tobacco Plain Packaging Act 2011. They are challenging under Australian-Hong Kong bilateral investment. They have good lawyers. They know how to do darned near anything to use these laws—that they helped write under trade policy—to benefit them and sell more cigarettes and poison our young people in far too many cases.

The Tobacco Plain Packaging Act in Australia—passed by a democratically elected legislative body, signed onto by the executive branch in Australia—simply says that tobacco companies can't use their market-tested logos; they have to use plain black-and-white packaging. Also on the tobacco packet they put pictures of diseased lungs or pictures of people who have been sick from tobacco, so when people pick that packet up, they get the message.

Big Tobacco sued Australia under the World Trade Organization despite the fact that the Australian courts had already ruled in favor of the country of the public health law.

Tobacco companies have launched similar cases against Uruguay over its proposed graphic warnings on cigarette packages. Think about this: A big tobacco company is threatening to sue a small, relatively poor country such as Uruguay, saying: If you pass a public health law, we are going to sue you in court—not in one of your courts, but in some international court made up of mostly trade lawyers.

So what does a country the size of Uruguay often do? They give up. They say: We can't afford to defend ourselves in an expensive court proceeding. Fortunately for Uruguay, Michael Bloomberg—one of the richest men in the world—stepped in and helped them fight back.

Togo—one of the ten poorest countries in the world, West Africa—simply gave up when Philip Morris sued them. The people of Togo wanted a law to protect their children from the big marketing of tobacco companies. Philip Morris came in, threatened to sue them, and the Government of Togo backed off. What is good about that? It is appalling. It is antidemocratic. It has been left to a comedy show to expose the practice of Big Tobacco. Watch John Oliver talk about this on HBO.

Trade policy should ensure a level playing field for all companies competing in a global economy, not serve as a tool for the richest corporation to overturn laws enacted by sovereign governments—particularly not when, in this country, we are facing stagnating wages, increased middle-class anxiety and insecurity, and rising inequality at home.

So we are going to pass a trade agreement as CEOs' pay reaches record highs, as average wages stagnate, as profits go up, as unionization goes down, as wages fall as a share of GDP.

Think about this. Productivity has increased in our country 85 percent in the past 30 years. It used to be, as productivity went like that, wages went like that. But now, productivity goes up 85 percent, wages went up 6 percent. The minimum wage in the United States today has 30-percent less buying power than it had 35 years ago. That is why this trade agreement is a bad idea. We know what has happened to manufacturing. We lost 5 million manufacturing jobs between 2000 and 2010.

Just look at the impact of trade on U.S. manufacturing for more than 16 million jobs. It dropped here. We had the auto rescue here, which meant a little bit of an increase, but it increases only back to 12 million manufacturing jobs.

We know bad trade agreements, bad policies on globalization, bad policies on taxes, mean lost jobs—lost manufacturing jobs. That is the ticket to the middle class.

Ever since NAFTA in 1993, taking effect in 1994, we have seen the acceleration of that decline in manufacturing jobs. It is bad for our communities, it is bad for our families, it is bad for our workers, it is bad for the States of Pennsylvania and Oregon and Ohio and Rhode Island, and it is bad for our country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the same topic Senator BROWN just spoke to. I appreciate what my colleague from Ohio brought to this Senate floor today when talking about trade. I especially commend him for not just his advocacy and his passion for standing up for workers, but for the persuasive case he makes against some of our trade policies—not just now but over time.

We stand now poised to debate a set of issues which we haven't debated all that much in the 8 years I have been in the Senate—in this case first trade promotion authority, and then of course the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

The people I represent in Pennsylvania know what is at stake here. Each of us, as American people, will have the chance to review the details of these proposals. But based upon past experience with trade agreements in our lifetime, and especially in the last 25 years, that past experience causes me grave concerns about what is in store, first and foremost for our workers, which of course means our economy. Time and again Pennsylvania workers and Pennsylvania businesses of all sizes have ended up with the short end of the stick on trade deals. The question they ask now is, what is in it for them? What is in it for workers? What

is in it for companies across Pennsylvania and across the country? And, therefore, what is in it for all of us when it comes to our economic bottom line?

Take the free trade agreement with South Korea just as a recent example. That was passed in 2011. I didn't support it. But here is what we were told before that. In December of 2010, the administration said the agreement would support 70,000 additional American jobs, and it would increase American exports by \$10 billion to \$11 billion.

During the first 2 years that the agreement took effect, exports actually fell by \$3.1 billion and imports grew by \$5.6 billion, contributing to the loss of thousands of jobs. So that is one agreement, one example.

Let's take the impact on a particular industry, the steel industry. By any measure, any review of World War II would indicate very clearly that the American steel industry and steelworkers played a substantial role in our ability to win World War II, to prevail in the most difficult of conflicts. What has happened since then? Well, we know that, for example, import surges from South Korea caused real damage to the steel industry in recent years, which has led directly to job losses in places such as Pennsylvania, for example.

So workers want to know where the benefit is that is promised to them. Over and over again we hear these assertions: "If we pass this agreement, this will be the impact on exports and imports" and "If we pass this agreement, this will be the net benefit to job creation and therefore to workers." Too often the result is otherwise.

If you look at the numbers—if you look at the agreement, the industry, and then look at the numbers, in the United States we had a \$66.5 billion deficit with free trade agreement partners in 2013. Our trade balance with our largest free trade agreement partners—Canada, Mexico, and Korea—is decidedly negative, not positive. So how is this time going to be different?

I am concerned and a lot of Americans are concerned that past experience suggests broadly negative impacts on jobs, especially—as Senator BROWN made reference to by way of the chart and in other ways—especially as it relates to manufacturing jobs, the ones on which you can support a family, the jobs that lead to the kind of innovation that allows us to be one step ahead of the world.

The Economic Policy Institute, for example, estimates that 26,300 jobs were lost due to the trade deficit with Mexico between 1994 and 2011 in the aftermath of NAFTA, as Senator BROWN referred to, and 122,600 jobs were lost to China in the 12 years since China joined the World Trade Organization. Between these two countries

alone, the average impact on Pennsylvania was some 148,900 jobs lost in Pennsylvania. So we have lost almost 150,000 jobs in Pennsylvania directly attributable to two factors: the impact of China joining the World Trade Organization and the impact of the trade deficit with Mexico.

When we look at the big picture, we have two possible areas of concern with the so-called TPP—the Trans-Pacific Partnership—and by proxy the trade promotion authority as a part of that. There are labor and human rights concerns as well as currency manipulation.

Members of Congress and labor groups across the country have expressed concerns about the so-called TPP and the countries we are negotiating with, in particular Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei, and Mexico. Vietnam, as an example, does not offer the establishment of independent labor unions and has opposed the inclusion of any provision that would change this aspect of domestic law. The State Department has noted that basic labor freedoms are often restricted in both Mexico and Malaysia. Brunei has recently implemented a harsh form of sharia law that violates basic human rights standards.

How about currency manipulation? American manufacturers feel the pain from undervalued foreign currencies all the time, and they time and again have demanded action from both parties and both Houses of Congress. Currency manipulation concerns are urgent not just because of Japan's policies and the potential future inclusion of China in TPP down the road but also because virtually every negotiating partner has a currency that is undervalued relative to the U.S. dollar—every partner in the proposed TPP.

As of January of this year, according to the Economist, 10 of the 11 negotiating partners of the United States had undervalued currency. Seven of those countries, including Japan, had currencies that were at least 25 percent undervalued relative to the U.S. dollar.

For far too long this administration has allowed foreign countries to stack the deck against U.S. workers when it comes to currency policies by manipulating their currencies. We have a chance in the TPP negotiations to do something about this. All of us believe our workers could out-compete any workers in the world if they were given the chance, if they were given basic fairness and a level playing field.

Pennsylvanians want Congress and the administration to focus on policies that lead to both good jobs and good wages. So let's give our workers the kind of support we gave past generations. Give our workers a level playing field so that they can out-compete and therefore out-produce any workers in the world. I am afraid these agreements are not a step in that direction.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Thank you, Mr. President.

I appreciate the points that have been made by my colleagues from Ohio and Pennsylvania and the remarks yet to be made by my colleague from Rhode Island.

We are here on the floor together to raise fundamental issues that should be part of the discussion about a proposed trade deal or a fast track to a trade deal.

I love the concept of trade, the idea that our particular economy, based on our natural resources and based on our skills, can do certain things very well, and we would like to be able to sell those products to the world. Other nations do other things very well, and we can benefit from their expertise and their products. That is a win-win on a level playing field between nations that have roughly the same structure of environmental laws, roughly the same structure of labor laws, and roughly the same level of wages. That is a win-win for nations involved in agreements.

Indeed, our trade agreements after World War II were very much along those lines as we expanded to the economies of Europe. We saw substantial prosperity that affected people throughout our economy.

My parents couldn't believe the difference between their experience as children and their experience during the 1950s and 1960s as they started to raise children in terms of going from extraordinarily humble means—lack of electricity, running water, insulation, and all the things that became a part of the basic housing structure in post-World War II when they were raising their children. That prosperity came from a nation producing things and sharing the wealth throughout its economy. My father was a working man, a blue-collar mechanic. He brought those mechanical skills to the mill and became a millwright. He loved that job keeping the machinery in the mill running and loved other jobs. He was able to live the American dream.

Our recent trade deals have created something quite different. They have been based on an unequal relationship. They have been based on a relationship between our Nation with strong environmental and labor laws and good wages and high enforcement and countries with the exact opposite—such as China, for example. Indeed, the result in the period since NAFTA—and my colleagues spoke to it, but let me re-emphasize it—there has been a loss of 50,000 factories, a loss of 5 million manufacturing jobs. That is logical. If you are a manufacturing company making products, you will move that manufacturing to the places where it is cheapest to make them.

This is how the vision works out. There is a conversation about reducing barriers, and companies say: Look at all the additional products we can sell to that emerging economy in China. We can make a lot more in the United States and sell to China.

That is stage one.

Stage two: Hey, now we can move our manufacturing overseas and produce things at a much lower price and not only sell them to the foreign nation but also sell them back to the customers in the United States.

That is exactly what we have seen, and that is why we have lost these 5 million jobs.

So the initial publicity campaign is all about creating jobs through increasing American manufacturing, but the reality in an unequal relationship is the opposite.

Let's make sure we create a standard for the consideration of future trade deals, a standard that will evaluate whether this deal will create good-paying jobs here in America, will expand prosperity to the middle class in America or will do the opposite. This is the standard we should apply. I would like to evaluate the provisions of the proposed deal in that light, but I can't because the negotiations are secret. The draft text is secret. We need to demand that there not be secrecy about something as important as creating jobs or destroying jobs in America—my standard for evaluating what is to come.

Let's talk for a minute about these eroding promises of enforcement. A couple of years ago a group of 10 U.S. Senators took a trip to China to meet with the Ambassador. We asked how the Ambassador felt about enforcement against China and their currency manipulation. He basically said: Here is the deal. We have broad strategic concerns that involve China, and we don't want to put ripples in the water.

So can you really have a level playing field in a situation where you are not willing to enforce even the provisions that are on the books? Can you really have a fair deal for America?

During the conversations a couple years ago, I proposed legislation that would require China to actually honor what it was responsible for doing under the WTO. Under the WTO, it was to notify Americans about all the subsidies it provided for items of export, deductions and credits. But China had not honored that responsibility. So I proposed that we exercise another part of WTO, which was counter-notifications by our Trade Representative. Within 2 weeks of putting this idea forward, guess what. Our Trade Representative put forward a list of 200 subsidies through the counter-notification process.

Looking at those notifications carefully revealed a vast strategy in renewable energy to subsidize exports—not allowed under the WTO; to subsidize

paper—not allowed to subsidize exports of paper under the WTO. The result is that paper plants are going out of business in the United States of America. The Blue Heron plant most recently has gone out of business on the Willamette River at a place where paper has been made for a very long period of time. In fact, the energy from the water wheel that was first there provided some of the first electricity in America. Longtime industrial production, but those jobs are gone. So that is a real concern.

My colleague mentioned the interstate dispute settlement and the fact that it gives a foreign investor rights that a domestic investor does not have. It puts constraints on consumer protections that can be overrun—consumer protections done by a State can be overrun by an investor from a foreign nation.

For example, you have a bill in America to stop producing toxic flame retardants and putting them into our carpet. Well, the foreign investor says: We built a plant to produce that chemical. Sorry, you can't have that consumer protection even though the result would be a lot more cancer for American citizens. That is an example of the concerns about handing over the sovereignty of our Nation, of our consumer law, our environmental law, to an independent board that operates outside of our constitutional framework. That is a legitimate concern which needs to be addressed in this conversation.

So on issues of enforcement and issues of secrecy, issues of whether we are creating jobs or destroying jobs, I encourage Americans to become as familiar as possible with the provisions that have been leaked about the Trans-Pacific Partnership and to think carefully and give concerns to us here in Congress that we will work to address. When we have the legitimate text before us, then we can engage in a more detailed debate. But right now we need to push to end this secrecy on an issue that is so important to the future prosperity of our Nation and of our families.

Thank you, Mr. President. It is my pleasure to yield the floor in anticipation of remarks from my colleague.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

MR. WHITEHOUSE. I thank the distinguished Senator from Oregon.

I wish to start by sharing the experience I had when I first started running for the Senate and asking people around Rhode Island to give me the chance to represent them here.

One unforgettable day was when I was walking along a factory floor and, as I was walking along, I looked down and I noticed there were holes in the concrete pad of the factory floor, and I asked: Why are the holes there?

They explained: Oh, well, we used to have manufacturing machinery here.

Those are the bolt holes, and we unbolted the machinery and shipped it overseas to a Central American country where the same product is made for the same buyers on the same machine, but it is made by foreign workers.

That is the memory I have when I think about these trade agreements, and it is not just that one machine that went overseas. Rhode Island, not a big State, has lost more than 50,000 good-paying manufacturing jobs since 1990. Our State has been on the losing end of these trade deals.

People say they are going to enforce the environmental and human rights and labor and safety requirements of these agreements. I have not seen it. I am at the stage where I don't believe it. You will have to prove it to me. You will have to establish a record of enforcing these things before I will believe it. I have been told that for too long. I don't believe the enforcement any longer.

I have to say I don't like the process very much either. It is secret. We are kept out of it. Who is in it are a lot of big corporations, and they are up to, I think, no good in a lot of these deals. Look at these private deals in private forums where they can litigate against a government. They secure that right through these treaty agreements. It is outrageous.

First of all, a lot of it is done for the sake of pollution. It is the big folks, such as Chevron, ExxonMobil, Dow Chemical, and Cargill, that brought nearly 600 disputes, pursuing billions of dollars in damages against governments.

A former member of the WTO's appellate body said in 2005 the WTO agreements "allow Member Nations to challenge almost any measure to reduce greenhouse gas emissions enacted by any other Member." So the war on the environment continues through this mechanism.

In March 2013, more than one-third of the disputes pending before the World Bank's investment dispute settlement tribunal were related to oil, mining, or gas. Guess what they want. The public health around the world is suffering because of this.

In Africa, the tobacco industry has brought these types of claims against the Governments of Gabon, Namibia, Togo, and Uganda. They probably add up to about \$100 billion in total GDP—all 4 countries—which is probably about a quarter of the revenues of Big Tobacco worldwide. So this is a question of pure, raw economic power by massive corporate interests being used to make governments knuckle under on public health issues such as tobacco. That is just wrong. And it can displace the regular governing systems of courts.

Chevron was asked to clean up contamination it left behind. It lost in the courts in Ecuador, it lost in the courts

in America, and so it went and got a third bite at the apple in front of three private lawyers in one of these forums.

Where do you think the motivation is of private lawyers? Who are their clients going to be next? Another government? I don't think so. It will be the big corporate companies.

After many States in the United States created a ban on something called MMT, a gasoline additive, as a probable carcinogen, U.S. Ethyl Corporation filed a NAFTA investor-state case against Canada which then reversed its national ban on the potentially carcinogenic chemical.

They pick on themselves as well. Under NAFTA provisions, a Canadian company sued the Quebec government over a decision to put a moratorium on fracking. I guess Quebec can't make a decision about fracking any longer because some company can sue it under these agreements which involve private lawyers and were cooked up in the dark in these trade agreements. It is preposterous.

Mr. BROWN. Think about what Senator WHITEHOUSE just said. A U.S. company that made an additive to gasoline filed suit against a public health law that the Canadian legislative body passed because they believed in clean air, and under NAFTA that company in the United States sued the Canadians. The Canadian taxpayers had to pay the company and repeal their public health law.

I thought this was a democracy. Think about that multiplied by how many times—about what Senator WARREN talked about her in piece in the Washington Post today.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. How long is it until they sue the State of Louisiana or the State of Rhode Island or the State of Massachusetts or the State of Ohio? It is up for grabs. This is just a private remedy.

Since I am on Senator WARREN's subject, and since her piece in the Washington Post is something we have all read today, I yield to the Senator from Massachusetts.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, the United States is in the final stages of negotiating the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a massive free-trade agreement with Mexico, Canada, Japan, Singapore, and seven other countries.

I come to the floor today to ask a fundamental question: Who will benefit from the TPP? American workers, consumers, small businesses, taxpayers, or the biggest national corporations in the world?

One strong hint is buried down in the fine print of the closely guarded draft. The provision, an increasingly common feature of international trade agreements, is called investor-state dispute settlement, or ISDS. The name may sound mild, but this provision fun-

damentally tilts the playing field further in favor of big multinational corporations. Worse yet, it undermines U.S. sovereignty.

ISDS allows foreign companies to challenge American laws and potentially pick up huge payouts from taxpayers without ever stepping foot in an American court.

Here is how it works. Imagine that the United States bans a toxic chemical that is often added to gasoline. We ban it because we believe it is dangerous for people's health or harmful to the environment. If a foreign company that makes this toxic chemical wants to sell it in the United States, it would normally have to challenge that in a U.S. court. But with ISDS, the company could skip the U.S. court and go before an international panel of arbitrators. If the company wins, the ruling cannot be challenged in U.S. courts, and the arbitration panel could require the American taxpayers to cough up millions, even billions, of dollars in damages.

ISDS has the power to impose gigantic fines, but it doesn't have independent judges. Instead, highly paid corporate lawyers go back and forth between representing corporations one day and sitting in judgment of corporations the next day.

Now I don't know, maybe that makes sense in an arbitration between two corporations, but not in cases between corporations and governments. We should have real doubts about how likely it is that a lawyer looking to attract high-paying corporate clients will rule against those corporations when it is his or her turn to sit in the judge's seat.

It is also a real problem that only international investors—only international investors—get to use these courts, investors that are, by and large, large corporations.

If a Vietnamese company with American operations wants to challenge an increase in the U.S. minimum wage, it can use ISDS, but if an American labor union believes the Vietnamese companies are paying slave labor wages in violation of trade commitments, the union has to try to wind itself through the Vietnamese courts. Good luck with that.

These rigged pseudocourts were created after World War II because investors worried about putting money into developing countries where the legal systems were not as dependable. They were concerned that a corporation might build a plant today only to watch a dictator confiscate it tomorrow. ISDS was born to encourage foreign investment in countries with weak legal systems.

Now, look, I don't know if these justifications made sense back then, but they sure don't make sense now. Countries in the TPP are hardly emerging economies with weak legal systems.

Australia and Japan have well-developed and well-respected legal systems, and multinational corporations navigate those legal systems every single day, but ISDS would preempt their courts too. And to the extent there are countries that are riskier politically, market competition can solve that problem.

Countries that respect property rights and the rule of law, such as the United States, should be more competitive. If a company wants to invest in a country with a weak legal system, then it should buy political risk insurance, which is available.

The use of ISDS is on the rise. From 1959 to 2002, there were fewer than 100 ISDS claims worldwide, but by 2012 alone, there were 58 cases. That was in 1 year.

Here are some examples of recent cases under various treaties with ISDS provisions:

A French company sued Egypt because Egypt raised its minimum wage.

A Swedish company sued Germany because Germany decided to phase out nuclear power after the Fukushima disaster.

A Dutch company sued the Czech Republic because the Czech Republic didn't bail out a bank the Dutch company partially owned.

American corporations are getting in on the action too. Philip Morris is trying to use ISDS to stop Uruguay from implementing new tobacco regulations aimed at cutting domestic smoking rates.

ISDS advocates point out that so far this process has not hurt the United States. Our negotiators, who refuse to make the text of this trade agreement public, claim it will include a bigger, better version of ISDS that will protect our ability to regulate in the public interest.

But with ISDS cases exploding in the last several years and more and more multinational corporations headquartered abroad, it is only a matter of time before such a challenge does serious damage here. Letting a panel of arbitrators replace the U.S. legal system with a complex and unnecessary alternative on the assumption that nothing could possibly go wrong seems like a really bad idea.

This is not a partisan issue. I don't often agree with the conservative Cato Institute, and I suspect they don't often agree with me, but this morning the head of Cato's trade policy program said that ISDS "raises serious questions about democratic accountability, sovereignty, checks and balances, and the separation of power." He went on to say that these concerns about ISDS are "one[s] that libertarians and other free market advocates should share." I think that is right.

Conservatives who believe in American sovereignty are outraged that ISDS shifts power from American

courts as envisioned by our Constitution to unaccountable international tribunals. Libertarians are offended that ISDS effectively offers a free taxpayer subsidy to countries with weaker legal systems, and progressives should oppose ISDS because it allows big multinationals to weaken labor and environmental rules.

Giving foreign corporations special rights to challenge our laws outside of our legal system is a bad deal. So long as TPP includes investor-state dispute settlement, the only winners will be international corporations.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I thank Senator BROWN for putting this group together to discuss the important trade issues facing our Nation.

In Massachusetts, we know what a good trade deal looks like and what a bad trade deal looks like. Remember, we are the ones that traded Babe Ruth, so we know a bad trade deal when we see one. Right now in Massachusetts, we are seeing the United States negotiate two significant agreements—the Trans-Pacific Partnership in Asia and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership in Europe.

Both of these agreements would establish binding rules on a wide range of issues, such as labor rights, energy, the environment, medicine pricing, patents, Internet freedom, and innovation. The scope goes far beyond the previous trade deals that focused on tariffs or access to markets.

These trade deals need to meet several criteria in order to be acceptable:

No. 1, workers rights. It is critically important that both trade deals protect workers rights. When we put goods on a ship, we can't do it by casting off workers rights. These deals need to benefit the middle class in our country and protect the rights of workers of our trading partners. They must also have robust and fully enforceable labor provisions that ensure compliance with international core labor standards.

No. 2, protect our environment. If companies want to make more green, great, but they have to be green, too, and follow the environmental laws to protect our resources and our planet. Both trade deals must include new and robust commitments from member countries to protect and conserve forests, oceans, wildlife, and obligate member companies to comply with both domestic environmental laws and meet their commitments under multilateral environmental agreements. These commitments must be strong and binding and enforceable.

No. 3, don't export our oil. Long-standing U.S. law prohibits the export of crude oil except in instances in which the President determines that exports are consistent with the na-

tional interests. There should not be any language in the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement requiring the United States to automatically approve exports of oil without such a determination. We shouldn't be sending oil abroad even as we send young men and women in the military to dangerous regions of the world to protect oil shipments coming into our country. We still import 5 million barrels of oil a day. We are the largest importer in the world. We should not be exporting oil.

No. 4, no fishy stuff. The Trans-Pacific Partnership should eliminate harmful fishery subsidies. It should maintain the ability of governments to support conservation of ocean resources, promote sustainable development and viable fishing industries and the coastal communities that depend on them, and the Trans-Pacific Partnership should include strong measures that address illegal fishing.

No. 5, don't try to sneak through bad sneaker deals. It is my understanding that the current Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement includes a provision that eliminates all trade barriers for sneakers and shoes. This provision would endanger more than 1,350 critical manufacturing jobs at the New Balance facilities in Massachusetts and Maine. New Balance has decided to keep its manufacturing in the United States, despite economic pressures and additional costs. As the last remaining U.S. manufacturer of running shoes, New Balance already has smaller profit margins on the U.S.-made shoes than most of its competitors have on their imported shoes. They should be congratulated for making a commitment to American workers, but if the TPP agreement is passed by the Congress in its current form, we will not be making that same commitment and that is because New Balance will be forced to immediately compete with Vietnam running shoe companies which have a dramatic advantage with low hourly wages and subsidized businesses. Those 1,350 jobs might be lost. That is wrong, and we must do better for our manufacturers.

No. 6, don't go around the U.S. courts. Both the Trans-Pacific Partnership and Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership have provisions to allow other countries to take legal action if they do not like the decisions made by our government and do it outside of our own courts. These separate panels could subject American taxpayers to billions in taxes, and when they have a problem with decisions in other countries, we will have to argue in an independent court or even in their home country courts. This double standard is wrong and it should not be included. We need trade deals that don't ship workers' rights overseas along with their jobs. We need trade deals that don't cloud our skies with

more pollution or plunder our seas with illegal fishing. We need trade deals that keep our oil and manufacturing jobs here at home. We need trade deals that don't outsource justice or jobs overseas.

That is why we need to make sure, just as when Babe Ruth was traded, that we don't put a curse on our own economy by passing trade bills that do not protect the American worker.

Finally, I understand my good friend from Oklahoma Senator INHOFE came to the floor to argue that the existence of winter disproves global warming. I know some in my home State of Massachusetts might be thinking the same thought right now, because after the first snowstorm people look for a good place to sled. After the second snowstorm, people look for a place to pile the snow. After the third and fourth snowstorms, people stop looking for things to do and just start asking, Why? Why so much snow? Why such intense storms? Why won't it stop?

What if I told my colleagues that it was all part of climate change; that the winters we have known have now been supercharged by warmer waters and stronger storms; that the carbon pollution that is making our summers hotter is also making our winters more unpredictable.

Here are three facts I want my colleagues to know.

No. 1, the waters off Massachusetts—and indeed up and down the Atlantic coast—have been at record warm levels; in one case, off Cape Cod, 21 degrees warmer than normal. Warmer water gives storms more moisture. That moisture has to drop at some point, and when it does, it means more snow. That is what is going on.

No. 2, cold air is part of winter. We are New England, after all. But new research is suggesting that the melting of the Arctic icecap is causing more of those polar vortex situations that send frigid air rushing down to Canada and then down to us. That is global warming.

No. 3, more intense precipitation events have increased by 71 percent in New England since 1958—71 percent more intense precipitation. Supercharged storms from climate change are a little like Rob Gronkowski. They are bigger, they are stronger, and whether they spike the ball or drop their snow, it is going to come down harder—a lot harder.

Across the globe temperatures are going up. It is called global warming. This last year was the warmest on record across the globe. A few weeks of cold in one place does not mean global warming isn't happening. That is the difference between weather and climate. Global warming does not cancel the seasons. We will still have winter. Sometimes it will be still very cold, but overall it is going to be warmer—a lot warmer. When warmer water makes

more moisture and it goes into the clouds, it has to come down, and when it does and it is cold, it should be no surprise that we will get more snow. If there is one issue we can all agree on regarding the climate, it is that every person in Massachusetts would rather be in Florida at Red Sox spring training camp right now because this snow is still coming down. But it is not just weather, it is climate change as well.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, let me congratulate and applaud Senator BROWN of Ohio for organizing this colloquy on trade. In my view, if we look at why the middle class of this country has been in decline for the last 40 years, why millions of Americans are working longer hours with lower wages, why we have seen a huge shift in the economy from a manufacturing economy where people earn good wages to a Walmart economy where people are working for very low wages and minimal benefits, one—not the only one, but one of the significant factors has been our disastrous trade policies for a number of decades.

If people are watching this discussion, there may be some people who will say, Trans-Pacific Partnership, what is that? What is that trade agreement? What are they talking about? One of the reasons they may ask that question is that a study came out recently which looked at how the major networks are covering the TPP—the Trans-Pacific Partnership. It turns out the major television networks are not covering the TPP. Incredible as it may sound, this trade agreement—the largest trade agreement in the history of the United States of America—has received virtually no coverage—no coverage—on the major networks. That, to me, is very amazing.

I think it was Albert Einstein who made the point that doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results is sometimes called insanity. If we think a new trade agreement, based on the same principles of the old trade agreements, is going to bring different results, I think we are very wrong.

I remember, because I have been in Congress for many of the major debates on trade, that way back when we had a discussion about unfettered free trade with China and the argument was, well, look at the huge market in China, look at all the jobs we will create in America selling to China. In fact, we were told that permanent normal trade relations with China would create hundreds of thousands of American jobs. Well, not quite. It turns out, as everybody who goes into a department store knows, most of the products we buy are made in China, and it turns out the permanent normal trade relations trade agreement with China has led to

the loss of more than 3 million good-paying American jobs. The reason for that is obvious. Why is a major corporation going to pay an American worker \$15, \$20 an hour, provide decent benefits, and obey environmental laws when that corporation can shut down here, go to China, pay people very low wages, and bring their products back to America? That is why, when we go shopping, most of what we buy is made in China.

We were told that the North American Free Trade Agreement—NAFTA—would create at least 200,000 American jobs in just a few years. Well, not quite. It turns out that NAFTA has led to the loss of about 1 million American jobs.

We were told that the Korean Free Trade Agreement would increase American jobs. Well, it turns out that it has led to the loss of over 60,000 American jobs.

Since we signed NAFTA, the United States has a cumulative trade deficit of \$3.8 trillion—\$3.8 trillion. That is wealth that has left the United States and gone overseas.

While the full text of the Trans-Pacific Partnership has not been made public, there have been some leaks of what is included in it, and what these leaks tell us is in fact very disturbing. I think it is obvious to anyone who has taken a look at this issue that the TPP is just a new, easy way for corporations to shut down in America and to send jobs abroad. It is estimated the United States would lose more than 130,000 jobs to Vietnam and Japan alone if the Trans-Pacific Partnership goes into effect. The reason for that is, when we are dealing with a country such as Vietnam, my understanding is the minimum wage there is 56 cents an hour—56 cents an hour. Maybe I am old-fashioned, but I don't think American workers should be forced to compete against people who are working for 56 cents an hour.

At a time when corporations have already outsourced over 3 million service sector jobs in the United States, the Trans-Pacific Partnership includes rules that will make it easier for corporate America to outsource call centers, computer programming, engineering, accounting, and medical diagnostic drugs. Under the TPP, Vietnamese companies will be able to compete with American companies for Federal contracts funded by U.S. taxpayers, undermining "Buy American" laws.

If the United States is to remain a major industrial power, producing real products and creating good-paying jobs, we must develop a new set of trade policies which work for the ordinary American worker and not for large corporations and big campaign donors.

Let me be very frank as an Independent. This is not just the Repub-

licans who have been supporting these unfettered free-trade agreements; there have been Democratic Presidents as well. Corporate America has said we want these trade policies, and the leaders of both political parties have said, yes, that is what we will do. But I think it is time to stand up and say enough is enough.

This country now is in a major race to the bottom. Workers are working longer hours for lower wages. No American worker should be forced to compete against desperate people around the world who are making pennies an hour. Corporate America, every night on television in every ad we see, tells us buy this product, buy that product. Well, you know what. If they want us to buy these products, maybe it is high time they started manufacturing those products in the United States of America.

I am opposed to the TPP, Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement. That is my view, but I would hope every Member is opposed to the fast-track process which gives the authority to negotiate these agreements in the final terms. That is because nobody has had the opportunity to even see what is in the proposed agreement right now. Transparency has been minimal, absolutely minimal.

I think if we are serious about creating decent-paying jobs in this country, if we are serious about raising wages, if we are serious about dealing with the other issues that have surfaced in terms of sovereignty, the idea we would make it easier for tobacco companies to sell their deadly products to children around the world and make it harder for governments to protect the health of their citizens is an absolute outrage. It is an outrage.

I again thank Senator BROWN for helping to organize this event. I hope the American people stand and tell the Congress enough is enough. We need to create decent-paying jobs in this country for a change and not just in other countries around the world.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, as President Obama has noted in his State of the Union, the American economy is growing again. We are creating jobs at the fastest pace since 1999, and unemployment is lower than before the financial crisis. American businesses are posting large profits and boosting the stock market along with them.

Yet for many working Americans, this good news is only that, news—something they see in the paper or on TV, not in their paychecks or at the kitchen table. Many of the Wisconsin workers I hear from every day are struggling to make ends meet. They are working more, taking home less, and worried that for the first time in American history their kids will have fewer opportunities than they did.

For the last 5 years the Obama administration has been negotiating with 11 nations in the Asia-Pacific region on a free-trade agreement known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Some of these countries have values similar to ours and some do not. I fear this agreement could allow some nations to take advantage of the values we as Americans place on our environment, on labor laws, on human rights, and on free enterprise rules. These nations would be competing against American workers on an uneven playing field. This unfair game would continue the downward pressure on wages that has plagued American workers since before NAFTA.

The interests of Wisconsin workers are being represented in these negotiations by unelected officials in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. I am here to let these negotiators know that Wisconsinites don't want more of the same failed promises from free-trade deals.

Wisconsin workers make things. We have been one of the top manufacturing States for generations. If we hope to continue making things, we think we should continue to have our own government as a customer. That is why I have been a big and strong supporter of "Buy American" provisions that require Federal agencies that use taxpayer dollars to purchase American-made products.

Free-trade agreements have historically allowed foreign nations too much leeway when bidding for our government projects and contracts, while not affording American companies that fair access, that same access. I have asked the GAO to study this and report back to Congress so we can know the effect skirting "Buy American" laws have and the cost it has to American manufacturers.

Currencies that reflect their true value are also vital to the conduct of global trade. When foreign countries cheat by manipulating their currencies to price their goods cheaper, Wisconsin workers—in fact all American workers—lose.

Seven years ago, then-Senator Obama, speaking about the Bush administration's inaction on currency manipulation said it best:

Refusing to acknowledge this problem will not make it go away. . . . The Administration's refusal to take strong action against China's currency manipulation will also make it more difficult to obtain congressional approval for renewed Trade Promotion Authority, as well as additional trade agreements.

That statement is as true today with the Obama administration as it was with the Bush administration. Currency manipulation is essentially cheating. That is why I support including strong and enforceable currency manipulation provisions in any trade agreement. Without these rules, we will allow countries to engage in a race

to the bottom that leaves everybody worse off.

One of the things that has made America great is our entrepreneurial spirit. This spirit has attracted immigrant entrepreneurs from all over the world, but all too often I hear from Wisconsin businesses whose patented ideas are being stolen and replicated in Asia.

I believe any agreement must include high standards for protecting intellectual property to encourage risk-taking investments that turn into profitable companies and jobs in the United States. In the same way, I believe our ideas should be protected. I also believe that what we call our foods should be protected from foreign interference.

Let me explain what I mean by that. In fact, the European Union has sought to restrict the use of cheese, meat, and alcohol names that American producers have used for generations. For instance, cheese producers in Wisconsin would not be able to call their cheese "feta" because it is not made in Greece, while a brewer in Wisconsin couldn't label his dark beer a "Bavarian Black" because it isn't made in Bavaria, in Germany.

I have worked hard to urge the U.S. Trade Representative to reject any attempt by the European Union or any foreign nation to restrict the use of common food names in order to protect our food manufacturers and processors across this country—and especially as Wisconsin is a major producer of beer and brats and cheese, this is an issue that is very close to home.

Finally, I have concerns about the value systems of some of the nations that are party to the TPP. By way of example, Brunei recently adopted new sharia laws that include death by stoning for acts of adultery, homosexuality, and forced amputations for other offenses, including consuming alcohol. These laws go so far as to outlaw public Christmas celebrations. In fact, the act of wearing a Santa Claus hat in public could lead to a fine of more than \$15,000, a 5-year imprisonment sentence or both.

Amnesty International has called the new rules in Brunei "shocking." They have been declared illegal by the U.N. High Commissioner For Human Rights. We should not be affording our highest trading privileges to nations that do not value basic human rights.

I have heard from so many constituents who are rightly skeptical of the promises this new generation of trade agreements offer. I appreciate having this opportunity to express my concerns about free-trade agreements that are currently under negotiation. After seeing decades of jobs going overseas while the ones that are left pay less, who can blame the critics? Until it is clear to me that the gains from these agreements will go to the middle class and not just multinational corpora-

tions, millionaires or billionaires, I will continue to oppose them.

I thank my colleagues for organizing this opportunity to speak on trade.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I rise to talk about the historic vote the FCC took today to preserve Net neutrality and maintain a free and open Internet. But before I turn to that exciting news, I want to take just a moment to talk about the urgent need to pass funding for the Department of Homeland Security.

The Republican leadership has wasted a lot of time over the past month politicizing this issue, and now we find ourselves on the brink of a completely preventable shutdown of DHS. I think every American agrees that funding for Homeland Security is too important to play politics with. Last year Democrats and Republicans came together and passed a clean bill to fund the Department for a full year, and we should do the same this year. I am pleased the Senate Republicans have agreed to take up a clean funding bill, and I hope the House Republicans will quickly do the same.

NET NEUTRALITY

Turning to today's good news, I am thrilled to report that this morning the Federal Communications Commission voted to adopt new rules to preserve a free and open Internet. This is a big win for the 280 million Americans who use the Internet. I want to congratulate FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler and thank him for his leadership on Net neutrality.

The FCC has taken a crucial step to ensure that the Internet remains the platform for free expression, innovation, investment, and economic growth that it has always been. The new rules will offer meaningful protections for all Internet users. They promise to preserve the Internet's status as an open marketplace, a place where everyone can participate on equal footing, free from discrimination by broadband providers—the companies such as Comcast, Verizon, and AT&T that provide consumers with access to the Internet.

That is what Net neutrality is all about. Net neutrality isn't some radical new idea. It is the simple and longstanding principle that all lawful content on the Internet should receive equal treatment from broadband Internet service providers, regardless of who owns the content or how much money he or she has in the bank. It means broadband providers can't pick and choose which Internet traffic reaches consumers and which doesn't. This idea has been part of the architecture of the Internet from its very start.

Because of Net neutrality, an email from my constituent in rural Minnesota reaches me as quickly as an

email from my bank. Because of Net neutrality, the Web site for my local pizzeria loads as quickly as the Web site for a national chain. Because of Net neutrality I can stream videos of my amazingly cute grandson just as easily I can stream a hit TV show, and he is amazingly cute. It is because of Net neutrality that companies such as Amazon, Facebook, and YouTube are household names. Once startups, these are now billion-dollar companies employing thousands. Net neutrality gave them the chance to compete on a level playing field. Their success is a testament to both American innovation and the power of a free and open Internet.

For me, the bottom line is this. The Internet is a vital part of our daily lives. Net neutrality is at the core of how the Internet operates. It is critical to our democracy and to our economy that it continue to operate in this manner. All of the amazing innovation and growth on the Internet did not just happen while we had Net neutrality; it happened because of Net neutrality.

This is not the first time the FCC has sought to protect Net neutrality. Twice before they have tried to implement rules which were then challenged by the big broadband providers and basically struck down by the DC Circuit. It was not that the Court thought that the rules were bad policy, but rather that the FCC had not invoked the proper legal basis.

Since the second court decision last year, we have seen a lot of debate about what the FCC should do. Many of us have called for stronger rules. We have argued that those rules must be grounded in the FCC's authority under title II of the Communications Act if they are going to survive judicial scrutiny and withstand the test of time.

Of course, the big broadband providers pushed for the FCC to move in the opposite direction, to take a weaker approach. Why? Well, without Net neutrality they stood to make a ton of extra money. These guys wanted the FCC to allow them to charge Web sites access to fast lanes to reach consumers. Then only those sites that could afford to pay would see their content delivered at the fastest speed ever. Everyone else would be relegated to a slow lane. Only those with very deep pockets would be able to afford to pay for the fast lanes, and the broadband providers would have profited at the expense of everybody else.

I fiercely opposed this. Millions and millions of my fellow Americans did too. Consumers and business owners spoke out and urged the FCC to adopt rules that would protect—not destroy—Net neutrality.

They made the case for Net neutrality in clear and compelling terms, arguing that strong rules are essential for the future of the Internet. With today's vote, the FCC has provided those much-needed rules. The new rules are

strong, clear, and enforceable. They will prevent broadband providers from blocking or throttling lawful online content.

The rules will stop providers from charging Web sites for access to fast lanes. The FCC is implementing these rules within a time-tested legal framework that will allow the agency to respond to challenges to Net neutrality that arise in the future. Following the commonsense path that I and a number of my colleagues have long urged, the FCC has recognized that broadband Internet access is a title II service, a telecommunications service.

Last spring, I could not have predicted that we would be celebrating this victory today. The best principles of our democracy have won out. It is clear that the voices of the American people have been heard. I have often called Net neutrality the free speech issue of our time. I believe that exercising our free speech right has been key to our success and will continue to be the key to our success.

Today does not mark the end of our work—the work of all Net neutrality supporters to safeguard our free and open Internet. Some of my Republican colleagues have decried the very idea of Net neutrality. More recently others have purported to embrace the concept but at the same time have tried to stop the FCC from taking meaningful action.

My friend Senator JOHN THUNE has drafted legislation that would strip the FCC of authority to regulate access to broadband Internet services. Along with many of my colleagues, I made clear that I regard this as a nonstarter. In the weeks and months ahead, I and other Net neutrality supporters will need to continue to speak out, to make sure everyone understands what is at stake, why we stand by the strong rules adopted by the FCC and why we oppose efforts to strip the FCC of its authority or to weaken Net neutrality protections.

This will take a lot of hard work. Some folks really just do not get it. Back in November, my friend Senator TED CRUZ referred to Net neutrality as “ObamaCare for the Internet.” It was a statement that seemed to demonstrate just a basic misunderstanding of what Net neutrality is and how the Internet works. For that matter, tens of thousands have seen a YouTube video of Senator CRUZ attacking FCC efforts to protect Net neutrality.

I will just pause to note that the video reached many viewers, and the reason it did was that it was uploaded to YouTube, a site that would not have flourished were it not for Net neutrality. It was because of Net neutrality that YouTube, a company founded by three guys in an office over a pizzeria in San Mateo, CA, was able to compete against and ultimately overtake the well-funded competitor, Google Video.

In his video Senator CRUZ compared an old rotary phone to a modern cell phone. He claimed that the landline was an example of stagnation due to FCC regulation under title II, while cell phone innovation was a product of noninvolvement by the government.

The attempted comparison fails for many reasons, not least because the telephone services on cell phones have long been subject to title II. In fact, the FCC is taking the same kind of approach to applying title II to broadband access services as they have taken in applying it to mobile voice services, where I think we all agree there has been robust investment and innovation under title II.

In the coming months, I expect that we are going to confront a lot of this kind of confusion and misinformation or disinformation. We are going to encounter plenty of people who oppose Net neutrality because they do not understand how the Internet works or do not understand the relevant legal authorities or, frankly, are willing to personally obfuscate to advance their own agenda. I hope the American people will remain engaged on this issue, that they remain willing to speak up, to use the Internet to spread solid information, to organize support, and ultimately to counter the deep-pocketed ISPs and the politicians who may seek to undermine Net neutrality.

I do believe that with the same energy and determination that has gotten us this far, Net neutrality supporters can make today's historic vote a lasting win for the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I will yield the floor when the next speaker comes. But while we have a quiet moment, I just want to complete my remarks related to the Senator from Oklahoma and his snowball.

I ask unanimous consent to show the Earth-Now Web site on the iPad device that I have.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. If you go to Earth-Now, it is actually quite easy to load. You can see how that polar vortex measurably brings the cold air down to New England. If you do not want—this is produced by NASA. These are pretty serious people. So you can believe NASA and you can believe what their satellites measure on the planet or you can believe the Senator with the snowball.

The U.S. Navy takes this very seriously, to the point where Admiral Locklear, who is the head of the Pacific Command, has said that climate change is the biggest threat that we face in the Pacific. He is a career military officer, and he is deadly serious. You can either believe the U.S. Navy or

you can believe the Senator with the snowball.

The religious and faith groups are very clear on this, by and large. I would particularly salute the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which has made very, very clear strong statements. We are going to hear more from Pope Francis about this when he releases his encyclical and when he speaks to the joint session of Congress on September 24.

I think it will be quite clear that you can either believe the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Pope Francis or you can believe the Senator with the snowball.

In corporate America there is an immense array of major, significant, intelligent, and responsible corporations that are very clear that climate change is real. They are companies such as Coke and Pepsi; companies such as Ford, GM, and Caterpillar; companies such as Walmart and Target; companies such as VF Industries, which makes a wide array of clothing products; Nike; companies such as Mars and Nestle.

So, we have our choice. We can believe Coke and Pepsi and Ford and GM and Walmart and Target and VF Industries and Nike and Mars and Nestle; or we can believe the Senator with the snowball.

Every major American scientific society has put itself on record—many of them a decade ago—that climate change is deadly real. They measure it. They see it. They know why it happens. The predictions correlate with what we see, as they increasingly come true. The fundamental principles—that it is derived from carbon pollution, which comes from burning fossil fuels—are beyond legitimate dispute to the point where the leading scientific organizations on the planet calls them “unequivocal.”

So you can believe every single major American scientific society or you can believe the Senator with the snowball.

I would submit the following. I would submit that, if you looked at the American population and you removed the conspiracy theorists—there are always conspiracy theorists in the American population that come out and deny that the moon landing was real. They have their hobgoblins from time to time. If you remove the conspiracy theorists—and there are people who simply do not accept a lot of scientific truths. They think the Earth is only 6,000 years old. They deny that evolution is real. Fine, they are entitled to that point of view. But it is not one you would want to make much of a bet on. It is not a point of view that is likely to get, for instance, a rover onto the surface of Mars and driven around successfully by scientists. But if people want to have that point of view, they have the right to do it. I just would not

put very many bets on how productive that point of view is when you are trying to accomplish something important.

Also, remove the people who have financial ties to the fossil fuel industry. So take out the conspiracy theorists, take out the evolution deniers, take out the people who have a financial tie to the fossil fuel industry, and I would be very surprised if you found virtually anybody left who was not prepared to be responsible about climate change.

Too many of us see it happening right in front of our faces. The science has been too clear for too long. Frankly, what we are seeing is the rollout of the famous tobacco strategy to delay and deny the day of reckoning because they are making money selling tobacco in the meantime while they create false doubt about the damage their product is doing.

Now is an interesting time for that because in Washington, at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District, we just had oral argument on the enforcement of a decision rendered by a U.S. district judge finding that that tobacco scam—the deliberate pattern of lies by the tobacco industry to convince people tobacco really wasn't responsible for cancer and other ill health effects—that that campaign was a civil racketeering conspiracy. That is the law of the United States of America. I would submit that if we look at the civil racketeering conspiracy that the tobacco industry ran, that has been called out by a court of law, and we compare that to what the polluters are saying about climate change, we will see more similarities than differences.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING MIKE PERRY

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a dear friend whom we have just lost in West Virginia, Mr. Mike Perry. He was a beloved community leader, a dear friend to all of us, and truly an inspiring West Virginian.

Mike was a native of Huntington, WV, which is located in beautiful Cabell County. He was a tireless champion for his community, for Marshall University, and for the entire State of West Virginia.

Upon graduating from Marshall University in 1958, Mike attended WVU School of Law and graduated first in his class. He then spent 20 years as a dedicated lawyer with the firm of Hudleston Bolen in his hometown of Huntington, becoming partner after only 5 short years. In 1981 he entered the

banking business and was chairman of the board and CEO of the First Huntington National Bank until his retirement in 2001.

Mike never failed to give back to the Huntington community that he loved, which had rewarded him with so much throughout the years—an education, endless opportunities to make a successful life for himself and his family, and a truly special place he could always call home.

He served as interim president of Marshall University in 1999, donating his entire salary to the university's general scholarship fund. His performance at the university was so highly regarded that the board of trustees voted to remove the word “interim” from his title when listing Marshall's presidents.

Mike woke up every day aspiring to make his community an even better place to work and live and consistently encouraged others to do the same.

Throughout the years he was a great confidant of mine. I enjoyed speaking to Mike on countless occasions on an array of issues, ranging from worldly national and State policies to very localized matters concerning beautiful Cabell County.

Remarkably, despite battling cancer for 1½ years, Mike never stopped working on community projects. He served on countless boards throughout the tri-state area, including those for the Huntington Area Development Council, the Tri-State Airport Authority, and St. Mary's Medical Center, among many others.

Above all, he was a dedicated family man who was truly devoted to his wife Henriella, his three children, and his eight grandchildren. Mike met Henriella in the fifth grade, and he was certain then that he had met the girl of his dreams. He knew even as a youngster that they would spend the rest of their lives together. The two married in 1958, and I think Mike would agree that Henriella always brought out the best in him and made him a better man.

Together, the Perrys moved to Harveysburg in 1973, which was the future Heritage Farm Museum and Village. They transported old log structures and began reassembling buildings and accumulating a unique collection of antiques. Today the farm consists of five houses, a zoo, a church, and several buildings that showcase rich Appalachian heritage.

In 2010 both Mike and Henriella were honored with the Donald R. Myers Humanitarian Award, which recognizes individuals who have enriched Appalachia through their extensive leadership and community service endeavors.

Heritage Farm Museum and Village has become a true mainstay within West Virginia and will forever serve as a reminder of a man who lived to make his community and the Mountain State

a better place, a man who was an inspiring leader, a selfless friend, a loving husband, father, grandfather, and so much more. He was a friend to all, and I personally will always value his friendship and his guidance, as will everybody who ever came in contact with Mike Perry.

So I say farewell to my dear friend and God bless to the State of West Virginia and the Perry family.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

WELCOMING THE PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL TO THE UNITED STATES FOR HIS ADDRESS TO A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, on Tuesday of next week, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will make an historic address before the Congress. This is his third address as Prime Minister of Israel. At the invitation of Speaker BOEHNER, he is coming to discuss Iran's nuclear ambitions and the ongoing P5+1 negotiations, as well as the rise of the Islamic State terrorist group and other jihadist groups across the Middle East.

These are obviously serious issues of national security, both for Israel but also for us here in the United States, and Prime Minister Netanyahu and the citizens of Israel have a unique perspective on those issues. In the interest of staying fully informed and aligned with our closest ally in the region, Israel, Congress needs to listen to what Prime Minister Netanyahu has to say, and I look forward to doing so.

I believe the Prime Minister's speech will be both informative and timely, as the Obama administration is reportedly trying to lock down a questionable nuclear deal with the Iranians by the March 24 deadline.

That is why I have introduced S. Res. 76 that welcomes the Prime Minister of Israel to the United States for his address to Congress. This resolution explains just a few of the reasons why the U.S.-Israel alliance is so powerful and so enduring, and it states in part that we welcome the Prime Minister and eagerly await his address before Congress. This resolution reaffirms our commitment to stand with Israel in times of uncertainty, strongly supports Israel's right to self-defense, and finally reaffirms our support and the friendship between our two countries. These sentiments are widely shared in Congress, but in an increasingly perilous global security environment in

which we find ourselves, I think it is important to remind people of how and why the United States stands with Israel.

A majority of Senators have cosponsored this resolution, and I believe today it is time for the Senate to pass it, to reaffirm there will be no daylight between the United States and Israel when it comes to common issues of national security.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 76.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 76) welcoming the Prime Minister of Israel to the United States for his address to a joint session of Congress.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Cornyn amendment be agreed to, the resolution, as amended, be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the Cornyn amendment to the title be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 262) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To make a technical correction)

On page 3, line 4, strike "joint session" and insert "joint meeting".

The resolution (S. Res. 76), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution as amended, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 76

Whereas, since its founding in 1948, Israel has been a strong and steadfast ally to the United States in the Middle East, a region characterized by instability and violence;

Whereas the United States-Israel relationship is built on mutual respect for common values, including a commitment to democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, free-market principles, and ethnic and religious diversity;

Whereas the strong cultural, religious, and political ties shared by the United States and Israel help form a bond between our countries that should never be broken;

Whereas Israel continues to serve as a shining model of democratic values by regularly holding free and fair elections, promoting the free exchange of ideas, and vigorously exercising a form of democratic government that is fully representative of its citizens;

Whereas nations such as Iran and Syria, as well as designated foreign terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah and Hamas, refuse to recognize Israel's right to exist, continually call for its destruction, and have repeatedly attacked Israel either directly or through proxies;

Whereas, in particular, the Government of Iran's ongoing pursuit of nuclear weapons poses a tremendous threat both to the United States and Israel;

Whereas the negotiations between the so-called P5+1 countries and Iran over its illicit nuclear weapons program are entering a key phase, and Congress has heard the perspectives, both publicly and privately, of a number of close allies involved in the negotiations; and

Whereas the United States is committed to ensuring that Israel, as a strong and trusted ally, maintains its qualitative military edge: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) warmly welcomes the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, on his visit to the United States, which provides a timely opportunity to reinforce the United States-Israel relationship;

(2) eagerly awaits the address of Prime Minister Netanyahu before a joint meeting of the United States Congress;

(3) reaffirms its commitment to stand with Israel during times of uncertainty;

(4) continues to strongly support Israel's right to defend itself from threats to its very survival; and

(5) reaffirms its unequivocal and bipartisan support for the friendship between the people and Governments of the United States and Israel.

The amendment (No. 263) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the title)

Amend the title so as to read: "A resolution welcoming the Prime Minister of Israel to the United States for his address to a joint meeting of Congress."

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I yield back all time on the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 240) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for

the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 255

(Purpose: in the nature of a substitute)

Mr. MCCONNELL. I have an amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL], for Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mrs. SHAHEEN, proposes an amendment numbered 255.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 256 TO AMENDMENT NO. 255

Mr. MCCONNELL. I have a second degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 256 to amendment No. 255.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This act shall become effective 1 day after enactment.

AMENDMENT NO. 257

Mr. MCCONNELL. I have an amendment to the text proposed to be stricken.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 257 to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 255.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This act shall become effective 6 days after enactment.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 258 TO AMENDMENT NO. 257

Mr. MCCONNELL. I have a second degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 258 to amendment No. 257.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike "6 days" and insert "5 days".

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH AMENDMENT NO. 259

Mr. MCCONNELL. I have a motion to commit H.R. 240 with instructions, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] moves to commit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report back forthwith with an amendment numbered 259.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This act shall become effective 4 days after enactment.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on that motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 260

Mr. MCCONNELL. I have an amendment to the instructions at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 260 to the instructions of the motion to commit H.R. 240.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike "4 days" and insert "3 days".

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on that amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 261 TO AMENDMENT NO. 260

Mr. MCCONNELL. I have a second degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 261 to amendment No. 260.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike "3 days" and insert "2 days".

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby

move to bring to a close debate on H.R. 240, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015.

Mitch McConnell, Orrin G. Hatch, Susan M. Collins, Lindsey Graham, Daniel Coats, Thad Cochran, Roger F. Wicker, John Barrasso, Jeff Flake, John McCain, Mark Kirk, Kelly Ayotte, Lamar Alexander, Lisa Murkowski, Bob Corker, John Cornyn.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMMIGRATION RULE OF LAW ACT OF 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to proceed to S. 534.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 22, S. 534, a bill to prohibit funds from being used to carry out certain Executive actions related to immigration and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to S. 534, a bill to prohibit funds from being used to carry out certain Executive actions related to immigration and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Susan M. Collins, John Thune, Cory Gardner, Lamar Alexander, Daniel Coats, James Lankford, John Barrasso, John McCain, Bill Cassidy, Roger F. Wicker, John Hoeven, Lisa Murkowski, Jeff Flake, Shelley Moore Capito, Ron Johnson, Richard Burr.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, at 10 a.m. on Friday, February 27, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on H.R. 240; that if cloture is invoked, all postcloture time be yielded back with the exception of 10 minutes for Senator LEE or his designee; and that following the use or yielding back of that time, the pending amendments, with the exception of amendment No. 255, be withdrawn and the Senate vote on amendment No. 255; I further ask that the bill, as amended, if amended, then be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage, and that there then be 2

minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 534.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING COLONEL DEWEY LEE SMITH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to mourn the passing of a great Kentuckian and an American hero, Col. Dewey Lee Smith. Colonel Smith of Fairdale, KY, was a U.S. Air Force veteran. He passed away on February 9, 2015, and was 85 years old.

Colonel Smith bravely served his country during the Vietnam war and was taken prisoner on June 2, 1967, as an F-105 pilot who was forced to eject over North Vietnam. He was held as a POW and not released until March 4, 1973, near the end of the Vietnam war. He spent 2,103 days in captivity and was released during Operation Homecoming.

Colonel Smith was not reluctant to talk about his POW experience, and often spoke about it on Veterans Day at area churches. He also frequently spoke to newly commissioned military officers at Fort Knox.

Among Colonel Smith's many various medals, awards, and decorations, he received the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Purple Heart. He later received a Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, in lieu of a second Silver Star, for gallantry while a POW.

Colonel Smith was born, fittingly, on Veterans Day in 1929 in Louisville. He played football at Fairdale High School and was a linebacker and a fullback on the football team at Western Kentucky University.

He was commissioned as a second lieutenant through the Air Force ROTC program at Western Kentucky in 1953. He was awarded his pilot wings at Vance AFB, OK, in June 1954. He served in South Korea, and at the time of his capture he was stationed in Thailand.

In his retirement, Colonel Smith could frequently be seen playing golf at South Park Country Club, and he served at least once as the grand marshal of the Fairdale Fair parade. He will be greatly missed by his wife Elaine, his sons Dewey Smith Jr., Jonathan Smith, and Joshua Russell Smith, and his daughters Vicki Boyd and Sandra Smith. I know my U.S. Senate colleagues join me in expressing condolences to Colonel Smith's family.

The Louisville Courier-Journal published an obituary for Colonel Smith. I ask unanimous consent that said obituary be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the obituary was ordered to appear as follows:

COLONEL DEWEY LEE SMITH OBITUARY

Smith, Colonel Dewey Lee, 85, passed while in the nursing home in Luverne, AL, on February 9, 2015. A highly decorated veteran of the Cold War and the Vietnam War and a POW of the Vietnam War, he was awarded numerous medals for valor and citations for achievement including but not limited to the Silver Star (2), Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross for Valor (2), Bronze Star for Valor, Purple Heart (2), and Prisoner of War Medal.

Colonel Smith was a courageous, honorable and loyal airman, as well as a patient and loving father, a humble family man, and a faithful servant of God. He married Elaine Hall in Glenwood, Alabama in 1974. As a natural at the game of football, he coached little league, played his senior year at Fairdale High School in Fairdale, Kentucky and received a scholarship to play at Western Kentucky, where he played from 1948 to 1953, and served as a student coach in 1953.

Colonel Smith was born on November 11, 1929 in Louisville, KY, to John and Edna Smith.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Elaine Hall Smith; his daughters, Vicki Boyd of Chattanooga and Sandy Smith of Louisville; his sons, Lieutenant Colonel Dewey L. Smith, Jr. "Chip" of Missoula, MT, Captain Jonathan Smith (April) and Sergeant Joshua Smith (Samlong) of Louisville; his grandchildren, Mike, Halle, Mahalia, Kaden, Kellan, Samara, and Serena; his sister, Mildred Davis of Shepherdsville; and many nieces and nephews who adored their Uncle Dewey. Colonel Dewey was preceded in death by his parents, John and Edna; his brothers, Homer Smith and Johnny Ray Smith (Louisville), Cedar Smith of Charlestown, IN; his sisters, Alice Oney of Louisville, Elizabeth Trotter of Chattanooga, and Mary Stewart of Evans, KY; daughter, Donna.

A viewing will take place at Fairdale-McDaniel Funeral Home, Friday 3-8 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m.—1 p.m., with the burial immediately following at Bethany Cemetery at 2 p.m. The service will be officiated by Brother David Brading and Jack Davis.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, Senate Standing Rule XXVI, paragraph 2 requires each committee to adopt rules to govern the procedure of the committee and to publish those rules in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD not later than March 1 of the first year of each Congress. On February 24, 2015, a majority of the members of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations adopted subcommittee rules of procedure.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a copy of the rules of procedure of the

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE SENATE PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AS ADOPTED

1. No public hearing connected with an investigation may be held without the approval of either the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member or a majority of the Members of the Subcommittee. In all cases, notification to all Subcommittee Members of the intent to hold hearings must be given at least 7 days in advance to the date of the hearing. The Ranking Minority Member should be kept fully apprised of preliminary inquiries, investigations, and hearings. Preliminary inquiries may be initiated by the Subcommittee Majority staff upon the approval of the Chairman and notice of such approval to the Ranking Minority Member, Minority Staff Director, or the Minority Chief Counsel. Preliminary inquiries may be undertaken by the Minority staff upon the approval of the Ranking Minority Member and notice of such approval to the Chairman, Staff Director, or Chief Counsel. Investigations may be undertaken upon the approval of the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member with notice of such approval to all Members of the Subcommittee.

No public hearing shall be held if the Minority Members of the Subcommittee unanimously object, unless the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs (the "Committee") approves of such public hearing by a majority vote.

Senate Rules will govern all closed sessions convened by the Subcommittee (Rule XXVI, Sec. 5(b), Standing Rules of the Senate).

2. Subpoenas for witnesses, as well as documents and records, may be authorized and issued by the Chairman, or any other Member of the Subcommittee designated by him or her, with notice to the Ranking Minority Member. A written notice of intent to issue a subpoena shall be provided to the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, or staff officers designated by them, by the Chairman or a staff officer designated by him or her, immediately upon such authorization, and no subpoena shall be issued for at least 48 hours, excluding Saturdays and Sundays, from delivery to the appropriate offices, unless the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee waive the 48 hour waiting period or unless the Chairman certifies in writing to the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee that, in his or her opinion, it is necessary to issue a subpoena immediately.

3. The Chairman shall have the authority to call meetings of the Subcommittee. This authority may be delegated by the Chairman to any other Member of the Subcommittee when necessary.

4. If at least three Members of the Subcommittee desire the Chairman to call a special meeting, they may file, in the office of the Subcommittee, a written request therefor, addressed to the Chairman. Immediately thereafter, the clerk of the Subcommittee shall notify the Chairman of such request. If, within 3 calendar days after the filing of such request, the Chairman fails to call the requested special meeting, which is to be held within 7 calendar days after the filing of

such request, a majority of the Subcommittee Members may file in the office of the Subcommittee their written notice that a special Subcommittee meeting will be held, specifying the date and hour thereof, and the Subcommittee shall meet on that date and hour. Immediately upon the filing of such notice, the Subcommittee clerk shall notify all Subcommittee Members that such special meeting will be held and inform them of its date and hour. If the Chairman is not present at any regular, additional or special meeting, the Ranking Majority Member present shall preside.

5. For public or executive sessions, one Member of the Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for the administering of oaths and the taking of testimony in any given case or subject matter.

One-third of the Members of the Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of Subcommittee business other than the administering of oaths and the taking of testimony, provided that at least one member of the minority is present.

6. All witnesses at public or executive hearings who testify to matters of fact shall be sworn.

7. If, during public or executive sessions, a witness, his or her counsel, or any spectator conducts himself or herself in such a manner as to prevent, impede, disrupt, obstruct, or interfere with the orderly administration of such hearing, the Chairman or presiding Member of the Subcommittee present during such hearing may request the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate, his or her representative, or any law enforcement official to eject said person from the hearing room.

8. Counsel retained by any witness and accompanying such witness shall be permitted to be present during the testimony of such witness at any public or executive hearing and to advise such witness while he or she is testifying of his or her legal rights; provided, however, that in the case of any witness who is an officer or employee of the government, or of a corporation or association, the Chairman may rule that representation by counsel from the government, corporation, or association, or by counsel representing another witness, creates a conflict of interest, and that the witness may only be represented during interrogation by Subcommittee staff or during testimony before the Subcommittee by personal counsel not from the government, corporation, or association, or by personal counsel not representing another witness. This rule shall not be construed to excuse a witness from testifying in the event his or her counsel is ejected for conducting himself or herself in such a manner so as to prevent, impede, disrupt, obstruct, or interfere with the orderly administration of the hearings; nor shall this rule be construed as authorizing counsel to coach the witness or answer for the witness. The failure of any witness to secure counsel shall not excuse such witness from complying with a subpoena or deposition notice.

9. Depositions.

9.1 Notice. Notices for the taking of depositions in an investigation authorized by the Subcommittee shall be authorized and issued by the Chairman. The Chairman of the Committee and the Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee shall be kept fully apprised of the authorization for the taking of depositions. Such notices shall specify a time and place of examination, and the name of the Subcommittee Member or Members or staff officer or officers who will take the deposition. The deposition shall be in private. The Subcommittee shall not initiate proce-

dures leading to criminal or civil enforcement proceedings for a witness's failure to appear unless the deposition notice was accompanied by a Subcommittee subpoena.

9.2 Counsel. Witnesses may be accompanied at a deposition by counsel to advise them of their legal rights, subject to the provisions of Rule 8.

9.3 Procedure. Witnesses shall be examined upon oath administered by an individual authorized by local law to administer oaths. Questions shall be propounded orally by Subcommittee Members or staff. Objections by the witness as to the form of questions shall be noted for the record. If a witness objects to a question and refuses to testify on the basis of relevance or privilege, the Subcommittee Members or staff may proceed with the deposition, or may, at that time or at a subsequent time, seek a ruling by telephone or otherwise on the objection from the Chairman or such Subcommittee Member as designated by him or her. If the Chairman or designated Member overrules the objection, he or she may refer the matter to the Subcommittee or he or she may order and direct the witness to answer the question, but the Subcommittee shall not initiate procedures leading to civil or criminal enforcement unless the witness refuses to testify after he or she has been ordered and directed to answer by the Chairman or designated Member.

9.4 Filing. The Subcommittee staff shall see that the testimony is transcribed or electronically recorded. If it is transcribed, the witness shall be furnished with a copy for review pursuant to the provisions of Rule 12. The individual administering the oath shall certify on the transcript that the witness was duly sworn in his or her presence, the transcriber shall certify that the transcript is a true record of the testimony, and the transcript shall then be filed with the Subcommittee clerk. Subcommittee staff may stipulate with the witness to changes in this procedure; deviations from this procedure which do not substantially impair the reliability of the record shall not relieve the witness from his or her obligation to testify truthfully.

10. Any witness desiring to read a prepared or written statement in executive or public hearings shall file a copy of such statement with the Chairman, Staff Director, or Chief Counsel 48 hours in advance of the hearings at which the statement is to be presented unless the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member waive this requirement. The Subcommittee shall determine whether such statement may be read or placed in the record of the hearing.

11. A witness may request, on grounds of distraction, harassment, personal safety, or physical discomfort, that during testimony, television, motion picture, and other cameras and lights, shall not be directed at him or her. Such requests shall be ruled on by the Subcommittee Members present at the hearing.

12. An accurate stenographic record shall be kept of the testimony of all witnesses in executive and public hearings. The record of his or her own testimony, whether in public or executive session, shall be made available for inspection by the witness or his or her counsel under Subcommittee supervision; a copy of any testimony given in public session or that part of the testimony given by the witness in executive session and subsequently quoted or made part of the record in a public session shall be made available to any witness at his or her expense if he or she so requests.

13. Interrogation of witnesses at Subcommittee hearings shall be conducted on

behalf of the Subcommittee by Subcommittee Members and authorized Subcommittee staff personnel only.

14. Any person who is the subject of an investigation in public hearings may submit to the Chairman questions in writing for the cross-examination of other witnesses called by the Subcommittee. With the consent of a majority of the Members of the Subcommittee present and voting, these questions, or paraphrased versions of them, shall be put to the witness by the Chairman, by a Member of the Subcommittee, or by counsel of the Subcommittee.

15. Any person whose name is mentioned or who is specifically identified, and who believes that testimony or other evidence presented at a public hearing, or comment made by a Subcommittee Member or counsel, tends to defame him or her or otherwise adversely affect his or her reputation, may (a) request to appear personally before the Subcommittee to testify in his or her own behalf, or, in the alternative, (b) file a sworn statement of facts relevant to the testimony or other evidence or comment complained of. Such request and such statement shall be submitted to the Subcommittee for its consideration and action.

If a person requests to appear personally before the Subcommittee pursuant to alternative (a) referred to herein, said request shall be considered untimely if it is not received by the Chairman, Staff Director, or Chief Counsel in writing on or before thirty (30) days subsequent to the day on which said person's name was mentioned or he or she was otherwise specifically identified during a public hearing held before the Subcommittee, unless the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member waive this requirement.

If a person requests to file his or her sworn statement pursuant to alternative (b) referred to herein, the Subcommittee may condition the filing of said sworn statement upon said person agreeing to appear personally before the Subcommittee and to testify concerning the matters contained in his or her sworn statement, as well as any other matters related to the subject of the investigation before the Subcommittee.

16. All testimony taken in executive session shall be kept secret and will not be released for public information without the approval of a majority of the Members of the Subcommittee.

17. No Subcommittee report shall be released to the public unless approved by a majority of the Subcommittee and after no less than 10 days' notice and opportunity for comment by the Members of the Subcommittee unless the need for such notice and opportunity to comment has been waived in writing by a majority of the Minority Members of the Subcommittee.

18. The Ranking Minority Member may select for appointment to the Subcommittee staff a Chief Counsel for the Minority and such other professional staff and clerical assistants as he or she deems advisable. The total compensation allocated to such Minority staff shall be not less than one-third the total amount allocated for all Subcommittee staff salaries during any given year. The Minority staff shall work under the direction and supervision of the Ranking Minority Member. The Minority Staff Director and the Minority Chief Counsel shall be kept fully informed as to preliminary inquiries, investigations, and hearings, and shall have access to all material in the files of the Subcommittee.

19. When it is determined by the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member, or by a majority of the Subcommittee, that there is

reasonable cause to believe that a violation of law may have occurred, the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member by letter, or the Subcommittee by resolution, are authorized to report such violation to the proper State, local and/or Federal authorities. Such letter or report may recite the basis for the determination of reasonable cause. This rule is not authority for release of documents or testimony.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL SPENDING OVERSIGHT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, Senate Standing Rule XXVI, paragraph 2 requires each committee to adopt rules to govern the procedure of the committee and to publish those rules in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD not later than March 1 of the first year of each Congress. On February 26, 2015, a majority of the members of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management adopted subcommittee rules of procedure.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a copy of the rules of procedure of the Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Rules of Procedure of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL SPENDING OVERSIGHT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. Subcommittee rules. The Subcommittee shall be governed, where applicable, by the rules of the full Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Standing Rules of the Senate.

2. Quorums.

A. Transaction of routine business. One-third of the membership of the Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of routine business, provided that one Member of the Minority is present. For the purpose of this paragraph, the term "routine business" includes the convening of a meeting and the consideration of any business of the Subcommittee other than reporting to the full Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs any measures, matters or recommendations.

B. Taking testimony. One Member of the Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for taking sworn or unsworn testimony.

C. Proxies prohibited in establishment of quorum. Proxies shall not be considered for the establishment of a quorum.

3. Subcommittee subpoenas. The Chairman of the Subcommittee, with the approval of the Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee, is authorized to subpoena the attendance of witnesses or the production of memoranda, documents, records, or any other materials at a hearing, provided that the Chairman may subpoena attendance or production without the approval of the Ranking Minority Member where the Chair-

man or a staff officer designated by him/her has not received notification from the Ranking Minority Member or a staff officer designated by him/her of disapproval of the subpoena within 48 hours, excluding Saturdays and Sundays and legal holidays in which the Senate is not in session, of being notified of the subpoena. If a subpoena is disapproved by the Ranking Minority Member as provided herein, the subpoena may be authorized by vote of the Members of the Subcommittee.

Immediately upon authorization of the issuance of a subpoena under these rules, a written notice of intent to issue the subpoena shall be provided to the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the full Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, or staff officers designated by them, by the Subcommittee Chairman or a staff officer designated by him/her, and no subpoena shall be issued for at least 48 hours, excluding Saturdays and Sundays, from delivery to the appropriate offices, unless the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the full Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs waive the 48-hour waiting period or unless the Subcommittee Chairman certifies in writing to the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the full Committee that, in his or her opinion, it is necessary to issue a subpoena immediately.

When the Subcommittee or its Chairman authorizes subpoenas, subpoenas may be issued upon the signature of the Chairman or any other Member of the Subcommittee designated by the Chairman.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGULATORY AFFAIRS AND FEDERAL MANAGEMENT

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, Senate Standing Rule XXVI, paragraph 2 requires each committee to adopt rules to govern the procedure of the committee and to publish those rules in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD not later than March 1 of the first year of each Congress. On February 26, 2015, a majority of the members of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management adopted subcommittee rules of procedure.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a copy of the rules of procedure of the Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Rules of Procedure of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGULATORY AFFAIRS AND FEDERAL MANAGEMENT

(1) SUBCOMMITTEE RULES. The Subcommittee shall be governed, where applicable, by the rules of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Standing Rules of the Senate.

(2) QUORUMS. For public or executive sessions, one Member of the Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for the admin-

istering of oaths and the taking of testimony in any given case or subject matter. One-third of the Members of the Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business other than the administering of oaths and the taking of testimony, provided that one Member of the minority is present. Proxies shall not be considered for the establishment of a quorum.

(3) TAKING TESTIMONY. All witnesses at public or executive hearings who testify to matters of fact shall be sworn.

(4) SUBCOMMITTEE SUBPOENAS. Subpoenas for witnesses, as well as documents and records, may be authorized and issued by the Chairman, or any other Member of the Subcommittee designated by him or her, with the approval of the Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee, provided that the Chairman may subpoena attendance or production without the approval of the Ranking Minority Member where the Chairman or a staff officer designated by him/her has not received notification from the Ranking Minority Member or a staff officer designated by him/her of disapproval of the subpoena within 24 hours excluding Saturdays and Sundays, of being notified of the subpoena. If the subpoena is disapproved by the Ranking Minority Member as provided herein, the subpoena may be authorized by a vote of the Members of the Subcommittee.

A written notice of intent to issue a subpoena shall be provided to the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the full Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, or staff officers designated by them, by the Subcommittee Chairman, or a staff officer designated by him or her, immediately upon such authorization, and no subpoena shall be issued for at least 48 hours, excluding Saturdays and Sundays, from delivery to appropriate offices, unless the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member waive the 48 hour waiting period or unless the Subcommittee Chairman certifies in writing to the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member that, in his or her opinion, it is necessary to issue the subpoena immediately.

NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER A. HART

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I strongly support the nomination of Christopher A. Hart to serve as Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, NTSB. Today I joined the Commerce Committee's unanimous approval of his nomination and urge my colleagues to move quickly to confirm Mr. Hart as Chair of the NTSB.

The NTSB plays a critical role in objectively evaluating accidents in aviation, railroad, highway, marine, and pipeline transportation services. The NTSB forms extensive recommendations on future enhancements in transportation safety and is a great asset in improving the national standard for transportation security. Given how critical the NTSB is to public safety, I cannot stress enough the importance of the full Senate approving this role. As Chairman, Mr. Hart will provide needed leadership to guide the NTSB's work.

In New Jersey, the NTSB serves an essential role in improving public safety. Just last year, the NTSB moved

quickly to launch a thorough investigation of a high-profile truck accident in June 2014. In addition, in response to the 2012 Paulsboro, NJ train derailment, the NTSB issued a comprehensive report with a number of needed safety recommendations. The NTSB's thorough analysis and review of these accidents significantly aids local governments, first responders, and Federal lawmakers in making important policy decisions to avoid future catastrophes.

Given the importance of the NTSB to New Jersey and across the country, I am proud to support a nominee to lead this organization with a breadth of experience in senior leadership roles in aviation and highway safety. Mr. Hart's proven leadership of the NTSB makes him uniquely qualified to lead this organization. I am proud to offer my full support for Mr. Hart, who I am honored to note upon approval by this body, will serve as the first African-American Chairman of the NTSB. Mr. Hart continues the tradition of his great uncle James Herman Banning, the first African American to receive a pilot's license issued by the U.S. Government in 1926. As a pilot himself, and a true public servant, Mr. Hart will help the NTSB continue making a substantial positive impact on American public safety. Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO TYLER STEPHENS

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I wish to pay special tribute to Tyler Stephens, a key member of my staff on the Select Committee on Intelligence. Tyler will leave us shortly to join the private sector. I am honored to have the opportunity to publicly thank Tyler and note my appreciation for his outstanding service to the United States Senate during the past 8 years, including his last 4 years of dedicated service to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

Tyler is one of the brightest and most talented individuals on Capitol Hill. He is also among the best connected, a testament to the high regard in which he is held. Beginning as a staff assistant for Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON in January 2007, he learned the Senate from the ground up and quickly rose through the ranks to his current position as a senior policy advisor on the Intelligence Committee. Tyler spent most of his time in the Senate as a close personal adviser to Senator Saxby Chambliss, my dear friend and colleague, on both his personal staff and throughout Saxby's tenure as the vice chairman of the Intelligence Committee. Tyler worked hard to establish his expertise as a policy and appropriations advisor on foreign relations, defense, homeland security, commerce, transportation, energy, environmental, and technology issues. On the Intelligence Committee, he quickly became

a respected subject matter expert on a wide range of national security issues, including counterterrorism, covert action, and cybersecurity. As impressive as Tyler's resume and experience are, it is his personal dedication and quick wit that often carry the day. In an environment filled with threat briefings, hostile nation states, and post-9/11 conflict, it is often easy for some to dwell on the negative. Not Tyler—the consummate team player and totally mission-oriented—no challenge has been too great and no objective too small. His great sense of humor, contagious chuckles, and mischievous grin often lightened the mood and helped those around him perform better during stressful situations. With his boundless energy and enthusiasm, he made it all look easy.

My colleagues and I trust Tyler's judgment implicitly. He has played a key role in helping committee members develop successful legislative strategies for resolving difficult national security issues. He was also particularly helpful to me during my transition as the chairman of the Select Committee on Intelligence at the beginning of this Congress. Tyler's dedicated public service and exceptional day-to-day performance on the job have earned our respect and admiration, and it inspired a generation of staff who had the privilege to work alongside him. There is no doubt that Tyler has a bright future in the private sector; however, should the right opportunity present itself, I would strongly encourage my Senate colleagues to entice him back into public service. We will miss Tyler deeply, but his legacy will remain a part of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence for years to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO NEIL ROBERTSON

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I wish to pay tribute to a Connecticut resident who recently demonstrated extraordinary capability and heroism. Officer Neil Robertson of the Norwalk Police Department was on patrol this past Tuesday, February 24, when he drove by a railroad crossing and noticed a vehicle partially stopped on the tracks. He also saw that a train was approaching. The driver of the vehicle, who may not have been aware of the train, was unable to move forward because of gridlock in the intersection ahead. Officer Robertson quickly and accurately judged the impending danger. He immediately leapt from his car and directed traffic to move forward, allowing the driver of the stuck vehicle to escape the path of the oncoming train just seconds before it passed through the crossing.

Officer Robertson is a 4-year veteran of the Norwalk Police Department. He

deserves the highest praise not just for his choice to enter a career in public service but for his speedy and decisive actions to avert a potentially disastrous accident. I know that all of Connecticut joins me in honoring and thanking him for his exemplary performance in the line of duty.●

INDIANAPOLIS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 125TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate the hard-working members of the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce as they celebrate 125 years of creating jobs, building Indiana's economy, and improving the lives of Hoosiers all across our State.

Originally called the Indianapolis Commercial Club, the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1890 by COL Eli Lilly to address needs brought on by urban expansion in Central Indiana. The rapid expansion of industry and transportation in the region at the time left what had been a rural population with insufficient infrastructure to meet the needs of the growing city. The steadfast response of these leaders to remedy this situation represents the determination and ingenuity that the Indy Chamber continues to exhibit today.

The 1912 merger of this group with like-minded business organizations, including the Manufacturers, Trade and Merchants Associations, became what is today known as the Indy Chamber. While the economic landscape has changed significantly, the Indy Chamber of today stays true to its earliest vision of boosting area businesses and growing industry and investment throughout the Indianapolis area.

With a bold civic agenda, Colonel Lilly and the early founders of the Indy Chamber invested their efforts in building up its membership and increasing the quality of life for residents and businesses alike—including advocating for better roadways so citizens and visitors could easily travel to their jobs and places of leisure; providing relief programs for citizens hit by economic depression; and serving as an adviser to elected and appointed officials on issues addressed at all levels of governing.

In 2013, the Indy Chamber merged with three area economic development organizations—Indy Partnership, Develop Indy, and Business Ownership Initiative—putting an even greater emphasis on the organization's mission to strengthen the metro economy. Today, the Indy Chamber's commitment to urban and rural metro strength can be seen in the ever-expanding resources they offer to large corporations and entrepreneurial startups alike.

As a leading advocate for business in the Indy area today, the Indy Chamber's mission remains true to its roots

while at the same time adapting to accommodate the ever-growing landscape of today's business world. Their core mission includes keeping a keen eye on education and workforce development, supporting strong, fiscally responsible governing, and investment in regional infrastructure including roads and waterways—all areas that have an immense impact on the region's ability to attract jobs, talent, and capital.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I sincerely congratulate each and every member of the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce team on their 125th anniversary, and I wish them continued success and growth in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ED GUTHRIE

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Ed Guthrie, executive director at Opportunity Village, for his tireless efforts to enhance the lives of those around him. Mr. Guthrie has dedicated 20 years to working for Opportunity Village, helping thousands with disabilities. The organization gives students a positive social environment and provides support to families and loved ones. Mr. Guthrie has contributed greatly to the city of Las Vegas by working to make Opportunity Village the best it can be.

He stands as a shining example of someone who has devoted his life to the betterment of others. Throughout his 20 years with Opportunity Village, Guthrie has grown the organization to be recognized internationally, receiving numerous awards. It was named one of the country's top five rehabilitation service providers in the United States by the Social Security Administration and was distinguished as Las Vegas' Best Community Organization.

Mr. Guthrie has had great influence in expanding the facilities over the years, pushing to open the Walters Family Campus of Opportunity Village and the North Campus of Opportunity Village. I have personally taken a tour of the Ralph and Betty Engelstad Campus and witnessed the importance of space specifically laid out for the needs of the organization. Opportunity Village now has three employment training center campuses and a thrift store, and it services 1,990 people every day. Mr. Guthrie's dedication to these students and families is without limit and stands as a pristine example of selflessness.

Opportunity Village offers vocational training, community employment, day services, advocacy, arts, and social recreation, creating a productive environment for those who participate. This gives students the opportunity to create friendships and pursue independence to become part of the local community. I have seen firsthand, after attending Opportunity Village events such as the 10th annual Job Discovery Program graduation ceremony and

hosting meetings with Mr. Guthrie, the positive atmosphere that the organization offers to the community.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Mr. Guthrie for his noble contributions to the Las Vegas community and to the individuals that have benefited from Opportunity Village. His service to Nevada places him among the outstanding men and women of the State.

Today, I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in recognizing Mr. Guthrie and his work for Opportunity Village, a program with a mission that is both honorable and necessary. I wish the program the best of luck in all of its future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO DAVID MORTON

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I congratulate David Morton on his retirement after 26 years of service with the Housing Authority of the City of Reno. It gives me great pleasure to recognize the years of hard work and dedication he has committed to the City of Reno and the Silver State.

Mr. Morton earned his bachelor of arts from Auburn University in Alabama and then went on to complete his graduate studies in history and political science at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. Upon completion of his studies, Mr. Morton began his career as a community organization officer at the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency in Nashville. After 20 years of working for two successful housing agencies in Nashville and Dallas, TX, Mr. Morton moved to the city of Reno to utilize his experience in a new location, benefitting the great State of Nevada. His work within the community shines as an outstanding example of true commitment to bettering the State.

During his tenure, Mr. Morton also served as president of the Public Housing Authorities Directors Association, secretary and treasurer of the board of directors of the Housing Authorities Risk Retention Pool, trustee of the Legislative Committee for the Public Housing Authorities Directors Association, and member of the Housing Committee for the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials. His work throughout these many organizations demonstrates his dedication to honorably representing Nevada on a larger scale. He currently serves as president of the Washoe Affordable Housing Corporation, which administers project-based contracts with the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the State of Nevada. Although he is retiring, his legacy within these organizations will continue for years to come.

The Reno community has greatly benefitted from the hard work of Mr. Morton. He exemplifies the highest standards of leadership and community service and should be proud of his long

and meaningful career. Today, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in congratulating David Morton on his retirement, and I offer my deepest appreciation for all that he has done to make Nevada an even better place. I offer my best wishes for many successful and fulfilling years to come.●

RECOGNIZING DARRELL'S

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, in many cases small businesses are the best representatives of their communities. If you were to ask folks from Lake Charles, LA for the best po-boy in town, locals would agree that Darrell's is the spot to be. All about great food and good times, Darrell's has provided its patrons with genuine Louisiana fare for over 30 years, which is why Darrell's is this week's Small Business of the Week.

Open Monday through Saturday, Darrell's has become a staple in the Lake Charles community and the surrounding southwest Louisiana area. A go-to for locals of all ages and walks of life, Darrell's menu includes mouth-watering po-boys piled high with a variety of fresh, delicious Louisiana ingredients. Most popular on the menu is the Darrell's Special po-boy, which comes piled high with fresh-sliced ham, turkey, and roast beef cooked in and covered with homemade roast beef gravy. Locals would recommend adding a schmear of Darrell's own jalapeno mayo, a side of chips, and an ice-cold glass of sweet tea. Darrell's has also upped the ante with baking their crusty French bread in-house and serving a specialty barbecue sauce. Darrell's also takes advantage of Louisiana's successful seafood industry by serving up a spicy Cajun shrimp po-boy option. It is always great to see local establishments tap into the rich resources our State has to offer because that is when we begin to see economic growth across the board.

Beyond mouth-watering po-boys, Darrell's also serves as a local watering-hole where customers can enjoy a cold beverage while cheering on their favorite sports team. After the dinner rush, Darrell's turns into a full-service bar. It even stays open until 2 a.m. on Tuesdays to accommodate their loyal patrons. The Southwest Louisiana community was saddened by the passing of the original beloved owner Darrell Derouen in 2013. However, his wife Susie Derouen proudly continues the family tradition of quality food, service, and authenticity at the famous Lake Charles location.

Establishments like Darrell's are vital members of their communities and are well-deserving of our continued support and encouragement as they grow and thrive. Congratulations again to Darrell's, Small Business of the Week, for 30 years of service to the Lake Charles community. I wish you

continued success, great food, and good times in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:42 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 529. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve 529 plans.

H.R. 1020. An act to define STEM education to include computer science, and to support existing STEM education programs at the National Science Foundation.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1020. An act to define STEM education to include computer science, and to support existing STEM education programs at the National Science Foundation; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-708. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Economic Report of the President together with the 2015 Annual Report of the Council of Economic Advisers; to the Joint Economic Committee.

EC-709. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater Viticultural Area" (RIN1513-AC05) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-710. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to

law, the report of a rule entitled "Removal of Special Federal Aviation Regulation No. 87—Prohibition Against Certain Flights Within the Territory and Airspace of Ethiopia" (RIN2120-AK59) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-711. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Automatic Dependent Surveillance - Broadcast (ADS-B) Out Performance Requirements to Support Air Traffic Control (ATC) Service; Technical Amendment" (RIN2120-AI92) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-712. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (Embraer) Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0622)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-713. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Rolls Royce Corporation Turboprop and Turboshaft Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0961)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-714. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0173)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-715. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0082)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-716. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0231)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-717. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0188)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-718. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0527)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-719. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0525)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-720. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0079)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-721. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0624)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-722. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Technify Motors GmbH (Type Certificate Previously Held by Thielert Aircraft Engines GmbH) Reciprocating Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2010-0683)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-723. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0230)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-724. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Viking Air Limited Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-

2015-0096)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-725. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Costruzioni Aeronautiche Tecnam srl Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0876)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-726. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0078)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-727. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0146)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-728. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0750)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-729. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (formerly Eurocopter France)" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0133)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-730. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0142)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-731. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Agusta S.p.A. (Type Certificate Currently Held By AgustaWestland S.p.A.) (Agusta) Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0465)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on Feb-

ruary 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-732. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0087)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-733. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2009-1088)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-734. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0344)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-735. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc (RR) Turboprop Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2007-28059)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-736. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Corporation Turboprop and Turboprop Engines (Type Certificate previously held by Allison Engine Company)" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0462)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-737. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Quest Aircraft Design, LLC Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0099)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-738. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Lycoming Engines Reciprocating Engines (Type Certificate previously held by Textron Lycoming Division, AVCO Corporation)" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No.

FAA-2014-0540)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-739. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0446)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-740. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0138)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-741. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (31); Amdt. No. 3625" ((RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-742. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (172); Amdt. No. 3626" ((RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-743. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Groundfish Fishery; Framework Adjustment 52" ((RIN0648-BE22) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-744. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; 2015 Recreational Accountability Measures for Gray Triggerfish in the Gulf of Mexico; Reduced Annual Catch Limit and Annual Catch Target and Closure" ((RIN0648-XD723) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-745. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled

“Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Atka Mackerel in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area” (RIN0648-XD747) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-746. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Atka Mackerel in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area” (RIN0648-XD750) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-747. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region; Amendment 20B” (RIN0648-BD86) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-748. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Less Than 60 Feet (18.3 Meters) Length Overall Using Hook-and-Line or Pot Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area” (RIN0648-XD749) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-749. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2015 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic” (RIN0648-XD709) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-750. A communication from the Census Bureau Federal Register Liaison Officer, Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Foreign Trade Regulations (FTR): Clarification on Uses of Electronic Export Information” (RIN0607-AA52) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-751. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Seaway Regulations and Rules: Periodic Update, Various Categories” (RIN2135-AA36) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-752. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department

of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Special Local Regulation; San Diego Crew Classic; Mission Bay, CA” ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2014-1063)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-753. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Special Local Regulation; Bradenton Area Riverwalk Regatta; Manatee River, Bradenton, FL” ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0905)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-754. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “MARPOL Annex I Amendments” ((RIN1625-AB57) (Docket No. USCG-2010-0194)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-755. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Triathlon National Championships, Milwaukee Harbor, Milwaukee, Wisconsin” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0751)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-756. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Moving Security Zone; Escorted Vessels; MM 90.0—106.0, Lower Mississippi River; New Orleans, LA” ((RIN1625-AA87) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0995)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-757. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Vessel Requirements for Notices of Arrival and Departure, and Automatic Identification System” ((RIN1625-AA99) (Docket No. USCG-2005-21869)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-758. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revision of Auxiliary Regulations” ((RIN1625-AB66) (Docket No. USCG-1999-6712)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-759. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Temporary Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance” (FRL No. 9922-53) received during adjournment of the Senate

in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-760. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fomesafen; Pesticide Tolerance” (FRL No. 9922-82) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-761. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Dimethenamid; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 9922-08) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-762. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “*Bacillus subtilis* strain IAB/BS03; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance” (FRL No. 9920-62) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-763. A communication from the Chairman, Broadcasting Board of Governors, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a violation of the Antideficiency Act; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-764. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Operational Energy, Plans and Programs), Department of Defense, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-765. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs), Department of Defense, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-766. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of General Counsel of the Department of the Army, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-767. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, “Report to Congress on Fiscal Year 2016 Staff Years of Technical Effort and Estimated Funding for Department of Defense Federally Funded Research and Development Centers”; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-768. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Patricia E. McQuiston, United States Army, and her advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-769. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-146); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-770. A communication from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits" (29 CFR Part 4022) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-771. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "U.S. Department of Education Fiscal Year 2014 Annual Performance Report and Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Performance Plan"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-772. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "U.S. Department of Education Fiscal Year 2014 Annual Performance Report and Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Performance Plan"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-773. A communication from the Chief Information Security Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's 2014 Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) and Agency Privacy Management Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-774. A communication from the Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board Annual Performance Report for FY 2014 and Annual Performance Plan for FY 2015 (Final) and FY 2016 (Proposed)"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-775. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the second quarter of fiscal year 2014 quarterly report of the Department of Justice's Office of Privacy and Civil Liberties; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-776. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Air Emissions Reporting Requirements: Revisions to Lead (Pb) Reporting Threshold and Clarifications to Technical Reporting Details" ((RIN2060-AR29) (FRL No. 9922-27-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-777. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "New Source Performance Standards and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Delegation of Authority to Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Air Quality Control Board" (FRL No. 9923-05-Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-778. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Revision to Control of Air Pollution from Volatile Organic Compounds; Alternative Leak Detection and Repair Work Practice" (FRL No. 9923-24-Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-779. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Illinois; VOM Definition" (FRL No. 9921-44-Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-780. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Attainment Redesignation for Missouri Portion of the St. Louis MO-IL Area; 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standard and Associated Maintenance Plan" (FRL No. 9923-14-Region 7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-781. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Emissions Inventories for the Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston-Galveston-Brazoria Ozone Nonattainment Areas" (FRL No. 9923-19-Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-782. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Pacific Whiting Allocations and Fishery Closure; Pacific Whiting Seasons" (RIN0648-XD640) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-783. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran as declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-784. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports to Turkey; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-785. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports to Vietnam; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-786. A communication from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of

Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sudanese Sanctions Regulations" (31 CFR Part 538) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-787. A communication from the Secretary, Division of Trading and Markets, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulation SBSR—Reporting and Dissemination of Security-Based Swap Information" (RIN3235-AK80) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 13, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-788. A communication from the Secretary, Division of Trading and Markets, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Security-Based Swap Data Repository Registration, Duties, and Core Principles" (RIN3235-AK79) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 13, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-789. A communication from the Chair of the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's semiannual Monetary Policy Report to Congress; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. THUNE for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

*Tho Dinh-Zarr, of Texas, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board for the remainder of the term expiring December 31, 2018.

*Carlos A. Monje, Jr., of Louisiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation.

*Manson K. Brown, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

*William P. Doyle, of Pennsylvania, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for a term expiring June 30, 2018.

*Christopher A. Hart, of Colorado, to be Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term of two years.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation I report favorably the following nomination list which was printed in the RECORD on the date indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that this nomination lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Coast Guard nominations beginning with George F. Adams and ending with Andrew H. Zuckerman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on January 26, 2015.

By Mr. GRASSLEY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Loretta E. Lynch, of New York, to be Attorney General.

Michelle K. Lee, of California, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual

Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Alfred H. Bennett, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

George C. Hanks, Jr., of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

Jill N. Parrish, of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah.

Jose Rolando Olvera, Jr., of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

Nancy B. Firestone, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Thomas L. Halkowski, of Pennsylvania, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Patricia M. McCarthy, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Jeri Kaylene Somers, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Armando Omar Bonilla, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 576. A bill to increase the threshold for disclosures required by the Securities and Exchange Commission relating to compensatory benefit plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. FLAKE):

S. 577. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to eliminate the corn ethanol mandate for renewable fuel; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 578. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 579. A bill to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to strengthen the independence of the Inspectors General, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:

S. 580. A bill to include community partners and intermediaries in the planning and delivery of education and related programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:

S. 581. A bill to provide grants to States to ensure that all students in the middle grades

are taught an academically rigorous curriculum with effective supports so that students complete the middle grades prepared for success in secondary school and postsecondary endeavors, to improve State and district policies and programs relating to the academic achievement of students in the middle grades, to develop and implement effective middle grades models for struggling students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BURR, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COATS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. VITTE, Mr. SASSE, and Mr. SHELBY):

S. 582. A bill to prohibit taxpayer funded abortions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RISCH:

S. 583. A bill to establish certain wilderness areas in central Idaho and to authorize various land conveyances involving National Forest System land and Bureau of Land Management land in central Idaho, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 584. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide the option to receive Medicare Summary Notices electronically, to increase the flexibility and transparency of contracts with medicare administrative contractors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. SANDERS, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 585. A bill to amend the Natural Gas Act with respect to the exportation of natural gas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KIRK, Ms. AYOTTE, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. NELSON, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 586. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to foster more effective implementation and coordination of clinical care for people with pre-diabetes, diabetes, and the chronic diseases and conditions that result from diabetes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 587. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Defense to use only human-based methods for training members of the Armed Forces in the treatment of severe combat injuries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. NELSON, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 588. A bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to establish a consumer product safety standard for liquid detergent packets to protect children under the age of five from injury or illness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. PETERS, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. FRANKEN, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 589. A bill to provide an immediate measure to control the spread of aquatic nuisance species from the Mississippi River basin to the Great Lakes basin and to inform long-term measures to prevent the Interbasin transfer of aquatic nuisance species; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. MCCASKILL (for herself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. REED, Ms. STABENOW, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 590. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 and the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act to combat campus sexual violence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 591. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. UDALL):

S. 592. A bill to improve the transition between experimental permits and commercial licenses for commercial reusable launch vehicles; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 593. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to submit to Congress a report on the efforts of the Bureau of Reclamation to manage its infrastructure assets; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DONNELLY (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 594. A bill to establish a tiered hiring preference for members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 595. A bill to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to prohibit baiting exemptions on certain land; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 596. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish a grant program to support the restoration of San Francisco Bay; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. TILLIS:

S. 597. A bill to amend section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to provide that such section does not authorize the Federal Communications Commission to preempt the laws of certain States relating to the regulation of municipal broadband, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. NELSON):

S. 598. A bill to improve the understanding of, and promote access to treatment for, chronic kidney disease, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. TOOMEY, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 599. A bill to extend and expand the Medicaid emergency psychiatric demonstration project; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 600. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish an energy efficiency retrofit pilot program; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself and Mr. KAINE):

S. 601. A bill to direct Federal investment in carbon capture and storage and other clean coal technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 602. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to consider certain time spent by members of reserve components of the Armed Forces while receiving medical care from the Secretary of Defense as active duty for purposes of eligibility for Post-9/11 Educational Assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 603. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to transport individuals to and from facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs in connection with rehabilitation, counseling, examination, treatment, and care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. NELSON):

S. 604. A bill to reauthorize and improve a grant program to assist institutions of higher education in establishing, maintaining, improving, and operating Veteran Student Centers; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 605. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to invest in innovation for education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 606. A bill to extend the right of appeal to the Merit Systems Protection Board to certain employees of the United States Postal Service; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WICKER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BURR, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. REED, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. SASSE):

S. Res. 88. A resolution celebrating Black History Month; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. Res. 89. A resolution congratulating the Oregon Shakespeare Festival on its 80th year; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. HEITKAMP,

Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. AYOTTE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. FISCHER, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. Res. 90. A resolution designating February 2015 as "American Heart Month" and February 6, 2015, as "National Wear Red Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. REED, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Res. 91. A resolution designating March 2, 2015, as "Read Across America Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. Con. Res. 6. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that John Arthur "Jack" Johnson should receive a posthumous pardon for the racially motivated conviction in 1913 that diminished the athletic, cultural, and historic significance of Jack Johnson and unduly tarnished his reputation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 141

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 141, a bill to repeal the provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act providing for the Independent Payment Advisory Board.

S. 153

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 153, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to authorize additional visas for well-educated aliens to live and work in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 166

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 166, a bill to stop exploitation through trafficking.

S. 207

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) were added as cosponsors of S. 207, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to use existing authorities to furnish health care at non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities to veterans who live more than 40 miles driving distance from the closest medical facility of the Department that furnishes the care sought by the veteran, and for other purposes.

S. 226

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 226, a bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law.

S. 233

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 233, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide compensatory time for employees in the private sector.

S. 235

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 235, a bill to provide for wildfire suppression operations, and for other purposes.

S. 258

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 258, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services.

S. 262

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 262, a bill to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes.

S. 271

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 271, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 298

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 298, a bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option of providing services to children with medically complex conditions under the Medicaid program and Children's Health Insurance Program through a care coordination program focused on improving health outcomes for children with medically complex conditions and lowering costs, and for other purposes.

S. 338

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 338, a bill to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

S. 358

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 358, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure that women members of the Armed Forces and their families have access to the contraception they need in order to promote the health and readiness of all members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 371

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 371, a bill to remove a limitation on a prohibition relating to permits for discharges incidental to normal operation of vessels.

S. 388

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 388, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to require humane treatment of animals by Federal Government facilities.

S. 396

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 396, a bill to establish the Proprietary Education Oversight Coordination Committee.

S. 431

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 431, a bill to permanently extend the Internet Tax Freedom Act.

S. 474

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 474, a bill to require State educational agencies that receive funding under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to have in effect policies and procedures on background checks for school employees.

S. 498

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 498, a bill to allow reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms.

S. 517

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 517, a bill to extend the secure rural schools and community self-termination program, to restore mandatory funding status to the payment in lieu of taxes program, and for other purposes.

S. 524

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from New

York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 524, a bill to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use.

S. 532

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 532, a bill to improve highway-rail grade crossing safety, and for other purposes.

S. 546

At the request of Ms. HETTKAMP, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 546, a bill to establish the Railroad Emergency Services Preparedness, Operational Needs, and Safety Evaluation (RESPONSE) Subcommittee under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Advisory Council to provide recommendations on emergency responder training and resources relating to hazardous materials incidents involving railroads, and for other purposes.

S. 554

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 554, a bill to provide for the compensation of Federal employees affected by a lapse in appropriations.

S. 568

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 568, a bill to extend the trade adjustment assistance program, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 578. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today on behalf of myself and Senator SCHUMER to introduce legislation to ensure that our seniors and disabled citizens have timely access to home health services under the Medicare program.

Nurse practitioners, physician assistants, certified nurse midwives and clinical nurse specialists are all playing increasingly important roles in the deliv-

ery of health care services, particularly in rural and medically underserved areas of our country where physicians may be in scarce supply. In recognition of their growing role, Congress, in 1997, authorized Medicare to begin paying for physician services provided by these health professionals as long as those services are within their scope of practice under State law.

Despite their expanded role, these advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants are currently unable to order home health services for their Medicare patients. Under current law, only physicians are allowed to certify or initiate home health care for Medicare patients, even though they may not be as familiar with the patient's case as the non-physician provider. In fact, in many cases, the certifying physician may not even have a relationship with the patient and must rely upon the input of the nurse practitioner, physician assistant, clinical nurse specialist or certified nurse midwife to order the medically necessary home health care. At best, this requirement adds more paperwork and a number of unnecessary steps to the process before home health care can be provided. At worst, it can lead to needless delays in getting Medicare patients the home health care they need simply because a physician is not readily available to sign the form.

The inability of advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants to order home health care is particularly burdensome for Medicare beneficiaries in medically underserved areas, where these providers may be the only health care professionals available. For example, needed home health care was delayed by more than a week for a Medicare patient in Nevada because the physician assistant was the only health care professional serving the patient's small town, and the supervising physician was located 60 miles away.

A nurse practitioner told me about another case in which her collaborating physician had just lost her father and was not available. As a consequence, the patient experienced a 2 day delay in getting needed care while they waited to get the paperwork signed by another physician.

Another nurse practitioner pointed out that it is ridiculous that she can order physical and occupational therapy in a subacute facility but cannot order home health care. One of her patients had to wait eleven days after being discharged before his physical and occupational therapy could continue simply because the home health agency had difficulty finding a physician to certify the continuation of the same therapy that the nurse practitioner had been able to authorize when the patient was in the facility.

The Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act will help to ensure that

our Medicare beneficiaries get the home health care that they need when they need it by allowing physician assistants, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists and certified nurse midwives to order home health services. Our legislation is supported by a broad coalition of organizations, including the AARP, the National Council on Aging, the American Geriatrics Society, the National Association for Home Care and Hospice, the American Nurses Association, the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, the American Academy of Physician Assistants, the American College of Nurse-Midwives, and the Visiting Nurse Associations of America. I urge my colleagues to join us as cosponsors of this important legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a letter of support be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

FEBRUARY 25, 2015.

Hon. SUSAN COLLINS,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. CHUCK SCHUMER,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR COLLINS AND SENATOR SCHUMER: Thank you for introducing the bipartisan Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act of 2015. We, the undersigned groups, pledge our continued support of your efforts to obtain passage of this important legislation in the 114th Congress. As you know, the bill authorizes nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse-midwives and physician assistants as eligible health care professionals who can certify patient eligibility for home health care services under Medicare. This critical change would improve access to important home health care services, and potentially prevent additional hospital, sub-acute care facility and nursing home admissions—all of which are costly to the consumer, the taxpayer and Medicare.

The undersigned organizations are committed to ensuring that consumers have access to health care providers who are qualified, educated, and certified to provide high quality primary care, chronic care management, and other services that keep them living a high quality life, with dignity, in locations of their choice.

Although current law has long recognized advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants as authorized Medicare providers, and allows these clinicians to certify eligibility for nursing home care for their patients, it precludes these same practitioners from certifying patient eligibility for home health care services. This is an unnecessary barrier to care and adds at least one more step in the process of accessing home health care services by requiring the provider to find a physician to certify eligibility. In addition, time delays to locate a physician to certify eligibility, particularly in rural and underserved areas, can result in an extended hospital stay or nursing home admission because the beneficiary could not be moved back to or remain at home without home health care services.

There are decades of data supporting the ability of these providers to deliver high quality care to people of all ages, including Medicare recipients with multiple chronic

conditions. Advanced practice registered nurses are often the only care providers available in health professional shortage areas such as urban, rural, and frontier regions. Given the existing and future projected primary care physician shortages, and the coming of increased numbers of Medicare eligible patients, the need will be even greater for all qualified providers to be allowed to certify home health care eligibility.

The Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act would help to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries in need of home health care services whose providers are nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse midwives, and physician assistants would be able to directly access home health care by referral from their providers. This bill would provide beneficiaries continued access to care and increase the likelihood that they would experience better health and a higher quality of life. Additionally, outside experts assessed the impact of the bill earlier last year and projected a Medicare savings of \$7.1 million in 2015 and up to a ten-year savings of \$252.6 million. This analysis also notes the potential to reduce beneficiary admissions to and lengths of stay in institutional settings under the policy change.

We appreciate your continued leadership and are committed to working with you to ensure that this bipartisan legislation is passed and placed on the President's desk for signature at the first opportunity. The time is now to ensure that patients have timely access to the quality, cost effective care they need. For any questions, please contact governmentaffairs@aarp.org or 703-740-2529.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

AARP, AFT Nurses and Health Professionals, AMDA-The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine, Alzheimer's Foundation of America, American Academy of Nursing, American Academy of Physician Assistants, American Association of Colleges of Nursing, American Association of Heart Failure Nurses, American Association of Nurse Practitioners, American Association of Occupational Health Nurses, American College of Nurse-Midwives, American Geriatrics Society, American Nephrology Nurses' Association, American Nurses Association, American Organization of Nurse Executives.

American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association, American Psychiatric Nurses Association, Association of Community Health Nursing Educators, Association of Public Health Nurses, Association of Rehabilitation Nurses, Center for Medicare Advocacy, Gerontological Advance Practice Nurses Association, International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses, The Jewish Federations of North America, Justice in Aging, Leading Age, Medicare Rights Center, National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, National Association for Home Care & Hospice.

National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists, National Association of Neonatal Nurses, National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners, National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers, National Black Nurses Association, National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care, National Council on Aging, National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties, Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, OWL—The Voice of Women 40+, Public Health Nursing Section, American Public

Health Association, VNAA—The Visiting Nurse Associations of America, Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. NELSON, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 588. A bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to establish a consumer product safety standard for liquid detergent packets to protect children under the age of five from injury or illness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 588

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Detergent Poisoning And Child Safety Act of 2015" or the "Detergent PACS Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. SPECIAL PACKAGING AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR LIQUID DETERGENT PACKETS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term "Commission" means the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

(2) CONSUMER PRODUCT.—The term "consumer product" has the meaning given such term in section 3(a) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2052(a)).

(3) DETERGENT PACKET.—The term "detergent packet" means a consumer product that consists of a detergent enclosed in a water soluble outer layer.

(4) LIQUID DETERGENT PACKET.—The term "liquid detergent packet" means a consumer product that consists of a substantially liquid or gel detergent enclosed in a water soluble outer layer.

(5) SPECIAL PACKAGING.—The term "special packaging" has the meaning given that term in section 2 of the Poison Prevention Packaging Act of 1970 (15 U.S.C. 1471).

(b) SAFETY STANDARDS REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (c)(1), not later than 540 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall promulgate a final rule that establishes safety standards for liquid detergent packets to protect children who are younger than 5 years of age from injury or illness caused by exposure to such packets.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The final rule promulgated under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) require special packaging for liquid detergent packets;

(B) include standards to address the design and color of liquid detergent packets to—

(i) make them less attractive to children;

(ii) reduce the likelihood of exposure to detergent; and

(iii) otherwise reduce risks related to the ingestion or aspiration of, or ocular contact with, detergent and other potential injury risks of liquid detergent packets;

(C) include standards to address the composition of liquid detergent packets to make the consequences of exposure less severe; and

(D) prescribe warning labels that—

(i) adequately inform consumers of the potential risks of injury and death caused by liquid detergent packets;

(ii) are conspicuous and visible at the point of sale;

(iii) clarify hazard patterns, including known consequences of such hazards; and

(iv) identify actions needed to avoid injury.

(3) TREATMENT AS CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY STANDARD.—A rule promulgated under paragraph (1) shall be treated as a consumer product safety standard described in section 7(a) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2056(a)).

(4) RULEMAKING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A rule under paragraph (1) shall be promulgated in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code.

(B) INAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.—Section 9 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2058) shall not apply to a rulemaking under paragraph (1).

(C) ADOPTION OF VOLUNTARY STANDARD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b)(1) shall not apply if the Commission determines that—

(A) a voluntary standard pertaining to liquid detergent packets manufactured or imported for use in the United States protects children as described in subsection (b)(1);

(B) such voluntary standard is or will be in effect not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(C) such voluntary standard is developed by ASTM International Subcommittee F15.71 on Liquid Laundry Packets, or such other entity as the Commission considers a successor to ASTM International Subcommittee F15.71.

(2) PUBLICATION OF DETERMINATION.—If the Commission makes a determination under paragraph (1), the Commission shall publish such determination in the Federal Register.

(3) TREATMENT OF VOLUNTARY STANDARD.—If the Commission determines that a voluntary standard meets the conditions in paragraph (1), such standard shall be treated as a consumer product safety standard described in section 7(a) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2056(a)) beginning on the date that is the later of—

(A) the date that is 180 days after the date of the publication under paragraph (2) of such determination; or

(B) the effective date specified in the voluntary standard.

(4) REVISION OF VOLUNTARY STANDARD.—

(A) NOTICE OF REVISION.—If a voluntary standard is treated as a consumer product safety standard under paragraph (3) and such standard is revised by ASTM International after the Commission makes a determination under paragraph (1), ASTM International shall notify the Commission of such revision not later than 60 days after making such revision.

(B) TREATMENT OF REVISIONS.—A voluntary standard with respect to which the Commission receives notice under subparagraph (A) shall be treated as a consumer product safety standard described in section 7(a) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2056(a)), promulgated in lieu of the prior version, effective 180 days after the date the Commission is notified of the revision under subparagraph (A), unless not later than 90 days after receiving that notice the Commission determines that the revised voluntary standard does not meet the requirements of paragraph (1)(A), in which case the Commission shall continue to enforce the prior version.

(d) FUTURE RULEMAKING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may, at any time after promulgating a final rule under subsection (b)(1) or making a determination under subsection (c)(1), promulgate

such rules in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code, as the Commission considers appropriate to protect, to the maximum degree practicable, children as described in subsection (a)(1).

(2) TREATMENT AS CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY STANDARD.—A rule promulgated under paragraph (1) shall be treated as a consumer product safety standard described in section 7(a) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2056(a)).

(3) INAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.—Section 9 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2058) shall not apply to a rulemaking under paragraph (1).

(e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 4 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report on risks posed by detergent packets to young children and how the Commission is working to protect such children from such risks.

(2) MATTERS COVERED.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A quantitative assessment of annual national pediatric exposure to detergent packets, including the number of exposure incidents, the means of exposure (whether by ingestion, aspiration, or ocular contact), the clinical effects of the exposures, and medical outcomes.

(B) An assessment as to whether the rule promulgated under subsection (b)(1) or the voluntary standard adopted under subsection (c), as the case may be, has been effective in protecting young children from injury or illness caused by exposure to detergent packets.

(C) Such recommendations for legislative or administrative action as the Commission may have to protect young children as described in subparagraph (B).

(3) PUBLICATION.—The Commission shall make the report required by paragraph (1) available to the public on Internet website of the Commission.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 596. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish a grant program to support the restoration of San Francisco Bay; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise on behalf of myself and Senator BOXER to introduce legislation to further the restoration of the San Francisco Bay.

San Francisco Bay is truly a national treasure. Encompassing approximately 550 square miles, it is the largest estuary on the west coast, and is vital to the Nation for both ecological and economic reasons. It is home to more than 1,000 plant and wildlife species, roughly 77 percent of California's remaining perennial estuarine wetlands, and an important stopover for birds along the Pacific Flyway. Marshes around the bay help prevent flooding, protecting more than 40 cities in nine counties, one of the Nation's busiest seaports, and two international airports. The bay is critical to the region's economy,

which if it were its own nation, would be the world's 19th largest economy.

Over the last 150 years, the water quality and health of the San Francisco Bay Estuary have been diminished by pollution, invasive species, loss of wetland habitat and other factors. The degradation has not only impacted fish and wildlife, but has also reduced the estuary's ability to support important economic activities such as commercial and sport fishing, shipping, agriculture, recreation, and tourism.

Federal funding in recent years has started the Bay's recovery process by investing in projects that improve water quality and restore critical habitat. These investments, \$43 million between 2008 and 2015, were critical to leveraging \$145 million from other partners. But much work remains.

That is why I am pleased to introduce the San Francisco Bay Restoration Act with Senator BOXER, Ranking Member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. Companion legislation has also been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER.

This bill was first introduced in the 112th Congress. The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works reported favorably on the bill in both the 112th and 113th Congresses and recommended its passage.

This bill recognizes the important restoration work that must be done to restore and protect the iconic San Francisco Bay. It authorizes \$5 million a year for restoration work between 2015 and 2019, prioritizing funding for projects that will protect and restore vital estuarine habitat for migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, and wildlife; improve and restore water quality and rearing habitat for fish; and in turn reinvigorate recreation, tourism, and agricultural activities in and around the bay.

I urge my colleagues to join me in their support for this measure.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 596

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "San Francisco Bay Restoration Act".

SEC. 2. SAN FRANCISCO BAY RESTORATION GRANT PROGRAM.

Title I of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 123. SAN FRANCISCO BAY RESTORATION GRANT PROGRAM.

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) ANNUAL PRIORITY LIST.—The term 'annual priority list' means the annual priority list compiled under subsection (b).

“(2) COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.—The term ‘comprehensive plan’ means—

“(A) the comprehensive conservation and management plan approved under section 320 for the San Francisco Bay estuary; and

“(B) any amendments to that plan.

“(3) ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP.—The term ‘Estuary Partnership’ means the San Francisco Estuary Partnership, the entity that is designated as the management conference under section 320.

“(b) ANNUAL PRIORITY LIST.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—After providing public notice, the Administrator shall annually compile a priority list identifying and prioritizing the activities, projects, and studies intended to be funded with the amounts made available under subsection (c).

“(2) INCLUSIONS.—The annual priority list compiled under paragraph (1) shall include—

“(A) activities, projects, or studies, including restoration projects and habitat improvement for fish, waterfowl, and wildlife, that advance the goals and objectives of the approved comprehensive plan;

“(B) information on the activities, projects, programs, or studies specified under subparagraph (A), including a description of—

“(i) the identities of the financial assistance recipients; and

“(ii) the communities to be served; and

“(C) the criteria and methods established by the Administrator for selection of activities, projects, and studies.

“(3) CONSULTATION.—In developing the priority list under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall consult with and consider the recommendations of—

“(A) the Estuary Partnership;

“(B) the State of California and affected local governments in the San Francisco Bay estuary watershed; and

“(C) any other relevant stakeholder involved with the protection and restoration of the San Francisco Bay estuary that the Administrator determines to be appropriate.

“(c) GRANT PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to section 320, the Administrator may provide funding through cooperative agreements, grants, or other means to State and local agencies, special districts, and public or nonprofit agencies, institutions, and organizations, including the Estuary Partnership, for activities, studies, or projects identified on the annual priority list.

“(2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GRANTS; NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

“(A) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—Amounts provided to any individual or entity under this section for a fiscal year shall not exceed an amount equal to 75 percent of the total cost of any eligible activities that are to be carried out using those amounts.

“(B) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal share of the total cost of any eligible activities that are carried out using amounts provided under this section shall be—

“(i) not less than 25 percent; and

“(ii) provided from non-Federal sources.

“(d) FUNDING.—

“(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry out this section \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019.

“(2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of the amount made available to carry out this section for a fiscal year, the Administrator shall use not more than 5 percent to pay administrative expenses incurred in carrying out this section.

“(3) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER FUNDING.—Nothing in this section limits the eligibility

of the Estuary Partnership to receive funding under section 320(g).

“(4) PROHIBITION.—No amounts made available under subsection (c) may be used for the administration of a management conference under section 320.”

By Mr. TILLIS:

S. 597. A bill to amend section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to provide that such section does not authorize the Federal Communications Commission to preempt the laws of certain States relating to the regulation of municipal broadband, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I rise today to announce that along with my colleague in the House of Representatives, Representative MARSHA BLACKBURN, have introduced legislation that prohibits the Federal Communications Commission from pre-empting States with municipal broadband laws already on the books, or any other States that subsequently adopt such municipal broadband laws. The bill also includes a Sense of Congress stating that the FCC should not impose municipal broadband regulations on any state.

Earlier today, the FCC took an unprecedented and legally questionable step to allow Wilson, North Carolina, to ignore North Carolina law when expanding its municipal broadband network.

The North Carolina law the FCC pre-empted is intended to protect taxpayers and consumers from the financial risks we have seen many municipalities, including Wilson, face when venturing into broadband ventures that are best left to the private market to provide.

After witnessing how some local governments wasted taxpayer dollars and accumulated millions in debt through poor decision making, the legislatures of states like North Carolina and Tennessee passed commonsense, bipartisan laws that protect hardworking taxpayers and maintain the fairness of free-market competition. Representative BLACKBURN and I recognize the need for Congress to step in and take action to keep unelected bureaucrats from acting contrary to the expressed will of the American people through their State legislatures.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. NELSON):

S. 598. A bill to improve the understanding of, and promote access to treatment for, chronic kidney disease, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise in support of the bipartisan Chronic Kidney Disease Improvement in Research and Treatment Act of 2015, which I am introducing with Senators CRAPO and NELSON today. This legislation seeks to make a real difference in the lives of Americans suffering from kidney disease and end-stage renal disease.

Kidney disease is the 9th leading cause of death in the United States, and unfortunately, more than one in ten Americans today suffer from some form of kidney disease. More than 615,000 Americans are living with kidney failure or end-stage renal disease, which is an irreversible condition that can be fatal without a kidney transplant or life-sustaining dialysis. 430,000 patients in our country rely on life-sustaining dialysis care to survive.

This legislation seeks to promote research, expand patient choice, and improve care coordination for these hundreds of thousands of patients. Specifically, it would identify the gaps in research and improve the coordination of Federal research efforts. The bill would require the Government Accountability Office to submit a comprehensive report analyzing current federally funded research projects regarding chronic kidney disease and identifying knowledge gaps that are not being addressed through those research efforts. It would also direct the Department of Health and Human Services to evaluate and report on the biological, social, and behavioral factors related to kidney disease and efforts to slow the progression of disease in minority populations disproportionately affected by this disease.

This legislation would improve access to pre-dialysis kidney education programs to better manage patients' kidney disease and even prevent kidney failure in some cases. Nephrologists and other health professionals would be incentivized to work in underserved rural and urban areas, and current payment policies would be modified to encourage home dialysis, which is not incentivized under the current Medicare payment structure. Patients with acute kidney injury would also be allowed to receive treatments through dialysis providers, therefore reducing costs associated with care provided in the more expensive hospital outpatient setting. Perhaps most importantly, our legislation would establish a voluntary coordinated care program that would incentivize doctors and dialysis facilities to work together to improve the coordination of care and reduce costly hospitalization.

Lastly, the bill would expand the options for patients by allowing individuals diagnosed with kidney failure to enroll in the Medicare Advantage program and reauthorizing on a permanent basis the Medicare Advantage Special Needs Plan for patients with kidney failure.

I urge my colleagues to join me, Senator CRAPO and Senator NELSON in supporting the Chronic Kidney Disease Improvement in Research and Treatment Act of 2015, which will improve the care of patients who suffer from kidney disease and end-stage renal disease.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 598

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Chronic Kidney Disease Improvement in Research and Treatment Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—IMPROVING UNDERSTANDING OF CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE THROUGH EXPANDED RESEARCH AND COORDINATION

Sec. 101. Identifying gaps in chronic kidney disease research.

Sec. 102. Coordinating research on chronic kidney disease.

Sec. 103. Understanding the progression of kidney disease and treatment of kidney failure in minority populations.

Sec. 104. Identifying Medicare payment disincentives for transplant and post-transplant care.

TITLE II—PROMOTING ACCESS TO CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE TREATMENTS

Sec. 201. Increasing access to Medicare kidney disease education benefit.

Sec. 202. Improving access to chronic kidney disease treatment in underserved rural and urban areas.

Sec. 203. Promoting access to home dialysis treatments.

Sec. 204. Expanding access for patients with acute kidney injury.

TITLE III—CREATING ECONOMIC STABILITY FOR PROVIDERS CARING FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE

Sec. 301. Stabilizing Medicare payments for services provided to beneficiaries with stage V chronic kidney disease receiving dialysis services.

Sec. 302. Providing individuals with kidney failure access to managed care and coordinated care programs.

TITLE I—IMPROVING UNDERSTANDING OF CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE THROUGH EXPANDED RESEARCH AND COORDINATION

SEC. 101. IDENTIFYING GAPS IN CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE RESEARCH.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall develop and submit to Congress a comprehensive report assessing the adequacy of Federal expenditures in chronic kidney disease research relative to Federal expenditures for chronic kidney disease care.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report required by this section shall—

(1) analyze the current chronic kidney disease research projects being funded by Federal agencies;

(2) identify, including by surveying the kidney care community, areas of chronic kidney disease knowledge gaps that are not part of current Federal research efforts;

(3) report on the level of Federal expenditures on kidney research as compared to the amount of Federal expenditures on treating individuals with chronic kidney disease; and

(4) identify areas of kidney failure knowledge gaps in research to assess treatment patterns associated with providing care to minority populations that are disproportionately affected by kidney failure.

SEC. 102. COORDINATING RESEARCH ON CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE.

(a) INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall establish and maintain an interagency committee for the purpose of improving the coordination of chronic kidney disease research.

(b) REPORTS.—For the purpose described in subsection (a), the interagency committee established under such subsection shall issue public reports that—

(1) include a strategic plan, including recommendations for—

(A) improving communication and coordination among Federal agencies;

(B) procedures for monitoring Federal chronic kidney disease research activities; and

(C) ways to maximize the efficiency of the Federal chronic kidney disease research investment and minimize the potential for unnecessary duplication;

(2) include a portfolio analysis that provides information on chronic kidney disease research projects, organized by the strategic plan objectives; and

(3) address such other topics as the interagency committee determines appropriate.

(c) MEETINGS.—The interagency committee established under subsection (a) shall meet not less frequently than semi-annually.

SEC. 103. UNDERSTANDING THE PROGRESSION OF KIDNEY DISEASE AND TREATMENT OF KIDNEY FAILURE IN MINORITY POPULATIONS.

Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall—

(1) complete a study on—

(A) the social, behavioral, and biological factors leading to kidney disease;

(B) efforts to slow the progression of kidney disease in minority populations that are disproportionately affected by such disease; and

(C) treatment patterns associated with providing care, under the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act, the Medicaid program under title XIX of such Act, and through private health insurance, to minority populations that are disproportionately affected by kidney failure; and

(2) submit to Congress a report on the results of such study.

SEC. 104. IDENTIFYING MEDICARE PAYMENT DISINCENTIVES FOR TRANSPLANT AND POST-TRANSPLANT CARE.

Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to Congress a report on any disincentives in the payment systems under the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act that create barriers to kidney transplants and post-transplant care for beneficiaries with end-stage renal disease.

TITLE II—PROMOTING ACCESS TO CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE TREATMENTS

SEC. 201. INCREASING ACCESS TO MEDICARE KIDNEY DISEASE EDUCATION BENEFIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(ggg) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(ggg)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “or stage V” after “stage IV”;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “or of a physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist (as defined in section 1861(aa)(5)) assisting in the treatment of the individual’s kidney condition” after “kidney condition”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking subparagraph (B); and

(B) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “(A)” after “(2)”; and

(ii) by striking “and” at the end of clause

(i);

(iii) by striking the period at the end of clause (ii) and inserting “; and”;

(iv) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively; and

(v) by adding at the end the following: “(C) a renal dialysis facility subject to the requirements of section 1881(b)(1) with personnel who—

“(i) provide the services described in paragraph (1); and

“(ii) is a physician (as defined in subsection (r)(1)) or a physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist (as defined in subsection (aa)(5)).”

(b) PAYMENT TO RENAL DIALYSIS FACILITIES.—Section 1881(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395rr(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(15) For purposes of paragraph (14), the single payment for renal dialysis services under such paragraph shall not take into account the amount of payment for kidney disease education services (as defined in section 1861(ggg)). Instead, payment for such services shall be made to the renal dialysis facility on an assignment-related basis under section 1848.”

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section apply to kidney disease education services furnished on or after January 1, 2016.

SEC. 202. IMPROVING ACCESS TO CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE TREATMENT IN UNDERSERVED RURAL AND URBAN AREAS.

(a) DEFINITION OF PRIMARY CARE SERVICES.—Section 331(a)(3)(D) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254d(a)(3)(D)) is amended by inserting “and includes renal dialysis services” before the period at the end.

(b) NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.—Section 338A(a)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254l(a)(2)) is amended by inserting “, including nephrologists and non-physician practitioners providing renal dialysis services” before the period at the end.

(c) NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.—Section 338B(a)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254l-1(a)(2)) is amended by inserting “, including nephrologists and non-physician practitioners providing renal dialysis services” before the period at the end.

SEC. 203. PROMOTING ACCESS TO HOME DIALYSIS TREATMENTS.

Section 1834(m)(4)(C)(ii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)(4)(C)(ii)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subclause:

“(IX) A renal dialysis facility (as defined in section 1881).”

SEC. 204. EXPANDING ACCESS FOR PATIENTS WITH ACUTE KIDNEY INJURY.

Section 1881(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395rr(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “or acute kidney injury” after “individuals who have been determined to have end stage renal disease”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting “or acute kidney injury” after “end stage renal disease”;

(3) in paragraph (2)(B), by inserting “or acute kidney injury” after “end stage renal disease”;

(4) in paragraph (3), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “or acute kidney injury” after “end stage renal disease”;

(5) in paragraph (11)(A), by inserting “or acute kidney injury” after “end stage renal disease”;

(6) in paragraph (11)(B), by inserting “or acute kidney injury” after “end stage renal disease”;

(7) in paragraph (14)(B)—

(A) in clause (ii), by inserting “or acute kidney injury” after “end stage renal disease”;

(B) in clause (iii), by inserting “or acute kidney injury” after “end stage renal disease”;

(C) in clause (iv), by inserting “or acute kidney injury” after “end stage renal disease”;

(8) in paragraph (14)(H)(i), by inserting “or acute kidney injury” after “end stage renal disease”.

TITLE III—CREATING ECONOMIC STABILITY FOR PROVIDERS CARING FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE

SEC. 301. STABILIZING MEDICARE PAYMENTS FOR SERVICES PROVIDED TO BENEFICIARIES WITH STAGE V CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE RECEIVING DIALYSIS SERVICES.

Section 1881(b)(14) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395rr(b)(14)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “Such system” and inserting “Subject to subparagraph (J), such system”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(J)(i) For payment for renal dialysis services furnished on or after January 1, 2016, under the system under this paragraph—

“(I) the payment adjustment described in clause (i) of subparagraph (D) shall not take into account comorbidities;

“(II) the payment adjustment described in clause (ii) of such subparagraph shall not be included;

“(III) the standardization factor described in the final rule published in the Federal Register on November 8, 2012 (77 Fed. Reg. 67470), shall be established using the most currently available data (and not historical data) and adjusted on an annual basis, based on such available data, to account for any change in utilization of drugs and any modification in adjusters applied under this paragraph; and

“(IV) the Secretary shall take into account reasonable costs consistent with paragraph (2)(B) when calculating such payments.

“(ii) Not later than January 1, 2016, the Secretary shall amend the ESRD facility cost report to—

“(I) include the per treatment network fee (as described in paragraph (7)) as an allowable cost; and

“(II) eliminate the limitation for reporting medical director fees on such reports in order to take into account the wages of a board-certified nephrologist.”.

SEC. 302. PROVIDING INDIVIDUALS WITH KIDNEY FAILURE ACCESS TO MANAGED CARE AND COORDINATED CARE PROGRAMS.

(a) EXPANDING ACCESS TO MEDICARE ADVANTAGE.—

(1) ELIGIBILITY UNDER MEDICARE ADVANTAGE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 1851(a)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–21(a)(3)) is amended—

(i) by striking subparagraph (B); and

(ii) by striking “ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—” and all that follows through “In this title” and inserting “ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—In this title”.

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1852(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–22(b)(1)) is amended—

(i) by striking subparagraph (B); and

(ii) by striking “BENEFICIARIES.—” and all that follows through “A Medicare+Choice organization” and inserting “BENEFICIARIES.—A Medicare Advantage organization”.

(C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this paragraph shall apply with respect to plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2016.

(2) EDUCATION.—Section 1851(d)(2)(A)(iii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–21(d)(2)(A)(iii)) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following “, including any additional information that individuals determined to have end stage renal disease may need to make informed decisions with respect to such an election”.

(3) QUALITY METRICS.—Section 1852(e)(3)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–22(e)(3)(A)) is amended by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(v) REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO INDIVIDUALS WITH ESRD.—In addition to the data required to be collected, analyzed, and reported under clause (i) and notwithstanding the limitations under subparagraph (B), as part of the quality improvement program under paragraph (1), each MA organization shall provide for the collection, analysis, and reporting of data, determined in consultation with the kidney care community, that permits the measurement of health outcomes and other indices of quality with respect to individuals determined to have end stage renal disease.”.

(b) PERMANENT EXTENSION OF MEDICARE ADVANTAGE ESRD SPECIAL NEEDS PLANS AUTHORITY.—Section 1859(f)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–28(f)(1)) is amended by inserting “, in the case of a specialized MA plan for special needs individuals who have not been determined to have end stage renal disease,” before “for periods before January 1, 2017”.

(c) VOLUNTARY ESRD COORDINATED CARE GAINSHARING PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1881(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395rr(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(15)(A) Not later than January 1, 2017, the Secretary shall, in accordance with this paragraph, establish an ESRD Care Coordination gainsharing program for nephrologists, renal dialysis facilities, and providers of services that develop coordinated care organizations to provide a full range of clinical and supportive services (as described in subparagraph (D)) to individuals determined to have end stage renal disease.

“(B) Under such program, subject to subparagraph (C), the payment amounts renal dialysis facilities and providers of services described in subparagraph (A) would otherwise receive under paragraph (14) and nephrologists described in subparagraph (A) would otherwise receive under section 1848 with respect to dialysis services furnished by such a facility, provider, or nephrologist during a year, shall be increased by a portion of the amount (as determined by the Secretary) of actual reductions in expenditures under this title attributable to the coordinated

care organization developed by such facility, provider, or nephrologist involved, taking into account non-dialysis expenditures under parts A and B, during the preceding calendar year. The payment amount under this subparagraph shall be provided to a nephrologist, renal dialysis facility, and provider of services that developed the coordinated care organization not later than March 31 of the year after the year during which such services are provided by such nephrologist, facility, or provider.

“(C) The aggregate incentive payment amounts provided under such program for a year may not exceed the amount equal to 2 percent less than the estimated total amount of non-dialysis expenditures under parts A and B for 2017 for items and services that are not related to dialysis or transplant services.

“(D) For purposes of subparagraph (A), the full range of clinical and supportive services includes at least the following:

“(i) Primary care and other preventative services.

“(ii) Specialty care for co-morbidities or non-renal acute conditions, including at least podiatry, cardiology, and orthopedics.

“(iii) Vascular access.

“(iv) Laboratory testing and diagnostic imaging.

“(v) Pharmacy care management.

“(vi) Patient, family, and caregiver education.

“(vii) Psychiatric, behavioral therapy, and counseling services.

“(E) In providing payment incentive amounts under such program, the Secretary shall apply a risk adjustment methodology that—

“(i) uses risk adjuster factors applied under part C; and

“(ii) adjusts such payments to exclude the top 2 percent of outliers.

“(F) In establishing such program, the Secretary shall ensure that each of the following is satisfied:

“(i) The program allows for all types and sizes of renal dialysis facilities and providers of services described in subparagraph (A), including profit and not-for-profit, urban and rural, as well as all other types and sizes of such facilities and providers, to participate.

“(ii) The program rewards high quality, efficient facilities and providers through gainsharing.

“(iii) For purposes of determining the actual reductions in expenditures under this title attributable to a coordinated care organization described in subparagraph (A), the program includes a market-based benchmark system that will not be rebased against which such expenditures shall be compared.

“(iv) The program results in reductions of expenditures under parts A and B for services that are not dialysis-related services.

“(v) The program allows new applicants to participate in the program after the initial implementation period.

“(vi) The program establishes clear quality metrics in consultation with the kidney care community.

“(vii) The program provides for waivers of Federal laws or requirements, in consultation with interested stakeholders.

“(viii) Under such program the Secretary attributes individuals described in subparagraph (A) who receive treatment through a care coordination organization described in such subparagraph to such organization rather than to any other payment model that requires beneficiary attribution.

“(ix) Under such program the Secretary provides quarterly Medicare parts A and B

claims data to facilities and providers described in subparagraph (A) participating in such program.

“(G) Not later than 3 years after the date of the implementation of the ESRD Care Coordination gainsharing program, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the waivers granted under subparagraph (F)(vii) and the effectiveness of such waivers in allowing the coordination of care.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) SECTION 1881.—Section 1881(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395rr(b)) is amended—

(i) in each of paragraphs (12)(A) and (13)(A), by striking “paragraph (14)” and inserting “paragraphs (14) and (15)”;

(ii) in paragraph (14)(A)(i), by inserting “and paragraph (15)” after “Subject to subparagraph (E)”.

(B) SECTION 1848.—Section 1848 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(q) VOLUNTARY ESRD COORDINATED CARE PROGRAM.—For provisions related to incentive payment amounts to nephrologists under the ESRD Care Coordination gainsharing program, see section 1881(b)(15).”.

(d) PATIENT INFORMATION REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall require hospitals that furnish items and services to individuals entitled to benefits under part A of title XVIII of the Social Security Act or eligible for benefits under part B of such title and who subsequently receive dialysis services at a renal dialysis facility (as defined in section 1881 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395rr)) to provide to such facility health information with respect to such individual, including a discharge summary and co-morbidity information, upon request of the facility, not later than 7 days after notification by the hospital of the provision of such services to such individual or of the determination that such individual has end stage renal disease, as applicable.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the importance of the Chronic Kidney Disease Improvement in Research and Treatment Act being introduced today. This legislation will not only pave the way for enhanced research opportunities and allow physicians greater flexibility in how and where they treat patients, but, importantly, will provide increased access to care for those with chronic and end-stage kidney disease, particularly in rural and underserved areas. As our Nation continues to face dangerously high levels of debt, it is imperative we prioritize initiatives such as this while simultaneously ensuring we do not worsen our already fragile fiscal picture. Prior to passage, as with any piece of legislation, a responsible offset that is budget neutral must be included.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. TOOMEY, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 599. A bill to extend and expand the Medicaid emergency psychiatric demonstration project; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today Senators TOOMEY and COLLINS and I are introducing the Improving Access to

Emergency Psychiatric Care Act of 2015, which will build on the current 3-year Medicaid Emergency Psychiatric Demonstration Project to provide timely and cost-effective treatment to people who are experiencing an emergency psychiatric crisis.

We know that emergency psychiatric care delivered in general hospitals and freestanding psychiatric hospitals is a life-saving service for individuals with severe mental illnesses. In addition, a Government Accountability Office report, GAO-09-347, on hospital emergency departments concluded the difficulties in transferring, admitting, or discharging psychiatric patients from the emergency department contribute to overcrowding in our Nation's emergency rooms.

Community-based psychiatric hospitals, like Sheppard Pratt Health System in my home State of Maryland, could help relieve these back-ups in emergency departments; however, due to a longstanding Medicaid statutory provision called the Institution for Mental Disease, IMD, exclusion, patients receiving care in these freestanding psychiatric hospitals are not covered if the patients are between the ages of 21 and 64, and the hospitals cannot get Medicaid Federal matching payments for these services.

In response to this problem, bipartisan legislation was first introduced in the Senate in 2003 by Senators Olympia Snowe and Kent Conrad, who were joined by Senators SUSAN COLLINS and RON WYDEN, to address this problem by allowing Federal Medicaid matching payments to freestanding psychiatric hospitals for emergency psychiatric cases. In 2010, based on this legislation, Congress authorized a three-year demonstration that was intended to expand the number of emergency inpatient psychiatric beds available in communities. Currently, 11 States, including my State of Maryland, and the District of Columbia are participating in this demonstration.

The purpose of the demonstration is to determine whether allowing Federal Medicaid matching payments to freestanding psychiatric hospitals for emergency psychiatric cases improves access to and quality of medically necessary care, improves discharge planning for demonstration beneficiaries, and has a positive impact on Medicaid cost and utilization. The preliminary data shows that, of the total number of Medicaid beneficiaries admitted to these freestanding psychiatric hospitals, 84 percent had just one admission during the entire first year of the demonstration. The average length of stay was a short 8.2 days and, in 88 percent of the admissions, the patients were discharged home.

The current demonstration project would end no later than December 31, 2015; however, the final evaluation of this project by CMS is not expected to

be completed until 1 year later, in the fall of 2016.

The purpose of the bipartisan legislation we are introducing today is to allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to continue the current demonstration project until the Secretary submits a report to Congress with her recommendations, based on the final evaluation, regarding whether the current demonstration should be extended for an additional 3 years and whether additional States should be allowed to participate in the demonstration, or September 30, 2016, whichever occurs first.

Importantly, in order to extend the current demonstration project until the report is submitted, the Secretary must determine that overall Medicaid spending in the participating state is not expected to increase during the extension of the demonstration project for a maximum of nine months, and the Chief Actuary of CMS must also certify that the extension is not projected to result in an increase in net Medicaid program spending. If, in her report, the Secretary recommends extending the demonstration project for an additional three years and/or expanding it to include other States, the same requirements regarding Medicaid spending would need to be met, ensuring budget neutrality. At the completion of those additional 3 years, the demonstration project would come to a close unless Congress passes authorizing legislation to continue and/or expand the demonstration project.

We have a real crisis in this country for millions of Americans who cannot get timely access to life-saving emergency inpatient psychiatric treatment. The Medicaid program is a vital source of support for people with mental disorders, funding more than 50 percent of state and local spending on mental health services. This outdated IMD policy is penalizing the disabled and poor. It is also contributing to inefficiencies in our health care system and likely adding to the cost of care. The legislation introducing today would help ensure that the neediest have access to hospital care when they need it and strengthen our Nation's health care system. It is an incremental, targeted approach with built-in cost safeguards, so I hope my colleagues will join with me to support this legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 599

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Improving Access to Emergency Psychiatric Care Act”.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION AND EXPANSION OF MEDICAID EMERGENCY PSYCHIATRIC DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (d) of section 2707 of Public Law 111-148 (42 U.S.C. 1396a note) is amended to read as follows:

“(d) LENGTH OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), the demonstration project established under this section shall be conducted for a period of 3 consecutive years.

“(2) TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF PARTICIPATION ELIGIBILITY FOR SELECTED STATES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (3), a State selected as an eligible State to participate in the demonstration project on or prior to March 13, 2012, shall, upon the request of the State, be permitted to continue to participate in the demonstration project through the date described in subparagraph (B) if—

“(i) the Secretary determines that the continued participation of the State in the demonstration project is not expected to increase spending under title XIX of the Social Security Act; and

“(ii) the Chief Actuary of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services certifies that such extension for that State is projected to reduce (or is projected not to result in any increase in) net program spending under title XIX of the Social Security Act.

“(B) DATE DESCRIBED.—The date described in this subparagraph is the earlier of—

“(i) the date on which Secretary submits the recommendations required under subsection (f)(3); or

“(ii) September 30, 2016.

“(3) EXTENSION AND EXPANSION OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—

“(A) ADDITIONAL EXTENSION.—Taking into account the recommendations submitted to Congress pursuant to subsection (f)(3), the Secretary may, if the Secretary determines that extension and expansion of the demonstration project satisfies the criteria for the temporary extension under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2)—

“(i) extend the demonstration project through December 31, 2019; and

“(ii) permit any eligible State participating in the demonstration project as of the date such recommendations are submitted to continue to participate in the project.

“(B) OPTION FOR EXPANSION TO ADDITIONAL STATES.—Taking into account the recommendations submitted to Congress pursuant to subsection (f)(3), the Secretary may expand (including on a nationwide basis) the number of eligible States participating in the demonstration project during the extension period established under subparagraph (A) if, with respect to any new eligible State—

“(i) the Secretary determines that the participation of the State in the demonstration project is not expected to increase spending under title XIX of the Social Security Act; and

“(ii) the Chief Actuary of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services certifies that the participation of the State in the demonstration project is projected to reduce (or is projected not to result in any increase in) net program spending under title XIX of the Social Security Act.

“(4) AUTHORITY TO ENSURE BUDGET NEUTRALITY.—The Secretary annually shall review each participating State's demonstration project expenditures to ensure compliance with the requirements of paragraphs (2)(A), (2)(B), (3)(B)(i), and (3)(B)(ii) (as applicable). If the Secretary determines with respect to a State's participation in the dem-

onstration project that the State's net program spending under title XIX of the Social Security Act has increased as a result of the State's participation in the project, the Secretary shall treat the demonstration project excess expenditures of the State as an overpayment under title XIX of the Social Security Act.”.

(b) FUNDING.—Subsection (e) of section 2707 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a note) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by striking “LIMITATIONS ON FEDERAL”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking “5-YEAR”; and

(B) by striking “through December 31, 2015” and inserting “until expended”;

(3) by striking paragraph (3);

(4) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively;

(5) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated), by striking “and the availability of funds” and inserting “(other than States deemed to be eligible States through the application of subsection (c)(4))”; and

(6) in paragraph (4) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in the first sentence—

(i) by inserting “(other than a State deemed to be an eligible State through the application of subsection (c)(4))” after “eligible State”; and

(ii) by striking “paragraph (4)” and inserting “paragraph (3)”; and

(B) by inserting after the first sentence the following “In addition to any payments made to an eligible State under the preceding sentence, the Secretary shall, during any period in effect under paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (d), or during any period in which a law described in subsection (f)(4)(C) is in effect, pay each eligible State (including any State deemed to be an eligible State through the application of subsection (c)(4)), an amount each quarter equal to the Federal medical assistance percentage of expenditures in the quarter during such period for medical assistance described in subsection (a). Payments made to States under this paragraph shall be considered to have been made under, and are subject to, the requirements of section 1903 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b).”.

(c) RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONGRESS.—Subsection (f) of section 2707 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) RECOMMENDATION TO CONGRESS REGARDING EXTENSION AND EXPANSION OF PROJECT.—Not later than September 30, 2016, the Secretary shall submit to Congress and make available to the public recommendations based on an evaluation of the demonstration project, including the use of appropriate quality measures, regarding—

“(A) whether the demonstration project should be continued after December 31, 2016; and

“(B) whether the demonstration project should be expanded (including on a nationwide basis).

“(4) RECOMMENDATION TO CONGRESS REGARDING PERMANENT EXTENSION AND NATIONWIDE EXPANSION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than April 1, 2019, the Secretary shall submit to Congress and make available to the public recommendations based on an evaluation of the demonstration project, including the use of appropriate quality measures, regarding—

“(i) whether the demonstration project should be permanently continued after December 31, 2019, in 1 or more States; and

“(ii) whether the demonstration project should be expanded (including on a nationwide basis).

“(B) REQUIREMENTS.—Any recommendation submitted under subparagraph (A) to permanently continue the project in a State, or to expand the project to 1 or more other States (including on a nationwide basis) shall include a certification from the Chief Actuary of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services that permanently continuing the project in a particular State, or expanding the project to a particular State (or all States) is projected to reduce (or is projected not to result in any increase in) net program spending under title XIX of the Social Security Act. If the Secretary determines with respect to a State's participation in the demonstration project that net program spending under title XIX of such Act has increased as a result of the project, the Secretary shall treat the demonstration project excess expenditures of the State as an overpayment under title XIX of the Social Security Act.

“(C) CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall not permanently continue the demonstration project in any State after December 31, 2019, or expand the demonstration project to any additional State after December 31, 2019, unless Congress enacts a law approving either or both such actions.

“(5) FUNDING.—Out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there is appropriated to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Program Management Account to carry out this subsection, \$100,000 for fiscal year 2015, to remain available until expended.”.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2707 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “An eligible State” and inserting “Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (4), an eligible State”;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “A State shall” and inserting “Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (4), a State shall”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) NATIONWIDE AVAILABILITY.—In the event that the Secretary makes a recommendation pursuant to subsection (f)(4) that the demonstration project be expanded on a national basis, any State that has submitted or submits an application pursuant to paragraph (2) shall be deemed to have been selected to be an eligible State to participate in the demonstration project.”; and

(2) in the heading for subsection (f), by striking “AND REPORT” and inserting “, REPORT, AND RECOMMENDATIONS”.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 88—CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WICKER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BURR, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. REED, Mr. PERDUE, Mr.

TILLIS, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. SASSE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 88

Whereas in 1776, people imagined the United States as a new country dedicated to the proposition stated in the Declaration of Independence that “all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness . . .”;

Whereas the first Africans were brought involuntarily to the shores of America as early as the 17th century;

Whereas African Americans suffered enslavement and subsequently faced the injustices of lynch mobs, segregation, and denial of the basic and fundamental rights of citizenship;

Whereas in 2015, the vestiges of these injustices and inequalities remain evident in the society of the United States;

Whereas in the face of injustices, people of the United States of good will and of all races have distinguished themselves with a commitment to the noble ideals on which the United States was founded and have courageously fought for the rights and freedom of African Americans;

Whereas African Americans, such as Lieutenant Colonel Allen Allensworth, Constance Baker Motley, James Baldwin, James Beckwourth, Clara Brown, Ralph Bunche, Shirley Chisholm, Frederick Douglass, W. E. B. Du Bois, Ralph Ellison, Medgar Evers, Alex Haley, Dorothy Height, Lena Horne, Charles Hamilton Houston, Mahalia Jackson, Martin Luther King, Jr., the Tuskegee Airmen, Thurgood Marshall, Rosa Parks, Bill Pickett, Jackie Robinson, Aaron Shirley, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Homer Plessy, the Greensboro Four, Maya Angelou, Arthur Ashe Jr., Booker T. Washington, Stephanie Tubbs Jones, Hiram Revels, and Blanche Bruce, along with many others, worked against racism to achieve success and to make significant contributions to the economic, educational, political, artistic, athletic, literary, scientific, and technological advancements of the United States, including the westward expansion;

Whereas the contributions of African Americans from all walks of life throughout the history of the United States reflect the greatness of the United States;

Whereas many African Americans lived, toiled, and died in obscurity, never achieving the recognition they deserved, and yet paved the way for future generations to succeed;

Whereas African Americans continue to serve the United States at the highest levels of government and military;

Whereas the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass inspired the creation of Negro History Week, the precursor to Black History Month;

Whereas Negro History Week represented the culmination of the efforts of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the “Father of Black History”, to enhance knowledge of Black history through the Journal of Negro History, published by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, which was founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson and Jesse E. Moorland;

Whereas Black History Month, celebrated during the month of February, dates back to 1926 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson set aside a special period in February to recognize the heritage and achievement of Black people of the United States;

Whereas Dr. Carter G. Woodson stated: “We have a wonderful history behind us....

If you are unable to demonstrate to the world that you have this record, the world will say to you, ‘You are not worthy to enjoy the blessings of democracy or anything else.’”;

Whereas since the founding of the United States, the country imperfectly progressed towards noble goals; and

Whereas the history of the United States is the story of people regularly affirming high ideals, striving to reach such ideals but often failing, and then struggling to come to terms with the disappointment of such failure, before committing to trying again: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges that all people of the United States are the recipients of the wealth of history provided by Black culture;

(2) recognizes the importance of Black History Month as an opportunity to reflect on the complex history of the United States, while remaining hopeful and confident about the path ahead;

(3) acknowledges the significance of Black History Month as an important opportunity to recognize the tremendous contributions of African Americans to the history of the United States;

(4) encourages the celebration of Black History Month to provide a continuing opportunity for all people in the United States to learn from the past and understand the experiences that have shaped the United States; and

(5) agrees that, while the United States began as a divided Nation, the United States must—

(A) honor the contribution of all pioneers in the United States who have helped to ensure the legacy of the great United States; and

(B) move forward with purpose, united tirelessly as “one Nation . . . indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 89—CONGRATULATING THE OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL ON ITS 80TH YEAR

Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 89

Whereas 2015 marks the 80th anniversary of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, a major theater arts organization in Ashland, Oregon, founded by Angus L. Bowmer in 1935;

Whereas the Oregon Shakespeare Festival is one of the oldest and largest professional nonprofit theaters in the United States;

Whereas Samuel Johnson wrote that William Shakespeare is “above all writers, at least above all modern writers . . . the poet that holds up to his readers a faithful mirror of manners and of life”;

Whereas William Shakespeare has had an extraordinary impact on culture and politics in the United States, including in the Senate;

Whereas the Tony Award-winning Oregon Shakespeare Festival includes performances not only of the works of Shakespeare but also of the works of classic and contemporary playwrights;

Whereas since its founding, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival has presented, on its Ashland, Oregon stages, 29,300 performances to more than 15,000,000 audience members;

Whereas the Oregon Shakespeare Festival serves as a cornerstone of the economy of

southwest Oregon and the entire Pacific Northwest, providing jobs for more than 500 individuals and nearly 700 volunteers and attracting tourists throughout the United States and the world; and

Whereas the Oregon Shakespeare Festival is committed to the inclusion of diverse people, ideas, cultures, and traditions: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Oregon Shakespeare Festival on its 80th year;

(2) recognizes and commends the cultural, economic, and social value provided by the work of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival; and

(3) expresses support for the continued success of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

SENATE RESOLUTION 90—DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 2015 AS “AMERICAN HEART MONTH” AND FEBRUARY 6, 2015, AS “NATIONAL WEAR RED DAY”

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. AYOTTE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. FISCHER, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 90

Whereas heart disease affects men, women, and children of every age and race in the United States;

Whereas heart disease continues to be the leading cause of death in the United States, taking the lives of approximately 600,000 individuals in the United States each year and accounting for 1 in 4 deaths in the United States;

Whereas congenital heart defects are the most common birth defect in the United States, as well as the leading killer of infants with birth defects;

Whereas more than 1 in 3 adult men and women have some form of cardiovascular disease;

Whereas every year an estimated 735,000 individuals in the United States have a heart attack;

Whereas heart disease and stroke account for \$320,000,000,000 in health care expenditures and lost productivity annually;

Whereas heart disease and stroke will account for \$918,000,000,000 in health care expenditures and lost productivity annually by 2030;

Whereas individuals in the United States have made great progress in reducing the death rate for coronary heart disease, but this progress has been more modest with respect to such death rate of women and minorities;

Whereas many people do not recognize that heart disease is the number 1 killer of women in the United States, taking the lives of more than 290,000 such women in 2010, and nearly 2/3 of women who unexpectedly die of heart disease have no previous symptoms of disease;

Whereas nearly half of all African-American adults have some form of cardiovascular disease, including 48 percent of African-American women and 46 percent of African-American men;

Whereas many minority women, including African-American, Hispanic, Asian-American, and Native-American women and women from indigenous populations, have a greater prevalence of risk factors or are at a higher risk of death from heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases, but such women are less likely to know of this risk;

Whereas between 1965 and 2015, treatment of cardiovascular disease for women has largely been based on medical research on men;

Whereas due to the differences in heart disease between males and females, more research and data on the effects of heart disease treatments for women is vital;

Whereas extensive clinical and statistical studies have identified major and contributing factors that increase the risk of heart disease;

Whereas the major risk factors, identified by such studies, include high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, smoking tobacco products, exposure to tobacco smoke, physical inactivity, obesity, and diabetes mellitus;

Whereas an individual can greatly reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease through lifestyle modification coupled with medical treatment when necessary;

Whereas greater awareness and early detection of risk factors of heart disease can improve and save the lives of thousands of individuals in the United States each year;

Whereas under the Joint Resolution entitled "Joint Resolution to provide for the designation of the month of February in each year as 'American Heart Month'", approved December 30, 1963 (36 U.S.C. 101), Congress requested that the President issue an annual proclamation designating February as "American Heart Month";

Whereas the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health, the American Heart Association, and many other organizations celebrate "National Wear Red Day" during February by "going red" to increase awareness about heart disease as the leading killer of women; and

Whereas every year since 1964, the President has issued a proclamation designating the month of February as "American Heart Month": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of "American Heart Month" and "National Wear Red Day";

(2) recognizes and reaffirms the commitment in the United States to fighting heart disease and stroke by—

(A) promoting awareness about the causes, risks, and prevention of heart disease and stroke;

(B) supporting research on heart disease and stroke; and

(C) expanding access to medical treatment;

(3) commends the efforts of States, territories and possessions of the United States, localities, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and other entities, and the people of the United States who support "American Heart Month" and "National Wear Red Day"; and

(4) encourages every individual in the United States to learn about their individual risk for heart disease.

SENATE RESOLUTION 91—DESIGNATING MARCH 2, 2015, AS "READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY"

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. REED, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 91

Whereas reading is a basic requirement for quality education and professional success, and is a source of pleasure throughout life;

Whereas the people of the United States must be able to read if the United States is to remain competitive in the global economy;

Whereas Congress has placed great emphasis on reading intervention and providing additional resources for reading assistance, including through the programs authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) and through annual appropriations for library and literacy programs; and

Whereas more than 50 national organizations concerned about reading and education have joined with the National Education Association to designate March 2, the anniversary of the birth of Theodor Geisel (also known as "Dr. Seuss"), as a day to celebrate reading: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 2, 2015, as "Read Across America Day";

(2) honors Theodor Geisel (also known as "Dr. Seuss") for his success in encouraging children to discover the joy of reading;

(3) honors the 18th anniversary of Read Across America Day;

(4) encourages parents to read with their children for at least 30 minutes on Read Across America Day in honor of the commitment of the Senate to building a country of readers; and

(5) encourages the people of the United States to observe Read Across America Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 6—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT JOHN ARTHUR "JACK" JOHNSON SHOULD RECEIVE A POSTHUMOUS PARDON FOR THE RACIALLY MOTIVATED CONVICTION IN 1913 THAT DIMINISHED THE ATHLETIC, CULTURAL, AND HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE OF JACK JOHNSON AND UNDULY TARNISHED HIS REPUTATION

Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. REID) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 6

Whereas John Arthur "Jack" Johnson was a flamboyant, defiant, and controversial figure in the history of the United States who challenged racial biases;

Whereas Jack Johnson was born in Galveston, Texas, in 1878 to parents who were former slaves;

Whereas Jack Johnson became a professional boxer and traveled throughout the United States, fighting White and African-American heavyweights;

Whereas, after being denied (on purely racial grounds) the opportunity to fight 2 White champions, in 1908, Jack Johnson was granted an opportunity by an Australian

promoter to fight the reigning White titleholder, Tommy Burns;

Whereas Jack Johnson defeated Tommy Burns to become the first African-American to hold the title of Heavyweight Champion of the World;

Whereas the victory by Jack Johnson over Tommy Burns prompted a search for a White boxer who could beat Jack Johnson, a recruitment effort that was dubbed the search for the "great white hope";

Whereas, in 1910, a White former champion named Jim Jeffries left retirement to fight Jack Johnson in Reno, Nevada;

Whereas Jim Jeffries lost to Jack Johnson in what was deemed the "Battle of the Century";

Whereas the defeat of Jim Jeffries by Jack Johnson led to rioting, aggression against African-Americans, and the racially motivated murder of African-Americans throughout the United States;

Whereas the relationships of Jack Johnson with White women compounded the resentment felt toward him by many Whites;

Whereas, between 1901 and 1910, 754 African-Americans were lynched, some for simply for being "too familiar" with White women;

Whereas, in 1910, Congress passed the Act of June 25, 1910 (commonly known as the "White Slave Traffic Act" or the "Mann Act") (18 U.S.C. 2421 et seq.), which outlawed the transportation of women in interstate or foreign commerce "for the purpose of prostitution or debauchery, or for any other immoral purpose";

Whereas, in October 1912, Jack Johnson became involved with a White woman whose mother disapproved of their relationship and sought action from the Department of Justice, claiming that Jack Johnson had abducted her daughter;

Whereas Jack Johnson was arrested by Federal marshals on October 18, 1912, for transporting the woman across State lines for an "immoral purpose" in violation of the Mann Act;

Whereas the Mann Act charges against Jack Johnson were dropped when the woman refused to cooperate with Federal authorities, and then married Jack Johnson;

Whereas Federal authorities persisted and summoned a White woman named Belle Schreiber, who testified that Jack Johnson had transported her across State lines for the purpose of "prostitution and debauchery";

Whereas, in 1913, Jack Johnson was convicted of violating the Mann Act and sentenced to 1 year and 1 day in Federal prison;

Whereas Jack Johnson fled the United States to Canada and various European and South American countries;

Whereas Jack Johnson lost the Heavyweight Championship title to Jess Willard in Cuba in 1915;

Whereas Jack Johnson returned to the United States in July 1920, surrendered to authorities, and served nearly a year in the Federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas;

Whereas Jack Johnson subsequently fought in boxing matches, but never regained the Heavyweight Championship title;

Whereas Jack Johnson served the United States during World War II by encouraging citizens to buy war bonds and participating in exhibition boxing matches to promote the war bond cause;

Whereas Jack Johnson died in an automobile accident in 1946;

Whereas, in 1954, Jack Johnson was inducted into the Boxing Hall of Fame; and

Whereas, on July 29, 2009, the 111th Congress agreed to Senate Concurrent Resolution 29, which expressed the sense of the 111th Congress that Jack Johnson should receive a posthumous pardon for his racially motivated 1913 conviction: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it remains the sense of Congress that Jack Johnson should receive a posthumous pardon—

(1) to expunge a racially motivated abuse of the prosecutorial authority of the Federal Government from the annals of criminal justice in the United States; and

(2) in recognition of the athletic and cultural contributions of Jack Johnson to society.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 255. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mrs. SHAHEEN)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 240, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

SA 256. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 255 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mrs. SHAHEEN)) to the bill H.R. 240, *supra*.

SA 257. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 240, *supra*.

SA 258. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 257 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 240, *supra*.

SA 259. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 240, *supra*.

SA 260. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 259 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 240, *supra*.

SA 261. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 260 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the amendment SA 259 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 240, *supra*.

SA 262. Mr. CORNYN proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 76, welcoming the Prime Minister of Israel to the United States for his address to a joint meeting of Congress.

SA 263. Mr. CORNYN proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 76, *supra*.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 255. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mrs. SHAHEEN)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 240, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the first word and insert the following:

That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY AND EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Secretary of Homeland Security, as author-

ized by section 102 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 112), and executive management of the Department of Homeland Security, as authorized by law, \$132,573,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$45,000 shall be for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That all official costs associated with the use of government aircraft by Department of Homeland Security personnel to support official travel of the Secretary and the Deputy Secretary shall be paid from amounts made available for the Immediate Office of the Secretary and the Immediate Office of the Deputy Secretary: *Provided further*, That not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Committees on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, a comprehensive plan for implementation of the biometric entry and exit data system required under section 7208 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (8 U.S.C. 1365b), including the estimated costs for implementation.

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Management, as authorized by sections 701 through 705 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 341 through 345), \$187,503,000, of which not to exceed \$2,250 shall be for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided*, That of the total amount made available under this heading, \$4,493,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016, solely for the alteration and improvement of facilities, tenant improvements, and relocation costs to consolidate Department headquarters operations at the Nebraska Avenue Complex; and \$6,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016, for the Human Resources Information Technology program: *Provided further*, That the Under Secretary for Management shall include in the President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2016, submitted pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, a Comprehensive Acquisition Status Report, which shall include the information required under the heading "Office of the Under Secretary for Management" under title I of division D of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112-74), and shall submit quarterly updates to such report not later than 45 days after the completion of each quarter.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, as authorized by section 103 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 113), \$52,020,000: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, at the time the President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2016 is submitted pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, the Future Years Homeland Security Program, as authorized by section 874 of Public Law 107-296 (6 U.S.C. 454).

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Chief Information Officer, as authorized by section 103 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 113), and Department-wide technology investments, \$288,122,000; of

which \$99,028,000 shall be available for salaries and expenses; and of which \$189,094,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016, shall be available for development and acquisition of information technology equipment, software, services, and related activities for the Department of Homeland Security.

ANALYSIS AND OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses for intelligence analysis and operations coordination activities, as authorized by title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 121 et seq.), \$255,804,000; of which not to exceed \$3,825 shall be for official reception and representation expenses; and of which \$102,479,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), \$118,617,000; of which not to exceed \$300,000 may be used for certain confidential operational expenses, including the payment of informants, to be expended at the direction of the Inspector General.

TITLE II

SECURITY, ENFORCEMENT, AND INVESTIGATIONS

UNITED STATES CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for enforcement of laws relating to border security, immigration, customs, agricultural inspections and regulatory activities related to plant and animal imports, and transportation of unaccompanied minor aliens; purchase and lease of up to 7,500 (6,500 for replacement only) police-type vehicles; and contracting with individuals for personal services abroad; \$8,459,657,000; of which \$3,274,000 shall be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund for administrative expenses related to the collection of the Harbor Maintenance Fee pursuant to section 9505(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 9505(c)(3)) and notwithstanding section 1511(e)(1) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 551(e)(1)); of which \$30,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2016, solely for the purpose of hiring, training, and equipping United States Customs and Border Protection officers at ports of entry; of which not to exceed \$34,425 shall be for official reception and representation expenses; of which such sums as become available in the Customs User Fee Account, except sums subject to section 13031(f)(3) of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (19 U.S.C. 58c(f)(3)), shall be derived from that account; of which not to exceed \$150,000 shall be available for payment for rental space in connection with preclearance operations; and of which not to exceed \$1,000,000 shall be for awards of compensation to informants, to be accounted for solely under the certificate of the Secretary of Homeland Security: *Provided*, That for fiscal year 2015, the overtime limitation prescribed in section 5(c)(1) of the Act of February 13, 1911 (19 U.S.C. 267(c)(1)) shall be \$35,000; and notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds appropriated by this Act shall be available to compensate any employee of United States Customs and Border Protection for overtime, from whatever source, in an amount that exceeds such limitation, except in individual cases determined by the Secretary of Homeland Security, or the designee of the Secretary, to be necessary for national security purposes, to prevent excessive costs, or in cases of immigration emergencies: *Provided further*, That the Border

Patrol shall maintain an active duty presence of not less than 21,370 full-time equivalent agents protecting the borders of the United States in the fiscal year.

AUTOMATION MODERNIZATION

For necessary expenses for United States Customs and Border Protection for operation and improvement of automated systems, including salaries and expenses, \$808,169,000; of which \$446,075,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2017; and of which not less than \$140,970,000 shall be for the development of the Automated Commercial Environment.

BORDER SECURITY FENCING, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND TECHNOLOGY

For expenses for border security fencing, infrastructure, and technology, \$382,466,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017.

AIR AND MARINE OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses for the operations, maintenance, and procurement of marine vessels, aircraft, unmanned aircraft systems, the Air and Marine Operations Center, and other related equipment of the air and marine program, including salaries and expenses, operational training, and mission-related travel, the operations of which include the following: the interdiction of narcotics and other goods; the provision of support to Federal, State, and local agencies in the enforcement or administration of laws enforced by the Department of Homeland Security; and, at the discretion of the Secretary of Homeland Security, the provision of assistance to Federal, State, and local agencies in other law enforcement and emergency humanitarian efforts; \$750,469,000; of which \$299,800,000 shall be available for salaries and expenses; and of which \$450,669,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That no aircraft or other related equipment, with the exception of aircraft that are one of a kind and have been identified as excess to United States Customs and Border Protection requirements and aircraft that have been damaged beyond repair, shall be transferred to any other Federal agency, department, or office outside of the Department of Homeland Security during fiscal year 2015 without prior notice to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives: *Provided further*, That funding made available under this heading shall be available for customs expenses when necessary to maintain or to temporarily increase operations in Puerto Rico: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Homeland Security shall report to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, on any changes to the 5-year strategic plan for the air and marine program required under the heading "Air and Marine Interdiction, Operations, and Maintenance" in Public Law 112-74.

CONSTRUCTION AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

For necessary expenses to plan, acquire, construct, renovate, equip, furnish, operate, manage, and maintain buildings, facilities, and related infrastructure necessary for the administration and enforcement of the laws relating to customs, immigration, and border security, \$288,821,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019.

UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for enforcement of immigration and customs laws, detention and removals, and investigations, including

intellectual property rights and overseas vetted units operations; and purchase and lease of up to 3,790 (2,350 for replacement only) police-type vehicles; \$5,932,756,000; of which not to exceed \$10,000,000 shall be available until expended for conducting special operations under section 3131 of the Customs Enforcement Act of 1986 (19 U.S.C. 2081); of which not to exceed \$11,475 shall be for official reception and representation expenses; of which not to exceed \$2,000,000 shall be for awards of compensation to informants, to be accounted for solely under the certificate of the Secretary of Homeland Security; of which not less than \$305,000 shall be for promotion of public awareness of the child pornography tipline and activities to counter child exploitation; of which not less than \$5,400,000 shall be used to facilitate agreements consistent with section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1357(g)); of which not to exceed \$40,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, is for maintenance, construction, and leasehold improvements at owned and leased facilities; and of which not to exceed \$11,216,000 shall be available to fund or reimburse other Federal agencies for the costs associated with the care, maintenance, and repatriation of smuggled aliens unlawfully present in the United States: *Provided*, That none of the funds made available under this heading shall be available to compensate any employee for overtime in an annual amount in excess of \$35,000, except that the Secretary of Homeland Security, or the designee of the Secretary, may waive that amount as necessary for national security purposes and in cases of immigration emergencies: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided, \$15,770,000 shall be for activities to enforce laws against forced child labor, of which not to exceed \$6,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That of the total amount available, not less than \$1,600,000,000 shall be available to identify aliens convicted of a crime who may be deportable, and to remove them from the United States once they are judged deportable: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Homeland Security shall prioritize the identification and removal of aliens convicted of a crime by the severity of that crime: *Provided further*, That funding made available under this heading shall maintain a level of not less than 34,000 detention beds through September 30, 2015: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided, not less than \$3,431,444,000 is for detention, enforcement, and removal operations, including transportation of unaccompanied minor aliens: *Provided further*, That of the amount provided for Custody Operations in the previous proviso, \$45,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided for the Visa Security Program and international investigations, \$43,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided further*, That not less than \$15,000,000 shall be available for investigation of intellectual property rights violations, including operation of the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided under this heading may be used to continue a delegation of law enforcement authority authorized under section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1357(g)) if the Department of Homeland Security Inspector General determines that the terms of the agreement governing the delegation of authority have been materially violated: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided under this

heading may be used to continue any contract for the provision of detention services if the two most recent overall performance evaluations received by the contracted facility are less than "adequate" or the equivalent median score in any subsequent performance evaluation system: *Provided further*, That nothing under this heading shall prevent United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement from exercising those authorities provided under immigration laws (as defined in section 101(a)(17) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17))) during priority operations pertaining to aliens convicted of a crime: *Provided further*, That without regard to the limitation as to time and condition of section 503(d) of this Act, the Secretary may propose to reprogram and transfer funds within and into this appropriation necessary to ensure the detention of aliens prioritized for removal.

AUTOMATION MODERNIZATION

For expenses of immigration and customs enforcement automated systems, \$26,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017.

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

AVIATION SECURITY

For necessary expenses of the Transportation Security Administration related to providing civil aviation security services pursuant to the Aviation and Transportation Security Act (Public Law 107-71; 115 Stat. 597; 49 U.S.C. 40101 note), \$5,639,095,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016; of which not to exceed \$7,650 shall be for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided*, That any award to deploy explosives detection systems shall be based on risk, the airport's current reliance on other screening solutions, lobby congestion resulting in increased security concerns, high injury rates, airport readiness, and increased cost effectiveness: *Provided further*, That security service fees authorized under section 44940 of title 49, United States Code, shall be credited to this appropriation as offsetting collections and shall be available only for aviation security: *Provided further*, That the sum appropriated under this heading from the general fund shall be reduced on a dollar-for-dollar basis as such offsetting collections are received during fiscal year 2015 so as to result in a final fiscal year appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than \$3,574,095,000: *Provided further*, That the fees deposited under this heading in fiscal year 2013 and sequestered pursuant to section 251A of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901a), that are currently unavailable for obligation, are hereby permanently cancelled: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 44923 of title 49, United States Code, for fiscal year 2015, any funds in the Aviation Security Capital Fund established by section 44923(h) of title 49, United States Code, may be used for the procurement and installation of explosives detection systems or for the issuance of other transaction agreements for the purpose of funding projects described in section 44923(a) of such title: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, mobile explosives detection equipment purchased and deployed using funds made available under this heading may be moved and redeployed to meet evolving passenger and baggage screening security priorities at airports: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available in this Act may be used for any recruiting or hiring of personnel into the Transportation Security Administration that would cause the agency to exceed a

staffing level of 45,000 full-time equivalent screeners: *Provided further*, That the preceding proviso shall not apply to personnel hired as part-time employees: *Provided further*, That not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives a detailed report on—

(1) the Department of Homeland Security efforts and resources being devoted to develop more advanced integrated passenger screening technologies for the most effective security of passengers and baggage at the lowest possible operating and acquisition costs, including projected funding levels for each fiscal year for the next 5 years or until project completion, whichever is earlier;

(2) how the Transportation Security Administration is deploying its existing passenger and baggage screener workforce in the most cost effective manner; and

(3) labor savings from the deployment of improved technologies for passenger and baggage screening and how those savings are being used to offset security costs or reinvested to address security vulnerabilities: *Provided further*, That not later than April 15, 2015, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, a semiannual report updating information on a strategy to increase the number of air passengers eligible for expedited screening, including:

(1) specific benchmarks and performance measures to increase participation in Pre-Check by air carriers, airports, and passengers;

(2) options to facilitate direct application for enrollment in Pre-Check through the Transportation Security Administration's Web site, airports, and other enrollment locations;

(3) use of third parties to pre-screen passengers for expedited screening;

(4) inclusion of populations already vetted by the Transportation Security Administration and other trusted populations as eligible for expedited screening;

(5) resource implications of expedited passenger screening resulting from the use of risk-based security methods; and

(6) the total number and percentage of passengers using Pre-Check lanes who:

(A) have enrolled in Pre-Check since Transportation Security Administration enrollment centers were established;

(B) enrolled using the Transportation Security Administration's Pre-Check application Web site;

(C) were enrolled as frequent flyers of a participating airline;

(D) utilized Pre-Check as a result of their enrollment in a Trusted Traveler program of United States Customs and Border Protection;

(E) were selectively identified to participate in expedited screening through the use of Managed Inclusion in fiscal year 2014; and

(F) are enrolled in all other Pre-Check categories:

Provided further, That Members of the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate, including the leadership; the heads of Federal agencies and commissions, including the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Under Secretaries, and Assistant Secretaries of the Department of Homeland Security; the United States Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General, Assistant Attorneys Gen-

eral, and the United States Attorneys; and senior members of the Executive Office of the President, including the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, shall not be exempt from Federal passenger and baggage screening.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY

For necessary expenses of the Transportation Security Administration related to surface transportation security activities, \$123,749,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016.

INTELLIGENCE AND VETTING

For necessary expenses for the development and implementation of intelligence and vetting activities, \$219,166,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016.

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY SUPPORT

For necessary expenses of the Transportation Security Administration related to transportation security support pursuant to the Aviation and Transportation Security Act (Public Law 107-71; 115 Stat. 597; 49 U.S.C. 40101 note), \$917,226,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives—

(1) a report providing evidence demonstrating that behavioral indicators can be used to identify passengers who may pose a threat to aviation security and the plans that will be put into place to collect additional performance data; and

(2) a report addressing each of the recommendations outlined in the report entitled "TSA Needs Additional Information Before Procuring Next-Generation Systems", published by the Government Accountability Office on March 31, 2014, and describing the steps the Transportation Security Administration is taking to implement acquisition best practices, increase industry engagement, and improve transparency with regard to technology acquisition programs:

Provided further, That of the funds provided under this heading, \$25,000,000 shall be withheld from obligation for Headquarters Administration until the submission of the reports required by paragraphs (1) and (2) of the preceding proviso.

COAST GUARD

OPERATING EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the operation and maintenance of the Coast Guard, not otherwise provided for; purchase or lease of not to exceed 25 passenger motor vehicles, which shall be for replacement only; purchase or lease of small boats for contingent and emergent requirements (at a unit cost of no more than \$700,000) and repairs and service-life replacements, not to exceed a total of \$31,000,000; purchase or lease of boats necessary for overseas deployments and activities; minor shore construction projects not exceeding \$1,000,000 in total cost on any location; payments pursuant to section 156 of Public Law 97-377 (42 U.S.C. 402 note; 96 Stat. 1920); and recreation and welfare; \$7,043,318,000, of which \$553,000,000 shall be for defense-related activities, of which \$213,000,000 is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 and shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress; of which

\$24,500,000 shall be derived from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund to carry out the purposes of section 1012(a)(5) of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2712(a)(5)); and of which not to exceed \$15,300 shall be for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided*, That none of the funds made available by this Act shall be for expenses incurred for recreational vessels under section 12114 of title 46, United States Code, except to the extent fees are collected from owners of yachts and credited to this appropriation: *Provided further*, That to the extent fees are insufficient to pay expenses of recreational vessel documentation under such section 12114, and there is a backlog of recreational vessel applications, then personnel performing non-recreational vessel documentation functions under subchapter II of chapter 121 of title 46, United States Code, may perform documentation under section 12114: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided under this heading, \$85,000,000 shall be withheld from obligation for Coast Guard Headquarters Directorates until a future-years capital investment plan for fiscal years 2016 through 2020, as specified under the heading "Coast Guard, Acquisition, Construction, and Improvements" of this Act, is submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism may be allocated by program, project, and activity, notwithstanding section 503 of this Act: *Provided further*, That, without regard to the limitation as to time and condition of section 503(d) of this Act, after June 30, up to \$10,000,000 may be reprogrammed to or from Military Pay and Allowances in accordance with subsections (a), (b), and (c) of section 503.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND RESTORATION

For necessary expenses to carry out the environmental compliance and restoration functions of the Coast Guard under chapter 19 of title 14, United States Code, \$13,197,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019.

RESERVE TRAINING

For necessary expenses of the Coast Guard Reserve, as authorized by law; operations and maintenance of the Coast Guard reserve program; personnel and training costs; and equipment and services; \$114,572,000.

ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, AND IMPROVEMENTS

For necessary expenses of acquisition, construction, renovation, and improvement of aids to navigation, shore facilities, vessels, and aircraft, including equipment related thereto; and maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment; as authorized by law; \$1,225,223,000; of which \$20,000,000 shall be derived from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund to carry out the purposes of section 1012(a)(5) of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2712(a)(5)); and of which the following amounts shall be available until September 30, 2019 (except as subsequently specified): \$6,000,000 for military family housing; \$824,347,000 to acquire, effect major repairs to, renovate, or improve vessels, small boats, and related equipment; \$180,000,000 to acquire, effect major repairs to, renovate, or improve aircraft or increase aviation capability; \$59,300,000 for other acquisition programs; \$40,580,000 for shore facilities and aids to navigation, including facilities at Department of Defense installations used by the Coast Guard; and \$114,996,000, to remain available until September 30, 2015, for personnel compensation

and benefits and related costs: *Provided*, That the funds provided by this Act shall be immediately available and allotted to contract for the production of the eighth National Security Cutter notwithstanding the availability of funds for post-production costs: *Provided further*, That the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, at the time the President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2016 is submitted pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, a future-years capital investment plan for the Coast Guard that identifies for each requested capital asset—

(1) the proposed appropriations included in that budget;

(2) the total estimated cost of completion, including and clearly delineating the costs of associated major acquisition systems infrastructure and transition to operations;

(3) projected funding levels for each fiscal year for the next 5 fiscal years or until acquisition program baseline or project completion, whichever is earlier;

(4) an estimated completion date at the projected funding levels; and

(5) a current acquisition program baseline for each capital asset, as applicable, that—

(A) includes the total acquisition cost of each asset, subdivided by fiscal year and including a detailed description of the purpose of the proposed funding levels for each fiscal year, including for each fiscal year funds requested for design, pre-acquisition activities, production, structural modifications, missionization, post-delivery, and transition to operations costs;

(B) includes a detailed project schedule through completion, subdivided by fiscal year, that details—

(i) quantities planned for each fiscal year; and

(ii) major acquisition and project events, including development of operational requirements, contracting actions, design reviews, production, delivery, test and evaluation, and transition to operations, including necessary training, shore infrastructure, and logistics;

(C) notes and explains any deviations in cost, performance parameters, schedule, or estimated date of completion from the original acquisition program baseline and the most recent baseline approved by the Department of Homeland Security's Acquisition Review Board, if applicable;

(D) aligns the acquisition of each asset to mission requirements by defining existing capabilities of comparable legacy assets, identifying known capability gaps between such existing capabilities and stated mission requirements, and explaining how the acquisition of each asset will address such known capability gaps;

(E) defines life-cycle costs for each asset and the date of the estimate on which such costs are based, including all associated costs of major acquisitions systems infrastructure and transition to operations, delineated by purpose and fiscal year for the projected service life of the asset;

(F) includes the earned value management system summary schedule performance index and cost performance index for each asset, if applicable; and

(G) includes a phase-out and decommissioning schedule delineated by fiscal year for each existing legacy asset that each asset is intended to replace or recapitalize:

Provided further, That the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall ensure that amounts specified in the future-years capital investment plan are consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with proposed appropriations necessary to support the programs, projects, and activities of the Coast Guard in the President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2016, submitted pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code: *Provided further*, That any inconsistencies between the capital investment plan and proposed appropriations shall be identified and justified: *Provided further*, That the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall not delay the submission of the capital investment plan referred to by the preceding provisos: *Provided further*, That the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall have no more than a single period of 10 consecutive business days to review the capital investment plan prior to submission: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Homeland Security shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives one day after the capital investment plan is submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for review and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives when such review is completed: *Provided further*, That subsections (a) and (b) of section 6402 of Public Law 110-28 shall hereafter apply with respect to the amounts made available under this heading.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION

For necessary expenses for applied scientific research, development, test, and evaluation; and for maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment; as authorized by law; \$17,892,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, of which \$500,000 shall be derived from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund to carry out the purposes of section 1012(a)(5) of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2712(a)(5)): *Provided*, That there may be credited to and used for the purposes of this appropriation funds received from State and local governments, other public authorities, private sources, and foreign countries for expenses incurred for research, development, testing, and evaluation.

RETIRED PAY

For retired pay, including the payment of obligations otherwise chargeable to lapsed appropriations for this purpose, payments under the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection and Survivor Benefits Plans, payment for career status bonuses, concurrent receipts, and combat-related special compensation under the National Defense Authorization Act, and payments for medical care of retired personnel and their dependents under chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, \$1,450,626,000, to remain available until expended.

UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the United States Secret Service, including purchase of not to exceed 652 vehicles for police-type use for replacement only; hire of passenger

motor vehicles; purchase of motorcycles made in the United States; hire of aircraft; services of expert witnesses at such rates as may be determined by the Director of the United States Secret Service; rental of buildings in the District of Columbia, and fencing, lighting, guard booths, and other facilities on private or other property not in Government ownership or control, as may be necessary to perform protective functions; payment of per diem or subsistence allowances to employees in cases in which a protective assignment on the actual day or days of the visit of a protectee requires an employee to work 16 hours per day or to remain overnight at a post of duty; conduct of and participation in firearms matches; presentation of awards; travel of United States Secret Service employees on protective missions without regard to the limitations on such expenditures in this or any other Act if approval is obtained in advance from the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives; research and development; grants to conduct behavioral research in support of protective research and operations; and payment in advance for commercial accommodations as may be necessary to perform protective functions; \$1,615,860,000; of which not to exceed \$19,125 shall be for official reception and representation expenses; of which not to exceed \$100,000 shall be to provide technical assistance and equipment to foreign law enforcement organizations in counterfeit investigations; of which \$2,366,000 shall be for forensic and related support of investigations of missing and exploited children; of which \$6,000,000 shall be for a grant for activities related to investigations of missing and exploited children and shall remain available until September 30, 2016; and of which not less than \$12,000,000 shall be for activities related to training in electronic crimes investigations and forensics: *Provided*, That \$18,000,000 for protective travel shall remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided further*, That \$4,500,000 for National Special Security Events shall remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided further*, That the United States Secret Service is authorized to obligate funds in anticipation of reimbursements from Federal agencies and entities, as defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code, for personnel receiving training sponsored by the James J. Rowley Training Center, except that total obligations at the end of the fiscal year shall not exceed total budgetary resources available under this heading at the end of the fiscal year: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this heading shall be available to compensate any employee for overtime in an annual amount in excess of \$35,000, except that the Secretary of Homeland Security, or the designee of the Secretary, may waive that amount as necessary for national security purposes: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available to the United States Secret Service by this Act or by previous appropriations Acts may be made available for the protection of the head of a Federal agency other than the Secretary of Homeland Security: *Provided further*, That the Director of the United States Secret Service may enter into an agreement to provide such protection on a fully reimbursable basis: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available to the United States Secret Service by this Act or by previous appropriations Acts may be obligated for the purpose of opening a new permanent domestic or overseas office or location unless the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives are notified 15 days in advance

of such obligation: *Provided further*, That not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the United States Secret Service shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, a report providing evidence that the United States Secret Service has sufficiently reviewed its professional standards of conduct; and has issued new guidance and procedures for the conduct of employees when engaged in overseas operations and protective missions, consistent with the critical missions of, and the unique position of public trust occupied by, the United States Secret Service: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided under this heading, \$10,000,000 shall be withheld from obligation for Headquarters, Management and Administration until such report is submitted: *Provided further*, That for purposes of section 503(b) of this Act, \$15,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, may be transferred between Protection of Persons and Facilities and Domestic Field Operations.

ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, IMPROVEMENTS, AND RELATED EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for acquisition, construction, repair, alteration, and improvement of physical and technological infrastructure, \$49,935,000; of which \$5,380,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019, shall be for acquisition, construction, improvement, and maintenance of the James J. Rowley Training Center; and of which \$44,555,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, shall be for Information Integration and Technology Transformation program execution.

TITLE III PROTECTION, PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY NATIONAL PROTECTION AND PROGRAMS DIRECTORATE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

For salaries and expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for the National Protection and Programs Directorate, support for operations, and information technology, \$61,651,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$3,825 shall be for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That the President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2016, submitted pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, shall be detailed by office, and by program, project, and activity level, for the National Protection and Programs Directorate.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION AND INFORMATION SECURITY

For necessary expenses for infrastructure protection and information security programs and activities, as authorized by title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 121 et seq.), \$1,188,679,000, of which \$225,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That if, due to delays in contract actions, the National Protection and Programs Directorate will not fully obligate funds for Federal Network Security or for Network Security Deployment program, project, and activities as provided in the accompanying statement and section 548 of this Act, such funds may be applied to Next Generation Networks program, project, and activities, notwithstanding section 503 of this Act.

FEDERAL PROTECTIVE SERVICE

The revenues and collections of security fees credited to this account shall be available until expended for necessary expenses related to the protection of federally owned and leased buildings and for the operations

of the Federal Protective Service: *Provided*, That the Director of the Federal Protective Service shall submit at the time the President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2016 is submitted pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, a strategic human capital plan that aligns fee collections to personnel requirements based on a current threat assessment.

OFFICE OF BIOMETRIC IDENTITY MANAGEMENT

For necessary expenses for the Office of Biometric Identity Management, as authorized by section 7208 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (8 U.S.C. 1365b), \$252,056,000: *Provided*, That of the total amount made available under this heading, \$122,150,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2017.

OFFICE OF HEALTH AFFAIRS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Health Affairs, \$129,358,000; of which \$26,148,000 is for salaries and expenses and \$86,891,000 is for BioWatch operations: *Provided*, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$16,319,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016, for bio-surveillance, chemical defense, medical and health planning and coordination, and workforce health protection: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$2,250 shall be for official reception and representation expenses.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, \$934,396,000, including activities authorized by the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.), the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), the Cerro Grande Fire Assistance Act of 2000 (division C, title I, 114 Stat. 583), the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7701 et seq.), the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. App. 2061 et seq.), sections 107 and 303 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 404, 405), Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), the National Dam Safety Program Act (33 U.S.C. 467 et seq.), the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.), the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-53), the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.), the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-295; 120 Stat. 1394), the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-141, 126 Stat. 916), and the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-89): *Provided*, That not to exceed \$2,250 shall be for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That of the total amount made available under this heading, \$35,180,000 shall be for the Urban Search and Rescue Response System, of which none is available for Federal Emergency Management Agency administrative costs: *Provided further*, That of the total amount made available under this heading, \$30,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016, for capital improvements and other expenses related to continuity of operations at the Mount Weather Emergency Operations Center: *Provided further*, That of the total amount made available, \$3,400,000 shall be for the Office of National Capital Region Coordination: *Provided further*, That of the total amount made available under this heading, not less than \$4,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016, for expenses related to modernization of automated systems.

STATE AND LOCAL PROGRAMS

For grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other activities, \$1,500,000,000, which shall be allocated as follows:

(1) \$467,000,000 shall be for the State Homeland Security Grant Program under section 2004 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 605), of which not less than \$55,000,000 shall be for Operation Stonegarden: *Provided*, That notwithstanding subsection (c)(4) of such section 2004, for fiscal year 2015, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico shall make available to local and tribal governments amounts provided to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico under this paragraph in accordance with subsection (c)(1) of such section 2004.

(2) \$600,000,000 shall be for the Urban Area Security Initiative under section 2003 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 604), of which not less than \$13,000,000 shall be for organizations (as described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such code) determined by the Secretary of Homeland Security to be at high risk of a terrorist attack.

(3) \$100,000,000 shall be for Public Transportation Security Assistance, Railroad Security Assistance, and Over-the-Road Bus Security Assistance under sections 1406, 1513, and 1532 of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-53; 6 U.S.C. 1135, 1163, and 1182), of which not less than \$10,000,000 shall be for Amtrak security and \$3,000,000 shall be for Over-the-Road Bus Security: *Provided*, That such public transportation security assistance shall be provided directly to public transportation agencies.

(4) \$100,000,000 shall be for Port Security Grants in accordance with 46 U.S.C. 70107.

(5) \$233,000,000 shall be to sustain current operations for training, exercises, technical assistance, and other programs, of which \$162,991,000 shall be for training of State, local, and tribal emergency response providers:

Provided, That for grants under paragraphs (1) through (4), applications for grants shall be made available to eligible applicants not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, that eligible applicants shall submit applications not later than 80 days after the grant announcement, and the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall act within 65 days after the receipt of an application: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 2008(a)(11) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 609(a)(11)) or any other provision of law, a grantee may not use more than 5 percent of the amount of a grant made available under this heading for expenses directly related to administration of the grant: *Provided further*, That for grants under paragraphs (1) and (2), the installation of communications towers is not considered construction of a building or other physical facility: *Provided further*, That grantees shall provide reports on their use of funds, as determined necessary by the Secretary of Homeland Security: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 509 of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency may use the funds provided in paragraph (5) to acquire real property for the purpose of establishing or appropriately extending the security buffer zones around Federal Emergency Management Agency training facilities.

FIREFIGHTER ASSISTANCE GRANTS

For grants for programs authorized by the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of

1974 (15 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.), \$680,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016, of which \$340,000,000 shall be available to carry out section 33 of that Act (15 U.S.C. 2229) and \$340,000,000 shall be available to carry out section 34 of that Act (15 U.S.C. 2229a).

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANTS

For emergency management performance grants, as authorized by the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.), the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7701 et seq.), and Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), \$350,000,000.

RADIOLOGICAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

The aggregate charges assessed during fiscal year 2015, as authorized in title III of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999 (42 U.S.C. 5196e), shall not be less than 100 percent of the amounts anticipated by the Department of Homeland Security necessary for its radiological emergency preparedness program for the next fiscal year: *Provided*, That the methodology for assessment and collection of fees shall be fair and equitable and shall reflect costs of providing such services, including administrative costs of collecting such fees: *Provided further*, That fees received under this heading shall be deposited in this account as offsetting collections and will become available for authorized purposes on October 1, 2015, and remain available until expended.

UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses of the United States Fire Administration and for other purposes, as authorized by the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.) and the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.), \$44,000,000.

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses in carrying out the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), \$7,033,464,494, to remain available until expended, of which \$24,000,000 shall be transferred to the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General for audits and investigations related to disasters: *Provided*, That the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives the following reports, including a specific description of the methodology and the source data used in developing such reports:

(1) an estimate of the following amounts shall be submitted for the budget year at the time that the President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2016 is submitted pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code:

(A) the unobligated balance of funds to be carried over from the prior fiscal year to the budget year;

(B) the unobligated balance of funds to be carried over from the budget year to the budget year plus 1;

(C) the amount of obligations for non-catastrophic events for the budget year;

(D) the amount of obligations for the budget year for catastrophic events delineated by event and by State;

(E) the total amount that has been previously obligated or will be required for catastrophic events delineated by event and by

State for all prior years, the current year, the budget year, the budget year plus 1, the budget year plus 2, and the budget year plus 3 and beyond;

(F) the amount of previously obligated funds that will be recovered for the budget year;

(G) the amount that will be required for obligations for emergencies, as described in section 102(1) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122(1)), major disasters, as described in section 102(2) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122(2)), fire management assistance grants, as described in section 420 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5187), surge activities, and disaster readiness and support activities; and

(H) the amount required for activities not covered under section 251(b)(2)(D)(iii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(D)(iii); Public Law 99-177);

(2) an estimate or actual amounts, if available, of the following for the current fiscal year shall be submitted not later than the fifth day of each month, and shall be published by the Administrator on the Agency's Web site not later than the fifth day of each month:

(A) a summary of the amount of appropriations made available by source, the transfers executed, the previously allocated funds recovered, and the commitments, allocations, and obligations made;

(B) a table of disaster relief activity delineated by month, including—

(i) the beginning and ending balances;

(ii) the total obligations to include amounts obligated for fire assistance, emergencies, surge, and disaster support activities;

(iii) the obligations for catastrophic events delineated by event and by State; and

(iv) the amount of previously obligated funds that are recovered;

(C) a summary of allocations, obligations, and expenditures for catastrophic events delineated by event;

(D) in addition, for a disaster declaration related to Hurricane Sandy, the cost of the following categories of spending: public assistance, individual assistance, mitigation, administrative, operations, and any other relevant category (including emergency measures and disaster resources); and

(E) the date on which funds appropriated will be exhausted:

Provided further, That the Administrator shall publish on the Agency's Web site not later than 5 days after an award of a public assistance grant under section 406 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5172) the specifics of the grant award: *Provided further*, That for any mission assignment or mission assignment task order to another Federal department or agency regarding a major disaster, not later than 5 days after the issuance of the mission assignment or task order, the Administrator shall publish on the Agency's website the following: the name of the impacted State and the disaster declaration for such State, the assigned agency, the assistance requested, a description of the disaster, the total cost estimate, and the amount obligated: *Provided further*, That not later than 10 days after the last day of each month until the mission assignment or task order is completed and closed out, the Administrator shall update any changes to the total cost estimate and the amount obli-

gated: *Provided further*, That of the amount provided under this heading, \$6,437,792,622 shall be for major disasters declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.): *Provided further*, That the amount in the preceding proviso is designated by the Congress as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

FLOOD HAZARD MAPPING AND RISK ANALYSIS PROGRAM

For necessary expenses, including administrative costs, under section 1360 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4101), and under sections 100215, 100216, 100226, 100230, and 100246 of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, (Public Law 112-141, 126 Stat. 916), \$100,000,000, and such additional sums as may be provided by State and local governments or other political subdivisions for cost-shared mapping activities under section 1360(f)(2) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 4101(f)(2)), to remain available until expended.

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE FUND

For activities under the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.), the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.), the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (subtitle A of title II of division F of Public Law 112-141; 126 Stat. 916), and the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-89; 128 Stat. 1020), \$179,294,000, which shall remain available until September 30, 2016, and shall be derived from offsetting amounts collected under section 1308(d) of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4015(d)); which is available for salaries and expenses associated with flood mitigation and flood insurance operations; and floodplain management and additional amounts for flood mapping: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$23,759,000 shall be available for salaries and expenses associated with flood mitigation and flood insurance operations and \$155,535,000 shall be available for flood plain management and flood mapping: *Provided further*, That any additional fees collected pursuant to section 1308(d) of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4015(d)) shall be credited as an offsetting collection to this account, to be available for flood plain management and flood mapping: *Provided further*, That in fiscal year 2015, no funds shall be available from the National Flood Insurance Fund under section 1310 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4017) in excess of:

(1) \$136,000,000 for operating expenses;

(2) \$1,139,000,000 for commissions and taxes of agents;

(3) such sums as are necessary for interest on Treasury borrowings; and

(4) \$150,000,000, which shall remain available until expended, for flood mitigation actions and for flood mitigation assistance under section 1366 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4104c), notwithstanding sections 1366(e) and 1310(a)(7) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 4104c(e), 4017):

Provided further, That the amounts collected under section 102 of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4012a) and section 1366(e) of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 shall be deposited in the National Flood Insurance Fund to supplement other amounts specified as available for section 1366 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, notwithstanding section 102(f)(8), section 1366(e), and paragraphs (1) through (3) of

section 1367(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 4012a(f)(8), 4104c(e), 4104d(b)(1)–(3)): *Provided further*, That total administrative costs shall not exceed 4 percent of the total appropriation: *Provided further*, That \$5,000,000 is available to carry out section 24 of the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 (42 U.S.C. 4033).

NATIONAL PREDISASTER MITIGATION FUND

For the predisaster mitigation grant program under section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133), \$25,000,000, to remain available until expended.

EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER

To carry out the emergency food and shelter program pursuant to title III of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11331 et seq.), \$120,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That total administrative costs shall not exceed 3.5 percent of the total amount made available under this heading.

TITLE IV

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING, AND SERVICES

UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES

For necessary expenses for citizenship and immigration services, \$124,435,000 for the E-Verify Program, as described in section 403(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note), to assist United States employers with maintaining a legal workforce: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds otherwise made available to United States Citizenship and Immigration Services may be used to acquire, operate, equip, and dispose of up to 5 vehicles, for replacement only, for areas where the Administrator of General Services does not provide vehicles for lease: *Provided further*, That the Director of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services may authorize employees who are assigned to those areas to use such vehicles to travel between the employees' residences and places of employment.

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, including materials and support costs of Federal law enforcement basic training; the purchase of not to exceed 117 vehicles for police-type use and hire of passenger motor vehicles; expenses for student athletic and related activities; the conduct of and participation in firearms matches and presentation of awards; public awareness and enhancement of community support of law enforcement training; room and board for student interns; a flat monthly reimbursement to employees authorized to use personal mobile phones for official duties; and services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; \$230,497,000; of which up to \$54,154,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016, for materials and support costs of Federal law enforcement basic training; of which \$300,000 shall remain available until expended to be distributed to Federal law enforcement agencies for expenses incurred participating in training accreditation; and of which not to exceed \$7,180 shall be for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided*, That the Center is authorized to obligate funds in anticipation of reimbursements from agencies receiving training sponsored by the Center, except that total obligations at the end

of the fiscal year shall not exceed total budgetary resources available at the end of the fiscal year: *Provided further*, That section 1202(a) of Public Law 107–206 (42 U.S.C. 3771 note), as amended under this heading in division F of Public Law 113–76, is further amended by striking “December 31, 2016” and inserting “December 31, 2017”: *Provided further*, That the Director of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center shall schedule basic or advanced law enforcement training, or both, at all four training facilities under the control of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center to ensure that such training facilities are operated at the highest capacity throughout the fiscal year: *Provided further*, That the Federal Law Enforcement Training Accreditation Board, including representatives from the Federal law enforcement community and non-Federal accreditation experts involved in law enforcement training, shall lead the Federal law enforcement training accreditation process to continue the implementation of measuring and assessing the quality and effectiveness of Federal law enforcement training programs, facilities, and instructors.

ACQUISITIONS, CONSTRUCTION, IMPROVEMENTS, AND RELATED EXPENSES

For acquisition of necessary additional real property and facilities, construction, and ongoing maintenance, facility improvements, and related expenses of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, \$27,841,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided*, That the Center is authorized to accept reimbursement to this appropriation from government agencies requesting the construction of special use facilities.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

For salaries and expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Science and Technology and for management and administration of programs and activities, as authorized by title III of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 181 et seq.), \$129,993,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$7,650 shall be for official reception and representation expenses.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, ACQUISITION, AND OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses for science and technology research, including advanced research projects, development, test and evaluation, acquisition, and operations as authorized by title III of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 181 et seq.), and the purchase or lease of not to exceed 5 vehicles, \$973,915,000; of which \$538,926,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2017; and of which \$434,989,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019, solely for operation and construction of laboratory facilities: *Provided*, That of the funds provided for the operation and construction of laboratory facilities under this heading, \$300,000,000 shall be for construction of the National Bio- and Agro-defense Facility.

DOMESTIC NUCLEAR DETECTION OFFICE

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

For salaries and expenses of the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, as authorized by title XIX of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 591 et seq.), for management and administration of programs and activities, \$37,339,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$2,250 shall be for official reception and representation expenses.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses for radiological and nuclear research, development, testing, eval-

uation, and operations, \$197,900,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017.

SYSTEMS ACQUISITION

For necessary expenses for the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office acquisition and deployment of radiological detection systems in accordance with the global nuclear detection architecture, \$72,603,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017.

TITLE V

GENERAL PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 501. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 502. Subject to the requirements of section 503 of this Act, the unexpended balances of prior appropriations provided for activities in this Act may be transferred to appropriation accounts for such activities established pursuant to this Act, may be merged with funds in the applicable established accounts, and thereafter may be accounted for as one fund for the same time period as originally enacted.

SEC. 503. (a) None of the funds provided by this Act, provided by previous appropriations Acts to the agencies in or transferred to the Department of Homeland Security that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2015, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury of the United States derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that:

(1) creates a new program, project, or activity;

(2) eliminates a program, project, office, or activity;

(3) increases funds for any program, project, or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted by the Congress;

(4) proposes to use funds directed for a specific activity by either of the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate or the House of Representatives for a different purpose; or

(5) contracts out any function or activity for which funding levels were requested for Federal full-time equivalents in the object classification tables contained in the fiscal year 2015 Budget Appendix for the Department of Homeland Security, as modified by the report accompanying this Act, unless the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives are notified 15 days in advance of such reprogramming of funds.

(b) None of the funds provided by this Act, provided by previous appropriations Acts to the agencies in or transferred to the Department of Homeland Security that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2015, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury of the United States derived by the collection of fees or proceeds available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure for programs, projects, or activities through a reprogramming of funds in excess of \$5,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, that:

(1) augments existing programs, projects, or activities;

(2) reduces by 10 percent funding for any existing program, project, or activity;

(3) reduces by 10 percent the numbers of personnel approved by the Congress; or

(4) results from any general savings from a reduction in personnel that would result in a change in existing programs, projects, or activities as approved by the Congress, unless

the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives are notified 15 days in advance of such reprogramming of funds.

(c) Not to exceed 5 percent of any appropriation made available for the current fiscal year for the Department of Homeland Security by this Act or provided by previous appropriations Acts may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation, except as otherwise specifically provided, shall be increased by more than 10 percent by such transfers: *Provided*, That any transfer under this section shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under subsection (b) and shall not be available for obligation unless the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives are notified 15 days in advance of such transfer.

(d) Notwithstanding subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this section, no funds shall be reprogrammed within or transferred between appropriations based upon an initial notification provided after June 30, except in extraordinary circumstances that imminently threaten the safety of human life or the protection of property.

(e) The notification thresholds and procedures set forth in this section shall apply to any use of deobligated balances of funds provided in previous Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Acts.

SEC. 504. The Department of Homeland Security Working Capital Fund, established pursuant to section 403 of Public Law 103-356 (31 U.S.C. 501 note), shall continue operations as a permanent working capital fund for fiscal year 2015: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Homeland Security may be used to make payments to the Working Capital Fund, except for the activities and amounts allowed in the President's fiscal year 2015 budget: *Provided further*, That funds provided to the Working Capital Fund shall be available for obligation until expended to carry out the purposes of the Working Capital Fund: *Provided further*, That all departmental components shall be charged only for direct usage of each Working Capital Fund service: *Provided further*, That funds provided to the Working Capital Fund shall be used only for purposes consistent with the contributing component: *Provided further*, That the Working Capital Fund shall be paid in advance or reimbursed at rates which will return the full cost of each service: *Provided further*, That the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and House of Representatives shall be notified of any activity added to or removed from the fund: *Provided further*, That the Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit a quarterly execution report with activity level detail, not later than 30 days after the end of each quarter.

SEC. 505. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, not to exceed 50 percent of unobligated balances remaining available at the end of fiscal year 2015, as recorded in the financial records at the time of a reprogramming request, but not later than June 30, 2016, from appropriations for salaries and expenses for fiscal year 2015 in this Act shall remain available through September 30, 2016, in the account and for the purposes for which the appropriations were provided: *Provided*, That prior to the obligation of such funds, a request shall be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives for approval in accordance with section 503 of this Act.

SEC. 506. Funds made available by this Act for intelligence activities are deemed to be

specifically authorized by the Congress for purposes of section 504 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 414) during fiscal year 2015 until the enactment of an Act authorizing intelligence activities for fiscal year 2015.

SEC. 507. (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c), none of the funds made available by this Act may be used to—

(1) make or award a grant allocation, grant, contract, other transaction agreement, or task or delivery order on a Department of Homeland Security multiple award contract, or to issue a letter of intent totaling in excess of \$1,000,000;

(2) award a task or delivery order requiring an obligation of funds in an amount greater than \$10,000,000 from multi-year Department of Homeland Security funds;

(3) make a sole-source grant award; or

(4) announce publicly the intention to make or award items under paragraph (1), (2), or (3) including a contract covered by the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

(b) The Secretary of Homeland Security may waive the prohibition under subsection (a) if the Secretary notifies the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives at least 3 full business days in advance of making an award or issuing a letter as described in that subsection.

(c) If the Secretary of Homeland Security determines that compliance with this section would pose a substantial risk to human life, health, or safety, an award may be made without notification, and the Secretary shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives not later than 5 full business days after such an award is made or letter issued.

(d) A notification under this section—

(1) may not involve funds that are not available for obligation; and

(2) shall include the amount of the award; the fiscal year for which the funds for the award were appropriated; the type of contract; and the account from which the funds are being drawn.

(e) The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall brief the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives 5 full business days in advance of announcing publicly the intention of making an award under “State and Local Programs”.

SEC. 508. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no agency shall purchase, construct, or lease any additional facilities, except within or contiguous to existing locations, to be used for the purpose of conducting Federal law enforcement training without the advance approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, except that the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center is authorized to obtain the temporary use of additional facilities by lease, contract, or other agreement for training that cannot be accommodated in existing Center facilities.

SEC. 509. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used for expenses for any construction, repair, alteration, or acquisition project for which a prospectus otherwise required under chapter 33 of title 40, United States Code, has not been approved, except that necessary funds may be expended for each project for required expenses for the development of a proposed prospectus.

SEC. 510. (a) Sections 520, 522, and 530 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2008 (division E of Public Law 110-161; 121 Stat. 2073 and 2074) shall apply

with respect to funds made available in this Act in the same manner as such sections applied to funds made available in that Act.

(b) The third proviso of section 537 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2006 (6 U.S.C. 114), shall not apply with respect to funds made available in this Act.

SEC. 511. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used in contravention of the applicable provisions of the Buy American Act. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the term “Buy American Act” means chapter 83 of title 41, United States Code.

SEC. 512. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to amend the oath of allegiance required by section 337 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1448).

SEC. 513. Not later than 30 days after the last day of each month, the Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives a monthly budget and staffing report for that month that includes total obligations of the Department for that month for the fiscal year at the appropriation and program, project, and activity levels, by the source year of the appropriation. Total obligations for staffing shall also be provided by subcategory of on-board and funded full-time equivalent staffing levels, respectively, and the report shall specify the number of, and total obligations for, contract employees for each office of the Department.

SEC. 514. Except as provided in section 44945 of title 49, United States Code, funds appropriated or transferred to Transportation Security Administration “Aviation Security”, “Administration”, and “Transportation Security Support” for fiscal years 2004 and 2005 that are recovered or deobligated shall be available only for the procurement or installation of explosives detection systems, air cargo, baggage, and checkpoint screening systems, subject to notification: *Provided*, That semiannual reports shall be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives on any funds that are recovered or deobligated.

SEC. 515. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to process or approve a competition under Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76 for services provided by employees (including employees serving on a temporary or term basis) of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services of the Department of Homeland Security who are known as Immigration Information Officers, Contact Representatives, Investigative Assistants, or Immigration Services Officers.

SEC. 516. Any funds appropriated to “Coast Guard, Acquisition, Construction, and Improvements” for fiscal years 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006 for the 110-123 foot patrol boat conversion that are recovered, collected, or otherwise received as the result of negotiation, mediation, or litigation, shall be available until expended for the Fast Response Cutter program.

SEC. 517. The functions of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center instructor staff shall be classified as inherently governmental for the purpose of the Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act of 1998 (31 U.S.C. 501 note).

SEC. 518. (a) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a report not later than October 15, 2015, to the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security listing all grants and contracts

awarded by any means other than full and open competition during fiscal year 2015.

(b) The Inspector General shall review the report required by subsection (a) to assess Departmental compliance with applicable laws and regulations and report the results of that review to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives not later than February 15, 2016.

SEC. 519. None of the funds provided by this or previous appropriations Acts shall be used to fund any position designated as a Principal Federal Official (or the successor thereto) for any Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) declared disasters or emergencies unless—

(1) the responsibilities of the Principal Federal Official do not include operational functions related to incident management, including coordination of operations, and are consistent with the requirements of section 509(c) and sections 503(c)(3) and 503(c)(4)(A) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 319(c) and 313(c)(3) and 313(c)(4)(A)) and section 302 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5143);

(2) not later than 10 business days after the latter of the date on which the Secretary of Homeland Security appoints the Principal Federal Official and the date on which the President issues a declaration under section 401 or section 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170 and 5191, respectively), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a notification of the appointment of the Principal Federal Official and a description of the responsibilities of such Official and how such responsibilities are consistent with paragraph (1) to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(3) not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide a report specifying timeframes and milestones regarding the update of operations, planning and policy documents, and training and exercise protocols, to ensure consistency with paragraph (1) of this section.

SEC. 520. None of the funds provided or otherwise made available in this Act shall be available to carry out section 872 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 452).

SEC. 521. Funds made available in this Act may be used to alter operations within the Civil Engineering Program of the Coast Guard nationwide, including civil engineering units, facilities design and construction centers, maintenance and logistics commands, and the Coast Guard Academy, except that none of the funds provided in this Act may be used to reduce operations within any Civil Engineering Unit unless specifically authorized by a statute enacted after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 522. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to grant an immigration benefit unless the results of background checks required by law to be completed prior to the granting of the benefit have been received by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, and the results do not preclude the granting of the benefit.

SEC. 523. Section 831 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 391) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “Until September 30, 2014,” and inserting “Until September 30, 2015,”; and

(2) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “September 30, 2014,” and inserting “September 30, 2015.”

SEC. 524. The Secretary of Homeland Security shall require that all contracts of the Department of Homeland Security that provide award fees link such fees to successful acquisition outcomes (which outcomes shall be specified in terms of cost, schedule, and performance).

SEC. 525. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds provided in this or any other Act shall be used to approve a waiver of the navigation and vessel-inspection laws pursuant to 46 U.S.C. 501(b) for the transportation of crude oil distributed from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve until the Secretary of Homeland Security, after consultation with the Secretaries of the Departments of Energy and Transportation and representatives from the United States flag maritime industry, takes adequate measures to ensure the use of United States flag vessels: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives within 2 business days of any request for waivers of navigation and vessel-inspection laws pursuant to 46 U.S.C. 501(b).

SEC. 526. None of the funds made available in this Act for United States Customs and Border Protection may be used to prevent an individual not in the business of importing a prescription drug (within the meaning of section 801(g) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act) from importing a prescription drug from Canada that complies with the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act: *Provided*, That this section shall apply only to individuals transporting on their person a personal-use quantity of the prescription drug, not to exceed a 90-day supply: *Provided further*, That the prescription drug may not be—

(1) a controlled substance, as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802); or

(2) a biological product, as defined in section 351 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262).

SEC. 527. None of the funds in this Act shall be used to reduce the United States Coast Guard's Operations Systems Center mission or its government-employed or contract staff levels.

SEC. 528. The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives of any proposed transfers of funds available under section 9703.1(g)(4)(B) of title 31, United States Code (as added by Public Law 102-393) from the Department of the Treasury Forfeiture Fund to any agency within the Department of Homeland Security: *Provided*, That none of the funds identified for such a transfer may be obligated until the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives approve the proposed transfers.

SEC. 529. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for planning, testing, piloting, or developing a national identification card.

SEC. 530. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to conduct, or to imple-

ment the results of, a competition under Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76 for activities performed with respect to the Coast Guard National Vessel Documentation Center.

SEC. 531. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except as provided in subsection (b), and 30 days after the date on which the President determines whether to declare a major disaster because of an event and any appeal is completed, the Administrator shall publish on the Web site of the Federal Emergency Management Agency a report regarding that decision that shall summarize damage assessment information used to determine whether to declare a major disaster.

(b) The Administrator may redact from a report under subsection (a) any data that the Administrator determines would compromise national security.

(c) In this section—

(1) the term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and

(2) the term “major disaster” has the meaning given that term in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122).

SEC. 532. Any official that is required by this Act to report or to certify to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives may not delegate such authority to perform that act unless specifically authorized herein.

SEC. 533. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this or any other Act may be used to transfer, release, or assist in the transfer or release to or within the United States, its territories, or possessions Khalid Sheikh Mohammed or any other detainee who—

(1) is not a United States citizen or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is or was held on or after June 24, 2009, at the United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, by the Department of Defense.

SEC. 534. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for first-class travel by the employees of agencies funded by this Act in contravention of sections 301–10.122 through 301–10.124 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 535. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to employ workers described in section 274A(h)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(h)(3)).

SEC. 536. (a) Any company that collects or retains personal information directly from any individual who participates in the Registered Traveler or successor program of the Transportation Security Administration shall hereafter safeguard and dispose of such information in accordance with the requirements in—

(1) the National Institute for Standards and Technology Special Publication 800-30, entitled “Risk Management Guide for Information Technology Systems”; and

(2) the National Institute for Standards and Technology Special Publication 800-53, Revision 3, entitled “Recommended Security Controls for Federal Information Systems and Organizations”; and

(3) any supplemental standards established by the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration (referred to in this section as the “Administrator”).

(b) The airport authority or air carrier operator that sponsors the company under the Registered Traveler program shall hereafter be known as the “Sponsoring Entity”.

(c) The Administrator shall hereafter require any company covered by subsection (a) to provide, not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, to the Sponsoring Entity written certification that the procedures used by the company to safeguard and dispose of information are in compliance with the requirements under subsection (a). Such certification shall include a description of the procedures used by the company to comply with such requirements.

SEC. 537. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to pay award or incentive fees for contractor performance that has been judged to be below satisfactory performance or performance that does not meet the basic requirements of a contract.

SEC. 538. In developing any process to screen aviation passengers and crews for transportation or national security purposes, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure that all such processes take into consideration such passengers' and crews' privacy and civil liberties consistent with applicable laws, regulations, and guidance.

SEC. 539. (a) Notwithstanding section 1356(n) of title 8, United States Code, of the funds deposited into the Immigration Examinations Fee Account, \$10,000,000 may be allocated by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services in fiscal year 2015 for the purpose of providing an immigrant integration grants program.

(b) None of the funds made available to United States Citizenship and Immigration Services for grants for immigrant integration may be used to provide services to aliens who have not been lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

SEC. 540. For an additional amount for the "Office of the Under Secretary for Management", \$48,600,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses to plan, acquire, design, construct, renovate, remediate, equip, furnish, improve infrastructure, and occupy buildings and facilities for the department headquarters consolidation project and associated mission support consolidation: *Provided*, That the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives shall receive an expenditure plan not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Act detailing the allocation of these funds.

SEC. 541. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Homeland Security to enter into any Federal contract unless such contract is entered into in accordance with the requirements of subtitle I of title 41, United States Code, or chapter 137 of title 10, United States Code, and the Federal Acquisition Regulation, unless such contract is otherwise authorized by statute to be entered into without regard to the above referenced statutes.

SEC. 542. (a) For an additional amount for financial systems modernization, \$34,072,000 to remain available until September 30, 2016.

(b) Funds made available in subsection (a) for financial systems modernization may be transferred by the Secretary of Homeland Security between appropriations for the same purpose, notwithstanding section 503 of this Act.

(c) No transfer described in subsection (b) shall occur until 15 days after the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives are notified of such transfer.

SEC. 543. Notwithstanding the 10 percent limitation contained in section 503(c) of this

Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security may transfer to the fund established by 8 U.S.C. 1101 note, up to \$20,000,000 from appropriations available to the Department of Homeland Security: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives 5 days in advance of such transfer.

SEC. 544. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the Secretary of Homeland Security determines that specific United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement Service Processing Centers or other United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement owned detention facilities no longer meet the mission need, the Secretary is authorized to dispose of individual Service Processing Centers or other United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement owned detention facilities by directing the Administrator of General Services to sell all real and related personal property which support Service Processing Centers or other United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement owned detention facilities, subject to such terms and conditions as necessary to protect Government interests and meet program requirements: *Provided*, That the proceeds, net of the costs of sale incurred by the General Services Administration and United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, shall be deposited as offsetting collections into a separate account that shall be available, subject to appropriation, until expended for other real property capital asset needs of existing United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement assets, excluding daily operations and maintenance costs, as the Secretary deems appropriate: *Provided further*, That any sale or collocation of federally owned detention facilities shall not result in the maintenance of fewer than 34,000 detention beds: *Provided further*, That the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives shall be notified 15 days prior to the announcement of any proposed sale or collocation.

SEC. 545. The Commissioner of United States Customs and Border Protection and the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement shall, with respect to fiscal years 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018, submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, at the time that the President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2016 is submitted pursuant to the requirements of section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, the information required in the multi-year investment and management plans required, respectively, under the headings "U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Salaries and Expenses" under title II of division D of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112-74); "U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Border Security Fencing, Infrastructure, and Technology" under such title; and section 568 of such Act.

SEC. 546. The Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure enforcement of all immigration laws (as defined in section 101(a)(17) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17))).

SEC. 547. (a) Of the amounts made available by this Act for "National Protection and Programs Directorate, Infrastructure Protection and Information Security", \$140,525,000 for the Federal Network Security program, project, and activity shall be used to deploy on Federal systems technology to improve the information security of agency information systems covered by section

3543(a) of title 44, United States Code: *Provided*, That funds made available under this section shall be used to assist and support Government-wide and agency-specific efforts to provide adequate, risk-based, and cost-effective cybersecurity to address escalating and rapidly evolving threats to information security, including the acquisition and operation of a continuous monitoring and diagnostics program, in collaboration with departments and agencies, that includes equipment, software, and Department of Homeland Security supplied services: *Provided further*, That continuous monitoring and diagnostics software procured by the funds made available by this section shall not transmit to the Department of Homeland Security any personally identifiable information or content of network communications of other agencies' users: *Provided further*, That such software shall be installed, maintained, and operated in accordance with all applicable privacy laws and agency-specific policies regarding network content.

(b) Funds made available under this section may not be used to supplant funds provided for any such system within an agency budget.

(c) Not later than July 1, 2015, the heads of all Federal agencies shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives expenditure plans for necessary cybersecurity improvements to address known vulnerabilities to information systems described in subsection (a).

(d) Not later than October 1, 2015, and semiannually thereafter, the head of each Federal agency shall submit to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget a report on the execution of the expenditure plan for that agency required by subsection (c): *Provided*, That the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall summarize such execution reports and annually submit such summaries to Congress in conjunction with the annual progress report on implementation of the E-Government Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-347), as required by section 3606 of title 44, United States Code.

(e) This section shall not apply to the legislative and judicial branches of the Federal Government and shall apply to all Federal agencies within the executive branch except for the Department of Defense, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

SEC. 548. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 549. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by a Federal law enforcement officer to facilitate the transfer of an operable firearm to an individual if the Federal law enforcement officer knows or suspects that the individual is an agent of a drug cartel unless law enforcement personnel of the United States continuously monitor or control the firearm at all times.

SEC. 550. None of the funds provided in this or any other Act may be obligated to implement the National Preparedness Grant Program or any other successor grant programs unless explicitly authorized by Congress.

SEC. 551. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to provide funding

for the position of Public Advocate, or a successor position, within United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

SEC. 552. (a) Section 559 of division F of Public Law 113-76 is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (f)(2)(B) is amended by adding at the end: "Such transfer shall not be required for personal property, including furniture, fixtures, and equipment."; and

(2) Subsection (e)(3)(b) is amended by inserting after "payment of overtime" the following: "and the salaries, training and benefits of individuals employed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection to support U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers in performing law enforcement functions at ports of entry, including primary and secondary processing of passengers".

(b) Section 560(g) of division D of Public Law 113-6 is amended by inserting after "payment of overtime" the following: "and the salaries, training and benefits of individuals employed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection to support U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers in performing law enforcement functions at ports of entry, including primary and secondary processing of passengers".

(c) The Commissioner of United States Customs and Border Protection may modify a reimbursable fee agreement in effect as of the date of enactment of this Act to include costs specified in this section.

SEC. 553. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to pay for the travel to or attendance of more than 50 employees of a single component of the Department of Homeland Security, who are stationed in the United States, at a single international conference unless the Secretary of Homeland Security, or a designee, determines that such attendance is in the national interest and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives within at least 10 days of that determination and the basis for that determination: *Provided*, That for purposes of this section the term "international conference" shall mean a conference occurring outside of the United States attended by representatives of the United States Government and of foreign governments, international organizations, or nongovernmental organizations.

SEC. 554. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to reimburse any Federal department or agency for its participation in a National Special Security Event.

SEC. 555. With the exception of countries with preclearance facilities in service prior to 2013, none of the funds made available in this Act may be used for new United States Customs and Border Protection air preclearance agreements entering into force after February 1, 2014, unless—

(1) the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State, has certified to Congress that air preclearance operations at the airport provide a homeland or national security benefit to the United States;

(2) United States passenger air carriers are not precluded from operating at existing preclearance locations; and

(3) a United States passenger air carrier is operating at all airports contemplated for establishment of new air preclearance operations.

SEC. 556. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used by the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration to implement, administer, or enforce, in abrogation of the responsibility described in section 44903(n)(1) of

title 49, United States Code, any requirement that airport operators provide airport-financed staffing to monitor exit points from the sterile area of any airport at which the Transportation Security Administration provided such monitoring as of December 1, 2013.

SEC. 557. In making grants under the heading "Firefighter Assistance Grants", the Secretary may grant waivers from the requirements in subsections (a)(1)(A), (a)(1)(B), (a)(1)(E), (c)(1), (c)(2), and (c)(4) of section 34 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229a).

SEC. 558. (a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall not—

(1) establish, collect, or otherwise impose any new border crossing fee on individuals crossing the Southern border or the Northern border at a land port of entry; or

(2) conduct any study relating to the imposition of a border crossing fee.

(b) BORDER CROSSING FEE DEFINED.—In this section, the term "border crossing fee" means a fee that every pedestrian, cyclist, and driver and passenger of a private motor vehicle is required to pay for the privilege of crossing the Southern border or the Northern border at a land port of entry.

SEC. 559. The administrative law judge annuitants participating in the Senior Administrative Law Judge Program managed by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management under section 3323 of title 5, United States Code, shall be available on a temporary reemployment basis to conduct arbitrations of disputes arising from delivery of assistance under the Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance Program.

SEC. 560. As authorized by section 601(b) of the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act (Public Law 112-42) fees collected from passengers arriving from Canada, Mexico, or an adjacent island pursuant to section 13031(a)(5) of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (19 U.S.C. 58c(a)(5)) shall be available until expended.

SEC. 561. None of the funds appropriated by this or any other Act shall be used to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel who prepare or submit appropriations language as part of the President's budget submission to the Congress of the United States for programs under the jurisdiction of the Appropriations Subcommittees on the Department of Homeland Security that assumes revenues or reflects a reduction from the previous year due to user fees proposals that have not been enacted into law prior to the submission of the budget unless such budget submission identifies which additional spending reductions should occur in the event the user fees proposals are not enacted prior to the date of the convening of a committee of conference for the fiscal year 2016 appropriations Act.

SEC. 562. (a) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Congress, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, beginning at the time the President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2017 is submitted pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, a comprehensive report on the purchase and usage of weapons, subdivided by weapon type. The report shall include—

(1) the quantity of weapons in inventory at the end of the preceding calendar year, and the amount of weapons, subdivided by weapon type, included in the budget request for each relevant component or agency in the Department of Homeland Security;

(2) a description of how such quantity and purchase aligns to each component or agency's mission requirements for certification, qualification, training, and operations; and

(3) details on all contracting practices applied by the Department of Homeland Security, including comparative details regarding other contracting options with respect to cost and availability.

(b) The reports required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in an appropriate format in order to ensure the safety of law enforcement personnel.

SEC. 563. None of the funds made available by this Act shall be used for the environmental remediation of the Coast Guard's LORAN support in Wildwood/Lower Township, New Jersey.

SEC. 564. None of the funds made available to the Department of Homeland Security by this or any other Act may be obligated for any structural pay reform that affects more than 100 full-time equivalent employee positions or costs more than \$5,000,000 in a single year before the end of the 30-day period beginning on the date on which the Secretary of Homeland Security submits to Congress a notification that includes—

(1) the number of full-time equivalent employee positions affected by such change;

(2) funding required for such change for the current year and through the Future Years Homeland Security Program;

(3) justification for such change; and

(4) an analysis of compensation alternatives to such change that were considered by the Department.

SEC. 565. (a) Any agency receiving funds made available in this Act, shall, subject to subsections (b) and (c), post on the public Web site of that agency any report required to be submitted by the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives in this Act, upon the determination by the head of the agency that it shall serve the national interest.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a report if—

(1) the public posting of the report compromises homeland or national security; or

(2) the report contains proprietary information.

(c) The head of the agency posting such report shall do so only after such report has been made available to the requesting Committee or Committees of Congress for no less than 45 days except as otherwise specified in law.

SEC. 566. Section 605 of division E of Public Law 110-161 (6 U.S.C. 1404) is hereby repealed.

SEC. 567. The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency may transfer up to \$95,000,000 in unobligated balances made available for the appropriations account for "Federal Emergency Management Agency, Disaster Assistance Direct Loan Program" under section 2(a) of the Community Disaster Loan Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-88; 119 Stat. 2061) or under chapter 5 of title I of division B of the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 110-329; 122 Stat. 3592) to the appropriations account for "Federal Emergency Management Agency, Disaster Relief Fund". Amounts transferred to such account under this section shall be available for any authorized purpose of such account.

SEC. 568. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, Gerardo Ismael Hernandez, a Transportation Security Officer employed by the Transportation Security Administration who died as the direct result of an injury sustained in the line of duty on November 1,

2013, at the Los Angeles International Airport, shall be deemed to have been a public safety officer for the purposes of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Street Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3711 et seq.).

SEC. 569. The Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Homeland Security shall ensure the congressional budget justifications accompanying the President's budget proposal for the Department of Homeland Security, submitted pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, include estimates of the number of unaccompanied alien children anticipated to be apprehended in the budget year and the number of agent or officer hours required to process, manage, and care for such children: *Provided*, That such materials shall also include estimates of all other associated costs for each relevant Departmental component, including but not limited to personnel; equipment; supplies; facilities; managerial, technical, and advisory services; medical treatment; and all costs associated with transporting such children from one Departmental component to another or from a Departmental component to another Federal agency.

SEC. 570. Notwithstanding section 404 or 420 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c and 5187), until September 30, 2015, the President may provide hazard mitigation assistance in accordance with such section 404 in any area in which assistance was provided under such section 420.

SEC. 571. That without regard to the limitation as to time and condition of section 503(d) of this Act, the Secretary may propose to reprogram within and transfer funds into "U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Salaries and Expenses" and "U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Salaries and Expenses" as necessary to ensure the care and transportation of unaccompanied alien children.

SEC. 572. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, grants awarded to States along the Southwest Border of the United States under sections 2003 or 2004 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 604 and 605) using funds provided under the heading "Federal Emergency Management Agency, State and Local Programs" in division F of Public Law 113-76 or division D of Public Law 113-6 may be used by recipients or sub-recipients for costs, or reimbursement of costs, related to providing humanitarian relief to unaccompanied alien children and alien adults accompanied by an alien minor where they are encountered after entering the United States, provided that such costs were incurred during the award period of performance.

(RESCISSIONS)

SEC. 573. Of the funds appropriated to the Department of Homeland Security, the following funds are hereby rescinded from the following accounts and programs in the specified amounts: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-177):

(1) \$5,000,000 from unobligated prior year balances from "U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Border Security, Fencing, Infrastructure, and Technology";

(2) \$8,000,000 from Public Law 113-76 under the heading "U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Air and Marine Operations" in division F of such Act;

(3) \$10,000,000 from unobligated prior year balances from "U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Construction and Facilities Management";

(4) \$15,300,000 from "Transportation Security Administration, Aviation Security" account 70x0550;

(5) \$187,000,000 from Public Law 113-76 under the heading "Transportation Security Administration, Aviation Security";

(6) \$2,550,000 from Public Law 112-10 under the heading "Coast Guard, Acquisition, Construction, and Improvements";

(7) \$12,095,000 from Public Law 112-74 under the heading "Coast Guard, Acquisition, Construction, and Improvements";

(8) \$16,349,000 from Public Law 113-6 under the heading "Coast Guard, Acquisition, Construction, and Improvements";

(9) \$30,643,000 from Public Law 113-76 under the heading "Coast Guard, Acquisition, Construction, and Improvements";

(10) \$24,000,000 from "Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Predisaster Mitigation Fund" account 70x0716; and

(11) \$16,627,000 from "Science and Technology, Research, Development, Acquisition, and Operations" account 70x0800.

(RESCISSION)

SEC. 574. From the unobligated balances made available in the Department of the Treasury Forfeiture Fund established by section 9703 of title 31, United States Code, (added by section 638 of Public Law 102-393), \$175,000,000 shall be rescinded.

(RESCISSIONS)

SEC. 575. Of the funds transferred to the Department of Homeland Security when it was created in 2003, the following funds are hereby rescinded from the following accounts and programs in the specified amounts:

(1) \$1,317,018 from "U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Salaries and Expenses";

(2) \$57,998 from "Coast Guard, Acquisition, Construction, and Improvements";

(3) \$17,597 from "Federal Emergency Management Agency, Office of Domestic Preparedness"; and

(4) \$82,926 from "Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Predisaster Mitigation Fund".

SEC. 576. The following unobligated balances made available to the Department of Homeland Security pursuant to section 505 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2014 (Public Law 113-76) are rescinded:

(1) \$463,404 from "Office of the Secretary and Executive Management";

(2) \$47,023 from "Office of the Under Secretary for Management";

(3) \$29,852 from "Office of the Chief Financial Officer";

(4) \$16,346 from "Office of the Chief Information Officer";

(5) \$816,384 from "Analysis and Operations";

(6) \$158,931 from "Office of Inspector General";

(7) \$635,153 from "U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Salaries and Expenses";

(8) \$65,195 from "U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Automation Modernization";

(9) \$96,177 from "U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Air and Marine Operations";

(10) \$2,368,902 from "U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Salaries and Expenses";

(11) \$600,000 from "Transportation Security Administration, Federal Air Marshals";

(12) \$3,096,521 from "Coast Guard, Operating Expenses";

(13) \$208,654 from "Coast Guard, Reserve Training";

(14) \$1,722,319 from "Coast Guard, Acquisition, Construction, and Improvements";

(15) \$1,256,900 from "United States Secret Service, Salaries and Expenses";

(16) \$107,432 from "National Protection and Programs Directorate, Management and Administration";

(17) \$679,212 from "National Protection and Programs Directorate, Infrastructure Protection and Information Security";

(18) \$26,169 from "Office of Biometric Identity Management";

(19) \$37,201 from "Office of Health Affairs";

(20) \$818,184 from "Federal Emergency Management Agency, Salaries and Expenses";

(21) \$447,280 from "Federal Emergency Management Agency, State and Local Programs";

(22) \$98,841 from "Federal Emergency Management Agency, United States Fire Administration";

(23) \$448,073 from "United States Citizenship and Immigration Services";

(24) \$519,503 from "Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Salaries and Expenses";

(25) \$500,005 from "Science and Technology, Management and Administration"; and

(26) \$68,910 from "Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, Management and Administration".

(RESCISSION)

SEC. 577. Of the unobligated balances made available to "Federal Emergency Management Agency, Disaster Relief Fund", \$375,000,000 shall be rescinded: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended: *Provided further*, That no amounts may be rescinded from the amounts that were designated by the Congress as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 578. The explanatory statement regarding this Act, printed in the House of Representatives section of the Congressional Record, on or about January 13, 2015, by the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations of the House, shall have the same effect with respect to the allocation of funds and implementation of this Act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a committee of conference.

This Act may be cited as the "Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2015".

SA 256. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 255 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mrs. SHAHEEN)) to the bill H.R. 240, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end, add the following:
This act shall become effective 1 day after enactment.

SA 257. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 240, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This act shall become effective 6 days after enactment.

SA 258. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 257 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill H.R. 240, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment, strike "6 days" and insert "5 days".

SA 259. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 240, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This act shall become effective 4 days after enactment.

SA 260. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 259 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill H.R. 240, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment, strike "4 days" and insert "3 days".

SA 261. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 260 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the amendment SA 259 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill H.R. 240, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment, strike "3 days" and insert "2 days".

SA 262. Mr. CORNYN proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 76, welcoming the Prime Minister of Israel to the United States for his address to a joint meeting of Congress; as follows:

On page 3, line 4, strike "joint session" and insert "joint meeting".

SA 263. Mr. CORNYN proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 76, welcoming the Prime Minister of Israel to the United States for his address to a joint meeting of Congress; as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: "A resolution welcoming the Prime Minister of Israel to the United States for his address to a joint meeting of Congress."

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 26, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 26, 2015, at 10 a.m. in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 26, 2015, at 9:45 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 26, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 26, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled "Medical and Public Health Preparedness and Response: Are We Ready for Future Threats?"

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 26, 2015, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 26, 2015, at 9:30 a.m. in room SR-418 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the

Senate on February 26, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 89, Oregon Shakespeare Festival; S. Res. 90, American Heart Month; and S. Res. 91, Read Across America Day.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 81-754, as amended by Public Law 93-536 and further amended by Public Law 100-365, appoints the following Senator to the National Historical Publication and Records Commission: the Honorable DANIEL SULLIVAN of Alaska.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2015

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Friday, February 27; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; and that following leader remarks, the Senate then resume consideration of H.R. 240 under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:19 p.m., adjourned until Friday, February 27, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SUZETTE M. KIMBALL, OF WEST VIRGINIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, VICE MARCIA K. MCNUTT, RESIGNED.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

ANDREW LAMONT EANES, OF KANSAS, TO BE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY FOR THE TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 19, 2019, VICE CAROLYN W. COLVIN, TERM EXPIRED.

INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

MILEYDI GUILARTE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ALTERNATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, VICE JAN E. BOYER, RESIGNED.

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

MARCIA DENISE OCCOMY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DIRECTOR OF THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE WALTER CRAWFORD JONES, RESIGNED.

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED PERSONS OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS OF THE CLASSES STATED.

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS ONE, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

ALEXIOUS BUTLER, OF GEORGIA
MIRIAM GAIL LUTZ, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DANIEL JOHN MILLER, OF MINNESOTA

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS TWO, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

JOHN G. ALLELO, OF TEXAS
MATTHEW A. ANDERSON, OF MARYLAND
WILLIAM JESSE BENJAMIN, OF NORTH DAKOTA
TIMOTHY WALKER BORN, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
ROBERT BURCH, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
RICHARD A. BURNS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DONALD P. CHISHOLM, OF VIRGINIA
ERIC WILLIAM DAVIS, OF CALIFORNIA
JANEAN ELYSE DAVIS, OF NEW JERSEY
SUSAN DECAMP, OF FLORIDA
SHEILA E. DESAI, OF FLORIDA
MICHAEL J. DESISTI, OF VIRGINIA
STEPHEN MICHAEL DILLE, OF TEXAS
CHRISTINE A. DJONDO, OF VIRGINIA
BAHIRU DUGUMA, OF VIRGINIA
MARC ELLINGSTAD, OF FLORIDA
JAMES EVANS-BUTLER, OF VIRGINIA
ERIC S. FLORIMON-REED, OF VIRGINIA
BARRY T. GILL, OF TEXAS
JOHN D. GORLOWULU, OF OREGON
SCOTT WAYNE HEDLUND, OF WASHINGTON
TYLER C. HOLT, OF MARYLAND
STEPHEN C. IKE, OF GEORGIA
DANIELE JEAN-PIERRE, OF TENNESSEE
BRETT JONES, OF FLORIDA
CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL KELLY, OF MISSOURI
HEATHER MICHELLE KHAN, OF CALIFORNIA
PAUL KANGYOO KIM, OF NEW YORK
ALEXANDER MATTHEW KLAITS, OF NORTH CAROLINA

CHRISTOPHER E. KRAFCHAK, OF CALIFORNIA
EMILY COFFMAN KRUNIC, OF FLORIDA
EDWARD G. LAWRENCE, OF CALIFORNIA
TERESA M. MILLER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
FRANK EDGAR MONTICELLO, OF TEXAS
NINO NADIRADZE, OF FLORIDA
RICHARD LELAND NELSON, OF TEXAS
JEAN ROBERTS OLIVERAS, OF ILLINOIS
MARK H. PARKISON, OF MARYLAND
CONAN ERIC PEISEN, OF FLORIDA
IAN J. ROBERTSON, OF FLORIDA
THOMAS D. ROJAS, OF WASHINGTON
MELISSA D. ROSSER, OF OHIO
LAUREN K. RUSSELL, OF VIRGINIA
EZRA SIMON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JULIE A. SOUTHFIELD, OF VIRGINIA
CHARLES SWAGMAN, OF NEW MEXICO
CARL A. SWANSON, OF VIRGINIA
JAMSHED JAL UNWALA, OF PENNSYLVANIA
STEPHEN G. VALDES-ROBLES, OF PENNSYLVANIA
THOMAS E. WHITE, OF NEW YORK
DAVID R. YANGGEN, OF FLORIDA
KIM KIM YEE, OF OREGON

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS THREE, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

ERIC D. ADAMS, OF WASHINGTON
JENNIFER BELLE AGUILAR, OF TEXAS
MARIE AHMED, OF CALIFORNIA
OSAGIE CHRISTOPHER AIMUWU, OF MARYLAND
ANGELINA F. ALLEN-MPYISI, OF WASHINGTON
AYANA WILKES ANGULO, OF VIRGINIA
ZOHRA PATEL BALSARA, OF FLORIDA
HERBERT RUSSELL BAUER, OF ILLINOIS
CHRISTINA BECK, OF VIRGINIA
NILS R. BERGESON, OF UTAH
SARAH R. BRUTER, OF VIRGINIA
SARA ELIZABETH BUCHANAN, OF TENNESSEE
WILLIAM M. BUTTERFIELD, OF VIRGINIA
JOHN MICHAEL CALI III, OF VIRGINIA
REBECCA H. CARTER, OF ARIZONA
PHILLIP M. CHERRY, OF TEXAS
KYUNG SHIN CHOE, OF MARYLAND
LAURA ELLEN CHOLAK CIZMO, OF VIRGINIA
MICHELLE N. CORZINE, OF ILLINOIS
CHERYL T.M.S. DAVIS, OF FLORIDA
DANIEL A. DEDEYAN, OF TEXAS
JUSTIN TROY DIVENANZO, OF ILLINOIS
THOMAS C. DIVINCENZO, OF VIRGINIA
RORY LOPEZ DONOHUE, OF CALIFORNIA
COLIN C. DREIZIN, OF CALIFORNIA
JORGE L. DULANTO-HASSENSTEIN, OF FLORIDA
ANTONINA B. ESPIRITU, OF HAWAII
ELIZABETH CLINTON ESSEX, OF TEXAS
JOHN MICHAEL EYRES, OF ARIZONA
ELIZABETH L. FEARY, OF FLORIDA
ALAN J. GARCEAU, OF FLORIDA
EDWARD GONZALEZ, OF CALIFORNIA
LAURA GONZALEZ, OF VIRGINIA
MONIKA A. GORZELANSKA, OF VIRGINIA
LUANN GRONHOVD, OF NORTH DAKOTA
SHAWNTEL B. HINES, OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHERYL HODGE-SNEAD, OF TEXAS
DANIEL A. HOLLANDER, OF ILLINOIS
DAVID ELLIOTT HORTON III, OF OHIO
TREVOR M. HUBLIN, OF OHIO
M. SCOTT JACKSON, OF INDIANA
ERIC MICHAEL JOHNSON, OF MINNESOTA
KRISTIN M. JOPLIN, OF OREGON
TERESE E. KALLOO, OF MARYLAND
SELAM KEBROM, OF NEVADA
MATTHEW ALLEN LAIRD, OF TEXAS
H. ZAKS LUBIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
SAMUEL R. MATTHEWS, OF CALIFORNIA
KEVIN P. MCGRATH, OF NEW JERSEY
LISA MCGREGOR-MIRGHANI, OF ARIZONA
LAURA LEAH MCKECHNIE, OF OREGON
GHAZI MEHMOOD, OF TEXAS
STEPHEN PAUL MENARD, JR., OF MARYLAND
JOSHUA ELI MIKE, OF FLORIDA
MATTHEW EUGENE MILLS, OF VIRGINIA
PATRICIA MIRA-HUNTER, OF VIRGINIA
VICTORIA L. MITCHELL, OF PENNSYLVANIA
LARISA MORI, OF CALIFORNIA
MEI MEI PENG, OF CALIFORNIA
PATRICK SHAWN PHILLIPS, OF VIRGINIA
NORA ELENA PINZON, OF FLORIDA
KRISTIN A. POORE, OF VIRGINIA
RAGHEDA ELIAS RABIE, OF INDIANA
CYNTHIA B. ROGERS, OF CALIFORNIA
CHRISTOPHER D. SAENGER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
LEONA SASINKOVA, OF TENNESSEE
LESLIE ANNE SCHAFER, OF CALIFORNIA
MARGARET HELM SCHOCH, OF WASHINGTON
JANINE A. SCOTT, OF MARYLAND
NATHANIEL SCOTT, OF MASSACHUSETTS
JOY ALMAZ SEARCE, OF VIRGINIA
NADEEM H. SHAH, OF PENNSYLVANIA
DIANA E. SHANNON, OF CALIFORNIA
TYCE L. SHIDELER, OF WASHINGTON
VANDANA STAPLETON, OF TEXAS
TIMOTHY STEIN, OF TEXAS
DANA S. STINSON, OF MASSACHUSETTS
SIANA ELENA TACHETT, OF WASHINGTON
BELIEN SOLOMON TADESSE, OF MARYLAND
JOSEPH GUSTAVO TERRAZAS, OF FLORIDA
JOSHUA TEMPLETON, OF FLORIDA
PAUL ANTHONY VACA, OF CONNECTICUT
RYAN EASTMAN WALTHER, OF FLORIDA
REBECCA RAY WHITE, OF NEW YORK
MARK R. K. WILSON, OF VIRGINIA
DINAH ZELTSEER WINANT, OF FLORIDA
BILLY L. WOODWARD, OF ILLINOIS
FELICIA R. WILSON YOUNG, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MOHAMED ZAHAR, OF NEW YORK
NAIDA ZECEVIC BEAN, OF NEW JERSEY
THE FOLLOWING-NAMED PERSONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO BE CONSULAR OFFICERS AND SECRETARIES IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:
ADAM MICHAEL BRANSON, OF WASHINGTON
MARCELA E. RONDON, OF MARYLAND
RYAN R. SCOTT, OF PENNSYLVANIA
MICHAEL J. WARD, OF MISSOURI
THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR PROMOTION INTO AND WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE TO THE CLASS INDICATED:
FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER COUNSELOR:
RONALD P. VERDONK, OF MARYLAND
FOR APPOINTMENT AS A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, AND CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:
MARC C. GILKEY, OF LOUISIANA
THE JUDICIARY
MARY BARZEE FLORES, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA, VICE ROBIN S. ROSENBAUM, ELEVATED.
JULIEN XAVIER NEALS, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY, VICE FAITH S. HOCHBERG, RETIRING.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, February 26, 2015

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. NEWHOUSE).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 26, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAN NEWHOUSE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

PRESIDENT SPEAKS ON IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIÉRREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of the President for speaking directly to the American people on immigration last night in a town hall on Telemundo and on MSNBC. He was very clear that he will comply with the dictates of the judicial branch, even as he fights a Federal judge's temporary injunction in the courts and is prepared to appeal those rulings all the way to the Supreme Court if necessary. The President will follow the law—as he has been doing—and comply with the injunction.

But let me be clear to my Republican friends and to the American families impacted—for now—by the court's action. Nothing about the injunction compels the President to deport anyone he has identified as a low priority for enforcement.

No matter how many lawsuits are filed, how many symbolic votes are held in Congress, or how many Federal agencies are shut down, there is nothing the Republican Party can do to

force the President of the United States to deport DREAMers or go after the parents of U.S. citizens if they have no criminal record and have lived here for a while. And the Republicans know there is nothing they can do to force the President to deport 5 million people that he has said he is going to protect—nothing.

For years, Congress has only provided enough funding to deport 4 percent of the total undocumented population, or 400,000 people a year. Clearly, we in Congress know that only a small percentage of people will be targeted by our limited enforcement resources because that is the law that we here in Congress made.

For all the talk about a rogue or imperial President, he is actually doing the job we asked him to do—to spend the limited enforcement resources we appropriated on doing what? Protecting the homeland by deporting the worst of the worst, not on DREAMers, not on the parents of U.S. citizens who have strong ties to this country and decades with no criminal background. The DACA program for DREAMers announced in 2012 is still in place and renewals are happening right now, as we speak. It is 640,000 strong.

So, under the enforcement priorities and under the DACA program, it is clear to me—and I want to make it clear to everyone at home—that the President has no plans to deport DREAMers or the parents of U.S. citizens who have never been involved in crime.

Now, I know firsthand about numerous efforts to negotiate across the aisle—that the majority of our country and the majority of the Republican Party would like to have a functioning legal immigration system. But the impression the Republican Party is leaving with the American people—the only solution the Republicans are offering—is that they demand the deportation of DREAMers and the deportation of the parents of 5 million American citizens who would be protected—and continued to be protected—under the President's executive actions.

This is what my colleagues fail to appreciate when they stand alongside the hard-liners and opponents of legal immigration: in their zeal to support non-citizens, Republicans are hurting themselves with citizens.

In my district in Chicago, just like the rest of the country, there is no caste system where people who were born in the U.S. never mix with people who weren't born here. There are no

differences between the people who came with a visa, the people who overstayed a visa, the people who never had a visa to begin with, and people who were born U.S. citizens.

When we celebrate the Fourth of July or Thanksgiving, believe it or not, we all sit at the same table. The undocumented are a part of our families, live in our neighborhoods, attend our churches, and are in classrooms with our children.

What the Republican Party fails to see is that when they call for the deportation of DREAMers and long-term residents, they are calling for the deportation of our family members, our neighbors, and my children's classmates.

Don't forget: most Latinos in America are not immigrants but are U.S. citizens. So it should come as no surprise that when the 1 million or so Latino U.S. citizens turn 18 this year, they will not think fondly of the Republican Party—the party that is bent on deporting members of their families and their communities.

Another statistic: 93 percent of Latinos under the age of 18 are U.S. citizens. Ninety-three percent of them are U.S. citizens. They will not have a warm and fuzzy feeling about the party that fought tooth and nail to throw out their moms and dads. And the 5 million citizens whose parents are undocumented—who worry every day about whether their families will remain intact—are going to remember which party was cruel to their moms and dads, using them as scapegoats and insinuating they are all criminals bringing diseases to this country.

The Republican Party's goal of forcing the President to deport all the non-citizens they want deported will simply never be achieved until the Republican Party elects one of their own to the White House. And the strategy of the Republican Party—forcing this President to deport all the noncitizens they want deported—pretty much guarantees that one of their own isn't going to get to the White House anytime soon.

REMEMBERING REPRESENTATIVE CASS BALLENGER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, a week ago yesterday, the Nation lost one of its most selfless and unique public

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

servants with the passing of my predecessor, former North Carolina 10th District Congressman Cass Ballenger.

Up until 2005, Congressman Ballenger represented the 10th District of North Carolina in the United States House of Representatives. During that time, he served as chairman of the House Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, where he authored groundbreaking legislation that improved workplace safety and created the opportunity for employers and regulators to be partners, not adversaries, in protecting the health and safety of workers.

As chairman of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee on the International Relations Committee, he took on the daunting and often thankless task of fighting to promote democracy and defend human rights in Central and South American nations. He did this not only for the sake of justice in those countries, but also to protect the interests of the United States.

His personal commitment to serving his constituents is a legendary example that I strive every day to follow. I was the beneficiary of his kind and gracious nature when I was elected to represent the 10th District in 2005 after his decision to retire from the House. He personally provided me with guidance and assistance that immeasurably helped me as a new Member of Congress and ensured continuity of our quality constituent services for western North Carolina.

In his personal and professional life, Cass placed others before himself. He was a part of the Greatest Generation. He fought in World War II and returned home to go to college. He started a family and joined his father's business in box manufacturing. He told his father that boxes were a thing of the past and the wave of the future was plastics. It is almost like it was George Bailey coming home to say that.

As a county commissioner in Catawba County, he was one of the first Republicans elected after the Civil War. Now, at this date, Catawba County is one of the most Republican counties in the State of North Carolina.

He led the way to establish the Catawba Valley Community College and Catawba Valley Medical Center. As a legislator in the North Carolina General Assembly, he authored the State's first meaningful open meetings law and was named Most Effective Republican Legislator by the North Carolina Institute of Government.

It would take volumes to talk about all of the philanthropic work of Congressman Ballenger and his wife, Donna, but they are responsible for countless schools, day care centers, hospitals, and disaster responses in the United States and Central and South America as well.

Personally, Cass was the ultimate character. He could tell you a great story, a great joke, and tell you off,

and you would laugh at everything he said.

In addition to being one of the most distinguished Members of the House and the North Carolina Republican delegation generally, Congressman Ballenger was also very colorful. There are great moments here on the House floor that we can point to.

Anyone who spent any time with him knew that he was affable, kind, and brutally honest. He would tell you exactly what he was thinking, and generally with a hilarious delivery. He was one of the few people who could hold someone accountable in the most blistering way possible, make you laugh, and also help you out of a tight spot, all in one conversation. He was a rare person, indeed, and he will be missed.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in a moment of silence on the passing of Congressman Cass Ballenger.

ESEA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, like many of you, as a kid, I learned about Robin Hood. You know the story: he stole from the rich and gave to the poor.

But today, I come to talk to you about something a little less storybook. In this case, my friends on the other side of the aisle are supporting a bill that robs from poor schools and gives to rich schools.

The so-called Student Success Act that we are debating today takes money from schools with the greatest need and redistributes it to less needy schools in more affluent communities, hurting students and teachers in its wake. That is hardly the definition of success the bill claims to make.

The Student Success Act would reauthorize education funds first signed into law in 1965 by President Lyndon Johnson, who said that "full educational opportunity should be our first national goal." But the Student Success Act completely misses the mark of what LBJ was trying to accomplish.

A former teacher, LBJ believed that equal access to education was the key to success, and that the vital education funding that the Elementary and Secondary Education Act provided would help millions of "children with poor families overcome the greatest barrier to progress: poverty."

For 50 years, the ESEA has provided essential funding for school districts that serve low-income students as well as aid to State education agencies to help them improve the quality of elementary and secondary education around the country. But the robust progress that our schools made in the first 40 years after the passage of the ESEA has slowed over the last decade.

Since the passage of No Child Left Behind, we have seen both sides acknowledge the problems that have resulted and commit to fixing them. But rather than fixing those problems and redoubling our commitment to equal access to education, the Student Success Act actually creates more problems, moving even further away from what we know is best for students, is best for teachers, and is best for our country.

In its current form, H.R. 5 undermines the progress our Nation has made in providing a high quality education for all Americans, regardless of their ZIP Code. If we allow H.R. 5 to become law, school districts in Illinois and across the country will see their funding cut exponentially. Nationally, this will cut education funding by over half a billion dollars in 2016 alone.

Chicago public schools, where over 60 percent of students are below the poverty level, will lose over \$64 million in title I funding. That is a 23 percent cut in Federal education dollars at a time when Chicago schools need it the most.

But wait, there is more. This bill eliminates qualification requirements for paraprofessionals, teachers' aides, and support staff, who provide vital assistance to classrooms across the country. It eliminates requirements to ensure quality professional development for teachers.

It directs 1 out of every 10 dollars away from public schools and directs it to private companies. It allows students with disabilities to be taught with separate, lower standards. The bill fails to ensure that students succeed in the classroom or after graduation by gutting accountability standards. These are standards that help ensure that students graduate from high school, which we know is so intimately linked to economic success.

□ 1015

This bill simply fails to provide our teachers and students with the resources they so desperately need to succeed.

It is time to go back to the drawing board. It is time to actually focus on providing students, schools, and teachers the ability to be more successful with an ESEA that puts the focus where it belongs, on investing in education.

We need an ESEA that returns to its original purpose of fighting poverty and ensuring equity, one that holds States and districts accountable for providing equitable resources, one that includes a system of supportive interventions for struggling schools and students, one that deals with the fact that two-thirds of the achievement gap is due to poverty—and does something about it—such as funding community schools, one that provides our teachers with the resources and support they need to help our young people succeed.

We can do better, Mr. Speaker. We must do better. This is simply too important.

I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on the so-called Student Success Act.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF HELEN KILROY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the memory of Helen Kilroy of Galveston County. Helen Kilroy was a woman of service who always put community and others first.

In March of 1989, her son, Mark Kilroy—her and Jim’s son—disappeared during a spring break in Mexico. Unfortunately, the Kilroy’s ultimately learned that their beloved son was murdered by a cult practicing human sacrifice.

Losing a loved one, especially a son or daughter, can be debilitating; instead, Helen and Jim Kilroy decided to channel their grief into action. The memory of their son was honored through their support of causes to help those in need.

In 1995, the Kilroys founded the Mark Kilroy Foundation to support the Safe Communities Coalition. The coalition works to promote drug-free communities, violence prevention, and anger management. It also provides counseling for at-risk children.

Helen Kilroy’s selflessness did not stop at the creation of the Mark Kilroy Foundation. Helen was a foster parent to seven children and a district leader for the Bay Area Council Cub Scouts from 1976–1983. She was a Meals on Wheels volunteer. She was a Santa Fe Parks and Recreation Board member, a dedicated church Eucharistic minister, as well as a volunteer EMT and a paramedic for Santa Fe, Texas, EMS.

On December 22, 2014, Helen Kilroy lost her battle with ALS—Lou Gehrig’s disease. She died after fighting that long battle. She is survived by her husband, Jim Kilroy; her son, Keith; her daughter-in-law; two grandchildren; three sisters; two brothers-in-law; numerous cousins; nieces; and nephews.

The many individuals helped by the Mark Kilroy Foundation and by her many service roles are a living legacy to her selfless nature. Helen’s impact on our community was unparalleled. It takes a strong person to take a family tragedy and turn it into a lasting influence on our community. Helen’s servant heart truly changed and even saved lives.

Helen, you are missed.

Jim, your beloved life is a legacy to the both of you.

Helen, may you rest in peace.

Jim and family, you all are in our prayers.

WE ARE ONCE AGAIN ON THE BRINK OF A SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, we are only days away from a shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security.

When Republicans took control of the House and Senate, they pledged to avoid more government shutdowns. Instead, we have, sadly, learned that Speaker BOEHNER and Leader MITCH MCCONNELL went nearly 2 weeks—2 weeks—without talking, and their failure to govern us has us, once again, on the brink of a shutdown.

I have been shocked and disappointed to hear some of my Republican colleagues say that a shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security would not be a serious issue and try to minimize its impact on people, minimize its impact on workers, and even try to minimize its impact on America.

In my home State of New Mexico, a border State, where we have many men and women who proudly serve our country as employees of the Border Patrol, the TSA, and other agencies, getting furloughed or working without a paycheck is a serious issue.

If Republicans continue down this path, paychecks will stop, but rent and mortgages and utility bills for these workers will not.

Time and again, House Republicans have failed to govern, moving only from one crisis to the next. Sadly, the failure to fund DHS is the latest manufactured crisis that will have a real impact on working families in New Mexico and across America while needlessly putting our national security at risk.

It is time for congressional Republicans to stop putting their political security ahead of national security and pass a clean bill. It is time for House Republicans to stop catering to the extreme anti-immigration wing of their party that is willing to sacrifice our Nation’s security in order to attack DREAMers who are going to college and serving our great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, the eyes of the American people are watching this Republican-led Congress, and so far, all they have seen is gridlock and dysfunction.

Mr. Speaker, the United States Senate is moving forward to fund the Department of Homeland Security. House Democrats are ready to support a clean bill. The only ones standing in the way of preventing a Department of Homeland Security shutdown are House Republicans. For our country’s sake, let us hope that changes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that will keep the Department open so it can carry out

its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the House is in session solely for the purpose of conducting morning-hour debate. Therefore, that unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

AN EXAMPLE OF FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LOUDERMILK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, during our recess, I had the opportunity to attend Oakland Heights Baptist Church in beautiful Cartersville, Georgia, as they celebrated a very special occasion.

While Oakland Heights is a prominent church in our community, it would not be considered a large church in most metropolitan areas. The congregation consists of mostly average, hardworking Americans who love God and their families and are eager to help a neighbor in times of need.

Throughout the years, the church has been a beacon of hope to those seeking truth and a haven to those seeking help. As a body of Christian believers, Oakland Heights also believes that it has a responsibility to not only serve our community, but to be an example.

Three years ago, the pastor and the congregation of Oakland Heights determined their responsibilities to God and the community included being good stewards; although they were burdened with over \$1 million of debt, they had a vision of being debt free.

They were determined to pay off their debt within 3 years without affecting their core ministries to the congregation or the community. It wasn’t easy. It took sacrifice; but, with determination, they stuck to their plan, lived within their means, and—in less than 3 years—made the final payment on their bank note.

During the time they were eliminating the debt, the church gave over a half a million dollars to local ministries, charities, and world missions. In less than 36 months, this relatively small congregation took on a mountain: a mountain of debt. At the end of last week’s service, after hearing a sermon about moving mountains, the congregation celebrated as they burned their bank note.

Today, I congratulate Pastor Joe McKaig and the congregation of Oakland Heights Baptist Church for achieving this significant goal and for being an example of fiscal responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, if a church with a modest congregation in an average community can pay off an overwhelming debt, I believe the most powerful and influential Nation on the Earth should be

able to pay off its overwhelming debt; but, just as with this church, it starts with a vision, followed by a plan and a determination to achieve the goal.

Mr. Speaker, I have a vision, a vision of a debt-free America. With a goal, a sound fiscal plan that includes living within our means while providing the constitutional services of our government, we can achieve a debt-free Nation.

We owe it to our children to 1 day, 1 day soon, write the final check to our creditors and burn America's bank note to the world.

FILL UP YOUR PLATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, in 2013, I participated in my first "Monte's March" to raise money for the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. Along with my friend local radio host Monte Bel Monte and several others, we walked 26 miles in 1 day, from Northampton to Greenfield, Massachusetts.

Along the way, we stopped at the Amherst Survival Center where low-income people can go to receive food, clothing, medical advice, and a number of other services to help them through hard times.

The executive director handed me a stack of paper plates. On the plates, people who used the Amherst Survival Center had written how hunger had impacted their lives.

Inspired by this simple yet powerful message, last Thursday, I launched #fillupyourplate on my Web site at mcgovern.house.gov. It is a place where people can tell me what SNAP, or food stamps, means to them or how hunger has impacted their lives. Responses are posted on my Web site to create a wall of virtual paper plates.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the House Agriculture Committee, which I am proud to serve on, held the first hearing in its top-to-bottom review of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP.

SNAP is the Nation's preeminent antihunger program that provides critical food assistance to more than 46 million Americans. Last year, 16 million children—or 1 in 5 American children—relied on SNAP. Unfortunately, every indication is that Republicans will try to cut this critical safety net program yet again.

Mr. Speaker, I fully support rigorous oversight of Federal programs, but we shouldn't single SNAP out for aggressive or unnecessary scrutiny. It already has one of the lowest error rates among all Federal programs, and CBO projections show that SNAP caseloads and spending are expected to fall as our economy continues to improve.

One of the reasons why I started the #fillupyourplate campaign was to make sure that the voices of those who use SNAP, who are struggling to make ends meet, are heard in the discussions here in Washington. All too often, the real stories of those who are struggling get drowned out by false rhetoric and partisan talking points.

Mr. Speaker, so far, I have received more than 100 virtual paper plates. I want to read just a few of the messages.

From Michelle, she wrote: "SNAP means that many junior ranking members' families will not go hungry while their military spouses are away defending this Nation."

From Patricia: "I am a single mother of two. I currently work at Dunkin' Donuts. If my SNAP benefits got cut, I would not be able to pay my rent because I would be spending all of my paychecks on food for my children. I lived in a homeless shelter for a year before coming to my apartment in October of 2014.

"If my SNAP benefits are cut, I will be back in a shelter. I do not plan on being on SNAP benefits forever. I would like to finish my degree and get a job that will support my household without any assistance, but for now, I need help."

From Cherise: "It means my children won't go to bed hungry and can function better in school because they have food in their bellies. It also lets me buy more healthy and fresh foods I wouldn't have access to if I had to pay out of pocket. I am grateful for this program. There is no joy in watching children struggle over something so easily prevented."

From Sabine: "SNAP to my family means I don't have to choose between paying the lights or making sure I feed my son breakfast in the morning. Having my SNAP benefits takes a huge load off my \$243 take-home check from work a week. With SNAP, my son is guaranteed food in his tummy."

From David: "It meant my family was still able to eat while I was between jobs. My wife had to quit her job to stay home and take care of our special-needs daughter. A month after the birth of our second daughter, I lost my job and went almost a year before finding a job that paid enough to provide for our family.

"At one time, I was holding four part-time jobs at the same time. I never thought I would have to rely on government assistance but, now, don't know how we would have gotten by without it."

□ 1030

Mr. Speaker, I am committed to making sure the voices of those who rely on SNAP are heard in the conversation here in Washington, and I am committed to end hunger now.

I would remind my colleagues that those who are on SNAP are real people

who have real families. They are facing difficult times that they hope will soon pass. Rather than cutting their food benefit or making them jump through more hoops, as some in this Chamber have advocated, we ought to support them. Too often, the focus of this Congress is on ways to help the well-off become even more well-off, but we must not forget those who are struggling. They are our constituents. They are our neighbors. They are our brothers and sisters.

I encourage people to visit my Web site, www.mcgovern.house.gov, to share what SNAP means to them.

IN HONOR OF JOHN EDWARD BUSH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Black History Month, I rise in honor of an Arkansas son, John Edward Bush, whose entrepreneurial spirit and history of service to his community continue to inspire us to this day.

John Edward Bush was born into slavery on November 14, 1856, orphaned at the age of 7, and freed from slavery at the end of the Civil War. When he had no permanent home or means to support himself, he worked odd jobs until, one day, he was taken to Capital Hill City School in Little Rock and forced to attend. He became a dedicated student, working as a brick molder to pay for his education. In 1876, he graduated with honors from Capital Hill City School in Little Rock, where he then served as principal for 2 years.

Mr. Bush served as the chairman of the Republican Party in Arkansas, but he is best known in Arkansas as the co-founder of the Mosaic Templars of America in 1883.

Together with Chester Keatts, Mr. Bush began the Mosaic Templars to aid African Americans who were being refused insurance coverage for illness, death, and funeral costs by White insurers. The efforts of Mr. Bush and Mr. Keatts, in service to their community, brought economic security and advancement to a group that had been marginalized and neglected. By 1900, the activities of the Mosaic Templars had broadened to include an insurance company, a publishing company, a nursing school, a building and loan association, a business college, and even a hospital.

What started as a small enterprise to provide services to former slaves seeking a better life evolved into a thriving business. At its height in the 1920s, the positive influence of the Mosaic Templars was felt by its more than 80,000 members belonging to chapters in 26 States and six foreign countries. While this noble institution fell on hard times during the Great Depression, its impact continued.

A pillar in the Little Rock community, Mr. Bush rose to heightened levels of prominence when he was appointed as the Receiver of Public Monies by President William McKinley. His success in this role and deep-seated sense of integrity brought him to the attention of Booker T. Washington and facilitated his reappointment four times by President Theodore Roosevelt and President Taft.

That relationship with Dr. Washington became one of trusted confidence and close friendship. Mr. Bush was invited to give the commencement address at Tuskegee, and Washington, in turn, was the dedication speaker of the Mosaic Templars' new building in 1913.

Mr. Bush passed away at the age of 60 in 1916.

Today, Mr. Bush's descendants remain pillars of our civic community in Little Rock, and his legacy lives on at the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center, which is an outstanding educational resource for our rich African American traditions in Arkansas.

As we celebrate Black History Month, we remember John Bush's legacy that continues to inspire and that remains a major and important part of Arkansas history.

DHS SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, in less than 2 days, House Republicans are prepared to shut down the Department of Homeland Security, threatening the safety of the American people.

At home, there is a noted and beloved philosopher by the name of Yogi Berra, who once said, "It's like déjà vu all over again."

And once more, House Republicans are taking the American people on another reckless, unnecessary, irresponsible legislative joy ride, guaranteed to crash and burn. You did it first in October of 2013 by shutting down the government for 16 days, crashing and burning parts of the American economy, costing us \$24 billion in lost economic productivity. Now you are prepared to crash and burn the safety and the security of the American people.

Why would you contemplate, Mr. Speaker, such a reckless action, particularly at a time when there are terrorists all across the world who want to kill Americans, including, as recently uncovered, three terrorists at home in New York determined, apparently, to bomb parts of the Coney Island district I represent? Why would you contemplate shutting down the Department of Homeland Security at this moment—or at any moment—simply to satisfy the rightwing thirst of the anti-immigration faction of your party?

Let me pause there parenthetically for a moment.

Because they seem to have concluded that this President exceeded his authority when he issued an executive action providing immigration relief, notwithstanding the fact that every President since Dwight Eisenhower has taken executive action to provide some form of immigration relief. It has occurred 39 times since the 1950s. President Eisenhower did it. President Nixon did it. President Ford did it. President Reagan did it. President George Herbert Walker Bush did it. President George W. Bush did it. But when President Obama issues an executive action to provide immigration relief to fit these times, all of a sudden, we have got a constitutional crisis.

Now, perhaps reasonable people can disagree with the lawfulness of his order, but the reasonable approach would be to allow the courts to work it out, not shutting down the Department of Homeland Security.

Many of my friends on the other side of the aisle are so-called strict constructionists. What would the constitution have us do? Well, we have got an article I legislative branch, an article II executive branch, and an article III judicial branch. The Founders have indicated, I believe, that they would have us work out constitutional differences through the court system, not by shutting down the Department of Homeland Security—causing 30,000 employees to have to go home and another 210,000 employees to have to come to work without pay, stressed, suffering from anxiety, uncertain as to how to pay their bills, pay their mortgage, pay their rent, pay their medical expenses. Do we want to subject our Homeland Security employees to that type of anxiety when terrorists only have to be right once and we have to be right 100 percent of the time?

Then I was troubled, Mr. Speaker, to learn that, apparently, you haven't spoken to MITCH MCCONNELL in several weeks. The people back home in the district that I represent and Americans all across the country are shaking their heads. I know you don't like talking to NANCY PELOSI. I know you didn't like talking to HARRY REID. You don't like talking to the President of the United States. But you can't have a conversation with Senate Republican Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL? It is not a long commute from this side of the Capitol to the other side of the Capitol. In fact, Mr. Speaker, you can take the train. Is it not reasonable that you have a conversation to try to work this out?

The American people want us to focus on bigger paychecks, better jobs, retirement security, higher education affordability, strengthening the middle class; instead, you are throwing a legislative temper tantrum, jeopardizing the safety and security of the American people? Shame on you. Let's get back to doing America's business.

THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE AND COAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, with his veto of the Keystone XL pipeline, the President has again decided to stand with radical environmentalists at the expense of the American people. Republicans and Democrats came together in both Houses of Congress to pass this commonsense bill, yet the President has seen fit to deny the American people the new jobs it would create.

The President has a demonstrated record of picking favorites in the energy industry. We all remember how the President steered billions in taxpayer dollars to Solyndra, only to see the flawed solar company collapse.

In 2014 alone, the Department of Energy directed over \$1.9 billion in taxpayer dollars to investments in alternative energy. At the same time, the President has waged war on West Virginia energy jobs. This year, the administration is expected to ratchet up that war with new ozone standards and a new stream buffer zone rule. These overreaching regulations are intentionally designed to kill coal, with devastating outcomes for West Virginia and our entire Nation.

Coal supplies over 90 percent of energy consumed in West Virginia. An escalation of the President's war on coal would cause families in West Virginia to see huge increases in their home energy prices. The escalation would also have a terrible impact on jobs in our State. The American Mining Association has projected that the new stream buffer zone regulation would destroy as many as 85,000 jobs in the Appalachian region.

The administration has also held up permitting for natural gas exports and proposed damaging regulations on the exploration of new natural gas deposits. The Keystone veto further confirms the President's commitment to continuing his obstructionist agenda.

With so much at stake for West Virginia families, we must strengthen our resolve like never before to fight for an energy policy which allows the free market and consumers to choose, not government to discriminate.

NATIONAL PAN-HELLENIC COUNCIL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we recognize the achievements of many African Americans this Black History Month, I want to acknowledge the Divine Nine, historically black fraternities and sororities of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, and the role of their members in shaping our Nation.

Divine Nine organizations consist of:

Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, founded in 1906 at Cornell University, whose brotherhood includes: the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; my colleagues Congressmen EMANUEL CLEAVER, DANNY DAVIS, CHAKA FATTAH, AL GREEN, GREGORY MEEKS, CHARLES RANGEL, DAVID SCOTT, and BOBBY SCOTT; legendary Olympic Gold Medalist Jesse Owens; National Urban League President Marc Morial; and legal pioneers Charles Hamilton Houston and Thurgood Marshall; and they are led by Grand President Mark S. Tillman.

Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity, founded in 1911 at Indiana University, includes: civil rights leader Reverend Ralph Abernathy; my colleagues Congressmen SANFORD BISHOP, WILLIAM LACY CLAY, dean of the House JOHN CONYERS, ALCEE HASTINGS, BENNIE THOMPSON, and HAKEEM JEFFRIES; General Daniel "Chappy" James, the first African American four-star general; attorney Johnnie Cochran; Dr. Bernard Harris, Jr., the first Black astronaut; Hall of Fame Chicago Bear running back Gale Sayers; and a special shout-out to a proud Kappa, Brace Clement of Seattle, Washington. They are led by Grand Polemarch William "Randy" Bates.

Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, founded in 1908 at Howard University, is a sisterhood which proudly boasts of Congresswomen SHEILA JACKSON LEE, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, TERRI SEWELL, FREDERICA WILSON, ALMA ADAMS, and BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN; astronaut Mae Jemison; the late Maya Angelou; the late civil rights leaders Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King; and their honorable president, Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson.

□ 1045

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, founded in 1911 at Howard University, men who include in their ranks Assistant House Democratic Leader JAMES CLYBURN of South Carolina, Congressmen HANK JOHNSON, and Kendrick Meek; NASA Administrator Charles Bolden; Hall of Fame Chicago Bulls star Michael Jordan; and Dr. Charles Drew, whose medical research in the field of blood transfusions led to the founding of the Blood Bank. They are led by the Honorable Grand Basileus Antonio F. Knox.

Delta Sigma Theta, founded in 1913 at Howard University, who count as sisters of our next Attorney General, Loretta Lynch; Congresswomen MARCIA FUDGE, YVETTE CLARKE, JOYCE BEATTY, and BRENDA LAWRENCE; the first African American woman elected to Congress, Shirley Chisolm, one of my sheroes; former Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman; and their Honorable President Paulette C. Walker. Another special shout-out to my bonus daughter, Michelle Mills, and my mentee, Miki Grace.

Phi Beta Sigma, founded in 1914 at Howard University, the fraternity of

my husband, Dr. Nathaniel Horn; civil rights pioneer and leader of the first Black labor union, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, A. Philip Randolph; civil rights icon Congressman JOHN LEWIS; Dr. George Washington Carver; James Weldon Johnson, author, politician, and songwriter, whose works include "Lift Every Voice and Sing," the Black national anthem; Alain LeRoy Locke, the first Black Rhodes Scholar; and former President of the United States, William Jefferson Clinton. They are led by President Jonathan A. Mason.

Zeta Phi Beta, founded in 1920 at Howard University, a sisterhood that counts Congresswoman DONNA EDWARDS; the late Congresswoman Julia Carson; author Zora Neale Hurston; Lillian Fishburne, the first African American to hold the rank of Rear Admiral in the U.S. Navy; and their honorable president, Mary Breaux Wright.

Sigma Gamma Rho, my sorority, Congresswoman CORRINE BROWN of Florida, the late Lindy Boggs of Louisiana; Eugenia Charles, first female Prime Minister of Dominica—she was the first woman elected head of government in the Americas; the first African American winner of the Academy Awards, Hattie McDaniel; broadcast trailblazer founder of Radio One, Cathy Hughes; and our esteemed Grand Basileus Bonita Herring.

Last, but certainly not least, Iota Phi Theta, whose brotherhood includes Congressman BOBBY RUSH; Billy Ocasio, former alderman to Chicago's 26th Ward and adviser to former Governor Pat Quinn; and Elvin Hayes, NBA player and NBA Hall of Fame Inductee.

The brothers and sisters of the Divine Nine have saved countless lives, advanced civil rights, and left a lasting legacy across our Nation. I thank the Divine Nine brothers and sisters for their groundbreaking contributions and for their commitment to molding future leaders, improving education, and the advancement of civil rights.

PRESERVING THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I believe this debate over the funding for the Department of Homeland Security represents a pivotal moment in the history of the United States because it will, I think, determine whether or not we will continue to be a nation of laws and whether or not we will preserve the American Republic left to us by our Founders.

I always remember that as Benjamin Franklin left the Constitutional Convention, a woman asked him: What kind of government have you given us, Dr. Franklin? And he said: A republic—

if you can keep it. My hero and mentor, Thomas Jefferson, always said that a government was republican only in proportion to the extent that it embodied the will of the people.

This past November, the people of the United States decisively and overwhelmingly rejected the policies of Barack Obama and the Democrat Party. President Obama said: I am not on the ballot, but my policies are. And the country spoke decisively and with one voice from coast to coast and said:

We are done. We want our elected officials to enforce the law. We want our borders secure. We want to ensure that America maintains its supremacy around the world. We want our American economy to continue to grow. We want the government out of our lives, out of our way, out of our pocket, and off our backs.

We have done this in Texas so successfully over the years. Because of the strength and the diversity of our economy in Texas, the economy in Texas has continued to grow, and the people of Texas have elected a Republican Governor, a Republican Lieutenant Governor, a Republican senate, and a Republican house, and they embody the will of the people of Texas.

The minority party in Texas, the Democrats in the senate, continued to block the will of the people of Texas, and the new Lieutenant Governor, Dan Patrick, changed the rules because the people of Texas insisted they wanted to see a government that reflected their will, that would enforce the law, secure the border, and preserve peace and prosperity because we all understand that without law enforcement you can't have good schools, safe streets, and a strong economy. This is just common sense.

The people who live along the Rio Grande River understand better than anybody in Texas that if you don't have a secure border and if you don't enforce the law, then the streets aren't safe, you can't have good schools, and you can't have a strong economy. Laredo is the largest inland port in the United States. They depend more than anyone else on a secure border, safe streets, and good schools.

So the people of Texas decisively rejected the policies of Barack Obama and the Democratic Party, yet the Democrat minority in the senate continued to block the will of the people so our Lieutenant Governor changed the rules.

Mr. Speaker, I would call on Leader MCCONNELL to reflect the will of the people of America and change the rules of the United States Senate just as we did in Texas. The people of America have spoken decisively. They rejected the policies of Barack Obama and the Democrat Party. They expect this Congress to see that the law is enforced, that we respect the separation of powers, and that laws are enacted by the people's elected representatives.

Change the rules, Mr. Leader, as we did in Texas, and make sure that no minority can block the will of the people. Make sure that our laws are enforced, that the border is secure, and that no one person can enact laws with the stroke of a pen. Laws are enacted here in the people's House in the Congress of the United States. The people of America voted overwhelmingly to reject the policies of Barack Obama.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the Congress to embody the will of the American people, enforce the law, and stop the policies of Barack Obama that the people just decisively rejected. Let's follow the lead of Texas. Change the rules in the Senate, Mr. Leader.

By the way, make the Democrat Senators stand up and filibuster. Let's have a real filibuster. Make them stand up there for 18, 24, 34, 48 hours. Make them stand up there as long as it takes. If they are going to have a filibuster, do it as we do in Texas. Enforce the law, follow the will of the American people, and do what we were elected to do—to preserve this great American Republic handed down to us, this precious inheritance handed down to us by the Founding Fathers, and let's honor the hope of Benjamin Franklin that we would preserve this great American Republic.

DHS SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DELBENE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, in my State of Washington, we are very familiar with the vital role the Department of Homeland Security plays. Nearly 1 year ago, in a matter of seconds, 1 square mile of land slid into the Stillaguamish River near Oso, Washington.

That landslide was a heartbreaking disaster that was unbelievably devastating in the damage and the tragic loss of life that it caused. Forty-three people died in the blink of an eye. But FEMA, which is part of the Department of Homeland Security, was immediately on the scene to coordinate search-and-rescue operations.

Mr. Speaker, Congress needs to do everything possible to ensure that resources are available to respond to disasters because landslides have no season, earthquakes have no season, and terrorist attacks have no season. By failing to fund the Department of Homeland Security, the Congress risks the lives of Americans, and that is simply unacceptable.

Now, some have said that most employees will be deemed essential, meaning they will be asked to do their already high pressure jobs of protecting our communities without pay. That will be the case for more than 6,000 workers in my State. But FEMA Ad-

ministrator Fugate said a lapse in funding would delay urgent disaster relief services because he would have to call staff back to work while the agency responds to an emergency.

Not only that, emergency responders who have requested Department of Homeland Security grants would be left without much-needed assistance. The Whatcom County Fire District 18, a mostly volunteer force that serves part of my district, applied for a \$24,000 firefighters grant to replace vital equipment. This is equipment that protects the lives of these volunteers who are saving the lives of others. But if Congress fails to fund the Department of Homeland Security, those grants are at risk.

If House leadership would simply bring a clean DHS funding bill to the floor, we have the votes to pass it today. But instead, that legislation is being held hostage because some disagree with the President's executive actions.

Mr. Speaker, I helped introduce H.R. 15, a comprehensive immigration reform bill during the last Congress. But we never got a vote. If leadership agrees that this is such an important issue, so important that it is worth defunding an essential federal agency, then Congress should be working right now on comprehensive immigration reform and consider legislation immediately—but after we finish our job of funding the Department of Homeland Security. We need to stop playing politics and fund the Department of Homeland Security now.

DHS SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, yet again, in support of a clean Homeland Security funding bill.

First, Mr. Speaker, however, I want to thank my colleague, PATRICK MCHENRY, for the tribute he gave a few moments ago to his predecessor in the 10th Congressional District of North Carolina, Cass Ballenger, who passed away last week. Cass Ballenger was a treasured colleague of mine. He and I came to the House together in the class of 1986. We worked together on a number of matters, including teacher recruitment and disaster relief. Cass used his time here and the work of his foundation to reach out to some of the neediest people in the hemisphere, in Latin America, in addressing their health care needs.

He came here after a successful business career. He was a man of great goodwill, good humor. He was someone who was a great favorite on both sides of the aisle. So I am happy to join PATRICK MCHENRY and other colleagues in

remembering Cass Ballenger fondly and paying tribute to his years of good citizenship and service.

Now, at this moment, Mr. Speaker, we are 38 hours away from a Department of Homeland Security shutdown which will undermine many of the agency's critical missions and force its essential employees to go without pay until the politics of all this are worked out.

Front-line personnel at Customs and Border Protection, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Coast Guard, the Secret Service, the Transportation Security Administration, and other critical agencies are going to be left wondering how to pay their mortgages and how to feed their families instead of focusing on their critical missions.

In North Carolina alone, Mr. Speaker, over 4,000 Homeland Security employees are going to be furloughed or go without pay.

House Republicans forced this unnecessary stalemate by including poison pill riders in the bill that our Homeland Security Subcommittee negotiated late last year. It was a bipartisan, bicameral negotiated bill. It is ready to be passed right this minute. It should have been passed in December along with the rest of the appropriations bills. Instead, Republicans held back Homeland Security, and they added riders designed to poke the President in the eye and to impose radical anti-immigration policies on our country.

Now, thankfully, Senate Republican leaders understand the potential consequences of a shutdown. They have resisted this Tea Party bait, and they have decided to take up a clean Homeland Security funding bill. So the Senate must quickly pass that bill, and Speaker BOEHNER must let us vote on that bill.

Mr. Speaker, the American people didn't send us to Washington to shut down critical functions of the United States Government on which all of our citizens depend. Pass a clean Homeland Security funding bill.

DHS SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mr. KILMER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on the House to fund the Department of Homeland Security and avoid an unnecessary shutdown. Instead of having a real debate about fixing a broken immigration system, Congress is putting at risk government operations that serve the people we represent and is playing politics with the livelihoods of our Federal workers.

□ 1100

Threatening to shut down a Federal agency because you disagree with the

President's actions is an irresponsible approach. We have got to move away from this kind of dysfunctional government and get back to legislating.

That is what the American people sent us here to do. This current fight is exhibit number one of why folks don't think Congress works for them. The folks I represent want to see a government that is responsive, that provides needed services, and that supports economic growth.

Mr. Speaker, folks in my region deal in reality. Earlier this year, residents and businesses in the cities of Aberdeen and Hoquiam and Grays Harbor County, Washington, were swamped by heavy rains. Mudslides and flooding put people's lives at risk and took a toll on neighborhoods that they call home.

Local officials were looking for help, and they got it when the Homeland Security Region 3 Incident Management Team came to town. This team worked with locals on the ground to execute the best recovery plan to get people back on their feet.

Are we willing to tell workers like that, who lend a hand at a moment's notice, to go without pay or take a furlough? Are we willing to tell communities in need that when they call for help, there is no one there?

Fourteen percent of the Department's workforce is facing furloughs. This isn't an invisible workforce. These are staffers who administer grants to local governments. They are fire departments and emergency responders after devastating storms.

These are the people who are helping the emergency teams that are on the ground in places like Hoquiam, Washington. That staff won't be able to process emergency requests, won't be able to do their jobs because Congress isn't doing its job.

We should also consider the over 80 percent of Homeland Security employees who will stay on without pay. What kind of message are we sending members of our Coast Guard or our Border Patrol or the Department when we tell them to work without pay? Mortgage payment? Still got to pay it. Utility bills? Still do. Grocery bill? Still got to eat. But paycheck? Sorry.

It is true. If the crew of a ship faced trouble in Washington State's waters, the Coast Guard would still swing into action, but that crew wouldn't get paid for their work, and some of their support staff might not be back at headquarters to help them.

I have already heard from members of the Coast Guard, spouses of Department employees, and everyday citizens worried about how this will impact our communities and our national security because, in my home State of Washington, there are over 6,000 Department workers and we have five Coast Guard stations alone in my region.

Shutdowns like this have ripple effects into our local economies, too.

When workers aren't getting pay or their pay is delayed, sacrifices are made. Less money is spent at the grocery store. Friday night dinners out are stopped. Family vacations are canceled or delayed.

It impacts local restaurants, local hotels, and small businesses. We have seen this movie before. Businesses everywhere took a hit when the customers they rely on aren't sure when exactly their next paycheck will come.

Finally, we don't motivate our Federal workforce by engaging in these stunts. We are proud of our Federal workforce in my region. Too often, Congress does not let them know that what they do is important. Too often, they are a bargaining chip in a political fight.

I came to Congress to give people confidence that their government was not broken, that it is staffed with workers dedicated to making a meaningful impact in their lives and in the lives of American citizens.

We will not see qualified and motivated folks join a workforce that faces continuous threats to the job they do every day when the message to our workers and to local businesses is that politics is more important than their paychecks.

I want to end by mentioning, yesterday, former Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge said that this shutdown was "wrong" and "folly."

He said: "These are soldiers at DHS. They wear a different uniform, but the goal and objective and mission is the same—keeping America as safe as possible."

Mr. Speaker, let's keep America safe, and let's reject this shutdown.

STRENGTHENING STUDENT PROTECTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, last year alone, over 450 teachers or school employees across the Nation were arrested for misconduct with a child. That is more than one per day. What is more, the Department of Education has estimated that nearly 10 percent of students are targets of educator sexual misconduct sometime during their school career.

Those numbers should be disturbing to every lawmaker, to every parent, and every grandparent in this body. In an effort to curb this alarming trend, I am proud that the Student Success Act under debate here today includes language from a bill that I introduced, the Jeremy Bell Act, to strengthen student protection efforts and get serious about who is being hired and transferred within our school system.

The Jeremy Bell Act was named after a young boy from West Virginia who

was drugged, sexually assaulted, and murdered by his elementary school principal—a man who had been suspected of sexual misconduct at previous jobs but was allowed to quietly transfer from district to district, avoiding repercussions and without awareness from his new employers, a shameful act known as "passing the trash."

Language found within the Student Success Act will end the practice of "passing the trash" by blocking educational agencies from receiving Federal funds if they facilitate the transfer of an employee that they know or have probable cause to believe has engaged in sexual misconduct with a student.

Furthermore, it ensures that the hiring of all school employees will be compliant with current, extensive background check requirements.

As the husband of an educator, I know the overwhelming majority of teachers, educators, school administrators, and support staff are amazing, caring individuals committed to the success of their students.

It is as much to protect the good work that they do, as well as the safety for our children, that we must pass this legislation and take real steps to address this issue.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 6 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Bruce Miroglio, St. Helena Catholic Church, St. Helena, California, offered the following prayer:

Good and gracious God, we ask Your blessing on this day You have provided for us.

As we confront all the challenges that arise from the human condition, we ask Your blessing to allow us to use our intellect and free will to guide our human affairs and to seek the blessings of freedom, personal development, and prosperity for the common good.

In Your goodness, bless the Members of our Nation's House of Representatives. May all their deliberations and discussions be inspired by the vision of Your loving kindness and saving grace.

May the work conducted here today bear rich fruit that nurtures all of the people of this Nation and their dreams for a better world and, thus, be for Your greater honor and glory.

All of this we ask in Your most holy name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CICILLINE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND BRUCE MIROGLIO

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special recognition to our guest chaplain, Deacon Bruce Miroglio.

Deacon Miroglio serves in The St. Helena Catholic Church, my church in my hometown. It is where I was baptized, received my First Communion, was confirmed, and where Jan and I renewed our wedding vows.

I was born, grew up, and still live in our community, in the community that the deacon serves, so I know personally how deeply he cares for our community and how much he and our church have given back to our town.

Growing up, Bruce didn't know if he wanted to be a priest or a lawyer, so he took the sage advice of "when you have a choice between two great things, take them both."

In both careers, he has embodied selflessness, compassion, and quiet gen-

erosity. He has guided people through challenging times, comforted them in times of grief, always pursued righteousness, and has never wavered in his devotion to bettering the lives of others.

St. Helena is blessed to have him today; and today, we, in the House, are equally as blessed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

THE SO-CALLED STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

(Mr. GIBSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, I will be voting against H.R. 589, the so-called Student Success Act. Although there are some positive reforms regarding empowerment of local schools that my constituents support in the bill, major problems with the bill remain.

For example, sadly, we have done nothing to roll back the onerous high-stakes testing regime that has led to a "teaching to the test" culture in our schools, and I want my parents, teachers, administrators, and students to know that I am listening and taking action.

I offered a bipartisan amendment to roll back to pre-No Child Left Behind levels testing requirements. Essentially, it would have cut Federal testing requirements in half that we hope would have been a catalyst for States to cut their tests as well, but for the second straight year, that amendment has been ruled out of order, despite the fact that this is so important to the American people.

The fight continues. As this bill moves to the Senate, we have allies there that are interested in empowerment and properly resourcing schools, and I look forward to working with them to get in the bill that the American people will support and we can enact.

FUNDING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I can't believe we are actually here. In just 48 hours, the Department of Homeland Security will shut down. In this day and age, with so many threats facing Americans and the rest of the civilized world, how can our colleagues even contemplate allowing the Department of Homeland Security to shut down?

In just the past couple of months, we have seen terrorist attacks in Denmark and Paris and, just yesterday, arrests in New York of individuals charged with supporting foreign terrorist organizations.

The failure to fund the Department of Homeland Security will put American lives at risk—and all to try to prove a political point.

Tying legislation against the President's executive order on immigration to the essential funding that pays the hardworking men and women, the extraordinary professionals that keep us safe, is reckless and irresponsible.

Mr. Speaker, take up a clean DHS funding bill that will pass both Chambers and be signed by the President immediately, and let's get back to the work many of us came here to do: strengthening our middle class, growing paychecks, and creating jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that will keep the Department open so it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

REMEMBERING THE 23RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE KHOJALY TRAGEDY

(Mr. ZINKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember the 23rd anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy, which took place on February 25–26, 1992.

On this evening, 23 years ago, it was the site of a cowardly massacre of 613 unarmed Azerbaijani citizens, which included 106 women, 63 children, and 70 elderly. Despite the attempts to minimize this tragedy, I stand in memory with the Azerbaijani Caucus to remember the loss.

The United States and Azerbaijan share a bipartisan and a strong relationship. As a former commander in the Navy SEALs, I know firsthand the importance of Azerbaijan's commitment.

Aside from deploying troops and equipment to Afghanistan, over one-third of nonlethal aid that was used by our troops in Afghanistan flowed through Azerbaijan.

President Kennedy once said that America would pay any price and bear any burden in the defense of liberty. I am proud that Azerbaijan and America share the same commitment to freedom and liberty.

It is important today that we take this moment to join our Azerbaijani allies in liberty in recognizing the Khojaly tragedy.

SUMGAIT POGROMS

(Ms. JUDY CHU of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, 27 years ago, as the lines of the Soviet Union were fading, the people of Nagorno-Karabakh were united in a call for a say in their own futures and greater independence from Azerbaijan. This peaceful movement for self-determination and freedom was followed by premeditated and government-sponsored attacks.

Over the next 2 years, the Armenian population in the territory of Artsakh was repeatedly victim to brutal and racially-motivated pogroms, darkly reminiscent of the days of the Armenian genocide. Hundreds were murdered, thousands were displaced, and the Armenian community, both in Artsakh and in exile, continues to bear the scars from the brutal attacks in Sumgait, Kirovabad, and Baku.

When the people of Nagorno-Karabakh officially declared independence on December 10, 1991, they were met with full-scale war lasting until 1994. Even today, the people of Nagorno-Karabakh are still forced to live under constant cease-fire violations by Azerbaijan.

As we commemorate the somber anniversary marking the struggle of the Nagorno-Karabakh people, we wish for the peaceful resolution of this conflict and hope that its citizens will be free to determine their own future.

REMEMBERING MIDDLE EAST BELIEVERS KILLED FOR THEIR FAITH

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, in the past few weeks, the Islamic State has targeted religious minorities throughout the Middle East, including the Yazidis in Iraq and the 21 Coptic Christians executed in Libya.

This week, ISIS has abducted more than 200 Assyrian Christians. We pray earnestly for their release and for comfort for their families.

These murderers want us to tremble at their physical brutality, but an even more sinister violence is at work, a sustained and strategic campaign against religious freedom. This is the God-given freedom to hold any belief—or none at all—without coercion or reprisal.

Global attention is and should be transfixed on those killed for their faith in the Middle East; yet more than

three-quarters of the world's population lives under regimes that restrict belief.

Our Nation's first freedom is not and should not be bound by geography or nation. We must defend religious freedom at all times and in all places, or this violent cycle will continue.

FUND THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

(Mr. SCHIFF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in urging the GOP leadership to advance legislation that will keep the American people safe by continuing to fund the Department of Homeland Security.

Just yesterday, with the arrest of three suspects in New York City planning to assist terror groups or join ISIS, we see the continuing imperative of a vibrant homeland security effort.

In a matter of hours, funding for the Department will expire, thereby forcing thousands of essential employees to put their lives on the line without pay. State and local law enforcement operations will be among the hardest hit if we allow funding to lapse.

By bringing a clean spending bill to the floor, we have the power to prevent the dangerous partial shutdown of the government. Our Nation's security is at stake here, and another day of inaction by this Congress is unacceptable. Let's vote on a clean spending bill today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry out the mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TROTT). As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

HONORING RENE GAGNON ON THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF IWO JIMA

(Mr. GUINTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage and sacrifice demonstrated by our marines, specifically Corporal Rene Gagnon, a Granite Stater, during the Battle of Iwo Jima.

Gagnon was selected and participated in what is arguably the most celebrated American flag raising in our Nation's history.

Immortalized by AP photographer Joe Rosenthal, six U.S. Marines, including Corporal Gagnon, raised the colors above Mount Suribachi on the

fifth day of the month-long battle for Iwo Jima.

Born to immigrants from Quebec, Gagnon grew up in Manchester, New Hampshire, and left in 1943 after being drafted. He elected to join the United States Marine Corps.

As part of Operation Detachment, a total of 92,000 men, 70,000 Americans, and 22,000 Japanese, fought to secure Iwo Jima, a tiny island controlled by the Japanese that was no larger than one-third the size of Manhattan.

As we commemorate the 70th anniversary of Iwo Jima, let us take a moment to honor Corporal Gagnon and the rest of our Nation's Greatest Generation who fought bravely to secure and preserve our Nation's democracy during World War II.

□ 1215

PULLMAN NATIONAL MONUMENT

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the history and legacy of the Pullman community of Chicago.

Last week, President Obama designated Pullman as a national monument, ensuring that Pullman's heritage as an industrial innovator and labor leader lives on.

Pullman played a vital role in our Nation's labor and civil rights movements. It is the birthplace of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, our Nation's first Black labor union, and it was a major battleground in the national fight for fair wages and safe working conditions.

I thank the countless dedicated people who worked with me and before me to make this designation possible. Pullman National Monument will preserve Pullman's legacy and ensure that the community will continue to thrive for generations to come.

FCC EXPANDING AUTHORITY OVER INTERNET

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this administration's continued policy of governing from behind closed doors and using the executive branch to take more freedom away from the American people.

Today the Federal Communications Commission will vote for an unprecedented expansion of its authority over the Internet, without providing any public discourse on the details of the proposal.

What we do know about this government invasion into the Internet is deeply troubling. The Internet has been

a source of great creativity, investment, and economic growth, an area of freedom, where innovation has flourished and entrepreneurs, startups, and anyone with an idea has opportunity.

What is Washington's answer to this booming marketplace? Government control and regulation.

One of the Commissioners has referred to it as "a solution that won't work to a problem that doesn't exist." This is deeply troubling.

I know of no industry that has become more vibrant, more free, or led to more innovation after a government takeover. Allowing the FCC to designate the Internet a regulated utility will increase taxes and allow government to decide pricing, cost, content, or anything else. This is the camel's nose under the tent.

The FCC should release its proposals and allow the American people back behind its closed doors.

DHS SHUTDOWN

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, there are just 2 days left until the Department of Homeland Security shuts down. The Department charged with keeping Americans safe is set to run out of funding tomorrow all because Republicans in Congress insist on manufacturing political crises instead of working to help hardworking Americans get ahead.

A shutdown would mean that those charged every day with protecting our safety would all be expected to report for duty without any promise of a paycheck. In my home State of New Jersey, that would mean that over 4,000 Department of Homeland Security employees, including nearly 1,600 Active Duty Coast Guard members, would go to work without any pay.

Payments to help Sandy victims recover would also not be able to be processed in the event of a shutdown. Those families have already suffered enough. They don't need a Republican shutdown making things even more difficult.

Ensuring the safety of the American people should never be a partisan issue. And now is the time to come together and do what is right to protect all of our families.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

THE HELPING FAMILIES IN MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS ACT

(Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this morning, Connecticut Senator CHRIS MURPHY and I outlined a vision for real bipartisan mental health reform. Our legislation will have some differences but also many similarities.

Both will fix the shortage of psychiatric beds; get more mental health workers, such as psychiatrists, psychologists, and social workers to help; integrate physical and mental health care; fix the rule which says severely mentally ill patients on Medicaid can't see two doctors on the same day; and better coordinate the staggering 112 Federal agencies that deal with severe mental illness.

My bill, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, will also allow treatment before tragedy. During the trial of the former marine who killed Iraq war veteran Chris Kyle, the mother of the defendant begged VA doctors to keep her son in psychiatric treatment just days before he shot and killed the decorated sharpshooter.

The reality is the system doesn't respond until after a crisis has occurred, because the only way to get treatment is if the individual is imminently homicidal or suicidal.

We have to fix those problems. We must correct HIPAA so families can help their loved ones get well. We must act now before another 40,000 die by suicide, before thousands more end up in jail, homeless, or victims of crime, and before more families suffer.

I invite Democrats and Republicans to join me as I reintroduce the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act.

DHS SHUTDOWN

(Mr. HIMES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of serving on the House Intelligence Committee. And just yesterday, in a hearing entitled "Worldwide Threats," I sat with the Chiefs of our Intelligence Services to learn about those worldwide threats. The meeting was classified, but the summary is this: there are people out there who would count it a smashing success to reap death and destruction on the homeland.

Yet my Republican friends have engineered a situation where, in 2 days, the Department of Homeland Security will shut down. It is not because they don't have an alternative to get in the way of the President's immigration initiative. A judge in Texas ruled with them. Now, I think that judge is going to be overturned, but a judge ruled with

them. Yet they are going to shut down the Department of Homeland Security.

I don't understand that, but I have got two questions:

If we shut down DHS and, heaven forbid, there is a natural disaster that destroys a community in Oklahoma or Connecticut, what are we—what are you going to tell the American people?

If, heaven forbid, one of those people who wishes this Nation ill succeeds and the Department of Homeland Security is shut down, what will we—what will you tell the American people?

A TRIBUTE TO CAMILLE JAYNE AND COMMUNITY HOUSE

(Mr. TROTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TROTT. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to pay tribute to Camille Jayne, the chair of the board of The Community House in Birmingham, Michigan. The Community House is a 92-year-old nonprofit organization with a mission to impact the lives of those it serves through education and outreach experiences.

When The Community House was badly in need of a major overhaul, it hired Camille Jayne in 2012. Camille is a strategic business, planning, marketing, and operations expert who brought over 30 years of experience to The Community House. Camille's impact has been tremendous.

In 2011, The Community House had an operating loss, but through Camille's leadership, she was able to turn things around and put The Community House back on a strong fiscal foundation. Her efforts to rebrand, remarket, and retool every business unit were instrumental in the turnaround.

The Community House is a cornerstone of the Birmingham community. Over 210,000 youth, adults, seniors, and business professionals take advantage of The Community House classes, lectures, and programs each year. All this is accomplished with a small staff of less than 40 people, which is augmented by 700 part-time staff, teachers, and volunteers.

Under Camille's leadership, there is no doubt The Community House will continue to survive and serve southeast Michigan, and I believe the best is yet to come. It is my honor to pay tribute today to Camille James' accomplishments and the great work that continues at the Birmingham Community House.

JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY: MOST DIVERSE CITY IN AMERICA

(Mr. SIRES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Jersey City, New Jersey, on its diversity and economic

growth. In the shadows of the Statue of Liberty, Jersey City is the second largest city in New Jersey and was recently named the country's most diverse city.

Jersey City's history as a city of immigrants has contributed to its current economic boom. In the late 19th and early 20th century, an influx of immigrants from Europe flocked to Jersey City to achieve the American Dream. Increasingly, immigrants have now been arriving from South America, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East seeking the same American Dream and finding it in Jersey City.

Immigrants to the city have long contributed to the economy by opening small businesses and joining the job market. Just in the past year, Jersey City has seen an upgrade in its credit rating, a continued decline in unemployment, and an ever-increasing skyline. As further proof of Jersey City's diversity, over half of the residents speak a language other than English at home, and the city council is comprised with a wide array of individuals from different ethnic backgrounds.

Jersey City is a true American melting pot, and I applaud Mayor Steve Fulop and the residents of Jersey City on its continued progress.

ALYSSA FERGUSON'S WELL

(Mr. OLSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share a story with the American people, a story of courage, love, and faith. It is a story of one of my bosses back home, a young lady, Alyssa Ferguson.

In sixth grade, Alyssa was told that she had cancer and that the cancer would likely take her young life. She was approached by the Sugar Land Make-a-Wish Foundation; but instead of wishing to meet a famous person and turning inward, Alyssa turned outward. Her wish was to have a water well built in rural Africa for people in need.

Last year, Alyssa's wish was granted; the well was dug. And this year, Alyssa's 29 rounds of chemotherapy and 30 days of radiation treatment will pay off as she goes to Africa and sips water out of her well.

I want to thank Alyssa for showing all of us that love and faith overcome all.

May God bless Alyssa Ferguson.

DHS SHUTDOWN

(Ms. MENG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today urge my colleagues to pass a Department of Homeland Security funding bill without political strings attached.

This funding is especially relevant to us New Yorkers who, unfortunately,

understand too well the consequences of terrorism. Just yesterday, three ISIS supporters were arrested in Brooklyn for their plans to travel abroad to join the terrorist group. Without adequate Homeland Security funding, we might not have caught these terrorists.

The Department of Homeland Security not only protects our borders and airports in ways we experience daily, but also works inconspicuously to guard our community by providing grants and training for law enforcement, transportation, and even local nonprofits.

Currently, DHS is unable to allocate these hundreds of millions of dollars in grants that directly assist our communities and basic infrastructure. These address the unique planning, training, organization, and exercise needs of high-threat urban areas, like New York City.

It is reckless to use Homeland Security funding as a bargaining chip. A mere political disagreement is no excuse to risk an attack on American lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean DHS funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

NATIONAL FAIRYTALE DAY

(Mr. FARENTHOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, today is national fairytale day, and my office has been having some fun with it on Twitter. I got together with the staff, and we came up with some hashtag liberal fairytales: "If you like your health insurance, you can keep it." "Benghazi was caused by a YouTube video."

But the biggest one seems to be happening right now. It is a liberal fairytale that House Republicans want to shut down the Department of Homeland Security. Weeks ago, we passed a bill fully funding it. It is the Democrats in the Senate who have refused to take up that bill and debate it and vote for closure that are going to close the Department of Homeland Security.

So on national fairytale day, we have got a whopper of a fairytale from the liberals. The fact that the Republicans want to shut down DHS is nothing but a hashtag liberal fairytale.

DHS SHUTDOWN

(Mr. NORCROSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to have a brief conversation. I spent the last 2 hours in the Committee on Armed Services, where General Keane was talking about sending the right message to our enemies, that America has to stand together as one.

So as we talk about the threats in Armed Services, we are 48 hours from shutting down Homeland Security. Let's say that again: 48 hours from shutting down the security at our airports, at our train stations, at our ports.

This is unthinkable.

I am usually not the guy that says "the sky is falling," but unless we do this in 48 hours, we are sending a message to our enemies: it is open season in America.

We can't send that message.

Please, I am asking my colleagues here in the House and certainly on the other side of the aisle to have a full and open debate on this issue. Let's take the vote. Let's get this done. Let's pass the Homeland Security bill.

□ 1230

PENNSYLVANIA'S OIL AND NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, Pennsylvania is the third-largest natural gas producer in the Nation and continues to drive record-breaking oil and natural gas production. According to new data released by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, last year shale gas production jumped 30 percent in Pennsylvania's Marcellus shale for a total of 4 trillion cubic feet, which is roughly 16 percent of what the United States consumes on an annual basis.

Mr. Speaker, communities in Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District have benefited greatly from the technological and the safety advancements that make natural gas readily available, and these benefits are not just limited to shale-producing areas.

Families and businesses all across the country are seeing the rewards of shale gas energy produced by hydraulic fracturing. American households are enjoying increases in disposable incomes due to lower costs for energy and energy-intensive products. Mr. Speaker, this success has been made possible due to regulations administered at the State level, not by adding the bureaucracy of the Federal Government.

As cochair of the bipartisan Congressional Natural Gas Caucus, I will continue to explore and promote best practices so that we can highlight the safety and positive economic impacts of natural gas.

DHS SHUTDOWN

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, the day after the election, Speaker BOEHNER and Senator MCCONNELL outlined an agenda for the so-called New American Congress, pledging to focus on the people's priorities. Well, they have obviously failed to deliver on this promise, instead allowing anti-immigrant, rightwing radicals to trump the safety of American families.

Mr. Speaker, recent events around the world provide a stark reminder of the threats we face. Yet amid the rising risks of terrorist attack, Republicans are holding critical Homeland Security funding hostage in a misguided attempt to undermine and roll back key protections for immigrant families.

To quote The Washington Post:

The fervor of Republic partisanship is immune to logic beyond an insistence on victory at any cost.

In this case, the cost is some 1,500 DHS personnel in Nevada who would be furloughed or forced to work without pay and nearly \$10 million in grant funding that Nevada counts on to protect the safety of our citizens and the over 40 million visitors who come to Las Vegas every year. Only 2 days remain until DHS shuts down. I call on Republicans: Stop holding it hostage and let's get to work.

FREEDOM RIDERS

(Mr. ROTHFUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, from time to time in our history, people have stepped forward to call this Nation to something greater. Today as we continue to celebrate Black History Month, I want to recognize three inspirational women from my district in Pennsylvania: Dorothy James, Ruby Golding, and Mary Wilson. In the 1960s they traveled down South to fight racial injustice and to join the struggle for equal rights.

Ruby Golding recalls what inspired her to join the Freedom Riders. She remembers segregated movie theaters and not being allowed to try on shoes at the local store in town. She remembers the March on Washington and hearing Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King talk about a dream he had, a dream that one day his children would not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

Ms. Golding said everyone was shocked by the size of the crowd that day and how peaceful it was. She said it was like being in one big family of all colors joining together to bring a better day to America.

Today let's recognize the legacy of Ms. James, Ms. Golding, and Ms. Wilson, and all those who joined the civil rights movement, for we have a freer nation because they had the courage to take a stand.

DHS SHUTDOWN

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, we have less than 2 days—2 days—to fund the Department of Homeland Security before they run out of money. It is a dangerous world we live in. We know that. The tragic events recently in Paris and Copenhagen and, most recently, the arrests of three alleged terrorists yesterday in New York demonstrate that Americans are at risk from a terrorist attack every day. The Senate finally realized that funding Homeland Security is more important than jeopardizing the safety of our country.

Mr. Speaker, if you need Democratic support to pass a clean—clean—Department of Homeland Security funding bill, you have my vote, and you have the overwhelming votes of the majority of Democrats.

Congress should be focusing on protecting our families. Our constitutional oath that we take when we are sworn into office every 2 years requires us to first “support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic.”

Let us not put Americans at risk because of partisan politics. It is not only irresponsible, it is immoral. Let us do the job that we were sent here to do.

MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA

(Mr. RUIZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I am an original cosponsor of H.R. 642, a bill that would help the men and women in our armed services who are victims of sexual assault get access to the care that they need.

Sexual assault is not acceptable anywhere in our society. It is not something many people like to talk about, but it is a very real problem. According to the Department of Defense, 20,000 servicemembers said they had experienced at least one incident of unwanted sexual contact in 2014.

In my time as an emergency medicine physician, I have seen the deep, longstanding, and brutal psychological trauma that results from sexual assault, and I know how critical it is that victims receive the treatment they need and perpetrators are brought to justice.

Mr. Speaker, this bill takes much-needed steps to ensure that treatment

options are more accessible for our veterans who were victims of sexual assault by helping to pay for travel expenses for those who need to seek care outside of the VA system.

Mr. Speaker, this is a medical need and a moral imperative. I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 642 and ensure servicemembers who are victims of sexual trauma receive the care they need.

DHS SHUTDOWN

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, last week Speaker BOEHNER stated that the Republicans were certainly prepared to shut down the Department of Homeland Security—a shutdown that would force thousands of TSA, Customs, Border Patrol, and Secret Service agents to work without pay.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am going to tell you, I come back and forth every week from Orange County, California. I usually go up to Los Angeles, to LAX. I was talking to my TSA guys as I went through the line, taking off my shoes. They said: Really, Ms. SANCHEZ, are they really going to do that to us? Are they really going to put our security at stake—America's security at stake? I said: They have done it before, and they are going to do it again.

I believe that it is time to pass a clean Homeland Security bill.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry out its mission of keeping America and Americans safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

RURAL HOSPITALS

(Ms. GRAHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to bring attention to rural hospitals and the important service they provide to communities across north Florida.

Last week I had the honor of touring Doctors Memorial Hospital in Bonifay, Florida. I was so inspired by the hard work of the doctors, nurses, administrators, and volunteers who treat patients who otherwise would have to drive hours for care.

Mr. Speaker, these hospitals are providing outstanding care but face unique new challenges from government regulation. In Congress, we need to make sure rural hospitals are not

overburdened by regulation that can cause more harm than good at smaller facilities.

Rural hospitals are vital to north Florida, and I am ready to work with Democrats and Republicans to make sure that we protect them.

LOOMING DHS SHUTDOWN

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, with only hours remaining before Department of Homeland Security funding is terminated, and following a 98-2 Senate vote to restore some sanity here and proceed with consideration of that funding, House Republicans are still engaged in what amounts to a family feud among Republicans that threatens all American families. American shopping malls on heightened alert, arrest of ISIS suspects, and growing global crises—all of them are apparently not enough to spur these House Republicans into action.

Mr. Speaker, House inaction is not vigilance. Your fear of immigrants and your disdain for President Obama ought not to come between us and a secure nation. Our enemies are watching. So are the front-line DHS employees and law enforcement operations who could lose. It is long past time to approve the dollars that we need to secure our American families and secure our homeland. It ought to be the top priority. There is no reason why Homeland Security should be the only Department in the entire Federal Government that is not fully funded.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 26, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 26, 2015 at 11:35 a.m.:

Appointments:
Senate National Security Working Group for the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress.
Congressional Award Board.
Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.
Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5, STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 125 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 125

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5) to support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes. No further general debate shall be in order. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-8, modified by the amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the five-minute rule and shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules. Each such further amendment shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, may be withdrawn by its proponent at any time before action thereon, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such further amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

□ 1245

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I make a point of order against consideration of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may state his point of order.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I make a point of order against House Resolution 125 because the resolution violates section 426(a) of the Congressional Budget Act. Section 426 of the Budget Act states that the Rules Committee may not waive the point of order prescribed by section 425 of that same act.

House Resolution 125 states: "All points of order against such further amendments are waived." The resolution, in waiving all points of order, waives section 425 of the Congressional Budget Act, therefore causing a violation of 426(a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado makes a point of order that the resolution violates section 426(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

The gentleman has met the threshold burden under the rule, and the gentleman from Colorado and a Member opposed each will control 10 minutes of debate on the question of consideration. Following debate, the Chair will put the question of consideration as the statutory means of disposing of the point of order.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, this point of order revolves around this entire bill being an unfunded mandate for the States; but, frankly, Mr. Speaker, this is about the work of this body and the work of this country.

Rarely in my time in Congress has this body proven itself as detached and reckless as we do today. We are just over 24 hours away from an automatic shutdown of one of our Nation's greatest defense systems to keep the American people safe, and this body—one of only two bodies with the authority to prevent that shutdown—has no plan.

President Obama made a suggestion last year that we treat families humanely, that we retain the best and brightest of each new generation, we welcome those willing to fight for their citizenship, just as we welcomed my great-grandfather and yours. He did that because this body failed to move forward on a profamily, pro-America agenda.

These are not novel concepts. We stand on a Nation settled, built, and grown by immigrants. When the President acted to give immigrants across this country hope, consistent with actions taken by prior Presidents, he acted to uphold not only the law, but one of our greatest American traditions.

Yet, touting a fundamentally antifamily and un-American agenda, Republican House leadership has made endless attempts to prevent the President's lawful action from taking place. With each repeated attempt to override our constitutional checks and balances, House Republicans are playing games with our time and taxpayer money and, right now, frankly, playing games with our national security.

Time has kept this body from focusing on real issues facing our Nation. The security of our Nation should not be sacrificed for a political agenda, nor can the livelihoods of those who put themselves on the line as our first responders and to protect American soil.

A failure to fund DHS would block critical assistance from reaching snowstorms and wildfires. It could mean a delay in FEMA funding to rebuild communities after disasters like the floods that affected my hometown of Boulder and nearby towns of Loveland and Longmont. It could impede air and ground travel safety and mean withholding of pay from already overworked TSA and CBP workers.

Mr. Speaker, the Senate has come to an agreement, by a vote of 98–2, on consideration of a clean DHS funding bill. I am a cosponsor of a similar bill in the House. The bill extracts politics from the conversation about immigration in exchange for the interests of the American people.

It removes the irrelevant policy riders that undermine the lawful authority of the President of the United States and, instead, focuses on keeping the Department of Homeland Security open through the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, this House has the opportunity to bring forward a clean DHS funding bill. We can always continue with Republican political stunts after we secure the safety of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIÉRREZ).

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to, first of all, thank the gentleman for raising the point of order.

Keeping American families safe is the first responsibility of Congress, but Republicans have decided that appeasing the anti-immigrant Tea Party extremists is more important than protecting our homeland.

Just consider one moment—every House Democrat cosponsoring clean legislation to fund DHS. It is clear, therefore, that there are sufficient votes to pass a bill immediately and keep DHS funded and open. However, House Republicans continue to block consideration of a clean bill—a clean bill—DHS bill and sustain their latest manufactured crisis—because this is a manufactured crisis.

Think about it one moment. Three—not one—three former DHS Secretaries—Secretary Ridge, Bush; Secretary Chertoff, Bush; and Secretary Napolitano, Obama—sent a letter to Senators MCCONNELL and REID calling for a clean DHS funding bill. That is Chertoff, Ridge, and Napolitano, all said—former heads of DHS, two Republicans and one Democrat:

It is imperative that we ensure that DHS is ready, willing, and able to protect the American people. To that end, we urge you not to risk funding for the operations that protect every American and to pass a clean DHS funding bill.

I think it is preposterous that Republicans can even suggest a lapse in DHS funding, dealing a blow to men and women in charge with protecting our homeland at a time when such vigilance is of the utmost necessity.

Do we need to bring up the three jihadists in New York City and Brooklyn and the continuing threats that the head of the FBI tells us exist in every State of the Union and this is a time when we are discussing that we are not going to fund the men and women on the front line at the Department of Homeland Security protecting our Nation?

This is no time for political trickery and manufactured crisis. This is a time to put America first, the safety of American citizens first, and politics and partisanship should be at the bottom rung of any consideration, but that is not what we are doing.

I think it is disrespectful to those who work at DHS, at TSA, at the Coast Guard, at the Border Patrol, ICE, and other agencies—a complete disregard to American people who trust us to govern responsibly. For what? To attack the President.

Remember what I said this morning. Holding hostage the security of our homeland will not force the President of the United States to deport every noncitizen in our country. Republicans want to make a priority deportation, but that is not going to make our country safer.

I find it a bit ironic that it seems to me that the basic reason we are not going to fund a clean DHS—which we had, we had a clean, agreed to by both sides in the House and the Senate, we were ready to go, until the Republicans woke up one day, all angry because the President went and issued an executive order. They said: We have got to go get those immigrants, so let's put at risk the funding of DHS.

That was in order to stop a program that would allow about 4 million parents of American citizen children—4 million parents of American citizen children—go through a background check, get right with the law and about 1 million DREAMers, that is young people who are in this country and came here as children.

So that is why you are holding it up. Guess what, the only thing that is holding it up is the preposterous decision by a Federal judge, which you went and handpicked—you went shopping: Let's get a judge that is going to agree with us ahead of time, and then let's declare it a victory.

Well, that decision is being appealed. If I were your side of the aisle, I would just declare victory and say, Okay, we have a judicial process that is going on, it is going to be dealt with in the courtroom, and, in the meantime, we are going to protect the American people—because, in the end, when this is all said and done, if you shut down DHS, you do not stop the processing of the documentation for undocumented workers and for DREAMers. You don't stop it.

Why? Because not a cent of DHS funding comes from here. Do you know

where it comes from? From the application fee that they pay. So there will be money to pay those workers within the context, but you are not going to pay a Coast Guard member?

Mr. POLIS. Reclaiming my time, I think what you are saying is if the Republicans shut down the Department of Homeland Security, the only thing the Department will be able to do is to process the paperwork for undocumented immigrants, and they won't be able to fulfill their functions keeping our Nation safe.

I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Absolutely. In other words, we are going to put at risk the safety of our Nation while, at the same time, the 5 million that they call “illegal” are getting legalized because—how is it that you finance that? Through their contributions and the money that they have to spend in the application fee.

So you don't reach the purpose. You have put in jeopardy the safety of our Nation in order to punish a group of people you can't punish. You can't punish them because they are paying for it.

American citizens, while you are waiting for your visa, while you are waiting for your citizenship application, while you are waiting for that, guess what, the Republicans have decided you need to wait while the 5 million that the President said he wants to legalize continue to get processed.

It is absurd what is going on here. We are putting at jeopardy the American people. You don't think the Border Patrol is an essential protection to the Nation? I don't know how you can say that on that side of the aisle because every other word is: Secure the border, secure the border, secure the border.

But when it comes to securing the border, you say: Let's not fund it. We are not going to fund securing the border today. We are simply going to let it lapse and say to those Border Patrol agents, Do you know what? Why don't you show up and secure the border, but we are not going to give you enough money to pay your mortgage, we are not going to give you enough money in order to pay your groceries or pay your heating bill. We are not going to pay you for securing the border because we think we need to punish President Obama and all of those who would think that we might need to reprioritize how it is.

Lastly, I want to say to the gentleman from Colorado, in the end—in the end—there are 5 million American citizens—children—who are going to remember this day, 5 million American citizen children who are going to remember this.

Do you know how they are going to remember it? They are going to remember their moms and their dads who were undocumented—these Americans,

5 million of them—and eventually, they are going to reach 18 years of age, and they are going to vote.

When they go vote, do you know what they are going to remember with their first vote? Who treated their parents so cruelly and so miserably.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I claim the time in opposition to the point of order and in favor of consideration of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 10 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I like my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, but saying that we are politicizing some issues is a little bit just stretching the issue, it seems to me.

The question before the House is: Should the House now consider H. Res. 125? This has nothing to do with UMRA. CBO estimates that H.R. 5 contains no intergovernmental or private sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, or UMRA. This is a dilatory tactic and, I might add, a bit of a political tactic, which is what we are accused of.

As the gentleman from Colorado is aware, we are currently waiting on a bill from the Senate. We currently have a rule before us that provides for consideration of over 40 amendments, including two from the gentleman from Colorado, to an important education bill. There is no reason to prevent consideration of this rule while we wait for the Senate to do its work.

In order to allow the House to continue its scheduled business for the day, I urge Members to vote “yes” on the question of consideration of the resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

The question is, Will the House now consider the resolution?

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 224, nays 167, not voting 41, as follows:

[Roll No. 91]

YEAS—224

Abraham	Brady (TX)	Coffman
Aderholt	Brat	Cole
Allen	Bridenstine	Collins (GA)
Amash	Brooks (AL)	Collins (NY)
Amodei	Brooks (IN)	Comstock
Babin	Buchanan	Conaway
Barletta	Buck	Cook
Barr	Bucshon	Costello (PA)
Barton	Burgess	Crawford
Benishkek	Byrne	Culberson
Bilirakis	Calvert	Curbelo (FL)
Bishop (MI)	Carter (GA)	Davis, Rodney
Black	Carter (TX)	Denham
Bost	Chabot	Dent
Boustany	Clawson (FL)	DeSantis

DesJarlais	Kinzingler (IL)	Roby
Diaz-Balart	Kline	Rogers (AL)
Dold	Knight	Rogers (KY)
Duffy	Labrador	Rohrabacher
Duncan (SC)	LaMalfa	Rokita
Duncan (TN)	Lamborn	Rooney (FL)
Ellmers (NC)	Lance	Ros-Lehtinen
Emmer (MN)	Latta	Ross
Farenthold	LoBiondo	Rouzer
Fincher	Loudermillk	Royce
Fitzpatrick	Love	Russell
Fleischmann	Lucas	Ryan (WI)
Fleming	Lummis	Salmon
Flores	MacArthur	Sanford
Forbes	Marchant	Scalise
Foxx	Marino	Schock
Franks (AZ)	Massie	Schweikert
Frelinghuysen	McCarthy	Scott, Austin
Gibbs	McCaull	Sensenbrenner
Gibson	McClintock	Sessions
Gohmert	McHenry	Shimkus
Goodlatte	McKinley	Shuster
Gosar	McMorris	Simpson
Gowdy	Rodgers	Smith (MO)
Granger	McSally	Smith (NE)
Graves (GA)	Meehan	Smith (NJ)
Graves (LA)	Meng	Smith (TX)
Graves (MO)	Messer	Stefanik
Griffith	Mica	Stewart
Grothman	Miller (FL)	Stivers
Guinta	Miller (MI)	Stutzman
Guthrie	Moolenaar	Thompson (PA)
Hanna	Mooney (WV)	Thornberry
Hardy	Mullin	Tiberi
Harper	Mulvaney	Tipton
Harris	Murphy (PA)	Trott
Hartzler	Neugebauer	Turner
Heck (NV)	Newhouse	Upton
Hensarling	Noem	Valadao
Herrera Beutler	Nugent	Wagner
Hice, Jody B.	Nunes	Walden
Hill	Olson	Walker
Holding	Palazzo	Walorski
Huelskamp	Palmer	Walters, Mimi
Huizenga (MI)	Paulsen	Weber (TX)
Hultgren	Pearce	Webster (FL)
Hunter	Pittenger	Wenstrup
Hurd (TX)	Pitts	Westerman
Issa	Poe (TX)	Westmoreland
Jenkins (KS)	Poliquin	Whitfield
Jenkins (WV)	Pompeo	Williams
Johnson (OH)	Posey	Wilson (SC)
Johnson, Sam	Price, Tom	Wittman
Jolly	Ratcliffe	Womack
Jones	Reed	Woodall
Jordan	Reichert	Yoder
Joyce	Renacci	Yoho
Katko	Ribble	Young (AK)
King (IA)	Rice (SC)	Young (IA)
King (NY)	Rigell	Zeldin

NAYS—167

Adams	Cooper	Gutiérrez
Aguilar	Costa	Hahn
Bass	Courtney	Hastings
Becerra	Crowley	Heck (WA)
Bera	Cuellar	Higgins
Beyer	Cummings	Honda
Bishop (GA)	Davis (CA)	Hoyer
Blumenauer	Davis, Danny	Huffman
Bonamici	DeFazio	Israel
Boyle, Brendan	DeGette	Jeffries
F.	Delaney	Johnson, E. B.
Brady (PA)	DelBene	Kaptur
Brown (FL)	DeSaulnier	Keating
Brownley (CA)	Deutch	Kelly (IL)
Bustos	Dingell	Kennedy
Butterfield	Doyle, Michael	Kildee
Capps	F.	Kilmer
Capuano	Duckworth	Kind
Carney	Edwards	Kirkpatrick
Carson (IN)	Engel	Kuster
Cartwright	Eshoo	Langevin
Castor (FL)	Esty	Larsen (WA)
Castro (TX)	Farr	Lawrence
Chu, Judy	Fattah	Levin
Cicilline	Frankel (FL)	Lewis
Clark (MA)	Fudge	Lieu, Ted
Clarke (NY)	Gabbard	Lipinski
Clay	Gallego	Loeb
Cleaver	Garamendi	Lofgren
Clyburn	Graham	Lowenthal
Cohen	Green, Al	Lowey
Connolly	Green, Gene	Lujan Grisham
Conyers	Grijalva	(NM)

Luján, Ben Ray	Pingree	Sires
(NM)	Pocan	Slaughter
Lynch	Polis	Smith (WA)
Maloney,	Price (NC)	Swalwell (CA)
Carolyn	Quigley	Takai
Matsui	Rangel	Takano
McCollum	Rice (NY)	Thompson (CA)
McDermott	Richmond	Thompson (MS)
McGovern	Roybal-Allard	Titus
Meeks	Ruiz	Tonko
Moore	Ruppersberger	Torres
Moulton	Rush	Tsongas
Murphy (FL)	Ryan (OH)	Van Hollen
Nadler	Sánchez, Linda	Vargas
Napolitano	T.	Veasey
Neal	Sanchez, Loretta	Vela
Nolan	Sarbanes	Velázquez
Norcross	Schakowsky	Visclosky
O'Rourke	Schiff	Walz
Pallone	Schrader	Wasserman
Pascarella	Scott (VA)	Schultz
Payne	Scott, David	Watson Coleman
Pelosi	Serrano	Welch
Perlmutter	Sherman	Wilson (FL)
Peters	Sinema	Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—41

Ashford	Garrett	McNerney
Beatty	Grayson	Meadows
Bishop (UT)	Himes	Perry
Blackburn	Hinojosa	Peterson
Blum	Hudson	Roe (TN)
Cárdenas	Hurt (VA)	Roskam
Chaffetz	Jackson Lee	Rothenfus
Cramer	Johnson (GA)	Sewell (AL)
Crenshaw	Kelly (PA)	Speier
DeLauro	Larson (CT)	Walberg
Doggett	Lee	Waters, Maxine
Ellison	Long	Young (IN)
Fortenberry	Luetkemeyer	Zinke
Foster	Maloney, Sean	

□ 1320

Mr. VELA changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. BURGESS, ROKITA, and NUGENT changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the question of consideration was decided in the affirmative.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 91 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 91 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 91 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 91 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 91 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall vote No. 91, a recorded vote on the question of consideration of H. Res. 125—the rule providing for further consideration of H.R. 5—Student Success Act (unfunded mandates point of order). Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately on February 26, 2015, I missed rollcall vote No. 91, On Question of Consideration of the Resolution, because I was in a meeting with Administration officials on behalf of my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, on February 26, 2015, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote 91, On Question of Consideration of the Resolution, H. Res. 125. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay." I respectfully request that this be noted in today's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on February 26, 2015—I was not present for rollcall vote 91. If I had been present for this vote, I would have voted: "nay."

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, on February 26th, I missed one recorded vote. I would like to indicate how I would have voted had I been present. On rollcall No. 91, I would have voted "no."

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote No. 91 regarding the "On Question of Consideration of the Resolution" (Providing for further consideration of H.R. 5, the Student Success Act, H. Res. 125). Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York). The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 125 provides for a structured rule providing for the consideration of a number of amendments to H.R. 5, the Student Success Act.

My colleagues on the House Education and the Workforce Committee and I have been working to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Our efforts in reauthorization have centered on four principles: reducing the Federal footprint in education, empowering parents, supporting effective teachers, and restoring local control.

H.R. 5, the Student Success Act, ensures that local communities have the flexibility needed to meet the needs of their students. This legislation reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, also known as ESEA, for 5 years while making commonsense changes to update the law and address some of the concerns raised following the last reauthorization.

Despite good intentions, there is widespread agreement that the current law is no longer effectively serving students. Instead of working with Congress to reauthorize ESEA, the Obama administration began offering States

temporary waivers in 2011 to exempt them from onerous requirements in exchange for new Federal mandates from the Department of Education. These waivers are a short-term fix to a long-term problem and leave States and districts with uncertainty about whether they will again be subject to the failing law and if the administration will change the requirements necessary to receive a waiver.

It is time to give students, parents, teachers, and school districts the certainty to make decisions and the flexibility to make the best decisions for their communities. H.R. 5 is a step in the right direction and will provide this certainty and flexibility.

Since Republicans returned to the majority in the House in 2011, we have held 20 hearings on the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The committee considered five reauthorization bills in four mark-ups in the 112th Congress in addition to a markup and a favorable reporting of H.R. 5 in 2013 and again this month.

I am pleased to work with my colleagues on the Rules Committee to report rules for floor debate and the consideration of legislation that promotes transparency and participation. In this case, I think we will have a terrific opportunity to further improve the bill through the amendment process. Forty-four amendments are made in order by this rule, including over 20 Democratic amendments and nine bipartisan amendments. The House will have the opportunity to work its will. I urge my colleagues to support this rule and the underlying bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

If Congress doesn't act, the Department of Homeland Security will shut down in 2 days. Republicans are playing a very dangerous game with our Nation's security. Today, I am giving the House a fourth chance to have a straight up or down vote on a clean DHS funding bill.

If we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to bring up H.R. 861, which will fund the Department of Homeland Security through the end of fiscal year 2015 without any poison pill provisions. We need to put an end to this stalemate and take immediate action to keep our country safe.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment in the RECORD, along with extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. AGUILAR) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so that it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would advise that all time has been yielded for the purpose of debate only.

Does the gentlewoman from North Carolina yield for the purpose of this unanimous consent request?

Ms. FOXX. I do not.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from North Carolina does not yield. Therefore, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TORRES) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so that it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentlewoman from North Carolina yield for the purpose of this unanimous consent request?

Ms. FOXX. I do not.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from North Carolina does not yield. Therefore, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

□ 1330

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I, too, ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentlewoman from North Carolina yield for the purpose of this unanimous consent request?

Ms. FOXX. I do not yield.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from North Carolina does not yield. Therefore, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I would like to reiterate my earlier statement that all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only. I do not yield for any other purpose and will not yield for any other purpose.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding, and I ask

unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair understands that the gentlewoman from North Carolina has not yielded for that purpose. Therefore, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. FRANKEL) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair understands that the gentlewoman from North Carolina has not yielded for that purpose. Therefore, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, with barely 24 hours remaining, I yield to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry out its mission of keeping Americans safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair understands that the gentlewoman from North Carolina has not yielded for that purpose. Therefore, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, with barely 24 hours left before the expiration of funding for the Department of Homeland Security, I yield to my colleague from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) for a very important unanimous consent request.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair understands that the gentlewoman from North Carolina has not yielded for that purpose. Therefore, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security fund-

ing bill that will keep the Department open so that it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As previously announced, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, a clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that will keep the Department open so that it is able to protect the American people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As previously announced, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, with barely more than 24 hours remaining before the shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security, I yield to my colleague from New York (Mr. TONKO) for the purpose of a very important unanimous consent request.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so that it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As previously announced, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As previously announced, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, my colleague from California (Ms. JUDY CHU) has a solution to the funding impasse at DHS, and I yield to her for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry out the mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As previously announced, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House

bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry out its mission of keeping Americans safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As previously announced, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), who is an appropriator herself, for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861. Let's protect the American people. The clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill should be brought before the House so we can keep it open and carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As previously announced, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe and administering disaster relief.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As previously announced, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY), who has a solution to the funding impasse at DHS, for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry out not only its mission, but it can also keep the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As previously announced, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, with barely more than 24 hours left before the closure of the Department of Homeland Security, I yield to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As previously announced, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr.

HUFFMAN) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, a clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry out its important mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As previously announced, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. TED LIEU), who has a solution to the funding impasse at the Department of Homeland Security, for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry out its critical mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As previously announced, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleading and asking unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that, in this climate of terrorism, would keep the Department open so that it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As previously announced, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, with just over 24 hours remaining before the Department of Homeland Security shuts down, I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), who has a solution to this impasse.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As previously announced, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As previously announced, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry out the mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As previously announced, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, with just over 24 hours remaining before the Department of Homeland Security shuts down, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) for a unanimous consent request to address this funding impasse.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. I thank the gentleman from Colorado for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As previously announced, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, the territories are also affected by a lapse in Homeland Security. Fortunately, Ms. PLASKETT is here with a solution. I yield to the gentlewoman from the U.S. Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that will keep the Department open so it can carry out its critical mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As previously announced, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that will keep the Department open so it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As previously announced, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, in just over 24 hours the Department of Homeland Security will run out of funding. Fortunately, I have a colleague who has a solution to this impasse. I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, House of Representatives, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open and carry out its mission—and the number one mission of the United States Congress is to protect the American people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As previously announced, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. LANGEVIN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so that it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As previously announced, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, with barely more than 24 hours remaining before the Department of Homeland Security shuts down, my colleague has an idea that he would like to propose to address that. I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As previously announced, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, a lot of my colleagues have made unanimous consent requests. I, too, would like to make a unanimous consent request, and I yield to myself for that purpose.

I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would ensure that Border Patrol agents, TSA screeners, Coast Guard members, and Secret Service agents would continue to be paid for protecting the American people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As previously announced, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

□ 1345

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. POLIS. How many cosponsors does H.R. 861, the Department of Homeland Security funding bill, currently have?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may consult the records of the House for that information.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, upon further parliamentary inquiry, how many of H.R. 861's cosponsors are Republican?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may consult the records of the House for that information.

Mr. POLIS. The records of the House that I have indicate that there are 192 Members of the House that are cosponsors of funding the Department of Homeland Security, and my records further indicate that zero are Republican.

Point of parliamentary inquiry, do your records agree with mine?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair does not have that information.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, further parliamentary inquiry. Since we are 2 days away from the Department of Homeland Security shutting down, compromising the ability of the Border Patrol, the TSA, and the Coast Guard, who does have the authority to call up H.R. 861, the Department of Homeland Security funding bill?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will not issue an advisory opinion.

Mr. POLIS. Well, Mr. Speaker, we have seen a number of colleagues try to bring it up. I have tried to bring it up. I hope that the Chair will advise whoever has the ability to bring it up to bring it up.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman yield to himself for debate?

Mr. POLIS. I yield to myself for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

I ask unanimous consent to amend H.R. 125 to include language allowing for the House to debate and have an up-or-down vote on H.R. 861, the Homeland Security funding bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentlewoman from North Carolina yield for the purpose of this unanimous consent request?

Ms. FOXX. I do not.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from North Carolina does not yield. Therefore, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Well, it looks like we are going to talk about education. Now, that is a very important topic. I agree with my colleague, Dr. Foxx, and I am glad that none of the time that we have been trying to fund the Department of Homeland Security has in any way detracted from this important debate.

I think the point that has been made is that here we are, barely more than 24 hours from compromising the security of our country. Yes, of course, the education debate is critical; but couldn't we take a moment to approve one of those unanimous consent requests?

Probably in the time it took to hold them all, we probably could have had a vote on the bill which would have passed and actually prevented a shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security.

Again, we are here to talk about the rule under which H.R. 5, the bill that reauthorizes ESEA, will be considered under. Now, this effort and this bill—and ESEA is very near and dear to my heart and my career experience.

Throughout my career, Mr. Speaker, I have had the opportunity and been blessed to have been involved with education policy and on the ground in a number of different ways and levels.

I served as chairman of the Colorado State Board of Education. I launched a network of public charter schools for English language learners. I cofounded a charter school for homeless youth and youth in transitional housing.

I have sat for several years on the House Education and Workforce Committee. My district is home to Colorado's two flagship universities, CU Boulder and CSU in Fort Collins. On a more personal level, my son C.J. is approaching the age where he is going to begin school this fall.

What I am saying, Mr. Speaker, is that, throughout my career, education has always been my top priority because I have personally seen the difference that it can make in people's lives, from early childhood education and quality preschool and kindergarten, all the way through adult education programs to help make sure that adults have the ability to have good jobs in a changing workforce.

Almost every day, one of my constituents contacts my office about education. Just last week, I met with several principals to talk about the need for good, professional development in schools.

Last week, I heard from a parent that is concerned about the culture of overtesting in her son's school. Just yesterday, a constituent of mine told me about her own upbringing and success in Colorado schools.

Today, we are considering H.R. 5, the Student Success Act. This bill would reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education—by the way, Mr. Speaker, if you can't handle the gavel, I will be happy to take it myself.

Put more simply, this bill is about the Federal role in education policy. Now, there are a lot of problems with No Child Left Behind. I think that is something we hear from our colleagues on both sides of the aisle, something that all of us have heard in our constituencies, from families, from teachers, from School board members, pent-up frustrations at the lack of change in almost 15 years of a policy that had several failings that we knew about right away—whether it is the flawed and superficial mechanism of AYP, or Adequate Yearly Progress, whether it

is the frustrating paperwork and bureaucracy that it puts sometimes ahead of education.

This is a very important piece of legislation, and it should be treated seriously. Unfortunately, this House hasn't held a single hearing on education before moving forward with this bill. The Chamber and the committee haven't held any hearings on this important legislation. When asked, the chairman, Chairman KLINE, said that: Well, the committee held hearings before in several other years.

But this is a different Congress. There are new Members. Our own committee has new members who have never gotten to witness a single hearing on education before moving through with an incredibly important piece of legislation.

I will be part of this debate in the coming hours if this rule passes regarding the amendments around this bill, the content of the bill itself. As my north star, what I look for in a successful reauthorization of ESEA and replacing No Child Left Behind with the Federal education law that makes sense is really threefold.

Number one, we must get accountability right; number two, we must expand and replicate what works in public education; and, number 3, we must change what doesn't work in public education.

Let's talk about getting accountability right. Unfortunately, this bill falls short in this regard. It has an enormous loophole that threatens to drive underground and remove the accountability for kids with disabilities.

That is why this bill is opposed by a number of groups that represent children with disabilities, special education teachers, and all those who are concerned about how the 12 or 13 percent of children in our schools that receive special education services succeed.

What mechanism is that loophole? Well, here is what it is. There is a number in ESEA, No Child Left Behind, 1 percent. That is a cap on the number of kids that are allowed to be given an alternative assessment.

Now, clearly, there will be some kids that can't have an ordinary assessment, some of the most severe-needs special education kids. It doesn't even matter that much what that number is, as long as it is reasonable, whether it is half a percent or 1½ percent, whether it is three-quarters of a percent or even 2 percent. What is important is that it is uniform and it reasonably approaches the kids that are unable to take the test.

What this bill does is it removes that cap altogether. It says States can administer alternative assessments that are not included in the mainstream accountability program to whomever they want—meaning a State that might not be teaching or serving kids

with special needs could simply say: All kids receiving special education services and IDA services, all 12 percent of our district or our State, will take this other assessment that will not be incorporated in the mainstream accountability.

That is what the special-needs community fears, and it is a very reasonable fear because, look, we are elected officials, Mr. Speaker. I think some of our friends and perhaps people who are not our friends have become Governors of other States. Former Members of this body have become Governors.

Guess what, Governors aren't too different than people in this body. They like to look good. They like to look like they are successful. They don't want to create a dataset that shows that they are failing kids.

It is much easier to dumb down the standards and exempt children from the testing, and that is the second part of accountability that this bill gets wrong. It allows for a dumbing down of the standards.

One of the great steps that No Child Left Behind and the President built upon with his Race to the Top initiative is that States need to have college and career-ready standards.

There is a mechanism in place to make sure that those standards are certified by institutions of higher education within a State, meaning that if you graduate a high school with a diploma, you ought to have the academic skills needed to succeed in college. If not, what does a high school diploma even mean?

Unfortunately, what this bill does is it takes out that backstop of college and career-ready standards, as certified by the public institutions of higher education in the State, allowing another glaring loophole for States to define success downward to make themselves look better.

Now, let's talk about replicating and expanding what works. On that account, this bill does somewhat better. Now, I wish it included our innovations in education amendment which we offered in committee and, again, on the floor that, unfortunately, was not allowed. It is a very highly leveraged way to invest in high-promise programs that work.

It does have some excellent language around replicating and expanding successful public charters schools, as well as several amendments that would strengthen and build upon that language as well.

Finally, with regard to what doesn't work in education and changing it, this bill also falls short. We need to invest in real change in schools that aren't working.

One thing that this bill guts are the teeth behind the turnaround models in turning around our low performing schools. There is no guarantee that these investments would be data driven

or that they would work to ensure that some of our most persistently low performing schools would improve and allow children a chance to succeed.

Now that this bill might be coming to the floor, Members should at least have the opportunity to amend and improve the bill.

Now, in our Rules Committee meeting yesterday, I supported an open rule for amendment to H.R. 5. Frankly, there was a lot of bad amendments offered to this bill that were blocked. There were also a lot of good amendments that were blocked.

Now, there were 44 amendments that are allowed to be considered under this bill, and I am grateful that two of the five amendments that I offered will be voted on here today as well, as well as the Democratic substitute that our committee ranking member, Mr. SCOTT, put forward as supported by the Democrats on our committee.

Mr. SCOTT's substitute ensures that the spirit of the ESEA, as Federal civil rights legislation, is maintained and built upon.

One of the amendments that I will be talking about later would encourage charter schools to work closely with public schools to collaborate and share best practices, tying into the second principle of ESEA reauthorization: expand and replicate what works in public education.

Another one of my amendments would allow States to use funds for the creation and distribution of open source textbooks, resulting in significant cost savings for the States. It is simply an allowable use and can save many districts and charter schools money.

In addition, I want to highlight another few amendments that were very important that will be allowed under this bill.

Representative SUSAN DAVIS' amendment would amend the definition of school leader and ensure that principals are receiving the full amount of professional development as the funds are available to them.

Mr. CASTRO's amendment seeks to improve the college and career readiness of homeless youth.

These are just a few of the amendments from my Democratic colleagues that I look forward to supporting today.

Now, although these amendments were in order, there were also several positive suggestions that would have been improvements to the bill but, unfortunately, won't be coming to the floor under this rule.

For instance, an important amendment by Representative LANGEVIN would have required States to have college and career-ready standards, addressing that glaring loophole in the base Republican bill. Unfortunately, that amendment wasn't brought to the floor.

Another example is a colleague of mine presented an idea which is on the tips of many of our tongues—and, frankly, I would have liked to have seen defeated on the floor of the House, but it wasn't even allowed a vote.

Representative SALMON offered an amendment that would completely eliminate Federal testing. Now, I think it would have been great for this Congress, Democrats and Republicans, to defeat that amendment and make a powerful statement that we believe in accountability.

Yes, we believe that where taxpayer money goes, taxpayers deserve transparency and accountability. Unfortunately, we won't have the opportunity to make that statement.

A number of other amendments that would have improved the bill or would have provided an opportunity for Members of this body to do their work have, unfortunately, been prevented under this rule.

I look forward to discussing the merits of the rule and the merits of the bill. I have a number of colleagues who have joined us on the floor to join us in this discussion as well, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I was going to remark on the fact that our colleague from Colorado has given us some levity, but it has been so long since the levity occurred, I am not sure anybody would remember it.

However, I do think it is important to point out that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle continually tell us how our legislation falls short of the ideal that they would like to see.

I would like to remind our colleagues that, for 2 years, the Democrats were in control of the House and the Senate. Two years, they had the House and the Senate and the White House.

If they had been so interested in reauthorizing this legislation and lots of other legislation that they criticize us about, they should have brought that ideal legislation forward at that time and passed it.

□ 1400

I would also like to point out, despite what our colleague says about no hearings on this bill, that since we returned to the majority in the House in 2011, we have held 20 hearings on the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The committee considered five reauthorization bills in four markups in the 112th Congress, in addition to a markup and the favorably reporting of H.R. 5 in 2013 and again this month.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to my colleague from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, we all agree that every child deserves the absolute best education, but that is really not what is at

issue for those who oppose the Student Success Act. What is at issue is how that should be accomplished: Is the Federal Government better at ensuring that our children receive the proper education or do we do a better job at the local level?

I will tell you my experience with education. My father served on the Board of Education and then served in the administration of one of the fastest growing school districts in my district. My mother was also a schoolteacher. So I learned a lot about what works in education at the kitchen table every night.

Now, I can tell you this. As far as my experience is concerned, the Federal Government does not know what is best for our schools. In fact, I was in our district last week, and what I learned is that the compliance requirements required by the Federal Government for our teachers is actually not allowing our teachers the time to teach what these young people need to learn.

What we need in our school systems is innovation. That is not driven at the Federal level.

When I was in my district last week, I visited three elementary schools and a couple of high schools. What I learned was, at the local level, real innovation. We saw students that were excited, that wanted to be at school. I would like to tell you about another school. And these schools were in the most impoverished areas of our district.

One is a school there in my district that folks attend because they are told in the public school that they won't make it, that they don't have what it takes to make it in the public school. Let me tell you how innovative this school is, and it does not receive one Federal dollar. The graduates of this school and middle school are recruited to some of the best magnet, charter, and private schools in our area when they finish.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. FOXX. I yield the gentleman an additional minute.

Mr. ALLEN. Thank you.

Like I said, this school produces through innovation and teaching techniques. It changes the cycle.

What would happen to these children in the public school system under the guidance of the Federal Government for the last 50 years? Aren't they worth saving?

Parents, teachers, and local education leaders need control over education, not the Federal Government. They are best suited to nurture student success in our schools. H.R. 5 does just that. It restores local control.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago, in the Central Texas one-room schoolhouse where he had studied, President Lyndon B. Johnson first signed this Federal aid to education act into law. Through its first title, this law addresses inequality in educational opportunity. Title I has played a vital role in helping schools so that economically disadvantaged students can work their way into the middle class.

Today, the same reactionary forces that first opposed President Johnson want to undermine this important civil rights law. Today's bill is supported by the same ideologues who have opposed the very concept of any Federal aid to education, who in the past disparaged on this floor public schools as being "government schools," and who have even tried to abolish the Department of Education.

Well, this Student Success Act is really a "Student Regress Act" or a "How Little Can We Do in Washington Act."

For San Antonio ISD, for Austin, and for so many other schools, this bill means less Federal support at a time when our schools are asked to do even more.

In States like Texas, where school inequality is severe, the State leadership has demonstrated time and time again that Federal education block grants only lead to blockheaded decisions. "Block grant" is an apt term because it is designed to block access to achieve educational excellence in our public schools.

Without a firm requirement in Federal law that the States cannot use the Federal dollars to just supplant the deficient funding levels they have, a State like Texas can and has simply used Federal education dollars to fill its budget gaps, with irresponsible officials, like Rick Perry, using the money for corporate tax breaks instead of helping our schoolchildren.

So today we look at this bill and we see that, despite extensive research on brain development, on the importance of early, quality education for our youngest Americans, despite bipartisan support across the country, despite the incredible return that it offers on every dollar of public investment, early childhood education is nowhere to be found. It is missing in action in this bill.

This bill threatens protections for special education. It fails to address the unique challenges of at-risk students. It ignores the needs of students who need to learn English. It ends the requirement of professional development support that encourages innovative teaching.

It is why I say that a grade of F is entirely too high for this piece of legislation. I think a grade of X, Y, or Z might be more appropriate. Reject it until we have a Congress committed to a meaningful Federal role in advancing

individual opportunity and ensuring a globally competitive workforce.

Ms. FOXX. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, over the last five decades, the Federal Government's role in elementary and secondary education has increased dramatically. The Department of Education currently runs more than 80—more than 80—K-12 education programs, many of which are duplicative or ineffective.

As a school board member, I saw that the vast reporting requirements for these Federal programs tie the hands of State and local school leaders to make the best education available to their students. Since 1965, Federal education funding has tripled, yet student achievement remains flat. More money clearly is not going to solve the challenges we face in education.

Unfortunately, the Obama administration has refused to work with Congress to address these challenges and has, instead, taken unprecedented action to further expand its authority over America's schools.

Through the President's waivers scheme and pet programs, such as Race to the Top, the Secretary of Education has granted himself complete discretion to use taxpayer dollars to coerce States into enacting the President's preferred education reforms. Adding insult to injury, President Obama continues to push for more Federal education spending, requesting a staggering \$70.7 billion in discretionary funding alone for the Department of Education in his fiscal year 2016 budget.

Our children deserve better. It is time to acknowledge more taxpayer dollars and more Federal intrusion cannot address the challenges facing schools.

H.R. 5, the Student Success Act, will streamline the Nation's education system by eliminating more than 65 duplicative and ineffective Federal education programs, cutting through the bureaucratic red tape that is stifling education in the classroom, and granting States and school districts the authority to use Federal education funds to meet the unique needs of their students.

The bill also requires the Secretary of Education to identify the bureaucrats in Washington who run the programs which will be eliminated in H.R. 5 and to eliminate their positions, ensuring that the bureaucracy shrinks with the programs.

Additionally, this legislation will take definitive steps to limit the Secretary's authority by prohibiting him or her from coercing States into adopting academic standards like the Common Core. It also halts the executive overreach in the waiver process by prohibiting the Secretary from imposing extraneous conditions on States and local districts in exchange for a waiver.

The Student Success Act protects State and local autonomy over decisions in the classroom by removing the Secretary's authority to add new requirements to Federal programs. H.R. 5 recognizes that local communities know their needs better than any bureaucrat in Washington and empowers States and districts to develop accountability and school improvement systems that align with their local priorities. It also repeals Federal funding requirements that arbitrarily restrict State and local policymakers' ability to set their own budget priorities.

Mr. Speaker, Federal policies should not tie the hands of local educators to make the best decisions for their students and communities. H.R. 5 is a step in that direction, and I urge my colleagues to support the rule and the underlying bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), a member of the Committee on Financial Services.

Mr. KILDEE. I thank my friend from Colorado for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, the underlying bill eliminates the 21st Century Community Learning Centers that are so critical to providing an outlet, a positive outlet, to young people in communities across this country for all that youthful energy that kids carry around with them. Afterschool programs make a difference. They especially make a difference in the lives of young people who live in communities, like many that I represent, that are facing enormous financial pressures just meeting the requirements of providing daily instruction and can't support, without additional help, the kind of afterschool experiences that this program has supported. Why fix what is not broken? These programs really work.

I know something about this. I come from Flint, Michigan. In fact, I served on the board of education in my hometown in Flint. I was elected 38 years ago. I was 18 years old.

Flint is an important community in discovering the value of afterschool programming because long ago, many decades ago, auto pioneer Charles Stewart Mott and a visionary by the name of Frank Manley developed a community education concept which opened the doors to schools and provided enrichment activities so that young people could have those positive choices.

What do we say to these kids when we tell them stay on the straight and narrow, stay in school, when those few hours after the schoolday they are at risk and are given opportunities every day to make bad choices for themselves, to go down a negative path? What afterschool programming has done is it has given these young folks a chance to explore their creative side.

It works. It makes a difference, not just in keeping them out of trouble, but what we have seen is that afterschool programming actually improves academic performance. The ability to engage in arts and music and physical activity improves their schoolday performance.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important piece of legislation. It ought to include this provision.

Ms. FOXX. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, while current Federal policy started with good intentions, burdensome and prescriptive regulations have created confusion for school districts and limited school participation and tutoring services and public school choice. Parents know their children best, and any efforts to provide a high-quality education must include engaged parents. Parental involvement can help drive innovation, competition, and school improvement.

The Student Success Act builds on the importance of parental involvement by ensuring that parents have access to meaningful information about local school quality, and it empowers local communities to hold students accountable.

□ 1415

It also maintains longstanding parental notification and consent provisions in current law.

H.R. 5 continues the charter school, magnet school, and tutoring programs to provide parents with more choices in educating their children. Along with parental involvement, encouraging and supporting effective teachers in the classroom is critical to student success and high quality education. Mr. Speaker, many Americans can regale you with stories of their favorite teachers who made a lasting impact on their lives.

Federal policies should not hinder innovation in the classroom. That is why the underlying bill repeals Federal "highly qualified teachers" requirements which restrict State and local school districts' ability to reward and maintain good teachers by rewarding education level over effective teaching.

H.R. 5 also supports the development and implementation of teacher evaluation systems that are designed by States and school districts with input from parents, teachers, school leaders, and other stakeholders. In addition to evaluation systems, the Student Success Act reduces confusion and duplication by consolidating teacher quality programs into a single flexible grant program to be used by States and school districts to support creative approaches to recruit and retain effective educators.

The recurring theme throughout this legislation is empowering the people closest to students to make decisions for their communities and ensuring

that the law is flexible to meet the needs of diverse States, regions, and student populations.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ).

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado for the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose H.R. 5, the Student Success Act. I think it is a damaging reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Why are we here? What is the role of the Congress? It is to protect America and to ensure America's future. The best way to ensure America's future is to educate our children. In 1965, when the ESEA was originally developed, the exact declaration of that policy stated that it was "in recognition of the special education needs of children of low-income families."

I know a lot about that. I know because I am a Head Start child, a public school kid who went under ESEA. I know that when America makes the right policies to educate its people, we thrive. I know that people can come to America without an education and because of our public school system can believe that their children can grow up to be successful in America. I know that because my parents came without much education and without any money. Oh, by the way, they are the only parents in the history of these United States to send two daughters to this House of Representatives. Let's do the right thing.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR).

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Colorado for yielding the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose this rule and H.R. 5. One of the hallmarks of America is our system of free, local, public schools. America is the envy of the world because a quality K-12 education is key to opportunity and a pathway to success. To build on that fundamental premise, 50 years ago, the Congress adopted the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to ensure that all children, no matter their background, family income, their race or religion, could have equal access to a high quality public education.

This Republican bill, unfortunately, strikes at the heart of this fundamental American principle, and it tips the scales in favor of the well-to-do to the detriment of millions of other students.

While the bill grants important flexibility to States in some areas, Republicans let States off the hook for maintaining their commitment to students

in schools that oftentimes do not have the extras. The Republican bill takes away millions of dollars from students in schools in my home school districts of Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties in Florida.

Overall, Republicans in Congress propose to cut Florida schools by \$33 million in fiscal year 2016 and by a whopping \$437 million through fiscal year 2021. In doing so, they cut at the heart of our ability to give teachers the tools they need to teach and our students the ability to learn.

Now, Mr. Speaker, many amendments will be debated, and some could improve the bill while others will not. But in the end, other than the Democratic substitute, there is no way to fix this Republican bill that would harm so many students and schools across America. So I urge my colleagues to vote “no” and send the committee back to the drawing board.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentlewoman from North Carolina yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in very strong support of this rule and the underlying bill. I was one of I think 45 Members who voted against the No Child Left Behind law when it originally came up in the House of Representatives several years ago. This turned out to be one of the most popular votes I ever cast with public school teachers. I have heard from many of them throughout these years that that bill has been in effect. It was a bill written primarily by Senator Kennedy and Congressman MILLER, and it was a very far-to-the-left type of bill. So I am especially pleased that this H.R. 5 today is a major re-writing of that bill.

I especially support the very strong alternative certification provisions in the bill. It has never made any sense to me to say that a person with a Ph.D. and long experience in a field cannot teach and some young person with a degree in education would have to be hired. A Ph.D. in chemistry who worked 30 years at Oak Ridge in our scientific lab couldn't be hired to teach, and some person who had had a few hours of chemistry, some 22-year-old with a bachelor's degree, would have to be hired.

Our boards of education should have the flexibility to hire people who have a great education or long experience in a particular field in those types of situations. I wish that the provisions were even stronger than they are now.

Mr. Speaker, many years ago, I taught at T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria. I taught American government and journalism. I very reluctantly gave up that teaching job so that I could finish law school sooner. I can tell you that my grandmother

taught school in Tennessee for over 40 years, and my older sister taught for over 33 years. I have spoken over 1,000 times to schools and school groups, and I can tell you also that the teachers and principals of east Tennessee have enough sense and intelligence to run their own schools. They don't need bureaucrats from Washington dictating every move that they make almost, and we need much more local control. This bill does that.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado and the gentlewoman from North Carolina for their leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I think you can look at me and understand the importance of the Federal Government, for when I went to school, those of us of minority status, African Americans and Hispanics, were not protected by our States. It had to be those in the Federal Government who indicated that no matter what you looked like, what your race was, or what your disability was, you had the right to equal education. That is what the Federal Government can do. That is what this involvement of the Federal Government is. It is to ensure that no child is denied an education.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, we find ourselves today with a decrease in funding to education across America. Parents should understand that, with a 3.2 million student enrollment increase, this bill flatlines any increase in education. It does not support teachers, and it does not support highly qualified teachers in providing for them an incentive to teach.

More importantly, my fellow students who may be called disabled, do you know what they do to them? They raise the numbers of those who can be sent to those classes that in the old days we called slow classes, so that they are not mainstreamed, they are just thrown over to the side. We stopped doing that decades ago, but this bill brings it right back home again.

What the Federal Government does is it raises standards to allow States not to weaken standards, not to weaken the assessment process, and not to institute weak accountability systems. But that is what this bill does now. So my student who needs an opportunity does not have the support, and poor children, money is taken from poor children and recklessly used for something else.

Why, Mr. Speaker, can't we make this a bipartisan bill and do what was done for me by the Federal Government? It gave me the opportunity to stand on the floor of the House today as an African American. With a history of segregation in America, the Federal Government said that I needed an equal education.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JUDY CHU).

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, our current education system must be fixed. However, H.R. 5 is not the solution.

As chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I cannot support H.R. 5. This bill hurts the very children that ESEA intended to protect: children of color, children of poverty, and children with disabilities. H.R. 5 fails to hold States and schools accountable and to make students college- and career-ready. Almost 5 million English language learners will suffer with limited funds and block grants. Wraparound services that are so critical for a well-rounded education are eliminated. H.R. 5 hurts our students and makes America less competitive.

By contrast, Mr. Speaker, the Democratic substitute ensures that high-poverty schools and high-needs students get the resources and the support that they need. I urge you to vote “no” on H.R. 5 and “yes” on the substitute.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague from Colorado for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this rule and against H.R. 5. Everyone who knows me knows that I believe that if you spend 5 minutes—only 5 minutes—with a young person, you can change a life and shift the course of history. Many years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Rosa Parks saw a little light, a little hope in me, “the boy from Troy,” a young student from rural Alabama. They gave me hope and opened doors.

Their actions taught me how important it is to tear down barriers and invest in the potential of each and every American child.

Mr. Speaker, we have the responsibility to learn from our experiences and provide a quality foundation for the next generation. But this bill turns back the clock on progress. H.R. 5 puts the hardest-hit—those most in need—on the chopping block. We don't want to go back. We want to go forward. It cuts funding, pushes down standards, and rolls back the protections for our future—our youth—our precious children.

I urge each and every one of my colleagues to vote “no.” Let us come together and do what is right and what is just to help students realize the American Dream. That is the thing to do, and we must do it.

□ 1430

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Before I get back to education, I want to point out that there is a very unusual component to this rule. There is something called self-executing language, which means that the rule is effectively like a bill, and the language is around a very hot button divisive topic—namely, abortion.

There is actually a provision in this rule that effectively becomes a passed bill—it is self-executing—that would defund school-based health centers if they have any information about referrals or directions or any abortion-related materials.

In fact, the language is so vague, they wouldn't even be able to display, under this, antiabortion-related materials. It says:

The center will not provide abortion-related materials, referrals, or directions for abortion services to any such student.

It would essentially prevent a school from providing information to a child about alternatives to abortion, like adoption or other options that a young parent might have, to be able to stay in school.

If this rule passes with this self-executing amendment, I believe that the number of abortions will increase in the country as a result. This is an anti-choice, pro-abortion measure that has been inserted into this rule, and it is very restrictive on our school districts.

It is a very unusual procedural tactic. I have never seen, in my 6 years here, a rule used for self-executing language around a divisive topic like abortion.

No debate on the amendment—even these other amendments on education under this bill, they have 10 minutes of debate, and they have 20 minutes of debate. This is a secret attempt to get language into a bill that we were not even shown, I think, 3 minutes before we voted on it in the Rules Committee yesterday—just another example of the problems with this ad hoc lawmaking process without the right thought going into bills.

I don't even think that the sponsor of this, who is Representative NEUGEBAUER, meant to exclude information about alternatives to abortion or other options that people might choose; but, unfortunately, the language of the self-executed amendment would prohibit that as well.

Mr. Speaker, instead of engaging in these partisan fights, I wish that at least one of our unanimous consent requests had been granted to fund the Department of Homeland Security. Unfortunately, that wasn't the case. We are instead discussing a very divisive bill.

Some of my colleagues talked about funding. I want to elaborate a little more about what this so-called portability was. Portability sounds great. Of course, funds should follow the student.

The net effect of this version of portability that is in this bill is that resources are transferred out of schools that serve a lot of at-risk and poor children to schools that serve a lower percentage of poor or at-risk children.

What this means in districts like mine or districts across the country is, on the ground, schools that serve 60, 70, 80 percent low-income families will lose two staff people, three staff people—in some cases, maybe even four staff people. They will lose teachers. They will lose paraprofessionals. They will be taken out of their budget, and they would be added to the budget of some of the wealthier schools in the district.

Now, look, if we all want to add staff to all schools, I mean, my goodness, if we can find funding to add staff to some of the wealthier schools—I know that there are many schools that have a lower socioeconomic risk in my district—parents would love more staff, but the right answer is not to take those staff out of the schools that serve the most at-risk kids.

That is what this bill does, which is why no Democrats on our committee supported it. It is a step in the opposite direction. Honestly, Mr. Speaker, it is hard to even get to the discussion of getting accountability right—expanding and replicating what works and changing what doesn't work and encouraging innovation—when the basic funding parameters of the bill do the opposite of what we need to do: take money out of the schools that serve the most at-risk kids which, under whatever accountability system we use, are likely the schools that need more investment.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this rule with the self-executing abortion language, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My colleague has raised the provision in the manager's amendment related to school-based health centers referring children in schools for abortions. Regardless of their position on abortion, most Americans agree that the issue should not be raised at school. The language now in the bill reflects that consensus and would have no impact on adoptions.

Mr. Speaker, my background as an educator, school board member, mother, and grandmother reinforces my belief that students are best served when people at the local level are in control of education decisions. I also believe that education is the most important tool Americans at any age can have.

I was the first person in my family to graduate from high school and went to college where I worked full time and attended school part time. It took me 7 years to earn my bachelor's degree, and I continued to work my way through my master's and doctoral degrees.

From my own experience, I am convinced this is the greatest country in the world for many reasons, not the least of which is that a person like me, who grew up extremely poor in a house with no electricity and no running water, with parents with very little formal education and no prestige at all, could work hard and be elected to the United States House of Representatives.

No legislation is perfect, and that is why I look forward to working with my colleagues to address their concerns and improve the Student Success Act throughout the amendment process.

We have a significant number of amendments to consider. Forty-four amendments are made in order by this rule, including over 20 Democrat amendments. Among those is Ranking Member SCOTT's substitute amendment for this legislation and nine bipartisan amendments.

I have never been one to let the perfect be the enemy of the good, and H.R. 5 is a step in the right direction of reducing the Federal role in education; empowering parents, teachers, and local school districts; and increasing local control.

That is why I am a proud cosponsor of this legislation, and urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this rule and the underlying bill.

The material previously referred to by Mr. POLIS is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 125 OFFERED BY
MR. POLIS OF COLORADO

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 2. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 861) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 3. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 861.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT
IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not

merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule. . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on ordering the previous question will be followed by 5-minute votes on adoption of the resolution, if ordered, and agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 234, nays 177, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 92]

YEAS—234

Abraham	Gohmert	Messer
Aderholt	Goodlatte	Mica
Allen	Gosar	Miller (FL)
Amash	Gowdy	Miller (MI)
Amodei	Granger	Moolenaar
Babin	Graves (GA)	Mooney (WV)
Barletta	Graves (LA)	Mullin
Barr	Graves (MO)	Mulvaney
Barton	Griffith	Murphy (PA)
Benish	Grothman	Neugebauer
Bilirakis	Guinta	Newhouse
Bishop (MI)	Guthrie	Noem
Bishop (UT)	Hanna	Nugent
Black	Hardy	Nunes
Blackburn	Harper	Olson
Blum	Harris	Palazzo
Bost	Hartzler	Palmer
Boustany	Heck (NV)	Paulsen
Brady (TX)	Hensarling	Pearce
Brat	Herrera Beutler	Perry
Bridenstine	Hice, Jody B.	Pittenger
Brooks (AL)	Hill	Pitts
Brooks (IN)	Holding	Poe (TX)
Buchanan	Hudson	Poliquin
Bucshon	Huelskamp	Posey
Burgess	Huizenga (MI)	Price, Tom
Byrne	Hultgren	Ratcliffe
Calvert	Hunter	Reed
Carter (GA)	Hurd (TX)	Reichert
Carter (TX)	Hurt (VA)	Renacci
Chabot	Issa	Ribble
Chaffetz	Jenkins (KS)	Rice (SC)
Clawson (FL)	Jenkins (WV)	Rigell
Coffman	Johnson (OH)	Roby
Cole	Johnson, Sam	Rogers (AL)
Collins (GA)	Jolly	Rogers (KY)
Collins (NY)	Jones	Rohrabacher
Comstock	Jordan	Rokita
Conaway	Joyce	Rooney (FL)
Cook	Katko	Ros-Lehtinen
Costello (PA)	Kelly (PA)	Ross
Cramer	King (IA)	Rothfus
Crawford	Kinzing (IL)	Rouzer
Crenshaw	Kline	Royce
Culberson	Knight	Russell
Curbelo (FL)	Labrador	Ryan (WI)
Davis, Rodney	LaMalfa	Salmon
Denham	Lamborn	Sanford
Dent	Lance	Scalise
DeSantis	Latta	Schweikert
DesJarlais	LoBiondo	Scott, Austin
Diaz-Balart	Loudermilk	Sensenbrenner
Duffy	Love	Sessions
Duncan (TN)	Lucas	Shimkus
Elmiers (NC)	Luetkemeyer	Shuster
Emmer (MN)	Lummis	Simpson
Farenthold	MacArthur	Smith (MO)
Fincher	Marchant	Smith (NE)
Fitzpatrick	Marino	Smith (NJ)
Fleischmann	Massie	Smith (TX)
Fleming	McCarthy	Stefanik
Forbes	McCaul	Stewart
Fortenberry	McClintock	Stivers
Fox	McHenry	Stutzman
Franks (AZ)	McKinley	Thompson (PA)
Frelinghuysen	McMorris	Thornberry
Garrett	Rodgers	Tiberi
Gibbs	McSally	Tipton
Gibson	Meadows	Trott
	Meehan	Turner

Upton	Webster (FL)	Woodall
Valadao	Wenstrup	Yoder
Wagner	Westerman	Yoho
Walberg	Westmoreland	Young (AK)
Walden	Whitfield	Young (IA)
Walker	Williams	Young (IN)
Walorski	Wilson (SC)	Zeldin
Walters, Mimi	Wittman	
Weber (TX)	Womack	

NAYS—177

Adams	Foster	Neal
Aguilar	Frankel (FL)	Nolan
Ashford	Fudge	Norcross
Bass	Gabbard	O'Rourke
Beatty	Gallego	Pallone
Becerra	Garamendi	Pascarella
Bera	Graham	Payne
Beyer	Grayson	Pelosi
Bishop (GA)	Green, Al	Perlmutter
Blumenauer	Green, Gene	Peters
Bonamici	Grijalva	Peterson
Boyle, Brendan	Gutiérrez	Pingree
F.	Hahn	Pocan
Brady (PA)	Hastings	Polis
Brown (FL)	Heck (WA)	Price (NC)
Brownley (CA)	Himes	Quigley
Bustos	Honda	Rangel
Butterfield	Hoyer	Richmond
Capps	Huffman	Roybal-Allard
Capuano	Israel	Ruiz
Cárdenas	Jackson Lee	Ruppersberger
Carney	Jeffries	Ryan (OH)
Carson (IN)	Johnson (GA)	Sánchez, Linda
Cartwright	Johnson, E. B.	T.
Castor (FL)	Kaptur	Sanchez, Loretta
Castro (TX)	Kelly (IL)	Sarbanes
Chu, Judy	Kennedy	Schakowsky
Ciçilline	Kildee	Schiff
Clark (MA)	Kilmer	Schrader
Clarke (NY)	Kind	Scott (VA)
Clay	Kirkpatrick	Scott, David
Cleaver	Kuster	Serrano
Clyburn	Larsen (WA)	Sewell (AL)
Cohen	Larson (CT)	Sherman
Connolly	Lawrence	Sinema
Conyers	Levin	Sires
Cooper	Lewis	Slaughter
Courtney	Lieu, Ted	Smith (WA)
Crowley	Lipinski	Swalwell (CA)
Cuellar	Loebach	Takai
Cummings	Lofgren	Takano
Davis (CA)	Lowenthal	Thompson (CA)
Davis, Danny	Lowey	Thompson (MS)
DeFazio	Lujan Grisham	Titus
DeGette	(NM)	Tonko
Delaney	Lujan, Ben Ray	Torres
DeLauro	(NM)	Tsongas
DelBene	Lynch	Van Hollen
DeSaulnier	Maloney,	Vargas
Deutch	Carolyn	Veasey
Dingell	Maloney, Sean	Vela
Doggett	Matsui	Velázquez
Doyle, Michael	McCollum	Visclosky
F.	McDermott	Walz
Duckworth	McGovern	Wasserman
Edwards	Meeks	Schultz
Ellison	Meng	Watson Coleman
Engel	Moore	Welch
Eshoo	Moulton	Wilson (FL)
Esty	Murphy (FL)	Yarmuth
Farr	Nadler	
Fattah	Napolitano	

NOT VOTING—21

Costa	King (NY)	Roe (TN)
Dold	Langevin	Roskam
Duncan (SC)	Lee	Rush
Flores	Long	Schock
Higgins	McNerney	Speier
Hinojosa	Pompeo	Waters, Maxine
Keating	Rice (NY)	Zinke

□ 1502

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 92, I was unavoidably detained in a meeting with constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Stated against:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 92 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I missed recorded vote No. 92 due to a hearing of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence. I would have voted “no” (Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule providing for further consideration of H.R. 5, the Student Success Act). Had this motion failed, House Democrats would have had the opportunity to offer an amendment making H.R. 861 in order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 234, noes 184, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 93]

AYES—234

Abraham	Farenthold	Kline
Aderholt	Fincher	Knight
Allen	Fitzpatrick	Labrador
Amash	Fleischmann	LaMalfa
Amodei	Fleming	Lamborn
Babin	Forbes	Lance
Barletta	Fortenberry	Latta
Barr	Fox	LoBiondo
Barton	Franks (AZ)	Loudermilk
Benish	Frelinghuysen	Love
Bilirakis	Garrett	Lucas
Bishop (MI)	Gibbs	Luetkemeyer
Bishop (UT)	Gibson	Lummis
Black	Gohmert	MacArthur
Blackburn	Goodlatte	Marchant
Blum	Gosar	Marino
Bost	Gowdy	Massie
Boustany	Granger	McCarthy
Brady (TX)	Graves (GA)	McCaul
Brat	Graves (LA)	McClintock
Bridenstine	Graves (MO)	McHenry
Brooks (AL)	Griffith	McKinley
Brooks (IN)	Grothman	McMorris
Buchanan	Guinta	Rodgers
Buck	Guthrie	McSally
Bucshon	Hanna	Meadows
Burgess	Hardy	Meehan
Byrne	Harper	Messer
Calvert	Harris	Mica
Carter (GA)	Hartzler	Miller (FL)
Carter (TX)	Heck (NV)	Miller (MI)
Chabot	Hensarling	Moolenaar
Chaffetz	Herrera Beutler	Mooney (WV)
Clawson (FL)	Hice, Jody B.	Mullin
Coffman	Hill	Mulvaney
Cole	Holding	Murphy (PA)
Collins (GA)	Hudson	Neugebauer
Collins (NY)	Huelskamp	Newhouse
Comstock	Huizenga (MI)	Noem
Conaway	Hultgren	Nugent
Cook	Hunter	Nunes
Costello (PA)	Hurd (TX)	Olson
Cramer	Hurt (VA)	Palazzo
Crawford	Issa	Palmer
Crenshaw	Jenkins (KS)	Paulsen
Culberson	Jenkins (WV)	Pearce
Curbelo (FL)	Johnson (OH)	Perry
Davis, Rodney	Johnson, Sam	Pittenger
Denham	Jolly	Poe (TX)
Dent	Jones	Poliquin
DeSantis	Jordan	Posey
DesJarlais	Joyce	Price, Tom
Diaz-Balart	Katko	Ratcliffe
Duffy	Kelly (PA)	Reed
Duncan (TN)	King (IA)	Renacci
Ellmers (NC)	King (NY)	Ribble
Emmer (MN)	Kinzinger (IL)	Rice (SC)

Rigell	Shimkus
Roby	Shuster
Rogers (AL)	Simpson
Rogers (KY)	Smith (MO)
Rohrabacher	Smith (NE)
Rokita	Smith (NJ)
Rooney (FL)	Smith (TX)
Ros-Lehtinen	Stefanik
Ross	Stewart
Rothfus	Stivers
Rouzer	Stutzman
Royce	Thompson (PA)
Russell	Thornberry
Ryan (WI)	Tiberi
Salmon	Tipton
Sanford	Trott
Scalise	Turner
Schock	Upton
Schweikert	Valadao
Scott, Austin	Wagner
Sensenbrenner	Walberg
Sessions	Walden

NOES—184

Adams	Foster
Aguilar	Frankel (FL)
Ashford	Fudge
Bass	Gabbard
Beatty	Gallego
Becerra	Garamendi
Bera	Graham
Beyer	Grayson
Bishop (GA)	Green, Al
Blumenauer	Green, Gene
Bonamici	Grijalva
Boyle, Brendan F.	Gutiérrez
Brady (PA)	Hahn
Brown (FL)	Hastings
Brownley (CA)	Heck (WA)
Bustos	Higgins
Butterfield	Himes
Capps	Honda
Capuano	Hoyer
Cárdenas	Huffman
Carney	Israel
Carson (IN)	Jackson Lee
Cartwright	Jeffries
Castor (FL)	Johnson (GA)
Castro (TX)	Johnson, E. B.
Chu, Judy	Kaptur
Cicilline	Keating
Clark (MA)	Kelly (IL)
Clarke (NY)	Kennedy
Clay	Kildee
Cleaver	Kilmer
Clyburn	Kind
Cohen	Kirkpatrick
Connolly	Kuster
Conyers	Langevin
Cooper	Larsen (WA)
Costa	Larson (CT)
Courtney	Lawrence
Crowley	Levin
Cuellar	Lewis
Cummings	Lieu, Ted
Davis (CA)	Lipinski
Davis, Danny	Loeb
DeFazio	Loeb
DeGette	Lowenthal
Delaney	Lowe
DeLauro	Lujan Grisham
DelBene	(NM)
DeSaulnier	Lujan, Ben Ray
Deutsch	(NM)
Dingell	Lynch
Doggett	Maloney,
Dold	Carolyn
Doyle, Michael F.	Maloney, Sean
Duckworth	Matsui
Edwards	McCollum
Ellison	McDermott
Engel	McGovern
Eshoo	Meeks
Esty	Meng
Farr	Moore
Fattah	Moulton
	Murphy (FL)
	Nadler

NOT VOTING—14

Duncan (SC)	McNerney
Flores	Pitts
Hinojosa	Pompeo
Lee	Reichert
Long	Roe (TN)

Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1510

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 93, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 246, noes 168, present 1, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 94]

AYES—246

Abraham	Conyers	Gosar
Aderholt	Cook	Graham
Allen	Cooper	Granger
Amodei	Courtney	Graves (LA)
Barletta	Crawford	Grayson
Barr	Crenshaw	Griffith
Barton	Crowley	Grothman
Beatty	Cuellar	Guinta
Becerra	Culberson	Guthrie
Bilirakis	Curbelo (FL)	Hahn
Bishop (GA)	Davis (CA)	Hardy
Bishop (UT)	Davis, Danny	Harper
Black	DeGette	Harris
Blackburn	DeLauro	Heck (WA)
Blum	DelBene	Hensarling
Blumenauer	Dent	Himes
Bonamici	DesJarlais	Huelskamp
Boustany	Deutsch	Huffman
Brady (TX)	Diaz-Balart	Hultgren
Brat	Doggett	Hunter
Bridenstine	Doyle, Michael F.	Hurd (TX)
Brooks (AL)	Duckworth	Hurt (VA)
Brown (FL)	Duncan (TN)	Issa
Buck	Edwards	Jeffries
Bustos	Emmer (MN)	Johnson (GA)
Butterfield	Engel	Johnson, Sam
Byrne	Eshoo	Jolly
Calvert	Esty	Kaptur
Capps	Farenthold	Katko
Carney	Farr	Kelly (IL)
Carson (IN)	Fattah	Kelly (PA)
Carter (TX)	Fincher	Kennedy
Cartwright	Fleischmann	Kildee
Castro (TX)	Fortenberry	King (IA)
Chabot	Foster	King (NY)
Chaffetz	Frankel (FL)	Kline
Chu, Judy	Franks (AZ)	Knight
Cicilline	Frelinghuysen	Kuster
Clay	Gabbard	Labrador
Cleaver	Gallego	LaMalfa
Cole	Garamendi	Lamborn
Collins (NY)	Garrett	Larsen (WA)
Comstock	Goodlatte	Larson (CT)
Conaway		Latta

Levin
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Lofgren
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lummis
Marino
Massie
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McHenry
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meeks
Meng
Mica
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palmer

NOES—168

Adams
Aguilar
Amash
Ashford
Babin
Bass
Benishek
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (MI)
Bost
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brooks (IN)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carter (GA)
Castor (FL)
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Collins (GA)
Connolly
Costa
Costello (PA)
Cummings
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
Delaney
Denham
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Dold
Duffy
Ellmers (NC)
Fitzpatrick
Fleming
Forbes
Foxx
Fudge
Gibbs
Gibson
Gowdy
Graves (GA)

Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Gutiérrez
Hanna
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Hill
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huiizenga (MI)
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Keating
Kilmer
Kind
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Lance
Langevin
Lawrence
Lewis
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lowey
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
McDermott
McGovern
McKinley
McSally
Meehan
Messer
Miller (FL)
Mooney (WV)
Mulvaney

Sinema
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stutzman
Takai
Takano
Thornberry
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Wagner
Walden
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Womack
Yarmuth
Yoho
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin

Veasey
Vela
Visclosky
Walberg
Walker
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Wittman

Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Gohmert

NOT VOTING—17

Cramer
Duncan (SC)
Ellison
Flores
Grijalva
Hinojosa
Lee
Long
McNerney
Murphy (PA)
Pompeo
Roe (TN)
Roskam
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Speier
Waters, Maxine
Zinke

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1517

Mr. CLAWSON of Florida changed his vote from "aye" to "no."

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote because of a serious illness in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted: rollcall No. 91—"aye," rollcall No. 92—"aye," rollcall No. 93—"aye," rollcall No. 94—"aye."

AUTHORIZING THE SPEAKER TO DECLARE A RECESS ON TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2015, FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING IN JOINT MEETING HIS EXCELLENCY BINYAMIN NETANYAHU, PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it may be in order at any time on Tuesday, March 3, 2015, for the Speaker to declare a recess, subject to the call of the Chair, for the purpose of receiving in Joint Meeting His Excellency Binyamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained by a meeting with law enforcement officers from across the Nation, and I missed rollcall vote No. 91 on the question of consideration of the resolution involving funding of DHS. If I had been present, I would have voted "no."

STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 125 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 5.

Will the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) kindly take the chair.

□ 1520

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5) to support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes, with Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, February 25, 2015, all time for general debate pursuant to House Resolution 121 had expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 125, no further general debate shall be in order. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce, printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-8, modified by the amendment printed in part A of House Report 114-29, is adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the 5-minute rule and shall be considered as read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 5

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Student Success Act".

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.*
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.*
- Sec. 3. References.*
- Sec. 4. Transition.*
- Sec. 5. Effective dates.*
- Sec. 6. Authorization of appropriations.*
- Sec. 7. Sense of the Congress.*

TITLE I—AID TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES

Subtitle A—In General

- Sec. 101. Title heading.*
- Sec. 102. Statement of purpose.*
- Sec. 103. Flexibility to use Federal funds.*
- Sec. 104. School improvement.*
- Sec. 105. Direct student services.*
- Sec. 106. State administration.*

Subtitle B—Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged

- Sec. 111. Part A headings.*
- Sec. 112. State plans.*
- Sec. 113. Local educational agency plans.*
- Sec. 114. Eligible school attendance areas.*
- Sec. 115. Schoolwide programs.*
- Sec. 116. Targeted assistance schools.*
- Sec. 117. Academic assessment and local educational agency and school improvement; school support and recognition.*
- Sec. 118. Parental involvement.*
- Sec. 119. Qualifications for teachers and para-professionals.*
- Sec. 120. Participation of children enrolled in private schools.*

Sec. 121. Fiscal requirements.
 Sec. 122. Coordination requirements.
 Sec. 123. Grants for the outlying areas and the Secretary of the Interior.
 Sec. 124. Allocations to States.
 Sec. 125. Basic grants to local educational agencies.
 Sec. 126. Targeted grants to local educational agencies.
 Sec. 127. Adequacy of funding to local educational agencies in fiscal years after fiscal year 2001.
 Sec. 128. Education finance incentive grant program.
 Sec. 129. Carryover and waiver.
 Sec. 130. Title I portability.
 Subtitle C—Additional Aid to States and School Districts
 Sec. 131. Additional aid.
 Subtitle D—National Assessment
 Sec. 141. National assessment of title I.
 Subtitle E—Title I General Provisions
 Sec. 151. General provisions for title I.
TITLE II—TEACHER PREPARATION AND EFFECTIVENESS
 Sec. 201. Teacher preparation and effectiveness.
 Sec. 202. Conforming repeals.
TITLE III—PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT AND LOCAL FLEXIBILITY
 Sec. 301. Parental engagement and local flexibility.
TITLE IV—IMPACT AID
 Sec. 401. Purpose.
 Sec. 402. Payments relating to Federal acquisition of real property.
 Sec. 403. Payments for eligible federally connected children.
 Sec. 404. Policies and procedures relating to children residing on Indian lands.
 Sec. 405. Application for payments under sections 8002 and 8003.
 Sec. 406. Construction.
 Sec. 407. Facilities.
 Sec. 408. State consideration of payments providing State aid.
 Sec. 409. Federal administration.
 Sec. 410. Administrative hearings and judicial review.
 Sec. 411. Definitions.
 Sec. 412. Authorization of appropriations.
 Sec. 413. Conforming amendments.
TITLE V—THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S TRUST RESPONSIBILITY TO AMERICAN INDIAN, ALASKA NATIVE, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN EDUCATION
 Sec. 501. The Federal Government's Trust Responsibility to American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Education.
TITLE VI—GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR THE ACT
 Sec. 601. General provisions for the Act.
 Sec. 602. Repeal.
 Sec. 603. Other laws.
 Sec. 604. Amendment to IDEA.
TITLE VII—HOMELESS EDUCATION
 Sec. 701. Statement of policy.
 Sec. 702. Grants for State and local activities for the education of homeless children and youths.
 Sec. 703. Local educational agency subgrants for the education of homeless children and youths.
 Sec. 704. Secretarial responsibilities.
 Sec. 705. Definitions.
 Sec. 706. Authorization of appropriations.
TITLE VIII—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS
 Sec. 801. Findings; Sense of the Congress.
 Sec. 802. Preventing improper use of taxpayer funds.

SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.).

SEC. 4. TRANSITION.

Unless otherwise provided in this Act, any person or agency that was awarded a grant under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) prior to the date of the enactment of this Act shall continue to receive funds in accordance with the terms of such award, except that funds for such award may not continue more than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as otherwise provided in this Act, this Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall be effective upon the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) **NONCOMPETITIVE PROGRAMS.**—With respect to noncompetitive programs under which any funds are allotted by the Secretary of Education to recipients on the basis of a formula, this Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall take effect on October 1, 2015.

(c) **COMPETITIVE PROGRAMS.**—With respect to programs that are conducted by the Secretary on a competitive basis, this Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall take effect with respect to appropriations for use under those programs for fiscal year 2016.

(d) **IMPACT AID.**—With respect to title IV of the Act (20 U.S.C. 7701 et seq.) (Impact Aid), this Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall take effect with respect to appropriations for use under that title for fiscal year 2016.

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

The Act (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 2 the following:

“SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“(a) **TITLE I.**—

“(1) **PART A.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out part A of title I \$16,245,163,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021.

“(2) **PART B.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out part B of title I \$710,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021.

“(b) **TITLE II.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out title II \$2,788,356,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021.

“(c) **TITLE III.**—

“(1) **PART A.**—

“(A) **SUBPART 1.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out subpart 1 of part A of title III \$300,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021.

“(B) **SUBPART 2.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out subpart 2 of part A of title III \$91,647,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021.

“(C) **SUBPART 3.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out subpart 3 of part A of title III \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021.

“(2) **PART B.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out part B of title III \$2,302,287,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021.

“(d) **TITLE IV.**—

“(1) **PAYMENTS FOR FEDERAL ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY.**—For the purpose of making payments under section 4002, there are authorized to be appropriated \$66,813,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021.

“(2) **BASIC PAYMENTS; PAYMENTS FOR HEAVILY IMPACTED LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.**—For the purpose of making payments under section

4003(b), there are authorized to be appropriated \$1,151,233,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021.

“(3) **PAYMENTS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES.**—For the purpose of making payments under section 4003(d), there are authorized to be appropriated \$48,316,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021.

“(4) **CONSTRUCTION.**—For the purpose of carrying out section 4007, there are authorized to be appropriated \$17,406,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021.

“(5) **FACILITIES MAINTENANCE.**—For the purpose of carrying out section 4008, there are authorized to be appropriated \$4,835,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021.”.

SEC. 7. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The Congress finds as follows:

(1) The Elementary and Secondary Education Act prohibits the Federal Government from mandating, directing, or controlling a State, local educational agency, or school's curriculum, program of instruction, or allocation of State and local resources, and from mandating a State or any subdivision thereof to spend any funds or incur any costs not paid for under such Act.

(2) The Elementary and Secondary Education Act prohibits the Federal Government from funding the development, pilot testing, field testing, implementation, administration, or distribution of any federally sponsored national test in reading, mathematics, or any other subject, unless specifically and explicitly authorized by law.

(3) The Secretary of Education, through 3 separate initiatives, has created a system of waivers and grants that influence, incentivize, and coerce State educational agencies into implementing common national elementary and secondary standards and assessments endorsed by the Secretary.

(4) The Race to the Top Fund encouraged and incentivized States to adopt Common Core State Standards developed by the National Governor's Association Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers.

(5) The Race to the Top Assessment grants awarded to the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) and SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium (SMARTER Balance) initiated the development of Common Core State Standards aligned assessments that will, in turn, inform and ultimately influence kindergarten through 12th-grade curriculum and instructional materials.

(6) The conditional Elementary and Secondary Education Act flexibility waiver authority employed by the Department of Education coerced States into accepting Common Core State Standards and aligned assessments.

(b) **SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of the Congress that States and local educational agencies retain the rights and responsibilities of determining educational curriculum, programs of instruction, and assessments for elementary and secondary education.

TITLE I—AID TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES

Subtitle A—In General

SEC. 101. TITLE HEADING.

The title heading for title I (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

“TITLE I—AID TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES”.

SEC. 102. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.

Section 1001 (20 U.S.C. 6301) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 1001. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.

“The purpose of this title is to provide all children the opportunity to graduate high school prepared for postsecondary education or the workforce. This purpose can be accomplished by—

“(1) meeting the educational needs of low-achieving children in our Nation’s highest-poverty schools, English learners, migratory children, children with disabilities, Indian children, and neglected or delinquent children;

“(2) closing the achievement gap between high- and low-performing children, especially the achievement gaps between minority and nonminority students, and between disadvantaged children and their more advantaged peers;

“(3) affording parents substantial and meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children; and

“(4) challenging States and local educational agencies to embrace meaningful, evidence-based education reform, while encouraging state and local innovation.”.

SEC. 103. FLEXIBILITY TO USE FEDERAL FUNDS.

Section 1002 (20 U.S.C. 6302) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 1002. FLEXIBILITY TO USE FEDERAL FUNDS.

“(a) ALTERNATIVE USES OF FEDERAL FUNDS FOR STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsections (c) and (d) and notwithstanding any other provision of law, a State educational agency may use the applicable funding that the agency receives for a fiscal year to carry out any State activity authorized or required under one or more of the following provisions:

“(A) Section 1003.

“(B) Section 1004.

“(C) Subpart 2 of part A of title I.

“(D) Subpart 3 of part A of title I.

“(E) Subpart 4 of part A of title I.

“(2) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than June 1 of each year, a State educational agency shall notify the Secretary of the State educational agency’s intention to use the applicable funding for any of the alternative uses under paragraph (1).

“(3) APPLICABLE FUNDING DEFINED.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), in this subsection, the term ‘applicable funding’ means funds provided to carry out State activities under one or more of the following provisions.

“(i) Section 1003.

“(ii) Section 1004.

“(iii) Subpart 2 of part A of title I.

“(iv) Subpart 3 of part A of title I.

“(v) Subpart 4 of part A of title I.

“(B) LIMITATION.—In this subsection, the term ‘applicable funding’ does not include funds provided under any of the provisions listed in subparagraph (A) that State educational agencies are required by this Act—

“(i) to reserve, allocate, or spend for required activities;

“(ii) to allocate, allot, or award to local educational agencies or other entities eligible to receive such funds; or

“(iii) to use for technical assistance or monitoring.

“(4) DISBURSEMENT.—The Secretary shall disburse the applicable funding to State educational agencies for alternative uses under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year at the same time as the Secretary disburses the applicable funding to State educational agencies that do not intend to use the applicable funding for such alternative uses for the fiscal year.

“(b) ALTERNATIVE USES OF FEDERAL FUNDS FOR LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsections (c) and (d) and notwithstanding any other provision of law, a local educational agency may use the applicable funding that the agency receives for a fiscal year to carry out any local activity authorized or required under one or more of the following provisions:

“(A) Section 1003.

“(B) Subpart 1 of part A of title I.

“(C) Subpart 2 of part A of title I.

“(D) Subpart 3 of part A of title I.

“(E) Subpart 4 of part A of title I.

“(2) NOTIFICATION.—A local educational agency shall notify the State educational agency of the local educational agency’s intention to use the applicable funding for any of the alternative uses under paragraph (1) by a date that is established by the State educational agency for the notification.

“(3) APPLICABLE FUNDING DEFINED.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), in this subsection, the term ‘applicable funding’ means funds provided to carry out local activities under one or more of the following provisions:

“(i) Subpart 2 of part A of title I.

“(ii) Subpart 3 of part A of title I.

“(iii) Subpart 4 of part A of title I.

“(B) LIMITATION.—In this subsection, the term ‘applicable funding’ does not include funds provided under any of the provisions listed in subparagraph (A) that local educational agencies are required by this Act—

“(i) to reserve, allocate, or spend for required activities;

“(ii) to allocate, allot, or award to entities eligible to receive such funds; or

“(iii) to use for technical assistance or monitoring.

“(4) DISBURSEMENT.—Each State educational agency that receives applicable funding for a fiscal year shall disburse the applicable funding to local educational agencies for alternative uses under paragraph (1) for the fiscal year at the same time as the State educational agency disburses the applicable funding to local educational agencies that do not intend to use the applicable funding for such alternative uses for the fiscal year.

“(c) RULE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—A State educational agency or a local educational agency shall only use applicable funding (as defined in subsection (a)(3) or (b)(3), respectively) for administrative costs incurred in carrying out a provision listed in subsection (a)(1) or (b)(1), respectively, to the extent that the agency, in the absence of this section, could have used funds for administrative costs with respect to a program listed in subsection (a)(3) or (b)(3), respectively.

“(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to relieve a State educational agency or local educational agency of any requirements relating to—

“(1) use of Federal funds to supplement, not supplant, non-Federal funds;

“(2) comparability of services;

“(3) equitable participation of private school students and teachers;

“(4) applicable civil rights requirements;

“(5) section 1113; or

“(6) section 1111.”.

SEC. 104. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT.

Section 1003 (20 U.S.C. 6303) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “2 percent” and inserting “7 percent”; and

(B) by striking “subpart 2 of part A” and all that follows through “sections 1116 and 1117,” and inserting “chapter B of subpart 1 of part A for each fiscal year to carry out subsection (b),”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “for schools identified for school improvement, corrective action, and restructuring, for activities under section 1116(b)” and inserting “to carry out the State’s system of school improvement under section 1111(b)(3)(B)(iii);” and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “or educational service agencies” and inserting “, educational service agencies, or non-profit or for-profit external providers with expertise in using evidence-based or other effective strategies to improve student achievement”;

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “need for such funds; and” and inserting “commitment to using such funds to improve such schools.”; and

(C) by striking paragraph (3);

(4) in subsection (d)(1), by striking “subpart 2 of part A;” and inserting “chapter B of subpart 1 of part A;”;

(5) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking “in any fiscal year” and inserting “in fiscal year 2016 and each subsequent fiscal year”;

(B) by striking “subpart 2” and inserting “chapter B of subpart 1 of part A;” and

(C) by striking “such subpart” and inserting “such chapter”;

(6) in subsection (f), by striking “and the percentage of students from each school from families with incomes below the poverty line”; and

(7) by striking subsection (g).

SEC. 105. DIRECT STUDENT SERVICES.

The Act (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 1003 the following:

“SEC. 1003A. DIRECT STUDENT SERVICES.

“(a) STATE RESERVATION.—Each State shall reserve 3 percent of the amount the State receives under chapter B of subpart 1 of part A for each fiscal year to carry out this section. Of such reserved funds, the State educational agency may use up to 1 percent to administer direct student services.

“(b) DIRECT STUDENT SERVICES.—From the amount available after the application of subsection (a), each State shall award grants in accordance with this section to local educational agencies to support direct student services.

“(c) AWARDS.—The State educational agency shall award grants to geographically diverse local educational agencies including suburban, rural, and urban local educational agencies. If there are not enough funds to award all applicants in a sufficient size and scope to run an effective direct student services program, the State shall prioritize awards to local educational agencies with the greatest number of students with disabilities, neglected, delinquent, migrant students, English learners, at-risk students, and Native Americans, to increase academic achievement of such students.

“(d) LOCAL USE OF FUNDS.—A local educational agency receiving an award under this section—

“(1) shall use up to 1 percent of each award for outreach and communication to parents about their options and to register students for direct student services;

“(2) may use not more than 2 percent of each award for administrative costs related to direct student services; and

“(3) shall use the remainder of the award to pay the transportation required to provide public school choice or the hourly rate for high-quality academic tutoring services, as determined by a provider on the State-approved list required under subsection (f)(2).

“(e) APPLICATION.—A local educational agency desiring to receive an award under subsection (b) shall submit an application describing how the local educational agency will—

“(1) provide adequate outreach to ensure parents can exercise a meaningful choice of direct student services for their child’s education;

“(2) ensure parents have adequate time and information to make a meaningful choice prior to enrolling their child in a direct student service;

“(3) ensure sufficient availability of seats in the public schools the local educational agency will make available for public school choice options;

“(4) determine the requirements or criteria for student eligibility for direct student services;

“(5) select a variety of providers of high-quality academic tutoring from the State-approved list required under subsection (f)(2) and ensure fair negotiations in selecting such providers of high-quality academic tutoring, including online, on campus, and other models of tutoring which provide meaningful choices to parents to find the best service for their child; and

“(6) develop an estimated per pupil expenditure available for eligible students to use toward high-quality academic tutoring which shall allow for an adequate level of services to increase academic achievement from a variety of high-quality academic tutoring providers.

“(f) PROVIDERS AND SCHOOLS.—The State—

“(1) shall ensure that each local educational agency receiving an award to provide public school choice can provide a sufficient number of options to provide a meaningful choice for parents; and

“(2) shall compile a list of State-approved high-quality academic tutoring providers that includes online, on campus, and other models of tutoring; and

“(3) shall ensure that each local educational agency receiving an award will provide an adequate number of high-quality academic tutoring options to ensure parents have a meaningful choice of services.”.

SEC. 106. STATE ADMINISTRATION.

Section 1004 (20 U.S.C. 6304) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 1004. STATE ADMINISTRATION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), to carry out administrative duties assigned under subparts 1, 2, and 3 of part A of this title, each State may reserve the greater of—

“(1) 1 percent of the amounts received under such subparts; or

“(2) \$400,000 (\$50,000 in the case of each outlying area).

“(b) EXCEPTION.—If the sum of the amounts reserved under subparts 1, 2, and 3 of part A of this title is equal to or greater than \$14,000,000,000, then the reservation described in subsection (a)(1) shall not exceed 1 percent of the amount the State would receive if \$14,000,000,000 were allocated among the States for subparts 1, 2, and 3 of part A of this title.”.

Subtitle B—Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged

SEC. 111. PART A HEADINGS.

(a) PART HEADING.—The part heading for part A of title I (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

“PART A—IMPROVING THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF THE DISADVANTAGED”.

(b) SUBPART 1 HEADING.—The Act is amended by striking the subpart heading for subpart 1 of part A of title I (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.) and inserting the following:

“Subpart 1—Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Educational Agencies

“CHAPTER A—BASIC PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS”.

(c) SUBPART 2 HEADING.—The Act is amended by striking the subpart heading for subpart 2 of part A of title I (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.) and inserting the following:

“CHAPTER B—ALLOCATIONS”.

SEC. 112. STATE PLANS.

Section 1111 (20 U.S.C. 6311) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 1111. STATE PLANS.

“(a) FILING FOR GRANTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For any State desiring to receive a grant under this subpart, the State educational agency file with the Secretary a plan, developed by the State educational agency, in consultation with local educational agen-

cies, teachers, school leaders, public charter school representatives, specialized instructional support personnel, other appropriate school personnel, parents, private sector employers, entrepreneurs, and representatives of Indian tribes located in the State, that satisfies the requirements of this section and that is coordinated with other programs under this Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006, the Head Start Act, the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

“(2) CONSOLIDATED PLAN.—A State plan submitted under paragraph (1) may be submitted as part of a consolidated plan under section 6302.

“(b) ACADEMIC STANDARDS, ACADEMIC ASSESSMENTS, AND STATE ACCOUNTABILITY.—

“(1) ACADEMIC STANDARDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each State plan shall demonstrate that the State has adopted academic content standards and academic achievement standards aligned with such content standards that comply with the requirements of this paragraph.

“(B) SUBJECTS.—The State shall have such academic standards for mathematics, reading or language arts, and science, and may have such standards for any other subject determined by the State.

“(C) REQUIREMENTS.—The standards described in subparagraph (A) shall—

“(i) apply to all public schools and public school students in the State; and

“(ii) with respect to academic achievement standards, include the same knowledge, skills, and levels of achievement expected of all public school students in the State.

“(D) ALTERNATE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT STANDARDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this paragraph, a State retains the right, through a documented and validated standards-setting process, to adopt alternate academic achievement standards for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, if—

“(i) the determination about whether the achievement of an individual student should be measured against such standards is made separately for each student; and

“(ii) such standards—

“(I) are aligned with the State academic standards required under subparagraph (A);

“(II) promote access to the general curriculum; and

“(III) reflect professional judgment as to the highest possible standards achievable by such students.

“(E) ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY STANDARDS.—Each State plan shall describe how the State educational agency will establish English language proficiency standards that are—

“(i) derived from the four recognized domains of speaking, listening, reading, and writing; and

“(ii) aligned with the State's academic content standards in reading or language arts under subparagraph (A).

“(2) ACADEMIC ASSESSMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each State plan shall demonstrate that the State educational agency, in consultation with local educational agencies, has implemented a set of high-quality student academic assessments in mathematics, reading or language arts, and science. The State retains the right to implement such assessments in any other subject chosen by the State.

“(B) REQUIREMENTS.—Such assessments shall—

“(i) in the case of mathematics and reading or language arts, be used in determining the performance of each local educational agency and public school in the State in accordance with the State's accountability system under paragraph (3);

“(ii) be the same academic assessments used to measure the academic achievement of all public school students in the State;

“(iii) be aligned with the State's academic standards and provide coherent and timely information about student attainment of such standards;

“(iv) be used for purposes for which such assessments are valid and reliable, be of adequate technical quality for each purpose required under this Act, and be consistent with relevant, nationally recognized professional and technical standards;

“(v)(I) in the case of mathematics and reading or language arts, be administered in each of grades 3 through 8 and at least once in grades 9 through 12;

“(II) in the case of science, be administered not less than one time during—

“(aa) grades 3 through 5;

“(bb) grades 6 through 9; and

“(cc) grades 10 through 12; and

“(III) in the case of any other subject chosen by the State, be administered at the discretion of the State;

“(vi) measure individual student academic proficiency and, at the State's discretion, growth;

“(vii) at the State's discretion—

“(I) be administered through a single annual summative assessment; or

“(II) be administered through multiple assessments during the course of the academic year that result in a single summative score that provides valid, reliable, and transparent information on student achievement;

“(viii) include measures that assess higher-order thinking skills and understanding;

“(ix) provide for—

“(I) the participation in such assessments of all students;

“(II) the reasonable adaptations and accommodations for students with disabilities necessary to measure the academic achievement of such students relative to the State's academic standards; and

“(III) the inclusion of English learners, who shall be assessed in a valid and reliable manner and provided reasonable accommodations, including, to the extent practicable, assessments in the language and form most likely to yield accurate and reliable information on what such students know and can do in academic content areas, until such students have achieved English language proficiency, as assessed by the State under subparagraph (D);

“(x) notwithstanding clause (ix)(III), provide for the assessment of reading or language arts in English for English learners who have attended school in the United States (not including Puerto Rico) for 3 or more consecutive school years, except that a local educational agency may, on a case-by-case basis, provide for the assessment of reading or language arts for each such student in a language other than English for a period not to exceed 2 additional consecutive years if the assessment would be more likely to yield accurate and reliable information on what such student knows and can do, provided that such student has not yet reached a level of English language proficiency sufficient to yield valid and reliable information on what such student knows and can do on reading or language arts assessments written in English;

“(xi) produce individual student interpretive, descriptive, and diagnostic reports regarding achievement on such assessments that allow parents, teachers, and school leaders to understand and address the specific academic needs of students, and that are provided to parents, teachers, and school leaders, as soon as is practicable after the assessment is given, in an understandable and uniform format, and to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand;

“(xii) enable results to be disaggregated within each State, local educational agency, and

school by gender, by each major racial and ethnic group, by English language proficiency status, by migrant status, by status as a student with a disability, by status as a student with a parent who is an active duty member of the Armed Forces (as defined in section 101(a)(4) of title 10, United States Code), and by economically disadvantaged status, except that, in the case of a local educational agency or a school, such disaggregation shall not be required in a case in which the number of students in a category is insufficient to yield statistically reliable information or the results would reveal personally identifiable information about an individual student;

“(xiii) be administered to not less than 95 percent of all students, and not less than 95 percent of each subgroup of students described in paragraph (3)(B)(ii)(II); and

“(xiv) where practicable, be developed using the principles of universal design for learning as defined in section 103(24) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1003(24)).

“(C) ALTERNATE ASSESSMENTS.—A State may provide for alternate assessments aligned with the alternate academic standards adopted in accordance with paragraph (1)(D), for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, if the State—

“(i) establishes and monitors implementation of clear and appropriate guidelines for individualized education program teams (as defined in section 614(d)(1)(B) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) to apply when determining, on an annual and subject-by-subject basis, when a child’s significant cognitive disability justifies assessment based on alternate achievement standards;

“(ii) ensures that the parents of such students are clearly informed, as part of the process for developing the Individualized Education Program (as defined in section 614(d)(1)(A) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1414(d)(1)(A)), that—

“(I) their child’s academic achievement will be measured against such alternate standards; and

“(II) whether participation in such assessments precludes the student from completing the requirements for a regular high school diploma as defined in section 6101(36)(A);

“(iii) ensures that students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who take an alternate assessment based on alternate academic achievement standards are not precluded from attempting to complete the requirements for a regular secondary school diploma, as determined by the State;

“(iv) demonstrates that such students are, to the extent practicable, included in the general curriculum and that such alternate assessments are aligned with such curriculum;

“(v) develops, disseminates information about, and promotes the use of appropriate accommodations to increase the number of students with disabilities who are tested against academic achievement standards for the grade in which a student is enrolled; and

“(vi) ensures that regular and special education teachers and other appropriate staff know how to administer the alternate assessments, including making appropriate use of accommodations for students with disabilities.

“(D) ASSESSMENTS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Each State plan shall demonstrate that local educational agencies in the State will provide for an annual assessment of English proficiency of all English learners in the schools served by the State educational agency.

“(ii) ALIGNMENT.—The assessments described in clause (i) shall be aligned with the State’s English language proficiency standards described in paragraph (1)(E).

“(E) LANGUAGE ASSESSMENTS.—Each State plan shall identify the languages other than English that are present in the participating student population and indicate the languages for which yearly student academic assessments are not available and are needed. The State shall make every effort to develop such assessments and may request assistance from the Secretary if linguistically accessible academic assessment measures are needed. Upon request, the Secretary shall assist with the identification of appropriate academic assessment measures in the needed languages, but shall not mandate a specific academic assessment or mode of instruction.

“(F) ADAPTIVE ASSESSMENTS.—A State retains the right to develop and administer computer adaptive assessments as the assessments required under subparagraph (A). If a State develops and administers a computer adaptive assessment for such purposes, the assessment shall meet the requirements of this paragraph, except as follows:

“(i) Notwithstanding subparagraph (B)(iii), the assessment—

“(I) shall measure, at a minimum, each student’s academic proficiency against the State’s academic standards for the student’s grade level and growth toward such standards; and

“(II) if the State chooses, may be used to measure the student’s level of academic proficiency and growth using assessment items above or below the student’s grade level, including for use as part of a State’s accountability system under paragraph (3).

“(ii) Subparagraph (B)(ii) shall not be interpreted to require that all students taking the computer adaptive assessment be administered the same assessment items.

“(3) STATE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEMS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each State plan shall demonstrate that the State has developed and is implementing a single, statewide accountability system to ensure that all public school students graduate from high school prepared for postsecondary education or the workforce without the need for remediation.

“(B) ELEMENTS.—Each State accountability system described in subparagraph (A) shall at a minimum—

“(i) annually measure the academic achievement of all public school students in the State against the State’s mathematics and reading or language arts academic standards adopted under paragraph (1), which may include measures of student growth toward such standards, using the mathematics and reading or language arts assessments described in paragraph (2)(B) and other valid and reliable academic indicators related to student achievement as identified by the State;

“(ii) annually evaluate and identify the academic performance of each public school in the State based on—

“(I) student academic achievement as measured in accordance with clause (i);

“(II) the overall performance, and achievement gaps as compared to all students in the school, for economically disadvantaged students, students from major racial and ethnic groups, students with disabilities, and English learners, except that disaggregation of data under this subclause shall not be required in a case in which the number of students in a category is insufficient to yield statistically reliable information or the results would reveal personally identifiable information about an individual student; and

“(III) other measures of school success; and

“(iii) include a system for school improvement for low-performing public schools receiving funds under this subpart that—

“(I) implements interventions in such schools that are designed to address such schools’ weaknesses; and

“(II) is implemented by local educational agencies serving such schools.

“(C) PROHIBITION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit the Secretary to establish any criteria that specifies, defines, or prescribes any aspect of a State’s accountability system developed and implemented in accordance with this paragraph.

“(D) ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS.—The accountability provisions under this Act shall be overseen for charter schools in accordance with State charter school law.

“(E) RECENTLY ARRIVED ENGLISH LEARNERS.—A State may delay inclusion of the academic achievement of English learners for purposes of the evaluation and identification described in subparagraph (B)(ii) if such students have attended schools in the 50 states or the District of Columbia for less than two years (in the case of mathematics) and less than three years (in the case of reading or language arts), except that if the State uses growth calculations as described in clause (i) of such subparagraph in such evaluation and identification, the State shall include such students in such calculations.

“(4) REQUIREMENTS.—Each State plan shall describe—

“(A) how the State educational agency will assist each local educational agency and each public school affected by the State plan to comply with the requirements of this subpart, including how the State educational agency will work with local educational agencies to provide technical assistance; and

“(B) how the State educational agency will ensure that the results of the State assessments described in paragraph (2), the other indicators selected by the State under paragraph (3)(B)(i), and the school evaluations described in paragraph (3)(B)(ii), will be promptly provided to local educational agencies, schools, teachers, and parents in a manner that is clear and easy to understand, but not later than before the beginning of the school year following the school year in which such assessments, other indicators, or evaluations are taken or completed.

“(5) TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—Each State plan shall describe the process by which the State will adopt and implement the State academic standards, assessments, and accountability system required under this section within 2 years of enactment of the Student Success Act.

“(6) EXISTING STANDARDS.—Nothing in this subpart shall prohibit a State from revising, consistent with this section, any standard adopted under this section before or after the date of the enactment of the Student Success Act.

“(7) EXISTING STATE LAW.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter any State law or regulation granting parents authority over schools that repeatedly failed to make adequate yearly progress under this section, as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Student Success Act.

“(c) OTHER PROVISIONS TO SUPPORT TEACHING AND LEARNING.—Each State plan shall contain assurances that—

“(1) the State will notify local educational agencies, schools, teachers, parents, and the public of the academic standards, academic assessments, and State accountability system developed and implemented under this section;

“(2) the State will participate in biennial State academic assessments of 4th and 8th grade reading and mathematics under the National Assessment of Educational Progress carried out under section 303(b)(2) of the National Assessment of Educational Progress Authorization Act if the Secretary pays the costs of administering such assessments;

“(3) the State educational agency will notify local educational agencies and the public of the authority to operate schoolwide programs;

“(4) the State educational agency will provide the least restrictive and burdensome regulations for local educational agencies and individual schools participating in a program assisted under this subpart;

“(5) the State educational agency will encourage schools to consolidate funds from other Federal, State, and local sources for schoolwide reform in schoolwide programs under section 1114;

“(6) the State educational agency will modify or eliminate State fiscal and accounting barriers so that schools can easily consolidate funds from other Federal, State, and local sources for schoolwide programs under section 1114; and

“(7) the State educational agency will inform local educational agencies in the State of the local educational agency's authority to transfer funds under section 1002 and to obtain waivers under section 6401.

“(d) **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT.**—Each State plan shall describe how the State educational agency will support the collection and dissemination to local educational agencies and schools of effective parental involvement practices. Such practices shall—

“(1) be based on the most current research that meets the highest professional and technical standards on effective parental involvement that fosters achievement to high standards for all children;

“(2) be geared toward lowering barriers to greater participation by parents in school planning, review, and improvement; and

“(3) be coordinated with programs funded under subpart 3 of part A of title III.

“(e) **PEER REVIEW AND SECRETARIAL APPROVAL.**—

“(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Notwithstanding section 6543, the Secretary shall—

“(A) establish a peer-review process to assist in the review of State plans; and

“(B) appoint individuals to the peer-review process who are representative of parents, teachers, State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and private sector employers (including representatives of entrepreneurial ventures), and who are familiar with educational standards, assessments, accountability, the needs of low-performing schools, and other educational needs of students, and ensure that 65 percent of such appointees are practitioners and 10 percent are representatives of private sector employers.

“(2) **APPROVAL.**—The Secretary shall—

“(A) approve a State plan within 120 days of its submission;

“(B) disapprove of the State plan only if the Secretary demonstrates how the State plan fails to meet the requirements of this section and immediately notifies the State of such determination and the reasons for such determination;

“(C) not decline to approve a State's plan before—

“(i) offering the State an opportunity to revise its plan;

“(ii) providing technical assistance in order to assist the State to meet the requirements of this section; and

“(iii) providing a hearing; and

“(D) have the authority to disapprove a State plan for not meeting the requirements of this subpart, but shall not have the authority to require a State, as a condition of approval of the State plan, to include in, or delete from, such plan one or more specific elements of the State's academic standards or State accountability system, or to use specific academic assessments or other indicators.

“(3) **STATE REVISIONS.**—A State plan shall be revised by the State educational agency if it is necessary to satisfy the requirements of this section.

“(4) **PUBLIC REVIEW.**—All communications, feedback, and notifications under this sub-

section shall be conducted in a manner that is immediately made available to the public through the website of the Department, including—

“(A) peer review guidance;

“(B) the names of the peer reviewers;

“(C) State plans submitted or resubmitted by a State, including the current approved plans;

“(D) peer review notes;

“(E) State plan determinations by the Secretary, including approvals or disapprovals, and any deviations from the peer reviewers' recommendations with an explanation of the deviation; and

“(F) hearings.

“(5) **PROHIBITION.**—The Secretary, and the Secretary's staff, may not attempt to participate in, or influence, the peer review process. No Federal employee may participate in, or attempt to influence the peer review process, except to respond to questions of a technical nature, which shall be publicly reported.

“(6) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—A State plan shall be presumed approved upon submission unless the Secretary finds that the plan does not meet one of the required elements, but in no case shall a deficiency be found due to the content of the material submitted.

“(f) **DURATION OF THE PLAN.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each State plan shall—

“(A) remain in effect for the duration of the State's participation under this subpart; and

“(B) be periodically reviewed and revised as necessary by the State educational agency to reflect changes in the State's strategies and programs under this subpart.

“(2) **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.**—If a State makes significant changes to its State plan, such as the adoption of new State academic standards or new academic assessments, or adopts a new State accountability system, such information shall be submitted to the Secretary under subsection (e)(2) for approval.

“(g) **FAILURE TO MEET REQUIREMENTS.**—If a State fails to meet any of the requirements of this section then the Secretary shall withhold funds for State administration under this subpart until the Secretary determines that the State has fulfilled those requirements.

“(h) **REPORTS.**—

“(1) **ANNUAL STATE REPORT CARD.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—A State that receives assistance under this subpart shall prepare and disseminate an annual State report card. Such dissemination shall include, at a minimum, publicly posting the report card on the home page of the State educational agency's website.

“(B) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—The State report card shall be—

“(i) concise; and

“(ii) presented in an understandable and uniform format that is developed in consultation with parents and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language that parents can understand.

“(C) **REQUIRED INFORMATION.**—The State shall include in its annual State report card information on—

“(i) the performance of students, in the aggregate and disaggregated by the categories of students described in subsection (b)(2)(B)(xii) (except that such disaggregation shall not be required in a case in which the number of students in a category is insufficient to yield statistically reliable information or the results would reveal personally identifiable information about an individual student), on the State academic assessments described in subsection (b)(2);

“(ii) the participation rate on such assessments, in the aggregate and disaggregated in accordance with clause (i);

“(iii) the performance of students, in the aggregate and disaggregated in accordance with clause (i), on other academic indicators described in subsection (b)(3)(B)(i);

“(iv) the number, percentage, and disability category of students with significant cognitive disabilities participating in the alternate assessments described in subsection (b)(2)(C) (except that such reporting shall not be required in a case in which the results would reveal personally identifiable information about an individual student);

“(v) for each public high school in the State, in the aggregate and disaggregated in accordance with clause (i)—

“(I) the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate, and

“(II) if applicable, the extended-year adjusted cohort graduation rate, reported separately for students graduating in 5 years or less, students graduating in 6 years or less, and students graduating in 7 or more years;

“(vi) each public school's evaluation results as determined in accordance with subsection (b)(3)(B)(ii);

“(vii) the acquisition of English proficiency by English learners;

“(viii) if appropriate, as determined by the State, the number and percentage of teachers in each category established under section 2123(1), except that such information shall not reveal personally identifiable information about an individual teacher; and

“(ix) the results of the assessments described in subsection (c)(2).

“(D) **OPTIONAL INFORMATION.**—The State may include in its annual State report card such other information as the State believes will best provide parents, students, and other members of the public with information regarding the progress of each of the State's public elementary schools and public secondary schools, such as the number of students enrolled in each public secondary school in the State attaining career and technical proficiencies, as defined in section 113(b)(2)(A) of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006, and reported by the State in a manner consistent with section 113(c) of such Act.

“(E) **DATA.**—All personal, private student data shall be prohibited from use beyond assessing student performance as provided for in subparagraph (C). The State's annual report shall only use such data as sufficient to yield statistically reliable information, and does not reveal personally identifiable information about individual students.

“(2) **ANNUAL LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY REPORT CARDS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—A local educational agency that receives assistance under this subpart shall prepare and disseminate an annual local educational agency report card.

“(B) **MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.**—The State educational agency shall ensure that each local educational agency collects appropriate data and includes in the local educational agency's annual report the information described in paragraph (1)(C) as applied to the local educational agency and each school served by the local educational agency, and—

“(i) in the case of a local educational agency, information that shows how students served by the local educational agency achieved on the statewide academic assessment and other academic indicators adopted in accordance with subsection (b)(3)(B)(i) compared to students in the State as a whole; and

“(ii) in the case of a school, the school's evaluation under subsection (b)(3)(B)(ii).

“(C) **OTHER INFORMATION.**—A local educational agency may include in its annual local educational agency report card any other appropriate information, whether or not such information is included in the annual State report card.

“(D) **DATA.**—A local educational agency or school shall only include in its annual local

educational agency report card data that are sufficient to yield statistically reliable information, as determined by the State, and that do not reveal personally identifiable information about an individual student.

“(E) **PUBLIC DISSEMINATION.**—The local educational agency shall publicly disseminate the information described in this paragraph to all schools served by the local educational agency and to all parents of students attending those schools in an understandable and uniform format, and, to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand, and make the information widely available through public means, such as posting on the Internet, distribution to the media, and distribution through public agencies, except that if a local educational agency issues a report card for all students, the local educational agency may include the information under this section as part of such report.

“(3) **PREEXISTING REPORT CARDS.**—A State educational agency or local educational agency may use public report cards on the performance of students, schools, local educational agencies, or the State, that were in effect prior to the enactment of the Student Success Act for the purpose of this subsection, so long as any such report card is modified, as may be needed, to contain the information required by this subsection, and protects the privacy of individual students.

“(4) **PARENTS RIGHT-TO-KNOW.**—

“(A) **ACHIEVEMENT INFORMATION.**—At the beginning of each school year, a school that receives funds under this subpart shall provide to each individual parent information on the level of achievement of the parent's child in each of the State academic assessments and other academic indicators adopted in accordance with this subpart.

“(B) **FORMAT.**—The notice and information provided to parents under this paragraph shall be in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language that the parents can understand.

“(i) **PRIVACY.**—Information collected under this section shall be collected and disseminated in a manner that protects the privacy of individuals consistent with section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act and this Act.

“(j) **VOLUNTARY PARTNERSHIPS.**—A State retains the right to enter into a voluntary partnership with another State to develop and implement the academic standards and assessments required under this section, except that the Secretary shall not, either directly or indirectly, attempt to influence, incentivize, or coerce State—

“(1) adoption of the Common Core State Standards developed under the Common Core State Standards Initiative, any other academic standards common to a significant number of States, or assessments tied to such standards; or

“(2) participation in any such partnerships.

“(k) **CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this part shall be construed to prescribe the use of the academic assessments described in this part for student promotion or graduation purposes.

“(l) **SPECIAL RULE WITH RESPECT TO BUREAU-FUNDED SCHOOLS.**—In determining the assessments to be used by each school operated or funded by the Bureau of Indian Education receiving funds under this subpart, the following shall apply:

“(1) Each such school that is accredited by the State in which it is operating shall use the assessments and other academic indicators the State has developed and implemented to meet the requirements of this section, or such other appropriate assessment and academic indicators as approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

“(2) Each such school that is accredited by a regional accrediting organization shall adopt an appropriate assessment and other academic indicators, in consultation with and with the ap-

proval of, the Secretary of the Interior and consistent with assessments and academic indicators adopted by other schools in the same State or region, that meet the requirements of this section.

“(3) Each such school that is accredited by a tribal accrediting agency or tribal division of education shall use an assessment and other academic indicators developed by such agency or division, except that the Secretary of the Interior shall ensure that such assessment and academic indicators meet the requirements of this section.”.

SEC. 113. LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY PLANS.

Section 1112 (20 U.S.C. 6312) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 1112. LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY PLANS.

“(a) **PLANS REQUIRED.**—

“(1) **SUBGRANTS.**—A local educational agency may receive a subgrant under this subpart for any fiscal year only if such agency has on file with the State educational agency a plan, approved by the State educational agency, that is coordinated with other programs under this Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, and other Acts, as appropriate.

“(2) **CONSOLIDATED APPLICATION.**—The plan may be submitted as part of a consolidated application under section 6305.

“(b) **PLAN PROVISIONS.**—Each local educational agency plan shall describe—

“(1) how the local educational agency will monitor, in addition to the State assessments described in section 1111(b)(2), students' progress in meeting the State's academic standards;

“(2) how the local educational agency will identify quickly and effectively those students who may be at risk of failing to meet the State's academic standards;

“(3) how the local educational agency will provide additional educational assistance to individual students in need of additional help in meeting the State's academic standards;

“(4) how the local educational agency will implement the school improvement system described in section 1111(b)(3)(B)(iii) for any of the agency's schools identified under such section;

“(5) how the local educational agency will coordinate programs under this subpart with other programs under this Act and other Acts, as appropriate;

“(6) the poverty criteria that will be used to select school attendance areas under section 1113;

“(7) how teachers, in consultation with parents, administrators, and specialized instructional support personnel, in targeted assistance schools under section 1115, will identify the eligible children most in need of services under this subpart;

“(8) in general, the nature of the programs to be conducted by the local educational agency's schools under sections 1114 and 1115, and, where appropriate, educational services outside such schools for children living in local institutions for neglected and delinquent children, and for neglected and delinquent children in community day school programs;

“(9) how the local educational agency will ensure that migratory children who are eligible to receive services under this subpart are selected to receive such services on the same basis as other children who are selected to receive services under this subpart;

“(10) the services the local educational agency will provide homeless children, including services provided with funds reserved under section 1113(c)(3)(A);

“(11) the strategy the local educational agency will use to implement effective parental involvement under section 1118;

“(12) if appropriate, how the local educational agency will use funds under this subpart to support preschool programs for children, particularly children participating in a Head Start program, which services may be provided directly by the local educational agency or through a subcontract with the local Head Start agency designated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 641 of the Head Start Act, or another comparable early childhood development program;

“(13) how the local educational agency, through incentives for voluntary transfers, the provision of professional development, recruitment programs, incentive pay, performance pay, or other effective strategies, will address disparities in the rates of low-income and minority students and other students being taught by ineffective teachers;

“(14) if appropriate, how the local educational agency will use funds under this subpart to support programs that coordinate and integrate—

“(A) career and technical education aligned with State technical standards that promote skills attainment important to in-demand occupations or industries in the State and the State's academic standards under section 1111(b)(1); and

“(B) work-based learning opportunities that provide students in-depth interaction with industry professionals; and

“(15) if appropriate, how the local educational agency will use funds under this subpart to support dual enrollment programs, early college high schools, and Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate programs.

“(c) **ASSURANCES.**—Each local educational agency plan shall provide assurances that the local educational agency will—

“(1) participate, if selected, in biennial State academic assessments of 4th and 8th grade reading and mathematics under the National Assessment of Educational Progress carried out under section 303(b)(2) of the National Assessment of Educational Progress Authorization Act;

“(2) inform schools of schoolwide program authority and the ability to consolidate funds from Federal, State, and local sources;

“(3) provide technical assistance to schoolwide programs;

“(4) provide services to eligible children attending private elementary and secondary schools in accordance with section 1120, and timely and meaningful consultation with private school officials or representatives regarding such services;

“(5) in the case of a local educational agency that chooses to use funds under this subpart to provide early childhood development services to low-income children below the age of compulsory school attendance, ensure that such services comply with the performance standards established under section 641A(a) of the Head Start Act;

“(6) inform eligible schools of the local educational agency's authority to request waivers on the school's behalf under title VI; and

“(7) ensure that the results of the academic assessments required under section 1111(b)(2) will be provided to parents and teachers as soon as is practicably possible after the test is taken, in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language that the parents can understand.

“(d) **SPECIAL RULE.**—In carrying out subsection (c)(5), the Secretary shall—

“(1) consult with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and shall establish procedures (taking into consideration existing State and local laws, and local teacher contracts) to assist local educational agencies to comply with such subparagraph; and

“(2) disseminate to local educational agencies the education performance standards in effect

under section 641A(a) of the Head Start Act, and such agencies affected by such subsection shall plan for the implementation of such subsection (taking into consideration existing State and local laws, and local teacher contracts).

“(e) PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND DURATION.—

“(1) CONSULTATION.—Each local educational agency plan shall be developed in consultation with teachers, school leaders, public charter school representatives, administrators, and other appropriate school personnel, and with parents of children in schools served under this subpart.

“(2) DURATION.—Each such plan shall be submitted for the first year for which this part is in effect following the date of the enactment of this Act and shall remain in effect for the duration of the agency’s participation under this subpart.

“(3) REVIEW.—Each local educational agency shall periodically review and, as necessary, revise its plan.

“(f) STATE APPROVAL.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each local educational agency plan shall be filed according to a schedule established by the State educational agency.

“(2) APPROVAL.—The State educational agency shall approve a local educational agency’s plan only if the State educational agency determines that the local educational agency’s plan—

“(A) enables schools served under this subpart to substantially help children served under this subpart to meet the State’s academic standards described in section 1111(b)(1); and

“(B) meets the requirements of this section.

“(3) REVIEW.—The State educational agency shall review the local educational agency’s plan to determine if such agency’s activities are in accordance with section 1118.

“(g) PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each local educational agency using funds under this subpart and subpart 4 to provide a language instruction educational program shall, not later than 30 days after the beginning of the school year, inform parents of an English learner identified for participation, or participating in, such a program of—

“(A) the reasons for the identification of their child as an English learner and in need of placement in a language instruction educational program;

“(B) the child’s level of English proficiency, how such level was assessed, and the status of the child’s academic achievement;

“(C) the methods of instruction used in the program in which their child is, or will be participating, and the methods of instruction used in other available programs, including how such programs differ in content, instructional goals, and the use of English and a native language in instruction;

“(D) how the program in which their child is, or will be participating, will meet the educational strengths and needs of their child;

“(E) how such program will specifically help their child learn English, and meet age-appropriate academic achievement standards for grade promotion and graduation;

“(F) the specific exit requirements for the program, including the expected rate of transition from such program into classrooms that are not tailored for English learners, and the expected rate of graduation from high school for such program if funds under this subpart are used for children in secondary schools;

“(G) in the case of a child with a disability, how such program meets the objectives of the individualized education program of the child; and

“(H) information pertaining to parental rights that includes written guidance—

“(i) detailing—

“(I) the right that parents have to have their child immediately removed from such program upon their request; and

“(II) the options that parents have to decline to enroll their child in such program or to choose another program or method of instruction, if available; and

“(ii) assisting parents in selecting among various programs and methods of instruction, if more than one program or method is offered by the eligible entity.

“(2) NOTICE.—The notice and information provided in paragraph (1) to parents of a child identified for participation in a language instruction educational program for English learners shall be in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language that the parents can understand.

“(3) SPECIAL RULE APPLICABLE DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR.—For those children who have not been identified as English learners prior to the beginning of the school year the local educational agency shall notify parents within the first 2 weeks of the child being placed in a language instruction educational program consistent with paragraphs (1) and (2).

“(4) PARENTAL PARTICIPATION.—Each local educational agency receiving funds under this subpart shall implement an effective means of outreach to parents of English learners to inform the parents regarding how the parents can be involved in the education of their children, and be active participants in assisting their children to attain English proficiency, achieve at high levels in core academic subjects, and meet the State’s academic standards expected of all students, including holding, and sending notice of opportunities for, regular meetings for the purpose of formulating and responding to recommendations from parents of students assisted under this subpart.

“(5) BASIS FOR ADMISSION OR EXCLUSION.—A student shall not be admitted to, or excluded from, any federally assisted education program on the basis of a surname or language-minority status.”.

SEC. 114. ELIGIBLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREAS.

Section 1113 (20 U.S.C. 6313) is amended—

(1) by striking “part” each place it appears and inserting “subpart”; and

(2) in subsection (c)(4)—

(A) by striking “subpart 2” and inserting “chapter B”; and

(B) by striking “school improvement, corrective action, and restructuring under section 1116(b)” and inserting “school improvement under section 1111(b)(3)(B)(iii)”.

SEC. 115. SCHOOLWIDE PROGRAMS.

Section 1114 (20 U.S.C. 6314) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “part” and inserting “subpart”; and

(ii) by striking “in which” through “such families”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking “part” and inserting “subpart”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking “children with limited English proficiency” and inserting “English learners”; and

(II) by striking “part” and inserting “subpart”;

(C) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking “maintenance of effort,” after “private school children,”; and

(D) by striking paragraph (4);

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “(including)” and all that follows through “1309(2))”; and

(II) by striking “content standards and the State student academic achievement standards” and inserting “standards”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in clause (i), by striking “proficient” and all that follows through “section 1111(b)(1)(D)” and inserting “academic standards described in section 1111(b)(1)”;

(II) in clause (ii), in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking “based on scientifically based research” and inserting “evidence-based”;

(III) in clause (iii)—

(aa) in subclause (I)—

(AA) by striking “student academic achievement standards” and inserting “academic standards”; and

(BB) by striking “schoolwide program,” and all that follows through “technical education programs; and” and inserting “schoolwide programs; and”; and

(bb) in subclause (II), by striking “and”;

(IV) in clause (iv)—

(aa) by striking “the State and local improvement plans” and inserting “school improvement strategies”; and

(bb) by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(V) by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(v) may be delivered by nonprofit or for-profit external providers with expertise in using evidence-based or other effective strategies to improve student achievement.”;

(iii) in subparagraph (C), by striking “highly qualified” and inserting “effective”;

(iv) in subparagraph (D)—

(I) by striking “In accordance with section 1119 and subsection (a)(4), high-quality” and inserting “High-quality”;

(II) by striking “pupil services” and inserting “specialized instructional support services”; and

(III) by striking “student academic achievement” and inserting “academic”;

(v) in subparagraph (E), by striking “high-quality highly qualified” and inserting “effective”;

(vi) in subparagraph (G), by striking “, such as Head Start, Even Start, Early Reading First, or a State-run preschool program,”;

(vii) in subparagraph (H), by striking “section 1111(b)(3)” and inserting “section 1111(b)(2)”;

(viii) in subparagraph (I), by striking “proficient or advanced levels of academic achievement standards” and inserting “State academic standards”; and

(ix) in subparagraph (J), by striking “vocational” and inserting “career”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i)—

(aa) by striking “first develop” and all that follows through “2001” and inserting “have in place”; and

(bb) by striking “and its school support team or other technical assistance provider under section 1117”;

(II) in clause (ii), by striking “part” and inserting “subpart”; and

(III) in clause (iv), by striking “section 1111(b)(3)” and inserting “section 1111(b)(2)”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in clause (i)—

(aa) in subclause (I), by striking “, after considering the recommendation of the technical assistance providers under section 1117,”; and

(bb) in subclause (II), by striking “No Child Left Behind Act of 2001” and inserting “Student Success Act”;

(II) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by striking “(including administrators of programs described in other parts of this title)”;

(bb) by striking “pupil services” and inserting “specialized instructional support services”;

(III) in clause (iii), by striking “part” and inserting “subpart”; and

(IV) in clause (v), by striking “Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start,”; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking “part” and inserting “subpart”; and

(B) by striking “6,” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “6.”.

SEC. 116. TARGETED ASSISTANCE SCHOOLS.

Section 1115 (20 U.S.C. 6315) is amended—

(I) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “are ineligible for a schoolwide program under section 1114, or that”;

(B) by striking “operate such” and inserting “operate”; and

(C) by striking “part” and inserting “subpart”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “challenging student academic achievement” and inserting “academic”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “limited English proficient children” and inserting “English learners”; and

(II) by striking “part” each place it appears and inserting “subpart”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in the heading, by striking “, EVEN START, OR EARLY READING FIRST”;

(II) by striking “, Even Start, or Early Reading First”; and

(III) by striking “part” and inserting “subpart”;

(iii) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) by amending the heading to read as follows: “SUBPART 3 CHILDREN.—”;

(II) by striking “part C” and inserting “subpart 3”; and

(III) by striking “part” and inserting “subpart”; and

(iv) in subparagraphs (D) and (E), by striking “part” each place it appears and inserting “subpart”; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “part” and inserting “subpart”;

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “part” and inserting “subpart”; and

(II) by striking “challenging student academic achievement” and inserting “academic”;

(ii) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “part” and inserting “subpart”; and

(II) by striking “challenging student academic achievement” and inserting “academic”;

(iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “part” and inserting “subpart”;

(iv) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “based on scientifically based research” and inserting “evidence-based”; and

(II) in clause (iii), by striking “part” and inserting “subpart”;

(v) in subparagraph (D), by striking “such as Head Start, Even Start, Early Reading First or State-run preschool programs”;

(vi) in subparagraph (E), by striking “highly qualified” and inserting “effective”;

(vii) in subparagraph (F)—

(I) by striking “in accordance with subsection (e)(3) and section 1119,”;

(II) by striking “part” and inserting “subpart”; and

(III) by striking “pupil services personnel” and inserting “specialized instructional support personnel”; and

(viii) in subparagraph (H), by striking “vocational” and inserting “career”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “proficient and advanced levels of achievement” and inserting “academic standards”;

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking “part” and inserting “subpart”; and

(iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “challenging student academic achievement” and inserting “academic”;

(4) in subsection (d), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “part” each place it appears and inserting “subpart”;

(5) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(B)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “part” and inserting “subpart”; and

(ii) in clause (iii), by striking “pupil services” and inserting “specialized instructional support services”;

(B) by striking paragraph (3); and

(6) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f) DELIVERY OF SERVICES.—The elements of a targeted assistance program under this section may be delivered by nonprofit or for-profit external providers with expertise in using evidence-based or other effective strategies to improve student achievement.”.

SEC. 117. ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT AND LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT; SCHOOL SUPPORT AND RECOGNITION.

The Act is amended by repealing sections 1116 and 1117 (20 U.S.C. 6316; 6317).

SEC. 118. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT.

Section 1118 (20 U.S.C. 6318) is amended—

(1) by striking “part” each place such term appears and inserting “subpart”;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “, and” and all that follows through “1116”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking “, such as” and all that follows through “preschool programs”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “subpart 2 of this part” each place it appears and inserting “chapter B of this subpart”;

(3) by amending subsection (c)(4)(B) to read as follows:

“(B) a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school and the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress; and”;

(4) in subsection (d)(1), by striking “student academic achievement” and inserting “academic”;

(5) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “State’s academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards” and inserting “State’s academic standards”;

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking “pupil services personnel,” and inserting “specialized instructional support personnel,”; and

(ii) by striking “principals,” and inserting “school leaders,”; and

(C) in paragraph (4), by striking “Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, the Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool and other” and inserting “other Federal, State, and local”; and

(6) by amending subsection (g) to read as follows:

“(g) FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS.—In a State operating a program under subpart 3 of part A of title III, each local educational agency or school that receives assistance under this subpart shall inform such parents and organizations of the existence of such programs.”.

SEC. 119. QUALIFICATIONS FOR TEACHERS AND PARAPROFESSIONALS.

The Act is amended by repealing section 1119 (20 U.S.C. 6319).

SEC. 120. PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

Section 1120 (20 U.S.C. 6320) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 1120. PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

“(a) GENERAL REQUIREMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent consistent with the number of eligible children identified under section 1115(b) in the school district served by a local educational agency who are enrolled in private elementary schools and secondary schools, a local educational agency shall—

“(A) after timely and meaningful consultation with appropriate private school officials or representatives, provide such service, on an equitable basis and individually or in combination, as requested by the officials or representatives to best meet the needs of such children, special educational services, instructional services (including evaluations to determine students’ progress in their academic needs), counseling, mentoring, one-on-one tutoring, or other benefits under this subpart (such as dual enrollment, educational radio and television, computer equipment and materials, other technology, and mobile educational services and equipment) that address their needs; and

“(B) ensure that teachers and families of the children participate, on an equitable basis, in services and activities developed pursuant to this subpart.

“(2) SECULAR, NEUTRAL, NONIDEOLOGICAL.—Such educational services or other benefits, including materials and equipment, shall be secular, neutral, and nonideological.

“(3) EQUITY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Educational services and other benefits for such private school children shall be equitable in comparison to services and other benefits for public school children participating under this subpart, and shall be provided in a timely manner.

“(B) OMBUDSMAN.—To help ensure such equity for such private school children, teachers, and other educational personnel, the State educational agency involved shall designate an ombudsman to monitor and enforce the requirements of this subpart.

“(4) EXPENDITURES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Expenditures for educational services and other benefits to eligible private school children shall be equal to the expenditures for participating public school children, taking into account the number, and educational needs, of the children to be served. The share of funds shall be determined based on the total allocation received by the local educational agency prior to any allowable expenditures authorized under this title.

“(B) OBLIGATION OF FUNDS.—Funds allocated to a local educational agency for educational services and other benefits to eligible private school children shall—

“(i) be obligated in the fiscal year for which the funds are received by the agency; and

“(ii) with respect to any such funds that cannot be so obligated, be used to serve such children in the following fiscal year.

“(C) NOTICE OF ALLOCATION.—Each State educational agency shall—

“(i) determine, in a timely manner, the proportion of funds to be allocated to each local educational agency in the State for educational services and other benefits under this subpart to eligible private school children; and

“(ii) provide notice, simultaneously, to each such local educational agency and the appropriate private school officials or their representatives in the State of such allocation of funds.

“(5) **PROVISION OF SERVICES.**—The local educational agency or, in a case described in subsection (b)(6)(C), the State educational agency involved, may provide services under this section directly or through contracts with public or private agencies, organizations, and institutions.

“(b) **CONSULTATION.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—To ensure timely and meaningful consultation, a local educational agency shall consult with appropriate private school officials or representatives during the design and development of such agency’s programs under this subpart in order to reach an agreement between the agency and the officials or representatives about equitable and effective programs for eligible private school children, the results of which shall be transmitted to the designated ombudsmen under section 1120(a)(3)(B). Such process shall include consultation on issues such as—

“(A) how the children’s needs will be identified;

“(B) what services will be offered;

“(C) how, where, and by whom the services will be provided;

“(D) how the services will be academically assessed and how the results of that assessment will be used to improve those services;

“(E) the size and scope of the equitable services to be provided to the eligible private school children, and the proportion of funds that is allocated under subsection (a)(4)(A) for such services, how that proportion of funds is determined under such subsection, and an itemization of the costs of the services to be provided;

“(F) the method or sources of data that are used under subsection (c) and section 1113(c)(1) to determine the number of children from low-income families in participating school attendance areas who attend private schools;

“(G) how and when the agency will make decisions about the delivery of services to such children, including a thorough consideration and analysis of the views of the private school officials or representatives on the provision of services through a contract with potential third-party providers;

“(H) how, if the agency disagrees with the views of the private school officials or representatives on the provision of services through a contract, the local educational agency will provide in writing to such private school officials an analysis of the reasons why the local educational agency has chosen not to use a contractor;

“(I) whether the agency will provide services under this section directly or through contracts with public and private agencies, organizations, and institutions;

“(J) whether to provide equitable services to eligible private school children—

“(i) by creating a pool or pools of funds with all of the funds allocated under subsection (a)(4) based on all the children from low-income families who attend private schools in a participating school attendance area of the agency from which the local educational agency will provide such services to all such children; or

“(ii) by providing such services to eligible children in each private school in the agency’s participating school attendance area with the proportion of funds allocated under subsection (a)(4) based on the number of children from low-income families who attend such school;

“(K) at what time and where services will be provided; and

“(L) whether to consolidate and use funds under this subpart to provide schoolwide programs for a private school.

“(2) **DISAGREEMENT.**—If a local educational agency disagrees with the views of private school officials or representatives with respect to an issue described in paragraph (1), the local

educational agency shall provide in writing to such private school officials an analysis of the reasons why the local educational agency has chosen not to adopt the course of action requested by such officials.

“(3) **TIMING.**—Such consultation shall include meetings of agency and private school officials or representatives and shall occur before the local educational agency makes any decision that affects the opportunities of eligible private school children to participate in programs under this subpart. Such meetings shall continue throughout implementation and assessment of services provided under this section.

“(4) **DISCUSSION.**—Such consultation shall include a discussion of service delivery mechanisms a local educational agency can use to provide equitable services to eligible private school children.

“(5) **DOCUMENTATION.**—Each local educational agency shall maintain in the agency’s records and provide to the State educational agency involved a written affirmation signed by officials or representatives of each participating private school that the meaningful consultation required by this section has occurred. The written affirmation shall provide the option for private school officials or representatives to indicate that timely and meaningful consultation has not occurred or that the program design is not equitable with respect to eligible private school children. If such officials or representatives do not provide such affirmation within a reasonable period of time, the local educational agency shall forward the documentation that such consultation has, or attempts at such consultation have, taken place to the State educational agency.

“(6) **COMPLAINT.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—A private school official shall have the right to file a complaint with the State educational agency that the local educational agency did not engage in consultation that was meaningful and timely, did not give due consideration to the views of the private school official, or did not treat the private school or its students equitably as required by this section.

“(B) **PROCEDURE.**—If the private school official wishes to file a complaint, the official shall provide the basis of the noncompliance with this section by the local educational agency to the State educational agency, and the local educational agency shall forward the appropriate documentation to the State educational agency.

“(C) **STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.**—A State educational agency shall provide services under this section directly or through contracts with public or private agencies, organizations, and institutions, if—

“(i) the appropriate private school officials or their representatives have—

“(I) requested that the State educational agency provide such services directly; and

“(II) demonstrated that the local educational agency involved has not met the requirements of this section; or

“(ii) in a case in which—

“(I) a local educational agency has more than 10,000 children from low-income families who attend private elementary schools or secondary schools in a participating school attendance area of the agency that are not being served by the agency’s program under this section; or

“(II) 90 percent of the eligible private school students in a participating school attendance area of the agency are not being served by the agency’s program under this section.

“(c) **ALLOCATION FOR EQUITABLE SERVICE TO PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS.**—

“(1) **CALCULATION.**—A local educational agency shall have the final authority, consistent with this section, to calculate the number of children, ages 5 through 17, who are from low-income families and attend private schools by—

“(A) using the same measure of low income used to count public school children;

“(B) using the results of a survey that, to the extent possible, protects the identity of families of private school students, and allowing such survey results to be extrapolated if complete actual data are unavailable;

“(C) applying the low-income percentage of each participating public school attendance area, determined pursuant to this section, to the number of private school children who reside in that school attendance area; or

“(D) using an equated measure of low income correlated with the measure of low income used to count public school children.

“(2) **COMPLAINT PROCESS.**—Any dispute regarding low-income data for private school students shall be subject to the complaint process authorized in section 6503.

“(d) **PUBLIC CONTROL OF FUNDS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The control of funds provided under this subpart, and title to materials, equipment, and property purchased with such funds, shall be in a public agency, and a public agency shall administer such funds, materials, equipment, and property.

“(2) **PROVISION OF SERVICES.**—

“(A) **PROVIDER.**—The provision of services under this section shall be provided—

“(i) by employees of a public agency; or

“(ii) through a contract by such public agency with an individual, association, agency, or organization.

“(B) **REQUIREMENT.**—In the provision of such services, such employee, individual, association, agency, or organization shall be independent of such private school and of any religious organization, and such employment or contract shall be under the control and supervision of such public agency.

“(e) **STANDARDS FOR A BYPASS.**—If a local educational agency is prohibited by law from providing for the participation in programs on an equitable basis of eligible children enrolled in private elementary schools and secondary schools, or if the Secretary determines that a local educational agency has substantially failed or is unwilling to provide for such participation, as required by this section, the Secretary shall—

“(1) waive the requirements of this section for such local educational agency;

“(2) arrange for the provision of services to such children through arrangements that shall be subject to the requirements of this section and sections 6503 and 6504; and

“(3) in making the determination under this subsection, consider one or more factors, including the quality, size, scope, and location of the program and the opportunity of eligible children to participate.”

SEC. 121. FISCAL REQUIREMENTS.

Section 1120A (20 U.S.C. 6321) is amended—

(1) by striking “part” each place it appears and inserting “subpart”; and

(2) by striking subsection (a) and redesignating subsections (b), (c), and (d) as subsections (a), (b), and (c), respectively.

SEC. 122. COORDINATION REQUIREMENTS.

Section 1120B (20 U.S.C. 6322) is amended—

(1) by striking “part” each place it appears and inserting “subpart”; and

(2) in subsection (a), by striking “such as the Early Reading First program”; and

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “, such as the Early Reading First program,”;

(B) in paragraphs (1) through (3), by striking “such as the Early Reading First program” each place it appears;

(C) in paragraph (4), by striking “Early Reading First program staff,”; and

(D) in paragraph (5), by striking “and entities carrying out Early Reading First programs”.

SEC. 123. GRANTS FOR THE OUTLYING AREAS AND THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

Section 1121 (20 U.S.C. 6331) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “appropriated for payments to States for any fiscal year under section 1002(a) and 1125A(f)” and inserting “reserved for this chapter under section 1122(a)”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001” and inserting “the Student Success Act”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking “basis,” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “basis.”;

(ii) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by striking “challenging State academic content standards” and inserting “State academic standards”; and

(iii) by striking subparagraph (D); and

(3) in subsection (d)(2), by striking “part” and inserting “subpart”.

SEC. 124. ALLOCATIONS TO STATES.

Section 1122 (20 U.S.C. 6332) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) **RESERVATION.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—From the amounts appropriated under section 3(a)(1), the Secretary shall reserve 91.44 percent of such amounts to carry out this chapter.

“(2) **ALLOCATION FORMULA.**—Of the amount reserved under paragraph (1) for each of fiscal years 2016 to 2021 (referred to in this subsection as the current fiscal year)—

“(A) an amount equal to the amount made available to carry out section 1124 for fiscal year 2001 shall be used to carry out section 1124;

“(B) an amount equal to the amount made available to carry out section 1124A for fiscal year 2001 shall be used to carry out section 1124A; and

“(C) an amount equal to 100 percent of the amount, if any, by which the total amount made available to carry out this chapter for the fiscal year for which the determination is made exceeds the total amount available to carry out sections 1124 and 1124A for fiscal year 2001 shall be used to carry out sections 1125 and 1125A and such amount shall be divided equally between sections 1125 and 1125A.”;

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “subpart” and inserting “chapter”;

(3) in subsection (c)(3), by striking “part” and inserting “subpart”;

(4) in subsection (d)(1), by striking “subpart” and inserting “chapter”.

SEC. 125. BASIC GRANTS TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.

Section 1124 (20 U.S.C. 6333) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking “subpart” and inserting “chapter”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C)(i), by striking “subpart” and inserting “chapter”; and

(B) in paragraph (4)(C), by striking “subpart” each place it appears and inserting “chapter”; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “subpart 1 of part D” and inserting “chapter A of subpart 3”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “part” and inserting “subpart”.

SEC. 126. TARGETED GRANTS TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.

Section 1125 (20 U.S.C. 6335) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in clause (i), by striking “15.58” and inserting “15.59”;

(ii) in clause (ii)—

(I) by striking “15.58” and inserting “15.59”;

and

(II) by striking “22.11” and inserting “22.12”;

(iii) in clause (iii)—

(I) by striking “22.11” and inserting “22.12”;

and

(II) by striking “30.16” and inserting “30.17”;

(iv) in clause (iv)—

(I) by striking “30.16” and inserting “30.17”;

and

(II) by striking “38.24” and inserting “38.25”;

and

(v) in clause (v), by striking “38.24” and inserting “38.25”;

(B) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) in clause (i), by striking “691” and inserting “692”;

(ii) in clause (ii)—

(I) by striking “692” and inserting “693”;

(II) by striking “2,262” and inserting “2,263”;

(iii) in clause (iii)—

(I) by striking “2,263” and inserting “2,264”;

and

(II) by striking “7,851” and inserting “7,852”;

(iv) in clause (iv)—

(I) by striking “7,852” and inserting “7,853”;

and

(II) by striking “35,514” and inserting “35,515”;

and

(v) in clause (v), by striking “35,514” and inserting “35,515”;

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(f) **APPLICATION.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The percentage and number ranges described in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subsection (c)(2) shall be applied with respect to fiscal years 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 as such percentages and numbers were in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Student Success Act.

“(2) **SECRETARY’S CERTIFICATION.**—For fiscal year 2022 and each subsequent fiscal year, the percentage and number ranges described in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subsection (c)(2) shall be applied as such percentages and numbers were in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Student Success Act unless the Secretary certifies that amendments made to such percentages and numbers by the Student Success Act will not result in harm to any school district.”.

SEC. 127. ADEQUACY OF FUNDING TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES IN FISCAL YEARS AFTER FISCAL YEAR 2001.

Section 1125AA (20 U.S.C. 6336) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 1125AA. ADEQUACY OF FUNDING TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES IN FISCAL YEARS AFTER FISCAL YEAR 2001.

“(a) **LIMITATION OF ALLOCATION.**—Pursuant to section 1122, the total amount allocated in any fiscal year after fiscal year 2001 for programs and activities under this subpart shall not exceed the amount allocated in fiscal year 2001 for such programs and activities unless the amount available for targeted grants to local educational agencies under section 1125 in the applicable fiscal year meets the requirements of section 1122(a).

“(b) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following findings:

“(1) The formulas for distributing Targeted and Education Finance Incentive grants use two weighting systems, one based on the percentage of the aged 5-17 population in a local educational agency that is eligible to receive funds under this title (percentage weighting), and another based on the absolute number of such students (number weighting). Whichever of these weighting systems results in the highest total weighted formula student count for a local educational agency is the weighting system used for that agency in the final allocation of Targeted and Education Finance Incentive Grant funds.

“(2) The Congressional Research Service has said the number weighting alternative is generally more favorable to large local educational agencies with much larger counts of eligible children, but not necessarily higher concentrations, weighted at the highest point in the scale than smaller local educational agencies with smaller counts, but higher concentrations, of eligible children.

“(3) The current percentage and number weighting scales are based on the most current data available in 2001 on the distribution of eligible children across local educational agencies.

“(4) Prior to the date of the enactment of the Student Success Act, Congress expects updated data to be available, which will provide Congress an opportunity to update these scales based on such data.

“(5) When these scales are updated, Congress has a further obligation to evaluate the use of percentage and number weighting to ensure the most equitable distribution of Targeted and Education Finance Incentive Grant funds to local educational agencies.”.

SEC. 128. EDUCATION FINANCE INCENTIVE GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 1125A (20 U.S.C. 6337) is amended—

(1) by striking “part” each place it appears and inserting “subpart”;

(2) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “appropriated pursuant to subsection (f)” and inserting “made available for any fiscal year to carry out this section”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “total appropriations” and inserting “the total amount reserved under section 1122(a) to carry out this section”;

(3) by striking subsections (a), (e), and (f) and redesignating subsections (b), (c), (d), and (g) as subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d), respectively;

(4) in subsection (b), as so redesignated, by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively;

(5) in subsection (c), as so redesignated—

(A) in paragraph (1)(B)—

(i) in clause (ii)—

(I) in subclause (I), by striking “15.58” and inserting “15.59”;

(II) in subclause (II)—

(aa) by striking “15.58” and inserting “15.59”;

and

(bb) by striking “22.11” and inserting “22.12”;

(III) in subclause (III)—

(aa) by striking “22.11” and inserting “22.12”;

and

(bb) by striking “30.16” and inserting “30.17”;

(IV) in subclause (IV)—

(aa) by striking “30.16” and inserting “30.17”;

and

(bb) by striking “38.24” and inserting “38.25”;

and

(V) in subclause (V), by striking “38.24” and inserting “38.25”; and

(ii) in clause (iii)—

(I) in subclause (I), by striking “691” and inserting “692”;

(II) in subclause (II)—

(aa) by striking “692” and inserting “693”;

and

(bb) by striking “2,262” and inserting “2,263”;

(III) in subclause (III)—

(aa) by striking “2,263” and inserting “2,264”;

and

(bb) by striking “7,851” and inserting “7,852”;

(IV) in subclause (IV)—

(aa) by striking “7,852” and inserting “7,853”;

and

(bb) by striking “35,514” and inserting “35,515”;

(V) in subclause (V), by striking “35,514” and inserting “35,515”;

(B) in paragraph (2)(B)—

(i) in clause (ii)—

(I) in subclause (I), by striking “15.58” and inserting “15.59”;

(II) in subclause (II)—

(aa) by striking “15.58” and inserting “15.59”;

and

(bb) by striking “22.11” and inserting “22.12”;

(III) in subclause (III)—

(aa) by striking “22.11” and inserting “22.12”;

and

(bb) by striking “30.16” and inserting “30.17”;

(IV) in subclause (IV)—

(aa) by striking “30.16” and inserting “30.17”;

and

(bb) by striking “38.24” and inserting “38.25”;

and

(V) in subclause (V), by striking “38.24” and inserting “38.25”; and

(ii) in clause (iii)—

(I) in subclause (I), by striking “691” and inserting “692”;

(II) in subclause (II)—

(aa) by striking “692” and inserting “693”;

and

(bb) by striking “2,262” and inserting “2,263”;

(III) in subclause (III)—

(aa) by striking “2,263” and inserting “2,264”;

and

(bb) by striking “7,851” and inserting “7,852”;

(IV) in subclause (IV)—

(aa) by striking “7,852” and inserting “7,853”;

and

(bb) by striking “35,514” and inserting “35,515”;

and

(V) in subclause (V), by striking “35,514” and inserting “35,515”; and

(C) in paragraph (3)(B)—

(i) in clause (ii)—

(I) in subclause (I), by striking “15.58” and inserting “15.59”;

(II) in subclause (II)—

(aa) by striking “15.58” and inserting “15.59”;

and

(bb) by striking “22.11” and inserting “22.12”;

(III) in subclause (III)—

(aa) by striking “22.11” and inserting “22.12”;

and

(bb) by striking “30.16” and inserting “30.17”;

(IV) in subclause (IV)—

(aa) by striking “30.16” and inserting “30.17”;

and

(bb) by striking “38.24” and inserting “38.25”;

and

(V) in subclause (V), by striking “38.24” and inserting “38.25”; and

(ii) in clause (iii)—

(I) in subclause (I), by striking “691” and inserting “692”;

(II) in subclause (II)—

(aa) by striking “692” and inserting “693”;

and

(bb) by striking “2,262” and inserting “2,263”;

(III) in subclause (III)—

(aa) by striking “2,263” and inserting “2,264”;

and

(bb) by striking “7,851” and inserting “7,852”;

(IV) in subclause (IV)—

(aa) by striking “7,852” and inserting “7,853”;

and

(bb) by striking “35,514” and inserting “35,515”;

and

(V) in subclause (V), by striking “35,514” and inserting “35,515”; and

(6) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) APPLICATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The percentage and number ranges described in clauses (ii) and (iii) of paragraph (1)(B), clauses (ii) and (iii) of paragraph (2)(B), and clauses (ii) and (iii) of paragraph (3)(B) shall be applied with respect to fiscal years 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 as such percentages and numbers were in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Student Success Act.

“(2) SECRETARY’S CERTIFICATION.—For fiscal year 2022 and each subsequent fiscal year, the percentage and number ranges described in clauses (ii) and (iii) of paragraph (1)(B), clauses (ii) and (iii) of paragraph (2)(B), and clauses (ii) and (iii) of paragraph (3)(B) shall be applied as such percentages and numbers were in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Student Success Act unless the Secretary certifies that amendments made to such percentages and numbers by the Student Success Act will not result in harm to any school district.”.

SEC. 129. CARRYOVER AND WAIVER.

Section 1127 (20 U.S.C. 6339) is amended by striking “subpart” each place it appears and inserting “chapter”.

SEC. 130. TITLE I PORTABILITY.

Chapter B of subpart 1 of part A of title I (20 U.S.C. 6331 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 1128. TITLE I FUNDS FOLLOW THE LOW-INCOME CHILD STATE OPTION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law and to the extent permitted under State law, a State educational agency may allocate grant funds under this chapter among the local educational agencies in the State based on the number of eligible children enrolled in the public schools served by each local educational agency.

“(b) ELIGIBLE CHILD.—

“(1) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘eligible child’ means a child aged 5 to 17, inclusive, from a family with an income below the poverty level on the basis of the most recent satisfactory data published by the Department of Commerce.

“(2) CRITERIA OF POVERTY.—In determining the families with incomes below the poverty level for the purposes of this section, a State educational agency shall use the criteria of poverty used by the Census Bureau in compiling the most recent decennial census, as the criteria have been updated by increases in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

“(c) STUDENT ENROLLMENT IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.—

“(1) IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN.—On an annual basis, on a date to be determined by the State educational agency, each local educational agency that receives grant funding in accordance with subsection (a) shall inform the State educational agency of the number of eligible children enrolled in public schools served by the local educational agency.

“(2) ALLOCATION TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—Based on the identification of eligible children in paragraph (1), the State educational agency shall provide to a local educational agency an amount equal to the sum of the amount available for each eligible child in the State multiplied by the number of eligible children identified by the local educational agency under paragraph (1).

“(3) DISTRIBUTION TO SCHOOLS.—Each local educational agency that receives funds under paragraph (2) shall distribute such funds to the public schools served by the local educational agency—

“(A) based on the number of eligible children enrolled in such schools; and

“(B) in a manner that would, in the absence of such Federal funds, supplement the funds made available from non-Federal resources for the education of pupils participating in programs under this subpart, and not to supplant such funds.”.

Subtitle C—Additional Aid to States and School Districts

SEC. 131. ADDITIONAL AID.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title I (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), as amended by the preceding provisions of this Act, is further amended—

(1) by striking parts B through D and F through H; and

(2) by inserting after subpart 1 of part A the following:

“Subpart 2—Education of Migratory Children

“SEC. 1131. PROGRAM PURPOSES.

“The purposes of this subpart are as follows:

“(1) To assist States in supporting high-quality and comprehensive educational programs and services during the school year, and as applicable, during summer or intercession periods, that address the unique educational needs of migratory children.

“(2) To ensure that migratory children who move among the States, not be penalized in any manner by disparities among the States in curriculum, graduation requirements, and State academic standards.

“(3) To help such children succeed in school, meet the State academic standards that all children are expected to meet, and graduate from high school prepared for postsecondary education and the workforce without the need for remediation.

“(4) To help such children overcome educational disruption, cultural and language barriers, social isolation, various health-related problems, and other factors that inhibit the ability of such children to succeed in school.

“(5) To help such children benefit from State and local systemic reforms.

“SEC. 1132. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts appropriated under section 3(a)(1), the Secretary shall reserve 2.45 percent to carry out this subpart.

“(b) GRANTS AWARDED.—From the amounts reserved under subsection (a) and not reserved under section 1138(c), the Secretary shall make allotments for the fiscal year to State educational agencies, or consortia of such agencies, to establish or improve, directly or through local operating agencies, programs of education for migratory children in accordance with this subpart.

“SEC. 1133. STATE ALLOCATIONS.

“(a) STATE ALLOCATIONS.—Except as provided in subsection (c), each State (other than the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico) is entitled to receive under this subpart an amount equal to the product of—

“(1) the sum of—

“(A) the average number of identified eligible full-time equivalent migratory children aged 3 through 21 residing in the State, based on data for the preceding 3 years; and

“(B) the number of identified eligible migratory children, aged 3 through 21, who received services under this subpart in summer or intercession programs provided by the State during the previous year; multiplied by

“(2) 40 percent of the average per-pupil expenditure in the State, except that the amount determined under this paragraph shall not be less than 32 percent, nor more than 48 percent, of the average per-pupil expenditure in the United States.

“(b) HOLD HARMLESS.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2018, no State shall receive less than 90 percent of the State’s allocation under this section for the previous year.

“(c) ALLOCATION TO PUERTO RICO.—For each fiscal year, the grant which the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico shall be eligible to receive under this subpart shall be the amount determined by multiplying the number of children who would be counted under subsection (a)(1) if such subsection applied to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico by the product of—

“(1) the percentage that the average per-pupil expenditure in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is of the lowest average per-pupil expenditure of any of the 50 States, except that the percentage calculated under this subparagraph shall not be less than 85 percent; and

“(2) 32 percent of the average per-pupil expenditure in the United States.

“(d) RATABLE REDUCTIONS; REALLOCATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) RATABLE REDUCTIONS.—If, after the Secretary reserves funds under section 1138(c), the amount appropriated to carry out this subpart for any fiscal year is insufficient to pay in full the amounts for which all States are eligible, the Secretary shall ratably reduce each such amount.

“(B) REALLOCATION.—If additional funds become available for making such payments for any fiscal year, the Secretary shall allocate such funds to States in amounts that the Secretary determines will best carry out the purpose of this subpart.

“(2) SPECIAL RULE.—

“(A) FURTHER REDUCTIONS.—The Secretary shall further reduce the amount of any grant to a State under this subpart for any fiscal year if the Secretary determines, based on available information on the numbers and needs of migratory children in the State and the program proposed by the State to address such needs, that such amount exceeds the amount required under section 1134.

“(B) REALLOCATION.—The Secretary shall reallocate such excess funds to other States whose grants under this subpart would otherwise be insufficient to provide an appropriate level of services to migratory children, in such amounts as the Secretary determines are appropriate.

“(e) CONSORTIUM ARRANGEMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a State that receives a grant of \$1,000,000 or less under this section, the Secretary shall consult with the State educational agency to determine whether consortium arrangements with another State or other appropriate entity would result in delivery of services in a more effective and efficient manner.

“(2) PROPOSALS.—Any State, regardless of the amount of such State's allocation, may submit a consortium arrangement to the Secretary for approval.

“(3) APPROVAL.—The Secretary shall approve a consortium arrangement under paragraph (1) or (2) if the proposal demonstrates that the arrangement will—

“(A) reduce administrative costs or program function costs for State programs; and

“(B) make more funds available for direct services to add substantially to the educational achievement of children to be served under this subpart.

“(f) DETERMINING NUMBERS OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN.—In order to determine the identified number of migratory children residing in each State for purposes of this section, the Secretary shall—

“(1) use the most recent information that most accurately reflects the actual number of migratory children;

“(2) develop and implement a procedure for monitoring the accuracy of such information;

“(3) develop and implement a procedure for more accurately reflecting cost factors for different types of summer and intersession program designs;

“(4) adjust the full-time equivalent number of migratory children who reside in each State to take into account—

“(A) the unique needs of those children participating in evidence-based or other effective special programs provided under this subpart that operate during the summer and intersession periods; and

“(B) the additional costs of operating such programs; and

“(5) conduct an analysis of the options for adjusting the formula so as to better direct services to migratory children, including the most at-risk migratory children.

“(g) NONPARTICIPATING STATES.—In the case of a State desiring to receive an allocation under this subpart for a fiscal year that did not receive an allocation for the previous fiscal year or that has been participating for less than 3 consecutive years, the Secretary shall calculate the State's number of identified migratory children aged 3 through 21 for purposes of subsection (a)(1)(A) by using the most recent data available that identifies the migratory children residing in the State until data is available to calculate the 3-year average number of such children in accordance with such subsection.

“SEC. 1134. STATE APPLICATIONS; SERVICES.

“(a) APPLICATION REQUIRED.—Any State desiring to receive a grant under this subpart for any fiscal year shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may require.

“(b) PROGRAM INFORMATION.—Each such application shall include—

“(1) a description of how, in planning, implementing, and evaluating programs and projects assisted under this subpart, the State and its local operating agencies will ensure that the unique educational needs of migratory children, including preschool migratory children, are identified and addressed through—

“(A) the full range of services that are available for migratory children from appropriate local, State, and Federal educational programs;

“(B) joint planning among local, State, and Federal educational programs serving migratory children, including language instruction educational programs under chapter A of subpart 4; and

“(C) the integration of services available under this subpart with services provided by those other programs;

“(2) a description of the steps the State is taking to provide all migratory students with the opportunity to meet the same State academic standards that all children are expected to meet;

“(3) a description of how the State will use funds received under this subpart to promote interstate and intrastate coordination of services for migratory children, including how the State will provide for educational continuity through the timely transfer of pertinent school records, including information on health, when children move from one school to another, whether or not such a move occurs during the regular school year;

“(4) a description of the State's priorities for the use of funds received under this subpart, and how such priorities relate to the State's assessment of needs for services in the State;

“(5) a description of how the State will determine the amount of any subgrants the State will award to local operating agencies, taking into account the numbers and needs of migratory children, the requirements of subsection (d), and the availability of funds from other Federal, State, and local programs; and

“(6) a description of how the State will encourage programs and projects assisted under this subpart to offer family literacy services if the programs and projects serve a substantial number of migratory children whose parents do not have a regular high school diploma or its recognized equivalent or who have low levels of literacy.

“(c) ASSURANCES.—Each such application shall also include assurances that—

“(1) funds received under this subpart will be used only—

“(A) for programs and projects, including the acquisition of equipment, in accordance with section 1136; and

“(B) to coordinate such programs and projects with similar programs and projects within the State and in other States, as well as with other Federal programs that can benefit migratory children and their families;

“(2) such programs and projects will be carried out in a manner consistent with the objectives of section 1114, subsections (b) and (d) of section 1115, subsections (b) and (c) of section 1120A, and part C;

“(3) in the planning and operation of programs and projects at both the State and local agency operating level, there is consultation with parents of migratory children for programs of not less than one school year in duration, and that all such programs and projects are carried out—

“(A) in a manner that provides for the same parental involvement as is required for programs and projects under section 1118, unless extraordinary circumstances make such provision impractical; and

“(B) in a format and language understandable to the parents;

“(4) in planning and carrying out such programs and projects, there has been, and will be, adequate provision for addressing the unmet education needs of preschool migratory children;

“(5) the effectiveness of such programs and projects will be determined, where feasible, using the same approaches and standards that will be used to assess the performance of students, schools, and local educational agencies under subpart 1;

“(6) to the extent feasible, such programs and projects will provide for—

“(A) advocacy and outreach activities for migratory children and their families, including informing such children and families of, or helping such children and families gain access to, other education, health, nutrition, and social services;

“(B) professional development programs, including mentoring, for teachers and other program personnel;

“(C) high-quality, evidence-based family literacy programs;

“(D) the integration of information technology into educational and related programs; and

“(E) programs to facilitate the transition of secondary school students to postsecondary education or employment without the need for remediation; and

“(7) the State will assist the Secretary in determining the number of migratory children under paragraph (1) of section 1133(a).

“(d) PRIORITY FOR SERVICES.—In providing services with funds received under this subpart, each recipient of such funds shall give priority to migratory children who are failing, or most at risk of failing, to meet the State's academic standards under section 1111(b)(1).

“(e) CONTINUATION OF SERVICES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this subpart—

“(1) a child who ceases to be a migratory child during a school term shall be eligible for services until the end of such term;

“(2) a child who is no longer a migratory child may continue to receive services for one additional school year, but only if comparable services are not available through other programs; and

“(3) secondary school students who were eligible for services in secondary school may continue to be served through credit accrual programs until graduation.

“SEC. 1135. SECRETARIAL APPROVAL; PEER REVIEW.

“The Secretary shall approve each State application that meets the requirements of this subpart, and may review any such application using a peer review process.

“SEC. 1136. COMPREHENSIVE NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND SERVICE-DELIVERY PLAN; AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.

“(a) COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each State that receives assistance under this subpart shall ensure that the

State and its local operating agencies identify and address the unique educational needs of migratory children in accordance with a comprehensive State plan that—

“(A) is integrated with other programs under this Act or other Acts, as appropriate;

“(B) may be submitted as a part of a consolidated application under section 6302, if—

“(i) the unique needs of migratory children are specifically addressed in the comprehensive State plan;

“(ii) the comprehensive State plan is developed in collaboration with parents of migratory children; and

“(iii) the comprehensive State plan is not used to supplant State efforts regarding, or administrative funding for, this subpart;

“(C) provides that migratory children will have an opportunity to meet the same State academic standards under section 1111(b)(1) that all children are expected to meet;

“(D) specifies measurable program goals and outcomes;

“(E) encompasses the full range of services that are available for migratory children from appropriate local, State, and Federal educational programs;

“(F) is the product of joint planning among such local, State, and Federal programs, including programs under subpart 1, early childhood programs, and language instruction educational programs under chapter A of subpart 4; and

“(G) provides for the integration of services available under this subpart with services provided by such other programs.

“(2) DURATION OF THE PLAN.—Each such comprehensive State plan shall—

“(A) remain in effect for the duration of the State's participation under this subpart; and

“(B) be periodically reviewed and revised by the State, as necessary, to reflect changes in the State's strategies and programs under this subpart.

“(b) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—

“(1) FLEXIBILITY.—In implementing the comprehensive plan described in subsection (a), each State educational agency, where applicable through its local educational agencies, retains the flexibility to determine the activities to be provided with funds made available under this subpart, except that such funds first shall be used to meet the identified needs of migratory children that result from their migratory lifestyle, and to permit these children to participate effectively in school.

“(2) UNADDRESSED NEEDS.—Funds provided under this subpart shall be used to address the needs of migratory children that are not addressed by services available from other Federal or non-Federal programs, except that migratory children who are eligible to receive services under subpart 1 may receive those services through funds provided under that subpart, or through funds under this subpart that remain after the agency addresses the needs described in paragraph (1).

“(3) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subpart shall be construed to prohibit a local educational agency from serving migratory children simultaneously with students with similar educational needs in the same educational settings, where appropriate.

“SEC. 1137. BYPASS.

“The Secretary may use all or part of any State's allocation under this subpart to make arrangements with any public or private agency to carry out the purpose of this subpart in such State if the Secretary determines that—

“(1) the State is unable or unwilling to conduct educational programs for migratory children;

“(2) such arrangements would result in more efficient and economic administration of such programs; or

“(3) such arrangements would add substantially to the educational achievement of such children.

“SEC. 1138. COORDINATION OF MIGRATORY EDUCATION ACTIVITIES.

“(a) IMPROVEMENT OF COORDINATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the States, may make grants to, or enter into contracts with, State educational agencies, local educational agencies, institutions of higher education, and other public and private entities to improve the interstate and intrastate coordination among such agencies' educational programs, including through the establishment or improvement of programs for credit accrual and exchange, available to migratory students.

“(2) DURATION.—Grants or contracts under this subsection may be awarded for not more than 5 years.

“(b) STUDENT RECORDS.—

“(1) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall assist States in developing and maintaining an effective system for the electronic transfer of student records and in determining the number of migratory children in each State.

“(2) INFORMATION SYSTEM.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the States, shall ensure the linkage of migratory student record systems for the purpose of electronically exchanging, among the States, health and educational information regarding all migratory students. The Secretary shall ensure such linkage occurs in a cost-effective manner, utilizing systems used by the States prior to, or developed after, the date of the enactment of this Act. The Secretary shall determine the minimum data elements that each State receiving funds under this subpart shall collect and maintain. Such minimum data elements may include—

“(i) immunization records and other health information;

“(ii) elementary and secondary academic history (including partial credit), credit accrual, and results from State assessments required under section 1111(b)(2);

“(iii) other academic information essential to ensuring that migratory children achieve to the States's academic standards; and

“(iv) eligibility for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

“(B) The Secretary shall consult with States before updating the data elements that each State receiving funds under this subpart shall be required to collect for purposes of electronic transfer of migratory student information and the requirements that States shall meet for immediate electronic access to such information.

“(3) NO COST FOR CERTAIN TRANSFERS.—A State educational agency or local educational agency receiving assistance under this subpart shall make student records available to another State educational agency or local educational agency that requests the records at no cost to the requesting agency, if the request is made in order to meet the needs of a migratory child.

“(4) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than April 30, 2016, the Secretary shall report to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives the Secretary's findings and recommendations regarding the maintenance and transfer of health and educational information for migratory students by the States.

“(B) REQUIRED CONTENTS.—The Secretary shall include in such report—

“(i) a review of the progress of States in developing and linking electronic records transfer systems;

“(ii) recommendations for maintaining such systems; and

“(iii) recommendations for improving the continuity of services provided for migratory students.

“(c) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—The Secretary shall reserve not more than \$10,000,000 of the amount reserved under section 1132 to carry out this section for each fiscal year.

“(d) DATA COLLECTION.—The Secretary shall direct the National Center for Education Statistics to collect data on migratory children.

“SEC. 1139. DEFINITIONS.

“As used in this subpart:

“(1) LOCAL OPERATING AGENCY.—The term ‘local operating agency’ means—

“(A) a local educational agency to which a State educational agency makes a subgrant under this subpart;

“(B) a public or private agency with which a State educational agency or the Secretary makes an arrangement to carry out a project under this subpart; or

“(C) a State educational agency, if the State educational agency operates the State's migratory education program or projects directly.

“(2) MIGRATORY CHILD.—The term ‘migratory child’ means a child who is, or whose parent or spouse is, a migratory agricultural worker, including a migratory dairy worker, or a migratory fisher, and who, in the preceding 36 months, in order to obtain, or accompany such parent or spouse, in order to obtain, temporary or seasonal employment in agricultural or fishing work—

“(A) has moved from one school district to another;

“(B) in a State that is comprised of a single school district, has moved from one administrative area to another within such district; or

“(C) resides in a school district of more than 15,000 square miles, and migrates a distance of 20 miles or more to a temporary residence to engage in a fishing activity.

“Subpart 3—Prevention and Intervention Programs for Children and Youth Who Are Neglected, Delinquent, or At-Risk

“SEC. 1141. PURPOSE AND PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION.

“(a) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this subpart—

“(1) to improve educational services for children and youth in local and State institutions for neglected or delinquent children and youth so that such children and youth have the opportunity to meet the same State academic standards that all children in the State are expected to meet;

“(2) to provide such children and youth with the services needed to make a successful transition from institutionalization to further schooling or employment; and

“(3) to prevent at-risk youth from dropping out of school, and to provide dropouts, and children and youth returning from correctional facilities or institutions for neglected or delinquent children and youth, with a support system to ensure their continued education.

“(b) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—From amounts appropriated under section 3(a)(1), the Secretary shall reserve 0.31 of one percent to carry out this subpart.

“(c) GRANTS AWARDED.—From the amounts reserved under subsection (b) and not reserved under section 1004 and section 1159, the Secretary shall make grants to State educational agencies that have plans submitted under section 1154 approved to enable such agencies to award subgrants to State agencies and local educational agencies to establish or improve programs of education for neglected, delinquent, or at-risk children and youth.

“SEC. 1142. PAYMENTS FOR PROGRAMS UNDER THIS SUBPART.

“(a) AGENCY SUBGRANTS.—Based on the allocation amount computed under section 1152, the

Secretary shall allocate to each State educational agency an amount necessary to make subgrants to State agencies under chapter A.

“(b) **LOCAL SUBGRANTS.**—Each State shall retain, for the purpose of carrying out chapter B, funds generated throughout the State under subpart 1 of this part based on children and youth residing in local correctional facilities, or attending community day programs for delinquent children and youth.

“CHAPTER A—STATE AGENCY PROGRAMS

“SEC. 1151. ELIGIBILITY.

“A State agency is eligible for assistance under this chapter if such State agency is responsible for providing free public education for children and youth—

“(1) in institutions for neglected or delinquent children and youth;

“(2) attending community day programs for neglected or delinquent children and youth; or

“(3) in adult correctional institutions.

“SEC. 1152. ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.

“(a) **SUBGRANTS TO STATE AGENCIES.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each State agency described in section 1151 (other than an agency in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico) is eligible to receive a subgrant under this chapter, for each fiscal year, in an amount equal to the product of—

“(A) the number of neglected or delinquent children and youth described in section 1151 who—

“(i) are enrolled for at least 15 hours per week in education programs in adult correctional institutions; and

“(ii) are enrolled for at least 20 hours per week—

“(I) in education programs in institutions for neglected or delinquent children and youth; or

“(II) in community day programs for neglected or delinquent children and youth; and

“(B) 40 percent of the average per-pupil expenditure in the State, except that the amount determined under this subparagraph shall not be less than 32 percent, nor more than 48 percent, of the average per-pupil expenditure in the United States.

“(2) **SPECIAL RULE.**—The number of neglected or delinquent children and youth determined under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) be determined by the State agency by a deadline set by the Secretary, except that no State agency shall be required to determine the number of such children and youth on a specific date set by the Secretary; and

“(B) be adjusted, as the Secretary determines is appropriate, to reflect the relative length of such agency's annual programs.

“(b) **SUBGRANTS TO STATE AGENCIES IN PUERTO RICO.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—For each fiscal year, the amount of the subgrant which a State agency in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico shall be eligible to receive under this chapter shall be the amount determined by multiplying the number of children counted under subsection (a)(1)(A) for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico by the product of—

“(A) the percentage which the average per-pupil expenditure in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is of the lowest average per-pupil expenditure of any of the 50 States; and

“(B) 32 percent of the average per-pupil expenditure in the United States.

“(2) **MINIMUM PERCENTAGE.**—The percentage in paragraph (1)(A) shall not be less than 85 percent.

“(c) **RATABLE REDUCTIONS IN CASE OF INSUFFICIENT APPROPRIATIONS.**—If the amount reserved for any fiscal year for subgrants under subsections (a) and (b) is insufficient to pay the full amount for which all State agencies are eligible under such subsections, the Secretary shall ratably reduce each such amount.

“SEC. 1153. STATE REALLOCATION OF FUNDS.

“If a State educational agency determines that a State agency does not need the full amount of the subgrant for which such State agency is eligible under this chapter for any fiscal year, the State educational agency may reallocate the amount that will not be needed to other eligible State agencies that need additional funds to carry out the purpose of this chapter, in such amounts as the State educational agency shall determine.

“SEC. 1154. STATE PLAN AND STATE AGENCY APPLICATIONS.

“(a) **STATE PLAN.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each State educational agency that desires to receive a grant under this chapter shall submit, for approval by the Secretary, a plan—

“(A) for meeting the educational needs of neglected, delinquent, and at-risk children and youth;

“(B) for assisting in the transition of children and youth from correctional facilities to locally operated programs; and

“(C) that is integrated with other programs under this Act or other Acts, as appropriate.

“(2) **CONTENTS.**—Each such State plan shall—

“(A) describe how the State will assess the effectiveness of the program in improving the academic, career, and technical skills of children in the program;

“(B) provide that, to the extent feasible, such children will have the same opportunities to achieve as such children would have if such children were in the schools of local educational agencies in the State;

“(C) describe how the State will place a priority for such children to obtain a regular high school diploma, to the extent feasible; and

“(D) contain an assurance that the State educational agency will—

“(i) ensure that programs assisted under this chapter will be carried out in accordance with the State plan described in this subsection;

“(ii) carry out the evaluation requirements of section 1171; and

“(iii) ensure that the State agencies receiving subgrants under this chapter comply with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.

“(3) **DURATION OF THE PLAN.**—Each such State plan shall—

“(A) remain in effect for the duration of the State's participation under this chapter; and

“(B) be periodically reviewed and revised by the State, as necessary, to reflect changes in the State's strategies and programs under this chapter.

“(b) **SECRETARIAL APPROVAL AND PEER REVIEW.**—

“(1) **SECRETARIAL APPROVAL.**—The Secretary shall approve each State plan that meets the requirements of this chapter.

“(2) **PEER REVIEW.**—The Secretary may review any State plan with the assistance and advice of individuals with relevant expertise.

“(c) **STATE AGENCY APPLICATIONS.**—Any State agency that desires to receive funds to carry out a program under this chapter shall submit an application to the State educational agency that—

“(1) describes the procedures to be used, consistent with the State plan under section 1111, to assess the educational needs of the children to be served under this chapter;

“(2) provide an assurance that in making services available to children and youth in adult correctional institutions, priority will be given to such children and youth who are likely to complete incarceration within a 2-year period;

“(3) describes the program, including a budget for the first year of the program, with annual updates to be provided to the State educational agency;

“(4) describes how the program will meet the goals and objectives of the State plan;

“(5) describes how the State agency will consult with experts and provide the necessary training for appropriate staff, to ensure that the planning and operation of institution-wide projects under section 1156 are of high quality;

“(6) describes how the programs will be coordinated with other appropriate State and Federal programs, such as programs under title I of Public Law 105-220, career and technical education programs, State and local dropout prevention programs, and special education programs;

“(7) describes how the State agency will encourage correctional facilities receiving funds under this chapter to coordinate with local educational agencies or alternative education programs attended by incarcerated children and youth prior to and after their incarceration to ensure that student assessments and appropriate academic records are shared jointly between the correctional facility and the local educational agency or alternative education program;

“(8) describes how appropriate professional development will be provided to teachers and other staff;

“(9) designates an individual in each affected correctional facility or institution for neglected or delinquent children and youth to be responsible for issues relating to the transition of such children and youth from such facility or institution to locally operated programs;

“(10) describes how the State agency will endeavor to coordinate with businesses for training and mentoring for participating children and youth;

“(11) provides an assurance that the State agency will assist in locating alternative programs through which students can continue their education if the students are not returning to school after leaving the correctional facility or institution for neglected or delinquent children and youth;

“(12) provides assurances that the State agency will work with parents to secure parents' assistance in improving the educational achievement of their children and youth, and preventing their children's and youth's further involvement in delinquent activities;

“(13) provides an assurance that the State agency will work with children and youth with disabilities in order to meet an existing individualized education program and an assurance that the agency will notify the child's or youth's local school if the child or youth—

“(A) is identified as in need of special education services while the child or youth is in the correctional facility or institution for neglected or delinquent children and youth; and

“(B) intends to return to the local school;

“(14) provides an assurance that the State agency will work with children and youth who dropped out of school before entering the correctional facility or institution for neglected or delinquent children and youth to encourage the children and youth to reenter school and obtain a regular high school diploma once the term of the incarceration is completed, or provide the child or youth with the skills necessary to gain employment, continue the education of the child or youth, or obtain a regular high school diploma or its recognized equivalent if the child or youth does not intend to return to school;

“(15) provides an assurance that effective teachers and other qualified staff are trained to work with children and youth with disabilities and other students with special needs taking into consideration the unique needs of such students;

“(16) describes any additional services to be provided to children and youth, such as career counseling, distance education, and assistance in securing student loans and grants; and

“(17) provides an assurance that the program under this chapter will be coordinated with any programs operated under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5601 et seq.) or other comparable programs, if applicable.

“SEC. 1155. USE OF FUNDS.

“(a) USES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A State agency shall use funds received under this chapter only for programs and projects that—

“(A) are consistent with the State plan under section 1154(a); and

“(B) concentrate on providing participants with the knowledge and skills needed to make a successful transition to secondary school completion, career and technical education, further education, or employment without the need for remediation.

“(2) PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS.—Such programs and projects—

“(A) may include the acquisition of equipment;

“(B) shall be designed to support educational services that—

“(i) except for institution-wide projects under section 1156, are provided to children and youth identified by the State agency as failing, or most at-risk of failing, to meet the State's academic standards;

“(ii) supplement and improve the quality of the educational services provided to such children and youth by the State agency; and

“(iii) afford such children and youth an opportunity to meet State academic standards; and

“(C) shall be carried out in a manner consistent with section 1120A and part C (as applied to programs and projects under this chapter).

“(b) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—A program under this chapter that supplements the number of hours of instruction students receive from State and local sources shall be considered to comply with the supplement, not supplant requirement of section 1120A (as applied to this chapter) without regard to the subject areas in which instruction is given during those hours.

“SEC. 1156. INSTITUTION-WIDE PROJECTS.

“A State agency that provides free public education for children and youth in an institution for neglected or delinquent children and youth (other than an adult correctional institution) or attending a community day program for such children and youth may use funds received under this chapter to serve all children in, and upgrade the entire educational effort of, that institution or program if the State agency has developed, and the State educational agency has approved, a comprehensive plan for that institution or program that—

“(1) provides for a comprehensive assessment of the educational needs of all children and youth in the institution or program serving juveniles;

“(2) provides for a comprehensive assessment of the educational needs of youth aged 20 and younger in adult facilities who are expected to complete incarceration within a 2-year period;

“(3) describes the steps the State agency has taken, or will take, to provide all children and youth under age 21 with the opportunity to meet State academic standards in order to improve the likelihood that the children and youth will complete secondary school, obtain a regular high school diploma or its recognized equivalent, or find employment after leaving the institution;

“(4) describes the instructional program, specialized instructional support services, and procedures that will be used to meet the needs described in paragraph (1), including, to the extent feasible, the provision of mentors for the children and youth described in paragraph (1);

“(5) specifically describes how such funds will be used;

“(6) describes the measures and procedures that will be used to assess and improve student achievement;

“(7) describes how the agency has planned, and will implement and evaluate, the institution-wide or program-wide project in consultation with personnel providing direct instructional services and support services in institutions or community day programs for neglected or delinquent children and youth, and with personnel from the State educational agency; and

“(8) includes an assurance that the State agency has provided for appropriate training for teachers and other instructional and administrative personnel to enable such teachers and personnel to carry out the project effectively.

“SEC. 1157. THREE-YEAR PROGRAMS OR PROJECTS.

“If a State agency operates a program or project under this chapter in which individual children or youth are likely to participate for more than one year, the State educational agency may approve the State agency's application for a subgrant under this chapter for a period of not more than 3 years.

“SEC. 1158. TRANSITION SERVICES.

“(a) TRANSITION SERVICES.—Each State agency shall reserve not less than 15 percent and not more than 30 percent of the amount such agency receives under this chapter for any fiscal year to support—

“(1) projects that facilitate the transition of children and youth from State-operated institutions to schools served by local educational agencies; or

“(2) the successful re-entry of youth offenders, who are age 20 or younger and have received a regular high school diploma or its recognized equivalent, into postsecondary education, or career and technical training programs, through strategies designed to expose the youth to, and prepare the youth for, postsecondary education, or career and technical training programs, such as—

“(A) preplacement programs that allow adjudicated or incarcerated youth to audit or attend courses on college, university, or community college campuses, or through programs provided in institutional settings;

“(B) worksite schools, in which institutions of higher education and private or public employers partner to create programs to help students make a successful transition to postsecondary education and employment; and

“(C) essential support services to ensure the success of the youth, such as—

“(i) personal, career and technical, and academic counseling;

“(ii) placement services designed to place the youth in a university, college, or junior college program;

“(iii) information concerning, and assistance in obtaining, available student financial aid;

“(iv) counseling services; and

“(v) job placement services.

“(b) CONDUCT OF PROJECTS.—A project supported under this section may be conducted directly by the State agency, or through a contract or other arrangement with one or more local educational agencies, other public agencies, or private organizations.

“(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a school that receives funds under subsection (a) from serving neglected and delinquent children and youth simultaneously with students with similar educational needs, in the same educational settings where appropriate.

“SEC. 1159. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

“The Secretary shall reserve not more than 1 percent of the amount reserved under section 1141 to provide technical assistance to and support State agency programs assisted under this chapter.

“CHAPTER B—LOCAL AGENCY PROGRAMS

“SEC. 1161. PURPOSE.

“The purpose of this chapter is to support the operation of local educational agency programs that involve collaboration with locally operated correctional facilities—

“(1) to carry out high quality education programs to prepare children and youth for secondary school completion, training, employment, or further education;

“(2) to provide activities to facilitate the transition of such children and youth from the correctional program to further education or employment; and

“(3) to operate programs in local schools for children and youth returning from correctional facilities, and programs which may serve at-risk children and youth.

“SEC. 1162. PROGRAMS OPERATED BY LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.

“(a) LOCAL SUBGRANTS.—With funds made available under section 1142(b), the State educational agency shall award subgrants to local educational agencies with high numbers or percentages of children and youth residing in locally operated (including county operated) correctional facilities for children and youth (including facilities involved in community day programs).

“(b) SPECIAL RULE.—A local educational agency that serves a school operated by a correctional facility is not required to operate a program of support for children and youth returning from such school to a school that is not operated by a correctional agency but served by such local educational agency, if more than 30 percent of the children and youth attending the school operated by the correctional facility will reside outside the boundaries served by the local educational agency after leaving such facility.

“(c) NOTIFICATION.—A State educational agency shall notify local educational agencies within the State of the eligibility of such agencies to receive a subgrant under this chapter.

“(d) TRANSITIONAL AND ACADEMIC SERVICES.—Transitional and supportive programs operated in local educational agencies under this chapter shall be designed primarily to meet the transitional and academic needs of students returning to local educational agencies or alternative education programs from correctional facilities. Services to students at-risk of dropping out of school shall not have a negative impact on meeting the transitional and academic needs of the students returning from correctional facilities.

“SEC. 1163. LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY APPLICATIONS.

“Each local educational agency desiring assistance under this chapter shall submit an application to the State educational agency that contains such information as the State educational agency may require. Each such application shall include—

“(1) a description of the program to be assisted;

“(2) a description of formal agreements, regarding the program to be assisted, between—

“(A) the local educational agency; and

“(B) correctional facilities and alternative school programs serving children and youth involved with the juvenile justice system;

“(3) as appropriate, a description of how participating schools will coordinate with facilities working with delinquent children and youth to ensure that such children and youth are participating in an education program comparable to one operating in the local school such youth would attend;

“(4) a description of the program operated by participating schools for children and youth returning from correctional facilities and, as appropriate, the types of services that such schools will provide such children and youth and other at-risk children and youth;

“(5) a description of the characteristics (including learning difficulties, substance abuse problems, and other needs) of the children and youth who will be returning from correctional facilities and, as appropriate, other at-risk children and youth expected to be served by the program, and a description of how the school will coordinate existing educational programs to meet the unique educational needs of such children and youth;

“(6) as appropriate, a description of how schools will coordinate with existing social, health, and other services to meet the needs of students returning from correctional facilities and at-risk children or youth, including prenatal health care and nutrition services related to the health of the parent and the child or youth, parenting and child development classes, child care, targeted reentry and outreach programs, referrals to community resources, and scheduling flexibility;

“(7) as appropriate, a description of any partnerships with local businesses to develop training, curriculum-based youth entrepreneurship education, and mentoring services for participating students;

“(8) as appropriate, a description of how the program will involve parents in efforts to improve the educational achievement of their children, assist in dropout prevention activities, and prevent the involvement of their children in delinquent activities;

“(9) a description of how the program under this chapter will be coordinated with other Federal, State, and local programs, such as programs under title I of Public Law 105–220 and career and technical education programs serving at-risk children and youth;

“(10) a description of how the program will be coordinated with programs operated under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 and other comparable programs, if applicable;

“(11) as appropriate, a description of how schools will work with probation officers to assist in meeting the needs of children and youth returning from correctional facilities;

“(12) a description of the efforts participating schools will make to ensure correctional facilities working with children and youth are aware of a child's or youth's existing individualized education program; and

“(13) as appropriate, a description of the steps participating schools will take to find alternative placements for children and youth interested in continuing their education but unable to participate in a traditional public school program.

“SEC. 1164. USES OF FUNDS.

“(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Funds provided to local educational agencies under this chapter may be used, as appropriate, for—

“(1) programs that serve children and youth returning to local schools from correctional facilities, to assist in the transition of such children and youth to the school environment and help them remain in school in order to complete their education;

“(2) dropout prevention programs which serve at-risk children and youth;

“(3) the coordination of health and social services for such individuals if there is a likelihood that the provision of such services, including day care, drug and alcohol counseling, and mental health services, will improve the likelihood such individuals will complete their education;

“(4) special programs to meet the unique academic needs of participating children and youth, including career and technical education, special education, career counseling, curriculum-based youth entrepreneurship education, and assistance in securing student loans or grants for postsecondary education; and

“(5) programs providing mentoring and peer mediation.

“(b) *CONTRACTS AND GRANTS.*—A local educational agency may use a grant received under this chapter to carry out the activities described under paragraphs (1) through (5) of subsection (a) directly or through grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements.

“SEC. 1165. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES RECEIVING FUNDS UNDER THIS SECTION.

“Each correctional facility entering into an agreement with a local educational agency under section 1163(2) to provide services to children and youth under this chapter shall—

“(1) where feasible, ensure that educational programs in the correctional facility are coordinated with the student's home school, particularly with respect to a student with an individualized education program under part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act;

“(2) if the child or youth is identified as in need of special education services while in the correctional facility, notify the local school of the child or youth of such need;

“(3) where feasible, provide transition assistance to help the child or youth stay in school, including coordination of services for the family, counseling, assistance in accessing drug and alcohol abuse prevention programs, tutoring, and family counseling;

“(4) provide support programs that encourage children and youth who have dropped out of school to re-enter school and obtain a regular high school diploma once their term at the correctional facility has been completed, or provide such children and youth with the skills necessary to gain employment or seek a regular high school diploma or its recognized equivalent;

“(5) work to ensure that the correctional facility is staffed with effective teachers and other qualified staff who are trained to work with children and youth with disabilities taking into consideration the unique needs of such children and youth;

“(6) ensure that educational programs in the correctional facility are related to assisting students to meet the States's academic standards;

“(7) to the extent possible, use technology to assist in coordinating educational programs between the correctional facility and the community school;

“(8) where feasible, involve parents in efforts to improve the educational achievement of their children and prevent the further involvement of such children in delinquent activities;

“(9) coordinate funds received under this chapter with other local, State, and Federal funds available to provide services to participating children and youth, such as funds made available under title I of Public Law 105–220, and career and technical education funds;

“(10) coordinate programs operated under this chapter with activities funded under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 and other comparable programs, if applicable;

“(11) if appropriate, work with local businesses to develop training, curriculum-based youth entrepreneurship education, and mentoring programs for children and youth; and

“(12) consult with the local educational agency for a period jointly determined necessary by the correctional facility and local educational agency upon discharge from that facility to coordinate educational services so as to minimize disruption to the child's or youth's achievement.

“SEC. 1166. ACCOUNTABILITY.

“The State educational agency—

“(1) may require correctional facilities or institutions for neglected or delinquent children and youth to demonstrate, after receiving assistance under this chapter for 3 years, that there

has been an increase in the number of children and youth returning to school, obtaining a regular high school diploma or its recognized equivalent, or obtaining employment after such children and youth are released; and

“(2) may reduce or terminate funding for projects under this chapter if a local educational agency does not show progress in the number of children and youth obtaining a regular high school diploma or its recognized equivalent.

“CHAPTER C—GENERAL PROVISIONS

“SEC. 1171. PROGRAM EVALUATIONS.

“(a) *SCOPE OF EVALUATION.*—Each State agency or local educational agency that conducts a program under chapter A or B shall evaluate the program, disaggregating data on participation by gender, race, ethnicity, and age, while protecting individual student privacy, not less than once every 3 years, to determine the program's impact on the ability of participants—

“(1) to maintain and improve educational achievement;

“(2) to accrue school credits that meet State requirements for grade promotion and high school graduation;

“(3) to make the transition to a regular program or other education program operated by a local educational agency;

“(4) to complete high school (or high school equivalency requirements) and obtain employment after leaving the correctional facility or institution for neglected or delinquent children and youth; and

“(5) as appropriate, to participate in postsecondary education and job training programs.

“(b) *EXCEPTION.*—The disaggregation required under subsection (a) shall not be required in a case in which the number of students in a category is insufficient to yield statistically reliable information or the results would reveal personally identifiable information about an individual student.

“(c) *EVALUATION MEASURES.*—In conducting each evaluation under subsection (a), a State agency or local educational agency shall use multiple and appropriate measures of student progress.

“(d) *EVALUATION RESULTS.*—Each State agency and local educational agency shall—

“(1) submit evaluation results to the State educational agency and the Secretary; and

“(2) use the results of evaluations under this section to plan and improve subsequent programs for participating children and youth.

“SEC. 1172. DEFINITIONS.

“In this subpart:

“(1) *ADULT CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION.*—The term ‘adult correctional institution’ means a facility in which persons (including persons under 21 years of age) are confined as a result of a conviction for a criminal offense.

“(2) *AT-RISK.*—The term ‘at-risk’, when used with respect to a child, youth, or student, means a school-aged individual who—

“(A) is at-risk of academic failure; and

“(B) has a drug or alcohol problem, is pregnant or is a parent, has come into contact with the juvenile justice system in the past, is at least 1 year behind the expected grade level for the age of the individual, is an English learner, is a gang member, has dropped out of school in the past, or has a high absenteeism rate at school.

“(3) *COMMUNITY DAY PROGRAM.*—The term ‘community day program’ means a regular program of instruction provided by a State agency at a community day school operated specifically for neglected or delinquent children and youth.

“(4) *INSTITUTION FOR NEGLECTED OR DELINQUENT CHILDREN AND YOUTH.*—The term ‘institution for neglected or delinquent children and youth’ means—

“(A) a public or private residential facility, other than a foster home, that is operated for

the care of children who have been committed to the institution or voluntarily placed in the institution under applicable State law, due to abandonment, neglect, or death of their parents or guardians; or

“(B) a public or private residential facility for the care of children who have been adjudicated to be delinquent or in need of supervision.

“Subpart 4—English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement, and Academic Achievement

“SEC. 1181. PURPOSES.

“The purposes of this subpart are—

“(1) to help ensure that English learners, including immigrant children and youth, attain English proficiency and develop high levels of academic achievement in English;

“(2) to assist all English learners, including immigrant children and youth, to achieve at high levels so that those children can meet the same State academic standards that all children are expected to meet, consistent with section 1111(b)(1);

“(3) to assist State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and schools in establishing, implementing, and sustaining high-quality, flexible, evidence-based language instruction educational programs designed to assist in teaching English learners, including immigrant children and youth;

“(4) to assist State educational agencies and local educational agencies to develop and enhance their capacity to provide high-quality, evidence-based instructional programs designed to prepare English learners, including immigrant children and youth, to enter all-English instruction settings; and

“(5) to promote parental and community participation in language instruction educational programs for the parents and communities of English learners.

“CHAPTER A—GRANTS AND SUBGRANTS FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION AND LANGUAGE ENHANCEMENT

“SEC. 1191. FORMULA GRANTS TO STATES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of each State educational agency having a plan approved by the Secretary for a fiscal year under section 1192, the Secretary shall reserve 4.6 percent of funds appropriated under section 3(a)(1) to make a grant for the year to the agency for the purposes specified in subsection (b). The grant shall consist of the allotment determined for the State educational agency under subsection (c).

“(b) USE OF FUNDS.—

“(1) SUBGRANTS TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The Secretary may make a grant under subsection (a) only if the State educational agency involved agrees to expend at least 95 percent of the State educational agency's allotment under subsection (c) for a fiscal year—

“(A) to award subgrants, from allocations under section 1193, to eligible entities to carry out the activities described in section 1194 (other than subsection (e)); and

“(B) to award subgrants under section 1193(d)(1) to eligible entities that are described in that section to carry out the activities described in section 1194(e).

“(2) STATE ACTIVITIES.—Subject to paragraph (3), each State educational agency receiving a grant under subsection (a) may reserve not more than 5 percent of the agency's allotment under subsection (c) to carry out the following activities:

“(A) Professional development activities, and other activities, which may include assisting personnel in—

“(i) meeting State and local certification and licensing requirements for teaching English learners; and

“(ii) improving teacher skills in meeting the diverse needs of English learners, including in

how to implement evidence-based programs and curricula on teaching English learners.

“(B) Planning, evaluation, administration, and interagency coordination related to the subgrants referred to in paragraph (1).

“(C) Providing technical assistance and other forms of assistance to eligible entities that are receiving subgrants from a State educational agency under this chapter, including assistance in—

“(i) identifying and implementing evidence-based language instruction educational programs and curricula for teaching English learners;

“(ii) helping English learners meet the same State academic standards that all children are expected to meet;

“(iii) identifying or developing, and implementing, measures of English proficiency; and

“(iv) strengthening and increasing parent, family, and community engagement.

“(D) Providing recognition, which may include providing financial awards, to subgrantees that have significantly improved the achievement and progress of English learners in—

“(i) reaching English language proficiency, based on the State's English language proficiency assessment under section 1111(b)(2)(D); and

“(ii) meeting the State academic standards under section 1111(b)(1).

“(3) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—From the amount reserved under paragraph (2), a State educational agency may use not more than 40 percent of such amount or \$175,000, whichever is greater, for the planning and administrative costs of carrying out paragraphs (1) and (2).

“(c) RESERVATIONS AND ALLOTMENTS.—

“(1) RESERVATIONS.—From the amount reserved under section 1191(a) for each fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve—

“(A) 0.5 percent of such amount for payments to outlying areas, to be allotted in accordance with their respective needs for assistance under this chapter, as determined by the Secretary, for activities, approved by the Secretary, consistent with this chapter; and

“(B) 6.5 percent of such amount for national activities under sections 1211 and 1222, except that not more than \$2,000,000 of such amount may be reserved for the National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition and Language Instruction Educational Programs described in section 1222.

“(2) STATE ALLOTMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), from the amount reserved under section 1191(a) for each fiscal year that remains after making the reservations under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall allot to each State educational agency having a plan approved under section 1192(c)—

“(i) an amount that bears the same relationship to 80 percent of the remainder as the number of English learners in the State bears to the number of such children in all States, as determined by data available from the American Community Survey conducted by the Department of Commerce or State-reported data; and

“(ii) an amount that bears the same relationship to 20 percent of the remainder as the number of immigrant children and youth in the State bears to the number of such children and youth in all States, as determined based only on data available from the American Community Survey conducted by the Department of Commerce.

“(B) MINIMUM ALLOTMENTS.—No State educational agency shall receive an allotment under this paragraph that is less than \$500,000.

“(C) REALLOTMENT.—If any State educational agency described in subparagraph (A) does not submit a plan to the Secretary for a fiscal year,

or submits a plan (or any amendment to a plan) that the Secretary, after reasonable notice and opportunity for a hearing, determines does not satisfy the requirements of this chapter, the Secretary shall reallocate any portion of such allotment to the remaining State educational agencies in accordance with subparagraph (A).

“(D) SPECIAL RULE FOR PUERTO RICO.—The total amount allotted to Puerto Rico for any fiscal year under subparagraph (A) shall not exceed 0.5 percent of the total amount allotted to all States for that fiscal year.

“(3) USE OF DATA FOR DETERMINATIONS.—In making State allotments under paragraph (2) for each fiscal year, the Secretary shall determine the number of English learners in a State and in all States, using the most accurate, up-to-date data, which shall be—

“(A) data from the American Community Survey conducted by the Department of Commerce, which may be multiyear estimates;

“(B) the number of students being assessed for English language proficiency, based on the State's English language proficiency assessment under section 1111(b)(2)(D), which may be multiyear estimates; or

“(C) a combination of data available under subparagraphs (A) and (B).

“SEC. 1192. STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY PLANS.

“(a) FILING FOR SUBGRANTS.—Each State educational agency desiring a grant under this chapter shall submit a plan to the Secretary at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may require.

“(b) CONTENTS.—Each plan submitted under subsection (a) shall—

“(1) describe the process that the agency will use in awarding subgrants to eligible entities under section 1193(d)(1);

“(2) provide an assurance that—

“(A) the agency will ensure that eligible entities receiving a subgrant under this chapter comply with the requirement in section 1111(b)(2)(B)(x) to annually assess in English learners who have been in the United States for 3 or more consecutive years;

“(B) the agency will ensure that eligible entities receiving a subgrant under this chapter annually assess the English proficiency of all English learners participating in a program funded under this chapter, consistent with section 1111(b)(2)(D);

“(C) in awarding subgrants under section 1193, the agency will address the needs of school systems of all sizes and in all geographic areas, including school systems with rural and urban schools;

“(D) subgrants to eligible entities under section 1193(d)(1) will be of sufficient size and scope to allow such entities to carry out high-quality, evidence-based language instruction educational programs for English learners;

“(E) the agency will require an eligible entity receiving a subgrant under this chapter to use the subgrant in ways that will build such recipient's capacity to continue to offer high-quality evidence-based language instruction educational programs that assist English learners in meeting State academic standards;

“(F) the agency will monitor the eligible entity receiving a subgrant under this chapter for compliance with applicable Federal fiscal requirements; and

“(G) the plan has been developed in consultation with local educational agencies, teachers, administrators of programs implemented under this chapter, parents, and other relevant stakeholders;

“(3) describe how the agency will coordinate its programs and activities under this chapter with other programs and activities under this Act and other Acts, as appropriate;

“(4) describe how eligible entities in the State will be given the flexibility to teach English learners—

“(A) using a high-quality, evidence-based language instruction curriculum for teaching English learners; and

“(B) in the manner the eligible entities determine to be the most effective; and

“(5) describe how the agency will assist eligible entities in increasing the number of English learners who acquire English proficiency.

“(c) APPROVAL.—The Secretary, after using a peer review process, shall approve a plan submitted under subsection (a) if the plan meets the requirements of this section.

“(d) DURATION OF PLAN.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each plan submitted by a State educational agency and approved under subsection (c) shall—

“(A) remain in effect for the duration of the agency's participation under this chapter; and

“(B) be periodically reviewed and revised by the agency, as necessary, to reflect changes to the agency's strategies and programs carried out under this subpart.

“(2) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—

“(A) AMENDMENTS.—If the State educational agency amends the plan, the agency shall submit such amendment to the Secretary.

“(B) APPROVAL.—The Secretary shall approve such amendment to an approved plan, unless the Secretary determines that the amendment will result in the agency not meeting the requirements, or fulfilling the purposes, of this subpart.

“(e) CONSOLIDATED PLAN.—A plan submitted under subsection (a) may be submitted as part of a consolidated plan under section 6302.

“(f) SECRETARY ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall provide technical assistance, if requested by the State, in the development of English proficiency standards and assessments.

“SEC. 1193. WITHIN-STATE ALLOCATIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—After making the reservation required under subsection (d)(1), each State educational agency receiving a grant under section 1191(c)(2) shall award subgrants for a fiscal year by allocating in a timely manner to each eligible entity in the State having a plan approved under section 1195 an amount that bears the same relationship to the amount received under the grant and remaining after making such reservation as the population of English learners in schools served by the eligible entity bears to the population of English learners in schools served by all eligible entities in the State.

“(b) LIMITATION.—A State educational agency shall not award a subgrant from an allocation made under subsection (a) if the amount of such subgrant would be less than \$10,000.

“(c) REALLOCATION.—Whenever a State educational agency determines that an amount from an allocation made to an eligible entity under subsection (a) for a fiscal year will not be used by the entity for the purpose for which the allocation was made, the agency shall, in accordance with such rules as it determines to be appropriate, reallocate such amount, consistent with such subsection, to other eligible entities in the State that the agency determines will use the amount to carry out that purpose.

“(d) REQUIRED RESERVATION.—A State educational agency receiving a grant under this chapter for a fiscal year—

“(1) shall reserve not more than 15 percent of the agency's allotment under section 1191(c)(2) to award subgrants to eligible entities in the State that have experienced a significant increase, as compared to the average of the 2 preceding fiscal years, in the percentage or number of immigrant children and youth, who have enrolled, during the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which the subgrant is made, in public and nonpublic elementary schools and secondary schools in the geographic areas under the jurisdiction of, or served by, such entities; and

“(2) in awarding subgrants under paragraph (1)—

“(A) shall equally consider eligible entities that satisfy the requirement of such paragraph but have limited or no experience in serving immigrant children and youth; and

“(B) shall consider the quality of each local plan under section 1195 and ensure that each subgrant is of sufficient size and scope to meet the purposes of this subpart.

“SEC. 1194. SUBGRANTS TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.

“(a) PURPOSES OF SUBGRANTS.—A State educational agency may make a subgrant to an eligible entity from funds received by the agency under this chapter only if the entity agrees to expend the funds to improve the education of English learners, by assisting the children to learn English and meet State academic standards. In carrying out activities with such funds, the eligible entity shall use evidence-based approaches and methodologies for teaching English learners and immigrant children and youth for the following purposes:

“(1) Developing and implementing new language instruction educational programs and academic content instruction programs for English learners and immigrant children and youth, including programs of early childhood education, elementary school programs, and secondary school programs.

“(2) Carrying out highly focused, innovative, locally designed, evidence-based activities to expand or enhance existing language instruction educational programs and academic content instruction programs for English learners and immigrant children and youth.

“(3) Implementing, within an individual school, schoolwide programs for restructuring, reforming, and upgrading all relevant programs, activities, and operations relating to language instruction educational programs and academic content instruction for English learners and immigrant children and youth.

“(4) Implementing, within the entire jurisdiction of a local educational agency, agencywide programs for restructuring, reforming, and upgrading all relevant programs, activities, and operations relating to language instruction educational programs and academic content instruction for English learners and immigrant children and youth.

“(b) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Each eligible entity receiving funds under section 1193(a) for a fiscal year shall use not more than 2 percent of such funds for the cost of administering this chapter.

“(c) REQUIRED SUBGRANTEE ACTIVITIES.—An eligible entity receiving funds under section 1193(a) shall use the funds—

“(1) to increase the English language proficiency of English learners by providing high-quality, evidence-based language instruction educational programs that meet the needs of English learners and have demonstrated success in increasing—

“(A) English language proficiency; and

“(B) student academic achievement;

“(2) to provide high-quality, evidence-based professional development to classroom teachers (including teachers in classroom settings that are not the settings of language instruction educational programs), school leaders, administrators, and other school or community-based organization personnel, that is—

“(A) designed to improve the instruction and assessment of English learners;

“(B) designed to enhance the ability of teachers and school leaders to understand and implement curricula, assessment practices and measures, and instruction strategies for English learners;

“(C) evidence-based in increasing children's English language proficiency or substantially increasing the subject matter knowledge, teach-

ing knowledge, and teaching skills of teachers; and

“(D) of sufficient intensity and duration (which shall not include activities such as one-day or short-term workshops and conferences) to have a positive and lasting impact on the teachers' performance in the classroom, except that this subparagraph shall not apply to an activity that is one component of a long-term, comprehensive professional development plan established by a teacher and the teacher's supervisor based on an assessment of the needs of the teacher, the supervisor, the students of the teacher, and any local educational agency employing the teacher, as appropriate; and

“(3) to provide and implement other evidence-based activities and strategies that enhance or supplement language instruction educational programs for English learners, including parental and community engagement activities and strategies that serve to coordinate and align related programs.

“(d) AUTHORIZED SUBGRANTEE ACTIVITIES.—Subject to subsection (c), an eligible entity receiving funds under section 1193(a) may use the funds to achieve one of the purposes described in subsection (a) by undertaking one or more of the following activities:

“(1) Upgrading program objectives and effective instruction strategies.

“(2) Improving the instruction program for English learners by identifying, acquiring, and upgrading curricula, instruction materials, educational software, and assessment procedures.

“(3) Providing to English learners—

“(A) tutorials and academic or career education for English learners; and

“(B) intensified instruction.

“(4) Developing and implementing elementary school or secondary school language instruction educational programs that are coordinated with other relevant programs and services.

“(5) Improving the English language proficiency and academic achievement of English learners.

“(6) Providing community participation programs, family literacy services, and parent outreach and training activities to English learners and their families—

“(A) to improve the English language skills of English learners; and

“(B) to assist parents in helping their children to improve their academic achievement and becoming active participants in the education of their children.

“(7) Improving the instruction of English learners by providing for—

“(A) the acquisition or development of educational technology or instructional materials;

“(B) access to, and participation in, electronic networks for materials, training, and communication; and

“(C) incorporation of the resources described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) into curricula and programs, such as those funded under this chapter.

“(8) Carrying out other activities that are consistent with the purposes of this section.

“(e) ACTIVITIES BY AGENCIES EXPERIENCING SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN IMMIGRANT CHILDREN AND YOUTH.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity receiving funds under section 1193(d)(1) shall use the funds to pay for activities that provide enhanced instructional opportunities for immigrant children and youth, which may include—

“(A) family literacy, parent outreach, and training activities designed to assist parents to become active participants in the education of their children;

“(B) support for personnel, including paraprofessionals who have been specifically trained, or are being trained, to provide services to immigrant children and youth;

“(C) provision of tutorials, mentoring, and academic or career counseling for immigrant children and youth;

“(D) identification, development, and acquisition of curricular materials, educational software, and technologies to be used in the program carried out with awarded funds;

“(E) basic instruction services that are directly attributable to the presence in the local educational agency involved of immigrant children and youth, including the payment of costs of providing additional classroom supplies, costs of transportation, or such other costs as are directly attributable to such additional basic instruction services;

“(F) other instruction services that are designed to assist immigrant children and youth to achieve in elementary schools and secondary schools in the United States, such as programs of introduction to the educational system and civics education; and

“(G) activities, coordinated with community-based organizations, institutions of higher education, private sector entities, or other entities with expertise in working with immigrants, to assist parents of immigrant children and youth by offering comprehensive community services.

“(2) DURATION OF SUBGRANTS.—The duration of a subgrant made by a State educational agency under section 1193(d)(1) shall be determined by the agency in its discretion.

“(f) SELECTION OF METHOD OF INSTRUCTION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To receive a subgrant from a State educational agency under this chapter, an eligible entity shall select one or more methods or forms of instruction to be used in the programs and activities undertaken by the entity to assist English learners to attain English language proficiency and meet State academic standards.

“(2) CONSISTENCY.—Such selection shall be consistent with sections 1204 through 1206.

“(g) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Federal funds made available under this chapter shall be used so as to supplement the level of Federal, State, and local public funds that, in the absence of such availability, would have been expended for programs for English learners and immigrant children and youth and in no case to supplant such Federal, State, and local public funds.

“SEC. 1195. LOCAL PLANS.

“(a) FILING FOR SUBGRANTS.—Each eligible entity desiring a subgrant from the State educational agency under section 1193 shall submit a plan to the State educational agency at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the State educational agency may require.

“(b) CONTENTS.—Each plan submitted under subsection (a) shall—

“(1) describe the evidence-based programs and activities proposed to be developed, implemented, and administered under the subgrant that will help English learners increase their English language proficiency and meet the State academic standards;

“(2) describe how the eligible entity will hold elementary schools and secondary schools receiving funds under this chapter accountable for annually assessing the English language proficiency of all children participating under this subpart, consistent with section 1111(b);

“(3) describe how the eligible entity will promote parent and community engagement in the education of English learners;

“(4) contain an assurance that the eligible entity consulted with teachers, researchers, school administrators, parents and community members, public or private organizations, and institutions of higher education, in developing and implementing such plan;

“(5) describe how language instruction educational programs carried out under the

subgrant will ensure that English learners being served by the programs develop English language proficiency; and

“(6) contain assurances that—

“(A) each local educational agency that is included in the eligible entity is complying with section 1112(g) prior to, and throughout, each school year; and

“(B) the eligible entity is not in violation of any State law, including State constitutional law, regarding the education of English learners, consistent with sections 1205 and 1206.

“(c) TEACHER ENGLISH FLUENCY.—Each eligible entity receiving a subgrant under section 1193 shall include in its plan a certification that all teachers in any language instruction educational program for English learners that is, or will be, funded under this subpart are fluent in English and any other language used for instruction, including having written and oral communications skills.

“CHAPTER B—ADMINISTRATION

“SEC. 1201. REPORTING.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity that receives a subgrant from a State educational agency under chapter A shall provide such agency, at the conclusion of every second fiscal year during which the subgrant is received, with a report, in a form prescribed by the agency, on the activities conducted and students served under this subpart that includes—

“(1) a description of the programs and activities conducted by the entity with funds received under chapter A during the two immediately preceding fiscal years, including how such programs and activities supplemented programs funded primarily with State or local funds;

“(2) a description of the progress made by English learners in learning the English language and in meeting State academic standards;

“(3) the number and percentage of English learners in the programs and activities attaining English language proficiency based on the State English language proficiency standards established under section 1111(b)(1)(E) by the end of each school year, as determined by the State's English language proficiency assessment under section 1111(b)(2)(D);

“(4) the number of English learners who exit the language instruction educational programs based on their attainment of English language proficiency and transitioned to classrooms not tailored for English learners;

“(5) a description of the progress made by English learners in meeting the State academic standards for each of the 2 years after such children are no longer receiving services under this subpart;

“(6) the number and percentage of English learners who have not attained English language proficiency within five years of initial classification as an English learner and first enrollment in the local educational agency; and

“(7) any such other information as the State educational agency may require.

“(b) USE OF REPORT.—A report provided by an eligible entity under subsection (a) shall be used by the entity and the State educational agency—

“(1) to determine the effectiveness of programs and activities in assisting children who are English learners—

“(A) to attain English language proficiency; and

“(B) to make progress in meeting State academic standards under section 1111(b)(1); and

“(2) upon determining the effectiveness of programs and activities based on the criteria in paragraph (1), to decide how to improve programs.

“SEC. 1202. ANNUAL REPORT.

“(a) STATES.—Based upon the reports provided to a State educational agency under section 1201, each such agency that receives a

grant under this subpart shall prepare and submit annually to the Secretary a report on programs and activities carried out by the State educational agency under this subpart and the effectiveness of such programs and activities in improving the education provided to English learners.

“(b) SECRETARY.—Annually, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report—

“(1) on programs and activities carried out to serve English learners under this subpart, and the effectiveness of such programs and activities in improving the academic achievement and English language proficiency of English learners;

“(2) on the types of language instruction educational programs used by local educational agencies or eligible entities receiving funding under this subpart to teach English learners;

“(3) containing a critical synthesis of data reported by eligible entities to States under section 1201(a);

“(4) containing a description of technical assistance and other assistance provided by State educational agencies under section 1191(b)(2)(C);

“(5) containing an estimate of the number of effective teachers working in language instruction educational programs and educating English learners, and an estimate of the number of such teachers that will be needed for the succeeding 5 fiscal years;

“(6) containing the number of programs or activities, if any, that were terminated because the entities carrying out the programs or activities were not able to reach program goals;

“(7) containing the number of English learners served by eligible entities receiving funding under this subpart who were transitioned out of language instruction educational programs funded under this subpart into classrooms where instruction is not tailored for English learners; and

“(8) containing other information gathered from other reports submitted to the Secretary under this subpart when applicable.

“SEC. 1203. COORDINATION WITH RELATED PROGRAMS.

“In order to maximize Federal efforts aimed at serving the educational needs of English learners, the Secretary shall coordinate and ensure close cooperation with other entities carrying out programs serving language-minority and English learners that are administered by the Department and other agencies. The Secretary shall report to the Congress on parallel Federal programs in other agencies and departments.

“SEC. 1204. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.

“Nothing in this subpart shall be construed—

“(1) to prohibit a local educational agency from serving English learners simultaneously with children with similar educational needs, in the same educational settings where appropriate;

“(2) to require a State or a local educational agency to establish, continue, or eliminate any particular type of instructional program for English learners; or

“(3) to limit the preservation or use of Native American languages.

“SEC. 1205. LEGAL AUTHORITY UNDER STATE LAW.

“Nothing in this subpart shall be construed to negate or supersede State law, or the legal authority under State law of any State agency, State entity, or State public official, over programs that are under the jurisdiction of the State agency, entity, or official.

“SEC. 1206. CIVIL RIGHTS.

“Nothing in this subpart shall be construed in a manner inconsistent with any Federal law guaranteeing a civil right.

“SEC. 1207. PROHIBITION.

“In carrying out this subpart, the Secretary shall neither mandate nor preclude the use of a particular curricular or pedagogical approach to educating English learners.

“SEC. 1208. PROGRAMS FOR NATIVE AMERICANS AND PUERTO RICO.

“Notwithstanding any other provision of this subpart, programs authorized under this subpart that serve Native American (including Native American Pacific Islander) children and children in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico may include programs of instruction, teacher training, curriculum development, evaluation, and assessment designed for Native American children learning and studying Native American languages and children of limited Spanish proficiency, except that an outcome of programs serving such children shall be increased English proficiency among such children.

“CHAPTER C—NATIONAL ACTIVITIES**“SEC. 1211. NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.**

“The Secretary shall use funds made available under section 1191(c)(1)(B) to award grants on a competitive basis, for a period of not more than 5 years, to institutions of higher education or public or private organizations with relevant experience and capacity (in consortia with State educational agencies or local educational agencies) to provide for professional development activities that will improve classroom instruction for English learners and assist educational personnel working with such children to meet high professional standards, including standards for certification and licensure as teachers who work in language instruction educational programs or serve English learners. Grants awarded under this subsection may be used—

“(1) for preservice, evidence-based professional development programs that will assist local schools and institutions of higher education to upgrade the qualifications and skills of educational personnel who are not certified or licensed, especially educational paraprofessionals;

“(2) for the development of curricula or other instructional strategies appropriate to the needs of the consortia participants involved;

“(3) to support strategies that strengthen and increase parent and community member engagement in the education of English learners; and

“(4) to share and disseminate evidence-based practices in the instruction of English learners and in increasing their student achievement.

“CHAPTER D—GENERAL PROVISIONS**“SEC. 1221. DEFINITIONS.**

“Except as otherwise provided, in this subpart:

“(1) **CHILD.**—The term ‘child’ means any individual aged 3 through 21.

“(2) **COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION.**—The term ‘community-based organization’ means a private nonprofit organization of demonstrated effectiveness, Indian tribe, or tribally sanctioned educational authority, that is representative of a community or significant segments of a community and that provides educational or related services to individuals in the community. Such term includes a Native Hawaiian or Native American Pacific Islander native language educational organization.

“(3) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term ‘eligible entity’ means—

“(A) one or more local educational agencies; or

“(B) one or more local educational agencies, in consortia (or collaboration) with an institution of higher education, community-based organization, or State educational agency.

“(4) **IMMIGRANT CHILDREN AND YOUTH.**—The term ‘immigrant children and youth’ means individuals who—

“(A) are age 3 through 21;

“(B) were not born in any State; and

“(C) have not been attending one or more schools in any one or more States for more than 3 full academic years.

“(5) **INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term ‘Indian tribe’ means any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Native village or Regional Corporation or Village Corporation as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, that is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.

“(6) **LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM.**—The term ‘language instruction educational program’ means an instruction course—

“(A) in which an English learner is placed for the purpose of developing and attaining English language proficiency, while meeting State academic standards, as required by section 1111(b)(1); and

“(B) that may make instructional use of both English and a child’s native language to enable the child to develop and attain English language proficiency, and may include the participation of English language proficient children if such course is designed to enable all participating children to become proficient in English and a second language.

“(7) **NATIVE LANGUAGE.**—The term ‘native language’, when used with reference to English learner, means—

“(A) the language normally used by such individual; or

“(B) in the case of a child or youth, the language normally used by the parents of the child or youth.

“(8) **PARAPROFESSIONAL.**—The term ‘paraprofessional’ means an individual who is employed in a preschool, elementary school, or secondary school under the supervision of a certified or licensed teacher, including individuals employed in language instruction educational programs, special education, and migratory education.

“(9) **STATE.**—The term ‘State’ means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

“SEC. 1222. NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall establish and support the operation of a National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition and Language Instruction Educational Programs, which shall collect, analyze, synthesize, and disseminate information about language instruction educational programs for English learners, and related programs. The National Clearinghouse shall—

“(1) be administered as an adjunct clearinghouse of the Educational Resources Information Center Clearinghouses system supported by the Institute of Education Sciences;

“(2) coordinate activities with Federal data and information clearinghouses and entities operating Federal dissemination networks and systems;

“(3) develop a system for improving the operation and effectiveness of federally funded language instruction educational programs;

“(4) collect and disseminate information on—

“(A) educational research and processes related to the education of English learners; and

“(B) accountability systems that monitor the academic progress of English learners in language instruction educational programs, including information on academic content and English language proficiency assessments for language instruction educational programs; and

“(5) publish, on an annual basis, a list of grant recipients under this subpart.

“(b) **CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall authorize the Secretary to hire new personnel to execute subsection (a).

“SEC. 1223. REGULATIONS.

“In developing regulations under this subpart, the Secretary shall consult with State educational agencies and local educational agencies, organizations representing English learners, and organizations representing teachers and other personnel involved in the education of English learners.

“Subpart 5—Rural Education Achievement Program**“SEC. 1230. PURPOSE.**

“It is the purpose of this subpart to address the unique needs of rural school districts that frequently—

“(1) lack the personnel and resources needed to compete effectively for Federal competitive grants; and

“(2) receive formula grant allocations in amounts too small to be effective in meeting their intended purposes.

“CHAPTER A—SMALL, RURAL SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM**“SEC. 1231. GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—From amounts appropriated under section 3(a)(1) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve 0.6 of one percent to award grants to eligible local educational agencies to enable the local educational agencies to carry out activities authorized under any of the following provisions:

“(1) Part A of title I.

“(2) Title II.

“(3) Title III.

“(b) **ALLOCATION.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (3), the Secretary shall award a grant under subsection (a) to a local educational agency eligible under subsection (d) for a fiscal year in an amount equal to the initial amount determined under paragraph (2) for the fiscal year minus the total amount received by the agency in subpart 2 of part A of title II for the preceding fiscal year.

“(2) **DETERMINATION OF INITIAL AMOUNT.**—The initial amount referred to in paragraph (1) is equal to \$100 multiplied by the total number of students in excess of 50 students, in average daily attendance at the schools served by the local educational agency, plus \$20,000, except that the initial amount may not exceed \$60,000.

“(3) **RATABLE ADJUSTMENT.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—If the amount made available to carry out this section for any fiscal year is not sufficient to pay in full the amounts that local educational agencies are eligible to receive under paragraph (1) for such year, the Secretary shall ratably reduce such amounts for such year.

“(B) **ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS.**—If additional funds become available for making payments under paragraph (1) for such fiscal year, payments that were reduced under subparagraph (A) shall be increased on the same basis as such payments were reduced.

“(c) **DISBURSEMENT.**—The Secretary shall disburse the funds awarded to a local educational agency under this section for a fiscal year not later than July 1 of that fiscal year.

“(d) **ELIGIBILITY.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A local educational agency shall be eligible to use the applicable funding in accordance with subsection (a) if—

“(A)(i)(I) the total number of students in average daily attendance at all of the schools served by the local educational agency is fewer than 600; or

“(II) each county in which a school served by the local educational agency is located has a total population density of fewer than 10 persons per square mile; and

“(ii) all of the schools served by the local educational agency are designated with a school locale code of 41, 42, or 43, as determined by the Secretary; or

“(B) the agency meets the criteria established in subparagraph (A)(i) and the Secretary, in accordance with paragraph (2), grants the local educational agency's request to waive the criteria described in subparagraph (A)(ii).
 “(2) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall determine whether to waive the criteria described in paragraph (1)(A)(ii) based on a demonstration by the local educational agency, and concurrence by the State educational agency, that the local educational agency is located in an area defined as rural by a governmental agency of the State.
 “(3) HOLD HARMLESS.—For a local educational agency that is not eligible under this chapter but met the eligibility requirements under this subsection as it was in effect prior to the date of the enactment of the Student Success Act, the agency shall receive—
 “(A) for fiscal year 2016, 75 percent of the amount such agency received for fiscal year 2013;
 “(B) for fiscal year 2017, 50 percent of the amount such agency received for fiscal year 2013; and
 “(C) for fiscal year 2018, 25 percent of the amount such agency received for fiscal year 2013.
 “(e) SPECIAL ELIGIBILITY RULE.—A local educational agency that receives a grant under this chapter for a fiscal year is not eligible to receive funds for such fiscal year under chapter B.
“CHAPTER B—RURAL AND LOW-INCOME SCHOOL PROGRAM
“SEC. 1235. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.
 “(a) GRANTS TO STATES.—
 “(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts appropriated under section 3(a)(1) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve 0.6 of one percent for this chapter for a fiscal year that are not reserved under subsection (c) to award grants (from allotments made under paragraph (2)) for the fiscal year to State educational agencies that have applications submitted under section 1237 approved to enable the State educational agencies to award grants to eligible local educational agencies for local authorized activities described in section 1236(a).
 “(2) ALLOTMENT.—From amounts described in paragraph (1) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall allot to each State educational agency for that fiscal year an amount that bears the same ratio to those amounts as the number of students in average daily attendance served by eligible local educational agencies in the State for that fiscal year bears to the number of all such students served by eligible local educational agencies in all States for that fiscal year.
 “(3) SPECIALLY QUALIFIED AGENCIES.—
 “(A) ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION.—If a State educational agency elects not to participate in the program under this subpart or does not have an application submitted under section 1237 approved, a specially qualified agency in such State desiring a grant under this subpart may submit an application under such section directly to the Secretary to receive an award under this subpart.
 “(B) DIRECT AWARDS.—The Secretary may award, on a competitive basis or by formula, the amount the State educational agency is eligible to receive under paragraph (2) directly to a specially qualified agency in the State that has submitted an application in accordance with subparagraph (A) and obtained approval of the application.
 “(C) SPECIALLY QUALIFIED AGENCY DEFINED.—In this subpart, the term ‘specially qualified agency’ means an eligible local educational agency served by a State educational agency that does not participate in a program under this subpart in a fiscal year, that may apply directly to the Secretary for a grant in such year under this subsection.
 “(b) LOCAL AWARDS.—
 “(1) ELIGIBILITY.—A local educational agency shall be eligible to receive a grant under this subpart if—
 “(A) 20 percent or more of the children ages 5 through 17 years served by the local educational agency are from families with incomes below the poverty line; and
 “(B) all of the schools served by the agency are designated with a school locale code of 32, 33, 41, 42, 43, as determined by the Secretary.
 “(2) AWARD BASIS.—A State educational agency shall award grants to eligible local educational agencies—
 “(A) on a competitive basis;
 “(B) according to a formula based on the number of students in average daily attendance served by the eligible local educational agencies or schools in the State; or
 “(C) according to an alternative formula, if, prior to awarding the grants, the State educational agency demonstrates, to the satisfaction of the Secretary, that the alternative formula enables the State educational agency to allot the grant funds in a manner that serves equal or greater concentrations of children from families with incomes below the poverty line, relative to the concentrations that would be served if the State educational agency used the formula described in subparagraph (B).
 “(c) RESERVATIONS.—From amounts reserved under section 1235(a)(1) for this chapter for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve—
 “(1) one-half of 1 percent to make awards to elementary schools or secondary schools operated or supported by the Bureau of Indian Education, to carry out the activities authorized under this chapter; and
 “(2) one-half of 1 percent to make awards to the outlying areas in accordance with their respective needs, to carry out the activities authorized under this chapter.
“SEC. 1236. USES OF FUNDS.
 “(a) LOCAL AWARDS.—Grant funds awarded to local educational agencies under this chapter shall be used for activities authorized under any of the following:
 “(1) Part A of title I.
 “(2) Title II.
 “(3) Title III.
 “(b) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—A State educational agency receiving a grant under this chapter may not use more than 5 percent of the amount of the grant for State administrative costs and to provide technical assistance to eligible local educational agencies.
“SEC. 1237. APPLICATIONS.
 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Each State educational agency or specially qualified agency desiring to receive a grant under this chapter shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may require.
 “(b) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted under subsection (a) shall include—
 “(1) a description of how the State educational agency or specially qualified agency will ensure eligible local educational agencies receiving a grant under this chapter will use such funds to help students meet the State academic standards under section 1111(b)(1);
 “(2) if the State educational agency or specially qualified agency will competitively award grants to eligible local educational agencies, as described in section 1235(b)(2)(A), the application under the section shall include—
 “(A) the methods and criteria the State educational agency or specially qualified agency will use for reviewing applications and awarding funds to local educational agencies on a competitive basis; and
 “(B) how the State educational agency or specially qualified agency will notify eligible local educational agencies of the grant competition; and
 “(3) a description of how the State educational agency or specially qualified agency will provide technical assistance to eligible local educational agencies to help such agencies implement the activities described in section 1236(a).
“SEC. 1238. ACCOUNTABILITY.
 “Each State educational agency or specially qualified agency that receives a grant under this chapter shall prepare and submit an annual report to the Secretary. The report shall describe—
 “(1) the methods and criteria the State educational agency or specially qualified agency used to award grants to eligible local educational agencies, and to provide assistance to schools, under this chapter;
 “(2) how local educational agencies and schools used funds provided under this chapter; and
 “(3) the degree to which progress has been made toward having all students meet the State academic standards under section 1111(b)(1).
“SEC. 1239. CHOICE OF PARTICIPATION.
 “(a) IN GENERAL.—If a local educational agency is eligible for funding under chapters A and B of this subpart, such local educational agency may receive funds under either chapter A or chapter B for a fiscal year, but may not receive funds under both chapters.
 “(b) NOTIFICATION.—A local educational agency eligible for both chapters A and B of this subpart shall notify the Secretary and the State educational agency under which of such chapters such local educational agency intends to receive funds for a fiscal year by a date that is established by the Secretary for the notification.
“CHAPTER C—GENERAL PROVISIONS
“SEC. 1241. ANNUAL AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE DETERMINATION.
 “(a) CENSUS DETERMINATION.—Each local educational agency desiring a grant under section 1231 and each local educational agency or specially qualified agency desiring a grant under chapter B shall—
 “(1) not later than December 1 of each year, conduct a census to determine the number of students in average daily attendance in kindergarten through grade 12 at the schools served by the agency; and
 “(2) not later than March 1 of each year, submit the number described in paragraph (1) to the Secretary (and to the State educational agency, in the case of a local educational agency seeking a grant under subpart 2).
 “(b) PENALTY.—If the Secretary determines that a local educational agency or specially qualified agency has knowingly submitted false information under subsection (a) for the purpose of gaining additional funds under section 1231 or chapter B, then the agency shall be fined an amount equal to twice the difference between the amount the agency received under this section and the correct amount the agency would have received under section 1231 or chapter B if the agency had submitted accurate information under subsection (a).
“SEC. 1242. SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.
 “Funds made available under chapter A or chapter B shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, any other Federal, State, or local education funds.
“SEC. 1243. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.
 “Nothing in this subpart shall be construed to prohibit a local educational agency that enters into cooperative arrangements with other local educational agencies for the provision of special, compensatory, or other education services, pursuant to State law or a written agreement, from entering into similar arrangements for the use, or the coordination of the use, of the funds made available under this subpart.”.
 (b) STRIKE.—The Act is amended by striking title VII (20 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.).

Subtitle D—National Assessment**SEC. 141. NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF TITLE I.**

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Part E of title I (20 U.S.C. 6491 et seq.) is redesignated as part B of title I.

(b) *REPEALS.*—Sections 1502 and 1504 (20 U.S.C. 6492; 6494) are repealed.

(c) *REDESIGNATIONS.*—Sections 1501 and 1503 (20 U.S.C. 6491; 6493) are redesignated as sections 1301 and 1302, respectively.

(d) *AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 1301.*—Section 1301 (20 U.S.C. 6491), as so redesignated, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, acting through the Director of the Institute of Education Sciences (in this section and section 1302 referred to as the ‘Director’),” after “The Secretary”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “Secretary” and inserting “Director”;

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking “reaching the proficient level” and all that follows and inserting “graduating high school prepared for postsecondary education or the workforce.”;

(iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “reach the proficient” and all that follows and inserting “meet State academic standards.”;

(iv) by striking subparagraphs (D) and (G) and redesignating subparagraphs (E), (F), and (H) through (O) as subparagraphs (D) through (M), respectively;

(v) in subparagraph (D)(v) (as so redesignated), by striking “help schools in which” and all that follows and inserting “address disparities in the percentages of effective teachers teaching in low-income schools.”;

(vi) in subparagraph (G) (as so redesignated)—

(I) by striking “section 1116” and inserting “section 1111(b)(3)(B)(iii)”;

(II) by striking “, including the following” and all that follows and inserting a period;

(vii) in subparagraph (I) (as so redesignated), by striking “qualifications” and inserting “effectiveness”;

(viii) in subparagraph (J) (as so redesignated), by striking “, including funds under section 1002.”;

(ix) in subparagraph (L) (as so redesignated), by striking “section 1111(b)(2)(C)(v)(II)” and inserting “section 1111(b)(3)(B)(ii)(II)”;

(x) in subparagraph (M) (as so redesignated), by striking “Secretary” and inserting “Director”;

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “Secretary” and inserting “Director”;

(D) in paragraph (4), by striking “Secretary” and inserting “Director”;

(E) in paragraph (5), by striking “Secretary” and inserting “Director”;

(F) in paragraph (6)—

(i) by striking “No Child Left Behind Act of 2001” each place it appears and inserting “Student Success Act”;

(ii) by striking “Secretary” each place it appears and inserting “Director”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “Secretary” each place it appears and inserting “Director”;

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “Secretary” and inserting “Director”;

(ii) by striking “part A” and inserting “subpart 1 of part A”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “Secretary” and inserting “Director”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “challenging academic achievement standards” and inserting “State academic standards”;

(iii) in subparagraph (E), by striking “effects of the availability” and all that follows and inserting “extent to which actions authorized

under section 1111(b)(3)(B)(iii) improve the academic achievement of disadvantaged students and low-performing schools.”;

(iv) in subparagraph (F), by striking “Secretary” and inserting “Director”;

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking “Secretary” and inserting “Director”;

(ii) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

“(C) analyzes varying models or strategies for delivering school services, including schoolwide and targeted services.”;

(4) in subsection (d), by striking “Secretary” each place it appears and inserting “Director”.

(e) *AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 1302.*—Section 1302 (20 U.S.C. 6493), as so redesignated, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “Secretary” and inserting “Director”;

(B) by striking “and for making decisions about the promotion and graduation of students”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “Secretary” the first place it appears and inserting “Director”;

(B) by striking “process,” and inserting “process consistent with section 1111(e)(1),”;

(C) by striking “Assistant Secretary of Educational Research and Improvement” and inserting “Director”;

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “to the State-defined level of proficiency” and inserting “toward meeting the State academic standards”;

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking “pupil-services” and inserting “specialized instructional support services”;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “limited and nonlimited English proficient students” and inserting “English learners and non-English learners”;

(C) in paragraph (6), by striking “Secretary” and inserting “Director”;

(4) in subsection (f)—

(A) by striking “Secretary” and inserting “Director”;

(B) by striking “authorized to be appropriated for this part” and inserting “appropriated under section 3(a)(2)”.

Subtitle E—Title I General Provisions**SEC. 151. GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR TITLE I.**

Part I of title I (20 U.S.C. 6571 et seq.)—

(1) is transferred to appear after part B (as redesignated); and

(2) is amended to read as follows:

“PART C—GENERAL PROVISIONS**“SEC. 1401. FEDERAL REGULATIONS.**

“(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary may, in accordance with subsections (b) through (d), issue such regulations as are necessary to reasonably ensure there is compliance with this title.

“(b) *NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING PROCESS.*—

“(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Before publishing in the Federal Register proposed regulations to carry out this title, the Secretary shall obtain the advice and recommendations of representatives of Federal, State, and local administrators, parents, teachers, and members of local school boards and other organizations involved with the implementation and operation of programs under this title, including those representatives and members nominated by local and national stakeholder representatives.

“(2) *MEETINGS AND ELECTRONIC EXCHANGE.*—Such advice and recommendations may be obtained through such mechanisms as regional meetings and electronic exchanges of information. Such regional meetings and electronic ex-

changes of information shall be public and notice of such meetings and exchanges shall be provided to interested stakeholders.

“(3) *PROPOSED REGULATIONS.*—After obtaining such advice and recommendations, and before publishing proposed regulations, the Secretary shall—

“(A) establish a negotiated rulemaking process;

“(B) select individuals to participate in such process from among individuals or groups that provided advice and recommendations, including representation from all geographic regions of the United States, in such numbers as will provide an equitable balance between representatives of parents and students and representatives of educators and education officials; and

“(C) prepare a draft of proposed policy options that shall be provided to the individuals selected by the Secretary under subparagraph (B) not less than 15 days before the first meeting under such process.

“(c) *PROPOSED RULEMAKING.*—If the Secretary determines that a negotiated rulemaking process is unnecessary or the individuals selected to participate in the process under paragraph (3)(B) fail to reach unanimous agreement, the Secretary may propose regulations under the following procedure:

“(1) Not less than 30 days prior to beginning a rulemaking process, the Secretary shall provide to Congress, including the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, notice that shall include—

“(A) a copy of the proposed regulations;

“(B) the need to issue regulations;

“(C) the anticipated burden, including the time, cost, and paperwork burden, the regulations will have on State educational agencies, local educational agencies, schools, and other entities that may be impacted by the regulations; and

“(D) any regulations that will be repealed when the new regulations are issued.

“(2) 30 days after giving notice of the proposed rule to Congress, the Secretary may proceed with the rulemaking process after all comments received from the Congress have been addressed and publishing how such comments are addressed with the proposed rule.

“(3) The comment and review period for any proposed regulation shall be 90 days unless an emergency requires a shorter period, in which case such period shall be not less than 45 days and the Secretary shall—

“(A) designate the proposed regulation as an emergency with an explanation of the emergency in the notice and report to Congress under paragraph (1); and

“(B) publish the length of the comment and review period in such notice and in the Federal Register.

“(4) No regulation shall be made final after the comment and review period until the Secretary has published in the Federal Register an independent assessment (which shall include a representative sampling of local educational agencies based on local educational agency enrollment, urban, suburban, or rural character, and other factors impacted by the proposed regulation) of—

“(A) the burden, including the time, cost, and paperwork burden, the regulation will impose on State educational agencies, local educational agencies, schools and other entities that may be impacted by the regulation;

“(B) an explanation of how the entities described in subparagraph (A) may cover the cost of the burden assessed under subparagraph (A); and

“(C) the proposed regulation, which thoroughly addresses, based on the comments received during the comment and review period

under paragraph (3), whether the rule is financially, operationally, and educationally viable at the local level.

“(d) **LIMITATION.**—Regulations to carry out this title may not require local programs to follow a particular instructional model, such as the provision of services outside the regular classroom or school program.

“SEC. 1402. AGREEMENTS AND RECORDS.

“(a) **AGREEMENTS.**—In the case in which a negotiated rule making process is established under subsection (b) of section 1401, all published proposed regulations shall conform to agreements that result from the rulemaking described in section 1401 unless the Secretary reopens the negotiated rulemaking process.

“(b) **RECORDS.**—The Secretary shall ensure that an accurate and reliable record of agreements reached during the negotiations process is maintained.

“SEC. 1403. STATE ADMINISTRATION.

“(a) **RULEMAKING.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each State that receives funds under this title shall—

“(A) ensure that any State rules, regulations, and policies relating to this title conform to the purposes of this title and provide any such proposed rules, regulations, and policies to the committee of practitioners created under subsection (b) for review and comment;

“(B) minimize such rules, regulations, and policies to which the State's local educational agencies and schools are subject;

“(C) eliminate or modify State and local fiscal accounting requirements in order to facilitate the ability of schools to consolidate funds under schoolwide programs;

“(D) identify any such rule, regulation, or policy as a State-imposed requirement; and

“(E)(i) identify any duplicative or contrasting requirements between the State and Federal rules or regulations;

“(ii) eliminate the rules and regulations that are duplicative of Federal requirements; and

“(iii) report any conflicting requirements to the Secretary and determine which Federal or State rule or regulation shall be followed.

“(2) **SUPPORT AND FACILITATION.**—State rules, regulations, and policies under this title shall support and facilitate local educational agency and school-level systemic reform designed to enable all children to meet the State academic standards.

“(b) **COMMITTEE OF PRACTITIONERS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each State educational agency that receives funds under this title shall create a State committee of practitioners to advise the State in carrying out its responsibilities under this title.

“(2) **MEMBERSHIP.**—Each such committee shall include—

“(A) as a majority of its members, representatives from local educational agencies;

“(B) administrators, including the administrators of programs described in other parts of this title;

“(C) teachers from public charter schools, traditional public schools, and career and technical educators;

“(D) parents;

“(E) members of local school boards;

“(F) representatives of public charter school authorizers;

“(G) public charter school leaders;

“(H) representatives of private school children; and

“(I) specialized instructional support personnel.

“(3) **DUTIES.**—The duties of such committee shall include a review, before publication, of any proposed or final State rule or regulation pursuant to this title. In an emergency situation where such rule or regulation must be issued within a very limited time to assist local edu-

cational agencies with the operation of the program under this title, the State educational agency may issue a regulation without prior consultation, but shall immediately thereafter convene the State committee of practitioners to review the emergency regulation before issuance in final form.

“SEC. 1404. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION ON EQUALIZED SPENDING.

“Nothing in this title shall be construed to mandate or prohibit equalized spending per pupil for a State, local educational agency, or school.”

TITLE II—TEACHER PREPARATION AND EFFECTIVENESS

SEC. 201. TEACHER PREPARATION AND EFFECTIVENESS.

(a) **HEADING.**—The title heading for title II (20 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

“TITLE II—TEACHER PREPARATION AND EFFECTIVENESS”.

(b) **PART A.**—Part A of title II (20 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

“PART A—SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE INSTRUCTION

“SEC. 2101. PURPOSE.

“The purpose of this part is to provide grants to State educational agencies and subgrants to local educational agencies to—

“(1) increase student achievement consistent with State academic standards under section 1111(b)(1);

“(2) improve teacher and school leader effectiveness in classrooms and schools, respectively;

“(3) provide evidence-based, job-embedded, continuous professional development; and

“(4) if a State educational agency or local educational agency so chooses, develop and implement teacher evaluation systems that use, in part, student achievement data to determine teacher effectiveness.

“Subpart 1—Grants to States

“SEC. 2111. ALLOTMENTS TO STATES.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Of the amounts appropriated under section 3(b), the Secretary shall reserve 75 percent to make grants to States with applications approved under section 2112 to pay for the Federal share of the cost of carrying out the activities specified in section 2113. Each grant shall consist of the allotment determined for a State under subsection (b).

“(b) **DETERMINATION OF ALLOTMENTS.**—

“(1) **RESERVATION OF FUNDS.**—Of the amount reserved under subsection (a) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve—

“(A) not more than 1 percent to carry out national activities under section 2132;

“(B) one-half of 1 percent for allotments to outlying areas on the basis of their relative need, as determined by the Secretary, in accordance with the purpose of this part; and

“(C) one-half of 1 percent for the Secretary of the Interior for programs under this part in schools operated or funded by the Bureau of Indian Education.

“(2) **STATE ALLOTMENTS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subparagraph (B), from the funds reserved under subsection (a) for any fiscal year and not reserved under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall allot to each State the sum of—

“(i) an amount that bears the same relationship to 50 percent of the funds as the number of individuals age 5 through 17 in the State, as determined by the Secretary on the basis of the most recent satisfactory data, bears to the number of those individuals in all such States, as so determined; and

“(ii) an amount that bears the same relationship to 50 percent of the funds as the number of individuals age 5 through 17 from families with

incomes below the poverty line in the State, as determined by the Secretary on the basis of the most recent satisfactory data, bears to the number of those individuals in all such States, as so determined.

“(B) **SMALL STATE MINIMUM.**—No State receiving an allotment under subparagraph (A) may receive less than one-half of 1 percent of the total amount of funds allotted under such subparagraph for a fiscal year.

“(C) **APPLICABILITY.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply with respect to a fiscal year unless the Secretary certifies in writing to Congress for that fiscal year that the amount of funds allotted under subparagraph (A) to local educational agencies that serve a high percentage of students from families with incomes below the poverty line is not less than the amount allotted to such local educational agencies for fiscal year 2015.

“(ii) **SPECIAL RULE.**—For a fiscal year for which subparagraph (A) does not apply, the Secretary shall allocate to each State the funds described in subparagraph (A) according to the formula set forth in subsection (b)(2)(B)(i) of this section as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Student Success Act.

“(c) **REALLOTMENT.**—If a State does not apply for an allotment under this section for any fiscal year or only a portion of the State's allotment is allotted under subsection (b)(2), the Secretary shall reallocate the State's entire allotment or the remaining portion of its allotment, as the case may be, to the remaining States in accordance with subsection (b).

“SEC. 2112. STATE APPLICATION.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—For a State to be eligible to receive a grant under this subpart, the State educational agency shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time and in such a manner as the Secretary may reasonably require, which shall include the following:

“(1) A description of how the State educational agency will meet the requirements of this subpart.

“(2) A description of how the State educational agency will use a grant received under section 2111, including the grant funds the State will reserve for State-level activities under section 2113(a)(2).

“(3) A description of how the State educational agency will facilitate the sharing of evidence-based and other effective strategies among local educational agencies.

“(4) A description of how, and under what timeline, the State educational agency will allocate subgrants under subpart 2 to local educational agencies.

“(5) If applicable, a description of how the State educational agency will work with local educational agencies in the State to develop or implement a teacher or school leader evaluation system.

“(6) An assurance that the State educational agency will comply with section 6501 (regarding participation by private school children and teachers).

“(7) A description of how the State will establish, implement, or improve policies and procedures on background checks for school employees and contractors who have direct unsupervised access to students, which may be conducted and administered by the State or local educational agencies, including by—

(A) expanding the registries or repositories searched when conducting background checks, including—

“(i) the State criminal registry or repository of the State in which the school employee resides;

“(ii) the State-based child abuse and neglect registries and databases of the State in which the school employee resides;

“(iii) the Federal Bureau of Investigation fingerprint check using the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System;

“(iv) the National Sex Offender Registry established under the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16901 et seq.); and

“(v) the National Crime Information Center;“(B) establishing, implementing, or improving policies and procedures that prohibit employing as a school employee an individual who—

“(i) refuses to consent to a background check;

“(ii) makes false statements in connection with a background check;

“(iii) has been convicted of a felony, consisting of—

“(I) homicide;

“(II) child abuse or neglect;

“(III) a crime against children, including child pornography;

“(IV) domestic violence;

“(V) a crime involving rape or sexual assault;

“(VI) kidnapping;

“(VII) arson; or

“(VIII) physical assault, battery, or a drug-related offense, committed on or after the date that is 5 years before the date of the individual's criminal background check;

“(iv) has been convicted of any other crimes, as determined by the State; or

“(v) is registered or required to be registered on a State sex offender registry or the National Sex Offender Registry established under the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16901 et seq.);

“(C) establishing, implementing, or improving policies and procedures for States, local educational agencies, or schools to provide the results of background checks to—

“(i) individuals subject to the background checks in a statement that indicates whether the individual is ineligible for such employment due to the background check and includes information regulated to each disqualifying crime;

“(ii) the employer in a statement that indicates whether a school employee is eligible or ineligible for employment, without revealing any disqualifying crime or other related information regarding the individual;

“(iii) another employer in the same State or another State, as permitted under State law, without revealing any disqualifying crime or other related information regarding the individual; and

“(iv) another local educational agency in the same State or another State that is considering such school employee for employment, as permitted under State law, without revealing any disqualifying crime or other related information regarding the individual; and

“(D) developing, implementing, or improving mechanisms to assist local educational agencies and schools in effectively recognizing and quickly responding to incidents of child abuse by school employees.

“(b) **DEEMED APPROVAL.**—An application submitted by a State educational agency under subsection (a) shall be deemed to be approved by the Secretary unless the Secretary makes a written determination, prior to the expiration of the 120-day period beginning on the date on which the Secretary received the application, that the application is not in compliance with this subpart.

“(c) **DISAPPROVAL.**—The Secretary shall not finally disapprove an application, except after giving the State educational agency notice and an opportunity for a hearing.

“(d) **NOTIFICATION.**—If the Secretary finds that an application is not in compliance, in whole or in part, with this subpart, the Secretary shall—

“(I) give the State educational agency notice and an opportunity for a hearing; and

“(2) notify the State educational agency of the finding of noncompliance and, in such notification, shall—

“(A) cite the specific provisions in the application that are not in compliance; and

“(B) request additional information, only as to the noncompliant provisions, needed to make the application compliant.

“(e) **RESPONSE.**—If a State educational agency responds to a notification from the Secretary under subsection (d)(2) during the 45-day period beginning on the date on which the agency received the notification, and resubmits the application with the requested information described in subsection (d)(2)(B), the Secretary shall approve or disapprove such application prior to the later of—

“(1) the expiration of the 45-day period beginning on the date on which the application is resubmitted; or

“(2) the expiration of the 120-day period described in subsection (b).

“(f) **FAILURE TO RESPOND.**—If a State educational agency does not respond to a notification from the Secretary under subsection (d)(2) during the 45-day period beginning on the date on which the agency received the notification, such application shall be deemed to be disapproved.

“SEC. 2113. STATE USE OF FUNDS.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—A State educational agency that receives a grant under section 2111 shall—

“(1) reserve 95 percent of the grant funds to make subgrants to local educational agencies under subpart 2; and

“(2) use the remainder of the funds, after reserving funds under paragraph (1), for the State activities described in subsection (b), except that the State may reserve not more than 1 percent of the grant funds for planning and administration related to carrying out activities described in subsection (b).

“(b) **STATE-LEVEL ACTIVITIES.**—A State educational agency that receives a grant under section 2111—

“(1) shall use the amount described in subsection (a)(2) to fulfill the State educational agency's responsibilities with respect to the proper and efficient administration of the subgrant program carried out under this part; and

“(2) may use the amount described in subsection (a)(2) to—

“(A) provide training and technical assistance to local educational agencies on—

“(i) in the case of a State educational agency not implementing a statewide teacher evaluation system—

“(I) the development and implementation of a teacher evaluation system; and

“(II) training school leaders in using such evaluation system; or

“(ii) in the case of a State educational agency implementing a statewide teacher evaluation system, implementing such evaluation system;

“(B) disseminate and share evidence-based and other effective practices, including practices consistent with the principles of effectiveness described in section 2222(b), related to teacher and school leader effectiveness and professional development;

“(C) provide professional development for teachers, school leaders, and if appropriate, specialized instructional support personnel in the State consistent with section 2123(6);

“(D) provide training and technical assistance to local educational agencies on—

“(i) in the case of a State educational agency not implementing a statewide school leader evaluation system, the development and implementation of a school leader evaluation system; and

“(ii) in the case of a State educational agency implementing a statewide school leader evalua-

tion system, implementing such evaluation system; and

“(E) develop and implement policies in the State to address any teacher workforce shortages in high-need subjects, including in science, technology, engineering, math, computer science, and foreign languages.

“Subpart 2—Subgrants to Local Educational Agencies

“SEC. 2121. ALLOCATIONS TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Each State receiving a grant under section 2111 shall use the funds reserved under section 2113(a)(1) to award subgrants to local educational agencies under this section.

“(b) **ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.**—From the funds reserved by a State under section 2113(a)(1), the State educational agency shall allocate to each local educational agency in the State the sum of—

“(1) an amount that bears the same relationship to 50 percent of the funds as the number of individuals age 5 through 17 in the geographic area served by the local educational agency, as determined by the State on the basis of the most recent satisfactory data, bears to the number of those individuals in the geographic areas served by all the local educational agencies in the State, as so determined; and

“(2) an amount that bears the same relationship to 50 percent of the funds as the number of individuals age 5 through 17 from families with incomes below the poverty line in the geographic area served by the local educational agency, as determined by the State on the basis of the most recent satisfactory data, bears to the number of those individuals in the geographic areas served by all the local educational agencies in the State, as so determined.

“SEC. 2122. LOCAL APPLICATIONS.

“To be eligible to receive a subgrant under this subpart, a local educational agency shall submit an application to the State educational agency involved at such time, in such a manner, and containing such information as the State educational agency may reasonably require that, at a minimum, shall include the following:

“(1) A description of—

“(A) how the local educational agency will meet the requirements of this subpart;

“(B) how the activities to be carried out by the local educational agency under this subpart will be evidence-based, improve student academic achievement, and improve teacher and school leader effectiveness; and

“(C) if applicable, how, the local educational agency will work with parents, teachers, school leaders, and other staff of the schools served by the local educational agency in developing and implementing a teacher evaluation system.

“(2) If applicable, a description of how the local educational agency will develop and implement a teacher or school leader evaluation system.

“(3) An assurance that the local educational agency will comply with section 6501 (regarding participation by private school children and teachers).

“SEC. 2123. LOCAL USE OF FUNDS.

“A local educational agency receiving a subgrant under this subpart may use such funds for—

“(1) the development and implementation of a teacher evaluation system, administered through school leaders based on input from stakeholders listed in subparagraph (E), that may—

“(A) use student achievement data derived from a variety of sources as a significant factor in determining a teacher's evaluation, with the weight given to such data defined by the local educational agency;

“(B) use multiple measures of evaluation for evaluating teachers;

“(C) have more than 2 categories for rating the performance of teachers;

“(D) be used to make personnel decisions, as determined by the local educational agency; and

“(E) be based on input from parents, school leaders, teachers, and other staff of schools served by the local educational agency;

“(2) in the case of a local educational agency located in a State implementing a statewide teacher evaluation system, implementing such evaluation system;

“(3) the training of school leaders or other individuals for the purpose of evaluating teachers or school leaders under a teacher or school leader evaluation system, as appropriate;

“(4) in the case of a local educational agency located in a State implementing a statewide school leader evaluation system, to implement such evaluation system;

“(5) in the case of a local educational agency located in a State not implementing a statewide school leader evaluation system, the development and implementation of a school leader evaluation system;

“(6) professional development for teachers, school leaders, and if appropriate, specialized instructional support personnel that is evidence-based, job-embedded, and continuous, such as—

“(A) subject-based professional development for teachers, including for teachers of civic education, arts education, and computer science and other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics subjects;

“(B) professional development aligned with the State's academic standards;

“(C) professional development to assist teachers in meeting the needs of students with different learning styles, particularly students with disabilities, English learners, and gifted and talented students;

“(D) professional development for teachers or school leaders identified as in need of additional support through data provided by a teacher or school leader evaluation system, as appropriate;

“(E) professional development based on the current science of learning, which includes research on positive brain change and cognitive skill development;

“(F) professional development for school leaders, including evidence-based mentorship programs for such leaders;

“(G) professional development on integrated, interdisciplinary, and project-based teaching strategies, including for career and technical education teachers and teachers of computer science and other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics subjects; or

“(H) professional development on teaching dual credit, dual enrollment, Advanced Placement, or International Baccalaureate postsecondary-level courses to secondary school students;

“(7) partnering with a public or private organization or a consortium of such organizations to develop and implement a teacher evaluation system described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1), or to administer professional development, as appropriate;

“(8) any activities authorized under section 2222(a); or

“(9) class size reduction, except that the local educational agency may use not more than 10 percent of such funds for this purpose.

“Subpart 3—General Provisions

“SEC. 2131. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

“(a) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—Each local educational agency receiving a subgrant under subpart 2 shall submit to the State educational agency involved, on an annual basis until the last year in which the local educational agency receives such subgrant funds, a report on—

“(1) how the local educational agency is meeting the purposes of this part described in section 2101;

“(2) how the local educational agency is using such subgrant funds;

“(3) in the case of a local educational agency implementing a teacher or school leader evaluation system, the results of such evaluation system, except that such report shall not reveal personally identifiable information about an individual teacher or school leader; and

“(4) any such other information as the State educational agency may require, as long as student and teacher privacy is maintained.

“(b) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—Each State educational agency receiving a grant under subpart 1 shall submit to the Secretary a report, on an annual basis until the last year in which the State educational agency receives such grant funds, on—

“(1) how the State educational agency is meeting the purposes of this part described in section 2101; and

“(2) how the State educational agency is using such grant funds.

“SEC. 2132. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

“From the funds reserved by the Secretary under section 2111(b)(1)(A), the Secretary shall, directly or through grants and contracts—

“(1) provide technical assistance to States and local educational agencies in carrying out activities under this part; and

“(2) acting through the Institute of Education Sciences, conduct national evaluations of activities carried out by State educational agencies and local educational agencies under this part.

“SEC. 2133. STATE DEFINED.

“In this part, the term ‘State’ means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

“SEC. 2134. EMPLOYEE TRANSFERS.

“A local educational agency or State educational agency shall be ineligible for funds under this Act if such agency knowingly facilitates the transfer of any employee if the agency knows, or has probable cause to believe, that the employee engaged in sexual misconduct with a student.”

(c) PART B.—Part B of title II (20 U.S.C. 6661 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

“PART B—TEACHER AND SCHOOL LEADER FLEXIBLE GRANT

“SEC. 2201. PURPOSE.

“The purpose of this part is to improve student academic achievement by—

“(1) supporting all State educational agencies, local educational agencies, schools, teachers, and school leaders to pursue innovative and evidence-based practices to help all students meet the State's academic standards; and

“(2) increasing the number of teachers and school leaders who are effective in increasing student academic achievement.

“Subpart 1—Formula Grants to States

“SEC. 2211. STATE ALLOTMENTS.

“(a) RESERVATIONS.—From the amount appropriated under section 3(b) for any fiscal year, the Secretary—

“(1) shall reserve 25 percent to award grants to States under this subpart; and

“(2) of the amount reserved under paragraph (1), shall reserve—

“(A) not more than 1 percent for national activities described in section 2233;

“(B) one-half of 1 percent for allotments to outlying areas on the basis of their relative need, as determined by the Secretary, in accordance with the purpose of this part; and

“(C) one-half of 1 percent for the Secretary of the Interior for programs under this part in schools operated or funded by the Bureau of Indian Education.

“(b) STATE ALLOTMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—From the total amount reserved under subsection (a)(1) for each fiscal year and not reserved under subparagraphs (A) through (C) of subsection (a)(2), the Secretary shall allot, and make available in accordance with this section, to each State an amount that bears the same ratio to such sums as the school-age population of the State bears to the school-age population of all States.

“(2) SMALL STATE MINIMUM.—No State receiving an allotment under paragraph (1) may receive less than one-half of 1 percent of the total amount allotted under such paragraph.

“(3) REALLOTMENT.—If a State does not receive an allotment under this subpart for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reallocate the amount of the State's allotment to the remaining States in accordance with this section.

“(c) STATE APPLICATION.—In order to receive an allotment under this section for any fiscal year, a State shall submit an application to the Secretary, at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may reasonably require. Such application shall—

“(1) designate the State educational agency as the agency responsible for the administration and supervision of programs assisted under this part;

“(2) describe how the State educational agency will use funds received under this section for State level activities described in subsection (d)(3);

“(3) describe the procedures and criteria the State educational agency will use for reviewing applications and awarding subgrants in a timely manner to eligible entities under section 2221 on a competitive basis;

“(4) describe how the State educational agency will ensure that subgrants made under section 2221 are of sufficient size and scope to support effective programs that will help increase academic achievement in the classroom and are consistent with the purposes of this part;

“(5) describe the steps the State educational agency will take to ensure that eligible entities use subgrants received under section 2221 to carry out programs that implement effective strategies, including by providing ongoing technical assistance and training, and disseminating evidence-based and other effective strategies to such eligible entities;

“(6) describe how programs under this part will be coordinated with other programs under this Act; and

“(7) include an assurance that, other than providing technical and advisory assistance and monitoring compliance with this part, the State educational agency has not exercised, and will not exercise, any influence in the decision-making processes of eligible entities as to the expenditure of funds made pursuant to an application submitted under section 2221(b).

“(d) STATE USE OF FUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each State that receives an allotment under this section shall reserve not less than 92 percent of the amount allotted to such State under subsection (b), for each fiscal year, for subgrants to eligible entities under subpart 2.

“(2) STATE ADMINISTRATION.—A State educational agency may reserve not more than 1 percent of the amount made available to the State under subsection (b) for the administrative costs of carrying out such State educational agency's responsibilities under this subpart.

“(3) STATE-LEVEL ACTIVITIES.—

“(A) INNOVATIVE TEACHER AND SCHOOL LEADER ACTIVITIES.—A State educational agency shall reserve not more than 4 percent of the amount made available to the State under subsection (b) to carry out, solely, or in partnership with State agencies of higher education, 1 or more of the following activities:

“(i) Reforming teacher and school leader certification, recertification, licensing, and tenure systems to ensure that such systems are rigorous and that—

“(I) each teacher has the subject matter knowledge and teaching skills necessary to help students meet the State’s academic standards; and

“(II) school leaders have the instructional leadership skills to help teachers instruct and students learn.

“(ii) Improving the quality of teacher preparation programs within the State, including through the use of appropriate student achievement data and other factors to evaluate the quality of teacher preparation programs within the State.

“(iii) Carrying out programs that establish, expand, or improve alternative routes for State certification or licensure of teachers and school leaders, including such programs for—

“(I) mid-career professionals from other occupations, including computer science and other science, technology, engineering, and math fields;

“(II) former military personnel; and

“(III) recent graduates of an institution of higher education, with a record of academic distinction, who demonstrate the potential to become effective teachers or school leaders.

“(iv) Developing, or assisting eligible entities in developing—

“(I) performance-based pay systems for teachers and school leaders;

“(II) strategies that provide differential, incentive, or bonus pay for teachers and school leaders; or

“(III) teacher and school leader advancement initiatives that promote professional growth and emphasize multiple career paths and pay differentiation.

“(v) Developing, or assisting eligible entities in developing, new, evidence-based teacher and school leader induction and mentoring programs that are designed to—

“(I) improve instruction and student academic achievement; and

“(II) increase the retention of effective teachers and school leaders.

“(vi) Providing professional development for teachers and school leaders that is focused on improving teaching and student academic achievement, including for students with different learning styles, particularly students with disabilities, English learners, gifted and talented students, and other special populations.

“(vii) Providing training and technical assistance to eligible entities that receive a subgrant under section 2221.

“(viii) Other activities identified by the State educational agency that meet the purposes of this part, including those activities authorized under subparagraph (B).

“(B) **TEACHER OR SCHOOL LEADER PREPARATION ACADEMIES.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—In the case of a State in which teacher or school leader preparation academies are allowable under State law, a State educational agency may reserve not more than 3 percent of the amount made available to the State under subsection (b) to support the establishment or expansion of one or more teacher or school leader preparation academies and, subject to the limitation under clause (iii), to support State authorizers for such academies.

“(ii) **MATCHING REQUIREMENT.**—A State educational agency shall not provide funds under this subparagraph to support the establishment or expansion of a teacher or school leader preparation academy unless the academy agrees to provide, either directly or through private contributions, non-Federal matching funds equal to not less than 10 percent of the amount of the

funds the academy will receive under this subparagraph.

“(iii) **FUNDING FOR STATE AUTHORIZERS.**—Not more than 5 percent of funds provided to a teacher or school leader preparation academy under this subparagraph may be used to support activities of State authorizers for such academy.

“SEC. 2212. APPROVAL AND DISAPPROVAL OF STATE APPLICATIONS.

“(a) **DEEMED APPROVAL.**—An application submitted by a State pursuant to section 2211(c) shall be deemed to be approved by the Secretary unless the Secretary makes a written determination, prior to the expiration of the 120-day period beginning on the date on which the Secretary received the application, that the application is not in compliance with section 2211(c).

“(b) **DISAPPROVAL PROCESS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall not finally disapprove an application submitted under section 2211(c), except after giving the State educational agency notice and an opportunity for a hearing.

“(2) **NOTIFICATION.**—If the Secretary finds that an application is not in compliance, in whole or in part, with section 2211(c) the Secretary shall—

“(A) give the State educational agency notice and an opportunity for a hearing; and

“(B) notify the State educational agency of the finding of noncompliance and, in such notification, shall—

“(i) cite the specific provisions in the application that are not in compliance; and

“(ii) request additional information, only as to the noncompliant provisions, needed to make the application compliant.

“(3) **RESPONSE.**—If a State educational agency responds to a notification from the Secretary under paragraph (2)(B) during the 45-day period beginning on the date on which the State educational agency received the notification, and resubmits the application with the requested information described in paragraph (2)(B)(ii), the Secretary shall approve or disapprove such application prior to the later of—

“(A) the expiration of the 45-day period beginning on the date on which the application is resubmitted; or

“(B) the expiration of the 120-day period described in subsection (a).

“(4) **FAILURE TO RESPOND.**—If the State educational agency does not respond to a notification from the Secretary under paragraph (2)(B) during the 45-day period beginning on the date on which the State educational agency received the notification, such application shall be deemed to be disapproved.

“Subpart 2—Local Competitive Grant Program

“SEC. 2221. LOCAL COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—A State that receives an allotment under section 2211(b) for a fiscal year shall use the amount reserved under section 2211(d)(1) to award subgrants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities in accordance with this section to enable such entities to carry out the programs and activities described in section 2222.

“(b) **APPLICATION.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—To be eligible to receive a subgrant under this section, an eligible entity shall submit an application to the State educational agency at such time, in such manner, and including such information as the State educational agency may reasonably require.

“(2) **CONTENTS.**—Each application submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—

“(A) a description of the programs and activities to be funded and how they are consistent with the purposes of this part; and

“(B) an assurance that the eligible entity will comply with section 6501 (regarding participation by private school children and teachers).

“(c) **PEER REVIEW.**—In reviewing applications under this section, a State educational agency shall use a peer review process or other methods of assuring the quality of such applications but the review shall only judge the likelihood of the activity to increase student academic achievement. The reviewers shall not make a determination based on the policy of the proposed activity.

“(d) **GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.**—A State educational agency shall distribute funds under this section equitably among geographic areas within the State, including rural, suburban, and urban communities.

“(e) **DURATION OF AWARDS.**—A State educational agency may award subgrants under this section for a period of not more than 5 years.

“(f) **MATCHING.**—An eligible entity receiving a subgrant under this section shall provide, either directly or through private contributions, non-Federal matching funds equal to not less than 10 percent of the amount of the subgrant.

“SEC. 2222. LOCAL AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Each eligible entity receiving a subgrant under section 2221 shall use such subgrant funds to develop, implement, and evaluate comprehensive programs and activities, that are in accordance with the purpose of this part and—

“(1) are consistent with the principles of effectiveness described in subsection (b); and

“(2) may include, among other programs and activities—

“(A) developing and implementing initiatives to assist in recruiting, hiring, and retaining highly effective teachers and school leaders, including initiatives that provide—

“(i) differential, incentive, or bonus pay for teachers and school leaders;

“(ii) performance-based pay systems for teachers and school leaders;

“(iii) teacher and school leader advancement initiatives that promote professional growth and emphasize multiple career paths and pay differentiation;

“(iv) new teacher and school leader induction and mentoring programs that are designed to improve instruction, student academic achievement, and to increase teacher and school leader retention; and

“(v) teacher residency programs, and school leader residency programs, designed to develop and support new teachers or new school leaders, respectively;

“(B) supporting the establishment or expansion of teacher or school leader preparation academies under section 2211(d)(3)(B);

“(C) recruiting qualified individuals from other fields, including individuals from computer science and other science, technology, engineering, and math fields, mid-career professionals from other occupations, and former military personnel;

“(D) establishing, improving, or expanding model instructional programs to ensure that all children meet the State’s academic standards;

“(E) providing evidence-based, job embedded, continuous professional development for teachers and school leaders focused on improving teaching and student academic achievement;

“(F) implementing programs based on the current science of learning, which includes research on positive brain change and cognitive skill development;

“(G) recruiting and training teachers to teach dual credit, dual enrollment, Advanced Placement, or International Baccalaureate postsecondary-level courses to secondary school students; and

“(H) other activities and programs identified as necessary by the local educational agency that meet the purpose of this part.

“(b) **PRINCIPLES OF EFFECTIVENESS.**—For a program or activity developed pursuant to this

section to meet the principles of effectiveness, such program or activity shall—

“(1) be based upon an assessment of objective data regarding the need for programs and activities in the elementary schools and secondary schools served to increase the number of teachers and school leaders who are effective in improving student academic achievement;

“(2) reflect evidence-based research, or in the absence of a strong research base, reflect effective strategies in the field, that provide evidence that the program or activity will improve student academic achievement; and

“(3) include meaningful and ongoing consultation with, and input from, teachers, school leaders, and parents, in the development of the application and administration of the program or activity.

“Subpart 3—General Provisions

“SEC. 2231. PERIODIC EVALUATION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity and each teacher or school leader preparation academy that receives funds under this part shall undergo a periodic evaluation by the State educational agency involved to assess such entity's or such academy's progress toward achieving the purposes of this part.

“(b) USE OF RESULTS.—The results of an evaluation described in subsection (a) of an eligible entity or academy shall be—

“(1) used to refine, improve, and strengthen such eligible entity or such academy, respectively; and

“(2) made available to the public upon request, with public notice of such availability provided.

“SEC. 2232. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

“(a) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES AND ACADEMIES.—Each eligible entity and each teacher or school leader preparation academy that receives funds from a State educational agency under this part shall prepare and submit annually to such State educational agency a report that includes—

“(1) a description of the progress of the eligible entity or teacher or school leader preparation academy, respectively, in meeting the purposes of this part;

“(2) a description of the programs and activities conducted by the eligible entity or teacher or school leader preparation academy, respectively, with funds received under this part;

“(3) how the eligible entity or teacher or school leader preparation academy, respectively, is using such funds; and

“(4) any such other information as the State educational agency may reasonably require.

“(b) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—Each State educational agency that receives a grant under this part shall prepare and submit, annually, to the Secretary a report that includes—

“(1) a description of the programs and activities conducted by the State educational agency with grant funds received under this part;

“(2) a description of the progress of the State educational agency in meeting the purposes of this part described in section 2201;

“(3) how the State educational agency is using grant funds received under this part;

“(4) the methods and criteria the State educational agency used to award subgrants in a timely manner to eligible entities under section 2221 and, if applicable, funds in a timely manner to teacher or school leader academies under section 2211(d)(3)(B); and

“(5) the results of the periodic evaluations conducted under section 2231.

“SEC. 2233. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

“From the funds reserved by the Secretary under section 2211(a)(2)(A), the Secretary shall, directly or through grants and contracts—

“(1) provide technical assistance to States and eligible entities in carrying out activities under this part; and

“(2) acting through the Institute of Education Sciences, conduct national evaluations of activities carried out by States and eligible entities under this part.

“SEC. 2234. DEFINITIONS.

“In this part:

“(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means—

“(A) a local educational agency or consortium of local educational agencies;

“(B) an institution of higher education or consortium of such institutions in partnership with a local educational agency or consortium of local educational agencies;

“(C) a for-profit organization, a nonprofit organization, or a consortium of for-profit or nonprofit organizations in partnership with a local educational agency or consortium of local educational agencies; or

“(D) a consortium of the entities described in subparagraphs (B) and (C).

“(2) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

“(3) STATE AUTHORIZER.—The term ‘State authorizer’ means an entity designated by the Governor of a State to authorize teacher or school leader preparation academies within the State that—

“(A) enters into an agreement with a teacher or school leader preparation academy that—

“(i) specifies the goals expected of the academy, which, at a minimum, include the goals described in paragraph (4); and

“(ii) does not reauthorize the academy if such goals are not met;

“(B) may be a nonprofit organization, a State educational agency, or other public entity, or consortium of such entities (including a consortium of State educational agencies); and

“(C) has a timely and efficient approval process to approve or disapprove a teacher or school leader preparation academy.

“(4) TEACHER OR SCHOOL LEADER PREPARATION ACADEMY.—The term ‘teacher or school leader preparation academy’ means a public or private entity, or a nonprofit or for-profit organization, which may be an institution of higher education or an organization affiliated with an institution of higher education, that will prepare teachers or school leaders to serve in schools, and that—

“(A) enters into an agreement with a State authorizer that specifies the goals expected of the academy, including—

“(i) a requirement that prospective teachers or school leaders who are enrolled in a teacher or school leader preparation academy receive a significant part of their training through clinical preparation that partners the prospective candidate with an effective teacher or school leader, respectively, with a demonstrated record of increasing or producing high student achievement, while also receiving concurrent instruction from the academy in the content area (or areas) in which the prospective teacher or school leader will become certified or licensed;

“(ii) the number of effective teachers or school leaders, respectively, who will demonstrate success in increasing or producing high student achievement that the academy will produce; and

“(iii) a requirement that a teacher or school leader preparation academy will only award a certificate of completion after the graduate demonstrates that the graduate is an effective teacher or school leader, respectively, with a demonstrated record of increasing or producing high student achievement, except that an academy may award a provisional certificate for the period necessary to allow the graduate to demonstrate such effectiveness;

“(B) does not have restrictions on the methods the academy will use to train prospective teacher or school leader candidates, including—

“(i) obligating (or prohibiting) the academy's faculty to hold advanced degrees or conduct academic research;

“(ii) restrictions related to the academy's physical infrastructure;

“(iii) restrictions related to the number of course credits required as part of the program of study;

“(iv) restrictions related to the undergraduate coursework completed by teachers teaching or working on alternative certificates, licenses, or credentials, as long as such teachers have successfully passed all relevant State-approved content area examinations; or

“(v) restrictions related to obtaining accreditation from an accrediting body for purposes of becoming an academy;

“(C) limits admission to its program to prospective teacher or school leader candidates who demonstrate strong potential to improve student achievement, based on a rigorous selection process that reviews a candidate's prior academic achievement or record of professional accomplishment; and

“(D) results in a certificate of completion that the State may recognize as at least the equivalent of a master's degree in education for the purposes of hiring, retention, compensation, and promotion in the State.

“(5) TEACHER RESIDENCY PROGRAM.—The term ‘teacher residency program’ means a school-based teacher preparation program in which a prospective teacher—

“(A) for one academic year, teaches alongside an effective teacher, as determined by a teacher evaluation system implemented under part A, who is the teacher of record;

“(B) receives concurrent instruction during the year described in subparagraph (A) from the partner institution (as defined in section 200 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1021)), which courses may be taught by local educational agency personnel or residency program faculty, in the teaching of the content area in which the teacher will become certified or licensed; and

“(C) acquires effective teaching skills.”.

(d) PART C.—Part C of title II (20 U.S.C. 6671 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by striking subparts 1 through 4;

(2) by striking the heading relating to subpart 5;

(3) by striking sections 2361 and 2368;

(4) in section 2362, by striking “principals” and inserting “school leaders”;

(5) in section 2363(6)(A), by striking “principal” and inserting “school leader”;

(6) in section 2366(b), by striking “ate law” and inserting “(3) A State law”;

(7) by redesignating section 2362 as section 2361;

(8) by redesignating sections 2364 through 2367 as sections 2362 through 2365, respectively; and

(9) by redesignating section 2363 as section 2366 and transferring such section to appear after section 2365 (as so redesignated).

(e) PART D.—Part D of title II (20 U.S.C. 6751 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

“PART D—GENERAL PROVISIONS

“SEC. 2401. INCLUSION OF CHARTER SCHOOLS.

“In this title, the term ‘local educational agency’ includes a charter school (as defined in section 6101) that, in the absence of this section, would not have received funds under this title.

“SEC. 2402. PARENTS' RIGHT TO KNOW.

“At the beginning of each school year, a local educational agency that receives funds under this title shall notify the parents of each student attending any school receiving funds under this title that the parents may request, and the agency will provide the parents on request (and in a timely manner), information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers.

“SEC. 2403. SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.

“Funds received under this title shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, non-Federal funds that would otherwise be used for activities authorized under this title.”

SEC. 202. CONFORMING REPEALS.

(a) **CONFORMING REPEALS.**—Title II of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1021 et seq.) is amended by repealing sections 201 through 204.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The repeals made by subsection (a) shall take effect October 1, 2015.

TITLE III—PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT AND LOCAL FLEXIBILITY**SEC. 301. PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT AND LOCAL FLEXIBILITY.**

Title III (20 U.S.C. 6801 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

“TITLE III—PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT AND LOCAL FLEXIBILITY**“PART A—PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT****“Subpart 1—Charter School Program****“SEC. 3101. PURPOSE.**

“It is the purpose of this subpart to—

“(1) improve the United States education system and education opportunities for all Americans by supporting innovation in public education in public school settings that prepare students to compete and contribute to the global economy and a stronger America;

“(2) provide financial assistance for the planning, program design, and initial implementation of charter schools;

“(3) expand the number of high-quality charter schools available to students across the Nation;

“(4) evaluate the impact of such schools on student achievement, families, and communities, and share best practices between charter schools and other public schools;

“(5) encourage States to provide support to charter schools for facilities financing in an amount more nearly commensurate to the amount the States have typically provided for traditional public schools;

“(6) improve student services to increase opportunities for students with disabilities, English learners, and other traditionally underserved students to attend charter schools and meet challenging State academic achievement standards;

“(7) support efforts to strengthen the charter school authorizing process to improve performance management, including transparency, oversight, monitoring, and evaluation of such schools; and

“(8) support quality accountability and transparency in the operational performance of all authorized public chartering agencies, which include State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and other authorizing entities.

“SEC. 3102. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—This subpart authorizes the Secretary to carry out a charter school program that supports charter schools that serve elementary school and secondary school students by—

“(1) supporting the startup of charter schools, and the replication and expansion of high-quality charter schools;

“(2) assisting charter schools in accessing credit to acquire and renovate facilities for school use; and

“(3) carrying out national activities to support—

“(A) charter school development;

“(B) the dissemination of best practices of charter schools for all schools;

“(C) the evaluation of the impact of the program on schools participating in the program; and

“(D) stronger charter school authorizing.

“(b) **FUNDING ALLOTMENT.**—From the amount made available under section 3(c)(1)(A) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall—

“(1) reserve 12.5 percent to support charter school facilities assistance under section 3104;

“(2) reserve not more than 10 percent to carry out national activities under section 3105; and

“(3) use the remaining amount after the Secretary reserves funds under paragraphs (1) and (2) to carry out section 3103.

“(c) **PRIOR GRANTS AND SUBGRANTS.**—The recipient of a grant or subgrant under this subpart or subpart 2, as such subpart was in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Student Success Act, shall continue to receive funds in accordance with the terms and conditions of such grant or subgrant.

“(d) **GAO REPORT.**—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of the Student Success Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to the Secretary and Congress that—

“(1) examines whether the funds authorized to be reserved by State entities for administrative costs under section 3103(b)(1)(C) is appropriate; and

“(2) if such reservation of funds is determined not to be appropriate, makes recommendations on the appropriate reservation of funding for such administrative costs.

“SEC. 3103. GRANTS TO SUPPORT HIGH-QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOLS.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—From the amount reserved under section 3102(b)(3), the Secretary shall award grants to State entities having applications approved pursuant to subsection (f) to enable such entities to—

“(1) award subgrants to eligible applicants for opening and preparing to operate—

“(A) new charter schools;

“(B) replicated, high-quality charter school models; or

“(C) expanded, high-quality charter schools; and

“(2) provide technical assistance to eligible applicants and authorized public chartering agencies in carrying out the activities described in paragraph (1) and work with authorized public chartering agencies in the State to improve authorizing quality.

“(b) **STATE USES OF FUNDS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A State entity receiving a grant under this section shall—

“(A) use not less than 90 percent of the grant funds to award subgrants to eligible applicants, in accordance with the quality charter school program described in the State entity's application approved pursuant to subsection (f), for the purposes described in subparagraphs (A) through (C) of subsection (a)(1);

“(B) reserve not less than 7 percent of such funds to carry out the activities described in subsection (a)(2); and

“(C) reserve not more than 3 percent of such funds for administrative costs which may include technical assistance.

“(2) **CONTRACTS AND GRANTS.**—A State entity may use a grant received under this section to carry out the activities described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) directly or through grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements.

“(3) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this Act shall prohibit the Secretary from awarding grants to States that use a weighted lottery to give slightly better chances for admission to all, or a subset of, educationally disadvantaged students if—

“(A) the use of weighted lotteries in favor of such students is not prohibited by State law, and such State law is consistent with laws described in section 6101(3)(G); and

“(B) such weighted lotteries are not used for the purpose of creating schools exclusively to serve a particular subset of students.

“(c) **PROGRAM PERIODS; PEER REVIEW; GRANT NUMBER AND AMOUNT; DIVERSITY OF PROJECTS; WAIVERS.**—

“(1) **PROGRAM PERIODS.**—

“(A) **GRANTS.**—A grant awarded by the Secretary to a State entity under this section shall be for a period of not more than 5 years.

“(B) **SUBGRANTS.**—A subgrant awarded by a State entity under this section shall be for a period of not more than 5 years, of which an eligible applicant may use not more than 18 months for planning and program design.

“(2) **PEER REVIEW.**—The Secretary, and each State entity receiving a grant under this section, shall use a peer review process to review applications for assistance under this section.

“(3) **GRANT AWARDS.**—The Secretary shall—

“(A) for each fiscal year for which funds are appropriated under section 3(c)(1)(A)—

“(i) award not less than 3 grants under this section;

“(ii) wholly fund each grant awarded under this section, without making continuation awards; and

“(iii) fully obligate the funds appropriated for the purpose of awarding grants under this section in the fiscal year for which such grants are awarded; and

“(B) prior to the start of the final year of the grant period of each grant awarded under this section to a State entity, review whether the State entity is using the grant funds for the agreed upon uses of funds and whether the full amount of the grant will be needed for the remainder of the grant period and may, as determined necessary based on that review, terminate or reduce the amount of the grant and reallocate the remaining grant funds to other State entities during the succeeding grant competition under this section.

“(4) **DIVERSITY OF PROJECTS.**—Each State entity receiving a grant under this section shall award subgrants under this section in a manner that, to the extent possible, ensures that such subgrants—

“(A) are distributed throughout different areas, including urban, suburban, and rural areas; and

“(B) will assist charter schools representing a variety of educational approaches.

“(5) **WAIVERS.**—The Secretary may waive any statutory or regulatory requirement over which the Secretary exercises administrative authority, except for any such requirement relating to the elements of a charter school described in section 6101(3), if—

“(A) the waiver is requested in an approved application under this section; and

“(B) the Secretary determines that granting such a waiver will promote the purposes of this subpart.

“(d) **LIMITATIONS.**—

“(1) **GRANTS.**—The Secretary shall not award a grant to a State entity under this section in a case in which such award would result in more than 1 grant awarded under this section being carried out in a State at the same time.

“(2) **SUBGRANTS.**—An eligible applicant may not receive more than 1 subgrant under this section per individual charter school for a 5-year period, unless the eligible applicant demonstrates to the State entity not less than 3 years of improved educational results in the areas described in subparagraphs (A) and (D) of section 3110(7) for students enrolled in such charter school.

“(e) **APPLICATIONS.**—A State entity desiring to receive a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may require. The application shall include the following:

“(1) **DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM.**—A description of the State entity's objectives under this section and how the objectives of the State entity's

quality charter school program will be carried out, including a description—

“(A) of how the State entity—

“(i) will support the opening of new charter schools, replicated, high-quality charter school models, or expanded, high-quality charter schools, and a description of the proposed number of each type of charter school or model, if applicable, to be opened under the State entity’s program;

“(ii) will inform eligible charter schools, developers, and authorized public chartering agencies of the availability of funds under the program;

“(iii) will work with eligible applicants to ensure that the eligible applicants access all Federal funds that they are eligible to receive, and help the charter schools supported by the applicants and the students attending the charter schools—

“(I) participate in the Federal programs in which the schools and students are eligible to participate;

“(II) receive the commensurate share of Federal funds the schools and students are eligible to receive under such programs; and

“(III) meet the needs of students served under such programs, including students with disabilities and English learners;

“(iv) will have clear plans and procedures to assist students enrolled in a charter school that closes or loses its charter to attend other high-quality schools;

“(v) in the case in which the State entity is not a State educational agency—

“(I) will work with the State educational agency and the charter schools in the State to maximize charter school participation in Federal and State programs for charter schools; and

“(II) will work with the State educational agency to adequately operate the State entity’s program under this section, where applicable;

“(vi) will ensure each eligible applicant that receives a subgrant under the State entity’s program to open and prepare to operate a new charter school, a replicated, high-quality charter school model, or an expanded, high-quality charter school—

“(I) will ensure such school or model meets the requirements under section 6101(3); and

“(II) is prepared to continue to operate such school or model, in a manner consistent with the eligible applicant’s application, after the subgrant funds have expired;

“(vii) will support charter schools in local educational agencies with large numbers of schools identified by the State for improvement, including supporting the use of charter schools to improve, or in turning around, struggling schools;

“(viii) will work with charter schools to promote inclusion of all students, including eliminating any barriers to enrollment for foster youth or unaccompanied homeless youth, and support all students once they are enrolled to promote retention including through the use of fair disciplinary practice;

“(ix) will work with charter schools on recruitment practices, including efforts to engage groups that may otherwise have limited opportunities to participate in charter schools, and to ensure such schools do not have in effect policies or procedures that may create barriers to enrollment of students, including educationally disadvantaged students, and are in compliance with all Federal and State laws on enrollment practices;

“(x) will share best and promising practices between charter schools and other public schools, including, where appropriate, instruction and professional development in science, technology, engineering, and math education, including computer science, and other subjects;

“(xi) will ensure the charter schools receiving funds under the State entity’s program meet the

educational needs of their students, including students with disabilities and English learners;

“(xii) will support efforts to increase quality initiatives, including meeting the quality authorizing elements described in paragraph (2)(E);

“(xiii) in the case of a State entity not described in clause (xiv), will provide oversight of authorizing activity, including how the State will help ensure better authorizing, such as by establishing authorizing standards that may include approving, actively monitoring, and re-approving or revoking the authority of an authorized public chartering agency based on the performance of the charter schools authorized by such agency in the areas of student achievement, student safety, financial and operational management, and compliance with all applicable statutes and regulations;

“(xiv) in the case of a State entity defined in subsection (i)(4), will work with the State to support the State’s system of assistance and oversight of authorized public chartering agencies for authorizing activity described in clause (xiii); and

“(xv) will work with eligible applicants receiving a subgrant under the State entity’s program to support the opening of charter schools or charter school models described in clause (i) that are secondary schools;

“(B) of the extent to which the State entity—

“(i) is able to meet and carry out the priorities listed in subsection (f)(2); and

“(ii) is working to develop or strengthen a cohesive statewide system to support the opening of new charter schools, replicated, high-quality charter school models, or expanded, high-quality charter schools;

“(C) of how the State entity will carry out the subgrant competition, including—

“(i) a description of the application each eligible applicant desiring to receive a subgrant will submit, including—

“(I) a description of the roles and responsibilities of the eligible applicant, partner organizations, and management organizations, including the administrative and contractual roles and responsibilities;

“(II) a description of the quality controls agreed to between the eligible applicant and the authorized public chartering agency involved, such as a contract or performance agreement, how a school’s performance in the State’s academic accountability system will be one of the most important factors for renewal or revocation of the school’s charter, and how the State entity and the authorized public chartering agency involved will reserve the right to revoke or not renew a school’s charter based on financial, structural, or operational factors involving the management of the school;

“(III) a description of how the eligible applicant will solicit and consider input from parents and other members of the community on the implementation and operation of each charter school that will receive funds under the State entity’s program; and

“(IV) a description of the planned activities and expenditures for the subgrant funds for purposes of opening and preparing to operate a new charter school, a replicated, high-quality charter school model, or an expanded, high-quality charter school, and how the school or model will maintain financial sustainability after the end of the subgrant period; and

“(ii) a description of how the State entity will review applications;

“(D) in the case of a State entity that partners with an outside organization to carry out the State entity’s quality charter school program, in whole or in part, of the roles and responsibilities of this partner;

“(E) of how the State entity will help the charter schools receiving funds under the State

entity’s program consider the transportation needs of the schools’ students; and

“(F) of how the State entity will support diverse charter school models, including models that serve rural communities.

“(2) ASSURANCES.—Assurances, including a description of how the assurances will be met, that—

“(A) each charter school receiving funds under the State entity’s program will have a high degree of autonomy over budget and operations;

“(B) the State entity will support charter schools in meeting the educational needs of their students as described in paragraph (1)(A)(xi);

“(C) the State entity will ensure that the authorized public chartering agency of any charter school that receives funds under the State entity’s program—

“(i) adequately monitors each such charter school in recruiting, enrolling, and meeting the needs of all students, including students with disabilities and English learners; and

“(ii) ensures that each such charter school solicits and considers input from parents and other members of the community on the implementation and operation of the school;

“(D) the State entity will provide adequate technical assistance to eligible applicants to—

“(i) meet the objectives described in clauses (viii) and (ix) of paragraph (1)(A) and subparagraph (B) of this paragraph; and

“(ii) recruit, enroll, and retain traditionally underserved students, including students with disabilities and English learners, at rates similar to traditional public schools;

“(E) the State entity will promote quality authorizing, such as through providing technical assistance and supporting all authorized public chartering agencies in the State to improve the oversight of their charter schools, including by—

“(i) assessing annual performance data of the schools, including, as appropriate, graduation rates, student academic growth, and rates of student attrition;

“(ii) reviewing the schools’ independent, annual audits of financial statements conducted in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and ensuring any such audits are publicly reported; and

“(iii) holding charter schools accountable to the academic, financial, and operational quality controls agreed to between the charter school and the authorized public chartering agency involved, such as through renewal, non-renewal, or revocation of the school’s charter;

“(F) the State entity will work to ensure that charter schools are included with the traditional public schools in decisionmaking about the public school system in the State; and

“(G) The State entity will ensure that each charter school receiving funds under the State entity’s program makes publicly available, consistent with the dissemination requirements of the annual State report card, information to help parents make informed decisions about the education options available to their children, including information for each school on—

“(i) the educational program;

“(ii) student support services;

“(iii) annual performance and enrollment data, disaggregated by the groups of students described in section 1111(b)(3)(B)(ii)(II), except that such disaggregation shall not be required in a case in which the number of students in a group is insufficient to yield statistically reliable information or the results would reveal personally identifiable information about an individual student; and

“(iv) any other information the State requires all other public schools to report for purposes of section 1111(h)(1)(D).

“(3) REQUESTS FOR WAIVERS.—A request and justification for waivers of any Federal statutory or regulatory provisions that the State entity believes are necessary for the successful operation of the charter schools that will receive funds under the State entity’s program under this section or, in the case of a State entity defined in subsection (i)(4), a description of how the State entity will work with the State to request such necessary waivers, where applicable, and a description of any State or local rules, generally applicable to public schools, that will be waived, or otherwise not apply to such schools.

“(f) SELECTION CRITERIA; PRIORITY.—

“(1) SELECTION CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall award grants to State entities under this section on the basis of the quality of the applications submitted under subsection (e), after taking into consideration—

“(A) the degree of flexibility afforded by the State’s public charter school law and how the State entity will work to maximize the flexibility provided to charter schools under the law;

“(B) the ambitiousness of the State entity’s objectives for the quality charter school program carried out under this section;

“(C) the quality of the strategy for assessing achievement of those objectives;

“(D) the likelihood that the eligible applicants receiving subgrants under the program will meet those objectives and improve educational results for students;

“(E) the State entity’s plan to—

“(i) adequately monitor the eligible applicants receiving subgrants under the State entity’s program;

“(ii) work with the authorized public chartering agencies involved to avoid duplication of work for the charter schools and authorized public chartering agencies; and

“(iii) provide adequate technical assistance and support for—

“(I) the charter schools receiving funds under the State entity’s program; and

“(II) quality authorizing efforts in the State; and

“(F) the State entity’s plan to solicit and consider input from parents and other members of the community on the implementation and operation of the charter schools in the State.

“(2) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to State entities to the extent that they meet the following criteria:

“(A) The State entity is located in a State—

“(i) that allows at least one entity that is not a local educational agency to be an authorized public chartering agency for developers seeking to open a charter school in the State; or

“(ii) in which local educational agencies are the only authorized public chartering agencies and that has an appeals process for the denial of an application for a charter school;

“(B) The State entity is located in a State that does not impose any limitation on the number or percentage of charter schools that may exist or the number or percentage of students that may attend charter schools in the State.

“(C) The State entity is located in a State that ensures equitable financing, as compared to traditional public schools, for charter schools and students in a prompt manner.

“(D) The State entity is located in a State that uses best practices from charter schools to help improve struggling schools and local educational agencies.

“(E) The State entity partners with an organization that has a demonstrated record of success in developing management organizations to support the development of charter schools in the State.

“(F) The State entity supports charter schools that support at-risk students through activities

such as dropout prevention, dropout recovery, or comprehensive career counseling practices.

“(G) The State entity authorizes all charter schools in the State to serve as school food authorities.

“(H) The State entity has taken steps to ensure that all authorizing public chartering agencies implement best practices for charter school authorizing.

“(I) The State entity is able to demonstrate that its State provides charter schools one or more of the following:

“(i) Funding for facilities.

“(ii) Assistance with the acquisition of facilities.

“(iii) Access to public facilities.

“(iv) The right of first refusal to purchase public school buildings.

“(v) Low or no cost leasing privileges.

“(g) LOCAL USES OF FUNDS.—An eligible applicant receiving a subgrant under this section shall use such funds to carry out activities related to opening and preparing to operate a new charter school, a replicated, high-quality charter school model, or an expanded, high-quality charter school, such as—

“(1) preparing teachers and school leaders, including through professional development;

“(2) acquiring equipment, educational materials, and supplies; and

“(3) carrying out necessary renovations and minor facilities repairs (excluding construction).

“(h) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Each State entity receiving a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary, at the end of the third year of the 5-year grant period and at the end of such grant period, a report on—

“(1) the number of students served by each subgrant awarded under this section and, if applicable, how many new students were served during each year of the subgrant period;

“(2) the progress the State entity made toward meeting the priorities described in subsection (f)(2), as applicable;

“(3) how the State entity met the objectives of the quality charter school program described in the State entity’s application under subsection (e), including how the State entity met the objective of sharing best and promising practices described in subsection (e)(1)(A)(x) in areas such as instruction, professional development, curricula development, and operations between charter schools and other public schools, and the extent to which, if known, such practices were adopted and implemented by such other public schools;

“(4) how the State entity complied with, and ensured that eligible applicants complied with, the assurances described in the State entity’s application;

“(5) how the State entity worked with authorized public chartering agencies, including how the agencies worked with the management company or leadership of the schools that received subgrants under this section;

“(6) the number of subgrants awarded under this section to carry out each of the following:

“(A) the opening of new charter schools;

“(B) the opening of replicated, high-quality charter school models; and

“(C) the opening of expanded, high-quality charter schools; and

“(7) how the State entity has worked with charter schools receiving funds under the State entity’s program to foster community involvement in the planning for and opening of such schools.

“(i) STATE ENTITY DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘State entity’ means—

“(1) a State educational agency;

“(2) a State charter school board;

“(3) a Governor of a State; or

“(4) a charter school support organization.

“SEC. 3104. FACILITIES FINANCING ASSISTANCE.

“(a) GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—From the amount reserved under section 3102(b)(1), the Secretary shall not use less than 50 percent to award grants to eligible entities that have the highest-quality applications approved under subsection (d), after considering the diversity of such applications, to demonstrate innovative methods of assisting charter schools to address the cost of acquiring, constructing, and renovating facilities by enhancing the availability of loans or bond financing.

“(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

“(A) a public entity, such as a State or local governmental entity;

“(B) a private nonprofit entity; or

“(C) a consortium of entities described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

“(b) GRANTEE SELECTION.—The Secretary shall evaluate each application submitted under subsection (d), and shall determine whether the application is sufficient to merit approval.

“(c) GRANT CHARACTERISTICS.—Grants under subsection (a) shall be of a sufficient size, scope, and quality so as to ensure an effective demonstration of an innovative means of enhancing credit for the financing of charter school acquisition, construction, or renovation.

“(d) APPLICATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under subsection (a), an eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary an application in such form as the Secretary may reasonably require.

“(2) CONTENTS.—An application submitted under paragraph (1) shall contain—

“(A) a statement identifying the activities proposed to be undertaken with funds received under subsection (a), including how the eligible entity will determine which charter schools will receive assistance, and how much and what types of assistance charter schools will receive;

“(B) a description of the involvement of charter schools in the application’s development and the design of the proposed activities;

“(C) a description of the eligible entity’s expertise in capital market financing;

“(D) a description of how the proposed activities will leverage the maximum amount of private-sector financing capital relative to the amount of public funding used and otherwise enhance credit available to charter schools, including how the eligible entity will offer a combination of rates and terms more favorable than the rates and terms that a charter school could receive without assistance from the eligible entity under subsection (a);

“(E) a description of how the eligible entity possesses sufficient expertise in education to evaluate the likelihood of success of a charter school program for which facilities financing is sought; and

“(F) in the case of an application submitted by a State governmental entity, a description of the actions that the entity has taken, or will take, to ensure that charter schools within the State receive the funding the charter schools need to have adequate facilities.

“(e) CHARTER SCHOOL OBJECTIVES.—An eligible entity receiving a grant under subsection (a) shall use the funds deposited in the reserve account established under subsection (f) to assist one or more charter schools to access private sector capital to accomplish one or more of the following objectives:

“(1) The acquisition (by purchase, lease, donation, or otherwise) of an interest (including an interest held by a third party for the benefit of a charter school) in improved or unimproved real property that is necessary to commence or continue the operation of a charter school.

“(2) The construction of new facilities, or the renovation, repair, or alteration of existing facilities, necessary to commence or continue the operation of a charter school.

“(3) The predevelopment costs required to assess sites for purposes of paragraph (1) or (2) and which are necessary to commence or continue the operation of a charter school.

“(f) RESERVE ACCOUNT.—

“(1) USE OF FUNDS.—To assist charter schools to accomplish the objectives described in subsection (e), an eligible entity receiving a grant under subsection (a) shall, in accordance with State and local law, directly or indirectly, alone or in collaboration with others, deposit the funds received under subsection (a) (other than funds used for administrative costs in accordance with subsection (g)) in a reserve account established and maintained by the eligible entity for this purpose. Amounts deposited in such account shall be used by the eligible entity for one or more of the following purposes:

“(A) Guaranteeing, insuring, and reinsuring bonds, notes, evidences of debt, loans, and interests therein, the proceeds of which are used for an objective described in subsection (e).

“(B) Guaranteeing and insuring leases of personal and real property for an objective described in subsection (e).

“(C) Facilitating financing by identifying potential lending sources, encouraging private lending, and other similar activities that directly promote lending to, or for the benefit of, charter schools.

“(D) Facilitating the issuance of bonds by charter schools, or by other public entities for the benefit of charter schools, by providing technical, administrative, and other appropriate assistance (including the recruitment of bond counsel, underwriters, and potential investors and the consolidation of multiple charter school projects within a single bond issue).

“(2) INVESTMENT.—Funds received under subsection (a) and deposited in the reserve account established under paragraph (1) shall be invested in obligations issued or guaranteed by the United States or a State, or in other similarly low-risk securities.

“(3) REINVESTMENT OF EARNINGS.—Any earnings on funds received under subsection (a) shall be deposited in the reserve account established under paragraph (1) and used in accordance with such paragraph.

“(g) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—An eligible entity may use not more than 2.5 percent of the funds received under subsection (a) for the administrative costs of carrying out its responsibilities under this section (excluding subsection (k)).

“(h) AUDITS AND REPORTS.—

“(1) FINANCIAL RECORD MAINTENANCE AND AUDIT.—The financial records of each eligible entity receiving a grant under subsection (a) shall be maintained in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and shall be subject to an annual audit by an independent public accountant.

“(2) REPORTS.—

“(A) GRANTEE ANNUAL REPORTS.—Each eligible entity receiving a grant under subsection (a) annually shall submit to the Secretary a report of its operations and activities under this section (excluding subsection (k)).

“(B) CONTENTS.—Each annual report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include—

“(i) a copy of the most recent financial statements, and any accompanying opinion on such statements, prepared by the independent public accountant reviewing the financial records of the eligible entity;

“(ii) a copy of any report made on an audit of the financial records of the eligible entity that was conducted under paragraph (1) during the reporting period;

“(iii) an evaluation by the eligible entity of the effectiveness of its use of the Federal funds provided under subsection (a) in leveraging private funds;

“(iv) a listing and description of the charter schools served during the reporting period, including the amount of funds used by each school, the type of project facilitated by the grant, and the type of assistance provided to the charter schools;

“(v) a description of the activities carried out by the eligible entity to assist charter schools in meeting the objectives set forth in subsection (e); and

“(vi) a description of the characteristics of lenders and other financial institutions participating in the activities undertaken by the eligible entity under this section (excluding subsection (k)) during the reporting period.

“(C) SECRETARIAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall review the reports submitted under subparagraph (A) and shall provide a comprehensive annual report to Congress on the activities conducted under this section (excluding subsection (k)).

“(i) NO FULL FAITH AND CREDIT FOR GRANTEE OBLIGATION.—No financial obligation of an eligible entity entered into pursuant to this section (such as an obligation under a guarantee, bond, note, evidence of debt, or loan) shall be an obligation of, or guaranteed in any respect by, the United States. The full faith and credit of the United States is not pledged to the payment of funds which may be required to be paid under any obligation made by an eligible entity pursuant to any provision of this section.

“(j) RECOVERY OF FUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in accordance with chapter 37 of title 31, United States Code, shall collect—

“(A) all of the funds in a reserve account established by an eligible entity under subsection (f)(1) if the Secretary determines, not earlier than 2 years after the date on which the eligible entity first received funds under subsection (a), that the eligible entity has failed to make substantial progress in carrying out the purposes described in subsection (f)(1); or

“(B) all or a portion of the funds in a reserve account established by an eligible entity under subsection (f)(1) if the Secretary determines that the eligible entity has permanently ceased to use all or a portion of the funds in such account to accomplish any purpose described in subsection (f)(1).

“(2) EXERCISE OF AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall not exercise the authority provided in paragraph (1) to collect from any eligible entity any funds that are being properly used to achieve one or more of the purposes described in subsection (f)(1).

“(3) PROCEDURES.—The provisions of sections 451, 452, and 458 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 124, 1234a, 1234g) shall apply to the recovery of funds under paragraph (1).

“(4) CONSTRUCTION.—This subsection shall not be construed to impair or affect the authority of the Secretary to recover funds under part D of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1234 et seq.).

“(k) PER-PUPIL FACILITIES AID PROGRAM.—

“(1) DEFINITION OF PER-PUPIL FACILITIES AID PROGRAM.—In this subsection, the term ‘per-pupil facilities aid program’ means a program in which a State makes payments, on a per-pupil basis, to charter schools to provide the schools with financing—

“(A) that is dedicated solely for funding charter school facilities; or

“(B) a portion of which is dedicated for funding charter school facilities.

“(2) GRANTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—From the amount under section 3102(b)(1) remaining after the Secretary makes grants under subsection (a), the Secretary shall make grants, on a competitive basis, to States to pay for the Federal share of the cost

of establishing or enhancing, and administering per-pupil facilities aid programs.

“(B) PERIOD.—The Secretary shall award grants under this subsection for periods of not more than 5 years.

“(C) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost described in subparagraph (A) for a per-pupil facilities aid program shall be not more than—

“(i) 90 percent of the cost, for the first fiscal year for which the program receives assistance under this subsection;

“(ii) 80 percent in the second such year;

“(iii) 60 percent in the third such year;

“(iv) 40 percent in the fourth such year; and

“(v) 20 percent in the fifth such year.

“(D) STATE SHARE.—A State receiving a grant under this subsection may partner with 1 or more organizations to provide up to 50 percent of the State share of the cost of establishing or enhancing, and administering the per-pupil facilities aid program.

“(E) MULTIPLE GRANTS.—A State may receive more than 1 grant under this subsection, so long as the amount of such funds provided to charter schools increases with each successive grant.

“(3) USE OF FUNDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A State that receives a grant under this subsection shall use the funds made available through the grant to establish or enhance, and administer, a per-pupil facilities aid program for charter schools in the State of the applicant.

“(B) EVALUATIONS; TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; DISSEMINATION.—From the amount made available to a State through a grant under this subsection for a fiscal year, the State may reserve not more than 5 percent to carry out evaluations, to provide technical assistance, and to disseminate information.

“(C) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds made available under this subsection shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, State and local public funds expended to provide per-pupil facilities aid programs, operations financing programs, or other programs, for charter schools.

“(4) REQUIREMENTS.—

“(A) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—No State may be required to participate in a program carried out under this subsection.

“(B) STATE LAW.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), to be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, a State shall establish or enhance, and administer, a per-pupil facilities aid program for charter schools in the State, that—

“(I) is specified in State law; and

“(II) provides annual financing, on a per-pupil basis, for charter school facilities.

“(ii) SPECIAL RULE.—Notwithstanding clause (i), a State that is required under State law to provide its charter schools with access to adequate facility space, but which does not have a per-pupil facilities aid program for charter schools specified in State law, may be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection if the State agrees to use the funds to develop a per-pupil facilities aid program consistent with the requirements of this subsection.

“(5) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, a State shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

“SEC. 3105. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount reserved under section 3102(b)(2), the Secretary shall—

“(1) use not less than 75 percent of such amount to award grants in accordance with subsection (b); and

“(2) use not more than 25 percent of such amount to—

“(A) provide technical assistance to State entities in awarding subgrants under section 3103,

and eligible entities and States receiving grants under section 3104;

“(B) disseminate best practices; and

“(C) evaluate the impact of the charter school program, including the impact on student achievement, carried out under this subpart.

“(b) GRANTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible applicants for the purpose of carrying out the activities described in section 3102(a)(1), subparagraphs (A) through (C) of section 3103(a)(1), and section 3103(g).

“(2) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, grants awarded under this subsection shall have the same terms and conditions as grants awarded to State entities under section 3103.

“(3) CHARTER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS.—The Secretary shall—

“(A) of the amount described in subsection (a)(1), use not less than 75 percent to make grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible applicants described in paragraph (4)(B); and

“(B) notwithstanding paragraphs (1)(A) and (2) of section 3103(f)—

“(i) award grants to eligible applicants on the basis of the quality of the applications submitted under this subsection; and

“(ii) in awarding grants to eligible applicants described in paragraph (4)(B) of this subsection, take into consideration whether such an eligible applicant—

“(I) demonstrates a high proportion of high-quality charter schools within the network of the eligible applicant;

“(II) demonstrates success in serving students who are educationally disadvantaged;

“(III) does not have a significant proportion of charter schools that have been closed, had their charter revoked for compliance issues, or had their affiliation with such eligible applicant revoked;

“(IV) has sufficient procedures in effect to ensure timely closure of low-performing or financially mismanaged charter schools and clear plans and procedures in effect for the students in such schools to attend other high-quality schools; and

“(V) demonstrates success in working with schools identified for improvement by the State.

“(4) ELIGIBLE APPLICANT DEFINED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘eligible applicant’ means an eligible applicant (as defined in section 3110) that—

“(A) desires to open a charter school in—

“(i) a State that did not apply for a grant under section 3103; or

“(ii) a State that did not receive a grant under section 3103; or

“(B) is a charter management organization.

“(c) CONTRACTS AND GRANTS.—The Secretary may carry out any of the activities described in this section directly or through grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements.

“SEC. 3106. FEDERAL FORMULA ALLOCATION DURING FIRST YEAR AND FOR SUCCESSIVE ENROLLMENT EXPANSIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of the allocation to schools by the States or their agencies of funds under part A of title I, and any other Federal funds which the Secretary allocates to States on a formula basis, the Secretary and each State educational agency shall take such measures as are necessary to ensure that every charter school receives the Federal funding for which the charter school is eligible not later than 5 months after the charter school first opens, notwithstanding the fact that the identity and characteristics of the students enrolling in that charter school are not fully and completely determined until that charter school actually opens. The measures similarly shall ensure that every charter school expanding its en-

rollment in any subsequent year of operation receives the Federal funding for which the charter school is eligible not later than 5 months after such expansion.

“(b) ADJUSTMENT AND LATE OPENINGS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The measures described in subsection (a) shall include provision for appropriate adjustments, through recovery of funds or reduction of payments for the succeeding year, in cases where payments made to a charter school on the basis of estimated or projected enrollment data exceed the amounts that the school is eligible to receive on the basis of actual or final enrollment data.

“(2) RULE.—For charter schools that first open after November 1 of any academic year, the State, in accordance with guidance provided by the Secretary and applicable Federal statutes and regulations, shall ensure that such charter schools that are eligible for the funds described in subsection (a) for such academic year have a full and fair opportunity to receive those funds during the charter schools’ first year of operation.

“SEC. 3107. SOLICITATION OF INPUT FROM CHARTER SCHOOL OPERATORS.

“To the extent practicable, the Secretary shall ensure that administrators, teachers, and other individuals directly involved in the operation of charter schools are consulted in the development of any rules or regulations required to implement this subpart, as well as in the development of any rules or regulations relevant to charter schools that are required to implement part A of title I, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or any other program administered by the Secretary that provides education funds to charter schools or regulates the activities of charter schools.

“SEC. 3108. RECORDS TRANSFER.

“State educational agencies and local educational agencies, as quickly as possible and to the extent practicable, shall ensure that a student’s records and, if applicable, a student’s individualized education program as defined in section 602(14) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, are transferred to a charter school upon the transfer of the student to the charter school, and to another public school upon the transfer of the student from a charter school to another public school, in accordance with applicable State law.

“SEC. 3109. PAPERWORK REDUCTION.

“To the extent practicable, the Secretary and each authorized public chartering agency shall ensure that implementation of this subpart results in a minimum of paperwork for any eligible applicant or charter school.

“SEC. 3110. DEFINITIONS.

“In this subpart:

“(1) CHARTER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘charter management organization’ means a nonprofit organization that manages a network of charter schools linked by centralized support, operations, and oversight.

“(2) CHARTER SCHOOL SUPPORT ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘charter school support organization’ means a nonprofit, nongovernmental entity that is not an authorized public chartering agency, which provides on a statewide basis—

“(A) assistance to developers during the planning, program design, and initial implementation of a charter school; and

“(B) technical assistance to charter schools to operate such schools.

“(3) DEVELOPER.—The term ‘developer’ means an individual or group of individuals (including a public or private nonprofit organization), which may include teachers, administrators and other school staff, parents, or other members of the local community in which a charter school project will be carried out.

“(4) ELIGIBLE APPLICANT.—The term ‘eligible applicant’ means a developer that has—

“(A) applied to an authorized public chartering authority to operate a charter school; and

“(B) provided adequate and timely notice to that authority.

“(5) AUTHORIZED PUBLIC CHARTERING AGENCY.—The term ‘authorized public chartering agency’ means a State educational agency, local educational agency, or other public entity that has the authority pursuant to State law and approved by the Secretary to authorize or approve a charter school.

“(6) EXPANDED, HIGH-QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOL.—The term ‘expanded, high-quality charter school’ means a high-quality charter school that has either significantly increased its enrollment or added one or more grades to its school.

“(7) HIGH-QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOL.—The term ‘high-quality charter school’ means a charter school that—

“(A) shows evidence of strong academic results, which may include strong academic growth as determined by a State;

“(B) has no significant issues in the areas of student safety, operational and financial management, or statutory or regulatory compliance;

“(C) has demonstrated success in significantly increasing student academic achievement, including graduation rates where applicable, consistent with the requirements under title I, for all students served by the charter school; and

“(D) has demonstrated success in increasing student academic achievement, including graduation rates where applicable, for the groups of students described in section 111(b)(3)(B)(ii)(I), except that such demonstration is not required in a case in which the number of students in a group is insufficient to yield statistically reliable information or the results would reveal personally identifiable information about an individual student.

“(8) REPLICATED, HIGH-QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOL MODEL.—The term ‘replicated, high-quality charter school model’ means a high-quality charter school that has opened a new campus under an existing charter or an additional charter if required or permitted by State law.

“Subpart 2—Magnet School Assistance

“SEC. 3121. PURPOSE.

“The purpose of this subpart is to assist in the desegregation of schools served by local educational agencies by providing financial assistance to eligible local educational agencies for—

“(1) the elimination, reduction, or prevention of minority group isolation in elementary schools and secondary schools with substantial proportions of minority students, which shall include assisting in the efforts of the United States to achieve voluntary desegregation in public schools;

“(2) the development and implementation of magnet school programs that will assist local educational agencies in achieving systemic reforms and providing all students the opportunity to meet State academic standards;

“(3) the development and design of innovative educational methods and practices that promote diversity and increase choices in public elementary schools and public secondary schools and public educational programs;

“(4) courses of instruction within magnet schools that will substantially strengthen the knowledge of academic subjects and the attainment of tangible and marketable career, technical, and professional skills of students attending such schools;

“(5) improving the ability of local educational agencies, including through professional development, to continue operating magnet schools at a high performance level after Federal funding for the magnet schools is terminated; and

“(6) ensuring that students enrolled in the magnet school programs have equitable access to

a quality education that will enable the students to succeed academically and continue with postsecondary education or employment.

“SEC. 3122. DEFINITION.

“For the purpose of this subpart, the term ‘magnet school’ means a public elementary school, public secondary school, public elementary education center, or public secondary education center that offers a special curriculum capable of attracting substantial numbers of students of different racial backgrounds.

“SEC. 3123. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.

“From the amount appropriated under section 3(c)(1)(B), the Secretary, in accordance with this subpart, is authorized to award grants to eligible local educational agencies, and consortia of such agencies where appropriate, to carry out the purpose of this subpart for magnet schools that are—

“(1) part of an approved desegregation plan; and

“(2) designed to bring students from different social, economic, ethnic, and racial backgrounds together.

“SEC. 3124. ELIGIBILITY.

“A local educational agency, or consortium of such agencies where appropriate, is eligible to receive a grant under this subpart to carry out the purpose of this subpart if such agency or consortium—

“(1) is implementing a plan undertaken pursuant to a final order issued by a court of the United States, or a court of any State, or any other State agency or official of competent jurisdiction, that requires the desegregation of minority-group-segregated children or faculty in the elementary schools and secondary schools of such agency; or

“(2) without having been required to do so, has adopted and is implementing, or will, if a grant is awarded to such local educational agency, or consortium of such agencies, under this subpart, adopt and implement a plan that has been approved by the Secretary as adequate under title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 for the desegregation of minority-group-segregated children or faculty in such schools.

“SEC. 3125. APPLICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS.

“(a) APPLICATIONS.—An eligible local educational agency, or consortium of such agencies, desiring to receive a grant under this subpart shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may reasonably require.

“(b) INFORMATION AND ASSURANCES.—Each application submitted under subsection (a) shall include—

“(1) a description of—

“(A) how a grant awarded under this subpart will be used to promote desegregation, including how the proposed magnet school programs will increase interaction among students of different social, economic, ethnic, and racial backgrounds;

“(B) the manner and extent to which the magnet school program will increase student academic achievement in the instructional area or areas offered by the school;

“(C) how the applicant will continue the magnet school program after assistance under this subpart is no longer available, and, if applicable, an explanation of why magnet schools established or supported by the applicant with grant funds under this subpart cannot be continued without the use of grant funds under this subpart;

“(D) how grant funds under this subpart will be used—

“(i) to improve student academic achievement for all students attending the magnet school programs; and

“(ii) to implement services and activities that are consistent with other programs under this Act, and other Acts, as appropriate; and

“(E) the criteria to be used in selecting students to attend the proposed magnet school program; and

“(2) assurances that the applicant will—

“(A) use grant funds under this subpart for the purposes specified in section 3121;

“(B) employ effective teachers in the courses of instruction assisted under this subpart;

“(C) not engage in discrimination based on race, religion, color, national origin, sex, or disability in—

“(i) the hiring, promotion, or assignment of employees of the applicant or other personnel for whom the applicant has any administrative responsibility;

“(ii) the assignment of students to schools, or to courses of instruction within the schools, of such applicant, except to carry out the approved plan; and

“(iii) designing or operating extracurricular activities for students;

“(D) carry out a quality education program that will encourage greater parental decision-making and involvement; and

“(E) give students residing in the local attendance area of the proposed magnet school program equitable consideration for placement in the program, consistent with desegregation guidelines and the capacity of the applicant to accommodate the students.

“(c) SPECIAL RULE.—No grant shall be awarded under this subpart unless the Assistant Secretary of Education for Civil Rights determines that the assurances described in subsection (b)(2)(C) will be met.

“SEC. 3126. PRIORITY.

“In awarding grants under this subpart, the Secretary shall give priority to applicants that—

“(1) demonstrate the greatest need for assistance, based on the expense or difficulty of effectively carrying out approved desegregation plans and the magnet school program for which the grant is sought;

“(2) propose to carry out new magnet school programs, or significantly revise existing magnet school programs;

“(3) propose to select students to attend magnet school programs by methods such as lottery, rather than through academic examination; and

“(4) propose to serve the entire student population of a school.

“SEC. 3127. USE OF FUNDS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Grant funds made available under this subpart may be used by an eligible local educational agency, or consortium of such agencies—

“(1) for planning and promotional activities directly related to the development, expansion, continuation, or enhancement of academic programs and services offered at magnet schools;

“(2) for the acquisition of books, materials, and equipment, including computers and the maintenance and operation of materials, equipment, and computers, necessary to conduct programs in magnet schools;

“(3) for the compensation, or subsidization of the compensation, of elementary school and secondary school teachers, and instructional staff where applicable, who are necessary to conduct programs in magnet schools;

“(4) with respect to a magnet school program offered to less than the entire student population of a school, for instructional activities that—

“(A) are designed to make available the special curriculum that is offered by the magnet school program to students who are enrolled in the school but who are not enrolled in the magnet school program; and

“(B) further the purpose of this subpart;

“(5) for activities, which may include professional development, that will build the recipient's capacity to operate magnet school programs once the grant period has ended;

“(6) to enable the local educational agency, or consortium of such agencies, to have more flexibility in the administration of a magnet school program in order to serve students attending a school who are not enrolled in a magnet school program; and

“(7) to enable the local educational agency, or consortium of such agencies, to have flexibility in designing magnet schools for students in all grades.

“(b) SPECIAL RULE.—Grant funds under this subpart may be used for activities described in paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (a) only if the activities are directly related to improving student academic achievement based on the State's academic standards or directly related to improving student reading skills or knowledge of mathematics, science, history, geography, English, foreign languages, art, or music, or to improving career, technical, and professional skills.

“SEC. 3128. LIMITATIONS.

“(a) DURATION OF AWARDS.—A grant under this subpart shall be awarded for a period that shall not exceed 3 fiscal years.

“(b) LIMITATION ON PLANNING FUNDS.—A local educational agency, or consortium of such agencies, may expend for planning (professional development shall not be considered to be planning for purposes of this subsection) not more than 50 percent of the grant funds received under this subpart for the first year of the program and not more than 15 percent of such funds for each of the second and third such years.

“(c) AMOUNT.—No local educational agency, or consortium of such agencies, awarded a grant under this subpart shall receive more than \$4,000,000 under this subpart for any 1 fiscal year.

“(d) TIMING.—To the extent practicable, the Secretary shall award grants for any fiscal year under this subpart not later than July 1 of the applicable fiscal year.

“SEC. 3129. EVALUATIONS.

“(a) RESERVATION.—The Secretary may reserve not more than 2 percent of the funds appropriated under section 3(c)(1)(B) for any fiscal year to carry out evaluations, provide technical assistance, and carry out dissemination projects with respect to magnet school programs assisted under this subpart.

“(b) CONTENTS.—Each evaluation described in subsection (a), at a minimum, shall address—

“(1) how and the extent to which magnet school programs lead to educational quality and academic improvement;

“(2) the extent to which magnet school programs enhance student access to a quality education;

“(3) the extent to which magnet school programs lead to the elimination, reduction, or prevention of minority group isolation in elementary schools and secondary schools with substantial proportions of minority students; and

“(4) the extent to which magnet school programs differ from other school programs in terms of the organizational characteristics and resource allocations of such magnet school programs.

“(c) DISSEMINATION.—The Secretary shall collect and disseminate to the general public information on successful magnet school programs.

“SEC. 3130. RESERVATION.

“In any fiscal year for which the amount appropriated under section 3(c)(1)(B) exceeds \$75,000,000, the Secretary shall give priority in using such amounts in excess of \$75,000,000 to awarding grants to local educational agencies or consortia of such agencies that did not receive a grant under this subpart in the preceding fiscal year.

“Subpart 3—Family Engagement in Education Programs

“SEC. 3141. PURPOSES.

“The purposes of this subpart are the following:

“(1) To provide financial support to organizations to provide technical assistance and training to State and local educational agencies in the implementation and enhancement of systemic and effective family engagement policies, programs, and activities that lead to improvements in student development and academic achievement.

“(2) To assist State educational agencies, local educational agencies, community-based organizations, schools, and educators in strengthening partnerships among parents, teachers, school leaders, administrators, and other school personnel in meeting the educational needs of children and fostering greater parental engagement.

“(3) To support State educational agencies, local educational agencies, schools, educators, and parents in developing and strengthening the relationship between parents and their children’s school in order to further the developmental progress of children.

“(4) To coordinate activities funded under this subpart with parent involvement initiatives funded under section 1118 and other provisions of this Act.

“(5) To assist the Secretary, State educational agencies, and local educational agencies in the coordination and integration of Federal, State, and local services and programs to engage families in education.

“SEC. 3142. GRANTS AUTHORIZED.

“(a) **STATEWIDE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT CENTERS.**—From the amount appropriated under section 3(c)(1)(C), the Secretary is authorized to award grants for each fiscal year to statewide organizations (or consortia of such organizations), to establish Statewide Family Engagement Centers that provide comprehensive training and technical assistance to State educational agencies, local educational agencies, schools identified by State educational agencies and local educational agencies, organizations that support family-school partnerships, and other organizations that carry out, or carry out directly, parent education and family engagement in education programs.

“(b) **MINIMUM AWARD.**—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, ensure that a grant is awarded for a Statewide Family Engagement Center in an amount not less than \$500,000.

“SEC. 3143. APPLICATIONS.

“(a) **SUBMISSIONS.**—Each statewide organization, or a consortium of such organizations, that desires a grant under this subpart shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and including the information described in subsection (b).

“(b) **CONTENTS.**—Each application submitted under subsection (a) shall include, at a minimum, the following:

“(1) A description of the applicant’s approach to family engagement in education.

“(2) A description of the support that the Statewide Family Engagement Center that will be operated by the applicant will have from the State educational agency and any partner organization outlining the commitment to work with the center.

“(3) A description of the applicant’s plan for building a statewide infrastructure for family engagement in education, that includes—

“(A) management and governance;

“(B) statewide leadership; or

“(C) systemic services for family engagement in education.

“(4) A description of the applicant’s demonstrated experience in providing training, in-

formation, and support to State educational agencies, local educational agencies, schools, educators, parents, and organizations on family engagement in education policies and practices that are effective for parents (including low-income parents) and families, English learners, minorities, parents of students with disabilities, parents of homeless students, foster parents and students, and parents of migratory students, including evaluation results, reporting, or other data exhibiting such demonstrated experience.

“(5) A description of the steps the applicant will take to target services to low-income students and parents.

“(6) An assurance that the applicant will—

“(A) establish a special advisory committee, the membership of which includes—

“(i) parents, who shall constitute a majority of the members of the special advisory committee;

“(ii) representatives of education professionals with expertise in improving services for disadvantaged children;

“(iii) representatives of local elementary schools and secondary schools, including students;

“(iv) representatives of the business community; and

“(v) representatives of State educational agencies and local educational agencies;

“(B) use not less than 65 percent of the funds received under this subpart in each fiscal year to serve local educational agencies, schools, and community-based organizations that serve high concentrations of disadvantaged students, including English learners, minorities, parents of students with disabilities, parents of homeless students, foster parents and students, and parents of migratory students;

“(C) operate a Statewide Family Engagement Center of sufficient size, scope, and quality to ensure that the Center is adequate to serve the State educational agency, local educational agencies, and community-based organizations;

“(D) ensure that the Center will retain staff with the requisite training and experience to serve parents in the State;

“(E) serve urban, suburban, and rural local educational agencies and schools;

“(F) work with—

“(i) other Statewide Family Engagement Centers assisted under this subpart; and

“(ii) parent training and information centers and community parent resource centers assisted under sections 671 and 672 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act;

“(G) use not less than 30 percent of the funds received under this subpart for each fiscal year to establish or expand technical assistance for evidence-based parent education programs;

“(H) provide assistance to State educational agencies and local educational agencies and community-based organizations that support family members in supporting student academic achievement;

“(I) work with State educational agencies, local educational agencies, schools, educators, and parents to determine parental needs and the best means for delivery of services to address such needs;

“(J) conduct sufficient outreach to assist parents, including parents who the applicant may have a difficult time engaging with a school or local educational agency; and

“(K) conduct outreach to low-income students and parents, including low-income students and parents who are not proficient in English.

“SEC. 3144. USES OF FUNDS.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Grantees shall use grant funds received under this subpart, based on the needs determined under section 3143(b)(6)(I), to provide training and technical assistance to State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and organizations that support fam-

ily-school partnerships, and activities, services, and training for local educational agencies, school leaders, educators, and parents—

“(1) to assist parents in participating effectively in their children’s education and to help their children meet State standards, such as assisting parents—

“(A) to engage in activities that will improve student academic achievement, including understanding how they can support learning in the classroom with activities at home and in after-school and extracurricular programs;

“(B) to communicate effectively with their children, teachers, school leaders, counselors, administrators, and other school personnel;

“(C) to become active participants in the development, implementation, and review of school-parent compacts, family engagement in education policies, and school planning and improvement;

“(D) to participate in the design and provision of assistance to students who are not making academic progress;

“(E) to participate in State and local decision-making;

“(F) to train other parents; and

“(G) to help the parents learn and use technology applied in their children’s education;

“(2) to develop and implement, in partnership with the State educational agency, statewide family engagement in education policy and systemic initiatives that will provide for a continuum of services to remove barriers for family engagement in education and support school reform efforts; and

“(3) to develop and implement parental involvement policies under this Act.

“(b) **MATCHING FUNDS FOR GRANT RENEWAL.**—For each fiscal year after the first fiscal year for which an organization or consortium receives assistance under this section, the organization or consortium shall demonstrate in the application that a portion of the services provided by the organization or consortium is supported through non-Federal contributions, which may be in cash or in-kind.

“(c) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—The Secretary shall reserve not more than 2 percent of the funds appropriated under section 3(c)(1)(C) to carry out this subpart to provide technical assistance, by competitive grant or contract, for the establishment, development, and coordination of Statewide Family Engagement Centers.

“(d) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a Statewide Family Engagement Center from—

“(1) having its employees or agents meet with a parent at a site that is not on school grounds; or

“(2) working with another agency that serves children.

“(e) **PARENTAL RIGHTS.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section—

“(1) no person (including a parent who educates a child at home, a public school parent, or a private school parent) shall be required to participate in any program of parent education or developmental screening under this section; and

“(2) no program or center assisted under this section shall take any action that infringes in any manner on the right of a parent to direct the education of their children.

“SEC. 3145. FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN INDIAN SCHOOLS.

“The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, shall establish, or enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with local Indian nonprofit parent organizations to establish and operate Family Engagement Centers.

“PART B—LOCAL ACADEMIC FLEXIBLE GRANT

“SEC. 3201. PURPOSE.

“The purpose of this part is to—

“(1) provide local educational agencies with the opportunity to access funds to support the initiatives important to their schools and students to improve academic achievement and student engagement, including protecting student safety; and

“(2) provide nonprofit and for-profit entities the opportunity to work with students to improve academic achievement and student engagement, including student safety.

“SEC. 3202. ALLOTMENTS TO STATES.

“(a) **RESERVATIONS.**—From the funds appropriated under section 3(c)(2) for any fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve—

“(1) not more than one-half of 1 percent for national activities to provide technical assistance to eligible entities in carrying out programs under this part; and

“(2) not more than one-half of 1 percent for payments to the outlying areas and the Bureau of Indian Education, to be allotted in accordance with their respective needs for assistance under this part, as determined by the Secretary, to enable the outlying areas and the Bureau to carry out the purpose of this part.

“(b) **STATE ALLOTMENTS.**—

“(1) **DETERMINATION.**—From the funds appropriated under section 3(c)(2) for any fiscal year and remaining after the Secretary makes reservations under subsection (a), the Secretary shall allot to each State for the fiscal year an amount that bears the same relationship to the remainder as the amount the State received under chapter B of subpart 1 of part A of title I for the preceding fiscal year bears to the amount all States received under that chapter for the preceding fiscal year, except that no State shall receive less than an amount equal to one-half of 1 percent of the total amount made available to all States under this subsection.

“(2) **REALLOTMENT OF UNUSED FUNDS.**—If a State does not receive an allotment under this part for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reallocate the amount of the State's allotment to the remaining States in accordance with this section.

“(c) **STATE USE OF FUNDS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each State that receives an allotment under this part shall reserve not less than 75 percent of the amount allotted to the State under subsection (b) for each fiscal year for awards to eligible entities under section 3204.

“(2) **AWARDS TO NONGOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES TO IMPROVE STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT.**—Each State that receives an allotment under subsection (b) for each fiscal year shall reserve not less than 8 percent of the amount allotted to the State for awards to nongovernmental entities under section 3205.

“(3) **STATE ACTIVITIES AND STATE ADMINISTRATION.**—A State educational agency may reserve not more than 17 percent of the amount allotted to the State under subsection (b) for each fiscal year for one or more of the following:

“(A) Enabling the State educational agency—

“(i) to pay the costs of developing the State assessments and standards required under section 1111(b), which may include the costs of working, at the sole discretion of the State, in voluntary partnerships with other States to develop such assessments and standards; or

“(ii) if the State has developed the assessments and standards required under section 1111(b), to administer those assessments or carry out other activities related to ensuring that the State's schools and local educational agencies are helping students meet the State's academic standards under such section.

“(B) The administrative costs of carrying out its responsibilities under this part, except that not more than 5 percent of the reserved amount may be used for this purpose.

“(C) Monitoring and evaluation of programs and activities assisted under this part.

“(D) Providing training and technical assistance under this part.

“(E) Statewide academic focused programs.

“(F) Sharing evidence-based and other effective strategies with eligible entities.

“(G) Awarding grants for blended learning projects under paragraph (4).

“(4) **BLENDED LEARNING PROJECTS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—From the amount of funds a State educational agency reserves under subsection (c)(3) for each fiscal year to carry out this paragraph, the State educational agency shall award grants on a competitive basis to eligible entities in the State to carry out blended learning projects described in this paragraph.

“(B) **GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.**—In awarding grants under this paragraph, a State educational agency shall distribute funds equitably among geographic areas of the State, including rural and urban communities.

“(C) **APPLICATION.**—An eligible entity desiring to receive a grant under this paragraph shall submit an application to the State educational agency at such time and in such manner as the agency may require, and which describes—

“(i) the blended learning project to be carried out by the eligible entity, including the design of the instructional model to be carried out by the eligible entity and how such eligible entity will use funds provided under this paragraph to carry out the project;

“(ii) in the case of an eligible entity described in subclause (I), (II), or (IV) of subparagraph (F)(ii), the schools that will participate in the project;

“(iii) the expected impact on student academic achievement;

“(iv) how the eligible entity will ensure sufficient information technology is available to carry out the project;

“(v) how the eligible entity will ensure sufficient digital instructional resources are available to students participating in the project;

“(vi) the ongoing professional development to be provided for teachers, school leaders, and other personnel carrying out the project;

“(vii) the State policies and procedures for which the eligible entity requests waivers from the State to carry out the project, which may include requests for the waivers described in section 3203(a)(11)(B);

“(viii) as appropriate, how the eligible entity will use the blended learning project to improve instruction and access to the curriculum for diverse groups of students, including students with disabilities and students who are limited English proficient;

“(ix) how the eligible entity will evaluate the project in terms of student academic achievement and publicly report the results of such evaluation; and

“(x) how the eligible entity will sustain the project beyond the grant period.

“(D) **USES OF FUNDS.**—An eligible entity receiving a grant under this paragraph shall use such grant to carry out a blended learning project, which shall include at least 1 of the following activities:

“(i) Planning activities, which may include development of new instructional models (including blended learning technology software and platforms), the purchase of digital instructional resources, initial professional development activities, and one-time information technology purchases, except that such expenditures may not include expenditures related to significant construction or renovation of facilities.

“(ii) Ongoing professional development for teachers, school leaders, or other personnel involved in the project that is designed to support the implementation and academic success of the project.

“(E) **NON-FEDERAL MATCH.**—A State educational agency that carries out a grant program under this paragraph shall provide non-Federal matching funds equal to not less than

10 percent of the grant funds awarded by the State educational agency to eligible entities under this paragraph.

“(F) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this paragraph:

“(i) **BLENDED LEARNING PROJECT.**—The term ‘blended learning project’ means a formal education program—

“(I) that includes an element of online learning, and instructional time in a supervised location away from home;

“(II) that includes an element of student control over time, path, or pace; and

“(III) in which the elements are connected to provide an integrated learning experience.

“(ii) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term ‘eligible entity’ means a—

“(I) local educational agency;

“(II) educational service agency;

“(III) charter school; or

“(IV) consortium of the entities described in subclause (I), (II), or (III), which may be in partnership with a for-profit or nonprofit entity.

“SEC. 3203. STATE APPLICATION.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In order to receive an allotment under section 3202 for any fiscal year, a State educational agency shall submit to the Secretary, at such time as the Secretary may require, an application that—

“(1) describes how the State educational agency will use funds reserved for State-level activities, including how, if any, of the funds will be used to support student safety;

“(2) describes the procedures and criteria the State educational agency will use for reviewing applications and awarding funds to eligible entities on a competitive basis, which shall include reviewing how the proposed project will help increase student academic achievement and student engagement;

“(3) describes how the State educational agency will ensure that awards made under this part are—

“(A) of sufficient size and scope to support high-quality, effective programs that are consistent with the purpose of this part; and

“(B) in amounts that are consistent with section 3204(f);

“(4) describes the steps the State educational agency will take to ensure that programs implement effective strategies, including providing ongoing technical assistance and training, and dissemination of evidence-based and other effective strategies;

“(5) describes how the State educational agency will consider students across all grades when making these awards;

“(6) an assurance that, other than providing technical and advisory assistance and monitoring compliance with this part, the State educational agency has not exercised and will not exercise any influence in the decisionmaking process of eligible entities as to the expenditure of funds received by the eligible entities under this part;

“(7) describes how programs under this part will be coordinated with programs under this Act, and other programs as appropriate;

“(8) contains an assurance that the State educational agency—

“(A) will make awards for programs for a period of not more than 5 years; and

“(B) will require each eligible entity seeking such an award to submit a plan describing how the project to be funded through the award will continue after funding under this part ends, if applicable;

“(9) contains an assurance that funds appropriated to carry out this part will be used to supplement, and not supplant, State and local public funds expended to provide programs and activities authorized under this part and other similar programs;

“(10) an assurance that the State will support projects from each of the categories listed in section 3204(b)(1)(D) in awarding subgrants to local educational agencies; and

“(11) in the case of a State that will carry out a program to award grants under section 3202(c)(4), a description of the program, which shall include—

“(A) the criteria the State will use to award grants under such section to eligible entities to carry out blended learning projects;

“(B) the State policies and procedures to be waived by the State, consistent with Federal law, for such eligible entities to carry out such projects, which may include waivers with respect to—

“(i) restrictions on class sizes;

“(ii) restrictions on licensing or credentialing of personnel supervising student work in such projects;

“(iii) restrictions on the use of State funding for instructional materials for the purchase of digital instructional resources;

“(iv) restrictions on advancing students based on demonstrated mastery of learning outcomes, rather than seat-time requirements; and

“(v) restrictions on secondary school students in the State enrolling in online coursework;

“(C) how the State will inform eligible entities of the availability of the waivers described in subparagraph (B); and

“(D) how the State will provide the non-Federal match required under section 3202(c)(4)(E).

“(b) DEEMED APPROVAL.—An application submitted by a State educational agency pursuant to subsection (a) shall be deemed to be approved by the Secretary unless the Secretary makes a written determination, prior to the expiration of the 120-day period beginning on the date on which the Secretary received the application, that the application is not in compliance with this part.

“(c) DISAPPROVAL.—The Secretary shall not finally disapprove the application, except after giving the State educational agency notice and an opportunity for a hearing.

“(d) NOTIFICATION.—If the Secretary finds that the application is not in compliance, in whole or in part, with this part, the Secretary shall—

“(1) give the State educational agency notice and an opportunity for a hearing; and

“(2) notify the State educational agency of the finding of noncompliance, and, in such notification, shall—

“(A) cite the specific provisions in the application that are not in compliance; and

“(B) request additional information, only as to the noncompliant provisions, needed to make the application compliant.

“(e) RESPONSE.—If the State educational agency responds to the Secretary's notification described in subsection (d)(2) during the 45-day period beginning on the date on which the agency received the notification, and resubmits the application with the requested information described in subsection (d)(2)(B), the Secretary shall approve or disapprove such application prior to the later of—

“(1) the expiration of the 45-day period beginning on the date on which the application is resubmitted; or

“(2) the expiration of the 120-day period described in subsection (b).

“(f) FAILURE TO RESPOND.—If the State educational agency does not respond to the Secretary's notification described in subsection (d)(2) during the 45-day period beginning on the date on which the agency received the notification, such application shall be deemed to be disapproved.

“(g) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—An application submitted by a State educational agency pursuant to subsection (a) shall not be approved or disapproved based upon the activities for which the agency may make funds available to eligible entities under section 3204 if the agency's use of funds is consistent with section 3204(b).

“SEC. 3204. LOCAL COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—A State that receives funds under this part for a fiscal year shall provide the amount made available under section 3202(c)(1) to eligible entities in accordance with this section.

“(b) USE OF FUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that receives an award under this part shall use the funds for activities that—

“(A) are evidence-based;

“(B) will improve student academic achievement and student engagement;

“(C) are allowable under State law; and

“(D) focus on one or more projects from the following two categories:

“(i) Supplemental student support activities such as before, after, or summer school activities, tutoring, and expanded learning time, but not including athletics or in-school learning activities.

“(ii) Activities designed to support students, such as academic subject specific programs including computer science and other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics programs, arts education, civic education, and adjunct teacher, extended-learning-time, and dual enrollment programs, and parent engagement, but not including activities to—

“(I) support smaller class sizes or construction; or

“(II) provide compensation or benefits to teachers, school leaders, other school officials, or local educational agency staff.

“(2) PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS.—An eligible entity that receives an award under this part shall ensure compliance with section 6501 (relating to participation of children enrolled in private schools).

“(c) APPLICATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive an award under this part, an eligible entity shall submit an application to the State educational agency at such time, in such manner, and including such information as the State educational agency may reasonably require, including the contents required by paragraph (2).

“(2) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—

“(A) a description of the activities to be funded and how they are consistent with subsection (b), including any activities that will increase student safety;

“(B) an assurance that funds under this part will be used to increase the level of State, local, and other non-Federal funds that would, in the absence of funds under this part, be made available for programs and activities authorized under this part, and in no case supplant State, local, or non-Federal funds;

“(C) an assurance that the community will be given notice of an intent to submit an application with an opportunity for comment, and that the application will be available for public review after submission of the application; and

“(D) an assurance that students who benefit from any activity funded under this part shall continue to maintain enrollment in a public elementary or secondary school.

“(d) REVIEW.—In reviewing local applications under this section, a State educational agency shall use a peer review process or other methods of assuring the quality of such applications but the review shall be limited to the likelihood that the project will increase student academic achievement and student engagement.

“(e) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—A State educational agency shall distribute funds under this part equitably among geographic areas within the State, including rural, suburban, and urban communities.

“(f) AWARD.—A grant shall be awarded to all eligible entities that submit an application that meets the requirements of this section in an

amount that is not less than \$10,000, but there shall be only one annual award granted to any one local educational agency, but such award may be for multiple projects or programs with the local educational agency.

“(g) DURATION OF AWARDS.—Grants under this part may be awarded for a period of not more than 5 years.

“(h) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

“(1) a local educational agency in partnership with a community-based organization, institution of higher education, business entity, or nongovernmental entity;

“(2) a consortium of local educational agencies working in partnership with a community-based organization, institution of higher education, business entity, or nongovernmental entity;

“(3) a community-based organization or institution of higher education in partnership with a local educational agency and, if applicable, a business entity or nongovernmental entity; or

“(4) a business entity in partnership with a local educational agency and, if applicable, a community-based organization, institution of higher education, or nongovernmental entity.

“SEC. 3205. AWARDS TO NONGOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES TO IMPROVE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—From the amount reserved under section 3202(c)(2), a State educational agency shall award grants to nongovernmental entities, including public or private organizations, community-based or faith-based organizations, institutions of higher education, and business entities for a program or project to increase the academic achievement and student engagement of public school students attending public elementary or secondary schools (or both) in compliance with the requirements in this section. Subject to the availability of funds, the State educational agency shall award a grant to each eligible applicant that meets the requirements in a sufficient size and scope to support the program.

“(b) APPLICATION.—The State educational agency shall require an application that includes the following information:

“(1) A description of the program or project the applicant will use the funds to support.

“(2) A description of how the applicant is using or will use other State, local, or private funding to support the program or project.

“(3) A description of how the program or project will help increase student academic achievement and student engagement, including the evidence to support this claim.

“(4) A description of the student population the program or project is targeting to impact, and if the program will prioritize students in high-need local educational agencies.

“(5) A description of how the applicant will conduct sufficient outreach to ensure students can participate in the program or project.

“(6) A description of any partnerships the applicant has entered into with local educational agencies or other entities the applicant will work with, if applicable.

“(7) A description of how the applicant will work to share evidence-based and other effective strategies from the program or project with local educational agencies and other entities working with students to increase academic achievement.

“(8) An assurance that students who benefit from any program or project funded under this section shall continue to maintain enrollment in a public elementary or secondary school.

“(c) MATCHING CONTRIBUTION.—An eligible applicant receiving a grant under this section shall provide, either directly or through private contributions, non-Federal matching funds equal to not less than 50 percent of the amount of the grant.

“(d) REVIEW.—The State educational agency shall review the application to ensure that—

“(1) the applicant is an eligible applicant;

“(2) the application clearly describes the required elements in subsection (b);

“(3) the entity meets the matching requirement described in subsection (c); and

“(4) the program is allowable and complies with Federal, State, and local laws.

“(e) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—If the application requests exceed the funds available, the State educational agency shall prioritize projects that support students in high-need local educational agencies and ensure geographic diversity, including serving rural, suburban, and urban areas.

“(f) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more than 1 percent of a grant awarded under this section may be used for administrative costs.

“SEC. 3206. REPORT.

“Each recipient of a grant under section 3204 or 3205 shall report to the State educational agency on—

“(1) the success of the program in reaching the goals of the program;

“(2) a description of the students served by the program and how the students’ academic achievement improved; and

“(3) the results of any evaluation conducted on the success of the program.”.

TITLE IV—IMPACT AID

SEC. 401. PURPOSE.

Section 8001 (20 U.S.C. 7701) is amended by striking “challenging State standards” and inserting “State academic standards”.

SEC. 402. PAYMENTS RELATING TO FEDERAL ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY.

Section 8002 (20 U.S.C. 7702) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)(C), by amending the matter preceding clause (i) to read as follows:

“(C) had an assessed value according to original records (including facsimiles or other reproductions of those records) documenting the assessed value of such property (determined as of the time or times when so acquired) prepared by the local officials referred to in subsection (b)(3) or, when such original records are not available due to unintentional destruction (such as natural disaster, fire, flooding, pest infestation, or deterioration due to age), other records, including Federal agency records, local historical records, or other records that the Secretary determines to be appropriate and reliable, aggregating 10 percent or more of the assessed value of—”;

(2) in subsection (b)(1)(B), by striking “section 8014(a)” and inserting “section 3(d)(1)”;

(3) by amending subsection (f) to read as follows:

“(f) SPECIAL RULE.—Beginning with fiscal year 2014, a local educational agency shall be deemed to meet the requirements of subsection (a)(1)(C) if records to determine eligibility under such subsection were destroyed prior to fiscal year 2000 and the agency received funds under subsection (b) in the previous year.”;

(4) by amending subsection (g) to read as follows:

“(g) FORMER DISTRICTS.—

“(1) CONSOLIDATIONS.—For fiscal year 2006 and each succeeding fiscal year, if a local educational agency described in subsection (b) is formed at any time after 1938 by the consolidation of 2 or more former school districts, the local educational agency may elect to have the Secretary determine its eligibility for any fiscal year on the basis of 1 or more of those former districts, as designated by the local educational agency.

“(2) ELIGIBLE LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—A local educational agency referred to in subsection (a) is—

“(A) any local educational agency that, for fiscal year 1994 or any preceding fiscal year, ap-

plied, and was determined to be eligible under, section 2(c) of the Act of September 30, 1950 (Public Law 874, 81st Congress) as that section was in effect for that fiscal year; or

“(B) a local educational agency formed by the consolidation of 2 or more districts, at least 1 of which was eligible for assistance under this section for the fiscal year preceding the year of the consolidation, if—

“(i) for fiscal years 2006 through 2015 the local educational agency notified the Secretary not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

“(ii) for fiscal year 2016 the local educational agency includes the designation in its application under section 8005 or any timely amendment to such application.

“(3) AMOUNT.—A local educational agency eligible under subsection (b) shall receive a foundation payment as provided for under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (h)(1), except that the foundation payment shall be calculated based on the most recent payment received by the local educational based on its former common status.”;

(5) in subsection (h)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by striking “section 8014(a)” and inserting “section 3(d)(1)”;

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking “section 8014(a)” and inserting “section 3(d)(1)”;

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking “Impact Aid Improvement Act of 2012” and inserting “Student Success Act”;

(6) by repealing subsections (k) and (m);

(7) by redesignating subsection (l) as subsection (j);

(8) by amending subsection (j) (as so redesignated) by striking “(h)(4)(B)” and inserting “(h)(2)”;

(9) by redesignating subsection (n) as subsection (k).

SEC. 403. PAYMENTS FOR ELIGIBLE FEDERALLY CONNECTED CHILDREN.

(a) COMPUTATION OF PAYMENT.—Section 8003(a) (20 U.S.C. 7703(a)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1), by inserting after “schools of such agency” the following: “(including those children enrolled in such agency as a result of the open enrollment policy of the State in which the agency is located, but not including children who are enrolled in a distance education program at such agency and who are not residing within the geographic boundaries of such agency)”;

(2) in paragraph (5)(A), by striking “1984” and all that follows through “situated” and inserting “1984, or under lease of off-base property under subchapter IV of chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code, to be children described under paragraph (1)(B) if the property described is within the fenced security perimeter of the military facility or attached to and under any type of force protection agreement with the military installation upon which such housing is situated”.

(b) BASIC SUPPORT PAYMENTS FOR HEAVILY IMPACTED LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—Section 8003(b) (20 U.S.C. 7703(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking “section 8014(b)” each place it appears and inserting “section 3(d)(2)”;

(2) in paragraph (1), by repealing subparagraph (E);

(3) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking “CONTINUING” in the heading;

(ii) by amending clause (i) to read as follows:

“(i) IN GENERAL.—A heavily impacted local educational agency is eligible to receive a basic support payment under subparagraph (A) with respect to a number of children determined under subsection (a)(1) if the agency—

“(I) is a local educational agency—

“(aa) whose boundaries are the same as a Federal military installation or an island property designated by the Secretary of the Interior to be property that is held in trust by the Federal Government; and

“(bb) that has no taxing authority;

“(II) is a local educational agency that—

“(aa) has an enrollment of children described in subsection (a)(1) that constitutes a percentage of the total student enrollment of the agency that is not less than 45 percent;

“(bb) has a per-pupil expenditure that is less than—

“(AA) for an agency that has a total student enrollment of 500 or more students, 125 percent of the average per-pupil expenditure of the State in which the agency is located; or

“(BB) for any agency that has a total student enrollment less than 500, 150 percent of the average per-pupil expenditure of the State in which the agency is located or the average per-pupil expenditure of 3 or more comparable local educational agencies in the State in which the agency is located; and

“(cc) is an agency that has a tax rate for general fund purposes that is not less than 95 percent of the average tax rate for general fund purposes of comparable local educational agencies in the State;

“(III) is a local educational agency that—

“(aa) has an enrollment of children described in subsection (a)(1) that constitutes a percentage of the total student enrollment of the agency that is not less than 20 percent;

“(bb) for the 3 fiscal years preceding the fiscal year for which the determination is made, the average enrollment of children who are not described in subsection (a)(1) and who are eligible for a free or reduced price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act constitutes a percentage of the total student enrollment of the agency that is not less than 65 percent; and

“(cc) has a tax rate for general fund purposes which is not less than 125 percent of the average tax rate for general fund purposes for comparable local educational agencies in the State;

“(IV) is a local educational agency that has a total student enrollment of not less than 25,000 students, of which—

“(aa) not less than 50 percent are children described in subsection (a)(1); and

“(bb) not less than 5,500 of such children are children described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(1); or

“(V) is a local educational agency that—

“(aa) has an enrollment of children described in subsection (a)(1) including, for purposes of determining eligibility, those children described in subparagraphs (F) and (G) of such subsection, that is not less than 35 percent of the total student enrollment of the agency; and

“(bb) was eligible to receive assistance under subparagraph (A) for fiscal year 2001.”; and

(iii) in clause (ii)—

(I) by striking “A heavily” and inserting the following:

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subclause (II), a heavily”; and

(II) by adding at the end the following:

“(II) LOSS OF ELIGIBILITY DUE TO FALLING BELOW 95 PERCENT OF THE AVERAGE TAX RATE FOR GENERAL FUND PURPOSES.—In a case of a heavily impacted local educational agency that is eligible to receive a basic support payment under subparagraph (A), but that has had, for 2 consecutive fiscal years, a tax rate for general fund purposes that falls below 95 percent of the average tax rate for general fund purposes of comparable local educational agencies in the State, such agency shall be determined to be ineligible under clause (i) and ineligible to receive a basic support payment under subparagraph

(A) for each fiscal year succeeding such 2 consecutive fiscal years for which the agency has such a tax rate for general fund purposes, and until the fiscal year for which the agency resumes such eligibility in accordance with clause (iii).";

(B) by striking subparagraph (C);

(C) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) through (H) as subparagraphs (C) through (G), respectively;

(D) in subparagraph (C) (as so redesignated)—

(i) in the heading, by striking "REGULAR";

(ii) by striking "Except as provided in subparagraph (E)" and inserting "Except as provided in subparagraph (D)";

(iii) by amending subclause (I) of clause (ii) to read as follows: "(I)(aa) For a local educational agency with respect to which 35 percent or more of the total student enrollment of the schools of the agency are children described in subparagraph (D) or (E) (or a combination thereof) of subsection (a)(1), and that has an enrollment of children described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of such subsection equal to at least 10 percent of the agency's total enrollment, the Secretary shall calculate the weighted student units of those children described in subparagraph (D) or (E) of such subsection by multiplying the number of such children by a factor of 0.55.

"(bb) Notwithstanding subitem (aa), a local educational agency that received a payment under this paragraph for fiscal year 2013 shall not be required to have an enrollment of children described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of subsection (a)(1) equal to at least 10 percent of the agency's total enrollment."; and

(iv) by amending subclause (III) of clause (ii) by striking "(B)(i)(II)(aa)" and inserting "subparagraph (B)(i)(I)";

(E) in subparagraph (D)(i)(II) (as so redesignated), by striking "6,000" and inserting "5,500";

(F) in subparagraph (E) (as so redesignated)—

(i) by striking "Secretary" and all that follows through "shall use" and inserting "Secretary shall use";

(ii) by striking "; and" and inserting a period; and

(iii) by striking clause (ii);

(G) in subparagraph (F) (as so redesignated), by striking "subparagraph (C)(i)(II)(bb)" and inserting "subparagraph (B)(i)(II)(bb)(BB)"; and

(H) in subparagraph (G) (as so redesignated)—

(i) in clause (i)—

(I) by striking "subparagraph (B), (C), (D), or (E)" and inserting "subparagraph (B), (C), or (D)";

(II) by striking "by reason of" and inserting "due to";

(III) by inserting after "clause (iii)" the following "; or as the direct result of base realignment and closure or modularization as determined by the Secretary of Defense and force structure change or force relocation"; and

(IV) by inserting before the period, the following: "or during such time as activities associated with base closure and realignment, modularization, force structure change, or force relocation are ongoing"; and

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking "(D) or (E)" each place it appears and inserting "(C) or (D)";

(4) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by amending clause (iii) to read as follows:

"(iii) In the case of a local educational agency providing a free public education to students enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12, but which enrolls students described in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (D) of subsection (a)(1)

only in grades 9 through 12, and which received a final payment in fiscal year 2009 calculated under this paragraph (as this paragraph was in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Student Success Act) for students in grades 9 through 12, the Secretary shall, in calculating the agency's payment, consider only that portion of such agency's total enrollment of students in grades 9 through 12 when calculating the percentage under clause (i)(I) and only that portion of the total current expenditures attributed to the operation of grades 9 through 12 in such agency when calculating the percentage under clause (i)(II)."; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

"(v) In the case of a local educational agency that is providing a program of distance education to children not residing within the geographic boundaries of the agency, the Secretary shall—

"(I) for purposes of the calculation under clause (i)(I), disregard such children from the total number of children in average daily attendance at the schools served by such agency; and

"(II) for purposes of the calculation under clause (i)(II), disregard any funds received for such children from the total current expenditures for such agency.";

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking "subparagraph (D) or (E) of paragraph (2), as the case may be" and inserting "paragraph (2)(D)";

(C) by amending subparagraph (D) to read as follows:

"(D) RATABLE DISTRIBUTION.—For any fiscal year described in subparagraph (A) for which the sums available exceed the amount required to pay each local educational agency 100 percent of its threshold payment, the Secretary shall distribute the excess sums to each eligible local educational agency that has not received its full amount computed under paragraph (1) or (2) (as the case may be) by multiplying—

"(i) a percentage, the denominator of which is the difference between the full amount computed under paragraph (1) or (2) (as the case may be) for all local educational agencies and the amount of the threshold payment (as calculated under subparagraphs (B) and (C)) of all local educational agencies, and the numerator of which is the aggregate of the excess sums, by

"(ii) the difference between the full amount computed under paragraph (1) or (2) (as the case may be) for the agency and the amount of the threshold payment as calculated under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of the agency."; and

(D) by inserting at the end the following new subparagraphs:

"(E) INSUFFICIENT PAYMENTS.—For each fiscal year described in subparagraph (A) for which the sums appropriated under section 3(d)(2) are insufficient to pay each local educational agency all of the local educational agency's threshold payment described in subparagraph (D), the Secretary shall ratably reduce the payment to each local educational agency under this paragraph.

"(F) INCREASES.—If the sums appropriated under section 3(d)(2) are sufficient to increase the threshold payment above the 100 percent threshold payment described in subparagraph (D), then the Secretary shall increase payments on the same basis as such payments were reduced, except no local educational agency may receive a payment amount greater than 100 percent of the maximum payment calculated under this subsection."; and

(5) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking "through (D)" and inserting "and (C)"; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking "subparagraph (D) or (E)" and inserting "subparagraph (C) or (D)".

(c) PRIOR YEAR DATA.—Paragraph (2) of section 8003(c) (20 U.S.C. 7703(c)) is amended to read as follows:

"(2) EXCEPTION.—Calculation of payments for a local educational agency shall be based on data from the fiscal year for which the agency is making an application for payment if such agency—

"(A) is newly established by a State, for the first year of operation of such agency only;

"(B) was eligible to receive a payment under this section for the previous fiscal year and has had an overall increase in enrollment (as determined by the Secretary in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Interior, or the heads of other Federal agencies)—

"(i) of not less than 10 percent, or 100 students, of children described in—

"(I) subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of subsection (a)(1); or

"(II) subparagraphs (F) and (G) of subsection (a)(1), but only to the extent such children are civilian dependents of employees of the Department of Defense or the Department of the Interior; and

"(ii) that is the direct result of closure or realignment of military installations under the base closure process or the relocation of members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of Defense as part of the force structure changes or movements of units or personnel between military installations or because of actions initiated by the Secretary of the Interior or the head of another Federal agency; or

"(C) was eligible to receive a payment under this section for the previous fiscal year and has had an increase in enrollment (as determined by the Secretary)—

"(i) of not less than 10 percent of children described in subsection (a)(1) or not less than 100 of such children; and

"(ii) that is the direct result of the closure of a local educational agency that received a payment under subsection (b)(1) or (b)(2) in the previous fiscal year.".

(d) CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES.—Section 8003(d)(1) (20 U.S.C. 7703(d)) is amended by striking "section 8014(c)" and inserting "section 3(d)(3)".

(e) HOLD HARMLESS.—Section 8003(e) (20 U.S.C. 7703(e)) is amended to read as follows:

"(e) HOLD HARMLESS.—The maximum amount that a local educational agency is eligible to receive, as calculated under paragraph (1)(C), (2)(C), or (2)(D) of subsection (b), shall not be less than 90 percent of the calculated maximum amount that was used to determine the local educational agency's payment for subsection (b)(1) or (b)(2) in the previous fiscal year for a period not to exceed 3 consecutive fiscal years, if such agency meets the eligibility requirements of paragraph (1)(B) or (2)(B) of subsection (b)."

(f) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—Section 8003 (20 U.S.C. 7703) is amended by striking subsection (g).

SEC. 404. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES RELATING TO CHILDREN RESIDING ON INDIAN LANDS.

Section 8004(e)(9) is amended by striking "Bureau of Indian Affairs" both places such term appears and inserting "Bureau of Indian Education".

SEC. 405. APPLICATION FOR PAYMENTS UNDER SECTIONS 8002 AND 8003.

Section 8005(b) (20 U.S.C. 7705(b)) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking "and shall contain such information.".

SEC. 406. CONSTRUCTION.

Section 8007 (20 U.S.C. 7707) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "section 8014(e)" and inserting "section 3(d)(4)";

(B) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the following:

"(C) The agency is eligible under section 4003(b)(2) or is receiving basic support payments under circumstances described in section 4003(b)(2)(B)(ii)."; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “section 8014(e)” each place it appears and inserting “section 3(d)(4)”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “section 8014(e)” and inserting “section 3(d)(4)”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (C)(i)(I), by adding at the end the following:

“(cc) At least 10 percent of the property in the agency is exempt from State and local taxation under Federal law.”; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) LIMITATIONS ON ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall not limit eligibility—

“(i) under subparagraph (C)(i)(I)(aa), to those local educational agencies in which the number of children determined under section 4003(a)(1)(C) for each such agency for the preceding school year constituted more than 40 percent of the total student enrollment in the schools of each such agency during the preceding school year; and

“(ii) under subparagraph (C)(i)(I)(cc), to those local educational agencies in which more than 10 percent of the property in each such agency is exempt from State and local taxation under Federal law.”; and

(C) in paragraph (6)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “in such manner, and accompanied by such information” and inserting “and in such manner”; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (F).

SEC. 407. FACILITIES.

Section 8008 (20 U.S.C. 7708) is amended in subsection (a), by striking “section 8014(f)” and inserting “section 3(d)(5)”.

SEC. 408. STATE CONSIDERATION OF PAYMENTS PROVIDING STATE AID.

Section 8009(c)(1)(B) (20 U.S.C. 7709(c)(1)(B)) is amended by striking “and contain the information”.

SEC. 409. FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION.

Section 8010(d)(2) (20 U.S.C. 7710(d)(2)) is amended, by striking “section 8014” and inserting “section 3(d)”.

SEC. 410. ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND JUDICIAL REVIEW.

Section 8011(a) (20 U.S.C. 7711(a)) is amended by striking “or under the Act” and all that follows through “1994”).

SEC. 411. DEFINITIONS.

Section 8013 (20 U.S.C. 7713) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and Marine Corps” and inserting “Marine Corps, and Coast Guard”; and

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking “and title VI”; and

(3) in paragraph (5)(A)(iii)—

(A) in subclause (II), by striking “Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act” and inserting “McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11411)”; and

(B) in subclause (III), by inserting before the semicolon “(25 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.)”; and

(4) in paragraph (8)(A), by striking “and verified by” and inserting “, and verified by.”.

SEC. 412. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 8014 (20 U.S.C. 7801) is repealed.

SEC. 413. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) IMPACT AID IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2012.—Section 563(c) of National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112–239; 126 Stat. 1748; 20 U.S.C. 6301 note) (also known as the “Impact Aid Improvement Act of 2012”), as amended by section 563 of division A of Public Law 113–291, is amended—

(1) by striking paragraphs (1) and (4); and

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3), as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively.

(b) REPEALS.—

(1) TITLE IV.—Title IV (20 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), as amended by section 601(b)(2) of this Act, is repealed.

(2) PL 113–76.—Section 309 of division H of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Public Law 113–76; 20 U.S.C. 7702 note) is repealed.

(c) TRANSFER AND REDESIGNATION.—Title VIII (20 U.S.C. 7701 et seq.), as amended by this title, is redesignated as title IV (20 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), and transferred and inserted after title III (as amended by this Act).

(d) TITLE VIII REFERENCES.—The Act (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), as amended by this Act, is amended—

(1) by redesignating sections 8001 through 8005 as sections 4001 through 4005, respectively;

(2) by redesignating sections 8007 through 8013 as sections 4007 through 4013, respectively;

(3) by striking “section 8002” each place it appears and inserting “section 4002”; and

(4) by striking “section 8002(b)” each place it appears and inserting “section 4002(b)”; and

(5) by striking “section 8003” each place it appears and inserting “section 4003”, respectively;

(6) by striking “section 8003(a)” each place it appears and inserting “section 4003(a)”; and

(7) by striking “section 8003(a)(1)” each place it appears and inserting “section 4003(a)(1)”; and

(8) by striking “section 8003(a)(1)(C)” each place it appears and inserting “section 4003(a)(1)(C)”; and

(9) by striking “section 8002(a)(2)” each place it appears and inserting “section 4002(a)(2)”; and

(10) by striking “section 8003(b)” each place it appears and inserting “section 4003(b)”; and

(11) by striking “section 8003(b)(1)” each place it appears and inserting “section 4003(b)(1)”; and

(12) in section 4002(b)(1)(C) (as so redesignated), by striking “section 8003(b)(1)(C)” and inserting “section 4003(b)(1)(C)”; and

(13) in section 4002(k)(1) (as so redesignated), by striking “section 8013(5)(C)(iii)” and inserting “section 4013(5)(C)(iii)”; and

(14) in section 4005 (as so redesignated)—

(A) in the section heading, by striking “8002 AND 8003” and inserting “4002 AND 4003”; and

(B) by striking “or 8003” each place it appears and inserting “or 4003”; and

(C) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “section 8004” and inserting “section 4004”; and

(D) in subsection (d)(2), by striking “section 8003(e)” and inserting “section 4003(e)”; and

(15) in the second subclause (II) of section 4007(a)(3)(A)(i) (as so redesignated), by striking “section 8008(a)” and inserting “section 4008(a)”; and

(16) in section 4007(a)(4) (as so redesignated), by striking “section 8013(3)” and inserting “section 4013(3)”; and

(17) in section 4009 (as so redesignated)—

(A) in subsection (b)(1)—

(i) by striking “or 8003(b)” and inserting “or 4003(b)”; and

(ii) by striking “section 8003(a)(2)(B)” and inserting “section 4003(a)(2)(B)”; and

(iii) by striking “section 8003(b)(2)” each place it appears and inserting “section 4003(b)(2)”; and

(B) by striking “section 8011(a)” each place it appears and inserting “section 4011(a)”; and

(18) in section 4010(c)(2)(D) (as so redesignated) by striking “section 8009(b)” and inserting “section 4009(b)”.

TITLE V—THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S TRUST RESPONSIBILITY TO AMERICAN INDIAN, ALASKA NATIVE, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN EDUCATION

SEC. 501. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S TRUST RESPONSIBILITY TO AMERICAN INDIAN, ALASKA NATIVE, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN EDUCATION.

Title V of the Act (20 U.S.C. 7201 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

“TITLE V—THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S TRUST RESPONSIBILITY TO AMERICAN INDIAN, ALASKA NATIVE, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN EDUCATION

“PART A—INDIAN EDUCATION

“SEC. 5101. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

“It is the policy of the United States to fulfill the Federal Government's unique and continuing trust relationship with, and responsibility to, the Indian people for the education of Indian children. The Federal Government will continue to work with local educational agencies, Indian tribes and organizations, postsecondary institutions, and other entities toward the goal of ensuring that programs that serve Indian children are of the highest quality and provide for not only the basic elementary and secondary educational needs, but also the unique educational and culturally related academic needs of these children.

“SEC. 5102. PURPOSE.

“It is the purpose of this part to support the efforts of local educational agencies, Indian tribes and organizations, postsecondary institutions, and other entities—

“(1) to meet the unique educational and culturally related academic needs of American Indian and Alaska Native students, so that such students can meet State student academic achievement standards; and

“(2) to ensure that Indian and Alaskan Native students gain knowledge and understanding of Native communities, languages, tribal histories, traditions, and cultures; and

“(3) to ensure that school leaders, teachers, and other staff who serve Indian and Alaska Native students have the ability to provide culturally appropriate and effective instruction to such students.

“Subpart 1—Formula Grants to Local Educational Agencies

“SEC. 5111. PURPOSE.

“It is the purpose of this subpart to support the efforts of local educational agencies, Indian tribes and organizations, and other entities to improve the academic achievement of American Indian and Alaska Native students by providing for their unique cultural, language, and educational needs and ensuring that they are prepared to meet State academic standards.

“SEC. 5112. GRANTS TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES AND TRIBES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with this section and section 5113, the Secretary may make grants from allocations made under section 5113, to—

“(1) local educational agencies; and

“(2) Indian tribes; and

“(3) Indian organizations; and

“(4) Alaska Native Organizations.

“(b) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—

“(1) ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS.—A local educational agency shall be eligible for a grant under this subpart for any fiscal year if the number of Indian children eligible under section 5117 who were enrolled in the schools of the agency, and to whom the agency provided free public education, during the preceding fiscal year—

“(A) was at least 10; or

“(B) constituted not less than 25 percent of the total number of individuals enrolled in the schools of such agency.

“(2) EXCLUSION.—The requirement of paragraph (1) shall not apply in Alaska, California, or Oklahoma, or with respect to any local educational agency located on, or in proximity to, an Indian reservation.

“(c) INDIAN TRIBES, INDIAN ORGANIZATIONS, ALASKA NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS, AND CONSORTIA.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If a local educational agency that is otherwise eligible for a grant under

this subpart does not establish a committee under section 5114(c)(5) for such grant, an Indian tribe, Indian organization, Alaska Native Organization, or consortium of such entities that represents not less than one-third of the eligible Indian or Alaska Native children who are served by such local educational agency may apply for such grant.

“(2) SPECIAL RULE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall treat each Indian tribe, Indian organization, Alaska Native Organization, or consortium of such entities applying for a grant pursuant to paragraph (1) as if such applicant were a local educational agency for purposes of this subpart.

“(B) EXCEPTIONS.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), such Indian tribe, Indian organization, Alaska Native Organization, or consortium of such entities shall not be subject to the requirements of section 5114(c)(5) or 5119.

“(3) ELIGIBILITY.—If more than 1 applicant qualifies to apply for a grant under paragraph (1), the entity that represents the most eligible Indian and Alaska Native children who are served by the local educational agency shall be eligible to receive the grant or the applicants may apply in consortium and jointly operate a program.

“(d) INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If no local educational agency pursuant to subsection (b), and no Indian tribe, tribal organization, Alaska Native Organization, or consortium pursuant to subsection (c), applies for a grant under this subpart, Indian and Alaska Native community-based organizations serving the community of the local educational agency may apply for the grant.

“(2) APPLICABILITY OF SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary shall apply the special rule in subsection (c)(2) to a community-based organization applying or receiving a grant under paragraph (1) in the same manner as such rule applies to an Indian tribe, Indian organization, Alaska Native Organization, or consortium.

“(3) DEFINITION OF INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS.—In this subsection, the term ‘Indian and Alaska Native community-based organizations’ means any organizations that—

“(A) are composed primarily of the family members of Indian or Alaska Native students, Indian or Alaska Native community members, tribal government education officials, and tribal members from a specific community;

“(B) assist in the social, cultural, and educational development of Indians or Alaska Natives in such community;

“(C) meet the unique cultural, language, and academic needs of Indian or Alaska Native students; and

“(D) demonstrate organizational and administrative capacity to effectively manage the grant.

“SEC. 5113. AMOUNT OF GRANTS.

“(a) AMOUNT OF GRANT AWARDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b) and paragraph (2), the Secretary shall allocate to each local educational agency that has an approved application under this subpart an amount equal to the product of—

“(A) the number of Indian children who are eligible under section 5117 and served by such agency; and

“(B) the greater of—

“(i) the average per pupil expenditure of the State in which such agency is located; or

“(ii) 80 percent of the average per pupil expenditure of all the States.

“(2) REDUCTION.—The Secretary shall reduce the amount of each allocation otherwise determined under this section in accordance with subsection (e).

“(b) MINIMUM GRANT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (e), an entity that is eligible for a grant under section 5112, and a school that is operated or supported by the Bureau of Indian Education that is eligible for a grant under subsection (d), that submits an application that is approved by the Secretary, shall, subject to appropriations, receive a grant under this subpart in an amount that is not less than \$3,000.

“(2) CONSORTIA.—Local educational agencies may form a consortium for the purpose of obtaining grants under this subpart.

“(3) INCREASE.—The Secretary may increase the minimum grant under paragraph (1) to not more than \$4,000 for all grantees if the Secretary determines such increase is necessary to ensure the quality of the programs provided.

“(c) DEFINITION.—For the purpose of this section, the term ‘average per pupil expenditure’, used with respect to a State, means an amount equal to—

“(1) the sum of the aggregate current expenditures of all the local educational agencies in the State, plus any direct current expenditures by the State for the operation of such agencies, without regard to the sources of funds from which such local or State expenditures were made, during the second fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which the computation is made; divided by

“(2) the aggregate number of children who were included in average daily attendance for whom such agencies provided free public education during such preceding fiscal year.

“(d) SCHOOLS OPERATED OR SUPPORTED BY THE BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (e), in addition to the grants awarded under subsection (a), the Secretary shall allocate to the Secretary of the Interior an amount equal to the product of—

“(A) the total number of Indian children enrolled in schools that are operated by—

“(i) the Bureau of Indian Education; or

“(ii) an Indian tribe, or an organization controlled or sanctioned by an Indian tribal government, for the children of that tribe under a contract with, or grant from, the Department of the Interior under the Indian Self-Determination Act or the Tribally Controlled Schools Act of 1988; and

“(B) the greater of—

“(i) the average per pupil expenditure of the State in which the school is located; or

“(ii) 80 percent of the average per pupil expenditure of all the States.

“(2) SPECIAL RULE.—Any school described in paragraph (1)(A) that wishes to receive an allocation under this subpart shall submit an application in accordance with section 5114, and shall otherwise be treated as a local educational agency for the purpose of this subpart, except that such school shall not be subject to section 5114(c)(5) or section 5119.

“(e) RATABLE REDUCTIONS.—If the sums appropriated for any fiscal year to carry out this subpart are insufficient to pay in full the amounts determined for local educational agencies under subsection (a)(1) and for the Secretary of the Interior under subsection (d), each of those amounts shall be ratably reduced.

“SEC. 5114. APPLICATIONS.

“(a) APPLICATION REQUIRED.—Each local educational agency that desires to receive a grant under this subpart shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

“(b) COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM REQUIRED.—Each application submitted under subsection (a) shall include a description of a comprehensive program for meeting the needs of Indian and Alaska Native children served by the local educational agency, including the language and cultural needs of the children, that—

“(1) describes how the comprehensive program will offer programs and activities to meet the culturally related academic needs of American Indian and Alaska Native students;

“(2)(A) is consistent with the State, tribal, and local plans submitted under other provisions of this Act; and

“(B) includes academic content and student academic achievement goals for such children, and benchmarks for attaining such goals, that are based on State academic content and student academic achievement standards adopted under title I for all children;

“(3) explains how the local educational agency will use the funds made available under this subpart to supplement other Federal, State, and local programs that serve such students;

“(4) demonstrates how funds made available under this subpart will be used for activities described in section 5115;

“(5) describes the professional development opportunities that will be provided, as needed, to ensure that—

“(A) teachers and other school professionals who are new to the Indian or Alaska Native community are prepared to work with Indian and Alaska Native children;

“(B) all teachers who will be involved in programs assisted under this subpart have been properly trained to carry out such programs; and

“(C) those family members of Indian and Alaska Native children and representatives of tribes who are on the committee described in (c)(5) will participate in the planning of professional development materials;

“(6) describes how the local educational agency—

“(A) will periodically assess the progress of all Indian children enrolled in the schools of the local educational agency, including Indian children who do not participate in programs assisted under this subpart, in meeting the goals described in paragraph (2);

“(B) will provide the results of each assessment referred to in subparagraph (A) to—

“(i) the committee described in subsection (c)(5);

“(ii) the community served by the local educational agency; and

“(iii) the tribes whose children are served by the local educational agency; and

“(C) is responding to findings of any previous assessments that are similar to the assessments described in subparagraph (A); and

“(7) explicitly delineates—

“(A) a formal, collaborative process that the local educational agency used to directly involve tribes, Indian organizations, or Alaska Native Organizations in the development of the comprehensive programs and the results of such process; and

“(B) how the local educational agency plans to ensure that tribes, Indian organizations, or Alaska Native Organizations will play an active, meaningful, and ongoing role in the functioning of the comprehensive programs.

“(c) ASSURANCES.—Each application submitted under subsection (a) shall include assurances that—

“(1) the local educational agency will use funds received under this subpart only to supplement the funds that, in the absence of the Federal funds made available under this subpart, such agency would make available for services described in this subsection, and not to supplant such funds;

“(2) the local educational agency will use funds received under this subpart only for activities described and authorized under this subpart;

“(3) the local educational agency will prepare and submit to the Secretary such reports, in such form and containing such information, as the Secretary may require to—

“(A) carry out the functions of the Secretary under this subpart;

“(B) determine the extent to which activities carried out with funds provided to the local educational agency under this subpart are effective in improving the educational achievement of Indian and Alaska Native students served by such agency; and

“(C) determine the extent to which such activities address the unique cultural, language, and educational needs of Indian students;

“(4) the program for which assistance is sought—

“(A) is based on a comprehensive local assessment and prioritization of the unique educational and culturally related academic needs of the American Indian and Alaska Native students for whom the local educational agency is providing an education;

“(B) will use the best available talents and resources, including individuals from the Indian or Alaska Native community; and

“(C) was developed by such agency in open consultation with the families of Indian or Alaska Native children, Indian or Alaska Native teachers, Indian or Alaska Native students from secondary schools, and representatives of tribes, Indian organizations, or Alaska Native Organizations in the community including through public hearings held by such agency to provide to the individuals described in this subparagraph a full opportunity to understand the program and to offer recommendations regarding the program;

“(5) the local educational agency developed the program with the participation and written approval of a committee—

“(A) that is composed of, and selected by—

“(i) family members of Indian and Alaska Native children that are attending the local educational agency's schools;

“(ii) teachers in the schools; and

“(iii) Indian and Alaska Native students attending secondary schools of the agency;

“(B) a majority of whose members are family members of Indian and Alaska Native children that are attending the local educational agency's schools;

“(C) that has set forth such policies and procedures, including policies and procedures relating to the hiring of personnel, as will ensure that the program for which assistance is sought will be operated and evaluated in consultation with, and with the involvement of, parents of the children, and representatives of the area, to be served;

“(D) with respect to an application describing a schoolwide program in accordance with section 5115(c), that has—

“(i) reviewed in a timely fashion the program;

“(ii) determined that the program will not diminish the availability of culturally related activities for American Indian and Alaska Native students; and

“(iii) will directly enhance the educational experience of American Indian and Alaska Native students; and

“(E) that has adopted reasonable bylaws for the conduct of the activities of the committee and abides by such bylaws; and

“(6) the local educational agency conducted adequate outreach to family members to meet the requirements under subsection (c)(5).

“SEC. 5115. AUTHORIZED SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES.

“(a) **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.**—Each local educational agency that receives a grant under this subpart shall use the grant funds, in a manner consistent with the purpose specified in section 5111, for services and activities that—

“(1) are designed to carry out the comprehensive program of the local educational agency for Indian students, and described in the application of the local educational agency submitted

to the Secretary under section 5114(a) solely for the services and activities described in such application;

“(2) are designed with special regard for the language and cultural needs of the Indian students; and

“(3) supplement and enrich the regular school program of such agency.

“(b) **PARTICULAR ACTIVITIES.**—The services and activities referred to in subsection (a) may include—

“(1) activities that support Native American language immersion programs and Native American language restoration programs, which may be taught by traditional leaders;

“(2) culturally related activities that support the program described in the application submitted by the local educational agency;

“(3) early childhood and family programs that emphasize school readiness;

“(4) enrichment programs that focus on problem solving and cognitive skills development and directly support the attainment of challenging State academic content and student academic achievement standards;

“(5) integrated educational services in combination with other programs including programs that enhance student achievement by promoting increased involvement of parents and families in school activities;

“(6) career preparation activities to enable Indian students to participate in programs such as the programs supported by the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006, including programs for tech-prep education, mentoring, and apprenticeship;

“(7) activities to educate individuals so as to prevent violence, suicide, and substance abuse;

“(8) the acquisition of equipment, but only if the acquisition of the equipment is essential to achieve the purpose described in section 5111;

“(9) activities that promote the incorporation of culturally responsive teaching and learning strategies into the educational program of the local educational agency;

“(10) activities that incorporate culturally and linguistically relevant curriculum content into classroom instruction that is responsive to the unique learning styles of Indian and Alaska Native children and ensures that children are better able to meet State standards;

“(11) family literacy services;

“(12) activities that recognize and support the unique cultural and educational needs of Indian children, and incorporate appropriately qualified tribal elders and seniors;

“(13) dropout prevention strategies for Indian and Alaska Native students; and

“(14) strategies to meet the educational needs of at-risk Indian students in correctional facilities, including such strategies that support Indian and Alaska Native students who are transitioning from such facilities to schools served by local educational agencies.

“(c) **SCHOOLWIDE PROGRAMS.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a local educational agency may use funds made available to such agency under this subpart to support a schoolwide program under section 1114 if—

“(1) the committee established pursuant to section 5114(c)(5) approves the use of the funds for the schoolwide program;

“(2) the schoolwide program is consistent with the purpose described in section 5111; and

“(3) the local educational agency identifies in its application how the use of such funds in a schoolwide program will produce benefits to the American Indian and Alaska Native students that would not be achieved if the funds were not used in a schoolwide program.

“(d) **LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**—Not more than 5 percent of the funds provided to a grantee under this subpart for any fiscal year may be used for administrative purposes.

“(e) **LIMITATION ON THE USE OF FUNDS.**—Funds provided to a grantee under this subpart may not be used for long-distance travel expenses for training activities available locally or regionally.

“SEC. 5116. INTEGRATION OF SERVICES AUTHORIZED.

“(a) **PLAN.**—An entity receiving funds under this subpart may submit a plan to the Secretary for the integration of education and related services provided to Indian students.

“(b) **CONSOLIDATION OF PROGRAMS.**—Upon the receipt of an acceptable plan under subsection (a), the Secretary, in cooperation with each Federal agency providing grants for the provision of education and related services to the entity, shall authorize the entity to consolidate, in accordance with such plan, the federally funded education and related services programs of the entity and the Federal programs, or portions of the programs, serving Indian students in a manner that integrates the program services involved into a single, coordinated, comprehensive program and reduces administrative costs by consolidating administrative functions.

“(c) **PROGRAMS AFFECTED.**—The funds that may be consolidated in a demonstration project under any such plan referred to in subsection (a) shall include funds for any Federal program exclusively serving Indian children, or the funds reserved under any Federal program to exclusively serve Indian children, under which the entity is eligible for receipt of funds under a statutory or administrative formula for the purposes of providing education and related services that would be used to serve Indian students.

“(d) **PLAN REQUIREMENTS.**—For a plan to be acceptable pursuant to subsection (b), the plan shall—

“(1) identify the programs or funding sources to be consolidated;

“(2) be consistent with the objectives of this section concerning authorizing the services to be integrated in a demonstration project;

“(3) describe a comprehensive strategy that identifies the full range of potential educational opportunities and related services to be provided to assist Indian students to achieve the objectives set forth in this subpart;

“(4) describe the way in which services are to be integrated and delivered and the results expected from the plan;

“(5) identify the projected expenditures under the plan in a single budget;

“(6) identify the State, tribal, or local agency or agencies to be involved in the delivery of the services integrated under the plan;

“(7) identify any statutory provisions, regulations, policies, or procedures that the entity believes need to be waived in order to implement the plan;

“(8) set forth measures for academic content and student academic achievement goals designed to be met within a specific period of time; and

“(9) be approved by a committee formed in accordance with section 5114(c)(5), if such a committee exists.

“(e) **PLAN REVIEW.**—Upon receipt of the plan from an eligible entity, the Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of each Federal department providing funds to be used to implement the plan, and with the entity submitting the plan. The parties so consulting shall identify any waivers of statutory requirements or of Federal departmental regulations, policies, or procedures necessary to enable the entity to implement the plan. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the affected department shall have the authority to waive any regulation, policy, or procedure promulgated by that department that has been so identified by the entity or department, unless the Secretary of

the affected department determines that such a waiver is inconsistent with the objectives of this subpart or those provisions of the statute from which the program involved derives authority that are specifically applicable to Indian students.

“(f) **PLAN APPROVAL.**—Within 90 days after the receipt of an entity’s plan by the Secretary, the Secretary shall inform the entity, in writing, of the Secretary’s approval or disapproval of the plan. If the plan is disapproved, the entity shall be informed, in writing, of the reasons for the disapproval and shall be given an opportunity to amend the plan or to petition the Secretary to reconsider such disapproval.

“(g) **RESPONSIBILITIES OF DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Student Success Act, the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, and the head of any other Federal department or agency identified by the Secretary of Education, shall enter into an interdepartmental memorandum of agreement providing for the implementation and coordination of the demonstration projects authorized under this section. The lead agency head for a demonstration project under this section shall be—

“(1) the Secretary of the Interior, in the case of an entity meeting the definition of a contract or grant school under title XI of the Education Amendments of 1978; or

“(2) the Secretary of Education, in the case of any other entity.

“(h) **RESPONSIBILITIES OF LEAD AGENCY.**—The responsibilities of the lead agency shall include—

“(1) the use of a single report format related to the plan for the individual project, which shall be used by an eligible entity to report on the activities undertaken under the project;

“(2) the use of a single report format related to the projected expenditures for the individual project which shall be used by an eligible entity to report on all project expenditures;

“(3) the development of a single system of Federal oversight for the project, which shall be implemented by the lead agency; and

“(4) the provision of technical assistance to an eligible entity appropriate to the project, except that an eligible entity shall have the authority to accept or reject the plan for providing such technical assistance and the technical assistance provider.

“(i) **REPORT REQUIREMENTS.**—A single report format shall be developed by the Secretary, consistent with the requirements of this section. Such report format shall require that reports described in subsection (h), together with records maintained on the consolidated program at the local level, shall contain such information as will allow a determination that the eligible entity has complied with the requirements incorporated in its approved plan, including making a demonstration of student academic achievement, and will provide assurances to each Secretary that the eligible entity has complied with all directly applicable statutory requirements and with those directly applicable regulatory requirements that have not been waived.

“(j) **NO REDUCTION IN AMOUNTS.**—In no case shall the amount of Federal funds available to an eligible entity involved in any demonstration project be reduced as a result of the enactment of this section.

“(k) **INTERAGENCY FUND TRANSFERS AUTHORIZED.**—The Secretary is authorized to take such action as may be necessary to provide for an interagency transfer of funds otherwise available to an eligible entity in order to further the objectives of this section.

“(l) **ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Program funds for the consolidated programs shall be administered in such

a manner as to allow for a determination that funds from a specific program are spent on allowable activities authorized under such program, except that the eligible entity shall determine the proportion of the funds granted that shall be allocated to such program.

“(2) **SEPARATE RECORDS NOT REQUIRED.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring the eligible entity to maintain separate records tracing any services or activities conducted under the approved plan to the individual programs under which funds were authorized for the services or activities, nor shall the eligible entity be required to allocate expenditures among such individual programs.

“(m) **OVERAGE.**—The eligible entity may commingle all administrative funds from the consolidated programs and shall be entitled to the full amount of such funds (under each program’s or agency’s regulations). The overage (defined as the difference between the amount of the commingled funds and the actual administrative cost of the programs) shall be considered to be properly spent for Federal audit purposes, if the overage is used for the purposes provided for under this section.

“(n) **FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY.**—Nothing in this part shall be construed so as to interfere with the ability of the Secretary or the lead agency to fulfill the responsibilities for the safeguarding of Federal funds pursuant to chapter 75 of title 31, United States Code.

“(o) **REPORT ON STATUTORY OBSTACLES TO PROGRAM INTEGRATION.**—

“(1) **PRELIMINARY REPORT.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of the Student Success Act, the Secretary of Education shall submit a preliminary report to the Committee on Education and the Workforce and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate on the status of the implementation of the demonstration projects authorized under this section.

“(2) **FINAL REPORT.**—Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of the Student Success Act, the Secretary of Education shall submit a report to the Committee on Education and the Workforce and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate on the results of the implementation of the demonstration projects authorized under this section. Such report shall identify statutory barriers to the ability of participants to integrate more effectively their education and related services to Indian students in a manner consistent with the objectives of this section.

“(p) **DEFINITIONS.**—For the purposes of this section, the term ‘Secretary’ means—

“(1) the Secretary of the Interior, in the case of an entity meeting the definition of a contract or grant school under title XI of the Education Amendments of 1978; or

“(2) the Secretary of Education, in the case of any other entity.

“**SEC. 5117. STUDENT ELIGIBILITY FORMS.**

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall require that, as part of an application for a grant under this subpart, each applicant shall maintain a file, with respect to each Indian child for whom the local educational agency provides a free public education, that contains a form that sets forth information establishing the status of the child as an Indian child eligible for assistance under this subpart, and that otherwise meets the requirements of subsection (b).

“(b) **FORMS.**—The form described in subsection (a) shall include—

“(1) either—

“(A)(i) the name of the tribe or band of Indians (as defined in section 5151) with respect to which the child claims membership;

“(ii) the enrollment or membership number establishing the membership of the child (if readily available); and

“(iii) the name and address of the organization that maintains updated and accurate membership data for such tribe or band of Indians; or

“(B) the name, the enrollment or membership number (if readily available), and the name and address of the organization responsible for maintaining updated and accurate membership data, of any parent or grandparent of the child from whom the child claims eligibility under this subpart, if the child is not a member of the tribe or band of Indians (as so defined);

“(2) a statement of whether the tribe or band of Indians (as so defined), with respect to which the child, or parent or grandparent of the child, claims membership, is federally recognized;

“(3) the name and address of the parent or legal guardian of the child;

“(4) a signature of the parent or legal guardian of the child that verifies the accuracy of the information supplied;

“(5) any other information that the Secretary considers necessary to provide an accurate program profile; and

“(6) all individual data collected will be protected by the local educational agencies and only aggregated data will be reported to the Secretary.

“(c) **STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect a definition contained in section 5151.

“(d) **DOCUMENTATION AND TYPES OF PROOF.**—

“(1) **TYPES OF PROOF.**—For purposes of determining whether a child is eligible to be counted for the purpose of computing the amount of a grant award under section 5113, the membership of the child, or any parent or grandparent of the child, in a tribe or band of Indians (as so defined) may be established by proof other than an enrollment number, notwithstanding the availability of an enrollment number for a member of such tribe or band. Nothing in subsection (b) shall be construed to require the furnishing of an enrollment number.

“(2) **NO NEW OR DUPLICATIVE DETERMINATIONS.**—Once a child is determined to be an Indian eligible to be counted for such grant award, the local education agency shall maintain a record of such determination and shall not require a new or duplicate determination to be made for such child for a subsequent application for a grant under this subpart.

“(3) **PREVIOUSLY FILED FORMS.**—An Indian student eligibility form that was on file as required by this section on the day before the date of the enactment of the Student Success Act and that met the requirements of this section, as this section was in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of such Act, shall remain valid for such Indian student.

“(e) **MONITORING AND EVALUATION REVIEW.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—

“(A) **REVIEW.**—For each fiscal year, in order to provide such information as is necessary to carry out the responsibility of the Secretary to provide technical assistance under this subpart, the Secretary shall conduct a monitoring and evaluation review of a sampling of the recipients of grants under this subpart. The sampling conducted under this subparagraph shall take into account the size of and the geographic location of each local educational agency.

“(B) **EXCEPTION.**—A local educational agency may not be held liable to the United States or be subject to any penalty, by reason of the findings of an audit that relates to the date of completion, or the date of submission, of any forms used to establish, before April 28, 1988, the eligibility of a child for an entitlement under the Indian Elementary and Secondary School Assistance Act.

“(2) **FALSE INFORMATION.**—Any local educational agency that provides false information in an application for a grant under this subpart shall—

“(A) be ineligible to apply for any other grant under this subpart; and

“(B) be liable to the United States for any funds from the grant that have not been expended.

“(3) **EXCLUDED CHILDREN.**—A student who provides false information for the form required under subsection (a) shall not be counted for the purpose of computing the amount of a grant under section 5113.

“(f) **TRIBAL GRANT AND CONTRACT SCHOOLS.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, in calculating the amount of a grant under this subpart to a tribal school that receives a grant or contract from the Bureau of Indian Education, the Secretary shall use only one of the following, as selected by the school:

“(1) A count of the number of students in the schools certified by the Bureau.

“(2) A count of the number of students for whom the school has eligibility forms that comply with this section.

“(g) **TIMING OF CHILD COUNTS.**—For purposes of determining the number of children to be counted in calculating the amount of a local educational agency's grant under this subpart (other than in the case described in subsection (f)(1)), the local educational agency shall—

“(1) establish a date on, or a period not longer than 31 consecutive days during, which the agency counts those children, if that date or period occurs before the deadline established by the Secretary for submitting an application under section 5114; and

“(2) determine that each such child was enrolled, and receiving a free public education, in a school of the agency on that date or during that period, as the case may be.

“SEC. 5118. PAYMENTS.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subsection (b), the Secretary shall pay to each local educational agency that submits an application that is approved by the Secretary under this subpart the amount determined under section 5113. The Secretary shall notify the local educational agency of the amount of the payment not later than June 1 of the year for which the Secretary makes the payment.

“(b) **PAYMENTS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY THE STATE.**—The Secretary may not make a grant under this subpart to a local educational agency for a fiscal year if, for such fiscal year, the State in which the local educational agency is located takes into consideration payments made under this chapter in determining the eligibility of the local educational agency for State aid, or the amount of the State aid, with respect to the free public education of children during such fiscal year or the preceding fiscal year.

“(c) **REALLOCATIONS.**—The Secretary may reallocate, in a manner that the Secretary determines will best carry out the purpose of this subpart, any amounts that—

“(1) based on estimates made by local educational agencies or other information, the Secretary determines will not be needed by such agencies to carry out approved programs under this subpart; or

“(2) otherwise become available for reallocation under this subpart.

“SEC. 5119. STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY REVIEW.

“Before submitting an application to the Secretary under section 5114, a local educational agency shall submit the application to the State educational agency, which may comment on such application. If the State educational agency comments on the application, the agency shall comment on all applications submitted by local educational agencies in the State and shall

provide those comments to the respective local educational agencies, with an opportunity to respond.

“Subpart 2—Special Programs and Projects To Improve Educational Opportunities for Indian Children and Youth

“SEC. 5121. SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS TO IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIAN CHILDREN AND YOUTH.

“(a) **PURPOSE.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—It is the purpose of this section to support projects to develop, test, and demonstrate the effectiveness of services and programs to improve educational opportunities and achievement of Indian children and youth.

“(2) **COORDINATION.**—The Secretary shall take the necessary actions to achieve the coordination of activities assisted under this subpart with—

“(A) other programs funded under this Act; and

“(B) other Federal programs operated for the benefit of American Indian and Alaska Native children and youth.

“(b) **ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.**—In this section, the term ‘eligible entity’ means a State educational agency, local educational agency, Indian tribe, Indian organization, federally supported elementary school or secondary school for Indian students, Indian institution (including an Indian institution of higher education), Alaska Native Organization, or a consortium of such entities.

“(c) **GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities to enable such entities to carry out activities that meet the purpose of this section, including—

“(A) innovative programs related to the educational needs of educationally disadvantaged children and youth;

“(B) educational services that are not available to such children and youth in sufficient quantity or quality, including remedial instruction, to raise the achievement of Indian and Alaska Native children in one or more of the subjects of English, mathematics, science, foreign languages, art, history, and geography;

“(C) bilingual and bicultural programs and projects;

“(D) special health and nutrition services, and other related activities, that address the special health, social, emotional, and psychological problems of Indian children;

“(E) special compensatory and other programs and projects designed to assist and encourage Indian children to enter, remain in, or reenter school, and to increase the rate of high school graduation for Indian children;

“(F) comprehensive guidance, counseling, and testing services;

“(G) high quality early childhood education programs that are effective in preparing young children to make sufficient academic growth by the end of grade 3, including kindergarten and pre-kindergarten programs, family-based preschool programs that emphasize school readiness, screening and referral, and the provision of services to Indian children and youth with disabilities;

“(H) partnership projects between local educational agencies and institutions of higher education that allow secondary school students to enroll in courses at the postsecondary level to aid such students in the transition from secondary to postsecondary education;

“(I) partnership projects between schools and local businesses for career preparation programs designed to provide Indian youth with the knowledge and skills such youth need to make an effective transition from school to a high-skill, high-wage career;

“(J) programs designed to encourage and assist Indian students to work toward, and gain

entrance into, an institution of higher education;

“(K) family literacy services;

“(L) activities that recognize and support the unique cultural and educational needs of Indian children, and incorporate appropriately qualified tribal elders and seniors;

“(M) high quality professional development of teaching professionals and paraprofessionals; or

“(N) other services that meet the purpose described in this section.

“(d) **GRANT REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATIONS.**—

“(1) **GRANT REQUIREMENTS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may make multiyear grants under subsection (c) for the planning, development, pilot operation, or demonstration of any activity described in subsection (c) for a period not to exceed 5 years.

“(B) **PRIORITY.**—In making multiyear grants described in this paragraph, the Secretary shall give priority to entities submitting applications that present a plan for combining two or more of the activities described in subsection (c) over a period of more than 1 year.

“(C) **PROGRESS.**—The Secretary shall make a grant payment for a grant described in this paragraph to an eligible entity after the initial year of the multiyear grant only if the Secretary determines that the eligible entity has made substantial progress in carrying out the activities assisted under the grant in accordance with the application submitted under paragraph (3) and any subsequent modifications to such application.

“(2) **DISSEMINATION GRANTS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In addition to awarding the multiyear grants described in paragraph (1), the Secretary may award grants under subsection (c) to eligible entities for the dissemination of exemplary materials or programs assisted under this section.

“(B) **DETERMINATION.**—The Secretary may award a dissemination grant described in this paragraph if, prior to awarding the grant, the Secretary determines that the material or program to be disseminated—

“(i) has been adequately reviewed;

“(ii) has demonstrated educational merit; and

“(iii) can be replicated.

“(3) **APPLICATION.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Any eligible entity that desires to receive a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may reasonably require.

“(B) **CONTENTS.**—Each application submitted to the Secretary under subparagraph (A), other than an application for a dissemination grant under paragraph (2), shall contain—

“(i) a description of how parents of Indian children and representatives of Indian tribes have been, and will be, involved in developing and implementing the activities for which assistance is sought;

“(ii) assurances that the applicant will participate, at the request of the Secretary, in any national evaluation of activities assisted under this section;

“(iii) information demonstrating that the proposed program for the activities is a scientifically based research program, where applicable, which may include a program that has been modified to be culturally appropriate for students who will be served;

“(iv) a description of how the applicant will incorporate the proposed activities into the ongoing school program involved once the grant period is over; and

“(v) such other assurances and information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

“(e) **ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**—Not more than 5 percent of the funds provided to a grantee under this subpart for any fiscal year may be used for administrative purposes.

“SEC. 5122. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS AND EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS.

“(a) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of this section are—

“(1) to increase the number of qualified Indian and Alaska Native teachers and administrators serving Indian and Alaska Native students;

“(2) to provide training to qualified Indian and Alaska Native individuals to become educators and education support service professionals; and

“(3) to improve the skills of qualified Indian individuals who serve in the capacities described in paragraph (2).

“(b) **ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.**—For the purpose of this section, the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

“(1) an institution of higher education, including an Indian institution of higher education;

“(2) a State educational agency or local educational agency, in consortium with an institution of higher education;

“(3) an Indian tribe or organization, in consortium with an institution of higher education; and

“(4) a Bureau-funded school (as defined in section 1146 of the Education Amendments of 1978).

“(c) **PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**—The Secretary is authorized to award grants to eligible entities having applications approved under this section to enable those entities to carry out the activities described in subsection (d).

“(d) **AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Grant funds under this section shall be used for activities to provide support and training for Indian individuals in a manner consistent with the purposes of this section. Such activities may include continuing programs, symposia, workshops, conferences, and direct financial support, and may include programs designed to train tribal elders and seniors.

“(2) **SPECIAL RULES.**—

“(A) **TYPE OF TRAINING.**—For education personnel, the training received pursuant to a grant under this section may be inservice or preservice training.

“(B) **PROGRAM.**—For individuals who are being trained to enter any field other than teaching, the training received pursuant to a grant under this section shall be in a program that results in a graduate degree.

“(e) **APPLICATION.**—Each eligible entity desiring a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information, as the Secretary may reasonably require.

“(f) **SPECIAL RULE.**—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary—

“(1) shall consider the prior performance of the eligible entity; and

“(2) may not limit eligibility to receive a grant under this section on the basis of—

“(A) the number of previous grants the Secretary has awarded such entity; or

“(B) the length of any period during which such entity received such grants.

“(g) **GRANT PERIOD.**—Each grant under this section shall be awarded for a period of not more than 5 years.

“(h) **SERVICE OBLIGATION.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall require, by regulation, that an individual who receives training pursuant to a grant made under this section—

“(A) perform work—

“(i) related to the training received under this section; and

“(ii) that benefits Indian people; or

“(B) repay all or a prorated part of the assistance received.

“(2) **REPORTING.**—The Secretary shall establish, by regulation, a reporting procedure under which a grant recipient under this section shall, not later than 12 months after the date of completion of the training, and periodically thereafter, provide information concerning compliance with the work requirement under paragraph (1).

“SEC. 5123. TRIBAL EDUCATION AGENCIES COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.

“(a) **PURPOSE.**—Tribes may enter into written cooperative agreements with the State educational agency and the local educational agencies operating a school or schools within Indian lands. For purposes of this section, the term ‘Indian land’ has the meaning given that term in section 8013.

“(b) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.**—If requested by the Indian tribe, the State educational agency or the local educational agency may enter into a cooperative agreement with the Indian tribe. Such cooperative agreement—

“(1) may authorize the tribe or such tribe’s respective tribal education agency to plan, conduct, consolidate, and administer programs, services, functions, and activities, or portions thereof, administered by the State educational agency or the local educational agency;

“(2) may authorize the tribe or such tribe’s respective tribal education agency to reallocate funds for such programs, services, functions, and activities, or portions thereof as necessary; and

“(3) shall—

“(A) only confer the tribe or such tribe’s respective tribal education agency with responsibilities to conduct activities described in paragraph (1) such that the burden assumed by the tribe or the tribal education agency for conducting such is commensurate with the benefit that doing so conveys to all parties of the agreement; and

“(B) be based solely on terms of the written agreement decided upon by the Indian tribe and the State educational agency or local educational agency.

“(c) **DISAGREEMENT.**—Agreements shall only be valid if the Indian tribe and State educational agency or local educational agency agree fully in writing to all of the terms of the written cooperative agreement.

“(d) **COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAW.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to relieve any party to a cooperative agreement from complying with all applicable Federal, State, local laws. State and local educational agencies are still the ultimate responsible, liable parties for complying with all laws and funding requirements for any functions that are conveyed to tribes and tribal education agencies through the cooperative agreements.

“(e) **DEFINITION.**—For the purposes of this subpart, the term ‘Indian Tribe’ means any tribe or band that is officially recognized by the Secretary of the Interior.

“Subpart 3—National Activities

“SEC. 5131. NATIONAL RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.

“(a) **AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**—The Secretary may use funds made available to carry out this subpart for each fiscal year to—

“(1) conduct research related to effective approaches for improving the academic achievement and development of Indian and Alaska Native children and adults;

“(2) collect and analyze data on the educational status and needs of Indian and Alaska Native students; and

“(3) carry out other activities that are consistent with the purpose of this part.

“(b) **ELIGIBILITY.**—The Secretary may carry out any of the activities described in subsection (a) directly or through grants to, or contracts or cooperative agreements with, Indian tribes, Indian organizations, State educational agencies,

local educational agencies, institutions of higher education, including Indian institutions of higher education, and other public and private agencies and institutions.

“(c) **COORDINATION.**—Research activities supported under this section—

“(1) shall be coordinated with appropriate offices within the Department; and

“(2) may include collaborative research activities that are jointly funded and carried out by the Office of Indian Education Programs, the Office of Educational Research and Improvement, the Bureau of Indian Education, and the Institute of Education Sciences.

“SEC. 5132. IMPROVEMENT OF ACADEMIC SUCCESS FOR STUDENTS THROUGH NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE.

“(a) **PURPOSE.**—It is the purpose of this section to improve educational opportunities and academic achievement of Indian and Alaska Native students through Native American language programs and to foster the acquisition of Native American language.

“(b) **DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—In this section, the term ‘eligible entity’ means a State educational agency, local educational agency, Indian tribe, Indian organization, federally supported elementary school or secondary school for Indian students, Indian institution (including an Indian institution of higher education), or a consortium of such entities.

“(c) **GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**—The Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities to enable such entities to carry out the following activities:

“(1) Native American language programs that—

“(A) provide instruction through the use of a Native American language for not less than 10 children for an average of not less than 500 hours per year per student;

“(B) provide for the involvement of parents, caregivers, and families of students enrolled in the program;

“(C) utilize, and may include the development of, instructional courses and materials for learning Native American languages and for instruction through the use of Native American languages;

“(D) provide support for professional development activities; and

“(E) include a goal of all students achieving—

“(i) fluency in a Native American language; and

“(ii) academic proficiency in mathematics, English, reading or language arts, and science.

“(2) **NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE RESTORATION PROGRAMS** that—

“(A) provide instruction in not less than 1 Native American language;

“(B) provide support for professional development activities for teachers of Native American languages;

“(C) develop instructional materials for the programs; and

“(D) include the goal of increasing proficiency and fluency in not less than 1 Native American language.

“(d) **APPLICATION.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—An eligible entity that desires to receive a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may require.

“(2) **CERTIFICATION.**—An eligible entity that submits an application for a grant to carry out the activity specified in subsection (c)(1), shall include in such application a certification that assures that such entity has experience and a demonstrated record of effectiveness in operating and administering a Native American language program or any other educational program in which instruction is conducted in a Native American language.

“(e) **GRANT DURATION.**—The Secretary shall make grants under this section only on a multi-year basis. Each such grant shall be for a period not to exceed 5 years.

“(f) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term ‘average’ means the aggregate number of hours of instruction through the use of a Native American language to all students enrolled in a Native American language program during a school year divided by the total number of students enrolled in the program.

“(g) **ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), not more than 5 percent of the funds provided to a grantee under this section for any fiscal year may be used for administrative purposes.

“(2) **EXCEPTION.**—An elementary school or secondary school for Indian students that receives funds from a recipient of a grant under subsection (c) for any fiscal year may use not more than 10 percent of the funds for administrative purposes.

“SEC. 5133. GRANTS TO TRIBES FOR EDUCATION ADMINISTRATIVE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may make grants to Indian tribes, and tribal organizations approved by Indian tribes, to plan and develop a centralized tribal administrative entity to—

“(1) coordinate all education programs operated by the tribe or within the territorial jurisdiction of the tribe;

“(2) develop education codes for schools within the territorial jurisdiction of the tribe;

“(3) provide support services and technical assistance to schools serving children of the tribe; and

“(4) perform child-find screening services for the preschool-aged children of the tribe to—

“(A) ensure placement in appropriate educational facilities; and

“(B) coordinate the provision of any needed special services for conditions such as disabilities and English language skill deficiencies.

“(b) **PERIOD OF GRANT.**—Each grant awarded under this section may be awarded for a period of not more than 3 years. Such grant may be renewed upon the termination of the initial period of the grant if the grant recipient demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Secretary that renewing the grant for an additional 3-year period is necessary to carry out the objectives of the grant described in subsection (c)(2)(A).

“(c) **APPLICATION FOR GRANT.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each Indian tribe and tribal organization desiring a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, containing such information, and consistent with such criteria, as the Secretary may prescribe in regulations.

“(2) **CONTENTS.**—Each application described in paragraph (1) shall contain—

“(A) a statement describing the activities to be conducted, and the objectives to be achieved, under the grant; and

“(B) a description of the method to be used for evaluating the effectiveness of the activities for which assistance is sought and for determining whether such objectives are achieved.

“(3) **APPROVAL.**—The Secretary may approve an application submitted by a tribe or tribal organization pursuant to this section only if the Secretary is satisfied that such application, including any documentation submitted with the application—

“(A) demonstrates that the applicant has consulted with other education entities, if any, within the territorial jurisdiction of the applicant who will be affected by the activities to be conducted under the grant;

“(B) provides for consultation with such other education entities in the operation and evaluation of the activities conducted under the grant; and

“(C) demonstrates that there will be adequate resources provided under this section or from other sources to complete the activities for which assistance is sought, except that the availability of such other resources shall not be a basis for disapproval of such application.

“(d) **RESTRICTION.**—A tribe may not receive funds under this section if such tribe receives funds under section 1144 of the Education Amendments of 1978.

“Subpart 4—Federal Administration

“SEC. 5141. NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INDIAN EDUCATION.

“(a) **MEMBERSHIP.**—There is established a National Advisory Council on Indian Education (hereafter in this section referred to as the ‘Council’), which shall—

“(1) consist of 15 Indian members, who shall be appointed by the President from lists of nominees furnished, from time to time, by Indian tribes and organizations; and

“(2) represent different geographic areas of the United States.

“(b) **DUTIES.**—The Council shall—

“(1) advise the Secretary concerning the funding and administration (including the development of regulations and administrative policies and practices) of any program, including any program established under this part—

“(A) with respect to which the Secretary has jurisdiction; and

“(B)(i) that includes Indian children or adults as participants; or

“(ii) that may benefit Indian children or adults;

“(2) make recommendations to the Secretary for filling the position of Director of Indian Education whenever a vacancy occurs; and

“(3) submit to Congress, not later than June 30 of each year, a report on the activities of the Council, including—

“(A) any recommendations that the Council considers appropriate for the improvement of Federal education programs that include Indian children or adults as participants, or that may benefit Indian children or adults; and

“(B) recommendations concerning the funding of any program described in subparagraph (A).

“SEC. 5142. PEER REVIEW.

“The Secretary may use a peer review process to review applications submitted to the Secretary under subpart 2 or subpart 3.

“SEC. 5143. PREFERENCE FOR INDIAN APPLICANTS.

“In making grants and entering into contracts or cooperative agreements under subpart 2 or subpart 3, the Secretary shall give a preference to Indian tribes, organizations, and institutions of higher education under any program with respect to which Indian tribes, organizations, and institutions are eligible to apply for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements.

“SEC. 5144. MINIMUM GRANT CRITERIA.

“The Secretary may not approve an application for a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under subpart 2 or subpart 3 unless the application is for a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement that is—

“(1) of sufficient size, scope, and quality to achieve the purpose or objectives of such grant, contract, or cooperative agreement; and

“(2) based on relevant research findings.

“Subpart 5—Definitions; Authorizations of Appropriations

“SEC. 5151. DEFINITIONS.

“For the purposes of this part:

“(1) **ADULT.**—The term ‘adult’ means an individual who—

“(A) has attained the age of 16 years; or

“(B) has attained an age that is greater than the age of compulsory school attendance under an applicable State law.

“(2) **FREE PUBLIC EDUCATION.**—The term ‘free public education’ means education that is—

“(A) provided at public expense, under public supervision and direction, and without tuition charge; and

“(B) provided as elementary or secondary education in the applicable State or to preschool children.

“(3) **INDIAN.**—The term ‘Indian’ means an individual who is—

“(A) a member of an Indian tribe or band, as membership is defined by the tribe or band, including—

“(i) any tribe or band terminated since 1940; and

“(ii) any tribe or band recognized by the State in which the tribe or band resides;

“(B) a descendant, in the first or second degree, of an individual described in subparagraph (A);

“(C) considered by the Secretary of the Interior to be an Indian for any purpose;

“(D) an Alaska Native, as defined in section 5206(1); or

“(E) a member of an organized Indian group that received a grant under the Indian Education Act of 1988 as in effect the day preceding the date of the enactment of the Improving America’s Schools Act of 1994.

“(4) **ALASKA NATIVE ORGANIZATION.**—The term ‘Alaska Native Organization’ has the same meaning as defined in section 5206(2).

“SEC. 5152. AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“(a) **SUBPART 1.**—For the purpose of carrying out subpart 1, there are authorized to be appropriated \$105,921,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021.

“(b) **SUBPARTS 2 AND 3.**—For the purpose of carrying out subparts 2 and 3, there are authorized to be appropriated \$24,858,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021.

“PART B—ALASKA NATIVE EDUCATION

“SEC. 5201. SHORT TITLE.

“This part may be cited as the ‘Alaska Native Educational Equity, Support, and Assistance Act’.

“SEC. 5202. FINDINGS.

“Congress finds and declares the following:

“(1) It is the policy of the Federal Government to maximize the leadership of and participation by Alaska Natives in the planning and the management of Alaska Native education programs and to support efforts developed by and undertaken within the Alaska Native community to improve educational opportunity for all students.

“(2) Many Alaska Native children enter and exit school with serious educational disadvantages.

“(3) Overcoming the magnitude of the geographic challenges, historical inequities, and other barriers to successfully improving educational outcomes for Alaska Native students in rural, village, and urban settings is challenging. Significant disparities between academic achievement of Alaska Native students and non-Native students continues, including lower graduation rates, increased school dropout rates, and lower achievement scores on standardized tests.

“(4) The preservation of Alaska Native cultures and languages and the integration of Alaska Native cultures and languages into education, positive identity development for Alaska Native students, and local, place-based, and culture-based programming are critical to the attainment of educational success and the long-term well-being of Alaska Native students.

“(5) Improving educational outcomes for Alaska Native students increases access to employment opportunities.

“(6) The programs and activities authorized under this part give priority to Alaska Native organizations as a means of increasing Alaska

Native parents' and community involvement in the promotion of academic success of Alaska Native students.

"(7) The Federal Government should lend support to efforts developed by and undertaken within the Alaska Native community to improve educational opportunity for Alaska Native students. In 1983, pursuant to Public Law 98-63, Alaska ceased to receive educational funding from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Bureau of Indian Education does not operate any schools in Alaska, nor operate or fund Alaska Native education programs. The program under this part supports the Federal trust responsibility of the United States to Alaska Natives.

"SEC. 5203. PURPOSES.

"The purposes of this part are as follows:

"(1) To recognize and address the unique educational needs of Alaska Natives.

"(2) To recognize the role of Alaska Native languages and cultures in the educational success and long-term well-being of Alaska Native students.

"(3) To integrate Alaska Native cultures and languages into education, develop Alaska Native students' positive identity, and support local place-based and culture-based curriculum and programming.

"(4) To authorize the development, management, and expansion of effective supplemental educational programs to benefit Alaska Natives.

"(5) To provide direction and guidance to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies to focus resources, including resources made available under this part, on meeting the educational needs of Alaska Natives.

"(6) To ensure the maximum participation by Alaska Native educators and leaders in the planning, development, management, and evaluation of programs designed to serve Alaska Native students, and to ensure Alaska Native organizations play a meaningful role in supplemental educational services provided to Alaska Native students.

"SEC. 5204. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.

"(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—

"(1) GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.—The Secretary is authorized to make grants to, or enter into contracts with, Alaska Native organizations, State educational agencies, local educational agencies, educational entities with experience in developing or operating Alaska Native educational programs or programs of instruction conducted in Alaska Native languages, cultural and community-based organizations with experience in developing or operating programs to benefit the educational needs of Alaska Natives, and consortia of organizations and entities described in this paragraph, to carry out programs that meet the purposes of this part.

"(2) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.—A State educational agency, local educational agency, educational entity with experience in developing or operating Alaska Native educational programs or programs of instruction conducted in Alaska Native languages, cultural and community-based organization with experience in developing or operating programs to benefit the educational needs of Alaska Natives, or consortium of such organizations and entities is eligible for an award under this part only as part of a partnership involving an Alaska Native organization.

"(3) MANDATORY ACTIVITIES.—Activities provided through the programs carried out under this part shall include the following which shall only be provided specifically in the context of elementary and secondary education:

"(A) The development and implementation of plans, methods, and strategies to improve the educational outcomes of Alaska Native people.

"(B) The collection of data to assist in the evaluation of the programs carried out under this part.

"(4) PERMISSIBLE ACTIVITIES.—Activities provided through programs carried out under this part may include the following which shall only be provided specifically in the context of elementary and secondary education:

"(A) The development of curricula and programs that address the educational needs of Alaska Native students, including the following:

"(i) Curriculum materials that reflect the cultural diversity, languages, history, or the contributions of Alaska Native people.

"(ii) Instructional programs that make use of Alaska Native languages and cultures.

"(iii) Networks that develop, test, and disseminate best practices and introduce successful programs, materials, and techniques to meet the educational needs of Alaska Native students in urban and rural schools.

"(B) Training and professional development activities for educators, including the following:

"(i) Pre-service and in-service training and professional development programs to prepare teachers to develop appreciation for, and understanding of, Alaska Native history, cultures, values, ways of knowing and learning in order to effectively address the cultural diversity and unique needs of Alaska Native students.

"(ii) Recruitment and preparation of teachers who are Alaska Native.

"(iii) Programs that will lead to the certification and licensing of Alaska Native teachers, principals, and superintendents.

"(C) The development and operation of student enrichment programs, including those in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics that—

"(i) are designed to prepare Alaska Native students to excel in such subjects;

"(ii) provide appropriate support services to enable such students to benefit from the programs; and

"(iii) include activities that recognize and support the unique cultural and educational needs of Alaska Native children, and incorporate appropriately qualified Alaska Native elders and other tradition bearers.

"(D) Research and data collection activities to determine the educational status and needs of Alaska Native children and other research and evaluation activities related to programs carried out under this part.

"(E) Activities designed to increase the graduation rates of Alaska Native students and prepare Alaska Native students to be college and career ready upon graduation from secondary school, such as—

"(i) remedial and enrichment programs; and

"(ii) culturally based education programs, such as—

"(I) programs of study and other instruction in Alaska Native history and way of living, to share the rich and diverse cultures of Alaska Native peoples among Alaska Native youth and elders, non-Native students, teachers, and the larger community;

"(II) instruction in leadership, communication, Native culture, arts, and languages to Alaska Native youth;

"(III) instruction in Alaska Native history and ways of living to students and teachers in the local school district;

"(IV) intergenerational learning and internship opportunities to Alaska Native youth and young adults; and

"(V) providing cultural immersion activities aimed at Alaska Native cultural preservation.

"(F) Statewide on-site exchange programs, for both students and teachers, that work to facilitate cultural relationships between urban and rural Alaskans to build mutual respect and understanding, and foster a statewide sense of common identity through host family, school, and community cross-cultural immersion.

"(G) Education programs for at-risk urban Alaska Native students in kindergarten through

grade 12 that are designed to improve academic proficiency and graduation rates, utilize strategies otherwise permissible under this part, and incorporate a strong data collection and continuous evaluation component.

"(H) Statewide programs that provide technical assistance and support to schools and communities to engage adults in promoting the academic progress and overall well-being of Alaska Native people through child and youth development, positive youth-adult relationships, improved conditions for learning (school climate, student connection to school and community), and increased connections between schools and families.

"(I) Career preparation activities to enable Alaska Native children and adults to prepare for meaningful employment, including programs providing tech-prep, mentoring, training, and apprenticeship activities.

"(J) Support for the development and operational activities of regional vocational schools in rural areas of Alaska to provide students with necessary resources to prepare for skilled employment opportunities.

"(K) Regional leadership academies that demonstrate effectiveness in building respect, understanding, and fostering a sense of Alaska Native identity to promote their pursuit of and success in completing higher education or career training.

"(L) Strategies designed to increase the involvement of parents in their children's education.

"(b) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more than 5 percent of funds provided to an award recipient under this part for any fiscal year may be used for administrative purposes.

"(c) PRIORITIES.—In awarding grants or contracts to carry out activities described in this subpart, the Secretary shall give priority to applications from Alaska Native Organizations. Such priority shall be explicitly delineated in the Secretary's process for evaluating applications and applied consistently and transparently to all applications from Alaska Native Organizations.

"(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this part \$33,185,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021.

"SEC. 5205. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

"(a) APPLICATION REQUIRED.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—No grant may be made under this part, and no contract may be entered into under this part, unless the Alaska Native organization or entity seeking the grant or contract submits an application to the Secretary in such form, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may determine necessary to carry out the provisions of this part.

"(2) REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN APPLICANTS.—An applicant described in section 5204(a)(2) shall, in the application submitted under this paragraph—

"(A) demonstrate that an Alaska Native organization was directly involved in the development of the program for which the application seeks funds and explicitly delineate the meaningful role that the Alaska Native organization will play in the implementation and evaluation of the program for which funding is sought; and

"(B) provide a copy of the Alaska Native organization's governing document.

"(b) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—Each applicant for an award under this part shall provide for ongoing advice from and consultation with representatives of the Alaska Native community.

"(c) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY COORDINATION.—Each applicant for an award under this part shall inform each local educational agency serving students who would participate in the program to be carried out under the grant or contract about the application.

“(d) CONTINUATION AWARDS.—An applicant described in section 5204(a)(2) that receives funding under this part shall periodically demonstrate to the Secretary, during the term of the award, that the applicant is continuing to meet the requirements of subsection (a)(2)(A).

“SEC. 5206. DEFINITIONS.

“In this part:

“(1) ALASKA NATIVE.—The term ‘Alaska Native’ has the same meaning as the term ‘Native’ has in section 3(b) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and their descendants.

“(2) ALASKA NATIVE ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘Alaska Native organization’ means a federally recognized tribe, consortium of tribes, regional nonprofit Native association, and an organization, that—

“(A) has or commits to acquire expertise in the education of Alaska Natives; and

“(B) has Alaska Native people in substantive and policymaking positions within the organization.

“PART C—NATIVE HAWAIIAN EDUCATION

“SEC. 5301. FINDINGS.

“Congress finds the following:

“(1) Native Hawaiians are a distinct and unique indigenous people with a historical continuity to the original inhabitants of the Hawaiian archipelago, whose society was organized as a nation and internationally recognized as a nation by the United States, and many other countries.

“(2) Native Hawaiians have a cultural, historic, and land-based link to the indigenous people who exercised sovereignty over the Hawaiian Islands.

“(3) The political status of Native Hawaiians is comparable to that of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

“(4) The political relationship between the United States and the Native Hawaiian people has been recognized and reaffirmed by the United States, as evidenced by the inclusion of Native Hawaiians in many Federal statutes, including—

“(A) the Native American Programs Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 2991 et seq.);

“(B) Public Law 95–341 (commonly known as the ‘American Indian Religious Freedom Act’ (42 U.S.C. 1996));

“(C) the National Museum of the American Indian Act (20 U.S.C. 80q et seq.);

“(D) the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.);

“(E) the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.);

“(F) the Native American Languages Act (25 U.S.C. 2901 et seq.);

“(G) the American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Culture and Art Development Act (20 U.S.C. 4401 et seq.);

“(H) the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.); and

“(I) the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.).

“(5) Many Native Hawaiian students lag behind other students in terms of—

“(A) school readiness factors;

“(B) scoring below national norms on education achievement tests at all grade levels;

“(C) underrepresentation in the uppermost achievement levels and in gifted and talented programs;

“(D) overrepresentation among students qualifying for special education programs;

“(E) underrepresentation in institutions of higher education and among adults who have completed 4 or more years of college.

“(6) The percentage of Native Hawaiian students served by the State of Hawaii Department of Education rose 30 percent from 1980 to 2008, and there are and will continue to be geographically rural, isolated areas with a high Native Hawaiian population density.

“(7) The Native Hawaiian people are determined to preserve, develop, and transmit to future generations their ancestral territory and their cultural identity in accordance with their own spiritual and traditional beliefs, customs, practices, language, and social institutions.

“SEC. 5302. PURPOSES.

“The purposes of this part are—

“(1) to authorize, develop, implement, assess, and evaluate innovative educational programs, Native Hawaiian language medium programs, Native Hawaiian culture-based education programs, and other education programs to improve the academic achievement of Native Hawaiian students by meeting their unique cultural and language needs in order to help such students meet challenging State student academic achievement standards;

“(2) to provide guidance to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies to more effectively and efficiently focus resources, including resources made available under this part, on the development and implementation of—

“(A) innovative educational programs for Native Hawaiians;

“(B) rigorous and substantive Native Hawaiian language programs; and

“(C) Native Hawaiian culture-based educational programs; and

“(3) to create a system by which information from programs funded under this part will be collected, analyzed, evaluated, reported, and used in decisionmaking activities regarding the types of grants awarded under this part.

“SEC. 5303. NATIVE HAWAIIAN EDUCATION COUNCIL GRANT.

“(a) GRANT AUTHORIZED.—In order to better effectuate the purposes of this part through the coordination of educational and related services and programs available to Native Hawaiians, including those programs that receive funding under this part, the Secretary shall award a grant to an education council, as described under subsection (b).

“(b) EDUCATION COUNCIL.—

“(1) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive the grant under subsection (a), the council shall be an education council (referred to in this section as the ‘Education Council’) that meets the requirements of this subsection.

“(2) COMPOSITION.—The Education Council shall consist of 15 members of whom—

“(A) one shall be the President of the University of Hawaii (or a designee);

“(B) one shall be the Governor of the State of Hawaii (or a designee);

“(C) one shall be the Superintendent of the State of Hawaii Department of Education (or a designee);

“(D) one shall be the chairperson of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (or a designee);

“(E) one shall be the executive director of Hawaii’s Charter School Network (or a designee);

“(F) one shall be the chief executive officer of the Kamehameha Schools (or a designee);

“(G) one shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Queen Liliuokalani Trust (or a designee);

“(H) one shall be a member, selected by the other members of the Education Council, who represents a private grant-making entity;

“(I) one shall be the Mayor of the County of Hawaii (or a designee);

“(J) one shall be the Mayor of Maui County (or a designee from the Island of Maui);

“(K) one shall be the Mayor of the County of Kauai (or a designee);

“(L) one shall be appointed by the Mayor of Maui County from the Island of either Molokai or Lanai;

“(M) one shall be the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu (or a designee);

“(N) one shall be the chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission (or a designee); and

“(O) one shall be the chairperson of the Hawaii Workforce Development Council (or a designee representing the private sector).

“(3) REQUIREMENTS.—Any designee serving on the Education Council shall demonstrate, as determined by the individual who appointed such designee with input from the Native Hawaiian community, not less than 5 years of experience as a consumer or provider of Native Hawaiian education or cultural activities, with traditional cultural experience given due consideration.

“(4) LIMITATION.—A member (including a designee), while serving on the Education Council, shall not be a recipient of grant funds that are awarded under this part.

“(5) TERM OF MEMBERS.—A member who is a designee shall serve for a term of not more than 4 years.

“(6) CHAIR, VICE CHAIR.—

“(A) SELECTION.—The Education Council shall select a Chair and a Vice Chair from among the members of the Education Council.

“(B) TERM LIMITS.—The Chair and Vice Chair shall each serve for a 2-year term.

“(7) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS RELATING TO EDUCATION COUNCIL.—The Education Council shall meet at the call of the Chair of the Council, or upon request by a majority of the members of the Education Council, but in any event not less often than every 120 days.

“(8) NO COMPENSATION.—None of the funds made available through the grant may be used to provide compensation to any member of the Education Council or member of a working group established by the Education Council, for functions described in this section.

“(c) USE OF FUNDS FOR COORDINATION ACTIVITIES.—The Education Council shall use funds made available through the grant to carry out each of the following activities:

“(1) Providing advice about the coordination, and serving as a clearinghouse for, the educational and related services and programs available to Native Hawaiians, including the programs assisted under this part.

“(2) Assessing the extent to which such services and programs meet the needs of Native Hawaiians, and collecting data on the status of Native Hawaiian education.

“(3) Providing direction and guidance, through the issuance of reports and recommendations, to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies in order to focus and improve the use of resources, including resources made available under this part, relating to Native Hawaiian education, and serving, where appropriate, in an advisory capacity.

“(4) Awarding grants, if such grants enable the Education Council to carry out the activities described in paragraphs (1) through (3).

“(5) Hiring an executive director who shall assist in executing the duties and powers of the Education Council, as described in subsection (d).

“(d) USE OF FUNDS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Education Council shall use funds made available through the grant to—

“(1) provide technical assistance to Native Hawaiian organizations that are grantees or potential grantees under this part;

“(2) obtain from such grantees information and data regarding grants awarded under this part, including information and data about—

“(A) the effectiveness of such grantees in meeting the educational priorities established by the Education Council, as described in paragraph (6)(D), using metrics related to these priorities; and

“(B) the effectiveness of such grantees in carrying out any of the activities described in section 5304(c) that are related to the specific goals and purposes of each grantee’s grant project, using metrics related to these priorities;

“(3) assess and define the educational needs of Native Hawaiians;

“(4) assess the programs and services available to address the educational needs of Native Hawaiians;

“(5) assess and evaluate the individual and aggregate impact achieved by grantees under this part in improving Native Hawaiian educational performance and meeting the goals of this part, using metrics related to these goals; and

“(6) prepare and submit to the Secretary, at the end of each calendar year, an annual report that contains—

“(A) a description of the activities of the Education Council during the calendar year;

“(B) a description of significant barriers to achieving the goals of this part;

“(C) a summary of each community consultation session described in subsection (e); and

“(D) recommendations to establish priorities for funding under this part, based on an assessment of—

“(i) the educational needs of Native Hawaiians;

“(ii) programs and services available to address such needs;

“(iii) the effectiveness of programs in improving the educational performance of Native Hawaiian students to help such students meet challenging State student academic achievement standards; and

“(iv) priorities for funding in specific geographic communities.

“(e) **USE OF FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS.**—The Education Council shall use funds made available through the grant under subsection (a) to hold not less than one community consultation each year on each of the islands of Hawaii, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, Oahu, and Kauai, at which—

“(1) not less than three members of the Education Council shall be in attendance;

“(2) the Education Council shall gather community input regarding—

“(A) current grantees under this part, as of the date of the consultation;

“(B) priorities and needs of Native Hawaiians; and

“(C) other Native Hawaiian education issues; and

“(3) the Education Council shall report to the community on the outcomes of the activities supported by grants awarded under this part.

“(f) **FUNDING.**—For each fiscal year, the Secretary shall use the amount described in section 5305(d)(2), to make a payment under the grant. Funds made available through the grant shall remain available until expended.

“(g) **REPORT.**—Beginning not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of the Student Success Act, and for each subsequent year, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Indian Affairs and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, a report that—

“(1) summarizes the annual reports of the Education Council;

“(2) describes the allocation and use of funds under this part and the information gathered since the first annual report submitted by the Education Council to the Secretary under this section; and

“(3) contains recommendations for changes in Federal, State, and local policy to advance the purposes of this part.

“SEC. 5304. GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.

“(a) **GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.**—In order to carry out programs that meet the purposes of this part, the Secretary is authorized to award grants to, or enter into contracts with—

“(1) Native Hawaiian educational organizations;

“(2) Native Hawaiian community-based organizations;

“(3) public and private nonprofit organizations, agencies, and institutions with experience

in developing or operating Native Hawaiian education and workforce development programs or programs of instruction in the Native Hawaiian language;

“(4) charter schools; and

“(5) consortia of the organizations, agencies, and institutions described in paragraphs (1) through (4).

“(b) **PRIORITY.**—In awarding grants and entering into contracts under this part, the Secretary shall give priority to—

“(1) programs that meet the educational priority recommendations of the Education Council, as described under section 5303(d)(6)(D);

“(2) the repair and renovation of public schools that serve high concentrations of Native Hawaiian students;

“(3) programs designed to improve the academic achievement of Native Hawaiian students by meeting their unique cultural and language needs in order to help such students meet challenging State student academic achievement standards, including activities relating to—

“(A) achieving competence in reading, literacy, mathematics, and science for students in preschool through grade 3;

“(B) the educational needs of at-risk children and youth;

“(C) professional development for teachers and administrators;

“(D) the use of Native Hawaiian language and preservation or reclamation of Native Hawaiian culture-based educational practices; and

“(E) other programs relating to the activities described in this part; and

“(4) programs in which a local educational agency, institution of higher education, or a State educational agency in partnership with a nonprofit entity serving underserved communities within the Native Hawaiian population apply for a grant or contract under this part as part of a partnership or consortium.

“(c) **AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**—Activities provided through programs carried out under this part may include—

“(1) the development and maintenance of a statewide Native Hawaiian early education and care system to provide a continuum of high-quality early learning services for Native Hawaiian children from the prenatal period through the age of kindergarten entry;

“(2) the operation of family-based education centers that provide such services as—

“(A) early care and education programs for Native Hawaiians; and

“(B) research on, and development and assessment of, family-based, early childhood, and preschool programs for Native Hawaiians;

“(3) activities that enhance beginning reading and literacy in either the Hawaiian or the English language among Native Hawaiian students in kindergarten through grade 3 and assistance in addressing the distinct features of combined English and Hawaiian literacy for Hawaiian speakers in grades 5 and 6;

“(4) activities to meet the special needs of Native Hawaiian students with disabilities, including—

“(A) the identification of such students and their needs;

“(B) the provision of support services to the families of such students; and

“(C) other activities consistent with the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act;

“(5) activities that address the special needs of Native Hawaiian students who are gifted and talented, including—

“(A) educational, psychological, and developmental activities designed to assist in the educational progress of such students; and

“(B) activities that involve the parents of such students in a manner designed to assist in the educational progress of such students;

“(6) the development of academic and vocational curricula to address the needs of Native Hawaiian students, including curricula materials in the Hawaiian language and mathematics and science curricula that incorporate Native Hawaiian tradition and culture;

“(7) professional development activities for educators, including—

“(A) the development of programs to prepare prospective teachers to address the unique needs of Native Hawaiian students within the context of Native Hawaiian culture, language, and traditions;

“(B) in-service programs to improve the ability of teachers who teach in schools with high concentrations of Native Hawaiian students to meet the unique needs of such students; and

“(C) the recruitment and preparation of Native Hawaiians, and other individuals who live in communities with a high concentration of Native Hawaiians, to become teachers;

“(8) the operation of community-based learning centers that address the needs of Native Hawaiian students, parents, families, and communities through the coordination of public and private programs and services, including—

“(A) early education programs;

“(B) before, after, and Summer school programs, expanded learning time, or weekend academies;

“(C) career and technical education programs; and

“(D) programs that recognize and support the unique cultural and educational needs of Native Hawaiian children, and incorporate appropriately qualified Native Hawaiian elders and seniors;

“(9) activities, including program co-location, that ensure Native Hawaiian students graduate college and career ready including—

“(A) family literacy services;

“(B) counseling, guidance, and support services for students; and

“(C) professional development activities designed to help educators improve the college and career readiness of Native Hawaiian students;

“(10) research and data collection activities to determine the educational status and needs of Native Hawaiian children and adults;

“(11) other research and evaluation activities related to programs carried out under this part; and

“(12) other activities, consistent with the purposes of this part, to meet the educational needs of Native Hawaiian children and adults.

“(d) **ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of this part, funds made available to carry out this section as of the day before the date of the enactment of the Student Success Act shall remain available until expended. The Secretary shall use such funds to support the following:

“(1) The repair and renovation of public schools that serve high concentrations of Native Hawaiian students.

“(2) The perpetuation of, and expansion of access to, Hawaiian culture and history through digital archives.

“(3) Informal education programs that connect traditional Hawaiian knowledge, science, astronomy, and the environment through State museums or learning centers.

“(4) Public charter schools serving high concentrations of Native Hawaiian students.

“(e) **ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), not more than 5 percent of funds provided to a recipient of a grant or contract under this section for any fiscal year may be used for administrative purposes.

“(2) **EXCEPTION.**—The Secretary may waive the requirement of paragraph (1) for a nonprofit entity that receives funding under this section and allow not more than 10 percent of funds

provided to such nonprofit entity under this section for any fiscal year to be used for administrative purposes.

“SEC. 5305. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

“(a) **APPLICATION REQUIRED.**—No grant may be made under this part, and no contract may be entered into under this part, unless the entity seeking the grant or contract submits an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may determine to be necessary to carry out the provisions of this part.

“(b) **DIRECT GRANT APPLICATIONS.**—The Secretary shall provide a copy of all direct grant applications to the Education Council.

“(c) **SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), funds made available under this part shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, any State or local funds used to achieve the purposes of this part.

“(2) **EXCEPTION.**—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to any nonprofit entity or Native Hawaiian community-based organization that receives a grant or other funds under this part.

“(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this part \$34,181,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021.

“(2) **RESERVATION.**—Of the funds appropriated under this subsection, the Secretary shall reserve, for each fiscal year after the date of the enactment of the Student Success Act not less than \$500,000 for the grant to the Education Council under section 5303.

“(3) **AVAILABILITY.**—Funds appropriated under this subsection shall remain available until expended.”.

TITLE VI—GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR THE ACT

SEC. 601. GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR THE ACT.

(a) **AMENDING TITLE VI.**—Title VI (20 U.S.C. 7301 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

“TITLE VI—GENERAL PROVISIONS

“PART A—DEFINITIONS

“SEC. 6101. DEFINITIONS.

“Except as otherwise provided, in this Act:

“(1) **AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided otherwise by State law or this paragraph, the term ‘average daily attendance’ means—

“(i) the aggregate number of days of attendance of all students during a school year; divided by

“(ii) the number of days school is in session during that year.

“(B) **CONVERSION.**—The Secretary shall permit the conversion of average daily membership (or other similar data) to average daily attendance for local educational agencies in States that provide State aid to local educational agencies on the basis of average daily membership (or other similar data).

“(C) **SPECIAL RULE.**—If the local educational agency in which a child resides makes a tuition or other payment for the free public education of the child in a school located in another school district, the Secretary shall, for the purpose of this Act—

“(i) consider the child to be in attendance at a school of the agency making the payment; and

“(ii) not consider the child to be in attendance at a school of the agency receiving the payment.

“(D) **CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES.**—If a local educational agency makes a tuition payment to a private school or to a public school of another local educational agency for a child with a disability, as defined in section 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Secretary shall, for the purpose of this Act, consider the child to be in attendance at a school of the agency making the payment.

“(2) **AVERAGE PER-PUPIL EXPENDITURE.**—The term ‘average per-pupil expenditure’ means, in the case of a State or of the United States—

“(A) without regard to the source of funds—

“(i) the aggregate current expenditures, during the third fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which the determination is made (or, if satisfactory data for that year are not available, during the most recent preceding fiscal year for which satisfactory data are available) of all local educational agencies in the State or, in the case of the United States, for all States (which, for the purpose of this paragraph, means the 50 States and the District of Columbia); plus

“(ii) any direct current expenditures by the State for the operation of those agencies; divided by

“(B) the aggregate number of children in average daily attendance to whom those agencies provided free public education during that preceding year.

“(3) **CHARTER SCHOOL.**—The term ‘charter school’ means a public school that—

“(A) in accordance with a specific State statute authorizing the granting of charters to schools, is exempt from significant State or local rules that inhibit the flexible operation and management of public schools, but not from any rules relating to the other requirements of this paragraph;

“(B) is created by a developer as a public school, or is adapted by a developer from an existing public school, and is operated under public supervision and direction;

“(C) operates in pursuit of a specific set of educational objectives determined by the school’s developer and agreed to by the authorized public chartering agency;

“(D) provides a program of elementary or secondary education, or both;

“(E) is nonsectarian in its programs, admissions policies, employment practices, and all other operations, and is not affiliated with a sectarian school or religious institution;

“(F) does not charge tuition;

“(G) complies with the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), and section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232(g)) (commonly known as the ‘Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974’);

“(H) is a school to which parents choose to send their children, and admits students on the basis of a lottery if more students apply for admission than can be accommodated, except that in cases in which students who are enrolled in a charter school affiliated (such as by sharing a network) with another charter school, those students may be automatically enrolled in the next grade level at such other charter school, so long as a lottery is used to fill seats created through regular attrition in student enrollment;

“(I) agrees to comply with the same Federal and State audit requirements as do other elementary schools and secondary schools in the State, unless such State audit requirements are waived by the State;

“(J) meets all applicable Federal, State, and local health and safety requirements;

“(K) operates in accordance with State law;

“(L) has a written performance contract with the authorized public chartering agency in the State that includes a description of how student performance will be measured in charter schools pursuant to State assessments that are required of other schools and pursuant to any other assessments mutually agreeable to the authorized public chartering agency and the charter school; and

“(M) may serve prekindergarten or postsecondary students.

“(4) **CHILD.**—The term ‘child’ means any person within the age limits for which the State provides free public education.

“(5) **CHILD WITH A DISABILITY.**—The term ‘child with a disability’ has the same meaning given that term in section 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

“(6) **COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION.**—The term ‘community-based organization’ means a public or private nonprofit organization of demonstrated effectiveness that—

“(A) is representative of a community or significant segments of a community; and

“(B) provides educational or related services to individuals in the community.

“(7) **CONSOLIDATED LOCAL APPLICATION.**—The term ‘consolidated local application’ means an application submitted by a local educational agency pursuant to section 6305.

“(8) **CONSOLIDATED LOCAL PLAN.**—The term ‘consolidated local plan’ means a plan submitted by a local educational agency pursuant to section 6305.

“(9) **CONSOLIDATED STATE APPLICATION.**—The term ‘consolidated State application’ means an application submitted by a State educational agency pursuant to section 6302.

“(10) **CONSOLIDATED STATE PLAN.**—The term ‘consolidated State plan’ means a plan submitted by a State educational agency pursuant to section 6302.

“(11) **COUNTY.**—The term ‘county’ means one of the divisions of a State used by the Secretary of Commerce in compiling and reporting data regarding counties.

“(12) **COVERED PROGRAM.**—The term ‘covered program’ means each of the programs authorized by—

“(A) part A of title I;

“(B) title II; and

“(C) part B of title III.

“(13) **CURRENT EXPENDITURES.**—The term ‘current expenditures’ means expenditures for free public education—

“(A) including expenditures for administration, instruction, attendance and health services, pupil transportation services, operation and maintenance of plant, fixed charges, and net expenditures to cover deficits for food services and student body activities; but

“(B) not including expenditures for community services, capital outlay, and debt service, or any expenditures made from funds received under title I.

“(14) **DEPARTMENT.**—The term ‘Department’ means the Department of Education.

“(15) **DIRECT STUDENT SERVICES.**—The term ‘direct student services’ means public school choice or high-quality academic tutoring that are designed to help increase academic achievement for students.

“(16) **DISTANCE EDUCATION.**—The term ‘distance education’ means the use of one or more technologies to deliver instruction to students who are separated from the instructor and to support regular and substantive interaction between the students and the instructor synchronously or nonsynchronously.

“(17) **EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY.**—The term ‘educational service agency’ means a regional public multiservice agency authorized by State statute to develop, manage, and provide services or programs to local educational agencies.

“(18) **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.**—The term ‘elementary school’ means a nonprofit institutional day or residential school, including a public elementary charter school, that provides elementary education, as determined under State law.

“(19) **ENGLISH LEARNER.**—The term ‘English learner’, when used with respect to an individual, means an individual—

“(A) who is aged 3 through 21;

“(B) who is enrolled or preparing to enroll in an elementary school or secondary school;

“(C)(i) who was not born in the United States or whose native language is a language other than English;

“(ii)(I) who is a Native American or Alaska Native, or a native resident of the outlying areas; and

“(II) who comes from an environment where a language other than English has had a significant impact on the individual’s level of English language proficiency; or

“(iii) who is migratory, whose native language is a language other than English, and who comes from an environment where a language other than English is dominant; and

“(D) whose difficulties in speaking, reading, writing, or understanding the English language may be sufficient to deny the individual—

“(i) the ability to meet the State’s academic standards described in section 1111;

“(ii) the ability to successfully achieve in classrooms where the language of instruction is English; or

“(iii) the opportunity to participate fully in society.

“(20) EXTENDED-YEAR ADJUSTED COHORT GRADUATION RATE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘extended-year adjusted cohort graduation rate’ means the ratio where—

“(i) the denominator consists of the number of students who form the original cohort of entering first-time 9th grade students enrolled in the high school no later than the effective date for student membership data submitted annually by State educational agencies to the National Center for Education Statistics under section 153 of the Education Sciences Reform Act, adjusted by—

“(I) adding the students who joined that cohort, after the time of the determination of the original cohort; and

“(II) subtracting only those students who left that cohort, after the time of the determination of the original cohort, as described in subparagraph (B); and

“(ii) the numerator consists of the number of students in the cohort, as adjusted under clause (i), who earned a regular high school diploma before, during, or at the conclusion of—

“(I) one or more additional years beyond the fourth year of high school; or

“(II) a summer session immediately following the additional year of high school.

“(B) COHORT REMOVAL.—To remove a student from a cohort, a school or local educational agency shall require documentation to confirm that the student has transferred out, emigrated to another country, transferred to a prison or juvenile facility, or is deceased.

“(C) TRANSFERRED OUT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘transferred out’ means a student who the high school or local educational agency has confirmed, according to clause (ii), has transferred—

“(I) to another school from which the student is expected to receive a regular high school diploma; or

“(II) to another educational program from which the student is expected to receive a regular high school diploma.

“(ii) CONFIRMATION REQUIREMENTS.—

“(I) DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED.—The confirmation of a student’s transfer to another school or educational program described in clause (i) requires documentation from the receiving school or program that the student enrolled in the receiving school or program.

“(II) LACK OF CONFIRMATION.—A student who was enrolled, but for whom there is no confirmation of the student having transferred out, shall remain in the denominator of the extended-year adjusted cohort.

“(iii) PROGRAMS NOT PROVIDING CREDIT.—A student who is retained in grade or who is enrolled in a GED or other alternative educational program that does not issue or provide credit to-

ward the issuance of a regular high school diploma shall not be considered transferred out and shall remain in the extended-year adjusted cohort.

“(D) SPECIAL RULE.—For those high schools that start after grade 9, the original cohort shall be calculated for the earliest high school grade students attend no later than the effective date for student membership data submitted annually by State educational agencies to the National Center for Education Statistics pursuant to section 153 of the Education Sciences Reform Act.

“(21) FAMILY LITERACY SERVICES.—The term ‘family literacy services’ means services provided to participants on a voluntary basis that are of sufficient intensity in terms of hours, and of sufficient duration, to make sustainable changes in a family, and that integrate all of the following activities:

“(A) Interactive literacy activities between parents and their children.

“(B) Training for parents regarding how to be the primary teacher for their children and full partners in the education of their children.

“(C) Parent literacy training that leads to economic self-sufficiency.

“(D) An age-appropriate education to prepare children for success in school and life experiences.

“(22) FOUR-YEAR ADJUSTED COHORT GRADUATION RATE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate’ means the ratio where—

“(i) the denominator consists of the number of students who form the original cohort of entering first-time 9th grade students enrolled in the high school no later than the effective date for student membership data submitted annually by State educational agencies to the National Center for Education Statistics pursuant to section 153 of the Education Sciences Reform Act, adjusted by—

“(I) adding the students who joined that cohort, after the time of the determination of the original cohort; and

“(II) subtracting only those students who left that cohort, after the time of the determination of the original cohort, as described in subparagraph (B); and

“(ii) the numerator consists of the number of students in the cohort, as adjusted under clause (i), who earned a regular high school diploma before, during, or at the conclusion of—

“(I) the fourth year of high school; or

“(II) a summer session immediately following the fourth year of high school.

“(B) COHORT REMOVAL.—To remove a student from a cohort, a school or local educational agency shall require documentation to confirm that the student has transferred out, emigrated to another country, transferred to a prison or juvenile facility, or is deceased.

“(C) TRANSFERRED OUT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘transferred out’ means a student who the high school or local educational agency has confirmed, according to clause (ii), has transferred—

“(I) to another school from which the student is expected to receive a regular high school diploma; or

“(II) to another educational program from which the student is expected to receive a regular high school diploma.

“(ii) CONFIRMATION REQUIREMENTS.—

“(I) DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED.—The confirmation of a student’s transfer to another school or educational program described in clause (i) requires documentation from the receiving school or program that the student enrolled in the receiving school or program.

“(II) LACK OF CONFIRMATION.—A student who was enrolled, but for whom there is no con-

firmed of the student having transferred out, shall remain in the adjusted cohort.

“(iii) PROGRAMS NOT PROVIDING CREDIT.—A student who is retained in grade or who is enrolled in a GED or other alternative educational program that does not issue or provide credit toward the issuance of a regular high school diploma shall not be considered transferred out and shall remain in the adjusted cohort.

“(D) SPECIAL RULE.—For those high schools that start after grade 9, the original cohort shall be calculated for the earliest high school grade students attend no later than the effective date for student membership data submitted annually by State educational agencies to the National Center for Education Statistics pursuant to section 153 of the Education Sciences Reform Act.

“(23) FREE PUBLIC EDUCATION.—The term ‘free public education’ means education that is provided—

“(A) at public expense, under public supervision and direction, and without tuition charge; and

“(B) as elementary school or secondary school education as determined under applicable State law, except that the term does not include any education provided beyond grade 12.

“(24) GIFTED AND TALENTED.—The term ‘gifted and talented’, when used with respect to students, children, or youth, means students, children, or youth who give evidence of high achievement capability in areas such as intellectual, creative, artistic, or leadership capacity, or in specific academic fields, and who need services or activities not ordinarily provided by the school in order to fully develop those capabilities.

“(25) HIGH-QUALITY ACADEMIC TUTORING.—The term ‘high-quality academic tutoring’ means supplemental academic services that—

“(A) are in addition to instruction provided during the school day;

“(B) are provided by a non-governmental entity or local educational agency that—

“(i) is included on a State educational agency approved provider list after demonstrating to the State educational agency that its program consistently improves the academic achievement of students; and

“(ii) agrees to provide parents of children receiving high-quality academic tutoring, the appropriate local educational agency, and school with information on participating students increases in academic achievement, in a format, and to the extent practicable, a language that such parent can understand, and in a manner that protects the privacy of individuals consistent with section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g);

“(C) are selected by the parents of students who are identified by the local educational agency as being eligible for such services from among providers on the approved provider list described in subparagraph (B)(i);

“(D) meet all applicable Federal, State, and local health, safety, and civil rights laws; and

“(E) ensure that all instruction and content are secular, neutral, and non-ideological.

“(26) HIGH SCHOOL.—The term ‘high school’ means a secondary school that—

“(A) grants a diploma, as defined by the State; and

“(B) includes, at least, grade 12.

“(27) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the meaning given that term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

“(28) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘local educational agency’ means a public board of education or other public authority legally constituted within a State for either administrative control or direction of, or to perform a service function for, public elementary schools or secondary schools in a city, county, township,

school district, or other political subdivision of a State, or of or for a combination of school districts or counties that is recognized in a State as an administrative agency for its public elementary schools or secondary schools.

“(B) ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL AND DIRECTION.—The term includes any other public institution or agency having administrative control and direction of a public elementary school or secondary school.

“(C) BIE SCHOOLS.—The term includes an elementary school or secondary school funded by the Bureau of Indian Education but only to the extent that including the school makes the school eligible for programs for which specific eligibility is not provided to the school in another provision of law and the school does not have a student population that is smaller than the student population of the local educational agency receiving assistance under this Act with the smallest student population, except that the school shall not be subject to the jurisdiction of any State educational agency other than the Bureau of Indian Education.

“(D) EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCIES.—The term includes educational service agencies and consortia of those agencies.

“(E) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term includes the State educational agency in a State in which the State educational agency is the sole educational agency for all public schools.

“(29) NATIVE AMERICAN AND NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE.—The terms ‘Native American’ and ‘Native American language’ have the same meaning given those terms in section 103 of the Native American Languages Act of 1990.

“(30) OTHER STAFF.—The term ‘other staff’ means specialized instructional support personnel, librarians, career guidance and counseling personnel, education aides, and other instructional and administrative personnel.

“(31) OUTLYING AREA.—The term ‘outlying area’—

“(A) means American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the United States Virgin Islands;

“(B) means the Republic of Palau, to the extent permitted under section 105(f)(1)(B)(ix) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (Public Law 99-658; 117 Stat. 2751) and until an agreement for the extension of United States education assistance under the Compact of Free Association becomes effective for the Republic of Palau; and

“(C) for the purpose of any discretionary grant program under this Act, includes the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, to the extent permitted under section 105(f)(1)(B)(viii) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-188; 117 Stat. 2751).

“(32) PARENT.—The term ‘parent’ includes a legal guardian or other person standing in loco parentis (such as a grandparent, stepparent, or foster parent with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the child’s welfare).

“(33) PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT.—The term ‘parental involvement’ means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—

“(A) that parents play an integral role in assisting in their child’s learning;

“(B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school;

“(C) that parents are full partners in their child’s education and are included, as appropriate, in decisionmaking and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child; and

“(D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118.

“(34) POVERTY LINE.—The term ‘poverty line’ means the poverty line (as defined by the Office of Management and Budget and revised annually in accordance with section 673(2) of the Community Services Block Grant Act) applicable to a family of the size involved.

“(35) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.—The term ‘professional development’—

“(A) includes evidence-based, job-embedded, continuous activities that—

“(i) improve and increase teachers’ knowledge of the academic subjects the teachers teach, and enable teachers to become effective educators;

“(ii) are an integral part of broad schoolwide and districtwide educational improvement plans;

“(iii) give teachers, school leaders, other staff, and administrators the knowledge and skills to provide students with the opportunity to meet State academic standards;

“(iv) improve classroom management skills;

“(v)(I) have a positive and lasting impact on classroom instruction and the teacher’s performance in the classroom; and

“(II) are not 1-day or short-term workshops or conferences;

“(vi) support the recruiting, hiring, and training of effective teachers, including teachers who became certified or licensed through State and local alternative routes to certification;

“(vii) advance teacher understanding of effective instructional strategies that are strategies for improving student academic achievement or substantially increasing the knowledge and teaching skills of teachers, including through addressing the social and emotional development needs of students;

“(viii) are aligned with and directly related to—

“(I) State academic standards and assessments; and

“(II) the curricula and programs tied to the standards described in subclause (I);

“(ix) are developed with extensive participation of teachers, school leaders, parents, and administrators of schools to be served under this Act;

“(x) are designed to give teachers of English learners and other teachers and instructional staff, the knowledge and skills to provide instruction and appropriate language and academic support services to those children, including the appropriate use of curricula and assessments;

“(xi) to the extent appropriate, provide training for teachers, other staff, and school leaders in the use of technology so that technology and technology applications are effectively used to improve teaching and learning in the curricula and core academic subjects in which the students receive instruction;

“(xii) as a whole, are regularly evaluated for their impact on increased teacher effectiveness and improved student academic achievement, with the findings of the evaluations used to improve the quality of the professional development;

“(xiii) provide instruction in methods of teaching children with special needs;

“(xiv) include instruction in the use of data and assessments to inform and instruct classroom practice; and

“(xv) include instruction in ways that teachers, school leaders, specialized instructional support personnel, other staff, and school administrators may work more effectively with parents; and

“(B) may include evidence-based, job-embedded, continuous activities that—

“(i) involve the forming of partnerships with institutions of higher education to establish school-based teacher training programs that provide prospective teachers and new teachers with an opportunity to work under the guid-

ance of experienced teachers and college faculty;

“(ii) create programs to enable paraprofessionals (assisting teachers employed by a local educational agency receiving assistance under subpart 1 of part A of title I) to obtain the education necessary for those paraprofessionals to become certified and licensed teachers; and

“(iii) provide follow-up training to individuals who have participated in activities described in subparagraph (A) or another clause of this subparagraph that are designed to ensure that the knowledge and skills learned by the teachers are implemented in the classroom.

“(36) REGULAR HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘regular high school diploma’ means the standard high school diploma awarded to the preponderance of students in the State that is fully aligned with State standards, or a higher diploma. Such term shall not include a GED or other recognized equivalent of a diploma, a certificate of attendance, or any lesser diploma award.

“(B) EXCEPTION FOR STUDENTS WITH SIGNIFICANT COGNITIVE DISABILITIES.—For a student who is assessed using an alternate assessment aligned to alternate academic standards under section 1111(b)(1)(D), receipt of a regular high school diploma as defined under subparagraph (A) or a State-defined alternate diploma obtained within the time period for which the State ensures the availability of a free appropriate public education and in accordance with section 612(a)(1) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act shall be counted as graduating with a regular high school diploma for the purposes of this Act.

“(37) SCHOOL LEADER.—The term ‘school leader’ means a principal, assistant principal, or other individual who is—

“(A) an employee or officer of a school, local educational agency, or other entity operating the school; and

“(B) responsible for—

“(i) the daily instructional leadership and managerial operations of the school; and

“(ii) creating the optimum conditions for student learning.

“(38) SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The term ‘secondary school’ means a nonprofit institutional day or residential school, including a public secondary charter school, that provides secondary education, as determined under State law, except that the term does not include any education beyond grade 12.

“(39) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Education.

“(40) SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL; SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES.—

“(A) SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL.—The term ‘specialized instructional support personnel’ means school counselors, school social workers, school psychologists, and other qualified professional personnel involved in providing assessment, diagnosis, counseling, educational, therapeutic, and other necessary services (including related services as that term is defined in section 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) as part of a comprehensive program to meet student needs.

“(B) SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES.—The term ‘specialized instructional support services’ means the services provided by specialized instructional support personnel.

“(41) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and each of the outlying areas.

“(42) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term ‘State educational agency’ means the agency primarily responsible for the State supervision of public elementary schools and secondary schools.

“(43) **TECHNOLOGY.**—The term ‘technology’ means modern information, computer and communication technology products, services, or tools, including, but not limited to, the Internet and other communications networks, computer devices and other computer and communications hardware, software applications, data systems, and other electronic content and data storage.

“SEC. 6102. APPLICABILITY OF TITLE.

“Parts B, C, D, and E of this title do not apply to title IV of this Act.

“SEC. 6103. APPLICABILITY TO BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION OPERATED SCHOOLS.

“For the purpose of any competitive program under this Act—

“(1) a consortium of schools operated by the Bureau of Indian Education;

“(2) a school operated under a contract or grant with the Bureau of Indian Education in consortium with another contract or grant school or a tribal or community organization; or

“(3) a Bureau of Indian Education school in consortium with an institution of higher education, a contract or grant school, or a tribal or community organization,

shall be given the same consideration as a local educational agency.

“PART B—FLEXIBILITY IN THE USE OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER FUNDS

“SEC. 6201. CONSOLIDATION OF STATE ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

“(a) **CONSOLIDATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A State educational agency may consolidate the amounts specifically made available to it for State administration under one or more of the programs under paragraph (2).

“(2) **APPLICABILITY.**—This section applies to any program under this Act under which funds are authorized to be used for administration, and such other programs as the Secretary may designate.

“(b) **USE OF FUNDS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A State educational agency shall use the amount available under this section for the administration of the programs included in the consolidation under subsection (a).

“(2) **ADDITIONAL USES.**—A State educational agency may also use funds available under this section for administrative activities designed to enhance the effective and coordinated use of funds under programs included in the consolidation under subsection (a), such as—

“(A) the coordination of those programs with other Federal and non-Federal programs;

“(B) the establishment and operation of peer-review mechanisms under this Act;

“(C) the administration of this title;

“(D) the dissemination of information regarding model programs and practices;

“(E) technical assistance under any program under this Act;

“(F) State-level activities designed to carry out this title;

“(G) training personnel engaged in audit and other monitoring activities; and

“(H) implementation of the Cooperative Audit Resolution and Oversight Initiative of the Department.

“(c) **RECORDS.**—A State educational agency that consolidates administrative funds under this section shall not be required to keep separate records, by individual program, to account for costs relating to the administration of programs included in the consolidation under subsection (a).

“(d) **REVIEW.**—To determine the effectiveness of State administration under this section, the Secretary may periodically review the perform-

ance of State educational agencies in using consolidated administrative funds under this section and take such steps as the Secretary finds appropriate to ensure the effectiveness of that administration.

“(e) **UNUSED ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS.**—If a State educational agency does not use all of the funds available to the agency under this section for administration, the agency may use those funds during the applicable period of availability as funds available under one or more programs included in the consolidation under subsection (a).

“(f) **CONSOLIDATION OF FUNDS FOR STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENT DEVELOPMENT.**—In order to develop State academic standards and assessments, a State educational agency may consolidate the amounts described in subsection (a) for those purposes under title I.

“SEC. 6202. SINGLE LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY STATES.

“A State educational agency that also serves as a local educational agency shall, in its applications or plans under this Act, describe how the agency will eliminate duplication in conducting administrative functions.

“SEC. 6203. CONSOLIDATION OF FUNDS FOR LOCAL ADMINISTRATION.

“(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—In accordance with regulations of the Secretary and for any fiscal year, a local educational agency, with the approval of its State educational agency, may consolidate and use for the administration of one or more programs under this Act (or such other programs as the Secretary shall designate) not more than the percentage, established in each program, of the total available for the local educational agency under those programs.

“(b) **STATE PROCEDURES.**—A State educational agency shall, in collaboration with local educational agencies in the State, establish procedures for responding to requests from local educational agencies to consolidate administrative funds under subsection (a) and for establishing limitations on the amount of funds under those programs that may be used for administration on a consolidated basis.

“(c) **CONDITIONS.**—A local educational agency that consolidates administrative funds under this section for any fiscal year shall not use any other funds under the programs included in the consolidation for administration for that fiscal year.

“(d) **USES OF ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS.**—A local educational agency that consolidates administrative funds under this section may use the consolidated funds for the administration of the programs and for uses, at the school district and school levels, comparable to those described in section 6201(b)(2).

“(e) **RECORDS.**—A local educational agency that consolidates administrative funds under this section shall not be required to keep separate records, by individual program, to account for costs relating to the administration of the programs included in the consolidation.

“SEC. 6204. CONSOLIDATED SET-ASIDE FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FUNDS.

“(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—

“(1) **TRANSFER.**—The Secretary shall transfer to the Department of the Interior, as a consolidated amount for covered programs, the Indian education programs under part A of title V, and the education for homeless children and youth program under subtitle B of title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, the amounts allotted to the Department of the Interior under those programs.

“(2) **AGREEMENT.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary and the Secretary of the Interior shall enter into an agreement, consistent with the requirements of the programs specified in paragraph (1), for the dis-

tribution and use of those program funds under terms that the Secretary determines best meet the purposes of those programs.

“(B) **CONTENTS.**—The agreement shall—

“(i) set forth the plans of the Secretary of the Interior for the use of the amount transferred and the achievement measures to assess program effectiveness; and

“(ii) be developed in consultation with Indian tribes.

“(b) **ADMINISTRATION.**—The Department of the Interior may use not more than 1.5 percent of the funds consolidated under this section for its costs related to the administration of the funds transferred under this section.

“PART C—COORDINATION OF PROGRAMS; CONSOLIDATED STATE AND LOCAL PLANS AND APPLICATIONS

“SEC. 6301. PURPOSES.

“The purposes of this part are—

“(1) to improve teaching and learning by encouraging greater cross-program coordination, planning, and service delivery;

“(2) to provide greater flexibility to State and local authorities through consolidated plans, applications, and reporting; and

“(3) to enhance the integration of programs under this Act with State and local programs.

“SEC. 6302. OPTIONAL CONSOLIDATED STATE PLANS OR APPLICATIONS.

“(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—

“(1) **SIMPLIFICATION.**—In order to simplify application requirements and reduce the burden for State educational agencies under this Act, the Secretary, in accordance with subsection (b), shall establish procedures and criteria under which, after consultation with the Governor, a State educational agency may submit a consolidated State plan or a consolidated State application meeting the requirements of this section for—

“(A) each of the covered programs in which the State participates; and

“(B) such other programs as the Secretary may designate.

“(2) **CONSOLIDATED APPLICATIONS AND PLANS.**—After consultation with the Governor, a State educational agency that submits a consolidated State plan or a consolidated State application under this section shall not be required to submit separate State plans or applications under any of the programs to which the consolidated State plan or consolidated State application under this section applies.

“(b) **COLLABORATION.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In establishing criteria and procedures under this section, the Secretary shall collaborate with State educational agencies and, as appropriate, with other State agencies, local educational agencies, public and private agencies, organizations, and institutions, private schools, and parents, students, and teachers.

“(2) **CONTENTS.**—Through the collaborative process described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall establish, for each program under this Act to which this section applies, the descriptions, information, assurances, and other material required to be included in a consolidated State plan or consolidated State application.

“(3) **NECESSARY MATERIALS.**—The Secretary shall require only descriptions, information, assurances (including assurances of compliance with applicable provisions regarding participation by private school children and teachers), and other materials that are absolutely necessary for the consideration of the consolidated State plan or consolidated State application.

“SEC. 6303. CONSOLIDATED REPORTING.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In order to simplify reporting requirements and reduce reporting burdens, the Secretary shall establish procedures and criteria under which a State educational agency,

in consultation with the Governor of the State, may submit a consolidated State annual report.

“(b) CONTENTS.—The report shall contain information about the programs included in the report, including the performance of the State under those programs, and other matters as the Secretary determines are necessary, such as monitoring activities.

“(c) REPLACEMENT.—The report shall replace separate individual annual reports for the programs included in the consolidated State annual report.

“SEC. 6304. GENERAL APPLICABILITY OF STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY ASSURANCES.

“(a) ASSURANCES.—A State educational agency, in consultation with the Governor of the State, that submits a consolidated State plan or consolidated State application under this Act, whether separately or under section 6302, shall have on file with the Secretary a single set of assurances, applicable to each program for which the plan or application is submitted, that provides that—

“(1) each such program will be administered in accordance with all applicable statutes, regulations, program plans, and applications;

“(2)(A) the control of funds provided under each such program and title to property acquired with program funds will be in a public agency, an eligible private agency, institution, or organization, or an Indian tribe, if the law authorizing the program provides for assistance to those entities; and

“(B) the public agency, eligible private agency, institution, or organization, or Indian tribe will administer those funds and property to the extent required by the authorizing law;

“(3) the State will adopt and use proper methods of administering each such program, including—

“(A) the enforcement of any obligations imposed by law on agencies, institutions, organizations, and other recipients responsible for carrying out each program;

“(B) the correction of deficiencies in program operations that are identified through audits, monitoring, or evaluation; and

“(C) the adoption of written procedures for the receipt and resolution of complaints alleging violations of law in the administration of the programs;

“(4) the State will cooperate in carrying out any evaluation of each such program conducted by or for the Secretary or other Federal officials;

“(5) the State will use such fiscal control and fund accounting procedures that will ensure proper disbursement of, and accounting for, Federal funds paid to the State under each such program;

“(6) the State will—

“(A) make reports to the Secretary as may be necessary to enable the Secretary to perform the Secretary's duties under each such program; and

“(B) maintain such records, provide such information to the Secretary, and afford such access to the records as the Secretary may find necessary to carry out the Secretary's duties; and

“(7) before the plan or application was submitted to the Secretary, the State afforded a reasonable opportunity for public comment on the plan or application and considered such comment.

“(b) GEPA PROVISION.—Section 441 of the General Education Provisions Act shall not apply to programs under this Act.

“SEC. 6305. CONSOLIDATED LOCAL PLANS OR APPLICATIONS.

“(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—

“(1) CONSOLIDATED PLAN.—A local educational agency receiving funds under more than one covered program may submit plans or

applications to the State educational agency under those programs on a consolidated basis.

“(2) AVAILABILITY TO GOVERNOR.—The State educational agency shall make any consolidated local plans and applications available to the Governor.

“(b) REQUIRED CONSOLIDATED PLANS OR APPLICATIONS.—A State educational agency that has an approved consolidated State plan or application under section 6302 may require local educational agencies in the State receiving funds under more than one program included in the consolidated State plan or consolidated State application to submit consolidated local plans or applications under those programs, but may not require those agencies to submit separate plans.

“(c) COLLABORATION.—A State educational agency, in consultation with the Governor, shall collaborate with local educational agencies in the State in establishing procedures for the submission of the consolidated State plans or consolidated State applications under this section.

“(d) NECESSARY MATERIALS.—The State educational agency shall require only descriptions, information, assurances, and other material that are absolutely necessary for the consideration of the local educational agency plan or application.

“SEC. 6306. OTHER GENERAL ASSURANCES.

“(a) ASSURANCES.—Any applicant, other than a State educational agency that submits a plan or application under this Act, shall have on file with the State educational agency a single set of assurances, applicable to each program for which a plan or application is submitted, that provides that—

“(1) each such program will be administered in accordance with all applicable statutes, regulations, program plans, and applications;

“(2)(A) the control of funds provided under each such program and title to property acquired with program funds will be in a public agency or in an eligible private agency, institution, organization, or Indian tribe, if the law authorizing the program provides for assistance to those entities; and

“(B) the public agency, eligible private agency, institution, or organization, or Indian tribe will administer the funds and property to the extent required by the authorizing statutes;

“(3) the applicant will adopt and use proper methods of administering each such program, including—

“(A) the enforcement of any obligations imposed by law on agencies, institutions, organizations, and other recipients responsible for carrying out each program; and

“(B) the correction of deficiencies in program operations that are identified through audits, monitoring, or evaluation;

“(4) the applicant will cooperate in carrying out any evaluation of each such program conducted by or for the State educational agency, the Secretary, or other Federal officials;

“(5) the applicant will use such fiscal control and fund accounting procedures as will ensure proper disbursement of, and accounting for, Federal funds paid to the applicant under each such program;

“(6) the applicant will—

“(A) submit such reports to the State educational agency (which shall make the reports available to the Governor) and the Secretary as the State educational agency and Secretary may require to enable the State educational agency and the Secretary to perform their duties under each such program; and

“(B) maintain such records, provide such information, and afford such access to the records as the State educational agency (after consultation with the Governor) or the Secretary may reasonably require to carry out the State educational agency's or the Secretary's duties; and

“(7) before the application was submitted, the applicant afforded a reasonable opportunity for public comment on the application and considered such comment.

“(b) GEPA PROVISION.—Section 442 of the General Education Provisions Act shall not apply to programs under this Act.

“PART D—WAIVERS

“SEC. 6401. WAIVERS OF STATUTORY AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—

“(1) REQUEST FOR WAIVER.—A State educational agency, local educational agency, or Indian tribe that receives funds under a program authorized under this Act may submit a request to the Secretary to waive any statutory or regulatory requirement of this Act.

“(2) RECEIPT OF WAIVER.—Except as provided in subsection (c) and subject to the limits in subsection (b)(5)(A), the Secretary shall waive any statutory or regulatory requirement of this Act for a State educational agency, local educational agency, Indian tribe, or school (through a local educational agency), that submits a waiver request pursuant to this subsection.

“(b) PLAN.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A State educational agency, local educational agency, or Indian tribe that desires a waiver under this section shall submit a waiver request to the Secretary, which shall include a plan that—

“(A) identifies the Federal programs affected by the requested waiver;

“(B) describes which Federal statutory or regulatory requirements are to be waived;

“(C) reasonably demonstrates that the waiver will improve instruction for students and advance student academic achievement;

“(D) describes the methods the State educational agency, local educational agency, or Indian tribe will use to monitor the effectiveness of the implementation of the plan; and

“(E) describes how schools will continue to provide assistance to the same populations served by programs for which the waiver is requested.

“(2) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—A waiver request under this section—

“(A) may provide for waivers of requirements applicable to State educational agencies, local educational agencies, Indian tribes, and schools; and

“(B) shall be developed and submitted—

“(i)(I) by local educational agencies (on behalf of those agencies and schools) to State educational agencies; and

“(II) by State educational agencies (on their own behalf, or on behalf of, and based on the requests of, local educational agencies in the State) to the Secretary; or

“(ii) by Indian tribes (on behalf of schools operated by the tribes) to the Secretary.

“(3) GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.—

“(A) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—In the case of a waiver request submitted by a State educational agency acting on its own behalf, or on behalf of local educational agencies in the State, the State educational agency shall—

“(i) provide the public and local educational agencies in the State with notice and a reasonable opportunity to comment and provide input on the request;

“(ii) submit the comments and input to the Secretary, with a description of how the State addressed the comments and input; and

“(iii) provide notice and a reasonable time to comment to the public and local educational agencies in the manner in which the applying agency customarily provides similar notice and opportunity to comment to the public.

“(B) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—In the case of a waiver request submitted by a local educational agency that receives funds under this Act—

“(i) the request shall be reviewed by the State educational agency and be accompanied by the comments, if any, of the State educational agency and the public; and

“(ii) notice and a reasonable opportunity to comment regarding the waiver request shall be provided to the State educational agency and the public by the agency requesting the waiver in the manner in which that agency customarily provides similar notice and opportunity to comment to the public.

“(4) PEER REVIEW.—

“(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a multi-disciplinary peer review team, which shall meet the requirements of section 6543, to review waiver requests under this section.

“(B) APPLICABILITY.—The Secretary may approve a waiver request under this section without conducting a peer review of the request, but shall use the peer review process under this paragraph before disapproving such a request.

“(C) STANDARD AND NATURE OF REVIEW.—Peer reviewers shall conduct a good faith review of waiver requests submitted to them under this section. Peer reviewers shall review such waiver requests—

“(i) in their totality;

“(ii) in deference to State and local judgment; and

“(iii) with the goal of promoting State- and local-led innovation.

“(5) WAIVER DETERMINATION, DEMONSTRATION, AND REVISION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall approve a waiver request not more than 60 days after the date on which such request is submitted, unless the Secretary determines and demonstrates that—

“(i) the waiver request does not meet the requirements of this section;

“(ii) the waiver is not permitted under subsection (c);

“(iii) the plan that is required under paragraph (1)(C), and reviewed with deference to State and local judgment, provides no reasonable evidence to determine that a waiver will enhance student academic achievement; or

“(iv) the waiver request does not provide for adequate evaluation to ensure review and continuous improvement of the plan.

“(B) WAIVER DETERMINATION AND REVISION.—If the Secretary determines and demonstrates that the waiver request does not meet the requirements of this section, the Secretary shall—

“(i) immediately—

“(I) notify the State educational agency, local educational agency, or Indian tribe of such determination; and

“(II) at the request of the State educational agency, local educational agency, or Indian tribe, provide detailed reasons for such determination in writing;

“(ii) offer the State educational agency, local educational agency, or Indian tribe an opportunity to revise and resubmit the waiver request not more than 60 days after the date of such determination; and

“(iii) if the Secretary determines that the resubmission does not meet the requirements of this section, at the request of the State educational agency, local educational agency, or Indian tribe, conduct a public hearing not more than 30 days after the date of such resubmission.

“(C) WAIVER DISAPPROVAL.—The Secretary may disapprove a waiver request if—

“(i) the State educational agency, local educational agency, or Indian tribe has been notified and offered an opportunity to revise and resubmit the waiver request, as described under clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (B); and

“(ii) the State educational agency, local educational agency, or Indian tribe—

“(I) does not revise and resubmit the waiver request; or

“(II) revises and resubmits the waiver request, and the Secretary determines that such waiver request does not meet the requirements of this section after a hearing conducted under subparagraph (B)(iii), if requested.

“(D) EXTERNAL CONDITIONS.—The Secretary shall not, directly or indirectly, require or impose new or additional requirements in exchange for receipt of a waiver if such requirements are not specified in this Act.

“(c) RESTRICTIONS.—The Secretary shall not waive under this section any statutory or regulatory requirements relating to—

“(1) the allocation or distribution of funds to States, local educational agencies, Indian tribes, or other recipients of funds under this Act;

“(2) comparability of services;

“(3) use of Federal funds to supplement, not supplant, non-Federal funds;

“(4) equitable participation of private school students and teachers;

“(5) parental participation and involvement;

“(6) applicable civil rights requirements;

“(7) the prohibitions—

“(A) in subpart 2 of part E;

“(B) regarding use of funds for religious worship or instruction in section 6505; and

“(C) regarding activities in section 6524; or

“(8) the selection of a school attendance area or school under subsections (a) and (b) of section 1113, except that the Secretary may grant a waiver to allow a school attendance area or school to participate in activities under subpart 1 of part A of title I if the percentage of children from low-income families in the school attendance area or who attend the school is not more than 10 percentage points below the lowest percentage of those children for any school attendance area or school of the local educational agency that meets the requirements of subsections (a) and (b) of section 1113.

“(d) DURATION AND EXTENSION OF WAIVER; LIMITATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a waiver approved by the Secretary under this section may be for a period not to exceed 3 years.

“(2) EXTENSION.—The Secretary may extend the period described in paragraph (1) if the State demonstrates that—

“(A) the waiver has been effective in enabling the State or affected recipient to carry out the activities for which the waiver was requested and the waiver has contributed to improved student achievement; and

“(B) the extension is in the public interest.

“(3) SPECIFIC LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary shall not require a State educational agency, local educational agency, or Indian tribe, as a condition of approval of a waiver request, to—

“(A) include in, or delete from, such request, specific academic standards, such as the Common Core State Standards developed under the Common Core State Standards Initiative or any other standards common to a significant number of States;

“(B) use specific academic assessment instruments or items, including assessments aligned to the standards described in subparagraph (A); or

“(C) include in, or delete from, such waiver request any criterion that specifies, defines, describes, or prescribes the standards or measures that a State or local educational agency or Indian tribe uses to establish, implement, or improve—

“(i) State academic standards;

“(ii) academic assessments;

“(iii) State accountability systems; or

“(iv) teacher and school leader evaluation systems.

“(e) REPORTS.—

“(1) WAIVER REPORTS.—A State educational agency, local educational agency, or Indian

tribe that receives a waiver under this section shall, at the end of the second year for which a waiver is received under this section and each subsequent year, submit a report to the Secretary that—

“(A) describes the uses of the waiver by the agency or by schools;

“(B) describes how schools continued to provide assistance to the same populations served by the programs for which waivers were granted; and

“(C) evaluates the progress of the agency and schools, or Indian tribe, in improving the quality of instruction or the academic achievement of students.

“(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall annually submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report—

“(A) summarizing the uses of waivers by State educational agencies, local educational agencies, Indian tribes, and schools; and

“(B) describing the status of the waivers in improving academic achievement.

“(f) TERMINATION OF WAIVERS.—The Secretary shall terminate a waiver under this section if the Secretary determines, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing, that the performance of the State or other recipient affected by the waiver has been inadequate to justify a continuation of the waiver and the recipient of the waiver has failed to make revisions needed to carry out the purpose of the waiver, or if the waiver is no longer necessary to achieve its original purpose.

“(g) PUBLICATION.—A notice of the Secretary's decision to grant each waiver under subsection (a) shall be published in the Federal Register and the Secretary shall provide for the dissemination of the notice to State educational agencies, interested parties, including educators, parents, students, advocacy and civil rights organizations, and the public.

“PART E—UNIFORM PROVISIONS

“Subpart 1—Private Schools

“SEC. 6501. PARTICIPATION BY PRIVATE SCHOOL CHILDREN AND TEACHERS.

“(a) PRIVATE SCHOOL PARTICIPATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this Act, to the extent consistent with the number of eligible children in areas served by a State educational agency, local educational agency, educational service agency, consortium of those agencies, or another entity receiving financial assistance under a program specified in subsection (b), who are enrolled in private elementary schools and secondary schools in areas served by such agency, consortium, or entity, the agency, consortium, or entity shall, after timely and meaningful consultation with appropriate private school officials or their representatives, provide to those children and their teachers or other educational personnel, on an equitable basis, special educational services or other benefits that address their needs under the program.

“(2) SECULAR, NEUTRAL, AND NONIDEOLOGICAL SERVICES OR BENEFITS.—Educational services or other benefits, including materials and equipment, provided under this section, shall be secular, neutral, and nonideological.

“(3) SPECIAL RULE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Educational services and other benefits provided under this section for private school children, teachers, and other educational personnel shall be equitable in comparison to services and other benefits for public school children, teachers, and other educational personnel participating in the program and shall be provided in a timely manner.

“(B) OMBUDSMAN.—To help ensure equitable services are provided to private school children,

teachers, and other educational personnel under this section, the State educational agency involved shall designate the ombudsman designated by the agency under section 1120(a)(3)(B) to monitor and enforce requirements of this section.

“(4) EXPENDITURES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Expenditures for educational services and other benefits to eligible private school children, teachers, and other service personnel shall be equal to the expenditures for participating public school children, taking into account the number and educational needs, of the children to be served.

“(B) OBLIGATION OF FUNDS.—Funds allocated to a local educational agency for educational services and other benefits to eligible private school children shall—

“(i) be obligated in the fiscal year for which the funds are received by the agency; and

“(ii) with respect to any such funds that cannot be so obligated, be used to serve such children in the following fiscal year.

“(C) NOTICE OF ALLOCATION.—Each State educational agency shall—

“(i) determine, in a timely manner, the proportion of funds to be allocated to each local educational agency in the State for educational services and other benefits under this subpart to eligible private school children; and

“(ii) provide notice, simultaneously, to each such local educational agency and the appropriate private school officials or their representatives in the State of such allocation of funds.

“(5) PROVISION OF SERVICES.—An agency, consortium, or entity described in subsection (a)(1) of this section may provide those services directly or through contracts with public and private agencies, organizations, and institutions.

“(b) APPLICABILITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—This section applies to programs under—

“(A) subpart 2 of part A of title I;

“(B) subpart 4 of part A of title I;

“(C) part A of title II;

“(D) part B of title II; and

“(E) part B of title III.

“(2) DEFINITION.—For the purpose of this section, the term ‘eligible children’ means children eligible for services under a program described in paragraph (1).

“(c) CONSULTATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To ensure timely and meaningful consultation, a State educational agency, local educational agency, educational service agency, consortium of those agencies, or entity shall consult, in order to reach an agreement, with appropriate private school officials or their representatives during the design and development of the programs under this Act, on issues such as—

“(A) how the children’s needs will be identified;

“(B) what services will be offered;

“(C) how, where, and by whom the services will be provided;

“(D) how the services will be assessed and how the results of the assessment will be used to improve those services;

“(E) the size and scope of the equitable services to be provided to the eligible private school children, teachers, and other educational personnel, the proportion of funds that are allocated for such services, how that proportion of funds is determined, and an itemization of the costs of the services to be provided;

“(F) how and when the agency, consortium, or entity will make decisions about the delivery of services, including a thorough consideration and analysis of the views of the private school officials or their representatives on the provision of services through potential third-party providers or contractors;

“(G) how, if the agency disagrees with the views of the private school officials or their representatives on the provision of services through a contract, the local educational agency will provide in writing to such private school officials or their representatives an analysis of the reasons why the local educational agency has chosen not to use a contractor;

“(H) whether the agency will provide services under this section directly or through contracts with public or private agencies, organizations, or institutions; and

“(I) whether to provide equitable services to eligible private school children—

“(i) by creating a pool or pools of funds with all of the funds allocated under subsection (a)(4) based on all the children from low-income families who attend private schools in a participating school attendance area from which the local educational agency will provide such services to all such children; or

“(ii) by providing such services to eligible children in each private school in the local educational agency’s participating school attendance area with the proportion of funds allocated under subsection (a)(4) based on the number of children from low-income families who attend such school.

“(2) DISAGREEMENT.—If the agency, consortium, or entity disagrees with the views of the private school officials or their representatives with respect to an issue described in paragraph (1), the agency, consortium, or entity shall provide to the private school officials or their representatives a written explanation of the reasons why the local educational agency has chosen not to adopt the course of action requested by such officials or their representatives.

“(3) TIMING.—The consultation required by paragraph (1) shall occur before the agency, consortium, or entity makes any decision that affects the opportunities of eligible private school children, teachers, and other educational personnel to participate in programs under this Act, and shall continue throughout the implementation and assessment of activities under this section.

“(4) DISCUSSION REQUIRED.—The consultation required by paragraph (1) shall include a discussion of service delivery mechanisms that the agency, consortium, or entity could use to provide equitable services to eligible private school children, teachers, administrators, and other staff.

“(5) DOCUMENTATION.—Each local educational agency shall maintain in the agency’s records and provide to the State educational agency involved a written affirmation signed by officials or their representatives of each participating private school that the meaningful consultation required by this section has occurred. The written affirmation shall provide the option for private school officials or their representatives to indicate that timely and meaningful consultation has not occurred or that the program design is not equitable with respect to eligible private school children. If such officials or their representatives do not provide such affirmation within a reasonable period of time, the local educational agency shall forward the documentation that such consultation has, or attempts at such consultation have, taken place to the State educational agency.

“(6) COMPLIANCE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If the consultation required under this section is with a local educational agency or educational service agency, a private school official or representative shall have the right to file a complaint with the State educational agency that the consultation required under this section was not meaningful and timely, did not give due consideration to the views of the private school official or representative, or did not treat the private school or its students equitably as required by this section.

“(B) PROCEDURE.—If the private school official or representative wishes to file a complaint, the private school official or representative shall provide the basis of the noncompliance with this section and all parties shall provide the appropriate documentation to the appropriate officials or representatives.

“(C) SERVICES.—A State educational agency shall provide services under this section directly or through contracts with public and private agencies, organizations, and institutions, if—

“(i) the appropriate private school officials or their representatives have—

“(I) requested that the State educational agency provide such services directly; and

“(II) demonstrated that the local educational agency or Education Service Agency involved has not met the requirements of this section; or

“(ii) in a case in which—

“(I) a local educational agency has more than 10,000 children from low-income families who attend private elementary schools or secondary schools in such agency’s school attendance areas, as defined in section 1113(a)(2)(A), that are not being served by the agency’s program under this section; or

“(II) 90 percent of the eligible private school students in a school attendance area, as defined in section 1113(a)(2)(A), are not being served by the agency’s program under this section.

“(d) PUBLIC CONTROL OF FUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The control of funds used to provide services under this section, and title to materials, equipment, and property purchased with those funds, shall be in a public agency for the uses and purposes provided in this Act, and a public agency shall administer the funds and property.

“(2) PROVISION OF SERVICES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The provision of services under this section shall be provided—

“(i) by employees of a public agency; or

“(ii) through contract by the public agency with an individual, association, agency, organization, or other entity.

“(B) INDEPENDENCE, PUBLIC AGENCY.—In the provision of those services, the employee, person, association, agency, organization, or other entity shall be independent of the private school and of any religious organization, and the employment or contract shall be under the control and supervision of the public agency.

“(C) COMMINGLING OF FUNDS PROHIBITED.—Funds used to provide services under this section shall not be commingled with non-Federal funds.

“SEC. 6502. STANDARDS FOR BY-PASS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—If, by reason of any provision of law, a State educational agency, local educational agency, educational service agency, consortium of those agencies, or other entity is prohibited from providing for the participation in programs of children enrolled in, or teachers or other educational personnel from, private elementary schools and secondary schools, on an equitable basis, or if the Secretary determines that the agency, consortium, or entity has substantially failed or is unwilling to provide for that participation, as required by section 6501, the Secretary shall—

“(1) waive the requirements of that section for the agency, consortium, or entity; and

“(2) arrange for the provision of equitable services to those children, teachers, or other educational personnel through arrangements that shall be subject to the requirements of this section and of sections 6501, 6503, and 6504.

“(b) DETERMINATION.—In making the determination under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consider one or more factors, including the quality, size, scope, and location of the program, and the opportunity of private school children, teachers, and other educational personnel to participate in the program.

“SEC. 6503. COMPLAINT PROCESS FOR PARTICIPATION OF PRIVATE SCHOOL CHILDREN.

“(a) **PROCEDURES FOR COMPLAINTS.**—The Secretary shall develop and implement written procedures for receiving, investigating, and resolving complaints from parents, teachers, or other individuals and organizations concerning violations of section 6501 by a State educational agency, local educational agency, educational service agency, consortium of those agencies, or entity. The individual or organization shall submit the complaint to the State educational agency for a written resolution by the State educational agency within 45 days.

“(b) **APPEALS TO SECRETARY.**—The resolution may be appealed by an interested party to the Secretary not later than 30 days after the State educational agency resolves the complaint or fails to resolve the complaint within the 45-day time limit. The appeal shall be accompanied by a copy of the State educational agency’s resolution, and, if there is one, a complete statement of the reasons supporting the appeal. The Secretary shall investigate and resolve the appeal not later than 90 days after receipt of the appeal.

“Subpart 2—Prohibitions

“SEC. 6521. PROHIBITION AGAINST FEDERAL MANDATES, DIRECTION, OR CONTROL.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—No officer or employee of the Federal Government shall, directly or indirectly, through grants, contracts, or other cooperative agreements, mandate, direct, incentivize, or control a State, local educational agency, or school’s specific instructional content, academic standards and assessments, curricula, or program of instruction, (including any requirement, direction, incentive, or mandate to adopt the Common Core State Standards developed under the Common Core State Standards Initiative or any other academic standards common to a significant number of States), nor shall anything in this Act be construed to authorize such officer or employee to do so.

“(b) **FINANCIAL SUPPORT.**—No officer or employee of the Federal Government shall, directly or indirectly, through grants, contracts, or other cooperative agreements, make financial support available in a manner that is conditioned upon a State, local educational agency, or school’s adoption of specific instructional content, academic standards and assessments, curriculum, or program of instruction, (including any requirement, direction, or mandate to adopt the Common Core State Standards developed under the Common Core State Standards Initiative, any other academic standards common to a significant number of States, or any assessment, instructional content, or curriculum aligned to such standards), even if such requirements are specified in an Act other than this Act, nor shall anything in this Act be construed to authorize such officer or employee to do so.

“SEC. 6522. PROHIBITIONS ON FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.

“(a) **GENERAL PROHIBITION.**—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to authorize an officer or employee of the Federal Government directly or indirectly, whether through a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement, to mandate, direct, or control a State, local educational agency, or school’s curriculum, program of instruction, or allocation of State or local resources, or mandate a State or any subdivision thereof to spend any funds or incur any costs not paid for under this Act.

“(b) **PROHIBITION ON ENDORSEMENT OF CURRICULUM.**—Notwithstanding any other prohibition of Federal law, no funds provided to the Department under this Act may be used by the Department directly or indirectly—whether through a grant, contract, or cooperative agree-

ment—to endorse, approve, develop, require, or sanction any curriculum, including any curriculum aligned to the Common Core State Standards developed under the Common Core State Standards Initiative or any other academic standards common to a significant number of States, designed to be used in an elementary school or secondary school.

“(c) **LOCAL CONTROL.**—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to—

“(1) authorize an officer or employee of the Federal Government directly or indirectly—whether through a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement—to mandate, direct, review, or control a State, local educational agency, or school’s instructional content, curriculum, and related activities;

“(2) limit the application of the General Education Provisions Act;

“(3) require the distribution of scientifically or medically false or inaccurate materials or to prohibit the distribution of scientifically or medically true or accurate materials; or

“(4) create any legally enforceable right.

“(d) **PROHIBITION ON REQUIRING FEDERAL APPROVAL OR CERTIFICATION OF STANDARDS.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal law, no State shall be required to have academic standards approved or certified by the Federal Government, in order to receive assistance under this Act.

“(e) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION ON BUILDING STANDARDS.**—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to mandate national school building standards for a State, local educational agency, or school.

“SEC. 6523. PROHIBITION ON FEDERALLY SPONSORED TESTING.

“(a) **GENERAL PROHIBITION.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal law and except as provided in subsection (b), no funds provided under this Act to the Secretary or to the recipient of any award may be used to develop, pilot test, field test, implement, administer, or distribute any federally sponsored national test or testing materials in reading, mathematics, or any other subject, unless specifically and explicitly authorized by law.

“(b) **EXCEPTIONS.**—Subsection (a) shall not apply to international comparative assessments developed under the authority of section 153(a)(5) of the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 and administered to only a representative sample of pupils in the United States and in foreign nations.

“SEC. 6524. LIMITATIONS ON NATIONAL TESTING OR CERTIFICATION FOR TEACHERS.

“(a) **MANDATORY NATIONAL TESTING OR CERTIFICATION OF TEACHERS.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or any other provision of law, no funds available to the Department or otherwise available under this Act may be used for any purpose relating to a mandatory nationwide test or certification of teachers or education paraprofessionals, including any planning, development, implementation, or administration of such test or certification.

“(b) **PROHIBITION ON WITHHOLDING FUNDS.**—The Secretary is prohibited from withholding funds from any State educational agency or local educational agency if the State educational agency or local educational agency fails to adopt a specific method of teacher or paraprofessional certification.

“SEC. 6525. PROHIBITED USES OF FUNDS.

“No funds under this Act may be used—

“(1) for construction, renovation, or repair of any school facility, except as authorized under title IV or otherwise authorized under this Act;

“(2) for medical services, drug treatment or rehabilitation, except for specialized instructional support services or referral to treatment for students who are victims of, or witnesses to, crime or who illegally use drugs;

“(3) for transportation unless otherwise authorized under this Act;

“(4) to develop or distribute materials, or operate programs or courses of instruction directed at youth, that are designed to promote or encourage sexual activity, or normalize teen sexual activity as an expected behavior, implicitly or explicitly, whether homosexual or heterosexual;

“(5) to distribute or to aid in the distribution on school grounds by any organization of legally obscene materials to minors or any instruction or materials that normalize teen sexual activity as an expected behavior;

“(6) to provide sex education or HIV-prevention education in schools unless that instruction is age appropriate and includes the health benefits of abstinence; or

“(7) to operate a program of contraceptive distribution in schools.

“SEC. 6529. PROHIBITION REGARDING STATE AID.

“A State shall not take into consideration payments under this Act (other than under title IV) in determining the eligibility of any local educational agency in that State for State aid, or the amount of State aid, with respect to free public education of children.

“SEC. 6530. PROHIBITION ON REQUIRING STATE PARTICIPATION.

“Any State that opts out of receiving funds, or that has not been awarded funds, under one or more programs under this Act shall not be required to carry out any of the requirements of such program or programs, and nothing in this Act shall be construed to require a State to participate in any program under this Act.

“SEC. 6531. LOCAL CONTROL.

“The Secretary shall not—

“(1) impose any requirements or exercise any governance or authority over school administration, including the development and expenditure of school budgets, unless explicitly authorized under this Act;

“(2) issue any regulations or non-regulatory guidance without first consulting with local stakeholders and fairly addressing their concerns; or

“(3) deny any local educational agency the right to object to any administrative requirement, including actions that place additional burdens or cost on the local educational agency.

“SEC. 6532. SCHOOLCHILDREN’S PROTECTION FROM ABORTION PROVIDERS

“(a) **LIMITATION ON FUNDING.**—Notwithstanding section 6102, no funds under this Act may be used by any State educational agency or local educational agency that enters into a contract or other agreement with a school-based health center relating to the provision of health services to students served by the agency unless such center certifies that—

“(1) the center will not perform an abortion; and

“(2) the center will not provide abortion-related materials, referrals, or directions for abortion services to any such student.

“(b) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent a school-based health center from providing non-abortion health services to pregnant students.

“(c) **SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTER.**—In this section, the term ‘school-based health center’ has the meaning given such term in section 210(c)(9) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397j(c)(9)).”

“Subpart 3—Other Provisions

“SEC. 6541. ARMED FORCES RECRUITER ACCESS TO STUDENTS AND STUDENT RECRUITING INFORMATION.

“(a) **POLICY.**—

“(1) **ACCESS TO STUDENT RECRUITING INFORMATION.**—Notwithstanding section 444(a)(5)(B) of the General Education Provisions Act, each

local educational agency receiving assistance under this Act shall provide, upon a request made by a military recruiter or an institution of higher education, access to the name, address, and telephone listing of each secondary school student served by the local educational agency, unless the parent of such student has submitted the prior consent request under paragraph (2).

“(2) CONSENT.—

“(A) OPT-OUT PROCESS.—A parent of a secondary school student may submit a written request, to the local educational agency, that the student's name, address, and telephone listing not be released for purposes of paragraph (1) without prior written consent of the parent. Upon receiving such request, the local educational agency may not release the student's name, address, and telephone listing for such purposes without the prior written consent of the parent.

“(B) NOTIFICATION OF OPT-OUT PROCESS.—Each local educational agency shall notify the parents of the students served by the agency of the option to make a request described in subparagraph (A).

“(3) SAME ACCESS TO STUDENTS.—Each local educational agency receiving assistance under this Act shall provide military recruiters the same access to secondary school students as is provided generally to institutions of higher education or to prospective employers of those students.

“(4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION PROHIBITING OPT-IN PROCESSES.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to allow a local educational agency to withhold access to a student's name, address, and telephone listing from a military recruiter or institution of higher education by implementing an opt-in process or any other process other than the written consent request process under paragraph (2)(A).

“(5) PARENTAL CONSENT.—For purposes of this subsection, whenever a student has attained 18 years of age, the permission or consent required of and the rights accorded to the parents of the student shall only be required of and accorded to the student.

“(b) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall, not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of the Student Success Act, notify school leaders, school administrators, and other educators about the requirements of this section.

“(c) EXCEPTION.—The requirements of this section do not apply to a private secondary school that maintains a religious objection to service in the Armed Forces if the objection is verifiable through the corporate or other organizational documents or materials of that school.

“SEC. 6542. RULEMAKING.

“The Secretary shall issue regulations under this Act as prescribed under section 1401 only to the extent that such regulations are necessary to ensure that there is compliance with the specific requirements and assurances required by this Act.

“SEC. 6543. PEER REVIEW.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary uses a peer review panel to evaluate an application for any program required under this Act, the Secretary shall conduct the panel in accordance with this section.

“(b) MAKEUP.—The Secretary shall—

“(1) solicit nominations for peers to serve on the panel from States that are—

“(A) practitioners in the subject matter; or

“(B) experts in the subject matter; and

“(2) select the peers from such nominees, except that there shall be at least 75 percent practitioners on each panel and in each group formed from the panel.

“(c) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary shall issue the peer review guidance concurrently with the notice of the grant.

“(d) REPORTING.—The Secretary shall—

“(1) make the names of the peer reviewers available to the public before the final deadline for the application of the grant;

“(2) make the peer review notes publically available once the review has concluded; and

“(3) make any deviations from the peer reviewers' recommendations available to the public with an explanation of the deviation.

“(e) APPLICANT REVIEWS.—An applicant shall have an opportunity within 30 days to review the peer review notes and appeal the score to the Secretary prior to the Secretary making any final determination.

“(f) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary, and the Secretary's staff, may not attempt to participate in, or influence, the peer review process. No Federal employee may participate in, or attempt to influence the peer review process, except to respond to questions of a technical nature, which shall be publicly reported.

“SEC. 6544. PARENTAL CONSENT.

“Upon receipt of written notification from the parents or legal guardians of a student, the local educational agency shall withdraw such student from any program funded under part B of title III. The local educational agency shall make reasonable efforts to inform parents or legal guardians of the content of such programs or activities funded under this Act, other than classroom instruction.

“SEC. 6548. SEVERABILITY.

“If any provision of this Act is held invalid, the remainder of this Act shall be unaffected thereby.

“SEC. 6549. DEPARTMENT STAFF.

“The Secretary shall—

“(1) not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of the Student Success Act, identify the number of Department employees who worked on or administered each education program and project authorized under this Act, as such program or project was in effect on the day before such enactment date, and publish such information on the Department's website;

“(2) not later than 60 days after such enactment date, identify the number of full-time equivalent employees who work on or administer programs or projects authorized under this Act, as in effect on the day before such enactment date, that have been eliminated or consolidated since such date;

“(3) not later than 1 year after such enactment date, reduce the workforce of the Department by the number of full-time equivalent employees the Department calculated under paragraph (2); and

“(4) not later than 1 year after such enactment date, report to the Congress on—

“(A) the number of employees associated with each program or project authorized under this Act administered by the Department;

“(B) the number of full-time equivalent employees who were determined to be associated with eliminated or consolidated programs or projects under paragraph (2);

“(C) how the Secretary reduced the number of employees at the Department under paragraph (3);

“(D) the average salary of the employees described in subparagraph (B) whose positions were eliminated; and

“(E) the average salary of the full-time equivalent employees who work on or administer a program or project authorized under this Act by the Department, disaggregated by employee function with each such program or project.

“SEC. 6550. REDUCTION IN FEDERAL SPENDING.

“To ensure the reduced Federal role established under this Act is recognized when allocating spending amounts and appropriations for the programs under this Act, the Secretary, through the director of the Institute for Education Sciences, shall—

“(1) not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of the Student Success Act, contract with an economist with an expertise in workforce and government efficiency;

“(2) not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Student Success Act and before the Administration's annual budget request for a fiscal year is submitted to Congress annually thereafter, require the economist to issue a report that—

“(A) examines the annual cost savings from the reduced Federal requirements under this Act, as amended by the Student Success Act, as compared to the requirements under this Act as in effect after fiscal year 2002 and prior to the date of the enactment of the Student Success Act and each year thereafter;

“(B) determines the reduced need for Federal funds to meet the Federal requirements under this Act, as amended by the Student Success Act, as compared to the requirements under this Act as in effect after fiscal year 2002 and prior to the date of the enactment of the Student Success Act; and

“(C) includes the specific reduced Federal funding amounts and reduced number of employees at the Department necessary for compliance with the provisions of this Act, as amended by the Student Success Act; and

“(3) not later than one week after Administration's budget request is submitted to Congress for each fiscal year, submit the report to the Committees on Budget and the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

“Subpart 4—Restoration of State Sovereignty Over Public Education

“SEC. 6561. STATES TO RETAIN RIGHTS AND AUTHORITIES THEY DO NOT EXPRESSLY WAIVE.

“(a) RETENTION OF RIGHTS AND AUTHORITIES.—In order to ensure local control over the acceptance of federal funds, no officer, employee, or other authority of the Secretary shall enforce against an authority of a State, nor shall any authority of a State have any obligation to obey, any requirement imposed as a condition of receiving assistance under a grant program established under this Act, nor shall such program operate within a State, unless the legislature of that State shall have by law expressly approved that program and, in doing so, have waived the State's rights and authorities to act inconsistently with any requirement that might be imposed by the Secretary as a condition of receiving that assistance.

“(b) AMENDMENT OF TERMS OF RECEIPT OF FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—An officer, employee, or other authority of the Secretary may release assistance under a grant program established under this Act to a State only after the legislature of the State has by law expressly approved the program (as described in subsection (a)). This approval may be accomplished by a vote to affirm a State budget that includes the use of such Federal funds and any such State budget must expressly include any requirement imposed as a condition of receiving assistance under a grant program established under this Act so that by approving the budget, the State legislature is expressly approving the grant program and, in doing so, waiving the State's rights and authorities to act inconsistently with any requirement that might be imposed by the Secretary as a condition of receiving that assistance.

“(c) SPECIAL RULE FOR STATES WITH BIENNIAL LEGISLATURES.—In the case of a State with a biennial legislature—

“(1) during a year in which the State legislature does not meet, subsections (a) and (b) shall not apply; and

“(2) during a year in which the State legislature meets, subsections (a) and (b) shall apply, and, with respect to any grant program established under this Act during the most recent year in which the State legislature did not meet, the State may by law expressly disapprove the grant program, and, if such disapproval occurs, an officer, employee, or other authority of the Secretary may not release any additional assistance to the State under that grant program.

“(d) **DEFINITION OF STATE AUTHORITY.**—As used in this section, the term ‘authority of a State’ includes any administering agency of the State, any officer or employee of the State, and any local government authority of the State.

“(e) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This section applies in each State beginning on the 90th day after the end of the first regular session of the legislature of that State that begins 5 years after the date of the enactment of the Student Success Act and shall continue to apply in subsequent years until otherwise provided by law.

“SEC. 6562. DEDICATION OF SAVINGS TO DEFICIT REDUCTION.

“Notwithstanding any formula reallocations stipulated under the Student Success Act, any funds under such Act not allocated to a State because a State did not affirmatively agree to the receipt of such funds shall not be reallocated among the States.

“SEC. 6563. DEFINITION OF STATE WITH BIENNIAL LEGISLATURE.

“In this Act, the term ‘State with a biennial legislature’ means a State the legislature of which meets every other year.

“SEC. 6564. INTENT OF CONGRESS.

“It is the intent of Congress that other than the terms and conditions expressly approved by State law under the terms of this subpart, control over public education and parental rights to control the education of their children are vested exclusively within the autonomous zone of independent authority reserved to the States and individual Americans by the United States Constitution, other than the Federal Government’s undiminishable obligation to enforce minimum Federal standards of equal protection and due process.

“SEC. 6565. PRIVACY.

“The Secretary shall ensure each grantee receiving funds under this Act understands the importance of privacy protections for students and is aware of their responsibilities under section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g) (commonly known as the ‘Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974’).

“PART F—EVALUATIONS

“SEC. 6601. EVALUATIONS.

“(a) **RESERVATION OF FUNDS.**—Except as provided in subsections (c) and (d), the Secretary may reserve not more than 0.5 percent of the amount appropriated to carry out each categorical program authorized under this Act. The reserved amounts shall be used by the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Institute of Education Sciences—

“(i) to conduct—

“(A) comprehensive evaluations of the program or project;

“(B) studies of the effectiveness of the program or project and its administrative impact on schools and local educational agencies; and

“(C) the wide dissemination of evaluation findings under this section with respect to programs authorized under this Act—

“(i) in a timely fashion;

“(ii) in forms that are understandable, easily accessible, and usable or adaptable for use in the improvement of educational practice;

“(iii) through electronic transfer, and other means, such as posting, as available, to the websites of State educational agencies, local educational agencies, the Institute of Education

Sciences, the Department, and other relevant places; and

“(iv) in a manner that promotes the utilization of such findings.

“(2) to evaluate the aggregate short- and long-term effects and cost efficiencies across Federal programs assisted or authorized under this Act and related Federal preschool, elementary, and secondary programs under any other Federal law; and

“(3) to increase the usefulness of evaluations of grant recipients in order to ensure the continuous progress of the program or project by improving the quality, timeliness, efficiency, and use of information relating to performance under the program or project.

“(b) **REQUIRED PLAN.**—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Institute of Education Sciences, may use the reserved amount under subsection (a) only after completion of a comprehensive, multi-year plan—

“(1) for the periodic evaluation of each of the major categorical programs authorized under this Act, and as resources permit, the smaller categorical programs authorized under this Act;

“(2) that shall be developed and implemented with the involvement of other officials at the Department, as appropriate; and

“(3) that shall not be finalized until—

“(A) the publication of a notice in the Federal Register seeking public comment on such plan and after review by the Secretary of such comments; and

“(B) the plan is submitted for comment to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and after review by the Secretary of such comments.

“(c) **TITLE I EXCLUDED.**—The Secretary may not reserve under subsection (a) funds appropriated to carry out any program authorized under title I.

“(d) **EVALUATION ACTIVITIES AUTHORIZED ELSEWHERE.**—If, under any other provision of this Act (other than title I), funds are authorized to be reserved or used for evaluation activities with respect to a program or project, the Secretary may not reserve additional funds under this section for the evaluation of that program or project.”

(b) **TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) **TITLE IX.**—

(A) **SUBPART 1 OF PART E OF TITLE VI.**—

(i) **TRANSFER AND REDESIGNATION.**—Sections 9504 through 9506 (20 U.S.C. 7884, 7885, and 7886) are—

(I) transferred to title VI, as amended by subsection (a) of this section;

(II) inserted after section 6503 of such title; and

(III) redesignated as sections 6504 through 6506, respectively.

(ii) **AMENDMENTS.**—Section 6504 (as so redesignated) is amended—

(I) in subsection (a)(1)(A), by striking “section 9502” and inserting “section 6502”;

(II) in subsection (b), by striking “section 9501” and inserting “section 6501”; and

(III) in subsection (d), by striking “No Child Left Behind Act of 2001” and inserting “Student Success Act”.

(B) **SUBPART 2 OF PART E OF TITLE VI.**—

(i) **TRANSFER AND REDESIGNATION.**—Sections 9531, 9533, and 9534 (20 U.S.C. 7911, 7913, and 7914) are—

(I) transferred to title VI, as amended by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph;

(II) inserted after section 6525 of such title; and

(III) redesignated as sections 6526 through 6528, respectively.

(ii) **AMENDMENTS.**—Section 6528 (as so redesignated) is amended—

(I) by striking “(a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing” and inserting “Nothing”; and

(II) by striking subsection (b).

(C) **SUBPART 3 OF PART E OF TITLE VI.**—Sections 9523, 9524, and 9525 (20 U.S.C. 7903, 7904, and 7905) are—

(i) transferred to title VI, as amended by subparagraph (B) of this paragraph;

(ii) inserted after section 6544 of such title; and

(iii) redesignated as sections 6545 through 6547, respectively.

(2) **TITLE IV.**—Sections 4141 and 4155 (20 U.S.C. 7151 and 7161) are—

(A) transferred to title VI, as amended by this Act;

(B) inserted after section 6551; and

(C) redesignated as sections 6552 and 6553, respectively.

SEC. 602. REPEAL.

Title IX (20 U.S.C. 7801 et seq.), as amended by section 601(b)(1) of this title, is repealed.

SEC. 603. OTHER LAWS.

Beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, any reference in law to the term “highly qualified” as defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 shall be treated as a reference to such term under section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 604. AMENDMENT TO IDEA.

Section 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401) is amended by striking paragraph (10).

TITLE VII—HOMELESS EDUCATION

SEC. 701. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

Section 721 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) In any State where compulsory residency requirements or other requirements, laws, regulations, practices, or policies may act as a barrier to the identification, enrollment, attendance, or success in school of homeless children and youths, the State and local educational agencies will review and undertake steps to revise such laws, regulations, practices, or policies to ensure that homeless children and youths are afforded the same free, appropriate public education as is provided to other children and youths.”;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking “alone”; and

(3) in paragraph (4), by striking “challenging State student academic achievement” and inserting “State academic”.

SEC. 702. GRANTS FOR STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTHS.

Section 722 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 11432) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “(g).” and inserting “(h).”;

(2) by striking subsection (b);

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A)—

(i) in clause (i), by adding “or” at the end;

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking “; or” at the end and inserting a period; and

(iii) by striking clause (iii); and

(B) by striking paragraph (3);

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “Grants” and inserting “Grant funds from a grant made to a State”;

(B) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) To provide services and activities to improve the identification of homeless children (including preschool-aged homeless children and youths) that enable such children and youths to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school, or, if appropriate, in preschool programs.”;

(C) in paragraph (3), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “that can sufficiently carry out the duties described in this subtitle”; and

(D) by amending paragraph (5) to read as follows:

“(5) To develop and implement professional development programs for liaisons designated under subsection (g)(1)(J)(ii) and other local educational agency personnel—

“(A) to improve their identification of homeless children and youths; and

“(B) to heighten their awareness of, and capacity to respond to, specific needs in the education of homeless children and youths.”;

(5) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “sums” and inserting “grant funds”; and

(ii) by inserting “a State under subsection (a) to” after “each year to”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “funds made available for State use under this subtitle” and inserting “the grant funds remaining after the State educational agency distributes subgrants under paragraph (1)”; and

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (C)(iv)(II), by striking “sections 1111 and 1116” and inserting “section 1111”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (F)—

(I) in clause (i)—

(aa) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking “a report” and inserting “an annual report”; and

(bb) by striking “and” at the end of subclause (II);

(cc) by striking the period at the end of subclause (III) and inserting “; and”; and

(dd) by adding at the end the following:

“(IV) the progress the separate schools are making in helping all students meet the State academic standards.”; and

(II) in clause (iii), by striking “Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001, the” and inserting “The”;

(6) by amending subsection (f) to read as follows:

“(f) FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICE OF COORDINATOR.—The Coordinator for Education of Homeless Children and Youths established in each State shall—

“(1) gather and make publically available reliable, valid, and comprehensive information on—

“(A) the number of homeless children and youths identified in the State, posted annually on the State educational agency’s website;

“(B) the nature and extent of the problems homeless children and youths have in gaining access to public preschool programs and to public elementary schools and secondary schools;

“(C) the difficulties in identifying the special needs and barriers to the participation and achievement of such children and youths;

“(D) any progress made by the State educational agency and local educational agencies in the State in addressing such problems and difficulties; and

“(E) the success of the programs under this subtitle in identifying homeless children and youths and allowing such children and youths to enroll in, attend, and succeed in, school;

“(2) develop and carry out the State plan described in subsection (g);

“(3) collect data for and transmit to the Secretary, at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may require, a report containing information necessary to assess the educational needs of homeless children and youths within the State, including data necessary for the Secretary to fulfill the responsibilities under section 724(h);

“(4) in order to improve the provision of comprehensive education and related support services to homeless children and youths and their families, coordinate and collaborate with—

“(A) educators, including teachers, special education personnel, administrators, and child development and preschool program personnel;

“(B) providers of services to homeless children and youths and their families, including services of public and private child welfare and social services agencies, law enforcement agencies, juvenile and family courts, agencies providing mental health services, domestic violence agencies, child care providers, runaway and homeless youth centers, and providers of services and programs funded under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.);

“(C) providers of emergency, transitional, and permanent housing to homeless children and youths, and their families, including public housing agencies, shelter operators, operators of transitional housing facilities, and providers of transitional living programs for homeless youths;

“(D) local educational agency liaisons designated under subsection (g)(1)(J)(ii) for homeless children and youths; and

“(E) community organizations and groups representing homeless children and youths and their families;

“(5) provide technical assistance to local educational agencies, in coordination with local educational agency liaisons designated under subsection (g)(1)(J)(ii), to ensure that local educational agencies comply with the requirements of subsection (e)(3), paragraphs (3) through (7) of subsection (g), and subsection (h);

“(6) provide professional development opportunities for local educational agency personnel and the homeless liaison designated under subsection (g)(1)(J)(ii) to assist such personnel in meeting the needs of homeless children and youths; and

“(7) respond to inquiries from parents and guardians of homeless children and youths and unaccompanied youths to ensure that each child or youth who is the subject of such an inquiry receives the full protections and services provided by this subtitle.”;

(7) by amending subsection (g) to read as follows:

“(g) STATE PLAN.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to be eligible to receive a grant under this section, each State educational agency shall submit to the Secretary a plan to provide for the education of homeless children and youths within the State that includes the following:

“(A) A description of how such children and youths are (or will be) given the opportunity to meet the same State academic standards that all students are expected to meet.

“(B) A description of the procedures the State educational agency will use to identify such children and youths in the State and to assess their needs.

“(C) A description of procedures for the prompt resolution of disputes regarding the educational placement of homeless children and youths.

“(D) A description of programs for school personnel (including liaisons, school leaders, attendance officers, teachers, enrollment personnel, and specialized instructional support personnel) to heighten the awareness of such personnel of the specific needs of homeless adolescents, including runaway and homeless youths.

“(E) A description of procedures that ensure that homeless children and youths who meet the relevant eligibility criteria are able to participate in Federal, State, or local nutrition programs.

“(F) A description of procedures that ensure that—

“(i) homeless children have equal access to public preschool programs, administered by the State educational agency or local educational agency, as provided to other children in the State;

“(ii) homeless youths and youths separated from public schools are identified and accorded equal access to appropriate secondary education and support services; and

“(iii) homeless children and youths who meet the relevant eligibility criteria are able to participate in Federal, State, or local education programs.

“(G) Strategies to address problems identified in the report provided to the Secretary under subsection (f)(3).

“(H) Strategies to address other problems with respect to the education of homeless children and youths, including problems resulting from enrollment delays that are caused by—

“(i) immunization and other health records requirements;

“(ii) residency requirements;

“(iii) lack of birth certificates, school records, or other documentation;

“(iv) guardianship issues; or

“(v) uniform or dress code requirements.

“(I) A demonstration that the State educational agency and local educational agencies in the State have developed, and shall review and revise, policies to remove barriers to the identification, enrollment, and retention of homeless children and youths in schools in the State.

“(J) Assurances that the following will be carried out:

“(i) The State educational agency and local educational agencies in the State will adopt policies and practices to ensure that homeless children and youths are not stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless.

“(ii) Local educational agencies will designate an appropriate staff person, who may also be a coordinator for other Federal programs, as a local educational agency liaison for homeless children and youths, to carry out the duties described in paragraph (6)(A).

“(iii) The State and its local educational agencies will adopt policies and practices to ensure that transportation is provided, at the request of the parent or guardian (or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the liaison), to and from the school of origin, as determined in paragraph (3)(A), in accordance with the following, as applicable:

“(I) If the child or youth continues to live in the area served by the local educational agency in which the school of origin is located, the child’s or youth’s transportation to and from the school of origin shall be provided or arranged by the local educational agency in which the school of origin is located.

“(II) If the child’s or youth’s living arrangements in the area served by the local educational agency of origin terminate and the child or youth, though continuing his or her education in the school of origin, begins living in an area served by another local educational agency, the local educational agency of origin and the local educational agency in which the child or youth is living shall agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and costs for providing the child with transportation to and from the school of origin. If the local educational agencies are unable to agree upon such method, the responsibility and costs for transportation shall be shared equally.

“(2) COMPLIANCE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each plan adopted under this subsection shall also describe how the State will ensure that local educational agencies in the State will comply with the requirements of paragraphs (3) through (7).

“(B) COORDINATION.—Such plan shall indicate what technical assistance the State will

furnish to local educational agencies and how compliance efforts will be coordinated with the local educational agency liaisons designated under paragraph (1)(J)(ii).

“(3) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY REQUIREMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The local educational agency serving each child or youth to be assisted under this subtitle shall, according to the child’s or youth’s best interest—

“(i) continue the child’s or youth’s education in the school of origin for the duration of homelessness—

“(I) in any case in which a family becomes homeless between academic years or during an academic year; or

“(II) for the remainder of the academic year, if the child or youth becomes permanently housed during an academic year; or

“(ii) enroll the child or youth in any public school that nonhomeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend.

“(B) SCHOOL STABILITY.—In determining the best interest of the child or youth under subparagraph (A), the local educational agency shall—

“(i) presume that keeping the child or youth in the school of origin is in the child or youth’s best interest, except when doing so is contrary to the wishes of the child’s or youth’s parent or guardian, or the unaccompanied youth;

“(ii) consider student-centered factors related to the child’s or youth’s best interest, including factors related to the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety of homeless children and youth, giving priority to the wishes of the homeless child’s or youth’s parent or guardian or the unaccompanied youth involved;

“(iii) if, after conducting the best interest determination based on consideration of the presumption in clause (i) and the student-centered factors in clause (ii), the local educational agency determines that it is not in the child’s or youth’s best interest to attend the school of origin or the school requested by the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth, provide the child’s or youth’s parent or guardian or the unaccompanied youth with a written explanation of the reasons for its determination, in a manner and form understandable to such parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth, including information regarding the right to appeal under subparagraph (E); and

“(iv) in the case of an unaccompanied youth, ensure that the homeless liaison designated under paragraph (1)(J)(ii) assists in placement or enrollment decisions under this subparagraph, gives priority to the views of such unaccompanied youth, and provides notice to such youth of the right to appeal under subparagraph (E).

“(C) ENROLLMENT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The school selected in accordance with this paragraph shall immediately enroll the homeless child or youth, even if the child or youth—

“(I) is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, records of immunization and other required health records, proof of residency, or other documentation; or

“(II) has missed application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness.

“(ii) RELEVANT ACADEMIC RECORDS.—The enrolling school shall immediately contact the school last attended by the child or youth to obtain relevant academic and other records.

“(iii) RELEVANT HEALTH RECORDS.—If the child or youth needs to obtain immunizations or other required health records, the enrolling school shall immediately refer the parent or guardian of the child or youth, or the unaccom-

panied child or youth, to the local educational agency liaison designated under paragraph (1)(J)(ii), who shall assist in obtaining necessary immunizations or screenings, or immunization or other required health records, in accordance with subparagraph (D).

“(D) RECORDS.—Any record ordinarily kept by the school, including immunization or other required health records, academic records, birth certificates, guardianship records, and evaluations for special services or programs, regarding each homeless child or youth shall be maintained—

“(i) so that the records involved are available, in a timely fashion, when a child or youth enters a new school or school district; and

“(ii) in a manner consistent with section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g).

“(E) ENROLLMENT DISPUTES.—If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment in a school—

“(i) the child or youth shall be immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought, pending final resolution of the dispute, including all available appeals;

“(ii) the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth shall be provided with a written explanation of any decisions made by the school, the local educational agency, or the State educational agency involved, including the rights of the parent, guardian, or youth to appeal such decisions;

“(iii) the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth shall be referred to the local educational agency liaison designated under paragraph (1)(J)(ii), who shall carry out the dispute resolution process as described in paragraph (1)(C) as expeditiously as possible after receiving notice of the dispute; and

“(iv) in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the liaison shall ensure that the youth is immediately enrolled in school in which the youth seeks enrollment pending resolution of such dispute.

“(F) PLACEMENT CHOICE.—The choice regarding placement shall be made regardless of whether the child or youth lives with the homeless parents or has been temporarily placed elsewhere.

“(G) SCHOOL OF ORIGIN DEFINED.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In this paragraph, the term “school of origin” means the school that a child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled.

“(ii) RECEIVING SCHOOL.—When the child or youth completes the final grade level served by the school of origin, as described in clause (i), the term “school of origin” shall include the designated receiving school at the next grade level for all feeder schools.

“(H) CONTACT INFORMATION.—Nothing in this subtitle shall prohibit a local educational agency from requiring a parent or guardian of a homeless child to submit contact information.

“(I) PRIVACY.—Information about a homeless child’s or youth’s living situation shall be treated as a student education record under section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g) and shall not be released to housing providers, employers, law enforcement personnel, or other persons or agencies not authorized to have such information under section 99.31 of title 34, Code of Federal Regulations.

“(J) ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT.—The school selected in accordance with this paragraph shall ensure that homeless children and youths have opportunities to meet the same State academic standards to which other students are held.

“(4) COMPARABLE SERVICES.—Each homeless child or youth to be assisted under this subtitle shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school selected under paragraph (3), including the following:

“(A) Transportation services.

“(B) Educational services for which the child or youth meets the eligibility criteria, such as services provided under title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) or similar State or local programs, educational programs for children with disabilities, and educational programs for English learners.

“(C) Programs in career and technical education.

“(D) Programs for gifted and talented students.

“(E) School nutrition programs.

“(5) COORDINATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each local educational agency serving homeless children and youths that receives assistance under this subtitle shall coordinate—

“(i) the provision of services under this subtitle with local social services agencies and other agencies or entities providing services to homeless children and youths and their families, including services and programs funded under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.); and

“(ii) transportation, transfer of school records, and other interdistrict activities, with other local educational agencies.

“(B) HOUSING ASSISTANCE.—If applicable, each State educational agency and local educational agency that receives assistance under this subtitle shall coordinate with State and local housing agencies responsible for developing the comprehensive housing affordability strategy described in section 105 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12705) to minimize educational disruption for children and youths who become homeless.

“(C) COORDINATION PURPOSE.—The coordination required under subparagraphs (A) and (B) shall be designed to—

“(i) ensure that all homeless children and youths are promptly identified;

“(ii) ensure that homeless children and youths have access to, and are in reasonable proximity to, available education and related support services; and

“(iii) raise the awareness of school personnel and service providers of the effects of short-term stays in a shelter and other challenges associated with homelessness.

“(D) HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTHS WITH DISABILITIES.—For children and youths who are to be assisted both under this subtitle, and under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) or section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), each local educational agency shall coordinate the provision of services under this subtitle with the provision of programs for children with disabilities served by that local educational agency and other involved local educational agencies.

“(6) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY LIAISON.—

“(A) DUTIES.—Each local educational agency liaison for homeless children and youths, designated under paragraph (1)(J)(ii), shall ensure that—

“(i) homeless children and youths are identified by school personnel through outreach and coordination activities with other entities and agencies;

“(ii) homeless children and youths are enrolled in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, schools of that local educational agency;

“(iii) homeless families, children, and youths have access to and receive educational services for which such families, children, and youths are eligible, including services through Head Start, Early Head Start, early intervention, and preschool programs administered by the local educational agency;

“(iv) homeless families, children, and youths receive referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health and substances abuse services, housing services, and other appropriate services;

“(v) the parents or guardians of homeless children and youths are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children;

“(vi) public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youths is disseminated in locations frequented by parents or guardians of such children and youths, and unaccompanied youths, including schools, shelters, public libraries, and soup kitchens in a manner and form understandable to the parents and guardians of homeless children and youths, and unaccompanied youths;

“(vii) enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with paragraph (3)(E);

“(viii) the parent or guardian of a homeless child or youth, and any unaccompanied youth, is fully informed of all transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin, as described in paragraph (1)(J)(iii), and is assisted in accessing transportation to the school that is selected under paragraph (3)(A);

“(ix) school personnel providing services under this subtitle receive professional development and other support; and

“(x) unaccompanied youths—

“(I) are enrolled in school;

“(II) have opportunities to meet the same State academic standards to which other students are held, including through implementation of the policies and practices required by paragraph (1)(F)(ii); and

“(III) are informed of their status as independent students under section 480 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087vv) and receive verification of such status for purposes of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid described in section 483 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1090).

“(B) NOTICE.—State coordinators established under subsection (d)(3) and local educational agencies shall inform school personnel, service providers, advocates working with homeless families, parents and guardians of homeless children and youths, and homeless children and youths of the duties of the local educational agency liaisons, including publishing an annually updated list of the liaisons on the State educational agency’s website.

“(C) LOCAL AND STATE COORDINATION.—Local educational agency liaisons for homeless children and youths shall, as a part of their duties, coordinate and collaborate with State coordinators and community and school personnel responsible for the provision of education and related services to homeless children and youths. Such coordination shall include collecting and providing to the State Coordinator the reliable, valid, and comprehensive data needed to meet the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (3) of subsection (f).

“(7) REVIEW AND REVISIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each State educational agency and local educational agency that receives assistance under this subtitle shall review and revise any policies that may act as barriers to the enrollment of homeless children and youths in schools that are selected under paragraph (3).

“(B) CONSIDERATION.—In reviewing and revising such policies, consideration shall be given to issues concerning transportation, immunization, residency, birth certificates, school records and other documentation, and guardianship.

“(C) SPECIAL ATTENTION.—Special attention shall be given to ensuring the enrollment and attendance of homeless children and youths who are not currently attending school.”;

(8) in subsection (h)(1)(A), by striking “fiscal year 2009,” and inserting “fiscal years 2014 through 2019,”; and

(9) in subsection (h)(4), by striking “fiscal year 2009” and inserting “fiscal years 2014 through 2019”.

SEC. 703. LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY SUBGRANTS FOR THE EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTHS.

Section 723 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 11433) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “facilitating the enrollment,” and inserting “facilitating the identification, enrollment,”;

(B) in paragraph (2)(A)—

(i) by adding “and” at the end of clause (i);

(ii) by striking “; and” and inserting a period at the end of clause (ii); and

(iii) by striking clause (iii); and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) DURATION OF GRANTS.—Subgrants awarded under this section shall be for terms of not to exceed 3 years.”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking paragraph (3) and redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) An assurance that the local educational agency will collect and promptly provide data requested by the State Coordinator pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (3) of section 722(f).

“(6) An assurance that the local educational agency has removed barriers to complying with the requirements of section 722(g)(1)(I).”;

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “726” and inserting “722(a)”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “identification,” before “enrollment”;

(ii) by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

“(B) The extent to which the application reflects coordination with other local and State agencies that serve homeless children and youths.”; and

(iii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “(as of the date of submission of the application)” after “current practice”;

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by amending subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

“(C) The extent to which the applicant will promote meaningful involvement of parents or guardians of homeless children or youths in the education of their children.”;

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking “within” and inserting “into”;

(iii) in subparagraph (G)—

(I) by striking “Such” and inserting “The extent to which the applicant’s program meets such”;

(II) by striking “case management or related”;

(iv) by redesignating subparagraph (G) as subparagraph (I) and inserting after subparagraph (F) the following:

“(G) The extent to which the local educational agency will use the subgrant to leverage resources, including by maximizing nonsubgrant funding for the position of the liaison described in section 722(g)(1)(J)(ii) and the provision of transportation.

“(H) How the local educational agency uses funds to serve homeless children and youths under section 1113(c)(3) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6313(c)(3)).”;

(v) by adding at the end the following:

“(J) An assurance that the applicant will meet the requirements of section 722(g)(3).”;

(D) by striking paragraph (4); and

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “challenging State academic content standards” and inserting “State academic standards”;

(ii) by striking “and challenging State student academic achievement standards”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “students with limited English proficiency,” and inserting “English learners,”; and

(ii) by striking “vocational” and inserting “career”;

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “pupil services” and inserting “specialized instructional support”;

(D) in paragraph (7), by striking “, and unaccompanied youths,” and inserting “, particularly homeless children and youths who are not enrolled in school,”;

(E) in paragraph (9) by striking “medical” and inserting “other required health”;

(F) in paragraph (10), by inserting before the period at the end “, and other activities designed to increase the meaningful involvement of parents or guardians of homeless children or youths in the education of their children”;

(G) in paragraph (12), by striking “pupil” and inserting “specialized instructional support”;

(H) in paragraph (13), by inserting before the period at the end “and parental mental health or substance abuse problems”.

SEC. 704. SECRETARIAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

Section 724 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 11434) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

“(c) NOTICE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, before the next school year that begins after the date of the enactment of the Student Success Act, update and disseminate nationwide the public notice described in this subsection (as in effect prior to such date) of the educational rights of homeless children and youths.

“(2) DISSEMINATION.—The Secretary shall disseminate the notice nationally to all Federal agencies, program grantees, and grant recipients serving homeless families, children, and youths.”;

(2) in subsection (d), by striking “and dissemination” and inserting “, dissemination, and technical assistance”;

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking “applications for grants under this subtitle” and inserting “plans for the use of grant funds under section 722”;

(B) by striking “60-day” and inserting “120-day”;

(C) by striking “120-day” and inserting “180-day”;

(4) in subsection (f), by adding at the end the following: “The Secretary shall provide support and technical assistance to State educational agencies in areas in which barriers to a free appropriate public education persist.”;

(5) by amending subsection (g) to read as follows:

“(g) GUIDELINES.—The Secretary shall develop, issue, and publish in the Federal Register, not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of the Student Success Act, strategies by which a State—

“(1) may assist local educational agencies to implement the provisions amended by the Act; and

“(2) can review and revise State policies and procedures that may present barriers to the identification, enrollment, attendance, and success of homeless children and youths in school.”;

(6) in subsection (h)(1)(A), by inserting “in all areas served by local educational agencies” before the semicolon at the end; and

(7) in subsection (i), by striking “McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001” and inserting “Student Success Act”.

SEC. 705. DEFINITIONS.

Section 725 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(B)(iv), by striking “1309” and inserting “1139”; and

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking “9101” and inserting “6101”.

SEC. 706. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 726 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 11435) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 726. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“For the purpose of carrying out this subtitle, there are authorized to be appropriated \$65,042,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021.”.

TITLE VIII—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 801. FINDINGS; SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds as follows:

(1) To avoid negative attention and litigation, some local educational agencies have entered into agreements with employees who are suspected of abusing or are known to have abused students.

(2) Instead of reporting sexual misconduct with minors to the proper authorities such as the police or child welfare services, under such agreements the local educational agencies, schools, and employees keep the information private and facilitate the employee's transfer to another local educational agency.

(b) SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) confidentiality agreements between local educational agencies or schools and suspected child sex abusers should be prohibited;

(2) the practice of employee transfers after suspected or proven sexual misconduct should be stopped, and States should require local educational agencies and schools to provide law enforcement with all information regarding sexual conduct between an employee and a minor; and

(3) Congress should help protect children and help stop this unacceptable practice in our schools.

“SEC. 802. PREVENTING IMPROPER USE OF TAX-PAYER FUNDS.

To ensure any misuse of taxpayer funds is stopped or prevented before it occurs, the Secretary of Education—

(1) shall ensure that each recipient of a grant or subgrant under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) prominently displays the Department of Education Office of Inspector General hotline contact information so any individual who observes, detects, or suspects improper use of taxpayer funds can easily report such improper use;

(2) annually shall notify employees of the Department of Education of their responsibility to report fraud; and

(3) shall ensure that applicants for grants or subgrants under such Act are aware of their requirement to submit truthful and accurate information when applying for grants or subgrants and responding to monitoring and compliance reviews.

The Acting CHAIR. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part B of House Report 114-29. Each such further amendment shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report

equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, may be withdrawn by its proponent at any time before action thereon, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. KENNEDY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part B of House Report 114-29.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 11, after line 2, insert the following new subparagraph:

“(F) Section 152 of the Student Success Act.”.

Page 225, after line 17, insert the following new section:

SEC. 152. STEM GATEWAY GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—A State educational agency shall award grants to eligible entities, on a competitive basis, to enable such eligible entities to carry out programs described in subsection (d) to achieve, with respect to women and girls, underrepresented minorities, and individuals from all economic backgrounds (including economically disadvantaged individuals and individuals living in economically distressed areas), 1 or more of the following goals:

(1) Encourage interest in the STEM fields at the elementary school or secondary school levels.

(2) Motivate engagement in STEM fields by providing relevant hands-on learning opportunities at the elementary school and secondary school levels.

(3) Support classroom success in STEM disciplines at the elementary school or secondary school levels.

(4) Support workforce training and career preparation in STEM fields at the secondary school level.

(5) Improve access to career and continuing education opportunities in STEM fields at the secondary school level.

(b) LIMITATION.—A State educational agency may award grants under this section not longer than a 5-year period.

(c) APPLICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity that desires to receive a grant under this section shall submit an application to the State educational agency at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the State educational agency may reasonably require.

(2) CONTENTS.—An application submitted under paragraph (1) shall contain—

(A) in the case of an eligible entity that plans to use the grant funds at the elementary school level—

(i) a description of the programs the eligible entity will carry out to achieve 1 or more of the goals described in paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (a) at the elementary school level, including the content of the programs and research and models used to design the programs; and

(ii) a description of how the programs described in clause (i) will support the success of women and girls, underrepresented minorities, and individuals from all economic backgrounds (including economically disadvantaged individuals and individuals living in economically distressed areas) in STEM education, such as—

(I) recruiting women and girls, underrepresented minorities, and individuals from all economic backgrounds (including economically disadvantaged individuals and individuals living in economically distressed areas) to participate in the programs;

(II) supporting educators who will lead the programs, and participants in the programs;

(III) encouraging partnerships between in-school and out-of-school educators, such as afterschool providers, science centers, and museums;

(IV) identifying public and private partners that are able to support the programs; and

(V) planning for sustaining the programs financially beyond the grant period; and

(B) in the case of an eligible entity that plans to use the grant funds at the secondary school level—

(i) a description of the programs the eligible entity will carry out to achieve 1 or more of the goals described in paragraphs (1) through (5) of subsection (a) at the secondary school level, including the content of the programs and research and models used to design the programs;

(ii) a description of how the programs described in clause (i) will support the success of women and girls, underrepresented minorities, and individuals from all economic backgrounds (including economically disadvantaged individuals and individuals living in economically distressed areas) in STEM education and workforce training that prepares such individuals to take advantage of employment opportunities in STEM fields, such as—

(I) recruiting women and girls, underrepresented minorities, and individuals from all economic backgrounds (including economically disadvantaged individuals and individuals living in economically distressed areas) to participate in the programs;

(II) supporting educators who will lead such programs, and participants in the programs;

(III) identifying public and private partners that are able to support the programs;

(IV) partnering with institutions of higher education or institutions providing informal science education, such as afterschool programs and science centers and museums;

(V) partnering with institutions of higher education; and

(VI) planning for sustaining the programs financially beyond the grant period;

(iii) a review of the industry and business workforce needs, including the demand for workers with knowledge or training in a STEM field; and

(iv) an analysis of job openings that require knowledge or training in a STEM field.

(d) FUNDS.—

(1) REQUIRED USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall use such grant funds to carry out programs to achieve 1 or more of the goals described in subsection (a) at the elementary school or secondary school levels, with respect to women and girls, underrepresented minorities, and students from all economic backgrounds (including economically disadvantaged individuals and students living in economically distressed areas).

(2) AUTHORIZED USE OF FUNDS.—The programs described in paragraph (1) may include any of the following activities, with respect to the individuals described in paragraph (1):

(A) Carrying out the activities described in subparagraph(A)(ii) or B(ii) of subsection (c)(2), as appropriate.

(B) Providing professional development for teachers, afterschool providers, and other

school personnel in elementary schools or secondary schools, including professional development to encourage, through academic instruction and support, such individuals to pursue advanced classes and careers in STEM fields.

(C) Providing tutoring and mentoring programs in STEM fields.

(D) Establishing partnerships with institutions of higher education, potential employers, and other industry stakeholders that expose such individuals to professionals in STEM fields, or providing opportunities for postsecondary academic credits or credentials.

(E) Providing after-school activities and other informal learning opportunities designed to encourage interest and develop skills in STEM fields.

(F) Providing summer programs to extend learning time and to deepen the skills and interest in STEM fields of such individuals.

(G) Purchasing and utilizing—

(i) educational or instructional materials that are designed to improve educational outcomes in STEM fields, and will serve to deepen the skills and interest in STEM fields of such individuals; or

(ii) equipment, instrumentation, or hardware used to teach and encourage interest in STEM fields.

(H) Internships or opportunities for experiential learning in STEM fields.

(e) REPORT.—

(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Each eligible entity receiving a grant under this section shall, on an annual basis, submit a report to the State educational agency on the use of funds and the number of students who participated in the programs carried out with the grant funds.

(2) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—Each State educational agency shall, on an annual basis, submit to the Secretary a report on the use of funds and the number of students who participated in the programs carried out in the State with the grant funds.

(3) SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall, on an annual basis, and using the reports received under paragraph (2), report to Congress on the overall impact and effectiveness of the grant program under this section.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ESEA DEFINITIONS.—The terms “educational service agency”, “elementary school”, “local educational agency”, “institution of higher education”, “secondary school”, “Secretary”, and “State” have the meanings given the terms in section 6101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(2) COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The term “community college” has the meaning given the term “junior or community college” in section 312 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058).

(3) ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED INDIVIDUAL.—The term “economically disadvantaged individual” has the meaning given the term in section 400.4 of title 34, Code of Federal Regulations, as such section is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(4) ECONOMICALLY DISTRESSED AREA.—The term “economically distressed area” means a county or equivalent division of local government of a State in which, according to the most recently available data from the Bureau of the Census, 40 percent or more of the residents have an annual income that is at or below the poverty level.

(5) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible entity” means—

(A) a local educational agency;

(B) an educational service agency serving more than 1 local educational agency;

(C) a consortium of local educational agencies;

(D) a nonprofit organization that—

(i) works with elementary schools, secondary schools, or institutions of higher education; and

(ii) has demonstrated a commitment to achieving the goals described in paragraphs (1) through (4) of subsection (a); or

(E) a community college working in partnership with secondary schools to create opportunities for dual enrollment, credit transfer, or accelerated postsecondary credentialing.

(6) PARTNERS.—The term “partners” means organizations that employ workers in STEM-related careers or organizations with demonstrated expertise in identifying, scaling, and implementing successful practices in STEM education and workforce development.

(7) STEM.—The term “STEM” means—

(A) science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; and

(B) other academic subjects that build on the subjects described in subparagraph (A), such as computer science.

(8) UNDERREPRESENTED MINORITY.—The term “underrepresented minority” has the meaning given the term “minority” in section 637.4(b) of title 34, Code of Federal Regulations, as such section is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment rooted in values that I know we all share. While we may disagree over various aspects of Federal policy in K-12 education, there are important areas where we can in fact find common ground.

We all believe that our children deserve an education that prepares him or her to succeed in a modern economy. We all know that far too many children don't get that chance today—particularly children in minority and high-poverty schools. We all know that over the next 10 years, jobs in STEM fields—science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—are expected to grow at almost twice the rate of jobs in other fields.

Today, in Massachusetts, Mr. Chairman, the unemployment rate for Hispanic residents is 60 percent higher than for their White neighbors, and it is over 110 percent higher for African Americans. Even more alarming, the poverty rate for Black families in Massachusetts is 144 percent higher than their White neighbors and 273 percent higher for Hispanics. Shockingly, those numbers are actually better than far more States across the country.

While our economy is steadily improving, that gap is a dangerous economic undercurrent that, left unaddressed, will affect us all. In an increasing globalized and competitive economy, we need to ensure that we are tapping all the talent and potential

that we have here in America in order to succeed.

Title I funds are some of the best resources the Federal Government has to make sure that every child in every school has a fair chance at the starting line, delivering much-needed assistance to schools that disproportionately serve minority and low-income communities. But this bill, in its current form, would jeopardize the already inadequate resources that so many schools depend on.

The Democratic substitute is a better path. It would protect those title I resources and allow them to serve their original civil rights purpose: to ensure that each of our students has an equal chance to succeed.

I join my Democratic colleagues in wishing that we were not considering a bill today that would consolidate title I funds and undermine their historic role. But the amendment I offer today says that even if we are going to be living in the proposed world of cuts and block grants, STEM education and economic justice are still priorities we must elevate.

My amendment would simply allow but not require States to use their flexible title I funding for grants that support the success of women, minorities, and low-income students in STEM.

Too often, Mr. Speaker, the resources our teachers need to prepare their students for jobs today and tomorrow are limited by ZIP Code, gender, and race. That makes this far more than an economic issue. It is a civil rights issue that will define our society for generations to come.

I know that we all support equal access to the jobs of a modern economy. That is why we must pass this amendment, increase the reach of STEM education into communities that need it most, and ensure that a student's potential isn't limited by the street that he or she grows up on.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleague for offering this amendment, even though I am opposed to it.

The Federal Government has taken a very active role in improving STEM education. In fact, in a count I took a couple of years ago, there were over 200 Federal STEM programs, but our multibillion-dollar investment is failing to produce strong results—not because of lack of funding, but because of too much bureaucracy.

Let's stop throwing money at new programs and instead provide States and local districts the flexibility to invest in programs that produce more efficient and effective results instead of Washington's priorities.

I agree with the importance of this issue for the future of our skilled workforce, but I have concerns that it introduces yet another Federal program.

For these reasons, I oppose the amendment, but urge my colleagues to support the bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Chairman, if I might inquire as to the time I have remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. KENNEDY. I yield 1 minute to my colleague from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY).

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of this commonsense amendment, and I want to thank my good friend, Congressman KENNEDY, for his leadership on this issue.

This amendment supports equal opportunities for all of our children. Many of the good-paying jobs of the future will require STEM skills, and we as a country must do better to ensure that all children, no matter who they are or where they live, receive quality math and science education.

For far too long, efforts to expand STEM education have left girls and children of color behind. As wages remain flat and income inequality only deepens across our country, ensuring access to quality STEM education for every child is not just a moral imperative, it is an economic necessity. Our children deserve these opportunities and our companies need vibrant diversity in their workforce.

So, again, I want to thank Congressman KENNEDY for offering today's amendment, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1530

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the words of my colleague in recognition of this important issue. I just would like to point out that this amendment does not require anything.

It totally allows for STEM education to be highlighted and STEM programs, particularly important, I believe, at a time when Hispanics and African Americans combined make up 13 percent of our STEM workforce and women only make up 26 percent of our STEM workforce.

This is an imperative. It is a priority for our country if we are truly going to recognize the talent and potential of every American.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, again, I appreciate the gentleman's interest in this issue. His amendment creates a new program.

Under the underlying bill, there is an allowable use. If the school wants to spend money on STEM education, they

certainly may, and I think that is the right way to approach this.

Again, I oppose the gentleman's amendment and support the underlying bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. GROTHMAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part B of House Report 114-29.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 5, lines 4, 7, 16, 20, and 24, strike "2021" and insert "2018".

Page 6, lines 4, 10, 16, 21, and 25, strike "2021" and insert "2018".

Page 7, line 4, strike "2021" and insert "2018".

Page 450, lines 19 and 23, strike "2021" and insert "2018".

Page 461, line 17, strike "2021" and insert "2018".

Page 484, line 11, strike "2021" and insert "2018".

Page 619, line 7, strike "2021" and insert "2018".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chairman, there were a lot of problems in No Child Left Behind, and one of them, of course, is this top-down idea that the Federal Government can run education.

This is a relatively simple amendment. We are shrinking the time that this bill, which is a very hard-worked on bill, shrinking the time before we revisit this issue from 6 years back down to 3 years, from 2021 back down to 2018.

One of the reasons why I think our forefathers did not want Federal Government involved in a lot of things is we move so slowly. Back home, my local superintendent can change policy daily. My local school boards meet every other week. My State superintendent can change policy daily and probably changes rules every few months.

We knew there were big problems with No Child Left Behind back in 2002-

2003. Eleven or 12 or 13 years later after the problems were very apparent, we still have not amended that bill, which is why this is a good amendment right now.

As hard-worked on as this bill is, we know a year from now, a year and a half from now, people will say: Oh, I wish you would have done that, I wish you would have done something else.

I don't think it is too much to ask that we revisit this legislation 3 years from now, well after our local school boards or well after our local State legislators will have met many, many, many times.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, 50 years ago, we passed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, recognizing that a child's future opportunities are primarily established by virtue of their education.

We know that there is inequality in education, primarily because we fund it typically by the real estate tax. We fund it politically, and those in low-income areas tend to get the short end of the stick. That is why we passed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

The underlying bill takes all that good work and goes backwards. They cap the funding. We take the money from the low-income areas, give it to the wealthy areas, we eliminate the focus on English learners and disabled. The bill goes in the wrong direction.

By shortening the authorization of the life of this bill, under H.R. 5, the gentleman's amendment will force us to reauthorize it and reconsider it in a shorter period of time, and if it is a bad bill, I think that is a good thing.

Since it is my firm belief that the implementation of this bill will yield devastating results for our Nation's most vulnerable children, the gentleman and I are in agreement that we ought to revisit it as soon as possible, and that is why I am not in opposition to the amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE).

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I understand the gentleman's concerns, but I must oppose the amendment. I believe it is important to ensure our strong prohibitions and limited Federal role are put in law and maintained for years into the future, rather than for the

length of a pilot project. Our school boards and superintendents and educators need to have some consistency and not be worried about things that are going to change in a year or two or three.

These prohibitions in the bill are important to correct the course of the Federal Government, ensure the U.S. Secretary of Education cannot exercise any control over State and local education decisions, and that cannot be a short-term fix.

For that reason, I oppose the gentleman's amendment.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS).

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, believe it or not, there is something worse than No Child Left Behind. There is something worse than this bill, H.R. 5, and that is constantly moving the ball federally which, unfortunately, this amendment would entail.

One of the biggest concerns from educators, from school boards, from State boards of education is we need time to implement whatever the heck you do in Washington, good, bad, or indifferent. To keep the ball moving constantly adds piles and piles of paperwork at the district level.

No Federal education law is going to be perfect. No Child Left Behind isn't perfect. It has its flaws; it has its merits. H.R. 5, I don't think anybody would agree it is perfect. It has its merits; it has its flaws. Some will feel the flaws outweigh the merits. Some will feel the merits outweigh the flaws.

Having the Federal education policy in place for long enough for all of its systems around public education to catch up and create rules, create policies to see the new law succeed to the extent that it can are absolutely critical for any Federal education law.

The worst possible outcome would be every single 2 or 3 years, this body goes in a radically different direction with regard to Federal education policy, causing every State, every district, every educator, every principal—instead of spending time teaching kids and helping educate children in the classroom—studying up on Federal education policy, trying to fill out new forms, trying to figure out new testing regimes; and, just as they figure them out, we are going to move the ball again.

Whatever the Federal education policy is, it is very important to have some consistency. Now, look, we have had No Child Left Behind for 15 years. We should have replaced it earlier, but the right time wasn't in 2002 or 2003. It might have been when it expired in 2010.

Let's come up with a new Federal education policy. Now, we are on overtime, but the answer is not to take it back before we even know whether a

Federal education policy is working before it expires, only to be replaced by a new Congress with a different law requiring a totally different change of direction by educators, principals, school boards, and State boards of education.

For these reasons, I encourage my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chairman, can I ask how much time is remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Wisconsin has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to close then.

The Acting CHAIR. Does the gentleman from Virginia have any additional speakers?

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I don't have any additional speakers, Mr. Chairman, but I believe I have the right to close.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Wisconsin has the right to close.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Chairman.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. If ours is the position of the underlying bill, and they are trying to amend it, who has the right to close?

The Acting CHAIR. A member of the committee controlling time in true opposition would have the right to close.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chairman, just one more time to emphasize on this amendment, it is my experience, in many, many years dealing with local superintendents, local school boards, very rarely are they appreciative of people on other levels of government without that expertise in education telling them what to do.

Right now, I live in the Campbellsport School District. They are not appreciative when the legislature in Madison tells them how to run their schools, and they are certainly not appreciative when the U.S. Congress tells them how to run the schools.

I am going to vote for this bill today. I think this bill is a step in the right direction. My guess is, if I talk to my local school boards 6 months from now, a year from now, they will be grateful that this bill passed, but they would like still more freedom.

I do think that the local school boards are closer to the parents, closer to the children, and will do a better job of managing those schools than we will.

That is why I have introduced this amendment. I mean, maybe 3 years from now, we are going to go back home to our school districts, and they will say: Oh, my goodness, I wish you would have prescribed more or ordered us around more.

I don't think that is going to happen. I think what is going to happen is 3

years from today, when we look at this again, the local school districts are one more time going to say: Hey, back there in 2015, when you passed this bill, I am glad you passed that bill, but please give us still more freedom.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. MEEKS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part B of House Report 114–29.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 27, beginning on line 10, strike “, at the State's discretion.”.

Page 35, line 24, strike “may” and insert “shall”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 5 perpetuates the same serious flaw with the accountability systems as in No Child Left Behind, which deters high-quality teachers from joining low-performing schools. We need to remediate this problem.

The current accountability system discourages quality teachers from joining low-performing schools because they are warned that if their students are not considered proficient then they will suffer adverse consequences.

As it stands, if a student starts seventh grade at a fourth grade reading level, works diligently with their teacher, and then achieves a sixth grade level by the end of the school year, that student will not be deemed proficient, and both the teacher and the school would be negatively impacted.

My amendment would change that. My amendment would require that annual statewide assessments measure students' growth as a crucial component of the achievement within the accountability system established by the State.

It would leave it to the State to decide their own measurement of growth,

so they can measure an individual student's learning progress and not give an entire school one score based on the amount of the students who are deemed proficient in particular subjects.

I believe high-quality teachers would be more willing to join schools composed of a significant amount of students not meeting proficiency standards. My amendment, therefore, upholds the fundamental principle of the original ESEA to encourage equality in the provision of education, regardless of social economic status or demographics of the student behind the desk.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition to the gentleman's amendment, and I do oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for this amendment, although I do oppose it.

This amendment would require that annual statewide assessments measure student growth and include such growth in that State's accountability system.

Under the Student Success Act, the underlying bill, States are already allowed to include student growth measures in their accountability system if the State chooses.

□ 1545

Adding a Federal mandate is contrary to this bill's purpose of returning control to the hands of the State and local education leaders; therefore, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI).

Ms. BONAMICI. I thank the gentleman from New York for yielding and for offering this important amendment.

Mr. Chairman, under No Child Left Behind, schools were punished if all students did not reach a static proficiency target. It did not matter how many gains students made or how close students were to reaching proficiency. The system under No Child Left Behind was unworkable and damaging.

This reauthorization should recognize the tremendous gains most students make each year, and it should provide an incentive for schools to provide differentiated instruction to all students, including those performing above and below any proficiency benchmark. It is time to replace the No Child Left Behind-style accountability systems that label schools as failing, even when students make tremendous growth.

This amendment is an important step in the right direction, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. KLINE. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS).

Mr. POLIS. I would like to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) for bringing forward this very important amendment that really cuts to the heart of one of the most important changes from No Child Left Behind.

Mr. Chairman, as you know, No Child Left Behind had a concept called adequate yearly progress. It is a bit of a misnomer because it was anything but progress. It was a static picture of where students were. With this new bill reflected in H.R. 5 and the Democratic substitute, the goal is to look at student growth.

Now, unfortunately, the Republican bill absent the Meeks amendment leaves student growth optional. The core piece of Federal education policy, from both a civil rights perspective and an education perspective, should be to ensure that for every child in our country there is accountability for the academic growth of that child each year. That is the key tenet of transparency and accountability that this amendment would restore to the underlying bill.

I strongly believe that if we can pass this amendment, it would remedy one of the major inequities and setbacks in this bill. At least No Child Left Behind had universal goals, even if the goals were off the mark.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have left?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. MEEKS. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I think the case has been made for the growth model as opposed to the static model. It is much fairer. It gives credit where credit is due, as the gentleman from New York has said. Some teachers produce 2 and sometimes 3 years' growth in 1 year, but because the student was so far behind, they are still not up to par on the static test; and on the AYP standard, that school is a failing school although they did tremendous work.

The reason that this needs to be required is these assessments are a little more expensive, and if you don't require it, they won't get done. These are the better assessments and should be a part of the legislation.

I thank the gentleman for introducing his amendment.

Mr. KLINE. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chairman, this is an issue that I believe really needs to be addressed, and I would hope that this amendment will be included in a larger bipartisan reauthorization of ESEA.

I withdraw the amendment at this time, Mr. Chairman.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MRS. LAWRENCE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in part B of House Report 114-29.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 30, line 14, after the second comma, insert "by status as a student in foster care,".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to speak in support of amendment No. 4, which requires that the Secretary of Education disapprove any State plan that fails to, in consulting with the State and local education agencies, demonstrate that there is a separate reporting of academic assessments for foster youth. The bill requires the Secretary of Education to report academic assessments for foster children.

Victor Hugo said, "He who opens a school door, closes a prison." I believe this statement is particularly true for children living in poverty, those who are homeless, and those in the foster care system.

Many students are blessed to have parents that can be advocates for them in and out of school; they have parents that know their teachers, attend PTA meetings, and even testify at school board hearings. However, too many young people are not that lucky.

One in 45 children experience homelessness in America each year. Children experiencing homelessness are four times more likely to show delayed development and are twice as likely to have learning disabilities. Many of these children are under the care of the State through our foster care system.

There are approximately 402,000 children in foster care in the United States. In Michigan alone, approximately 13,000 children are in foster care on any given day. On average, children remain in State care for nearly 2 years, and 8 percent of children in foster care have been there for more than 4 or 5 years. The ethnic breakdown is even more devastating, as 24 percent of those in foster care are African American, double the percentage of African American children in the entire United States population.

In 2013, more than 23,000 young people aged out of foster care without permanent families. In fact, research has shown that those who leave care without being linked to permanent families are likely to experience homelessness,

unemployment, and incarceration as adults. The State, therefore, has a vested interest in this next generation of Americans who face heightened emotional, behavioral, and academic challenges.

Amendment No. 4 simply further disaggregates the data that is already collected. If included, the data generated would allow the State to track the achievement or failure of students who are in foster care on their academic assessments. As you are aware, academic assessment results are already disaggregated within each State and LEA by gender, racial and ethnic group, English proficiency status, students with disabilities, and students with an Active Duty military parent. This only seeks to ensure that foster youth are also monitored and reported on so that the State can take corrective action, as needed.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for this amendment.

Foster children are a vulnerable population of students that face many disruptions in their lives. Unfortunately, it sometimes also disrupts their education. This amendment will allow States and schools to see how their foster children are doing, in addition to other subgroups of students, and then better address their unique needs to improve their education.

Again, I thank the gentlewoman for the amendment. I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. GOODLATTE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in part B of House Report 114–29.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 35, after line 7, insert the following:

“(G) LOCALLY DESIGNED ASSESSMENT SYSTEM.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to prohibit a local educational agency from administering its own assessments in lieu of the State-designed academic assessment system under this paragraph, if—

“(i) the local educational agency obtains approval from the State to administer a locally designed academic assessment system;

“(ii) such assessments provide data that is comparable among all local educational agencies within the State; and

“(iii) the locally designed academic assessment system meets the requirements for the assessments under subparagraph (B), except the requirement under clause (ii) of such subparagraph.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, like many Members of Congress, I continually hear from folks in my district about the need for more local control of education. Mandates from Washington do not always translate well to the school boards, administrators, and teachers who are closest to our Nation's students and are ultimately responsible for providing education in our schools.

While the underlying bill provides flexibility to States and localities in many beneficial ways, the need for additional flexibility for school districts—specifically, in regards to testing—has come to my attention. The amendment I have offered would provide this additional flexibility to localities by giving States new authority to allow local educational agencies to administer their own locally designed academic assessment system in place of the State-designed academic system.

While the same requirements as laid out by the underlying bill for State-designed academic assessments would also apply to any locally designed academic assessment, this would provide an opportunity for localities to create their own assessment tests if they have determined their respective statewide test does not meet their individual school's needs. They also have to have the approval of the State to do this. Having this choice can only benefit our Nation's schools as they seek to provide quality education in a transparent manner.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, this would just add confusion to an already difficult situation. To have each locality set its own assessments means that all of the assessments are going to be different.

What happens in one city is going to be different from another city. If a student in one city moves from another city, all of a sudden, they become more intelligent? No, they just did better on that different assessment.

Mr. Chairman, in our Democratic substitute, we have an amendment

coming up, an idea that the assessments should be as accurate as possible and that we should have as few assessments as possible.

One of the things people keep talking about is the multiple tests and the burden of these tests. We can do better. But allowing each locality to come up with its own home-baked assessment only will lead to confusion and something that nobody will understand. You won't know whether a student in one city is doing as well as a student in another city because you can't compare the results.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just want to say that this would be a new authority given to localities that the State would have to approve. The school district or locality could exercise that authority ongoing.

Practically speaking, if a school district in Virginia, for example, felt that the standards of learning were not suitable for their needs, they would have the opportunity to create and administer their own Rockingham County assessment test. But since the State is still ultimately responsible for this and has the authority to determine to do this, I think this is going to occur in limited circumstances because the State still has that ultimate power and responsibility.

The same requirements as laid out by the underlying bill for State-designed academic assessments would apply to any locally designed academic assessment: reading and math assessments in each of grades three through eight and once in high school; and in science, once in elementary, middle, and high school; reasonable adaptations and accommodations for students with disabilities; inclusion of English learners and so on.

This will encourage creativity and innovation that may help to better inform how we do this testing process. Let's open this up to more ideas from more communities, and I think this will be very well received by school systems around the country and by the States, for that matter.

□ 1600

The amendment will not decrease transparency. Parents and the community will still be able to have access to the information they need about their schools. Under my amendment, any locally derived assessment would still be required to provide data that is comparable among all local education agencies in the State.

Chairman ALEXANDER of the Senate HELP Committee released a discussion draft of his ESEA reauthorization bill in January, and it includes a similar provision to this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the chairman and the members of his staff

working with me and my staff on this amendment, and I, again, urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS).

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, this unfortunate amendment, which enjoys the opposition of both the Chamber of Commerce as well as the civil rights and disability community, would effectively gut the transparency and accountability that we currently have around performance and growth in public schools.

It is absolutely critical to have a common measuring stick to understand how all students are doing. Allowing districts to create and measure their success by their own standards effectively encourages dumbing down of standards and disguises the persistence of learning gaps across our communities. Accountability provides important information to help educators benchmark student performance relevant to students statewide, not just students in their school or district. The learning that we have for making sure that we can compare students from across the State is absolutely critical in creating a high performance, quality public education system.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment proposes to give additional flexibility. It actually provides additional disguises and subterfuge, which is why it is opposed by both the business community and the civil rights community. It is really important that we maintain our commitment to transparency and accountability and that we know what performance standards we are measuring our students against. I would encourage my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to read parts of a letter from the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights. It says:

Locally developed assessments will undermine one of the central tenets of State and local efforts to raise achievement for all students: the ability to have comparable data and, as a result, know how all students, in all schools and all communities, fare on a common, objective measure of achievement.

Statewide assessments serve as a check to ensure the students who are the focus of Federal law—low-income students, students of color, students with disabilities, and English learners—are not being subject to lower expectations than their peers. The assessments provide parents, communities, and advocates with critical information about how well different schools and districts are serving different students, a crucial tool for monitoring and ensuring protection of civil rights. Local assessment would not allow for these same comparisons.

THE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
ON CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS,
February 26, 2015.

OPPOSE GOODLATTE AMENDMENT #74—
PROTECT CIVIL RIGHTS

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 200 national organizations to promote and protect the civil and human rights of all persons in the United States, we urge you to oppose Representative Goodlatte's Amendment #74 to H.R. 5, which would allow school districts to administer their own assessments in lieu of a single, statewide assessment. Locally developed assessments will undermine one of the central tenets of state and local efforts to raise achievement for all students: the ability to have comparable data and, as a result, know how all students, in all schools and all communities, fare on a common, objective measure of achievement.

Statewide assessments serve as a check to ensure the students who are the focus of federal law—low-income students, students of color, students with disabilities, and English learners—are not being subject to lower expectations than their peers. The assessments provide parents, communities, and advocates with critical information about how well different schools and districts are serving different students, a crucial tool for monitoring and ensuring the protection of civil rights. Local assessment would not allow for these same comparisons.

We continue to oppose the underlying bill and urge you to vote against Goodlatte Amendment #74, which further weakens H.R. 5 and undermines the protections of civil rights. If you have any questions, please contact Liz King, Senior Policy Analyst and Director of Education Policy, at king@civilrights.org.

Sincerely,

WADE HENDERSON,
President & CEO.
NANCY ZIRKIN,
Executive Vice President.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, for those reasons I would oppose this amendment and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I am the only speaker, and I would urge my colleagues to support the amendment for the reasons I have already elaborated. It is important to give States, local governments, and school divisions more flexibility. I urge my colleagues to support the amendment, and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I would hope that we would follow the guidance of the business and the civil rights communities and oppose the amendment offered by my distinguished colleague from Virginia. We oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.
The Acting CHAIR (Mr. HULTGREN). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. CASTRO OF TEXAS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in part B of House Report 114-29.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 40, after line 3, insert the following:
“(8) OMBUDSMAN FOR TEXTBOOK STANDARDS.—The Secretary shall appoint an ombudsman who is dedicated to overseeing and resolving State disputes on textbooks standards for K-12 grade levels in order to ensure that States are held accountable for upholding the highest academic standards for K-12 textbooks.”

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Chairman, this is a commonsense amendment that seeks to appoint a neutral ombudsperson within the Department of Education to address student K-12 textbook standards and concerns.

This neutral ombudsperson would be somebody who could receive complaints from students, teachers, administrators—anybody in the schools. This person would be independent of the Secretary. And most importantly, because I know that we yield much power to the States over curriculum in textbooks, this is somebody who would not have any authority to make binding decisions to overturn State decisions, but somebody who could help take in complaints or concerns and also help resolve those concerns within the States, sometimes between publishers in the States, for example.

There are a few reasons I brought this forward. First, in different States, as in my State of Texas, for example, there have been some very heated disputes over what should be included in textbooks—when we think about history, for example. In 2010, I believe, the State Board of Education in Texas considered removing Thomas Jefferson—for the Virginians that are here—from the list of influential philosophers. They have tried to remove Cesar Chavez from Texas textbooks. Some of the same things have happened in places like Arizona, where there have been very heated battles over textbooks there.

This ombudsperson would not have any binding authority to resolve those disputes. This would simply be somebody at the Department of Education who could offer voluntarily to help resolve them or also take in those concerns.

The second part is several years ago—and this is just an anecdote to illustrate this—there was a woman who sent me a picture over Facebook. The picture was of her daughter's textbook. Her daughter was taking summer school at, I believe, my old high school, Thomas Jefferson High School in San Antonio. This textbook was completely

graffitied. It was torn up. It was about as battered as you could find a textbook. This woman was making the point to me that her daughter should not have to be learning from that textbook because the quality was absolutely horrendous.

Well, it turns out that in Texas, in some school districts, students were no longer able to take textbooks home with them. Even though the school district had not moved to online learning or anything like that, they weren't able to take textbooks home with them because of the condition of the textbooks and because they were being torn up so much.

I think that we need at the Department of Education somebody who can take in those concerns and let the Congress know about them and let the Department know about them, but also offer to work with the States to improve those conditions because something like that is most certainly affecting students' learning ability.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for offering his amendment, even though I am opposed to it.

Mr. Chairman, States should have good textbooks for students that cover the material thoroughly, fairly, and most importantly, accurately. But there is no Federal role in determining what those books are or judging the quality of them, frankly. All the arguments the gentleman makes can be taken care of at the State level and at the local level.

I fail to see how they would get any better result in any of his examples by having some Federal bureaucrat hundreds, if not thousands, of miles away from the situation do any better job with it. In fact, Mr. Chairman, the Federal Government already is prohibited from weighing in on things like curriculum and standards. There is absolutely no role for the Federal Government in approving or overseeing the adoption of textbooks. I think that is a bad idea. It leads us on a slippery slope to even worse outcomes.

So it is in that spirit and that vein that I must oppose this amendment. I urge my colleagues, all of them, Republican and Democrat, to do so as well.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman from Indiana yield me 30 seconds?

Mr. ROKITA. I yield the gentleman 30 seconds.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. I hear the gentleman's concerns, and I understand that most of the power in this subject matter is vested with the States. But the fact is there are real problems in some of our States that are not being

addressed and that aren't being handled in the State capitols. This position is a nonbinding one, one where folks in the States would have to come and voluntarily seek out a dispute resolution. This person wouldn't have any power to make decisions for the States or override any decisions. I understand the wariness among many here in this Chamber of the role of the Federal Government.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman, again, for his concern, but I fail to see how this Capitol can do any better a job in solving the problem than the gentleman's State capitol or at the local level. The government that governs best is the government that is closest to the people, and that serves this situation well.

Having nothing further to offer on this, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. LANGEVIN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in part B of House Report 114-29.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 58, strikes lines 12 through 14 and insert the following:

"(B) work-based learning opportunities that provide students in-depth interaction with industry professionals for the purposes of gaining experience and, if appropriate, academic credit;"

Page 58, line 19, strike the period and insert "and".

Page 58, after line 19, insert the following: "(16) if appropriate, how the local educational agency will use funds under this subpart to train school counselors to effectively provide students relevant information regarding their individual career and postsecondary education goals."

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank Chairman KLINE and Ranking Member SCOTT for their work in bringing this

bill to the floor. While I still have strong concerns about the underlying bill, I am pleased to offer this bipartisan amendment along with my good friend and colleague, Mr. G.T. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

As cochairs of the Congressional Career and Technical Education Caucus, Mr. THOMPSON and I are committed to expanding skills training that will provide students of all ages with the capabilities necessary to meet the demands of the modern economy. Our amendment simply provides flexibility for States to use title I funds for apprenticeships and comprehensive career counseling.

Now, this is becoming a common refrain I know, but the skills gap is a persistent and wholly fixable drag on our economy, and we simply need to address it. In conversations with businessowners across my home State in Rhode Island, I have constantly heard that they are struggling to find qualified candidates to fill the job openings that they have available right now. In a State such as mine that has one of the highest unemployment rates in the country still, this is a troubling situation that we need to fix.

Apprenticeships are a tested and proven way for students to gain real-world experience while earning credit toward high school graduation. Students are able to get on-the-job training and skills needed for future career success. Adding apprenticeships to title I will provide a much-needed boost to career training programs.

Additionally, this amendment will make it easier for school districts to invest in comprehensive career counseling, a vital part of skills training.

It is becoming clear that high school diplomas are no longer sufficient for the modern job market. Our amendment seeks to help school counselors connect high school students with the skills that they need to succeed in the 21st-century workforce.

Now, Mr. Speaker, while not every job will require a college degree, some sort of postsecondary education will be absolutely necessary, and, in fact, is absolutely necessary. Whether it comes from a community college, a skills training program, or on-the-job training, we need to change what it means to be college- and career-ready. We need to provide students with the knowledge and the experience that will truly prepare them for what is next.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I urge all of my colleagues to join us in supporting this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, although I am not opposed to this thoughtful amendment, I claim the time.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank my good friend and cochairman of the bipartisan Career and Technical Education Caucus, Mr. LANGEVIN, for working with me on this amendment and his leadership. We believe it is vitally important that flexibility be provided to local school districts as they explore options for students to earn academic credit through internships or apprenticeships.

Unfortunately, too often, our schools have subscribed to a one-size-fits-all approach when it comes to the opportunities available to all students.

□ 1615

It is expected that all graduates will be going on to a 4-year postsecondary school or program. Mr. Chairman, this is a false premise. It is not realistic and certainly not fair to students.

While every child should leave high school college and career ready, it is imperative that we allow school districts to assist young learners in career exploration and the positive gains that can be achieved through real-world work experiences.

This amendment provides flexibility for school districts to provide credit for achieving these real-world academic experiences. I encourage support of this amendment.

I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROKITA), the subcommittee chairman.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for his leadership. On behalf of Chairman KLINE and myself and other certain members of the committee, I would like to put on the RECORD that we think this amendment improves the underlying bill.

I thank the gentlemen for offering it and urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I thank both of my colleagues for their supportive comments in support of this amendment. I urge all of my colleagues to support the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. BARLETTA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in part B of House Report 114-29.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 58, line 14, strike "and".

Page 58, line 19, strike the period and insert "; and".

Page 58, after line 19, insert the following:

"(16) if appropriate, how the local educational agency will use funds under this subpart to support activities that coordinate and integrate before-school and after-school programs, and summer school programs.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the committee for working with me during markup to address my concerns, especially the bill's impact on our Nation's afterschool programs. Supporting kids who attend afterschool programs has been a bipartisan effort.

My amendment simply requires school districts that use title I money for afterschool, before school, or summer school activities to report and describe those activities in their local plans. I am confident the data collected from this reporting will further demonstrate the importance of afterschool programs to our Nation's kids.

We already know afterschool programs help keep kids safe, improve academic performance, and help working families across America. The benefits of these programs span all aspects of our communities. Students participating in afterschool programs have shown improvement in homework completion. There is also improvement in class participation and in attendance.

This all leads to better grades, better behavior, and lower rates of drug use and violence. Where I am from in Pennsylvania, gangs have become a problem in some of our areas. When I was mayor of Hazleton, I saw it on our own streets. Afterschool programs offer a safe environment for kids to further their academic learning, rather than seeking out and joining gangs.

For example, I am proud that SHINE, the Schools & Homes In Education afterschool program is expanding from Carbon County into Luzerne County in my district. This nationally recognized program offers afterschool and summer school programs for kids in pre-K through college. It focuses on projects in STEM courses—science, technology, engineering, and math—as well as the arts.

SHINE helps produce better-educated young people who later go on to graduate from professional schools, colleges, and universities to become important parts of our Nation's workforce. It is a deterrent for criminal behavior.

At the end of the day, afterschool programs like SHINE can change a child's future for the better. I will continue to advocate for their success. I have a special interest in the improvement of our educational system because two of my four daughters are teachers. This amendment and legisla-

tion as a whole are very close to my heart.

Afterschool programs help ensure America's students succeed not only in academic success, but in student engagement as well.

I ask my colleagues to demonstrate their support for afterschool programs by supporting my amendment, and I urge a "yes" vote.

Mr. Chairman, I yield the remainder of my time to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support to my friend, Mr. LOU BARLETTA's amendment to the Student Success Act.

Last week, I had the opportunity to spend time in our district and visit many of our local schools. One thing that I heard from both administrators and teachers are the success of afterschool programs and the summer programs. Let's face it, sometimes, students just have a difficult time maybe during the school year, and they get behind, and when they get behind, they tend to stay behind.

These afterschool programs and these summer programs give our students the opportunity to catch up. That is important because, as long as they are with and remain with the class and can be successful, they are successful students.

That is why I am proud to support Mr. BARLETTA's amendment providing that school districts report afterschool, before school, or summer activities in their local education plans.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, though I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank my friend, Mr. BARLETTA, for his interest and his work on this subject, as well as thank our ranking member for his service and the work that he has put into this overall effort.

This is really important, and I think it is important that we stop for a moment and recognize the effect, the impact, that afterschool programs have in the lives and the trajectory of the lives of so many kids in this country who otherwise don't have a positive outlet for all the energy that these young people carry around with them all the time.

There are neighborhoods in this country—certainly neighborhoods in the communities that I represent—that without afterschool programming provided in that school building, there is no other positive avenue available for them. There is not a community center. There is not a park that is maintained. They don't have the access to

or the means to join a YMCA or a YWCA.

For these kids, the only avenue they have to explore cultural activities, to become involved in music or in the arts or in just good physical exercise, are those afterschool programs, which have the additional value of connecting these young people to their school in a way that is not solely tied to simply classroom time and the very important work that they are doing on their academic studies, but allows them to fill that connection to school as the center of their community.

Of course, what we know—and the research is clear on this—is that young people who are involved in afterschool programming, they do better academically.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate Mr. BARLETTA's efforts on this, and I look forward to working with him on afterschool programming. It is really important, and I think it is right that the Congress address it.

With that, I yield the remainder of my time to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the ranking member.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank the gentleman for his amendment.

I support the important work being done by afterschool, before school, and summer programs. These programs have been proven to increase academic achievement, increase student achievement, and reduce dropouts.

This is especially powerful in light of some studies that show that many students actually regress during the summer. If they are given effective summer programs, that regression can certainly be stopped, so it is a very powerful idea.

I thank the gentleman for offering his amendment, and I hope that it is adopted.

Mr. KILDEE. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MR. QUIGLEY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 9 printed in part B of House Report 114-29.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Strike section 119 and insert the following new section:

SEC. 119. QUALIFICATIONS FOR PARAPROFESSIONALS.

Section 1119 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6319) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (a), (b), (d), (i), (j), (k), and (l);

(2) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (a);

(3) by redesignating subsections (e) through (h) as subsections (b) through (e), respectively;

(4) in subsection (a), as redesignated by paragraph (2), by striking “hired after the date of enactment of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and”;

(5) in subsection (b), as redesignated by paragraph (3), by striking “Subsections (c) and (d)” and inserting “Subsection (a)”; and

(6) in the section heading, by striking “TEACHERS AND”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, we must keep a critical part of ESEA: standards for paraprofessionals.

Republicans and Democrats agree, classroom professionals—or paraprofessionals as they are called—must be prepared and equipped to carry out their work in the classroom.

Today, paraprofessionals are qualified to provide much-needed instructional support, especially for students with special needs. Every school district in our country is in compliance with these standards and has been since 2006. In fact, 11 States, including my own State of Illinois, have already codified these requirements in their own State law.

Removing these Federal requirements would risk defaulting to low or nonexistent standards for these professionals at the State or local levels. We simply can't let this happen.

Classrooms are already severely overcrowded, and paraprofessionals provide teachers with the critical support they need to best educate our children. I am a strong supporter of our teachers, and part of that support comes in ensuring that their aides and other classroom counterparts are qualified to do their jobs.

By eliminating these standards, we are turning our backs on the teachers who educate our children. Let's support our teachers and support paraprofessionals.

I urge a “yes” vote on my amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleagues for this amendment, although I must oppose it.

This amendment adds back specific Federal requirements for paraprofessionals. These provisions place too much emphasis on a teacher's credentials, degrees, and licensing. As a result, schools have come to value a teacher's resume over his or her ability to increase student achievement, i.e., their effectiveness.

The elimination of these requirements in the Student Success Act does not prohibit States or local school districts from having requirements for teachers and paraprofessionals, but certainly, it is not the job of the Federal Government to tell States and locals what those requirements are.

Because of that, I urge my colleagues to vote against this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY).

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman.

Paraprofessionals play an important role in our schools. They are teacher's aides, instructional assistants, and often work closest with special-needs students. They also provide support to teachers by working with students in direct instructional roles.

As a grandfather of a student with special needs, I clearly understand the importance of ensuring that he has the proper support he needs at school.

This amendment does not create any new standards or requirements. It simply maintains the qualification requirements already in place. Without these requirements, we risk having underqualified people in charge of special education students.

It is critical to student success that we have qualified, trained paraprofessionals, teachers, and administrators. Remember, every schoolteacher in the country is already compliant with this requirement.

This is common sense, and I urge support of this amendment.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the ranking member.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, when Congress enacted No Child Left Behind in 2002, we recognized the importance of paraprofessional qualifications.

Because their support to students has a significant impact on their success in school, paraprofessionals provide a wide range of critical support, including tutoring, computer assistance, library resources, classroom management, translation, and other instructional services.

In the past 13 years, paraprofessionals have met these strong qualifications, including minimum postsecondary credentials and a demonstration of specialized knowledge. They already meet these standards, and that is why it is unfortunate that the underlying bill repeals these standards.

□ 1630

We don't understand why we would want to go backwards in maintaining the high standards; and that is why

this amendment is so important, and I would hope it would be adopted.

Mr. ROKITA. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chair, the entire purpose of ESEA was to improve the status of education for all of our children in this country regardless of their ZIP Code or their special needs status. Let's keep these standards for paraprofessionals intact. I urge my colleagues to vote for this bipartisan amendment to support teachers and students.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Chair, in closing, I would like to say that the whole theme, the whole purpose of the Student Success Act is the fact that we trust teachers, parents, local policymakers, local taxpayers more, thinking that they can do a better job than anyone out here in Washington, D.C.

The arguments the gentlemen make are certainly good ones. Standards are a good thing; they should be made at the local and State level. The government that governs best is the one that is closest to the people. That is what the Student Success Act, in large part, is about.

The gentleman from West Virginia indicates that he is the grandfather of a special needs child. I am the father of a special needs child. As one of the authors of the Student Success Act, I think these standards can be well adopted at the State and local level, and that is where they should be adopted.

With that, I urge my colleagues to vote against this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MS. FUDGE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 10 printed in part B of House Report 114-29.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 92, strike lines 8 through 14 and insert the following:

SEC. 121. FISCAL REQUIREMENTS.

Section 1120A (20 U.S.C. 6321) is amended by striking "part" each place such term appears and inserting "subpart".

Page 563, after line 16, insert the following (and redesignate provisions accordingly):

"SEC. 6541. MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—A local educational agency may receive funds under a covered

program for any fiscal year only if the State educational agency finds that either the combined fiscal effort per student or the aggregate expenditures of the agency and the State with respect to the provision of free public education by the agency for the preceding fiscal year was not less than 90 percent of the combined fiscal effort or aggregate expenditures for the second preceding fiscal year.

"(b) REDUCTION IN CASE OF FAILURE TO MEET.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The State educational agency shall reduce the amount of the allocation of funds under a covered program in any fiscal year in the exact proportion by which a local educational agency fails to meet the requirement of subsection (a) of this section by falling below 90 percent of both the combined fiscal effort per student and aggregate expenditures (using the measure most favorable to the local agency).

"(2) SPECIAL RULE.—No such lesser amount shall be used for computing the effort required under subsection (a) of this section for subsequent years.

"(c) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the requirements of this section if the Secretary determines that a waiver would be equitable due to—

"(1) exceptional or uncontrollable circumstances, such as a natural disaster; or

"(2) a precipitous decline in the financial resources of the local educational agency."

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would reinstate maintenance of effort requirements in H.R. 5. It would continue to require States to show that current year funding is at least 90 percent of the prior year amount before receiving any Federal education dollars.

Maintenance of effort is intended to protect resources for schools and students in tough economic times. Removal of maintenance of effort requirements from ESEA, as contemplated in H.R. 5, would allow States to raid their education budgets to pay for other budget line items or programs. That will leave the Federal Government the primary or only funding source for schools.

If the goal of H.R. 5 is to reduce Federal input for education, this does just the opposite. States should not be given free rein to reduce school funding. That approach disproportionately impacts poor communities and children. This Congress should not revert to the times of larger class sizes, poorly supported teachers, and less access to rigorous curriculum for so many of our poor, disabled, and English-learning children.

The 90 percent MOE threshold in common law is a commonsense safeguard. It ensures State agencies remain invested in key education programs while still allowing States the room to respond to changing fiscal realities.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the ranking member.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, the purpose of ESEA is to increase resources to an education, especially focused on areas of high poverty. The underlying bill limits the amount of money that can be spent under the bill. It takes money by changing the formula from low-income areas to high-income areas, and now this amendment tries to eliminate one of the most devastating impacts, that is the requirement of the maintenance of effort.

If there is Federal money going into the States, it can only increase money going to education if the States maintain their effort. If they are able to reduce their effort and just replace the money they were spending with the Federal money, then there has been no increase in education, and the ones left behind continue to remain behind.

This is an extremely important amendment. It makes sure that the Federal money actually increases the money going to education to help those left behind, and I would hope that we would correct this grievous error in the underlying bill by adopting the amendment.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Chair, I oppose this amendment because it simply goes back to the status quo of current law, which ties the hands of State officials over budgeting.

What schools and States need is less Federal control and greater flexibility, not the opposite. We need to stop thinking that we know what is best for States, and that includes telling them how much to spend on various areas of their budget.

I want to be clear that the statutory civil rights provisions in current law are kept. We don't have that issue with this bill.

I want to also make the point that just because you spend more money on something doesn't mean you get a better result. Since 1970, Federal education spending has increased 300 percent in this country, while test scores have remained flat. So just increasing funding levels isn't necessarily the answer.

The fact of the matter is an MOE directs the States' and individuals' property, i.e., their money, to do things that really we shouldn't be telling States or localities or individuals what to do with.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio has 2½ minutes remaining.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI).

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, I thank Representative FUDGE for yielding and for offering this important amendment.

Public education is primarily the responsibility of States and local school districts. Historically, the Federal Government contributes about 10 percent of funding to K–12 education.

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act, since it was first enacted as part of the war on poverty, has supplemented the role of States and districts by providing targeted resources to students and communities that have traditionally been underserved and continue to need that additional support. This amendment is critical to preserving that targeted role.

The receipt of Federal funds should not be used to replace the investment of States in public education. I urge my colleagues to support Representative FUDGE's important amendment.

Mr. ROKITA. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Chairman, it is certainly important that we restore MOE requirements to this bill. H.R. 5 must be amended to ensure every child in America has access to a quality education.

Mr. Chairman, this bill is so flawed that even this amendment will not improve it significantly. Therefore, I respectfully withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MR. DESAULNIER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 11 printed in part B of House Report 114–29.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 92, strike lines 19 and 20 and insert the following:

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “such as the Early Reading First program”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new sentence: “Each local educational agency shall develop agreements with such Head Start agencies and other entities to carry out such activities.”; and

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentleman from California (Mr. DESAULNIER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Chairman, there is no doubt that Head Start programs produce incredible benefits for American children and families involved and for their communities.

Those benefits are not only educational, but economic and health-related as well.

As a former Head Start commissioner in California, I have seen firsthand how effective these programs can be at making kids excited about learning at an early age and the positive effects that they have on their education in the future.

The original intent of the law was to ensure that local education agencies are working collaboratively with Head Start to ensure Head Start is providing services that are the most thoughtful and relevant to their local community. However, while Head Start agencies are required to form coordination agreements with local education agencies, the opposite is not true, which slows the process and creates unnecessary bureaucracy.

For example, this loophole causes Head Start agencies to spend weeks on end trying to pin down the local education agency. The local education agency, on the other hand, doesn't feel that it is a priority to sign an official agreement since they are not required to do so. This causes the process to break down.

This amendment is short and sweet. It would simply strengthen the language that currently exists within the ESEA, which reads that both parties must coordinate with early childhood programs and, instead, require local education agencies to develop agreements with Head Start agencies.

It would make agreements a two-way street, would clarify and solidify the process, and would be a victory for local education agencies, Head Start programs, and the children in the programs that they both serve.

It is long overdue to make this fix, and it is noncontroversial and non-partisan.

I yield back the balance of my time, Mr. Chair.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Chair, I claim time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Chairman, research indicates reliable, high-quality child care is critical to sustaining parents' ability to work. That is why the legislation would allow States and schools to use funds allocated through what we call the local academic flexible grant under title I to support pre-K programs. Instead of creating a Federal program, as I see this amendment, it improves the coordination between existing Head Start programs and local educational agencies.

This amendment improves the underlying bill, I think, and strengthens existing early childhood care and education programs for children in low-income families.

As a cosponsor of the bill, I would like to thank the gentleman for offering this amendment. Again, I think it improves the underlying bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. DESAULNIER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MR. RODNEY DAVIS OF ILLINOIS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 12 printed in part B of House Report 114–29.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 225, line 17, strike the final quotation marks and period at the end.

Page 225, after line 17, insert the following:

“SEC. 1405. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING.

“Nothing in this title shall be construed to alter or otherwise affect the rights, remedies, and procedures afforded to school or local educational agency employees under Federal, State, or local laws (including applicable regulations or court orders) or under the terms of collective bargaining agreements, memoranda of understanding, or other agreements between such employers and their employees.”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer this amendment that would protect the voices of our educational professionals and also maintain local control, which is what reforming the ESEA program is all about, especially in my district.

This amendment simply protects the savings clause of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to ensure that nothing in Federal law can be construed to terminate or overturn a State or local collective bargaining law, memorandum, or other agreements.

The savings clause predates No Child Left Behind and has been in existence for more than 20 years. In addition, 34 States, including my home State of Illinois, Mr. Chairman, explicitly allow collective bargaining for teachers, education support professionals, and other higher education faculty. The amendment does not expand collective bargaining rights that exist in current law.

The bottom line is this amendment provides certainty to local and State entities that the current collective bargaining agreements will remain in place. This amendment is supported by

many here in Washington and many teachers and educational professionals that I have spoken with, including those at the Illinois Education Association and the National Education Association.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment to provide certainty for our educational professionals.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1645

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I rise to claim the time in opposition, although I am not in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois. The amendment is thoughtful and necessary to restore employee protections that are already in current law.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from the great State of Indiana (Mr. ROKITA), my colleague and friend.

Mr. ROKITA. I thank the gentleman. Mr. Chair, I think this is a good amendment. It clarifies the law on this topic, and I am glad to support it. I thank the gentleman for offering it, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS).

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, relationships between districts and their employees can at times be turbulent. It is challenging for school board members, and it is challenging for educators. Most of all, it is challenging and frustrating for the parents of kids who are in the schools. What this amendment does is it helps to provide a degree of certainty and predictability with regard to collective bargaining agreements that are in place.

As we move forward with the ESEA reauthorization, we should focus on what needs to be fixed and what doesn't need to be fixed. The truth is many collective bargaining agreements in place are strong and are an asset to the districts that have them. We have many school districts in Colorado that have entered collective bargaining agreements with their educators, agreements that include pay for performance, that include quality measures; and we should encourage that kind of creativity at the district level.

The more we can do to provide the kind of stability within this regime as we switch to a post-No Child Left Behind era, providing the predictability for the educators who are in the classroom every day and who are doing the very best they can to educate our kids, is a tenet that, hopefully, we all agree

on and is one that is reflected in this amendment, which I strongly support.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time in order to offer closing remarks.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI).

Ms. BONAMICI. Thank you, Mr. Ranking Member, for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I want to thank Representative DAVIS and Representative JOYCE BEATTY for offering this amendment. The savings clause is an important feature of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and I appreciate the bipartisan effort of my colleagues to reinstate it.

The Student Success Act should respect collective bargaining agreements and memoranda of understanding that have been negotiated across this country. I commend the Representatives for their work to make sure that this legislation we are debating does not interfere with local laws or agreements, and I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this amendment.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their support for this commonsense amendment.

When I go back and speak to my educational professionals and also as a father of three teenagers in the Taylorville, Illinois, public school system, it is constantly about: How do we make sure that Washington stays out of running our schools in our local school districts? That is what is so great about other provisions in this ESEA reform package. My colleague Mr. ROKITA and my colleague Chairman JOHN KLINE have put measures in place that will fix some of the problems that many of us have seen through the implementation of No Child Left Behind over a decade ago.

Local control matters, and in this instance, this clarifies that local control and locally negotiated collective bargaining agreements are not superseded by bureaucrats here in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Illinois has 2¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the great State of Illinois (Mr. BOST), my friend and colleague.

Mr. BOST. I thank my friend from Illinois for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment, and I urge its adoption.

The amendment simply states that nothing in the bill shall interfere with State and local collective bargaining laws. This amendment is about Federal

respect of State and local laws. When it comes to education, I am a firm believer in local control, and everybody who has known me over the years from my State knows that to be a fact.

For too long, the Federal Government has attempted to determine for parents, teachers, and school administrators what is best for our schools and for our children in southern Illinois. The underlying bill may not be perfect, but we can't let it fall for the good that it does do. The legislation takes an important step forward in restoring local control in education. That is good for my kids, and it is good for your kids.

Once again, I thank my friend for the opportunity to support the amendment.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank my colleague from Illinois (Mr. BOST), who has been a fighter for those in education throughout his tenure as a State representative in Illinois. He and I have worked together on these issues for over 20 years.

Since I offered my closing remarks before he spoke, I will take this opportunity, before I lose my voice completely, to yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MS. MOORE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 13 printed in part B of House Report 114-29.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 229, line 1, after "the Secretary" insert "makes a determination in writing to Congress for that fiscal year that the level and quality of educational services to individuals age 5 through 17 from families with incomes below the poverty line has not decreased since the date of enactment of the Student Success Act and"

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chair, I rise today, along with my colleagues FREDERICA WILSON of Florida and DANNY DAVIS of Illinois, to offer an amendment.

This amendment seeks to protect our most vulnerable students by ensuring that high-poverty schools are not adversely affected by provisions in H.R. 5, which propose changes in the funding allocation formula for teacher support and the quality of educational services under title II of the No Child Left Behind Act. Mr. Chair, if we don't adopt

this amendment, we may inadvertently break a long bipartisan agreement on our fundamental need to ensure that our low-income students are not assigned less qualified teachers and less quality educational resources than their more advantaged peers.

The reality is that a school district that serves students in poverty faces many, many hurdles and challenges in recruiting and in retaining teachers as well as other qualified staff. Current law prioritizes teacher development funding to States and schools serving the greatest concentrations of students in poverty.

Specifically, the No Child Left Behind title II formula for school districts focuses 65 percent of funds on students in poverty and 35 percent on the number of students, which is students in poverty versus just the number of students. The State formula focuses 80 percent of its funding on poverty and 20 percent on student population. H.R. 5 completely upends this. It eliminates this critical prioritization by equally weighting poverty with mere student population, sort of cutting the baby in half, 50/50. This removes substantial Federal support from schools and States serving the poorest students and gives these funds to schools and States without similar levels of economic need. This, of course, Mr. Chair, has an impact on every single State in the Union where there are disparate levels of income in our communities. It undermines teacher training and student achievement for students in poverty.

My amendment simply would delay the implementation of this formula until the Secretary of Education certifies to Congress that students in poverty are not adversely affected by this change in service, quality, and level. This would provide the appropriate caution before eliminating that critical safeguard of funds for students in poverty.

As written, we have strong reasons to fear that H.R. 5 would result in Federal dollars being siphoned away from States and school districts with the poorest students and being awarded to States and schools with higher affluence. In fact, data from the U.S. Department of Education released earlier this week show that H.R. 5 translates into billions of dollars of cuts in school districts serving high populations of Black and Hispanic students.

Mr. Chair, since all politics is local, I must decry the loss of these educational resources to the largest school district in my jurisdiction, and that is the Milwaukee Public Schools system. They would lose upwards of \$160 million in Federal funds for impoverished students over a 6-year period if we ratify H.R. 5 in its current form. Our Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, has called this kind of a reverse Robin Hood—stealing from the poor to give to the rich.

While we are discussing this, I just want to point out one last thing. This is budget neutral. This amendment doesn't add one dime to the cost of this bill. Its only intention is to protect the very teacher supports that help close the achievement gaps for low-income students. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

Mr. Chair, how much time do I have?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman has 30 seconds remaining.

Ms. MOORE. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for this amendment, although I must oppose it.

It is my understanding that this amendment is unnecessary in the sense that, during the last Congress, the House adopted a nearly identical amendment offered by the gentlewoman when H.R. 5 was considered at the time. Because it was adopted, her original amendment is included in the base text of this version of H.R. 5; therefore, this amendment is duplicative of existing language.

Mr. Chair, I would politely say to the gentlewoman that she fails to see just how persuasive she was in the last Congress, and I would urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, not because of the underlying idea, but because it is simply duplicative of existing language.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chair, if this is duplicative, then it does no harm. This was offered with an abundance of caution because the formula is being proposed to be changed.

So just vote for it. I mean, if it is repetitive or redundant, what is the harm? Please vote for it. Please withdraw your objection.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MR. MCKINLEY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 14 printed in part B of House Report 114-29.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 231, after line 3, insert the following: "(7) A description of any subjects the State has identified as being workforce critical subjects pursuant to section 2234(6)."

Page 266, line 20, strike the closing quotation marks and the last period.

Page 266, after line 20, insert the following:

"(6) WORKFORCE CRITICAL SUBJECT.—The term 'workforce critical subject' means an academic subject of urgent importance to the current and future workforce needs of the State, including science, technology, engineering, math, and any other subject that has been identified by the State, in consultation with employer, workforce, community, educator, parent and professional stakeholders."

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is quite simple. It requires States to identify "workforce critical subjects" for their schools. A workforce critical subject is one that matches the needs of employers to the courses being taught.

Too often, we graduate students with skills that don't match the needs of our employers. In West Virginia, we have needs for jobs in oil and gas, health care, information technology, and clean coal research.

□ 1700

But each State is different. Currently, 60 percent of U.S. employers are experiencing difficulties finding qualified workers to fill vacancies, and 58 percent of HR professionals reported that workers lack competencies needed to perform their jobs.

Today's workforce is ever changing. This amendment will help States identify areas where to focus on developing skills and competencies needed in the workforce. This could involve an increased focus on science, technology, engineering, and math. Identifying workforce-critical subjects will help us do just that.

I want to thank the STEM Education Coalition and Chairman KLINE for their support of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I think the gentleman's amendment focuses on the importance of aligning education with labor market needs so that when you get educated, you are educated for the jobs of the future. The underlying bill, however, does not insist on college and career-ready standards so that when young people graduate from high school, they

ought to be ready for a job or for college.

We would like to see in the legislation that the standards set by each State provide that if you graduate from high school, you are able to go to college without remediation. That is not in the underlying bill. This amendment does a step in the right direction by aligning education to labor market needs.

Therefore, I am not in opposition to the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KLINE) having assumed the chair, Mr. HULTGREN, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5) to support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1847

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) at 6 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.

STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 125 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 5.

Will the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) kindly take the chair.

□ 1848

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5) to support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform par-

ents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes, with Mr. SIMPSON (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, amendment No. 14 printed in part B of House Report 114-29 offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY) had been disposed of.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in part B of House Report 114-29 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 1 by Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts.

Amendment No. 2 by Mr. GROTHMAN of Wisconsin.

Amendment No. 6 by Mr. CASTRO of Texas.

Amendment No. 9 by Mr. QUIGLEY of Illinois.

Amendment No. 13 by Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. KENNEDY

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 204, noes 217, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 95]

AYES—204

Adams	Cicilline	Diaz-Balart
Aguilar	Clark (MA)	Dingell
Ashford	Clarke (NY)	Doggett
Bass	Cleaver	Dold
Beatty	Clyburn	Doyle, Michael
Becerra	Cohen	F.
Bera	Connolly	Duckworth
Beyer	Conyers	Edwards
Bishop (GA)	Cooper	Ellison
Blumenauer	Costa	Engel
Bonamici	Costello (PA)	Eshoo
Boyle, Brendan	Courtney	Esty
F.	Crowley	Farr
Brady (PA)	Cuellar	Fattah
Brown (FL)	Cummings	Fitzpatrick
Brownley (CA)	Curbelo (FL)	Foster
Bustos	Davis (CA)	Frankel (FL)
Butterfield	Davis, Danny	Fudge
Capps	Davis, Rodney	Gabbard
Capuano	DeFazio	Gallego
Cardenas	DeGette	Garamendi
Carney	Delaney	Gibson
Carson (IN)	DeLauro	Graham
Cartwright	DeBene	Grayson
Castor (FL)	Dent	Green, Al
Castro (TX)	DeSaulnier	Green, Gene
Chu, Judy	Deutch	Grijalva

Guinta	Lujan, Ben Ray	Rush
Gutiérrez	(NM)	Ryan (OH)
Hahn	Lynch	Sánchez, Linda
Hanna	Maloney,	T.
Hastings	Carolyn	Sanchez, Loretta
Heck (WA)	Maloney, Sean	Sarbanes
Herrera Beutler	Matsui	Schakowsky
Higgins	McCollum	Schiff
Himes	McDermott	Schock
Honda	McGovern	Schrader
Hoyer	McNerney	Scott (VA)
Huffman	Meng	Scott, David
Israel	Moore	Serrano
Jackson Lee	Moulton	Sherman
Jeffries	Murphy (FL)	Sinema
Johnson, E. B.	Nadler	Sires
Jolly	Napolitano	Slaughter
Kaptur	Neal	Smith (WA)
Katko	Nolan	Stefanik
Keating	Norcross	Swalwell (CA)
Kelly (IL)	O'Rourke	Takai
Kennedy	Pallone	Takano
Kildee	Pascarell	Thompson (CA)
Kilmer	Payne	Thompson (MS)
Kind	Pearce	Titus
Kirkpatrick	Pelosi	Tonko
Knight	Perlmutter	Torres
Kuster	Peters	Tsongas
Langevin	Peterson	Upton
Larsen (WA)	Pingree	Van Hollen
Larson (CT)	Pocan	Vargas
Lawrence	Polis	Veasey
Levin	Price (NC)	Vela
Lewis	Quigley	Velázquez
Lieu, Ted	Rangel	Vislosky
Lipinski	Reichert	Walz
LoBiondo	Rice (NY)	Wasserman
Loeback	Richmond	Schultz
Lofgren	Rigell	Watson Coleman
Lowenthal	Ros-Lehtinen	Welch
Lowe	Roybal-Allard	Wilson (FL)
Lujan Grisham	Royce	Yarmuth
(NM)	Ruiz	Young (AK)
	Ruppersberger	

NOES—217

Abraham	Duncan (SC)	Joyce
Aderholt	Duncan (TN)	Kelly (PA)
Allen	Ellmers (NC)	King (IA)
Amash	Emmer (MN)	King (NY)
Amodel	Farenthold	Kinzinger (IL)
Babin	Fincher	Kline
Barletta	Fleischmann	Labrador
Barr	Fleming	LaMalfa
Barton	Flores	Lamborn
Benishek	Forbes	Lance
Bilirakis	Fortenberry	Latta
Bishop (MI)	Fox	Loudermilk
Bishop (UT)	Franks (AZ)	Love
Black	Frelinghuysen	Lucas
Blackburn	Garrett	Luetkemeyer
Blum	Gibbs	Lummis
Bost	Gohmert	MacArthur
Boustany	Goodlatte	Marchant
Brady (TX)	Gosar	Marino
Brat	Gowdy	Massie
Bridenstine	Granger	McCarthy
Brooks (AL)	Graves (GA)	McCaul
Brooks (IN)	Graves (LA)	McClintock
Buchanan	Graves (MO)	McHenry
Buck	Griffith	McKinley
Bucshon	Grothman	McMorris
Burgess	Guthrie	Rodgers
Byrne	Hardy	McSally
Calvert	Harper	Meadows
Carter (GA)	Harris	Meehan
Carter (TX)	Hartzler	Messer
Chabot	Heck (NV)	Mica
Chaffetz	Hensarling	Miller (FL)
Clawson (FL)	Hice, Jody B.	Miller (MI)
Coffman	Hill	Moolenaar
Cole	Holding	Mooney (WV)
Collins (GA)	Hudson	Mullin
Collins (NY)	Huelskamp	Mulvaney
Comstock	Huizenga (MI)	Murphy (PA)
Conaway	Hultgren	Neugebauer
Cook	Hunter	Newhouse
Cramer	Hurd (TX)	Noem
Crawford	Issa	Nugent
Crenshaw	Jenkins (KS)	Nunes
Culberson	Jenkins (WV)	Olson
Denham	Johnson (OH)	Palazzo
DeSantis	Johnson, Sam	Palmer
DesJarlais	Jones	Paulsen
Duffy	Jordan	Perry

Pittenger	Salmon	Wagner	Gowdy	Love	Rohrabacher	Murphy (PA)	Roybal-Allard	Tiberi
Pitts	Sanford	Walberg	Graves (GA)	Lujan Grisham	Rooney (FL)	Napolitano	Royce	Tipton
Poe (TX)	Scalise	Walden	Graves (LA)	(NM)	Ross	Neal	Ruiz	Titus
Poliquin	Schweikert	Walker	Griffith	Massie	Rothfus	Newhouse	Ruppersberger	Tonko
Pompeo	Scott, Austin	Walorski	Grothman	McClintock	Rouzer	Noem	Rush	Torres
Posey	Sensenbrenner	Walters, Mimi	Guinta	McHenry	Salmon	Norcross	Russell	Trott
Price, Tom	Sessions	Weber (TX)	Harris	Meadows	Sanford	Nugent	Ryan (OH)	Tsongas
Ratcliffe	Shimkus	Webster (FL)	Herrera Beutler	Messer	Scalise	Nunes	Ryan (WI)	Turner
Reed	Shuster	Wenstrup	Hice, Jody B.	Mica	Schweikert	O'Rourke	Sánchez, Linda T.	Upton
Renacci	Simpson	Westerman	Hill	Mooney (WV)	Scott (VA)	Palazzo	Sanchez, Loretta	Valadao
Ribble	Smith (MO)	Westmoreland	Himes	Mullin	Scott, Austin	Pallone	Sarbanes	Van Hollen
Rice (SC)	Smith (NE)	Whitfield	Holding	Mulvaney	Sensenbrenner	Paulsen	Schakowsky	Veasey
Roby	Smith (NJ)	Williams	Hudson	Nadler	Sessions	Payne	Schiff	Vela
Rogers (AL)	Smith (TX)	Wilson (SC)	Huelskamp	Neugebauer	Smith (NE)	Pearce	Schock	Velázquez
Rogers (KY)	Stewart	Wittman	Huffman	Nolan	Stewart	Pelosi	Schrader	Visclosky
Rohrabacher	Stivers	Womack	Huizenga (MI)	Olson	Stutzman	Perlmutter	Scott, David	Wagner
Rokita	Stutzman	Woodall	Hultgren	Palmer	Weber (TX)	Peterson	Serrano	Walberg
Rooney (FL)	Thompson (PA)	Yoder	Jackson Lee	Pascrell	Wenstrup	Pingree	Sewell (AL)	Walden
Roskam	Thornberry	Yoho	Jenkins (KS)	Perry	Westerman	Pitts	Sherman	Walker
Ross	Tiberi	Young (IA)	Jolly	Peters	Wittman	Pocan	Shimkus	Walorski
Rothfus	Tipton	Young (IN)	Jones	Poe (TX)	Woodall	Poliquin	Shuster	Walters, Mimi
Rouzer	Trott	Zeldin	Jordan	Pompeo	Yoder	Polis	Simpson	Walz
Russell	Turner	Zinke	Kelly (PA)	Posey	Yoho	Price (NC)	Sinema	Wasserman
Ryan (WI)	Valadao		Labrador	Price, Tom	Ratcliffe	Quigley	Sires	Schultz
			Lance	Ratcliffe	Ribble	Rangel	Slaughter	Watson Coleman
			Loudermilk			Reed	Smith (MO)	Webster (FL)
						Reichert	Smith (NJ)	Welch
						Renacci	Smith (TX)	Westmoreland
						Rice (NY)	Smith (WA)	Whitfield
						Rice (SC)	Stefanik	Williams
						Richmond	Stivers	Wilson (FL)
						Rigell	Swalwell (CA)	Wilson (SC)
						Roby	Takai	Womack
						Rogers (AL)	Takano	Yarmuth
						Rogers (KY)	Thompson (CA)	Young (AK)
						Rokita	Thompson (MS)	Young (IN)
						Ros-Lehtinen	Thompson (PA)	Zeldin
						Roskam	Thornberry	Zinke

NOT VOTING—11

Clay	Lee	Sewell (AL)
Hinojosa	Long	Speier
Hurt (VA)	Meeks	Waters, Maxine
Johnson (GA)	Roe (TN)	

□ 1910

Messrs. SCHWEIKERT, DENHAM, DUNCAN of South Carolina, and SMITH of Nebraska changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Messrs. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, DIAZ-BALART, DOLD, CURBELO of Florida, UPTON, Ms. TSONGAS, Messrs. CLYBURN, AL GREEN of Texas, ROYCE, Ms. STEFANIK, and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. GROTHMAN

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 114, noes 311, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 96]

AYES—114

Amash	Buck	Duncan (SC)
Ashford	Burgess	Duncan (TN)
Barr	Capuano	Engel
Bera	Castro (TX)	Fincher
Bishop (UT)	Chabot	Fleming
Blackburn	Chaffetz	Flores
Blum	Clawson (FL)	Fortenberry
Bonamici	Collins (GA)	Franks (AZ)
Brady (TX)	Cooper	Garrett
Brat	DeSantis	Gibbs
Bridenstine	DesJarlais	Gibson
Brooks (AL)	Doggett	Gohmert
Brownley (CA)	Duffy	Gosar

NOES—311

Abraham	Davis (CA)	Johnson (OH)
Adams	Davis, Danny	Johnson, E. B.
Aderholt	Davis, Rodney	Johnson, Sam
Aguilar	DeFazio	Joyce
Allen	DeGette	Kaptur
Amodei	Delaney	Katko
Babin	DeLauro	Keating
Barletta	DeBene	Kelly (IL)
Barton	Denham	Kennedy
Bass	Dent	Kildee
Beatty	DeSaulnier	Kilmer
Becerra	Deutch	Kind
Benishek	Diaz-Balart	King (IA)
Beyer	Dingell	King (NY)
Bilirakis	Dold	Kinziger (IL)
Bishop (GA)	Doyle, Michael F.	Kirkpatrick
Bishop (MI)	Duckworth	Kline
Black	Edwards	Knight
Blumenauer	Ellison	Kuster
Bost	Ellmers (NC)	LaMalfa
Boustany	Ellmer (MN)	Lamborn
Boyle, Brendan F.	Eshoo	Langevin
Brady (PA)	Esty	Larsen (WA)
Brooks (IN)	Farenthold	Larson (CT)
Brown (FL)	Farr	Latta
Buchanan	Fattah	Lawrence
Bucshon	Fitzpatrick	Levin
Bustos	Fleischmann	Lieu, Ted
Butterfield	Forbes	Lipinski
Byrne	Foster	LoBiondo
Calvert	Fox	Loeb
Capps	Frankel (FL)	Loeb
Cardenas	Frelinghuysen	Lofgren
Carney	Fudge	Lowenthal
Carson (IN)	Gabbard	Lowey
Carter (GA)	Gallo	Lucas
Carter (TX)	Garamendi	Luetkemeyer
Cartwright	Goodlatte	Lujan, Ben Ray (NM)
Castor (FL)	Graham	Lummis
Chu, Judy	Granger	Lynch
Cicilline	Graves (MO)	MacArthur
Clark (MA)	Grayson	Maloney,
Clarke (NY)	Green, Al	Carolyn
Clay	Green, Gene	Maloney, Sean
Cleaver	Grijalva	Marchant
Clyburn	Guthrie	Marino
Coffman	Gutiérrez	Matsui
Cohen	Hahn	McCarthy
Cole	Hanna	McCauley
Collins (NY)	Hardy	McCollum
Comstock	Harper	McDermott
Conaway	Hartzer	McGovern
Connolly	Hastings	McKinley
Conyers	Heck (NV)	McMorris
Cook	Heck (WA)	Rodgers
Costa	Hensarling	McNerney
Costello (PA)	Higgins	McSally
Courtney	Honda	Meehan
Cramer	Hoyer	Meeks
Crawford	Hunter	Meng
Crenshaw	Hurd (TX)	Miller (FL)
Crowley	Israel	Miller (MI)
Cuellar	Issa	Moolenaar
Culberson	Jeffries	Moore
Cummings	Jenkins (WV)	Moulton
Curbelo (FL)	Johnson (GA)	Murphy (FL)

NOT VOTING—7

Hinojosa	Long	Waters, Maxine
Hurt (VA)	Roe (TN)	
Lee	Speier	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1916

Mr. PAYNE changed his vote from “aye” to “no.”

Mr. BARR changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

(By unanimous consent, Mr. MCCARTHY was allowed to speak out of order.)

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, Members are advised that the House is expected to complete its work for the week by tomorrow evening. Information on the legislation that will be considered and more detailed floor timing for tomorrow will be announced after the conclusion of the Rules Committee hearing tonight.

Mr. HOYER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MCCARTHY. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. What can we expect to be on the floor tomorrow, Mr. Leader?

Mr. MCCARTHY. Well, Mr. Whip, I expect that we will deal with the current schedule that we have before us, plus dealing with DHS.

Mr. HOYER. Can the majority leader tell us, in light of fact that is less than 24 hours from now, what we might be considering with respect to keeping the Department of Homeland Security operating on a permanent basis through September 30?

Mr. McCARTHY. As the gentleman knows, we dealt with this weeks ago and sent it over to the Senate. And as I just listed before, we will provide that information after the Rules Committee hearing tonight.

Mr. HOYER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. McCARTHY. Gladly.

Mr. HOYER. The Rules Committee is going to meet tonight at 9:30 tonight, is that the—8:00. Somebody said 8 o'clock over here—a member of the Rules Committee. Was it at 8:00 or at 9:30?

Mr. McCARTHY. I think it was—where is our Rules Committee chair? Eight o'clock.

Mr. HOYER. Eight o'clock. Will the gentleman yield again?

Mr. McCARTHY. Gladly.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Leader, we have been now—you are correct—6 weeks leaving the Department of Homeland Security twisting in the wind. We have done that as the gentleman knows—

Mr. McCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I have been very clear about the schedule for tomorrow. We will end our work by tomorrow evening. This House has taken action to make sure that DHS is fully funded. We did our part.

I yield back.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman yields back.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. CASTRO OF TEXAS

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, 2-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 182, noes 243, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 97]

AYES—182

Adams	Brady (PA)	Cicilline
Aguilar	Brown (FL)	Clark (MA)
Ashford	Brownley (CA)	Clarke (NY)
Bass	Butterfield	
Beatty	Capps	Cleaver
Becerra	Capuano	Clyburn
Bera	Cárdenas	Cohen
Beyer	Carney	Connolly
Bishop (GA)	Carson (IN)	Conyers
Blumenauer	Cartwright	Costa
Bonamici	Castor (FL)	Courtney
Boyle, Brendan	Castro (TX)	Crowley
F.	Chu, Judy	Cuellar

Cummings	Kennedy	Price (NC)	Lucas	Poe (TX)	Smith (NJ)
Davis (CA)	Kildee	Quigley	Luetkemeyer	Poliquin	Smith (TX)
Davis, Danny	Kilmer	Rangel	Lummis	Polis	Stefanik
DeFazio	Kind	Reichert	MacArthur	Pompeo	Stewart
DeGette	Kirkpatrick	Rice (NY)	Marchant	Possey	Stivers
Delaney	Kuster	Richmond	Marino	Price, Tom	Stutzman
DeLauro	Langevin	Roybal-Allard	Massie	Ratcliffe	Thompson (PA)
DelBene	Larsen (WA)	Ruiz	McCarthy	Reed	Thornberry
DeSaulnier	Larson (CT)	Ruppersberger	McCaul	Renacci	Tiberi
Deutsch	Lawrence	Rush	McClintock	Ribble	Tipton
Dingell	Lewis	Ryan (OH)	McHenry	Rice (SC)	Trott
Doggett	Lieu, Ted	Sánchez, Linda	McKinley	Rigell	Turner
Doyle, Michael	Lipinski	T.	McMorris	Roby	Upton
F.	Loeb sack	Sanchez, Loretta	Rodgers	Rogers (AL)	Valadao
Duckworth	Loftgren	Sarbanes	McSally	Rogers (KY)	Wagner
Edwards	Lowenthal	Schakowsky	Meadows	Rohrabacher	Walberg
Ellison	Lowe	Schiff	Meehan	Rokita	Walden
Engel	Lujan Grisham	Schrader	Messer	Rooney (FL)	Walker
Eshoo	(NM)	Scott (VA)	Mica	Ros-Lehtinen	Walorski
Esty	Luján, Ben Ray	Scott, David	Miller (FL)	Roskam	Walters, Mimi
Farr	(NM)	Serrano	Miller (MI)	Ross	Weber (TX)
Fattah	Lynch	Sewell (AL)	Moolenaar	Rothfus	Webster (FL)
Foster	Maloney,	Sherman	Mooney (WV)	Rouzer	Wenstrup
Frankel (FL)	Carolyn	Sinema	Mullin	Royce	Westerman
Fudge	Maloney, Sean	Sires	Mulvaney	Russell	Westmoreland
Gabbard	Matsui	Slaughter	Murphy (PA)	Ryan (WI)	Whitfield
Gallagher	McCollum	Smith (WA)	Neugebauer	Salmon	Williams
Garamendi	McDermott	Swalwell (CA)	Newhouse	Sanford	Wilson (SC)
Graham	McGovern	Takai	Noem	Scalise	Wittman
Grayson	McNerney	Takano	Nugent	Schock	Womack
Green, Al	Meeke	Thompson (CA)	Nunes	Schweikert	Woodall
Green, Gene	Meng	Thompson (MS)	Olson	Scott, Austin	Yoder
Grijalva	Moore	Titus	Palazzo	Sensenbrenner	Young (AK)
Gutiérrez	Moulton	Tonko	Palmer	Sessions	Young (IA)
Hahn	Murphy (FL)	Torres	Paulsen	Shimkus	Young (IN)
Hastings	Nadler	Tsongas	Pearce	Shuster	Zeldin
Heck (WA)	Napolitano	Van Hollen	Perry	Simpson	Zinke
Higgins	Neal	Vargas	Pittenger	Smith (MO)	
Himes	Nolan	Veasey	Pitts	Smith (NE)	
Honda	Norcross	Vela			
Hoyer	O'Rourke	Velázquez			
Huffman	Pallone	Visclosky			
Israel	Pascarell	Walz	Hinojosa	Long	Waters, Maxine
Jackson Lee	Payne	Wasserman	Hurt (VA)	Roe (TN)	
Jeffries	Pelosi	Schultz	Lee	Speler	
Johnson (GA)	Perlmutter	Watson Coleman			
Johnson, E. B.	Peters	Welch			
Kaptur	Peterson	Wilson (FL)			
Keating	Pingree	Yarmuth			
Kelly (IL)	Pocan	Yoho			

NOES—243

Abraham	Costello (PA)	Guthrie
Aderholt	Cramer	Hanna
Allen	Crawford	Hardy
Amash	Crenshaw	Harper
Amodei	Culberson	Harris
Babin	Curbelo (FL)	Hartzler
Barletta	Davis, Rodney	Heck (NV)
Barr	Denham	Hensarling
Barton	Dent	Herrera Beutler
Benishek	DeSantis	Hice, Jody B.
Bilirakis	DesJarlais	Hill
Bishop (MI)	Diaz-Balart	Holding
Bishop (UT)	Dold	Hudson
Black	Duffy	Huelskamp
Blackburn	Duncan (SC)	Huizenga (MI)
Blum	Duncan (TN)	Hultgren
Bost	Ellmers (NC)	Hunter
Boustany	Emmer (MN)	Hurd (TX)
Brady (TX)	Farenthold	Issa
Brat	Fincher	Jenkins (KS)
Bridenstine	Fitzpatrick	Jenkins (WV)
Brooks (AL)	Fleischmann	Johnson (OH)
Brooks (IN)	Fleming	Johnson, Sam
Buchanan	Flores	Jolly
Buck	Forbes	Jones
Bucshon	Fortenberry	Jordan
Burgess	Fox	Joyce
Bustos	Franks (AZ)	Katko
Byrne	Frelinghuysen	Kelly (PA)
Calvert	Garrett	King (IA)
Carter (GA)	Gibbs	King (NY)
Carter (TX)	Gibson	Kinzing (IL)
Chabot	Gohmert	Kline
Chaffetz	Goodlatte	Knight
Clay	Gosar	Labrador
Clawson (FL)	Gowdy	LaMalfa
Coffman	Granger	Lamborn
Cole	Graves (GA)	Lance
Collins (GA)	Graves (LA)	Latta
Collins (NY)	Graves (MO)	Levin
Comstock	Griffith	LoBiondo
Conaway	Grothman	Loudermilk
Cook	Guinta	Love
Cooper		

McClintock	Renacci	Thornberry
McHenry	Ribble	Tiberi
McKinley	Rice (SC)	Tipton
McMorris	Rigell	Trott
Rodgers	Roby	Turner
McSally	Rogers (AL)	Upton
Meadows	Rogers (KY)	Valadao
Rohrabacher	Rokita	Wagner
Rokita	Rooney (FL)	Walberg
Rooney (FL)	Ros-Lehtinen	Walden
Ros-Lehtinen	Roskam	Walker
Roskam	Ross	Walorski
Ross	Rothfus	Walters, Mimi
Rothfus	Rouzer	Weber (TX)
Rouzer	Royce	Webster (FL)
Royce	Russell	Wenstrup
Russell	Ryan (WI)	Westerman
Ryan (WI)	Salmon	Westmoreland
Salmon	Sanford	Whitfield
Sanford	Scalise	Williams
Scalise	Schock	Wilson (SC)
Schock	Schweikert	Wittman
Schweikert	Scott, Austin	Womack
Scott, Austin	Sensenbrenner	Woodall
Sensenbrenner	Sessions	Yoder
Sessions	Shimkus	Young (AK)
Shimkus	Shuster	Young (IA)
Shuster	Simpson	Young (IN)
Simpson	Smith (MO)	Zeldin
Smith (MO)	Smith (NE)	Zinke

NOT VOTING—7

Hinojosa	Long	Waters, Maxine
Hurt (VA)	Roe (TN)	
Lee	Speler	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1924

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MR. QUIGLEY

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 218, noes 201, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 98]

AYES—218

Adams	Blumenauer	Capps
Aguilar	Bonamici	Capuano
Ashford	Bost	Cárdenas
Barletta	Boyle, Brendan	Carney
Bass	F.	Carson (IN)
Beatty	Brady (PA)	Cartwright
Becerra	Brown (FL)	Castor (FL)
Bera	Brownley (CA)	Castro (TX)
Beyer	Bustos	Chu, Judy
Bishop (GA)	Butterfield	Cicilline

Clark (MA)
 Clarke (NY)
 Clay
 Cleaver
 Clyburn
 Cohen
 Connolly
 Conyers
 Cooper
 Costa
 Costello (PA)
 Courtney
 Crowley
 Cuellar
 Cummings
 Curbelo (FL)
 Davis (CA)
 Davis, Danny
 Davis, Rodney
 DeFazio
 DeGette
 Delaney
 DeLauro
 DelBene
 Denham
 Dent
 DeSaulnier
 Deutch
 Diaz-Balart
 Dingell
 Doggett
 Dold
 Doyle, Michael
 F.
 Duckworth
 Edwards
 Ellison
 Engel
 Eshoo
 Esty
 Farr
 Fattah
 Fitzpatrick
 Foster
 Frankel (FL)
 Fudge
 Gabbard
 Gallego
 Garamendi
 Gibson
 Graham
 Graves (MO)
 Grayson
 Green, Al
 Green, Gene
 Grijalva
 Gutiérrez
 Hahn
 Hanna
 Hastings
 Heck (WA)
 Herrera Beutler
 Higgins
 Himes
 Honda

NOES—201

Abraham
 Aderholt
 Allen
 Amash
 Amodei
 Babin
 Barr
 Barton
 Benishek
 Bilirakis
 Bishop (MI)
 Bishop (UT)
 Black
 Blackburn
 Boustany
 Brady (TX)
 Brat
 Bridenstine
 Brooks (AL)
 Brooks (IN)
 Buchanan
 Buck
 Bucshon
 Burgess
 Byrne
 Calvert
 Carter (GA)
 Carter (TX)

Hoyer
 Huffman
 Israel
 Jackson Lee
 Jeffries
 Jenkins (WV)
 Johnson (GA)
 Johnson, E. B.
 Jolly
 Kaptur
 Katko
 Keating
 Kelly (IL)
 Kennedy
 Kildee
 Kilmer
 Kind
 Kinzinger (IL)
 Kirkpatrick
 Kuster
 Langevin
 Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT)
 Lawrence
 Levin
 Lewis
 Lieu, Ted
 Lipinski
 LoBiondo
 Loeb sack
 Lofgren
 Lowenthal
 Lowey
 Lujan Grisham
 (NM)
 Luján, Ben Ray
 (NM)
 Lynch
 Maloney,
 Carolyn
 Maloney, Sean
 Matsui
 McCollum
 McDermott
 McGovern
 McKinley
 McNeerney
 Meehan
 Meeks
 Mooney (WV)
 Moore
 Moulton
 Murphy (FL)
 Murphy (PA)
 Nadler
 Napolitano
 Neal
 Nolan
 Norcross
 O'Rourke
 Pallone
 Pascrell
 Payne
 Pelosi
 Perlmutter

Peters
 Peterson
 Pingree
 Pocan
 Polis
 Price (NC)
 Quigley
 Rangel
 Renacci
 Ribble
 Rice (NY)
 Richmond
 Ros-Lehtinen
 Roybal-Allard
 Ruiz
 Ruppersberger
 Rush
 Ryan (OH)
 Sánchez, Linda
 T.
 Sanchez, Loretta
 Sarbanes
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Schock
 Schrader
 Scott (VA)
 Scott, David
 Serrano
 Sewell (AL)
 Sherman
 Simpson
 Sinema
 Sires
 Slaughter
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (WA)
 Stefanik
 Swalwell (CA)
 Takai
 Takano
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Thompson (PA)
 Titus
 Tonko
 Torres
 Tsongas
 Upton
 Valadao
 Van Hollen
 Vargas
 Veasey
 Vela
 Velázquez
 Visclosky
 Walden
 Walz
 Wasserman
 Schultz
 Watson Coleman
 Welch
 Whitfield
 Wilson (FL)
 Yarmuth

Hultgren
 Hunter
 Hurd (TX)
 Issa
 Jenkins (KS)
 Johnson (OH)
 Johnson, Sam
 Jones
 Jordan
 Joyce
 Kelly (PA)
 King (IA)
 King (NY)
 Kline
 Knight
 Labrador
 LaMalfa
 Lamborn
 Lance
 Latta
 Loudermilk
 Love
 Lucas
 Luetkemeyer
 Lummis
 MacArthur
 Marchant
 Marino
 Massie
 McCarthy
 McCaul
 McClintock
 McHenry
 McMorris
 Rodgers
 McSally
 Meadows
 Messer
 Mica
 Miller (FL)

Blum
 Hinojosa
 Hurt (VA)
 Lee
 Long

Miller (MI)
 Moolenaar
 Mulvaney
 Neugebauer
 Newhouse
 Noem
 Nugent
 Nunes
 Olson
 Palazzo
 Paulsen
 Pearce
 Perry
 Pittenger
 Pitts
 Poe (TX)
 Pompeo
 Posey
 Price, Tom
 Ratcliffe
 Reed
 Reichert
 Rice (SC)
 Rigell
 Roby
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rohrabacher
 Rokita
 Rooney (FL)
 Roskam
 Ross
 Rothfus
 Rouzer
 Royce
 Russell
 Ryan (WI)
 Salmon
 Sanford
 Scalise

NOT VOTING—13

Meng
 Mullin
 Palmer
 Poliquin
 Roe (TN)

Schweikert
 Scott, Austin
 Sensenbrenner
 Sessions
 Shimkus
 Shuster
 Smith (MO)
 Smith (TX)
 Stewart
 Stivers
 Stutzman
 Thornberry
 Tiberi
 Tipton
 Trott
 Turner
 Wagner
 Walberg
 Walker
 Walorski
 Walters, Mimi
 Weber (TX)
 Webster (FL)
 Wenstrup
 Westerman
 Westmoreland
 Williams
 Wilson (SC)
 Wittman
 Womack
 Woodall
 Yoder
 Yoho
 Young (AK)
 Young (IA)
 Young (IN)
 Zeldin
 Zinke

Cohen
 Connolly
 Conyers
 Cooper
 Costa
 Courtney
 Crowley
 Cuellar
 Cummings
 Davis (CA)
 Davis, Danny
 DeFazio
 DeGette
 Delaney
 DeLauro
 DelBene
 DeSaulnier
 Deutch
 Dingell
 Doggett
 Doyle, Michael
 F.
 Duckworth
 Edwards
 Ellison
 Engel
 Eshoo
 Esty
 Farr
 Fattah
 Foster
 Frankel (FL)
 Fudge
 Gabbard
 Gallego
 Garamendi
 Gibson
 Graham
 Green, Al
 Green, Gene
 Grijalva
 Gutiérrez
 Hahn
 Hastings
 Heck (WA)
 Higgins
 Himes
 Honda
 Hoyer
 Huffman
 Israel
 Jackson Lee
 Jeffries

Johnson (GA)
 Johnson, E. B.
 Kaptur
 Katko
 Keating
 Kelly (IL)
 Kennedy
 Kildee
 Kilmer
 Kind
 Kirkpatrick
 Kuster
 Langevin
 Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT)
 Lawrence
 Levin
 Lewis
 Lieu, Ted
 Lipinski
 Loeb sack
 Lofgren
 Lowenthal
 Lowey
 Lujan Grisham
 (NM)
 Luján, Ben Ray
 (NM)
 Lynch
 Maloney,
 Carolyn
 Maloney, Sean
 Matsui
 McCollum
 McDermott
 McGovern
 McNeerney
 Meeks
 Meng
 Moore
 Moulton
 Murphy (FL)
 Nadler
 Napolitano
 Neal
 Nolan
 Norcross
 O'Rourke
 Pallone
 Pascrell
 Payne
 Pelosi
 Perlmutter

NOES—239

Abraham
 Aderholt
 Allen
 Amash
 Amodei
 Babin
 Barletta
 Barr
 Barton
 Benishek
 Bilirakis
 Bishop (MI)
 Bishop (UT)
 Black
 Blackburn
 Blum
 Bost
 Boustany
 Brady (TX)
 Brat
 Bridenstine
 Brooks (AL)
 Brooks (IN)
 Buchanan
 Buck
 Bucshon
 Burgess
 Byrne
 Calvert
 Carter (GA)
 Carter (TX)
 Chabot
 Chaffetz
 Clawson (FL)
 Coffman
 Cole
 Collins (GA)
 Collins (NY)
 Comstock
 Conaway
 Cook
 Cramer
 Crawford
 Crenshaw
 Culberson
 DeSantis
 DesJarlais
 Diaz-Balart
 Dold
 Duffy
 Duncan (SC)
 Duncan (TN)
 Ellmers (NC)
 Emmer (MN)
 Farenthold
 Fincher
 Fitzpatrick
 Fleischmann
 Fleming
 Flores
 Forbes
 Fortenberry
 Foxx
 Franks (AZ)
 Frelinghuysen
 Garrett
 Gibbs
 Gohmert
 Goodlatte
 Gosar
 Gowdy
 Graves (GA)
 Graves (LA)
 Graves (MO)
 Grayson

Peters
 Peterson
 Pingree
 Pocan
 Polis
 Price (NC)
 Quigley
 Rangel
 Rice (NY)
 Richmond
 Roybal-Allard
 Ruiz
 Ruppersberger
 Rush
 Ryan (OH)
 Sánchez, Linda
 T.
 Sanchez, Loretta
 Sarbanes
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Schrader
 Scott (VA)
 Scott, David
 Serrano
 Sewell (AL)
 Swallow (CA)
 Takai
 Takano
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Titus
 Tonko
 Torres
 Tsongas
 Van Hollen
 Vargas
 Veasey
 Vela
 Velázquez
 Visclosky
 Walz
 Wasserman
 Schultz
 Watson Coleman
 Welch
 Wilson (FL)
 Yarmuth

□ 1928

So the amendment was agreed to.
 The result of the vote was announced
 as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MS. MOORE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished
 business is the demand for a recorded
 vote on the amendment offered by the
 gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms.
 MOORE) on which further proceedings
 were postponed and on which the noes
 prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the
 amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-
 ment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote
 has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-
 minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-
 vice, and there were—ayes 185, noes 239,
 not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 99]

AYES—185

Adams
 Agullar
 Ashford
 Bass
 Beatty
 Becerra
 Bera
 Beyer
 Bishop (GA)
 Blumenauer
 Bonamici

Boyle, Brendan
 F.
 Brady (PA)
 Brown (FL)
 Brownley (CA)
 Bustos
 Butterfield
 Capps
 Capuano
 Cardenas
 Carney

Carson (IN)
 Cartwright
 Castor (FL)
 Castro (TX)
 Chu, Judy
 Cicilline
 Clark (MA)
 Clarke (NY)
 Clay
 Cleaver
 Clyburn

Cook
 Costello (PA)
 Cramer
 Crawford
 Crenshaw
 Culberson
 Curbelo (FL)
 Davis, Rodney
 Denham
 Dent
 DeSantis
 DesJarlais
 Diaz-Balart
 Dold
 Duffy
 Duncan (SC)
 Duncan (TN)
 Ellmers (NC)
 Emmer (MN)
 Farenthold
 Fincher
 Fitzpatrick
 Fleischmann
 Fleming
 Flores
 Forbes
 Fortenberry
 Foxx
 Franks (AZ)
 Frelinghuysen
 Garrett
 Gibbs
 Gohmert
 Goodlatte
 Gosar
 Gowdy
 Graves (GA)
 Graves (LA)
 Graves (MO)
 Grayson

Griffith
 Grothman
 Guinta
 Guthrie
 Hanna
 Hardy
 Harper
 Harris
 Hartzler
 Heck (NV)
 Hensarling
 Herrera Beutler
 Hice, Jody B.
 Hill
 Holding
 Hudson
 Huelskamp
 Huizenga (MI)
 Hultgren
 Hunter
 Hurd (TX)
 Issa
 Jenkins (KS)
 Jenkins (WV)
 Johnson (OH)
 Johnson, Sam
 Jolly
 Jones
 Jordan
 Joyce
 Kelly (PA)
 King (IA)
 King (NY)
 Kinzinger (IL)
 Kline
 Knight
 Labrador
 LaMalfa
 Lamborn
 Lance

Latta	Perry	Smith (MO)
LoBiondo	Pittenger	Smith (NE)
Loudermilk	Pitts	Smith (NJ)
Love	Poe (TX)	Smith (TX)
Lucas	Poliquin	Stefanik
Luetkemeyer	Pompeo	Stewart
Lummis	Posey	Stivers
MacArthur	Price, Tom	Stutzman
Marchant	Ratcliffe	Thompson (PA)
Marino	Reed	Thornberry
Massie	Reichert	Tiberi
McCarthy	Renacci	Tipton
McCaul	Ribble	Trott
McClintock	Rice (SC)	Turner
McHenry	Rigell	Upton
McKinley	Roby	Valadao
McMorris	Rogers (AL)	Wagner
Rodgers	Rogers (KY)	Walberg
McSally	Rohrabacher	Walden
Meadows	Rokita	Walker
Meehan	Rooney (FL)	Walorski
Messer	Ros-Lehtinen	Walters, Mimi
Mica	Roskam	Weber (TX)
Miller (FL)	Ross	Webster (FL)
Miller (MI)	Rothfus	Wenstrup
Moolenaar	Rouzer	Westerman
Mooney (WV)	Royce	Westmoreland
Mullin	Russell	Whitfield
Mulvaney	Ryan (WI)	Williams
Murphy (PA)	Salmon	Wilson (SC)
Neugebauer	Sanford	Wittman
Newhouse	Scalise	Womack
Noem	Schock	Woodall
Nugent	Schweikert	Yoder
Nunes	Scott, Austin	Yoho
Olson	Sensenbrenner	Young (AK)
Palazzo	Sessions	Young (IA)
Palmer	Shinkus	Young (IN)
Paulsen	Shuster	Zeldin
Pearce	Simpson	Zinke

NOT VOTING—8

Granger	Lee	Speier
Hinojosa	Long	Waters, Maxine
Hurt (VA)	Roe (TN)	

□ 1933

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MR. DELANEY

The Acting CHAIR (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN). It is now in order to consider amendment No. 15 printed in part B of House Report 114-29.

Mr. DELANEY. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 235, line 4, strike “and” at the end.
Page 235, line 9, strike the period at the end and insert “; and”.

Page 235, after line 9, insert the following:
“(F) Support State or local pay for success initiatives that meet the purposes of this part.”.

Page 241, line 4, strike “or” at the end.
Page 241, line 7, strike the period at the end and insert “; or”.

Page 241, after line 7, insert the following:
“(10) carrying out activities related to pay for success initiatives that meet the purposes of this part.”.

Page 250, after line 20, insert the following:
“(ix) Supporting State or local pay for success initiatives that meet the purposes of this part.”.

Page 257, line 25, strike “and” at the end.
Page 258, line 3, strike the period at the end and insert “; and”.

Page 258, after line 3, insert the following:
“(I) carrying out activities related to pay for success initiatives that meet the purposes of this part.”.

Page 508, after line 17, insert the following (and redesignate the succeeding provisions accordingly):

“(34) PAY FOR SUCCESS INITIATIVES.—The term ‘pay for success initiatives’ means initiatives—

“(A) that produce a measurable, clearly defined outcome that results in social benefit and direct cost savings to the local, State, or Federal Government;

“(B) except as provided in subparagraph (D)(i), that make payments only when agreed-upon outcomes are achieved;

“(C) for which a feasibility study is conducted on the initiative describing how the proposed intervention is based on strong or moderate evidence of effectiveness and how the initiative will meet the requirements of subparagraph (A); and

“(D) for which—

“(i) an evaluation, which may be paid for out of funding for the pay for success initiative without respect to a successful outcome, is included that uses experimental designs using random assignment or other research methodologies that allow for the strongest possible causal inferences when random assignment is not feasible by an independent evaluator to determine whether the initiative has met the outcomes described in subparagraph (A); and

“(ii) the State or local educational agency produces an annual, publicly available report on the progress of the initiative in meeting the requirements of subparagraph (A), as appropriate.”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. DELANEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. DELANEY. Madam Chair, I yield myself 3 minutes.

I want to start by thanking Congressman YOUNG, Congressman POLIS, Chairman KLINE, and Ranking Member SCOTT for their support of this bipartisan amendment. I know my colleagues join me, Madam Chair, in the view that whenever the government, the private sector, and the not-for-profit community work well together, we get better outcomes for all of our citizens, which is exactly what the Pay for Success framework is designed to do. It allows local governments to innovate and address best practices and be fiscally responsible with respect to the provision of government services.

This amendment, Madam Chair, is designed specifically to allow the funds that are allocated in the underlying bill for teacher training and retention to utilize Pay for Success frameworks against those programs.

Teacher turnover is a big issue in the United States. It is estimated to cost our educational system \$1- to \$2 billion. In my own State of Maryland, it is estimated to cost up to \$45 million. It is very important that we make a difference against this problem. We want to make sure that educational agencies have as many tools available at their disposal as possible to work against this problem, including Pay for Success approaches and frameworks.

Madam Chair, I want to thank my colleagues for their support of this

amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Madam Chair, I claim time in opposition, although I am supportive of the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Madam Chair, I want to thank the gentleman from Maryland for his hard work on this important amendment and for his leadership. Currently, teacher attrition costs the United States over \$1 billion each year. Many teachers leave within the first 5 years because of a lack of effective mentoring, training, and support. Providing these teachers with effective, evidence-based training through a Pay for Success model will not only save the government money, it will also help to retain top talent in the classroom.

Madam Chair, this amendment would do just that. It would give States and local school districts the ability to participate in this innovative new financing model in order to retain our best teachers.

Now, Pay for Success projects, also known as social impact bonds or social impact partnerships, are public-private partnerships that harness philanthropic and other private sector investments to scale up scientifically proven social and educational programs. Because these projects are focused on results, government money is only paid out to private sector investors when desired outcomes are met and only in accordance with the value assigned to those successful outcomes. This social impact financing model has the potential to fundamentally transform our Nation's education programs, shifting the focus of such programs from inputs to outcomes.

I want to thank the gentleman from Maryland, the gentleman from Colorado, and others for their leadership on this issue. I also want to thank my fellow colleague from Indiana for his overall leadership on this educational bill. I look forward to our continued cooperation on these efforts. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DELANEY. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), my friend.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Chairman, I want to thank my colleagues from Maryland and from Indiana for bringing this amendment forth. I am honored to be a cosponsor of this amendment.

Social impact bonds essentially allow a way in which we can leverage philanthropic dollars to meet a socially desirable outcome. It is only paid back if that outcome is reached. What this can apply to teacher development and teacher training is a type of market discipline—to fund what works, to leverage our limited resources through a

Pay for Success mechanism to ensure that we are getting what we paid for.

This is important to educators who deserve the very best in professional development. It is important for students to make sure that they benefit from the limited professional development dollars that we have. It is also important for the philanthropic community and for government investment because we want to make sure our dollars are deployed as positively as possible.

Some of these metrics can include: Does the professional development lead the recipient to help improve student achievement? That is one of the ultimate benchmarks of whether professional development and teacher training work. By tying and aligning our limited resources for outcomes for supporting teachers through a Pay for Success initiative, we can make sure that our limited investment has a maximum positive benefit.

Madam Chairman, I strongly urge my colleagues to adopt this strong amendment.

Mr. DELANEY. Madam Chair, I want to thank the gentleman from Colorado for his support of the amendment.

I yield 1 minute to my colleague from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the ranking member.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

This amendment will make evidence-based prevention approaches a reality. We all know that many evidence-based approaches save more money than they cost. This will allow the private sector to make those investments and prove that we are right. So I want to thank the gentleman from Maryland for introducing the amendment and thank him and the gentleman from Indiana for their leadership.

This is a great amendment, Madam Chair. I trust it will be adopted, and we will be able to make great progress in education and other social services.

Mr. DELANEY. Madam Chair, again, I urge my colleagues to support the amendment. I thank my colleagues for supporting it here on the floor. As I said in the beginning, whenever the government, the private sector, and the nonprofit community work together, we get better outcomes for our citizens.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from the State of Washington (Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS), my hard-working colleague.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Chair, I rise in support of the amendment, and I rise to support strong, conservative legislation that provides equal opportunity and education for everyone in this country, no matter their walk of life, how much money

they may have, or what challenges they face. The Student Success Act improves, strengthens, and modernizes our classrooms to give all of our students the opportunity to reach their full potential.

As the mom of a 7-year-old son, Cole, who has special needs, I know firsthand that everyone has different needs in the classroom. Every student's path to learning is both unique and equally important. So I am proud to advance legislation that recognizes that.

It all starts by innovating and empowering America's students. That is why I have championed the 21st Century Classroom Innovation Act, included in today's legislation, and together we will ensure that that technology will be fully incorporated into our classrooms to enhance personalized learning for our students. By blending traditional learning programs with high tech tools, we will take our classrooms and our students to the 21st century.

But the foundation of real, educational reform goes beyond technological advancements and begins with an unequivocal recognition that our students may have different needs, but they should all have an equal opportunity—an equal opportunity to learn, an equal opportunity to graduate, and an equal opportunity for a diploma.

□ 1945

That is why I have championed several important provisions in the Student Success Act that address these needs.

First, when a State establishes guidelines for individualized alternative testing, they will do so on a subject-by-subject basis. Parents must be clearly informed when they move their children in alternative testing, so they will fully understand the implications of making those decisions for their kids.

Right now, far too many parents with children with disabilities aren't told when their kids are moved into alternative testing. This legislation changes that.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. It ensures that students with disabilities who have taken alternative assessments cannot be prevented from receiving a regular diploma.

These provisions will enhance data transparency, improve communication between parents and teachers, and give everyone an equal opportunity to receive a diploma. It ensures that when my son Cole and millions like him walk into a classroom, they will be defined by their abilities, not their disabilities.

At its very core, this legislation changes the way we think about and educate those with disabilities. That is

how we achieve real 21st century education reform.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Madam Chair, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROKITA), my colleague.

Mr. ROKITA. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman from Indiana, my good friend, for his leadership on this issue and the gentleman on the other side of the aisle. I appreciate it very much.

I rise in strong support of this amendment. I think it is a great example of the kind of use that we intended with this language to begin with.

The Federal Government spends tens of billions of dollars on education annually. If you ask the average Hoosier or any American, they think Washington does a pretty poor job of spending those dollars efficiently, as was just demonstrated.

Instead of business as usual, we should look for new and innovative ways to achieve results, which is exactly the concept behind the gentleman's Pay for Success initiatives. These initiatives provide flexibility for the public and private sectors to partner together around common goals. This model ensures value for taxpayer dollars.

As a cosponsor of the underlying bill, along with Chairman KLINE and certain members of the Education and the Workforce Committee, we would urge all our colleagues, both Republican and Democrat, to support this amendment.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. DELANEY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 16 OFFERED BY MR. JEFFRIES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 16 printed in part B of House Report 114-29.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 240, line 14, strike "technology," and insert "technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy)."

Page 338, line 5, strike "technology," and insert "technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy)."

Page 355, line 4, strike "technology," and insert "technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy)."

Page 511, line 6, strike "technology," and insert "technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy)."

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, I rise today in support of a modest change to H.R. 5 that would amend relevant portions of the Student Success Act related to technology to include education about the harms of copyright piracy.

This amendment is designed to encourage local educational agencies, teachers, educational staff, and parents to discuss the harms of copyright piracy, as well as the use of technology in a responsible fashion.

In the absence of classroom instruction about the importance of intellectual property, as well as the harms of copyright piracy at the elementary and secondary school level, young people are often unaware of the boundaries established in law to prevent the illegal infringement of copyrighted content.

Research suggests that in order to uphold the societal value of respect for intellectual property, individuals must learn or be introduced to this principle at an early age. This mission, of course, is anchored in the United States constitutional charge to Congress to protect intellectual property.

Article I, section 8, clause 8 of the United States Constitution says:

The Congress shall have power to promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries.

We have an article I responsibility as Members of Congress to insure that creators and innovators are not robbed of the fruits of their labor. Technology, of course, is a wonderful thing, and it is the way of the future.

It is an important tool, and we must ensure that our students are using it in a safe and responsible fashion or, certainly, at least, provide our local educational stakeholders the opportunity to disseminate information in a manner that they see fit.

In the classroom, children are currently taught that plagiarism is an ethical violation of academic honesty. This amendment will hopefully facilitate the extension of this discussion into the digital era.

To that end, we must help our local schools and parents be given the tools necessary to proactively educate, to the extent that they see fit, information about the unforeseen impact on copyright piracy, the importance of intellectual property, and its connection, of course, to the American economy.

A variety of bipartisan stakeholders support this amendment, including the educational organizations such as CreativeFuture, as well as the Copyright Alliance, the Recording Industry Association of America, the National Music Publishers' Association, the Songwriters Guild of America, the Authors Guild, The Association of American Publishers, as well as The Recording Academy.

Intellectual property protection is a foundation of the American economy.

Our continued prosperity, at least in part, depends on protecting the innovation and the creative output of artists, musicians, scientists, and engineers and insuring that the next generation of creators could flourish as well.

Thus, it is important to recognize the vital role that education can play in helping the future leaders of America understand the value of the American creative community and protect the significant sector for future generations.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support this modest amendment.

Madam Chair, I yield 30 seconds to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Chair, copyright law is a complicated field, and any guidance we can give teachers and parents in how to avoid copyright infringement and refrain from unintentional or intentional piracy would be worthwhile.

I support the gentleman's amendment.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition, even though I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Chair, I don't intend to use the whole time.

I just wanted to add my praise to Mr. Jeffries' work. I think it also represents a good starting point. I certainly support this amendment.

There are a number of issues around technology that are important to incorporate in professional development. Some of them have to do with the legal framework, like copyright. I would add to that illegal hacking or accessing of sites. I would add to that trademark piracy, in addition to copyright piracy.

Some of them have to do with potential dangers to students, like cyber bullying, privacy, and knowledge about how students don't put their personal information online or how it could make them subject to a crime.

Along with, of course, copyright piracy, particularly in the academic context, it is important that teachers, parents, and educational professionals receive education on the fair use in the academic context, a very important piece of when you are researching document citations where the line is between plagiarism and a proper citation, where the line is between fair use in a noncommercial academic context and illegal commercial or personal use of a copyrighted product.

I think this represents a good starting point. I look forward to working with the gentleman from New York on

this issue as it moves forward, and I support the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time. The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 17 OFFERED BY MS. CLARK OF MASSACHUSETTS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 17 printed in part B of House Report 114-29.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 240, line 15, strike "or" at the end.

Page 240, insert the following after line 20:

“(I) professional development for teachers, principals and other school administrators in early elementary grades that includes specialized knowledge about child development and learning, developmentally-appropriate curricula and teaching practices, meaningful family engagement and collaboration with early care and education programs;

“(J) professional development, including through joint professional development opportunities, for early childhood educators, teachers, principals, specialized instructional support personnel, and other school leaders; or

“(K) training on child development, improving instruction, and closing achievement gaps;”

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Massachusetts.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Madam Chair, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Madam Chair, in addition to achieving outstanding results for individual children, high-quality early childhood education and care is as close to a silver bullet as we are going to find to solve our economic challenges.

Young children's brains develop at an astonishing pace. Children's first learning experiences during these years are critical to their visual, language, and social emotional development. Skills developed at this stage are the foundation of language and reading proficiency, the key indicators for academic and economic success later in life.

America's early childhood teachers will provide our children their first informative experiences and are, therefore, a critical influence on our Nation's future economy. An important stepping stone to the middle class is not just access to early learning, but access to high-quality learning.

Parents should be able to go to work and have confidence that their kids are receiving high-quality learning experiences. This confidence, in turn, enhances parents' ability to work and reach their own economic potential.

For this reason, I am offering a commonsense amendment. This amendment simply clarifies that professional development for early grade teachers is an acceptable use of funding under this bill.

Local school systems should have the flexibility to use title II funds, the existing funds that are already targeted to support teachers, principals, and school leaders on professional development that directly benefits our youngest learners. It is important to note that this amendment does not require them to do so; rather, it simply allows them.

This no-cost amendment is supported by a range of early childhood advocates, including the Center for Law and Social Policy and Zero to Three. High-quality early childhood education for our youngest learners is a goal that cuts across party lines and enjoys broad support from the American public.

It is a win-win. I hope my colleagues in both parties will support this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. HULTGREN). Without objection, the gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for this amendment.

Early childhood care and education, as we all can appreciate, is critical to both children and working parents. This amendment would allow schools and Head Start centers, if they so choose, Mr. Chairman, as the gentlewoman described, would allow them, if they so choose, to coordinate and provide important services to low-income children.

It will also ensure parents have a clear understanding of the services being offered. I think this amendment is a step forward for the existing partnerships between the Head Start program and local education agencies.

Like the amendment that was discussed before, I think this amendment is deserving of our support on both sides of the aisle.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

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Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI).

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank Representative CLARK for yielding and for offering this important amendment.

High-quality early childhood education sets up students for success throughout their lives and is a critical component of any education system. We should be doing all we can to support early childhood educators, to help

engage families in early education, and to take steps to close the achievement gap before it opens.

This amendment is an important step to building a strong foundation for our country's students. I urge my colleagues to support Representative CLARK's amendment.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MR. COHEN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 18 printed in part B of House Report 114-29.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chair, I offer amendment 18.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 240, line 15, strike "or" at the end.

Page 240, line 20, add "or" at the end.

Page 240, insert the following after line 20: "(I) professional development on restorative justice and conflict resolution;"

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment to H.R. 5, the Student Success Act, to add a section on restorative justice and conflict resolution, allowing States to award grants for professional development in those areas.

This amendment allows more flexibility to States by expanding the types of training that can be paid by title II funds, which would be used to make sure teachers and administrators have sufficient training opportunities. The amendment doesn't add any cost to the bill.

Numerous studies have shown that once students enter the juvenile justice system, they are more likely to be arrested as adults. Rather than feeding the school-to-prison pipeline, this amendment offers a means to train teachers and administrators on how to address disciplinary problems by means other than simply suspending or expelling students. When students are away from the classroom because of suspensions or expulsions, they are more likely to get in trouble with law enforcement.

Many LEAs have moved away from zero tolerance policies because students were being suspended or expelled from the classroom for relatively minor behavior. An example was a student who used his hand to simulate a gun and was suspended and another situation where a child brought a Nerf

style gun to school and was reported to the police. These types of incidents hurt the students, cost society more money in the long run, and cost us human beings.

This amendment would help by providing a means to fund the training necessary to establish disciplinary policies and procedures that don't treat each infraction the same, often with excessive punishment. Restorative justice and conflict resolution programs work to address the cause of disciplinary problems and repair any harm that has been done. Evidence suggests those restorative justice programs work, and they save money in the long run because incarcerating youth is expensive. A report released by the Justice Policy Institute in 2014 showed incarcerating a child can exceed \$400 a day—or nearly \$150,000 a year.

Many of our Nation's most vulnerable youth are swept into the justice system as a result of the current overreliance on policing in our schools. This needs to stop. From Pennsylvania to California, schools have been seeing reductions in disciplinary infractions and suspensions because of the program's usage, and it has been used in many communities around the country but needs to be used in more.

There are many organizations that support, in this country, restorative justice and this amendment. The NEA, the AFT, the Peace Alliance, National Association of Community and Restorative Justice, Dignity in Schools, and the Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution have all written in support of this amendment.

If this amendment becomes law, teachers and school administrators have the opportunity and resources to address disciplinary problems in ways other than suspension, expulsion, or involving law enforcement. More flexibility will go to LEAs and save money in the long term. CBO has said the amendment does not add cost.

I appreciate the opportunity to present this amendment, which will help numerous students stay on the path to graduation and a crime-free life. I ask my fellow Members to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Chairman, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Tennessee, for this amendment.

This amendment will allow teachers and other school professionals, if they so choose, at the State and local level—and that is the key here throughout our bill—to receive training and to better address problems that may arise at their schools. I agree, conflict resolution is an important tool to

help keep students and faculty safe and focused on education rather than the problems.

This is a good amendment, as it improves the underlying bill, and I thank the gentleman again for offering it. I urge my colleagues to support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COHEN. I want to thank my friend from the Hoosier State for working with me on this.

I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) to address his support.

Mr. POLIS. I thank the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. Chairman, I am very proud that my home county of Boulder County is one of four judicial districts in the State of Colorado to have a pilot program for restorative justice. Boulder, Weld, Pueblo, and Alamosa Counties are recipients of the pilot program, and it really is a tremendous opportunity to use restorative justice in the juvenile delinquency context.

As you know, the goal of restorative justice is for the young people to figure out how they can make up for their crimes directly to the people affected rather than just have a fine that is placed on them. Our district attorney, Stan Garnett, believes that 60 to 70 percent of juvenile crime will be able to be dealt with through restorative justice in Boulder County.

What this amendment would allow for Mr. COHEN is a more meaningful partnership with the school district to this effect. The current funds for the pilot program come through the justice system. If funds are available to train educators with regard to restorative justice, a more meaningful and integrated partnership with the school district and the DA's office and the sheriff's department can be reached to make restorative justice even more successful, both in Boulder County, Colorado, as well as the rest of the country.

I strongly support the amendment.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chairman, in the process of thanking Chairman KLINE and Ranking Member SCOTT and the Committee on Education and the Workforce and Chairman SESSIONS and Ranking Member SLAUGHTER and the rest of the Committee on Rules, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the ranking member.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for this great amendment. I know, working with him on the Committee on the Judiciary for many years, that he is a strong supporter of crime prevention initiatives; and restorative justice and conflict resolution programs have been shown to reduce crime time and time again, and so these concepts are appropriate in our schools. They will help create safe learning environments. I am delighted to support it.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 19 OFFERED BY MS. WILSON OF FLORIDA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 19 printed in part B of House Report 114-29.

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Chair, as the designee of Mr. DUFFY, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 268, line 9, before the period insert "any assessments mandated by the State educational agency or local educational agency for the student for that school year, and any local educational agency policy regarding student participation in such assessments".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WILSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Chairman, this amendment requires school districts to be transparent in providing information to parents at the beginning of the school year on mandated assessments the students will have to take during the school year and any school district policy on assessment participation.

As a former teacher and elementary school principal, I have seen firsthand the damage caused by the pervasive overuse of high-stakes standardized testing. For the sake of our students and our education system, we need to move towards a more balanced form of assessment that effectively measures diverse kinds of success in teaching and student learning. Unfortunately, H.R. 5 fails to address schools' excessive dependence on deeply problematic standardized tests.

As someone who has dedicated decades of my career and my life to my students and their success, I can tell you that teachers do not join the profession to teach to the test; yet more and more educators are forced to spend time preparing students for tests, administering tests, and reviewing the results of those tests. By some estimates, almost one-third of a teacher's time is spent preparing students to take standardized tests. This is unacceptable. That is why this amendment is so important.

By providing parents with information about the standardized tests their students will be taking and providing them with the policies regarding student participation, we begin to hold the system accountable for the dramatic overuse of these tests.

It is time to end this practice of toxic overtesting. That is why I support this amendment and ask all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition, although I do not oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. ROKITA. I thank my colleagues, Ms. WILSON and Mr. DUFFY, for this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, it looks like this amendment promotes transparency for parents and students, and that is a great thing, and that is one of the chief purposes of our bill. We have all heard the concerns about testing from our constituents, neighbors, and colleagues alike. One way to address that is to ensure parents are aware of what tests their children will have to take. This narrowly tailored amendment ensures parents have that ability to request this information from their children's school.

This is a good amendment, as it improves the underlying bill, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WILSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 20 OFFERED BY MR. POLIS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 20 printed in part B of House Report 114-29.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment as the designee of Mr. MESSER and a cosponsor.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 270, line 6, amend the section header for section 3101 so that it reads "SENSE OF CONGRESS; PURPOSE".

Page 270, after line 6, insert the following: "(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—

"(1) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

"(A) The number of public charter schools has dramatically increased in recent years. Between the 2008-2009 school year and the 2013-2014 school year, there was a 77 percent increase in the number of students attending public charter schools and a 39 percent increase in the number of schools.

"(B) Charter schools serve a very diverse population of students. Nationally, 57 percent of students enrolled in charter schools are minority students, while only 39 percent of students in non-charter public schools are minority students.

"(C) For the 2014-2015 school year, there are more than 6700 public charter schools serving about 2.9 million students. This represents a 4 percent growth in the number of open charter schools, and a 14 percent increase in student enrollment from the 2013-2014 school year.

"(D) There are more than one million student names on charter school waiting lists.

“(E) Charter schools are open in areas where students need better education options, including areas that serve economically disadvantaged kids. Almost 50 percent of the students attending charter schools qualify for free or reduced priced lunch, a slightly larger percentage than non-charter public schools.

“(F) Charter schools serve students in all areas, from urban cities to rural towns through traditional brick and mortar schools, blended learning models, and online programs, giving parents across the Nation options to find the best learning environment for their children.

“(G) Charter schools give parents the opportunity to find the right place for their child to learn. Whether they are looking for digital learning, Montessori, or a more structured environment, charter schools provide a variety of education options for families.

“(H) Charter schools have strong accountability to parents and the community because they have to meet the same State academic accountability requirements as all other public schools, satisfy the terms of their charter with their authorizing authority, and satisfy parents who have selected the school for their children.

“(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that charter schools are a critical part of our education system in this Nation and the Congress believes we must support opening more quality charter schools to help students succeed in their future.

Page 270, line 7, strike “It” and insert the following:

“(b) PURPOSE.—It

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, over 40 States now allow for public charter schools, Washington State being the newest. Like other kinds of public schools, we find across the country high-quality public charter schools as well as poorly performing public charter schools.

Charter schools are not an answer; they are not a problem. They are an opportunity; they are a way that there can be more flexibility at the site level. Some have extended schooldays; some have a differentiated curriculum than the district; some partner very closely with community nonprofits to provide wraparound services.

Before I came to Congress, Mr. Chairman, I had the opportunity to found two charter schools, and I served as superintendent of one. The New America School, which now has five campuses in New Mexico and Colorado, works with new immigrants and English language learners to help them gain proficiency in reading and writing English and getting a high school-level diploma.

Many of the students that we recruited to attend our school were not in school before; they worked odd jobs. We had a flexible schedule day or night. We had to provide day care because just under half of our young women who attend that school have children themselves.

I also had the opportunity to be a co-founder of the Academy of Urban Learning, which works with homeless youth and youth in transitional housing in Denver, Colorado.

What this sense of Congress does is it simply supports the public charter school movement, which has long had near universal bipartisan support, and it calls upon and supports more quality public charter schools. I want to separate this from, of course, some of the issues that my colleagues perhaps on both sides of the aisle have with particular low-quality schools, whether they are charter schools or neighborhood schools or something in between, like innovation schools, which Colorado allows.

If the school is poor quality, hopefully it is a school that not only the Member of Congress who represents that district has a problem with, but hopefully the school board and the superintendent also want to take the steps necessary to improve the quality of that public school.

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To the extent that we have methodologies and models for successful public charter schools, we need more of them just as we need more high-quality neighborhood schools and just as we need more high-quality magnet schools. I hope that this can be incorporated as a sense of Congress.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, but I do not oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. ROKITA. I thank my colleagues Mr. POLIS and Mr. MESSER for continuing to raise this issue. I am in complete agreement with it as are certain Members and a good deal of the committee—really, of this Chamber as a whole.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment highlights the important role charter schools play in our education system. Parents are clamoring for more options for their children, and charter schools help fit that need.

I visit charter schools all over Indiana and more and more throughout the Nation. It is clear that, while charter schools might not be the answer for everyone—that is, some parents love their traditional public schools, some want to have their children homeschooled, and others believe a private school is the right choice—the key here is choice.

Many parents would not have an option at all without charter schools, as the gentleman describes. Charter schools are a great thing, and I appreciate this amendment's adding a sense of Congress on the importance of charter schools.

Again, I thank the gentleman for offering this amendment. I think it is a great amendment, and I encourage my colleagues to support it and the underlying bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, to address the issue of accountability within charter schools, charter schools are subject to the same accountability laws as other public schools, both at the Federal level through No Child Left Behind and, indeed, in the successor bill.

All of the same accountability and metrics are applied to public charter schools as they are to magnet schools, to neighborhood schools, and to other district schools of choice.

In addition, charter schools have a strong accountability to parents in the community because, in addition to meeting those State and Federal academic requirements, they have to earn the enrollment of their students.

Unlike a neighborhood school, they start with zero students, and without the confidence of the community and without the confidence of the parents who choose to entrust that particular public school with the education of their kids, they will not succeed.

I am glad that our Congress can come together around important innovation and public education, and I strongly encourage my colleagues to adopt this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 21 OFFERED BY MR. POLIS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 21 printed in part B of House Report 114-29.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 284, line 8, strike “and”.

Page 284, line 14, insert “and” after the semicolon.

Page 284, after line 14, insert the following: “(iii) is working to develop or strengthen a cohesive strategy to encourage collaboration between charter schools and local educational agencies on the sharing of best practices;”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to offer an amendment today that would amend the Charter Schools Program in title III for the underlying bill and make a positive improvement.

As you know, the Charter Schools Program not only is a lifeline for growing and replicating public charter

schools, but we want to see the benefit of that innovation spread across other public schools. I am very grateful to both the underlying bill and the Democratic substitute, which both have very strong language—in fact, nearly identical—about helping quality public charter schools grow and expand.

As many of my colleagues are quick to point out, traditional public schools are also doing innovative things and are showing growth every day. For the foreseeable future, the vast majority of students in the country will continue to attend district public schools.

District public schools are innovating to provide meaningful programs for students and are helping to narrow the achievement gap in our country every day.

As my colleagues know, I am quick to point out the benefit of innovation that public charter schools allow, including the two that I founded in Colorado and New Mexico.

My amendment, which I am offering with Mr. ROKITA, would encourage charter schools and traditional public schools to collaborate and share best practices. They need not operate in their own separate silos. Both can learn from one another. Both kinds of school governance bring ideas to the table that can improve the quality of education for all students.

This amendment would simply encourage public schools with traditional governance through a school district and public charter schools to work together so that both parties can learn from the others' success.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I do not oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. ROKITA. I want to thank my friend and colleague for this amendment, and I appreciate being able to join with him on it and on continuing our work on the charter school initiatives.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment supports the sharing of best practices between charter schools and traditional public schools. Again, I think that is a good thing. We have seen the successful charter school-traditional public school collaborations, like in Ohio between breakthrough schools and the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, and we know that working together helps each of them excel.

It is the old adage of iron sharpening iron, and that is reflected here in this good amendment. Put simply, Mr. Chairman, many of us believe other charter schools and traditional public schools can benefit from these partnerships as well.

This is a great amendment, and it improves the underlying bill. I thank

the gentleman for offering it, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI).

Ms. BONAMICI. Thank you, Representative POLIS, for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Representatives POLIS and ROKITA for offering this amendment.

High-quality charter schools are laboratories for innovation. In exchange for offering families, students, and educators the autonomy to experiment with new educational models, we expect that successful approaches to teaching and learning will be widely shared so that the roughly millions of students—in fact, the vast majority of students—in traditional public schools can benefit from the lessons learned.

Last Congress, an amendment I authored was included in the bipartisan Success and Opportunity through Quality Charter Schools Act. That provision, which is now included in H.R. 5, asks States to track and report on the sharing of best practices emerging from charter schools.

I am pleased that the Polis-Rokita amendment encourages the collaboration between charter schools and school districts to improve the dissemination of promising practices, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this amendment.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, I hope that this amendment, in our small way, helps Congress change the culture, which all too often is too competitive between charter schools and school districts.

I have talked to district administrators and to heads of literacy for districts who hadn't been to and didn't know about innovative literacy programs going on in charter schools in their own districts.

Again, there is plenty of blame to go around. I have talked to charter schools that aren't aware of their own district's initiatives for professional development or for STEM education in the lower grades.

By working together, even at times when it takes swallowing one's pride, I am confident that both public charter schools and district-run schools will benefit in the long run, most importantly, benefiting the students that they serve. I call upon my colleagues to support this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 22 OFFERED BY MS. KELLY OF ILLINOIS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 22 printed in part B of House Report 114-29.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 336, after line 20, insert the following: “(7) An assurance that the applicant will conduct training programs in the community to improve adult literacy, including financial literacy.”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I offer a commonsense amendment to H.R. 5, the Student Success Act.

My amendment makes a minor modification to the underlying bill and does not have an impact on direct spending; still, the simple fix stands to make a tremendous difference for countless students and families on the education front.

My amendment would provide an assurance from statewide family engagement center grantees, under the “family engagement in education programs” portion of the bill, that they will conduct adult and financial literacy training programs in their communities as part of their efforts to engage families and improve academic outcomes for students.

So often, the national debate around education focuses on children in school, but estimates suggest there are 30 million adults in the United States who have trouble with basic literacy. This means, not only do they struggle in their own lives when reading a menu or paying the bills, but they are also unable to help their children with the most basic homework exercises. Parents who struggle to read are often incapable of comprehending report cards and academic progress reports, and their struggle with literacy can have multigenerational consequences as these parents are unable to provide early academic guidance at home that is critical to early learning success.

Like reading literacy, financial literacy is a critical component to comprehensive education, and communities stand to gain from the existence of more local programs devoted to teaching money management skills to parents and kids.

Many teachers cite a lack of time, a lack of State curriculum requirements, and a lack of demand as the top challenges to teaching financial literacy. American students today often find themselves in situations in which they are making more spending decisions and accumulating more debt at a time when debt pressures are impacting student performance and resulting in students dropping out of school.

As the family engagement centers supported by this bill aim to improve

educational outcomes for families across the spectrum, they must realize that bolstering reading and financial literacy is a critical comprehensive family engagement in education strategy.

Our national security, economic prosperity, and global standing depend on America's ability to secure its educational and financial future. When schools succeed, America succeeds, and when communities and families are invested in education, students thrive.

I ask for bipartisan support of this commonsense amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition, although I do not oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. ROKITA. I thank the gentleman for this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, family engagement centers are available to help parents understand and engage in their children's education. As a part of that mission, the centers help parents learn basic skills, like literacy. In today's world, financial literacy is an important issue for parents to be able to understand and support their children's education.

I want to be clear that this language is part of a grant application and requirement. In that regard, it is not part of a testing standard or a teacher training standard. With that, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and the underlying bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 23 OFFERED BY MS. BONAMICI

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 23 printed in part B of House Report 114-29.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Beginning on page 342, strike line 13 through page 343, line 24, and insert the following:

“(3) STATE ACTIVITIES AND STATE ADMINISTRATION.—A State educational agency may reserve not more than 17 percent of the amount allotted to the State under subsection (b) for each fiscal year for the following:

“(A) Not more than 5 percent of such amount for each fiscal year for—

“(i) the administrative costs of carrying out its responsibilities under this part;

“(ii) monitoring and evaluation of programs and activities assisted under this part;

“(iii) providing training and technical assistance under this part;

“(iv) statewide academic focused programs; or

“(v) sharing evidence-based and other effective strategies with eligible entities.

“(B) To do one or more of the following:

“(i) To pay the costs of developing the State assessments and standards required under section 1111(b), which may include the costs of working, at the sole discretion of the State, in voluntary partnerships with other States to develop such assessments and standards.

“(ii) If the State has developed the assessments and standards required under section 1111(b), to administer those assessments or carry out other activities related to ensuring that the State's schools and local educational agencies are helping students meet the State's academic standards under such section.

“(iii) To conduct an audit of State assessments and report, in a publicly available format, the findings of such audit, which may include assessment purposes, costs, schedule of administration and dissemination of results, description of alignment with the State's academic standards, and description of policies for inclusion of all students.

“(iv) To develop and implement a plan to improve the State assessment system, which may include efforts, if appropriate as determined by the State—

“(I) to reduce the number of assessments administered;

“(II) to provide professional development on assessment and data literacy;

“(III) to ensure the quality, validity, and reliability of assessments; or

“(IV) to improve the use of assessments by decreasing the time between administering assessments and releasing assessment data.

“(C) Not more than 5 percent of such amount for each fiscal year for awarding blended learning projects under paragraph (4).”.

Page 355, after line 15, insert the following (and redesignate succeeding provisions accordingly):

“(2) STREAMLINING ASSESSMENT SYSTEMS.—An eligible entity that receives an award under this part may use such funds—

“(A) to conduct an audit of the local assessments administered by the local educational agency and report, in a publicly available format, the findings of such audit, which may include such findings as described under section 3202(c)(3)(B)(iii); and

“(B) to develop and implement a plan, in collaboration with local stakeholders, which may include efforts, if appropriate as determined by the eligible entity, as described under section 3202(c)(3)(B)(iv).”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank Chairman KLINE and Ranking Member SCOTT for their leadership on the committee and on this important legislation. I know that we will need to continue to work together to identify opportunities for bipartisan collaboration if we are going to successfully replace No Child Left Behind, and I have confidence we can do that.

I also thank Representative COSTELLO for his work on this amendment and for his partnership on the SMART Act. Mr. COSTELLO's dedication to public education is commendable, and I

look forward to continuing to work with him.

Mr. Chairman, the Bonamici-Costello amendment is an example of finding common ground on a way to support teaching and learning in our Nation's classrooms. We have all heard about the overuse and misuse of standardized tests. Too much time is lost in preparing for and in administering assessments, and too few of these assessments provide timely information that meaningfully supports the learning that is taking place in our schools, but the purposeful use of high-quality assessments can support teaching and learning. Good assessments used appropriately can serve as one tool for monitoring students' progress and in helping parents, teachers, and school leaders see how students are performing across the State.

This amendment will help to reduce the testing burden and build high-quality assessment systems that support teachers and students. Importantly, the amendment recognizes that a one-size-fits-all policy to address excessive testing won't work. There is evidence that time spent testing fluctuates significantly among districts, with some districts dedicating three times as many hours to testing as other districts.

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This variety in the use of tests is why our amendment lets the States and local districts design their own plans to improve the use of assessments.

Our amendment reserves a portion of local academic flexible grant funds for States and school districts to improve the use of assessments. The amendment allows States and school districts to use those funds to audit their assessment systems and report to the public the results, which might include the amount of time students spend taking tests, whether those tests are high quality, and whether the tests provide prompt feedback to support teaching.

The amendment allows States and school districts to use the funds to develop and implement a plan to make assessments work better for their teachers, families, and students. States and school districts can eliminate low-quality or redundant tests, provide professional development on assessment literacy, or speed the delivery of assessment results to student and educators.

Once again, I thank Representative COSTELLO for his partnership, and Chairman KLINE, Representative ROKITA, and Representative SCOTT for their willingness to work with us to make sure States and school districts have the ability to eliminate unneeded assessments and get the most out of high-quality assessments.

I urge my colleagues to support the Bonamici-Costello amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, but I do not intend to oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, public education is overly burdened by standardized tests. Frustrated teachers and parents, not to mention students, are all saying the same thing: We need to do something about excessive testing in our public schools.

Make no mistake, regular assessments in English and math are essential objective tools to measure achievement, but their impact has been worn down through an unnecessary maze of blue books and Scantron sheets that waste classroom time and prevent our teachers from doing their jobs.

Let me illustrate the point at my alma mater, Owen J. Roberts High School. Prior to 1992, high school students would have a midterm and final test for some of their courses, and teachers would spend a day or two reviewing for these tests and a class period giving the tests. This would be approximately 5 hours per subject of instructional time for reviewing for and administering these exams.

Currently, a member of the class of 2017 who is proficient already on Pennsylvania assessment tests will spend approximately 43 hours preparing for and taking three Keystone exams and the other high school assessment to prepare for college.

A member of the class of 2017 who is not proficient on these tests during the first attempt could spend, minimally, 163 hours preparing for and taking three Keystone exams twice, completing three online PBA assessments, attending three classes of remediation, and completing the other high school assessments to prepare for college.

The bottom line: it is too much. It is stifling. It is not conducive to fostering the intellectual growth we want to see in our students.

This bipartisan amendment is a solution to many of the redundant, low-quality, and unnecessary testing that takes place. It will empower teachers and parents by giving existing Federal funding to State and local education agencies to develop curriculum plans to make the use of tests for the student.

It also means quicker delivery of assessment data to educators and parents and a more qualitative analysis of how to shape curriculum for that student from the local district and parents, not the Federal Government.

We need to stop teaching to the test and get back to empowering our children to think and succeed at the local level.

I thank Chairman KLINE for the opportunity to address this important issue, and I appreciate the efforts of Congresswoman BONAMICI and her unwavering dedication to this issue of improving public education. She has been a delight to work with.

I encourage my colleagues to join in favor of this amendment to be included in H.R. 5, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BONAMICI. May I inquire about the balance of my time?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Oregon has 2½ minutes remaining.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, at this time I yield 1 minute to my colleague from Colorado (Mr. POLIS).

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chair, I want to thank Ms. BONAMICI for bringing forward this important amendment. Hardly a day goes by where I don't hear from my constituents that there is too much testing.

Now, they don't often make the effort to distinguish between district testing, State testing, Federal testing and classroom testing, but clearly the Federal piece is the part that we are dealing with here today in Washington.

What this amendment ensures is that we can focus on the quality of testing. We recently had a school district, Poudre School District, in and around Fort Collins, that did a review of all the different levels of testing that they have. What drives the most frustration among educators and among families and among students is testing for which they either don't understand the purpose or it doesn't have a purpose.

We need to make clear not only what the purpose of testing is in public education but also have the most efficient and best route to get from here to there with regard to the quality of the tests.

There are too many unnecessary and low-quality tests in public education. And at the same time we maintain our commitment to accountability and transparency, we must ensure that we take the quickest possible line from point A to point B through the highest-quality tests and the minimum amount of testing necessary to fulfill the very important public policy goals of accountability and transparency.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CURBELO), a true champion of public education.

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the amendment offered by my distinguished colleagues, Mr. COSTELLO and Ms. BONAMICI.

As a member of the Miami-Dade County Public School Board, I am all too familiar with all of the challenges that our families and students face as it relates to testing.

Now, don't get me wrong. Testing is a critical part, an element of the ac-

countability system. If we can't ask the question, "Are our children learning?" then we have already failed in delivering an education system that serves this great Nation and our families. However, excessive and redundant testing has undermined accountability systems and has made it harder for our young people to learn.

That is why I commend my distinguished colleagues for working together in a bipartisan way to offer this solution that will help millions and millions of children, teachers, and families all over our country. I know that the children of Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Monroe County Public Schools will appreciate this amendment. I know that the teachers back home will appreciate this amendment, and I commend my colleagues for their courage to work together in favor of such a smart solution.

I also want to take the opportunity to commend Chairman KLINE and Chairman ROKITA for all of their hard work on the underlying bill, which I support.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank, again, my cosponsor of this amendment and those who spoke in favor. Good, quality assessments can inform instruction. Duplicative assessments need to be eliminated. This amendment gives districts and States the flexibility to do that. I urge my colleagues to support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROKITA).

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Chair, I thank Mr. COSTELLO for yielding. I want to congratulate him on already being an effective Member of Congress. I also want to thank Representative BONAMICI for her continued work on this amendment and seeing it through; also, Representative CARLOS CURBELO, a member of our committee, for his effectiveness to date. It has been a great partnership all the way around.

I want to associate myself with Mr. CURBELO's remarks and also simply add that this amendment helps States examine all of the assessments given to students, helps improve how student assessments are used, and possibly limits how many are given.

This is a commonsense amendment, and I am happy to support it and urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do so as well.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 24 OFFERED BY MR. POLIS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 24 printed in part B of House Report 114-29.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 343, after line 24, insert the following new subparagraph:

“(H) Awarding grants for the creation and distribution of open access textbooks and open educational resources.”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. POLIS. In education, Mr. Chairman, oftentimes textbooks cost hundreds of dollars for each student. Now, sometimes that money has to come from the families. Sometimes the school or the district might have some old dog-eared textbooks, outdated and of different versions.

I have been to a number of classrooms where the teacher has to say, For your assignment, if you have this version, read pages 33 through 35. If you have this version, it is 36 through 38. If you don't have any version, here's a few copies in front that we'll give to you.

That gets in the way of a quality education, both from an access standpoint, from a reinforcing economic disparity standpoint, as well as preventing our students from having access to the most up-to-date textbooks and available information.

In an effort to address this issue, what my amendment would do is create an allowable use of funds for awarding grants for the creation and distribution of open source textbooks and open educational resources.

The open source movement, in general, is sweeping the country with regard to available education and other areas. My amendment allows funds to be used for the creation and distribution of open source educational resources and textbooks at the K-12 level to bring cost savings to school districts, cost savings to families, and quality enhancements and educational enhancements to those districts, schools, and States that embrace this utilization of the funds.

Many States and districts are already beginning to embrace this concept to save costs and improve the quality of their educational content in tight budget times. My amendment would simply allow them to use existing Federal funds to boost these cost savings even more in innovative districts and States that have chosen to embrace the open source textbook movement.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. ROKITA. Again, I thank Mr. POLIS for this amendment. The amendment simply clarifies that States may use, again, at their choosing, their funds under the local academic flexible grant to create or distribute open source education resources. This is a good thing. This grant is designed to be used to support the activities the State and local school districts believe are important to their students. If open source material is what is best for them, they should be able to use the funding to support that activity. This is in line with the spirit and themes found throughout the Student Success Act.

Again, I thank the gentleman for his leadership in offering it. I urge my colleagues to support it, and the underlying bill.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, by supporting my amendment, Congress can voice its support for the growing academic open source community and for encouraging cost-reducing, quality-enhancing innovation in the content that is available for students across the country.

I encourage my colleagues to support my amendment, the open education resources amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 25 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 25 printed in part B of House Report 114-29.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 354, line 19, strike “two” and insert “three”.

Page 355, after line 15, insert the following: “(iii) Accountability-based programs and activities that are designed to enhance school safety, which may include research-based bullying prevention, cyberbullying prevention, disruption of recruitment activity by groups or individuals involved in violent extremism, and gang prevention programs, as well as intervention programs regarding bullying.”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, let me thank the gentleman from Indiana for his kindness this evening as I have listened to the debate. I want to thank the ranking member of the full committee, Mr. SCOTT, and Mr. KLINE,

who have worked diligently. We could not have come to the point of having Members' amendments without the very hard work of Mr. SCOTT's staff, and certainly Mr. KLINE. So I thank both of them because of our great concern on this issue.

Mr. Chairman and colleagues, this is a face that I am trying to help with my amendment. This is the face of children being bullied in America.

My amendment supports accountability-based programs and activities that are designed to enhance school safety, including research-based bullying prevention, cyber bullying prevention, disruption of recruitment activity by groups or individuals involved in violent extremism, and gang prevention programs.

I will note, Mr. Chairman, that this amendment wants to support accountability-based programs and to acknowledge that every day in schools across America children of all kinds are bullied. One in seven students in grades K-12 is either a bully or a victim of bullying, and 282,000 students are physically attacked in secondary schools each month.

The Jackson Lee amendment also addresses growing concerns regarding violent extremism and the misuse of social media by militant extremist groups to recruit students and young persons.

It really is about giving tools to schools to be prepared for the new, if you will, ills that are facing our children, which include cyber bullying, bullying based on discrimination, and peer advocacy.

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It is noted that when bystanders intervene, bullying stops within 10 seconds, 57 percent of the time; and bullied youths were most likely to report that actions that accessed support from others made a positive difference.

I ask my colleagues to support this amendment and to realize that we can provide the skills and the tools for school districts to help in these very unfortunate circumstances for our children.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for offering this amendment. This adds an allowable use of funds for what we are calling the local academic flexible grant to support projects that focus on school and student safety.

The local academic flexible grant, again, is the product of us eliminating over 65 programs in current law and delivering the funds that supported those

programs back to the States and, with the States' blessing, even further back to local school districts and so forth.

We know all too well that bad things can happen in schools. This amendment will clarify that school districts can use this funding—again, not being mandated by the Federal Government—but through this grant can use the funding to support programs aimed at making schools safer. This is in all our interests.

I thank the gentlewoman for offering this amendment and urge my colleagues to support it and the underlying bill.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Texas has 3 minutes remaining.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me, first of all, thank the gentleman from Indiana, again, for the clarity of this instruction to our school districts across America; and if I might, again, acknowledge Mr. SCOTT and the chairman of the full committee.

If I might continue to say that cyber bullying, it is estimated that 2.2 million children experienced cyber bullying in 2011.

This is a teaching tool. This is a Marvel comic book that says Internet superheroes meet the Internet villains, many different tools that school districts can use to be able to educate our children.

Sixty-four percent of students enrolled in weight loss programs reported experiencing weight-based victimization.

As I indicated, peer advocacy, 70.6 percent of young people say they have seen bullying in their school. We know that this is a problem, but we know that intervention helps. My amendment, again, emphasizes the intervention and the accountability.

I ask my colleagues to support this amendment, I thank them for their support in advance, and I leave you simply by acknowledging that this face should be a smile. When every child goes to school, they should have a smile on their face.

Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk. It is listed in the report as Jackson Lee Amendment No. 25.

As the founder and co-chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I have long advocated for the health, dignity and well-being of our nation's children.

One of the fundamental things that children need to succeed in life is a good education.

I thank the Rules Committee for making in order Jackson Lee Amendment No. 25.

Mr. Chair, Jackson Lee Amendment No. 25 supports accountability-based programs and activities that are designed to enhance school safety, which may include research-based bullying prevention, cyberbullying prevention, disruption of recruitment activity by groups or individuals involved in violent extremism, and gang prevention programs.

Statistics on bullying:

Mr. Chair, the daily reality for too many of our children is that they are threatened, bullied, and assaulted but reluctant to tell adults about their pain or shame:

1. 1 in 7 students in grades K–12 is either a bully or a victim of bullying.

2. 282,000 students are physically attacked in secondary schools each month.

3. 90% of 4th to 8th grade students report being victims of bullying of some type.

4. 71% of students report incidents of bullying as a problem at their school.

5. 15% of all students who don't show up for school report it to being out of fear of being bullied while at school.

Consequences of bullying:

1. 15% of all school absenteeism is directly related to fears of being bullied at school.

2. According to bullying statistics, 10 percent of school dropouts do so because of repeated bullying.

3. Bullying is a leading cause of adolescent suicide.

The Jackson Lee Amendment also addresses growing concerns regarding violent extremism and the misuse of social media by militant extremist groups to recruit students and young people.

Mr. Chair, as we all know, our world changed on September 11, 2001.

Groups like ISIS/ISIL are attempting to reach children and young people through social media.

This activity is being addressed by law enforcement, intelligence, and Homeland Security.

It is important that we provide schools and school districts an opportunity to include in their education programs around school violence material for parents and their children on the issue of radical extremism.

As the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, as well as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee I believe that we must address emerging threats where they are as early as possible.

I ask my colleagues to support Jackson Lee Amendment No. 25 to help protect our school age children from bullying and radical extremism.

CYBERBULLYING AND SUICIDE STATISTICS

Cyberbullying: Estimated that 2.2 million students experienced cyberbullying in 2011.

Of the 9% of students that reported being cyber-bullied in the National Crime Victimization Survey compared to 6.2% in 2009 (NCES, 2013): 71.9% reported being cyber-bullied once or twice in the school year, 19.6% reported once or twice a month, 5.3% reported once or twice a week, and 3.1% reported almost every day.

Bullying based on discrimination: 64% of students enrolled in weight-loss programs reported experiencing weight-based victimization.

Of 7,000 LGBT aged 13–21 revealed that because of their sexual orientation: 8 of 10 students had been verbally harassed at school, 4 of 10 had been physically harassed at school, 6 of 10 felt unsafe at school, and 1 of 5 had been the victim of a physical assault at school.

Children with disabilities were two to three times more likely to be bullied than their non-disabled peers.

Peer advocacy: 70.6% of young people say they have seen bullying in their schools (U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, 2014). When bystanders intervene, bullying stops within 10 seconds 57% of the time (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2014).

Bullying intervention: Bullied youth were most likely to report that actions that accessed support from others made a positive difference (Davis and Nixon, 2010).

Last thing, I would like to reference the following: Super Heroes Meet the Internet Villains Marvel, sponsored by Microsoft.

HOW ONE GOVERNMENT IS TAKING DRASTIC MEASURES TO SAVE KIDS FROM ISLAMIC EXTREMIST BRAINWASHING

(By Kara Pendleton)

ISIS has been busy recruiting children, even publishing a booklet for mothers called the Sister's Role in Jihad that instructs them to begin indoctrinating their children as infants, because waiting until they're older may "be too late."

The Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) reports that "children are central to ISIS," being both a propaganda tool and future fighters.

Due to a surge in Islamic extremism occurring in the U.K., the government is taking steps to help combat the grooming and indoctrination of youngsters:

A new bill proposed in the U.K. would enlist school teachers as agents of the state in the fight.

How would it work?

The Daily Mail cites a Home Office (the U.K. counterpart to the U.S. State Department) spokesman, who explained:

"We are not expecting teachers and nursery workers to carry out unnecessary intrusion into family life but we do expect them to take action when they observe behaviour of concern."

For schools, including nurseries and other childcare providers, we would expect staff to have the training they need to identify children at risk of radicalisation and know where and how to refer them for further help if necessary."

However, some argue this latest move is a step too far.

The policy director of the human rights body Liberty, Isabella Sanky, believes the focus should be on supporting those children who are at risk:

"Instead they are playing straight into terrorists' hands by rushing through a Bill that undermines our democratic principles and turns us into a nation of suspects."

People remain split over whether it is acceptable for the state to take children away from their parents. With ISIS and radical Islam on the rise, it's clearly difficult to find the line between freedom and state control and identify a solution that both respects individual rights and protects the populous.

I ask for support of the Jackson Lee amendment and yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 26 OFFERED BY MS. WILSON OF FLORIDA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 26 printed in part B of House Report 114-29.

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 354, line 19, strike "two categories" and insert "four categories".

Page 355, after line 15, insert the following:
 "(iii) Establishing, expanding, or maintaining intensive care reading laboratories to assist elementary school students who are reading at below grade level.

"(iv) Enabling elementary schools to provide instruction in language arts, mathematics, and science in grades 1 through 3 through teachers who are specialized in language arts, mathematics, or science, respectively.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WILSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Chairman, this amendment provides for elementary students reading below grade level to utilize intensive care reading labs to improve their reading efficiency.

I am well aware of the shortcomings of H.R. 5 and its failure to make the improvements necessary to bring our educational system into the 21st century. The bill falls short of providing quality education for many of our young students and has, in fact, left many of our students behind.

Students need enriching learning environments, individualized instruction, well-trained teachers, and positive reinforcement to support their educational development.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment I have before you today provides for just that approach to helping students improve their reading proficiency.

First, it provides for individualized reading instruction through intensive care reading labs, in addition to their normal reading instruction in schools, helping improve students' literacy early in their education.

In these labs, students will be taught by highly trained teachers who work with students in small numbers to improve their literacy and reading comprehension. If children can read on grade level by grade three, they will graduate high school.

Teachers in first, second, and third grade should specialize in teaching language arts, then another subgroup should specialize in math and science. They should be trained by the school district.

By using this specialized approach, schools will be able to better prepare teachers and ensure students are being

taught by teachers dedicated to their specific fields. In high schools, English teachers teach English, math teachers teach math. It should be the same in K-3 grades.

That is why I support this amendment and why I urge all of my colleagues to vote for this amendment as well.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the gentlewoman's concern and the purpose of this amendment; however, it must be opposed.

Comprehensive literacy and reading programs and their connection to college and career success are obviously vitally important.

Since State and local educational officials understand the importance of reading proficiency, including the benefits of teaching comprehension, vocabulary, and other skills, I am confident that these officials will see the benefits of programs like this and choose to use their local academic flexible grant under this bill to fund programs like this.

The block grant is designed to be flexible, thereby allowing local education officials to use the funds in a way that most benefits their students. We do not want to start rebuilding the silos that we have just knocked down with this bill language.

I believe this amendment, unfortunately, would do that very thing by requiring this instruction instead of letting State and local school districts, teachers, parents, local taxpayers, and school officials decide what is best for their students.

I agree, again, with the importance of this issue, but oppose the amendment as the underlying bill already provides States and school districts funding flexibility to set their own priorities, not letting Washington do it.

I encourage my colleagues, on that basis then, to oppose this amendment but still support the underlying bill.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WILSON).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 27 OFFERED BY MR. COURTNEY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 27 printed in part B of House Report 114-29.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 366, line 5, strike "and".

Page 366, after line 5, insert the following:

(2) in paragraph (1)(E)—

(A) by striking "(E)" and inserting "(E)(i)";

(B) by striking the semicolon and inserting "; or"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(ii) resided on Federal property under lease under subchapter IV of chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code;"; and

Page 366, line 6, strike "(2)" and insert "(3)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Chairman, nearly two decades ago, Congress created the Military Housing Privatization Initiative to improve military family housing that, in many cases, was decrepit by allowing private developers to upgrade, maintain, and operate housing communities.

In the years since, public-private ventures created under this program have infused millions in private capital to improve the living conditions of military families at installations all across the country and has made a tremendous difference for our military families across the Nation.

As of 2011, 193,000 units of housing have been converted under this program. Under the program, priority for housing goes first to military personnel, then to Federal employees and retirees. However, if occupancy rates drop below certain levels for a period of time, the housing can be made available to the general public.

Allowing nonmilitary families with children access to this housing is an important part of ensuring the financial viability of these ventures, but it also presents unanticipated challenges to the host communities where they are located, since these properties are property tax exempt.

For example, today, there are 130 civilian nonmilitary children residing at the public-private housing at Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, Connecticut.

These children attend Groton public schools alongside military children residing in the same community; yet Groton receives no Impact Aid support for the cost of their education. Since their housing is property tax exempt, the host community has to absorb the entire per pupil cost for their education.

While I was made aware of this problem because of the growing challenge in Groton, it is clear from discussions with Navy officials and the Groton developer that the same problem will face communities across the country that have privatized military housing, as the size and composition of our military changes in the years ahead.

Under current law, local schools are eligible to receive only 5 percent of the

support payments for children residing on Federal property with a parent who is not affiliated, but only if the number of children being educated equals or exceeds 1,000 or equals or exceeds 10 percent of the total numbers of students in average daily attendance.

My amendment is simple. It would ensure that the number of civilian children living in property tax exempt military housing can be more adequately factored into a community's support for educating these children under Impact Aid.

Since my amendment was made in order last night, I have heard recognition of the problem that I am seeking to address, but also concerns at how it would have wider-ranging impacts to this program, particularly in light of the ongoing funding challenges in Impact Aid.

Throughout the day, my staff and I have had productive and thoughtful discussions with the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools and the Military Impacted Schools Association about how to address this issue that my communities and others are facing.

I would note that the chairman of the committee, Mr. KLINE, who also serves on the House Armed Services Committee with me, has pledged to work with my office to try and address this issue which, again, at the end of the day, is about fairness for host communities that step up and make sure that our military families have safe and good schools.

Mr. KLINE. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. COURTNEY. I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. KLINE. I will be happy to work with you.

Mr. COURTNEY. I appreciate that, Mr. KLINE. These organizations have pledged to work with me to find ways to constructively address these issues in the days moving ahead.

Mr. Chair, I withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn.

AMENDMENT NO. 28 OFFERED BY MR. NOLAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 28 printed in part B of House Report 114-29.

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 391, line 19, add at the end after the period the following: "It is further the policy of the United States to ensure that Indian children do not attend school in buildings that are dilapidated or deteriorating, which may negatively affect the academic success of such children."

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN) and a

Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Chairman, I would like to begin by thanking Chairman KLINE for his work on this important legislation; of course, Ranking Member BOBBY SCOTT as well; and the members of the committee and the Rules Committee for allowing us to offer this amendment here this evening.

Mr. Chairman, in short, my amendment ensures that Indian children will not be expected to attend school in buildings that are dilapidated and dangerous.

Under title V of House Resolution 5, the Federal Government has an obligation to fund and to maintain these schools. It is time to honor that obligation and send the message to our students in Indian Country that their education and their success in life are important to all of us, and expecting them to go to school in facilities in utter disrepair simply does not send that message.

According to the Department of the Interior, there are 63 schools funded by the Bureau of Indian Education that are listed in poor condition.

For example, the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School on the Leech Lake Reservation in my district is housed in an old pole building—cold and drafty in the winter, hot in the summer, unfit for children or teachers in any season.

I operated my sawmill and pallet factory in a pole building. I think we all agree that we want something better for our children when they go to school.

Look around us right now, Mr. Chairman. We have a magnificent Capitol here to symbolize the importance of the work and the purpose of what we do here.

Sure, as a practical matter, we can conduct our Nation's business in a pole building, but we don't and for good reason.

□ 2100

Architecture needs to carry with it not only a sense of function but a sense of importance and a sense of purpose. The simple truth is architecturally distinctive schools deliver a message to students that their education is valued, that it is important.

The Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School I mentioned, like so many others, has an incredibly long list of serious problems. Students endure rodent and bat infestations, roof leaks and holes, mold and fungus, a faulty air system, uneven floors, poor lighting, sewer problems, and dangerous electrical configurations with wires just crisscrossing all the hallways and the rooms in a dangerous way. This building is literally at risk of collapse. It has earned the nickname "Killer Hall" from the local emergency responders.

Students and faculty throughout the 63 schools in Indian Country face similar serious health and safety risks every day at schools like this, thus perpetuating lower graduation rates and difficulties retaining qualified teachers. In fact, Chairman KLINE, himself, called for action on tribal school construction in a letter to the Bureau of Indian Education just last week, and I want to applaud him for that.

Regarding the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School, the chairman said: "This appalling situation not only adversely affects the quality of education these students receive, but also their health and safety." The chairman is right. Our children deserve better, regardless of where they live.

I want to particularly thank the gentlewoman from Minnesota, Congresswoman BETTY MCCOLLUM, for her continued support on this issue, as well as Congresswoman ANN KIRKPATRICK of Arizona, Congressman BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, and Congressman RAUL RUIZ of California for cosponsoring this amendment.

I am pleased the administration requested more money for the Bureau of Indian Education construction funding in its most recent budget, but we can do better. We can do more.

Minnesota's MinnPost reporter Devin Henry recently wrote a story entitled, "Where Republicans and Democrats Agree the Government Needs to Spend More," and that item is funding for Indian education and construction. I will include that article in the RECORD.

[From MINNPOST, Feb. 9, 2015]

WHERE REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS AGREE
THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO SPEND MORE

(By Devin Henry)

WASHINGTON.—From budget limits to the national debt, much of the debate Washington today focuses on cutting spending. But on at least one line item in President Obama's budget, lawmakers on both sides of the aisle agree that the government needs to spend more.

Minnesota Rep. Betty McCollum, a Democrat on the budget-writing Appropriations Committee, said she and a group of members, including Republicans, are looking for ways to boost funding for school construction on tribal lands around the country, even after Obama proposed pumping millions in new money into it.

Tribal school construction has been neglected for some time, so even though Obama proposed more than doubling its modest budget next year, it's not nearly enough to confront the problem of broken down schools around the country. In Minnesota, the Leech Lake Reservation's Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School, typifies this—it's housed in a used pole barn and students have taken to wearing winter coats while in the school. When winds reach 40 miles per hour, teachers move children to other buildings.

The administration sees Obama's proposal as a first step of a multi-year effort to improve the system, but Indian education advocates are looking for more money right now to kick-start new school construction down the road.

Still, officials are heartened that the issue is at least on the radar—the Bug School, for

example, isn't funded in Obama's plan, but tribal chairwoman Carri Jones issued a statement saying the tribe is "extremely pleased and grateful" that the president included new funds in his budget.

On Capitol Hill, funding for Indian education, especially school construction, is an area of relative bipartisanship: last year, for example, both parties agreed on a large spending increase for replacement school construction around the country, above what even Obama proposed. McCollum credits this to trust and treaty obligations the United States government has to tribes across America—the U.S. has a responsibility to support tribes, and it's one Congress takes seriously.

There are still a lot of questions about what McCollum and others are trying to do, like how much money they're looking for, and where it will come from. For now, she's not getting into details, except to say that she thinks more money could be on its way.

"This is not enough money and we need to come up with a plan that would have tribal nations, American children who are members of tribal nations, going to safe schools, 21st century schools," she said.

OBAMA'S PLAN WINS BIPARTISAN SUPPORT

Obama has proposed a \$1 billion budget for the Bureau of Indian Education in 2016—a \$150 million increase over current levels. That includes \$45 million for new school construction. The budget represents a big increase over what Obama has looked for in the past—new school construction saw a big influx of funding in the stimulus act in 2009, but his \$3.5 million request last year was his first since 2011.

Even so, the problem is much bigger than what's in Obama's budget. His proposal would go toward building the last two buildings on a 2004 list of replaceable schools, but that would still leave behind a \$1.3 billion backlog of dilapidated schools nationwide.

Members on both sides of the aisle greeted the request as a welcome change of pace after what McCollum described as a "time out" for BIE construction funding. Republican Rep. Tom Cole, an Oklahoman on the Appropriations Committee with whom McCollum has worked on Indian issues, said the proposal "is an area where we can co-operate and hopefully make a lot of progress on."

Minnesota Rep. John Kline, who chairs the House Education Committee, said in a statement that he's "pleased" by the proposal and vowed to "look more closely at this issue and demand better for these students."

All that said, everyone recognizes the plan only accounts for two schools-worth of funding. When Interior Secretary Sally Jewell introduced Obama's plan to reporters last month, she acknowledged that \$45 million isn't enough to make major inroads in the school construction backlog. She called it "just step one in a multi-year approach" to fixing the backlog, and said it "was as far as we could reasonably go" to fit funding into the overall budget and get lawmakers' approval.

HAPPY WITH THE PLAN, BUT LOOKING FOR MORE

Congress has a history of going above and beyond what the Obama administration requests on BIE issues. Last year, for example, Obama requested \$3.5 million to plan construction of a new BIE school in Maine. Congress appropriated \$20.1 million to straight-up build the school instead.

Since Obama's 2016 budget covers the money needed to rebuild the schools still on the government's list, any money above that

could go toward planning the schools that might be included on a new replacement list, McCollum said. "When we see the list and we have a dollar figure off the list, then we need to have the big idea, the big plan on a way forward so we can get these schools reconstructed so they can be repaired, and rebuilt where they need to be taken down," she said.

To that end, she and other budget writers are scouring the budget—from the Interior Department and beyond—trying to find funding to pump up BIE construction even further. It's a bipartisan effort: McCollum said she, Cole and a group of other Republicans began discussing additional funding schemes while they toured Indian Country in Arizona last month.

"We were literally at dinner like, 'what if we try this, what if we try that, well we're going to talk to Treasury, we're going to talk to OMB, let's talk to the White House,'" she said.

There is danger here, of course, that partisan budget fights could delay or derail the whole process. The Interior budget is relatively small, which McCollum said makes it difficult to shift funding toward a bipartisan priority like Indian schools when there are other areas—clean air and water, wildfire prevention—that need funding. It's easier to find money for Defense Department schools (the only other school system the federal government runs) because the DOD budget is so big.

But that's what negotiations are for. McCollum and Oklahoma's Cole both said they expect to eventually find a path forward on this.

"The trick is always finding the money, because the president is proposing this having disregarded the budget caps," Cole said. "But it wouldn't be the first time, on Interior Approps, we've been able to rob Peter to pay Paul. And the Democrats might not like the Peter, but we all agree on the Paul that needs help, in this case Indian Education."

BUG SCHOOL COULD GET ON NEW LIST

The Leech Lake Reservation's Bug School has gained some notoriety in the Indian education community. Jewell visited it last summer and in announcing Obama's funding request, mentioned it as the type of school that needs to be replaced. Lawmakers did the same in a budget bill Congress passed in December.

When officials made their list of replacement schools in 2004, they left off the Bug School. The Interior Department has now assembled a team of experts from the Department of Defense' school system and the Interior Department to write a new list and come up with criteria meant to more accurately identify replaceable schools.

For example, McCollum said, the last list considered the condition of all the schools in an individual district, and because Leech Lake's elementary schools are in comparably acceptable condition, the Bug School was less likely to make the cut. Its inclusion in a budget bill, and the attention Jewell has given it, indicates its inclusion on a new list, which is expected this spring.

"We are extremely pleased and grateful that the President's budget includes substantially more funding for BIE school construction and rehabilitation than in years past and that it begins to recognize the significant need in Indian Country for a safe learning environment for our students," Jones, the Leech Lake tribal chairwoman, said in a statement to MinnPost. "We are fighting to give our community a new high school facility because our children deserve the best educational opportunities."

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Chairman, the choice today is simple. No child should be expected to endure deteriorating school rooms to get an education. I urge my colleagues to adopt the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I seek time in opposition to the gentleman's amendment, although I do not oppose it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank my colleague from the cold north of Minnesota for his very excellent amendment. We know in Minnesota, as we know across the country, that the state of many of these Indian schools are just absolutely deplorable. He described that very well. It is appalling that sometimes it has taken us 10 years to identify a problem, and we can't do anything about it.

We are compromising the education of vulnerable children; we are compromising their health and safety, as my friend from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN) said; and we are certainly compromising their education and their hopes for a better future. That is why we have got to look more closely at this issue. That is why I did write the letter to the Director of the BIE to begin a dialogue. That is why we will hold, in the coming weeks, a hearing to dig into this.

We are badly organized, shall I say, in the government sometimes and in the Congress. So one committee is looking at one thing, and then nobody is looking at another, and nobody is paying attention to something else, and we have let this deplorable situation develop. We have got to do better.

The gentleman's amendment will help in this regard. I very much appreciate that he did it. I am very, very supportive of this amendment because it makes this bill a better bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 29 OFFERED BY MRS. DAVIS OF CALIFORNIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 29 printed in part B of House Report 114-29.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 514, line 9, strike "of the school" and insert "in the school building".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Chairman, this bipartisan amendment that I bring forward with my colleagues, Mr. DOLD of Illinois and Mr. POLIS of Colorado, would clarify the definition of "school leader" currently contained in section 6101 of H.R. 5.

Mr. Chairman, the current definition of "school leader" contained in this bill is problematic. As currently drafted, the definition fails to make clear to State and local school districts that a school leader is an individual who runs the operations and instructional programs within a school, as opposed to a district administrator who oversees individual schools' programs.

As a result, States and local school districts might interpret this definition to apply to an assistant superintendent of curriculum or a subject matter content specialist who oversees instructional practices within an LEA but is not in a school building on a daily basis, such as a principal.

This amendment removes this ambiguity by making it clear that the definition of "school leader" should apply as it was originally intended—directly and solely to a school principal. If left unchanged, it is possible that district administrators could become eligible for title II professional development funds currently aimed at improving the quality of our Nation's school principals.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, which ensures that title II funds go to the school leader, the person who is most responsible for student achievement.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Chairman, I certainly want to thank my good friend from California for her leadership on this, and also my friend from Colorado.

Really what this is doing, Mr. Chairman, is this is talking about a technical correction. As my friend from California pointed out, what we are really looking to try to do is to make sure that the dollars allocated in this bill for continuing education and other things are actually going to a school leader, which is mentioned throughout this bill, but "school leader" is left largely undefined.

We want to make sure that we put a little bit more definition for our local school districts so that they have a better understanding that a school leader is actually someone that resides within the school. We think that is absolutely critical in terms of continuing education, some of the other programs,

to make sure that it is not ambiguous. We want to make sure that we are focusing on the task at hand.

We hope that this is something, again, that has bipartisan support. We hope that we will be able to go through the process fairly quickly.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank my colleague from Illinois and reiterate that this is merely a clarifying amendment, but one with real impact as it will return the term "school leader" to its originally intended use.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 30 OFFERED BY MR. ZELDIN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 30 printed in part B of House Report 114-29.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 563, after line 15, insert the following: "SEC. 6532. STATE CONTROL OVER STANDARDS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to prohibit a State from withdrawing from the Common Core State Standards or any other specific standards.

"(b) PROHIBITION.—No officer or employee of the Federal Government shall, directly or indirectly, through grants, contracts or other cooperative agreements, through waiver granted under section 6401 or through any other authority, take any action against a State that exercises its rights under subsection (a)."

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise this evening in support of my amendment that sends a very clear message to States that if they choose to withdraw from Common Core, there will be no penalty whatsoever from the Federal Government.

As a New York State Senator, I introduced legislation with New York State Assemblymen Al Graf and Ed Ra that would stop Common Core in New York.

In New York, we have these Common Core standards set nationally, tests created by the State, curriculum set by the local school districts, and no one is talking to each other; teachers not only teaching to the test, but they are teaching to the wrong test because they are not given the tools they need to know what the test is even going to look like.

And for any government Kool Aid-drinking bureaucrat who is listening to this and disagreeing with what I have

to say, you are not listening to those parents and educators and students who are pleading with passion exactly what I am saying, begging for a positive change that will improve the quality of education in America's classrooms.

The most common argument I received in opposition to my bill was that if New York State withdrew from Common Core, that somehow the Federal Government was going to punish New York State with hundreds of millions of dollars lost—some even said billions of dollars. This amendment is the most important action that this Congress can take to diffuse those claims and allow States to withdraw without punishment.

As for my strong personal opinion, I believe in higher standards, but I don't believe that Common Core is the answer. This goes way beyond the complaints of killing morale in the teaching profession. Much more importantly, this is about killing the morale for that student who is intelligent, pays attention in class, goes home and does their homework. They are going to grow up to be a doctor or a lawyer or a successful businessman. They are being told that they are not proficient in reading—not because they are not proficient in reading, but because the rollout of Common Core has been a disaster.

We have 10-year-old special education students taking fifth grade tests even if they are reading at a first grade reading level. Or you can go on the EngageNY Web site and read about how first graders, the domain for English language arts, early world civilizations, they are learning about ancient world Mesopotamia and the strategic advantage of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers with regard to the development of the city of Babylon—6-year-olds, first graders.

As a father of twin third grade girls, I believe in higher standards. I believe in challenging our students to excel and to aim as high as possible. But when it comes to all of America's children, there just shouldn't be a one-size-fits-all approach.

While some States embrace Common Core, not all States' needs are the same. My amendment would allow States currently using Common Core to opt out without punishment. Parents need to be in charge of their children's education, not unelected, faceless bureaucrats making unilateral decisions for the entire Nation.

A one-size-fits-all solution to education reform intensifies the problem, and it doesn't address our underlying issues. We want to provide the best possible opportunities for our children, and the people best positioned to make those decisions are our parents and our local educators.

I ask my colleagues to support my amendment, hear the concerns of our

parents and educators, and heed the call to rescue our schoolchildren. It is like when they fall into the deep end of a pool, they don't have a lifejacket, they don't yet know how to swim. That is what it feels like for many of them.

This is a vote for residents in your district who aren't even old enough to vote. Fight for them and pass this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is not necessary because there is no prohibition against people withdrawing from Common Core.

I think we need to say a few things about Common Core.

It is not a national or a Federal initiative. It is State led. States develop the Common Core standards through the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association. The U.S. Department of Education did not participate in that. The administration does not coerce States into adopting Common Core. In fact, States have received waivers under NCLB and have not adopted Common Core, like my home State of Virginia.

In Virginia, our State system of higher education certified that when a child is proficient under our standards of learning, they could enter public universities without the needed remediation. Those standards were okay, not the Common Core.

Frankly, we need those kinds of standards, college and career-ready, because you want people, when they graduate from high school, to be able to go to college without remediation. That is not a high bar, and we want to make sure that whatever happens to this amendment, we are not exempting States from meaningful standards.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 2115

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Chairman, I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS).

Mr. POLIS. I thank the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. Chairman, there is an enormous amount of misperception about what the Common Core standards are. Frankly, those of us who serve in this body are elected leaders. I urge my colleagues to take the time to educate themselves about this collaborative effort between a number of States that have developed college- and career-ready standards before they decry it based on misperceptions that, unfortunately, exist among the American public.

A number of States chose to work collaboratively on college- and career-ready standards. What we at the Federal level want to see is that States have college- and career-ready standards. We want to make sure that a diploma is meaningful. If a Federal investment is made, we want to make sure that States don't define success downward, disguising achievement gaps and making it look like every child achieves expectations by lowering expectations.

How they do that is entirely up to them. Let me repeat myself. How they do that is entirely up to them. Many States choose to work together. Some States choose to create their own standards. A project of the National Governors Association had Governors and State education commissioners working together to develop college- and career-ready standards. Other States have chosen to develop their own college- and career-ready standards.

That really is an appropriate discussion to have at the State level, but not in the halls of Washington. You won't hear people pushing Common Core standards here in Washington because I don't think any of us feel it is an appropriate discussion. But for some reason people have a particular agenda against what some of their own States are doing here in Washington. Well, I suggest they don't run for Congress. I suggest they run for Governor if that is their beef. This is simply the wrong place to have a discussion about curriculum and standards.

Mr. Chairman, the Federal Government does not set standards; the Federal Government does not set curriculum. It is also important to note that curriculum standards are different. Curriculum is developed from the standards, and depending on what standards the States have adopted, the curriculum is an entirely different matter.

So, again, I hope that we can use this opportunity as a learning moment so my colleagues can engage in a more meaningful debate about what standards are and who sets them.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Chairman, I think this would be a very good learning moment because States were receiving hundreds of millions, into the billions of dollars, from the Federal Government. They had to sign up for Common Core in order to get the money.

Mr. POLIS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ZELDIN. No. Let me—

Mr. POLIS. You do not need to sign up for Common Core to receive the funding.

Mr. KLINE. Regular order, Mr. Chairman.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. DOLD). The gentleman from New York controls the time.

Mr. ZELDIN. There were applications that were sent from New York State,

for example, to the Federal Government signed by the New York State congressional delegation asking for a waiver from the Federal Government, asking for money from the Federal Government to New York State that went to over 700 school districts to sign up for Common Core and all sorts of other things that came from the Federal Government. So I appreciate this as a learning moment.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I just want to reiterate that the Commonwealth of Virginia had received a waiver without accepting, without being involved in Common Core. We need to make sure that we have meaningful, high standards so that when someone graduates from high school, they are college- or career-ready without remediation. Whatever happens to this amendment, we want to make sure that States are not trying to exempt themselves out of reasonable standards.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 31 OFFERED BY MR. HURD OF TEXAS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 31 printed in part B of House Report 114-29.

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 574, after line 17, insert the following:
“SEC. 6552. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON PROTECTING STUDENT PRIVACY.

“(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds as follows:

“(1) Students' personally identifiable information is important to protect.

“(2) Students' information should not be shared with individuals other than school officials in charge of educating those students without clear notice to parents.

“(3) With the use of more technology, and more research about student learning, the responsibility to protect students' personally identifiable information is more important than ever.

“(4) Regulations allowing more access to students' personal information could allow that information to be shared or sold by individuals who do not have the best interest of the students in mind.

“(5) The Secretary has the responsibility to ensure every entity that receives funding under this Act holds any personally identifiable information in strict confidence.

“(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that the Secretary should review all regulations addressing issues of student privacy, including those under this Act, and ensure that students’ personally identifiable information is protected.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HURD) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Chairman, our children are our most precious resource, so protecting their personally identifiable information is incredibly important. As a former undercover officer in the CIA, I have seen the damage that can be done when personal data falls into the wrong hands. Bad actors can not only use this information for their own gain, they can also use it to target America’s children. It is up to us to protect our children and ensure their information is secure. Students’ personal information should never be shared with anyone who is not authorized to view it or use it, period.

I support the final passage of H.R. 5 and hope this amendment will spur Congress to help protect the personally identifiable information of our Nation’s students.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman from Texas has raised some good points about data privacy with this amendment. The Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education held a hearing on data privacy in the digital age earlier this month, and I think we are going to be looking at ways that we can improve FERPA for the 21st century during this Congress.

Mr. Chairman, that bill was written 40 years ago when data in the classroom was all in a teacher’s grade book and technology was not employed anywhere close to where it is today. Parents need to be able to trust that their children’s personal information is secure and will not be used for marketing or noneducational purposes. Teachers need to be given resources to understand how they can best protect the students’ data. As policymakers, we need to safeguard student privacy while supporting technological innovation happening in American schools.

We must help researchers and educators diagnose and address achievement gaps and enable all students to achieve their greatest potential. So I

support the gentleman’s amendment, and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HURD).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas will be postponed.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STIVERS) having assumed the chair, Mr. DOLD, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5) to support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children’s schools, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 35, FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2015

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-31) on the resolution (H. Res. 129) providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 35) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 125 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 5.

Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD) kindly resume the chair.

□ 2124

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5) to support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children’s schools, and for other purposes, with Mr. DOLD (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 31, printed in part B of House Report 114-29, offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HURD) had been postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 32 OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 32 printed in part B of House Report 114-29.

Mr. GRAYSON. I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 574, after line 17, insert the following: “SEC. 6552. STUDY ON SCHOOL START TIMES.

“The Secretary shall conduct an assessment of the impact of school start times on student health, well-being, and performance.”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would require the Secretary of Education to conduct an assessment of the impact of school start times on student health, well-being, and performance. It is supported by the National Education Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the National Sleep Federation.

In my district, some schools begin the day at 7 a.m., and others begin at 9:15. I am sure we see similar disparities all around the country. As the father of five school-age children, I believe that 7 a.m. is probably too early to get the best out of the developing minds and bodies of our young people.

That being said, I want to make it clear that this amendment does not mandate any change to school start times in the least. It simply seeks a national study on this topic. Maybe that study will prove me right, maybe it won’t. Either way, localities will remain free to continue to choose the start times for their schools that make the most sense for them, hopefully being better informed by this study. My amendment, should it be accepted, will make those decisions possible with more information than is currently available.

According to research already available by the director of the Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement at the University of Minnesota, later school start times in Minneapolis and Edina, Minnesota, have led to increased attendance rates, improved graduation rates, increased GPAs—in fact, in 11th grade, the mean grade went from a B to almost an A—minus—and significantly less depression among our students.

A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study found that insufficient sleep for young people leads to an increase in risky behavior, including increased tobacco use, increased alcohol consumption, and increased sexual activity.

A recent study at the U.S. Air Force Academy even found “significant negative effects”—that is a direct quote—“significant negative effects” every single year for those students who enrolled in the Air Force’s early morning courses. A study on the Wake County, North Carolina, school district start times showed that students with a 1-hour later start time gained on State assessment reading and math scores significantly and substantially.

An analysis of SAT scores in Hingham, Massachusetts, showed that delayed school starts, a school start a little bit later in the morning, resulted in a 31 point increase in SAT scores for those students with no other change in their schedule or in their standards.

With all these disparate localized research results, isn’t it time for a national study to see if these trends might be replicable across the country and could give our students a better education?

I hope that the information gained from such a study—such as one that I am proposing—would be useful to students. I hope it will be useful to parents, and I hope it will be useful to State and local governments and school authorities as they consider and determine their appropriate start times.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, this amendment would have absolutely no impact on direct Federal spending. Again, I want to reiterate that this amendment is not a mandate in any sense whatsoever. It only requires a deeper look at the effects school start times have on the health, well-being, and performance of students across America.

Mr. Chairman, we should be eager to research anything that could possibly benefit our Nation’s K–12 students, our own children. Toward that end, I urge support for this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the gentleman’s amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman’s interest and passion in looking at this issue.

□ 2130

I oppose the amendment because it is yet another example of expanding the Federal role in education into areas that are best left to States or local school districts.

There are debates about start times for schools. There are studies that are

out there. The gentleman mentioned some of those. There are a lot of opinions on the topic, but I don’t believe that the Federal Government conducting yet another study—a national study—will be helpful.

Each State and local school district needs to figure out what works best for their students as they contemplate decisions about running their schools, whether it is start times or end times or anything in between. It is not the role of the Federal Government.

I oppose this amendment and ask my colleagues to oppose the amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

In response to what we just heard, I point out that the Congressional Budget Office says this has no direct impact on spending. The reason for that is that the Department of Education already conducts research. It has a major staff of research on whom we spent millions of dollars of Federal money, regardless of whether they are performing this study or not.

We are not in any sense expanding the Federal role in education. We are simply getting the information from people who would be doing other studies, rather than this study, if this amendment doesn’t pass.

We would be providing valuable information to people all across the country, the people in our States, in our localities, in our school districts, who actually do make that determination regarding start time. Therefore, with all due respect, I think that the gentleman’s criticism is not well taken, and I remain passionate in support of this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I will just take a few seconds here.

I do appreciate the gentleman’s passion. As the gentleman pointed out, the Department of Education, the government already has the ability to conduct such research. Much research has already been done. I think the State and local governments will make decisions that is best suited for their districts.

I oppose the gentleman’s amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 33 OFFERED BY MS. WILSON OF FLORIDA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 33 printed in part B of House Report 114–29.

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

In title VI of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as proposed to be amended by section 601(a) of the bill—

- (1) redesignate part F as part G (and redesignate provisions accordingly); and
- (2) insert after part E the following:

“PART F—SCHOOL DROPOUT PREVENTION

“SEC. 6571. SHORT TITLE.

“This part may be cited as the ‘Dropout Prevention Act’.

“SEC. 6572. PURPOSE.

“The purpose of this part is to provide for school dropout prevention and reentry and to raise academic achievement levels by providing grants that—

“(1) challenge all children to attain their highest academic potential; and

“(2) ensure that all students have substantial and ongoing opportunities to attain their highest academic potential through schoolwide programs proven effective in school dropout prevention and reentry.

“SEC. 6573. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“For the purpose of carrying out this part, there are authorized to be appropriated \$125,000,000 for fiscal year 2016 and such sums as may be necessary for each of the 5 succeeding fiscal years, of which—

“(1) 10 percent shall be available to carry out subpart 1 for each fiscal year; and

“(2) 90 percent shall be available to carry out subpart 2 for each fiscal year.

“Subpart 1—Coordinated National Strategy

“SEC. 6581. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized—

“(1) to collect systematic data on the effectiveness of the programs assisted under this part in reducing school dropout rates and increasing school reentry and secondary school graduation rates;

“(2) to establish a national clearinghouse of information on effective school dropout prevention and reentry programs that shall disseminate to State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and schools—

“(A) the results of research on school dropout prevention and reentry; and

“(B) information on effective programs, best practices, and Federal resources to—

“(i) reduce annual school dropout rates;

“(ii) increase school reentry; and

“(iii) increase secondary school graduation rates;

“(3) to provide technical assistance to State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and schools in designing and implementing programs and securing resources to implement effective school dropout prevention and reentry programs;

“(4) to establish and consult with an inter-agency working group that shall—

“(A) address inter- and intra-agency program coordination issues at the Federal level with respect to school dropout prevention and reentry, and assess the targeting of existing Federal services to students who are most at risk of dropping out of school, and the cost-effectiveness of various programs and approaches used to address school dropout prevention and reentry;

“(B) describe the ways in which State educational agencies and local educational agencies can implement effective school

dropout prevention and reentry programs using funds from a variety of Federal programs, including the programs under this part; and

“(C) examine Federal programs that may have a positive impact on secondary school graduation or school reentry;

“(5) to carry out a national recognition program in accordance with subsection (b) that recognizes schools that have made extraordinary progress in lowering school dropout rates; and

“(6) to use funds made available for this subpart to carry out the evaluation required under section 1830(c).

“(b) RECOGNITION PROGRAM.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall—

“(A) establish a national recognition program; and

“(B) develop uniform national guidelines for the recognition program that shall be used to recognize eligible schools from nominations submitted by State educational agencies.

“(2) RECOGNITION.—The Secretary shall recognize, under the recognition program established under paragraph (1), eligible schools.

“(3) SUPPORT.—The Secretary may make monetary awards to an eligible school recognized under this subsection in amounts determined appropriate by the Secretary that shall be used for dissemination activities within the eligible school district or nationally.

“(4) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE SCHOOL.—In this subsection, the term ‘eligible school’ means a public middle school or secondary school, including a charter school, that has implemented comprehensive reforms that have been effective in lowering school dropout rates—

“(A) for all students in that secondary school or charter school;

“(B) For students in one or more of the subgroups described in section 1111(b)(2)(B)(xii); or

“(C) in the case of a middle school, for all students or for students in one or more of the subgroups described in section 1111(b)(2)(B)(xii) with a higher than average dropout rate in the secondary school that the middle school feeds students into.

“(c) CAPACITY BUILDING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, through a contract with one or more non-Federal entities, may conduct a capacity building and design initiative in order to increase the types of proven strategies for school dropout prevention and reentry that address the needs of an entire school population rather than a subset of students.

“(2) NUMBER AND DURATION.—

“(A) NUMBER.—The Secretary may award not more than five contracts under this subsection.

“(B) DURATION.—The Secretary may award a contract under this subsection for a period of not more than 5 years.

“(d) SUPPORT FOR EXISTING REFORM NETWORKS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide appropriate support to eligible entities to enable the eligible entities to provide training, materials, development, and staff assistance to schools assisted under this part.

“(2) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this subsection, the term ‘eligible entity’ means an entity that, prior to the date of enactment of the Dropout Prevention Act—

“(A) provided training, technical assistance, and materials related to school drop-

out prevention or reentry to 100 or more elementary schools or secondary schools; and

“(B) developed and published a specific educational program or design related to school dropout prevention or reentry for use by the schools.

“Subpart 2—School Dropout Prevention Initiative

“SEC. 6591. DEFINITIONS.

“In this subpart:

“(1) LOW-INCOME STUDENT.—The term ‘low-income student’ means a student who is determined by a local educational agency to be from a low-income family using the measures described in section 1113(c).

“(2) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs for purposes of serving schools funded by the Bureau.

“SEC. 6592. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.

“(a) GRANTS TO STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES AND LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—

“(1) AMOUNT LESS THAN \$75,000,000.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If the amount appropriated under section 6573 for a fiscal year equals or is less than \$75,000,000, then the Secretary shall use such amount to award grants, on a competitive basis, to—

“(i) State educational agencies to support activities—

“(I) in schools that—

“(aa) serve students in grades 6 through 12; and

“(bb) have annual school dropout rates that are above the State average annual school dropout rate; or

“(II) in the middle schools that feed students into the schools described in subclause (I); or

“(ii) local educational agencies that operate—

“(I) schools that—

“(aa) serve students in grades 6 through 12; and

“(bb) have annual school dropout rates that are above the State average annual school dropout rate; or

“(II) middle schools that feed students into the schools described in subclause (I).

“(B) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—Grant funds awarded under this paragraph shall be used to fund effective, sustainable, and coordinated school dropout prevention and reentry programs that may include the activities described in subsection (b)(2), in—

“(i) schools serving students in grades 6 through 12 that have annual school dropout rates that are above the State average annual school dropout rate; or

“(ii) the middle schools that feed students into the schools described in clause (i).

“(2) AMOUNT LESS THAN \$250,000,000 BUT MORE THAN \$75,000,000.—If the amount appropriated under section 6573 for a fiscal year is less than \$250,000,000 but more than \$75,000,000, then the Secretary shall use such amount to award grants, on a competitive basis, to State educational agencies to enable the State educational agencies to award subgrants under subsection (b).

“(3) AMOUNT EQUAL TO OR EXCEEDS \$250,000,000.—If the amount appropriated under section 6573 for a fiscal year equals or exceeds \$250,000,000, then the Secretary shall use such amount to award a grant to each State educational agency in an amount that bears the same relation to such appropriated amount as the amount the State educational agency received under part A for the preceding fiscal year bears to the amount re-

ceived by all State educational agencies under such part for the preceding fiscal year, to enable the State educational agency to award subgrants under subsection (b).

“(b) SUBGRANTS TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made available to a State educational agency under paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (a), the State educational agency shall award subgrants, on a competitive basis, to local educational agencies that operate public schools that serve students in grades 6 through 12 and that have annual school dropout rates that are above the State average annual school dropout rate, to enable those schools, or the middle schools that feed students into those schools, to implement effective, sustainable, and coordinated school dropout prevention and reentry programs that involve activities such as—

“(A) professional development;

“(B) obtaining curricular materials;

“(C) release time for professional staff to obtain professional development;

“(D) planning and research, including the development of early warning indicator systems in middle schools designed to identify students who are at risk of dropping out of high school and to guide preventative and recuperative school improvement strategies, including—

“(i) identifying and analyzing the academic risk factors that most reliably predict dropouts by using longitudinal data of past cohorts of students;

“(ii) identifying specific indicators of student progress and performance, such as attendance, academic performance in core courses, and credit accumulation, to guide decision making;

“(iii) identifying or developing a mechanism for regularly collecting and analyzing data about the impact of interventions on the indicators of student progress and performance; and

“(iv) analyzing academic indicators to determine whether students are on track to graduate secondary school in the standard number of years;

“(E) remedial education;

“(F) reduction in pupil-to-teacher ratios;

“(G) efforts to meet State student academic achievement standards;

“(H) counseling and mentoring for at-risk students, including the creation of individualized student success plans;

“(I) implementing comprehensive school reform models, such as creating smaller learning communities; and

“(J) school reentry activities.

“(2) AMOUNT.—Subject to paragraph (3), a subgrant under this subpart shall be awarded—

“(A) in the first year that a local educational agency receives a subgrant payment under this subpart, in an amount that is based on factors such as—

“(i) the size of schools operated by the local educational agency;

“(ii) costs of the model or set of prevention and reentry strategies being implemented; and

“(iii) local cost factors such as poverty rates;

“(B) in the second year, in an amount that is not less than 75 percent of the amount the local educational agency received under this subpart in the first such year;

“(C) in the third year, in an amount that is not less than 50 percent of the amount the local educational agency received under this subpart in the first such year; and

“(D) in each succeeding year, in an amount that is not less than 30 percent of the

amount the local educational agency received under this subpart in the first year.

“(3) DURATION.—A subgrant under this subpart shall be awarded for a period of 3 years, and may be continued for a period of 2 additional years if the State educational agency determines, based on the annual reports described in section 1830(a), that significant progress has been made in lowering the annual school dropout rate for secondary schools participating in the program assisted under this subpart.

“SEC. 6593. APPLICATIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—To receive—

“(1) a grant under this subpart, a State educational agency or local educational agency shall submit an application and plan to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may reasonably require; and

“(2) a subgrant under this subpart, a local educational agency shall submit an application and plan to the State educational agency at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the State educational agency may reasonably require.

“(b) CONTENTS.—

“(1) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY AND LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—Each application and plan submitted under subsection (a) shall—

“(A) include an outline—

“(i) of the State educational agency’s or local educational agency’s strategy for reducing the State educational agency or local educational agency’s annual school dropout rate;

“(ii) for targeting secondary schools, and the middle schools that feed students into those secondary schools, that have the highest annual school dropout rates; and

“(iii) for assessing the effectiveness of the efforts described in the plan;

“(B) contain an identification of the schools in the State or operated by the local educational agency that have annual school dropout rates that are greater than the average annual school dropout rate for the State;

“(C) describe the instructional strategies to be implemented, how the strategies will serve all students, and the effectiveness of the strategies;

“(D) describe a budget and timeline for implementing the strategies;

“(E) contain evidence of coordination with existing resources;

“(F) provide an assurance that funds provided under this subpart will supplement, and not supplant, other State and local funds available for school dropout prevention and reentry programs; and

“(G) describe how the activities to be assisted conform with research knowledge and evidence-based school dropout prevention and reentry programs.

“(2) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—Each application and plan submitted under subsection (a) by a local educational agency shall contain, in addition to the requirements of paragraph (1)—

“(A) an assurance that the local educational agency is committed to providing ongoing operational support for such schools to address the problem of school dropouts for a period of 5 years; and

“(B) an assurance that the local educational agency will support the plan, including—

“(i) provision of release time for teacher training;

“(ii) efforts to coordinate activities for secondary schools and the middle schools that feed students into those secondary schools; and

“(iii) encouraging other schools served by the local educational agency to participate in the plan.

“SEC. 6594. STATE RESERVATION.

“A State educational agency that receives a grant under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 1822(a) may reserve not more than 5 percent of the grant funds for administrative costs and State activities related to school dropout prevention and reentry activities, of which not more than 2 percent of the grant funds may be used for administrative costs.

“SEC. 6595. STRATEGIES AND CAPACITY BUILDING.

“Each local educational agency receiving a grant or subgrant under this subpart and each State educational agency receiving a grant under this subpart shall implement scientifically based, sustainable, and widely replicated strategies for school dropout prevention and reentry. The strategies may include—

“(1) specific strategies for targeted purposes, such as—

“(A) effective early intervention programs designed to identify at-risk students;

“(B) effective programs serving at-risk students, including racial and ethnic minorities and pregnant and parenting teenagers, designed to prevent such students from dropping out of school; and

“(C) effective programs to identify and encourage youth who have already dropped out of school to reenter school and complete their secondary education; and

“(2) approaches such as breaking larger schools down into smaller learning communities and other comprehensive reform approaches, creating alternative school programs, and developing clear linkages to career skills and employment.

“SEC. 6596. SELECTION OF LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES FOR SUBGRANTS.

“(a) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY REVIEW AND AWARD.—The State educational agency shall review applications submitted under section 1823(a)(2) and award subgrants to local educational agencies with the assistance and advice of a panel of experts on school dropout prevention and reentry.

“(b) ELIGIBILITY.—A local educational agency is eligible to receive a subgrant under this subpart if the local educational agency operates a public school (including a public alternative school)—

“(1) that is eligible to receive assistance under part A; and

“(2)(A) that serves students 50 percent or more of whom are low-income students; or

“(B) in which a majority of the students come from feeder schools that serve students 50 percent or more of whom are low-income students.

“SEC. 6597. COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS.

“A local educational agency that receives a grant or subgrant under this subpart and a State educational agency that receives a grant under this subpart may use the funds to secure necessary services from a community-based organization or other government agency if the funds are used to provide school dropout prevention and reentry activities related to schoolwide efforts.

“SEC. 6598. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

“Notwithstanding any other provision of law, each local educational agency that receives funds under this subpart shall use the funds to provide technical assistance to secondary schools served by the agency that have not made progress toward lowering annual school dropout rates after receiving assistance under this subpart for 2 fiscal years.

“SEC. 6599. SCHOOL DROPOUT RATE CALCULATION.

“For purposes of calculating an annual school dropout rate under this subpart, a school shall use the annual event school dropout rate for students leaving a school in a single year determined in accordance with the National Center for Education Statistics’ Common Core of Data.

“SEC. 6600. REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

“(a) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY REPORTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To receive funds under this subpart for a fiscal year after the first fiscal year that a local educational agency receives funds under this subpart, the local educational agency shall provide, on an annual basis, a report regarding the status of the implementation of activities funded under this subpart, and the dropout data for students at schools assisted under this subpart, disaggregated by each subgroup described in section 1111(b)(2)(B)(xii), to the—

“(A) Secretary, if the local educational agency receives a grant under section 1822(a)(1); or

“(B) State educational agency, if the local educational agency receives a subgrant under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 1822(a).

“(2) DROPOUT DATA.—The dropout data under paragraph (1) shall include annual school dropout rates for each fiscal year, starting with the 2 fiscal years before the local educational agency received funds under this subpart.

“(b) STATE REPORT ON PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—Each State educational agency receiving funds under this subpart shall provide to the Secretary, at such time and in such format as the Secretary may require, information on the status of the implementation of activities funded under this subpart and outcome data for students in schools assisted under this subpart.

“(c) ACCOUNTABILITY.—The Secretary shall evaluate the effect of the activities assisted under this subpart on school dropout prevention compared, if feasible, to a control group using control procedures. The Secretary may use funds appropriated for subpart 1 to carry out this evaluation.

“SEC. 6601. PROHIBITED USES OF FUNDS.

“No funds under this part may be used for—

“(1) the development, establishment, implementation, or enforcement of zero-tolerance school discipline policies unless otherwise required by Federal law; or

“(2) law enforcement agencies or local police departments serving a school or local educational agency—

“(A) with substantial documented excesses or racial disparities in the use of exclusionary discipline;

“(B) operating under an open school desegregation order, whether court-ordered or voluntary;

“(C) operating under a pattern or practice or practice consent decree for civil rights violations; or

“(D) already receiving substantial Federal funds for the placement of law enforcement in schools.”

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WILSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Chairman, my amendment to H.R. 5 is simple. It will provide students with the

necessary resources to remain in school and graduate.

I have witnessed young people who are mentored through quality in-school mentoring programs make positive choices, discover personal strength, and achieve their potential both inside and outside of the classroom.

According to the National Mentoring Partnership, youth who have a meaningful relationship with an adult are five times more likely to graduate. Studies also show that these youth are 46 percent less likely than their peers to start using illegal drugs, 27 percent less likely to start drinking, 52 percent less likely to skip a day of school, and 37 percent less likely to skip a class.

Young people who were at risk for not completing high school but who had a mentor were 55 percent more likely to be enrolled in college, 81 percent more likely to report participating regularly in sports or extracurricular activities, more than twice as likely to say they held a leadership position in a club or sports team, and 78 percent more likely to volunteer regularly in their communities.

Simply put, mentoring is a proven cost-effective investment. In fact, for every \$1 invested in mentoring, there is a \$3 return to society.

That is why it is important that we encourage States to establish and support effective dropout prevention and reentry programs that will provide necessary assistance to ensure that all of our children graduate.

My amendment will provide for school dropout prevention and reentry by establishing a mechanism to collect systemic data on dropout reentry and graduation rates, while establishing a national clearing house to collect information on effective dropout prevention and reentry programs.

My amendment will also provide technical assistance to State and local educational agencies, carry out national recognition programs for State and local educational agencies that raise academic achievement levels, and provide grants to local schools and agencies with dropout rates above the State's average to implement effective and sustainable dropout prevention and reentry programs.

That is why I support wholeheartedly the amendment to H.R. 5. I urge a "yes" vote on this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I want to start by thanking the gentleman for the amendment, although I do oppose it, and commending her for the outstanding work that she has personally done in this area of mentoring and helping kids get through school and off

to a life with hope, rather than a life of crime and gangs. She has done remarkable work.

As the gentlewoman knows, there are currently more than 80 elementary and secondary education programs in current law. This bill, the underlying bill, eliminates 65 of these programs, as we tried to allow schools more flexibility to do what they feel is most important with the money that they are getting.

The gentlewoman's amendment calls for another \$125 million of spending in the first year and such sums thereafter. I am afraid this is yet another Federal program that will be chronically underfunded and competing for funding that the schools so desperately need.

While I admire her passion and her personal hard work in this field, I continue to oppose this amendment and ask my colleagues to oppose this amendment and support the underlying bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WILSON).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Florida will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 34 OFFERED BY MR. CASTRO OF TEXAS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 34 printed in part B of House Report 114-29.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 596, after line 15, insert the following:
“(K) A description of how such youths will receive assistance from counselors to advise, prepare, and improve the readiness of such youths for college.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would require States to provide a blueprint for college and career counseling opportunities for homeless youth.

This is a bipartisan amendment. In fact, I want to thank very much Mr. STIVERS of Ohio and his staff who were very helpful in drafting this amendment.

We know that there are an estimated 1.6 million homeless youth and runaways in this country, and we also know that they are especially vulner-

able to falling through the cracks of our educational system. This would simply ask States to show how they are going to help these youth with career and college readiness.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), my colleague.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Mr. CASTRO for his leadership on this important issue.

Before I came to Congress, I co-founded a charter school in Denver called the Academy of Urban Learning. The focus of this charter school, which serves just over 100 students in Denver to this day, about 12 years after it was founded, it serves homeless youth and youth in transitional housing.

One of the keys to the success of this school is the counseling and wrap-around services that the students receive. In fact, one of the graduation requirements is that students must apply to two institutions of higher education.

Now, in a void, that they need more than just that requirement, they need the hands-on help from the counselors that will help them achieve that, so there has been a remarkable record of students not only applying but attending community colleges and even 4-year universities.

Part of the secret sauce that makes that school work—and I am very confident would help make other schools work that serve homeless youth across the country—is the college and career-readiness counseling to advise and prepare students for the next phase of their lives.

This amendment is extremely important in making a difference for the lives of homeless youth, and I strongly encourage my colleagues to adopt it.

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Chairman, last month, I had the privilege of joining three young adults from my district to reintroduce the Homeless Children and Youth Act, a bill that will help young homeless youth get access to housing and better service and better to just count them, so we know what the extent of the problem is, so that we can serve them in the future.

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act was originally signed into law to help the neediest children among us have a quality education. As we consider the reauthorization, we need to not forget about vulnerable students who happen to be homeless.

The Castro-Stivers amendment would require States to develop a plan on how school counselors can help these homeless students with their college readiness. By providing these children with

college counseling and encouraging them and giving them hope, we can develop a brighter future not only for those children, but for America.

I want to thank my colleague from Texas (Mr. CASTRO) for his hard work on this, for joining me in the fight to help serve our homeless youth in this country and help give them a bright future.

I want to thank the chairman and all the staff for their hard work. We worked with the committee on this amendment. That is why nobody else rose in opposition to it because we actually worked out the details. I appreciate their suggestions and willingness to work with us. I appreciate the gentleman from Texas for being willing to take those suggestions.

This amendment is an example of how this House should work, work together to serve the people, to take care of those in need, to make sure we look out for the future of our country. I am proud to have been involved and appreciate the work of the gentleman from Texas and the chairman and those on the committee.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Chairman, let me just say, in conclusion, I also want to thank the Congressman one more time and the chairman and the ranking member and their staff, who were very gracious and helpful in drafting this.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 2145

AMENDMENT NO. 35 OFFERED BY MR. CARSON OF INDIANA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 35 printed in part B of House Report 114-29.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title VI, add the following new section:

SEC. 605. DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL RESEARCH STRATEGY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Student Success Act, the Secretary of Education shall develop a national research strategy with respect to elementary and secondary education that includes advancing—

- (1) an annual measure of student learning, including a system of assessments;
- (2) effective teacher preparation and continuing professional development;
- (3) education administration; and
- (4) international comparisons of education.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to present an amendment to help prepare vulnerable and at-risk students for the future. Too many children suffer because we effectively do not have the coordinated efforts to research and apply data on student achievement in a way that would really benefit them.

This amendment supports the creation of a national strategy for the collection, analysis, and assessment of student achievement data. This data will be used to structure systems that better serve our students. In addition, it will advance teacher professional development, educational administration, and international education comparisons.

Preparing students for college and careers should be a priority of our system of education. But doing this successfully requires evidence-based tools we need to properly assess what is working and what is not working.

My amendment, Mr. Chair, will help ensure that all students leave our elementary and secondary schools prepared to meet the demands of our global society.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentleman for offering his amendment, even though I am opposed to it.

I agree, the evaluation of Federal programs is important, and we need to better understand what works in education. It is for that reason the underlying bill already places an emphasis on better evaluation for the programs included in the bill. We do not need yet another Federal program overlaying a new strategy on top of the current evaluations required and allowed.

While I agree very much with the importance of the issue, I must oppose the amendment, as it is unnecessary and duplicative. I ask my colleagues to oppose the amendment and support the underlying bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for his thoughts and, quite frankly, I appreciate that this is really a part of our ongoing discussion; however, I respectfully disagree.

I understand, Mr. Chairman, that some of my colleagues believe that such a strategy should be left to the States; however, it is critically important that we remember one fact: a child does not learn differently based on what State they live in. A State that fails to hold schools accountable hurts the students, even if their stand-

ards were approved by the General Assembly. Parents should not have to worry about their child getting an inferior education just because of the State that they live in, Mr. Chairman.

While States like mine—the great Hoosier State of Indiana—are holding robust debates about assessments, we still do not have a clear strategy to address the needs of our students or our teachers. This amendment, Mr. Chairman, merely sets forth a plan to address the problems we are facing across the country and increase the likelihood that our students will receive a quality education. This is something for us to think about, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, while I believe that this amendment addresses a very important issue, it will not solve the wide array of programs with the underlying bill. This bill ignores the needs of students living in poverty, students with disabilities, and English language learners. It fails to target those schools that are truly in need and allows portability that will hurt these struggling schools even further. It cuts State accountability standards. It block grants critical title I funds, effectively increasing chances that funds will not reach their intended targets, Mr. Chairman.

This bill is nowhere near what our students, parents, and teachers need. I encourage my colleagues, Mr. Chairman, to support my amendment and vote against the underlying bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, while obviously I disagree with a great deal of what my friend and colleague has just said about what this underlying bill does, I think it is going exactly to the core of the problem that we see with the current law, No Child Left Behind.

This bill is designed to give much greater flexibility to superintendents and to local school boards so that they can dedicate funds to the areas where they are needed most. The gentleman's amendment, as I mentioned earlier, is not helpful in this effort because of the language in the underlying bill.

While I appreciate that he doesn't support the bill, I disagree with his description of the bill and would urge my colleagues to oppose his amendment and support that underlying bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Indiana will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 36 OFFERED BY MR. COLLINS OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 36 printed in part B of House Report 114-29.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 620, after line 8, add the following (and amend the table of contents accordingly):

SEC. 802. ACCOUNTABILITY TO TAXPAYERS THROUGH MONITORING AND OVERSIGHT.

To ensure better monitoring and oversight of taxpayer funds authorized to be appropriated under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), and to deter and prohibit waste, fraud, and abuse of such funds, the Secretary of Education—

(1) shall ensure that each recipient of a grant or subgrant under such Act is aware of—

(A) their responsibility to comply with all monitoring requirements under the applicable program or programs;

(B) their further responsibility to monitor properly any sub-grantee under the applicable program or programs; and

(C) the Secretary's schedule for monitoring and any other compliance reviews to ensure proper use of Federal funds;

(2) shall review and analyze the results of monitoring and compliance reviews—

(A) to understand trends and identify common issues; and

(B) to issue guidance to help grantees address these issues before the loss or misuse of taxpayer funding occurs;

(3) shall publicly report the work undertaken by the Secretary to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse, including specific cases where the Secretary found and prevented the misuse of taxpayer funds; and

(4) shall work with the Office of Inspector General in the Department of Education as needed to help ensure that employees of such department understand how to monitor grantees properly and to help grantees monitor any sub-grantees properly.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate this opportunity to advocate for my amendment to H.R. 5, the Student Success Act.

My amendment is based on the principle that strong oversight of taxpayer dollars should be the utmost priority for any Federal agency, including the Department of Education. I know my colleagues have strong and varied opinions—as has been exhibited on this floor over the past few hours—on the merits of this bill or not, but as this amendment comes forward, I would ask that we look at the accountability factor that is in this amendment.

As the husband of an educator, education has long been a priority in my family. My wife's experiences have also

given me a firsthand look at the challenges teachers face when school resources are tight. Some school districts in northeast Georgia and all over the country often struggle to make ends meet. They have to hold each other and every member of their staffs accountable for the money they spend.

I think it is time we apply this same commonsense principle to the Department of Education. When fiscal responsibility and oversight are not taken seriously, we lose opportunities to help educators and students. When the Federal Government is a good steward of public funds, we have more resources to direct to good initiatives that will actually make a difference in classrooms across the country. My amendment seeks to protect the Department of Education's limited resources by ensuring that recipients of taxpayer-funded grants are aware of their responsibilities.

Now, understanding I personally believe that the Department of Education's role should continue to be reduced and that States and locals are the best place to do this, but as long as there is money going to the Department of Education, it should be an utmost responsibility of responsibility and accountability.

My amendment requires that the Secretary of Education ensure that each grantee and subgrantee is aware of three things: first, their responsibility to comply with all the monitoring requirements under their applicable program; second, the grantee's obligation to properly supervise any subgrantee; and third, the Secretary's schedule for monitoring and compliance reviews to ensure proper use of Federal funds.

Making sure all grantees have this information will discourage abuse and remove the grantee's excuse that they just did not know what would be required of them when they accepted taxpayer dollars.

My amendment also requires the Secretary to review and analyze the results of monitoring and compliance reviews to understand trends, identify common issues, and issue guidance before the loss or misuse of taxpayer funding. The Secretary would also make public their agency's effort to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse, including specific cases in which the Secretary found and prevented the misuse of taxpayer funds.

Finally, my amendment requires the Secretary to work with the agency's Office of Inspector General to ensure that the appropriate Department of Education employees understand how to properly monitor grantees and guide grantees in the overseeing of sub-grantees.

This is a straightforward amendment designed to improve transparency, increase communication between the Department of Education and grant re-

cipients, and ultimately ensure the Federal Government ensures good stewardship of taxpayer dollars. The extra layer of accountability provides this amendment will ensure that grants of all sizes are used well and that students and taxpayers will get the most benefit for their buck.

Educators in Georgia and across the Nation understand the importance of protecting the limited resources we have to help kids in and out of the classroom. The least the Department of Education can do is put the policies in place to prevent the abuse of taxpayer dollars by grantees and make sure that the grant recipients know all of the reporting requirements and guidelines concerning their taxpayer funds.

With that, I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will support this simple, commonsense transparency amendment.

I would like to express my thanks to the chairman and the committee for their work on this bill and others.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 37 OFFERED BY MR. DOLD

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 37 printed in part B of House Report 114-29.

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end of title VIII the following:

SEC. 8. PROHIBITION OF USING EDUCATION FUNDS FOR EXCESS PAYMENTS TO CERTAIN RETIREMENT OR PENSION SYSTEMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—No State receiving funds authorized under this Act or the amendments made by this Act may require any local educational agency using funds authorized under this Act to hire or pay the salary of teachers to use such funds to make contributions to a teacher retirement or pension system for a plan year in excess of the normal cost of pension benefits for such plan year for which the employing local educational agency has responsibility.

(b) NORMAL COST DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term "normal cost" means the portion of the cost of projected benefits allocated to the current plan year, not including any unfunded liabilities the teacher retirement or pension system has accrued.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of my amendment to H.R. 5, the Student Success Act.

The amendment ensures that the Federal education dollars will go to students and schools that need them most and that the Federal education

funds are not redirected into State pension programs that pay off the States' unfunded liabilities. The amendment prohibits States from requiring school districts that choose to pay teachers using Federal funds to make a contribution to a teacher's pension plan that covers not only the normal cost of that teacher, but also covers the unfunded liabilities that that pension plan may have incurred. It will prevent the States from forcing school districts to use Federal funds to bail out State pension plans and will leave school districts free to make the best decisions for their needs.

Mr. Chairman, it is important to recognize that the amendment does not ban school districts from making pension contributions to cover the normal costs of a teacher's participation in that pension plan. The amendment only prevents States from redirecting Federal education dollars to pay off unfunded liabilities and instead leaves the school districts free to use the Federal funds for their intended purposes: improving our schools, hiring more teachers, and giving children the opportunity to receive a better education.

I think it is important, Mr. Chairman, as we look at what is happening certainly in my State, the State of Illinois, there are times where actually almost 33 percent of title I dollars, of dollars that go to IDEA, actually go into the teachers' pension. It is actually a penalty. So what we find is that we find school districts that are in desperate need of hiring additional teachers that are using those dollars not to go to teachers. They are instead using those dollars to pay for other things because they refuse to take a 33 percent, in essence, haircut on funds that are desperately needed.

So again I want to emphasize, Mr. Chairman, to my colleagues that this is not something that happens in many States. In fact, our research shows that Illinois may be fairly unique in this regard. But what I did find just last week, Mr. Chairman, I had an educational advisory board meeting with teachers and administrators and principals. One of the things that they said and they urged me, they said: Please, can you do something about this problem that we have? One school district that is in desperate need of teachers said, if we were able to solve this problem, they would be able to hire six additional teachers to be able to help out in their crowded classrooms to be able to have a better teacher-student ratio.

This is something that is a problem in the State of Illinois, something that I think we can actually solve here. My hope is that my colleagues will support this amendment and that we will be able to really allow those dollars to be able to go to those students that are in desperate need of help.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, this would require that the money that is appropriated under ESEA go to the purpose for which it was appropriated, and that is education. This amendment focuses the money and makes sure it goes to where it is supposed to go, and therefore I support the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DOLD. I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia. I certainly appreciate that.

Mr. Chairman, my hope is, again, we have a bipartisan solution that allows Federal education dollars to be able to go into local school districts that are going to be able to hire more teachers. This is the way, hopefully, the process is supposed to work, Republicans and Democrats looking to work together to actually help our children.

I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 2200

AMENDMENT NO. 38 OFFERED BY MR. FLORES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 38 printed in part B of House Report 114-29.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 802. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE FREE EXERCISE OF RELIGION.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) a student, teacher, or school administrator retains their rights under the First Amendment, including the right to free exercise of religion, during the school day or while on elementary and secondary school grounds; and

(2) elementary and secondary schools should examine their policies to ensure that, in a manner consistent with the Constitution, law, and court decisions, students, teachers, and school administrators are able to fully participate in activities on elementary and secondary school grounds related to their religious freedom.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FLORES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer my amendment, which reaffirms the First Amendment rights of students, teachers, and school administrators to exercise their religious beliefs.

The Founders of our Nation recognized the singular importance of religious freedom. One only needs to look back at the very first clause of the First Amendment to know that James Madison, the father of the Bill of Rights, saw religious freedom as central to our liberty and to our freedom of expression as human beings.

Since the ratification of the Bill of Rights over 225 years ago, Americans have been protected from religious oppression. As a result, in present day, for many, religious freedom may seem like a given—a right that has always existed and that will always exist—but we know we can't be so cavalier.

Just look around the world to see that the religious protections enjoyed by Americans are not universally embraced. Even here at home, we have cause to remain vigilant.

Every Christmas, we hear stories of elementary schoolchildren being forbidden from passing out candy canes that are affixed with notes including traditional Christmas messages or even being forbidden from saying the word "Christmas" in school.

Today, I rise to offer a sense of Congress to ensure that our right to religious freedom is preserved in our schools. No one should tell students and teachers that they have to check their fundamental freedoms at the schoolhouse door. This is not what our Founding Fathers envisioned or intended.

I urge my colleagues to support the passage of this commonsense reminder that, as Members of Congress and as Representatives of the people, we are the first line of defense against coercive government behavior.

We bear the responsibility of protecting and upholding our traditional religious freedom as espoused in the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights in our Constitution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I have a number of concerns regarding the amendment as it is currently drafted.

I would first note that the amendment gives great weight to the "free exercise of religion" without acknowledging the other half of the First Amendment, and that is the Establishment Clause.

I am also concerned that the amendment is duplicative of previous efforts under ESEA. In No Child Left Behind, section 9524 requires the U.S. Department of Education to issue guidance on constitutionally protected prayer in public elementary and secondary schools. This guidance was developed with the Office of the General Counsel in the Department of Education and

with the Office of Legal Counsel in the Department of Justice.

Mr. Chairman, I am also concerned that the amendment implies that teachers can participate in religious activities with their students. The Constitution prohibits teachers from participating in religious activities with students when those teachers are acting in their professional capacity.

Public school employees simply do not have the "right to make the promotion of religion a part of their job description," says the Supreme Court decision in 2007. A sense of Congress provision in this bill will not override the Constitution.

I would remind my colleagues that religious freedom means not only are students, teachers, and school administrators able to exercise their right to religion, but also that the students should be able to attend public schools free of unwarranted proselytization and coercion in the participation of religious activities. The First Amendment is reflective of that balance.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLORES. I appreciate the gentleman from Virginia's response.

Mr. Chairman, our amendment is not intended to cause any establishment of any religion or to encourage the proselytization of any religious beliefs in school.

Our amendment is just basically to protect the rights of students and of teachers and of school administrators to practice their individual beliefs and not have to check their religious freedoms at the door. It does nothing to establish any religion.

We need to recognize that there are too often too many times that somebody wears a religious necklace to school and a school administrator violates his right of religious freedom by telling him he has to remove that or, if one wears a T-shirt that has a Biblical phrase or a Biblical verse, that he has to remove that shirt or be banned from wearing that shirt in the future from school because of an administrator who doesn't understand the protections offered by the First Amendment.

This amendment, this sense of Congress, is purely to protect the rights that we have as students and as administrators and teachers under the First Amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, would the Chair advise how much time is available on both sides?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia has 3½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Texas has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS).

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, the problem that Mr. FLORES is seeking to address here is a real problem in our country.

Students, teachers, and school administrators of faith, particularly teachers, students, and school administrators of minority faiths, are frequently under peer pressure—at times, perhaps, coupled with pressure through official channels—not to exercise their free religion in schools.

There have been instances in this country of Muslim teachers—Muslim women—being told not to wear their hijabs at schools. A situation could arise when a man of the Sikh faith, who would carry a ceremonial knife with him, might be told he cannot carry his ceremonial knife at a school because it violates another policy.

So, too, many educators and students who are atheists or humanists are often intimidated and afraid to proudly proclaim their lack of faith on their clothing or through their words and deeds.

Correctly done, this amendment would allow Muslims and atheists and other members of minority faiths to proudly proclaim their faiths in our schools, and it would give them the opportunity to talk with others while on the school grounds during the school day.

There should be no discrimination against students, teachers, or school administrators based on their faiths, and you don't park your First Amendment rights at the door to the schoolhouse.

Now, there are different rules with regard to students, as we know. Students' lockers can be checked in a different way other than through unreasonable searches and seizures. Of course, students have particular dress codes which have been sustained over time as well; and they are minors, of course, acting with their parents' permission.

Yet, by and large, in a manner consistent with our Constitution, which recognizes that we are a nation of many faiths and a nation of those who have no faith, people should not be afraid to proudly proclaim their Christianity, to proclaim their atheism, to proclaim that they are Muslim at our schools.

Correctly done, I think this amendment can accomplish this, so I praise the efforts that led to this amendment.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the comments from the gentleman from Colorado.

I think he goes right to the core of the reason that my amendment is perfectly appropriate, that it is there to protect religious freedom and to protect our rights under the First Amendment.

I think he makes the case to support my amendment, actually, when you work through what he said, so I continue to encourage the other side to work with us to protect religious freedom and to adopt my amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume, just to remind people that students ought to be able to attend their public schools, free from unwarranted proselytization or coercion.

We have the Establishment Clause, as well as the Free Exercise Clause, and as public employees exercise their rights, they should not violate a person's right to go to school and not be faced with a phalanx of people all coercing him into joining in prayer.

The teachers and administrators ought not be guiding the prayer and suggesting that the State has a particular religion. We have an Establishment Clause, as well as a Free Exercise Clause.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the comments of the gentleman from Virginia and also of the gentleman from Colorado.

There is nothing in my amendment that says that coercion is okay, that religious proselytization is okay. What we are doing is just protecting the religious freedoms of the First Amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I would urge all of my colleagues to vote for a commonsense, simple amendment that protects our religious freedoms under the First Amendment. It is very simple.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. In closing, Mr. Chairman, it is a great sense of Congress on the free exercise, but it ignores the Establishment Clause.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FLORES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 39 OFFERED BY MS. BROWNLEY OF CALIFORNIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 39 printed in part B of House Report 114-29.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title VIII of the bill, add the following new section:

SEC. 802. STATE SEAL OF BILITERACY PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Education shall award grants to States to establish or improve a Seal of Biliteracy program to recognize student proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in both English and a second language.

(b) GRANT APPLICATION.—In order to receive a grant under this section, a State shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information and assurances as the Secretary may require, including—

(1) a description of the criteria a student must meet to demonstrate proficiency in

speaking, reading, and writing in both English and a second language;

(2) assurances that a student who meets the requirements under paragraph (1)—

(A) receives a permanent seal or other marker on the student's secondary school diploma or its equivalent; and

(B) receives documentation of proficiency in the student's official academic transcript; and

(3) assurances that a student is not charged a fee for submitting an application under subsection (c).

(c) **STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN A SEAL OF BILITERACY PROGRAM.**—To participate in a Seal of Biliteracy program, a student must submit an application to the State that serves the student at such time, in such manner, and containing such information and assurances as the State may require, including assurances that the student—

(1) will receive a secondary school diploma or its equivalent in the year the student submits an application; and

(2) has met the criteria established by the State under subsection (b)(1).

(d) **STUDENT ELIGIBILITY FOR APPLICATION.**—A student who gained proficiency in a second language outside of school may apply to participate in a Seal of Biliteracy program under subsection (c).

(e) **USE OF FUNDS.**—Grant funds made available under this section shall be used for administrative costs of establishing or improving and carrying out a Seal of Biliteracy program and for public outreach and education about that program.

(f) **GRANT TERMS.**—

(1) **DURATION.**—A grant awarded under this section shall be for a period of 2 years, and may be renewed at the discretion of the Secretary.

(2) **RENEWAL.**—At the end of a grant term, the recipient of such grant may reapply for a grant under this section.

(3) **LIMITATIONS.**—A grant recipient under this section shall not have more than 1 grant under this section at anytime.

(4) **RETURN OF UNSPENT GRANT FUNDS.**—Not later than 6 months after the date on which a grant term ends, a recipient of a grant under this section shall return any unspent grant funds to the Secretary.

(g) **REPORT.**—Not later than 9 months after receiving a grant under this section, a grant recipient shall issue a report to the Secretary describing the implementation of the Seal of Biliteracy program.

(h) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **ESEA DEFINITIONS.**—The terms “secondary school”, “Secretary”, and “State” have the meanings given those terms in section 6101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(2) **SECOND LANGUAGE.**—The term “second language” means any language other than English, including Braille and American Sign Language.

(3) **SEAL OF BILITERACY PROGRAM.**—The term “Seal of Biliteracy program” means any program established under this section.

(i) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021 to carry out this section.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Chairman, my amendment, the

Biliteracy Education Seal and Teaching Act, would amend H.R. 5 to encourage and incentivize bilingual education for our students across the country.

Specifically, my amendment would establish a grant program at the Department of Education to provide resources for States to create or to expand State biliteracy seal programs to recognize high school seniors who achieve a high level of proficiency in writing, reading, and speaking in English and in a second language.

Students who speak more than one language have a competitive edge in the American job market. As businesses look to expand into overseas markets and serve a wider range of customers and as the world becomes increasingly interconnected, the demand for students with valuable language skills is increasing.

It is not only the private sector that needs young people with language skills. The Federal Government also has a direct and compelling interest in ensuring that our young people become proficient in foreign languages. Our military, our diplomats, and our intelligence agencies are increasingly seeking to recruit young people with proficiency in a foreign language.

However, there are few State or national standards for bilingual certification for high school students, and many students who could qualify for the seal are not enrolled in AP or baccalaureate classes either because they cannot afford the cost of the test or their school does not offer advanced courses; whereas States that have or are in the process of implementing State seals do so free of charge for every student.

I must add that eight States have already approved a bilingual seal, and three more are considering it as we speak.

A biliteracy seal is a very special marker on a student's high school diploma. It serves as a certification by the State that the student is fluent and literate in a language other than English.

Under my amendment, these seals would be available to students who are proficient in any spoken language—Arabic, Mandarin, Spanish. My amendment also makes nonspoken languages, like American Sign Language and braille, also eligible.

To receive a seal, a high school senior must have a strong academic record in both English and a second language, and he must be on track to graduate. My amendment establishes a voluntary grant program which would not impose any new mandates on States.

It is also budget neutral. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that it would not increase direct spending.

I urge Members to vote for my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentlewoman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

□ 2215

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentlewoman for offering this amendment, even though I am opposed to it.

Being bilingual, multilingual, is clearly a helpful skill and much sought in the private sector and in government. I think back to my days in school, and at one time I was conversant, if not fluent, in both Spanish and German, and now I can barely read the menu—or speisekarte—having let that lapse.

I just do not think we need yet another Federal program, and the gentlewoman's amendment authorizes another \$10 million for this program to get a government seal of approval. I think the students can speak, read, and write for themselves and should be encouraged to learn those languages, become proficient, stay proficient, but the last thing they need is the Federal Government creating yet another program to determine what certifies them as bilingual.

So while I certainly agree with the gentlelady's emphasis on the importance of being bilingual or multilingual, I nevertheless must oppose her amendment and encourage my colleagues to oppose the amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Chairman, as chairwoman of the California Assembly Education Committee, I sponsored legislation in 2012 that established a State seal in California, the first of its kind in our country, and since that time I have seen firsthand how successful this program has been.

In 2014, over 24,000 high school seniors and 219 school districts across California participated in this program. They earned their seals for achievement in 40 different languages.

When I introduced this language in the 113th Congress, it was supported by many education and civil rights organizations, including the National Education Association, Centro Latino for Literacy, California Association for Bilingual Education, Families in Schools, California School Board Association, Californians Together, Asian Americans Advancing Justice, and the Asian and Pacific Islanders California Action Network.

I have crafted the amendment to give States the flexibility to shape their own seal programs while ensuring the programs guarantee equal access for all students.

The BEST Act celebrates diversity and multiculturalism. It also recognizes that fluency in a second language helps students compete in an increasingly global marketplace. The seal also helps employers, colleges, and universities distinguish talented applicants with valuable skills.

If you support encouraging bilingualism, this is an amendment to support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, regretfully, I continue to oppose the gentleman's amendment. I ask my colleagues to oppose it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 40 OFFERED BY MR. LOEBSACK

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 40 printed in part B of House Report 114-29.

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill, insert the following:

TITLE IX—SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE ACT

SEC. 901. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Schools of the Future Act".

SEC. 902. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Digital learning technology holds the promise of transforming rural education by removing barriers of distance and increasing school capacity.

(2) While many large urban local educational agencies are at the forefront of implementing new digital learning innovations, it is often harder for smaller and more rural local educational agencies to access these tools. Smaller local educational agencies with less capacity may also find it more difficult to provide the training needed to effectively implement new digital learning technologies.

(3) Despite the potential of digital learning in rural areas, these advancements risk bypassing rural areas without support for their implementation. Rather than having schools and local educational agencies apply digital learning innovations designed for urban environments to rural areas, it is important that digital learning technologies be developed and implemented in ways that reflect the unique needs of rural areas.

(4) Digital learning is rapidly expanding, and new tools for improving teaching and learning are being developed every day. A growing demand for digital learning tools and products has made rigorous evaluation of their effectiveness increasingly important, as this information would allow school and local educational agency leaders to make informed choices about how best to use these tools to improve student achievement and educational outcomes.

(5) High-quality digital learning increases student access to courses that may not have been available to students in rural communities, increasing their college and career readiness.

SEC. 903. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.

(a) GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE PARTNERSHIPS.—From the amounts appropriated to carry out this title, the Secretary of Education is authorized to award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible partnerships to carry out the activities described in section 906.

(b) DURATION OF GRANT.—A grant under subsection (a) shall be awarded for not less than a 3-year and not longer than a 5-year period.

(c) FISCAL AGENT.—If an eligible partnership receives a grant under this title, a school partner in the partnership shall serve as the fiscal agent for the partnership.

SEC. 904. APPLICATION.

An eligible partnership desiring a grant under this title shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, which shall include the following:

(1) A description of the eligible partnership, including the name of each of the partners and their respective roles and responsibilities.

(2) A description of the technology-based learning practice, tool, strategy, or course that the eligible partnership proposes to develop or implement using the grant funds.

(3) An assurance that all teachers of record hold the relevant license and are otherwise qualified to implement any technology-based practice, tool, strategy, or course using the grant funds.

(4) An assurance that all students in a class or school implementing a practice, tool, strategy or course using the grant funds will have access to any equipment necessary to participate on a full and equitable basis.

(5) An assurance that the proposed uses of smartphones, laptops, tablets, or other devices susceptible to inappropriate use have the informed consent of parents or guardians and are not inconsistent with any policies of the local educational agency on the use of such devices.

(6) Information relevant to the selection criteria under section 905(c).

(7) A description of the evaluation to be undertaken by the eligible partnership, including—

(A) how the school partner and the evaluation partner will work together to implement the practice, tool, strategy, or course in such a way that permits the use of a rigorous, independent evaluation design that meets the standards of the What Works Clearinghouse of the Institute of Education Sciences; and

(B) a description of the evaluation design that meets such standards, which will be used to measure any significant effects on the outcomes described in paragraphs (1) through (3) of section 907(a).

(8) An estimate of the number of students to be reached through the grant and evidence of its capacity to reach the proposed number of students during the course of the grant.

(9) Any other information the Secretary may require.

SEC. 905. APPLICATION REVIEW AND AWARD BASIS.

(a) PEER REVIEW.—The Secretary shall use a peer review process to review applications for grants under this title. The Secretary shall appoint individuals to the peer review process who have relevant expertise in digital learning, research and evaluation, standards quality and alignment, and rural education.

(b) AWARD BASIS.—In awarding grants under this title, the Secretary shall ensure,

to the extent practicable, diversity in the type of activities funded under the grants.

(c) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In evaluating an eligible partnership's application for a grant under this title, the Secretary shall consider—

(1) the need for the proposed technology-based learning practice, tool, strategy, or course;

(2) the quality of the design of the proposed practice, tool, strategy, or course;

(3) the strength of the existing research evidence with respect to such practice, tool, strategy, or course;

(4) the experience of the eligible partnership; and

(5) the quality of the evaluation proposed by the eligible partnership.

(d) DEDICATED FUNDING FOR FRINGE RURAL, DISTANT RURAL, AND REMOTE RURAL SCHOOLS.—Not less than 50 percent of the grant funds awarded under this title shall be awarded to eligible partnerships that provides assurances that the school partners in the eligible partnership will ensure that each school to be served by the grant is designated with a school locale code of Fringe Rural, Distant Rural, or Remote Rural, as determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 906. USE OF FUNDS.

(a) REQUIRED USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible partnership receiving a grant under this title shall use such funds to implement and evaluate the results of technology-based learning practices, strategies, tools, or courses, including the practices, strategies, tools, or courses identified under paragraphs (2) through (6).

(2) TOOLS AND COURSES DESIGNED TO PERSONALIZE THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE.—Technology-based tools and courses identified under this paragraph include the following types of tools and courses designed to personalize the learning experience:

(A) Technology-based personalized instructional systems.

(B) Adaptive software, games, or tools, that can be used to personalize learning.

(C) Computer-based tutoring courses to help struggling students.

(D) Games, digital tools, and smartphone or tablet applications to improve students' engagement, focus, and time on task.

(E) Other tools and courses designed to personalize the learning experience.

(3) PRACTICES AND STRATEGIES DESIGNED TO AID AND INFORM INSTRUCTION.—Technology-based practices and strategies identified under this paragraph include the following types of practices and strategies designed to aid and inform instruction:

(A) Adaptive software, games, or tools that can be used for the purpose of formative assessment.

(B) Web resources that provide teachers and their students access to instructional and curricular materials that are—

(i) aligned with high-quality standards; and

(ii) designed to prepare students for college and a career, such as a repository of primary historical sources for use in history and civics courses or examples of developmentally appropriate science experiments.

(C) Online professional development opportunities, teacher mentoring opportunities, and professional learning communities.

(D) Tools or web resources designed to address specific instructional problems.

(E) Other practices and strategies designed to personalize the learning experience.

(4) TOOLS, COURSES, AND STRATEGIES DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF STUDENTS WITH SPECIFIC EDUCATIONAL NEEDS.—

Technology-based tools, courses, and strategies identified under this paragraph include the following types of tools, courses, and strategies designed to meet the needs of students with specific educational needs:

(A) Digital tools specifically designed to meet the needs of students with a particular disability.

(B) Online courses that give students who are not on track to graduate or have already dropped out of school the opportunity for accelerated credit recovery.

(C) Language instruction courses, games, or software designed to meet the needs of English language learners.

(D) Other tools, courses, and strategies designed to personalize the learning experience.

(5) **TOOLS, COURSES, AND STRATEGIES DESIGNED TO HELP STUDENTS DEVELOP 21ST CENTURY SKILLS.**—Technology-based tools, courses, and strategies identified under this paragraph include peer-to-peer virtual learning opportunities to be used for the purposes of project-based learning, deeper learning, and collaborative learning, and other tools, courses, and strategies designed to help students develop 21st century skills, such as the ability to think critically and solve problems, be effective communicators, collaborate with others, and learn to create and innovate.

(6) **TECHNOLOGY-BASED OR ONLINE COURSES THAT ALLOW STUDENTS TO TAKE COURSES THAT THEY WOULD NOT OTHERWISE HAVE ACCESS TO.**—Technology-based or online courses identified under this paragraph include courses or collections of courses approved by the applicable local educational agency or State educational agency that provide students with access to courses that they would not otherwise have access to, such as the following:

(A) An online repository of elective courses.

(B) Online or software-based courses in foreign languages, especially in languages identified as critical or in schools where a teacher is not available to teach the language or course level a student requires.

(C) Online advanced or college-level courses that can be taken for credit.

(b) **AUTHORIZED USE OF FUNDS.**—An eligible partnership receiving a grant under this title may use grant funds to—

(1) develop or implement the technology for technology-based learning strategies, practices, courses, or tools to be carried out under the grant;

(2) purchase hardware or software needed to carry out such strategies, practices, courses, or tools under the grant, except that such purchases may not exceed 50 percent of total grant funds;

(3) address the particular needs of student subgroups, including students with disabilities and English-language learners;

(4) provide technology-based professional development or professional development on how to maximize the utility of technology; and

(5) address issues of cost and capacity in rural areas and shortage subjects.

(c) **SUPPLEMENTATION.**—An eligible partnership that receives a grant under this title shall use the grant funds to supplement, not supplant, the work of teachers with students, and may not use such funds to reduce staffing levels for the school partners in the eligible partnership.

(d) **TEACHER OF RECORD.**—For each student in a class or school implementing a practice, tool, strategy, or course using grant funds provided under this title, there shall be a

teacher of record, holding the relevant certification or license, and otherwise qualified to implement any digitally-based practice, tool, strategy or course using the grant funds. An eligible partnership shall use grant funds provided under this title, and shall determine the extent and nature of pedagogical uses of digital tools, in a manner that is consistent with the judgments of teachers of record about what is developmentally appropriate for students.

SEC. 907. DATA COLLECTION AND EVALUATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Each eligible partnership receiving a grant under this title shall require its evaluation partner to complete an independent, comprehensive, well-designed, and well-implemented evaluation that meets the standards of the What Works Clearinghouse after the third year of implementation of the grant to measure the effect of the practice, tool, strategy, or course on—

(1) growth in student achievement, as measured by high quality assessments that provide objective, valid, reliable measures of student academic growth and information on whether a student is on-track to graduate ready for college and career;

(2) costs and savings to the school partner; and

(3) at least one of the following:

(A) Student achievement gaps.

(B) Graduation and dropout rates.

(C) College enrollment.

(D) College persistence.

(E) College completion.

(F) Placement in a living-wage job.

(G) Enhanced teacher or principal effectiveness as measured by valid, reliable, and multiple measures of student achievement and other appropriate measures.

(b) **EVALUATION.**—The Secretary shall—

(1) acting through the Director of the Institute of Education Sciences—

(A) evaluate the implementation and impact of the activities supported under the grant program authorized under this section; and

(B) identify best practices; and

(2) disseminate, in consultation with the regional educational laboratories established under part D of the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 and comprehensive centers established under the Educational Technical Assistance Act of 2002, research on best practices in school leadership.

(c) **IMPLEMENTATION EVALUATION.**—An evaluation partner may use funds under this title to carry out an implementation evaluation designed to provide information that may be useful for schools, local educational agencies, States, consortia of schools, and charter school networks seeking to implement similar practices, tools, strategies, or courses in the future.

(d) **PUBLICATION OF RESULTS.**—Upon completion of an evaluation described in subsection (a), (b), or (c) the evaluation partner shall—

(1) submit a report of the results of the evaluation to the Secretary; and

(2) make publicly available such results.

SEC. 908. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **ELIGIBLE PARTNERSHIP.**—The term “eligible partnership” means a partnership that includes a school partner and not less than 1—

(A) digital learning partner, except that in a case in which a school partner or evaluation partner demonstrates expertise in digital learning to the Secretary; and

(B) evaluation partner.

(2) **SCHOOL PARTNER.**—The term “school partner” means a—

(A) local educational agency;

(B) a charter school network that does not include virtual schools;

(C) a consortium of public elementary schools or secondary schools;

(D) a regional educational service agency or similar regional educational service provider; or

(E) a consortium of the entities described in subparagraphs (A) through (D).

(3) **DIGITAL LEARNING PARTNER.**—The term “digital learning partner” means an organization with expertise in the technology required to develop or implement the digital learning practices, tools, strategies, or courses proposed by the school partner with which the digital learning partner will partner or has partnered under this title, such as—

(A) an institution of higher education;

(B) a nonprofit organization; or

(C) an organization with school development or turnaround experience.

(4) **EVALUATION PARTNER.**—The term “evaluation partner” means a partner that has the expertise and ability to carry out the evaluation of a grant received under this title, such as—

(A) an institution of higher education;

(B) a nonprofit organization with expertise in evaluation; or

(C) an evaluation firm.

(5) **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given the term in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).

(6) **LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.**—The term “local educational agency” has the meaning given the term in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(7) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Education.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LOEBSACK) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I think that there is universal agreement among us in this body that No Child Left Behind, the most recent iteration of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, needs to be replaced.

I think a lot of folks have the same kinds of concerns I have about the Student Success Act, many of the provisions in that act. One of my major concerns—and, again, I think a number of us in this body can share these concerns—is that the bill lacks focus on or support for rural school districts. That is a big issue.

I was raised in Iowa by a single mother, and I represented rural parts of Iowa for the last 8 years that I have been in Congress. I served for 8 years on the Education and the Workforce Committee. I would be remiss if I didn't say that I miss my time there from time to time, although I am enjoying my time on a new committee.

But this issue is something that I think gets overlooked. I think that a

lot of folks in this body really, through no fault of their own and certainly through no malice on their part, simply don't recognize or understand the needs of rural parts of our country, not just in Iowa, but around the country, and certainly the needs of rural students.

I find myself as a former educator often educating my colleagues to some extent because they don't seem to understand sometimes—folks on both sides of the aisle, Mr. Chairman—that poverty is not just an urban problem. It is a rural problem as well, and it does exist in rural areas.

I don't think we should deny the fact that fewer students from rural areas complete college than their urban counterparts as well. In fact, this gap is growing wider by the year.

Again, these are issues that, if we think just a little bit, we understand exist out there in our society. And a large part of the problem is that rural students face unique challenges and barriers to access to resources. For example, many rural students may not have a proper Internet connection, if any at all, let alone enough bandwidth or a computer at home. So it is even more important that they are exposed to technology in school.

We know about technology and how powerful it is in vastly expanding the educational options and opportunities available to students in rural areas, providing these students with a cutting-edge 21st century education regardless of geography.

At the same time, technological tools have the power to transform the typical classroom experience into one that is more student-centered and provide teachers with more accurate information and feedback on student progress so they can better address the needs of struggling students—something all of us would like to see happen.

Also, many rural schools have a smaller workforce to draw from and struggle to find teachers for a wide variety of electives or advanced coursework. The students in these schools, I have no doubt—and I think most folks in this body have no doubt—would benefit tremendously from the use of technology to deliver, supplement, and personalize instruction and provide opportunities to these students they may not have otherwise.

This amendment that I am offering is a simple one. It is supported by the National Education Association, by the School Superintendents Association, and the Alliance for Excellent Education. It would simply support the expansion of the use of digital learning through competitive grants to partnerships to implement and evaluate the results of technology-based learning practices, strategies, tools, and programs at rural schools.

Mr. Chair, it is time for Congress to start paying more attention to rural

communities. That is the bottom line. As cochair of the Rural Education Caucus, I encourage my colleagues to vote in favor of this amendment and to provide students in rural communities with the same digital learning resources as students in larger school districts, and I hope that we can vote for this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I do thank the gentleman for offering this amendment, even though I must oppose the amendment. I would say that we do miss him on the committee.

I would say that in my district, like his, we certainly have rural schools. In fact, I was thinking about rural schools the other day. My wife went to such a rural school. It was called Country School because it was a one-room schoolhouse, and how heartbroken she was when she was forced to go to the big-city school—population 1,000—for the city. So we do know something about rural schools.

The underlying bill, the Student Success Act, does maintain the rural education programs in the bill, and under the local academic flexible grants, districts can support the use of digital learning if they believe it is the best way to use those funds.

The bill already allows every district to determine what they need for their students and not have to abide by priorities set by Washington.

So while I greatly appreciate the gentleman's passion for rural schools—and I think I share that passion—I just firmly believe we don't need yet another new Federal program. We are working to provide flexibility so that schools can put the resources where they need them the most.

And so I must oppose the gentleman's amendment, ask my colleagues to oppose it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LOEBSACK).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Iowa will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 41 OFFERED BY MR. POLIS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 41 printed in part B of House Report 114-29.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk as the designee of Ms. MENG.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following new title:

TITLE IX—EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT

SEC. 901. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Early Childhood Education Professional Improvement Act of 2015".

SEC. 902. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this title is to provide assistance to States to improve the knowledge, credentials, compensation, and professional development of early childhood educators working with children in early childhood education programs.

SEC. 903. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) The term "early childhood education program" means a Head Start Program carried out under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.), a State-funded prekindergarten program, a licensed child care serving prekindergarten children, and special education preschool.

(2) The term "institution of higher education" has the meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

SEC. 904. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.

The Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, is authorized to award grants to States to implement and administer the activities described in section 906.

SEC. 905. APPLICATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Each State desiring a grant under this title shall submit an application to the Secretary of Education at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

(b) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted under subsection (a) shall include a description of the State's comprehensive early childhood professional development system, including the following:

(1) A description of how the State's system was developed in collaboration with the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care designated or established under section 642B of the Head Start Act, the State agency responsible for administering childcare, the State Head Start collaboration director, the State educational agency, institutions of higher education, organizations that represent early childhood educators, and credible early childhood education professional organizations.

(2) A designation of a State agency to administer the grant program.

(3) A description of how the State's system provides—

(A) an oversight structure for the system;

(B) professional standards and competencies;

(C) a career lattice;

(D) coordination with State higher education agencies, higher education accrediting bodies, and accredited two- and four-year institutions of higher education;

(E) encouragement of articulation agreements between two- and four-year institutions of higher education and credit-bearing opportunities and articulation agreements that recognize prior learning and expertise;

(F) more accessible higher education for working learners through offering of college courses at accessible time and locations, with particular attention to rural areas;

(G) support to adult learners who are dual language learners, or come from low-income or minority communities;

(H) use of workforce data to assess the State's workforce needs; and

(I) its financing over time.

SEC. 906. STATE USE OF FUNDS.

A State that receives a grant under this title shall ensure that grant funds are used to carry out the following:

(1) To provide scholarships to cover the costs of tuition, fees, materials, transportation, paid substitutes, and release time for preschool teachers employed in an early childhood education program to pursue a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a closely related field.

(2) To support preschool teachers employed in an early childhood education program, and who have obtained a bachelor's degree in a field other than early childhood education or a closely related field, to attain a credential, licensure, or endorsement that demonstrates competence in early childhood education.

(3) To increase compensation for teachers who are enrolled and making progress toward a degree in early childhood education and to provide parity of compensation upon completion of such degree and retention in the early childhood education program.

(4) To provide ongoing professional development opportunities to preschool teachers and teacher assistants employed in an early childhood education program that address—

(A) all areas of child development and learning (cognitive, social, emotional, and physical);

(B) teacher-child interaction;

(C) family engagement; and

(D) cultural competence for working with a diversity of children (including children with special needs and dual language learners) and families.

SEC. 907. SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.

Grant funds provided under this title shall supplement, and not supplant, other Federal, State, and local funds that are available for early childhood educator preparation and professional development.

SEC. 908. MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.

A State that receives funds under this title for a fiscal year shall maintain the fiscal effort provided by the State for the activities supported by the funds under this title at a level equal to or greater than the level of such fiscal effort for the preceding fiscal year.

SEC. 909. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2016 through 2021.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, as the father of a young boy that you had the opportunity to meet the other day in our Rules Committee, I have a particular interest in quality early childhood education. He is going to enter preschool this fall. I support universal preschool so every child in the country has the same kinds of opportunities that your child or my child has.

I know that my friends on the other side of the aisle also recognize the tremendous

importance of quality preschool in this country. I also understand that they don't necessarily support the Democratic approach of a comprehensive Federal program for universal preschool.

So what this amendment represents is a compromise, a modest step that would help States make the investment in early childhood education that they want to make by authorizing—not appropriating money for—but authorizing the Department of Education to set up a grant program to incentivize State investments in quality early childhood education.

I hope this is something we can all get behind. I urge my Republican colleagues to see this amendment as a modest compromise approach to an issue that we need to move forward on.

Investment in early childhood education is the most important investment we can make in the life of a child. I remember many years ago I chaired a high school reform commission in the State of Colorado, and one of the first things that we concluded about how to improve the performance of high schools in our State was to improve the performance and make preschool universally available—and then just wait 12 years and the high schools will look a whole lot better.

Well, there is a lot of truth to that. We can lower the special education rate, lower the grade repetition rate. The most inexpensive place to address the achievement gaps is in early childhood education. It only gets harder to succeed and more expensive as those gaps become more persistent across socioeconomic groups, across race, as the child ages.

We need to invest in high-quality preschool programs, and this amendment provides the right incentives for the State to do it—not by a Federal approach mandating preschool, but by simply saying we are here to be your partners and work with States to expand access to high-quality preschool programs.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman and the gentleman in her stead for this amendment, although I do oppose it.

I think most of us agree that there is great value to early childhood education. That is why the underlying bill would allow States and schools to use funds allocated through both the local academic flexible grants and under title I to support pre-K programs.

As I know the gentleman knows, we already spend—the Federal Government—over \$13 billion a year in pre-K

programs. The premier program, which is Head Start, spends over \$8 billion a year. And I think we should concentrate on getting those right instead of creating yet another new, massive program that would simply compete with other programs for scarce taxpayer resources.

So while this is somewhat duplicative, another large program, I appreciate the gentleman's passion for pre-K learning. But, unfortunately, because we don't, in my judgment, need yet another new program when we haven't properly evaluated existing programs, I oppose this amendment.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the ranking member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Early childhood education programs have been studied. Those high-quality programs increase achievement, increase the graduation rates, increase future employment, decrease crime, decrease teen pregnancy, and, in the long term, save more money than they cost.

This amendment will help improve early childhood education and therefore is a meaningful improvement in the bill, and I would hope we would adopt this. It provides for professional improvement, a great improvement in early childhood education.

Since it has been studied and so successful, I would hope we would adopt the amendment.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the remainder of the time.

Mr. Chairman, studies have shown that for every dollar invested in quality early childhood education, it can actually save \$7 to \$9 of taxpayer money over the lifetime of that child in schools over the next 12 years. That is an actual savings. If we were to score this in an accurate way, on a 10-year basis, the investment in quality preschool would save money.

Like the gentleman from Minnesota, of course I am interested in improving Head Start and building upon it, but this is a different and broader approach than Head Start. This program impacts middle class communities who also stand to benefit from quality early childhood education that often they can't afford on their own dime.

Now, what we need is a targeted approach, and that is really the crucial difference between this amendment and the existing program. The need for a unique approach to preschool has been recognized across the Nation.

It is time for the Federal Government to recognize what States and districts are crying out for. It is time to

address the need for high-quality early childhood education in a dedicated and comprehensive way, and that is what this amendment does.

By investing in early childhood, we can prevent learning gaps from arising before they arise. We can reduce the need for special education and IDEA, and we can save money by reducing youth adjudication rates, grade repetition rates, and other costly interventions that are necessary if children don't have that opportunity when they are 3 or 4 years old.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, listening to my friend from Colorado talking about how great this program would be, I was thinking about, over the years, how do you get to 80 programs in the Federal K-12 program and get multiple pre-K programs for child care and child education? It is because, year after year, Members of Congress have stood up and talked about how wonderful things were going to be, how much money we were going to save, how much brighter the kids would be if we just had this one more program. And so it grows, and so it grows.

Again, the thrust of this legislation is to look at the programs we already have, to make the most of them and, in the underlying bill, the Student Success Act, to give the maximum amount of flexibility to local school superintendents and school boards so they can put the resources where they need them.

So I must continue to oppose the gentleman—or the gentlewoman's amendment. I think you were subbing for Ms. MENG, perhaps. I am not sure. I ask my colleagues to oppose it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado will be postponed.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KLINE) having assumed the chair, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5) to support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Chair of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, February 12, 2015.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
*Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: On February 12, 2015, pursuant to section 3307 of Title 40, United States Code, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure met in open session to consider resolutions to authorize 12 prospectuses, including three alteration projects and nine leases included in the General Services Administration's FY2015 Capital Investment and Leasing Program.

Our Committee continues to work to cut waste and the cost of federal property and leases. The resolutions include projects that will reduce space, support consolidations into Government-owned facilities, and address life safety deficiencies. The space reductions and consolidations will result in \$111 million in avoided lease costs. All the projects approved are within amounts included in the relevant appropriations bills.

I have enclosed copies of the resolutions adopted by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on February 12, 2015.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

Enclosures.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

ALTERATION—ENERGY AND WATER RETROFIT AND CONSERVATION MEASURES PROGRAM, VARIOUS BUILDINGS

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for repairs and alterations to implement energy and water retrofit and conservation measures, as well as high performance energy projects, in Government-owned buildings during fiscal year 2015 at a total cost of \$5,000,000, a prospectus, as amended by this resolution, for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Provided, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
ENERGY AND WATER RETROFIT AND CONSERVATION MEASURES PROGRAM
VARIOUS BUILDINGS**

Prospectus Number: PEW-0001-MU15

FY2015 Project Summary

GSA proposes the implementation of energy and water retrofit and conservation measures, as well as high performance energy projects, in Government-owned buildings during fiscal year 2015.

FY2015 Committee Approval and Appropriation Requested\$40,000,000**Program Summary**

GSA proposes the implementation of energy and water retrofit and conservation measures in Government-owned buildings during fiscal year 2015.

The Energy and Water Conservation Measures Program is designed to reduce on-site energy consumption through building alteration projects or retrofits of existing buildings systems. These projects are an important part of GSA's approach to reducing energy consumption in the existing inventory to reach mandated percentage reduction goals through 2015.

Projects in Federal buildings throughout the country are currently being identified through surveys and studies. The projects to be funded will have positive savings-to-investment ratios, will provide reasonable payback periods that reflect GSA's priority of being a green proving ground of next generation technologies, and may generate rebates and saving from utility companies and incentives from grid operators. Projects will vary in size, by location, and by delivery method.

This prospectus requests approval for proposed projects involving energy and water retrofit work, geothermal and other High Performance Green Building retrofit work, as well as design/construction work for new facilities that incorporate these technologies. The projects contained in this prospectus are for a diverse set of design and retrofit projects with engineering solutions to reduce energy or water consumption and/or costs.

Projects will vary in size by location and by delivery method. Typical projects include the following:

- Upgrading heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems with new, high efficiency systems including the installation of energy management control systems.
- Altering constant volume air distribution systems to variable air flow systems by the addition of variable air flow boxes, fan volume control dampers, and related climatic controls.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
ENERGY AND WATER RETROFIT AND CONSERVATION MEASURES PROGRAM
VARIOUS BUILDINGS**

Prospectus Number: PEW-0001-MU15

- Installing building automation control systems, such as night setback thermostats and time clocks, to control HVAC systems.
- Installing automatic occupancy light controls, lighting fixture modifications, and associated wiring to reduce the electrical consumption per square foot through the use of higher efficiency lamps and use of non-uniform task lighting design.
- Installing new or modifying existing temperature control systems.
- Replacing electrical motors with multi-speed or variable-speed motors.
- Insulating roofs, pipes, HVAC duct work, and mechanical equipment.
- Installing and caulking storm windows and doors to prevent the passage of air and moisture into the building envelope.
- Providing advanced metering projects which enable building managers to better monitor and optimize energy performance.
- Providing and implementing water conservation projects.
- Providing renewable projects including photovoltaic systems, solar hot water systems, and wind turbines.
- Providing distributed generation systems.
- Drilling to install vertical and horizontal geothermal loops.
- Installing heat pumps and other types of geothermal equipment.
- Installing building insulation and seals to enhance equipment performance and reduce the size and energy consumption of geothermal and other energy-efficient equipment.
- Installing wastewater recycling processes for use on lawns, in toilets, and for washing cars.
- Insulating roofs, pipes, HVAC duct work, and mechanical equipment.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
ENERGY AND WATER RETROFIT AND CONSERVATION MEASURES PROGRAM
VARIOUS BUILDINGS**

Prospectus Number: PEW-0001-MU15

Justification

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-58) required a 2 percent energy usage reduction as measured in BTU/GSF per year from 2006 through 2015 over a 2003 baseline. Guidance issued by the Department of Energy pursuant to this requirement states that savings anticipated from advanced metering can range from 2 to 45 percent annually when used in combination with continuous commissioning efforts. Executive Order 13423, Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management concerning energy consumption reduction, was incorporated into law as the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA). Both increased the energy reduction mandates to 3 percent per year, and the Executive Order also established a water reduction mandate of 2 percent per year based on a 2007 baseline as measured in gallons/gsf.

By the year 2015, all Federal agencies are directed to reduce overall energy use in buildings they operate by 30 percent from 2003 levels and reduce overall water use by 16 percent from 2007 levels. Increased energy and water efficiency in buildings and operations will require capital investment for changes and modifications to physical systems which consume energy and water, as well as other high performance green building initiatives and infrastructure designs and retrofits.

In addition, EISA included provisions that exceed the requirements of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. One such long-term requirement is to eliminate fossil fuel-generated energy consumption in new and renovated Federal buildings by FY 2030 by achieving targeted reductions beginning with projects designed in FY 2010. Other shorter-term measures include increasing the use of solar hot water heating (to 30 percent); installation of advanced meters for steam and gas (previously only electricity was covered); and broader application of energy efficiency in all major renovations.

Approval of this FY 2015 request will enable GSA to continue to provide leadership in energy/water conservation and efficiency to both the public and private sectors.

FY2015 Committee Approval and Appropriation Requested\$40,000,000

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
ENERGY AND WATER RETROFIT AND CONSERVATION MEASURES PROGRAM
VARIOUS BUILDINGS**

Prospectus Number: PEW-0001-MU15

Certification of Need

It has been determined that the practical solution to achieving the identified building energy and water management goals is to proceed with the energy and water retrofit and conservation work indicated above.

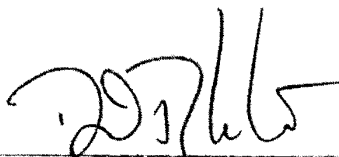
Submitted at Washington, DC, on March 6, 2014

Recommended:



Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved:



Administrator, General Services Administration

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

ALTERATION—PHILLIP BURTON FEDERAL BUILD-
ING & U.S. COURTHOUSE, SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for repairs and alterations to upgrade several building systems and reconfigure existing space at the

Phillip Burton Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse located in the Civic Center area in San Francisco, California to replace the roof and associated support structure elements, cold and hot water risers, window film, and the extension of external air-intakes and to build-out and backfill approximately 15,000 square feet of vacant space to move the U.S. Bankruptcy Court from leased space, at a design cost of \$2,000,000, an esti-

mated construction cost of \$25,000,000 and a management and inspection cost of \$2,000,000 for a total estimated project cost of \$29,000,000, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Provided, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION
PHILLIP BURTON FEDERAL BUILDING & U.S. COURTHOUSE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA**

Prospectus Number: PCA-0154-SF15
Congressional District: 12

FY2015 Project Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a repair and alteration project to upgrade several building systems and reconfigure existing space at the Phillip Burton Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse (Phillip Burton). The project will include replacement of the roof and associated support structure elements, cold and hot water risers, window film, and the extension of external air-intakes. The project also includes the buildout and backfill of approximately 15,000 square feet of vacant space for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court that will relocate from leased space to Phillip Burton, resulting in a reduction of annual lease payments to the private sector of approximately \$1.8 million annually.

FY2015 Committee Approval and Appropriation Requested

(Design, ECC, M&I)\$29,000,000

Major Work Items

Building Demolition/Sitework; Exterior Construction; Repair/Replace Plumbing; Repair/Replace Roof; Interior Construction; Repair/Replace HVAC; Repair/Replace Electrical; and Repair/Replace Fire Protection and Life Safety

Project Budget

Design\$2,000,000
Estimated Construction Cost (ECC)\$25,000,000
Management and Inspection (M&I)\$2,000,000
Estimated Total Project Cost (ETPC)*.....\$29,000,000

*Tenant agencies may fund an additional amount for alterations above the standard normally provided by the GSA.

Schedule

	Start	End
Design	FY2015	FY2016
Construction	FY2016	FY2017

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION
PHILLIP BURTON FEDERAL BUILDING & U.S. COURTHOUSE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA**

Prospectus Number: PCA-0154-SF15
Congressional District: 12

Building

The Phillip Burton Federal Building and United States Courthouse is located in the Civic Center area of San Francisco and is the largest Federal building in the San Francisco metropolitan area. Constructed in 1964, the building consists of 22 stories above ground with two underground levels of parking. Situated on 2.6 acres of land area, the building has approximately 1,244,600 rentable square feet with 236 underground parking spaces.

The building is rectangular in shape and sheathed in an aluminum and glass exterior with a limestone and granite stone facade over concrete walls and columns. The building was renovated from 1989 through 1995 for asbestos removal and tenant space changes. The front plaza was redesigned and reconstructed in 2000. A new main entry project to enhance the security and first impressions of the building was completed in December 2005.

Tenant Agencies

Judiciary – Public Defender, U.S. District Courts, Circuit Libraries, District Judge Courtrooms, Magistrate Judge Chambers, District Clerk, Probation, Pretrial Services; Justice Department – Antitrust Division, Civil Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Marshals Service, Drug Enforcement Agency, Office of U.S. Attorneys, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms; U.S. Postal Service, Treasury Department – Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Tax Court; General Services Administration – Regional Public Buildings Service and Field Office, Federal Acquisition Service; Department of Homeland Security – Transportation Security Agency, National Protection and Programs Directorate FPS.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION
PHILLIP BURTON FEDERAL BUILDING & U.S. COURTHOUSE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA**

Prospectus Number: PCA-0154-SF15
Congressional District: 12

Proposed Project

The proposed project will replace and repair some of the critical infrastructure systems in the building. The roof and associated support structure, cold and hot water risers, window film, and the external air intakes will be replaced or upgraded. In addition, the project will decrease building vacancy and provide the necessary tenant improvements necessary for the US Bankruptcy Court to relocate from leased space. When complete the project will save the taxpayer approximately \$1.8 million annually¹

Major Work Items

Building Demolition/Sitework	\$8,899,000
Exterior Construction	\$7,529,000
Repair/Replace Plumbing	\$2,955,000
Repair/Replace Roof	\$2,385,000
Repair/Replace Interior Construction	\$1,023,000
Repair/Replace HVAC	\$980,000
Repair/Replace Electrical	\$928,000
Repair/Replace Fire Protection and Life Safety	<u>\$300,000</u>
Total ECC	\$25,000,000

Justification

Many of the building's systems and infrastructure are substantially beyond their useful life and showing signs of failure. These improvements will address water intrusion, health and life safety, and tenant comfort issues within the building. The project will also decrease building vacancy by relocating the U.S. Bankruptcy Court from leased space to Phillip Burton saving the taxpayer approximately \$1.8 million annually.

The air intake portion of this project improves the building security by raising the outside air intakes on this facility above their current grade level locations.

The infrastructure work items (roof, riser, and solar film replacements) have reached the end of their design life. Deferred maintenance of these items could potentially lead to greater replacement costs in the future and the potential to negatively impact other building elements.

¹ The entire lease costs for the Judiciary at 235 Pine Street, San Francisco, CA are approximately \$1.8 million annually. Part of this requirement will move to Phillip Burton prior to project completion.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION
PHILLIP BURTON FEDERAL BUILDING & U.S. COURTHOUSE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA**

Prospectus Number: PCA-0154-SF15
Congressional District: 12

Summary of Energy Compliance

This project will be designed to conform to requirements of the Facilities Standards for the Public Buildings Service and will implement strategies to meet the Guiding Principles for High Performance and Sustainable Buildings. GSA encourages design opportunities to increase energy and water efficiency above the minimum performance criteria.

Prior Appropriations

None

Prior Committee Approvals

None

Prior Prospectus-Level Projects in Building (past 10 years)

None

Alternatives Considered (30-year, present value cost analysis)

There are no feasible alternatives to this project. This is a limited scope renovation and alteration project. The cost of the proposed project is far less than the cost of leasing or constructing a new building.

Recommendation

ALTERATION

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
PHILLIP BURTON FEDERAL BUILDING & U.S. COURTHOUSE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA**

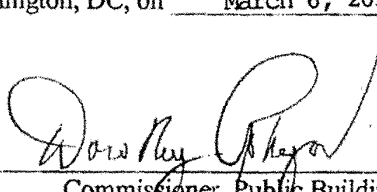
Prospectus Number: PCA-0154-SF15
Congressional District: 12

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on March 6, 2014

Recommended:


Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved:


Administrator, General Services Administration

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

ALTERATION—HART-DOLE-INOUE FEDERAL
CENTER, BATTLE CREEK, MI

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for repairs and alterations to upgrade components of the fire and life safety systems at the Hart-Dole-

Inouye Federal Center located in Battle Creek, Michigan to improve the life safety condition of the facility by replacement of components of the fire alarm and smoke detection systems, restoration of fire separation in the tunnels that connect multiple buildings, elevator recall and air handling unit shutdown, and repairs to the fire suppression system and abatement of hazardous materials, at a design cost of \$986,000, an es-

timated construction cost of \$9,222,000 and a management and inspection cost of \$989,000 for a total estimated project cost of \$11,197,000, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Provided, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION
HART-DOLE-INOUE FEDERAL CENTER
BATTLE CREEK, MI**

Prospectus Number: PMI-0501-BA15
Congressional District: 3

FY2015 Project Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a repair and alteration project to upgrade components of the fire and life safety systems at the Hart-Dole-Inouye Federal Center in Battle Creek, MI. Alterations to improve the life safety condition of the facility involve replacement of components of the fire alarm and smoke detection systems; restoration of fire separation in the tunnels that connect multiple buildings, elevator recall and air handling unit shutdown; repairs to the fire suppression system and abatement of hazardous materials.

This project was among those previously included in GSA’s FY 2013 Capital Investment and Leasing Program’s Exigent Needs prospectus. Although the prospectus was approved by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on July 24, 2012, and February 28, 2013, respectively, no funds were ever appropriated. GSA will not seek to have the Exigent Needs prospectus funded in the aggregate. Instead, the agency will seek individual prospectus approval and funding for certain of the projects originally included as part of the Exigent Needs prospectus, such as the work described in this prospectus.

For FY 2015, this prospectus proposes repairs and alterations to the Hart-Doyle-Inouye Federal Center at a total cost of \$11,197,000.

FY2015 Committee Approval and Appropriation Requested

(Design, ECC, M&I)\$11,197,000

Major Work Items

Fire and life safety systems upgrades

Project Budget

Design	\$ 986,000
Estimated Construction Cost (ECC).....	9,222,000
Management and Inspection (M&I).....	989,000
Estimated Total Project Cost (ETPC).....	\$11,197,000

*Tenant agencies may fund an additional amount for alterations above the standard normally provided by the GSA.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION
HART-DOLE-INOUE FEDERAL CENTER
BATTLE CREEK, MI**

Prospectus Number: PMI-0501-BA15
Congressional District: 3

<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>
Design and Construction	FY2015	FY2017

Building

The Hart-Dole-Inouye Federal Center is a campus of 21 buildings with a total of approximately 800,000 rentable square feet of space primarily occupied by the Department of Defense, Defense Logistics Agency. The buildings are located on approximately 25 acres of land northwest of the central business district of Battle Creek. Four buildings were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976 and an additional fourteen buildings were listed in 2012. The remaining three buildings were evaluated and are not eligible to be listed.

The complex was originally opened in 1866 as the Western Health Reform Institute by the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. The original structure was destroyed by a fire in 1902. The next year, the facility was rebuilt and enlarged, and renamed the Battle Creek Sanitarium. In 1942, the U.S. Army purchased the complex and renamed it the Percy Jones Army Hospital after an army surgeon who served during World War I. The Percy Jones Army Hospital closed its doors in 1953. In 1959, the U.S. General Services Administration changed the name of the facility to the Battle Creek Federal Center since it provided office space for a variety of federal agencies. The facility was re-designated through FPMR Bulletin 2003-B1 as the Hart-Dole-Inouye Federal Center on March 31, 2003 in honor of three U.S. Senators, Philip Hart, Robert Dole, and Daniel Inouye.

Tenant Agencies

Department of Defense - Defense Logistics Agency; Department of Homeland Security Federal Protective Service; GSA Public Buildings Service; Armed Forces Recruiting; Department of Labor

Proposed Project

GSA is proposing life safety upgrades in 15 out of the 21 buildings. The remaining buildings are small support structures that do not require life safety upgrades. The project will replace components of the fire alarm and smoke detection systems, the addition of strobes to provide a visible alert to the hearing impaired and upgrades to the elevators for firefighter recall. Automatic shutdown will be added to the air handling units. Fire separations in the tunnels that connect multiple buildings in the facility will be

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION
HART-DOLE-INOUE FEDERAL CENTER
BATTLE CREEK, MI**

Prospectus Number: PMI-0501-BA15
Congressional District: 3

restored. The project also includes repairs to the existing fire suppression system and extension of its coverage to high risk areas that are not currently protected. Hazardous materials that directly impact the project will be abated.

Major Work Items

Fire and Life Safety Systems Upgrades	\$9,222,000
Total ECC	\$9,222,000

Justification

The facility's fire alarm backbone was modernized in 2009; however, peripheral fire alarm devices were not replaced and are beyond their useful lives. Most of the devices were installed in the mid-1990s and are not compliant with current code. There are currently no strobes on the notification devices to alert the hearing impaired. Elevators do not have firefighter recall and automatic shutdown is lacking on many air handling units. The existing fire doors in the tunnels that connect multiple buildings are inoperable and do not provide adequate fire separation as required by code. Fire sprinklers do not extend into all critical areas of the facility. Some existing fire sprinklers are failing and unreliable.

Summary of Energy Compliance

This project will be designed to conform to requirements of the Facilities Standards for the Public Buildings Service and will implement strategies to meet the Guiding Principles for High Performance and Sustainable Buildings. GSA encourages design opportunities to increase energy and water efficiency above the minimum performance criteria.

Prior Appropriations

None

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION
HART-DOLE-INOUE FEDERAL CENTER
BATTLE CREEK, MI**

Prospectus Number: PMI-0501-BA15
Congressional District: 3

Prior Committee Approvals

Prior Committee Approvals*			
Committee	Date	Amount	Purpose
Senate EPW	7/25/2012	\$5,013,000	Exigent Needs – Fire Alarm
House T&I	2/28/2013	\$5,013,000	Exigent Needs – Fire Alarm

*Included in the FY 2013 Exigent Needs Prospectus PEX-00001 approved for \$122,936,000

Prior Prospectus-Level Projects in Building (past 10 years)

None

Alternatives Considered (30-year, present value cost analysis)

There are no feasible alternatives to this project. This is a limited scope renovation and the cost of the proposed project is far less than the cost of leasing or constructing a new building.

Recommendation

ALTERATION

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION
HART-DOLE-INOUE FEDERAL CENTER
BATTLE CREEK, MI**

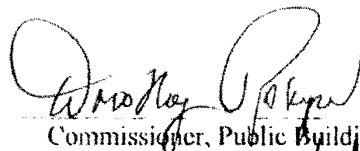
Prospectus Number: PMI-0501-BA15
Congressional District: 3

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on **March 6, 2014**

Recommended:



Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved:



Administrator, General Services Administration

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION,
SAN DIEGO, CA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for a replacement lease of up to 105,000 rentable square feet of space, including 245 official parking spaces, for the Drug Enforcement Administration currently located at 4560 Viewridge Avenue, San Diego, California, at a proposed total annual cost of \$4,124,723 for a lease term of up to 15 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all

tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agencies agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 214 square feet or less per person.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 214 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
SAN DIEGO, CA**

Prospectus Number: PCA-01-SD15

Congressional District: 53

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a replacement lease of up to 105,000 rentable square feet (RSF) of space for the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), currently located at 4560 Viewridge Avenue, San Diego, CA.

The DEA occupies the entire building under one lease that will expire May 31, 2016. The replacement lease will provide continued housing for DEA and will maintain DEA's office and overall utilization rates of 103 usable square feet (USF) per person and 214 usf per person, respectively.

Description

Occupant:	Drug Enforcement Agency
Lease Type	Replacement
Current Rentable Square Feet (RSF)	100,603 (Current RSF/USF = 1.15)
Proposed Maximum RSF:	105,000 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.20)
Expansion/Reduction RSF ¹ :	0
Current Usable Square Feet/Person:	214
Proposed Usable Square Feet/Person:	214
Proposed Maximum Leasing Authority:	15 years
Expiration Dates of Current Lease(s):	5/31/2016
Delineated Area:	North: Clairemont Mesa Blvd. South: Friars Road East: Interstate 15 West: Interstate 5
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	245 Structured
Scoring:	Operating Lease
Maximum Proposed Rental Rate ²	\$41 per RSF
Proposed Total Annual Cost ³ :	\$4,124,723

¹ The RSF/USF at the current location is approximately 1.15. However, to maximize competition a RSF/USF ratio of 1.2 is used for the proposed maximum RSF as indicated in the housing plan.

² This estimate is for fiscal year 2016 and may be escalated by 2.0 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as a basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the government. Lease award shall not exceed the maximum rental rate as specified in this prospectus.

³ New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
SAN DIEGO, CA**

Prospectus Number: PCA-01-SD15
Congressional District: 53

Current Total Annual Cost:	\$3,137,301(Lease Effective 5/31/1996)
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Justification

Congress created the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Program in 1988 to provide assistance to law enforcement agencies in areas determined to be critical drug-trafficking regions in the United States. The Drug Enforcement Administration plays a critical role in assisting the state and local government gather intelligence and coordinate law enforcement strategies to reduce the supply of illegal drugs in the United States. The San Diego field office agents gather intelligence, execute on the intelligence in the field, and provide input for legal cases against offenders. In addition to DEA agents, administrative and support groups also operate in the facility.

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
SAN DIEGO, CA**


Prospectus Number: PCA-01-SD15
Congressional District: 53

Certification of Need


The proposed lease is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on September 29, 2014

Recommended: _____


Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____


Administrator, General Services Administration

PCA-01-SD15
San Diego, CAHousing Plan
Drug Enforcement Administration

March 2014

Locations	CURRENT				PROPOSED			
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF) ¹		Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)	
	Office	Total	Office	Special	Office	Special	Storage	Total
4560 Viewridge Ave., San Diego CA	409	409	54,206	11,250	409	409	11,250	87,481
Proposed Lease								
Total	409	409	54,206	22,025	409	409	22,025	87,481

Office Utilization Rate (UR) ²	
Current	103
Proposed	103

UR=average amount of office space per person
Current UR excludes 8,975 sq ft of conference office support space
Proposed UR excludes 8,975 sq ft of conference office support space

Overall UR ³	
Current	214
Proposed	214

Special Space	
Laboratory	300
Holding Cell	250
Fitness Center	500
Conference	8,975
ADP	8,400
Automotive Maintenance	3,600
Total	22,025

R/U Factor ⁴			
Total USF		RSF/USF	Max RSF
Current	87,481	1.15	100,603
Proposed	87,481	1.20	105,000

NOTES:

¹USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.²Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress and agencies with less than 10 people³USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel.⁴R/U Factor = Max RSF divided by total USF

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, BUREAU OF
PRISONS, WASHINGTON, DC

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for a replacement lease of up to 114,000 rentable square feet of space, including 14 official parking spaces, for the Department of Justice, Bureau of Prisons currently located at 500 First Street, NW in Washington, D.C., at a proposed total annual cost of \$5,700,000 for a lease term of up to 15 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all

tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agencies agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 199 square feet or less per person.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 199 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, BUREAU OF PRISONS
WASHINGTON, DC**

Prospectus Number: PDC-01-WA15

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a replacement lease of up to 114,000 rentable square feet (RSF) of space to house the Department of Justice, Bureau of Prisons (BOP) currently located at 500 First Street, NW, in Washington, DC.

The replacement lease will provide continued housing for BOP and will improve BOP's office and overall utilization rates from 133 to 117 usable square feet (USF) per person and 229 to 199 USF per person, respectively. As a result of the improved utilization, the replacement lease will reduce the rentable square footage of the requirement by 12 percent, a 15,035 RSF reduction from BOP's current occupancy.

Description

Occupant:	Bureau of Prisons
Lease Type	Replacement
Current Rentable Square Feet (RSF):	129,035 (Current RSF/USF = 1.18)
Proposed Maximum RSF:	114,000 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.20)
Expansion/Reduction RSF	15,035 RSF reduction
Current Usable Square Feet/Person:	229
Proposed Usable Square Feet/Person:	199
Proposed Maximum Leasing Authority:	15 years
Expiration Dates of Current Lease(s):	July 31, 2016
Delineated Area:	Washington, DC, Central Employment Area
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	14
Scoring:	Operating Lease
Maximum Proposed Rental Rate ¹ :	\$50.00 per RSF
Proposed Total Annual Cost ² :	\$5,700,000
Current Total Annual Cost:	\$7,040,895 (lease effective 8/01/2006)

¹This estimate is for fiscal year 2016 and may be escalated by 2.0 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for negotiating this lease to ensure that the lease award is made in the best interest of the Government. The lease award shall not exceed the maximum rental rate as the specified in this prospectus.

²New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, BUREAU OF PRISONS
WASHINGTON, DC**

Prospectus Number: PDC-01-WA15

Background

BOP's mission is to protect society by confining offenders in the controlled environments of prisons and community-based facilities that are safe, humane, cost-efficient, and appropriately secure; that provide work and other self-improvement opportunities to assist offenders in becoming law-abiding citizens.

Justification

The current lease at 500 First Street NW expires July 31, 2016, and BOP has a continued need for space. In an effort to reduce its space footprint and increase its space utilization efficiency, the proposed lease will reduce BOP's current space by 15,035 RSF of its current 129,035 RSF at 500 First Street, NW. In the absence of this reduction, the status quo cost of continued occupancy at the proposed market rental rate would be \$6,451,750 per year.

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus, will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute interim leasing actions as necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the proposed lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, BUREAU OF PRISONS
WASHINGTON, DC**

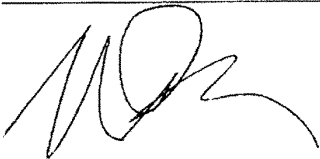
Prospectus Number: PDC-01-WA15

Certification of Need


The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on September 29, 2014

Recommended: _____


Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____


Administrator, General Services Administration

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, CIVIL
DIVISION, WASHINGTON, DC

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for a replacement lease of up to 217,000 rentable square feet of space, including 2 official parking spaces, for the Department of Justice currently located at 1100 L Street, NW and 20 Massachusetts Avenue, NW in Washington, D.C., at a proposed total annual cost of \$10,850,000 for a lease term of up to 15 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all

tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agencies agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 240 square feet or less per person.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 240 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, CIVIL DIVISION
WASHINGTON, DC**

Prospectus Number: PDC-02-WA15

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a replacement lease of up to 217,000 rentable square feet (RSF) of space to house the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) currently located at 1100 L Street, NW, and 20 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, in Washington, DC.

The replacement lease will provide continued housing for DOJ and will improve DOJ office and overall utilization rates from 160 to 130 usable square feet (USF) per person and 292 to 240 USF per person, respectively. As a result of the improved utilization, the replacement lease will reduce the rentable square footage of the requirement by 15 percent, a 38,972 RSF reduction from DOJ's current occupancies.

Description

Occupant:	Department of Justice
Lease Type	Replacement
Current Rentable Square Feet (RSF):	255,972 (Current RSF/USF = 1.17)
Proposed Maximum RSF:	217,000 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.20)
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	38,972 RSF reduction
Current Usable Square Feet/Person:	292
Proposed Usable Square Feet/Person:	240
Proposed Maximum Leasing Authority:	15 years
Expiration Dates of Current Lease(s):	1100 L Street NW – 5/19/2016 20 Massachusetts Avenue NW – 10/22/2016
Delineated Area:	Washington, DC, Central Employment Area
Number of Official Parking Spaces ¹ :	2
Scoring:	Operating Lease
Maximum Proposed Rental Rate ² :	\$50.00 per RSF

¹ DOJ's security requirements may necessitate control of the parking at the leased location(s). This may be accomplished as a lessor-furnished service, under an operating agreement with the lessor, or as part of the Government's leasehold interest in the building(s).

² This estimate is for fiscal year 2017 and may be escalated by 2.0 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced—including all operating expenses—whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as a basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that the lease award is in the best interest of the Government. The lease award shall not exceed the maximum rental rate as specified in this prospectus.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, CIVIL DIVISION
WASHINGTON, DC**

Prospectus Number: PDC-02-WA15

Proposed Total Annual Cost ³ :	\$10,850,000
Current Total Annual Cost:	\$10,960,719 (leases effective 5/20/1996 and 9/24/2002)

Acquisition Strategy

In order to acquire space that will meet DOJ's requirements, GSA may issue a single, multiple award solicitation that will allow offerors to provide blocks of space to meet the requirements in whole or in part. All offers must provide space consistent with the delineated area defined by this prospectus.

Justification

The current leases at 1100 L Street NW and 20 Massachusetts NW expire May 19, 2016, and October 22, 2016, respectively, which would leave DOJ without housing. Also, DOJ wants to take the opportunity presented by this proposed lease action to reduce its space footprint and increase its space use efficiency. The proposed lease will reduce DOJ's space by 38,972 RSF or 15.2 percent of its current 255,972 RSF of leased space. In the absence of this reduction, the status quo cost of continued occupancy at the proposed market rental rate would be \$12,798,600 per year.

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed the minimum requirements in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

³New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, CIVIL DIVISION
WASHINGTON, DC**

Prospectus Number: PDC-02-WA15

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions approving this prospectus were adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. They will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.



Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the proposed lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on September 29, 2014

Recommended: Commissioner, Public Buildings ServiceApproved: Administrator, General Services Administration

April 2014

Housing Plan
Department of Justice
Civil Division

PDC-02-WA15
 Washington, DC

Locations	CURRENT						PROPOSED					
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF) ¹				Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total
1100 L Street, NW		548	122,121		2,019	27,747						
20 Massachusetts Avenue, NW		204	32,279		1,592	33,569						
Proposed Lease												
Total		752	154,400		3,611	61,316		752		2,000	53,147	180,480

Office Utilization Rate (UR) ²		
Rate	Current	Proposed
	160	130

UR = average amount of office space per person
Current UR excludes 33,968 usf of office support space
Proposed UR excludes 27,573 usf of office support space

Overall UR ³		
Rate	Current	Proposed
	292	240

R/U Factor ⁴			
	Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF
Current	219,327	1.17	255,972
Proposed	180,480	1.20	217,000

Special Space		USF
Conference/Training		8,985
ADP/Call Center		3,974
File Rooms		12,786
Break Rooms		2,962
Meet Court		1,419
Supply Room		1,562
Library		6,119
Mail Room		1,147
SCIF		11,991
Copy Rooms		2,201
Total		53,147

NOTES:

¹USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.²Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress and agencies with less than 10 people³USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel.⁴R/U Factor = Max RSF divided by total USF

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, WASHINGTON,
DC

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for a replacement lease of up to 382,000 rentable square feet of space, including 15 official parking spaces, for the Department of Justice currently located at 555 4th Street, NW and 501 3rd Street, NW in Washington, D.C., at a proposed total annual cost of \$19,100,000 for a lease term of up to 15 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all

tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agencies agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 240 square feet or less per person.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 240 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, DC**

Prospectus Number: PDC-03-WA15

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a replacement lease of up to 382,000 rentable square feet (RSF) for the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) currently located at 555 4th Street, NW, and 501 3rd Street, NW, in Washington, DC.

The replacement lease will provide continued housing for DOJ and improve DOJ office and overall utilization rates from 166 to 130 usable square feet (USF) per person and 290 to 240 USF per person, respectively. As a result of the improved utilization, the replacement lease will reduce the rentable square footage of the requirement by 8 percent, a 33,684 RSF reduction from DOJ's current occupancies.

Description

Occupant:	Department of Justice
Lease Type:	Replacement
Current Rentable Square Feet (RSF):	415,684 (Current RSF/USF = 1.11)
Proposed Maximum RSF:	382,000 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.20)
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	33,684 RSF reduction
Current Usable Square Feet/Person:	290
Proposed Usable Square Feet/Person:	240
Proposed Maximum Leasing Authority:	15 Years
Expiration Dates of Current Leases:	12/31/2017 - 555 4 th Street, NW 6/1/2019 - 501 3 rd Street, NW
Delineated Area:	Washington, DC Central Employment Area
Number of Official Parking Spaces ¹ :	15
Scoring:	Operating Lease
Maximum Proposed Rental Rate ² :	\$50.00 per RSF

¹ DOJ security requirements may necessitate control of the parking at the leased location(s). This may be accomplished as a lessor-furnished service, under an operating agreement with the lessor, or as part of the Government's leasehold interest in the building(s).

² This estimate is for fiscal year 2018 and may be escalated by 2.0 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as a basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the government. Lease award shall not exceed the maximum rental rate as specified in this prospectus.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, DC**

Prospectus Number: PDC-03-WA15

Proposed Total Annual Cost ³ :	\$19,100,000
Current Total Annual Cost:	\$18,404,286
	(555 4th St. – lease effective 01/01/1998)
	(501 3rd St. – lease effective 06/02/2004)

Acquisition Strategy

In order to maximize flexibility to acquire space that will house DOJ and meet their requirements, GSA may issue a single, multiple award solicitation that will allow offerors to provide blocks of space to meet the requirements in whole or in part. A multiple building solution must house DOJ in geographically proximate locations. All offers must provide space consistent with the delineated area defined by this prospectus.

Justification

The current leases at 555 4th Street, NW, and 501 3rd Street, NW, expire December 31, 2017, and June 1, 2019, respectively, and DOJ requires continued housing to carry out its mission. The total space requested will reduce DOJ’s footprint by 33,684 RSF or 8.1 percent of the 415,684 RSF currently occupied. In the absence of this reduction, the status quo cost of continued occupancy at the proposed market rental rate would be \$20,784,200 per year.

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

³ New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, DC**

Prospectus Number: PDC-03-WA15

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing


GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

Certification of Need


The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on September 29, 2014

Recommended: _____


Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____


Administrator, General Services Administration

September 2014

**Housing Plan
Department of Justice**

**PDC-03-WA15
Washington, DC**

Leased Locations	CURRENT				PROPOSED			
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF) ¹		Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)	
	Office	Total	Office	Special	Office	Total	Office	Special
JCB 555 4th Street NW	1,148	1,148	227,162	83,208		313,516		
501 3rd Street NW	141	141	46,579	224		60,081		
Proposed Lease								
Total	1,289	1,289	273,741	96,486	1,324	373,597	220,667	91,527
Office Utilization Rate (UR) ²								
Rate	Current	Proposed						
	166	130						
UR = average amount of office space per person								
Current UR excludes 60,223 usf of office support space								
Proposed UR excludes 47,263 usf of office support space								
Overall UR ³								
Rate	Current	Proposed						
	290	240						
R/U Factor ⁴								
Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF						
373,597	1.11	415,684						
317,760	1.20	382,000						
Special Space								
Conference/Trial Prep Rooms 18,250								
ADP/Telecom Rooms 2,157								
File Rooms 27,414								
Break Rooms 4,600								
USMS Evidence Room 1,000								
Libraries 6,750								
Moot Court/e-Court Rooms 5,006								
Grand Jury Rooms 12,450								
Training Rooms 4,500								
Prisoner Holding Area 4,500								
Copy Rooms 4,900								
Total 91,527								

NOTES:

¹USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.

²Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress and agencies with less than 10 people

³USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel.

⁴R/U Factor = Max RSF divided by total USF

NOTES:

¹USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.²Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress and agencies with less than 10 people³USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel.⁴R/U Factor = Max RSF divided by total USF

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, 85
10TH AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for lease extensions of up to 168,000 rentable square feet of space for the Federal Bureau of Investigation Joint Terrorism Task Force currently located at 85 10th Avenue in New York, New York at a proposed total annual cost of \$13,776,000 for a lease term of up to 5 years, a prospectus, as amended by this resolution, for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all

tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agencies agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 218 square feet or less per person.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 218 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSAPBS

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
85 10TH AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY

Prospectus Number: PNY-02-NY15
Congressional District: 8

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes lease extensions of up to five years for 168,000 rentable square feet of space for the Federal Bureau of Investigation Joint Terrorism Task Force (FBI) currently located at 85 10th Avenue in New York, NY. FBI has occupied space in the building since 2005 under two leases that will expire January 17 and June 5, 2015. The long-term plan is to relocate FBI from 85 Tenth Avenue to government-owned space; a lease extension is needed as space is vacated and readied at the Government-owned location. GSA will attempt to secure flexibility and the right to terminate the entire lease periodically within the five year term.

Extension of the current leases will enable FBI to provide continued housing for its personnel and meet its current mission requirements. FBI will maintain its current office utilization rate of 148 USF per person and its overall utilization rate of 218 USF per person.

Description

Occupants:	Federal Bureau of Investigation
Lease Type:	Lease Extension
Current Rentable Square Feet (RSF):	168,000
Proposed Maximum RSF:	168,000
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	0
Current Usable Square Feet/Person:	218
Proposed Usable Square Feet/Person:	218
Proposed Maximum Lease Term:	5
Expiration Date of Current Leases:	1/17/ 2015 and 6/5/ 2015
Proposed Delineated Area:	85 Tenth Avenue New York, NY
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	0
Scoring:	Operating Lease
Maximum Proposed Rental Rate ¹ :	\$ 68.00 per RSF
Proposed Total Annual Cost ² :	\$ 11,424,000
Current Total Annual Cost:	\$ 7,589,152 (leases effective 1/18/2005 and 6/06/2005)

¹This estimate is for fiscal year 2015 and may be escalated by 1.9 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for negotiating this lease extension to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the government. Lease award shall not exceed the maximum rental rate as specified in this prospectus.

²Any new lease may contain an annual escalation clause to provide for increases or decreases in real estate taxes and operating costs.

GSA

PBS

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
85 10TH AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY

Prospectus Number: PNY-02-NY15
Congressional District: 8

Justification

The leases at 85 10th Avenue will expire January 17 and June 5, 2015. FBI requires continued housing at this location to carry out its mission until it can relocate its personnel and operations to government-owned space. A five-year lease extension is needed to protect occupancy until such time as space is vacated and readied for FBI at a government-owned facility.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing


GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the extension. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

Certification of Need


The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on September 29, 2014

Recommended: _____


Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____


Administrator, General Services Administration

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
601 WEST 26TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease extension of up to 79,792 rentable square feet of space, including 84 official parking spaces, for the Federal Bureau of Investigation currently located at 601 West 26th Street in New York, New York at a proposed total annual cost of \$5,346,064 for a lease term of up to 3

years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated

area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
601 WEST 26TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY**

Prospectus Number: PNY-04-NY15
Congressional District: 10

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a short-term lease extension of up to 79,792 rentable square feet for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), currently located at 601 West 26th Street, New York, NY (Starret Lehigh Building). The lease includes 84 structured parking spaces, radio maintenance facility, automotive maintenance facility, and ancillary office space for the FBI. FBI has occupied space in the Starret Lehigh building since November 1, 1993, under a single lease that will expire October 31, 2014. FBI has a long-term plan to relocate to another leased location in the Bronx, and currently is reviewing proposals of existing locations.

GSA is seeking a three-year lease extension to allow FBI to remain in place while providing enough time to award a long-term lease that is expected to be below the prospectus threshold. Extension of the current lease will enable FBI to provide continued housing for current personnel and meet its current mission requirements. FBI will maintain its current office utilization rate of 156 USF per person. An overall utilization rate is not applicable, since almost 94 percent of the space leased is light industrial space used for automotive and radio maintenance. GSA will attempt to negotiate termination rights into the lease agreement to accommodate the longer term housing solution for FBI.

Description

Occupants:	Federal Bureau of Investigation
Lease Type:	Lease Extension
Current Rentable Square Feet (RSF):	79,792
Proposed Maximum RSF:	79,792
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	0
Current Usable Square Feet/Person:	NA
Proposed Usable Square Feet/Person:	NA
Proposed Maximum Lease Term:	3
Expiration Date of Current Leases:	October 31, 2014
Proposed Delineated Area:	601 West 26 th Street, New York, NY
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	84
Scoring:	Operating Lease
Maximum Proposed Rental Rate ¹ :	\$ 67 per RSF

¹This estimate is for fiscal year 2015 and may be escalated by 1.7 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for negotiating this lease extension to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the government. Lease award shall not exceed the maximum rental rate as specified in this prospectus.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
601 WEST 26TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY**

Prospectus Number: PNY-04-NY15
Congressional District: 10

Proposed Total Annual Cost ² :	\$ 5,346,064
Current Total Annual Cost:	\$ 3,449,920 (lease effective 11/01/1993)

Justification

The current lease for space at 601 West 26th Street will expire October 31, 2014. FBI requires continued housing at this location to carry out its mission until it can relocate its personnel to a new location in the Bronx market area. FBI has a long-term plan in place to relocate its existing operations at this location. The lease procurement for the relocation is in process, however, the procurement is projected to exceed the duration of the current lease. Prospectus approval is required to extend this lease and protect the occupancy until such time that a new lease can be awarded and FBI can relocate to the new location. It is anticipated that the cost to the Government will be substantially reduced after relocation to a more economically favorable real estate market.

GSA will attempt to secure a short-lease term, including the right to terminate the entire lease after one year.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

²Any new lease may contain an annual escalation clause to provide for increases or decreases in real estate taxes and operating costs.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
601 WEST 26TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY**

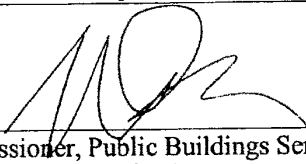
Prospectus Number: PNY-04-NY15
Congressional District: 10

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on September 29, 2014

Recommended: _____


Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____


Administrator, General Services Administration

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—U.S. PROBATION OFFICE & U.S. PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICE, 233 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NY

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease extension of up to 112,392 rentable square feet of space for the U.S. Probation Office and the U.S. Pretrial Services Office currently located at 233 Broadway in New York, New York, at a proposed total annual cost of \$5,394,816 for a lease term of up to 2 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all

tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agencies agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 379 square feet or less per person.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 379 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
U.S. PROBATION OFFICE & U.S. PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICE
233 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NY**

Prospectus Number: PNY-06-NY15

Congressional District: 7

Executive Summary

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a short-term lease extension of up to 112,392 rentable square feet of space for the U.S. Probation Office and the U.S. Pretrial Services Office (Probation and Pretrial Services), currently located at 233 Broadway (Woolworth Building), New York, NY. They have occupied space in the Woolworth Building since November 1, 2005, under a single lease that will expire October 31, 2015. Both offices are planned to relocate to the Daniel P. Moynihan U.S. Courthouse in Manhattan, NY. Funding for this relocation/backfill and build-out of space at the Moynihan USCH has been secured by GSA. GSA is seeking a 2-year lease extension to provide sufficient time to synchronize the completion of the build-out of the new space and the relocation of Probation and Pretrial Services. GSA will attempt to negotiate a flexible lease term with early termination rights to mitigate vacancy risk while continuing to protect the Government's occupancy.

Extension of the current lease will enable Probation and the Pretrial Services to provide continued housing for their current personnel and meet their current mission requirements. They will maintain their current office utilization rate of 261 USF per person and overall utilization rate 379 USF per person.

Description

Occupants:	Probation & Pretrial Services
Lease Type:	Lease Extension
Current Rentable Square Feet (RSF):	112,392
Proposed Maximum RSF:	112,392
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	0
Current Usable Square Feet/Person:	379
Proposed Usable Square Feet/Person:	379
Proposed Maximum Lease Term:	2
Expiration Date of Current Leases:	October 31, 2015
Proposed Delineated Area:	233 Broadway, NY, NY
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	0
Scoring:	Operating Lease

GSA

PBS

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
U.S. PROBATION OFFICE & U.S. PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICE
233 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NY

Prospectus Number: PNY-06-NY15
Congressional District: 7

Maximum Proposed Rental Rate ¹ :	\$ 48 per RSF
Proposed Total Annual Cost ² :	\$ 5,394,816
Current Total Annual Cost:	\$ 4,998,072 (lease effective 11/01/2005)

Justification

The current lease at 233 Broadway will expire on October 31, 2015, and Probation and Pretrial Services require continued housing at this location to carry out their missions until they can relocate their personnel to the Daniel P. Moynihan U.S. Courthouse. The plan for the relocation is in process, and GSA has obtained funding to build out the office space in the Moynihan USCH. The process, however, is projected to exceed the duration of the current lease. Therefore, prospectus approval is required to extend this lease and protect the occupancy until the space preparation is completed.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agencies prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

¹This estimate is for fiscal year 2015 and may be escalated by 1.7 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for negotiating this lease extension to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the Government. Lease award shall not exceed the maximum rental rate as specified in this prospectus.

²Any new lease may contain an annual escalation clause to provide for increases or decreases in real estate taxes and operating costs.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
U.S. PROBATION OFFICE & U.S. PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICE
233 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NY**

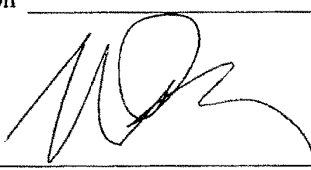
Prospectus Number: PNY-06-NY15
Congressional District: 7

Certification of Need


The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on September 29, 2014

Recommended: _____


Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____


Administrator, General Services Administration

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE,
GUAYNABO, PR

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for a replacement lease of up to 92,500 rentable square feet of space, including 21 official parking spaces, for the Internal Revenue Service currently located at the San Patricio Office Center at 7 Tabonuco Street in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, at a proposed total annual cost of \$4,625,000 for a lease term of up to 20 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all

tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agencies agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 146 square feet or less per person.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 146 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
GUAYNABO, PR**

Prospectus Number: PPR-02-GU15
Congressional District: AL

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a replacement lease of up to 92,500 rentable square feet (RSF) of space for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), currently located at the San Patricio Office Center, at 7 Tabonuco Street, Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, under a lease expiring November 5, 2015.

The replacement lease will provide continued housing for IRS and will improve office and overall utilization rates from 87 to 64 usable square feet (USF) per person and 160 to 146 USF per person, respectively. As a result of the improved utilization, the replacement lease will reduce the rentable square footage of the requirement by approximately 10 percent, a 10,201 RSF reduction from IRS's current occupancy.

Description

Occupant:	Internal Revenue Service
Lease Type	Replacement
Current Rentable Square Feet (RSF)	102,701
Proposed Maximum RSF:	92,500
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	10,201 RSF reduction
Current Usable Square Feet/Person:	160
Proposed Usable Square Feet/Person:	146
Proposed Maximum Lease Term:	20 Years
Expiration Dates of Current Leases:	11/05/2015
Delineated Area:	Guaynabo and Hato Rey within the San Juan metropolitan area.
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	21
Scoring:	Operating lease
Maximum Proposed Rental Rate ¹ :	\$50.00 per RSF
Proposed Total Annual Cost ² :	\$4,625,000
Current Total Annual Cost:	\$4,380,517 (lease effective 11/6/2000)

¹ This estimate is for fiscal year 2016 and may be escalated by 2.0 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as a basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the Government. Lease award shall not exceed the maximum rental rate as specified in this prospectus.

² New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
GUAYNABO, PR**

Prospectus Number: PPR-02-GU15
Congressional District: AL

Justification

IRS is currently located at the San Patricio Office Center in Guaynabo and the ability of its personnel to operate efficiently is hindered by the distribution of work functions over several floors. As a result, IRS would like to consolidate its operations by reducing its space requirements by 10,201 rentable square feet. In the absence of this reduction, the status quo cost of continued occupancy at the proposed market rental rate would be \$5,135,050 per year. A new consolidated location will provide IRS with efficient space to meet its current requirements as well as their long-term housing needs in the San Juan/Guaynabo area.

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
GUAYNABO, PR**

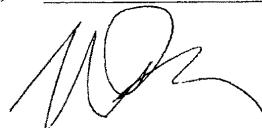
Prospectus Number: PPR-02-GU15
Congressional District: AL

Certification of Need

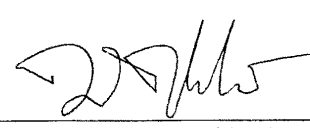
The proposed lease is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on September 29, 2014

Recommended: _____


Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____


Administrator, General Services Administration

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY,
DALLAS, TX

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for a replacement lease of up to 229,000 rentable square feet of space, including 40 official parking spaces, for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency currently located at 1445 Ross Street in Dallas, Texas, at a proposed total annual cost of \$6,412,000 for a lease term of up to 20 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all

tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agencies agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 188 square feet or less per person.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 188 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
DALLAS, TX**

Prospectus Number: PTX-01-DA15

Congressional District: 30

Executive Summary

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a replacement lease of up to 229,000 rentable square feet (RSF) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) currently located at 1445 Ross Street, Dallas, Texas.

The replacement lease will provide continued housing for EPA and will improve EPA's office and overall utilization rates from 153 to 102 usable square feet (USF) per person and 226 to 188 USF per person, respectively. As a result of the improved utilization, the replacement lease will reduce the rentable square footage of the requirement by 12 percent, a 30,432 RSF reduction from EPA's current occupancy.

Description

Occupant:	EPA
Lease Type	Replacement
Current Rentable Square Feet (RSF)	259,432 (Current RSF/USF = 1.08)
Proposed Maximum RSF:	229,000 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.15)
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	30,432 RSF reduction
Current Usable Square Feet/Person:	226
Proposed Usable Square Feet/Person:	188
Proposed Maximum Lease Term:	20 Years
Expiration Dates of Current Leases:	2/8/2017
Delineated Area:	The Central Business District bounded by: North - Woodall Rogers Freeway South - R.L. Thornton Freeway East - Central Expressway West - Stemmons Freeway
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	40
Scoring:	Operating lease
Maximum Proposed Rental Rate ¹ :	\$28.00 per RSF
Proposed Total Annual Cost ² :	\$6,412,000
Current Total Annual Cost ³ :	\$4,819,272(lease effective 2/09/1997)

¹ This estimate is for fiscal year 2015 and may be escalated by 2.0 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as a basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the Government. Lease award shall not exceed the maximum rental rate as specified in this prospectus.

² New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

³ The current lease includes 13,215 rentable square feet of space that was vacated by EPA in 2010. The current total annual cost includes the rent associated with the vacancy. The entire lease is 272,647 rentable square feet.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
DALLAS, TX**

Prospectus Number: PTX-01-DA15
Congressional District: 30

Acquisition Strategy

In order to maximize the flexibility in acquiring space to house EPA, GSA may issue a single, multiple award solicitation that will allow offerors to provide blocks of space able to meet the requirements in whole or in part. All offers must provide space consistent with the delineated area defined by this prospectus.

Justification

EPA has developed a program of requirements for replacement space to house its Region 6 Headquarters in Dallas, Texas. The proposed requirements utilize new space standards developed to improve space efficiency and employee productivity and will reduce EPA's footprint by 30,432 RSF. In the absence of this reduction, the status quo cost of continued occupancy at the proposed market rental rate would be \$7,264,096 per year.

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
DALLAS, TX**

Prospectus Number: PTX-01-DA15
Congressional District: 30

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on September 29, 2014

Recommended: _____



Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____



Administrator, General Services Administration

PTX-01-DA15
Dallas, TX

Housing Plan
Environmental Protection Agency

April 2014

Locations	CURRENT			PROPOSED		
	Office	Personnel	Usable Square Feet (USF) ¹	Office	Personnel	Usable Square Feet (USF)
1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, TX	1,058	1,058	239,130	1,058	1,058	239,130
Proposed Lease	1,058	1,058	207,726	1,058	1,058	1810
Total	1,058	1,058	207,726	1,058	1,058	1810
Office Utilization Rate (UR) ²						
Rate	Current	Proposed				
	153	102				
UR=average amount of office space per person						
Current UR excludes 48,380 usf of office support space						
Proposed UR excludes 30,312 usf of office support space						
Overall UR ³						
Rate	Current	Proposed				
	226	185				
R/U Factor ⁴						
Current	Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF			
	239,130	1.08	239,432			
Proposed	198,739	1.15	229,000			

NOTES:

¹USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.

²Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress and agencies with less than 10 people

³USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel.

⁴R/U Factor = Max RSF divided by total USF

Secured records	USF
Conference	26,722
ADP	8,626
Mail/copy	5,670
Fitness	5,429
Food Service	4,222
Food Service	3,238
Secured office	3,106
Library	1,086
Health unit	724
Secured storage	301
Total	59,144

There was no objection.

PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE RULES

RULES OF THE HOUSE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR THE 114TH CONGRESS

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(2) of rule XI, the rules of procedure for the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for the 114th Congress are transmitted herewith. They were adopted on January 28, 2015 by voice vote.

1. MEETING DAY

Regular Meeting Day for the Full Committee. The regular meeting day of the Committee for the transaction of Committee business shall be the first Thursday of each month, unless otherwise directed by the Chair.

2. NOTICE FOR MEETINGS

(a) Generally. In the case of any meeting of the Committee, the Chief Clerk of the Committee shall provide reasonable notice to every member of the Committee. Such notice shall provide the time, place, and subject matter of the meeting, and shall be made consistent with the provisions of clause 2(g)(3) of House rule XI.

(b) Hearings. Except as provided in subsection (d), a Committee hearing may not commence earlier than one week after such notice.

(c) Business Meetings. Except as provided in subsection (d), a Committee business meeting may not commence earlier than the third day on which Members have notice thereof.

(d) Exception. A hearing or business meeting may begin sooner than otherwise specified in either of the following circumstances (in which case the Chair shall provide the notice at the earliest possible time):

(1) the Chair, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, determines there is good cause; or

(2) the Committee so determines by majority vote in the presence of the number of members required under the rules of the Committee for the transaction of business.

(e) Definition. For purposes of this rule, "notice" means:

(1) Written notification; or

(2) Notification delivered by facsimile transmission, regular mail, or electronic mail.

3. PREPARATIONS FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(a) Generally. Designated Committee Staff, as directed by the Chair, shall brief members of the Committee at a time sufficiently prior to any Committee meeting in order to:

(1) Assist Committee members in preparation for such meeting; and

(2) Determine which matters members wish considered during any meeting.

(b) Briefing Materials.

(1) Such a briefing shall, at the request of a member, include a list of all pertinent papers and such other materials that have been obtained by the Committee that bear on matters to be considered at the meeting; and

(2) The Staff Director shall also recommend to the Chair any testimony, papers, or other materials to be presented to the Committee at the meeting of the Committee.

4. OPEN MEETINGS

(a) Generally. Pursuant to House Rule XI, but subject to the limitations of subsections (b) and (c), Committee meetings held for the

transaction of business and Committee hearings shall be open to the public.

(b) Meetings. Any meeting or portion thereof for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, or any hearing or portion thereof shall be closed to the public if the Committee determines by record vote in open session, with a majority of the Committee present, that disclosure of the matters to be discussed may:

(1) Endanger national security;

(2) Compromise sensitive law enforcement information;

(3) Tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person; or

(4) Otherwise violate any law or Rule of the House.

(c) Hearings. The Committee may vote to close a Committee hearing pursuant to clause 11(d)(2) of House Rule X, regardless of whether a majority is present, so long as at least two members of the Committee are present, one of whom is a member of the Minority and votes upon the motion.

(d) Briefings. Committee briefings shall be closed to the public.

5. QUORUM

(a) Hearings. For purposes of taking testimony, or receiving evidence, a quorum shall consist of two Committee members, at least one of whom is a member of the Majority.

(b) Reporting Measures and Recommendations. For purposes of reporting a measure or recommendation, a quorum shall consist of a majority of the Committee's members.

(c) Other Committee Proceedings. For purposes of the transaction of all other Committee business, other than the consideration of a motion to close a hearing as described in rule 4(c), a quorum shall consist of one-third of the Committee's members.

6. PROCEDURES FOR AMENDMENTS AND VOTES

(a) Amendments. When a bill or resolution is being considered by the Committee, members shall provide the Chief Clerk in a timely manner with a sufficient number of written copies of any amendment offered, so as to enable each member present to receive a copy thereof prior to taking action. A point of order may be made against any amendment not reduced to writing. A copy of each such amendment shall be maintained in the public records of the Committee.

(b) Reporting Record Votes. Whenever the Committee reports any measure or matter by record vote, the report of the Committee upon such measure or matter shall include a tabulation of the votes cast in favor of, and the votes cast in opposition to, such measure or matter.

(c) Postponement of Further Proceedings. In accordance with clause 2(h) of House Rule XI, the Chair is authorized to postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving a measure or matter or adopting an amendment. The Chair may resume proceedings on a postponed request at any time after reasonable notice. When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

(d) Availability of Record Votes on Committee Website. In addition to any other requirement of the Rules of the House, the Chair shall make the record votes on any measure or matter on which a record vote is taken, other than a motion to close a Committee hearing, briefing, or meeting, available on the Committee's website not later than 2 business days after such vote is taken.

Such record shall include an unclassified description of the amendment, motion, order, or other proposition, the name of each member voting in favor of, and each member voting in opposition to, such amendment, motion, order, or proposition, and the names of those members of the Committee present but not voting.

7. SUBCOMMITTEES

(a) Generally.

(1) Creation of subcommittees shall be by majority vote of the Committee.

(2) Subcommittees shall deal with such legislation and oversight of programs and policies as the Committee may direct.

(3) Subcommittees shall be governed by these rules.

(4) For purposes of these rules, any reference herein to the "Committee" shall be interpreted to include subcommittees, unless otherwise specifically provided.

(b) Establishment of Subcommittees. The Committee establishes the following subcommittees:

(1) Subcommittee on the Central Intelligence Agency;

(2) Subcommittee on the National Security Agency and Cybersecurity

(3) Subcommittee on Emerging Threats; and

(4) Subcommittee on Department of Defense Intelligence and Overhead Architecture.

(c) Subcommittee Membership.

(1) Generally. Each member of the Committee may be assigned to at least one of the subcommittees.

(2) *Ex Officio* Membership. In the event that the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the full Committee do not choose to sit as regular voting members of one or more of the subcommittees, each is authorized to sit as an *ex officio* member of the subcommittees and participate in the work of the subcommittees. When sitting *ex officio*, however, they:

(A) Shall not have a vote in the subcommittee; and

(B) Shall not be counted for purposes of determining a quorum.

(d) Regular Meeting Day for Subcommittees. There is no regular meeting day for subcommittees.

8. PROCEDURES FOR TAKING TESTIMONY OR RECEIVING EVIDENCE

(a) Notice. Adequate notice shall be given to all witnesses appearing before the Committee.

(b) Oath or Affirmation. The Chair may require testimony of witnesses to be given under oath or affirmation.

(c) Administration of Oath or Affirmation. Upon the determination that a witness shall testify under oath or affirmation, any member of the Committee designated by the Chair may administer the oath or affirmation.

(d) Questioning of Witnesses.

(1) Generally. Questioning of witnesses before the Committee shall be conducted by members of the Committee.

(2) Exceptions.

(A) The Chair, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, may determine that Committee Staff will be authorized to question witnesses at a hearing in accordance with clause (2)(j) of House Rule XI.

(B) The Chair and Ranking Minority Member are each authorized to designate Committee Staff to conduct such questioning.

(e) Counsel for the Witness.

(1) Generally. Witnesses before the Committee may be accompanied by counsel, subject to the requirements of paragraph (2).

(2) Counsel Clearances Required. In the event that a meeting of the Committee has been closed because the subject to be discussed deals with classified information, counsel accompanying a witness before the Committee must possess the requisite security clearance and provide proof of such clearance to the Committee at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at which the counsel intends to be present.

(3) Failure to Obtain Counsel. Any witness who is unable to obtain counsel should notify the Committee. If such notification occurs at least 24 hours prior to the witness' appearance before the Committee, the Committee shall then endeavor to obtain voluntary counsel for the witness. Failure to obtain counsel, however, will not excuse the witness from appearing and testifying.

(4) Conduct of Counsel for Witnesses. Counsel for witnesses appearing before the Committee shall conduct themselves ethically and professionally at all times in their dealings with the Committee.

(A) A majority of members of the Committee may, should circumstances warrant, find that counsel for a witness before the Committee failed to conduct himself or herself in an ethical or professional manner.

(B) Upon such finding, counsel may be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

(5) Temporary Removal of Counsel. The Chair may remove counsel during any proceeding before the Committee for failure to act in an ethical and professional manner.

(6) Committee Reversal. A majority of the members of the Committee may vote to overturn the decision of the Chair to remove counsel for a witness.

(7) Role of Counsel for Witness.

(A) Counsel for a witness:

(i) Shall not be allowed to examine witnesses before the Committee, either directly or through cross-examination; but

(ii) May submit questions in writing to the Committee that counsel wishes propounded to a witness; or

(iii) May suggest, in writing to the Committee, the presentation of other evidence or the calling of other witnesses.

(B) The Committee may make such use of any such questions, or suggestions, as the Committee deems appropriate.

(f) Statements by Witnesses.

(1) Generally. A witness may make a statement, which shall be brief and relevant, at the beginning and at the conclusion of the witness' testimony.

(2) Length. Each such statement shall not exceed five minutes in length, unless otherwise determined by the Chair.

(3) Submission to the Committee. Any witness desiring to submit a written statement for the record of the proceeding shall submit a copy of the statement to the Chief Clerk of the Committee.

(A) Such statements shall ordinarily be submitted no less than 48 hours in advance of the witness' appearance before the Committee and shall be submitted in written and electronic format.

(B) In the event that the hearing was called with less than 24 hours notice, written statements should be submitted as soon as practicable prior to the hearing.

(g) Objections and Ruling.

(1) Generally. Any objection raised by a witness, or counsel for the witness, shall be ruled upon by the Chair, and such ruling shall be the ruling of the Committee.

(2) Committee Action. A ruling by the Chair may be overturned upon a majority vote of the Committee.

(h) Transcripts.

(1) Transcript Required. A transcript shall be made of the testimony of each witness appearing before the Committee during any hearing of the Committee.

(2) Opportunity to Inspect. Any witness testifying before the Committee shall be given a reasonable opportunity to inspect the transcript of the hearing, and may be accompanied by counsel to determine whether such testimony was correctly transcribed. Such counsel:

(A) May review the transcript only if he or she has the appropriate security clearances necessary to review any classified aspect of the transcript; and

(B) Should, to the extent possible, be the same counsel that was present for such classified testimony.

(3) Corrections.

(A) Pursuant to Rule XI of the House Rules, any corrections the witness desires to make in a transcript shall be limited to technical, grammatical, and typographical corrections.

(B) Corrections may not be made to change the substance of the testimony.

(C) Such corrections shall be submitted in writing to the Committee within 7 days after the transcript is made available to the witnesses.

(D) Any questions arising with respect to such corrections shall be decided by the Chair.

(4) Copy for the Witness. At the request of the witness, any portion of the witness' testimony given in executive session shall be made available to that witness if that testimony is subsequently quoted or intended to be made part of a public record. Such testimony shall be made available to the witness at the witness' expense.

(i) Requests to Testify.

(1) Generally. The Committee will consider requests to testify on any matter or measure pending before the Committee.

(2) Recommendations for Additional Evidence. Any person who believes that testimony, other evidence, or commentary, presented at a public hearing may tend to affect adversely that person's reputation may submit to the Committee, in writing:

(A) A request to appear personally before the Committee;

(B) A sworn statement of facts relevant to the testimony, evidence, or commentary; or

(C) Proposed questions for the cross-examination of other witnesses.

(3) Committee Discretion. The Committee may take those actions it deems appropriate with respect to such requests.

(j) Contempt Procedures. Citations for contempt of Congress shall be forwarded to the House only if:

(1) Reasonable notice is provided to all members of the Committee of a meeting to be held to consider any such contempt recommendations;

(2) The Committee has met and considered the contempt allegations;

(3) The subject of the allegations was afforded an opportunity to state either in writing or in person, why he or she should not be held in contempt; and

(4) The Committee agreed by majority vote to forward the citation recommendations to the House.

(k) Release of Name of Witness.

(1) Generally. At the request of a witness scheduled to be heard by the Committee, the name of that witness shall not be released publicly prior to, or after, the witness' appearance before the Committee.

(2) Exceptions. Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Chair may authorize the release to

the public of the name of any witness scheduled to appear before the Committee.

9. INVESTIGATIONS

(a) Commencing Investigations. The Committee shall conduct investigations only if approved by the Chair, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member.

(b) Conducting Investigations. An authorized investigation may be conducted by members of the Committee or Committee Staff designated by the Chair, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, to undertake any such investigation.

10. SUBPOENAS

(a) Generally. All subpoenas shall be authorized by the Chair of the full Committee, upon consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, or by vote of the full Committee.

(b) Subpoena Contents. Any subpoena authorized by the Chair of the full Committee or by the full Committee may compel:

(1) The attendance of witnesses and testimony before the Committee; or

(2) The production of memoranda, documents, records, or any other tangible item.

(c) Signing of Subpoena. A subpoena authorized by the Chair of the full Committee or by the full Committee may be signed by the Chair or by any member of the Committee designated to do so by the full Committee.

(d) Subpoena Service. A subpoena authorized by the Chair of the full Committee, or by the full Committee, may be served by any person designated to do so by the Chair.

(e) Other Requirements. Each subpoena shall have attached thereto a copy of these rules.

11. COMMITTEE STAFF

(a) Definition. For the purpose of these rules, "Committee Staff" or "Staff of the Committee" means:

(1) Employees of the Committee;

(2) Consultants to the Committee;

(3) Employees of other Government agencies detailed to the Committee; or

(4) Any other person engaged by contract, or otherwise, to perform services for, or at the request of, the Committee.

(b) Appointment of Committee Staff and Security Requirements.

(1) Chair's Authority. Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Committee Staff shall be appointed, and may be removed, by the Chair and shall work under the general supervision and direction of the Chair.

(2) Staff Assistance to Minority Membership. Except as provided in paragraphs (3) and (4), and except as otherwise provided by Committee Rules, the Committee Staff provided to the Minority Party members of the Committee shall be appointed, and may be removed, by the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, and shall work under the general supervision and direction of such member.

(3) Security Clearance Required. All offers of employment for prospective Committee Staff positions shall be contingent upon:

(A) The results of a background investigation; and

(B) A determination by the Chair that requirements for the appropriate security clearances have been met.

(4) Security Requirements. Notwithstanding paragraph (2), the Chair shall supervise and direct the Committee Staff with respect to the security and nondisclosure of classified information. Committee Staff shall comply with requirements necessary to ensure the security and nondisclosure of classified information as determined by the

Chair in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member.

12. LIMIT ON DISCUSSION OF CLASSIFIED WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

(a) Prohibition.

(1) Generally. Except as otherwise provided by these rules and the Rules of the House of Representatives, members of the Committee and Committee Staff shall not at any time, either during that person's tenure as a member of the Committee or as Committee Staff, or anytime thereafter, discuss or disclose, or cause to be discussed or disclosed:

(A) The classified substance of the work of the Committee;

(B) Any information received by the Committee in executive session;

(C) Any classified information received by the Committee from any source; or

(D) The substance of any hearing that was closed to the public pursuant to these rules or the Rules of the House.

(2) Non-Disclosure in Proceedings.

(A) Members of the Committee and the Committee Staff shall not discuss either the substance or procedure of the work of the Committee with any person not a member of the Committee or the Committee Staff in connection with any proceeding, judicial or otherwise, either during the person's tenure as a member of the Committee, or of the Committee Staff, or at any time thereafter, except as directed by the Committee in accordance with the Rules of the House and these rules.

(B) In the event of the termination of the Committee, members and Committee Staff shall be governed in these matters in a manner determined by the House concerning discussions of the classified work of the Committee.

(3) Exceptions.

(A) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a)(1), members of the Committee and the Committee Staff may discuss and disclose those matters described in subsection (a)(1) with:

(i) Members and staff of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence designated by the chair of that committee;

(ii) The chairmen and ranking minority members of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and staff of those committees designated by the chairmen of those committees; and,

(iii) The chair and ranking minority member of the Subcommittee on Defense of the House Committee on Appropriations and staff of that subcommittee as designated by the chair of that subcommittee, or Members of that subcommittee designated by the Chair pursuant to clause (g)(1) of Committee Rule 14.

(B) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a)(1), members of the Committee and the Committee Staff may discuss and disclose only that budget-related information necessary to facilitate the enactment of the annual defense authorization bill with the chairmen and ranking minority members of the House and Senate Committees on Armed Services and the staff of those committees as designated by the chairmen of those committees.

(C) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a)(1), members of the Committee and the Committee Staff may discuss with and disclose to the chair and ranking minority member of a subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee with jurisdiction over an agency or program within the National Intelligence Program (NIP), and staff of that subcommittee as designated by the chair of that subcommittee, only that bud-

get-related information necessary to facilitate the enactment of an appropriations bill within which is included an appropriation for an agency or program within the NIP.

(D) The Chair may, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, upon the written request to the Chair from the Inspector General of an element of the Intelligence Community, grant access to Committee transcripts or documents that are relevant to an investigation of an allegation of possible false testimony or other inappropriate conduct before the Committee, or that are otherwise relevant to the Inspector General's investigation.

(E) Upon the written request of the head of an Intelligence Community element, the Chair may, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, make available Committee briefing or hearing transcripts to that element for review by that element if a representative of that element testified, presented information to the Committee, or was present at the briefing or hearing the transcript of which is requested for review.

(F) Members and Committee Staff may discuss and disclose such matters as otherwise directed by the Committee.

(4) Records of Closed Proceedings. Any records or notes taken by any person memorializing material otherwise prohibited from disclosure by members of the Committee and Committee Staff under these rules, including information received in executive session and the substance of any hearing or briefing that was closed to the public, shall remain Committee material subject to these rules and may not be publicly discussed, disclosed, or caused to be publicly discussed or disclosed, unless authorized by the Committee consistent with these rules.

(b) Non-Disclosure Agreement.

(1) Generally. All Committee Staff must, before joining the Committee Staff agree in writing, as a condition of employment, not to divulge or cause to be divulged any classified information which comes into such person's possession while a member of the Committee Staff, to any person not a member of the Committee or the Committee Staff, except as authorized by the Committee in accordance with the Rules of the House and these Rules.

(2) Other Requirements. In the event of the termination of the Committee, members and Committee Staff must follow any determination by the House of Representatives with respect to the protection of classified information received while a member of the Committee or as Committee Staff.

(3) Requests for Testimony of Staff.

(A) All Committee Staff must, as a condition of employment, agree in writing to notify the Committee immediately of any request for testimony received while a member of the Committee Staff, or at any time thereafter, concerning any classified information received by such person while a member of the Committee Staff.

(B) Committee Staff shall not disclose, in response to any such request for testimony, any such classified information, except as authorized by the Committee in accordance with the Rules of the House and these rules.

(C) In the event of the termination of the Committee, Committee Staff will be subject to any determination made by the House of Representatives with respect to any requests for testimony involving classified information received while a member of the Committee Staff

13. CLASSIFIED MATERIAL

(a) Receipt of Classified Information.

(1) Generally. In the case of any information that has been classified under estab-

lished security procedures and submitted to the Committee by any source, the Committee shall receive such classified information as executive session material.

(2) Staff Receipt of Classified Materials. For purposes of receiving classified information, the Committee Staff is authorized to accept information on behalf of the Committee.

(b) Non-Disclosure of Classified Information. Any classified information received by the Committee, from any source, shall not be disclosed to any person not a member of the Committee or the Committee Staff, or otherwise released, except as authorized by the Committee in accordance with the Rules of the House and these rules.

(c) Exception for Non-Exclusive Materials.

(1) Non-Exclusive Materials. Any materials provided to the Committee by the executive branch, if provided in whole or in part for the purpose of review by members who are not members of the Committee, shall be received or held by the Committee on a non-exclusive basis. Classified information provided to the Committee shall be considered to have been provided on an exclusive basis unless the executive branch provides a specific, written statement to the contrary.

(2) Access for Non-Committee Members. In the case of materials received on a non-exclusive basis, the Chair, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, may grant non-Committee members access to such materials in accordance with the requirements of Rule 14(f)(4), notwithstanding paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of Rule 14.

14. PROCEDURES RELATED TO HANDLING OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

(a) Security Measures.

(1) Strict Security. The Committee's offices shall operate under strict security procedures administered by the Director of Security and Registry of the Committee under the direct supervision of the Staff Director.

(2) U.S. Capitol Police Presence Required. At least one U.S. Capitol Police officer shall be on duty at all times outside the entrance to Committee offices to control entry of all persons to such offices.

(3) Identification Required. Before entering the Committee's offices all persons shall identify themselves to the U.S. Capitol Police officer described in paragraph (2) and to a member of the Committee or Committee Staff.

(4) Maintenance of Classified Materials. Classified documents shall be segregated and maintained in approved security storage locations.

(5) Examination of Classified Materials. Classified documents in the Committee's possession shall be examined in an appropriately secure manner.

(6) Prohibition on Removal of Classified Materials. Removal of any classified document from the Committee's offices is strictly prohibited, except as provided by these rules.

(7) Exception. Notwithstanding the prohibition set forth in paragraph (6), a classified document, or copy thereof, may be removed from the Committee's offices in furtherance of official Committee business. Appropriate security procedures shall govern the handling of any classified documents removed from the Committee's offices.

(b) Access to Classified Information by Members. All members of the Committee shall at all times have access to all classified papers and other material received by the Committee from any source.

(c) Need-to-know.

(1) Generally. Committee Staff shall have access to any classified information provided

to the Committee on a strict "need-to-know" basis, as determined by the Committee, and under the Committee's direction by the Staff Director.

(2) **Appropriate Clearances Required.** Committee Staff must have the appropriate clearances prior to any access to compartmented information.

(d) **Oath.**

(1) **Requirement.** Before any member of the Committee, or the Committee Staff, shall have access to classified information, the following oath shall be executed:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will not disclose or cause to be disclosed any classified information received in the course of my service on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, except when authorized to do so by the Committee or the House of Representatives."

(2) **Copy.** A copy of such executed oath shall be retained in the files of the Committee.

(e) **Registry.**

(1) **Generally.** The Committee shall maintain a registry that:

(A) Provides a brief description of the content of all classified documents provided to the Committee by the executive branch that remain in the possession of the Committee; and

(B) Lists by number all such documents.

(2) **Designation by the Staff Director.** The Staff Director shall designate a member of the Committee Staff to be responsible for the organization and daily maintenance of such registry.

(3) **Availability.** Such registry shall be available to all members of the Committee and Committee Staff.

(f) **Requests by Members of Other Committees.** Pursuant to the Rules of the House, members who are not members of the Committee may be granted access to such classified transcripts, records, data, charts, or files of the Committee, and be admitted on a non-participatory basis to classified hearings of the Committee involving discussions of classified material in the following manner:

(1) **Written Notification Required.** Members who desire to examine classified materials in the possession of the Committee, or to attend Committee hearings or briefings on a non-participatory basis, must notify the Chief Clerk of the Committee in writing. Such notification shall state with specificity the justification for the request and the need for access.

(2) **Committee Consideration.** The Committee shall consider each such request by non-Committee members at the earliest practicable opportunity. The Committee shall determine, by record vote, what action it deems appropriate in light of all of the circumstances of each request. In its determination, the Committee shall consider:

(A) The sensitivity to the national defense or the confidential conduct of the foreign relations of the United States of the information sought;

(B) The likelihood of its being directly or indirectly disclosed;

(C) The jurisdictional interest of the member making the request; and

(D) Such other concerns, constitutional or otherwise, as may affect the public interest of the United States.

(3) **Committee Action.** After consideration of the member's request, the Committee may take any action it deems appropriate under the circumstances, including but not limited to:

(A) Approving the request, in whole or part;

(B) Denying the request;

(C) Providing the requested information or material in a different form than that sought by the member; or

(D) Making the requested information or material available to all members of the House.

(4) **Chair and Ranking Member Consideration of Requests for Previously Granted Materials:** If the Committee has granted a non-Committee member access to classified materials, the Chair and Ranking Member may jointly determine, in writing, what action they deem appropriate for subsequent requests for the same materials in the same Congress.

(A) In their determination, the Chair and Ranking Member shall consider the factors described in paragraph (2) and may take any action they deem appropriate, including, but not limited to, the actions described in paragraph (3) and referring the request to the Committee for consideration.

(B) If the Chair and Ranking Member are unable to reach a joint determination or if they refer a request to the Committee as described in subparagraph (A), the Committee shall consider the request at the earliest practicable opportunity in the manner described in paragraphs (2) and (3).

(5) **Requirements for Access by Non-Committee Members.** Prior to a non-Committee member being given access to classified information pursuant to this subsection, the requesting member shall:

(A) Provide the Committee a copy of the oath executed by such member pursuant to House Rule XXIII, clause 13; and

(B) Agree in writing not to divulge any classified information provided to the member, pursuant to this subsection, to any person not a member of the Committee or the Committee Staff, except as otherwise authorized by the Committee in accordance with the Rules of the House and these rules.

(6) **Consultation Authorized.** When considering a member's request, the Committee may consult the Director of National Intelligence and such other officials it considers necessary.

(7) **Finality of Committee Decision.**

(A) Should the member making such a request disagree with the determination by the Committee or the determination by the Chair and Ranking Member with respect to that request or any part thereof, that member must notify the Committee in writing of such disagreement.

(B) The Committee shall subsequently consider the matter and decide, by record vote, what further action or recommendation, if any, the Committee will take.

(g) **Admission of Designated Members of the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations.** Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (f), the Chair may admit no more than three designated Members of the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations to classified hearings and briefings of the Committee involving discussions of classified material. Such Members may also be granted access to classified transcripts, records, data, charts or files of the Committee incident to such attendance.

(1) **Designation.** The Chair may designate three Members of the Subcommittee to be eligible for admission in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, of whom not more than two may be from the same political party. Such designation shall be effective for the entire Congress.

(2) **Admission.** The Chair may determine whether to admit designated Members at

each hearing or briefing of the Committee involving discussions of classified material. If the Chair admits any of the designated Members to a particular hearing or briefing, all three of the designated Members shall be admitted to that hearing or briefing. Designated Members shall not be counted for quorum purposes and shall not have a vote in any meeting.

(3) **Requirements for Access.** Prior to being given access to classified information pursuant to this subsection, a designated Member shall:

(A) Provide the Committee a copy of the oath executed by such Member pursuant to House Rule XXIII, clause 13; and

(B) Agree in writing not to divulge any classified information provided to the Member pursuant to this subsection to any person not a Member of the Committee or a designated Member or authorized Staff of the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations, except as otherwise authorized by the Committee in accordance with the Rules of the House and these rules.

(h) **Admission of the Chair and Ranking Member of the Committee on Armed Services.** Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (f), the Chair may admit the Chair and Ranking Member of the Committee on Armed Services to classified hearings and briefings of the Committee involving discussions of budget-related classified information necessary to facilitate the enactment of the annual defense authorization bill. Such members may also be granted access to classified transcripts, records, data, charts or files of the Committee incident to such attendance.

(1) **Admission.** The Chair may determine whether to admit the Chair and Ranking Member of the Committee on Armed Services at each hearing or briefing of the Committee. If the Chair admits either the Chair or Ranking Member of the Committee on Armed Services, both the Chair and Ranking Member shall be admitted to that hearing or briefing. The Chair and Ranking Member of the Committee on Armed Services shall not be counted for quorum purposes and shall not have a vote in any meeting.

(2) **Requirements for Access.** Prior to being given access to classified information pursuant to this subsection, the Chair and Ranking Member of the Committee on Armed Services shall:

(A) Provide the Committee a copy of the oath executed by such member pursuant to House Rule XXIII, clause 13; and

(B) Agree in writing not to divulge any classified or executive session information provided to the member pursuant to this subsection to any person not a member of the Committee or authorized staff of the Committee on Armed Services except as otherwise authorized by the Committee in accordance with the Rules of the House and these rules.

(i) **Advising the House or Other Committees.** Pursuant to Section 501 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 413), and to the Rules of the House, the Committee shall call to the attention of the House, or to any other appropriate committee of the House, those matters requiring the attention of the House, or such other committee, on the basis of the following provisions:

(1) **By Request of Committee Member.** At the request of any member of the Committee to call to the attention of the House, or any other committee, executive session material in the Committee's possession, the Committee shall meet at the earliest practicable opportunity to consider that request.

(2) Committee Consideration of Request. The Committee shall consider the following factors, among any others it deems appropriate:

(A) The effect of the matter in question on the national defense or the foreign relations of the United States;

(B) Whether the matter in question involves sensitive intelligence sources and methods;

(C) Whether the matter in question otherwise raises questions affecting the national interest; and

(D) Whether the matter in question affects matters within the jurisdiction of another Committee of the House.

(3) Views of Other Committees. In examining such factors, the Committee may seek the opinion of members of the Committee appointed from standing committees of the House with jurisdiction over the matter in question, or submissions from such other committees.

(4) Other Advice. The Committee may, during its deliberations on such requests, seek the advice of any executive branch official.

(j) Reasonable Opportunity to Examine Materials. Before the Committee makes any decision regarding any request for access to any classified information in its possession, or a proposal to bring any matter to the attention of the House or another committee, members of the Committee shall have a reasonable opportunity to examine all pertinent testimony, documents, or other materials in the Committee's possession that may inform their decision on the question.

(k) Notification to the House. The Committee may bring a matter to the attention of the House when, after consideration of the factors set forth in this rule, it considers the matter in question so grave that it requires the attention of all members of the House, and time is of the essence, or for any reason the Committee finds compelling.

(1) Method of Disclosure to the House.

(1) Should the Committee decide by record vote that a matter requires the attention of the House as described in subsection (i), it shall make arrangements to notify the House promptly.

(2) In such cases, the Committee shall consider whether:

(A) To request an immediate secret session of the House (with time equally divided between the Majority and the Minority); or

(B) To publicly disclose the matter in question pursuant to clause 11(g) of House Rule X.

(m) Requirement to Protect Sources and Methods. In bringing a matter to the attention of the House, or another committee, the Committee, with due regard for the protection of intelligence sources and methods, shall take all necessary steps to safeguard materials or information relating to the matter in question.

(n) Availability of Information to Other Committees. The Committee, having determined that a matter shall be brought to the attention of another committee, shall ensure that such matter, including all classified information related to that matter, is promptly made available to the chair and ranking minority member of such other committee.

(o) Provision of Materials. The Director of Security and Registry for the Committee shall provide a copy of these rules, and the applicable portions of the Rules of the House of Representatives governing the handling of classified information, along with those materials determined by the Committee to be made available to such other committee of the House or non-Committee member.

(p) Ensuring Clearances and Secure Storage. The Director of Security and Registry shall ensure that such other committee or non-Committee member receiving such classified materials may properly store classified materials in a manner consistent with all governing rules, regulations, policies, procedures, and statutes.

(q) Log. The Director of Security and Registry for the Committee shall maintain a written record identifying the particular classified document or material provided to such other committee or non-Committee member, the reasons agreed upon by the Committee for approving such transmission, and the name of the committee or non-Committee member receiving such document or material.

(r) Miscellaneous Requirements.

(1) Staff Director's Additional Authority. The Staff Director is further empowered to provide for such additional measures, which he or she deems necessary, to protect such classified information authorized by the Committee to be provided to such other committee or non-Committee member.

(2) Notice to Originating Agency. In the event that the Committee authorizes the disclosure of classified information provided to the Committee by an agency of the executive branch to a non-Committee member or to another committee, the Chair may notify the providing agency of the Committee's action prior to the transmission of such classified information.

15. LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

(a) Generally. The Chief Clerk, under the direction of the Staff Director, shall maintain a printed calendar that lists:

(1) The legislative measures introduced and referred to the Committee;

(2) The status of such measures; and

(3) Such other matters that the Committee may require.

(b) Revisions to the Calendar. The calendar shall be revised from time to time to show pertinent changes.

(c) Availability. A copy of each such revision shall be furnished to each member, upon request.

(d) Consultation with Appropriate Government Entities. Unless otherwise directed by the Committee, legislative measures referred to the Committee may be referred by the Chief Clerk to the appropriate department or agency of the Government for reports thereon.

16. COMMITTEE WEBSITE

The Chair shall maintain an official Committee web site for the purpose of furthering the Committee's legislative and oversight responsibilities, including communicating information about the Committee's activities to Committee members and other members of the House.

17. MOTIONS TO GO TO CONFERENCE

In accordance with clause 2(a) of House Rule XI, the Chair is authorized and directed to offer a privileged motion to go to conference under clause 1 of House Rule XXII whenever the Chair considers it appropriate.

18. COMMITTEE TRAVEL

(a) Authority. The Chair may authorize members and Committee Staff to travel on Committee business.

(b) Requests.

(1) Member Requests. Members requesting authorization for such travel shall state the purpose and length of the trip, and shall submit such request directly to the Chair.

(2) Committee Staff Requests. Committee Staff requesting authorization for such travel

shall state the purpose and length of the trip, and shall submit such request through their supervisors to the Staff Director and the Chair.

(c) Notification to Members.

(1) Generally. Members shall be notified of all foreign travel of Committee Staff not accompanying a member.

(2) Content. All members are to be advised, prior to the commencement of such travel, of its length, nature, and purpose.

(d) Trip Reports.

(1) Generally. A full report of all issues discussed during any travel shall be submitted to the Chief Clerk of the Committee within a reasonable period of time following the completion of such trip.

(2) Availability of Reports. Such report shall be:

(A) Available for review by any member or appropriately cleared Committee Staff; and

(B) Considered executive session material for purposes of these rules.

(e) Limitations on Travel.

(1) Generally. The Chair is not authorized to permit travel on Committee business of Committee Staff who have not satisfied the requirements of subsection (d) of this rule.

(2) Exception. The Chair may authorize Committee Staff to travel on Committee business, notwithstanding the requirements of subsections (d) and (e) of this rule.

(A) At the specific request of a member of the Committee; or

(B) In the event there are circumstances beyond the control of the Committee Staff hindering compliance with such requirements.

(f) Definitions. For purposes of this rule the term "reasonable period of time" means:

(1) No later than 60 days after returning from a foreign trip; and

(2) No later than 30 days after returning from a domestic trip.

19. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

(a) Generally. The Committee shall immediately consider whether disciplinary action shall be taken in the case of any member of the Committee Staff alleged to have failed to conform to any rule of the House of Representatives or to these rules.

(b) Exception. In the event the House of Representatives is:

(1) In a recess period in excess of 3 days; or

(2) Has adjourned sine die; the Chair of the full Committee, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, may take such immediate disciplinary actions deemed necessary.

(c) Available Actions. Such disciplinary action may include immediate dismissal from the Committee Staff.

(d) Notice to Members. All members shall be notified as soon as practicable, either by facsimile transmission or regular mail, of any disciplinary action taken by the Chair pursuant to subsection (b).

(e) Reconsideration of Chair's Actions. A majority of the members of the full Committee may vote to overturn the decision of the Chair to take disciplinary action pursuant to subsection (b).

20. BROADCASTING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Whenever any hearing or meeting conducted by the Committee is open to the public, a majority of the Committee may permit that hearing or meeting to be covered, in whole or in part, by television broadcast, radio broadcast, and still photography, or by any of such methods of coverage, subject to the provisions and in accordance with the spirit of the purposes enumerated in the Rules of the House.

21. COMMITTEE RECORDS TRANSFERRED TO THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

(a) Generally. The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use in accordance with the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(b) Notice of Withholding. The Chair shall notify the Ranking Minority Member of any decision, pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the full Committee for a determination of the question of public availability on the written request of any member of the Committee.

22. CHANGES IN RULES

(a) Generally. These rules may be modified, amended, or repealed by vote of the full Committee.

(b) Notice of Proposed Changes. A notice, in writing, of the proposed change shall be given to each member at least 48 hours prior to any meeting at which action on the proposed rule change is to be taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, February 27, 2015, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

567. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on a transaction involving U.S. exports to Vietnam Airlines Corporation (Vietnam Airlines) of Hanoi, Vietnam, pursuant to Sec. 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

568. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on a transaction involving U.S. exports to Turk Hava Yollari, A.O. (Turkish Airlines) of Istanbul, Turkey, pursuant to Sec. 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

569. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Physical Security Reliability Standard [Docket No.: RM14-15-000; Order No.: 802] received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

570. A letter from the Director, Office of Management, Department of Energy, transmitting pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Activities Inventory Reform (FAIR) Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-270), the Department's FY 2013 Inherently Governmental Commercial Activities Inventory; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

571. A letter from the Director, Office of Management, Department of Energy, transmitting pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Activities Inventory Reform (FAIR) Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-270), the Department's FY 2012 Inherently Governmental

Commercial Activities Inventory; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

572. A letter from the Secretary/Treasurer, Resolution Funding Corporation, transmitting in accordance with the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990, the Corporation's Statement on the System of Internal Controls and the 2014 Audited Financial Statements; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

573. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region; Amendment 20B [Docket No.: 131211999-5045-02] (RIN: 0648-BD86) received February 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

574. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Less Than 60 Feet (18.3 Meters) Length Overall Using Hook-and-Line or Pot Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 131021878-4158-02] (RIN: 0648-XD749) received February 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

575. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary interim rule — Special Local Regulation; San Diego Crew Classic; Mission Bay, San Diego, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2014-1063] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received February 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

576. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Triathlon National Championships, Milwaukee Harbor, Milwaukee, Wisconsin [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0751] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

577. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulation; Bradenton Area Riverwalk Regatta; Manatee River, Bradenton, FL [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0905] (RIN: 1625-AA08), pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

578. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's interim rule — Moving Security Zone; Escorted Vessels; MM 90.0-106.0, Lower Mississippi River; New Orleans, LA [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0995] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received February 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

579. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — MARPOL Annex I Amendments [Docket No.: USCG-2010-0194] (RIN: 1625-AB57) received February 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

580. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Previously Eurocopter France) Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0049; Directorate Identifier 2014-SW-037-AD; Amendment 39-18096; AD 2015-02-27] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

581. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Corporation Turboprop and Turboshaft Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0961; Directorate Identifier 2011-NE-22-AD; Amendment 39-18090; AD 2015-02-22] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

582. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0173; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-069-AD; Amendment 39-18083; AD 2015-02-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

583. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0082; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-233-AD; Amendment 39-18092; AD 2015-02-23] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

584. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30997; Amdt. No.: 3625] received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

585. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30998; Amdt. No.: 3626] received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

586. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0344; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-034-AD; Amendment 39-18095; AD 2015-02-26] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

587. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc (RR) Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2007-28059; Directorate Identifier 2007-NE-13-AD; Amendment 39-

17526; AD 2013-15-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

588. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Corporation Turboprop and Turbofan Engines (Type Certificate previously held by Allison Engine Company) [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0462; Directorate Identifier 2014-NE-06; Amendment 39-18075; AD 2015-02-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

589. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Quest Aircraft Design, LLC Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0099; Directorate Identifier 2014-CE-039-AD; Amendment 39-18082; AD 2015-02-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

590. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Tariff of Tolls (RIN: 2135-AA37) received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

591. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater Viticultural Area [Docket No.: TTB-2014-0003; T.D. TTB-127; Ref: Notice No. 142] (RIN: 1513-AC05) received February 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. SHUSTER, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 749. A bill to reauthorize Federal support for passenger rail programs, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-30). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SESSIONS, Committee on Rules. House Resolution 129. Resolution providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 35) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-31). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CHABOT (for himself, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. SIMPSON, and Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina):

H.R. 1093. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to carry out a pilot program to work with municipalities that are seeking to de-

velop and implement integrated plans to meet their wastewater and stormwater obligations under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. WILLIAMS (for himself and Mr. BARTON):

H.R. 1094. A bill to authorize and request the President to award the Medal of Honor posthumously to Navy Seal Christopher Scott Kyle for acts of valor during Operation Iraqi Freedom; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. POLIS, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HONDA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. LEE, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. COHEN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. CLAY, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. TONKO, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. NORTON, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York):

H.R. 1095. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Defense to use only human-based methods for training members of the Armed Forces in the treatment of severe combat injuries; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BYRNE (for himself, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mrs. ROBY, and Mr. ADERHOLT):

H.R. 1096. A bill to amend the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to clarify the distance requirements regarding the eligibility of certain veterans to receive medical care and services from non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 1097. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to prohibit trading on material inside information; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ELLISON (for himself, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. LEE, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TONKO, and Ms. TSONGAS):

H.R. 1098. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to prohibit mandatory pre-dispute arbitration agreements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CRAWFORD (for himself, Mr. HILL, Mr. WESTERMAN, and Mr. WOMACK):

H.R. 1099. A bill to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to provide certain exemptions relating to the taking of migratory game birds; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LOEBACK, Mr. JONES, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. HIMES, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PALONE, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HECK of Washington, Ms. ESTY, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. HONDA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. FOSTER, Mr.

LUETKEMEYER, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. COLE, Mr. WITTMAN, Ms. MOORE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LAMALFA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. KILMER, Mr. LANCE, Mr. JOLLY, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. COOK, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. RUSH, Mr. FORBES, Mr. BEYER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. FARR, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. TITUS, Mr. HANNA, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. TAKAI, Mr. HURT of Virginia, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. KEATING, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. BORDALLO, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SIRES, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. POSEY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. BARR, and Mr. STIVERS):

H.R. 1100. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for amounts paid by a spouse of a member of the Armed Forces for a new State license or certification required by reason of a permanent change in the duty station of such member to another State; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GUTHRIE (for himself, Mr. HONDA, Mr. DENT, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H.R. 1101. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend the program for viral hepatitis surveillance, education, and testing in order to prevent deaths from chronic liver disease and liver cancer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. RUSH, Ms. BASS, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. LEE, Mr. CLAY, and Mr. CLEAVER):

H.R. 1102. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a penalty for assault or homicide committed by certain State or local law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. RUSH):

H.R. 1103. A bill to create jobs in the United States by increasing United States exports to Africa by at least 200 percent in real dollar value within 10 years, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Small Business, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROSKAM:

H.R. 1104. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a deduction from

the gift tax for gifts made to certain exempt organizations; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BRADY of Texas (for himself, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mrs. NOEM, and Mr. NUNES):

H.R. 1105. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. PITTINGER, Mr. MEADOWS, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, and Mr. ROUZER):

H.R. 1106. A bill to amend section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to provide that such section does not authorize the Federal Communications Commission to preempt the laws of certain States relating to the regulation of municipal broadband, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. BARTON, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. HARDY, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. SALMON, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. DENHAM, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Ms. SINEMA):

H.R. 1107. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to submit to Congress a report on the efforts of the Bureau of Reclamation to manage its infrastructure assets; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 1108. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt sports betting from the tax on authorized wagers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California:

H.R. 1109. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to increase the maximum amount of the lump-sum death benefit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself and Mr. SMITH of Texas):

H.R. 1110. A bill to provide effective criminal prosecutions for certain identity thefts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. LEE (for herself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 1111. A bill to establish a Department of Peacebuilding; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself, Mr. PITTS, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. MARINO):

H.R. 1112. A bill to promote access for United States officials, journalists, and other citizens to Tibetan areas of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BARR (for himself, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. DOLD, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. HILL, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr.

DUFFY, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. GUINTA, and Mr. RIBBLE):

H.R. 1113. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to provide a safe harbor from certain requirements related to qualified mortgages for residential mortgage loans held on an originating insured depository institution's portfolio, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ABRAHAM:

H.R. 1114. A bill to modify the definition of "antique firearm"; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. BEATTY (for herself and Mr. POE of Texas):

H.R. 1115. A bill to improve the response to missing children and victims of child sex trafficking; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself and Mr. BUTTERFIELD):

H.R. 1116. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide comprehensive audiology services to Medicare beneficiaries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida (for herself and Mr. HECK of Nevada):

H.R. 1117. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants for graduate medical education partnerships in States with a low ratio of medical residents relative to the general population; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 1118. A bill to include community partners and intermediaries in the planning and delivery of education and related programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. COMSTOCK (for herself, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. LIPINSKI):

H.R. 1119. A bill to improve the efficiency of Federal research and development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee (for himself, Mr. HANNA, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. PAULSEN, and Mr. MEADOWS):

H.R. 1120. A bill to enhance interstate commerce by creating a National Hiring Standard for Motor Carriers; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. EDWARDS:

H.R. 1121. A bill to encourage online workforce training; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself and Mr. KEATING):

H.R. 1122. A bill to prioritize the payment of pay and allowances to members of the Armed Forces and Federal law enforcement

officers in the event the debt ceiling is reached or there is a funding gap; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Armed Services, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. LEE, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. CARDENAS, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. TONKO, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. POLIS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. COHEN, Ms. MENG, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 1123. A bill to provide for punishments for immigration-related fraud, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas (for himself and Mr. CLEAVER):

H.R. 1124. A bill to establish a grant program providing for the acquisition, operation, and maintenance of body-worn cameras for law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HANNA (for himself and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 1125. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for tax preferred savings accounts for individuals under age 18, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KING of New York (for himself, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Ms. MOORE, Ms. ESTY, Mr. JONES, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. NUNES, and Mrs. COMSTOCK):

H.R. 1126. A bill to provide for free mailing privileges for personal correspondence and parcels sent to members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, or other designated hostile fire areas; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK:

H.R. 1127. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make certain grants to assist nursing homes for veterans located on tribal lands; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK:

H.R. 1128. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the information security of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK:

H.R. 1129. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish within the Department of Veterans Affairs an Office of Whistleblower and Patient Protection; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MARINO (for himself, Mr. LEWIS, and Mr. ROSKAM):

H.R. 1130. A bill to improve the understanding of, and promote access to treatment for, chronic kidney disease, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy

and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. McDERMOTT:

H.R. 1131. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. McNERNEY (for himself, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. PETERS, Mr. FARR, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Mr. LOWENTHAL):

H.R. 1132. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1048 West Robinhood Drive in Stockton, California, as the "W. Ronald Coale Memorial Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MILLER of Florida (for himself, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. MACARTHUR, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. ZELDIN):

H.R. 1133. A bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to exclude extensions of credit made to veterans from the definition of a member business loan; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MILLER of Florida:

H.R. 1134. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the submission of information by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to Congress; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. MILLER of Michigan (for herself, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. LATTI, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. UPTON, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. TROTT, Mr. NOLAN, and Mr. KILDEE):

H.R. 1135. A bill to provide an immediate measure to control the spread of aquatic nuisance species from the Mississippi River basin to the Great Lakes basin and to inform long-term measures to prevent the Interbasin transfer of aquatic nuisance species; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PEARCE (for himself, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. BABIN, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. CARTER of Texas):

H.R. 1136. A bill to amend title III of the Social Security Act to require States to implement a drug testing program for applicants for and recipients of unemployment compensation; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina:

H.R. 1137. A bill to provide for an 8.7 percent reduction in the annual rate of basic pay for certain employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and

Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 1138. A bill to establish certain wilderness areas in central Idaho and to authorize various land conveyances involving National Forest System land and Bureau of Land Management land in central Idaho, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Mr. RUSH, Ms. MOORE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. HONDA, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Ms. KAPTUR):

H.R. 1139. A bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to establish a consumer product safety standard for liquid detergent packets to protect children under the age of five from injury or illness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. HONDA, Mr. McNERNEY, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Ms. LEE):

H.R. 1140. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish a grant program to support the restoration of San Francisco Bay; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 1141. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to consider certain time spent by members of reserve components of the Armed Forces while receiving medical care from the Secretary of Defense as active duty for purposes of eligibility for Post-9/11 Educational Assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. TIBERI (for himself, Mr. NEAL, Mr. NUNES, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. KIND, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. REED, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. BOUSTANY):

H.R. 1142. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent and expand the temporary minimum credit rate for the low-income housing tax credit program; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TURNER:

H.R. 1143. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the credit for health insurance costs of certain Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation pension recipients; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TURNER:

H.R. 1144. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent discriminatory misconduct against taxpayers by Federal officers and employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. GIBSON):

H.R. 1145. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include biomass heating

appliances for tax credits available for energy-efficient building property and energy property; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky:

H.J. Res. 35. A joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Ms. EDWARDS (for herself, Ms.

BROWNLEY of California, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HIMES, Ms. LEE, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. WELCH):

H.J. Res. 36. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to clarify the authority of Congress and the States to regulate the expenditure of funds for political activity by corporations; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RIBBLE:

H.J. Res. 37. A joint resolution making continuing appropriations for the Transportation Security Administration for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. PAULSEN (for himself and Mr. KIND):

H. Con. Res. 19. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that tax-exempt fraternal benefit societies have historically and continue to provide critical benefits to Americans and United States communities; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. ADAMS (for herself, Mr. WALKER, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ,

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. HAHN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. LEWIS, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mr. ELLISON, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. COHEN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. NADLER, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. BEYER, Mr. CLAY, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CARNEY, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HONDA, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. KIND, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. HUDSON, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H. Res. 128. A resolution recognizing the significance of the Greensboro Four Sit In; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ introduced a bill (H.R. 1146) for the relief of Simeon Simeonov, Stela Simeonova, Stoyan Simeonov, and Vania Simeonova; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 1093.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3: "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes."

By Mr. WILLIAMS:

H.R. 1094.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 14
To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:

H.R. 1095.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 (Clauses 1, 14, and 18), which grants Congress the power to provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; to make rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces; and to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers.

By Mr. BYRNE:

H.R. 1096.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution:

The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 1097.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ELLISON:

H.R. 1098.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1.

By Mr. CRAWFORD:

H.R. 1099.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the enumerated powers listed in Article VI, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution as upheld by the Supreme Court in *Missouri v. Holland* 252 U.S. 416 (1920).

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 1100.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution states The Congress shall have

Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States. . .

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 1101.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:

H.R. 1102.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 1103.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. ROSKAM:

H.R. 1104.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, which states that "The Congress shall have Power To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. BRADY of Texas:

H.R. 1105.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, which gives Congress the authority "to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises . . ."

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

H.R. 1106.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to the necessary and proper clause of Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 1107.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This legislation is constitutionally appropriate pursuant to Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 (the Spending Clause). The Supreme Court, in *South Dakota v. Dole* (1987), reasoned that conditions and limitations on funds were constitutional and within the power of Congress under the Spending Clause.

Article 1 Section 8 Clause 3 (Commerce Clause) If the matter in question is not a purely local matter (intra-state) or if it has an impact on inter-state commerce, it falls within Congress' power to "regulate commerce among the several states."

Article 1 Section 8 Clause 18 (the Necessary and Proper Clause) which grants Congress the power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 1108.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California:

H.R. 1109.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

the Spending Clause in Article I, Section 8, of the Constitution.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ:

H.R. 1110.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of the Congress to provide for the general welfare of the United States, as enumerated in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, and to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution such power as enumerated in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Ms. LEE:

H.R. 1111.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. MCGOVERN:

H.R. 1112.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 1113.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: "The Congress shall have power . . . To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

By Mr. ABRAHAM:

H.R. 1114.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 1115.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 1116.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:

H.R. 1117.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 1118.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mrs. COMSTOCK:

H.R. 1119.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3:

The Congress shall have power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with Indian tribes.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee:

H.R. 1120.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. EDWARDS:

H.R. 1121.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 1.

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 1122.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 1123.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 1124.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. HANNA:

H.R. 1125.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KING of New York:

H.R. 1126.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 6

The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK:

H.R. 1127.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department thereof.

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK:

H.R. 1128.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department thereof.

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK:

H.R. 1129.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department thereof.

By Mr. MARINO:

H.R. 1130.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: "To Make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. McDERMOTT:

H.R. 1131.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 1132.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 7

By Mr. MILLER of Florida:

H.R. 1133.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1. Section 8.

By Mr. MILLER of Florida:

H.R. 1134.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. MILLER of Michigan:

H.R. 1135.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. PEARCE:

H.R. 1136.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina:

H.R. 1137.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 1138.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

"The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 (relating to providing for the general welfare of the United States) and clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article IV, section 3, clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States)."

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 1139.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 1140.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 1141.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. TIBERI:

H.R. 1142.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 7 and Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. TURNER:

H.R. 1143.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States

The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. TURNER:

H.R. 1144.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The 14th Amendment, Section 5; Article I, Section 8, Clauses 3 and 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. WELCH:

H.R. 1145.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GUTIERREZ:

H.R. 1146.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 and Amendment I, Clause 3 of the Constitution.

By Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky:

H.J. Res. 35.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . ." In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: "The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . ." Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Ms. EDWARDS:

H.J. Res. 36.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress; Provided that no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article; and that no State, without its Consent,

shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate.

By Mr. RIBBLE:

H.J. Res. 37.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law. . . ." In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: "The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States. . . ." Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 27: Mr. JORDAN.
H.R. 48: Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 91: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 109: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
H.R. 156: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H.R. 169: Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.
H.R. 216: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 235: Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. KILMER, Mr. JORDAN, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, and Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 270: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 280: Mr. ROTHFUS.
H.R. 284: Mr. ADERHOLT and Mr. REED.
H.R. 303: Mr. SIMPSON, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. FORTENBERRY, and Mr. BYRNE.
H.R. 313: Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 333: Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HECK of Washington, and Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 344: Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 358: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. PIERLUISI.
H.R. 379: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. HANNA, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, and Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 402: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 445: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 461: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
H.R. 473: Mr. ROTHFUS.
H.R. 508: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 539: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. FUDGE, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 540: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.
H.R. 546: Mr. SMITH of Missouri and Mr. DENHAM.
H.R. 551: Mr. HONDA, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. DEFazio, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 556: Mr. FARENTHOLD.
H.R. 559: Mr. NORCROSS.
H.R. 585: Mr. JONES.
H.R. 590: Miss RICE of New York.
H.R. 592: Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. REED.
H.R. 604: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.
H.R. 605: Mr. GRIFFITH.
H.R. 606: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 613: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 624: Mr. HULTGREN and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 631: Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. ESTY, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 654: Mr. HARPER.

H.R. 662: Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. TURNER, Mr. CARTER of Texas, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.

H.R. 663: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 681: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 685: Mr. DUFFY.

H.R. 699: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 700: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 706: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 717: Mr. VARGAS.

H.R. 721: Mr. BUCHSON, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. PITTINGER, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. JONES, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. YODER, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. REED, and Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 722: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 723: Mr. REICHERT.

H.R. 749: Mr. HANNA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BARLETTA, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, and Mr. CURBELO of Florida.

H.R. 757: Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 781: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 818: Mr. REED and Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 823: Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. KEATING, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 824: Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 846: Ms. TITUS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. SCHRADER, and Mr. VEASEY.

H.R. 855: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 863: Mr. VALADAO, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, and Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 868: Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

H.R. 893: Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. TONKO, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. HANNA, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HUNTER, Ms. DELAURIO, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. MARINO, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. GUTHRIE, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. LONG, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. DEUTCH, and Mr. ROONEY of Florida.

H.R. 915: Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 919: Mr. ASHFORD, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. FUDGE.

H.R. 921: Mr. HANNA.

H.R. 923: Mr. BABIN and Mr. WENSTRUP.

H.R. 932: Mr. DESAULNIER and Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 933: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 957: Mr. HILL.

H.R. 967: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 976: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 977: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 978: Ms. KUSTER, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 989: Mr. POE of Texas and Mr. BENISHEK.

H.R. 990: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 997: Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. JONES, and Mr. STEWART.

H.R. 1013: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 1021: Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 1024: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. COOPER, Mr. O'ROURKE, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. FORBES, Mr. KILMER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. HONDA, Mr. VELA, Mr. SARBANES, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 1029: Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 1030: Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 1031: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. RUSH, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. DOGETT, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. TITUS, Mr. COSTA, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. NEAL, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 1054: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. POSEY, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. PITTINGER.

H.R. 1063: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. MARCHANT.

H.J. Res. 22: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H. Con. Res. 14: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia and Mr. PAYNE.

H. Con. Res. 17: Mr. STIVERS, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. BLUM, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. NUNES, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. DUFFY, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. ZINKE, and Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.

H. Res. 24: Mr. HURT of Virginia.

H. Res. 28: Mr. DEFazio, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. KILMER, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H. Res. 50: Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. POLIS, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. CONNOLLY.

H. Res. 53: Ms. NORTON, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. CICILLINE.

H. Res. 54: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. GOODLATTE, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. TAKAI, Mr. KILMER, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.

H. Res. 102: Mr. RANGEL.

H. Res. 108: Mr. COLE.

H. Res. 115: Mr. VARGAS.

H. Res. 116: Mr. VARGAS.

H. Res. 117: Mr. BURGESS.

H. Res. 122: Mr. PASCRELL.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY Mr. ROGERS OF KENTUCKY

H.J. Res. 35, a resolution making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ANN WHITLEY FOR HER SERVICE TO THE CALIFORNIA REPUBLICAN PARTY

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ann Whitley for her 25 years of service as the linchpin of the California Republican Party and thank her for working so tirelessly to make it possible for California Republicans to paint their principles in bold colors.

Ann has devoted her life to the advancement of these principles. She has been a precinct captain, led volunteer drives, and served as President of the California Republican Women Federated.

As Director of Membership for the California Republican Party, Ann has managed relationships with more than 2,000 members of the Republican State Central Committee. In this role, she has served as the liaison to 58 county chairmen, as well as to federal, state, and local Republican legislators. Ann has also been actively involved in recruiting new volunteers for the party and has organized numerous get-out-the vote drives across California and coordinated the twice-yearly party conventions.

Ann is a courageous cancer survivor, who even in trying times remained loyal to the cause of freedom that inspired her throughout her life and became an institution to the party that upon Ann's retirement must fill a major void.

Mr. Speaker, the California Republican Party will continue to reap Ann Whitley's contributions for years to come, and I rise to express my profound gratitude for her tremendous service.

HONORING PHYLLIS CURRIE ON HER DISTINGUISHED CAREER AS GENERAL MANAGER OF PASADENA WATER AND POWER

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a tribute to Ms. Phyllis Currie. On April 30, 2015 Ms. Currie will retire from Pasadena Water and Power after a 30 year career with the City of Los Angeles.

Ms. Currie's commitment to the city of Pasadena, coupled with her business sense, people skills and personal integrity have added to Pasadena's Water and Power achievements during a transformative time in the energy industry. Many Californians have greatly benefited from her leadership and vision while at the helm of the utility.

Ms. Currie has served for 14 years as General Manager of a highly-regarded public power utility providing reliable and affordable electricity and water to 81,500 consumers in southern California. Under Currie's leadership, Pasadena's Water and Power has been a leader in meeting its aggressive goal of 40% by 2020 of renewable energy and water conservation.

Prior to joining Pasadena Water and Power, Ms. Currie served as the Chief Financial Officer for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power; Assistant City Administrative Officer overseeing development of the city's annual operating and capital budgets. She was Chair of the Board of Directors of the American Public Power Association (2012–2013), President of the California Municipal Utilities Association (2014), and President to the Southern California Public Power Authority (2005–2006) where she was a trusted advisor, ally and decision maker on numerous capital projects and policies that come before the organization.

In her many leadership positions in the public power community, Ms. Currie testified often before Congress, and helped inform legislators of public power's positions on issues ranging from reallocation of power from Hoover Dam to electric reliability. Ms. Currie's credibility and vast knowledge helped guide federal policymakers on many important energy issues.

In the 111th and 112th Congresses, Ms. Currie testified in the House of Representatives and in the Senate in support of the "Hoover Power Allocation Act"—a bill to re-allocate hydroelectric power generated at Hoover Dam, to Pasadena and numerous other cities, Indian Tribes, agencies, and others in California, Arizona and Nevada. The legislation was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama in December, 2011. Through this effort, Currie and her colleagues, assisted consumers in Pasadena and other southern California cities, in securing a low-cost and emissions-free hydropower supply for another 50 years.

My personal and professional respect and admiration for Ms. Currie run deep, and as her friend, colleague and a fellow Californian, I wish her happiness and good health in her future endeavors.

Thank you for your service, Phyllis.

A TRIBUTE TO THOMAS ALOMES AND THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, each year congressional offices host Australian college students as interns with the Uni-Capitol program.

It gives them the opportunity to learn about the American democratic and legislative process as well as see how the Congress functions on a firsthand basis.

My office is taking part in it right now, along with others in Congress. Some of Australia's brightest are here, pursuing knowledge and understanding. In so doing, we are forging bonds that will last even after they have returned to Australia.

The Uni-Capitol program was born of the efforts of Eric Federer. Eric worked for more than a decade in the House and the Senate as a senior adviser. While doing this job, he lectured across Australia on American government, politics, and news media. In an effort to forge ties across the Pacific and for the betterment of both societies, Eric put together this idea in Washington in 1999.

The selection process for the students is competitive and intellectually rigorous, ensuring the highest quality applicant. Thomas Alomes of Monash University, my office's 2015 intern, surely reflects this. All participating students are comprehensively matched with a congressional office and corresponding position. They come from a wide range of academic disciplines and bring as much knowledge and understanding to our offices as they take away.

Over the two months of their internship, Mr. Federer's students have approached this opportunity with enthusiasm. Thomas has been an excellent addition to my office, producing well-written and high-quality work including memos on Civil Asset Forfeiture, the Authorization for Use of Military Force, and national security law. He has become a valued member of the team and taught us about the many commonalities between our two countries. While in Washington, DC, he has had the opportunity to learn from a wide range of officials from the Australian embassy, the DC media, and the White House. Now at the end of his internship, he can navigate the historic hallways of the Capitol like a pro.

Australia continues to be one of America's strongest allies. Our greatest gift is the friendship born of shared values. I thank the Uni-Capitol Program and Thomas Alomes for their hard work, and I wish the program and Tom continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING CALVIN GREENE

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 76 years of service that Calvin Greene has given to Bart Township in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

Calvin has lived his entire life in Bart Township, having grown up on a farm that has belonged to his family since 1832. He spent his

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

career doing what he loved: farming. He ran his farm as a dairy farm, milking cows until 1997 before crop farming. He retired in 2008. Calvin's farm won the 2014 Conservation Award from the Lancaster County Conservation District in recognition of his farm's commitment to preserving our environment.

Calvin has been a dedicated servant of his community, serving on the Bart Township Planning Commission and the township's Zoning Hearing Board. He has served as a Bart Township Supervisor since 1988.

Calvin has three children, six grandchildren and one great grandchild with his wife Valeria. He's a life-long member of the Middle Octorara Presbyterian Church, where he's taught Sunday School.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank Calvin Greene for his leadership for his community and nation.

REMEMBERING DAVID BRAUN

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great man and a friend, David Braun. David passed away last Saturday, February 21, at the age of 59 following a courageous three-year battle with liver cancer.

David was a true public servant and a powerful voice in the Houston community. As a former Nassau Bay city councilman, mayor pro tem, and aerospace manager at the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, his devotion to helping others and advancing the causes of our community was unmatched.

David's passion for public service and community involvement was fueled by his devotion to God and his church. David actively served his church community by providing religious education to children of all grade levels as well as serving on various committees.

I'm proud to have known David and seen his passion firsthand. I am especially grateful for his unwavering support of NASA and the Johnson Space Center. David worked tirelessly to advance our nation's human space flight program. He also contributed directly to the creation of the "Preserving Aerospace Talent" program, which has enabled aerospace companies to find quality, experienced employees.

Each May, with Citizens for Space Exploration, David would organize as many as 150 volunteers to travel to Capitol Hill to stress the importance of supporting NASA's human space flight program and the Johnson Space Center. In 2014, David organized an effort that enabled the group to meet with 354 congressional offices in just over two days. This unprecedented demonstration of grassroots support for our nation's space program would not have been possible without David's leadership.

David Braun was a great man. He was well-respected and greatly admired by all of those he worked with. His ability to encourage and inspire others will have a positive, lasting impact on future generations to come. We should all strive to be more like David Braun.

We should all also work to help fulfil his mission to see NASA be the unquestioned worldwide leader in space exploration.

My prayers and deepest condolences go out to David's wife, Angela, and his son, Michael. David will be sorely missed in our community, but his passion and legacy will certainly live on as he has laid a great foundation for his community.

COMMEMORATING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF WEST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP

HON. RYAN A. COSTELLO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding southeastern Pennsylvania municipality celebrating its 250th anniversary.

West Whiteland Township, Chester County, is a nearly 13 square-mile municipality that was incorporated in 1765 when the former Whiteland Township was divided into East and West Whiteland. Historians have noted that West Whiteland enjoyed an advantageous location in the Chester Valley, or Great Valley, and that the natural features were conducive to early settlement, agriculture, industry and developments in transportation. In 1855, it was described "with its smiling farms and restful homes as looking like one vast and magnificent garden."

Located near major transportation routes, such as the intersection of Routes 30 and 222 and the Downingtown Bypass, West Whiteland continues to attract new residents and businesses. The Township's population has more than doubled since 1973 to well over 18,000. Still, the Massey House—or Sleepy Hollow Hall—and the Zook House in Exton continue to stand as reminders of the Township's rural and agriculture heritage, as well as a tribute to the character of the Township's earliest residents.

Township officials and members of the community will commemorate the 250th anniversary at the Chester County Library in Exton on Thursday, February 26, 2015.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating West Whiteland Township on its momentous anniversary and offering best wishes for continued prosperity, harmony and exceptional quality of life.

TRIBUTE TO EMMA JAKEMAN

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, for the past eight weeks, I have had the privilege of hosting Emma Jakeman as an intern in my office as part of the Uni-Capitol Washington Intern Programme, which brings students from ten of Australia's premier universities to Capitol Hill.

From the very beginning, Emma displayed dedication and good time management in the

office. She is very bright with excellent people skills and a thirst for knowledge of the American legislative process. Many times, Emma was the first to volunteer to assist with memos or legislative research and was always delighted to help in any way.

She made the office a warm, welcoming place with her positive attitude and bright smile. Proud of her nationality, she was all too happy to enlighten me and my staff with knowledge of Australian food and traditions, even sharing with us a pavlova in celebration of Australia Day on January 26th.

Although I was only able to have her in my office for a short time, Emma will always be a valued member of Team Davis. I am thankful and proud to have had the opportunity to have hosted such a bright young student in my office. I hope she is able to return to Australia with fond memories of her time on the Hill and I wish her the best as she finishes her studies at Monash University.

RECOGNIZING MS. CATHERINE BEAUDOIN AS THE 2016 OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Ms. Catherine Beaudoin as the 2016 Okaloosa County, Florida Teacher of the Year. Throughout her time in Okaloosa County, Ms. Beaudoin has served her students, her colleagues, and her community as an outstanding educator, and I am proud to recognize her success and outstanding achievements.

Ms. Catherine Beaudoin received her Bachelor's Degree in English and K-12 Education from Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey, and was awarded the Excellent English Major Award for her creativity and strong work ethic. Upon graduation, Ms. Beaudoin moved to Okaloosa County, Florida, to pursue her career in teaching as a sixth and seventh grade Language Arts teacher at Pryor Middle School in Fort Walton Beach.

During her time as an educator, Ms. Beaudoin has consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty, leading her students and serving the Northwest Florida community in a myriad of roles. As the Sixth Grade SAILS Honor Program Coordinator for the 2013-2014 school year, she helped lead and facilitate the only advanced placement program for middle school students offered in Okaloosa County. Ms. Beaudoin has also served as a member of the Pryor Middle School leadership team, taking on the important responsibility of developing and presenting the school's Writing Plan to the Assistant Superintendent at the Principal's Quarterly Review. In addition, as a strong voice in the teaching community, Ms. Beaudoin is a member of several leadership groups within the Okaloosa County School district, including the OCSD Writing Implementation Group, ELA/Reading Best Practices, and ELA Textbook Adoption Committee.

Aside from her academic leadership, Ms. Beaudoin has helped students throughout

Okaloosa County, leading numerous extra-curricular activities as coach of the Fort Walton Beach High School Junior Varsity Girl's soccer team and of the Pryor Middle School Girl's soccer team. Building on her success coaching soccer, this upcoming spring, Ms. Beaudoin will take on a position as coach of both the Boy's and Girl's tennis teams at Pryor Middle School.

Mr. Speaker, teachers are amongst our most valuable public servants, and they play an integral role in shaping the future of our Nation. The Okaloosa County Teacher of the Year award is a true reflection of Ms. Beaudoin's tireless work ethic and steadfast dedication to the students of Okaloosa County. She has proven to be among the many exceptional teachers in our Nation, and on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Ms. Catherine Beaudoin for her accomplishments and her continuing commitment to excellence. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Ms. Beaudoin as the 2016 Okaloosa County, Florida Teacher of the Year and thanking her for dedication to serving the students, teachers, and families of the Northwest Florida community. We wish her all the best for continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES BARRETT McNULTY, FORMER MAYOR OF SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor James Barrett McNulty for his commendable leadership while serving as the Mayor of Scranton, Pennsylvania. Mayor McNulty's earnest commitment to service has led to great strides in revitalizing the economy and rich culture of Scranton. His administration undertook a number of development projects that provided the foundation for successful attractions that the city still offers today.

Born and raised in Scranton, James McNulty is the eldest of six siblings. He graduated from The University of Scranton, where he received his bachelor's degree in political science. His remarkable enthusiasm for helping his community is clearly a key component of his stellar career in public service. He began as an aide to U.S. Representative Daniel Flood, and he eventually sought public office himself, becoming the mayor of the City of Scranton in 1982. Mayor McNulty's outgoing personality and hands-on management style helped him lead the way in restoring Scranton's economy and profile.

Two of Jim McNulty's most prominent projects were the building of a historic rail museum and the refurbishment of a train terminal into the now prestigious Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel, both of which brought many jobs and tourists to the city. These endeavors proved to be lasting successes, as both continue to offer educative and enticing windows into the fascinating rail history of Scranton. Both projects helped Scranton's economic past become its economic future.

Though he no longer serves as the Mayor of Scranton, McNulty remains widely recognized for his continuing engagement with the city government and the residents it serves.

James Barrett McNulty proved to be a great mayor and outstanding citizen. His leadership has always been rooted in his strong desire to help the people of Scranton. For this reason, I honor the former Mayor of Scranton, Pennsylvania.

THE PASSING OF HENRY T. SEGERSTROM

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the passing last Friday of a truly great Orange County farmer and retailer, military veteran and visionary, philanthropist and patron of the arts. Henry T. Segerstrom's story epitomizes the pioneer spirit that helped to make our country great.

The son of Swedish immigrants who found their way to Orange County in 1898, Henry grew up working his family's lima bean fields in Costa Mesa, California. He went to Stanford in 1940 but answered his country's call in World War Two. Severely wounded in combat in Germany, Mr. Segerstrom returned home determined to finish his education graduating with an MBA. At age 25, he joined the family business, C.J. Segerstrom and Sons, and began making Orange County history.

The young executive turned the bean fields into real estate gold developing commercial property including brand new office towers. Henry Segerstrom was now positioned for even greater success. He envisioned one of the nation's premier shopping centers along the 405 Freeway in Costa Mesa and had the will and the skill to open South Coast Plaza in 1967. The Plaza attracted the finest retail stores in the world and became a shopping destination for customers across the globe.

Had he stopped there, his place in Orange County history would have been assured. Instead, Henry Segerstrom reinvented another tract of his holdings in Orange County giving rise in 1986 to the Segerstrom Center for the Arts. He served as founding chairman of the new center and remained one of its most generous donors. Mr. Segerstrom followed up this phenomenal success with the opening of a new Concert Hall in 2006 once again changing the cultural landscape of the County for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call Henry T. Segerstrom my friend. He will be sorely missed by his family, his fellow arts patrons and the wider Orange County community which will benefit from his generosity and goodwill for years to come.

HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, when we come to Congress all of us take an oath to protect our nation, our homeland. Today, we risk undermining that solemn promise due to partisan objections to the President's immigration actions. Even if my colleagues disagree with the President's immigration actions, the answer is *not* to hold hostage funding for homeland security.

Senate Republicans recognize this. The Senate voted 98 to 2 yesterday to begin consideration of a clean funding bill. It is time to Act! Yet, the House continues dawdling as we lurch toward a homeland security shutdown.

Whether it is training first responders, building new firehouses or paying TSA screeners, some things should be above politics. We cannot afford to suspend funding for our Homeland Security.

The time for political games is over. The House Republican Leadership should move a clean Homeland Security funding bill immediately—like that being considered in the Senate.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, we only have two more days before funding for the Department of Homeland Security runs out.

Two days to ensure that our ports and borders are secure.

Two days to keep our airports and skies safe.

Two days to make sure our first responders are trained and protected.

Mr. Speaker, the Majority leadership has decided to put our national security at risk and put the economic security of our public servants in jeopardy.

40,000 border agents, 50,000 airport screeners, and 40,000 Coast Guard military members, who are essential workers, will continue to work without pay.

While Congress continues to receive pay.

That is no way to thank Americans who put themselves in harm's way and secure the homeland.

I urge my colleagues to fulfill our most basic duty—to ensure the safety and security of the American people.

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. SYDNEY GIBSON KING

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as the nation celebrates Black History Month,

I rise to celebrate a Philadelphia treasure, Mrs. Sydney G. King. Because of her love and dedication to dance and her desire to train Black ballerinas, Mrs. King opened the Sydney School of Dance in the 1940's for aspiring African American dancers who were not allowed to attend white dance studios in post war segregated Philadelphia.

Born in Kingston, Jamaica in 1919, King came to Philadelphia with her family when she was just two years old and at an early age began studying ballet under the tutelage of dance pioneer Essie Marie Dorsey.

For more than six decades the Sydney School of Dance trained hundreds of Black children and many went on to receive national and international recognition in the dance world.

Those students include dance professionals such as: Joan Meyers Brown, the founder and director of the much acclaimed Philadanco; Billy Wilson, famed director/choreographer and soloist with the National Ballet of Holland; Broadway performer Betsy Ann Dickerson; singer/actress Lola Falana; Carol Johnson, a former principal dancer with the Eleo Pomare Dance Company and founder of an aboriginal dance company in Australia; and Arthur Hall, founder of the Afro American Dance Ensemble.

These dance greats in no way diminish the accomplishments of hundreds of her other students who did not choose careers in dance but because of the empowering and esteem building training at the Sydney School of Dance they are today proud and successful professionals in a variety of fields.

Mrs. King, the mother of three children, is a widow and now at the age of 95 sums her life's dedication to dance by saying simply she wanted to, "train and create Black ballerinas."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring her and her lifetime contribution to the arts and the African American community. Mrs. Sydney Gibson King is a treasure!

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,148,105,006,223.08. We've added \$7,521,227,957,310.00 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN RECOGNITION OF REVEREND SHEDERICK ABNER'S 30 YEARS IN MINISTRY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Reverend Shederick Abner. Rev. Abner has been a dedicated minister and on March 1st, a Pastoral Installation Service will be held for him.

Rev. Abner was born December 10th, 1962, and is a native of Montgomery, Alabama. He attended Montgomery Public Schools and completed his undergraduate degree in Biblical Studies and Pastoral Ministries and graduated Summa Cum Laude from Selma University in 2007 and 2009 with an Associate and Bachelor of Arts Degree respectively. He earned his Master's of Arts Degree in 2011.

Rev. Abner served in the U.S. Army from 1981-88 as an Army Bandsman. He was employed by the Alabama Department of Corrections from 1988-95 and Albany International Industry from 1995 until his medical retirement in 2001.

Rev. Abner was called into the ministry in 1994 and joined the North Montgomery Baptist Church. In 1999, he joined the First Baptist Church Greater Washington Park where he has served the congregation faithfully. He also served as pastor of First Baptist Church Pike Road.

Rev. Abner is a member of several civic organizations, including: the Montgomery Metro Ministers' Conference, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Westside Restoration, Inc., Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention, Inc. and the Ministers' Division of the National Baptist Congress.

He is married to Valerie Abner and has two daughters, Torquoria and Jasmine and one granddaughter, Kyleigh. On Sunday, March 1st, a Pastoral Installation Service will be held at Mary Magdalene Missionary Baptist Church in Shorter, Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Reverend Shederick Abner for his Service.

HONORING BRUNETTE CRAWFORD NELMS ON HER 105TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, we often stand in awe of those who reach their 100th birthday. Well Brunette Crawford Nelms turns 105 this March! She is truly a glowing example of strength and a life well-lived. Her life motto has five points: live well, learn a lot, laugh often, love much, and let your life shine. She attributes her good fortune throughout her life to the goodness of God and his watchful care. "If you are not thinking about it," Brunette says, "time will slip by before you realize it."

Brunette's legacy is one framed by American tradition and innovation, love, education,

faith, patriotic duty, pride and joy. Brunette remembers days of buggies and travel on horseback. She grew up on a cotton farm in Ashland, Mississippi. She remembers gramophones, Model-T Fords, washboards, the first planes and the first radios. At the end of WWI, Brunette watched celebrations of the armistice with her twin Blondie. Brunette began teaching school in her early 20s. She taught during the year and attended summer school until she finished her degree from the University of Alabama in 1937. A short time later, Brunette married W.C. Nelms. Once WWII began, the majority of Brunette's family, including Nelms, served in the Armed Forces. As noted on one of his medals, "Major W.C. Nelms' invaluable service and diligent devotion to duty reflect great credit to him and the Armed Forces of the United States." The war ended and Brunette and Nelms had two children. Brunette continued to teach elementary school for 14 more years and retired in 1974. She enjoyed 20 years of retirement with her dear husband and family in Clinton, Mississippi until his passing. In 2005, Brunette moved to the great state of Tennessee, where she now resides in Memphis with family.

As we celebrate Brunette's 105th birthday, we celebrate her faith, her health and the innumerable lives touched by her thoughtful teaching, optimism and friendship. I rise today to honor Brunette Nelms and ask my colleagues to join with me in thanking her for her 105 years of patriotic contribution and service.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. ART COVIELLO ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Art Coviello, a longtime friend and leader in the security industry, on his retirement as Executive Vice President of EMC Corporation and Executive Chairman of RSA, The Security Division of EMC. Art has pushed the envelope in the industry for more than 40 years, and his influence as a thought-leader, as well as his work solving complex challenges in the Age of Information, have truly helped transform the field of security, specifically with regard to cyber-security.

As the new millennium ushered in groundbreaking advancements, Art served as a conductor, helping to guide the industry through new developments in the most technologically dynamic time period the world has ever seen. Mr. Coviello's impact has been felt in both private and public sectors alike as he pushed us all to a better state of affairs through engagement in initiatives like the National Cyber Security Summit, TechNet New England, the Cyber Security Industry Alliance, and many others. He has also testified in Congress on a number of occasions, lending his expertise to our deliberations here in order to ensure that our nation remains a leader in cyberspace. Art retains the special ability to see beyond the visible arc of technological advances and effectively communicate about an

incredibly dynamic landscape in order to positively impact policy.

I am honored to extend my deep gratitude and praise to Art as he retires, and to be able to call him a friend. I wish him the best of luck in all future endeavors.

FAIRNESS IN STUDENT LOAN
LENDING ACT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, in an effort to provide students and families much need relief and protection from crippling student loan debt, Congressman JIM McDERMOTT (D-WA), a senior member of the Budget and Ways and Means Committees, today introduced legislation that would save students and parents thousands of dollars by allowing student loan borrowers to refinance their federal and private student loans. The Fairness in Student Loan Lending Act will also allow holders of private student loans the ability to discharge their debt in bankruptcy, which is not currently permitted.

Federal law currently prevents responsible student loan borrowers with federal student loans in good standing from refinancing their loans to a lower rate. This has left millions of students and parents holding loans with interest rates of 7 percent. Under the Fairness in Student Loan Lending Act, student loan borrowers in good standing will be able to refinance their loans to a rate equal to the 10-year Treasury note on the last day of business of the previous month plus one percent. For example, a borrower who refinances on February 2015 would refinance to a rate of 2.64%.

While federal law allows borrowers to discharge many types of debt during bankruptcy, including car loans and gambling debt, student loans holders are not permitted to discharge their student loans during bankruptcy. The Fairness in Student Loan Lending Act provides a mechanism that allows borrowers holding private loans the ability to discharge these private loans during bankruptcy.

HONORING DONNA WILTSHIRE

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor Donna Wiltshire who recently retired from the United States Department of Agriculture after serving Illinoisans for over 43 years. In 1971, Ms. Wiltshire began her career with the Farmers Home Administration as a Clerk Stenographer on the State Office's Housing Staff. After 15 years, she was promoted to Single Family Housing Specialist where she proudly served Illinois for the remainder of her career. She cherished opportunities to posit her own thoughts and to hear the ideas of others, creating a vibrant and constructive working environment for all around her.

Ms. Wiltshire's dedication and passion for rural development is seemingly unmatched and has not gone unrecognized by her colleagues. Ms. Wiltshire worked tirelessly to assist families with the home ownership process, knowing that home ownership has a lasting effect on families and communities.

In her retirement, Ms. Wiltshire looks forward to spending more time with her four grandchildren and continuing her life of service through her church.

I am proud to honor Donna Wiltshire today and would like to wish her a happy and fulfilling retirement and thank her for her service and dedication to the entire community.

IN HONOR OF THE REVEREND
CURTIS RAINES, SR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to the Reverend Curtis Raines, Sr., President of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia and beloved Pastor of New Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church in Macon, Georgia and Mount Zion Baptist Church in Bolingbroke, Georgia.

Sadly, Rev. Raines passed away on Saturday, February 21, 2015. He leaves in his wake many heavy hearts among his church family, his supporters, and his community. On Friday, February 27, 2015, a memorial service will be held in his honor at New Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church in Macon, followed by a Homegoing Celebration on Saturday, February 28, 2015 at Fellowship Bible Baptist Church in Warner Robins, Georgia.

A Georgia man through and through, Rev. Raines was born on September 22, 1947. He studied at public schools in Upson County before attending the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Tennessee, the Georgia Baptist Theological Seminary, and Mercer University in Macon. He was licensed in the ministry in 1980 and ordained as a minister in 1981. He earned a Bachelor of Theology degree and a Master of Pastoral Ministry degree from Emmanuel Bible College in 1995 and 1997, respectively.

Rev. Raines worked at Warner Robins Air Force Base as Production General Manager of Sheet Metal Manufacturing for more than 27 years until his retirement in 1993. He has served as Pastor of New Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church for 30 years and Mount Zion Baptist Church for 27 years. Throughout his pastoral career, always seeking to improve the craft of Christian ministry and discipleship, Rev. Raines became Vice President and, later, President of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc. (GMBC). Founded in 1870, the GMBC is the largest organization of African Americans in the state of Georgia. A revered leader, Rev. Raines oversaw a membership of over 800 churches, representing over 550,000 African-American Baptists in Georgia.

He further enriched the spiritual lives of those around him by serving as President of

Congress of the Mount Pleasant Association, Secretary of the Union Baptist and Educational Association, Chairman of the Board for the Adopt-A-Role Model in Macon, President of the Sixth District-General Missionary Baptist Convention, President of the Bellevue/Hillcrest Ministerial Association, and member on the Board of Directors for Parents to Support Public Schools, Board of Directors of the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc., and Board of Trustees at Wesley Glen Ministries.

A charismatic leader with an infectious spiritual zeal, Rev. Raines was known and loved in the Middle Georgia area and throughout the state. He has received numerous awards and commendations for his good works in Macon and in Bibb County. Rev. Raines was truly a man of integrity who exuded the genuine principles and values of Christian discipleship.

George Washington Carver once said, "No individual has any right to come into the world and go out of it without leaving behind distinct and legitimate reasons for having passed through it." Through his impact on the spirit, the faith, and the very wellbeing of his community, Rev. Raines certainly fulfilled his higher calling. We are all so blessed that Rev. Raines passed this way and during his life's journey did so much for so many for so long.

Rev. Raines accomplished many things throughout his life but none of this would have been possible without the love and support of his beloved wife, Barbara, and children, Shun, Curtis, Jr., Varina, and Bryant.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with the more than 700,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District salute Reverend Curtis Raines, Sr. for his outstanding accomplishments in the ministry and for his dedication to his community. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in extending our deepest sympathies to Rev. Raines's family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S BE-
LOVED J. EARLE BOWDEN

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of one of Pensacola's most influential and beloved citizens, J. Earle Bowden. A native and near life-long resident of the Florida Panhandle, Mr. Bowden was known throughout the community for his decades as a journalist and editor-in-chief of the Pensacola News Journal, as well as for his tireless work preserving the local historical sites and natural treasures. All of Northwest Florida mourns the loss of a true icon.

J. Earle Bowden was born and raised in the small town of Altha, Florida, and after his high school graduation, he studied journalism at Florida State, where he also wrote for the Florida Flambeau. Following his college studies, Mr. Bowden joined the United States Air

Force, where he served as a military journalist during the Korean War. After completing his military service, Mr. Bowden moved back to Northwest Florida to raise his family and pursue a career in journalism, and in the fall of 1953, propitious circumstances and his considerable talent landed Mr. Bowden a position as a writer with the Pensacola News Journal.

First a sports writer and cartoonist for the paper, Mr. Bowden's journalistic talent, dedication to the Northwest Florida community, and assiduous work ethic saw him rise through the ranks, becoming editor of the News Journal's editorial page in 1965 and editor-in-chief of the entire paper one year later. It was in his position heading the paper's editorial pages that Mr. Bowden began to forge his legacy and cement his impact on the greater Pensacola area. We are blessed to have perhaps the world's most beautiful beaches located in Northwest Florida, and, in 1965, Mr. Bowden began advocating for the creation of a national park as a way to preserve this natural beauty. Thanks in large part to his efforts, Mr. Bowden's dream was realized just a few years later when legislation was signed into law on January 8, 1971 to establish the Gulf Islands National Seashore. Today, Gulf Islands National Seashore is one of the most visited components of the National Park System, and, in recognition of his work, the road linking eastern Pensacola Beach to Navarre Beach is named Earle Bowden Way.

In addition to his successful work preserving the Northwest Florida environment, Mr. Bowden was also deeply dedicated and involved with the preservation of the many important historical landmarks in Northwest Florida. He helped found several important organizations, including the Seville Square Historic District and the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board. He also served in numerous leadership capacities, including as president of West Florida Historic Preservation Inc., whose headquarters is named in his honor, president of the Pensacola Historical Society, president of the University of West Florida Foundation, chairman of the City of Pensacola Architectural Review Board, president of the Pensacola Bay Area Coalition on Literacy, and general chairman for the Galvez Bicentennial Celebration, amongst many others.

Mr. Bowden was also deeply committed to advancing the field of journalism and writing, as evidenced by his long tenure teaching journalistic writing at the University of West Florida, which awarded him an honorary doctorate in 1985. Mr. Bowden was also a widely published author of non-fiction, fiction, and illustration books. Among his published writings are the novel "Look and Tremble," his memoir "Always the Rivers Flow," a pictorial history "Pensacola: Florida's First Place City", and the non-fiction book "Gulf Islands: The Sands of All, Preserving America's Largest National Seashore." He also contributed writing, editing, and illustration to several books on Pensacola history including: "Florida in the Civil War: 1860 through Reconstruction"; "Siege! Spain and Britain: Battle of Pensacola"; "Iron Horse in the Pinelands: Building West Florida's Railroad 1881-1883"; and "Guardians on the Gulf and Pensacola: Spaniards to Space Age."

In recognition of Mr. Bowden's incalculable contributions to Northwest Florida, he has re-

ceived dozens of awards from a wide range of organizations including: the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation's Florida Preservationist of the Year; two national awards for editorial writing from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge; the Pensacola Kiwanis Club Civic Award; the BIP Awards' Professional Leader of the Year; Pensacola Junior College's Distinguished Citizen of the Year; the Law Day Liberty Bell Award; the PACE Pioneer Award; FSU Distinguished Alumnus; and three statewide awards from Florida Architects for his work in historic preservation.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his long and distinguished life, J. Earle Bowden worked tirelessly on behalf of the Northwest Florida community that he loved. Although he was a man of letters, his impact on our community cannot be fully captured in words, and his legacy will forever live on in the many historical sites and natural resources that he worked so judiciously to protect. On behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the life and lasting legacy of J. Earle Bowden. My wife Vicki and I extend our deepest prayers and condolences to his wife Mary Louise Bowden; sons, Steven Earle Bowden (wife, Pamela House) and Randall Clark Bowden; granddaughter, Jessica Johanna Bowden; brother, Franklin Lamar Bowden; nephews, Franklin Lamar Bowden, Jr. and James Marlon Bowden; and the entire Bowden family.

HONORING HARLON BLOCK, ON
THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
BATTLE OF IWO JIMA

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor South Texas native Harlon Block. Seventy years ago, he was one of six men who were part of an iconic photo that would lift the spirits of an entire nation—the raising of the American flag on Iwo Jima.

Born in Yorktown, Texas, in 1924, Corporal Block later moved with his family to Weslaco, Texas in the Rio Grande Valley.

Harlon Block attended Weslaco High School, where he led the Weslaco Panther football team to a conference championship and was named All South Texas End. Before the end of his senior year, Corporal Block and seven of his teammates enlisted in the Marine Corps. As a result, the school accelerated their studies and held a special early graduation ceremony in January 1943.

Harlon Block left for Marine Corps basic training in February 1943, and he then attended parachute training school. Corporal Block was assigned to the First Marine Parachute Regiment. After the Parachute Regiment was disbanded, he was transferred to Company E, Second Battalion, 28th Marines, Fifth Marine Division.

On February 19, 1945, Corporal Block and his company took part in the invasion of the heavily defended island of Iwo Jima. One day into the battle, Corporal Block and the 28th Marines began their assault on Mount Suribachi, a 550-foot-high extinct volcano.

After a three-day onslaught, the unit reached the top and defeated the last remaining Japanese defenders. Corporal Block, along with Sergeant Michael Strank, Corporal René Arthur Gagnon, Corporal Ira Hayes, Private First Class Franklin Runyon Sousley, and Pharmacist's Mate Second Class John "Doc" Bradley, defiantly raised the U.S. flag atop the mountain. Corporal Block guided the base of the pole into the volcanic ash while the others raised the flag upward. This is the scene that was captured in the famous photo at the Battle of Iwo Jima.

Corporal Harlon Henry Block was killed in action on March 1, 1945 and never saw the famous photo.

His remains were interred beside the Iwo Jima Memorial at the Marine Military Academy in Harlingen, Texas, which is a replica of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Virginia. On several occasions I have had the opportunity to visit the memorial located in my Congressional District, and each time I am moved by the courage and dedication of those who fought to win World War II. This memorial is a special place for the Rio Grande Valley, and serves as a reminder that our armed forces and our nation can overcome the greatest of odds. Today, we remember the bravery and valor of Corporal Block and all those who fought at the Battle of Iwo Jima.

KHOJALY TRAGEDY

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to again ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the devastating atrocities that took place in Azerbaijani town of Khojaly on February 26, 1992. Thanks to Armenian and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) forces over the course of 22 hours, 613 civilian lives were lost. Innocent children, women and elderly men were brutally murdered.

Since this tragedy took place in the early 1990s, Azerbaijan has worked to heal and become a successful country, with a booming economy. As a result, the economy of Azerbaijan is the fastest growing among the CIS states. In the turbulent geopolitical region, Azerbaijan is a reliable partner of the United States. Moreover, Azerbaijan is a close ally and trade partner with another strong American ally—Israel—in the region.

Mr. Speaker, we must stand close by our allies. That is why I urge my colleagues to recognize the human tragedy that occurred in Azerbaijan 23 years ago. Please, join me and all of our Azerbaijani friends in commemorating the lives lost during the Khojaly massacre.

DEFENDING OUR GREAT LAKES
ACT OF 2015**HON. CANDICE S. MILLER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to come from the State of Michigan, the Great Lakes State. In Michigan, our very identity is defined by the Great Lakes. For so many of us from Michigan, our lives revolve around the Lakes. Whether it is tourism, agriculture, shipping, fishing, or recreational boating, the Lakes are vital to our very livelihood.

The Great Lakes face many challenges these days, but there is nothing more threatening to the health of the Lakes than the infiltration of Asian carp—an invasive species that are about 40 miles from our doorstep.

For this reason, today I introduced the Defending Our Great Lakes Act of 2015. This is a bill that will prevent the spread of Asian carp once and for all.

This bill does three things: First, it authorizes the Army Corps of Engineers to take immediate action to update the infrastructure and install necessary technologies and measures at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam site. Second, it requires the Army Corps to develop a long-term plan, in consultation with federal agencies as well as the Great Lake states and impacted business and environmental communities. Finally, this bill reaffirms the need to continue to examine the ongoing needs across the entire Great Lakes region for measures that protect our waterways from invasive species.

The Defending Our Great Lakes Act, by design, provides a broad authorization for the Army Corps, and it authorizes the use of the best technologies, including, but not limited to, electric barriers. The importance of this broad authorization is that it will allow them to use new, yet-to-be-developed technologies going forward.

It is important to note that this bill also instructs the Army Corps to consider the protection of the area's ecosystem to the greatest extent feasible so that no native populations are inadvertently harmed as we attempt to remove the threat of invasive species. Additionally, this bill also instructs the Army Corps to ensure the efficient flow of navigation so that there is no unnecessary impediment to commerce. Including these provisions further demonstrates the dynamic nature of the Great Lakes and how we must work with all interested stakeholders to accomplish the goal of preventing Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes basin.

This bill was introduced with a broad bipartisan cross section of members from across the Great Lakes basin and in partnership with Senator DEBBIE STABENOW who will introduce companion legislation in the Senate.

In the many years I have been so honored to serve in Congress, the protection of our magnificent Great Lakes has been one of my primary advocacies.

I remember well battling the scourge of invasive species like zebra mussels, the sea lamprey, Eurasian Milfoil and phragmites.

All of these invasive species have taken an ecological and economic toll on our Great

Lakes, and we have spent billions over the past two decades trying to mitigate their damage.

With Asian carp, however, we cannot afford to respond to the untold damage they are certain to have on our Lakes.

They represent the most grave threat we have faced, and they must be dealt with using preventative, proactive measures.

The Asian carp threaten our \$17 billion tourism industry and our \$7 billion fishing and recreation industry.

They threaten our very way of life, and potentially billions of dollars every year to our regional economy. We simply cannot turn our backs on this threat.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support the Defending Our Great Lakes Act and help ensure the long-term health and beauty of our precious Great Lakes. The Lakes are vital to our identity and livelihood.

BARBARA JORDAN—PATRIOT OF
THE GREAT STATE OF TEXAS**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Texas lost quite the political patriot. A dear friend and tenacious community warrior, Barbara Jordan of Kingwood, Texas will be greatly missed. It gives me honor to recognize a lifelong volunteer, advocate and inspiration to the Kingwood community. The City of Houston and, indeed, the entire State of Texas, lost a dedicated leader and friend on February 22, 2015.

Barbara was born November 28, 1939 in Eagle Lake, Texas. For almost her entire life, she has given back to the community she holds so dear. Her friends have described her as "the best volunteer in the world; always ready to do whatever it takes to get the job done."

As her friend Pauline Adams put it, "Barbara was a force to be reckoned with. She was funny, irreverent and loved by everyone who knew her because she always had a smile on her face and a kind word for all. However, underneath the graciousness was a true Southern 'Steel Magnolia'. She will be sorely missed by all who knew her."

Barbara was a political activist. She was a pioneer for the GOP in Houston and Texas back when there were not that many Republicans in Texas. She served on numerous boards and organizations throughout the years. She was past President and founding member of the Kingwood Area Republican Women's Club.

Barbara Jordan had an infectious spirit. She came to me along with Patti Johnson and Peggy Englehardt and suggested that I leave the D.A.'s office and apply for the vacancy in the criminal district court in Harris County.

With these women's help, I obtained appointment by then Governor Clements and then they helped me get elected as one of the only Republican criminal district judges in Harris County in 1982. I have Barbara to thank for the 22 years I spent on the bench. But Barbara wasn't through.

Barbara and other Republican women can be credited with getting me elected to Congress in 2004. She served as President of the Greater Houston Council of Federated Republican Women from 1996–1997, and she is responsible for designing a pin for the Greater Houston Council officers and club presidents. The tradition of presenting a pin to officers and club presidents continues to this day. She has also been a member and an officer with one of the most powerful women's political organizations in Texas, the Texas Federation of Republican Women. Most GOP elected officials credit their elections to the Texas Republican Women like Barbara.

In 1999, Barbara was named Chairman of the Texas Federation of Republican Women State Convention. Barbara was ever working for God, home and country. She had a passion to keep America strong and Texas RED. Many Republicans owe her thanks. Her drive helped get other Republicans elected in Harris County.

My thoughts are with the love of Barbara's life, Ken Jordan—her husband of 54 years. The passing of Barbara has left four sons in mourning of their mother—John, Mark, Scott, and Todd. She also leaves behind four daughter-in-laws and seven cherished grandchildren. Her memory will live on, in the many lives she touched along the way. Last summer, I visited with Barbara and Ken at their home in Kings Forest.

Barbara was always gracious and welcoming; she simply was the best hostess. She was a loyal friend to me, and although I am saddened by her loss, I feel very fortunate for the time and friendship that we shared. She will be remembered by many as a devoted community leader, a mentor, genuine friend and a great patriot.

My Grandmother used to say there was nothing more powerful than a woman—that has made up her mind. Barbara was one such unique woman.

Barbara was truly a remarkable Texan who achieved extraordinary things in her lifetime and for her community, state and political party. And for that, Texas and our people are better because of Barbara Jordan.

That's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ROLAND J.
"ROCKY" GANNON**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Roland "Rocky" J. Gannon, a resident of Florence, South Carolina and join with his friends throughout the Pee Dee area of South Carolina in celebration of his 90th birthday.

Mr. Gannon is a decorated veteran, having served thirty-seven years in the Air Force before retiring in 1980. His service began in 1943 while he was a high school junior when he entered an Air Force pilot training program, from which he graduated one month after D-Day. During his decades of service, he flew more than 6,000 hours in thirty-four different

types of aircraft. Fourteen of those years were served overseas and included 387 combat missions in Vietnam. After the end of World War II, "Rocky" spent three years in Iwo Jima, Japan. His service in these theaters, as well as in the Korean War and Belgian Congo, earned him fifty military awards, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and ten Air Medals.

After his retirement from the Air Force in 1980, Mr. Gannon took his expertise to the private sector as an independent aviation consultant and was subsequently named Executive Director of the Florence Regional Airport. In 2001, commemoration of his accomplishments in both civilian and combat aviation, he was named South Carolina Aviator of the Year and was inducted into the South Carolina Aviation Association Hall of Fame.

"Rocky's" passion for aviation is matched only by his dedication to the Boy Scouts of America. He joined the scouts when he was twelve years old and rose to the rank of Eagle Scout before joining the Air Force. He credits

the training he received as a Boy Scout to much of his success in military and civilian life. He has given back to the scouts throughout his career and in 2009 received the Distinguished Eagle Award, the Boy Scouts of America's highest honor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Gannon on this milestone and thanking him for his outstanding contributions to Florence, the Pee Dee area, to South Carolina, and to our great country. I wish him Godspeed and a happy and healthy 90th birthday celebration in the company of his friends and family.

KINGWOOD PARK HIGH SCHOOL
SWIM TEAM

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday, the boys from Kingwood Park High

School in Houston, Texas won another state swim title. This marks the fourth state championship for the high school. According to the team's head coach, Greg McLain, this wasn't even supposed to happen. But, he said that they believed in each other and worked hard, noting that they didn't do it with superstars, but "as a team."

The Kingwood Park Panthers swim team pays homage to the old saying: "when it comes to talent versus hard work, hard work will always win."

Congrats to Kingwood Park's State Championship team: David Amoruso, Spencer Balog, Brenden Bennett, Austin Bradshaw, Eric Broussard, Matt Crowe, Trae Floyd, Christian Frey, David Johnson, John Johnson, Hunter Lang, Ryan Logan, Sam Poulin, Tate Stevens.

Go Panthers!

And that's just the way it is.

SENATE—Friday, February 27, 2015

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God, You are our refuge and strength, a very present help during challenging seasons. Thank You for the opportunity to serve You and country.

Use our lawmakers for Your glory. May they experience companionship with You throughout this day. Permit this fellowship with You to impart wisdom, courage, and inspiration. Make them so aware of Your presence that they will refuse to major in minors and minor in majors. Remind them that lawmakers can work miracles with cooperation but accomplish little with legislative brinksmanship. May they make the doing of Your will their highest priority.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. CAPITO). The majority leader is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that following leader remarks, the time until 10 a.m. this morning be equally divided in the usual form.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum with respect to the cloture motion on the motion to proceed to S. 534 be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that there be 2 minutes of debate equally divided before each vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, this morning the Senate will complete work on a bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security, and then we will turn to Senator COLLINS' bill—commonsense legislation that will protect our democracy from the egregious example of Executive overreach we saw in November. In my view, this deserves broad support. Remember, President Obama said more than 20 times that he couldn't take those kinds of actions. He even referred to overreach such as that as "ignoring the law." So Senator COLLINS' measure simply takes the President at his word and helps him follow the law instead of ignoring it.

The Collins' bill also provides Democrats who led their constituents to believe they would address Executive overreach with a chance to show they were at least a little bit serious when they said that. Democrats won't achieve that by filibustering Homeland Security, and Democrats won't achieve it by holding hypocritical press conferences just hours after voting to block funding for DHS. But they can help us pass a sensible bill from Senator COLLINS that will hold the executive branch to account. After so many weeks of senseless filibustering, that is the least these Democrats owe their constituents.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader is recognized.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. REID. Madam President, we are about 14 hours away from a shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security. The Senate will do its part this morning and send the House a clean Homeland Security bill that fully funds the Department through the end of the year. It will stop a government shutdown. Then the House must act, and it must act responsibly. They must pass the Senate bill. We will not go to conference on some jerry-rigged situation they send back dealing with something they do not like about the President for whatever reason. We will not pass any rider-laden monstrosity they send back to us.

The Senate is proving that there is broad bipartisan support for a good, clean bill that will fund Homeland Security and keep that government agen-

cy running. It would pass this House—this legislation we are going to pass here in an hour or so—with broad bipartisan support if Speaker BOEHNER would simply allow a vote on it. If he allowed Democrats and Republicans to vote in the House, as has been done for centuries, it would pass overwhelmingly. The only point of his wanting a conference would be to take a clean bill that would pass both Houses and turn it into something that can't pass anything.

This bill we will pass today is not just the Senate's product, it is a bipartisan, bicameral piece of legislation. Last December the House and the Senate, in some very difficult negotiations, worked out an agreement where we would pass 13 funding bills as part of an omnibus spending bill. The House Republicans refused to pass the Homeland Security funding. We now have 12 of the 13 we agreed to do. They now have reneged on the deal to do the 13th. This bicameral, bipartisan bill deserves a vote in the House. It would pass, I repeat.

The chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee said this:

There's a clear majority in the Senate and the House to pass this legislation.

You cannot govern by shutting down essential lifesaving departments of the Federal Government.

The junior Senator from Illinois said yesterday:

As a governing party, we've got to fund DHS and say to the House, "Here's a straw so you can suck it up." . . . this battle should be the end of the strategy of attaching whatever you're upset at the president [about] to a vital piece of government.

Yesterday Congressman PETER KING of New York put it more bluntly when he said:

We can't allow DHS not [to] be funded. People think we're crazy. There're terrorist attacks all over the world, and we're talking about closing down Homeland Security. This is like living in the world of the crazy people.

Congressman KING went on to say:

I've had it with this self-righteous, delusional wing of the party that leads us over the cliff. . . . It says a lot about the party. It means trouble. How many times can we go over the cliff and survive?

I agree with his sentiments. This isn't just about the Republican Party, this is about our country. How many times can House Republicans send our Nation hurtling toward a cliff?

I listen very closely to the prayer virtually every day. Among other things, the Senate Chaplain, Dr. Barry Black, said, in speaking to our Heavenly Father, "Remind them that lawmakers can work miracles with cooperation but accomplish little with

legislative brinksmanship.” That was in the prayer offered here this morning.

How many times can we narrowly avert catastrophe just so Republicans get a gold star from radical pundits? They need to do the right thing and pass the Senate’s clean bill—pass it today and quickly.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 240, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 240) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

Pending:

McConnell (for Cochran) amendment No. 255, of a perfecting nature.

McConnell amendment No. 256 (to amendment No. 255), to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 257 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 255), to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 258 (to amendment No. 257), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions, McConnell amendment No. 259, to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 260 (to the instructions) amendment No. 259), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell amendment No. 261 (to amendment No. 260), of a perfecting nature.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 10 a.m. will be equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, as the vice chair of the Committee on Appropriations, I rise to speak on the Homeland Security funding bill.

This morning the Senate moves to fulfill its responsibility—its national responsibility—to pass the Homeland Security bill which would fully fund the Department through the fiscal year 2015. This fulfills a constitutional oath we Senators took to protect and defend the Constitution and the people of the United States against all foes, foreign and domestic. The domestic is here today. The domestic is in homeland security. The domestic is in what we need to do to fulfill our responsibility. We take oaths to the Constitution. We say we want a constitutionally driven government. So do I. We need to get off of our press releases and pass this bill.

I am really proud of the fact that we on the Committee on Appropriations

did our job, and we did it in December. The subcommittee chairs of Homeland Security did their due diligence and came up with an affordable framework for funding the Homeland Security bill. It met the bottom line, met the budget caps, but also met our compelling national security needs.

Congressman HAL ROGERS in the House, for whom I have nothing but great respect, and I came to a fiscal agreement, but we did not have the ability to move it forward because there were those who wanted to delay putting it in the omnibus because they were having a temper tantrum with the President of the United States over his Executive authority. Could he move his Executive authority on the topic of immigration? So there was a solution to delay the funding so that we could have cooler heads prevail: Oh golly, do it after the election. And once again we punted and delayed and parsed, punted and issued press releases. That is what we got out of the House and somewhat out of the Senate.

Where are we today? Thanks to the leadership of the two leaders, Senators MCCONNELL and REID, we have a path forward. I urge my colleagues to look at this path. The significant part of it is to pass a clean funding bill to make sure Homeland Security is funded the entire year so we can meet the needs of the national programs, such as the Coast Guard, and make sure that grants go out to our first responders, who are truly our boots on the ground, such as volunteer fire departments that right now are out there in some parts of our communities getting sick people out with snowmobiles. Senator COLLINS of Maine and I have talked about her Maine and my Garrett County, where, when we have had a hurricane, these people go and get elderly people out on Zodiacs, sometimes wading through water and wondering if they are going to step on power lines.

We have to get real here. There are those who want to increase defense funding so we can protect America against ISIL. We protect America from ISIL right here in this bill. You want to protect America, vote for the clean funding bill. You want to protect America’s border, fight for the funding bill. You want to make sure we don’t have illegal aliens in this country, make sure you are funding the Border Patrol—23,000 people all in uniform out there on the border manning the best technology we can afford. So whatever we say we want to do, this is the way to do it. This is the way to do it.

We understand the Senate would also like to debate immigration. We respect that viewpoint. We also respect that the matter that is of concern about the President’s Executive authority is going through the courts. Don’t punish the Border Patrol agent, don’t punish the person working in the Coast Guard out on an ice cutter, don’t punish the

volunteer firefighter because you are angry at Obama. I say to my folks on my side of the aisle, make sure we vote to pass a clean funding bill here today. And I say also to the other side of the aisle to do it.

I really appreciate the fact that Senator REID and Senator MCCONNELL have arrived at this parliamentary Senate vote to get us where we need to be going. But I say to my friends in the House, to delay this 3 more weeks is reckless and it is dangerous. What are we going to know? We are waiting for the courts to decide? Who knows when the courts will decide. What we do know is not what the courts will decide, but we know we have a legal process. A judge has made a decision. It will go through the court of appeals, maybe even to the Supreme Court. Let the court follow its process. But in the meantime, while the courts are doing their job, can we at least get around to doing our job so that the men and women who provide for us and fight every day, whether it is the local volunteer fire department or our Secret Service, our Coast Guard, or those working in cyber security—and the Director of National Intelligence, Director Clapper, says cyber security is a bigger threat than ISIL—can do theirs?

So let’s get on with it, and let’s fulfill our constitutional responsibility when we said we take the oath to protect America against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I rise in strong opposition to stripping off all of the House language from the Homeland Security funding bill and proceeding with a “clean bill.”

I do so because I took a constitutional oath, and I take that oath very seriously. The language which we are debating in the Homeland Security funding bill from the House goes directly to that oath and goes directly to that responsibility. It does so for two reasons.

First of all, this Executive amnesty, which has about 5 million illegal aliens getting blanket significant amnesty because of the President’s Executive action, is a big deal. It is a big deal in terms of policy. It is a big deal regarding his overreaching his legal and constitutional authority.

First, policy. It is a fundamental rule of economics—it is a fundamental rule of life—that when you reward behavior, you get more of it. When you penalize certain behavior, you get less of it.

A blanket overarching amnesty which gives about 5 million illegal aliens in the country here amnesty is rewarding behavior. It is rewarding behavior we say we want to curtail, we say we want to stop, but we are rewarding it, and we are going to get more of it. That is not just me saying that

theoretically. We have lived that over and over again.

The President a few years ago took a similar but smaller Executive action commonly referred to as DACA. That focused on younger illegal aliens. Guess what. Soon after that action, a wave of new young illegal minors, unaccompanied minors, started coming into this country in numbers like we had never seen before.

Does anyone think that was unrelated? Does anyone think that timing was just coincidence? Of course it wasn't. The President rewarded illegal crossings and—surprise, surprise—he got a whole lot more of them in exactly the class—younger, illegal, unaccompanied minors—that he had acted on through DACA.

So this is going to happen again on a much larger scale. We are going to grow the problem through this policy, not get control of it.

The second concern I have is even far more fundamental, because it goes to his constitutional power and authority, and the fact that he is going well beyond that constitutional power and authority, I think, clearly.

Presidents have significant authority. They are the Executive. They need to execute the law. In executing the law, they often have to fill in the blanks, fill in the details that Congress has not fully provided. But that is very different from acting contrary to the law—180 degrees contrary to statutory law—and that is what the President is doing in this instance. No President has that authority. If they want to do that, they need to change the law. As every schoolkid knows, that goes through Congress, and then the President obviously has a role in terms of a veto. But the President doesn't want to do that. He can't do that. Congress disagrees with him. So he is just changing the law with the stroke of a pen. That is what is clearly illegal and unconstitutional, because he is acting contrary to statutory law.

Some of his apologists—including Loretta Lynch, for example—say: Well, every President can set prosecution priorities. We are simply setting priorities. We are simply saying this class of folks is not a priority for legal action, deportation prosecution.

I asked Ms. Lynch directly after she said that: Isn't it true the President is going beyond that? Isn't it true he is giving this entire class of illegal aliens a new legal status? She had no substantive response.

I said: Isn't it true the President is going beyond that? He is creating a new document out of thin air, with "work permit" at the top, and handing it to these illegal aliens and suggesting they now have a right to work legally in this country, even though statutory law makes it crystal clear they do not. She had no substantive answer to that.

I urge my colleagues not to strip out this important House language. The

President's action is bad policy that will grow the illegal immigration problem, and it is acting clearly beyond his legal constitutional authority.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, this morning we have the opportunity to accomplish two important goals.

First, we can pass legislation which will fully fund the Department of Homeland Security so it can perform its vital mission.

Second, we have the opportunity to stand up for our constitutional system of separation of powers.

I support and voted for comprehensive immigration reform. But the President's overreach usurps the role of Congress and undermines our constitutional system of checks and balances.

The failure of Congress to pass a law to the President's liking cannot become an excuse for the President to usurp the powers of the legislative branch.

The President knows he lacks the authority to write the law. He has said so 22 times, on 22 different occasions.

Allow me to describe my bill very briefly. Specifically, it does four things.

First, it bars the administration from using funds to implement the immigration orders issued by the President in November of last year.

Second, it has absolutely no effect on the much more constrained and limited Executive orders the President issued in 2012, the so-called DACA Program that protects the DREAMers, to whom I am very sympathetic.

Third, it directs the Department to give the highest enforcement priority to the deportation of foreign nationals in our country illegally who have been convicted of domestic violence, child abuse, exploitation, or a sex crime. Why would we want to keep in this country someone who is deportable who is a sex offender, who has been convicted of child molestation or domestic violence? It makes no sense.

Ironically, just this week the Senate Judiciary Committee held an excellent hearing on sex trafficking. We heard heartbreaking stories of very young girls who had been abused by men. If there are foreign nationals in this country who have been convicted of these crimes, they should be deported.

And, fourth, it includes a sense-of-the-Senate resolution that the executive branch should not act to give foreign nationals who are here illegally an edge in competing for jobs against American citizens or legal residents with green cards.

The Founders gave us a system of separation of powers and checks and balances not to tear us apart but to pull us together. They gave us no shortcuts on purpose.

The President's November 2014 Executive actions are ill-advised precisely because they attempt to shortcut the process by usurping Congress's authority to pass legislation.

My legislation would block that effort without in any way altering or diminishing the more constrained and important 2012 DACA Program.

I want to see the Department of Homeland Security fully funded. It has an absolutely vital mission at a time when our country faces numerous threats.

I urge my colleagues this morning both to vote for the clean DHS bill and for my legislation to stand up for the role of Congress in our constitutional system.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant Democratic leader.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, how much time is remaining on the Democratic side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 4 minutes remaining on the Democratic side.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, let me say at the outset Senator COLLINS is my friend and colleague, and we have worked on many things together. I respect her especially because the Department of Homeland Security was literally her creation, along with Senator Lieberman and others.

The fact that we have now agreed on a bipartisan basis to set aside this immigration debate and to fully fund this critical Department is the right thing to do. A 98-to-2 vote is unusual on the Senate floor. It reflects the fact that we finally reached that consensus on funding the Department of Homeland Security. I hope our vote later today also reflects that. But I do take exception to some of the statements she has made about her own measure which she is offering.

First I would like to invite her—and I am sure she has been there a thousand times—to walk down this corridor and look up the staircase to the painting, a painting that shows Abraham Lincoln with his Cabinet. It is the moment when he signed an Executive order. President Lincoln signed an Executive order, and with that Executive order 152 years ago, the Emancipation Proclamation freed 3 million slaves in the United States of America.

Barack Obama is not the first President to issue an Executive order nor is he the first President to issue one which affects millions of people. Which President held the record for an Executive order giving rights to 1.5 million immigrants in this country before Barack Obama? George Herbert Walker Bush. In fact, virtually every President since Eisenhower has issued an Executive order relative to immigration. Now we didn't see Republican hair on fire when it was being done by President George W. Bush or George Herbert Walker Bush. It is only when Barack

Obama does it that they scream and rage it is unconstitutional. Yet let's look at the argument they are making.

Senator COLLINS is making the argument that the Executive order signed by President Obama, known as DACA, that affected children who might qualify under the DREAM Act and could protect up to 2 million young people in America, was legal. I agree. She says her bill that she is offering today reflects that.

Then she says that 2 years later, when the President issued an Executive order that could protect on a temporary basis up to 5 million, that was clearly unconstitutional. What is the difference? Well, it is a difference the courts will have to try to resolve. I think we ought to think twice before we try to defund or repeal the President's Executive orders of November 2014.

President Obama makes it clear that if you are the parent of an American citizen child or a legal resident alien child, you have to come forward, pay a filing fee, submit your name for a criminal background check, and if you have a bad criminal record, you are gone. If your record clears and you have no criminal history to be concerned about, then you can work in the United States on a temporary basis for 2 years. That is it. It doesn't give you permanent citizenship or legal status beyond that.

Isn't it better that our country be safe enough to know that these millions of people are no threat to us, where they live, who they work for? I think that makes sense.

It is a shame Congress hasn't done it. We can still do it, and I hope we will. But the Collins approach, sadly, is going to deny that, and it is going to say, frankly, that the priorities currently set for deportation of dangerous people will be swept away but for the specified crimes which she includes in her bill.

I will state that the President's Executive order already covers every one of those offenses—every one of those felonies. So Ms. COLLINS is not adding anything to the debate. I know that the Senator offered this in good faith, and I believe she can be an important part in finding a bipartisan solution to the immigration question. But I urge my colleagues to reject the Collins bill that comes before us today. It was a bill crafted in the House of Representatives in anger over the President's Executive order. It does not protect DACA and the DREAMers, and that is why the immigration groups to a person have come out against the Collins amendment.

I hope my colleagues will join me in voting against the measure.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that all votes

after the first vote be 10 minutes in length.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on H.R. 240, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015.

Mitch McConnell, Orrin G. Hatch, Susan M. Collins, Lindsey Graham, Daniel Coats, Thad Cochran, Roger F. Wicker, John Barrasso, Jeff Flake, John McCain, Mark Kirk, Kelly Ayotte, Lamar Alexander, Lisa Murkowski, Bob Corker, John Cornyn.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on H.R. 240, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 68, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 59 Leg.]

YEAS—68

Alexander	Flake	Mikulski
Ayotte	Franken	Murkowski
Baldwin	Gardner	Murphy
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Murray
Bennet	Graham	Nelson
Blumenthal	Hatch	Peters
Booker	Heinrich	Reed
Brown	Heitkamp	Reid
Cantwell	Heller	Rounds
Capito	Hirono	Sanders
Cardin	Johnson	Schatz
Carper	Kaine	Schumer
Casey	King	Shaheen
Coats	Kirk	Stabenow
Cochran	Klobuchar	Tester
Collins	Leahy	Thune
Cooms	Manchin	Toomey
Corker	Markey	Udall
Cornyn	McCain	Warner
Donnelly	McCaskill	Warren
Durbin	McConnell	Whitehouse
Enzi	Menendez	Wyden
Feinstein	Merkley	

NAYS—31

Blunt	Crapo	Grassley
Boozman	Cruz	Hoeven
Burr	Daines	Inhofe
Cassidy	Ernst	Isakson
Cotton	Fischer	Lankford

Lee	Roberts	Sullivan
Moran	Rubio	Tillis
Paul	Sasse	Vitter
Perdue	Scott	Wicker
Portman	Sessions	
Risch	Shelby	

NOT VOTING—1

Boxer

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 68, the nays are 31.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Cloture having been invoked, the motion to commit falls as inconsistent with cloture.

Under the previous order, all postcloture time is yielded back with the exception of 10 minutes for the Senator from Utah, Mr. LEE, or his designee.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, in November 2014, the President of the United States issued a series of Executive orders effectively granting amnesty to millions of people who were in the United States unlawfully, outside of what our laws allow—laws passed by Congress and signed into law by the President of the United States.

In other words, under article I, section 8, we, as a Congress, are given power to establish a uniform system of laws governing immigration and naturalization. If our laws allow someone to come in, they may come in, but if they do not, then those people need to make sure they go about getting into the country legally and lawfully.

If and when the President of the United States, or anyone else for that matter, thinks these laws are inadequate, there is a way to change them. The way to change them is to go back to the Congress of the United States, go back to the lawmaking body, go back to that entity recognized in article I, section 1 of the Constitution, to the very first substantive line which says, "All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and a House of Representatives."

Unfortunately, the President of the United States chose not to change the law that way. Unfortunately, the President of the United States, contradicting his own prior statements, chose to take Executive action to legalize millions of people currently in the United States illegally.

Ultimately, this is an issue that ought to be of concern to every one of us. It is an issue that is neither Republican nor Democratic. It is neither liberal nor conservative. It is simply an American issue. It is simply an issue that flows from the rule of law, flows from the notion that ours is a system that runs under the rule of law and not under the rule of individuals.

There is a means by which we as a Congress can resist the encroachments of an overreaching Chief Executive. It

is the same means identified by James Madison in the Federalist papers, and that means involves the use of the power of the purse.

Congress, of course, funds the operations of the Federal Government. The President of the United States cannot do that all on his own. So should we choose to do so, as Congress has chosen to do on so many other occasions—when we see something within the government, whether implemented legally at the outset or not, when we see something we don't like, we can choose not to fund that.

We have, over the last few weeks, tried to do precisely that in response to this Executive action. One month ago the House of Representatives passed a bill to keep the Department of Homeland Security funded, with the understanding that at midnight tonight that funding stream would expire. At the time the House of Representatives passed that legislation, the House of Representatives—a body most accountable to the people at the most frequent intervals—made a decision. They said, We are going to keep everything else within the Department of Homeland Security funded, and the House of Representatives said, We will, however, direct the Department of Homeland Security not to spend any money implementing certain Executive orders issued by the President, in November 2014 and previously, dealing with Executive amnesty.

The Senate has been trying to proceed to that bill for nearly 4 weeks. Unfortunately, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have refused to allow us to proceed to that bill. They have blocked our attempts. They have engaged in obstruction and they have not allowed us to proceed to it. Why? Because they didn't like that appropriations rider. They didn't like that spending restriction. Apparently, they do not think we should be exercising that power described by James Madison and foreseen by our Founding Fathers as that last great protection against an overreaching Executive. So they refused to allow us to get onto the bill.

As we are on the verge of getting on the bill—as we are just getting onto the bill—all of a sudden, they say, OK, we are OK with doing this as long as we are the only ones who get to offer amendments, as long as we get our amendment—the amendment that strips out all of the spending limitation language in the House-passed bill. We are OK with it as long as we, the Democrats, get our amendment, but no Republican gets his or her amendment. That isn't fair.

I wish to make clear that those of us who are supporting this have not objected to the running of the time. Those of us who are supporting this have not objected to anyone else getting amendments. Those of us who are

supporting this simply want a vote. We want a vote on a product that is even narrower than what was sent over from the House of Representatives.

In a moment I will be calling up my amendment No. 265 and I will be asking this body to consider it and vote on it. What it says is that we will not allow the Department of Homeland Security to spend any money on implementing the November 2014 Executive amnesty Executive order. That is what we are trying to do. In the event it is objected to, then I will be moving to table the procedural mechanism by which other amendments are being blocked.

I implore all of my colleagues to remember themselves as operating within the constitutional framework, in which, far more than our status as Democrat or Republican, as liberal or conservative, we are here to defend our own power, our own authority that we have been given by our own people.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this amendment.

I ask unanimous consent to call up my amendment No. 265.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Utah.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 258

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I move to table the McConnell amendment No. 258 for the purposes of offering my amendment No. 265, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 34, nays 65, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 60 Leg.]

YEAS—34

Blunt	Hatch	Rubio
Boozman	Hoeven	Sasse
Burr	Inhofe	Scott
Capito	Isakson	Sessions
Cassidy	Lankford	Shelby
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Moran	Thune
Cruz	Paul	Toomey
Daines	Perdue	Vitter
Ernst	Portman	Wicker
Fischer	Risch	
Grassley	Roberts	

NAYS—65

Alexander	Cantwell	Corker
Ayotte	Cardin	Cornyn
Baldwin	Carper	Donnelly
Barrasso	Casey	Durbin
Bennet	Coats	Enzi
Blumenthal	Cochran	Feinstein
Booker	Collins	Flake
Brown	Coons	Franken

Gardner	Markey	Rounds
Gillibrand	McCain	Sanders
Graham	McCaskill	Schatz
Heinrich	McConnell	Schumer
Heitkamp	Menendez	Shaheen
Heller	Merkley	Stabenow
Hirono	Mikulski	Tester
Johnson	Murkowski	Tillis
Kaine	Murphy	Udall
King	Murray	Warner
Kirk	Nelson	Warren
Klobuchar	Peters	Whitehouse
Leahy	Reed	Wyden
Manchin	Reid	

NOT VOTING—1

Boxer

The motion was rejected.

AMENDMENT NOS. 258, 257, AND 256 WITHDRAWN

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, amendment Nos. 258, 257, and 256 are withdrawn.

AMENDMENT NO. 255

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on amendment No. 255, offered by the Senator from Kentucky, Mr. McCONNELL.

Who yields time?

Ms. COLLINS. We yield back our time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The yeas and nays have been previously ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 66, nays 33, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 61 Leg.]

YEAS—66

Alexander	Flake	Merkley
Ayotte	Franken	Mikulski
Baldwin	Gardner	Murkowski
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Murphy
Bennet	Graham	Murray
Blumenthal	Hatch	Nelson
Booker	Heinrich	Peters
Brown	Heitkamp	Reed
Cantwell	Heller	Reid
Cardin	Hirono	Rounds
Carper	Johnson	Sanders
Casey	Kaine	Schatz
Coats	King	Schumer
Cochran	Kirk	Shaheen
Collins	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Coons	Leahy	Tester
Corker	Manchin	Thune
Cornyn	Markey	Udall
Donnelly	McCain	Warner
Durbin	McCaskill	Warren
Enzi	McConnell	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Menendez	Wyden

NAYS—33

Blunt	Crapo	Hoeven
Boozman	Cruz	Inhofe
Burr	Daines	Isakson
Capito	Ernst	Lankford
Cassidy	Fischer	Lee
Cotton	Grassley	Moran

Paul
Perdue
Portman
Risch
Roberts

Rubio
Sasse
Scott
Sessions
Shelby

Sullivan
Tillis
Toomey
Vitter
Wicker

McCaskill
McConnell
Menendez
Merkley
Mikulski
Murkowski
Murphy
Murray
Nelson

Peters
Reed
Reid
Rounds
Sanders
Schatz
Schumer
Shaheen
Stabenow

Tester
Thune
Toomey
Udall
Warner
Warren
Whitehouse
Wyden

Moore Capito, Ron Johnson, Richard Burr.

NOT VOTING—1

Boxer

The amendment (No. 255) was agreed to.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed, and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate, equally divided, prior to a vote on passage of H.R. 240, as amended.

The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, the Senate is about to vote on a full-year funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security. All of us in this Chamber understand that we need to support the Department because they are critical to defending the homeland. If we want to fight ISIL, then we can fight them here at home by passing the bill to fully fund DHS.

We can keep Homeland Security on the job. We can keep breaking the ice to keep the economy moving on our lakes and our oceans. We can secure our borders. We can prevent attacks from terrorists. Our enemies are watching. Now it is time to defend America. I urge all of my colleagues to vote yes on this full funding bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent to yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 68, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 62 Leg.]

YEAS—68

Alexander
Ayotte
Baldwin
Barrasso
Bennet
Blumenthal
Booker
Brown
Cantwell
Capito
Cardin
Carper
Casey
Coats

Cochran
Collins
Coons
Corker
Cornyn
Donnelly
Durbin
Enzi
Feinstein
Flake
Franken
Gardner
Gillibrand
Graham

Hatch
Heinrich
Heitkamp
Heller
Hirono
Johnson
Kaine
King
Kirk
Klobuchar
Leahy
Manchin
Markey
McCain

Blunt
Boozman
Burr
Cassidy
Cotton
Crapo
Cruz
Daines
Ernst
Fischer
Grassley

NAYS—31

Hoeven
Inhofe
Isakson
Lankford
Lee
Moran
Paul
Perdue
Portman
Risch
Roberts

Rubio
Sasse
Scott
Sessions
Shelby
Sullivan
Tillis
Vitter
Wicker

NOT VOTING—1

Boxer

The bill (H.R. 240), as amended, was passed.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 534.

The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, my bill would block the extraordinarily broad immigration actions issued by the President in November of last year. The President himself knows he lacks the authority to take such actions—he has said so publicly on 22 occasions.

I support comprehensive immigration reform. But the President's 2014 Executive order overreach usurps the role of Congress, and undermines our system of checks and balances. We must stand tall for the separation of powers doctrine in our Constitution.

We can do so while protecting the much more limited June 2012 Executive order that created the so-called DACA program that benefits DREAMers. Under my bill, the DACA program will continue just as it was designed by the President in 2012.

Madam President, I yield back all time on this side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All majority time is yielded back.

All time is yielded back.

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to S. 534, a bill to prohibit funds from being used to carry out certain Executive actions related to immigration and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Susan M. Collins, John Thune, Cory Gardner, Lamar Alexander, Daniel Coats, James Lankford, John Barrasso, John McCain, Bill Cassidy, Roger F. Wicker, John Hoeven, Lisa Murkowski, Jeff Flake, Shelley

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to S. 534, a bill to prohibit funds from being used to carry out certain Executive actions related to immigration and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 63 Leg.]

YEAS—57

Alexander
Ayotte
Barrasso
Blunt
Boozman
Burr
Capito
Cassidy
Coats
Cochran
Collins
Corker
Cornyn
Cotton
Crapo
Cruz
Daines
Donnelly
Enzi

Ernst
Fischer
Flake
Gardner
Graham
Grassley
Hatch
Heitkamp
Heller
Hoeven
Inhofe
Isakson
Johnson
Kirk
Lankford
Lee
Manchin
McCain
McCaskill

Moran
Murkowski
Paul
Perdue
Portman
Risch
Roberts
Rounds
Rubio
Sasse
Scott
Sessions
Shelby
Sullivan
Thune
Tillis
Toomey
Vitter
Wicker

NAYS—42

Baldwin
Bennet
Blumenthal
Booker
Brown
Cantwell
Cardin
Carper
Casey
Coons
Durbin
Feinstein
Franken
Gillibrand

Heinrich
Hirono
Kaine
King
Klobuchar
Leahy
Markey
McConnell
Menendez
Merkley
Mikulski
Murphy
Murray
Nelson

Peters
Reed
Reid
Sanders
Schatz
Schumer
Shaheen
Stabenow
Tester
Udall
Warner
Warren
Whitehouse
Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

Boxer

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 57, the nays are 42.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I enter a motion to reconsider the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to

speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, I rise for a minute to talk about trade between the United States and our trading partners around the world.

To make the point of my remarks, I ask rhetorically for everybody in the auditorium and the Senate Chamber to answer these questions:

Are you willing to cut American sales of goods and services by over \$2 trillion?

I think the answer would be a resounding no.

Secondly, are you ready to diminish or lose 39.8 million jobs?

Nobody in here wants to give up \$2.3 trillion in American business, and everybody wants more jobs in the middle class, and nobody wants to cost America 39 million jobs. But that is exactly what is going to happen if we don't pass TPA, if we don't enter into trade agreements and aggressively work to make the three pending trade agreements the United States has workable for our country.

Yesterday I listened as Members of this body came to the floor to talk against trade and talk against the trade promotion authority. For the benefit of our new Members, trade promotion authority is our authorization to give the President the parameters, the limitations, and the prerogative to negotiate trade agreements, which come back to us for a final ratification up or down. That is a good way to do business. The world recognizes that if our President has trade promotion authority, he can sit down across the table from them and he can make a deal, and it is only subject to one vote of the U.S. Senate. If we leave it as it is now, where there is no trade promotion authority, then we can vote on every amendment, every prerogative, every limitation, every opportunity, and make negotiations for the administration and our country impossible.

We have three pending agreements before the United States of America: first, the trade promotion authority for the President; second, the African Growth and Opportunity Act, which expires in September of this year; next is the trade and investment partnership with Europe; and lastly is the trans-

pacific trade agreement with the Pacific Rim. All three of those agreements are important for us to negotiate and close the deal on. Yet, without passing TPA, we can do none.

Ambassador Froman and the administration are doing an outstanding job of representing the United States. I have traveled with him to the African Union in Africa to work on the goal. I was with him yesterday afternoon. I talked with him about some of the obstacles we have in terms of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and I have talked to him about the transatlantic trade and promotion act—all of which we need to pass and all of which he needs to be able to negotiate. But without TPA, the United States of America is sitting at the table but they can't make a deal, and the President doesn't have the authority that he needs and that he says he wants.

Most of the opposition I have heard on the floor of the Senate comes from the people in the President's own party. In the last two State of the Union Addresses, the President of the United States has underlined the importance of TPA. He said it again this year. But yesterday seven Members of his party came to the floor to talk against trade promotion authority.

It is time for us to sit around the table and talk about \$2.3 trillion in business for our country and 39.8 million jobs in our country. Let's talk about how we can increase those jobs. In my State of Georgia, 1.2 million jobs are directly export-related. The Congress of the United States appropriated \$706 million over the next 6 years for the deepening and expansion of the Savannah Harbor in Savannah, GA. The Panama Canal is being widened and next year will open to the ships of the 21st century. Are they going to go somewhere else if we don't do trade promotion authority? Probably so. We all saw what happened last week when the west coast shut down because of the longshoremen's strike and what an impact it had on our economy. That is the kind of impact we are going to have if we don't do trade promotion authority for the President.

It is ironic that almost unanimously the Republican Members of the Senate are for trade promotion authority, and it appears, after yesterday's speeches, that a significant majority of the Democratic Party is against it. Yet their President is for it.

All of us are for jobs. All of us are for business. All of us are for economic activity. It is time we put our differences aside and delineate for the President of the United States the negotiating parameters, the negotiating authority, and the ability we grant to him to make deals in the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership and the African Growth and Opportunity Act. All three will mean jobs not just for

my State of Georgia but for our country. All three will be good for our national defense and our security. People don't tend to fight with or bomb people with whom they do business. The more trade agreements we have, the more business we share, the more exchanges of our currency and economic prosperity, the better off our country is, the better off our security is, and the better off are jobs for those in the middle class.

I thank the Presiding Officer for the opportunity to speak from the floor, and I encourage all my Members in the Senate, Republican and Democrat alike, to dedicate themselves when we come back to expeditiously bringing up trade promotion authority, delineating our differences, negotiating those differences, and giving our President the opportunity to create more jobs for America, more jobs for Georgia, more jobs for West Virginia, and more jobs for our country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

REMEMBERING FATHER THEODORE HESBURGH

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam President, back in 1973 a young man caught a lucky break that changed his life. That young man was I, and it was my acceptance letter to the University of Notre Dame that opened up the gates of opportunity for me.

Last night, the beloved president emeritus of Notre Dame, Father Theodore Hesburgh, passed away at the age of 97. On his last day, Father Ted said Mass in the morning and passed away 12 hours later. He counseled Presidents and Popes, but he was first and foremost a priest—one who ministered to the homeless, the poor, and those in need—and that is when he was also the happiest.

We were so lucky to have him touch our lives, and those of us in Indiana were fortunate enough to experience him as our friend and neighbor. Nobody who ever walked the streets of South Bend could forget Father Ted driving around in his little Ford Mustang, giving a wave to everybody he saw.

Our country and the world is a better place because of Father Ted. He loved his God, his country, and Notre Dame, and he ministered to anyone who asked him for help.

Father Hesburgh grew up near Syracuse, NY, and was ordained and became a priest in 1943. He promptly asked that his first assignment as a priest be as the chaplain of a naval aircraft carrier. The leaders of the Holy Cross religious order were not surprised, as they knew of Father Ted's great patriotism, his love of the U.S. Navy, and his devotion to our servicemembers. However, they asked him to stay at Notre Dame and minister to the families and servicemembers who were training at the

time at Vetville at Notre Dame. As always, Father Ted smiled, took the assignment, and worked nonstop. That began a journey that included the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Congressional Gold Medal, 16 Presidential appointments, and 150 honorary degrees. But more important to Father Ted than all of these awards were the millions of souls he nourished, said Mass with, prayed for, and guided to a wonderful life.

When we look at Father Ted's amazing accomplishments at Notre Dame, we can't help but see what a stronger academic institution and better and more inclusive place it has become and that he left behind. Father Ted broke down the barriers and admitted women to Notre Dame back in the early 1970s, which changed the place forever and made Notre Dame a home for everyone. My wife and daughter, both of whom graduated from the university, were direct beneficiaries of his wisdom and his vision.

Father Hesburgh stood up to Presidents whenever necessary, stood together with Martin Luther King for civil rights, and ministered to those in poverty and need every chance he could.

Father Ted never gave a second thought about preaching truth to power; it helped to define who he was. We marked 50 years last July since he linked arms with Martin Luther King, Jr., in Soldier Field, Chicago, and sang "We Shall Overcome" when others turned down the invitation to be there. Father Ted believed in doing what was right, not what was easy. Next week I will travel to Selma for the 50th anniversary of the start of the marches there, and I will take Father Ted's example with me on that journey.

He expected doing what is right and not what is easy or popular from his students as well. He had a big heart, and he wanted his students to do their best, but a lack of effort was never an acceptable way of doing business with Father Ted. As a student, I remember seeing his light on in his little dorm room with his iron cot at midnight or 2 a.m. Every student there knew that meant Father Ted was open for business. Students would stop by and seek a comforting word if a parent had just passed away or when worried about "How am I ever going to be able to pay the next tuition bill?" or when they looked at their grade point average and said "How am I ever going to be here for other reasons next semester?" or if they had personal heartbreaks. Father Ted was there for all of us to talk with. He wanted every student to know they were loved and cared about and special, just like the cooks and gardeners and professors and the people of Notre Dame he went up to, shook hands with, smiled at, and gave encouragement to every day.

God bless you, Father Ted. I would never be here in the Senate without

your kindness and your example. And there are Domers—as Notre Dame students are known—all over the world who know you helped give them the chance to open doors, to be given opportunities, and to have a better life that never would have happened without you.

There is a saying on the door of the Sacred Heart Basilica at the University. It says, "God, Country, Notre Dame." Father Hesburgh lived that every day.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator withhold his request?

Mr. DONNELLY. I will.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

VENEZUELA

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I want to speak about the ongoing crisis in Venezuela—something that doesn't capture a lot of attention in the headlines because we have situations going on in the Middle East, as we have seen the horrifying reality of what ISIS is doing, just this week kidnapping more Christians.

As we look at that situation in the Middle East, we should remind ourselves that there is a sectarian component to this that extends beyond ISIS's desire to convert the entire region to their version of radical Sunni Islam, but it also includes driving out all the Christians from the Middle East, and that is why they are specifically being targeted for brutalization. We have seen it again this week, and our heart breaks; and it should move us to move even faster in our efforts to destroy them. We can do this.

I also know the world's attention is being paid to Ukraine where a delicate ceasefire is being violated by Russians, both Russian regular troops, by the way, who make incursions into Ukraine to fight side by side with rebel forces against the central government of Kiev, but also the weaponry that they continue to harm them with and the heavy shelling that at times comes across the border from Russia into Ukraine.

These are significant issues we are being confronted with, and I understand why our attention is being paid to these things. But there is something happening in our own hemisphere that is not getting our attention, and I hope to use a few moments on the floor of the Senate to call attention to it, and that is the horrifying human rights catastrophe of Venezuela.

Venezuela is a rich country—rich in oil and rich in people. Its people are well-educated, hard-working, talented. It is the cradle of democracy in Latin America and in the Western Hemisphere; but over the last 3 years especially it has spiraled downward and out of control.

A once rich and prosperous nation has shortages of everyday goods from toilet paper to soap, with people having to wait in long lines. There is no U.S. embargo in Venezuela. There are no economic sanctions on Venezuela that they can blame on us or anyone else. It is due simply and entirely to the mismanagement and incompetence of Nicolas Maduro, the clown who runs that country, and the thugs who surround him in his gangster-style government.

Venezuela ostensibly portrays itself as a democracy but in reality it is not. The court system is completely controlled by the government of Maduro. The elections are constantly manipulated by Maduro. There is no freedom of the press. For example, the government gets unlimited hours to talk on television about whatever they want, and the opposition gets virtually none. Newspapers that oppose the government find that they cannot import newsprint—the actual paper—so they can't print. Other media outlets have been either bought or the owners have been forced out of the country and been bought and turned over to owners more friendly to the government. The point is Venezuela is not a democracy, or is a democracy in name only.

Beyond that, it is a government that is losing control and for the first time a few weeks ago or months ago authorized the National Guard to use deadly force on protesters. So it should not surprise us that earlier this week a young man—a high school student—was shot and killed in one of those protests, and we should expect to see more of this in the days and weeks to come, unfortunately. I hope I am wrong and pray that I am wrong, but I believe that is where they are headed, because there is no way out of this mess for the government.

In fact, their situation is so dire that one of the things that has allowed them to keep the elite on the side of Maduro is the gas subsidy. Gasoline is very cheap in Venezuela because it is subsidized by the government. I predict over the next few weeks or months the Venezuelan Government is going to have to go to the people and say we have to take away the subsidy. And when that happens, Maduro may lose the support that is even around him. That is why he is being so careful about announcing it, but they are going to have to do it. There are no ifs, ands, or buts about it. And when they do, it could quickly spiral out of control as well.

There are reports of coup attempts internally, with some of the military starting to bristle at the heavy-handedness of this government there, and that is something worth watching. The point is Venezuela is spiraling out of control. We need to pay attention to this because it is happening in our own hemisphere. It is happening in our own

backyard. It has the ability and the potential not just to dramatically impact the people of Venezuela, but the countries of the region and even our own. I don't think enough attention is being paid to this, while every single day the brutality continues.

I called attention to this for the first time last year in February when the first wave of protests happened. We worked diligently to try to achieve sanctions on the individuals responsible for these human rights violations. Thanks to my colleagues here who were able to pass a bill that authorized the administration to impose sanctions on individuals in Venezuela responsible for human rights violations. To date the administration has imposed visa bans on some of these individuals, but they have not taken the next step of economic sanctions on the people responsible for these human rights violations.

A few weeks ago I wrote the President a letter asking him, please begin to use this tool against those who are violating the human rights of the people of Venezuela. He has yet to do so. So I once again renew that call: Please impose these sanctions on the human rights violators in Venezuela.

I hope I can use these moments to describe to people what I am hearing from people inside Venezuela and the expat community in Florida. They feel as though no one is paying attention. They feel as though they have been abandoned. They feel as though they are alone. Every single day the news leads off with all these things happening around the world—and they are worried about these things, too—but they feel as though no one is speaking out for them. They feel abandoned by all the other nations in the region.

Where are all the governments of the Western Hemisphere? Where are all the other countries that are neighbors to Venezuela? Where is the Organization of American States? What is the point of even having that organization if it can't serve as an institution and a forum for condemning this sort of activity? Where are all the democracies of Latin America and the Western Hemisphere? Why are they not speaking out and condemning what is happening here?

It is interesting, we sent a couple of Guantanamo detainees to Uruguay and the Uruguayan Government says they are asylum seekers, that they are refugees—basically implying they are refugees to American oppression. They have no qualms whatsoever about speaking out against the United States for putting in jail enemy combatants and terrorists responsible for the murder of Americans, responsible for acts of terrorism, responsible for supporting the Taliban. They have no problem condemning us, claiming that the people we released to them—which we should never have done—are refugees

and asylum seekers, but they are silent and say nothing when it comes to what is happening in Venezuela. The hypocrisy of it is unbelievable.

I challenge the heads of state of the countries of Latin America to speak out. The only problem is they are going to turn back around and say, Where is your head of state? Why isn't your President speaking out about it? The answer is, I don't know. I am grateful that he signed that bill. It is time to put it in effect. It is time to begin to use the tools in those sanctions to go after these individuals, but I wish the White House and the President would more forcefully and more consistently speak out against these human rights violations that are occurring.

When you think about it, why are the people of Venezuela feeling abandoned? They look to us. They see America as the beacon of hope. We are supposed to be the premier defender of human rights and freedom and democracy on the planet; and instead, from the White House and the President, there is silence. There is silence.

We cannot lose that aspect of our foreign policy. I understand that reality has a significant role to play in foreign policy, the balancing of different considerations; but morality and human rights must always be a key cornerstone of where we stand on issues of global affairs. If we lose that, if we lose the moral authority of this Nation, we lose our standing as a beacon of hope and freedom to people all over the world.

I know sometimes we read newspaper articles and these leaders criticize us. But I hope it is understood that although people may talk badly about America, even in places where there might be some resentment about America, at its core people admire America. They admire us because they know someone from there who came here and was able to achieve things they never could have done in their own homeland. They admire us because every time there is an earthquake, Americans are the first ones there. Every time there is a flood, Americans are the first ones to respond. Every time there is hunger or suffering, it is American charities and the American Government first on the scene. They remember that and they admire it and they admire us for it.

They admire our freedoms. They admire our democracy. They admire the fact that I am able to stand here on the floor today and criticize the President of the United States and there isn't some police officer outside that door ready to handcuff me and take me to jail.

Meanwhile, in Venezuela, just this week a member of their legislative branch was ousted. Do you know why they kicked him out? So he could lose his legislative immunity and they could arrest him. Two weeks ago armed

agents stormed the office of a mayor, fired shots in the air to disperse crowds and arrested by force a member of the opposition party—a mayor. This is happening in our own hemisphere and this is happening in the 21st century. It was just two decades ago that the Western Hemisphere was full of dictators, right-wing and leftwing, strong men who controlled and oppressed their people. We paid a terrible price for that in this hemisphere and in this country. Then there was this opening of democratic progress in the region. Now it is starting to erode and we are standing by and saying nothing about it, as if it doesn't even exist.

You see it eroding in Nicaragua where the Sandinistas are back in charge. They won an election and then they used that power to erode democracy. You see it in Bolivia, you see it in Ecuador. You even see hints of it in Argentina. And you really see it in Venezuela.

By the way, let me point out one more thing. Today, even as I speak to you, Cuban agents are here negotiating. I say Cuban agents. They dress as diplomats and act as diplomats, but in fact they are spies. In fact, the chief negotiator for the Cubans in these talks they are having with the State Department, Josefina Vidal, was asked to leave this country with her husband because her husband was an intelligence officer and she is known to be one as well. But these Cuban spies are here to negotiate with the State Department. They send spies. We send diplomats.

Let's not forget who has taught the Venezuelan Government these tactics of oppression, these violent tactics, these ways to crack down on society. Let's not forget who has coached them. Let's not forget there are thousands of Cuban agents working in the Government of Venezuela right now. Let's not forget there are thousands of Cuban agents infiltrated in the Armed Forces—not infiltrated, they are openly in the Armed Forces of Venezuela right now.

Let's not forget that in Venezuela, Maduro, and before him Chavez, ousted the sovereignty of Venezuela to the Castros. Let's not forget who the source of all of this in Venezuela truly was—who coached them, who taught them, who supported them, who provided personnel for them to carry this out. It is Cuba, a nation that is a global sponsor of terrorism, because they harbor fugitives from American justice, because they helped North Korea evade U.N. sanctions openly and nothing happened. Now the State Department is thinking about removing them from the list of sponsors of terrorism—one concession after another.

But, anyway, on the issue of Venezuela, I hope we will pay more attention to it, because there are people right now suffering—not just economically but politically and physically at

the hands of a brutal regime. They are looking to America and its leaders to speak clearly that we are on their side, that we will speak out for them, that we will stand for them, and we will use the power of this government to go after and punish those who are committing these crimes against them.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Senate is waiting for House action on the DHS funding issue, and while that is occurring, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 2:10 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 8:19 p.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. CAPITO).

MORNING BUSINESS

IMMIGRATION POLICY MEMORANDA ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, the actions the Senate took today to fund the Department of Homeland Security should not be construed to accept, endorse, affirm or acquiesce in the memoranda issued by the Department related to immigration policy. A majority of the Senate has voted repeatedly over the last few weeks to advance legislation that would, if enacted, prohibit the Department from implementing the policies reflected in those memoranda. I and my colleagues in the majority who voted to fund the Department today did so to avoid a shutdown of its operations, many of which are necessary to safeguard our Nation. In voting to fund the Department, we were also mindful of the fact that the policies and directives that are embodied in these memoranda, and to which we object, are the subject of a preliminary injunction issued by the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, which is preventing the Department from implementing them.

TRIBUTE TO ARLENE AND ALAN ALDA

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, Marcelle and I met Arlene and Alan

Alda on a trip with Senator Lloyd Bentsen. We had dinner together but I had a chance to talk to Alan Alda about our mutual Italian heritage. Later I told my Italian-American mother how nice a couple they were. She said, basically, what would I expect? With an Italian background, they would have to be nice.

The New York Times recently ran an article about this remarkable couple, focusing on her prolific writing, and his acting and writing, but especially their ability to maintain a wonderful marriage and a sense of life. I wanted to make sure my fellow Senators and anybody else who reads the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD would read this profile. I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the article from the New York Times entitled "There's Always Room for Rum Cake."

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Feb. 13, 2015]

THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR RUM CAKE

(By Lois Smith Brady)

Arlene Alda, 81, and her husband, the actor Alan Alda, 79, say that one secret to a long-lasting marriage (theirs has been going for almost 58 years) is forgetfulness, which comes naturally to them at this point.

The Aldas, who discussed their decades together by telephone, with Ms. Alda also weighing in later by email, haven't had a serious argument for the last 20 years, she said, primarily because they can no longer remember for very long whether they are angry with each other or why.

"I have a short memory, and so does he," Ms. Alda said. "Was that always true? I don't recall."

Both emanate warmth and thoughtfulness in the way of beloved English professors or concerned therapists. Mr. Alda, whose career in television and theater has been as remarkably durable as his marriage, and Ms. Alda, a writer and photographer, possess laughs that are like old jeans: comfortable and well used.

Ms. Alda said that laughter is "the real glue that keeps us happily and willingly stuck together." They are definitely not the kind of couple who sit silently across the table from each other. "We're both loud laughers," she said. "Guffawing ones."

He said: "I have a very highfalutin notion about laughter. I think when you laugh you make yourself momentarily vulnerable. Your defenses are not up, and if you can stay in a playful mood, where you are susceptible to laughter, your chances of being antagonistic with each other are lower."

In general, they do not seem to act their ages. She described a recent afternoon: "I have a blurb to write for someone's book. I have soup I want to cook. I have a good chicken I want to roast. I have a book I'm reading that I want to finish. I have email correspondence. I have Facebook posts."

Her 19th book, "Just Kids From the Bronx," a collection of vignettes about 65 noteworthy people who grew up in rough Bronx neighborhoods and escaped in their own idiosyncratic ways, is to be published next month.

Ms. Alda, who grew up in the Bronx herself and is a Hunter College graduate, met Mr. Alda in 1956 while he was attending Fordham

University. They connected at a dinner party on the Upper West Side when a rum cake accidentally fell onto the kitchen floor and they were the only two guests who did not hesitate to eat it.

"He was a kindred spirit who was also funny, so there was this great chemistry," she said. "It sure was fun and delightful to be with him that night. Boys from Manhattan didn't date girls from the Bronx. That was a given. It was too long of a trip. He took me home to the Bronx. Unheard of."

Eleven months later, they were married in a modest ceremony (18 guests watched) that reflected their humble goals at the time. They mainly wanted to be able to pay the rent and not suffer as their parents had.

"There was a lot of unhappiness in my parents' marriage partly because my mother was psychotic," Mr. Alda said. "We were already ahead of the game in that neither of us were seriously mentally ill."

Her parents had struggled financially and had no time for luxuries like dinner parties or showing affection for each other. "I wanted something different," she said. "I wanted something without stress."

So they filled their marriage with affection, music, dinner parties with artists and actors and celebrations of every paycheck.

"The first job I got was with a traveling children's company where we had to lug our own scenery," Mr. Alda said. "I got \$10 a performance, and we were so glad, we went out to get pizza to celebrate." To this day, whenever he gets a new acting job, they celebrate by sharing a pizza.

Early on, they lived in Cleveland, where Eve, their first child, was born. He often read poetry and short stories aloud in the evenings. "I'd be stirring a pot of soup, and the baby would be sleeping, and he'd be reading to me," Ms. Alda said. "It was a warmth that's hard to describe."

They eventually had two more daughters, moved to Leonia, N.J., and discovered they had very different parenting styles. "I was the drill sergeant, and he liked to play with the kids," she said. "These were disagreements we had to work out. How important is it for the kids to go to bed on time?"

She added, "We would talk a lot and talk angrily. When you look back, you think, 'Why did I have to be angry?'"

From 1972 to 1983, Mr. Alda commuted from New Jersey to Los Angeles to play the part of Dr. Hawkeye Pierce in the iconic television series "M*A*S*H." Ms. Alda suddenly found herself juggling raising their girls with trying to spend time with a husband who was increasingly busy, famous and out of town.

"I was not a good juggler," she said. "It all took energy, and I found that I had spurts of energy. Not sustained at all."

Not wanting to become "just an audience" for her husband, Ms. Alda worked harder on her own photography and writing projects. "I had my own drive," she said. "One challenge of marriage is how to keep your sense of self yet be able to meld and blend with the other person." She said that being married to a celebrity "diminishes you, unless you feel really secure in yourself."

"I like basking in someone else's glow," she said, "but not as a daily diet."

Today, they live in an Upper West Side apartment and are practically inseparable. On Facebook, she mentions Mr. Alda in almost every post, and they seem to be always headed out to a concert, play, lecture or reading. They even work on their separate writing projects together.

Mr. Alda, who has written two memoirs, writes in the living room, while Ms. Alda

works in the study. They keep all the doors open so they can talk back and forth, bounce ideas off each other or call out when it's time to break for a meal.

"Most likely one of us will die first," she said. "I can't even contemplate what that might be for either of us. Meanwhile, we're doing what we should be doing. Living."

Like many of the people profiled in "Just Kids From the Bronx," Ms. Alda believes that success in life—and in marriage—is mostly a matter of luck. "Luck is in neon lights," she said, adding that there is no way a couple can predict their future on their wedding day.

Both Aldas said it was especially lucky that they have never grown bored of each other and that they didn't remain penniless forever. "I really do believe that scraping by can damage a person and can damage a relationship," he said. "We have a lot of advantages. We know how lucky we are. I don't think anybody can tell you how happy we'd be if we were still scraping by."

They have a house in the Hamptons and drink really good wine, but otherwise they don't live particularly large. Both dress in the comfortable baggy clothes of struggling writers and have remained frugal and reluctant to waste anything.

"That's never changed," she said. "We are definitely still those two people who would eat the cake off the floor."

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, because I was helping a family member recover from recent surgery, I was unable to attend rollcall votes Nos. 59 through 63.

Had I been present for these votes, I would have voted in favor of the cloture motion on H.R. 240; against the motion to table S. Amendment No. 258; in favor of S. Amendment No. 255; and in favor of H.R. 240, the clean Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill.

I would have also opposed the cloture motion to proceed to S. 534 because this legislation would be destructive to families and our economy.●

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a copy of my remarks at the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

This is the first hearing of not only our subcommittee but the entire Senate Appropriations Committee.

How's that Senator Feinstein? We're the early bird, and I want to say at the outset what a privilege it's been to work with the Senator from California over the last few years. She's been chairman, and I've been ranking member. Our seats have switched, but the relationship hasn't changed. I look forward to treating her with at least as much courtesy as she's always treated me. Let's see if I can outdo her because it's a treat to

work with somebody who's capable of making a decision, expressing herself well and easy to work with. So, Senator Feinstein I look forward to our continued relationship.

This morning we're having a hearing to review the president's fiscal year 2016 budget request for the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation, which is part of the Department of Interior.

Senator Feinstein and I will each have an opening statement and then each senator may have up to five minutes for an opening statement in the order in which they arrived. Senator Graham has let me know that he has a 3 o'clock hearing, so if the senators don't mind I'll try to work him in before 3 o'clock as a courtesy to him. We'll then turn to the witnesses for their testimony. Each witness will have five minutes. We'd appreciate your summarizing your testimony in that time. We'll include their full statements in the record. And then, senators will be recognized for five minutes of questions in the order in which they arrived.

I want to thank the witnesses for being here today and thank Senator Feinstein for working with me on this. Our witnesses include Jo-Ellen Darcy, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. Welcome Assistant Secretary Darcy. Estevan Lopez, Commissioner for the Bureau of Reclamation. Mr. Lopez, welcome. Jennifer Gimbel, the Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science. That's a long title, nice to see you. And Lieutenant General Thomas P. Bostick, Chief of Engineers for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Governing is about setting priorities, and unfortunately, the president's budget request for these agencies shows a failure to do so.

The president's overall budget proposes spending that exceeds the budget caps established by the Budget Control Act of 2011 by about \$74 billion. And one of the priorities the president often speaks about often is our nation's infrastructure.

Yet despite all that proposed new spending and all that talk, this proposal cuts the Corps' budget by \$751 million, or about 14 percent below last year's actual spending level. This budget proposes cutting the Corps' funding to the actual level of spending in 2007—we are literally moving backward, on an agency that is crucial to maintaining our country's infrastructure.

The reason this is such a problem is that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers touches the lives of almost every American. The Corps maintains our inland waterways, it deepens and keeps our ports open, looks after many of our recreational waters and land, manages the river levels to prevent flooding, and its dams provide emission-free, renewable hydroelectric energy.

All of these activities attract the intense interest of the American people, and of their United States senators. I can recall when, I was a member of the Environmental and Public Works Committee, after the Missouri and Mississippi rivers flooded four years ago, a whole room full of senators showed up to ask for more money to deal with what went wrong and what went right with disaster relief efforts. So, there's a real interest in these proposals.

The reality is that for all the Corps does there are many things it could do better, and setting priorities in our spending is one way to better invest taxpayer dollars.

An important example of the administration's failure to set priorities in my home state of Tennessee is the lack of any funds in the president's budget request to restart re-

placement of Chickamauga Lock. Congress has done its job the last three years to move ahead promptly on replacing Chickamauga Lock, and it's disappointing the Obama administration has failed to do its job.

Here's what we've done. Congress, first, passed a law that reduced the amount of money that comes from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund to replace Olmsted Lock, a project in Illinois and Kentucky that was soaking up almost all of the money that is available for inland waterway projects. Second, Congress worked with the commercial waterways industry to establish a priority list for projects that needed to be funded, on which Chickamauga ranks near the top, in fourth place. And third, just this past year, working together, we enacted a user fee increase that commercial barge owners asked to pay in order to provide more money to replace locks and dams across the country, including Chickamauga Lock.

These are three extremely important steps to give our country the inland waterways that we need. These three things taken together should make it possible for the Corps of Engineers to move rapidly to begin to replace Chickamauga Lock. The problem with Chickamauga Lock is it's made of aging concrete and could fail if we don't replace it. In fact, in October of last year, the lock was closed for several days to all navigation traffic for emergency repairs after an inspection revealed cracks in the concrete.

This project's not just important to Chattanooga, but to all of Eastern Tennessee because of the number of jobs affected. We're almost out of time for a solution—the lock could close in a few years unless progress is made. If this happens it would throw 150,000 trucks on Interstate 75, it would increase the cost of shipping to the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the weapons complex and to manufacturers across the state.

So you can see how Chickamauga Lock—and other projects like it across the country—ought to be a priority, and why the Corps' budget should make it a priority.

In addition to the Corps, we fund the Bureau of Reclamation.

The Bureau of Reclamation delivers water to one in five Western farmers, irrigating 10-million acres of some of the most productive agricultural land in the world.

I would note that this is the first time that Commissioner Lopez and Assistant Secretary Gimbel have appeared before this subcommittee, and we welcome them both.

Without the infrastructure that these two agencies provide, our nation would be vastly different. With that in mind, we are here today to discuss the administration's fiscal year 2016 budget request for these both agencies. I look forward to the testimony.

Before I turn to Senator Feinstein for her statement, I would like to note that this is Roger Cockrell's last hearing, at least the last one he'll attend in his capacity with us as a staff member of the Senate Appropriations Committee. He's retiring at the end of the month, and we're going to miss him. For the past 14 budget cycles, senators on the subcommittee, whether republicans or democrats, have been well-served by Roger's expertise on both the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation. It's hard to think of anyone inside or outside of Washington who matches Roger in knowledge or experience—and it is hard to think of a water resources bill that hasn't benefited from his guidance. So, Roger on behalf of the subcommittee, I wish to thank you for your service over these many years and wish your family best in your retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE VICTIMS OF THE SUMGAIT POGROMS

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I wish to recognize the victims of the mass murder of Armenians 27 years ago during the state-sponsored pogroms in Sumgait, Azerbaijan.

The citizens of Nagorno Karabakh peacefully petitioned to be reunited with Soviet Armenia and spoke out against the arbitrary borders established by Joseph Stalin and the Soviet Union. This democratic exercise of free speech expressing a natural desire for self-determination was met with 3 days of violence and brutality against Armenian civilians, who were hunted down in their homes. Security forces in Soviet Azerbaijan turned a blind eye, allowing the mass murder of Armenians in a futile attempt to defeat this movement. The massacres of Armenians did not stop in Sumgait but were followed in other Azerbaijani towns such as Kirovabad in November 1988 and the capital Baku in January 1990. The U.S. Congress strongly condemned these massacres at that time. Hundreds of thousands of Armenians fled Azerbaijan, many finding their home in my State of Michigan, where there is a monument to the victims of the Sumgait massacres.

True democracies must respect the rights of the minority, allow citizens to peacefully speak freely, and protect the human rights of all residents. The people of Nagorno Karabakh and the victims of this senseless massacre played a critical role in promoting a democracy movement which helped to end the Soviet Union.

Today, I remember the victims and ask my colleagues and the American people to join me in honoring their memories.

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. ENZI. Madam President, the Committee on the Budget has adopted rules governing its procedures for the 114th Congress. Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 2, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, on behalf of myself and Senator SANDERS, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a copy of the committee rules of procedure.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Committee on the Budget Rules of Procedure

I. MEETINGS

(1) The committee shall hold its regular meeting on the first Thursday of each month. Additional meetings may be called by the chair as the chair deems necessary to expedite committee business.

(2) Each meeting of the committee, including meetings to conduct hearings, shall be open to the public, except that a portion or

portions of any such meeting may be closed to the public if the committee determines by record vote in open session of a majority of the members of the committee present that the matters to be discussed or the testimony to be taken at such portion or portions—

(a) will disclose matters necessary to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or the confidential conduct of the foreign relations of the United States;

(b) will relate solely to matters of the committee staff personnel or internal staff management or procedure;

(c) will tend to charge an individual with crime or misconduct, to disgrace or injure the professional standing of an individual, or otherwise to expose an individual to public contempt or obloquy, or will represent a clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of an individual;

(d) will disclose the identity of any informer or law enforcement agent or will disclose any information relating to the investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense that is required to be kept secret in the interests of effective law enforcement; or

(e) will disclose information relating to the trade secrets or financial or commercial information pertaining specifically to a given person if—

(i) an act of Congress requires the information to be kept confidential by Government officers and employees; or

(ii) the information has been obtained by the Government on a confidential basis, other than through an application by such person for a specific Government financial or other benefit, and is required to be kept secret in order to prevent undue injury to the competitive position of such person.

(f) may divulge matters required to be kept confidential under other provisions of law or Government regulations.

(3) Notice of, and the agenda for, any business meeting or markup shall be provided to each member and made available to the public at least 72 hours prior to such meeting or markup.

II. ORDER OF RECOGNITION

Those members who are present at the start of any meeting of the committee including meetings to conduct hearings, shall be recognized in order of seniority based on time served as a member of the committee. Any members arriving after the start of the meeting shall be recognized, in order of appearance, after the most junior member.

III. QUORUMS AND VOTING

(1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this section, a quorum for the transaction of committee business shall consist of not less than one-third of the membership of the entire committee: Provided, that proxies shall not be counted in making a quorum.

(2) A majority of the committee shall constitute a quorum for reporting budget resolutions, legislative measures or recommendations: Provided, that proxies shall not be counted in making a quorum.

(3) For the purpose of taking sworn or unsworn testimony, a quorum of the committee shall consist of one Senator.

(4) (a) The committee may poll—

(i) internal committee matters including those concerning the committee's staff, records, and budget;

(ii) steps in an investigation, including issuance of subpoenas, applications for immunity orders, and requests for documents from agencies; and

(iii) other committee business that the committee has designated for polling at a meeting, except that the committee may not

vote by poll on reporting to the Senate any measure, matter, or recommendation, and may not vote by poll on closing a meeting or hearing to the public.

(b) To conduct a poll, the chair shall circulate polling sheets to each member specifying the matter being polled and the time limit for completion of the poll. If any member requests, the matter shall be held for a meeting rather than being polled. The chief clerk shall keep a record of polls; if the committee determines by record vote in open session of a majority of the members of the committee present that the polled matter is one of those enumerated in rule I(2)(a)–(e), then the record of the poll shall be confidential. Any member may move at the committee meeting following a poll for a vote on the polled decision.

IV. PROXIES

When a record vote is taken in the committee on any bill, resolution, amendment, or any other question, a quorum being present, a member who is unable to attend the meeting may vote by proxy if the absent member has been informed of the matter on which the vote is being recorded and has affirmatively requested to be so recorded; except that no member may vote by proxy during the deliberations on Budget Resolutions.

V. HEARINGS AND HEARING PROCEDURES

(1) The committee shall make public announcement of the date, place, time, and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted on any measure or matter at least 1 week in advance of such hearing, unless the chair and ranking member determine that there is good cause to begin such hearing at an earlier date.

(2) At least 24 hours prior to the scheduled start time of the hearing, a witness appearing before the committee shall file a written statement of proposed testimony with the chief clerk who is responsible for circulating the proposed testimony to all members at the same time. The requirement that a witness submit testimony 24 hours prior to a hearing may be waived by the chair and the ranking member, following their determination that there is good cause for the failure of compliance.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(1) When the committee has ordered a measure or recommendation reported, following final action, the report thereon shall be filed in the Senate at the earliest practicable time.

(2) A member of the committee, who gives notice of an intention to file supplemental, minority, or additional views at the time of final committee approval of a measure or matter, shall be entitled to not less than 3 calendar days in which to file such views, in writing, with the chief clerk of the committee. Such views shall then be included in the committee report and printed in the same volume, as a part thereof, and their inclusions shall be noted on the cover of the report. In the absence of timely notice, the committee report may be filed and printed immediately without such views.

VII. USE OF DISPLAY MATERIALS IN COMMITTEE

Committee members may use the electronic display system provided in the committee hearing room or physical graphic displays during any meetings or hearings of the committee. Physical graphic displays are limited to the following:

Charts, photographs, or renderings:

Size: no larger than 36 inches by 48 inches.

Where: on an easel stand next to the member's seat or at the rear of the committee room.

When: only at the time the member is speaking.

Number: no more than two may be displayed at a time.

VIII. CONFIRMATION STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

(1) Standards. In considering a nomination, the committee shall inquire into the nominee's experience, qualifications, suitability, and integrity to serve in the position to which he or she has been nominated. The committee shall recommend confirmation if it finds that the nominee has the necessary integrity and is affirmatively qualified by reason of training, education, or experience to carry out the functions of the office to which he or she was nominated.

(2) Information Concerning the Nominee. Each nominee shall submit the following information to the chief clerk, who will distribute to the chairman and ranking member at the same time:

(a) A detailed biographical resume which contains information concerning education, employment, and background which generally relates to the position to which the individual is nominated, and which is to be made public;

(b) Information concerning financial and other background of the nominee which is to be made public; provided, that financial information that does not relate to the nominee's qualifications to hold the position to which the individual is nominated, tax returns or reports prepared by federal agencies that may be submitted by the nominee shall, after review by the chair, ranking member, or any other member of the committee upon request, be maintained in a manner to ensure confidentiality; and,

(c) Copies of other relevant documents and responses to questions as the committee may so request, such as responses to questions concerning the policies and programs the nominee intends to pursue upon taking office.

(3) Report on the Nominee. After a review of all information pertinent to the nomination, a confidential report on the nominee may be prepared by the committee staff for the chair, the ranking member and, upon request, for any other member of the committee. The report shall summarize the steps taken and the results of the committee inquiry, including any unresolved matters that have been raised during the course of the inquiry.

(4) Hearings. The committee shall conduct a hearing during which the nominee shall be called to testify under oath on all matters relating to his or her suitability for office, including the policies and programs which he or she would pursue while in that position. No hearing or meeting to consider the confirmation shall be held until at least 72 hours after the following events have occurred: the nominee has responded to the requirements set forth in subsection (2), and, if a report described in subsection (3) has been prepared, it has been presented to the chairman and ranking member, and is available to other members of the committee, upon request.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING ELIJAH MCCOY

• Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Elijah McCoy in honor of Black History Month. Mr. McCoy was a 19th-century African-American inventor

whose innovation was crucial to our modern-day transportation system.

Throughout the month of February, we come together as Michiganders and as Americans to celebrate Black History Month and reflect on the tremendous contributions African Americans have made to our country. African Americans have helped shape and enrich our communities, and their many contributions serve as a constant reminder that diversity is one of our country's greatest strengths.

Elijah McCoy was born in Ontario, Canada, to fugitive slaves who had escaped to Canada through the Underground Railroad. Showing an interest in engineering from a young age, Mr. McCoy traveled to Scotland at the age of 15, where he took an apprenticeship in mechanical engineering. When he returned to the United States, racial barriers prevented him from finding work. Mr. McCoy then became a fireman and oiler for the Michigan Central Railroad. Through this job, he developed his major invention.

Through analyzing the system of oiling axes, Mr. McCoy came up with a lubricating cup that evenly distributed oil over the engine's moving parts. He was granted a patent for his invention, thus allowing trains to run continuously for long periods of time. Railroad engineers came to ask for this equipment by name, requesting "the real McCoy" system—a term used to this day to describe quality and originality. Receiving approximately 60 patents throughout the course of his life, Mr. McCoy later formed the Elijah McCoy Manufacturing Company and changed the course of transportation history. Mr. McCoy is an example of true innovation and ingenuity. Elijah McCoy is buried at the Detroit Memorial Park East in Warren, MI, and it is fitting that we honored his legacy by naming the U.S. Patent and Trademark satellite office in Detroit after him.

As we observe Black History Month, we should take a moment to recognize how far we have come as a nation and yet how far we still have to go as we work together to achieve true equality. The civil rights movement changed the course of our Nation's history for the better and left a lasting legacy that touches our lives every day. In honor of Black History Month, let us recommit ourselves to the goal of making America a place where anyone who works hard and plays by the rules has the opportunity to succeed. As we continue to work toward equality, we must carry that legacy forward.●

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL HANSON SCOTT

• Mr. UDALL. Madam President, in my State of New Mexico, we are proud to be home to some of the finest military bases in the Nation. We are home to White Sands Missile Range, Kirtland

Air Force Base, Holloman Air Force Base, and Cannon Air Force Base. New Mexicans have a great heritage of service in the Armed Forces, and our State's military installations play a key role in the Nation's national defense.

Today, I wish to express my thanks, and the thanks of all New Mexicans, to General Hanson Scott, who retired on January 30th, after many years of an illustrious career, both in active military service and in civilian life. He is a son of New Mexico, and a credit to our State.

General Scott is originally from Reserve, NM. He attended New Mexico State University, prior to receiving an appointment to the U.S. Air Force Academy, from which he graduated in 1961. During his 30 years in the Air Force, he served with great distinction, including as commander of the 463rd Tactical Airlift Wing, Dyess Air Force Base; the 1st Special Operations Wing, Hurlbut Field; and Special Operations Command Pacific, Camp H. M. Smith.

Following his retirement from the Air Force, General Scott continued to lead as the director of the New Mexico Office of Military Base Planning and Support, reporting to the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor. As director, he had the important responsibility of addressing State-level issues in support of New Mexico's military installations and supporting the New Mexico Military Base Planning Commission.

During the last BRAC round, General Scott played a key role in supporting Operation Keep Cannon, as Cannon was saved from closure by determined State and community efforts. I was proud to work with him during this effort. When the BRAC Commission made the decision to place Cannon in enclave status, his team worked hard to ensure that a new mission would be identified for Cannon. As a result, the Air Force Special Operations Command made the decision to locate the 27th Special Operations Wing at Cannon. The wisdom of this decision cannot be denied. Today, pilots from the 27th SOW can take advantage of New Mexico's outstanding airspace as they prepare to carry out the country's national security priorities.

Prior to his appointment as the director of the Office of Military Base Planning and Support, General Scott was the executive director of the Office for Space Commercialization, New Mexico Economic Development Department, and director of aviation for the city of Albuquerque, NM. He also was a member of the steering committee of the Kirtland Air Force Base Retention Task Force, working with community leaders and the New Mexico congressional delegation in preventing a significant realignment of the base.

General Hanson Scott has led a life of service and commitment. He has proven his dedication to our military and

the defense of our Nation time and again. That dedication has required tremendous determination, tireless effort, and, at times, personal sacrifice. It has meant getting up at 3 a.m. to make the roundtrip from Albuquerque to White Sands or Holloman in 1 day. It has meant manning the phones, in all time zones, sometimes while walking his dog Barney. Most of all, throughout his career, it has meant trying to do what is best for New Mexico and for the men and women of our Armed Forces.

It is a privilege to say here today, to General Hanson Scott, thank you. Thank you for a job well done. Thank you for your service. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 7:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House disagree to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 240) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, and ask a conference with the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-790. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Clothianidin; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9919-59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-791. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the operations of the National Defense Stockpile (NDS) for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-792. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Homeland Defense and Global Security), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Cooperative Threat Reduction Annual Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2016"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-793. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Addition of Certain Persons to the Entity List; and Removal of Person From the Entity List Based on a Removal Request" (RIN0694-AG46) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 26, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-794. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal

Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Previously Eurocopter France)" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0049)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 25, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-795. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Pot Catcher/Processors in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XD758) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-796. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XD725) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 25, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-797. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Ohio; PSD Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2008 Lead, 2008 Ozone, 2010 NO₂, and 2010 SO₂ NAAQS" (FRL No. 9923-48-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-798. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Ohio; Transportation Conformity" (FRL No. 9923-45-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-799. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Mississippi; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9923-55-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-800. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; South Carolina; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9923-56-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-801. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Direct Final Approval of Other Solid Waste Incineration Units State Plan for Des-

ignated Facilities and Pollutants: Indiana" (FRL No. 9923-35-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-802. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of the 2008 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone: State Implementation Plan Requirements" ((RIN2060-AR34) (FRL No. 9917-29-OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-803. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Delegation of Authority to Oklahoma" (FRL No. 9923-22-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-804. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "New Source Performance Standards and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Delegation of Authority to Louisiana" (FRL No. 9923-11-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-805. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Promulgation of State Air Quality Implementation Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants: Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming; Negative Declarations; Control of Emissions from Existing Sewage Sludge Incineration Units" (FRL No. 9923-40-Region 8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-806. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Foreign Tax Credit Splitting Events" ((RIN1545-BK50) (TD 9710)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 25, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-807. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) Extension for 2014" (Notice 2015-13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 25, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-808. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Small Business Modifications to Tangibles Method Changes" (Rev. Proc. 2015-20) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 25, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-809. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Applicable Federal Rates—March 2015" (Rev. Rul. 2015-4) received in the Office of the President of the

Senate on February 25, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-810. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Section 4980I—Excise Tax on High Cost Employer-Sponsored Health Coverage" (Notice 2015-16) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 25, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-811. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Assistance to Foreign Atomic Energy Activities" (RIN1994-AA02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2015; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-812. A communication from the Deputy Director, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Head Start Program" (RIN0970-AC46) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 25, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-813. A communication from the Director, National Science Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Foundation's fiscal year 2014 Agency Financial Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. MCCAIN for the Committee on Armed Services.

Air Force nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. Nina M. Armagno and ending with Brig. Gen. Sarah E. Zabel, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 4, 2015.

Air Force nomination of Col. Christopher A. Coffelt, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Jeffrey A. Kruse, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. Abel Barrientes and ending with Brig. Gen. Richard W. Scobee, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 4, 2015.

Air Force nomination of Brig. Gen. Dixie A. Morrow, to be Major General.

Air Force nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. Leonard W. Isabelle, Jr. and ending with Brig. Gen. Sami D. Said, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 4, 2015.

Air Force nomination of Col. Jay N. Selanders, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Todd M. Audet, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Arthur E. Jackman, Jr., to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nominations beginning with Col. Vito E. Addabbo and ending with Col. John B. Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 4, 2015.

Air Force nominations beginning with Col. Johnny S. Lizama and ending with Col.

Scott A. Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 4, 2015.

Air Force nomination of Lt. Gen. Ellen M. Pawlikowski, to be General.

Air Force nomination of Col. William M. Knight, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. John B. Cooper, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Brig. Gen. John L. Dolan, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. Lee K. Levy II, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Lt. Gen. Kenneth E. Tovo, to be Lieutenant General.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORD on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Air Force nomination of Mark E. Heatherly, to be Colonel.

Air Force nominations beginning with Karis K. Graham and ending with Marvin Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 26, 2015.

Air Force nominations beginning with Jesus A. Flores and ending with Robert C. Goldtrap, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 26, 2015.

Air Force nominations beginning with Erica R. Austin and ending with Richard G. Stephenson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 26, 2015.

Air Force nominations beginning with Gerard Irvett Bazile and ending with Frederick L. Yost, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 26, 2015.

Air Force nomination of Stephen L. Nelson, Jr., to be Colonel.

Air Force nominations beginning with Mary J. Abernethy and ending with Karen B. Steiner, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 26, 2015.

Air Force nominations beginning with Michael D. Ayres and ending with Michelle L. Wagner, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 26, 2015.

Air Force nominations beginning with Laura J. Mcwhirter and ending with Gregg E. Wentworth, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 26, 2015.

Air Force nomination of Nicholas J. Zimmerman, to be Major.

Air Force nomination of Eric M. Chumbley, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Air Force nomination of Scott L. Wilson, to be Major.

Air Force nomination of Kirsten E. Delambo, to be Major.

Air Force nominations beginning with Salvatore Pelligra and ending with Rebecca A. Bird, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 29, 2015.

Air Force nomination of Dell P. Dunn, to be Major.

Air Force nomination of Latrise P. Searson-Norris, to be Major.

Air Force nomination of Jeffrey B. Krutoy, to be Major.

Army nomination of John P. Hartke, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Fred J. Burpo, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Paul A. Brisson, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Mikelle J. Adamczyk, to be Major.

Army nomination of Robert G. Hale, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of John M. Gillis, to be Major.

Army nomination of Andre M. Takacs, to be Major.

Army nomination of Ines H. Berger, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Jermaine M. Cadogan and ending with Austin E. Wren, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 26, 2015.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Anthony K. Alejandre and ending with Jonathan R. Risser, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 26, 2015.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Paul M. Herrle and ending with Robert W. Puckett, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 26, 2015.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Jay B. Durham and ending with Andrew K. Law, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 26, 2015.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Daniel H. Cusinato and ending with William C. Volz, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 26, 2015.

Marine Corps nomination of Ryan M. Cleveland, to be Major.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Nicholas K. Ellis and ending with Kolleen L. Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 26, 2015.

Marine Corps nomination of Jonathan L. Riggs, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Brett D. Abbamonte and ending with Jason E. Zelle, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 26, 2015.

Marine Corps nomination of David C. Walsh, to be Colonel.

Marine Corps nomination of Scott W. Zimmerman, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Navy nominations beginning with Alyssa B. Y. Armstrong and ending with Kari E. Yakubisin, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 26, 2015.

Navy nomination of Rachel A. Passmore, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nominations beginning with Justin R. Miller and ending with James R. Saullo, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 29, 2015.

Navy nomination of Candida A. Ferguson, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Richard R. Barber, to be Commander.

Navy nomination of Benigno T. Razon, Jr., to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Donna L. Smoak, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Fabio O. Austria, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Shawn D. Wilkerson, Jr., to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Budd E. Bergloff, to be Captain.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. MORAN):

S. 607. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a five-year extension of the rural community hospital demonstration program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 608. A bill to prevent homeowners from being forced to pay taxes on forgiven mortgage loan debt; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 609. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and increase the exclusion for benefits provided to volunteer firefighters and emergency medical responders; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 610. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of P.S. 103 in West Baltimore, Maryland and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. ENZI, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 611. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to reauthorize technical assistance to small public water systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 612. A bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the "George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 613. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the efficiency of summer meals; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 614. A bill to provide access to and use of information by Federal agencies in order to reduce improper payments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CORKER (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. Kaine, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. NELSON, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. KING):

S. 615. A bill to provide for congressional review and oversight of agreements relating to Iran's nuclear program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 616. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide recruitment and retention incentives for volunteer emergency service workers; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. COONS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. Res. 92. A resolution designating February 28, 2015, as "Rare Disease Day"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 67

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 67, a bill to amend the Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970 to confirm that a customer's net equity claim is based on the customer's last statement and that certain recoveries are prohibited, to change how trustees are appointed, and for other purposes.

S. 125

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 125, a bill to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2020, and for other purposes.

S. 134

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 134, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to exclude industrial hemp from the definition of marijuana, and for other purposes.

S. 269

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 269, a bill to expand sanctions imposed with respect to Iran and to impose additional sanctions with respect to Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 301

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 301, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

S. 317

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from New York

(Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 317, a bill to improve early education.

S. 351

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 351, a bill to prevent homeowners from being forced to pay taxes on forgiven mortgage loan debt.

S. 373

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 373, a bill to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel.

S. 394

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 394, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the 15-year recovery period for qualified leasehold improvement property, qualified restaurant property, and qualified retail improvement property.

S. 431

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 431, a bill to permanently extend the Internet Tax Freedom Act.

S. 435

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 435, a bill to amend chapter 1 of title 1, United States Code, with regard to the definition of "marriage" and "spouse" for Federal purposes and to ensure respect for State regulation of marriage.

S. 474

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 474, a bill to require State educational agencies that receive funding under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to have in effect policies and procedures on background checks for school employees.

S. 499

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 499, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to prevent concurrent receipt of unemployment benefits and Social Security disability insurance, and for other purposes.

S. 558

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey

(Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 558, a bill to amend title 44, United States Code, to require information on contributors to Presidential library fundraising organizations, and for other purposes.

S. 568

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 568, a bill to extend the trade adjustment assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. 571

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 571, a bill to amend the Pilot's Bill of Rights to facilitate appeals and to apply to other certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, to require the revision of the third class medical certification regulations issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 575

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 575, a bill to continue operation of the Human Exploitation Rescue Operative (HERO) Child Rescue Corps, a Cyber Crimes Center, a Child Exploitation Investigations Unit, a Computer Forensics Unit, and a Cyber Crimes Unit to support the mission of the Homeland Security Investigations directorate of United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement to combat the exploitation of children.

S. 586

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 586, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to foster more effective implementation and coordination of clinical care for people with pre-diabetes, diabetes, and the chronic diseases and conditions that result from diabetes.

S. RES. 87

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 87, a resolution to express the sense of the Senate regarding the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe and to encourage greater cooperation with the European governments, the European Union, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in preventing and responding to anti-Semitism.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 610. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of P.S. 103 in West Baltimore, Maryland and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I am proud to introduce the Justice Thurgood Marshall's Elementary School Study Act. The elementary school that Justice Marshall attended, known as PS 103, located in my hometown of Baltimore, is a place of national significance because it marks the site where one of our nation's greatest legal minds began his education.

Thurgood Marshall is well known as one of the most significant historical figures of the American civil rights movement. By the time he was 32 he was appointed the chief legal counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP. He served at the NAACP a total of twenty-five years and was a key strategist to end racial segregation throughout the United States.

Perhaps the greatest illustration of this effort was his victory before the Supreme Court overturning the Plessy doctrine effectively ending school segregation with the landmark decision in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, KS*, in 1954. Not only did this case open up educational opportunity and sparked the civil rights movement in this nation, it also marked the beginning of Thurgood Marshall's career, still a young attorney from Baltimore, as one of the greatest legal minds in all the land. This case was just one of the 29 cases he won before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Fittingly, Marshall was the first African American confirmed to the Supreme Court. He was nominated by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1967 and served 24 years, until 1991. On the high court, Marshall continued his fight for the Constitutional protection of individual human rights.

But Thurgood Marshall was not always a legal giant. He was once a young boy growing up in West Baltimore. He received the first 6 years of his public education at PS 103. An apocryphal story goes that a young Thurgood Marshall studied the U.S. Constitution in the basement of the building while serving detention. Regardless of whether or not this is true, the building powerfully tells the story of racial segregation in America, PS 103 was a "blacks only" school when Justice Marshall was a student, and marks the academic beginning of one of the country's most brilliant legal thinkers and a pioneer of the civil rights movement.

The building is located at 1315 Division Street in the Upton Neighborhood of Old West Baltimore. The building is part of the Old West Baltimore National Register Historic District, and is

listed as a contributing historic resource for the neighborhood. The Old West Baltimore historic district is one of the largest predominately African American historic districts in the country, and its significance is centered on the African American experience in the area.

In Baltimore, we are fortunate to have the National Park Service operate two historical sites, Fort McHenry and the Hampton Mansion. Adding PS 103 is a unique opportunity for the National Park Service to work in Baltimore's inner-city and to reach out and engage people about African American history.

Needless to say, Thurgood Marshall's legacy is one that should be preserved. He was one of our country's greatest legal minds and a prominent historical figure of one chapter of our country's great history—the civil rights movement. This bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of PS 103 to evaluate the suitability and feasibility of establishing the building as a unit of the National Park Service. Preserving the building that was Justice Marshall's elementary school will give Americans insight into Justice Marshall's childhood.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 610

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Thurgood Marshall's Elementary School Study Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) STUDY AREA.—The term "study area" means—

(A) P.S. 103, the public school located in West Baltimore, Maryland, which Thurgood Marshall attended as a youth; and

(B) any other resources in the neighborhood surrounding P.S. 103 that relate to the early life of Thurgood Marshall.

SEC. 3. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a special resource study of the study area.

(b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) evaluate the national significance of the study area;

(2) determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area as a unit of the National Park System;

(3) consider other alternatives for preservation, protection, and interpretation of the study area by the Federal Government, State or local government entities, or private and nonprofit organizations;

(4) consult with interested Federal agencies, State or local governmental entities, private and nonprofit organizations, or any other interested individuals; and

(5) identify cost estimates for any Federal acquisition, development, interpretation, operation, and maintenance associated with the alternatives.

(c) **APPLICABLE LAW.**—The study required under subsection (a) shall be conducted in accordance with section 100507 of title 54, United States Code.

(d) **REPORT.**—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available to carry out the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

- (1) the results of the study; and
- (2) any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 616. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide recruitment and retention incentives for volunteer emergency service workers; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Volunteer Emergency Services Recruitment and Retention Act of 2015. This bill fixes a long-standing problem with the tax code that harms the ability of volunteer fire departments to recruit and retain both firefighters and emergency service personnel.

For years, local and State governments have provided their volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel with different forms of benefits including Length of Service Award Plans, commonly known as LOSAPs. These are pension-like benefits for volunteer emergency responders.

Unfortunately, the way the tax code handles LOSAPs hinders the ability of departments to administer plans and makes it more difficult for volunteer emergency personnel to receive benefits.

My bill would simplify the taxation of LOSAPs in two steps. First, it would allow an election to treat LOSAPs as deferred compensation plans, and second, it would exempt them from the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. These two changes will improve access to LOSAP benefits for volunteer emergency responders, without increasing Federal spending.

Today, an estimated 180,000 volunteer firefighters across 27 states participate in some form of LOSAP. Many states that do not offer these benefits would be more likely to do so if the Federal tax code were simplified. This, in turn, would help volunteer fire departments to recruit more easily and retain personnel. These men and women, our local first responders, are the foundation of our emergency response capabilities.

These volunteers put their lives on the line to help protect our communities, and their spirit of selflessness and service should be rewarded. I am pleased to introduce this legislation

with Senator SCHUMER, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this bill through the Senate and into law.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 92—DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 28, 2015, AS “RARE DISEASE DAY”

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. COONS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 92

Whereas a rare disease or disorder is one that affects a small number of patients—in the United States, typically less than 200,000 individuals annually;

Whereas as of the date of approval of this resolution, nearly 7,000 rare diseases affect approximately 30,000,000 people in the United States and their families;

Whereas children with rare genetic diseases account for more than half of the population affected by rare diseases in the United States;

Whereas many rare diseases are serious, life-threatening, and lack an effective treatment;

Whereas great strides have been made in research and treatment for rare diseases as a result of the Orphan Drug Act (Public Law 97-414);

Whereas the Food and Drug Administration has made great strides in involving the patient in the drug review process as part of its Patient-Focused Drug Development program, an initiative that originated in the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act (Public Law 112-144);

Whereas although more than 450 drugs and biological products for the treatment of rare diseases have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration, millions of people in the United States have a rare disease for which there is no such approved treatment;

Whereas lack of access to effective treatments and difficulty in obtaining reimbursement for life-altering, and even life-saving, treatments still exist and remain significant challenges for people with rare diseases and their families;

Whereas rare diseases and conditions include epidermolysis bullosa, progeria, sickle cell anemia, spinal muscular atrophy, Duchenne muscular dystrophy, Tay-Sachs disease, cystic fibrosis, pulmonary fibrosis, many childhood cancers, and fibrodysplasia ossificans progressiva;

Whereas people with rare diseases experience challenges that include difficulty in obtaining accurate diagnoses, limited treatment options, and difficulty finding physicians or treatment centers with expertise in their diseases;

Whereas the rare disease community made great strides during the 113th Congress, including the passage of the National Pediatric Research Network Act (Public Law 113-55), which calls special attention to rare diseases and directs the National Institutes of Health to facilitate greater collaboration among researchers;

Whereas both the Food and Drug Administration and the National Institutes of Health have established special offices to advocate for rare disease research and treatments;

Whereas the National Organization for Rare Disorders, an organization established in 1983 to provide services to and advocate on behalf of patients with rare diseases, remains a critical public voice for people with rare diseases;

Whereas 2015 marks the 32nd anniversary of the enactment of the Orphan Drug Act and the establishment of the National Organization for Rare Disorders;

Whereas on February 25, 2015, more than 200 rare disease advocates shared their stories on Capitol Hill on behalf of the rare disease community and asked lawmakers to enhance public policy to help rare disease patients;

Whereas the National Organization for Rare Disorders sponsors Rare Disease Day in the United States and partners with many other major rare disease organizations to increase public awareness of rare diseases;

Whereas Rare Disease Day is observed each year on the last day of February;

Whereas Rare Disease Day is a global event, first observed in the United States on February 28, 2009, and observed in 84 countries in 2014; and

Whereas Rare Disease Day is expected to be observed globally for years to come, providing hope and information for rare disease patients around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 28, 2015, as “Rare Disease Day”;;

(2) recognizes the importance of improving awareness and encouraging accurate and early diagnosis of rare diseases and disorders; and

(3) supports a national and global commitment to improving access to and developing new treatments, diagnostics, and cures for rare diseases and disorders.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 264. Mr. SASSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 240, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 265. Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. VITTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 255 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mrs. SHAHEEN)) to the bill H.R. 240, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 266. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 255 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mrs. SHAHEEN)) to the bill H.R. 240, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 267. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 240, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 268. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 33, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 264. Mr. SASSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

him to the bill H.R. 240, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . PROHIBITION ON ISSUING SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS PURSUANT TO DEFERRED ACTION POLICIES.

Section 205(c)(2)(B)(i)(I) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(c)(2)(B)(i)(I)) is amended by inserting “, except that the Commissioner of Social Security shall not issue a social security account number to any alien who is authorized to engage in employment in the United States pursuant only to deferred action policies set forth in the memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled ‘Exercising Prosecutorial Discretion with Respect to Individuals Who Came to the United States as Children’ dated June 15, 2012, or the memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled ‘Exercising Prosecutorial Discretion with Respect to Individuals who Came to the United States as Children and with Respect to Certain Individuals Who Are the Parents of U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents’ dated November 20, 2014 (or any substantially similar policy changes issued or taken on or after the date of the enactment of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2015, whether set forth in memorandum, Executive order, regulation, directive, or by other action)” after “engage in such employment”.

SA 265. Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. VITTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 255 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mrs. SHAHEEN)) to the bill H.R. 240, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . (a) No funds, resources, or fees made available to the Secretary of Homeland Security, or to any other official of a Federal agency, by this Act or any other Act for any fiscal year, including any deposits into the Immigration Examinations Fee Account established under section 286(m) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356(m)), may be used to implement, administer, enforce, or carry out (including through the issuance of any regulations) any of the policy changes set forth in the following memoranda (or any substantially similar policy changes issued or taken on or after January 9, 2015, whether set forth in memorandum, Executive order, regulation, directive, or by other action):

(1) The memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled “Southern Border and Approaches Campaign” dated November 20, 2014.

(2) The memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled “Policies for the Apprehension, Detention and Removal of Undocumented Immigrants” dated November 20, 2014.

(3) The memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled “Secure Communities” dated November 20, 2014.

(4) The memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled “Exercising

Prosecutorial Discretion with Respect to Individuals Who Came to the United States as Children and with Respect to Certain Individuals Who Are the Parents of U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents” dated November 20, 2014.

(5) The memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled “Expansion of the Provisional Waiver Program” dated November 20, 2014.

(6) The memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled “Policies Supporting U.S. High-Skilled Businesses and Workers” dated November 20, 2014.

(7) The memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled “Families of U.S. Armed Forces Members and Enlistees” dated November 20, 2014.

(8) The memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled “Directive to Provide Consistency Regarding Advance Parole” dated November 20, 2014.

(9) The memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled “Policies to Promote and Increase Access to U.S. Citizenship” dated November 20, 2014.

(10) The memorandum from the President entitled “Modernizing and Streamlining the U.S. Immigrant Visa System for the 21st Century” dated November 21, 2014.

(11) The memorandum from the President entitled “Creating Welcoming Communities and Fully Integrating Immigrants and Refugees” dated November 21, 2014.

(b) The memoranda referred to in subsection (a) (or any substantially similar policy changes issued or taken on or after January 9, 2015, whether set forth in memorandum, Executive order, regulation, directive, or by other action) have no statutory or constitutional basis and therefore have no legal effect.

(c) No funds or fees made available to the Secretary of Homeland Security, or to any other official of a Federal agency, by this Act or any other Act for any fiscal year, including any deposits into the “Immigration Examinations Fee Account” established under section 286(m) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356(m)), may be used to grant any Federal benefit to any alien pursuant to any of the policy changes set forth in the memoranda referred to in subsection (a) (or any substantially similar policy changes issued or taken on or after January 9, 2015, whether set forth in memorandum, Executive order, regulation, directive, or by other action).

(d) The budgetary effects of this section shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(e) Notwithstanding Rule 3 of the Budget Scorekeeping Guidelines set forth in the joint explanatory statement of the committee of conference accompanying Conference Report 105–217 and section 250(c)(8) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the budgetary effects of this section shall not be estimated—

(1) for purposes of section 251 of the such Act; and

(2) for purposes of paragraph 4(C) of section 3 of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 as being included in an appropriation Act.

SA 266. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 255 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mrs. SHAHEEN)) to the bill H.R. 240, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending Sep-

tember 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . (a) No funds, resources, or fees made available to the Secretary of Homeland Security, or to any other official of a Federal agency, by this Act or any other Act for any fiscal year, including any deposits into the Immigration Examinations Fee Account established under section 286(m) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356(m)), may be used to implement, administer, enforce, or carry out (including through the issuance of any regulations) any of the policy changes set forth in the following memoranda (or any substantially similar policy changes issued or taken on or after January 9, 2015, whether set forth in memorandum, Executive order, regulation, directive, or by other action):

(1) The memorandum from the Director of United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement entitled “Civil Immigration Enforcement: Priorities for the Apprehension, Detention, and Removal of Aliens” dated March 2, 2011.

(2) The memorandum from the Director of United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement entitled “Exercising Prosecutorial Discretion Consistent with the Civil Immigration Enforcement Priorities of the Agency for the Apprehension, Detention, and Removal of Aliens” dated June 17, 2011.

(3) The memorandum from the Principal Legal Advisor of United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement entitled “Case-by-Case Review of Incoming and Certain Pending Cases” dated November 17, 2011.

(4) The memorandum from the Director of United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement entitled Civil Immigration Enforcement: Guidance on the Use of Detainers in the Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Criminal Justice Systems dated December 21, 2012.

(5) The memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled “Southern Border and Approaches Campaign” dated November 20, 2014.

(6) The memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled “Policies for the Apprehension, Detention and Removal of Undocumented Immigrants” dated November 20, 2014.

(7) The memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled “Secure Communities” dated November 20, 2014.

(8) The memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled “Exercising Prosecutorial Discretion with Respect to Individuals Who Came to the United States as Children and with Respect to Certain Individuals Who Are the Parents of U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents” dated November 20, 2014.

(9) The memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled “Expansion of the Provisional Waiver Program” dated November 20, 2014.

(10) The memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled “Policies Supporting U.S. High-Skilled Businesses and Workers” dated November 20, 2014.

(11) The memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled “Families of U.S. Armed Forces Members and Enlistees” dated November 20, 2014.

(12) The memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled “Directive to Provide Consistency Regarding Advance Parole” dated November 20, 2014.

(13) The memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled "Policies to Promote and Increase Access to U.S. Citizenship" dated November 20, 2014.

(14) The memorandum from the President entitled "Modernizing and Streamlining the U.S. Immigrant Visa System for the 21st Century" dated November 21, 2014.

(15) The memorandum from the President entitled "Creating Welcoming Communities and Fully Integrating Immigrants and Refugees" dated November 21, 2014.

(b) The memoranda referred to in subsection (a) (or any substantially similar policy changes issued or taken on or after January 9, 2015, whether set forth in memorandum, Executive order, regulation, directive, or by other action) have no statutory or constitutional basis and therefore have no legal effect.

(c) No funds or fees made available to the Secretary of Homeland Security, or to any other official of a Federal agency, by this Act or any other Act for any fiscal year, including any deposits into the "Immigration Examinations Fee Account" established under section 286(m) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356(m)), may be used to grant any Federal benefit to any alien pursuant to any of the policy changes set forth in the memoranda referred to in subsection (a) (or any substantially similar policy changes issued or taken on or after January 9, 2015, whether set forth in memorandum, Executive order, regulation, directive, or by other action).

(d) The budgetary effects of this section shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(e) Notwithstanding Rule 3 of the Budget Scorekeeping Guidelines set forth in the joint explanatory statement of the committee of conference accompanying Conference Report 105-217 and section 250(c)(8) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the budgetary effects of this section shall not be estimated—

(1) for purposes of section 251 of the such Act; and

(2) for purposes of paragraph 4(C) of section 3 of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 as being included in an appropriation Act.

SA 267. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 240, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS REQUIRED TO CLAIM THE REFUNDABLE PORTION OF THE CHILD TAX CREDIT.

(a) **TAXPAYER REQUIREMENT.**—Subsection (d) of section 24 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(5) **IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENT WITH RESPECT TO TAXPAYER.**—

"(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to any taxpayer for any taxable year unless the taxpayer includes the taxpayer's Social Security number on the return of tax for such taxable year.

"(B) **JOINT RETURNS.**—In the case of a joint return, the requirement of subparagraph (A) shall be treated as met if the Social Security number of either spouse is included on such return."

(b) **CHILD REQUIREMENT.**—Subsection (e) of section 24 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

"(e) **IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENT WITH RESPECT TO QUALIFYING CHILDREN.**—

"(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2), no credit shall be allowed under this section to a taxpayer with respect to any qualifying child unless the taxpayer includes the name and taxpayer identification number of such qualifying child on the return of tax for the taxable year.

"(2) **REFUNDABLE PORTION.**—Subsection (d)(1) shall not apply to any taxpayer with respect to any qualifying child unless the taxpayer includes the name and social security number of such qualifying child on the return of tax for the taxable year."

(c) **OMISSION TREATED AS MATHEMATICAL OR CLERICAL ERROR.**—Subparagraph (I) of section 6213(g)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

"(I) an omission of a correct Social Security number required under subsection (d)(5) or (e)(2) of section 24 (relating to refundable portion of child tax credit), or a correct TIN under subsection (e)(1) of such section (relating to child tax credit), to be included on a return."

(d) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 268. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 33, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS.

The Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2015 (Public Law 113-164; 128 Stat. 1867) is amended by striking the date specified in section 106(3) and inserting "March 6, 2015".

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIRE-FIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 33, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 33) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 268

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I have an amendment at the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 268.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS.

The Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2015 (Public Law 113-164; 128 Stat. 1867) is amended by striking the date specified in section 106(3) and inserting "March 6, 2015".

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time, and the Senate vote on passage of the bill, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table without any intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 268) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed, and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 33), as amended, was passed.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate the House message accompanying H.R. 240.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives, as follows:

Resolved, That the House disagree to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 240) entitled "An Act making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.", and ask a conference with the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to insist upon the Senate amendment, agree to the request by the House for a conference, and authorize the Presiding Officer to appoint conferees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is pending.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I thank all Senators for working together to pass this 1-week funding extension for the Department of Homeland Security. Senators should expect the next vote at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, which will be a cloture vote on the motion to agree to the House request to go to a conference on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Madam President, progress has been made all during the day. I appreciate very much the cooperation of everyone involved. I am confident that the House will pass a 7-day CR tonight and that there will be within 7 days full funding for the Department of Homeland Security.

RARE DISEASE DAY

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 92, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 92) designating February 28, 2015, as "Rare Disease Day."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 92) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Democratic leader, pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 64, adopted March 5, 2013, hereby notifies the Senate of an amendment to the minority membership appointments made in the Senate on February 12, 2015, to the Senate National Security Working Group for the 114th Congress: JACK REED of Rhode Island.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that during this adjournment of the Senate, the majority leader and the junior Senator from West Virginia be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2015

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business tonight, it adjourn until 2 p.m., Monday, March 2; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the House message to accompany H.R. 240.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
MARCH 2, 2015, AT 2 P.M.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:23 p.m., adjourned until Monday, March 2, 2015, at 2 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Friday, February 27, 2015

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, through Whom we see what we could be and what we can become, thank You for giving us another day.

In these days, our Nation is faced with pressing issues, including, once again, a troubling impasse. Grant wisdom, knowledge, and understanding to Members of each party, as well as an extra measure of charity, that a workable solution can be reached to the benefit of all Americans.

Help us all to be patient, yet resolute in the desire to do what is the right thing to do, however Your inspiration might impel.

And may all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable ORRIN G. HATCH, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Honorable JOHN A. BOEHNER, Speaker of the House of Representatives:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, February 27, 2015.

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

Pursuant to section 201(a)(2) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 601), the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate hereby jointly appoint Dr. Homer Keith Hall as Director of the Congressional Budget Office, effective April 1, 2015, for the term expiring January 3, 2019.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
*President Pro Tempore
of the Senate.*
JOHN A. BOEHNER,
*Speaker of the House
of Representatives.*

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

NET NEUTRALITY

(Mr. McCLINTOCK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Obama majority on the FCC seized unprecedented control over the Internet under the guise of "net neutrality."

Net neutrality is the notion that the latest cat video is of equal importance to a teleconference consultation for a heart patient. To impose this leftist ideology on the Internet, the FCC has just placed it under the same stifling regulatory structure as the phone company or broadcast stations.

This gives them potential control over content and it destroys the price-driven incentives for innovation, expansion, speed, economy, and service that Americans have long enjoyed. It means higher costs as government piles on new fees. It means slowed expansion as the natural incentives to invest are stifled. Europe operates under this sort of regulatory scheme, and its Internet service is conspicuously inferior, slower, and ponderous.

The reason the Internet has grown and thrived is because government has kept its fat, corrupt, incompetent hands off of it. That era ended yesterday, and that is a shame.

PUBLIC APOLOGY TO THE HONORABLE KEVIN MCCARTHY

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to publicly apologize to Leader MCCARTHY for a remark I made to myself that was picked up by the House microphone yesterday.

It was said out of frustration and anger, it was wrong, and I have apologized privately to Mr. MCCARTHY, who I believe is a man of integrity in this House.

CHRIS KYLE MEDAL OF HONOR ACT

(Mr. WILLIAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I introduced a bill that would authorize and request the President to award our Nation's highest military honor to a Texan who served this Nation with distinction and bravery.

Chris Kyle, a Navy SEAL, protected countless American troops as they went into battle. Chris Kyle voluntarily put his life on the line when he completed his first tour in Iraq, and when he returned not once, but three more times.

Make no mistake, the Medal of Honor will not bring back a husband, father, son, and a model Texan. But the Medal of Honor will show Chris Kyle's family our gratitude for his relentless devotion to our country.

Mr. Speaker, since its inception, the Medal of Honor has been awarded 3,507 times. I challenge someone to tell me Chris Kyle didn't show the bravery that is a prerequisite for this high honor. I challenge anyone to tell me that his courageous acts are undeserving of this recognition.

Chris Kyle is someone who we should strive to be. He is a true American patriot whose acts of valor must be permanently etched in our Nation's history.

In God we trust.

CENTRAL KITSAP IMPACT AID

(Mr. KILMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the importance of impact aid, which helps more than 1,300 school districts in our country make up for lost revenue due to the impact of Federal activity and Federal lands that reduce the available tax base.

Among the most heavily impacted districts in the country, the Central Kitsap School District is home to many students whose parents work at naval facilities. For too long, this school district has not received the heavy impact aid funding that it has historically relied on to support these military-connected kids.

I would like to thank the Education and the Workforce Committee Ranking Member Mr. SCOTT for working with me to include a provision in an amendment that we will soon consider to help school districts like Central Kitsap get the impact aid funding they rely on.

I look forward to working with the committee and our colleagues in the Senate to include this provision in any final legislation that reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Mr. Speaker, this is important to kids.

HONORING ALLEN HARRINGTON

(Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about an American hero.

Allen Harrington of Anderson, Indiana, was one of the Nation's first African American Marines. He and his fellow Montford Point Marines broke the U.S. Marine Corps color barrier during World War II. Mr. Harrington specifically worked in an ammunition factory and aided efforts to rescue prisoners of war being held by the Japanese.

How many Americans can say they broke racial barriers while serving our country when the future of the free world was on the line? Allen Harrington could.

Unfortunately, he passed away in 2002, 9 years before legislation was passed awarding living members of the Montford Point Marines the Congressional Gold Medal.

This weekend, residents of Anderson and his family will gather at city hall to pay tribute to his tremendous legacy. I look forward to presenting his daughter, Darlene, a special certificate and letter from the President and a replica Montford Point Marine medal.

I am proud to know this American hero hails from Indiana's Fifth District. I am even more proud his remarkable life will finally receive the recognition it deserves.

DHS SHUTDOWN

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, once again, the Republicans have brought us to the brink of a government shutdown, this time, the Department of Homeland Security.

For weeks, the Department specifically designed to keep America and Americans safe has been forced to spend time and resources making plans to lay off 30,000 workers and stop paychecks for hundreds of thousands of critical workers like the Coast Guard and Border Patrol agents and TSA at the airports.

Why are they on this dangerous mission? So they can continue their futile and cruel war against immigrant children and families.

Now I hear they will try to put the Department of Homeland Security back in limbo for another 3 weeks while they figure out some other mischief. This is reckless. This is irresponsible and dangerous.

Shame on the Republicans for doing this. Stop it. Just pass a clean bill for a continuous funding of the Department of Homeland Security.

RARE DISEASE DAY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is Rare Disease Day, and I stand to help raise awareness for more than 7,000 different types of different rare diseases and disorders that affect more than 300 million people nationwide.

Today, the National Institutes of Health is celebrating its eighth annual Rare Disease Day, and I applaud their efforts to bring awareness to this very important issue.

Mr. Speaker, in the United States, a condition is considered rare if it affects fewer than 200,000 people combined in a particular group. In the U.S. today, there are approximately 30 million people living with rare disease, many of whom are inflicted with diseases whose symptoms are so complex that they simply remain undiagnosed. It is estimated that 80 percent of rare diseases are genetic in origin, and about half of all rare diseases affect children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me not just today but every day in helping to raise awareness on this very important issue that affects so many people in this Nation and around the world.

DHS SHUTDOWN

(Mr. PETERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge House Republican leadership to put a clean bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security on the floor for a vote.

It is our job to lead this great Nation, and America deserves better than political gamesmanship. The threats facing our country are real. The Department of Homeland Security is on the front lines making sure our communities are safe. They secure our boarders and ports and ensure airports are safe for millions of travelers.

If Congress fails to fund DHS, 169,000 Border Patrol agents, Customs and Border Protection officers, TSA aviation and security screeners, and Active Duty Coast Guard military will report to work but will not receive a paycheck. And that is just wrong.

I joined several of my colleagues this week to introduce legislation to withhold congressional pay if Homeland Security is shut down. It is simple: if the hardworking men and women in the Department of Homeland Security will continue to go to work but not receive a paycheck, Members of Congress who have failed to do their job should not receive a paycheck either.

Let's do the right thing. Cleanly fund our Homeland Security and quit political gamesmanship.

RECOGNIZING NICHOLAS BENNETT

(Mr. COLLINS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Nicholas Bennett for making his 1,000th half-court basketball shot on Saturday, January 24.

Let me say it is not the shot that is impressive, it is Nicholas. You see, Nicholas, a senior at North Hall High School who also has autism, has been manager of his school's varsity basketball team for 4 years. As a freshman, he made it his goal to sink 1,000 half-court shots by graduation. He has amazed his teammates by consistently making those on the way to fulfilling his promise.

Nicholas got his first-ever starting opportunity at the North Hall-Gainesville basketball game last month. He scored on the opening play and sunk his 1,000th half-court shot during half-time.

One of those people who impresses you the minute you meet him, Nicholas' kindness, determination, and dedication to his team are an inspiration. His motto is "have faith," and it speaks to northeast Georgia's core values.

Today, I join with the Ninth District in recognizing Nicholas' outstanding character and wish him the best in his future endeavors. Sometimes it is not about the shots; it is about the person

making the shots. And Nicholas, you remind us to have faith.

DHS SHUTDOWN

(Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call out my Republican colleagues for abandoning their duty to govern and protect our national security.

We are just hours away from asking 200,000 DHS employees who protect our country to go without pay because Republicans can't get their act together. A DHS shutdown doesn't protect us from national security threats, and it certainly doesn't solve our disagreements over immigration policy. This is nothing more than a tantrum, but even my 5-year-old son knows that tantrums are a waste of time.

It is time to grow up and govern. Will you listen to the extremists in your party who are focused on obstruction of progress, or will you listen to the majority of Americans who want us to fund DHS, want us to act on comprehensive immigration reform, and want us to govern like adults?

I urge my colleagues to pass a clean DHS funding bill.

□ 0915

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL ONE MINUTE

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend my remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN). The Chair will not entertain that request at this time.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. POLIS. Point of parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, who objected to the motion?

I did not hear an objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announced that he would entertain five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side, and all those five requests have been entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Point of parliamentary inquiry. If I receive unanimous consent for a sixth request, am I not able to give that request under the rules of the House?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is exercising his discretion not to recognize for more than five 1-minute speeches on each side.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 19 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 0925

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN) at 9 o'clock and 25 minutes a.m.

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2015

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 129 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 129

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 35) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the joint resolution are waived. The joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the joint resolution are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations; and (2) one motion to recommend.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a rule and the underlying bill that would provide for funding for the Department of Homeland Security for 3 weeks.

This short, six-line resolution, House Joint Resolution 35, would provide certainty by taking a shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security off the table.

So why are we here today? We are here because, last year, the President

brought forward a plan to grant executive amnesty to over 4 million illegal immigrants. I believe that the administration's actions violate the rule of law, circumvent the role of the American people, and undermine the Constitution.

These actions have failed the American people. Over the last few years, the President's immigration policies have cost the Federal Government millions of dollars. They have cost our States, our communities, and our local schools and hospitals millions more.

I disagree with executive amnesty because I believe it is unwise, unlawful, and unconstitutional. That is why, 6 weeks ago, the House of Representatives did its job. We passed a bill that provided for the funding of the Department of Homeland Security and blocked the President's executive amnesty actions.

We had an expectation that the Senate would then do its work, stand up for the Constitution, while funding the Department of Homeland Security. Unfortunately, Senate Democrats, including numerous Senators who have argued repeatedly that no President can unilaterally change the law, have blocked that bill.

That is why we are here today: because Senate Democrats refuse to stand up and fight on behalf of the Constitution against the President's executive amnesty plan. We would not be here with a short-term solution if six—only six—Senate Democrats would stand up for the American people and stop the President's executive amnesty plan.

Fortunately, Mr. Speaker, the State of Texas and others, including my great home State of Georgia, stepped up to the plate and led a lawsuit with other States against the President and his unilateral actions. A judge in Texas ruled on that case 11 days ago and said that the President's November executive amnesty action was illegal.

As long as his injunction remains in place, no Federal dollars can be used to fund the President's executive action on immigration. That means that, for the time being, the President's plan has been stopped dead in its tracks.

In the meantime, I believe the House must do everything it can to fund the Department of Homeland Security at a critical time, which is why I stand in support of the rule that will fund the Department through March 19.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank the gentleman, my friend, Mr. COLLINS, for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in this House, we use a manual of rules that was written by Thomas Jefferson. In 1801, when he began writing his manual of parliamentary procedures, he surely imagined a

Chamber which followed the rules would be orderly, steadfast, and unwavering and that could govern our Nation in a respectable way; but under the current majority's rule, this House stands in deep contrast to that ideal.

Yet again, we stand on the brink, on the edge, on the precipice of a shutdown.

□ 0930

After 4 years of this kind of leadership of self-inflicted wounds and manufactured crises, one would think that the House majority would have learned their lesson. It is clear today that they have not.

First, Republicans promised when they took control of this Chamber that they would govern prudently and fairly and openly, with regular order. We haven't seen any of that.

Then last November, when Republicans took control of the Senate, we were promised that two Chambers under Republican rule would be better than one and that the games would be over. We surely haven't seen any of that either.

The House majority is not content to double down on their vendetta against the President; they want to undermine their own party in the process.

To the best of my knowledge, every President since Eisenhower—Republican and Democrat—has set some immigration enforcement and other priorities through executive order. But the majority's contempt for this President is so strong that they are engaging in an intraparty war, while Rome is burning around them, to see who can punish him the hardest.

Mr. Speaker, as we stand here debating this, the Senate is poised to send us a clean, bipartisan bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security until the end of the fiscal year. The Republican Senate, with help from Democratic Senators, is ready to do what is right for the country. But the House is so blinded by their need to discredit and disparage the President that they risk the very security of our Nation for political games.

House Minority Leader NANCY PELOSI offered Speaker BOEHNER all 188 Democratic votes on a clean bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security. He would have only needed to come up with 30. But the Speaker refused to take them. And if this dangerous continuing resolution were to pass, it will not be because of Democratic support. It will be pure Republican.

Democrats have been shut out of the process yet again. Today's closed rule brings the tally to 13 closed rules of the 18 rules passed in the 114th Congress.

The Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Jeh Johnson, sent a letter to congressional leaders yesterday which laid out what is at stake if his Department's funding is disrupted, either through shutdown or

short-term continuing resolution. From maintaining airport security, to helping us recover from one of the hardest winters in generations, to guarding against cyber threats, to keeping the U.S. Coast Guard running and monitoring possible lone-wolf attacks on our homeland by ISIS, the House majority is threatening the safety and security of our Nation.

Secretary Johnson went on to say: "As I have noted many times, mere extension of a continuing resolution has many of the same negative impacts." In other words, a short-term solution simply keeps us going on this cliffhanger. It "exacerbates the uncertainty for my workforce and puts us back in the same position, on the brink of a shutdown just days from now."

How in the world can we run the United States like this? What must the rest of the world think of us as we flounder around here trying to inflict all the pain we can on the President of the United States? And in any case, that is more important to too many Members of this House; the prime reason for being here is to tear down the government and the President.

Mr. Speaker, I include the text of the letter from Secretary Johnson to congressional leaders, dated 26 February 2015, for the RECORD.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
HOMELAND SECURITY,

Washington, DC, February 26, 2015.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER, MAJORITY LEADER MCCONNELL, MINORITY LEADER REID, AND MINORITY LEADER PELOSI: Thank you for your leadership and efforts to pass a clean, full-year appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security. As you know, our funding expires tomorrow at midnight. I write to explain to Members of Congress the real and substantial consequences of a failure to pass a full-year appropriations bill by that deadline.

As an initial matter, it must be noted that a potential shutdown of the Department comes at a particularly challenging time for homeland security. It is stunning that we must even contemplate a shutdown of the Department in the current global context. The global terrorist threat has become more decentralized and complex. Terrorist organizations are now openly calling for attacks on Western targets. Yesterday's arrests in New York City highlight the threat of independent actors in the homeland who support overseas terrorist organizations and radical ideology. We are working hard to stay one step ahead of potential threats to aviation security. Last year at this time, the spike in migrant children began to appear at our border; we are deployed to prevent this situation from recurring, and to address it aggressively if it does. The Nation is in the midst of a very cold, harsh winter, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency is working with states impacted by record snowfalls.

Here are just some of the consequences for homeland security if the Departments funding lapses and we shut down:

First, about 170,000 employees will be required to work, but will not get paid for that work during the period of a shutdown. This includes our Coast Guard, Border Patrol agents, Secret Service agents, Transportation Security Administration officers, and

others on the front lines of our homeland security. These working men and women depend on biweekly paychecks to make ends meet for themselves and their families. For them, personally, work without pay is disruptive and demoralizing. Even worse for our people are the public statements by some that make light of a shutdown, which disregards DHS employees' personal sacrifices and dedication to our Nation's security.

Second, approximately 30,000 men and women of the Department must be furloughed and sent home without pay. Our financial management, human resources, procurement and contracting, and information technology teams—the institutional backbone of the Department—will be reduced by 90 percent, from over 2,000 to just 208 people. My own immediate headquarters staff will be cut by about 87 percent. Our Science and Technology team, which is intensely focused on developing non-metallic explosive detection capabilities as well as other technologies to counter threats to aviation, will be cut 94 percent, from 448 to 26 people. Our Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, which is our Nation's primary research and development lead for development of advanced nuclear detection technologies and technical forensic capabilities, will also be cut 94 percent, from 121 to just 7 people.

Third, contracting services across the Department, including those for critical mission support activities, will be disrupted and/or interrupted altogether. Depending upon the length of a shutdown, contract awards and major acquisitions could be impacted. In the event of a shutdown, negotiations to construct the United States Coast Guard's 8th National Security Cutter will be delayed, potentially leading to an increase in costs.

Fourth, our \$2.5 billion-a-year grant-making to state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, to assist them in preventing, responding to or recovering from terrorist attacks, major disasters and other emergencies, remains at a standstill (it has already stopped because the Department is currently funded by a Continuing Resolution). Of particular note, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Management Performance Grants, which contribute 50 percent of the salaries of state and local emergency management personnel, cannot be funded.

Fifth, public assistance disaster recovery payments to communities affected by previous disasters will grind to a halt. Though these payments are funded with prior-year money, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's staff that processes them must be furloughed.

Sixth, depending upon the length of a shutdown, DHS will no longer be able to support state and local authorities with planning, safety, and security resources for special security events such as the Boston and Chicago Marathons.

Seventh, depending upon the length of a shutdown, work to complete construction of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility in Kansas, which will replace the aging 1950s-era Plum Island facility in New York, could be disrupted.

Eighth, new hires across the Department must be halted, disrupting critical missions to secure the border, protect millions of daily airline passengers, strengthen security at the White House, and deploy new ICE investigators. Routine attrition hiring would cease across the Department, seriously undermining our homeland security frontline staffing needs. Our plans to increase CBP staffing at our ports of entry by 2,000 officers, and to maintain the Transportation Security Administration's workforce of airport

screeners and air marshals will be undermined. Our plans to hire additional Secret Service uniformed officers and special agents will also be disrupted.

Ninth, without funding, all training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers will cease. Up to 2,000 local, state, and federal law enforcement trainees from across the country will be sent home.

Finally, as I have noted many times, mere extension of a continuing resolution has many of the same negative impacts. A short-term continuing resolution exacerbates the uncertainty for my workforce and puts us back in the same position, on the brink of a shutdown just days from now.

I urge Congress, as soon as possible, to pass a clean, full-year Fiscal Year 2015 appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security.

The American people are counting on us.

Sincerely,

JEH CHARLES JOHNSON,
Secretary.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. These are the consequences of the actions of this Chamber's majority, real and dangerous consequences: no certainty, no safety, no end in sight.

I say to my colleagues in the majority: The Senate is giving you a way out of this thorny, treacherous brush that you have built up around yourselves, and I urge you and I implore you to follow the path out of that brush. It is the right thing to do for the country, and it is certainly the right thing to do for this institution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This, frankly, is an understanding. This is not being brought forward out of contempt, as has been said, Mr. Speaker, about this President. This has to do with institutional integrity, that each branch has a role, that each body within the Congress has a role. Do your job. That is all we are saying. Make compromises where need be. Work to progress where need be. But when you simply say, I will not do anything—and especially with this executive amnesty action, which we believe should not be funded—that is a valid point of view. We have got to come to the table. But when the administration refuses to negotiate, the American people see truly that we are not functioning, not because of this House, but because of what is happening through, frankly, a frustrating policy from this administration which wants to bypass Congress.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds to say a negotiation took place, and that is why a bipartisan bill is passing the Senate at this very moment.

I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), a member of the Committee on Rules.

Mr. POLIS. I thank the gentlelady from New York.

Mr. Speaker, what we are talking about here is simply kicking the can down the road for 3 weeks. The facts on the ground don't change in 3 weeks. Guess what, President Obama is still President of the United States in 3 weeks. Guess what, HARRY REID is still the minority leader with enough votes to prevent something from reaching the 60-vote threshold in the Senate.

All we are doing is giving the Republicans yet another chance 3 weeks from now to remind the American children of undocumented parents that they want to deport Mom and Dad and to remind DREAMers, aspiring Americans who grew up here and know no other country, that they should be deported to a country they don't even know, haven't been to, and might not even speak the language of. That is not the way to win friends and influence people.

Look, when you are going to people in an election cycle, it doesn't matter how great your agenda is. It might be great for their economics and their pocketbook; it might be great for their values. But you know what, if you are trying to deport Mom and Dad, you are not going to get past the front door.

Yet here we are, sending ourselves on a cycle where every 3 weeks, every 2 weeks, every 6 weeks, apparently, the Republicans want to remind American children that they want to deport Mom and Dad. Apparently the Republicans want to remind young people who grew up here, who know no other country, who might want to serve in our military, who might be a cheerleader or on the football team at high school with your kids, Mr. Speaker, that they, too, should be deported to a country that they don't know, where they speak a language that they might not even speak.

That is just simply not a winning electoral strategy, and it is contrary to our values as Americans. It is against family values. It is against the values of our Nation, as a nation of immigrants and a nation of laws.

Those two can be reconciled through sensible, comprehensive immigration reform that addresses our broken immigration system. And yes, it is broken; and yes, President Obama's first steps don't completely fix it; but together, we can make it work.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I am pleased to yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS), my good friend, who is a member of the Rules Committee.

Mr. BURGESS. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I come today, of course, to speak on the rule and to encourage passage of the rule and encourage passage of the underlying bill, funding the Department of Homeland Security for the next 21 days.

I would remind this body that the House, last month, funded the Depart-

ment of Homeland Security until the end of the fiscal year, September 30. We have since awaited activity over in the Senate or over in the other body, and that activity, unfortunately, has not been forthcoming. So we are left, again, with a deadline situation; and the House leadership, responsibly, has stepped up to provide temporary funding for the next 21 days.

The problem, of course, goes back to November when the House did not want to fund the President's illegal, unlawful amnesty. It turns out a Federal judge in Texas agreed with us here in the House that it was an illegal amnesty.

But in reference to the comments just made here on the House floor, here is a pop quiz for everyone. What country is more welcoming than any other country on the face of the Earth? What country allows more people in legally than all other countries combined? Well, that country is the United States of America.

Last year, over 1 million individuals were welcomed into this country legally, and it has been so every year that I have been in the Congress for the last 12 years. That is 12 million people, just using simple math. All we ask is that you simply follow existing law.

For people who want to say our immigration system is broken, I would submit that what is broken is our enforcement system. You had only to look to the southern border last summer and see the flood of unaccompanied minors coming over—not sneaking across the border, simply walking across the border and turning themselves in—and this country was required to deal with that on an emergent basis. The State of Texas was required to deal with that on an emergent basis.

There was a lot of discussion as to why that surge happened. I think there is a link back to the President saying: I am going to suspend enforcement of some of our immigration laws. It sent a message. It sent a message to people: Y'all come. Y'all come. The doors are open. If you get here in time, guess what. You won't have to worry about our laws.

That was the wrong message because, as a consequence, States, like my State of Texas, were required to deal with the influx and were required to deal with the increase in social programs that were then called upon to provide those services that had never been budgeted before because they were, by definition, unexpected.

I agree that we do have a problem, and the problem is the porosity of the southern border, particularly in the Lower Rio Grande Valley sector in the State of Texas.

The former Governor of Texas, Rick Perry, met with the President in Dallas and invited him down to the border to come and see what we are dealing

with, and the President refused. Well, many of us have been to the border. Bipartisan trips have been conducted to the border, to the Lower Rio Grande Valley sector.

Thank goodness for the men and women who show up there to work every day. Federal, State, and local sheriffs show up to work every day to keep our country safe. And right now, the lion's share of the enforcement on the border, of the protection on the border, is being done by the Texas Department of Safety, the highway patrol. The people who are supposed to be out catching speeders on the freeway are actually in boats on the Rio Grande to enforce our border security because it is national security.

Lieutenant Governor Patrick, when he was running for election, said over and over again: The security of the southern border is a Federal responsibility, but it is our problem, as State leaders.

So they have stepped up and they have spent money. They have committed money. They have committed people and equipment to that southern border, equipment that should have been pledged by the President of the United States and Department of Homeland Security.

Former Governor Perry offered President Obama an opportunity to come to the border to see what the problem was. The President refused. I think that was a mistake. I think the President should have traveled to the southern border.

The reality is that many of the Customs and Border Patrol individuals are not even on the border. They are one county in, dealing with the people who have now trekked across some of the most dangerous desert and difficult country around, who have been picked up by Customs and Border Patrol now 40, 50, 80 miles from the southern border.

The problem is not solved by the President's executive order. The problem is exacerbated. The President is throwing gasoline on the fire on our southern border, and that needs to stop. Thank goodness a Federal judge recognized that, and at least the process temporarily has been halted.

The answer, though, is to enforce existing law, protect and defend our border, as all of us were sworn to do when we took that oath of office. That is the type of reform that is needed.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL).

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from New York, the ranking member, for the time.

Mr. Speaker, I come this morning with some good news that should make us all very comfortable. We have received an intelligence dispatch from ISIS and ISIL, and the good news is that they have decided to finance their

terrorist attacks against the United States and the people of the United States based on a continuing resolution, based on short-term funding. They are going to finance the hijacking of airplanes, attacks on Americans, attacks on our Embassies on a 3-week spending resolution.

Sound preposterous? So is what the House Republicans are doing to our Department of Homeland Security.

□ 0945

It is a disservice to the American people, and it undermines our homeland security. This is not a game, Mr. Speaker. Three terrorists in Brooklyn were arrested yesterday. They were planning to do three things: one, they were planning to hijack airplanes; two, they were planning to kill cops; and three, they were planning to assassinate the President. There is one department in the Federal agencies that protects us from hijacking airplanes, assassinating the President, and helps protect us from killing cops. It is the Department of Homeland Security.

Those terrorists were not planning these terrorist attacks based on kicking the can in their budgets. They were planning those terrorist attacks based on doing whatever it took at whatever the cost to inflict harm on this country.

What are House Republicans doing in the face of that threat? They are kicking the can with 3-week spending resolutions because they disagree with the President on an executive order on immigration. They have the right to their disagreements, Mr. Speaker. If you don't like immigration, debate it. If you don't like an executive order, oppose it. But do not undermine the safety of the American people by weakening the Department of Homeland Security with short-term funding resolutions while our terrorist opponents and enemies are financing those attacks every single day for as long as it takes.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, at this point in time, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I don't come to the well and speak on rules. I think the gentlewoman from New York will almost not recognize me on the House floor in this capacity. But I think this is an extremely important rule, and I think the last two minority Members made the point for me very well, and I would just like to maybe comment on it for just a moment.

Mr. POLIS is a dear friend of mine that I have cosponsored and I am cosponsoring legislation with. He and I agree on a great deal. He talked about the question of whether this was American to do what we are doing. Nothing could be more quintessentially American than to say when we have a real difference of opinion between two bodies—in this case the House and the

Senate—that we want to provide an opportunity to reconcile those differences and to go to conference, to spend a week or two, as necessary, publicly, as the rules require, debating the differences between our visions.

Democrats in the Senate have been able to keep us from having any kind of a comment on the President's acts, which have been ruled by a Federal judge as unlawful and unconstitutional.

Now, I just got basically told "shame on you" by my other colleague, and I really can't understand that. He knows that there is a real difference of opinion in this body between what the President can do and what he is doing. He said, and I am paraphrasing: Please don't shut down the government because you disagree. Just disagree.

Mr. Speaker, the President has made it very clear time and time again that the wrong place to argue with him is on a debt limit, the wrong place to argue is on a budget, and now the wrong place to argue is on our one constitutional absolute, which is the power of the purse.

Mr. Speaker, there is no more important place to reconcile these differences than when we are debating the power of the purse. The President has said he has the authority. Fine. A Federal judge will decide that. But the House can decide whether or not to fund him. It is our obligation to decide whether or not his spending of the American people's hard-earned money is, in fact, consistent with the best interests of the American people.

Now, I want immigration reform. I want every aspect of it. I have hard-working farm families in my district who cannot live without an effective solution for an out-of-control farm labor base. Almost every farm laborer in California either is or was unlawfully in this country at one time. We have held up other immigration waiting to try to get an agreement with the Senate.

If we do not begin today by creating space in our democracy for the healthy debate between the two bodies over the next 3 weeks, then we have shirked our duty. If we simply shut down and give up, we have shirked our duty. If we simply capitulate and fund whatever the President wants—just a blank check—we might as well just say, Spend such funds as you may need to, and go home. That is not what the American people want us to do. They want us to reasonably provide the advice and consent when it comes to appropriation.

This bill was intended to do it. The 3-week extension gives the President a full 3 weeks to wage, if you will, his view with the American people, the Senate to do so, but I desperately want the healthy public debate between Members of the House, Members of the Senate, Democrats and Republicans, on

what we will do going forward. I would hope my colleagues on the Rules Committee would vote with me, if not on the rule, then certainly on the passage of 3 weeks to give democracy a chance, 3 weeks for our Republic to do what is enshrined in the Constitution, what has been the policy of these two bodies for over 230 years. Provide the 3 weeks, go to conference, publicly debate the differences between the House, the Senate, Republicans and Democrats, the President and, quite frankly, a Federal judge, in front of the American people.

I have been here 14 years; we have been working on immigration problems. The President has been President for 6 years; we have been working on immigration problems. Three weeks of healthy debate, nothing could be more appropriate in our great Republic.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, anyone who says that we are going to let down the guard on national defense because we are having a healthy debate and we have continued full funding of the Department of Homeland Security simply is not being genuine in the discourse. The fact is, 3 weeks of full funding is exactly the right thing to do. Our enemies will know that we take homeland security seriously, but we also take immigration seriously.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. BURGESS from Texas, said one thing that should be repeated in this body every single time we use the word "immigration": America allows more people to come here through the front door not more than just any country in the world but more than all the countries of the world combined. Over 1.2 million people will immigrate to this country legally this year. We are generous beyond any other country in the world. So no one can say we are not pro-immigrant. We are. But there are 11 million people in this country who are unaccounted for, and getting it right and spending those dollars wisely is Mr. BURGESS' requirement, and it is my requirement. To all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, vote "yes," make this happen, and we will have a healthy debate in our Republic.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I have to note we just heard my friend, Mr. ISSA, I think reveal what is really going on here. He said, and I think I am quoting him correctly, referencing the President, that we don't have to fund him. Well, with all due respect, Mr. Speaker, this is not about funding the President. This is about the decision of this body and the Senate, the Republicans in charge, to continue to kick the can down the road and not fund the most essential government function, and

that is public safety and national security.

So let's be clear about what is going on here. This is a manufactured, deliberate political crisis intended to deflect attention from the fact that for 7 weeks—7 weeks in session—we have not seen any of the democratic deliberation that my friends on the other side have referred to. They could have brought a funding bill in the first week, in the second week, in the third week, in the fourth week, in the fifth week, in the sixth week, or the seventh week that we have been here on the floor of the House. But have they? No.

On the last day before the Department of Homeland Security shuts down, after 7 weeks in session, what do we get? Three weeks of funding. What changes in 3 weeks? What can you do in the next 3 weeks that you have been completely incapable of doing in the last 7 weeks? I don't see anything changing.

While the American people are at home worrying about how they work harder every day and can't seem to get ahead, that they can't seem to put the money aside to put their kids through college, and they can't seem to put the money aside to make sure that when they retire they are going to be able to enjoy the fruits of their labor, those are the questions that the American people have.

We have a Republican majority in the House and the Senate that can't even seem to act on the simplest question of providing for national security. If they are so concerned, Mr. Speaker, about immigration policy, bring an immigration bill to the floor of the House. Do your job. Legislate on the question of immigration and provide for national defense.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, there is something I will agree with the previous speaker on. I agree this is not about the President. It is about the process. It is about what we have all gone through and said, this is how a bill becomes the law. If we need a reminder, then let's talk about that.

Mr. Speaker, one of the questions that was just said is why we would bring, why, when we have been here for the last 6 weeks bringing spending bills and sending them over—let's talk about what we did do. January 14, the House approves a full-year funding bill for DHS. February 3, Senate Democrats vote to block consideration. February 4, Senate Democrats vote again to block consideration. Uh oh, February 5, around Groundhog Day, somewhere in that neighborhood, Senate Democrats vote a third time to block consideration. February 23, in case they forgot, Senate Democrats vote for a fourth time to block consideration. Democrats even prevented themselves from offering amendments to strip the language that they found offensive.

Mr. Speaker, is there just not a problem being developed here? We find our-

selves in a position today because Senate Democrats refuse to be part of the solution. Again, this goes back to basic civics. Let's work this out. Let's do what we need to do. This is about giving us time to let the process work. And as the gentleman had said earlier, what could be different? Maybe this will be different. Maybe the Senate Democrats will learn they are in the minority. The American people spoke in November, and it is time that we work together to find solutions.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES).

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentlewoman from New York. We are here today to do a single job, and that should be to fund fully the Department of Homeland Security. Anything else is an abdication of our responsibility. Anything else is an act of legislative malpractice simply because of the inability of my friends on the other side of the aisle to satisfy the thirst of the extreme right-wing anti-immigration base of the party. So we are playing political games at a time when the safety and the security of the American people are being threatened.

I know that all too well, Mr. Speaker, because earlier this week the FBI uncovered a plot in Brooklyn in the communities that I represent where individuals sought to impart bombs to the Coney Island neighborhood that I represent. And yet we are here playing games, government by crisis. This, of course, is nothing new: fiscal cliff, sequestration, 16-day government shutdown in October of 2013, a flirtation with defaulting on our debt, and now we want to shut down the Department of Homeland Security because my friends on the other side of the aisle can't get their act together.

We need all hands on deck right now, Mr. Speaker. That means the FBI, the CIA, the NSA, and the Department of Homeland Security working together. Why would we want to either shut the Department down or create a level of uncertainty where people within the Department of Homeland Security are distracted when we know that the terrorists only have to be right once and where we have to be correct 100 percent of the time in order to protect the American people?

You claim to be strict constructionists as it relates to the Constitution. We have an article I legislative branch, an article II executive branch, and an article III judicial branch. The Founders said if there is a conflict, if you have got concerns, if you have got constitutional issues, then let the judicial branch work it out. That is what is going on right now.

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We should be doing our job instead of taking the American people on another

reckless legislative joyride that is simply going to crash and burn, this time affecting the safety and security of the American people.

They want us to focus on good-paying jobs. They want us to focus on retirement security, higher education affordability, better childcare, strengthening the middle class and all those who aspire to be part of it. They want us to further the American Dream. But we are here playing games with their safety and security. It is a shame.

Let's get back to doing the business of the American people. Vote down this rule, and vote down the underlying 3-week reckless extension.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, again, I greatly respect my friends across the aisle, but we do have to understand exactly what we are bringing forward is not a bill we are bringing forward to shut down the government. We are bringing something forward to fund it for the next 3 weeks while we continue to work on a process of getting stuff done.

Again, I agree with my colleagues. We are trying to fight. We had to work on the 529 plan that, frankly, the administration had some issues with. We fixed that here in the House this week. We are working on the problems that matter to kitchen tables around this country. Republicans are doing that, but they are also standing up for what we learned in civics lessons, is that this is the way the legislative process works.

If I just need to repeat it one more time, let's go through it once more. January 14, the House did its job. It approved a full-year spending bill. February 3, Senate Democrats voted to block consideration. February 4, Senate Democrats vote again to block consideration. February 5, Senate Democrats vote a third time to block consideration again—as we will go along, as you know, February 23, same story, three times, fourth time removed.

Democrats even prevented themselves from offering amendments to strip language they found offensive. I guess, after so many years of not being able to offer amendments, they forgot how. They are preventing their own selves from doing this in the Senate. It is time we act. This is the issue that we are dealing with today and will continue to do so.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from New York for the time; and my good friend, as well, on the Rules Committee, let me thank you for the time. We share time on the Judiciary Committee. He is a good friend.

In this instance, I vigorously disagree and say that it is about the

President. It is about the President on every term, from the Affordable Care Act to his reasoned, constitutionally premised response to the tragedy of undocumented individuals in this country over and over again. It is about the President. It is about the President when there is not one item that the President has put forward that you are agreeing to.

Right now, let me change my story because I am here today—though I wanted to honor a dear person who is in my district today, and I am not able to be there, I was leaving last night—but because of this immediate crisis and the foolery that is going on, the ignoring of the words of the experts, such as the Secretary of Homeland Security, that says as an initial matter in a letter he sent to all of us, it must be noted that a potential shutdown of the Department comes at a particularly challenging time for Homeland Security.

It is stunning that we must even contemplate a shutdown of the Department in the current global context. The global terrorist threat has become more decentralized and complex. The FBI Director said that there is an ISIS-ISIL cell in every State.

Mr. Speaker, the tomfoolery of Republicans is absurd, that they are willing to play with the lives of Americans, that they are willing to throw under the bus the thousands upon thousands of important, essential, and crucial workers in the Department of Homeland Security. The FBI said, under this new fusion of work together, that the Department of Homeland Security is crucial.

In my district, people are coming up to my staff and asking, What is going to happen in Houston—a place where, when we were in the midst of 9/11, there were rumors about planes going to the energy sector.

This is a foolish position that we are in. I demand that we vote for a clean DHS bill that is coming from the Senate. This is foolish. This is outrageous. I cannot understand what is going on with Republicans that they are, in essence, killing us here in this House. This is absurd.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I think it is sort of interesting—and I appreciate my colleague from Texas—but I think the well-reasoned response of the administration to the issue that is going on, I think there just happens to be a contrary opinion found in a Federal judge in Texas, so maybe so much for the well-reasoned opinion.

With that, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT).

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, the House went through regular order to fully fund the Department of Homeland Security, but in keeping with our constitutional right, we elected to not

fund the President's executive amnesty.

We have a policy difference with the President, that is clear. He supports amnesty; we support the rule of law. Let's debate that. HARRY REID and the President want to play games and, in doing so, are jeopardizing America's security to win political points. It is sad.

Republicans funded the Department of Homeland Security. We have not funded the President's illegal actions. Now, Democrats are playing politics with it. This is not the time or place. This is about funding the Department of Homeland Security, which we have done. Now, Senate Democrats are playing political gamesmanship to defend his executive amnesty.

Democrats are the ones putting the Department of Homeland Security in peril to defend an illegal action taken by this President. We have passed a bill that funds every aspect of the Department of Homeland Security, except for the President's illegal actions. That is a reasonable stand to make.

President Obama did what he said he couldn't do more than 20 times. He said he couldn't do what he did. He went outside the bounds of the Constitution to make law that was politically expedient, in his point of view. He didn't work with the legislative branch. He went outside of it. We disagree with that action. We have the power of the purse. It is our responsibility to appropriate money and to make law.

The House has funded the Department of Homeland Security, and we have responsibility to go through regular order to do so. We did that. HARRY REID and the President are the ones throwing a temper tantrum right now.

This rule for this bill is necessary. Let's pass this rule. Let's pass this bill. Let's fund the Department of Homeland Security. Let's stop playing political brinksmanship.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair asks Members to refrain from making improper references to the President.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Department of Homeland Security will run out of money and shut down tonight. House Democrats, Senate Democrats, the White House, and Senate Republicans all agree on what to do to pass the bipartisan bill to fully fund the Department for the rest of the fiscal year.

The Republican majority in the House of Representatives is the only one standing in the way. Our next vote on ordering the previous question will be a vote on whether to continue down that dangerous path or to govern responsibly and to put our national security ahead of partisan politics.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), the ranking member on Appropriations, to discuss how

essential it is that we pass a clean full-year appropriations bill.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge this House to immediately take up and pass a clean funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security.

By defeating the previous question on the pending rule, we can immediately make in order a clean Homeland Security bill and stop the theatrics over the President's use of executive orders. My colleague Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD and I made several similar attempts, which were unfortunately defeated on party-line votes.

It is my sincere hope that my friends on the other side of the aisle are now prepared to end this standoff with only hours left before the Department of Homeland Security shuts down. Republicans are playing a dangerous game with our security.

As the ranking minority member of the Appropriations Committee, I was involved in the bipartisan, bicameral negotiations on the omnibus spending bill that passed the House and Senate and was signed by the President last December.

That package could have contained all 12 annual spending bills because all 12 were negotiated in conference—bipartisan, Democrats and Republicans—and every one of them was ready to go; but an unfortunate decision was made by the leadership of this body to omit the Homeland Security bill, not because there were outstanding issues or continued disputes.

That bill was stripped from the omnibus because some in this body were upset by the President's executive order on immigration. They even admitted the President's actions had little to do with the Homeland Security Appropriations bill, yet that was the choice that was made on how to proceed.

The Homeland Security Appropriations bill was forced to operate under a continuing resolution instead of having a full-year bill. Ironically, it meant that the Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, two of the agencies tasked with defending our borders and enforcing our immigration laws, had to do without the nearly \$1 billion increase they would have gotten under the full-year bill.

Delaying the full-year bill limits the Department's ability to advance the Secretary's unity of effort initiative, designed to improve coordination in our security missions; limits the ability of the Secretary to move ahead with the Southern Border and Approaches Campaign; creates uncertainty regarding ICE's capacity to detain and deport dangerous criminals; complicates the Department's ability to deal with another influx of unaccompanied children at our border stations; delays implementation of the

new security upgrades at the White House and hiring increases of the U.S. Secret Service; and delays terrorism preparedness and response grants for State and local public safety personnel.

I do understand that many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle feel quite strongly about the President's use of executive orders on immigration policy; but do they have the courage of their convictions to look the first responders they represent in the eye and tell them that they are holding up critical assistance to firefighters, law enforcement, EMTs, and emergency managers because of an ideological fight over immigration?

My friends, this is disgraceful. This is irresponsible. The Homeland Security bill should never have been held hostage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Mrs. LOWEY. With only hours left until the Republican shutdown, hasn't this gone on long enough? Isn't it time to abandon this failed strategy and pass a clean full-year bill?

To that end, I urge this whole House to join me today in defeating the previous question so that my colleague, Ms. SLAUGHTER, can offer an amendment to provide a clean full-year appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I think the question that was just asked, Mr. Speaker, on the floor is: Do we have the courage to tell first responders and others that we will fund and put forward a bill to keep funding going for 3 years? The answer is a resounding "yes."

The question would be to my friends across the aisle: Do you have the courage to tell them that, this afternoon, you are going to vote "no?" That is the better question.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the Democrat whip.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, what we ought to have the courage to do is to tell all our Homeland Security personnel. We are going to fund you through the end of this year, as we have told every other employee in the Federal Government that is protecting us and serving us on a day-to-day basis.

Mr. Speaker, the majority party said to the American people in a pledge to America:

We will end the practice of packaging unpopular bills with "must-pass" legislation.

The funding of the Department of Homeland Security is a must-pass piece of legislation, legislation to circumvent the will of the American people.

Instead, we will advance major legislation one issue at a time.

Mr. Speaker, they are breaking that pledge today.

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PETER KING, the former Republican chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, said this: "If a clean bill comes here, as we expect to happen in just a few hours, we have to accept and vote on it." He then said, in reference to this cul-de-sac strategy that the majority party is following of continuing to go into a dead end, he said this, PETER KING: "I think up to this point, we've engaged in an exercise of tactical malpractice. Self-delusion is self-destructive."

There is not a Republican in this House who believes this strategy will do anything but run them back into that cul-de-sac that they went into in December, at the expense of the confidence of Americans that their Department of Homeland Security, tasked to make them safe, tasked to provide for the security of this Nation, will, in fact, be operating on a full basis.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter dated yesterday from Secretary Jeh Johnson and read this key excerpt from it. Secretary Johnson said: "Finally, as I have noted many times, mere extension of a continuing resolution has many of the same negative impacts"—outlined in this letter. "A short-term continuing resolution exacerbates the uncertainty for my workforce and puts us back in the same position, on the brink of a shutdown."

For those Republicans who believe that we ought to do the responsible thing, as PETER KING has said, vote against the previous question. Vote for a rule that provides for the consideration of the Senate-passed bill, which they, 98-2, decided to put on the floor because they thought it was good policy.

KEY EXCERPT: "Finally, as I have noted many times, mere extension of a continuing resolution has many of the same negative impacts. A short-term continuing resolution exacerbates the uncertainty for my workforce and puts us back in the same position, on the brink of a shutdown just days from now."

FEBRUARY 26, 2015.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER, MAJORITY LEADER MCCONNELL, MINORITY LEADER REID, AND MINORITY LEADER PELOSI:

Thank you for your leadership and efforts to pass a clean, full-year appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security. As you know, our funding expires tomorrow at midnight. I write to explain to Members of Congress the real and substantial consequences of a failure to pass a full-year appropriations bill by that deadline.

As an initial matter, it must be noted that a potential shutdown of the Department comes at a particularly challenging time for homeland security. It is stunning that we must even contemplate a shutdown of the Department in the current global context. The global terrorist threat has become more decentralized and complex. Terrorist organizations are now openly calling for attacks on

Western targets. Yesterday's arrests in New York City highlight the threat of independent actors in the homeland who support overseas terrorist organizations and radical ideology. We are working hard to stay one step ahead of potential threats to aviation security. Last year at this time, the spike in migrant children began to appear at our border; we are deployed to prevent this situation from recurring, and to address it aggressively if it does. The Nation is in the midst of a very cold, harsh winter, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency is working with states impacted by record snowfalls.

Here are just some of the consequences for homeland security if the Department's funding lapses and we shut down:

First, about 170,000 employees will be required to work, but will not get paid for that work during the period of a shutdown. This includes our Coast Guard, Border Patrol agents, Secret Service agents, Transportation Security Administration officers, and others on the front lines of our homeland security. These working men and women depend on biweekly paychecks to make ends meet for themselves and their families. For them, personally, work without pay is disruptive and demoralizing. Even worse for our people are the public statements by some that make light of a shutdown, which disregards DHS employees' personal sacrifices and dedication to our Nation's security.

Second, approximately 30,000 men and women of the Department must be furloughed and sent home without pay. Our financial management, human resources, procurement and contracting, and information technology teams—the institutional backbone of the Department—will be reduced by 90 percent, from over 2,000 to just 208 people. My own immediate headquarters staff will be cut by about 87 percent. Our Science and Technology team, which is intensely focused on developing non-metallic explosive detection capabilities as well as other technologies to counter threats to aviation, will be cut 94 percent, from 448 to 26 people. Our Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, which is our Nation's primary research and development lead for development of advanced nuclear detection technologies and technical forensic capabilities, will also be cut 94 percent, from 121 to just 7 people.

Third, contracting services across the Department, including those for critical mission support activities, will be disrupted and/or interrupted altogether. Depending upon the length of a shutdown, contract awards and major acquisitions could be impacted. In the event of a shutdown, negotiations to construct the United States Coast Guard's 8th National Security Cutter will be delayed, potentially leading to an increase in costs.

Fourth, our \$2.5 billion-a-year grant-making to state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, to assist them in preventing, responding to or recovering from terrorist attacks, major disasters and other emergencies, remains at a standstill (it has already stopped because the Department is currently funded by a Continuing Resolution). Of particular note, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Management Performance Grants, which contribute 50 percent of the salaries of state and local emergency management personnel, cannot be funded.

Fifth, public assistance disaster recovery payments to communities affected by previous disasters will grind to a halt. Though these payments are funded with prior-year money, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's staff that processes them must be furloughed.

Sixth, depending upon the length of a shutdown, DHS will no longer be able to support state and local authorities with planning, safety, and security resources for special security events such as the Boston and Chicago Marathons.

Seventh, depending upon the length of a shutdown, work to complete construction of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility in Kansas, which will replace the aging 1950s-era Plum Island facility in New York, could be disrupted.

Eighth, new hires across the Department must be halted, disrupting critical missions to secure the border, protect millions of daily airline passengers, strengthen security at the White House, and deploy new ICE investigators. Routine attrition hiring would cease across the Department, seriously undermining our homeland security frontline staffing needs. Our plans to increase CBP staffing at our ports of entry by 2,000 officers, and to maintain the Transportation Security Administration's workforce of airport screeners and air marshals will be undermined. Our plans to hire additional Secret Service uniformed officers and special agents will also be disrupted.

Ninth, without funding, all training at the Federal Law "Enforcement Training Centers" will cease. Up to 2,000 local, state, and federal law enforcement trainees from across the country will be sent home.

Finally, as I have noted many times, mere extension of a continuing resolution has many of the same negative impacts. A short-term continuing resolution exacerbates the uncertainty for my workforce and puts us back in the same position, on the brink of a shutdown just days from now.

I urge Congress, as soon as possible, to pass a clean, full-year Fiscal Year 2015 appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security.

The American people are counting on us.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire if the gentleman from Georgia has any further speakers? I am ready to close if he does not.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. We have no more speakers at this time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I thank the gentleman. Then I shall close, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this intraparty dysfunction, governing from crisis to crisis and self-inflicted wounds, must come to an end. Our Nation's very security is at stake, and the American people are crying out for stability, for certainty, and for responsible government. Let's give them that.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment in the RECORD, along with extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" to defeat the previous question. Vote "no" on the underlying rule and the underlying bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It has been really an interesting morning discussing what we could do, what we not do, and what we have done, and, actually, the fact and the process of the House doing its job again and the Senate Democrats not doing theirs. It is just very frustrating.

You talk about the American people. I tell you, from a Republican standpoint, this is about administration. This is about a time in which we are confronting, in which there is honest debate on both sides, but when it comes down to the bottom line, it has been very true over the course of these first 7, 8 weeks here that one party is putting forward an agenda that says that moms and dads and kids matter, that the rule of law matters, that things are to operate in a certain way, and they are operating in the way that we grew up knowing civics from our Founders that had a Constitution that laid out the path.

What is interesting right now is that really, right now, the House Republicans, for the second time, are providing a path to keep the Department of Homeland Security open for business while the judge, Federal judge, has said the administration cannot go forward on their executive amnesty memo, which means it is not happening right now. So the question really becomes—and I don't think this can be stated enough, because when people are out there looking to Washington, they are wanting to know: Are you thinking about me? Are you thinking about what is going on? Are you thinking about what we need to fund in the days that people get up and they know that their country is fighting for them?

So I just want to make it very clear. We said, "for the second time." This is the second time because the first time happened on January 14. The House approved a full-year funding package for DHS, and yes, said this is what we do not like and will not fund, but this is a part of the process.

Then, February 3, Senate Democrats vote to block consideration.

February 4, Senate Democrats again vote to block consideration.

February 5, guess what. Senate Democrats vote for a third time to block consideration.

February 23, let's at least make it a home run. We will touch all the bases. Senate Democrats refuse, for the fourth time, to block consideration.

But then, the most amazing part, Democrats even prevented themselves from offering amendments to strip language they found offensive. We are here today because the Senate Democrats refused to be part of the solution.

So as I go forward and as I look at this, there has to be an understanding of this today—and it was said earlier and I made the point, but I am going to make it one more time today—a solution is being put forward. There is no

one putting forward a bill to shut anything down. The bill that is being put forward is to fund for 3 more weeks.

So I will encourage my friends on the other side of the aisle, any Democrat who wants to vote “no” on this funding bill, you are voting to shut down the Department of Homeland Security. Is that what you want to tell the American people?

With that, I urge my colleagues to support this rule and the underlying bill.

The material previously referred to by Ms. SLAUGHTER is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 129 OFFERED BY
MS. SLAUGHTER OF NEW YORK

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 2. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 861) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommend with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 3. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 861.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT
IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as “a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge.” To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that “the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition” in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry,

asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: “The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition.”

The Republican majority may say “the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever.” But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: “Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment.”

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled “Amending Special Rules” states: “a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate.” (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: “Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon.”

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of adoption.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 240, nays 183, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 100]

YEAS—240

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen

Amash
Amodei
Babin

Barletta
Barr
Barton

Benishek
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Costello (PA)
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fox
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hanna
Hardy
Harper

Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moonenar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts

Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NAYS—183

Adams
Aguilar
Ashford
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)

Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)

Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio

DeGette	Kuster	Rangel	Byrne	Hunter	Reed	Fudge	Lowey	Ruppersberger
Delaney	Langevin	Rice (NY)	Calvert	Hurd (TX)	Reichert	Gabbard	Lujan Grisham	Rush
DeLauro	Larsen (WA)	Richmond	Carter (GA)	Hurt (VA)	Renacci	Gallego	(NM)	Ryan (OH)
DeBene	Larson (CT)	Roybal-Allard	Carter (TX)	Issa	Ribble	Graham	Luján, Ben Ray	Sánchez, Linda
DeSaulnier	Lawrence	Ruiz	Chabot	Jenkins (KS)	Rice (SC)	Grayson	(NM)	T.
Deutch	Levin	Ruppersberger	Chaffetz	Jenkins (WV)	Rigell	Green, Al	Lynch	Sanchez, Loretta
Dingell	Lewis	Rush	Clawson (FL)	Johnson (OH)	Roby	Green, Gene	Maloney,	Sarbanes
Doggett	Lieu, Ted	Coffman	Jones	Johnson, Sam	Rogers (AL)	Grijalva	Carolyn	Schakowsky
Doyle, Michael	Lipinski	Cole	Jordan	Jolly	Rogers (KY)	Gutiérrez	Maloney, Sean	Schiff
F.	Loeb sack	Collins (GA)	Joyce	Jones	Rohrabacher	Hahn	Matsui	Schrader
Duckworth	Lofgren	Collins (NY)	Katko	Jordan	Rokita	Hastings	McColum	Scott (VA)
Edwards	Lowenthal	Comstock	Kelly (PA)	Katko	Rooney (FL)	Heck (WA)	McDermott	Scott, David
Ellison	Lowey	Conaway	King (IA)	Kelly (PA)	Ros-Lehtinen	Higgins	McGovern	Serrano
Engel	Lujan Grisham	Cook	King (NY)	King (IA)	Roskam	Himes	McNerney	Sewell (AL)
Eshoo	(NM)	Costello (PA)	Kinzie (IL)	King (NY)	Ross	Honda	Meeks	Sherman
Esty	Luján, Ben Ray	Cramer	Kline	King (NY)	Rothfus	Hoyer	Meng	Sinema
Fattah	(NM)	Crawford	Knight	Kinzie (IL)	Rouzer	Huffman	Moore	Sires
Foster	Lynch	Crenshaw	Labrador	Kline	Royce	Israel	Moulton	Slaughter
Frankel (FL)	Maloney,	Culberson	LaMalfa	Knigh	Russell	Jackson Lee	Murphy (FL)	Smith (WA)
Fudge	Carolyn	Curbelo (FL)	Lamborn	Labrador	Ryan (WI)	Jeffries	Nadler	Swalwell (CA)
Gabbard	Maloney, Sean	Davis, Rodney	Lance	LaMalfa	Salmon	Johnson (GA)	Napolitano	Takai
Gallego	Matsui	Dent	Latta	Lamborn	Sanford	Johnson, E. B.	Neal	Takano
Graham	McColum	DeSantis	LoBiondo	Lance	Scalise	Kaptur	Nolan	Thompson (CA)
Grayson	McDermott	DesJarlais	Loudermilk	Latta	Schock	Keating	Norcross	Thompson (MS)
Green, Al	McGovern	Diaz-Balart	Love	LoBiondo	Schweikert	Kelly (IL)	O'Rourke	Titus
Green, Gene	McNerney	Dold	Lucas	LoBiondo	Scott, Austin	Kennedy	Pallone	Tonko
Grijalva	Meeks	Duffy	Luetkemeyer	Love	Sensenbrenner	Kildee	Pascrell	Torres
Gutiérrez	Meng	Duncan (SC)	Lummis	Lucas	Sessions	Kilmer	Payne	Tsongas
Hahn	Moore	Duncan (TN)	MacArthur	Lucas	Shimkus	Kind	Pelosi	Van Hollen
Hastings	Moulton	Ellmers (NC)	Marchant	Lucas	Shuster	Kirkpatrick	Perlmutter	Vargas
Heck (WA)	Murphy (FL)	Emmer (MN)	Marino	Lucas	Simpson	Kuster	Peters	Veasey
Higgins	Nadler	Farenthold	Massie	Lucas	Smith (MO)	Langevin	Peterson	Vela
Himes	Napolitano	Fincher	McCarthy	Lucas	Smith (NE)	Larsen (WA)	Pingree	Velázquez
Honda	Neal	Fitzpatrick	McCaul	Lucas	Smith (NJ)	Larson (CT)	Pocan	Visclosky
Hoyer	Nolan	Fleischmann	McClintock	Lucas	Smith (TX)	Lawrence	Polis	Walz
Huffman	Norcross	Fleming	McHenry	Lucas	Stefanik	Levin	Price (NC)	Wasserman
Israel	O'Rourke	Flores	McKinley	Lucas	Stewart	Lewis	Quigley	Schultz
Jackson Lee	Pallone	Forbes	McMorris	Lucas	Stivers	Lieu, Ted	Rangel	Waters, Maxine
Jeffries	Pascrell	Fortenberry	Rodgers	Lucas	Stutzman	Lipinski	Rice (NY)	Watson Coleman
Johnson (GA)	Payne	Gosar	McSally	Lucas	Thompson (PA)	Loeb sack	Richmond	Welch
Johnson, E. B.	Pelosi	Gowdy	Meadows	Lucas	Thornberry	Lofgren	Roybal-Allard	Wilson (FL)
Kaptur	Perlmutter	Granger	Meehan	Lucas	Tiberi	Lowenthal	Ruiz	Yarmuth
Keating	Peters	Guthrie	Messer	Lucas	Tipton			
Kelly (IL)	Peterson	Hanna	Mica	Lucas	Trott			
Kennedy	Pingree	Hardy	Miller (FL)	Lucas	Upton			
Kildee	Pocan	Harper	Miller (MI)	Lucas	Valadao			
Kilmer	Polis	Harris	Moolenaar	Lucas	Wagner			
Kind	Price (NC)	Hartzer	Mooney (WV)	Lucas	Walberg			
Kirkpatrick	Quigley	Heck (NV)	Mullin	Lucas	Walker			
		Hensarling	Mulvaney	Lucas	Walorski			
		Herrera Beutler	Murphy (PA)	Lucas	Walters, Mimi			
		Hice, Jody B.	Neugebauer	Lucas	Weber (TX)			
		Hill	Newhouse	Lucas	Webster (FL)			
		Holding	Noem	Lucas	Wenstrup			
		Hudson	Nugent	Lucas	Westerman			
		Huelskamp	Nunes	Lucas	Westmoreland			
		Huizenga (MI)	Olson	Lucas	Whitfield			
		Hultgren	Palazzo	Lucas	Williams			
			Palmer	Lucas	Wilson (SC)			
			Paulsen	Lucas	Wittman			
			Pearce	Lucas	Womack			
			Perry	Lucas	Woodall			
			Pittenger	Lucas	Yoder			
			Pitts	Lucas	Yoho			
			Poe (TX)	Lucas	Young (AK)			
			Poliquin	Lucas	Young (IA)			
			Pompeo	Lucas	Young (IN)			
			Pompeo	Lucas	Posey			
			Price, Tom	Lucas	Zeldin			
			Ratcliffe	Lucas	Zinke			

NOT VOTING—9

Farr	Hinojosa	Roe (TN)
Garamendi	Lee	Speier
Graves (MO)	Long	Turner

□ 1049

Mr. NADLER changed his vote from “yea” to nay.”

Messrs. MICA, LAMBORN, and Mrs. HARTZLER changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 240, nays 183, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 101]

YEAS—240

Abraham	Benishak	Brady (TX)
Aderholt	Bilirakis	Brat
Allen	Bishop (MI)	Bridenstine
Amash	Bishop (UT)	Brooks (AL)
Amodei	Black	Brooks (IN)
Babin	Blackburn	Buchanan
Barletta	Blum	Buck
Barr	Bost	Bucshon
Barton	Boustany	Burgess

Adams	Cartwright	DeFazio
Aguliar	Castor (FL)	DeGette
Ashford	Castro (TX)	Delaney
Bass	Chu, Judy	DeLauro
Beatty	Cicilline	DeBene
Becerra	Clark (MA)	DeSaulnier
Bera	Clarke (NY)	Deutch
Beyer	Clay	Dingell
Bishop (GA)	Cleaver	Doggett
Blumenauer	Clyburn	Doyle, Michael
Bonamici	Cohen	F.
Brady (PA)	Connolly	Duckworth
Brown (FL)	Conyers	Edwards
Brownley (CA)	Cooper	Ellison
Bustos	Costa	Engel
Butterfield	Courtney	Eshoo
Capps	Crowley	Esty
Capuano	Cuellar	Farr
Cárdenas	Cummings	Fattah
Carney	Davis (CA)	Foster
Carson (IN)	Davis, Danny	Frankel (FL)

NAYS—183

NOT VOTING—9

Boyle, Brendan	Hinojosa	Speier
F.	Lee	Turner
Garamendi	Long	
Graves (MO)	Roe (TN)	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1056

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 101, had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote yesterday and this morning because of a serious illness in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted: rollcall No. 95—“nay,” rollcall No. 96—“nay,” rollcall No. 97—“nay,” rollcall No. 98—“nay,” rollcall No. 99—“nay,” rollcall No. 100—“yea,” rollcall No. 101—“yea.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, February 27, I missed a series of rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on No. 100 and No. 101.

□ 1100

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 129, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 35) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). Pursuant to House Resolution 129, the joint resolution is considered read.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 35

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2015 (Public Law 113-164) is further amended by striking the date specified in section 106(3) and inserting "March 19, 2015".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.J. Res. 35.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present H.J. Res. 35, a short-term continuing resolution to keep the Department of Homeland Security open and operating until March 19, 2015.

This type of bandaid, stopgap funding fix is not the way we should be running things around here. It is the constitutional duty of this body to provide funding for the Federal Government, all of the Federal Government, and this should be done through regular order, without the threat of shutdowns or the lurching uncertainty of continuing resolutions.

Mr. Speaker, we face an immediate deadline that makes this continuing resolution a necessity. Without it, the Department of Homeland Security will shutter its doors at the stroke of midnight tonight.

This would put thousands of Federal employees on furlough, waste taxpayer dollars, and create instability at the Department tasked with one of the most important functions of government, potentially risking our national security.

The House must pass this bill in short order to keep the lights on at the Department of Homeland Security in the near term. Hopefully, this will buy us the additional time necessary.

I would prefer and I hope that we pass the full-year, regular DHS funding bill that we negotiated on a bipartisan, bicameral basis last fall. Until both Chambers of Congress agree on how to do that, we must continue to fund the

essential daily operations of our homeland security.

At the same time, Congress must continue to fight the President's executive actions on immigration, a massive overreach of his constitutional authority and a substantial shift in our immigration policy that I do not support and the American people do not support.

I believe we can and should continue the fight on the President's intrusion into our Constitution, but we must also maintain the functions of government that protect the rights and safety given to us by this hallowed document.

We have no time to waste, Mr. Speaker. I ask that my colleagues in the House today keep in mind that, as elected Members of the House of Representatives, it is our constitutional duty to fund the government, to protect the people who elected us, and to defend this great Nation.

I urge an "aye" on the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

We learned late last night that the House Republican leadership has stepped in to thwart the agreement reached in the Senate to fund the Homeland Security Department. As we all know, funding for these critical activities runs out tonight at midnight.

We learned that, instead of taking the clean bill that would fund the Department for the remainder of this fiscal year, the House has come up with a new plan, a plan to string this mess out even further—the new plan, to pass yet another continuing resolution, 150 days into this fiscal year. This is really discouraging.

Additionally, we learned that the House leadership has decided now would be a good time to formally request a conference committee be convened on the controversial immigration riders passed by the House bill and the Senate's clean bill.

As hard as it is to believe, they really think requesting a conference with the Senate, on the very day funding expires, is reasonable. I could not disagree more.

I understand that many of my colleagues disagree vehemently with the President's executive actions on immigration policy. I understand that many of those same Members believe strongly that they should fight the President through the power of the purse, the appropriations process.

What I don't understand is how a decision could be made to wreak havoc on one of the most important agencies in the Federal Government, the agency tasked with protecting our Nation's homeland, over policies related to an agency that isn't even directly funded in this appropriations bill.

Under a continuing resolution, the agencies that are funded through the

Department of Homeland Security are hamstrung, forced to live at last year's levels and under last year's terms.

Ironically, this means that Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the agencies tasked with defending our borders and enforcing our immigration laws, have to do without the nearly \$1 billion increase they would get under the full-year bill.

Instead of pursuing the bipartisan path—and I want to remind my friends that this Homeland Security bill was negotiated right here between Democrats and Republicans, a bipartisan bill; but, right now, instead of pursuing the bipartisan path the Senate has chosen, the House leadership has chosen yet another punt.

By not passing the clean, full-year bill, the House plan would delay terrorism preparedness and response grants for State and local public safety personnel, potentially leaving FEMA with insufficient time to get those grants out before funding expires.

It would limit the Department's ability to advance the Secretary's unity of effort initiative, designed to improve coordination in our security missions; limit the ability of the Secretary to move ahead with the Southern Border and Approaches Campaign; create uncertainty regarding ICE's capability to detain and deport dangerous criminals; complicate the Department's ability to deal with another influx of unaccompanied children at our border; and delay implementation of new security upgrades at the White House and necessary hiring at the U.S. Secret Service.

My colleagues, I am simply at a loss. I am mystified. I can't understand the wisdom of this strategy.

I know some of my colleagues are upset with the President. I understand how much easier it is to take out your frustrations on the appropriations process, instead of through debate on an immigration policy bill, and we know we must have a serious debate on immigration policy.

I support comprehensive immigration reform; but why should we would do this in such an inappropriate way through the appropriations process? Don't take out your frustrations on the appropriations process instead of a thorough debate on the immigration policy bill.

I think the majority of my colleagues agree with me that this has gone on long enough. It is not rational to punish firefighters, EMTs, police officers, emergency managers you represent because of immigration policy. It is not rational to hamstring U.S. Customs and Border Protection or Immigration and Customs Enforcement because you are mad at the President.

We are adults. I left my eight grandchildren home. We are adults, I hope, in this body. It is not rational to fund

an important government department week by week.

I really hope, Mr. Speaker, that the House gets serious by immediately taking up and passing the clean bipartisan bill, as the Senate has done.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA).

Mr. MICA. Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, the gentlelady from New York is a good friend, and I respect her so much. She asks some important questions that the House has to answer. She has been here a good while. I have been here a good while.

Why would we be proceeding in this fashion? First of all, the House, we are trying to get to regular order. The Congress has not passed a budget, hasn't passed most appropriations. We live from CR to CR. There has been such instability in this institution.

Here, for the first time, we have the opportunity, and I believe it is within the hour that the other body may act—or have they acted? They have had this question before them for a long time; but, here, we have the possibility of going to a conference.

This is an important issue. This is an issue in which the President himself has said, I think, 22 times, that he doesn't have the authority to do what he did. The courts have upheld the position that we have or at least put a stay on the President's action. This is a very important issue because it affects the entire Nation.

If we could get to regular order, we want to keep the government open. We want national security and homeland security to move forward. We are offering that and also the opportunity for a little bit of time to go to regular order to make the process work.

Why shouldn't the House of Representatives have the opportunity to sit down with the Senate and work out the differences and honor the law that we passed and the President is abusing?

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, I think we need to do this in regular order, and there is good reason to act in the fashion that Republicans are advocating.

□ 1115

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all Members to refrain from inappropriate references to the President.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, just for clarification, because my friend asked some fair questions, but maybe the gentleman is not aware that the appropriations process concluded 12 bills in a bipartisan way. Democrats and Republicans worked together.

However, back in December, on probably one of the key bills at this time, when we are threatened, when terror-

ists worry my constituents—they worry about whether they should go to the mall; they worry about their daily activities. So when my good friend, the gentleman from Florida, just spoke about regular order, check the appropriations process.

We passed the Homeland Security bill through the subcommittee, but it was held up. The gentleman will have to ask his colleagues on his side of the aisle why the Homeland Security bill was not part of the entire omnibus, why we had to invent this CR/Omnibus so we could leave out Homeland Security.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD), the ranking member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, in December of 2014, as leverage against the President's immigration executive action, the Republican leadership irresponsibly decided to hold hostage the 2015 funding for the Department of Homeland Security.

Now, 150 days into fiscal year 2015, this House is no closer to addressing the Homeland Security funding needs of this country than it was last December. Instead, the Republican leadership is proposing to, once again, kick the can down the road, this time for another 3 weeks.

The serious consequences of the Republican majority's inability to responsibly lead on behalf of the American people will, once again, leave the Department without the 2015 funding levels it needs to effectively fulfill its mission of protecting our homeland.

I ask my colleagues: What is gained by continuing to delay resolving this crisis, a crisis of the House Republicans' own making? Does anyone really think circumstances will be any different 3 weeks from now? The judicial review of the President's executive actions will not be resolved in 3 weeks. The only circumstances that will be different in 3 weeks is that much will be lost. Republicans cannot continue to block the Department of Homeland Security funding for 2015 without undermining the national security of this country.

We should not fool ourselves into believing that the Department of Homeland Security has been doing just fine under the continuing resolution or that there would be no further consequences if we forced the Department to keep living with the uncertainty of a continuing resolution for even another day, much less 3 more weeks.

Secretary Johnson and agency heads have warned that passing another CR will not address the uncertainty of being able to meet our long-term national security needs.

Yesterday, Secretary Johnson sent a letter to the bipartisan leadership of the House and Senate, warning of the dangers of either a funding lapse or another short-term continuing resolution. To quote the Secretary, a "mere extension of a continuing resolution has many of the same negative impacts" of a shutdown. It "exacerbates the uncertainty for my workforce and puts us back in the same position, on the brink of a shutdown just days from now." The Secretary ends his letter by saying, "the American people are counting on us."

The American people are, indeed, counting on us; and so far, the Republican majority in the House has let them down.

The Constitution provides a path for the Congress to work its will on policy issues without resorting to funding lapses or continuing resolutions, which represent the complete and utter abdication of Congress' obligation to effectively govern.

The Senate will soon send back to us a bill that was agreed upon by both Democrats and Republicans, and that will enable the Department to move forward on the critical planning that is needed to protect our country now and in the future. Let us do the responsible thing and bring that bill to a vote so that our country can truly be protected, by funding the Department of Homeland Security.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, let's review something. Let's just review briefly where we are and why we are here.

The House passed a funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security maybe 3 weeks ago in order to give the Senate enough time to consider it and take appropriate action. So the House acted 3 weeks ago and sent the bill to the Senate.

The Democrats in the Senate have refused to allow that bill to be brought before the Senate four different times over 3 weeks. Now who is to blame for not funding the Department of Homeland Security? The House has tried. The Senate refused to act, until finally this morning, the Senate took up a clean funding bill for Homeland and passed it.

So here is where we are. The House has passed a bill. The Senate now has passed a bill, finally. So what do you normally do? What is the procedure of the Congress when both bodies pass a bill that is different from each other? You go to conference. We have done that from time immemorial. That is the recommended way. That is what is in the Constitution.

The conference is necessary, but that is going to take some time. So we need some time to allow the conference to go to work and conclude this problem and work out the differences. Thus, we need this temporary funding bill for

the Department, to keep the security of the Nation intact through the Department of Homeland Security while we work out the permanent funding for the Department for the balance of the year.

That is where we are. It is fairly simple. I don't know any other way to do it. Perhaps our colleagues on the other side of the aisle have a better idea about how to reconcile the differences between the House and Senate, other than a regular conference committee.

A lot of Members of this body are so new to the process that they have never seen or know what a conference with the Senate is. And I think there is some confusion in that regard because people in this body, new to the process over the last 4 or 5 years, have never seen one, and that is sad.

So I hope Members will quickly pass this temporary funding bill for the Department and allow the conference committee to go to work.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE), my good friend, the former chair of the Homeland Security Subcommittee who was a key person in negotiating the bipartisan Homeland Security bill, which could have been part of the omnibus in December, and we wouldn't have been involved in these kinds of dangerous games.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank our ranking member for yielding.

As the gentlewoman from New York suggests, the account of the history of this bill that Chairman ROGERS has just given needs to go back a bit further. The original failure in this case was in December. Today we are voting on a 3-week continuing resolution. I rise in opposition to that.

But this is only the latest manifestation of the majority's failure to govern this institution and to get the funding in place for the Homeland Security Department for the full fiscal year. The initial failure was in December. That is what we need to look back to and understand that it was a profound mistake to leave Homeland Security out of the omnibus appropriations bill.

This Department, and this Department alone, was put on a 3-month continuing resolution, rather than including the bicameral, bipartisan, negotiated Homeland Security bill that is the equivalent of a conference report.

People are talking about the need for a conference report. We already have our conference report. It is an agreed upon bill that the majority deliberately left out of the omnibus bill in December.

And why did they do that? They did it for political purposes, because they didn't like what the President was doing on immigration. They wanted to poke him in the eye. They wanted to

add these riders enacting a radical anti-immigration policy, and they were willing to sacrifice regular funding for the Homeland Security Department in order to pursue their political objective.

Ironically, in passing a CR rather than the regular negotiated bill, they sacrificed increased funding for things they profess to care about. They are supposedly all about border security. They are all about immigration enforcement. And those very things were reduced by virtue of their failure to accept the negotiated bill, going down the road with a continuing resolution.

Now the clock has run out. The 3-month clock has run out, and here we are again. And today, we are about to compound December's failure by passing a 3-week CR, which doesn't solve the Department's basic problems but, in fact, just postpones the day of reckoning by a few weeks.

The Republican-controlled Senate has shown the way here. They have resisted the Tea Party siren, this desire to make the Homeland Security bill a vehicle for radical anti-immigration policy. The Senate will soon be passing the negotiated Homeland Security bill, the same bicameral, bipartisan, negotiated bill which we should have approved in December.

The Secretary of Homeland Security has made very, very clear that a continuing resolution is not an acceptable way to run this Department. State and local terrorism prevention and response grants will be held up, for example. For my State of North Carolina, that means \$9 million in emergency management preparedness grants. It means \$5.5 million in state grants. That is true of every State in this Union. The security upgrades at the White House are also on hold. The acquisition of the Coast Guard's eighth National Security Cutter is on hold. Construction of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility out in Kansas is on hold.

A continuing resolution is just what it says: It is a continued resolution which does not permit us to make the upgrades, to undertake the innovations, or to make the grants that our homeland security requires.

The House majority is still unwilling to follow the lead of the Senate and put that negotiated, bipartisan Homeland Security bill on the floor. So here we are, stuck with an inferior proposal, a 3-week continuing resolution which doesn't do the job. We should reject this.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BLACK). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mrs. LOWEY. I yield the gentleman an additional 15 seconds.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Where do we go from here? Where does this end? Some kind of conference? We already have a conference report. It is the bipartisan Homeland Security bill.

□ 1130

That can pass today. We can put that on the floor, and it would pass in a heartbeat. That is what the majority needs to do, not this 3-week holding action. We need to pass that negotiated bill and keep the Homeland Security Department functioning at full strength.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER), the chairman of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Appropriations.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, history is something we ought to try to get right. So we have heard some versions of history here. But let's talk about exactly why we are here today. We are here today because, yes, the Appropriations Committee in a bipartisan effort put together a whole series of bills to fund this government, one of which is the Homeland Security bill. It is a good bill. I agree with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. It is a good bill. I am proud to have had a part in that.

But there is a piece of history that is missing in this discussion. Right after the last election, the President—well, we don't want to talk about the President—the administration stepped forward and said, well, the legislature hasn't changed the immigration laws, so the administration is going to change the immigration laws.

Without any action of the legislature, they are going to ignore laws that are on the books and in some cases have been on the books for generations, and they are going to do what they want to do for immigration reform, which includes the proposal that somewhere between 4 and 6 million people who are in this country illegally would be allowed to be in this country, with other benefits added to those. So that intervening cause is why all of a sudden the people of the United States said: Wait a minute, this is not following the Constitution. This is not the way our government is supposed to run.

Madam Speaker, we fought a war with a guy named King George to not have a king in this country who would just do it without legislative process. We fought a war to make sure that we follow the legislative process. The people who are in charge of enforcing the law, the executive branch, should be enforcing the law.

Madam Speaker, there became quite a tidal wave of people who were very concerned about the action. So in an effort to try to engage that fight, we came up with what has been referenced here as the CR/Omnibus, and we withheld the Homeland Security bill as the instrument to go fight forward on.

Now, once again, I say it is a great bill. But the decision was made, and here we are. Now, we passed this bill

with amendments that take on the actions of the executive and sent it to the Senate 3 weeks ago. Someone said once that is the greatest deliberative body on Earth. Well, it may be, but this spring here, this early spring, they haven't deliberated. In fact, they haven't taken action at all, because each time the Republican leadership in the Senate said, let's go have a discussion, let's go on the floor and have a debate, and we will accept amendments, let's go have a debate, the Democrat minority said, no, we won't have a debate. Four times they said no; under their rule, we won't have a debate.

Madam Speaker, the Republicans didn't do what the Democrats did when they ran the Senate and just waive the rules that Thomas Jefferson wrote a couple hundred years ago. No, they followed the rules. So there was no discussion in the greatest deliberative body on Earth of this particular problem.

Now, are we funded now in our Department? Yes, we are. We have heard cries from the other side, you are leaving this country in jeopardy because you are not—if we close the Department—which I do not want to do—if we close down the Department, you put us at risk from terrorists.

Well, here we are. We are saying, you are right. Let's don't close down the Department. Three weeks ago we sent it to them. We are getting in a few minutes the results of their work product over there. Quite honestly, we have a dispute with them.

What is the process? Now, I know there are many in this body who have never even seen a conference committee because since 2006, this has not been something we have done very regularly in this body. But, quite honestly, the way we do this, to resolve differences, is go to a conference committee.

So what we are saying here, Madam Speaker, is help us keep the government open for 3 weeks—kind of the same 3 weeks they had to hang around and never go to work in the Senate—let us have 3 weeks and go to conference like we are supposed to and see if we cannot work out the differences we have between the two bodies. Now, how unreasonable is this?

By the way, Madam Speaker, if you are worried about those terrorists attacks which are looming over the horizon, which very, very may well be, then you had better vote to continue this government today or otherwise a “no” vote on this particular resolution keeping the government open will shut the government, and when the government closes, all those terrible things are going to happen. So you don't want to have the responsibility of voting “no” to keep the government open and let the government close and then face the fact that the terrorists may be looming in the wings.

Let's pass the CR. Do it like we are supposed to, go to conference, work it out in the 3 weeks that the Senate had, and see if we can't resolve this issue—an issue that was started by the executive branch in their November surprise.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I am so privileged to serve on the Appropriations Committee with the gentleman from Texas, who did an excellent job working in a bipartisan way completing a Homeland Security bill that we thought would be part of the omnibus bill so the Homeland Security Department would be funded for a year.

This event was a manufactured event today, and I do hope we can get past it and pass a Homeland Security bill for the next year immediately so that we don't have even a small potential of shutting down the government.

Madam Speaker, could you tell me how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from New York has 13 minutes remaining.

Mrs. LOWEY. I am proud to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the distinguished leader.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I join her in thanking Mr. CARTER and Mr. ROGERS for bringing to the floor in December a Homeland Security bill that was appropriate and that funded at the levels that were agreed upon by both parties. All we are asking is that we pass Mr. CARTER's and Mr. ROGERS' bill.

The Republicans pledged to not mangle controversial issues and allow each issue to stand on its own merits or demerits. That was their pledge to America in 2010. This action is inconsistent with that pledge.

The Senate has just voted, Madam Speaker, 68-31 to pass the Rogers-Lowey-Mikulski-Shelby bill. This is not a partisan bill that we are arguing about. This is the bill that we have agreed upon, Republicans and Democrats—and we can't even pass that—with the knowledge that if we do not, the future funding of America's homeland security will still be in question.

Yes, we can do it for 3 weeks. I call it our cul-de-sac strategy, going into a cul-de-sac over and over and over again and feeling somehow a pathway is going to open. The Senate is now voting on the Collins amendment. Now, as I understand the strategy of the Republican Party in the House, Madam Speaker, it is to add the bill that has been rejected four times on the floor of the United States Senate. They went in the cul-de-sac once, it didn't open up. They went in the cul-de-sac twice, it didn't open up. They went in the cul-de-sac a third, fourth time, it didn't open up. And now the proposal is to go into that cul-de-sac a fifth time while we focus on whether or not we are going to fund Homeland Security, not on the objectives of homeland security.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mrs. LOWEY. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I urge Republicans and Democrats who have all said not funding the Homeland Security Department now for the balance of the year is—Mr. ROGERS didn't quote this, he was talking about sequester—is ill-conceived and wrong. I therefore, Madam Speaker, urge my colleagues to vote against this short-term CR and to vote for the Senate bill that will be sent to us in just a short period of time, today, which passed the United States Senate with over a two-thirds vote. Democrats only have 46 Members, so almost a majority of the Republicans are voting for it as well.

Madam Speaker, that is the responsible thing to do. That is the right thing to do. That is the regular order to do. Let's do it. Let's put aside our partisan differences and our partisan strategies and vote as Americans to fund the Department of Homeland Security for the balance of the year.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR), a distinguished member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. FARR. Thank you for yielding, Madam Ranking Member.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to give apologies to all of the employees of the Homeland Security Department. In watching this, I hope that they understand what is really going on. This is not a battle about the process, the gamesmanship that we need time to work out at conference. We don't go to conference on a brink of a disaster. We have had a year to deal with this. In fact, we passed this bill.

What this is about is a bigger game going on in town. It is about whack-a-mole with the President. They sue him; they say they don't want to support any of his proposals; they cut, squeeze, and trim his appropriations; and they hold up his government appointments. But now the real story shifts when we see that the Republicans in this House even more than disliking the President dislike the Senate.

The Senate passed a comprehensive immigration bill which we could have passed. There were enough votes if we had brought that to the floor to pass it. If we had passed that comprehensive immigration bill, we wouldn't even be here today. This wouldn't even be a discussion.

The irony for all you Homeland Security employees is that the House is taking care of itself. The leadership, with their details and all of the wonderful Capitol Police we have around here, they are all taken care of because we don't pay for them out of our Homeland Security bill; we pay for them out

of our own legislative branch bill, and that was passed. So our security is fine. But the security of the rest of the Nation is in jeopardy.

What does it take? The Senate has just passed a bill, we bring that to the floor, it takes the votes, 218. We have got at least all but 30 on this side, 30 Republicans. Mr. Speaker, let your Republicans go. Let them come to the floor and vote on a clean bill. We could pass it before this afternoon. That bill would be in the White House tonight, and we could go home and sleep knowing that this Nation's security is in good hands. Stop playing games.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding.

Madam Speaker, it is really important that the American people understand what is happening here. It is pretty clear here. The Republican majority in the House and perhaps in the Senate disagree with the President on immigration policy. So they have two really clear choices. One would be to do what they somehow have been unable to do despite promises of a prolific period of legislation in the first couple of months here in Congress. Despite that, 7 weeks later we haven't seen anything that looks like an immigration bill.

So rather than using this magnificent process of democracy that the Framers designed for us to determine policy, the Republicans in Congress—really the Republicans in the House—have decided to threaten the shutdown of an essential government function—national security and public safety—in order to extract concessions on policy that they are unwilling to submit to the legislative process.

□ 1145

Why not bring an immigration bill that determines for this country what our immigration policy ought to be and, in the meantime, fund the essential functions of government? To not do so, there are consequences. This is not an academic exercise. There are consequences.

Three weeks of funding? Seriously, 3 weeks? After 7 weeks of coming to the floor of the House in session, why couldn't we come up with this compromise with the Senate, with whom you share partisan majority? Why can't we have a real debate on immigration policy on the floor of the House of Representatives without having to threaten to close down the essential function of government?

My friends on the other side have said, That is not what we are doing—except that that is what you are doing. Words are cheap, Madam Speaker.

You won't pass a clean bill to fund this Department, like your colleagues in the Senate have done, and you continue to hold out.

Madam Speaker, I just think it is time for us to get back to the serious business of the American people and pass a clean bill to fund this essential function.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

There it is. That is the bill the Senate finally passed. It has been 6 weeks—I said 3 weeks, earlier. I am corrected.

It is 6 weeks that the House passed a funding bill for the Homeland Security Department, 6 weeks ago, sent it to the Senate, purposefully early, to give them plenty of time to consider and bring forward a funding bill of their own.

I have to say the majority over there tried. The Democrats in the Senate stopped consideration of that spending bill four different times over 6 weeks. In the meantime, the House had to sit here waiting for the Senate, and we have been waiting 6 weeks, until just now.

Finally, this morning, the Senate has passed a bill funding the Department for the balance of the year, which differs from the House-passed version of that bill, so we have got to go to conference.

That is the way the framers set things up. When the House does something and the Senate does something different on the same subject, you have got to bring them together into a conference to work out the differences and come up with a bill for the President to sign. That is where we are.

Finally, now, we can go to conference. We could not have earlier because the Senate had not passed the bill. Now, we can go to conference, and we will be asking the Speaker for that designation today.

In the meantime, we can't let the Department stop working. Consequently, we are putting before you a bill to temporarily finance them while we go to conference on the main year-end financing of the Department. That is what this is all about.

Now, I am glad that the Senate brought the Senate bill and laid it on our desk. Now, it is finally up to us to give the Department a chance to survive and for us to stop the President's amnesty program.

By the way, Madam Speaker, there is not one penny in the bill before us, the temporary bill, the CR, there is not a penny in there to fund Obama's amnesty program. We are opposed to it, and there is no money in this bill for that purpose.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just want to state for the record, as my good friend from Kentucky is aware, on December 12, the Senate and the House conference committees agreed on a bipartisan, bicameral Homeland Security bill—in December. It could have been implemented with all the other 11 bills.

I am very pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman very much, and I thank her for her commonsense explanation.

Might I say, as a member of the authorizing Committee on Homeland Security, I believe, as we have just heard, that the Senate has passed a clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that came out of these appropriators who did excellent work.

In the name of the security of this Nation, I ask the Speaker to bring this bill to the floor of the House right now. I do so with headlines like: "Three Denver girls played hooky from school and tried to join ISIS."

I do it in the name of the headlines of three arrested in Brooklyn who had intentions to do the Commander in Chief harm and many others harm. I do it also in recognition as one of the Members who was there, if you will, in the aftermath of 9/11, who watched the forging of the Department of Homeland Security that put forward Border Patrol agents and TSO agents and ICE agents working with the FBI. All of those individuals will not be funded.

Let me say to the hardworking men and women of the Department of Homeland Security: We will not leave you abandoned, but we will vote for a full funding of the Department of Homeland Security.

We ask the Republicans why they refuse to address the national security of this Nation, putting political security over national security.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), the ranking member of the Homeland Security authorizing committee.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York for the time.

It is quite clear that a short-term CR is not in the best interest of the country. It is quite clear that the politics of Homeland Security puts us at risk as a Nation.

All of the things that have gone on over the last few weeks say that we have to have a fully funded Department—our men and women in the Coast Guard, Customs and Border Protection, and Transportation Security Administration, all those entities on the front line keeping us safe. A 3-week CR that kicks the can down the road

does not keep us safe. It only says that it is "politics as usual."

What I am saying, in the interest of the over 200,000 men and women who work every day and do a wonderful job, they should not be played as pawns in this game of Homeland Security chess.

Let's fully fund the Department, like we funded every other Department, and get on with the business of securing America.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), our distinguished leader.

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding and congratulate her on her exceptional leadership as the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee.

I also commend our colleague, Congresswoman ROYBAL-ALLARD, as ranking member of the Subcommittee on Homeland Security, for her great leadership to protect the American people, to keep American security strong and certain.

I also thank the chairman of the committee, Mr. ROGERS, for the important work that was done leading up to December to have bipartisan legislation, to have an omnibus bill that funded all of the departments of government except, unfortunately, Homeland Security for the full time, and that is really a disappointment because the first thing we do as Members of Congress is to take the oath of office to protect and defend the American people.

That we would have this be the last bill that we would fund fully is really shameful. The fact is that the Senate has acted in a strong bipartisan way.

I always like to talk about time. It is about time, it is about the time that has been lost from December until March 19, in terms of what the intentions are of our Republican colleagues here. It is about the time lost, the uncertainty placed on our security. It is so sad.

At the same time, this morning, the Senate, in a very strong bipartisan way, passed a clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill. The papers are here. We could take it up immediately, send the bill to the President, and the crisis would be over—long overdue, mind you, but, nonetheless, bipartisan and with great certainty.

Instead of that certainty, while the Senate Republicans have joined the Senate Democrats for sending this bill over here, House Republicans instead have continued to manufacture a crisis that does not exist but exacerbates the insecurity of our country by their inaction.

The fact is this bill that the Senate has sent over has the support of every

Democrat in the House. The Roybal-Allard-LoweY legislation is cosponsored by every Democrat in the House: full funding for the full term for the Department of Homeland Security.

All of our Members—Democratic and Republican—will have a chance to vote on that in terms of the previous question, in terms of a motion to recommit, and in terms of motions to instruct conferees.

What we are missing is the ability of the Speaker to give us a vote on the Senate bill. Give us a vote, Madam Speaker, give us a vote—instead, drip, drip, drip, drip. The Republican leadership is putting forth legislation drip, drip, drip for the resources.

Now, I want to read the words of the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, who has been a great leader in the position he holds. In his remarks, he goes through all the reasons why a shutdown would be harmful. To those who want a shutdown, read his letter, please.

He does go on to say:

As I have so noted many times, mere extension of a continuing resolution has many of the same negative impacts. A short-term continuing resolution exacerbates the uncertainty for my workforce and puts us back in the same position, on the brink of a shutdown just days from now.

Can our Republican colleagues say that we won't be on the brink of another shutdown in the next few weeks in terms of the legislation they are putting forth? What is the purpose of it?

If the purpose is to oppose the President's immigration policy, the court has given you a face-saving way out. If the purpose is to have a better idea about immigration, bring up a bill, but if the purpose is to inject uncertainty into the security of the American people, shame, shame, shame, because it undermines our ability to the American people, it undermines the oath that we all take, and it is really a very sad day.

I would urge my colleagues, as they weigh the equities, we all want to make sure that the workforce of DHS is fully engaged, employed, and paid.

I would just like to ask my colleagues who have been advocating for a shutdown or take us to the brink of a shutdown over and over again if they would like to live without being paid as Members of Congress.

Most of our workforce makes much less than Members of Congress. They live paycheck to paycheck. Why are we saying to them, Come to work, 160,000 some of you, don't get paid, but get paid later?

They don't have trust funds. That may come as a surprise to you—perhaps you do, and maybe that is why you don't think not getting a paycheck is a big deal.

Then to the other, say, 30,000: Stay home, don't come anywhere near here and not get paid.

Some say: Oh, they will get paid later.

Well, that is not the way it works. They have mortgages, rent, car payments, and all the rest.

What could you possibly be thinking? What equity could you weigh against security, respect for our workforce, and morale of the people who are on the front lines to protect our homeland security?

□ 1200

There was quite a lively debate a number of years ago, and I was part of it as a member of the leadership to establish the Department of Homeland Security and the Committee on Homeland Security in the House, and hence the Subcommittee on Homeland Security on the Committee on Appropriations. The words were chosen very carefully, "Homeland Security"—home—"Homeland Security."

The American people should know what this means to their home security. The list is a long one, but I will just do a few things to say that without a full funding bill, without the full-year funding bill, DHS cannot award \$2.5 billion in grant funding. That means that if you are in an Urban Area Security Initiative area, a place that would be targeted, maybe 40 of the urban areas in our country, \$600 million in grants would be withheld.

FEMA, \$350 million in emergency management preparedness grants, \$350 million in SAFER. SAFER is Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Responses. That is an acronym, SAFER. That means a lot in your neighborhood. \$340 million in firefighter assistance grants, \$120 million for emergency food and shelter grants, and \$100 million in flood-related grants. All of this hit home, and they hit Homeland Security.

So these numbers have an impact, ramifications in the lives of the American people beyond the workers; beyond the workers, but the people that they work for.

So I would urge my colleagues to think another time about this. We have the paper. The bill is here. It has passed in a strong bipartisan way in the Senate. Every House Democrat has endorsed the bill. We will vote for it with the parliamentary options that are available to us. How much better if we all came together, as the Senate Republicans and Democrats did, come together to support certainty in our security? Otherwise, the question is: Why not? Why are you not taking advantage of this great opportunity? The courts saved you face. What happened in Paris added to the urgency. The examples of people being picked up in our own country make matters worse.

Stop the drip, drip, drip of funds week to week. Let's get the job done for the American people by doing it right, following the lead of the Senate

Republicans and the Senate Democrats. I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on this legislation. I appreciate the concerns we all have about a shutdown of government. We can’t let that happen, but this is not the way to go.

With that, again, I commend Congresswoman LOWEY, Congresswoman ROYBAL-ALLARD, Congressman BENNIE THOMPSON, the authorizing committee for their great leadership on our side. The chairman of the committee, Mr. ROGERS, knows I have a tremendous amount of respect for him. I feel sad for him that he is in this situation. I hope that we can get out of it soon.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close. Does the gentlelady have further speakers?

Mrs. LOWEY. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I will be brief. There is no money in this bill to fund the President’s amnesty program. There is money in this bill to keep the Department of Homeland Security’s doors open and in protection of the American people. This will give us time for the bill the Senate just has sent over to us funding the Department; this will give us time to reconcile the differences between the House version and the Senate version, and we will be prepared then to send a bill to that conference committee and, hopefully, then a bill to the President to sign.

Madam Speaker, I urge an “aye” vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, congressional dysfunction is now impacting our nation’s security.

The Senate has acted rationally by passing a clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill.

The House should do the same. The House majority should take up the Senate bill and rise above political security and make national security the priority.

As a senior member of the House Committee on Homeland Security and one who was present in this body on September 11, 2001, it is sobering to think that so many of this body’s members now think terrorism is a political football.

Over 3,000 Americans died that day—and if not for the bravery of those who gave their lives in a field in Pennsylvania many more would have died.

Those who were killed or risked their lives to save others included undocumented persons.

The 9/11 Commission Report stated that had United Flight 93 not crashed in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, located 125 miles from Washington, DC, that flight would have reached Washington, DC, between 10:13 and 10:23 on September 11, 2001.

I went to ground zero in New York while it still was burning and workers were trying to recover the remains of victims.

This sobering experience has seared into my mind—never again.

I am forever grateful to those who risk their lives every day to protect this nation—they should be valued and honored.

The fact that the leadership of the House chose to bring to the floor a rule for another Continuing Resolution that would extend funding to the Department of Homeland Security for three weeks is without a doubt one of the worst ideas in our nation’s history.

Our enemies have not stood-down; nor have they given up—they are adapting, evolving and improving their ability to inflict harm upon America and Americans.

Meanwhile the House is sending a message to terrorists that we are disorganized and ineffective in our resolve to protect our nation and its people.

In his letter to Members of Congress, DHS Secretary Johnson states in clear terms what is at stake.

The global terrorist threat has become more decentralized and complex. Terrorist organizations are now openly calling on attacks on Western targets.

A new video, reportedly from Al Shabaab, shows the terror group calling for an attack on Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota.

Al Shabaab is the same terrorist group that attacked the Westgate Mall in Nairobi, Kenya resulting in 60 deaths.

The arrest this week in New York City highlight the threats posed by independent actors in the homeland who support overseas terrorist organizations and radical ideology.

Last October—three teenage girls who lived in a Denver suburb attempted to depart the country for Syria to join violent extremists, but thanks to the work of our domestic and international security professionals they were intercepted and returned home to the custody of their parents.

Keeping American families safe is the first responsibility of the Congress—but Republicans have decided that appeasing anti-immigrant Tea Party extremists is more important than the protecting our homeland.

The Department of Homeland Security needs support for important federal cybersecurity initiatives, disaster relief and recovery programs, and essential law enforcement activities that are critical for ensuring that DHS can help keep our nation safe from harm.

The recent terrorist attacks in Paris and by Boko Haram in Nigeria give heightened urgency to the words of Appropriations Committee Chairman ROGERS that we need to get a clean Homeland Security spending bill “to the president’s desk so we can get a signature funding Homeland Security at a very tedious time in the world.”

If the day ends without Congress taking action, the men and women charged with protecting the homeland will be sent a message that the House does not value 170,000 employees who will be required to work without pay.

These employees include members of the Coast Guard, Border Patrol, Secret Service, Transportation Security Administration and others on the front lines of Homeland Security.

An additional 30,000 employees of the Department of Homeland Security will be furloughed and sent home without pay.

Contracting services across the Department, including those for critical mission support activities, will be disrupted or interrupted.

A shutdown will prevent DHS from awarding \$2.5 billion in grants to state, local, and tribal governments for response capabilities to recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters and other emergencies.

A DHS shutdown would hit Texas especially hard.

The local and state negative impact of House inaction is the forgoing of fiscal year 2015 grants that go to first responders.

In 2014, DHS grants awarded to the city of Houston included \$24,000,000 from Urban Area Security Initiative grants and \$299,995 from the nonprofit program.

In 2014, port security grants included: \$1,810,826 for Harris County; \$845,250 for the City of Houston.

Programs intended to aid our fire fighters such as the one at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston, which received a \$1,493,340 DHS research grant last year are being hurt by House inaction on fiscal year 2015 funding for the agency.

The majority must stop putting political security before national security and take up a clean bill to fully fund the Department of Homeland Security.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to register my disbelief that Republicans are continuing to use funding for the Department of Homeland Security as a political football. Every single member of the Democratic Caucus is a cosponsor of a clean, full-year funding bill, a bill that would be sure to pass if House leaders were to allow it to come to the floor. Across the Capitol, the Senate has already passed a clean bill. And yet House Republicans continue to insist that their political priorities take precedence over the operations of an agency vital to our national security.

I am a member of the Committee on Homeland Security. Over the past few weeks, I have heard testimony highlighting the threat that we face from violent extremists, particularly those radicalized in the U.S. I have heard testimony about the pervasiveness of the cyber threat to our nation, particularly to our critical infrastructure. And I have heard how DHS plays a vital role in ensuring we can protect against and respond to these threats.

Trying to implement strategies to protect our homeland security on a three-week time frame is simply absurd. Republicans created this funding crisis by refusing to approve a bipartisan agreement in December, and Republican action today is prolonging it. I hope that the majority will cease their political gamesmanship well before their new deadline and join with Democrats in passing a clean bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 129, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the joint resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of House Joint Resolution 35 is postponed.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 240. An act making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 125 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 5.

Will the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. YODER) kindly take the chair.

□ 1207

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5) to support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes, with Mr. YODER of Kansas (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Thursday, February 26, 2015, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 41 printed in part B of House Report 114-29 by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) had been postponed.

The Chair understands that amendment No. 42 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 43 OFFERED BY MR. THOMPSON OF MISSISSIPPI

The Acting CHAIR (Mrs. BLACK). It is now in order to consider amendment No. 43 printed in part B of House Report 114-29.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 620, after line 8, insert the following:
SEC. 802. DELAY OF EFFECTIVE DATE.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or the amendments made by this Act, this Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall not take effect until the Secretary of Education—

(1) determines that the enactment of this Act, and the amendments made by this Act, will not decrease the college and career readiness of students who are racial or ethnic minority, students with disabilities, English learners, and low-income students; and

(2) provides written notification to Congress on such determination.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentleman

from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Chair, the Thompson amendment to the Student Success Act is a commonsense amendment that ensures millions of poor, minority, and disadvantaged students will not be overlooked in the chaos that emanates from this rewrite of our educational policy.

Madam Chair, education is a civil right. Rather than develop quality standards that improve and enhance our system of education, this body has overlooked the harmful effects of H.R. 5 on funding and equal opportunity for millions of our students.

H.R. 5 removes strong accountability provisions required to make sure that children who need the most help will actually get help. It is morally unacceptable and extraordinarily expensive to have 14.7 million poor children in our country, 6.5 million of them living at less than half the poverty level. All of these children exceed the combined residents in all 50 State capitals and the District of Columbia. The Thompson amendment protects these populations from discrimination.

The Student Success Act has failed to set standards that ensure vulnerable minority and disadvantaged students will be able to obtain a high school diploma. Our Nation has demonstrated the need for Federal action that forces States to care about the achievement of vulnerable communities. More specifically, in Black communities, the legacy and commitment to education stems from the days of slavery when Blacks learned to read in secret and at risk to their own lives. Even 50 years after Brown v. Board of Education, these communities and schools are still very much segregated. However, the concentration of poverty has become more exacerbated. Research has shown that school districts spend \$733 per pupil less at schools that were 90 percent minority compared to the schools that were 90 percent White.

The task before this Chamber is to improve our broken system of education. We must right the wrongs of past education legislation and insert accountability for the learning of historically underserved students. If the goal of H.R. 5 truly is to improve our educational system for vulnerable students and increase their college readiness and career skills set, this amendment should be a no-brainer.

The Thompson amendment is simple. It directs the Secretary of Education to certify that this law will not adversely impact minorities, students with disabilities, English learners, and students with low income.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle claim that H.R. 5 will improve outcomes for poor, minority, and dis-

advantaged students. If so, then a Secretarial determination of this positive impact should be something every Member of this body can support.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support amendment 43, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Chair, I do want to thank the gentleman from Mississippi for bringing this amendment forward, although I do oppose it.

The Student Success Act, the underlying bill, requires—requires—States and school districts to establish academic standards consistent with current law and requires States to establish statewide accountability systems that result in students being prepared for postsecondary education or the workforce when they graduate high school.

The proper role of the Federal Government, Madam Chair, is to support and empower State and local innovation so that education leaders are better equipped to meet the needs of our most vulnerable students. It is back to the fundamental question of who do we trust here. We believe very strongly that parents, teachers, principals, superintendents, school boards, and States have a much better understanding of the needs of their students—and this is about students—than Washington does.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the Thompson amendment and support the underlying bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1215

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Chair, in taking from the comments from the speaker in opposition, you want the States to certify, but you want the Federal Government to provide the money.

What we are saying is, if the Federal Government is providing the money, then they should have some oversight as to the overall standards that are adhered to by the program.

What my amendment simply does is to say that the Secretary of Education has a responsibility to certify that all students will be provided the proper education and other things afforded this act. It is about the certification, and before we spend any money, we have to do that.

If the State certifies to the Secretary, then that is fine; but if we are saying, as I understand the opposition to this amendment, that we are going to leave that certification to the States without any oversight from the Federal Government—all they want is our money—then that is a poor way to run government.

Madam Chair, I ask for support of the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Chair, I think the gentleman has underscored the very issue we are talking about.

What we have now under current law is the Secretary of Education's deciding what the Secretary of Education likes or doesn't like, what to certify or not to certify, whether to give away or not to give away, whether to provide money or not to provide money.

We believe, with the language that is in the underlying bill of giving the authority and the responsibility to the States and requiring them to establish standards and assessments to those standards that meet their needs, that you will get a much better result than what we have seen now in year after year after year with the current law, No Child Left Behind, which we have been living under. Republicans and Democrats all agree that No Child Left Behind is not working and must be replaced.

We want to put our faith—we want to put our trust—in the people closest to the students. That is what this legislation is about. That is what this debate is about. Again, I urge my colleagues to oppose the gentleman's amendment and to support the underlying bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Mississippi will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 44 OFFERED BY MR. SCOTT OF VIRGINIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 44 printed in part B of House Report 114–29.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Strike the text and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Student Success Act”.

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.).

SEC. 3. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. References.
- Sec. 3. Table of contents.

TITLE I—IMPROVING THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF THE DISADVANTAGED

- Sec. 101. Statement of purpose.
- Sec. 102. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 103. State plans.
- Sec. 104. Eligible school attendance areas.
- Sec. 105. Academic assessment and local educational agency and school improvement; school support and recognition.
- Sec. 106. Parental involvement.
- Sec. 107. Paraprofessionals.
- Sec. 108. Comparable allocation of expenditures.
- Sec. 109. Coordination requirements.
- Sec. 110. Treatment of the outlying areas and Bureau of Indian Education Schools.
- Sec. 111. Support for high-quality assessments.
- Sec. 112. State agency programs.
- Sec. 113. Foster Youth.
- Sec. 114. School dropout prevention.

TITLE II—TEACHERS AND LEADERS

- Sec. 201. Great teachers and leaders.
- Sec. 202. HEA conforming amendments.

TITLE III—LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION FOR LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT AND IMMIGRANT STUDENTS

- Sec. 301. Language instruction.

TITLE IV—21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS

- Sec. 401. 21st Century schools.

TITLE V—WELL-ROUNDED STUDENTS AND ENGAGED FAMILIES

Subtitle A—Public Charter Schools

- Sec. 501. Subpart heading; Purpose.
- Sec. 502. Program authorized.
- Sec. 503. Grants to support high-quality charter schools.
- Sec. 504. Facilities Financing Assistance.
- Sec. 505. National activities.
- Sec. 506. Records transfer.
- Sec. 507. Definitions.
- Sec. 508. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 509. Conforming amendments.

Subtitle B—Magnet Schools

- Sec. 510. Duration of award; accountability.
- Sec. 511. Authorization of appropriations; reservation.

Subtitle C—Fund for the Improvement of Education

- Sec. 512. Fund for the Improvement of Education.

Subtitle D—Family Engagement in Education Programs

- Sec. 521. Family engagement in education programs.

Subtitle E—Fast Track to College

- Sec. 531. Short title.
- Sec. 532. Purpose.
- Sec. 533. Definitions.
- Sec. 534. Authorization of appropriations; reservations.
- Sec. 535. Authorized program.
- Sec. 536. Uses of funds.
- Sec. 537. Application.
- Sec. 538. Peer review.
- Sec. 539. Grants to States.
- Sec. 540. Reporting and oversight.
- Sec. 541. Rules of construction.

TITLE VI—FLEXIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Sec. 601. Flexibility and accountability.

TITLE VII—INDIAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND ALASKA NATIVE EDUCATION

- Sec. 701. In general.

Subtitle A—Indian Education

- Sec. 711. Purpose.
- PART 1—FORMULA GRANTS TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES
- Sec. 721. Formula grant purpose.
- Sec. 722. Grants to local educational agencies, tribes, and indian organizations.
- Sec. 723. Amount of grants.
- Sec. 724. Applications.
- Sec. 725. Authorized services and activities.
- Sec. 726. Student eligibility forms.
- Sec. 727. Technical assistance.
- Sec. 728. Improvement of educational opportunities for Indian children.

PART 2—SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS TO IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIAN CHILDREN

- Sec. 731. Professional development for teachers and education professionals.

PART 3—NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Sec. 741. National activities.
- Sec. 742. Improvement of academic success for students through Native American language.

Subtitle B—Native Hawaiian Education; Alaska Native Education

- Sec. 751. Native Hawaiian education and Alaska Native education.
- Sec. 752. Findings.
- Sec. 753. Purposes.
- Sec. 754. Native Hawaiian Education Council grant.
- Sec. 755. Grant program authorized.
- Sec. 756. Administrative provisions; authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 757. Definitions.
- Sec. 758. Alaska Native education.

TITLE VIII—IMPACT AID

- Sec. 801. Purpose.
- Sec. 802. Payments relating to Federal acquisition of real property.
- Sec. 803. Payments for eligible federally connected children.
- Sec. 804. Policies and procedures relating to children residing on Indian lands.
- Sec. 805. Application for payments under sections 8002 and 8003.
- Sec. 806. Construction.
- Sec. 807. Facilities.
- Sec. 808. State consideration of payments providing State aid.
- Sec. 809. Administrative hearings and judicial review.
- Sec. 810. Definitions.
- Sec. 811. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 812. Conforming amendments.

TITLE IX—GENERAL PROVISIONS

- Sec. 900. General amendments.

Subtitle A—Protecting Students From Sexual and Violent Predators

- Sec. 901. Background checks.
- Sec. 902. Conforming amendment.

Subtitle B—Evaluation Authority

- Sec. 911. Evaluation authority.

Subtitle C—Keeping All Students Safe

- Sec. 911. Keeping All Students Safe.

Subtitle D—Protecting Student Athletes From Concussions

- Sec. 931. Protecting Student Athletes from Concussions.

TITLE X—EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTHS

- Sec. 1001. Education for Homeless Children and Youths.

TITLE XI—PREKINDERGARTEN ACCESS

- Subtitle A—Access to Voluntary Prekindergarten for Low- and Moderate-Income Families

- Sec. 1111. Purposes.

Sec. 1112. Definitions.
 Sec. 1113. Program authorization.
 Sec. 1114. Allotments and reservations of funds.
 Sec. 1115. State eligibility criteria.
 Sec. 1116. State applications.
 Sec. 1117. State use of funds.
 Sec. 1118. Additional prekindergarten services.
 Sec. 1119. Performance measures and targets.
 Sec. 1120. Matching requirements.
 Sec. 1121. Eligible local entity applications.
 Sec. 1122. Required subgrant activities.
 Sec. 1123. Report and evaluation.
 Sec. 1124. Prohibition of required participation or use of funds for assessments.
 Sec. 1125. Coordination with Head Start programs.
 Sec. 1126. Technical assistance in program administration.
 Sec. 1127. Authorization of appropriations.
 Subtitle B—Prekindergarten Development Grants
 Sec. 1151. Prekindergarten development grants.

TITLE I—IMPROVING THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF THE DISADVANTAGED

SEC. 101. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.

Section 1001 (20 U.S.C. 6301) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 1001. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.

“The purpose of this title is to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and to graduate ready to succeed in college and the workforce by—

“(1) meeting the educational needs of low-achieving children in our Nation’s highest-poverty schools, English learners, migrant children, children with disabilities, Indian children, and neglected or delinquent children;

“(2) ensuring high-quality college and career ready standards, academic assessments, accountability systems, teacher and school leader preparation and training, curriculum, and instructional materials are developed and implemented to prepare students to compete in the global economy;

“(3) closing the achievement gap between high- and low-performing children, especially between minority and nonminority students and between disadvantaged children and their more advantaged peers;

“(4) holding schools, local educational agencies, and States accountable for improving the academic achievement for all students including the mastery of content knowledge and the ability to think critically, solve problems, and communicate effectively, ensuring all students graduate ready to succeed in college and the workforce;

“(5) distributing and targeting resources to support local educational agencies and schools with the greatest needs to close the educational opportunity gap between low-income students and their more affluent peers;

“(6) improving and maintaining accountability for student achievement, graduation rates, and resource equity while increasing local flexibility and authority to improve schools; and

“(7) ensuring parents have substantial and meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children.”

SEC. 102. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 1002 (20 U.S.C. 6302) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) **LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY GRANTS.**—For the purpose of carrying out part A, there

are authorized to be appropriated \$30,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2016 and such sums as may be necessary for each of the 5 succeeding fiscal years.”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking “\$410,000,000” and inserting “\$500,000,000”; and

(B) by striking “2002” and inserting “2016”; and

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking “\$50,000,000” and inserting “\$55,000,000”; and

(B) by striking “2002” and inserting “2016”.

SEC. 103. STATE PLANS.

Section 1111 (20 U.S.C. 6311) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 1111. STATE PLAN.

“(a) **PLANS REQUIRED.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—For any State desiring to receive a grant under this part, the State educational agency shall submit to the Secretary a plan, developed by the State educational agency, in consultation with representatives of local educational agencies, teachers, school leaders, specialized instructional support personnel, early childhood education providers, parents, community organizations, communities representing underserved populations, and Indian tribes, that satisfies the requirements of this section, and that is coordinated with other programs of this Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006, the Head Start Act, the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

“(2) **CONSOLIDATED PLAN.**—A State plan submitted under paragraph (1) may be submitted as a part of a consolidated plan under section 9302.

“(b) **COLLEGE AND CAREER READY CONTENT STANDARDS, ASSESSMENTS, AND ACHIEVEMENT STANDARDS.**—

“(1) **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.**—Each State plan shall include evidence that the State’s college and career ready content standards, assessments, and achievement standards under this subsection are—

“(A) vertically aligned from kindergarten through grade 12; and

“(B) developed and implemented to ensure that proficiency in the content standards will signify that a student is on-track to graduate prepared for—

“(i) according to written affirmation from the State’s public institutions of higher education, placement in credit-bearing, non-remedial courses at the 2-and 4-year public institutions of higher education in the State; and

“(ii) success on relevant State career and technical education standards.

“(2) **COLLEGE AND CAREER READY CONTENT STANDARDS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Each State plan shall demonstrate that, not later than the 2015–2016 school year the State educational agency will adopt and implement high-quality, college and career ready content standards that comply with this paragraph.

“(B) **SUBJECTS.**—The State educational agency shall have such high-quality, academic content standards for students in kindergarten through grade 12 for, at a minimum, English language arts, math, and science.

“(C) **ELEMENTS.**—College and career ready content standards under this paragraph shall—

“(i) be developed through participation in a State-led process that engages—

“(I) kindergarten through-grade-12 education experts (including teachers and school leaders); and

“(II) representatives of institutions of higher education, the business community, and the early learning community;

“(ii) be rigorous, internationally benchmarked, and evidence-based, requiring students to demonstrate the ability to think critically, solve problems, and communicate effectively;

“(iii) be either—

“(I) validated, including through written affirmation from the State’s public institutions of higher education, to ensure that proficiency in the content standards will signify that a student is on-track to graduate prepared for—

“(aa) placement in credit-bearing, non-remedial courses at the 2-and 4-year public institutions of higher education in the State; and

“(bb) success on relevant State career and technical education standards; or

“(II) State-developed and voluntarily adopted by a significant number of States;

“(iv) for standards from kindergarten through grade 3, reflect progression in how children develop and learn the requisite skills and content from earlier grades (including preschool) to later grades; and

“(v) apply to all schools and students in the State.

“(D) **ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY STANDARDS.**—Each State educational agency shall develop and implement statewide, high-quality English language proficiency standards that—

“(i) are aligned with the State’s academic content standards;

“(ii) reflect the academic language that is required for success on the State educational agency’s academic content assessments;

“(iii) predict success on the applicable grade level English language arts content assessment;

“(iv) ensure proficiency in each of the domains of speaking, listening, reading, and writing in the appropriate amount of time; and

“(v) address the different proficiency levels of English learners.

“(E) **EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS.**—The State educational agency shall, in collaboration with the State agencies responsible for overseeing early care and education programs and the State early care and education advisory council, develop and implement early learning standards across all major domains of development for preschoolers that—

“(i) demonstrate alignment with the State academic content standards;

“(ii) are implemented through dissemination, training, and other means to applicable early care and education programs;

“(iii) reflect research and evidence-based developmental and learning expectations;

“(iv) inform teaching practices and professional development and services; and

“(v) for preschool age children, appropriately assist in the transition to kindergarten.

“(F) **ASSURANCE.**—Each State plan shall include an assurance that the State has implemented the same content standards for all students in the same grade and does not have a policy of using different content standards for any student subgroup.

“(3) **HIGH-QUALITY ASSESSMENTS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Each State plan shall demonstrate that the State educational agency will adopt and implement high-quality assessments in English language arts, math, and science not later than the 2016–2017 school year that comply with this paragraph.

“(B) ELEMENTS.—Such assessments shall—
 “(i) be valid, reliable, appropriate, and of adequate technical quality for each purpose required under this Act, and be consistent with relevant, nationally recognized professional and technical standards;

“(ii) measure the knowledge and skills necessary to demonstrate proficiency in the academic content standards under paragraph (2) for the grade in which the student is enrolled;

“(iii) be developed as part of a system of assessments providing data (including individual student achievement data and individual student growth data), that shall be used to improve teaching, learning, and program outcomes;

“(iv) be used in determining the performance of each local educational agency and school in the State in accordance with the State’s accountability system under subsection (c);

“(v) provide an accurate measure of—
 “(I) student achievement at all levels of student performance; and

“(II) student academic growth;

“(vi) allow for complex demonstrations or applications of knowledge and skills including the ability to think critically, solve problems, and communicate effectively;

“(vii) be accessible for all students, including students with disabilities and English learners, by—

“(I) incorporating principles of universal design as defined by section 3(a) of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3002(a)); and

“(II) being interoperable when using any digital assessment, such as computer-based and online assessments;

“(viii) provide for accommodations, including for computer-based and online assessments, for students with disabilities and English learners to provide a valid and reliable measure of such students’ achievement;

“(ix) produce individual student interpretive, descriptive, and diagnostic reports that allow parents, teachers, and school leaders to understand and address the specific academic needs of students, and include information regarding achievement on academic assessments, and that are provided to parents, teachers, and school leaders, as soon as is practicable after the assessment is given, in an understandable and uniform format, and to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand; and

“(x) may be partially delivered in the form of portfolios, projects, or extended performance tasks as long as such assessments meet the requirements of this subsection.

“(C) ADMINISTRATION.—Such assessments shall—

“(i) be administered to all students, including all subgroups described in subsection (c)(3)(A), in the same grade level for each content area assessed, except as provided under subparagraph (E), through—

“(I) a single summative assessment each school year; or

“(II) multiple statewide assessments over the course of the school year that result in a single summative score that provides valid, reliable, and transparent information on student achievement for each tested content area in each grade level;

“(ii) for English language arts and math—
 “(I) be administered annually, at a minimum, for students in grade 3 through grade 8; and

“(II) be administered at least once, but not earlier than 11th grade for students in grades 9 through grade 12; and

“(iii) for science, be administered at least once during grades 3 through 5, grades 6 through 8, and grades 9 through 12.

“(D) NATIVE LANGUAGE ASSESSMENTS.—Each State educational agency with at least 10,000 English learners, at least 25 percent of which speak the same language that is not English, shall adopt and implement native language assessments for that language consistent with State law. Such assessments shall be for students—

“(i) for whom the academic assessment in the student’s native language would likely yield more accurate and reliable information about such student’s content knowledge;

“(ii) who are literate in the native language and have received formal education in such language; or

“(iii) who are enrolled in a bilingual or dual language program and the native language assessment is consistent with such program’s language of instruction.

“(E) ALTERNATE ASSESSMENTS FOR STUDENTS WITH THE MOST SIGNIFICANT COGNITIVE DISABILITIES.—In the case of a State educational agency that adopts alternate achievement standards for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities described in paragraph (4)(D), the State shall adopt and implement high-quality statewide alternate assessments aligned to such alternate achievement standards that meet the requirements of subparagraphs (B) and (C), so long as the State ensures that in the State the total number of students in each grade level assessed in each subject does not exceed the cap established under subsection (c)(3)(E)(ii)(II).

“(F) ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY ASSESSMENTS.—Each State educational agency shall adopt and implement statewide English language proficiency assessments that—

“(i) are administered annually and aligned with the State’s English language proficiency standards and academic content standards;

“(ii) are accessible, valid, and reliable;

“(iii) measure proficiency in reading, listening, speaking, and writing in English both individually and collectively;

“(iv) assess progress and growth on language and content acquisition; and

“(v) allow for the local educational agency to retest a student in the individual domain areas that the student did not pass, unless the student is newly entering a school in the State, or is in the third, fifth, or eighth grades.

“(G) SPECIAL RULE WITH RESPECT TO BUREAU FUNDED SCHOOLS.—In determining the assessments to be used by each school operated or funded by the Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Indian Education receiving funds under this part, the following shall apply:

“(i) Each such school that is accredited by the State in which it is operating shall use the assessments the State has developed and implemented to meet the requirements of this section, or such other appropriate assessment as approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

“(ii) Each such school that is accredited by a regional accrediting organization shall adopt an appropriate assessment, in consultation with and with the approval of, the Secretary of the Interior and consistent with assessments adopted by other schools in the same State or region, that meets the requirements of this section.

“(iii) Each such school that is accredited by a tribal accrediting agency or tribal division of education shall use an assessment developed by such agency or division, except that the Secretary of the Interior shall en-

sure that such assessment meets the requirements of this section.

“(H) ASSURANCE.—Each State plan shall include an assurance that the State educational agency will take steps to ensure that the State assessment system, which includes all statewide assessments and local assessments is coordinated and streamlined to eliminate duplication of assessment purposes, practices, and use.

“(I) ACCOMMODATIONS.—Each State plan shall—

“(i) describe the accommodations for English learners and students with disabilities on the assessments used by the State which may include accommodations such as text-to-speech technology or read aloud, braille, large print, calculator, speech-to-text technology or scribe, extended time, and frequent breaks;

“(ii) include evidence of the effectiveness of such accommodations in maintaining valid results for the appropriate population; and

“(iii) include evidence that such accommodations do not change the construct intended to be measured by the assessment or the meaning of the resulting scores.

“(J) ADAPTIVE ASSESSMENTS.—In the case of a State educational agency that develops and administers computer adaptive assessments, such assessments shall meet the requirements of this paragraph, and must measure, at a minimum, each student’s academic proficiency against the State’s content standards as described in paragraph (2) for the grade in which the student is enrolled.

“(4) COLLEGE AND CAREER READY ACHIEVEMENT AND GROWTH STANDARDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each State plan shall demonstrate that the State will adopt and implement college and career ready achievement standards in English language arts, math, and science by the 2015-2016 school year that comply with this paragraph.

“(B) ELEMENTS.—Such academic achievement standards shall establish at a minimum, 3 levels of student achievement that describe how well a student is demonstrating proficiency in the State’s academic content standards that differentiate levels of performance to—

“(i) describe 2 levels of high achievement (on-target and advanced) that indicate, at a minimum, that a student is proficient in the academic content standards under paragraph (2) as measured by the performance on assessments under paragraph (3); and

“(ii) describe a third level of achievement (catch-up) that provides information about the progress of a student toward becoming proficient in the academic content standards under paragraph (2) as measured by the performance on assessments under paragraph (3).

“(C) VERTICAL ALIGNMENT.—Such achievement standards are vertically aligned to ensure a student who achieves at the on-target or advanced levels under subparagraph (B)(i) signifies that student is on-track to graduate prepared for—

“(i) placement in credit-bearing, non-remedial courses at the 2- and 4-year public institutions of higher education in the State; and

“(ii) success on relevant State career and technical education standards.

“(D) ALTERNATE ACHIEVEMENT STANDARDS.—If a State educational agency adopts alternate achievement standards for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, such academic achievement standards shall establish, at a minimum, 3

levels of student achievement that describe how well a student is demonstrating proficiency in the State's academic content standards that—

“(i) are aligned to the State's college and career ready content standards under paragraph (2);

“(ii) are vertically aligned to ensure that a student who achieves at the on-target or advanced level under clause (v)(I) signifies that the student is on-track to access a postsecondary education or competitive integrated employment;

“(ii) reflect concepts and skills that students should know and understand for each grade;

“(iv) are supported by evidence-based learning progressions to age and grade-level performance; and

“(v) establish, at a minimum—

“(I) 2 levels of high achievement (on-target and advanced) that indicate, at a minimum, that a student with the most significant cognitive disabilities is proficient in the academic content standards under paragraph (2) as measured by the performance on assessments under paragraph (3)(E); and

“(II) a third level of achievement (catch-up) that provides information about the progress of a student with the most significant cognitive disabilities toward becoming proficient in the academic content standards under paragraph (2) as measured by the performance on assessments under paragraph (3)(E).

“(E) STUDENT GROWTH STANDARDS.—Each State plan shall demonstrate that the State will adopt and implement student growth standards for students in the assessed grades that comply with this subparagraph, as follows:

“(i) ON-TARGET AND ADVANCED LEVELS.—For a student who is achieving at the on-target or advanced level of achievement, the student growth standard is not less than the rate of academic growth necessary for the student to remain at that level of student achievement for not less than 3 years.

“(ii) CATCH-UP LEVEL.—For a student who is achieving at the catch-up level of achievement, the student growth standard is not less than the rate of academic growth necessary for the student to achieve an on-target level of achievement within 3 or 4 years, as determined by the State.

“(F) PROHIBITION.—A State may not establish alternate or modified achievement standards for any subgroup of students, except as provided under subparagraph (D).

“(5) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in paragraph (3) shall be construed to prescribe the use of the academic assessments established pursuant to such paragraph for student promotion or graduation purposes.

“(c) ACCOUNTABILITY AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM.—The State plan shall demonstrate that not later than the 2016–2017 school year, the State educational agency, in consultation with representatives of local educational agencies, teachers, school leaders, parents, community organizations, communities representing underserved populations and Indian tribes, has developed a single statewide accountability and school improvement system (in this subsection known as the ‘accountability system’) that ensures all students have the knowledge and skills to successfully enter the workforce or postsecondary education without the need for remediation by complying with this subsection as follows:

“(1) ELEMENTS.—Each State accountability system shall, at a minimum—

“(A) annually measure academic achievement for all students, including each sub-

group described in paragraph (3)(A), in each public school, including each charter school, in the State, including—

“(i) student academic achievement in accordance with the academic achievement standards described in subsection (b)(4);

“(ii) student growth in accordance with the student growth standards described in subsection (b)(4)(E); and

“(iii) graduation rates in diploma granting schools;

“(B) set clear performance and growth targets in accordance with paragraph (2) to improve the academic achievement of all students as measured under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph and to close achievement gaps so that all students graduate ready for postsecondary education and the workforce;

“(C) establish equity indicators to diagnose school challenges and measure school progress within the improvement system described in section 1116, including factors to measure, for all students and each subgroup described in paragraph (3)(A)—

“(i) academic learning, such as—

“(I) percentage of students successfully completing rigorous coursework that aligns with college and career ready standards described under subsection (b)(2) such as dual enrollment, Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses;

“(II) percentage of students enrolled in music and the arts courses;

“(III) student success on State or local educational agency end-of course examinations; and

“(IV) student success on performance-based assessments that are valid, reliable and comparable across a local educational agency and meet the requirements of paragraph (3)(B);

“(ii) student engagement, such as—

“(I) student attendance rates;

“(II) student discipline data, including suspension and expulsion rates;

“(III) incidents of bullying and harassment; and

“(IV) surveys of student engagement and satisfaction;

“(iii) student advancement, such as—

“(I) student on-time promotion rates;

“(II) on-time credit accumulation rates;

“(III) course failure rates; and

“(IV) post-secondary and workforce entry rates;

“(iv) student health and wellness;

“(v) student access to instructional quality, such as—

“(I) number of qualified teachers and paraprofessionals;

“(II) number of specialized instructional support personnel;

“(III) instructional personnel attendance, vacancies, and turnover; and

“(IV) rates of effective teachers and principals, as determined by the State or local educational agency;

“(vi) school climate and conditions for student success, such as—

“(I) the availability of up-to-date instructional materials, technology, and supplies;

“(II) measures of school safety; and

“(III) the condition of school facilities; including accounting for well-equipped instructional spaces; and

“(vii) family and community engagement in education;

“(D) annually differentiate all public schools, including public charter schools, based on—

“(i) the achievement measured under subparagraph (A);

“(ii) whether the school meets the performance and growth targets set under paragraph (2); and

“(iii) to a lesser extent than each of the factors described in clauses (i) and (ii), data on the State-established equity indicators, as described in subparagraph (C); and

“(E) identify, after using the differentiation described in subparagraph (D), for the purposes under section 1116—

“(i) high priority schools that—

“(I) according to the State-established parameters described in 1116(a)(2), have the lowest performance in the local educational agency and the State using current and prior year academic achievement, growth, and graduation rate data as described in subparagraph (A) and data on the state-established equity indicators described in subparagraph (C); or

“(II) as of the date of enactment of the Student Success Act, have been identified under 1003(g); and

“(ii) schools in need of support that—

“(I) have not met one or more of the performance targets set under paragraph (2) for any subgroup described in paragraph (3)(A) in the same grade level and subject, for two consecutive years; or

“(II) at the discretion of the State, are identified for support using data on equity indicators established under paragraph (1)(C); and

“(iii) distinguished schools that have—

“(I) the highest performance in the State for all students and student subgroups described in paragraph (3)(A); or

“(II) made the most progress over at least the most recent 2-year period in the State in increasing student academic achievement and graduation rates for all students and student subgroups described in paragraph (3)(A); and

“(III) made significant progress in overcoming school challenges identified using the State-established equity indicators, as described in subparagraph (C).

“(2) GOALS AND TARGETS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each State educational agency shall establish goals and targets for the State accountability and school improvement system that comply with this paragraph. Such targets shall be established separately for all elementary school and secondary school students, economically disadvantaged students, students from major racial and ethnic groups, students with disabilities, and English learners and expect accelerated academic gains from subgroups who are the farthest away from college and career-readiness as determined by annual academic achievement measures described in paragraph (1)(A).

“(B) ACHIEVEMENT GOALS.—Each State educational agency shall set multi-year goals that are consistent with the academic and growth achievement standards under subsection (b)(4) to ensure that all students graduate prepared to enter the workforce or postsecondary education without the need for remediation.

“(C) PERFORMANCE TARGETS.—Each State educational agency shall set ambitious, but achievable annual performance targets separately for each subgroup of students described in paragraph (3)(A), for local educational agencies and schools, for each grade level and in English language arts and math that reflect the progress required for all students and each subgroup of students described in paragraph (3)(A) to meet the State-determined goals as required under subparagraph (B), as approved by the Secretary.

“(D) GROWTH TARGETS.—Each State educational agency shall set ambitious but achievable growth targets that—

“(i) assist the State in achieving the academic achievement goals described in subparagraph (B); and

“(ii) include targets that ensure all students, including subgroups of students described in paragraph (3)(A), meet the growth standards described in subsection (b)(4)(E).

“(E) GRADUATION RATE GOALS AND TARGETS.—

“(i) GRADUATION RATE GOALS.—Each State educational agency shall set a graduation rate goal of not less than 90 percent.

“(ii) GRADUATION RATE TARGETS.—Each State educational agency shall establish graduation rate targets which shall not be less rigorous than the targets approved under section 200.19 of title 34, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation) and shall be designed to meet the goal described in clause (i).

“(iii) EXTENDED-YEAR GRADUATION RATE TARGETS.—In the case of a State that chooses to use an extended year graduation rate in the accountability and school improvement system described under this subsection, the State shall set extended year graduation rate targets that are more rigorous than the targets set under clause (ii) and, if applicable, are not less rigorous than the targets approved under section 200.19 of title 34, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

“(3) FAIR ACCOUNTABILITY.—Each State educational agency shall establish fair and appropriate policies and practices, as a component of the accountability system established under this subsection, to measure school, local educational agency, and State performance under the accountability system that, at a minimum, comply with this paragraph as follows:

“(A) DISAGGREGATE.—Each State educational agency shall disaggregate student achievement data in a manner that complies with the State’s group size requirements under subparagraph (B) for the school’s, local educational agency’s, and the State’s performance on its goals and performance targets established under paragraph (2), by each content area and each grade level for which such goals and targets are established, and, if applicable, by improvement indicators described in paragraph (1)(D) for each of the following groups:

“(i) All public elementary and secondary school students.

“(ii) Economically disadvantaged students.

“(iii) Students from major racial and ethnic groups.

“(iv) Students with disabilities.

“(v) English learners.

“(B) SUBGROUP SIZE.—Each State educational agency shall establish group size requirements for performance measurement and reporting under the accountability system that—

“(i) is the same for all subgroups described in subparagraph (A);

“(ii) does not exceed 15 students;

“(iii) yields statistically reliable information; and

“(iv) does not reveal personally identifiable information about an individual student.

“(C) PARTICIPATION.—Each State educational agency shall ensure that—

“(i) not less than 95 percent of the students in each subgroup described subparagraph (A) take the State’s assessments under subsection (b)(2); and

“(ii) any school or local educational agency that does not comply with the requirement described in clause (i) of this subparagraph may not be considered to have met its

goals or performance targets under paragraph (2).

“(D) AVERAGING.—Each State educational agency may average achievement data with the year immediately preceding that school year for the purpose of determining whether schools, local educational agencies, and the State have met their performance targets under paragraph (2).

“(E) STUDENTS WITH THE MOST SIGNIFICANT COGNITIVE DISABILITIES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In calculating the percentage of students scoring at the on-target levels of achievement and the graduation rate for the purpose of determining whether schools, local educational agencies, and the State have met their performance targets under paragraph (2), a State shall include all students with disabilities, even those students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, and—

“(I) may include the on-target and advanced scores of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities taking alternate assessments under subsection (b)(3)(E) provided that the number and percentage of such students who score at the on-target or advanced level on such alternate assessments at the local educational agency and the State levels, respectively, does not exceed the cap established by the Secretary under clause (iii) in the grades assessed and subjects used under the accountability system established under this subsection; and

“(II) solely for the purposes of calculating graduation rates, may include students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, who are assessed using alternate assessments described in subsection (b)(3)(E) and who receive a State-defined standards-based alternate diploma aligned with the State requirements for regular secondary school diploma and who have completed a free and appropriate public education under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, as graduating with a regular secondary school diploma, provided that the number and percentage of those students who receive such a State-defined standards-based alternate diploma at the local educational agency and the State levels, respectively, does not exceed the cap established by the Secretary under clause (iii).

“(i) STATE REQUIREMENTS.—If the number and percentage of students taking alternate assessments or receiving a State-defined standards-based alternate diploma exceeds the cap under clause (iii) at the local educational agency or State level, the State educational agency, in determining whether the local educational agency or State, respectively, has met its performance targets under paragraph (2), shall—

“(I) include all students with the most significant cognitive disabilities;

“(II) count at the catch-up level of achievement or as not graduating such students who exceed the cap;

“(III) include such students at the catch-up level of achievement or as not graduating in each applicable subgroup at the school, local educational agency, and State level; and

“(IV) ensure that parents are informed of the actual academic achievement levels and graduation status of their children with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

“(iii) SECRETARIAL DUTIES.—The Secretary shall establish a cap for the purposes of this subparagraph which—

“(I) shall be based on the most recently available data on—

“(aa) the incidence of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities;

“(bb) the participation rates, including by disability category, on alternate assessments

using alternate achievement standards pursuant to subsection (b)(3)(E);

“(cc) the percentage of students, including by disability category, scoring at each achievement level on such alternate assessments; and

“(dd) other factors the Secretary deems necessary; and

“(II) may not exceed 1 percent of all students in the combined grades assessed.

“(4) TRANSITION PROVISIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall take such steps as necessary to provide for the orderly transition to the new accountability and school improvement systems required under this subsection from prior accountability and school improvement systems in existence on the day before the date of enactment of the Student Success Act.

“(B) TRANSITION.—To enable the successful transition described in this paragraph, each State educational agency receiving funds under this part shall—

“(i) administer assessments that were in existence on the day before the date of enactment of the Student Success Act and beginning not later than the 2016-2017 school year, administer high-quality assessments described in subsection (b)(3);

“(ii) report student performance on the assessments described in subparagraph (I), consistent with the requirements under this title;

“(iii) set a new baseline for performance targets, as described in paragraph (2)(C) and (2)(D), once new high-quality assessments described in subsection (b)(3) are implemented;

“(iv) implement the accountability and school improvement requirements of sections 1111 and 1116, except—

“(I) the State shall not be required to identify new persistently low achieving schools or schools in need of improvement under section 1116 for 1 year after high-quality assessments described in subsection (b)(3) have been implemented; and

“(II) shall continue to implement school improvement requirements of section 1116 in persistently low achieving schools and schools in need of improvement that were identified as such in the year prior to implementation of new high-quality assessments; and

“(v) assist local educational agencies in providing training and professional development on the implementation of new college and career ready standards and high-quality assessments.

“(C) END OF TRANSITION.—The transition described in this paragraph shall be completed by no later than 2 years from the date of enactment of the Student Success Act.

“(d) OTHER PROVISIONS TO SUPPORT TEACHING AND LEARNING.—Each State plan shall contain the following:

“(1) DESCRIPTIONS.—A description of—

“(A) how the State educational agency will carry out the responsibilities of the State under section 1116;

“(B) a plan to identify and reduce inequities in the allocation of State and local resources, including nonpersonnel and personnel resources consistent with the requirements of section 1120A, between schools that are receiving funds under this title and schools that are not receiving such funds under this title, including—

“(i) a description of how the State will support local educational agencies in meeting the requirements of section 1120A; and

“(ii) a description of how the State will support local educational agencies to align

plans under subparagraph (A), efforts to improve educator supports and working conditions described in section 2112(b)(3), and efforts to improve the equitable distribution of teachers and principals described in section 2112(b)(5), with efforts to improve the equitable allocation of resources as described in this subsection;

“(C) how the State educational agency will ensure that the results of the State assessments described in subsection (b)(3) and the school identifications described in subsection (c)(1), respectively, will be provided to local educational agencies, schools, teachers, and parents promptly, but not later than before the beginning of the school year following the school year in which such assessments, other indicators, or evaluations are taken or completed, and in a manner that is clear and easy to understand;

“(D) how the State educational agency will meet the diverse learning needs of students by—

“(i) identifying and addressing State-level barriers to implementation of universal design for learning, as described in section 5429(b)(21), and multi-tier system of supports; and

“(ii) developing and making available to local educational agencies technical assistance for implementing universal design for learning, as described in section 5429(b)(21), and multi-tier system of supports;

“(E) for a State educational agency that adopts alternate achievement standards for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities under subsection (b)(4)(D)—

“(i) the clear and appropriate guidelines for individualized education program teams to apply in determining when a student’s significant cognitive disability justifies alternate assessment based on alternate achievement standards, which shall include guidelines to ensure—

“(I) students with the most significant cognitive disabilities have access to the general education curriculum for the grade in which the student is enrolled;

“(II) participation in an alternate assessment does not influence a student’s placement in the least restrictive environment;

“(III) determinations are made separately for each subject and are re-determined each year during the annual individualized education program team meeting;

“(IV) the student’s mode of communication has been identified to the extent possible and accommodated; and

“(V) parents of such students—

“(aa) give informed consent that their child’s achievement be measured against alternate achievement standards; and

“(bb) are informed of any effects of State and local policies on the student’s education resulting from participating in this alternate assessment; and

“(VI) students with the most significant cognitive disabilities are not precluded from attempting to complete the requirements for a regular secondary school diploma; and

“(ii) the procedures the State educational agency will use to ensure and monitor that individualized education program teams implement the requirements of clause (i); and

“(iii) the plan to disseminate information on and promote use of appropriate accommodations to increase the number of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who are assessed using achievement standards described in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subsection (b)(4);

“(F) how the State educational agency will meet the needs of English learners, includ-

“(i) the method for identifying an English learner that shall be used by all local educational agencies in the State;

“(ii) the entrance and exit requirements for students enrolled in limited English proficient classes, which shall—

“(I) be based on rigorous English language standards; and

“(II) prepare such students to successfully complete the State’s assessments; and

“(iii) timelines and targets for moving students from the lowest levels of English language proficiency to the State-defined English proficient level, including an assurance that—

“(I) such targets will be based on student’s initial language proficiency level when first identified as limited English proficient and grade; and

“(II) such timelines will ensure students achieve English proficiency by 18 years of age, unless the State has obtained prior approval by the Secretary;

“(G) how the State educational agency will assist local educational agencies in improving instruction in all core academic subjects;

“(H) how the State educational agency will develop and improve the capacity of local educational agencies to use technology to improve instruction; and

“(I) how any State educational agency with a charter school law will support high-quality public charter schools that receive funds under this title by—

“(i) ensuring the quality of the authorized public chartering agencies in the State by establishing—

“(I) a system of periodic evaluation and certification of public chartering agencies using nationally-recognized professional standards; or

“(II) a statewide, independent chartering agency that meets nationally-recognized professional standards;

“(ii) including in the procedure established pursuant to clause (i) requirements for—

“(I) the annual filing and public reporting of independently audited financial statements including disclosure of amount and duration of any nonpublic financial and in-kind contributions of support, by each public chartering agency, for each school authorized by such agency, and by each local educational agency and the State;

“(II) the adoption and enforcement of school employee compensation and conflict of interest guidelines for all schools authorized, which shall include disclosure of executive pay and affiliated parties with financial interest in the management operations, or contractual obligations of the school;

“(III) a legally binding charter or performance contract between each charter school and the school’s authorized public chartering agency that—

“(aa) describes the rights, duties, and remedies of the school and the public chartering agency; and

“(bb) bases charter renewal and revocation decisions on an agreed-to school accountability plan which includes financial and organizational indicators, with significant weight given to the student achievement on the achievement goals, performance targets, and growth targets established pursuant to subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D) of subsection (c)(2), respectively, for each student subgroup described in subsection (c)(3)(A), as well as

“(iii) developing and implementing, in consultation and coordination with local educational agencies, a system of intervention, revocation, or closure for charter schools and public chartering agencies failing to

meet the requirements and standards described in clauses (i) and (ii), which, at a minimum provides for—

“(I) initial and regular review, not less than once every 3 years, of each public chartering agency; and

“(II) intervention, revocation, or closure of any charter school identified for school improvement under section 1116.

“(2) ASSURANCES.—Assurances that—

“(A) the State educational agency will participate in biennial State academic assessments of 4th, 8th, and 12th grade reading, mathematics, and science under the National Assessment of Educational Progress carried out under section 303(b)(2) of the National Assessment of Educational Progress Authorization Act, if the Secretary pays the costs of administering such assessments;

“(B) the State educational agency will—

“(i) notify local educational agencies and the public of the content and student academic achievement standards and academic assessments developed under this section, and of the authority to operate schoolwide programs; and

“(ii) fulfill the State educational agency’s responsibilities regarding local educational agency and school improvement under section 1116;

“(C) the State educational agency will encourage local educational agencies to consolidate funds from other Federal, State, and local sources for school improvement activities under 1116 and for schoolwide programs under section 1114;

“(D) the State educational agency has modified or eliminated State fiscal and accounting barriers so that schools can easily consolidate funds from other Federal, State, and local sources for schoolwide programs under section 1114;

“(E) that State educational agency will coordinate data collection efforts to fulfill the requirements of this Act and reduce the duplication of data collection to the extent practicable;

“(F) the State educational agency will provide the least restrictive and burdensome regulations for local educational agencies and individual schools participating in a program assisted under this part;

“(G) the State educational agency will inform local educational agencies in the State of the local educational agency’s authority—

“(i) to transfer funds under title VI;

“(ii) to obtain waivers under part D of title IX; and

“(iii) if the State is an Ed-Flex Partnership State, to obtain waivers under the Education Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999;

“(H) the State educational agency will work with other agencies, including educational service agencies or other local consortia and comprehensive centers established under the Educational Technical Assistance Act of 2002, and institutions to provide professional development and technical assistance to local educational agencies and schools;

“(I) the State educational agency will ensure that local educational agencies in the State comply with the requirements of subtitle B of title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11117); and

“(J) the State educational agency has engaged in timely and meaningful consultation with representatives of Indian tribes located in the State in the development of the State plan to serve local educational agencies under its jurisdiction in order to—

“(i) improve the coordination of activities under this Act;

“(ii) meet the purpose of this title; and

“(iii) meet the unique cultural, language, and educational needs of Indian students.

“(e) FAMILY ENGAGEMENT.—Each State plan shall include a plan for strengthening family engagement in education. Each such plan shall, at a minimum, include—

“(1) a description of the State’s criteria and schedule for review and approval of local educational agency engagement policies and practices pursuant to section 1112(e)(3);

“(2) a description of the State’s system and process for assessing local educational agency implementation of section 1118 responsibilities;

“(3) a description of the State’s criteria for identifying local educational agencies that would benefit from training and support related to family engagement in education;

“(4) a description of the State’s statewide system of capacity-building and technical assistance for local educational agencies and schools on effectively implementing family engagement in education practices and policies to increase student achievement;

“(5) an assurance that the State will refer to Statewide Family Engagement Centers, as described in section 5702, those local educational agencies that would benefit from training and support related to family engagement in education; and

“(6) a description of the relationship between the State educational agency and Statewide Family Engagement Centers, parent training and information centers, and community parent resource centers in the State established under sections 671 and 672 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

“(f) PEER REVIEW AND SECRETARIAL APPROVAL.—

“(1) SECRETARIAL DUTIES.—The Secretary shall—

“(A) establish a peer-review process to assist in the review of State plans;

“(B) appoint individuals to the peer-review process who are representative of parents, teachers, State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and experts and who are familiar with educational standards, assessments, accountability, the needs of low-performing schools, and other educational needs of students;

“(C) approve a State plan within 120 days of its submission unless the Secretary determines that the plan does not meet the requirements of this section;

“(D) if the Secretary determines that the State plan does not meet the requirements of this section immediately notify the State of such determination and the reasons for such determination;

“(E) not decline to approve a State’s plan before—

“(i) offering the State an opportunity to revise its plan;

“(ii) providing technical assistance in order to assist the State to meet the requirements of this section; and

“(iii) providing a hearing; and

“(F) have the authority to disapprove a State plan for not meeting the requirements of this part, but shall not have the authority to require a State, as a condition of approval of the State plan, to include in, or delete from, such plan one or more specific elements of the State’s academic content standards or to use specific academic assessment instruments or items.

“(2) STATE REVISIONS.—A State plan shall be revised by the State educational agency if the revision is necessary to satisfy the requirements of this section.

“(3) PUBLIC REVIEW.—Notifications under this subsection shall be made available to

the public through the website of the Department, including—

“(A) State plans submitted or resubmitted by a State;

“(B) peer review comments;

“(C) State plan determinations by the Secretary, including approvals or disapprovals;

“(D) amendments or changes to State plans; and

“(E) hearings.

“(g) DURATION OF THE PLAN.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each State plan shall—

“(A) remain in effect for the duration of the State’s participation under this part or 4 years, whichever is shorter; and

“(B) be periodically reviewed and revised as necessary by the State educational agency to reflect changes in the State’s strategies and programs under this part, including information on the progress the State has made in fulfilling the requirements of this section.

“(2) RENEWAL.—A State educational agency that desires to continue participation under this part shall submit a renewed plan every 4 years, including information on progress the State has made in—

“(A) implementing college- and career-ready content and achievement standards and high-quality assessments described in paragraph (b);

“(B) meeting its goals and performance targets described in subsection (c)(2); and

“(C) improving the capacity and skills of teachers and school leaders as described in section 2112.

“(2) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—If significant changes are made to a State’s plan, such as the adoption of new State academic content standards and State student achievement standards, new academic assessments, or new performance goals or target, growth goals or targets, or graduation rate goals or targets, such information shall be submitted to the Secretary for approval.

“(h) FAILURE TO MEET REQUIREMENTS.—If a State fails to meet any of the requirements of this section, the Secretary may withhold funds for State administration under this part until the Secretary determines that the State has fulfilled those requirements.

“(i) REPORTS.—

“(1) ANNUAL STATE REPORT CARD.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A State that receives assistance under this part shall prepare and disseminate an annual State report card. Such dissemination shall include, at a minimum, publicly posting the report card on the home page of the State educational agency’s website.

“(B) IMPLEMENTATION.—The State report card shall be—

“(i) concise; and

“(ii) presented in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language that the parents can understand.

“(C) REQUIRED INFORMATION.—The State shall include in its annual State report card—

“(i) information, in the aggregate, and disaggregated and cross-tabulated by the same major groups as the decennial census of the population, ethnicity, gender, disability status, migrant status, English proficiency, and status as economically disadvantaged, except that such disaggregation and cross-tabulation shall not be required in a case in which the number of students in a category is insufficient to yield statistically reliable information or the results would reveal personally identifiable information about an individual student on—

“(I) student achievement at each achievement level on the State academic assess-

ments described in subsection (b)(3), including the most recent 2-year trend;

“(II) student growth on the State academic assessments described in subsection (b)(3), including the most-recent 2-year trend;

“(III) the four-year adjusted cohort rate, the extended-year graduation rate (where applicable), and the graduation rate by type of diploma, including the most recent 2-year trend;

“(IV) data on the State established equity indicators under subsection (c)(1)(C);

“(V) the percentage of students who did not take the State assessments; and

“(VI) the most recent 2-year trend in student achievement and student growth in each subject area and for each grade level, for which assessments under this section are required;

“(ii) information that provides a comparison between the actual achievement levels and growth of each group of students described in subsection (c)(3)(A) and the performance targets and growth targets in subsection (c)(2) for each such group of students on each of the academic assessments and for graduation rates required under this part;

“(iii) if a State adopts alternate achievement standards for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, the number and percentage of students taking the alternate assessments and information on student achievement at each achievement level and student growth, by grade and subject;

“(iv) the number of students who are English learners, and the performance of such students, on the State’s English language proficiency assessments, including the students’ attainment of, and progress toward, higher levels of English language proficiency;

“(v) information on the performance of local educational agencies in the State regarding school improvement, including the number and names of each school identified for school improvement under section 1116 and information on the outcomes of the equity indicators outlined in section 1111(c)(1)(C);

“(vi) the professional qualifications of teachers in the State, the percentage of such teachers teaching with emergency or provisional credentials, and the percentage of classes in the State not taught by qualified teachers, in the aggregate and disaggregated by high-poverty compared to low-poverty schools which, for the purpose of this clause, means schools in the top quartile of poverty and the bottom quartile of poverty in the State;

“(vii) information on teacher effectiveness, as determined by the State, in the aggregate and disaggregated by high-poverty compared to low-poverty schools which, for the purpose of this clause, means schools in the top quartile of poverty and the bottom quartile of poverty in the State;

“(viii) a clear and concise description of the State’s accountability system, including a description of the criteria by which the State educational agency evaluates school performance consistent with subsection (c), and the criteria that the State educational agency has established, consistent with section 1116(a), to determine the status of schools with respect to school improvement; and

“(ix) outcomes related to quality charter authorizing standards as described in subsection (d)(1)(I), including, at a minimum, annual filing as described in subsection (d)(1)(I)(ii)(I).

“(2) ANNUAL LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY REPORT CARDS.—

“(A) REPORT CARDS.—A local educational agency that receives assistance under this part shall prepare and disseminate an annual local educational agency report card.

“(B) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.—The State educational agency shall ensure that each local educational agency collects appropriate data and includes in the local educational agency’s annual report the information described in paragraph (1)(C) as applied to the local educational agency and each school served by the local educational agency, and—

“(i) in the case of a local educational agency—

“(I) the number and percentage of schools identified for school improvement under section 1116 and how long the schools have been so identified; and

“(II) information that shows how students served by the local educational agency achieved on the statewide academic assessment compared to students in the State as a whole;

“(III) per-pupil expenditures from Federal, State, and local sources, including personnel and nonpersonnel resources, for each school in the local educational agency, consistent with the requirements under section 1120A;

“(IV) the number and percentage of secondary school students who have been removed from the 4-year adjusted cohort by leaver code, and the number and percentage of students from each adjusted cohort that have been enrolled in high school for more than 4 years but have not graduated with a regular diploma; and

“(V) information on the number of military-connected students (students who are a dependent of a member of the Armed Forces, including reserve components thereof) served by the local educational agency and how such military-dependent students achieved on the statewide academic assessment compared to all students served by the local educational agency; and

“(ii) in the case of a school—

“(I) whether the school has been identified for school improvement; and

“(II) information that shows how the school’s students achievement on the statewide academic assessments and other improvement indicators compared to students in the local educational agency and the State as a whole.

“(C) OTHER INFORMATION.—A local educational agency may include in its annual local educational agency report card any other appropriate information, whether or not such information is included in the annual State report card.

“(D) DATA.—A local educational agency or school shall only include in its annual local educational agency report card data that are sufficient to yield statistically reliable information, as determined by the State, and that do not reveal personally identifiable information about an individual student.

“(E) PUBLIC DISSEMINATION.—The local educational agency shall publicly disseminate the report cards described in this paragraph to all schools in the school district served by the local educational agency and to all parents of students attending those schools in an accessible, understandable, and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language that the parents can understand, and make the information widely available through public means, such as posting on the Internet, distribution to the media, and distribution through public agencies.

“(3) PREEXISTING REPORT CARDS.—A State educational agency or local educational

agency that was providing public report cards on the performance of students, schools, local educational agencies, or the State prior to the date of enactment of the Student Success Act may use those report cards for the purpose of this subsection, so long as any such report card is modified, as may be needed, to contain the information required by this subsection.

“(4) COST REDUCTION.—Each State educational agency and local educational agency receiving assistance under this part shall, wherever possible, take steps to reduce data collection costs and duplication of effort by obtaining the information required under this subsection through existing data collection efforts.

“(5) ANNUAL STATE REPORT TO THE SECRETARY.—Each State educational agency receiving assistance under this part shall report annually to the Secretary, and make widely available within the State—

“(A) information on the State’s progress in developing and implementing

“(i) the college and career ready standards described in subsection (b)(2);

“(ii) the academic assessments described in subsection (b)(3); and

“(iii) the accountability and school improvement system described in subsection (c); and

“(B) the annual State report card under paragraph (1).

“(6) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall transmit annually to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report that provides national and State-level data on the information collected under paragraph (5).

“(7) PARENTS’ RIGHT-TO-KNOW.—

“(A) ACHIEVEMENT INFORMATION.—At the beginning of each school year, a school that receives funds under this subpart shall provide to each individual parent—

“(i) information on the level of achievement and growth of the parent’s child on each of the State academic assessments and, as appropriate, other improvement indicators adopted in accordance with this subpart; and

“(ii) timely notice that the parent’s child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who is not qualified or has been found to be ineffective, as determined by the State or local educational agency.

“(B) QUALIFICATIONS.—At the beginning of each school year, a local educational agency that receives funds under this part shall notify the parents of each student attending any school receiving funds under this part, information regarding the professional qualifications of the student’s classroom teachers, including, at a minimum, the following:

“(i) Whether the teacher has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.

“(ii) Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.

“(iii) Whether the teacher is currently enrolled in an alternative certification program.

“(iv) Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals or specialized instructional support personnel and, if so, their qualifications.

“(C) ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES.—At the beginning of each school year, a local educational agency that receives funds under

this part shall notify the parents of each student attending any school receiving funds under this part, of information regarding whether and to what extent schools are meeting the equity indicators described in subsection (c)(1)(C), including whether such schools are meeting the needs of subgroups of students.

“(D) FORMAT.—The notice and information provided to parents under this paragraph shall be in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language that the parents can understand.

“(j) PRIVACY.—Information collected under this section shall be collected and disseminated in a manner that protects the privacy of individuals.

“(k) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall provide a State educational agency, at the State educational agency’s request, technical assistance in meeting the requirements of this section, including the provision of advice by experts in the development of college and career ready standards, high-quality academic assessments, and goals and targets that are valid and reliable, and other relevant areas.

“(l) VOLUNTARY PARTNERSHIPS.—A State may enter into a voluntary partnership with another State to develop and implement the academic assessments and standards required under this section.

“(m) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) ADJUSTED COHORT; EXTENDED-YEAR; ENTERING COHORT; TRANSFERRED INTO; TRANSFERRED OUT.—

“(A) ADJUSTED COHORT.—Subject to subparagraph (D)(ii) through (G), the term ‘adjusted cohort’ means the difference of—

“(i) the sum of—

“(I) the entering cohort; plus

“(II) any students that transferred into the cohort in any of grades 9 through 12; minus

“(ii) any students that are removed from the cohort as described in subparagraph (E).

“(B) EXTENDED YEAR.—The term ‘extended year’ when used with respect to a graduation rate, means the fifth or sixth year after the school year in which the entering cohort, as described in subparagraph (C), is established for the purpose of calculating the adjusted cohort.

“(C) ENTERING COHORT.—The term ‘entering cohort’ means the number of first-time 9th graders enrolled in a secondary school 1 month after the start of the secondary school’s academic year.

“(D) TRANSFERRED INTO.—The term ‘transferred into’ when used with respect to a secondary school student, means a student who—

“(i) was a first-time 9th grader during the same school year as the entering cohort; and

“(ii) enrolls after the entering cohort is calculated as described in subparagraph (B).

“(E) TRANSFERRED OUT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘transferred out’ when used with respect to a secondary school student, means a student who the secondary school or local educational agency has confirmed has transferred to another—

“(I) school from which the student is expected to receive a regular secondary school diploma; or

“(II) educational program from which the student is expected to receive a regular secondary school diploma.

“(ii) CONFIRMATION REQUIREMENTS.—

“(I) DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED.—The confirmation of a student’s transfer to another school or educational program described in clause (i) requires documentation from the receiving school or program that the student enrolled in the receiving school or program.

“(II) LACK OF CONFIRMATION.—A student who was enrolled, but for whom there is no confirmation of the student having transferred out, shall remain in the cohort as a non-graduate for reporting and accountability purposes under this section.

“(iii) PROGRAMS NOT PROVIDING CREDIT.—A student enrolled in a GED or other alternative educational program that does not issue or provide credit toward the issuance of a regular secondary school diploma shall not be considered transferred out.

“(F) COHORT REMOVAL.—To remove a student from a cohort, a school or local educational agency shall require documentation to confirm that the student has transferred out, emigrated to another country, or is deceased.

“(G) TREATMENT OF OTHER LEAVERS AND WITHDRAWALS.—A student who was retained in a grade, enrolled in a GED program, aged out of a secondary school or secondary school program, or left secondary school for any other reason, including expulsion, shall not be considered transferred out, and shall remain in the adjusted cohort.

“(H) SPECIAL RULE.—For those secondary schools that start after grade 9, the entering cohort shall be calculated 1 month after the start of the secondary school's academic year in the earliest secondary school grade at the secondary school.

“(2) 4-YEAR ADJUSTED COHORT GRADUATION RATE.—The term ‘4-year adjusted cohort graduation rate’ means the percent obtained by calculating the product of—

“(A) the result of—

“(i) the number of students who—

“(I) formed the adjusted cohort 4 years earlier; and

“(II) graduate in 4 years or less with a regular secondary school diploma; divided by

“(ii) the number of students who formed the adjusted cohort for that year's graduating class 4 years earlier; multiplied by

“(B) 100.

“(3) EXTENDED-YEAR GRADUATION RATE.—The term ‘extended-year graduation rate’ for a school year is defined as the percent obtained by calculating the product of the result of—

“(A) the sum of—

“(i) the number of students who—

“(I) form the adjusted cohort for that year's graduating class; and

“(II) graduate in an extended year with a regular secondary school diploma; or

“(III) graduate before exceeding the age for eligibility for a free appropriate public education (as defined in section 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) under State law; divided by

“(ii) the result of—

“(I) the number of students who form the adjusted cohort for that year's graduating class; plus

“(II) the number of students who transferred in during the extended year defined in paragraph (1)(B), minus

“(III) students who transferred out, emigrated, or died during the extended year defined in paragraph (1)(B); multiplied by

“(B) 100.

“(4) LEAVER CODE.—The term ‘leaver code’ means a number or series of numbers and letters assigned to a categorical reason for why a student left the high school from which she or he is enrolled without having earned a regular high school diploma, except that—

“(A) an individual student with either a duplicative code or whom has not been assigned a leaver code shall not be removed from the cohort assigned for the purpose of

calculating the adjusted cohort graduation rate; and

“(B) the number of students with either a duplicative leaver code or who have not been assigned a leaver code shall be included in reporting requirements for the leaver code.

“(5) MULTI-TIER SYSTEM OF SUPPORTS.—The term ‘multi-tier system of supports’ means a comprehensive system of differentiated supports that includes evidence-based instruction, universal screening, progress monitoring, formative assessment, and research-based interventions matched to student needs, and educational decision-making using student outcome data.

“(6) GRADUATION RATE.—The term ‘graduation rate’ means a 4-year adjusted cohort graduation rate and the extended-year graduation rate.

“(7) REGULAR SECONDARY SCHOOL DIPLOMA.—

“(A) The term ‘regular secondary school diploma’ means standard secondary school diploma awarded to the preponderance of students in the State that is fully aligned with the State's college and career ready achievement standards as described under subsection (b)(4), or a higher diploma. Such term shall not include GED's, certificates of attendance, or any lesser diploma awards.

“(B) If a State adopts different paths to the regular secondary school diploma, such different paths shall—

“(i) be available to all students in the State;

“(ii) be equally rigorous in their requirements; and

“(iii) signify that a student is prepared for college or a career without the need for remediation.”.

SEC. 104. ELIGIBLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREAS.

Section 1113(c)(3) (20 U.S.C. 6313(c)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) RESERVATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A local educational agency shall reserve such funds as are necessary under this part to provide services comparable to those provided to children in schools funded under this part to serve—

“(i) homeless children who are attending any public school served by the local educational agency, including providing educationally related support services to children in shelters and other locations where children may live;

“(ii) children in local institutions for neglected children;

“(iii) if appropriate, children in local institutions for delinquent children, and neglected or delinquent children in community day school programs; and

“(iv) children in foster care (as defined by section 1442(1)), including providing points of contact (as described in section 1441(d)) in local educational agencies for child welfare agencies and children in foster care.

“(B) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding the requirements of subsections (b) and (c) of section 1120A, funds reserved under subparagraph (A) may be used to provide homeless children and youths with services not ordinarily provided to other students under this part, including providing transportation pursuant to section 722(g)(1)(J)(iii) of such Act.

“(C) AMOUNT RESERVED.—The amount of funds reserved under subparagraph (A)(i) shall be determined by an assessment of the numbers and the needs of homeless children and youths in the local educational agency.”.

SEC. 105. ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT AND LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT; SCHOOL SUPPORT AND RECOGNITION.

Section 1116 (20 U.S.C. 6316) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 1116. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT.

“(a) LOCAL REVIEW.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each local educational agency receiving funds under this part shall—

“(A) use the State academic assessments, including measures of student growth and graduation rates, and data on the state-established equity indicators described in section 1111(c)(1)(C) and the differentiation described in section 1111(c)(1)(D) to review, annually, the progress of each school served under this part, and consistent with the parameters described in paragraph (2), to assist the State in determining whether the school is—

“(i) meeting performance targets, growth targets, and graduation rate targets established under section 1111(c)(2); and

“(ii) making progress to address school challenges identified using the state-established equity indicators described in section 1111(c)(1)(C);

“(B) based on the review conducted under subparagraph (A), assist the State in determining whether a school served under this part is—

“(i) in need of support as described under section 1111(c)(1)(E)(ii); or

“(ii) a high priority school that meets the State-established parameters under paragraph (2);

“(C) publicize and disseminate the results of the local annual review described in subparagraph (A) to parents, teachers, principals, schools, and the community so that the teachers, principals, other staff, and schools can improve instruction to help all children served under this part meet the college and career ready achievement standards established under section 1111(b); and

“(D) use the equity indicators established under section 1111(c)(1)(C) to diagnose school challenges and measure school progress in carrying out the school improvement activities under this section.

“(2) HIGH PRIORITY SCHOOLS.—The State educational agency shall establish parameters to identify high priority schools within the local educational agency that—

“(A) for elementary schools—

“(i) shall use student achievement on the assessments required under section 1111(b)(3), including prior year data;

“(ii) shall use student growth data on the assessments under section 1111(b)(3), including prior year data; and

“(iii) shall use, to a lesser extent than each of the parameters established in clauses (i) and (ii), data on the equity indicators established under section 1111(c)(1)(C); and

“(B) for secondary schools—

“(i) shall use student achievement on the assessments required under section 1111(b)(3), including prior year data;

“(ii) shall use student growth data on the assessments under section 1111(b)(3), including prior year data;

“(iii) shall use graduation rate data, including prior year data; and

“(iv) shall use, to a lesser extent than each of the parameters established in clauses (i) through clause (iii), data on the equity indicators established under section 1111(c)(1)(C); or

“(v) shall include schools with 4-year adjusted cohort graduation rates below 67 percent as high priority schools.

“(b) SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each school served under this part determined to be a school in need of support pursuant to section 1111(c)(1)(C)(ii) or a high-priority school pursuant to 1111(c)(1)(C)(i), shall form a school improvement team described in paragraph (2) to develop and implement a school improvement plan described in paragraph (3) to improve educational outcomes for all students and address existing resource inequities.

“(2) SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT TEAM.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each school described in paragraph (1) shall form a school improvement team, which shall include school leaders, teachers, parents, community members, and specialized instructional support personnel.

“(B) SCHOOLS IN NEED OF SUPPORT.—Each school improvement team for a school in need of support may include an external partner and representatives of the local educational agency and the State educational agency.

“(C) HIGH-PRIORITY SCHOOLS.—Each school improvement team for a high-priority school shall include an external partner and representatives of the local educational agency and the State educational agency.

“(3) SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A school improvement team shall develop, implement, and make publicly available a school improvement plan that uses information available under the accountability and school improvement system established under section 1111(c), data available under the early warning indicator system established under subsection (c)(5), data on the improvement indicators established under section 1111(c)(1)(D), and other relevant data to identify—

“(i) each area in which the school needs support for improvement;

“(ii) the type of support required;

“(iii) how the school plans to use comprehensive, evidence-based strategies to address such needs;

“(iv) how the school will measure progress in addressing such needs using the goals and targets and improvement indicators established under paragraphs (2) and (1)(D) of section 1111(c), respectively, and identify which of the goals and targets are not currently being met by the school; and

“(v) how the school will review its progress and make adjustments and corrections to ensure continuous improvement.

“(B) PLANNING PERIOD.—The school improvement team may use a planning period, which shall not be longer than one school year to develop and prepare to implement the school improvement plan.

“(C) PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—Each school improvement plan shall describe the following:

“(i) PLANNING AND PREPARATION.—The activities during the planning period, including—

“(I) the preparation activities conducted to effectively implement the budgeting, staffing, curriculum, and instruction changes described in the plan; and

“(II) how the school improvement team engaged parents and community organizations.

“(ii) TARGETS.—The performance, growth, and graduation rate targets that contributed to the school's status as a school in need of support or high-priority school, and the school challenges identified by the school improvement indicators under section 1111(c)(1)(D).

“(iii) EVIDENCE-BASED, SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES.—Evidence-based, school improvement strategies to address the factors and challenges described in clause (ii), to improve instruction, including in all core

academic subjects, to improve the achievement of all students and address the needs of students identified at the catch-up level of achievement.

“(iv) NEEDS AND CAPACITY ANALYSIS.—A description and analysis of the school's ability and the resources necessary to implement the evidence-based, school improvement strategies identified under clause (iii), including an analysis of—

“(I) staffing resources, such as the number, experience, training level, effectiveness as determined by the State or local educational agency, responsibilities, and stability of existing administrative, instructional, and non-instructional staff;

“(II) budget resources, including how Federal, State, and local funds are being spent for instruction and operations to determine how existing resources can be aligned and used to support improvement;

“(III) the school curriculum;

“(IV) the use of time, such as the school's schedule and use of additional learning time; and

“(V) any additional resources and staff necessary to effectively implement the school improvement activities identified in the school improvement plan.

“(v) IDENTIFYING ROLES.—The roles and responsibilities of the State educational agency, the local educational agency, the school and, if applicable, the external partner in the school improvement activities, including providing interventions, support, and resources necessary to implement improvements.

“(vi) PLAN FOR EVALUATION.—The plan for continuous evaluation of the evidence-based, school improvement strategies, including implementation of and fidelity to the school improvement plan, that includes at least quarterly reviews of the effectiveness of such activities.

“(D) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR HIGH-PRIORITY SCHOOLS.—For a persistently-low achieving school, the school improvement plan shall, in addition to the requirements described in subparagraph (B), describe how the school will—

“(i) address school-wide factors to improve student achievement, including—

“(I) establishing high expectations for all students, which at a minimum, align with the achievement standards and growth standards under section 1111(b)(4);

“(II) improving school climate, including student attendance and school discipline, through the use of school-wide positive behavioral supports and interventions and other evidence based approaches to improving school climate;

“(III) ensuring that the staff charged with implementing the school improvement plan are engaged in the plan and the school turnaround effort;

“(IV) establishing clear—

“(aa) benchmarks for implementation of the plan; and

“(bb) targets for improvement on the equity indicators under section 1111(c)(1)(C);

“(ii) organize the school to improve teaching and learning, including through—

“(I) strategic use of time, such as—

“(aa) establishing common planning time for teachers and interdisciplinary teams who share common groups of students;

“(bb) redesigning the school calendar year or day, such as through block scheduling, summer learning programs, or increasing the number of hours or days, in order to create additional learning time; or

“(cc) creating a flexible school period to address specific student academic needs and

interests such as credit recovery, electives, enrichment activities, or service learning; and

“(II) alignment of resources to improvement goals, such as through ensuring that students in transition grades are taught by teachers prepared to meet their specific learning needs;

“(iii) increase teacher and school leader effectiveness, as determined by the State or local educational agency, including through—

“(I) demonstrating the principal has the skills, capacity, and record of success to significantly improve student achievement and lead a school turnaround, which may include replacing the principal;

“(II) improving the recruitment and retention of qualified and effective teachers and school leaders, as determined by the State or local educational agency, to work in the school;

“(III) professional development activities that respond to student and school-wide needs aligned with the school improvement plan, such as—

“(aa) training teachers, school leaders, and other administrators together with staff from schools making achievement goals and performance targets under the accountability system under section 1111(c) that serve similar populations and in such schools;

“(bb) establishing peer learning and coaching among teachers; or

“(cc) facilitating collaboration, including through professional communities across subject area and interdisciplinary groups and similar schools;

“(IV) appropriately identifying teachers for each grade and course; and

“(V) the development of effective leadership structures, supports, and clear decision making processes, such as through developing distributive leadership and leadership teams;

“(iv) improve curriculum and instruction, including through—

“(I) demonstrating the relevance of the curriculum and learning for all students, including instruction in all core academic subjects, and may include the use of online course-work as long as such course-work meets standards of quality and best practices for online education;

“(II) increasing access to rigorous and advanced course-work, including adoption and implementation of a college- and career-ready curriculum, and evidence-based, engaging instructional materials aligned with such a curriculum, for all students;

“(III) increasing access to contextualized learning opportunities aligned with readiness for postsecondary education and the workforce, such as providing—

“(aa) work-based, project-based, and service-learning opportunities; or

“(bb) a high-quality, college preparatory curriculum in the context of a rigorous career and technical education core;

“(IV) regularly collecting and using data to inform instruction, such as—

“(aa) through use of formative assessments;

“(bb) creating and using common grading rubrics; or

“(cc) identifying effective instructional approaches to meet student needs; and

“(V) emphasizing core skills instruction, such as literacy, across content areas;

“(v) provide students with academic and social support to address individual student learning needs, including through—

“(I) ensuring access to services and expertise of specialized instructional support personnel;

“(II) supporting students at the catch-up level of achievement who need intensive intervention;

“(III) increasing personalization of the school experience through learning structures that facilitate the development of student and staff relationships;

“(IV) offering extended-learning, credit recovery, mentoring, or tutoring options of sufficient scale to meet student needs;

“(V) providing evidence-based, accelerated learning for students with academic skill levels below grade level;

“(VI) coordinating and increasing access to integrated services, such as providing specialized instructional support personnel;

“(VII) providing transitional support between grade-spans, including postsecondary planning.

“(VIII) meeting the diverse learning needs of all students through strategies such as a multi-tier system of supports and universal design for learning, as described in section 5429(b)(21); and

“(IX) engaging families and community partners, including community-based organizations, organizations representing underserved populations, Indian tribes (as appropriate), organizations assisting parent involvement, institutions of higher education, and businesses, in school improvement activities through evidence-based strategies.

“(E) SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL.—The school improvement team shall submit the school improvement plan to the local educational agency or the State educational agency, as determined by the State educational agency based on the local educational agency’s ability to effectively monitor and support the school improvement activities. Upon receiving the plan, the local educational agency or the State educational agency, as appropriate, shall—

“(i) establish a peer review process to assist with review of the school improvement plan; and

“(ii) promptly review the plan, work with the school improvement team as necessary, and approve the plan if the plan meets the requirements of this paragraph.

“(F) REVISION OF PLAN.—A school improvement team may revise the school improvement plan as additional information and data is available.

“(G) IMPLEMENTATION.—A school with the support and assistance of the local educational agency shall implement the school improvement plan expeditiously, but not later than the beginning of the next full school year after identification for improvement.

“(4) EVALUATION OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—

“(i) REVIEW.—The State educational agency or local educational agency, as determined by the State in accordance with paragraph (3)(D) shall, annually, review data with respect to each school in need of support and each high-priority school to set clear benchmarks for progress, to guide adjustments and corrections, to evaluate whether the supports and interventions identified within the school improvement plan are effective and the school is meeting the targets for improvement established under its such plan, and to specify what actions ensue for schools not making progress.

“(ii) DATA.—In carrying out the annual review under clause (i), the school, the local educational agency, or State educational agency shall measure progress on—

“(I) student achievement, student growth, and graduation rates against the goals and targets established under section 1111(c)(2); and

“(II) equity indicators as established under section 1111(c)(1)(C).

“(B) SCHOOLS IN NEED OF SUPPORT.—If, after 3 years of implementing its school improvement plan, a school in need of support does not meet the goals and targets under section 1111(c)(2) that were identified under the school improvement plan as not being met by the school and the equity indicators established under section 1111(c)(1)(C), then—

“(i) the local educational agency shall evaluate school performance and other data, and provide intensive assistance to that school in order to improve the effectiveness of the interventions; and

“(ii) the State educational agency or the local educational agency, as determined by the State, shall determine whether the school shall partner with an external partner—

“(I) to revise the school improvement plan; and

“(II) to improve, and as appropriate, revise, school improvement strategies that meet the requirements of paragraph (3)(B)(iii).

“(C) HIGH PRIORITY SCHOOLS.—If, after 3 years of implementing its school improvement plan, a high priority school does not demonstrate progress on the goals and targets under section 1111(c)(2) that were identified under the school improvement plan as not being met by the school or the equity indicators established under section 1111(c)(1)(C), then the local educational agency, in collaboration with the State educational agency, will take steps to ensure more rigorous evidence-based interventions are implemented, which may include partnering with an external partner with demonstrated results improving schools.

“(D) HIGH PRIORITY SCHOOL.—If, after 5 years of implementing its school improvement plan, a high priority school does not demonstrate progress on the goals and targets under section 1111(c)(2) that were identified under the school improvement plan as not being met by the school and the equity indicators established under section 1111(c)(1)(C), then—

“(i) the local educational agency, in collaboration with the State educational agency, shall determine actionable next steps which may include school closure, replacement, or State take-over of such school, shall provide all students enrolled with new high-quality educational options;

“(ii) the local educational agency, and as appropriate the State educational agency, shall develop and implement a plan to assist with any resulting transition of the school under clause (i) that—

“(I) is developed in consultation with parents and the community;

“(II) addresses the needs of the students at the school by considering strategies such as—

“(aa) opening a new school;

“(bb) graduating out current students and closing the school in stages; and

“(cc) enrolling the students who attended the school in other schools in the local educational agency that are higher achieving, provided the other schools are within reasonable proximity to the closed school and ensures receiving schools have the capacity to enroll incoming students; and

“(III) provides information about high-quality educational options and transition and support services to students who attended that school and their parents.

“(c) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.—A local educational agency served by this part, in supporting the schools identified as a school in need of support or a high-priority school served by the agency, shall—

“(1) address resource inequities to improve student achievement by—

“(A) targeting resources and support to those schools identified as high priority or as in need of support, including additional resources and staff necessary to implement the school improvement plan, as described in subsection (b)(3)(C)(iv)(V), and

“(B) ensuring the local educational agency budget calendar is aligned with school staff and budgeting needs;

“(2) address local educational agency-wide factors to improve student achievement by—

“(A) supporting the use of data to improve teaching and learning through—

“(i) improving longitudinal data systems;

“(ii) regularly analyzing and disseminating usable data to educators, parents, and students;

“(iii) building the data and assessment literacy of teachers and principals; and

“(iv) evaluating at kindergarten entry the kindergarten readiness of children and addressing the educational and development needs determined by such evaluation;

“(B) addressing school transition needs of the local educational agency by—

“(i) using kindergarten readiness data to consider improving access to high-quality early education opportunities; and

“(ii) providing targeted research-based interventions to middle schools that feed into high schools identified for school improvement under this section;

“(C) supporting human capital systems that ensure there is a sufficient pool of qualified and effective teachers and school leaders, as determined by the State or local educational agency, to work in schools served by the local educational agency;

“(D) developing support for school improvement plans among key stakeholders such as parents and families, community groups representing underserved populations, Indian tribes (as appropriate), educators, and teachers;

“(E) carrying out administrative duties under this section, including evaluation for school improvement and technical assistance for schools; and

“(F) coordinating activities under this section with other relevant State and local agencies, as appropriate;

“(3) supporting professional development activities for teachers, school leaders, and specialized instructional support personnel aligned to school improvement activities;

“(4) address curriculum and instruction factors to improve student achievement by—

“(A) ensuring curriculum alignment with the State’s early learning standards and postsecondary education programs;

“(B) providing academically rigorous education options such as—

“(i) effective dropout prevention, credit and dropout recovery and recuperative education programs for disconnected youth and students who are not making sufficient progress to graduate high school in the standard number of years or who have dropped out of high school;

“(ii) providing students with postsecondary learning opportunities, such as through access to a relevant curriculum or course of study that enables a student to earn a secondary school diploma and—

“(I) an associate’s degree; or

“(II) not more than 2 years of transferable credit toward a postsecondary degree or credential;

“(iii) integrating rigorous academic education with career training, including training that leads to postsecondary credentials for students;

“(iv) increasing access to Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses and examinations; or

“(v) developing and utilizing innovative, high quality distance learning strategies to improve student academic achievement; and

“(C) considering how technology can be used to support school improvement activities;

“(5) address student support factors to improve student achievement by—

“(A) establishing an early warning indicator system to identify students who are at risk of dropping out of high school and to guide preventive and recuperative school improvement strategies, including—

“(i) identifying and analyzing the academic risk factors that most reliably predict dropouts by using longitudinal data of past cohorts of students;

“(ii) identifying specific indicators of student progress and performance, such as attendance, academic performance in core courses, and credit accumulation, to guide decision making;

“(iii) identifying or developing a mechanism for regularly collecting and analyzing data about the impact of interventions on the indicators of student progress and performance; and

“(iv) analyzing academic indicators to determine whether students are on track to graduate secondary school in the standard numbers of years; and

“(B) identifying and implementing strategies for pairing academic support with integrated student services and case-managed interventions for students requiring intensive supports which may include partnerships with other external partners;

“(6) promote family outreach and engagement in school improvement activities, including those required by section 1118, to improve student achievement;

“(7) for each school identified for school improvement, ensure the provision of technical assistance as the school develops and implements the school improvement plan throughout the plan's duration; and

“(8) identify school improvement strategies that are consistently improving student outcomes and disseminate those strategies so that all schools can implement them.

“(d) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.—A State educational agency served by this part, in supporting schools identified as a school in need of support or a high-priority school and the local educational agencies serving such schools, shall—

“(1) assess and address local capacity constraints to ensure that its local educational agencies can meet the requirements of this section;

“(2) target resources and support to those schools in the State that are identified as a school in need of support or a high-priority school and to local educational agencies serving such schools, including additional resources necessary to implement the school improvement plan as described in subsection (b)(3)(C)(iv)(V);

“(3) provide support and technical assistance, including assistance to school leaders, teachers, and other staff, to assist local educational agencies and schools in using data to support school equity and in addressing

the equity indicators described in section 1111(c)(1)(C);

“(4) identify school improvement strategies that are consistently improving student outcomes and disseminate those strategies so that all schools can implement them;

“(5) leverage resources from other funding sources, such as school improvement funds, technology funds, and professional development funds to support school improvement activities;

“(6) provide a statewide system of support, including regional support services, to improve teaching, learning, and student outcomes;

“(7) assist local educational agencies in developing early warning indicator systems;

“(8) with respect to schools that will work with external partners to improve student achievement—

“(A) develop and apply objective criteria to potential external partners that are based on a demonstrated record of effectiveness in school improvement;

“(B) maintain an updated list of approved external partners across the State;

“(C) develop, implement, and publicly report on standards and techniques for monitoring the quality and effectiveness of the services offered by approved external partners, and for withdrawing approval from external partners that fail to improve high-priority schools; and

“(D) may identify external partners as approved, consistent with the requirements under paragraph (7), who agree to provide services on the basis of receiving payments only when student achievement has increased at an appropriate level as determined by the State educational agency and school improvement team under subsection (b)(2); and

“(9) carry out administrative duties under this section, including providing monitoring and technical assistance to local educational agencies and schools.

“(e) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed—

“(1) to alter or otherwise affect the rights, remedies, and procedures afforded school or local educational agency employees under Federal, State, or local laws (including applicable regulations or court orders) or under the terms of collective bargaining agreements, memoranda of understanding, or other agreements between such employees and their employers;

“(2) to require a child to participate in an early learning program; or

“(3) to deny entry to kindergarten for any individual if the individual is legally eligible, as defined by State or local law.

“(f) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘external partner’ means an entity—

“(1) that is an organization such as a non-profit organization, community-based organization, local education fund, service organization, educational service agency, or institution of higher education; and

“(2) that has demonstrated expertise, effectiveness, and a record of success in providing evidence-based strategies and targeted support such as data analysis, professional development, or provision of nonacademic support and integrated student services to local educational agencies, schools, or students that leads to improved teaching, learning, and outcomes for students.”.

SEC. 106. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT.

(a) PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT.—Section 1118 (20 U.S.C. 6318) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (a) through (h) as subsections (b) through (i), respectively; and

(2) by inserting before subsection (b), as redesignated by paragraph (1), the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Each local educational agency and each school receiving funds under this part shall develop policies and practices for family engagement in education that meet the following principles and standards for family-school partnerships:

“(1) Welcome all families to be active participants in the life of the school, so that they feel valued and connected to each other, school staff, and student learning.

“(2) Communicate effectively by ensuring regular two-way, meaningful communication between family members and local educational agency and school staff in a manner, language, and with technology that family members can understand and access.

“(3) Support student success by fostering continuous collaboration between family members and local educational agency and school staff to support student learning and healthy student development at school and at home.

“(4) Speak up for every child and empower family members to be advocates for all students within the school.

“(5) Ensure that family members, local educational agencies, and school staff are equal partners in family engagement in education decisionmaking.

“(6) Collaborate with community organizations and groups to turn the school into a hub of community life.

“(7) Create a continuum of family engagement in education in student learning and development from birth to young adulthood.

“(8) Train and support superintendents, principals, teachers, and specialized instructional support personnel to fully engage families in the education of their children.”.

(b) WRITTEN POLICY.—Section 1118(b)(2), as redesignated by subsection (a), is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “subsection (e)” and inserting “subsection (f)”;

(2) in subparagraph (E), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(3) in subparagraph (F), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(G) participate in evaluations of the effectiveness of family engagement in education strategies and policies; and

“(H) participate in developing recommendations for creating a positive school climate and safe and healthy schools.”.

(c) RESERVATION.—Section 1118(b)(3)(A), as redesignated by subsection (a), is amended to read as follows:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each local educational agency shall reserve not less than 2 percent of its allocation under subpart 2 to carry out this section, except that this subparagraph shall not apply if 2 percent is such agency's allocation under subpart 2 for the fiscal year for which the determination is made is \$10,000 or less.”.

(d) DISTRIBUTION.—Section 1118(b)(3)(C), as redesignated by subsection (a), is amended to read as follows:

“(C) DISTRIBUTION.—Not more than 20 percent of the funds reserved under subparagraph (A) shall be available for local educational agency programming and technical assistance to schools served under this part.”.

(e) RESERVED FUNDS.—Section 1118(b)(3), as redesignated by subsection (a), is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (c) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

“(B) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds reserved under subparagraph (A) may be used for the following:

“(i) Increasing capacity through establishment of a dedicated office or dedicated office or dedicated personnel within the local educational agency or at the school level for family engagement in education.

“(ii) Supporting schools and nonprofit organizations in providing professional development on family engagement in education for school staff, parent leadership training, family literacy and numeracy programs, home visitation programs, family volunteerism programs, and other innovative programs that meaningfully engage families.

“(iii) Providing technical assistance and training to schools on the implementation and assessment of family engagement in education policies and practices.

“(iv) Providing additional support to schools that have been identified for improvement under section 1116(b) to assist in the implementation of family engagement in education programs.

“(v) Partnering with the Statewide Family Engagement Center and local community-based organizations to identify community resources, services, and supports to remove economic obstacles to family engagement in education by meeting families’ needs.

“(vi) Supporting schools and eligible entities in the development and implementation of research-based practices and programs that emphasize the importance of family engagement in academic success and positive development by addressing factors such as—

“(I) successful transitions from early learning to kindergarten through grade 12 settings;

“(II) improved understanding of and shared responsibility for student success;

“(III) improved understanding and use of student and school data;

“(IV) open, effective communication between schools and families;

“(V) early warning indicators that a student is at risk of not graduating on time;

“(VI) improved understanding of State and local accountability systems, academic standards and student assessments;

“(VII) parent and community advocacy to increase parent participation;

“(VIII) improved understanding of the parents’ role in academic, social, and financial preparation for postsecondary education, including career and technical education.

“(vii) Assisting schools in the development, implementation, and assessment of family engagement in education plans.

“(viii) Monitoring and evaluating the family engagement in education in education policies and practices funded under this section.

“(ix) Supporting other activities approved in the local educational agency’s plan for improving family engagement in education.”

(f) SCHOOL PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY.—Section 1118(c)(1), as redesignated by subsection (a), is amended in the first sentence by striking “subsections (c) through (f)” and inserting “subsections (d) through (g)”.

(g) SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIGH STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT.—Section 1118(e), as redesignated by subsection (a), is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “subsection (b)” and inserting “subsection (c)”; and

(2) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) describe the school’s responsibility to—

“(A) provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the children served under this part to meet the State’s student academic achievement standards, and the ways in which parents and families will support their children’s learning, such as—

“(i) monitoring attendance and homework completion;

“(ii) volunteering in their child’s classroom or school; and

“(iii) participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time; and

“(B) engage families in the development of recommendations for student attendance, expectations, behavior, and school safety, including the development of reasonable disciplinary policies and interventions, such as the implementation of school-wide positive behavior interventions and supports and the phase-out of out-of-school suspension and expulsion and to address bullying and harassment; and”.

SEC. 107. PARAPROFESSIONALS.

Section 1119 (20 U.S.C. 6319) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (c) through (g) and inserting the following:

“(c) PARAPROFESSIONALS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each local educational agency receiving assistance under this part shall ensure that all paraprofessionals working in a program supported with funds under this part shall have—

“(A) completed at least 2 years of study at an institution of higher education;

“(B) obtained an associate’s (or higher) degree; or

“(C) met a rigorous standard of quality and can demonstrate, through a formal State or local academic assessment—

“(i) knowledge of, and the ability to assist in instructing, reading, writing, and mathematics; or

“(ii) knowledge of, and the ability to assist in instructing, reading readiness, writing readiness, and mathematics readiness, as appropriate.

“(2) CLARIFICATION.—The receipt of a secondary school diploma (or its recognized equivalent) shall be necessary but not sufficient to satisfy the requirements of paragraph (1)(C).

“(d) EXCEPTION FOR TRANSLATION AND PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES.—Subsection (c) shall not apply to a paraprofessional—

“(1) who is proficient in English and a language other than English and who provides services primarily to enhance the participation of children in programs under this part by acting as a translator; or

“(2) whose duties consist solely of conducting parental involvement activities consistent with section 1118.

“(e) GENERAL REQUIREMENT FOR ALL PARAPROFESSIONALS.—Each local educational agency receiving assistance under this part shall ensure that all paraprofessionals working in a program supported with funds under this part, regardless of the paraprofessionals’ hiring date, have earned a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent.

“(f) DUTIES OF PARAPROFESSIONALS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each local educational agency receiving assistance under this part shall ensure that a paraprofessional working in a program supported with funds under this part is not assigned a duty inconsistent with this subsection.

“(2) RESPONSIBILITIES PARAPROFESSIONALS MAY BE ASSIGNED.—A paraprofessional described in paragraph (1) may be assigned—

“(A) to provide one-on-one tutoring for eligible students, if the tutoring is scheduled at a time when a student would not otherwise receive instruction from a teacher;

“(B) to assist with classroom management, such as organizing instructional and other materials;

“(C) to provide assistance in a computer laboratory;

“(D) to conduct parental involvement activities;

“(E) to provide support in a library or media center;

“(F) to act as a translator; or

“(G) to provide instructional services to students in accordance with paragraph (3).

“(3) ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS.—A paraprofessional described in paragraph (1)—

“(A) may not provide any instructional service to a student unless the paraprofessional is working under the direct supervision of a teacher consistent with section 1119; and

“(B) may assume limited duties that are assigned to similar personnel who are not working in a program supported with funds under this part, including duties beyond classroom instruction or that do not benefit participating children, so long as the amount of time spent on such duties is the same proportion of total work time as prevails with respect to similar personnel at the same school.”.

SEC. 108. COMPARABLE ALLOCATION OF EXPENDITURES.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Section 1120A(c) (20 U.S.C. 6321(c)) is amended to read as follows:

“(c) COMPARABLE ALLOCATION OF EXPENDITURES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) COMPARABLE FUNDING.—Not later than 5 full school years after the date of enactment the Student Success Act, except as provided in paragraphs (5), (6), and (7), a local educational agency may receive funds under this part for a fiscal year only if, for the preceding fiscal year, the combined expenditure per pupil of State and local funds, including personnel and nonpersonnel costs, in each school served under this part was at least comparable to the average combined expenditure per pupil of State and local funds, including personnel and nonpersonnel costs, across all schools served by the local educational agency that are not receiving funds under this part.

“(B) COMPARABLE FUNDING AMONG TITLE I SCHOOLS.—In any case where all of the schools served by a local educational agency receive support under this part, such agency may receive funds under this part only if, for the preceding fiscal year, the combined expenditure per pupil of State and local funds in each higher poverty school is at least comparable to the average combined expenditure per pupil of State and local funds across all lower poverty schools.

“(2) EQUIVALENCE.—A local educational agency shall be considered to have met the requirements of paragraph (1), and to be eligible to receive funds under this part, if—

“(A) such agency has filed annually with the State educational agency a school-by-school listing of per-pupil expenditures of State and local funds, as described in paragraph (1), for each school served by the agency for the preceding fiscal year; and

“(B) the listing described in subparagraph (A) demonstrates comparable allocation of per-pupil expenditures across schools as required by subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1).

“(3) BASIS.—A local educational agency may meet the requirements of paragraphs (1)

or (2) across all schools or among schools serving a particular grade span, if the local educational agency compares schools within not more than three grade spans.

“(4) REQUIREMENTS.—

“(A) REQUIREMENTS OF THE SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall issue regulations concerning the responsibilities of State educational agencies and local educational agencies for meeting the requirements of this subsection.

“(B) REQUIREMENTS OF STATES.—Each State educational agency receiving funds under this part shall—

“(i) create and distribute to local educational agencies, and make available to the public, regulations on the responsibilities of local educational agencies for meeting the requirements of this subsection; and

“(ii) submit a plan to the Secretary, required under section 1111(d)(1)(B).

“(C) REQUIREMENTS OF LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Student Success Act, each local educational agency receiving funds under this part shall develop and submit to the State educational agency a plan, which shall be made available to the public, that will ensure comparable allocation of resources as described in paragraph (1) not later than 5 full school years after the date of enactment of the Student Success Act, including information on—

“(i) a timeline and annual benchmarks for making progress toward achieving comparable allocation of resources; and

“(ii) how the local educational agency is aligning school improvement efforts described under section 1116(b) and (c), efforts to improve educator supports and working conditions described in section 2112(b)(3), and efforts to improve the equitable distribution of teachers and principals described in section 2112(b)(5), with efforts to improve the comparable allocation of resources as described in this subsection;

“(5) INAPPLICABILITY.—This subsection shall not apply to a local educational agency that does not have more than one building for each grade span.

“(6) COMPLIANCE.—For the purpose of determining compliance with paragraph (1), a local educational agency—

“(A) shall exclude State and local funds expended for the excess costs of providing English language instruction for Limited English Proficient students as determined by the local educational agency;

“(B) shall exclude State and local funds expended for the excess costs of providing services to children with disabilities as determined by the local educational agency;

“(C) may exclude capital expenditures; and

“(D) may exclude supplemental State or local funds expended in any school attendance area or school for programs that meet the intent and purpose of this part.

“(7) EXCLUSIONS.—A local educational agency need not include unpredictable or significant changes in student enrollment or personnel assignments that occur after the beginning of a school year in determining the comparable allocation of expenditures under this subsection.

“(8) TRANSITIONAL COMPLIANCE.—Beginning on the date of enactment of Student Success Act, for no more than 5 full school years a local educational agency shall be deemed to be in compliance with paragraph (1) and paragraph (4)(C)(i) for any school year, if the teachers hired to fill vacancies for individual schools served under this part, and for the schools not served under this part, improve the comparable allocation of combined State

and local per pupil expenditures compared to the preceding school year.

“(9) WAIVER.—A local educational agency may apply to the Secretary to waive the requirement of paragraph (1), for not more than 1 year at a time, if the Secretary determines that the failure to comply with such requirement is due to exceptional or uncontrollable circumstances, such as a natural disaster or a precipitous and unforeseen decline in the agency's financial resources.

“(10) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter or otherwise affect the rights, remedies, and procedures afforded school or local educational agency employees under Federal, State, or local laws (including applicable regulations or court orders) or under the terms of collective bargaining agreements, memoranda of understanding, or other agreements between such employees and their employers.

“(11) NO FORCED TRANSFERS.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require a local educational agency to transfer school personnel in order to comply with the requirements of this subsection.”.

SEC. 109. COORDINATION REQUIREMENTS.

Section 1120B (20 U.S.C. 6321(c)) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 1120B. COORDINATION REQUIREMENTS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Each local educational agency receiving assistance under this part shall—

“(1) coordinate, as feasible, with early childhood programs to carry out the activities described in subsection (b); and

“(2) develop agreements with Head Start agencies to carry out the activities described in subsection (b).

“(b) ACTIVITIES.—The activities referred to in subsection (a) are activities that increase coordination between the local educational agency and a Head Start agency and, if feasible, other entities carrying out early childhood development programs serving children who will attend the schools of the local educational agency, including—

“(1) developing and implementing a systematic procedure for receiving records regarding such children, transferred with parental consent from a Head Start program or, where applicable, another early childhood development program;

“(2) establishing channels of communication between school staff and in such Head Start agencies or other entities carrying out early their counterparts (including teachers, social workers, and health staff) childhood development programs, as appropriate, to facilitate coordination of programs;

“(3) conducting meetings involving parents, kindergarten or elementary school teachers, and Head Start teachers or, if appropriate, teachers from other early childhood development programs, to discuss the developmental and other needs of individual children;

“(4) organizing and participating in joint transition-related training of school staff, Head Start program staff, and, where appropriate, other early childhood development program staff; and

“(5) linking the educational services provided by such local educational agency with the services provided by local Head Start agencies.

“(c) COORDINATION OF REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall work with the Secretary of Health and Human Services to coordinate regulations promulgated under this part with regulations promulgated under the Head Start Act.”.

SEC. 110. TREATMENT OF THE OUTLYING AREAS AND BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION SCHOOLS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1121 (20 U.S.C. 6331) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “**THE OUTLYING AREAS AND**”;

(2) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—From the amount appropriated for payments to States for any fiscal year under sections 1002(a) and 1125A(f), the Secretary shall reserve—

“(A) for each fiscal year until the fiscal year described in paragraph (2), .67 percent to provide assistance to the Secretary of the Interior in the amount necessary to make payments pursuant to subsection (b); and

“(B) for the fiscal year described in paragraph (2) and each succeeding fiscal year, 0.75 percent to provide assistance to the Secretary of the Interior in the amount necessary to make payments pursuant to such subsection.

“(2) DESCRIPTION OF FISCAL YEAR.—A fiscal year described in this paragraph is a fiscal year for which the total amount allocated under this part for each State, after reserving funds in accordance with paragraph (1)(B), would be an amount that is not less than the total amount allocated under this part for such State for fiscal year 2015.”;

(3) by striking subsections (b) and (c);

(4) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (b); and

(5) in subsection (b), as so redesignated—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The amount allotted for payments to the Secretary of the Interior under subsection (a) for any fiscal year shall be used to meet the special educational needs of—

“(A) Indian children on reservations served by elementary schools and secondary schools for Indian children operated or supported by the Department of the Interior; and

“(B) out-of-State Indian children in elementary schools and secondary schools in local educational agencies under special contracts with the Department of the Interior.”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “subsection (a)(2)” and inserting “subsection (a)”.

(b) ALLOCATIONS TO STATES.—Section 1122 (20 U.S.C. 6332) is amended by striking subsection (e).

(c) BASIC GRANTS TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—Section 1124(d) (20 U.S.C. 6333(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(3) by striking “Notwithstanding section 1122” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 1122 and except as provided in paragraph (2)”;

(4) in paragraph (1)(B)(i) (as so redesignated), by striking “calculated in paragraph (1)” and inserting “calculated in subparagraph (A)”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) EXCEPTION.—American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands shall each receive one-half of the lesser of the amounts calculated for each such jurisdiction under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1).”.

(d) CONCENTRATION GRANTS TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—Section 1124A(a)(1)(B) (20 U.S.C. 6334(a)(1)(B)) is amended—

(1) by inserting “STATE MINIMUM.” after the subparagraph enumerator;

(2) in clause (i)—

(A) in subclause (II), by redesignating items (aa) and (bb) as subitems (AA) and (BB), respectively, and indenting appropriately; and

(B) by redesignating subclauses (I) and (II) as items (aa) and (bb), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(3) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subclauses (I) and (II), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(4) by striking “Notwithstanding section 1122” and inserting the following:

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 1122 and except as provided in clause (ii)”;

(5) in clause (i)(II)(aa) (as so redesignated) by striking “calculated under clause (i)” and inserting “calculated under subclause (I)”;

and

(6) by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(ii) EXCEPTION.—American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands shall each receive one-half of the lesser of the amounts calculated for each such jurisdiction under subclauses (I) and (II) of clause (i).”

(e) TARGETED GRANTS TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—Section 1125(e) (20 U.S.C. 6335(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(3) by striking “Notwithstanding any other provision of this section or section 1122” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 1122 and except as provided in paragraph (2)”;

(4) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) EXCEPTION.—American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands shall each receive one-half of the lesser of the amounts calculated for each such jurisdiction under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1).”

(f) EDUCATION FINANCE INCENTIVE GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 1125A(b) (20 U.S.C. 6337(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(B)—

(A) in clause (ii), by redesignating subclauses (I) and (II) as items (aa) and (bb), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(B) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subclauses (I) and (II), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(C) by striking “Notwithstanding any other provision of this section or section 1122” and inserting the following:

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 1122 and except as provided in clause (ii)”;

and

(D) by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(ii) EXCEPTION.—American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands shall each receive one-half of the lesser of the amounts calculated for each such jurisdiction under subclauses (I) and (II) of clause (i).”

(2) in paragraph (2)(B)—

(A) in the subparagraph heading, by inserting “AND CERTAIN OUTLYING AREAS” before the period at the end; and

(B) by adding after “Commonwealth of Puerto Rico” the following: “, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands”.

(g) DEFINITION.—Section 9101(30) (20 U.S.C. 7801(30)) is amended by striking “section 1121(b) and any other” and inserting “any”.
SEC. 111. SUPPORT FOR HIGH-QUALITY ASSESSMENTS.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Part A of title I (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new subpart:

“Subpart 3—Support for High-Quality Assessments

“SEC. 1131. GRANTS TO IMPROVE DELIVERY OF HIGH-QUALITY ASSESSMENTS AND FOR RELATED ACTIVITIES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—From the amount reserved under section 1134(b)(5) and subject to subparagraphs (A) and (B) of such section, the Secretary shall make grants by allocating funds in accordance with subsection (b) of this section to States to enable the States to—

“(1) develop, administer, and further align State assessments required by section 1111(b)(3) to State content standards required by section 1111(b)(1);

“(2) ensure the provision of appropriate accommodations as required by section 1111(b)(3) to students with limited English proficiency and students with disabilities to improve the rates of inclusion in State assessments of such students;

“(3) develop State assessment systems aligned to the State’s content standards that support systems of continuous improvement and meet the assurance of coordination and alignment as described in section 1111(b)(3)(H);

“(4) support local educational agencies in identifying uses of assessment data, which may include appropriate use of student assessment data as one of multiple measures of student learning for teacher and school leader performance and evaluation, where applicable; and

“(5) carry out the activities described in the report required under subsection (c).

“(b) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—From the amount reserved under section 1134(b)(5), each State shall receive an allocation for each fiscal year in an amount equal to—

“(1) \$4,000,000; and

“(2) with respect to any amounts remaining after the allocation is made under paragraph (1), an amount that bears the same relationship to such total remaining amounts as the number of students ages 5 through 17 in the State (as determined by the Secretary on the basis of the most recent satisfactory data) bears to the total number of such students in all States.

“(c) STATE REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after a State receives a grant under this section, the State shall, in consultation with education stakeholders, prepare and make publicly available a report, that explains how the State has used, or will use, the grant to—

“(1) improve the quality and use of the State’s assessment system, including assessments not required by section 1111(b)(3), and for related activities;

“(2) ensure that all summative assessments that are used for accountability purposes, including accountability described in section 1111(c) are valid and reliable, and consistent with relevant, nationally recognized professional and technical standards; and

“(3) improve the use of State assessment data by school leaders, educators, and parents, and for related activities, such as—

“(A) disseminating the assessment data in an accessible and understandable format for educators, parents, and families;

“(B) decreasing time between administering such State assessments and releasing assessment data;

“(C) supporting the dissemination of promising practices from local educational agencies that have successfully used assessment data to improve individual student and overall school performance;

“(D) identifying appropriate uses of assessment data, which may include appropriate use of student assessment data as one of multiple measures of student learning for teacher and school leader performance and evaluation; and

“(E) providing professional development on assessment and data literacy to teachers and school leaders, including on the development and effective use of formative and classroom-based assessments aligned with State content standards.

“SEC. 1132. GRANTS FOR ASSESSMENT SYSTEM ALIGNMENT, QUALITY, AND USE.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—From the amount reserved under section 1134(b)(3), the Secretary shall make grants to States to—

“(1) in the case of a grant awarded under this section to a State for the first time—

“(A) carry out an audit of the State assessment system and ensure that local educational agencies carry out audits of local assessments under subsection (e)(1);

“(B) prepare and carry out the State plan under subsection (e)(6); and

“(C) award subgrants under subsection (f); and

“(2) in the case of a grant awarded under this section to a State that has previously received a grant under this section—

“(A) carry out the State plan on audit findings under subsection (e)(6); and

“(B) award subgrants under subsection (f).

“(b) MINIMUM AMOUNT.—Each State with an approved application shall receive a grant amount of not less than \$2,000,000.

“(c) REALLOCATION.—If a State chooses not to apply to receive a grant under this subsection, or if such State’s application under subsection (d) is disapproved by the Secretary, the Secretary shall reallocate such grant amount to other States with approved applications.

“(d) APPLICATION.—A State desiring to receive a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

“(e) AUDITS OF STATE ASSESSMENT SYSTEMS AND LOCAL ASSESSMENTS.—

“(1) AUDIT REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 1 year after a State receives a grant under this section for the first time, the State shall—

“(A) conduct an audit of the State assessment system;

“(B) ensure that each local educational agency under the State’s jurisdiction and receiving funds under this Act—

“(i) conducts an audit of each local assessment administered by the local educational agency; and

“(ii) submits the results of such audit to the State; and

“(C) report the results of each State and local educational agency audit conducted under subparagraphs (A) and (B)—

“(i) in a publicly available format, such as a widely accessible online platform; and

“(ii) with appropriate accessibility provisions for individuals with disabilities and individuals with limited English proficiency.

“(2) RESOURCES FOR LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—In carrying out paragraph (1)(B),

each State shall develop and provide local educational agencies with resources, such as guidelines and protocols, to assist the agencies in conducting and reporting the results of the audit required under such paragraph (1)(B).

“(3) STATE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM DESCRIPTION.—An audit of a State assessment system conducted under paragraph (1) shall include a description of each State assessment carried out in the State, including—

“(A) the grade and subject matter assessed;

“(B) whether the assessment is required under section 1111(b)(3);

“(C) the annual cost to the State educational agency involved in developing, purchasing, administering, and scoring the assessment;

“(D) the purpose for which the assessment was designed and the purpose for which the assessment is used, including assessments designed to contribute to systems of continuous improvement of teaching and learning;

“(E) the time for disseminating assessment results;

“(F) a description of how the assessment is aligned with the State’s content standards;

“(G) a description of any State law or regulation that established the requirement for the assessment;

“(H) the schedule and calendar for all State assessments given; and

“(I) a description of the State’s policies for inclusion of students with limited English proficiency and students with disabilities.

“(4) LOCAL ASSESSMENT DESCRIPTION.—An audit of a local assessment conducted under paragraph (1) shall include a description of the local assessment carried out by the local educational agency, including—

“(A) the descriptions listed in subparagraphs (A), (D), and (E) of paragraph (3);

“(B) the annual cost to the local educational agency of developing, purchasing, administering, and scoring the assessment;

“(C) the extent to which the assessment is aligned to the State’s content standards;

“(D) a description of any State or local law or regulation that establishes the requirement for the assessment; and

“(E) in the case of a summative assessment that is used for accountability purposes, whether the assessment is valid and reliable and consistent with nationally recognized professional and technical standards.

“(5) STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK.—Each audit of a State assessment system or local assessment system conducted under subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1) shall include feedback on such system from education stakeholders, which shall cover information such as—

“(A) how educators and administrators use assessment data to improve and differentiate instruction;

“(B) the timing of release of assessment data;

“(C) the extent to which assessment data is presented in an accessible and understandable format for educators, parents, students, if appropriate, and the community;

“(D) the opportunities, resources, and training educators and administrators are given to review assessment results and make effective use of assessment data;

“(E) the distribution of technological resources and personnel necessary to administer assessments;

“(F) the amount of time educators spend on test preparation;

“(G) the assessments that administrators, educators, parents, and students, if appropriate, do and do not find useful;

“(H) the amount of time students spend taking the assessments; and

“(I) other information as appropriate.

“(6) STATE PLAN ON AUDIT FINDINGS.—

“(A) PREPARING THE STATE PLAN ON AUDIT FINDINGS.—Not later than 6 months after a State conducts an audit under paragraph (1) and based on the results of such audit, the State shall, in coordination with the local educational agencies under the jurisdiction of the State, prepare and submit to the Secretary, a plan to improve and streamline State assessment systems and local assessment systems, including through activities such as—

“(i) eliminating any assessments that are not required by section 1111(b)(3) (such as by buying out the remainder of procurement contracts with assessment developers) and that—

“(I) are low-quality;

“(II) not aligned to the State’s content standards;

“(III) in the case of summative assessments used for accountability purposes, are not valid or reliable and are inconsistent with nationally recognized professional and technical standards;

“(IV) do not contribute to systems of continuous improvement for teaching and learning; or

“(V) are redundant;

“(ii) supporting the dissemination of promising practices from local educational agencies or other States that have successfully improved assessment quality and efficiency to improve teaching and learning;

“(iii) supporting local educational agencies or consortia of local educational agencies to carry out efforts to streamline local assessment systems and implementing a regular process of review and evaluation of assessment use in local educational agencies;

“(iv) supporting appropriate uses of assessment data, which may include appropriate use of student assessment data as one of multiple measures of student learning for teacher and school leader performance and evaluation; and

“(v) providing professional development to teachers and school leaders on selecting and implementing formative assessments, designing classroom-based assessments, and assessment and data literacy.

“(B) CARRY OUT THE STATE PLAN ON AUDIT FINDINGS.—A State shall carry out a State plan on audit findings as soon as practicable after the State prepares such State plan under subparagraph (A) and during each grant period of a grant described in subsection (a)(2) that is awarded to the State.

“(f) SUBGRANTS TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—From the amount awarded to a State under this section, the State shall reserve not less than 20 percent of funds to make subgrants to local educational agencies in the State, or a consortium of such local educational agencies, based on demonstrated need in the agency’s or consortium’s application to improve assessment quality, use, and alignment with the State’s content standards.

“(2) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY APPLICATION.—Each local educational agency, or consortium of local educational agencies, seeking a subgrant under this subsection shall submit an application to the State at such time, in such manner, and describing that agency’s or consortium’s needs to improve assessment quality, use, and alignment (as described in paragraph (1)), and such other information as determined by the State.

“(3) USE OF FUNDS.—A subgrant awarded under this subsection to a local educational

agency or consortium of such agencies may be used to—

“(A) conduct an audit of local assessments under subsection (e)(1)(B);

“(B) eliminate any assessments identified for elimination by such audit, such as by buying out the remainder of procurement contracts with assessment developers;

“(C) disseminate the promising practices described in subsection (e)(6)(B);

“(D) improve the capacity of school leaders and educators to disseminate assessment data in an accessible and understandable format for parents and families, including for individuals with disabilities or individuals with limited English proficiency;

“(E) support the appropriate use of assessment data, which may include appropriate use of student assessment data as one of multiple measures of student learning for teacher and school leader performance and evaluation;

“(F) provide professional development to, and time for teacher collaboration on designing classroom-based assessments and improving assessments and data literacy for, teachers and school leaders, which may include providing additional planning time to analyze student and team data and designing instruction based on data analysis;

“(G) improve assessment delivery systems and schedules, including by increasing access to technology and exam proctors, where appropriate;

“(H) hire instructional coaches, or promoting educators who may receive increased compensation to serve as instructional coaches, to support educators to develop classroom-based assessments, interpret assessment data, and design instruction; and

“(I) provide for appropriate assessment accommodations to maximize inclusion of students with disabilities and students with limited English proficiency, including by providing the assessments described in section 1111(b)(6).

“SEC. 1133. INNOVATIVE ASSESSMENT DEMONSTRATION AUTHORITY.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this part:

“(1) COLLEGE AND CAREER READY STANDARDS.—The term ‘college and career ready standards’ means the academic content and student academic achievement standards adopted by a State under section 1111(b).

“(2) COMPETENCY EDUCATION.—The term ‘competency education’ is defined, (at a minimum), as a school-level framework for learning that enables personalization, with the goal of students becoming proficient, in which—

“(A) students advance upon mastery;

“(B) competencies are transparent, aligned to State academic standards, and include explicit, measurable, and transferable learning objectives;

“(C) assessment improves teaching and learning in real time and validates when students are ready to demonstrate mastery; and

“(D) students receive timely, differentiated support based on their individual learning needs.

Competencies emphasize growth towards higher order skills, including the application and creation of knowledge and social emotional skills.

“(3) CORE INDICATORS.—The term ‘core indicators’ means—

“(A) State academic assessments that meet the requirements of section 1111(b)(3) and that provide data that can be compared with data regarding the State academic assessments required under section 1111(b)(3); and

“(B) graduation rates.

“(4) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term ‘eligible entity’ means a State educational agency or consortium of State educational agencies.

“(5) **MASTERY.**—The term ‘mastery’ means a level of knowledge or skill development demonstrated by a student signifying that the student has met a standard and is prepared to progress to a subsequent standard.

“(6) **PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT.**—The term ‘performance assessment’ means a multi-step assessment that—

“(A) includes complex activities with clear criteria, expectations, and processes that enable students to interact with meaningful content; and

“(B) measures the depth at which students learn content and apply complex skills to create or refine an original product or solution.

“(b) **DEMONSTRATION AUTHORITY.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may provide eligible entities, in accordance with paragraph (3), with the authority to establish State assessment systems that enable competency education to satisfy the requirements under section 1111(c) and 1111(b)(3) and use results of such competency education assessment system for the purposes of section 1111(c) and section 1116 and in accordance with an application approved under subsection (c).

“(2) **DEMONSTRATION PERIOD.**—The initial award of demonstration authority under this part shall be for a period of 5 years. After such period, if the Secretary has not withdrawn the demonstration authority from an eligible entity, the eligible entity shall be permitted to operate the assessment system approved under the demonstration authority in lieu of the requirements under section 1111(b)(3), except that the assessments required under section 1111(b)(3) shall be administered at a minimum of once in grades 3 through 56, once in grades 6 through 8, and once in high school.

“(3) **INITIAL DEMONSTRATION AUTHORITY; EXPANSION; RENEWAL.**—

“(A) **INITIAL LIMIT.**—During the initial 3-year period of demonstration authority under this section, the Secretary may not provide more than 5 eligible entities with the authority described in paragraph (1).

“(B) **EXPANSION OF DEMONSTRATION AUTHORITY.**—After the end of the initial demonstration period described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary may provide additional eligible entities with demonstration authority described in paragraph (1), subject to each of the requirements of this part as applicable, if the Secretary determines that the demonstration authority provided under this part during the initial demonstration period has effectively supported student progress on core indicators among students served by the eligible entities, including subgroups of students described in section 1111(c)(3)(A).

“(C) **APPLICATIONS.**—To be eligible to participate in the demonstration under this part, an eligible entity shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, that describes the assessment system that will be used by the eligible entity to enable competency education, including—

“(1) a description of the assessment system the eligible entity will use (consistent with section 1111(b)(3)(B) and covering the subjects described in section 1111(b)(3)(C)), including—

“(A) how the system will provide annual summative student performance data gathered in one of the following ways—

“(i) a statewide summative assessment administered at least once annually in each of

grades 3 through 8 and once in grades 9 through 12;

“(ii) a statewide summative instrument administered at least once annually in each of grades 3 through 8 and once in grades 9 through 12 administered as multiple assessments throughout the year; or

“(iii) a combination of a statewide summative assessment and , or in lieu of, local summative assessments administered at least once annually in each of grades 3 through 8 and once in grades 9 through 12, so long as—

“(I) the assessments provide, at a minimum, annual information about student performance to inform determinations about accountability and supports and interventions;

“(II) the statewide assessment occurs at a minimum of once in elementary, once in middle, and once in high school;

“(III) the assessment items are aligned to college- and career-ready State academic standards;

“(IV) the local assessment instruments produce comparable results across the State that are of high technical quality, reliability, and validity; and

“(V) the system of assessments incorporates multiple sources of evidence of student learning, including performance-based tasks; and

“(B) how the system will incorporate formative, interim, and summative assessments, including the use of performance assessments and other sources of evidence of student learning that determine mastery of college and career ready standards and competencies.

“(d) **ASSURANCES.**—The State educational agency will provide assurances that—

“(1) the system is aligned to college and career ready standards described in section 1111 and State-approved competencies;

“(2) the system has been developed in collaboration with stakeholders representing the interests of students with disabilities, English learners, and civil rights organizations in the State, as demonstrated through modifications made to the assessments resulting from such collaboration;

“(3) the system incorporates the principles of universal design as defined in section 3(a) of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C.14 3002(a));

“(4) the system will allow students to demonstrate progress toward mastery of such standards and State-approved competencies;

“(5) the assessments will assess mastery of State-approved competencies when students are ready to demonstrate mastery of such standards and competencies;

“(6) the system will provide students with multiple opportunities to demonstrate mastery of such standards and competencies;

“(7) the system will engage and support teachers in scoring assessments, including the use of high quality professional development, standardized and calibrated scoring rubrics, and other strategies to ensure inter-rater reliability and comparability of determinations of mastery across the State;

“(8) the system provides educators, students, and parents with real-time data to inform instructional practice and continuously improve student performance;

“(9) the system will provide instructional support and targeted intervention to all students to ensure every student is on-track to master the State approved standards and competencies by graduation;

“(10) the system will only utilize a student's individualized education program, as defined in section 602 of the Individuals with

Disabilities Education Act, for purposes specifically allowed under such Act;

“(11) a description of how the system will be used to satisfy the accountability requirements of section 1111(c);

“(12) the State will administer the annual statewide assessment required under section 1111(b)(3) until the secretary removes such requirement as described under subsection (b)(2);

“(13) the eligible entity's plan to—

“(A) ensure that all students, including each student subgroup described in section 1111(c)(3)(A)—

“(i) are held to the same high standard;

“(ii) demonstrate annually, at a minimum, at least 1 year of academic growth consistent with the requirement in section 1111(b)(4)(E); and

“(iii) receive the instructional support needed to attain mastery of college and career ready standards and State-approved competencies;

“(B) train local educational agency and school staff to implement the assessments described in paragraph (2)(A);

“(C) acclimate students to the new assessment and accountability systems; and

“(D) ensure that each local educational agency has the technological infrastructure to operate the accountability and assessment systems described in this section; and

“(14) a description of how instruction and professional development will be enhanced to personalize the educational experience for each student to ensure all students graduate college and career ready, as determined in accordance with State academic achievement standards under section 1111(b); and

“(15) a description of the local educational agencies within the State that will participate in the pilot.

“(e) **PEER REVIEW.**—The Secretary shall—

“(1) implement a peer review process, which shall include a review team comprised of practitioners and experts who are knowledgeable about competency education, to inform the awarding of the demonstration authority under this part; and

“(2) make publicly available the applications submitted under subsection (c) and the peer comments and recommendations on such applications.

“(f) **DEMONSTRATION AUTHORITY WITHDRAWN.**—The Secretary may withdraw the demonstration authority provided to an eligible entity under this part if at any point after the 3 year demonstration period described in subsection (b)(2), the Secretary determines that student performance for all students served by the eligible entity or any student subgroup described under section 1111(c)(3)(A) has declined on core indicators;

“(g) **DISSEMINATION OF BEST PRACTICES.**—The Secretary shall disseminate best practices on the implementation of accountability and assessment systems that enable competency education, including on—

“(1) strategies that States used to accelerate mastery of State standards and aligned competencies to close achievement gaps and increase readiness for college and career;

“(2) the effective use of formative, interim, and summative assessments to inform instruction; and

“(4) the development of standardized and calibrated scoring rubrics, and other strategies to ensure inter-rater reliability and comparability of determinations of mastery across the State.

“**SEC. 1134. FUNDING.**

“(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—

“(1) **NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS.**—For the purpose of administering

the State assessments under the National Assessment of Educational Progress, there are authorized to be appropriated \$72,000,000 for fiscal year 2016, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the 5 succeeding fiscal years.

“(2) STATE ASSESSMENTS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES.—For the purpose of carrying out this subpart, there are authorized to be appropriated \$600,000,000 for fiscal year 2016, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the 5 succeeding fiscal years.

“(b) RESERVATION OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS.—From amounts made available for each fiscal year under subsection (a)(2), the Secretary shall—

“(1) reserve one-half of 1 percent for the Bureau of Indian Affairs;

“(2) reserve one-half of 1 percent for the outlying areas;

“(3) reserve 20 percent to carry out section 1132;

“(4) reserve 3 percent to carry out section 1133; and

“(5) reserve the remainder (after reserving funds under paragraphs (1) through (4)) to carry out section 1131, except that—

“(A) for any fiscal year for which the funds appropriated under subsection (a)(2) of this section are equal to or greater than \$450,000,000, each State that receives a grant under section 1131 shall use the grant to carry out paragraphs (1) through (5) of section 1131(a); and

“(B) for any fiscal year for which the funds appropriated under subsection (a)(2) of this section are less than \$450,000,000, each State that receives a grant under section 1131 shall only be required to use the grant to carry out paragraphs (1) through (3) of section 1131(a).

“SEC. 1135. STATE DEFINED.

“In this section, the term ‘State’ means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subpart 1 of part A of title VI (20 U.S.C. 7301 et seq.) is repealed.

SEC. 112. STATE AGENCY PROGRAMS.

Part D of title I (20 U.S.C. 6421 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 1414(a)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (F); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

“(C) contain procedures to ensure that each student who has been placed in the State’s juvenile justice system is promptly re-enrolled in secondary school or placed in a re-entry program that best meets the educational and social needs of the student;

“(D) contain procedures for facilitating the transfer of credits that such students earned during placement;

“(E) provide that, to the extent feasible, students will have the opportunity to participate in higher education or career pathways; and”;

(2) in section 1416—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (3), (4), (5), (6), (7) and (8) as paragraphs (4), (5), (7), (8), (9), and (10), respectively;

(B) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) includes the development of an initial education services and transition plan for each child or youth served under this subpart upon entry into the correctional facility, in partnership with the child or youth’s family members and the local educational

agency that most recently provided services to the child or youth.”;

(C) by inserting after paragraph (5), as so redesignated by subparagraph (A), the following:

“(6) describes how the program will consult with the child or youth’s local educational agency for a period jointly determined necessary by the correctional facility and the local educational agency upon discharge from that facility, to coordinate educational services so as to minimize disruption to the child’s or youth’s achievement.”;

(D) in paragraph (9), as so redesignated, by striking “and” at the end;

(E) in paragraph (10), as so redesignated, by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(F) by adding at the end the following:

“(11) includes an assurance that the State agency will report annually on the number of children and youth released from the correctional facility or institution who returned or did not return to school, the number of children and youth obtaining a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, and the number of children and youth obtaining employment.”; and

(3) in section 1425—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (10) and (11) as paragraphs (11) and (12), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (9) the following:

“(10) where feasible, coordinate with agencies that provide re-entry services to adjudicated youth.”

SEC. 113. FOSTER YOUTH.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Part D of title I is amended by adding at the end the following:

“Subpart 4—Educational Stability of Children in Foster Care

“SEC. 1441. EDUCATIONAL STABILITY OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE.

“(a) OBLIGATIONS TO COLLABORATE WITH CHILD WELFARE AGENCIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each State educational agency receiving assistance under part A shall, in consultation with the State agency responsible for administering the State plans under parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 621 et seq., 670 et seq.), develop and implement a plan to ensure that the following occurs, for each child in the State, when the child moves to a new school attendance area as a result of being placed in foster care (as described in section 1442 (1)), changing foster care placements, or leaving foster care:

“(A) ATTENDANCE AT A SCHOOL OF ORIGIN.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The child enrolls or remains in the child’s school of origin, unless a determination is made that it is in the child’s best interest to attend a different school.”

“(ii) LIMITATION.—A child who leaves foster care shall only be entitled to remain in the child’s school of origin for the remainder of the school year.

“(B) IMMEDIATE ENROLLMENT.—When a determination is made regarding the school that it is in the best interest of a child in foster care to attend, the child shall be immediately enrolled in such school, even if the child is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, immunization and medical records, a birth certificate, guardianship records, proof of residency, or other documentation.

“(C) RECORDS TRANSFER.—Any records ordinarily kept by a school, including records of immunizations, health screenings, and other required health records, academic

records, birth certificates, evaluations for special services or programs, and any individualized education programs (as defined in section 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401)), regarding a child in foster care shall be—

“(i) maintained so that the records involved are available, in a timely fashion, when a child in foster care enters a new school; and

“(ii) immediately transferred to the enrolling school, even if the child owes fees or fines or was not withdrawn from previous schools in conformance with local withdrawal procedures.

“(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—Each State educational agency receiving assistance under part A shall ensure that the plan described in paragraph (1) is implemented by the local educational agencies in the State.

“(b) CREDIT TRANSFER AND DIPLOMAS.—Each State that receives assistance under part A shall have policies for ensuring that—

“(1) a child in foster care who is changing schools can transfer school credits and receive partial credits for coursework satisfactorily completed while attending a prior school or educational program;

“(2) a child in foster care is afforded opportunities to recover school credits lost due to placement instability while in foster care; and

“(3) a child in foster care who has changed secondary schools can receive a secondary school diploma either from one of the schools in which the child was enrolled or through a State-issued secondary school diploma system, consistent with State graduation requirements.

“(c) TRANSPORTATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The local educational agency and State shall, in consultation with the local child welfare agency, develop and within one year of enactment of this act implement clear written procedures governing how transportation to maintain children in foster care in their school of origin when in their best interest will be provided, arranged, and funded for the duration of the time in foster care and through the remainder of the school year in which the children leave foster care. The procedures shall ensure that children needing transportation to the school of origin will promptly receive transportation in a cost effective manner and in accordance with section 475(1)(G) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 675(1)(G)).

“(2) COST OF TRANSPORTATION.—Where the child in foster care remains in the school of origin pursuant to section 475(1)(G) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 675(1)(G)), and if there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to maintain children in their schools of origin, the local educational agency will provide transportation to their school of origin if:

“(A) the local child welfare agency agrees to reimburse the local educational agency for the cost of such transportation;

“(B) the local educational agency agrees to pay for the cost of such transportation; or

“(C) the local educational agency and the local child welfare agency agree to share the cost of such transportation; or

“(D) TRANSPORTATION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.—The local educational agency will provide transportation for the remainder of the academic year in which a child leaves foster care if whomever the child is returned to by the child welfare agency requests transportation and remaining in the school of origin is in the child’s best interest.

“(d) POINTS OF CONTACT.—

“(1) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—A State that receives assistance under part A shall:

“(A) advise each local educational agency in the State of their option to designate an individual employed by the agency to serve as a point of contact for the child welfare agencies responsible for children in foster care enrolled in the local educational agency and that they must designate such a point of contact if any such local child welfare agency provides written notice it has designated an individual employed by that agency to serve as a point of contact for the local educational agency;

“(B) ensure that local educational agency points of contact oversee the implementation of the local educational agency requirements under this section; and

“(C) ensure that high needs local educational agencies do not designate the same individual as the point of contact for children in foster care and the local educational agency liaison under section 722(g)(1)(J)(ii) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

“(2) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—

“(A) Each State educational agency receiving assistance under part A shall designate an individual to serve as a point of contact for child welfare agencies and to oversee the implementation of the State educational agency requirements under this section.

“(B) A State educational agency's point of contact shall not be the individual designated as the State's Coordinator for Education of Homeless Children and Youths under section 722(d)(3) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

“SEC. 1442. DEFINITIONS.

“(a) HEADER.—In this part:

“(1) CHILD IN FOSTER CARE.—The term ‘child in foster care’ means a child whose care and placement is the responsibility of the agency that administers a State plan under part B or E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 621 et seq., 670 et seq.), without regard to whether foster care maintenance payments are made under section 472 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 672) on behalf of the child.

“(2) SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREA.—The term ‘school attendance area’ has the meaning given the term in section 1113(a)(2).

“(3) SCHOOL OF ORIGIN.—The term ‘school of origin’ means, with respect to a child in foster care, any of the following:

“(A) The public school in which the child was enrolled prior to entry into foster care.

“(B) The public school in which the child is enrolled when a change in foster care placement occurs.

“(C) The public school the child attended when last permanently housed, as such term is used in section 722(g)(3)(G) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11432(g)(3)(G)), if such child was eligible for assistance under such Act before the child became a child in foster care.”.

(b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary is directed to issue guidance on the implementation of part E of title I of this Act, including how State and local agencies will work together to ensure that transportation for children in foster care is provided to the school of origin.

SEC. 114. SCHOOL DROPOUT PREVENTION.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 1803 (20 U.S.C. 6553) is amended by striking “2002” and inserting “2016”.

(b) NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.—Section 1811(b)(4) (20 U.S.C. 6555(b)(4)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “for all students”;

(2) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by inserting “for all students” before “in that”; and

(B) by striking “or” at the end;

(3) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C);

(4) by inserting after subparagraph (A), as so amended, the following:

“(B) for students in one or more of the subgroups described in section 1111(c)(3)(A); or”;

and

(5) in subparagraph (C), as so amended, by inserting “for all students or for students in one or more of the subgroups described in section 1111(c)(3)(A) with a higher than average dropout rate” after “middle school.”.

(c) SUBGRANTS TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—Section 1822(b)(1) (20 U.S.C. 6561a(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: “, including the development of early warning indicator systems in middle schools, as described in section 1116(c)(5)(A)”;

(2) in subparagraph (H), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: “, including the creation of individualized student success plans”.

(d) APPLICATIONS.—Section 1823(b)(1)(G) (20 U.S.C. 6561b(b)(1)(G)) is amended—

(1) by striking “about” and inserting “and evidence-based”; and

(2) by striking “reentry” and inserting “reentry programs”.

(e) REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY.—Section 1830 (20 U.S.C. 6561i(a)(1)) by striking “race and ethnicity” and inserting “each subgroup described in section 111(c)(3)(A)”.

(f) PROHIBITED USES OF FUNDS.—Subpart 2 of part H of title I (20 U.S.C. 6561 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 1831. PROHIBITED USES OF FUNDS.

“No funds under this part may be used for—

“(1) the development, establishment, implementation, or enforcement of zero-tolerance school discipline policies unless otherwise required by Federal law; or

“(2) law enforcement agencies or local police departments serving a school or local educational agency—

“(A) with substantial documented excesses or racial disparities in the use of exclusionary discipline;

“(B) operating under an open school desegregation order, whether court-ordered or voluntary;

“(C) operating under a pattern or practice or practice consent decree for civil rights violations; or

“(D) already receiving substantial Federal funds for the placement of law enforcement in schools.”.

TITLE II—TEACHERS AND LEADERS

SEC. 201. GREAT TEACHERS AND LEADERS.

Title II (20 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

“TITLE II—GREAT TEACHERS AND LEADERS

“SEC. 2001. PURPOSE.

“The purpose of this title is to help States and local educational agencies support teachers and school leaders to improve student achievement for all students, including English learners and students with disabilities, by—

“(1) promoting and enhancing the teaching profession;

“(2) supporting the development of qualified and effective of teachers and school leaders;

“(3) recruiting, rewarding, and retaining effective teachers and other school leaders

and fostering excellent instructional teams, especially in high-need local educational agencies, schools, fields, and subjects;

“(4) providing teachers with the knowledge, skills, data, support, and collaborative opportunities needed to be effective in the classroom and to meet the diverse learning needs of their students;

“(5) providing all students with access to effective teachers and school leaders; and

“(6) improving the management of the education workforce in States and local educational agencies.

“SEC. 2002. DEFINITIONS.

“In this title:

“(1) CAREER LADDERS.—The term ‘career ladders’ means promotion and professional growth opportunities, beyond moving into administration, for effective teachers, as determined by the State or local educational agency, including teacher leaders, instructional or curriculum specialists, and teacher mentors, who help improve teaching and learning in a school or local educational agency.

“(2) HIGH-NEED FIELD.—The term ‘high-need field’ refers to the fields of special education, bilingual education, and English language acquisition.

“(3) HIGH-NEED SUBJECT.—The term ‘high-need subject’ means mathematics, science, and any other content area that is designated by a State educational agency or the Secretary as a teacher shortage area.

“(4) HIGH-NEED LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term ‘high-need local educational agency’ means a local educational agency—

“(A)(i) that serves not fewer than 10,000 children from families with incomes below the poverty line; or

“(ii) for which not less than 20 percent of the children served by the agency are from families with incomes below the poverty line; and

“(B)(i) for which there is a high percentage of teachers not teaching in the academic subjects or grade levels that the teachers were trained to teach; or

“(ii) for which there is a high percentage of teachers with emergency, provisional, or temporary certification or licensing.

“(5) QUALIFIED TEACHER.—The term ‘qualified teacher’ means a teacher who meets the minimum qualifications to teach in a State and—

“(A) when used with respect to a middle school or high school teacher who is entering the profession in a State for the first time, means that the teacher—

“(i) holds at least a bachelor's degree;

“(ii) has demonstrated to the State, content knowledge in the content area that the teacher will teach as determined—

“(I) by passing a rigorous State assessment; or

“(II) by successful completion of an academic major, a graduate degree, or coursework equivalent to an undergraduate academic major in the content area that the teacher will teach;

“(iii) if required by the State to demonstrate teaching skills by passing a State teacher performance assessment, has passed such assessment; and

“(iv) has successfully completed a teacher preparation program; or

“(v) at the State's discretion, may be enrolled in an alternative teacher preparation program, and—

“(I) be on track to successful completion of such program; and

“(II) be supervised by a mentor teacher;

“(B) when used with respect to an elementary school teacher who is entering the profession in a State for the first time, means that the teacher—

“(i) holds at least a bachelor’s degree;

“(ii) has demonstrated to the State, content knowledge and teaching skills in reading, writing, mathematics, science, and other areas of the elementary school curriculum—

“(I) by passing a rigorous State assessment or State-required test in reading, writing, mathematics, science, and other areas of the basic elementary school curriculum; or

“(II) by successful completion of an academic major, a graduate degree, or coursework equivalent to an undergraduate academic major in the content areas that the teacher will teach;

“(iii) if required by the State to demonstrate teaching skills by passing a State teacher performance assessment, has passed such assessment; and

“(iv) has successfully completed a teacher preparation program; or

“(v) at the State’s discretion, may be enrolled in an alternative teacher preparation program; and

“(I) be on track to successful completion of such program; and

“(II) be supervised by a mentor teacher; and

“(C) means any teacher who is highly qualified as defined in section 9101(23) or section 602(10) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, as such section was in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Student Success Act.

“(6) INDUCTION.—The term ‘induction’ means a program for new teachers and new school leaders, as appropriate, during at least their first 2 years of practice, that is designed to increase effectiveness and retention of new teachers and new school leaders, and that includes—

“(A) high-quality mentoring;

“(B) development of skills and knowledge in areas needed for new teachers, including, content knowledge and pedagogy, instructional strategies for teaching students with diverse learning needs, classroom management (including strategies that improve the school-wide climate for learning, which may include positive behavioral interventions and supports), formative assessment of student learning, and the analysis and use of student assessment data to improve instruction;

“(C) frequent, structured time for collaboration and professional development with teachers and school leaders in the same field, grade, or subject area, and opportunities to draw directly on the expertise of other school and local educational agency staff, staff of high-performing pathways, and other organizations that provide high-quality induction supports;

“(D) regular and structured observation and feedback by mentors, school leaders, or effective teachers, as determined by the State or local educational agency; and

“(E) where feasible, team teaching, reduced teaching load and activities designed to ensure that teachers have appropriate teaching tools and instructional materials for their classroom.

“(7) MENTORING.—The term ‘mentoring’ means the mentoring of new teachers and school leaders, as appropriate, so as to increase the effectiveness and retention of those teachers and school leaders through a program that—

“(A) includes clear criteria for the selection of teacher and school leaders mentors

that take into account a candidate’s effectiveness as a teacher or school leader and that individual’s ability to facilitate adult learning;

“(B) provides high-quality training for the mentors on how to support new teachers and school leaders effectively;

“(C) provides regularly scheduled time for collaboration and for examination of student work and achievement data, and on-going opportunities for mentors and mentees to observe each other’s practice; and

“(D) matches, when possible, each mentee with a mentor who is in the same field, grade, or subject area as the mentee.

“(8) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.—The term ‘professional development’ means coordinated and aligned activities with evidence of increasing effectiveness of educators, which may include teachers, principals, other school leaders, specialized instructional support personnel, paraprofessionals, early childhood educators, and other school staff that—

“(A) fosters collective responsibility for improved student performance;

“(B) is comprised of professional learning that—

“(i) aligns with State academic content and achievement standards and early learning standards, as appropriate, with local educational agency and school improvement goals and plans, including those identified under section 1116, and with school instructional materials;

“(ii) is aligned to a teacher and school leader evaluation system, where applicable;

“(iii) is conducted among educators at the school and facilitated by trained school leaders and school-based professional development coaches, mentors, master teachers, or other teacher leaders;

“(iv) supports family engagement in their children’s education;

“(v) primarily occurs frequently and during significant blocks of time among established teams of teachers, school leaders, and other instructional staff members where the teams of educators engage in a continuous cycle of improvement that—

“(I) defines a clear set of educator learning goals based on the rigorous analysis of data and improves content knowledge, pedagogical skills, and the ability to analyze and use data;

“(II) achieves the educator learning goals identified under subclause (I) by implementing coherent, sustained, and evidence-based learning strategies, such as lesson study and the development of formative assessments, that improve instructional effectiveness and student achievement;

“(III) provides job-embedded coaching or other forms of assistance to support the transfer of new knowledge and skills to the classroom;

“(IV) regularly assesses the effectiveness of the professional development in achieving identified learning goals, improving teaching, and assisting all students in meeting challenging State academic achievement standards;

“(V) informs ongoing improvements in teaching and student learning;

“(VI) may support joint professional development activities for school staff and early childhood educators that address the transition to elementary school, including issues related to school readiness across all major domains of early learning; and

“(VII) may be supported by external assistance with relevant expertise, including content expertise; and

“(C) may be supplemented by activities such as courses, workshops, institutes, networks, and conferences that—

“(i) address the academic goals and objectives established for professional development by educators and school leaders at the school level;

“(ii) advance the ongoing school-based professional development; and

“(iii) are provided for by for-profit and non-profit entities outside the school such as universities, education service agencies, technical assistance providers, networks of content-area specialists, and other education organizations and associations.

“(9) SCHOOL LEADER.—The term ‘school leader’ means a principal, an assistant principal, administrator or director, or an individual who is—

“(A) an employee or officer of a school; and

“(B) is responsible for managerial operations, instructional leadership, or interscholastic athletic programs of that school.

“(10) SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM.—The term ‘school leadership team’ means a group that includes the principal, other school leaders, and teachers at a school who work together to develop school plans or goals for the school.

“(11) STATE TEACHER PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT.—The term ‘State-teacher performance assessment’ means a rigorous assessment used to measure teacher performance that is developed and approved in collaboration with teachers, and administered by the State and—

“(A) is based on professional teaching standards;

“(B) are aligned to State academic content and achievement and early learning standards;

“(C) is used to document the effectiveness of a teacher’s—

“(i) curriculum planning;

“(ii) instruction of students, including appropriate supports for students who are English learners and students who are children with disabilities; and

“(iii) assessment of students, including analysis of evidence of student learning;

“(D) is validated based on professional assessment standards;

“(E) is regularly monitored to ensure the quality, reliability, validity, fairness, consistency, and objectivity of the evaluators’ determinations;

“(F) is reliably scored by trained evaluators with appropriate oversight of the process to ensure consistency; and

“(G) the results of which are used to support continuous improvement of educator practice.

“(12) TEACHING RESIDENCY PROGRAM.—The term ‘teaching residency program’ means a school-based teacher preparation program in which a prospective teacher—

“(A) teaches alongside a mentor teacher, who is the teacher of record, for at least one year;

“(B) receives concurrent instruction in the teaching of the content area in which the teacher will become certified or licensed;

“(C) receives concurrent instruction in effective teaching skills; and

“(D) attains full State teacher certification or licensure, and becomes qualified prior to, or upon, completion of the program.

“(13) EVIDENCE OF CLASSROOM PRACTICE.—The term ‘evidence of classroom practice’ means evidence gathered through multiple formats and from multiple sources that demonstrate effective teaching skills and—

“(A) shall include—

“(i) multiple classroom observations based on rigorous teacher performance standards

or rubrics and conducted by trained personnel;

“(ii) information on the teacher’s successful use of data to improve instruction and demonstrate evidence of student learning;

“(iii) student work, lesson plans, feedback provided to students and teacher developed classroom assessments;

“(iv) demonstration of professional responsibility; and

“(B) may include, but which shall have a weight that is less than the weight assigned to the requirements described in subparagraph (A)—

“(i) videos of teacher practice;

“(ii) teacher portfolios; and

“(iii) parent, student, and peer feedback.

“(14) EVIDENCE OF SCHOOL LEADERSHIP.—The term ‘evidence of school leadership’ means evidence gathered through multiple formats and from multiple sources that shall include an evaluation of—

“(A) data on student learning gains, including evidence of student learning;

“(B) gains in student achievement, including passage of required exams for course progression, credit accumulation, completion of promotion standards, and graduation rates;

“(C) increases in student attendance rates;

“(D) percentage of effective teachers on staff;

“(E) retention rates of effective teachers as determined by the State or local educational agency;

“(F) evidence of successful alignment of teacher evaluation with professional development and teacher support;

“(G) demonstration of instructional leadership, including use of data and assessment to inform decision-making;

“(H) demonstration of effective fiscal management, where applicable;

“(I) evidence of effective community and parent engagement;

“(J) improved teacher attendance rates;

“(K) establishment of learning communities where school leaders and teachers—

“(i) share a school mission and goals with an explicit vision of quality teaching and learning that guides all instructional decisions;

“(ii) commit to improving student outcomes and performances;

“(iii) set a continuous cycle of collective inquiry and improvement;

“(iv) foster a culture of collaboration where teachers and school leaders work together on a regular basis to analyze and improve teaching and learning; and

“(v) support and share leadership; and

“(L) develop and maintain a positive school culture where students, teachers and other staff are motivated to collaborate and work together to achieve goals.

“(15) EVIDENCE OF STUDENT LEARNING.—The term ‘evidence of student learning’ means data that shall be based on multiple, valid and reliable indicators of student academic growth towards State content and achievement standards, which shall be based significantly on—

“(A) student learning gains on the State student academic assessments under section 1111(c) and, for grades and subjects not covered by the State’s student academic assessments, another valid and reliable assessment of student academic achievement, as long as the assessment is used consistently by the local educational agency for the grade or class for which the assessment is administered; and

“(B) other evidence of student learning that is comparable across schools within a local educational agency such as—

“(i) formative and summative assessments;

“(ii) objective performance-based assessments; and

“(iii) representative samples of student work, including progress towards performance standards and evidence of student growth.

“(16) MENTOR PRINCIPAL.—The term ‘mentor principal’ means an individual with—

“(A) Strong instructional leadership skills in an elementary school or secondary school setting;

“(B) Strong verbal and written communication skills, which may be demonstrated by performance on appropriate assessments; and

“(C) Knowledge and skills to—

“(i) establish and maintain a professional learning community that effectively utilizes data to improve the school culture and personalize instruction to increase student achievement;

“(ii) create and maintain a learning culture within the school that provides a climate conducive to the development of all members of the school community, including one of continuous learning for adults tied to student learning and other school goals;

“(iii) engage in continuous professional development, utilizing a combination of academic study, developmental simulation exercises, self-reflection, mentorship and internship;

“(iv) understand youth development appropriate to the age level served by the school and from this knowledge sets high expectations and standards for the academic, social, emotional and physical development of all students; and

“(v) actively engage the community to create shared responsibility for student academic performance and successful development.

“PART A—EFFECTIVE TEACHER AND LEADER STATE GRANTS

“SEC. 2101. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated \$3,500,000,000 for fiscal year 2016, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the 5 succeeding fiscal years, to carry out this part.

“Subpart 1—Grants to States

“SEC. 2111. ALLOCATIONS TO STATES.

“(a) RESERVATIONS.—From the amounts made available under section 2101 for this subpart for each fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve—

“(1) one-half of one percent for the outlying areas, to be distributed among the outlying areas on the basis of their relative need, as determined by the Secretary, for activities consistent with the purposes of this title;

“(2) one-half of one percent for the Secretary of the Interior, for activities, consistent with the purposes of this title described in section 2001, in schools operated by or funded by the Bureau of Indian Education; and

“(3) one-half of one percent for a competitive grant program to encourage consortia of States to develop instructional supports aligned to new college- and career-ready standards that are made widely available to all States and local educational agencies.

“(b) ALLOTMENTS TO STATES, REDUCTIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts made available under section 2101 for this subpart for each fiscal year that remain after the Secretary reserves funds under subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary shall allot to

each State with an approved application under section 2112 the sum of—

“(A) an amount that bears the same relationship to 35 percent of the remaining amount as the number of individuals age five through 17 in the State, as determined by the Secretary on the basis of the most recent satisfactory data, bears to the number of those individuals in all such States, as so determined; and

“(B) an amount that bears the same relationship to 65 percent of the remaining amount as the number of individuals age five through 17 from families with incomes below the poverty line, in the State, as determined by the Secretary on the basis of the most recent satisfactory data, bears to the number of those individuals in all such States, as so determined.

“(2) FISCAL YEAR 2016.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), for fiscal year 2016, no State shall receive less than 90 percent of the State’s allocation under this part for fiscal year 2015, as such part was in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Student Success Act.

“(3) SUCCEEDING FISCAL YEARS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), for fiscal year 2016 and each succeeding fiscal year, no State shall receive an allotment under paragraph (1) that is less than 90 percent of the State’s allotment under such paragraph for the preceding fiscal year.

“(c) RATABLE REDUCTIONS.—If the funds made available to carry out paragraph (1) of subsection (b) are insufficient to pay the full amounts that all States are eligible to receive under subparagraph (2) or (3) of such subsection for any fiscal year, the Secretary shall ratably reduce each such amount for such fiscal year.

“(d) REALLOTMENTS.—If any State does not apply for an allotment under this section, or has its application disapproved by the Secretary, the Secretary shall reallocate the amount of that State’s allotment to the remaining States that have approved applications in accordance with this subpart.

“SEC. 2112. STATE APPLICATIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—For a State to be eligible to receive a grant under this part, the State educational agency shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may reasonably require. The Secretary shall provide the State educational agency with the opportunity to apply for funds under this part and part B through a consolidated application.

“(b) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted under this section shall include the following—

“(1) descriptions of any systems of teacher and principal evaluation in the State, including whether each system—

“(A) is designed primarily to—

“(i) increase student learning and improve instruction for students;

“(ii) inform professional development for teachers and school leaders and support interventions for students; and

“(iii) provide on-going and timely, individual and meaningful feedback, and substantive support to the teacher or school leader;

“(B) is developed, implemented, and adopted in collaboration with teachers, school leaders, and other education stakeholders;

“(C) includes—

“(i) multiple measures of teacher and school leader performance, including—

“(I) in the case of teachers, evidence of classroom practice; and

“(II) in the case of school leaders, evidence of school leadership and effective and efficient school program administration;

“(ii) evidence of student learning;

“(iii) contributions to student growth including higher order thinking skills, citizenship, and social and emotional development; and

“(iv) differentiated levels of teacher and school leader performance that are clearly articulated;

“(D) provides results that are comparable and consistent across all teachers and school leaders within a local educational agency consistent with section 2301 that reflect the ages and grades being taught and consistent within individual grade levels and subject areas in each local educational agency;

“(E) evaluates, annually, each teacher and school leader in the local educational agency and takes into consideration the experience and performance level of the teacher or school leader;

“(F) uses evaluation results to inform—

“(i) professional improvement plans for teachers and school leaders, which shall be developed in collaboration with teachers and school leaders, that are appropriate to the level of the individual being evaluated, including support and timelines to carry out each plan; and

“(ii) comprehensive support, mentoring, interventions and timelines to carry out each plan; and

“(G) establishes appropriate training for evaluators and staff being evaluated including—

“(i) a clear articulation of the evaluation system and the process, systems, ratings, and the implications of the results provided to teachers and school leaders;

“(ii) how the system provides teachers and principals the opportunity and assistance to improve consistent with subparagraph (F)(i); and

“(iii) how to identify working conditions that affect teaching and learning, such as facilities and resources, and school climate and safety, and isolating educator impact on student outcomes from these factors;

“(2) a description of how the State educational agency will ensure that within 4 years of the date of enactment of the Student Success Act, each local educational agency in the State that receives a subgrant under subpart 2 makes public the results of an evaluation system if applicable;

“(3) a description of how, within 2 years of the date of enactment of the Student Success Act, each local educational agency in the State that receives a subgrant under subpart 2 shall conduct an annual assessment of educator support and working conditions that—

“(A) evaluates supports for teachers, leaders, and other school personnel, such as—

“(i) teacher and school leader perceptions of availability of high-quality professional development and instructional materials and opportunities for collaboration;

“(ii) timely availability of data on student academic achievement and growth;

“(iii) the presence of high-quality instructional leadership; and

“(iv) opportunities for professional growth such as career ladders and mentoring and induction programs;

“(B) evaluates working conditions for teachers, school leaders and other school personnel, such as—

“(i) school climate;

“(ii) school safety;

“(iii) class size;

“(iv) availability and use of common planning time and opportunities to collaborate; and

“(v) family and community engagement;

“(C) is developed with teachers, school leaders and other school personnel, parents, students, and the community;

“(D) develops and implements a plan with the groups described in subparagraph (C) and with, at a minimum, annual benchmarks to address the results of the assessment carried described in this paragraph; and

“(E) publicly reports on the results of the evaluations described in subparagraph (A) and (B) and the plan described in subparagraph (C);

“(4) a description of the educator supports the State has developed to assist in the implementation of new college- and career-ready standards, as described in section 1111(b)(2), including the State's plan for making those supports available to its local educational agencies and for prioritizing the introduction of those supports, in conjunction with the appropriate local educational agency, into the State's lowest performing schools;

“(5) a description of how a State will develop and implement a plan for the equitable distribution of teachers and principals that—

“(A) low-income and minority students are not—

“(i) taught at higher rates than are other students by teachers not deemed qualified or who are rated in the lowest evaluation categories, where applicable; and

“(ii) assigned at higher rates than are other students to schools administered by principals who have been rated in the lowest evaluation rating categories, where applicable;

“(B) includes—

“(i) percentage of effective teachers, as determined by the State or local educational agency, for schools in the top quartile of poverty against the schools in the bottom quartile of poverty;

“(ii) percentage of effective teachers, as determined by the State or local educational agency, for schools in the top quartile in percentage of minority students against the bottom quartile of percentage of minority students;

“(iii) specific and measurable goals and strategies to close gaps identified in the plan; and

“(C) uses a combined measure of indicators such as a composite to carry out the plan described in this paragraph that—

“(i) shall include—

“(I) the percentage of first year teachers; and

“(II) the percentage of qualified teachers; and

“(ii) may include—

“(I) with respect to middle schools and high schools, the percentage of core academic courses taught by teachers who have met State licensure requirements for such courses;

“(II) the percentage of teachers whose licensure exam scores fall one standard deviation above passing score of teachers within the State;

“(III) the percent of teachers with more than 10 absences over the course of the school year; and

“(IV) the percentage of teachers hired after the first day of school;

“(6) the State definition of teacher-of-record, how local educational agencies report to the State on the teacher-of-record, and how the definition is used to ensure equitable distribution of effective and highly effective teachers;

“(7) a description of how the State educational agency will develop and implement professional development that prepares teachers and school leaders to support, educate, and properly implement accommodations for students with disabilities;

“(8) a description of how the State will establish and maintain a data system that within 3 years after the date of enactment of the Student Success Act—

“(A) supports data sharing among local educational agencies and a teacher and school leader preparation program described in section 200(6)(A)(IV) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended by section 202 of the Student Success Act, on the program's graduates' students', which may include data on evidence of student learning; and

“(B) publicly reports the percentage of effective teachers and school leaders, as determined by the State or local educational agency, by preparation program;

“(9) a description of the State's plan to—

“(A) implement the plan within the required timelines, including annual benchmarks for implementation; and

“(B) report annually to the Secretary on its progress implementing the plan and meeting annual benchmarks outlined under subparagraph (A);

“(10) the State's definition of, or standards and criteria for—

“(A) a qualified teacher; and

“(B) an effective teacher;

“(11) a description of any performance measures in addition to those described in subpart 4 that the State will use to measure the performance of the State and of each local educational agency that receives a subgrant under subpart 2; and

“(12) a description of how the State will carry out the activities outlined in section 2113.

“(c) COMPLIANCE AND DISAPPROVAL.—If the Secretary finds that a State's application does not comply in whole or in part with the requirements of this subpart, the Secretary shall—

“(1) notify the State regarding the specific provisions in the application that do not comply with the requirements of this subpart;

“(2) request any additional information needed to determine whether the application will comply with the requirements of this subpart; and

“(3) before disapproving the application, give the State notice and an opportunity for a hearing.

“SEC. 2113. STATE USES OF FUNDS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—A State that receives a grant under this subpart shall use—

“(1) 90 percent of the grant funds to award subgrants under subpart 2 to local educational agencies with approved applications under section 2122;

“(2) not more than 5 percent of the grant funds, to plan and administer the activities of the State under this subpart, including the awarding of the subgrants under subpart 2 and the monitoring and enforcement of the requirements for the subgrants, including developing or improving any teacher and principal evaluation systems that are based in part on evidence of student learning and other measures determined by the State.

“(3) at least 2 percent of the grant funds to activities designed to recruit, support, and retain effective principals for high-need and low-performing schools, such as—

“(A) strengthening principal preparation programs to ensure that they are highly selective, include in-depth residency for at least one year or field-based experience in a

high-need or low-performing school, and provide induction or other support for at least the first year of a principal's service, including coaching from a mentor principal in instructional leadership and organizational management;

“(B) provide training in school and personnel management, including management of the organization, staff and resources, developing a school climate and instructional program, developing effective relationships with community and parents, and using student-level and school level-data to inform decision-making;

“(C) training on child development, improving instruction and closing achievement gaps;

“(D) providing compensation incentives to attract, retain, and reward effective principals and other school leaders for high-need and low-performing schools;

“(E) developing teacher career ladders with a performance-based selection process that distribute school leadership responsibilities and develop a pipeline of individuals who gain the experience necessary to become an effective principal; and

“(F) activities to improve the effectiveness of school superintendents, principal supervisors, human resources directors, and other local educational agency managers; and

“(4) use any remaining funds reserved at the State level to—

“(A) carry out any other activities designed to help the State make progress toward carrying out the purposes of this title and showing improvement on the performance measures described in subpart 4 and any additional measures described in the State's application, including activities designed to—

“(i) align the State's professional teaching standards, teacher and school leader certification or licensure requirements, teacher-preparation programs, and professional-development requirements with kindergarten-through-grade-12 academic content and achievement standards that build toward college-and-career-readiness;

“(ii) reform teacher and school leader compensation, including by modifying policies and practices and providing technical assistance to local educational agencies, in order to enable those agencies to recruit, reward, and retain effective teachers and school leaders in high-need schools, fields, subjects, and areas;

“(iii) support the training of teachers, principals, and other school leaders in meeting the diverse learning needs of their students, including through universal design for learning, as described in section 5429(b)(21), and multi-tiered system of supports and language acquisition instruction;

“(iv) support the training of teachers, principals, and other school leaders in effectively integrating technology (including technology for students with disabilities) into curricula and instruction and in how to use technology for on-line communication and for collaboration and data analysis;

“(v) strengthen human resource systems in local educational agencies to recruit, train, hire, and place individuals who are or are most likely to be effective teachers and principals, provide effective teachers and principals with support and development opportunities focused on increasing student achievement, and retain effective teachers and school leaders over time by creating school environments that enable excellent teaching including through strategies such as distributed leadership, time for collaboration and use of student data for job-embedded professional development;

“(vi) develop and provide professional development, including through joint professional development opportunities, for early childhood educators, teachers, principals, specialized instructional support personnel, and other school leaders;

“(vii) provide professional development for teachers and school leaders in the State to support, educate, and properly implement accommodations for students with disabilities;

“(viii) develop and implement policies and practices that position the State to be a competitive applicant for grants under part B of this title;

“(ix) support the training of teachers, principals, and other school leaders on how to accelerate the learning of students who are performing below grade level; and

“(x) provide professional development for teachers, principals and other school leaders in early elementary grades that includes specialized knowledge about child development and learning, developmentally-appropriate curricula and teaching practices, meaningful family engagement and collaboration with early care and education programs;

“(B) provide technical assistance, as necessary, to each local educational agency that receives a subgrant under subpart 2, in order to help the local educational agency improve performance on the measures described in subpart 4;

“(C) establish policies and practices to ensure the quality of the data reported under this part and the effectiveness of the methods used to analyze those data; and

“(D) develop and disseminate the State report card required under subpart 4, and use the information in the report card to guide efforts under this title.

“(b) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds received under this subpart shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, non-Federal funds that would otherwise be used for activities authorized under this subpart.

“Subpart 2—Subgrants to Local Educational Agencies

“SEC. 2121. SUBGRANTS TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Each State educational agency that receives an allocation under subpart 1 shall allocate to each local educational agency in the State that has an application approved by the State under section 2122 the sum of—

“(1) the amount that bears the same relationship to 20 percent of the amount allocated to the State educational agency as the number of individuals age 5 through 17 in the geographic area served by the agency, as determined by the Secretary on the basis of the most recent satisfactory data, bears to the number of those individuals in the geographic areas served by all such local educational agencies in the State, as so determined; and

“(2) the amount that bears the same relationship to 80 percent of the amount allocated to the State educational agency as the number of individuals age 5 through 17 from families with incomes below the poverty line in the geographic area served by the agency, as determined by the Secretary on the basis of the most recent satisfactory data, bears to the number of those individuals in the geographic areas served by all such local educational agencies in the State, as so determined.

“(b) MINIMUM ALLOTMENTS.—

“(1) FISCAL YEAR 2016.—For fiscal year 2016, no local educational agency shall receive an allocation under subsection (a) that is less than 90 percent of the allocation the local

educational agency received under this part for fiscal year 2015, as this part was in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Student Success Act.

“(2) SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEARS.—For fiscal year 2017 and each succeeding fiscal year, no local educational agency receiving an allotment under subsection (a) shall receive less than 90 percent of the allotment the local educational agency received under this subpart for the preceding fiscal year.

“(c) RATABLE REDUCTION.—If the funds described in subsection (a) are insufficient to pay the full amounts that all local educational agencies are eligible to receive under subsection (b) for any fiscal year, the State shall ratably reduce such amounts for such fiscal year.

“SEC. 2122. LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND APPLICATIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—To receive a subgrant under this subpart a local educational agency shall—

“(1) submit an application to the State educational agency involved at such time, in such manner, and containing such information and assurances as the State educational agency may reasonably require; and

“(2) conduct, in developing its application, and with the involvement of teachers, principals, and other stakeholders, as applicable, an assessment of educator support and working conditions consistent with section 2112(b)(3), in the areas set forth under the performance measures described in subpart 4, identified under the school improvement plans under section 1116, as applicable, and the needs of schools receiving funds under title I.

“(b) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted under this section shall include—

“(1) a description of—

“(A) the results of the needs assessment conducted under subsection (a)(2);

“(B) the performance measures and activities the local educational agency will use to address the needs identified under the assessment;

“(C) the local educational agency's plan for using the subgrant under this subpart, and other local, State, and Federal funds, to ensure the equitable distribution of teachers and principals, within the local educational agency so that low-income and minority students are not—

“(i) taught at higher rates than are other students by teachers not deemed qualified and who are not effective, as determined by the State or local educational agency;

“(ii) assigned to schools administered by principals who not effective, as determined by the State or local educational agency, at higher rates than other students within the local educational agency;

“(D) the local educational agency's plan for using the subgrant under this subpart to support teachers in meeting the diverse learning needs of all their students, including through universal design for learning, as described in section 5429(b)(21), and multi-tiered system of supports and language acquisition; and

“(E) a description of the educator supports the local educational agency will provide to assist with the implementation of new college- and career-ready standards and early learning standards, including the local educational agency's plan for prioritizing the introduction of those supports in its lowest performing schools;

“(F) a description of how the local educational agency will, as appropriate, involve in the delivery of activities and services under this part, external providers that have

demonstrated expertise and experience in using evidence-based strategies and programs to deliver evidence-based professional development and to raise the quality of teaching and school leadership; and

“(2) an assurance that, within 5 years of receiving a subgrant under this subpart, the local educational agency will—

“(A) conduct a second needs assessment, with the involvement of teachers, principals, and other stakeholders, as applicable, in the areas set forth in subpart 4 and identified in plans under section 1116, as applicable, particularly the needs of schools receiving funds under title I; and

“(B) submit a revised application to the State, consistent with the requirements of this section.

“SEC. 2123. LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY USES OF FUNDS.

“(a) **USE OF FUNDS.**—Subject to the requirements of the State consistent with section 2112(a), a local educational agency that receives a subgrant under this subpart shall, directly, or with other local educational agencies or the State educational agency, use the subgrant funds for activities designed to increase academic achievement for all students, including English learners and students with disabilities, by increasing the number and percentage of effective teachers and principals, as determined by the State or local educational agency, and to ensure the equitable distribution of effective teachers and school leaders through activities that—

“(1) develop and implement, or improve, where applicable, a teacher and principal evaluation system;

“(2) provide meaningful feedback to teachers and principals on evaluation results, where applicable, and use those results in making decisions, including about professional development;

“(3) recruit teachers who are qualified and teachers and principals who are effective, as determined by the State or local educational agency, especially teachers and principals who are needed for high-need and low-performing schools and high-need fields and subjects, including teachers and principals who come from underrepresented backgrounds;

“(4) implement the assessment of educator support and working conditions in accordance with section 2112(b)(3);

“(5) implement the local educational agency's plan for ensuring the equitable distribution of effective teachers and principals, as determined by the State or local educational agency, who have been rated by the teacher and principal evaluation system as at least effective;

“(6) develop and implement an induction program that is designed to increase the effectiveness of new teachers and retain effective teachers, especially in high-need and low-performing schools, such as a program that provides reduced teaching assignments for new teachers, training for instructional coaches or mentors who will participate in induction activities, access to on-line support systems, and frequent feedback to promote continuous learning and instructional improvement;

“(7) work toward reducing class size for kindergarten through third grade by an amount and to a level consistent with what research has found to improve student academic achievement at a minimum in the schools in the lowest quartile of poverty in the local educational agency;

“(8) improve within-school equity in the distribution of effective teachers, as determined by the State or local educational agency, so that low-income and minority

students are not taught at higher rates than are other students by teachers rated in one of the two lowest evaluation rating categories, where applicable;

“(9) plan and administer activities carried out under this subpart, including other activities to improve effectiveness and the equity of distribution as required in accordance with the local educational agency's needs assessments under subsection (a)(2);

“(10) develop a plan to expand and improve the capacity of the local educational agency to recruit, select, train, evaluate, and develop effective staff, teachers, school leaders, and school leader managers to work at or with schools identified for improvement under section 1116;

“(11) develop and implement professional development, including to assist teachers in supporting, educating, and properly implementing accommodations for students with different learning styles, particularly students with disabilities, English learners, and gifted and talented students;

“(12) develop a plan to improve the management of school leaders and to address the barriers in schools served by the local educational agency;

“(13) recruit, train, and support teacher leaders or principals for high-need schools; and

“(14) provide meaningful support to principals and their instructional leadership teams.

“(b) **SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.**—Funds received under this subpart shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, non-Federal funds that would otherwise be used for activities authorized under this subpart.

“(c) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this subpart shall be construed to require a local educational agency to transfer school personnel in order to comply with the requirements of this part.

“Subpart 3—National Leadership Activities

“SEC. 2131. NATIONAL LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES.

“From the funds made available under section 2101 for this subpart for any fiscal year, the Secretary may to reserve up to 3 percent for research, development, technical assistance, outreach, and dissemination activities, carried out either directly or through grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements. Such activities may include—

“(1) activities to strengthen teacher and principal evaluation, including establishing a national center to gather, provide benchmarks on, and disseminate best practices and provide technical assistance on teacher and principal evaluation so as to support States and local educational agencies in developing robust and reliable evaluation systems that take evidence of student learning, as defined in section 2002(15) into account;

“(2) direct assistance to nonprofit organizations to enhance their support for local educational agencies and schools, including to community-based organizations that can support multiple local educational agencies in strengthening their teacher and principal pipelines and human-resource practices and provide professional enhancement activities, including advanced credentialing and high-quality, sustained professional development targeted to low-performing schools;

“(3) activities to support development of a leadership academy to train school leaders in effective school management and instructional leadership, with a primary focus on turning around low-performing schools, including—

“(A) effective management of the organization, staff, and resources;

“(B) developing a school climate and instructional program and related evidence-

based professional development aligned to the needs of the students and school;

“(C) effective relationships with community and parents; and

“(D) using student-level and school level data to inform decision-making;

“(4) activities to strengthen evaluation of superintendents including developing model evaluations; and

“(5) activities to support pay for success initiatives to meet the purposes of this part.

“Subpart 4—Accountability

“SEC. 2141. EQUITY ACCOUNTABILITY.

“(a) **STATE REQUIREMENTS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each State that receives a grant under subpart 1 shall—

“(A) in a case in which the comparisons conducted under section 2112(b)(5) of the State plan indicate the inequalities described in paragraph (2) with respect to high-poverty and high-minority local educational agencies—

“(i) in consultation with the local educational agencies in the State, established 2, 4 and 5 year improvement goals that will substantially reduce or eliminate the inequalities in the schools of such high-poverty and high-minority local educational agencies; and

“(ii) establish a support plan to assist such high-poverty and high-minority local educational agencies meet such improvement goals; and

“(B) in a case in which a high-poverty and high-minority local educational agency has not achieved the 2-year improvement goals established under subparagraph (A)(i), use 2.5 percent of the grant funds received under subpart 2 to carry out the activities described in subparagraph (A).

“(2) **INEQUALITIES.**—The inequalities described in this paragraph are as follows:

“(A) Students in high poverty and high minority local educational agencies in the State were being taught at higher rates by teachers rated in the lowest two quartiles based on the combined measure established under section 2112(b)(5)(C) compared to students in low poverty and low minority local educational agencies in the State.

“(B) Students in high poverty and high minority local educational agencies are being taught at higher rates by teachers who are not effective as determined by the State or local educational agency, as compared to students in low poverty and low minority local educational agencies.

“(b) **LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY REQUIREMENTS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (3), a high-poverty or high-minority local educational agency described in paragraph (2) and with respect to which a State established improvement goals under subsection (a)(1)(A)(i), shall—

“(A) in a case in which the local educational agency fails to meet its 2 year improvement goals established under such subsection, use all funds made available through the subgrant to carry out the activities described in section 2112(b)(5);

“(B) in a case in which the local educational agency fails to meet its 4 year improvement goals established under such subsection—

“(i) receive a subgrant from the State under subpart 2 equal to not more than 50 percent of the subgrant received by the local educational agency in the preceding year under such subpart; and

“(ii) make non-Federal contributions in an amount equal to not less than the Federal funds provided under the subgrant; and

“(C) in a case in which the local educational agency fails to meet its 5 year improvement goals established under such subsection, the local educational agency shall be prohibited from receiving a subgrant subpart 2.

“(2) DESCRIPTION OF LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—A local educational agency described in this paragraph is a local educational agency that—

“(A) students in high poverty and high minority schools are being taught at higher rates by teachers rated in the lowest two quartiles based on the combined measure established under section 2112(b)(5)(C) compared to students in low poverty and low minority schools; and

“(B) students in high poverty and high minority schools are being taught at higher rates by teachers who are not effective, as determined by the State or local educational agency, compared to students in low poverty and low minority schools.

“(3) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to high poverty and high minority schools where students are being taught at higher rates who are not effective, as determined by the State or local educational agency, compared to students in low poverty and low minority schools in the local educational agency if the performance of the high poverty or high minority school's students, including each group of students described in section 1111(b)(2)(C)(v)(II), on the State's annual student academic assessments has exceeded the statewide average performance for students overall in that subject for at least the previous 2 years.

“(4) INAPPLICABILITY.—This section shall not apply to a local educational agency that does not have more than one building for each grade span.

“(5) TRANSITIONAL COMPLIANCE.—Beginning on the date of enactment of the Student Success Act, for no more than 4 full school years a local educational agency shall be deemed to be in compliance with this section for any school year, if the teachers hired to fill vacancies in local education agencies served under this part, improve the equity in distribution of effective teachers, as determined by the State or local educational agency, between students served by high poverty or high minority schools and students served by low poverty or low minority schools as described in paragraph (2).

“(6) WAIVER.—A local educational agency may apply to the Secretary for a temporary waiver of the requirements of this section in the case of a natural disaster or unpredictable or significant personnel assignments that occur after the beginning of a school year that would affect determination of compliance with this section.

“(7) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a local educational agency to transfer school personnel in order to comply with this section.

“Subpart 5—Public Reporting

“SEC. 2151. PUBLIC REPORTING.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—

“(1) STATE REPORT CARD.—Each State that receives a grant under subpart 1 shall annually submit to the Secretary, and make public, a State report card on program performance and results under the grant, in a manner prescribed by the Secretary and containing, analyzing, and updating the information required under subsection (b).

“(2) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY REPORT.—Each local educational agency that receives a subgrant under subpart 2 shall annually submit to the State, and make public—

“(A) a report on the local educational agency's program performance and results under the subgrant, in a manner prescribed by the State or the Secretary, containing, analyzing, and updating the information required under subsection (c); and

“(B) the notifications to parents described in subsection (d).

“(3) PRIVACY.—Information required under this subpart shall be collected, reported, and disseminated in a manner that protects the privacy of individuals.

“(b) STATE REPORT CARD REQUIREMENTS.—Each State described in subsection (a)(1) shall report the following information in accordance with such subsection:

“(1) With respect to the State overall and for each local educational agency in the State, disaggregated by poverty quartile and minority quartile—

“(A) the number and percentage of teachers and principals, for each grant year, who—

“(i) are classified as qualified;

“(ii) are effective, where applicable;

“(iii) have taught for less than one full school year; and

“(iv) have demonstrated content knowledge in the subject or subjects the teachers are assigned to teach;

“(B) with respect to middle and high schools, the percentage of core academic courses taught by teachers who have met State licensure requirements for that course;

“(C) information required under equitable distribution plans for the State and each local educational agency under sections 2112(b)(5) and 2123(a), respectively;

“(D) staff retention rates for effective teachers, as determined by the State or local educational agency; and

“(E) any other performance measures the State is using to measure the performance of local educational agencies that receive a subgrant under subpart 2.

“(2) Results of the data collection reporting under section 2112(b)(7).

“(3) Progress towards meeting the equitable distribution requirements under section 2112(b)(5).

“(4) Results of the assessment of educator support and working conditions described in section 2112(b)(3).

“(5) Results of the needs assessment required under subpart 2 by each school in the State and compared to the rubric which was used to conduct the needs assessment.

“(c) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY REPORT CARD REQUIREMENTS.—Each local educational agency described in subsection (a)(2) shall report the following information, for each grant year, in accordance with such subsection:

“(1) With respect to the local educational agency overall and for schools in the agency by poverty quartile and minority quartile—

“(A) the number and percentage of teachers and principals, for each grant year, who—

“(i) are classified as qualified;

“(ii) are effective, as determined by the State or local educational agency;

“(iii) have taught for less than one full school year; and

“(iv) have demonstrated content knowledge in the subject or subjects the teachers are assigned to teach; and

“(B) with respect to middle school and high school, the percentage of core academic courses taught by teachers who have met State licensure requirements for that course.

“(d) PARENTS' RIGHT TO KNOW.—Each local educational agency that receives a subgrant under subpart 2 shall ensure that each school served by the local educational agency provides, on an annual basis and at the beginning of the school year—

“(1) the teacher's qualified status based on the definition under section 2002(5), including whether the teacher meets the status based on the requirement in subparagraph (A)(v) of such section; and

“(2) in local educational agencies with teacher evaluation systems—

“(A) written notification to the parent of each student who has, for 2 consecutive years, been assigned an ineffective teacher, as determined by the State or local educational agency, that such student has been so assigned; and

“(B) a description of—

“(i) the supports the school and local educational agency will offer the student to compensate for the teacher assignment;

“(ii) the local educational agency's plan for ensuring this assignment pattern does not continue; and

“(iii) the teacher's qualified status based on the definition under section 2002(5), including whether the teacher meets the status based on the requirement in subparagraph (A)(v) of such section.

“PART B—TEACHER AND LEADER INNOVATION FUND

“SEC. 2201. TEACHER AND LEADER INNOVATION FUND.

“The purpose of this part is to support States and local educational agencies in improving the effectiveness of their teachers and school leaders, especially those teachers and school leaders working in high-need schools, by creating the conditions needed to identify, recruit, prepare, retain, reward, and advance effective teachers, principals, and school leadership teams in such schools.

“SEC. 2202. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated \$950,000,000 for fiscal year 2016 and such sums as may be necessary for each of the 5 succeeding fiscal years to carry out this part.

“(b) CONTINUATION.—From the funds made available under subsection (a), the Secretary may reserve funds to continue funding the Teacher Incentive Fund authorized under the fourth, fifth, and sixth provisos of the ‘Innovation and Improvement Account’ under title III of Public Law 109-149, in accordance with the terms and conditions of such Fund that were in effect on the day before the enactment of the Student Success Act.

“SEC. 2203. GRANTS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—From the funds made available under section 2202 and not reserved under subsection (b) of such section, for each fiscal year, the Secretary shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities to carry out the purpose of this part.

“(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this part, the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

“(1) a State educational agency or a consortium of such agencies;

“(2) a high-need local educational agency or a consortium of such agencies;

“(3) one or more of the entities described in paragraphs (1) and (2) in partnership with one or more institutions of higher education, nonprofit organization, or educational service agencies; or

“(4) an entity described in paragraph (1) in partnership with 1 or more local educational agencies at least one of which is a high-need local educational agency.

“(c) DURATION.—The Secretary shall award a grant under this part to an eligible entity for an initial period of not more than 3 years, and may renew the grant for up to an additional 2 years if the Secretary finds that the eligible entity is achieving the objectives of the grant and has shown improvement

against baseline measures on performance indicators.

“SEC. 2204. APPLICATIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity that desires a grant under this part shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information and assurances as the Secretary may reasonably require.

“(b) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted under this section shall contain—

“(1) a description of—

“(A) how the eligible entity will differentiate levels of teacher and principal performance by effectiveness, and the criteria it will use to determine that differentiation, which shall include the use of evidence of student learning as a significant factor, as well as other measures; and

“(B) how that differentiation will be—

“(i) consistent with the teacher and principal evaluation system described in section 2112(b)(1); and

“(ii) used by the local educational agency served by the eligible entity to make decisions about professional development and retention;

“(2) a description of the rigorous performance standards that the eligible entity has established, or will establish, within 2 years of the date of enactment of Student Success Act, that will be used to evaluate performance;

“(3) a plan, developed with appropriate stakeholders, setting forth the activities to be implemented under the grant and how those activities will be aligned with the results of—

“(A) an analysis of workforce data (including teacher and principal surveys) that identifies strengths and weaknesses in the working conditions provided to teachers, school leaders, and other school personnel and the current and future staffing needs within the State or local educational agency;

“(B) a public review of any State or local educational agency statutes, policies, and practices, including employment policies and practices that pose a barrier to staffing schools, particularly high-need schools, with teachers and principals who have been rated in the highest rating categories;

“(C) an analysis of the effectiveness and the cost-effectiveness of applicable State or local educational agency policies and practices related to increasing teacher and principal effectiveness;

“(D) an analysis of the alignment of the policies and practices reviewed and analyzed under subparagraphs (B) and (C) with the goal of ensuring that educators are prepared to help all students achieve to college-and-career-ready standards; and

“(E) as applicable, an analysis of the extent to which the local educational agency’s human capital strategies, including career advancement opportunities, salary schedules (including incentives for graduate credit and advanced degrees), and incentives, reward actions, and strategies that improve instruction and student learning; and

“(4) evidence of involvement and support for the proposed grant activities from—

“(A) in the case of an application from an eligible entity that includes a local educational agency or a consortium of such agencies, a local school board, teachers union (where there is a designated exclusive representative for the purpose of collective bargaining), teachers, principals, and other stakeholders; and

“(B) in the case of an application from a State educational agency or consortium of such agencies, the State board of education,

State agency for higher education, any participating local educational agency, and other stakeholders.

“(c) SELECTION CRITERION.—In making grants under this part, the Secretary shall consider the extent to which the eligible entity’s activities that are carried out through a grant under part A or through State and local funds are aligned with the entity’s plan under subsection (b)(3) and the purpose of this part.

“(d) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give priority to applications that address particular needs in improving the effectiveness of the education workforce in high-need schools or the needs of local educational agencies to fill positions in high-need fields and subjects.

“SEC. 2205. USE OF FUNDS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—A eligible entity under this part—

“(1) shall use its grant funds for activities to—

“(A) improve the use of teacher and principal effectiveness information, which shall include the adoption of an evaluation system by a local educational agency, as described in section 2112(b)(1), and use of such evaluation results in consequential decision-making, including in—

“(i) paying bonuses and increased salaries, if the eligible entity uses an increasing share of non-Federal funds to pay the bonuses and increased salaries each year of the grant, to highly effective teachers or principals who work in high-need schools;

“(ii) activities under sections 2112 and 2122;

“(iii) reforming the local educational agency’s system of compensating teachers and principals; and

“(iv) developing and implementing a human capital system; and

“(B) improve teacher and school-leader compensation and career-development systems, which may include instituting performance pay, career advancement systems (such as career ladders or incentives for assuming additional roles and responsibilities intended to improve student academic achievement), or market-based compensation for a high-need school; and

“(2) may use its grant funds for activities to—

“(A) help ensure that high-need and low-performing schools are staffed more effectively and efficiently, such as through—

“(i) the implementation or use of earlier hiring timelines;

“(ii) more effective recruitment strategies (including strategies for recruiting candidates from underrepresented groups);

“(iii) more selective screening; and

“(iv) data systems for tracking attendance, teacher and principal evaluation results, tenure decisions, participation in professional development, and the results of that participation;

“(B) recruit, prepare, support, and evaluate principals who serve in high-need or low-performing schools; and

“(C) recruit and retain teachers and leaders in rural and remote areas.

“(b) STATE GRANTEEES.—A State educational agency that is a grantee under this part shall use its grant funds for activities to—

“(1) modify State policies and practices, as needed, to enable local educational agencies to carry out their activities under subsection (a);

“(2) develop and implement improvements to the State’s certification or licensure requirements, which shall include using teacher and principal evaluation results in certifi-

cation or licensure decisions (such as by making them a significant factor in the granting of a full certification or license); and

“(3) implement a human capital system, including pre-service programs providing teachers and principals to schools within the State, that increases the numbers of highly effective teachers and principals, particularly in high-need schools by—

“(A) identifying, recruiting, training, hiring, and placing individuals who are or are most likely to be highly effective teachers and principals;

“(B) distributing highly effective teachers and principals strategically to high need schools;

“(C) providing highly effective teachers and principals with support and development opportunities focused on increasing student achievement; and

“(D) retaining highly effective teachers and principals over time by creating school environments that enable excellent teaching including through strategies such as distributed leadership, time for collaboration and use of student data for internal professional development.

“PART C—GENERAL PROVISIONS

“SEC. 2301. PROHIBITION AGAINST INTERFERENCE WITH STATE AND LOCAL LAWS AND AGREEMENTS.

“Nothing in this title shall be construed to alter or otherwise affect the rights, remedies, and procedures afforded to school or local educational agency employees under Federal, State, or local laws (including applicable regulations or court orders as well as requirements that local educational agencies negotiate and or meet and confer in good faith) or under the terms of collective bargaining agreements, memoranda of understanding, or other agreements between such employers and their employees.

“SEC. 2302. PROTECTING THE INTEGRITY OF EVALUATION SYSTEMS.

“No State or local educational agency receiving funding under this title shall publicly report personally identifiable information included in an individual teacher or principal evaluation, including information that can be used to distinguish an individual’s identity when combined with other personal or identifying information.

“SEC. 2303. PROHIBITION.

“Nothing in this title shall authorize any employee of the Federal Government to mandate, direct, control, or exercise any direction or supervision over the development of teacher, principal, or school leader evaluation systems.”

SEC. 202. HEA CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) QUALIFIED TEACHER.—The Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 200 (20 U.S.C. 1021)—

(A) by amending paragraph (13) to read as follows:

“(13) QUALIFIED.—The term ‘qualified’ has the meaning given the term ‘qualified teacher’ in section 2002(5), as amended by section 201 of the Student Success Act.

“(B) in paragraph (17)(B)(ii), by striking ‘highly qualified’ and inserting ‘qualified’; and

“(C) in paragraph (22)(D)(i), by striking ‘highly qualified’ and inserting ‘qualified’.”

(2) in section 201(3) (20 U.S.C. 1022(3)), by striking “highly qualified teachers” and inserting “qualified teachers”;

(3) in section 202 (20 U.S.C. 1022)—

(A) in subsection (b)(6)(H), by striking “highly qualified teachers” and inserting “qualified teachers”;

(B) in subsection (d)—
 (i) in paragraph (1)—
 (I) in subparagraph (A)(i)(I), by striking “highly qualified” and inserting “qualified”; and
 (II) in subparagraph (B)(iii), by striking “highly qualified” and inserting “qualified”; and
 (ii) in paragraph (5), by striking “highly qualified teachers” and inserting “qualified teachers”; and
 (C) in subsection (e)(2)(C)(iii)(IV), by striking “highly qualified teacher, as defined in section 9101,” and inserting “qualified teacher, as defined in section 2002(5), as amended by section 201 of the Student Success Act”;
 (4) in section 204(a)(4) (20 U.S.C. 1022c) by striking “highly qualified teachers” each place it appears and inserting “qualified teachers”;
 (5) in section 205(b)(1)(I) (20 U.S.C. 1022d(b)(1)(I)), by striking “highly qualified teachers” and inserting “qualified teachers”;
 (6) in section 207(a)(1) (20 U.S.C. 1022f(a)(1)), by striking “highly qualified teachers” and inserting “qualified teachers”;
 (7) in section 208(b) (20 U.S.C. 1022g(b)), by striking “highly qualified” each place it appears and inserting “qualified”;
 (8) in section 242(b) (20 U.S.C. 1033a), by striking “highly qualified” each place it appears and inserting “qualified”;
 (9) in section 251(b) (20 U.S.C. 1034(b)), by striking “highly qualified” each place it appears and inserting “qualified”; and
 (10) in section 258(d)(1) (20 U.S.C. 1036(d)(1)), by striking “highly qualified” and inserting “qualified”.such partner institution.
 (c) DEFINITIONS.—Section 200 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1021) is amended—
 (1) by amending paragraph (6) to read as follows:
 “(6) ELIGIBLE PARTNERSHIP.—Except as otherwise provided in section 251, the term ‘eligible partnership’ means an entity that—
 “(A) shall include—
 “(i) a high-need local educational agency;
 “(ii)(I) a high-need school or a consortium of high-need schools served by the high-need local educational agency; or
 “(II) as applicable, a high-need early childhood education program; or
 “(iii)(I) the following entities—
 “(aa) a partner institution.
 “(bb) a school, department, or program of education within such partner institution, which may include an existing teacher professional development program with proven outcomes within a 4-year institution of higher education that provides intensive and sustained collaboration between faculty and local educational agencies consistent with the requirements of this title; and
 “(cc) a school or department of arts and sciences within such partner institution; or
 “(II) an entity operating a program that provides alternative routes to State certification of teachers that has a teacher preparation program—
 “(aa) whose graduates exhibit strong performance on State-determined qualifying assessments for new teachers through demonstrating that 80 percent or more of the graduates of the program who intend to enter the field of teaching have passed all of the applicable State qualification assessments for new teachers, which shall include an assessment of each prospective teacher’s subject matter knowledge in the content area in which the teacher intends to teach; and
 “(bb) that requires each student in the program to meet high academic standards or

demonstrate a record of success, as determined by the institution (including prior to entering and being accepted into a program), and participate in intensive clinical experience, and each student in the program is preparing to become a qualified teacher; and
 “(B) may include any of the following:
 “(i) The Governor of the State.
 “(ii) The State educational agency.
 “(iii) The State board of education.
 “(iv) The State agency for higher education.
 “(v) A business.
 “(vi) A public or private nonprofit educational organization.
 “(vii) An educational service agency.
 “(viii) A teacher organization.
 “(ix) A high-performing local educational agency, or a consortium of such local educational agencies, that can serve as a resource to the partnership.
 “(x) A charter school (as defined in section 5210).
 “(xi) A school or department within a partner institution that focuses on psychology and human development.
 “(xii) A school or department within a partner institution with comparable expertise in the disciplines of teaching, learning, and child and adolescent development.
 “(xiii) An entity operating a program that provides alternative routes to State certification of teachers.
 “(xiv) A school, department, or program of education within a partner institution.
 “(xv) A school or department of arts and sciences within a partner institution.”;
 (2) by amending paragraph (10) to read as follows:
 “(10) HIGH-NEED LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term “high-need local educational agency has the meaning given such term in section 2002(4), as amended by section 201 of the Student Success Act.”;
 (3) by amending paragraph (14) to read as follows:
 “(14) INDUCTION PROGRAM.—The term ‘induction program’ has the meaning given the term ‘induction’ in section 2002(6), as amended by section 201 of the Student Success Act.”; and
 (4) by amending paragraph (21) to read as follows:
 “(21) TEACHER MENTORING.—The term ‘teacher mentoring’ has the meaning given the term ‘mentoring’ in section 2002(7), as amended by section 201 of the Student Success Act.”.
 (d) PURPOSE.—Section 201 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1022) is amended—
 (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (3);
 (2) by striking the period and inserting “; and” at the end of paragraph (4); and
 (3) by inserting at the end the following:
 “(5) improve teacher effectiveness.”.
 (e) PARTNERSHIP GRANTS.—Section 202 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1022a) is amended—
 (1) in subsection (b)(6)—
 (A) in subparagraph (E)(ii), by striking “student academic” and inserting “college-and-career ready student academic”;
 (B) in subparagraph (H)—
 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting “or alternative route entity” after “partner institution”;
 (ii) in clause (i), by striking “that incorporate” and all that follows through “instruction” and inserting “consistent with part A of title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965”;
 (iii) in clause (i), insert “and other educators, including multi-tiered systems of

support and universal design for learning, as described in section 5429(b)(21)” after “secondary school teachers”;
 (iv) in clause (ii), insert “ and writing instruction” after “reading”; and
 (v) after clause (ii) insert the following:
 “(iii) provide high-quality professional development activities to strengthen the instructional and leadership skills of elementary school and secondary school principals and district superintendents, if the partner institution has a principal preparation program”;
 (C) by redesignating subparagraphs (I) through (K) as subparagraphs (J) through (L), respectively; and
 (D) by inserting after subparagraph (H), the following:
 “(I) how the partnership will prepare teachers to use data to analyze student performance and adjust teaching practices to improve student achievement”; and
 (2) in subsection (d)(6)(A), by striking “that incorporate the essential components of literacy instruction” and inserting “aligned with part A of title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965”.
 (f) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—Section 203(b)(2)(A) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1022b(b)(2)(A)) is amended by inserting “or alternative route entity” after “institution of higher education
 (g) ACCOUNTABILITY AND EVALUATION.—Section 204(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1022c) is amended—
 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and
 (2) by inserting after paragraph (2), the following:
 “(3) effective teachers as determined by the State”;
 (h) INFORMATION ON PREPARATION PROGRAMS.—Section 205(b)(1) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1022d(b)) is amended—
 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “teacher preparation program” and inserting “teacher and school leader preparation program”; and
 (2) by adding at the end the following:
 “(M) Within 3 years of the date of enactment of the Student Success Act, information on the impact of each program’s graduates on the evidence of student learning, as defined in section 2002(15), of the students that such graduates teach, if that information is available.
 “(N) The percentage of each program’s graduates who teach in a high-need school.
 “(O) The percentage of each program’s graduates who are prepared to teach a high-need subject.
 “(P) The percentage of each program’s graduates who become effective and highly effective teachers or principals as determined by the State.
 “(Q) The 3-year retention rate of each program’s graduates who become effective and highly effective teachers or principals according to such graduates’ ratings by such system.”.
TITLE III—LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION FOR LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT AND IMMIGRANT STUDENTS
SEC. 301. LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION.
 Title III (20 U.S.C. 6801 et seq.) is amended—
 (1) in section 3001—
 (A) by striking “fiscal year 2002” and inserting “fiscal year 2016” each place it appears; and
 (B) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “\$750,000,000” and inserting “1,000,000,000”;

(2) by striking “No Child Left Behind Act of 2001” and inserting “Student Success Act” each place it appears;

(3) in section 3244, by striking “2002 through 2008” and inserting “2016 through 2022”;

(4) by striking “adequate yearly progress” and inserting “progress” each place it appears;

(5) in sections 3102(8)(B), 3113(b)(5)(B), and 3116(b)(3)(B), by striking “, as described in section 1111(b)(2)(B)”;

(6) in section 3122(a)(3)(A)(iii), by striking “as described in section 1111(b)(2)(B)”;

(7) by repealing section 3122;

(8) in section 3111(b)(2)(D), by striking “annual measurable achievement objectives pursuant to section 3122” and inserting “performance targets described in section 1111(c)”;

(9) in sections 3113(b), 3116(b), 3121(d)(3), and 3302(b), by striking “annual measurable achievement objectives described in section 3122” and inserting “performance targets described in section 1111(c)” each place it appears;

(10) in section 3122, by striking “annual measurable achievement objectives” and inserting “performance targets” each place it appears;

(11) by striking “section 1111(b)(7)” and inserting “section 1111(b)(3)(F)” each place it appears; and

(12) by striking “section 1111(b)(1)” and inserting “section 1111(b)(4)” each place it appears.

TITLE IV—21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS

SEC. 401. 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS.

Title IV (20 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

“TITLE IV—21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS

“PART A—21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS

“SEC. 4001. PURPOSE.

“The purpose of this part is to provide opportunities for communities to establish or expand activities through learning partnerships that—

“(1) provide opportunities for academic enrichment, increased academic achievement, and student success in schools by providing students with additional learning time for more expansive, relevant and rigorous learning opportunities, including opportunities to catch students up in their coursework, and help students accelerate their learning;

“(2) provide a broad array of additional services, programs and activities for a well-rounded education, including youth development activities, music and the arts, outdoor and recreation programs, technology education programs, dual-language programs, character education, and environmental literacy programs that are designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic program for participating students;

“(3) complement, not replicate, the regular school day, by offering a range of activities that capture student interest and strengthen student engagement in learning, promote higher class attendance, improve retention, and reduce the risk for dropout, and actively address the specific learning needs and interests of all types of students, especially those who may benefit from approaches and experiences not offered in the traditional classroom setting;

“(4) provide teachers and staff in learning partnerships with increased opportunities to work collaboratively, and to participate in professional planning and professional development, within and across grades and subjects to improve teaching and learning;

“(5) provide students with safe learning environments and additional resources to increase student engagement in school; and

“(6) offer families of students served by partnerships opportunities for literacy development and related educational development.

“SEC. 4002. ALLOTMENT TO STATES.

“(a) RESERVATION.—From the funds appropriated under section 4009 for any fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve not more than 1 percent for payments to the outlying areas and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to be allotted in accordance with their respective needs for assistance under this part, as determined by the Secretary, to enable the outlying areas and the Bureau to carry out the purpose of this part.

“(b) STATE ALLOTMENTS.—

“(1) DETERMINATION.—From the funds appropriated under section 4009 for any fiscal year and remaining after the Secretary makes reservations under subsection (a), the Secretary shall allot to each State for the fiscal year an amount that bears the same relationship to the remainder as the amount the State received under subpart 2 of part A of title I for the preceding fiscal year bears to the amount all States received under that subpart for the preceding fiscal year, except that no State shall receive less than an amount equal to one-half of 1 percent of the total amount made available to all States under this subsection.

“(2) REALLOTMENT OF UNUSED FUNDS.—If a State does not receive an allotment under this part for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reallocate the amount of the State’s allotment to the remaining States in accordance with this subsection.

“SEC. 4003. STATE ACTIVITIES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—A State educational agency may use not more than 5 percent of the amount made available to the State under section 4002(b) for—

“(1) the administrative costs of carrying out its responsibilities under this part; and

“(2) providing technical assistance as described in subsection (b) to learning partnerships;

“(b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The technical assistance described in this paragraph includes the following:

“(A) Assisting learning partnerships who are prioritized in section 4005(g) including rural and urban schools by—

“(i) informing those learning partnerships that are prioritized in section 4005(g) that they have a priority for competing for grants under section 4005;

“(ii) providing technical assistance to the learning partnership for the development of the applications described in section 4005(b), including assisting the learning partnership in identifying which elementary schools and secondary schools to serve;

“(iii) providing technical assistance to the learning partnership if they do not receive a grant under section 4005 so that they may re-compete in following competitions;

“(B) Assisting each learning partnership that receives an award under section 4005 to plan and implement additional learning time with such funds, including assisting the learning partnership in—

“(i) determining how to implement additional learning time in the schools the learning partnership intends to serve based on the results of the needs assessment described in section 4005(b)(2)(C)(i);

“(ii) identifying additional community partners, which may include multicounty public entities, and resources that may be

utilized to implement the additional learning time;

“(iii) strengthening the existing partnerships of the learning partnership, identifying appropriate roles for each of the partners in the implementation of additional learning time in schools served by the learning partnership, and ensuring that the partnership is effective in maintaining strong communication, information sharing, and joint planning and implementation;

“(C) Identifying best practices for professional development for teachers and staff in learning partnerships receiving funding under this part to implement the authorized activities described in section 4006.

“(D) Identifying best practices for using additional learning time to improve academic enrichment, and student academic achievement in schools, and providing technical assistance to the learning partnership in using such best practices to implement and improve additional learning time initiatives.

“(E) Providing guidance on how to provide programs that are age appropriate and address the varying needs of students in elementary (including preschool), middle, and diploma granting schools.

“(F) Supporting pay for success initiatives at the State or local level to meet the purposes of this part.

“(2) SUBGRANTS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—A State educational agency may use a portion of the funds described in paragraph (1) to award subgrants to entities including intermediaries, educational service agencies or other public entities with demonstrated expertise in additional learning time capacity building, or evaluation to carry out the technical assistance described in subparagraph (A).

“SEC. 4004. STATE APPLICATION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In order to receive an allotment under section 4002(b) for any fiscal year, a State educational agency shall submit to the Secretary, at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may require, an application that—

“(1) designates the State educational agency as the agency responsible for the administration and supervision of programs assisted under this part;

“(2) describes how the State educational agency will use funds received under this part, including funds reserved for State-level activities;

“(3) contains an assurance that the State educational agency, in making awards under section 4005, will give priority to learning partnerships that propose to serve—

“(A) students attending schools in need of support and high-priority schools;

“(B) schools with a high number or percentage of students that are eligible for free or reduced price lunch under the Richard B. Russell School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.);

“(4) describes the peer review process as described in section 4005(e) and the selection criteria the State educational agency will use to evaluate applications from, and select, learning partnerships to receive awards under section 4005;

“(5) describes the steps the State educational agency will take to ensure that activities and programs carried out by learning partnerships using such awards—

“(A) implement evidence-based strategies; and

“(B) ensure learning partnerships have the capacity to implement high-quality additional learning time activities that are different from methods which have been proven ineffective during the regular school day;

“(6) describes how the State educational agency will use the indicators under section 4007(a)(3) to measure the performance, on an annual basis, of learning partnerships, and

“(A) use outcomes from multiple indicators and not rely on one indicator in isolation; and

“(B) provide ongoing technical assistance and training and dissemination of promising practices;

“(7) provides an assurance that the State educational agency will set up a process to allow learning partnerships who receive an award under section 4005 and who operate a proven and effective program based on the measures of performance described in paragraph (6) to recompete in their last year of funding for an additional 5-year implementation cycle;

“(8) describes how the State educational agency will, to the extent practicable, distribute funds under this part equitably among geographic areas within the State, including urban and rural areas;

“(9) includes information identifying the per-pupil funding amount range the State educational agency will use to ensure that awards made under section 4005 are of sufficient size and scope to carry out the purposes of the award,

“(10) includes an assurance that in determining award amounts in accordance with paragraph (9), the State educational agency shall take into consideration—

“(A) diverse geographical areas; and

“(B) the quality of activities and programs proposed by learning partnerships applying for such awards;

“(11) provides an assurance that the application will be developed in consultation and coordination with appropriate State officials, including the chief State school officer, and other State agencies administering additional learning time, the heads of the State health and mental health agencies or their designees, teachers, parents, students, the business community, and community-based organizations;

“(12) describes how activities and programs carried out by the learning partnerships under this part will be coordinated with programs under this Act, and other programs as appropriate;

“(13) describes how the State educational agency will provide a fair and transparent competition for learning partnerships that apply for grant funds under section 4005(b);

“(14) provides an assurance that the State educational agency in determining grant awards to learning partnerships will award grants based solely on the quality of the application in relationship to the needs identified by the learning partnership through the needs assessment described in section 4005(b)(2)(C)(i); and

“(15) provides for timely public notice of intent to file an application and an assurance that the application will be available for public review after submission.

“(b) DEEMED APPROVAL.—An application submitted by a State educational agency pursuant to subsection (a) shall be deemed to be approved by the Secretary unless the Secretary makes a written determination, prior to the expiration of the 120-day period beginning on the date on which the Secretary received the application, that the application is not in compliance with this part.

“(c) DISAPPROVAL.—The Secretary shall not finally disapprove the application, except after giving the State educational agency notice and opportunity for a hearing.

“(d) NOTIFICATION.—If the Secretary finds that the application is not in compliance, in

whole or in part, with this part, the Secretary shall—

“(1) give the State educational agency notice and an opportunity for a hearing; and

“(2) notify the State educational agency of the finding of noncompliance, and, in such notification, shall—

“(A) cite the specific provisions in the application that are not in compliance; and

“(B) request additional information, only as to the noncompliant provisions, needed to make the application compliant.

“(e) RESPONSE.—If the State educational agency responds to the Secretary's notification described in subsection (d)(2) during the 45-day period beginning on the date on which the agency received the notification, and re-submits the application with the requested information described in subsection (d)(2)(B), the Secretary shall approve or disapprove such application prior to the later of—

“(1) the expiration of the 45-day period beginning on the date on which the application is resubmitted; or

“(2) the expiration of the 120-day period described in subsection (b).

“(f) FAILURE TO RESPOND.—If the State educational agency does not respond to the Secretary's notification described in subsection (d)(2) during the 45-day period beginning on the date on which the agency received the notification, such application shall be deemed to be disapproved.

“SEC. 4005. LOCAL COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Each State that receives an allotment under this part shall reserve not less than 95 percent of the amount allotted to such State under section 4002(b), for each fiscal year for awards to learning partnerships under this section.

“(b) APPLICATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive an award under this part, a learning partnership shall submit an application to the State educational agency at such time, in such manner, and including such information as the State educational agency may reasonably require.

“(2) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

“(A) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—A description of the planning activities that will be conducted during the planning phase, if applicable, that shall include a budget for the planning activities;

“(B) ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—A description of the learning partnership and the roles and responsibilities of each of the partners of the learning partnership.

“(C) ADDITIONAL LEARNING TIME ACTIVITIES.—A description of—

“(i) the activities that will be carried out by the learning partnership during the additional learning time based solely on the learning partnership's determination of the results of a needs assessment that considers—

“(I) school-wide needs, including planning time and instructional time for teachers and staff in the learning partnership;

“(II) individual student learning needs;

“(III) school and student safety; and

“(IV) the number of additional hours (during the regular school day or outside of the regular school day, as applicable) needed for supervised student enrichment, determined through school, family, and community input;

“(ii) a description of how the learning partnership will align the activities described in this subparagraph with—

“(I) school improvement plans developed and implemented pursuant to section 1116, if applicable;

“(II) academic instruction that occurs during the regular school day at the school proposed to be served by the learning partnership; and

“(III) in the case of a learning partnership implementing additional learning time as described in section 4008(2)(B), school improvement efforts supported by other programs under this Act and other relevant State and local programs;

“(iii) the anticipated number of hours of additional learning time the average and highest-need student will receive, based on evidence-based attendance expectations, and how the number of hours are appropriate based on the needs assessment described in clause (i) and the requirements of (ii);

“(iv) the grade or grade spans (including preschool) to be served by the learning partnerships using award funds;

“(v) how students participating in the activities will travel safely to and from the additional learning time center and home, as applicable; and

“(vi) a description of how the learning partnership will ensure that staff employed by the learning partnership will coordinate to develop and implement activities described in this subparagraph using, in part, the data described in subparagraph (F).

“(D) SELECTION OF SCHOOLS.—A description of the process, considerations, and criteria the learning partnership will use to select schools to implement additional learning time programs and activities that shall take into account the priorities described in section 4005(g);

“(E) FACILITY ASSURANCE.—An assurance that the activities described in subparagraph (C) will take place in a safe and easily accessible facility and a description of how the learning partnership will disseminate information about the facility to the parents and community in a manner that is understandable and accessible;

“(F) DATA SHARING.—An assurance that relevant student level data will be shared within the learning partnership consistent with the requirements of section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act so that the activities described in subparagraph (C)(i) are aligned according to subparagraph (C)(ii).

“(G) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.—A description of how the learning partnership will provide professional development to the staff employed by the learning partnership.

“(H) PUBLIC RESOURCES.—An identification of Federal, State, and local programs that will be combined or coordinated with the additional learning time program to make the most effective use of public resources.

“(I) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—An assurance that funds under this section will be used to increase the level of State, local, and other non-Federal funds that would, in the absence of funds under this part, be made available for programs and activities authorized under this part, and in no case supplant Federal, State, local, or non-Federal funds;

“(J) EXPERIENCE.—A description of past performance and record of effectiveness of the community based organization within the partnership in providing the activities described in subparagraph (C).

“(K) CONTINUATION AFTER FEDERAL FUNDING.—A description of a preliminary plan for how the additional learning time will continue when funding under this part ends.

“(L) CAPACITY.—An assurance that the learning partnership has the capacity to collect the data relevant to the indicators described under section 4007(a)(3).

“(M) NOTICE OF INTENT.—An assurance that the community of the learning partnership will be given notice of an intent to submit an application and that the application and any waiver request will be available for public review after submission of the application.

“(N) OTHER INFORMATION AND ASSURANCES.—Such other information and assurances as the State educational agency may reasonably require.

“(C) APPROVAL OF CERTAIN APPLICATIONS.—The State educational agency may approve an application under this section for a program to be located in a facility other than an elementary school or secondary school only if the program will be at least as available and accessible to the students to be served as if the program were located in an elementary school or secondary school.

“(d) NON-FEDERAL MATCH.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A State educational agency shall require a learning partnership to match funds awarded under this part, except that such match may not exceed the amount of the grant award and may not be derived from other Federal funds.

“(2) SLIDING SCALE.—The amount of a match under paragraph (1) shall be established based on a sliding fee scale that takes into account—

“(A) the relative poverty of the population to be targeted by the learning partnership; and

“(B) the ability of the learning partnership to obtain such matching funds.

“(3) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—Each State educational agency shall permit the community-learning partnership to provide all or any portion of such match in the form of in-kind contributions.

“(e) PEER REVIEW.—In reviewing local applications under this section, a State educational agency shall use a peer review process or other methods of assuring the quality of such applications.

“(f) DURATION OF AWARDS.—Grants under this section may be awarded for a period of 5 years. Learning partnerships that receive funding under this section and who operate a proven and effective program based on the measures of performance established in section 4004(a)(6) shall be allowed to re compete in their last year of funding for an additional 5 year grant.

“(g) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this part, a State educational agency shall give priority to applications proposing to target services to—

“(1) students (including preschool students) who attend schools in need of support and high-priority schools; and

“(2) learning partnerships that propose to serve schools with a high percentage or number of students that are eligible for free and reduced price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.);

“SEC. 4006. LOCAL ACTIVITIES.

“(a) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each learning partnership that receives an award under section 4005 shall use the award funds to implement additional learning time activities that are consistent with section 4005(b)(2).

“(2) PLANNING PERIOD.—Each learning partnership may use funds under this section for a planning period of not longer than 6 months to develop an implementation plan described in section 4005(b)(2)(A) to carry out the additional learning time activities, or up

to one school year to develop an extended school day, week, or year.

“SEC. 4007. REPORTING.

“(a) REPORT BY LEARNING PARTNERSHIPS.—Each learning partnership shall, not later than 1 year after the first day of the first school year in which the additional learning time is implemented, prepare and submit to the State educational agency a report—

“(1) containing a detailed description of the additional learning time activities that were carried out under this part;

“(2) with respect to each school served by the partnership—

“(A) on the actual expenses associated with, carrying out the additional learning time programs and activities in the first school year; and

“(B) a description of how the additional learning time programs and activities were implemented and whether such programs and activities were carried out during non-school hours or periods when school is not in session or added to expand the school day, school week, or school year schedule; and

“(3) containing measures of performance, aggregated and disaggregated, on the following indicators—

“(A) student academic achievement as measured by—

“(i) high-quality State academic assessments; and

“(ii) student growth in accordance with student growth standards;

“(B) for diploma granting schools served by the learning partnerships, graduation rates;

“(C) student attendance, reported separately for in-school attendance and attendance at the nonschool time programs, if applicable;

“(D) performance on a set of comprehensive school performance indicators that may include—

“(i) as appropriate, rate of earned on-time promotion from grade-to-grade;

“(ii) for high schools served by the learning partnerships, the percentage of students taking a college preparatory curriculum, or student rates of enrollment, persistence, and attainment of an associate or baccalaureate degree;

“(iii) the percentage of student suspensions and expulsions;

“(iv) indicators of school readiness for entering kindergartners;

“(v) evidence of increased parent and family engagement and support for children's learning;

“(vi) evidence of increased student engagement in school, which may include completing of assignments and coming to class prepared;

“(vii) evidence of mastery of non-academic skills which may include problem solving, learning to work in teams, and social and civic responsibility;

“(viii) improved personal attitude, which may include initiative, self-confidence, self-esteem and sense of self-efficacy; and

“(ix) development of social skills, which may include behavior, communication, relationships with peers and adults.

“(b) REPORT BY STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—A State Educational Agency that receives funds under this part shall annually prepare and submit to the Secretary a report that contains all reports submitted by learning partnerships under the jurisdiction of the agency, aggregated and disaggregated, provided under subsection (a).

“(c) PUBLICATION AND AVAILABILITY OF THE REPORT.—The Secretary shall publish and make widely available to the public, includ-

ing through a website or other means, a summary of the reports received under subsection (b).

“SEC. 4008. DEFINITIONS.

“In this part:

“(1) LEARNING PARTNERSHIP.—The term ‘learning partnership’ means—

“(A) a local educational agency, a consortium of local educational agencies, or an educational service agency and one or more local educational agencies, in a partnership with 1 or more community-based organizations or other public or private entities; or

“(B) a community-based organization, or other public or private entity, in a partnership with a local educational agency, a consortium of local educational agencies, or an educational service agency and one or more local educational agencies.

“(2) ADDITIONAL LEARNING TIME.—The term ‘additional learning time’ means—

“(A) time added during non-school hours or periods when school is not in session, such as before or after school or during summer recess for activities that—

“(i) provide opportunities for student academic enrichment, including hands-on, experiential and project-based learning opportunities for subjects including English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, music and the arts, history, geography, health education, physical education, environmental literacy, and activities such as tutoring and service learning that—

“(I) assist students in meeting State and local academic achievement standards in core academic subjects,

“(II) use evidence-based skill training approaches and active forms of learning to promote healthy development, and engage students in learning;

“(III) align and coordinate with the regular school day and school year curriculum;

“(IV) align to school improvement plans developed pursuant to section 1116, as applicable; and

“(V) align to the learning needs of individual students at the school served by the learning partnership;

“(ii) provide students with opportunities for personal and social development;

“(iii) serve the learning needs and interests of all students, including those who already meet or exceed student academic achievement standards as measured by high-quality State academic assessments, and especially those who may not be achieving at grade level in the traditional classroom setting;

“(iv) are developmentally and age appropriate; and

“(v) involve a broad group of stakeholders (including educators, parents, students, and community partners) in carrying out additional learning time programs and activities described in this subparagraph; or

“(B) time added to expand the school day, school week, or school year schedule, that—

“(i) increases the total number of school hours for the school year at a school based on evidence supporting the amount of additional learning time needed to achieve the objectives described in clause (ii);

“(ii) is used to redesign the school's program and schedule—

“(I) to support innovation in teaching, in order to improve the academic achievement of students aligned to the school improvement plan, if applicable, especially those students who may not be achieving at grade level, in reading or language arts, mathematics, science, history and civics, and other core academic subjects;

“(II) to improve the performance of all students, including those students who are

struggling to meet college and career ready standards or State early learning standards, as appropriate, and those students who already meet or exceed college and career ready standards as measured by high-quality State academic assessments;

“(III) for additional subjects and enrichment activities that reflect student interest, connect to effective community partners, and contribute to a well-rounded education, which may include music and the arts, health education, physical education, service learning, and experiential and work-based learning opportunities (such as community service, learning apprenticeships, internships, and job shadowing);

“(IV) to advance student learning by providing a learning environment and supporting learning activities that engage students, develop social skills, and cultivate positive personal attitude; and

“(V) for teachers and staff in learning partnerships to collaborate, and plan, within and across grades and subjects;

“(iii) provides school-wide services that are—

“(I) aligned to school improvement plans developed pursuant to section 1116, as applicable; and

“(II) aligned to individual student achievement needs as identified by the school-site staff at the school served by the community-learning partnership; and

“(iv) involve a broad group of stakeholders (including educators, parents, students and community partners) in planning and carrying out additional learning time programs and activities described in this subparagraph.

“(3) ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY.—The term ‘environmental literacy’ means a fundamental understanding of ecological principles, the systems of the natural world, and the relationships and interactions between natural and man made environments.

“SEC. 4009. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this part \$1,200,000,000 for fiscal year 2016 and such sums as may be necessary for each succeeding fiscal year.

“PART B—GRANTS TO SUPPORT STUDENT SAFETY, HEALTH, AND SUCCESS

“SEC. 4201. PURPOSE.

“The purposes of this part are—

“(1) to support local educational agencies and schools in providing comprehensive systems of learning supports to students and their families so that students receive their education in safe environments and graduate from school college and career ready;

“(2) to enhance the ability of local educational agencies and schools to leverage resources within schools and within communities to improve instruction, strengthen programs, and identify gaps in existing programs for students and their families;

“(3) to ensure the academic, behavioral, emotional, health, mental health, and social needs of all students, including students from low income families, students with disabilities, English learners, and youth who are involved in or who are identified by evidence-based risk assessment methods as being at high risk of becoming involved in juvenile delinquency or criminal street gangs through a coordinated pipeline or continuum of services for children from birth through college or career;

“(4) to support programs and activities that prevent and respond to violence in and around schools (including bullying, harassment, and mass casualty events), that prevent the illegal use of alcohol, tobacco, and

drugs by students, and provide resources and training to foster a safe and drug-free learning environment to support student academic achievement; and

“(5) to enhance partnerships between schools, parents, and communities, and better support family and community engagement in education.

“SEC. 4202. RESERVATIONS AND ALLOTMENTS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—From the amount made available under section 4210 to carry out this part for each fiscal year, the Secretary—

“(1) shall reserve 1 percent of such amount for grants to the outlying areas to be allotted in accordance with the Secretary’s determination of their respective needs and to carry out programs described in this part; and

“(2) shall reserve 1 percent of such amount for the Secretary of the Interior to carry out programs described in this part for Indian youth.

“(b) STATE ALLOTMENTS.—Except as provided in subsection (a), the Secretary shall, for each fiscal year, allot among the States—

“(1) one-half of the remainder not reserved under subsection (a) according to the ratio between the school-aged population of each State and the school-aged population of all the States; and

“(2) one-half of such remainder according to the ratio between the amount each State received under section 1124A for the preceding year and the sum of such amounts received by all the States.

“(c) MINIMUM.—For any fiscal year, no State shall be allotted under this subsection an amount that is less than one-half of 1 percent of the total amount allotted to all the States under this subsection.

“(d) REALLOTMENT OF UNUSED FUNDS.—

“(1) REALLOTMENT FOR FAILURE TO APPLY.—If any State does not apply for an allotment under this part for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reallocate the amount of the State’s allotment to the remaining States in accordance with this section.

“(2) REALLOTMENT OF UNUSED FUNDS.—The Secretary may reallocate any amount of any allotment to a State if the Secretary determines that the State will be unable to use such amount within 2 years of such allotment. Such reallocations shall be made on the same basis as allotments are made under subsection (b).

“SEC. 4203. STATE APPLICATIONS.

“(a) APPLICATION.—To receive a grant under this part, a State educational agency shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may require, and containing the information described in subsection (b).

“(b) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

“(1) An assurance that the State educational agency will review existing resources and programs across the State and coordinate any new plans and resources under this part with such existing programs and resources.

“(2) A description of how the State educational agency will identify and eliminate State barriers to the coordination and integration of programs, initiatives, and funding streams so that local educational agencies can provide comprehensive continuums of learning supports.

“(3) A description of the State educational agency’s comprehensive school safety plan, which shall address bullying and harassment, provide for evidence-based and promising practices related to juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity

prevention and intervention, address school-sponsored, off-premises, overnight field trips, disaster preparedness, and crisis and emergency management; and any other issues determined necessary by the State educational agency (existing plans may be used to satisfy the requirements of this section if such existing plans include the information required by this section, or can be modified to do so, and are submitted to the Secretary with such modifications) which—

“(A) shall be submitted to the Secretary not later than 1 year after the enactment of the Student Success Act;

“(B) shall be developed in consultation with public safety and community partners, including police, fire, emergency medical services, emergency management agencies, parents, and other such organizations;

“(C) shall be made available to the public in a manner that is understandable and accessible; and

“(D) the State educational agency shall require all local educational agencies to adopt the plan within 1 year of approval (existing plans may be used to satisfy the requirements of this section if such existing plans are approved by the State educational agency and include the information required by this section, or can be modified to do so).

“(4) A description of how grant funds will be used to identify best practices for professional development for sustainable comprehensive program development.

“(5) A description of how the State educational agency will monitor the implementation of activities under this part, and provide technical assistance to local eligible entities.

“(6) A description of how the State educational agency will ensure subgrants to eligible entities will facilitate school-community planning and effective service coordination, integration, and provision at the local level to achieve high performance standards based on the system developed in paragraph (7).

“(7) A description of how the State educational agency will develop a system for reporting and measuring eligible entity performance, and assist eligible entities in developing and implementing systems for measuring performance based on the indicators in section 4208(a)(3).

“(8) An assurance that the State educational agency will set up a process to allow local eligible entities who receive an award under section 4206 and who operate a proven and effective program based on the measures of performance described in paragraph (7) to recompete in their last year of funding for an additional 5-year cycle.

“(9) A description of the steps the State educational agency will take to ensure that activities and programs carried out by local eligible entities will implement evidence based strategies.

“(10) A description of how the number of youth involved in juvenile delinquency and criminal justice systems will not increase as a result of activities funded under this grant.

“(c) APPROVAL PROCESS.—

“(1) DEEMED APPROVAL.—An application submitted by a State pursuant to this section shall undergo peer review by the Secretary and shall be deemed to be approved by the Secretary unless the Secretary makes a written determination, prior to the expiration of the 120-day period beginning on the date on which the Secretary received the application, that the application is not in compliance with this subpart.

“(2) **DISAPPROVAL.**—The Secretary shall not finally disapprove the application, except after giving the State educational agency and the chief executive officer of the State notice and an opportunity for a hearing.

“(3) **NOTIFICATION.**—If the Secretary finds that the application is not in compliance, in whole or in part, with this subpart, the Secretary shall—

“(A) give the State educational agency and the chief executive officer of the State notice and an opportunity for a hearing; and

“(B) notify the State educational agency and the chief executive officer of the State of the finding of noncompliance, and in such notification, shall—

“(i) cite the specific provisions in the application that are not in compliance; and

“(ii) request additional information, only as to the noncompliant provisions, needed to make the application compliant.

“(4) **RESPONSE.**—If the State educational agency and the chief executive officer of the State respond to the Secretary's notification described in paragraph (3)(B) during the 45-day period beginning on the date on which the agency received the notification, and resubmit the application with the requested information described in paragraph (3)(B)(ii), the Secretary shall approve or disapprove such application prior to the later of—

“(A) the expiration of the 45-day period beginning on the date on which the application is resubmitted; or

“(B) the expiration of the 120-day period described in paragraph (1).

“(5) **FAILURE TO RESPOND.**—If the State educational agency and the chief executive officer of the State do not respond to the Secretary's notification described in paragraph (3)(B) during the 45-day period beginning on the date on which the agency received the notification, such application shall be deemed to be disapproved.

“(d) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit local educational agencies or individual schools from incorporating additional elements to the State-developed comprehensive school safety plan to improve student and school safety reflective of the individual agency or school community.

“SEC. 4204. STATE USE OF FUNDS.

“(a) **95 PERCENT OF FUNDS.**—Each State educational agency that receives a grant under this part shall reserve not less than 95 percent of the grant amount, for each fiscal year to award subgrants to local eligible entities in accordance with section 4206.

“(b) **5 PERCENT OF FUNDS.**—A State educational agency shall use not more than 5 percent, of which not more than 1 percent may be used for administration of a grant received under this subpart or may subgrant a portion of such funds to educational service agencies, or other public entities with demonstrated expertise to carry out the following activities:

“(1) Identify and eliminate State barriers to the coordination and integration of programs, initiatives, and funding streams so that local educational agencies can provide comprehensive continuums of learning supports.

“(2) Assist local eligible entities who are prioritized in section 4205(b) including those eligible entities that plan to serve rural and urban schools by—

“(A) informing those local eligible entities that they have a priority for competing for grants;

“(B) providing technical assistance to the local eligible entities for the development of the applications described in section 4206;

“(C) providing technical assistance to the local eligible entities if they do not receive a grant under section 4206 so that they may recompile in following competitions;

“(3) Identify best practices for professional development and capacity building for local educational agencies for the delivery of a comprehensive system of learning supports for teachers, administrators, and specialized instructional support personnel in schools that are served by the eligible entity receiving funding under this part to implement the authorized activities described in section 4207.

“(4) Reporting and evaluation activities.

“SEC. 4205. GENERAL SUBGRANT REQUIREMENTS.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—A State educational agency shall use grant funds received under this part to award subgrants to eligible entities.

“(b) **ABSOLUTE PRIORITY.**—In awarding subgrants to local eligible entities, the State educational agency shall give priority to—

“(1) local eligible entities that propose to serve a high percentage or number of students that are eligible for free or reduced price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.); and

“(2) local eligible entities proposing to serve students who attend schools in need of support and high-priority schools;

“(c) **COMPETITIVE PRIORITY.**—In awarding subgrants to local eligible entities, the State educational agency shall give competitive priority to—

“(1) in the case of local eligible entities that intend to implement programs described in section 4207(2)(A), local eligible entities that serve schools that implement, or have plans to implement disciplinary policies that are research based and focus on multi-tiered systems of support; and

“(2) in the case of eligible entities that intend to implement programs described in section 4207(2)(C), eligible entities proposing to serve geographic areas most in need of these services and that commit to working with local Promise Coordinating Councils.

“(d) **DURATION OF SUBGRANT.**—A State educational agency shall award under this part subgrants to eligible local entities for 5 years.

“(e) **RENEWAL.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A State educational agency may renew a subgrant awarded under this part for a period of 5 years.

“(2) **RENEWAL APPLICATION.**—To renew a subgrant, an eligible entity shall submit an application to the Secretary every 5 years as long as the eligible entity can demonstrate that they operate a proven and effective program based on performance on the indicators in section 4208(a)(3).

“SEC. 4206. LOCAL ELIGIBLE ENTITY APPLICATION.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—A local eligible entity that seeks a grant under this part shall submit an application to the State at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the State may require, including the information described in subsection (b).

“(b) **CONTENTS.**—An application submitted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

“(1) The results of a comprehensive needs assessment (which shall include incident data, and teacher, parent, or community surveys) and assets assessment which shall include a comprehensive analysis of the following—

“(A) the safety of the schools served by the local eligible entity (which shall include a

comprehensive analysis of incidents and prevalence of bullying and harassment at schools served by the local eligible entity);

“(B) the incidence and prevalence of drug, alcohol and substance abuse at schools served by the local eligible entity;

“(C) the needs of youth in the community with respect to evidence-based and promising practices related to juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity prevention and intervention, including an assessment of the number of youth who are involved or at-risk of involvement in juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity and the number of chronically truant youth;

“(D) the number of specialized instructional support personnel employed by schools served by the local eligible entity and the services provided by those personnel;

“(E) the prevalence of student health (including mental health, physical fitness, and nutrition) needs at schools served by the local eligible entity;

“(F) existing programs and services intended to provide a comprehensive system of support within schools served by local eligible entities, including the support of school governance and leadership for the programs and services and evidence of past successful collaboration in the delivery of services;

“(G) resources available in the community, including public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and community businesses and employers that could be leveraged by schools served by the local eligible entity to create comprehensive systems of support or deliver pipeline services within the schools;

“(H) school discipline data including in-school suspensions, out-of-school suspensions, expulsion, school-based arrests, referrals to law enforcement, and referrals to alternative schools; and

“(I) additional needs identified by the local eligible entity.

“(2) A description of the methodology used in conducting the needs assessment described in paragraph (1);

“(3) any steps that the eligible entity is taking, at the time of the application, to address needs identified during the needs assessment described in paragraph (1)

“(4) A description of the plan to implement grant funds (taking into account the cultural and linguistic needs of the community) which shall include the following components:

“(A) A description of the services (taking into account the cultural and linguistic needs of the community) that will be provided by the local eligible entity which shall include prevention, intervention, and systematic efforts to address student learning needs or pipeline services as identified and prioritized by the needs assessment in paragraph (1).

“(B) A description of how existing resources, services, and programs will be coordinated and integrated with new resources, services, and programs to create a comprehensive system of learning supports or pipeline services that is aligned with school improvement plans required under section 1116, as applicable.

“(C) A description of the partners within the eligible entity and their roles as they relate to the implementation of the comprehensive system of learning supports or pipeline services that will be implemented to address the needs outlined in the needs and assets assessment described in subsection (b)(1).

“(D) A description of how the grant will be used to enhance administrator's, teacher's,

and specialized instructional support personnel's identification and response to student learning needs for providing learning supports through professional development, and how school capacity will be enhanced to handle problems facing students such as those identified in the needs assessment.

“(E) A description of how the eligible entity will identify the financial savings from deferred or eliminated costs, or other benefits as a result of the programs or activities implemented by the eligible entities (in the case of an eligible entity who implements programs described in section 4207(2)(C), a comparative analysis of potential savings from criminal justice costs, public assistance costs, and other costs avoided by such programs).

“(F) A description of how the local eligible entity will measure performance based on the indicators described in section 4208(a)(3).

“(G) A description of the process for periodically reviewing the needs of students and assets within the school and community, and involving more community partners as applicable, and how data on performance on the indicators described in section 4208(a)(3) will be used to provide feedback on progress, and institutionalize support mechanisms to maintain and continually improve activities including when grant funds end.

“(c) SPECIAL RULE.—A local eligible entity may use—

“(1) an existing needs assessment to satisfy the requirements of subsection (b)(1), if the assessment includes the information required by such subsection, or can be modified to do so; and

“(2) an existing plan to satisfy the requirements of subsection (b)(3), if the plan meets the requirements of such subsection and is approved by the State educational agency.

“SEC. 4207. LOCAL ELIGIBLE ENTITY USE OF FUNDS.

“A local eligible entity that receives a subgrant under this part shall use such funds to carry out the following activities:

“(1) Implement a comprehensive plan as described in section 4206(b)(4).

“(2) Programs and activities that address the needs of the schools served by the eligible entity as identified by the needs and assets assessment in section 4206(b)(1), which may include—

“(A) violence prevention programs, including—

“(i) programs to provide safe passage to and from school;

“(ii) programs to prevent and appropriately respond to incidents of bullying and harassment (including professional development for teachers and other school personnel);

“(iii) programs that promote positive school environments for learning and reduce the need for suspensions, expulsions, referral to law enforcement, and other practices that remove students from instruction;

“(iv) conflict resolution and restorative practice and mediation programs;

“(v) activities that involve families, community sectors (which may include appropriately trained seniors) and a variety of providers in setting clear expectations against violence and appropriate consequences of violence;

“(vi) professional development and training for, and involvement of, school personnel, specialized instructional personnel, parents, and interested community members in prevention, education, early identification and intervention, mentoring, or rehabilitation referral, as related to violence prevention;

“(vii) reporting criminal offenses committed on school property;

“(viii) emergency intervention services following traumatic crisis events, such as a shooting, a mass casualty event, or a major accident that has disrupted the learning environment;

“(ix) establishing and maintaining a school safety hotline;

“(x) programs to train school personnel to identify warning signs of youth suicide and to create an action plan to help youth at risk of suicide; or

“(xi) programs that respond to the needs of students who are faced with domestic violence or child abuse;

“(B) drug and alcohol abuse prevention programs, including—

“(i) age appropriate and developmentally based activities that—

“(I) address the consequences of violence and illegal use of drugs, as appropriate;

“(II) promote a sense of individual responsibility and teach students that most people do not illegally use drugs;

“(III) teach students to recognize social and peer pressure to use drugs illegally and the skills for resisting illegal drug use; and

“(IV) teach students about the dangers of emerging drugs;

“(ii) activities that involve families, community sectors (which may include appropriately trained seniors) and a variety of providers in setting clear expectations against illegal use of drugs and appropriate consequences for illegal use of drugs;

“(iii) dissemination of drug prevention information to schools and communities;

“(iv) professional development and training for, and involvement of, school personnel, specialized instructional support personnel, parents, and interested community members in prevention, education, early identification and intervention, mentoring, or rehabilitation referral, as related to drug prevention; or

“(v) community wide planning and organizing to reduce illegal drug use;

“(C) evidence-based and promising practices related to juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity prevention and intervention for youth who are involved in, or at risk of involvement in, juvenile delinquency or street gang activity (that shall involve multiple community partners within the local eligible entity through coordination with a local Promise Coordinating Council);

“(D) recruiting, hiring, and maintaining specialized instructional support personnel or providing additional specialized instructional support services, including comprehensive career counseling, with priority given to the highest need schools to be served by the eligible entity;

“(E) implementing multi-tiered systems of support including positive behavior supports;

“(F) support services to address the behavioral, emotional, physical health, mental health and social needs of students, including—

“(i) social and emotional learning programs;

“(ii) mentoring programs;

“(iii) physical fitness, health education, and nutrition education programs;

“(iv) trauma-informed practices;

“(v) programs to meet the unique needs of students with active-duty military and recently discharged veteran parents; and

“(vi) programs to purchase and train personnel to use automated external defibrillators and hemorrhage control kits;

“(G) services and programs to support education of pregnant and parenting teens;

“(H) programs that enable schools to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters, crises and emergencies that threaten safety or disrupt teaching and learning, including programs to purchase and train personnel to use automated external defibrillators and hemorrhage control kits;

“(I) other pipeline services; or

“(J) other services consistent with this section.

“SEC. 4208. ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY.

“(a) LOCAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY.—On an annual basis, each local eligible entity shall report to the public and the State such information as the State may reasonably require, including—

“(1) the number of students, aggregated and disaggregated by subgroup as described in section 1111(c)(3)(A) who were served by the programs and activities in this part;

“(2) the programs and services provided under this Act;

“(3) outcomes resulting from activities and services funded under this part, aggregated and disaggregated by subgroup as described in section 1111(c)(3)(A) on the following indicators—

“(A) student academic achievement as measured by State academic assessments and student growth over time as described in section 1111(b)(3);

“(B) for diploma granting schools, graduation rates;

“(C) student attendance;

“(D) suspensions and expulsions;

“(E) performance on a set of other indicators that shall be based on the activities and services implemented based on the results of the needs assessment described in section 4206(b)(1) and may include—

“(i) the frequency, seriousness, and incidence of violence, including bullying and harassment, and drug related offenses resulting in suspensions and expulsions;

“(ii) the incidence and prevalence, age of onset, perception of health risk, and perception of social disapproval of drug use and violence by youth in schools and communities;

“(iii) the safety of both the school and passage to and from school, as measured by a school climate survey;

“(iv) as appropriate, rate of earned on-time promotion from grade to grade;

“(v) for diploma granting schools, the percentage of students taking a college preparatory curriculum, or student rates of enrollment, persistence, and attainment of an associate or baccalaureate degree;

“(vi) academic and developmental transitions, including from elementary to middle school and middle school to high school;

“(vii) referrals to school resource personnel;

“(viii) evidence of increased parent and family engagement and support for children's learning;

“(ix) evidence of increased student engagement in school, which may include completing of assignments and coming to class prepared and on-time;

“(x) student health, including mental health, the number and percentage of students who participate in at least 30 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity 5 days a week, and the amelioration of risk factors;

“(F) for early childhood education and kindergarten programs, the number and percentage of children who demonstrate, at the beginning of the program or school year, age-appropriate functioning across multiple domains of early learning as determined using developmentally appropriate early learning measures; and

“(G) other outcome areas as determined by the State educational agency.

“(b) STATE ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY.—On an annual basis, each State educational agency that receives funds under this part shall annually prepare and submit to the Secretary a report that contains all reports submitted by local eligible entities under the jurisdiction of the agency provided under (a).

“(c) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Grant funds provided under this part shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, other Federal, State, or local funds that would, in the absence of such grant funds, be made available for comprehensive systems of learning supports and students participating in programs under this part.

“(d) PUBLICATION AND AVAILABILITY OF REPORT.—The Secretary shall publish and make widely available to the public, including through a website or other means, a summary of the reports received under (b).

“SEC. 4209. DEFINITIONS.

“(a) For purposes of this part—

“(1) INCIDENT DATA.—The term ‘incident data’ means data from incident reports by school officials including, but not limited to, truancy rates; the frequency, seriousness, and incidence of violence and drug-related offenses resulting in suspensions and expulsions; the incidence of bullying and harassment; and the incidence and prevalence of drug use and violence by students in schools.

“(2) COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF LEARNING SUPPORTS.—The term ‘comprehensive system of learning supports’ means the multifaceted, and cohesive resources, strategies, and practices that provide class-room based or school-wide interventions to address the academic, behavioral, emotional, physical health, mental health, and social needs of students and families to improve student learning, teacher instruction and school management.

“(3) LOCAL ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘local eligible entity’ means a consortium consisting of community representatives that—

“(A) shall include—

“(i) a local educational agency;

“(ii) not less than 1 other community partner organization; and

“(B) may include a broad array of community partners, including a community based organization, a child and youth serving organization, an institution of higher education, an Indian tribe or tribal organization (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b)), a foundation, a business, a local government, including a local governmental agency serving children and youth such as a child welfare and juvenile justice agency; students, and parents; and may include representatives from multiple jurisdictions.

“(4) MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORT.—The term ‘multi-tiered system of support’ means a comprehensive system of differentiated supports that includes evidence-based instruction, universal screening, progress monitoring, formative assessments, research-based interventions matched to student needs and educational decisionmaking using student outcome data.

“(5) BULLYING.—The term ‘bullying’—

“(A) means conduct, including electronic communication, that adversely affects the ability of 1 or more students to participate in and benefit from the school’s educational programs or activities by placing the student (or students) in reasonable fear of physical harm; and

“(B) includes conduct that is based on—

“(i) a student’s actual or perceived—

“(I) race;

“(II) color;

“(III) national origin;

“(IV) sex;

“(V) disability

“(VI) sexual orientation;

“(VII) gender identity;

“(VIII) religion;

“(IX) immigration or migrant status;

“(X) proficiency in the English language;

or

“(XI) state of homelessness;

“(ii) any other distinguishing characteristics that may be defined by a State or local educational agency; or

“(iii) association with a person or group with 1 or more of the actual or perceived characteristics listed in clause (i) or (ii).

“(6) HARASSMENT.—The term ‘harassment’—

“(A) means conduct, including electronic communication, that adversely affects the ability of 1 or more students to participate in and benefit from the school’s educational programs or activities because the conduct, as reasonably perceived, is so severe, persistent, or persuasive; and

“(B) includes conduct that is based on—

“(i) a student’s actual or perceived—

“(I) race;

“(II) color;

“(III) national origin;

“(IV) sex;

“(V) disability

“(VI) sexual orientation;

“(VII) gender identity; or

“(VIII) religion;

“(ii) any other distinguishing characteristics that may be defined by a State or local educational agency; or

“(iii) association with a person or group with 1 or more of the actual or perceived characteristics listed in clause (i) or (ii).

“(7) JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AND CRIMINAL STREET GANG ACTIVITY PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION.—The term ‘juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity prevention and intervention’ means the provision of programs and resources to children and families who have not yet had substantial contact with criminal justice or juvenile justice systems or to youth who are involved in, or who are identified by evidence-based risk assessment methods as being at high risk of continued involvement in, juvenile delinquency or criminal street gangs, that—

“(A) are designed to reduce potential juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity risks; and

“(B) are evidence-based or promising educational, health, mental health, school-based, community-based, faith-based, parenting, job training, social opportunities and experiences, or other programs, for youth and their families, that have been demonstrated to be effective in reducing juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity risks.

“(8) PROMISE COORDINATING COUNCILS.—The members of a PROMISE Coordinating Council shall be representatives of public and private sector entities and individuals that—

“(A) shall include, to the extent possible, at least one representative from each of the following:

“(i) the local chief executive’s office;

“(ii) a local educational agency;

“(iii) a local health agency or provider;

“(iv) a local mental health agency or provider, unless the representative under clause (iii) also meets the requirements of this subparagraph;

“(v) a local public housing agency;

“(vi) a local law enforcement agency;

“(vii) a local child welfare agency;

“(viii) a local juvenile court;

“(ix) a local juvenile prosecutor’s office;

“(x) a private juvenile residential care entity;

“(xi) a local juvenile public defender’s office;

“(xii) a State juvenile correctional entity;

“(xiii) a local business community representative; and

“(xiv) a local faith-based community representative;

“(B) shall include two representatives from each of the following:

“(i) parents who have minor children, and who have an interest in the local juvenile or criminal justice systems;

“(ii) youth between the ages of 15 and 24 who reside in the jurisdiction of the unit or Tribe; and

“(iii) members from nonprofit community-based organizations that provide effective delinquency prevention and intervention to youth in the jurisdiction of the eligible entity; and

“(C) may include other members, as appropriate.

“(9) SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL.—The term ‘specialized instructional support personnel’ means school counselors, school social workers, school psychologists, school nurses, and other qualified professionals involved in providing assessment, diagnosis, counseling, educational, therapeutic, medical, and other necessary services (including related services, as such term is defined in section 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401)) as part of a comprehensive program to meet student needs.

“(10) PIPELINE SERVICES.—The term ‘pipeline services’ means a continuum of supports and services for children from birth through college entry, college success, and career attainment, including, at a minimum, strategies to address through services or programs (including integrated student supports) the following:

“(A) Prenatal education and support for expectant parents.

“(B) High-quality early learning opportunities.

“(C) High-quality schools and out-of-school-time programs and strategies.

“(D) Support for a child’s transition to elementary school, including the administration of a comprehensive school readiness assessment.

“(E) Support for a child’s transition from elementary school to middle school, from middle school to high school, and from high school into and through college or into the workforce.

“(F) Family and community engagement.

“(G) Family and student supports.

“(H) Activities that support college and career readiness, including coordination between such activities, such as—

“(i) assistance with college admissions, financial aid, and scholarship applications, especially for low-income and low-achieving students; and

“(ii) career preparation services and supports.

“(I) Neighborhood-based support for college-age students who have attended the schools in the pipeline, or students who are members of the community, facilitating their continued connection to the community and success in college and the workforce.

“SEC. 4210. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this part \$350,000,000 for fiscal year 2016 and such sums as may be necessary for each succeeding fiscal year.

“PART C—FULL-SERVICE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**“SEC. 4301. SHORT TITLE.**

“This part may be cited as the ‘Full-Service Community Schools Act of 2015’.

“SEC. 4302. PURPOSES.

“The purposes of this part are the following:

“(1) Improving student learning and development by providing supports for students that enable them to graduate college- and career-ready.

“(2) Providing support for the planning, implementation, and operation of full-service community schools.

“(3) Improving the coordination and integration, accessibility, and effectiveness of services for children and families, particularly for students attending high-poverty schools, including high-poverty rural schools.

“(4) Enabling educators and school personnel to complement and enrich efforts to improve academic achievement and other results.

“(5) Ensuring that children have the physical, social, and emotional well-being to come to school ready to engage in the learning process every day.

“(6) Promoting and enabling family and community engagement in the education of children.

“(7) Enabling more efficient use of Federal, State, local, and private sector resources that serve children and families.

“(8) Facilitating the coordination and integration of programs and services operated by community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, and State, local, and tribal governments.

“(9) Engaging students as resources to their communities.

“(10) Engaging the business community and other community organizations as partners in the development and operation of full-service community schools.

“SEC. 4303. DEFINITION.

“In this part, the term ‘full-service community school’ means a public elementary or secondary school that—

“(1) participates in a community-based effort to coordinate and integrate educational, developmental, family, health, and other comprehensive services through community-based organizations and public and private partnerships; and

“(2) provides access to such services to students, families, and the community, such as access during the school year (including before- and after-school hours and weekends), as well as during the summer.

“SEC. 4304. LOCAL PROGRAMS.

“(a) GRANTS.—The Secretary may award grants to eligible entities to assist public elementary or secondary schools to function as full-service community schools.

“(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants awarded under this section shall be used to—

“(1) coordinate not less than 3 existing qualified services and provide not less than 2 additional qualified services at 2 or more public elementary or secondary schools;

“(2) integrate multiple services into a comprehensive, coordinated continuum supported by research-based activities which achieve the performance goals established under subsection (c)(4)(E) to meet the holistic needs of young people; and

“(3) if applicable, coordinate and integrate services provided by community-based organizations and government agencies with services provided by specialized instructional support personnel.

“(c) APPLICATION.—To seek a grant under this section, an eligible entity shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may require. The Secretary shall require that each such application include the following:

“(1) A description of the eligible entity.

“(2) A memorandum of understanding among all partner entities that will assist the eligible entity to coordinate and provide qualified services and that describes the roles the partner entities will assume.

“(3) A description of the capacity of the eligible entity to coordinate and provide qualified services at 2 or more full-service community schools.

“(4) A comprehensive plan that includes descriptions of the following:

“(A) The student, family, and school community to be served, including information about demographic characteristics that include major racial and ethnic groups, median family income, percent of students eligible for free- and reduced-price lunch, and other information.

“(B) A needs assessment that identifies the academic, physical, social, emotional, health, mental health, and other needs of students, families, and community residents.

“(C) A community assets assessment which identifies existing resources which could be aligned.

“(D) The most appropriate metric to describe the plan’s reach within a community using either—

“(i) the number of families and students to be served, and the frequency of services; or

“(ii) the proportion of families and students to be served, and the frequency of services.

“(E) Yearly measurable performance goals, including an increase in the percentage of families and students targeted for services each year of the program, which are consistent with the following objectives:

“(i) Children are ready for school.

“(ii) Students are engaged and achieving academically.

“(iii) Students are physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally healthy.

“(iv) Schools and neighborhoods are safe and provide a positive climate for learning that is free from bullying or harassment.

“(v) Families are supportive and engaged in their children’s education.

“(vi) Students and families are prepared for postsecondary education and 21st century careers.

“(vii) Students are contributing to their communities.

“(F) Performance measures to monitor progress toward attainment of the goals established under subparagraph (E), including a combination of the following, to the extent applicable:

“(i) Multiple objective measures of student achievement, including assessments, classroom grades, and other means of assessing student performance.

“(ii) Attendance (including absences related to illness and truancy) and chronic absenteeism rates.

“(iii) Disciplinary actions against students, including suspensions and expulsions.

“(iv) Access to health care and treatment of illnesses demonstrated to impact academic achievement.

“(v) Performance in making progress toward intervention services goals as estab-

lished by specialized instructional support personnel.

“(vi) Participation rates by parents and family members in school-sanctioned activities and activities that occur as a result of community and school collaboration, as well as activities intended to support adult education and workforce development.

“(vii) Number and percentage of students and family members provided services under this part.

“(viii) Valid measures of postsecondary education and career readiness.

“(ix) Service-learning and community service participation rates.

“(x) student satisfaction surveys.

“(G) Qualified services, including existing and additional qualified services, to be coordinated and provided by the eligible entity and its partner entities, including an explanation of—

“(i) why such services have been selected;

“(ii) how such services will improve student academic achievement; and

“(iii) how such services will address performance goals established under subparagraph (E).

“(H) Plans to ensure that each site has full-time coordination of qualified services at each full-service community school, including coordination with existing specialized instructional support personnel.

“(I) Planning, coordination, management, and oversight of qualified services at each school to be served, including the role of the school principal, partner entities, parents, and members of the community.

“(J) Funding sources for qualified services to be coordinated and provided at each school to be served, whether such funding is derived from a grant under this section or from other Federal, State, local, or private sources.

“(K) Plans for professional development for personnel managing, coordinating, or delivering qualified services at the schools to be served.

“(L) Plans for joint utilization and maintenance of school facilities by the eligible entity and its partner entities.

“(M) How the eligible entity and its partner entities will focus services on schools eligible for a schoolwide program under section 1114.

“(N) Plans for periodic evaluation based upon attainment of the performance measures described in subparagraph (F).

“(O) How the qualified services will meet the principles of effectiveness described in subsection (d).

“(5) A plan for sustaining the programs and services outlined in this part.

“(d) PRINCIPLES OF EFFECTIVENESS.—For a program developed pursuant to this section to meet principles of effectiveness, such program shall be based upon—

“(1) an assessment of objective data regarding the need for the establishment of a full-service community school and qualified services at each school to be served and in the community involved;

“(2) an established set of performance measures aimed at ensuring the availability and effectiveness of high-quality services; and

“(3) if appropriate, scientifically based research that provides evidence that the qualified services involved will help students meet State and local student academic achievement standards.

“(e) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities that—

“(1)(A) will serve a minimum of 2 or more full-service community schools eligible for a

schoolwide program under section 1114, as part of a community- or district-wide strategy; or

“(B) include a local educational agency that satisfies the requirements of—

“(i) subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 6211(b)(1); or

“(ii) subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 6221(b)(1); and

“(2) will be connected to a consortium comprised of a broad representation of stakeholders, or a consortium demonstrating a history of effectiveness.

“(f) GRANT PERIOD.—Each grant awarded under this section shall be for a period of 5 years and may be renewed at the discretion of the Secretary based on the eligible entity's demonstrated effectiveness in meeting the performance goals and measures established under subparagraphs (E) and (F) of subsection (c)(4).

“(g) PLANNING.—The Secretary may authorize an eligible entity to use grant funds under this section for planning purposes in an amount not greater than 10 percent of the total grant amount.

“(h) MINIMUM AMOUNT.—The Secretary may not award a grant to an eligible entity under this section in an amount that is less than \$75,000 for each year of the 5-year grant period.

“(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

“(1) the term ‘additional qualified services’ means qualified services directly funded under this part;

“(2) the term ‘eligible entity’ means a consortium of 1 or more local educational agencies and 1 or more community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, or other public or private entities;

“(3) the term ‘existing qualified services’ means qualified services already being financed, as of the time of the application, by Federal, State, local or private sources, or volunteer activities being supported as of such time by civic, business, faith-based, social, and other similar organizations; and

“(4) the term ‘qualified services’ means any of the following:

“(A) Early childhood education.

“(B) Remedial education activities and enrichment activities, including expanded learning time.

“(C) Summer or after-school enrichment and learning experiences.

“(D) Programs under the Head Start Act, including Early Head Start programs.

“(E) Nurse home visitation services.

“(F) Teacher home visiting.

“(G) Programs that promote parental involvement and family literacy, including the Reading First and Early Reading First programs authorized under part B of title I.

“(H) Mentoring and other youth development programs, including peer mentoring and conflict mediation.

“(I) Parent leadership development activities.

“(J) Parenting education activities.

“(K) Child care services.

“(L) Community service and service-learning opportunities.

“(M) Developmentally appropriate physical education.

“(N) Programs that provide assistance to students who have been truant, suspended, or expelled.

“(O) Job training, internship opportunities, and career counseling services.

“(P) Nutrition services.

“(Q) Primary health and dental care.

“(R) Mental health counseling services.

“(S) Adult education, including instruction in English as a second language.

“(T) Juvenile crime prevention and rehabilitation programs.

“(U) Specialized instructional support services.

“(V) Homeless prevention services.

“(W) Other services consistent with this part.

“SEC. 4305. STATE PROGRAMS.

“(a) GRANTS.—The Secretary may award grants to State collaboratives to support the development of full-service community school programs in accordance with this section.

“(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants awarded under this section shall be used only for the following:

“(1) Developing a State comprehensive results and indicators framework to implement full-service community schools, consistent with performance goals described in section 4304(c)(4)(E).

“(2) Planning, coordinating, and expanding the development of full-service community schools in the State, particularly schools in high-poverty local educational agencies, including high-poverty rural local educational agencies.

“(3) Providing technical assistance and training for full-service community schools, including professional development for personnel and creation of data collection and evaluation systems.

“(4) Collecting, evaluating, and reporting data about the progress of full-service community schools.

“(5) Evaluating the impact of State and Federal policies and guidelines on the ability of eligible entities (as defined in section 4304(i)) to integrate Federal and State programs at full-service community schools, and taking action to make necessary changes.

“(c) APPLICATION.—To seek a grant under this section, a State collaborative shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may require. The Secretary shall require that each such application include the following:

“(1) A memorandum of understanding among all governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations that will participate as members of the State collaborative.

“(2) A description of the expertise of each member of the State collaborative—

“(A) in coordinating Federal and State programs across multiple agencies;

“(B) in working with and developing the capacity of full-service community schools; and

“(C) in working with high-poverty schools or rural schools and local educational agencies.

“(3) A comprehensive plan describing how the grant will be used to plan, coordinate, and expand the delivery of services at full-service community schools.

“(4) A comprehensive accountability plan that will be used to demonstrate effectiveness, including the measurable performance goals of the program and performance measures to monitor progress and assess services' impact on students and families and academic achievement.

“(5) An explanation of how the State collaborative will work to ensure State policies and guidelines can support the development of full-service community schools, as well as provide technical assistance and training, including professional development, for full-service community schools.

“(6) An explanation of how the State will collect and evaluate information on full-service community schools.

“(d) GRANT PERIOD.—Each grant awarded under this section shall be for a period of 5 years.

“(e) MINIMUM AMOUNT.—The Secretary may not award a grant to a State collaborative under this section in an amount that is less than \$500,000 for each year of the 5-year grant period.

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) the term ‘State’ includes the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, and any other territory or possession of the United States; and

“(2) the term ‘State collaborative’ means a collaborative of a State educational agency and not less than 2 other governmental agencies or nonprofit organizations that provide services to children and families.

“SEC. 4306. ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established an advisory committee to be known as the ‘Full-Service Community Schools Advisory Committee’ (in this section referred to as the ‘Advisory Committee’).

“(b) DUTIES.—Subject to subsection (c), the Advisory Committee shall—

“(1) consult with the Secretary on the development and implementation of programs under this part;

“(2) identify strategies to improve the coordination of Federal programs in support of full-service community schools; and

“(3) issue an annual report to the Congress on efforts under this part, including a description of—

“(A) the results of local and national evaluations of such efforts; and

“(B) the scope of services being coordinated under this part.

“(c) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out its duties under this section, the Advisory Committee shall consult annually with eligible entities awarded grants under section 4304, State collaboratives awarded grants under section 4305, and other entities with expertise in operating full-service community schools.

“(d) MEMBERS.—The Advisory Committee shall consist of 5 members as follows:

“(1) The Secretary of Education (or the Secretary's delegate).

“(2) The Attorney General of the United States (or the Attorney General's delegate).

“(3) The Secretary of Agriculture (or the Secretary's delegate).

“(4) The Secretary of Health and Human Services (or the Secretary's delegate).

“(5) The Secretary of Labor (or the Secretary's delegate).

“SEC. 4307. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

“(a) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary, directly or through grants, shall provide such technical assistance as may be appropriate to accomplish the purposes of this part.

“(b) EVALUATIONS BY SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall conduct evaluations on the effectiveness of grants under sections 4304 and 4305 in achieving the purposes of this part.

“(c) EVALUATIONS BY GRANTEEES.—The Secretary shall require each recipient of a grant under this part—

“(1) to conduct periodic evaluations of the progress achieved with the grant toward achieving the purposes of this part;

“(2) to use such evaluations to refine and improve activities conducted with the grant and the performance measures for such activities; and

“(3) to make the results of such evaluations publicly available, including by providing public notice of such availability.

“(d) **CONSTRUCTION CLAUSE.**—Nothing in this part shall be construed to alter or otherwise affect the rights, remedies, and procedures afforded school or school district employees under Federal, State, or local laws (including applicable regulations or court orders) or under the terms of collective bargaining agreements, memoranda of understanding, or other agreements between such employees and their employers.

“(e) **SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.**—Funds made available to a grantee under this part may be used only to supplement, and not supplant, any other Federal, State, or local funds that would otherwise be available to carry out the activities assisted under this part.

“(f) **MATCHING FUNDS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall require each recipient of a grant under this part to provide matching funds from non-Federal sources in an amount determined under paragraph (2).

“(2) **DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT OF MATCH.**—

“(A) **SLIDING SCALE.**—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall determine the amount of matching funds to be required of a grantee under this subsection based on a sliding fee scale that takes into account—

“(i) the relative poverty of the population to be targeted by the grantee; and

“(ii) the ability of the grantee to obtain such matching funds.

“(B) **MAXIMUM AMOUNT.**—The Secretary may not require any grantee under this section to provide matching funds in an amount that exceeds the amount of the grant award.

“(3) **IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.**—The Secretary shall permit grantees under this section to match funds in whole or in part with in-kind contributions.

“(4) **CONSIDERATION.**—Notwithstanding this subsection, the Secretary shall not consider an applicant's ability to match funds when determining which applicants will receive grants under this part.

“(g) **SPECIAL RULE.**—Entities receiving funds under this part shall comply with all existing Federal statutes that prohibit discrimination.

“SEC. 4308. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this part such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020.

“(b) **ALLOCATION.**—Of the amounts appropriated to carry out this part for each fiscal year—

“(1) 85 percent shall be for section 4304, and of the funds allocated for new grants under such section, at least 10 percent shall be made available for local educational agencies that satisfy the requirements of—

“(A) subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 6211(b)(1); or

“(B) subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 6221(b)(1);

“(2) 10 percent shall be for section 4305; and

“(3) 5 percent shall be for subsections (a) and (b) of section 4307, of which not less than \$500,000 shall be for technical assistance under section 4307(a).

“PART D—GENERAL PROVISIONS

“SEC. 4401. PROHIBITED USE OF FUNDS.

“No funds under this title may be used for—

“(1) the development, establishment, implementation, or enforcement of zero-tolerance school discipline policies unless otherwise required by Federal law; and

“(2) law enforcement agencies or local police departments serving a school or local educational agency—

“(A) with substantial documented excesses or racial disparities in the use of exclusionary discipline;

“(B) operating under an open school desegregation order, whether court ordered or voluntary;

“(C) operating under a pattern or practice consent decree for civil rights violations; or

“(D) already receiving substantial Federal funds for the placement of law enforcement in schools.”.

TITLE V—WELL-ROUNDED STUDENTS AND ENGAGED FAMILIES

Subtitle A—Public Charter Schools

SEC. 501. SUBPART HEADING; PURPOSE.

(a) **SUBPART HEADING.**—The heading for subpart 1 of part B of title V (20 U.S.C. 7221 et seq.) is amended to read as follows: “**Charter School Program**”.

(b) **PURPOSE.**—Section 5201 (20 U.S.C. 7221) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 5201. PURPOSE.

“It is the purpose of this subpart to—

“(1) improve the United States education system and education opportunities for all Americans by supporting innovation in public education in public school settings that prepare students to compete and contribute to the global economy;

“(2) provide financial assistance for the planning, program design, and initial implementation of charter schools;

“(3) expand the number of high-quality charter schools available to students across the Nation;

“(4) evaluate the impact of such schools on student achievement, families, and communities, and share best practices between charter schools and other public schools;

“(5) encourage States to provide support to charter schools for facilities financing in an amount more nearly commensurate to the amount the States have typically provided for traditional public schools;

“(6) improve student services to increase opportunities for students with disabilities, English learners, and other traditionally underserved students to attend charter schools and meet challenging State academic achievement standards;

“(7) support efforts to strengthen the charter school authorizing process to improve performance management, including transparency, oversight, monitoring, and evaluation of such schools; and

“(8) support quality accountability and transparency in the operational performance of all authorized public chartering agencies, which include State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and other authorizing entities.”.

SEC. 502. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.

Section 5202 (20 U.S.C. 7221a) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 5202. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—This subpart authorizes the Secretary to carry out a charter school program that supports charter schools that serve elementary school and secondary school students by—

“(1) supporting the startup of charter schools, and the replication and expansion of high-quality charter schools;

“(2) assisting charter schools in accessing credit to acquire and renovate facilities for school use; and

“(3) carrying out national activities to support—

“(A) charter school development;

“(B) the dissemination of best practices of charter schools for all schools;

“(C) the evaluation of the impact of the program on schools participating in the program; and

“(D) stronger charter school authorizing.

“(b) **FUNDING ALLOTMENT.**—From the amount made available under section 5211 for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall—

“(1) reserve 12.5 percent to support charter school facilities assistance under section 5204;

“(2) reserve not more than 10 percent to carry out national activities under section 5205; and

“(3) use the remaining amount after the Secretary reserves funds under paragraphs (1) and (2) to carry out section 5203.

“(c) **PRIOR GRANTS AND SUBGRANTS.**—The recipient of a grant or subgrant under this subpart or subpart 2, as such subpart was in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Student Success Act, shall continue to receive funds in accordance with the terms and conditions of such grant or subgrant.

“(d) **GAO REPORT.**—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of the Student Success Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to the Secretary and Congress that—

“(1) examines whether the funds authorized to be reserved by State entities for administrative costs under section 5203(b)(1)(C) is appropriate; and

“(2) if determined not to be appropriate, makes recommendations on the appropriate reservation of funding for such administrative costs.”.

SEC. 503. GRANTS TO SUPPORT HIGH-QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOLS.

Section 5203 (20 U.S.C. 7221b) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 5203. GRANTS TO SUPPORT HIGH-QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOLS.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—From the amount reserved under section 5202(b)(3), the Secretary shall award grants to State entities having applications approved pursuant to subsection (f) to enable such entities to—

“(1) award subgrants to eligible applicants for opening and preparing to operate—

“(A) new charter schools;

“(B) replicated, high-quality charter school models; or

“(C) expanded, high-quality charter schools; and

“(2) provide technical assistance to eligible applicants and authorized public chartering agencies in carrying out the activities described in paragraph (1) and work with authorized public chartering agencies in the State to improve authorizing quality.

“(b) **STATE USES OF FUNDS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A State entity receiving a grant under this section shall—

“(A) use not less than 90 percent of the grant funds to award subgrants to eligible applicants, in accordance with the quality charter school program described in the State entity's application approved pursuant to subsection (f), for the purposes described in subparagraphs (A) through (C) of subsection (a)(1);

“(B) reserve not less than 7 percent of such funds to carry out the activities described in subsection (a)(2); and

“(C) reserve not more than 3 percent of such funds for administrative costs which may include technical assistance.

“(2) **CONTRACTS AND GRANTS.**—A State entity may use a grant received under this section to carry out the activities described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) directly or through grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements.

“(3) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this Act shall prohibit the Secretary from awarding grants to States that use a weighted lottery to give slightly better chances for admission to all, or a subset of, educationally disadvantaged students if—

“(A) the use of weighted lotteries in favor of such students is not prohibited by State law, and such State law is consistent with laws described in section 5210(1)(G); and

“(B) such weighted lotteries are not used for the purpose of creating schools exclusively to serve a particular subset of students.

“(C) **PROGRAM PERIODS; PEER REVIEW; GRANT NUMBER AND AMOUNT; DIVERSITY OF PROJECTS; WAIVERS.**—

“(1) **PROGRAM PERIODS.**—

“(A) **GRANTS.**—A grant awarded by the Secretary to a State entity under this section shall be for a period of not more than 5 years.

“(B) **SUBGRANTS.**—A subgrant awarded by a State entity under this section shall be for a period of not more than 5 years, of which an eligible applicant may use not more than 18 months for planning and program design.

“(2) **PEER REVIEW.**—The Secretary, and each State entity receiving a grant under this section, shall use a peer review process to review applications for assistance under this section.

“(3) **GRANT AWARDS.**—The Secretary shall—

“(A) for each fiscal year for which funds are appropriated under section 5211—

“(i) award not less than 3 grants under this section;

“(ii) wholly fund each grant awarded under this section, without making continuation awards; and

“(iii) fully obligate the funds appropriated for the purpose of awarding grants under this section in the fiscal year for which such grants are awarded; and

“(B) prior to the start of the final year of the grant period of each grant awarded under this section to a State entity, review whether the State entity is using the grant funds for the agreed upon uses of funds and whether the full amount of the grant will be needed for the remainder of the grant period and may, as determined necessary based on that review, terminate or reduce the amount of the grant and reallocate the remaining grant funds to other State entities during the succeeding grant competition under this section.

“(4) **DIVERSITY OF PROJECTS.**—Each State entity receiving a grant under this section shall award subgrants under this section in a manner that, to the extent possible, ensures that such subgrants—

“(A) are distributed throughout different areas, including urban, suburban, and rural areas; and

“(B) will assist charter schools representing a variety of educational approaches.

“(5) **WAIVERS.**—The Secretary may waive any statutory or regulatory requirement over which the Secretary exercises administrative authority except any such requirement relating to the elements of a charter school described in section 5210(1), if—

“(A) the waiver is requested in an approved application under this section; and

“(B) the Secretary determines that granting such a waiver will promote the purpose of this subpart.

“(d) **LIMITATIONS.**—

“(1) **GRANTS.**—The Secretary shall not award a grant to a State entity under this section in a case in which such award would result in more than 1 grant awarded under

this section being carried out in a State at the same time.

“(2) **SUBGRANTS.**—An eligible applicant may not receive more than 1 subgrant under this section per individual charter school for a 5-year period, unless the eligible applicant demonstrates to the State entity not less than 3 years of improved educational results in the areas described in subparagraphs (A) and (D) of section 5210(8) for students enrolled in such charter school.

“(e) **APPLICATIONS.**—A State entity desiring to receive a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may require. The application shall include the following:

“(1) **DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM.**—A description of the State entity's objectives under this section and how the objectives of the program will be carried out, including a description—

“(A) of how the State entity—

“(i) will support the opening of new charter schools, replicated, high-quality charter school models, or expanded, high-quality charter schools, and a description of the proposed number of each type of charter school or model, if applicable, to be opened under the State entity's program;

“(ii) will inform eligible charter schools, developers, and authorized public chartering agencies of the availability of funds under the program;

“(iii) will work with eligible applicants to ensure that the eligible applicants access all Federal funds that they are eligible to receive, and help the charter schools supported by the applicants and the students attending the charter schools—

“(I) participate in the Federal programs in which the schools and students are eligible to participate;

“(II) receive the commensurate share of Federal funds the schools and students are eligible to receive under such programs; and

“(III) meet the needs of students served under such programs, including student with disabilities and English learners;

“(iv) will have clear plans and procedures to assist students enrolled in a charter school that closes or loses its charter to attend other high-quality schools;

“(v) in the case in which the State entity is not a State educational agency—

“(I) will work with the State educational agency and the charter schools in the State to maximize charter school participation in Federal and State programs for charter schools; and

“(II) will work with the State educational agency to adequately operate the State entity's program under this section, where applicable;

“(vi) will ensure each eligible applicant that receives a subgrant under the State entity's program to open and prepare to operate a new charter school, a replicated, high-quality charter school model, or an expanded, high-quality charter school—

“(I) will ensure such school or model meets the requirements under section 5210(1); and

“(II) is prepared to continue to operate such school or model, in a manner consistent with the eligible applicant's application, after the subgrant funds have expired;

“(vii) will support charter schools in local educational agencies with large numbers of schools identified by the State for improvement, including supporting the use of charter schools to improve, or in turning around, struggling schools;

“(viii) will work with charter schools to promote inclusion of all students, including

eliminating any barriers to enrollment for foster youth or unaccompanied homeless youth, and support all students once they are enrolled to promote retention including through the use of fair disciplinary practice;

“(ix) will work with charter schools on recruitment practices, including efforts to engage groups that may otherwise have limited opportunities to participate in charter schools, and to ensure such schools do not have in effect policies or procedures that may create barriers to enrollment of students, including educationally disadvantaged students, and are in compliance with all Federal and State laws on enrollment practices;

“(x) will share best and promising practices between charter schools and other public schools, including, where appropriate, instruction and professional development in core academic subjects, and science, technology, engineering, and math education, including computer science;

“(xi) will ensure the charter schools receiving funds under the State entity's program meet the educational needs of their students, including students with disabilities and English learners;

“(xii) will support efforts to increase quality initiatives, including meeting the quality authorizing elements described in paragraph (2)(E);

“(xiii) in the case of a State entity not described in clause (xiv), will provide oversight of authorizing activity;

“(xiv) in the case of a State entity defined in subsection (i)(4), will work with the State to provide assistance to and oversight of authorized public chartering agencies for authorizing activity described in clause (xiii); and

“(xv) will work with eligible applicants receiving a subgrant under the State entity's program to support the opening of charter schools or charter school models described in clause (i) that are secondary schools;

“(B) of the extent to which the State entity—

“(i) is able to meet and carry out the priorities listed in subsection (f)(2); and

“(ii) is working to develop or strengthen a cohesive statewide system to support the opening of new charter schools, replicated, high-quality charter school models, or expanded, high-quality charter schools;

“(C) of how the State entity will carry out the subgrant competition, including—

“(i) a description of the application each eligible applicant desiring to receive a subgrant will submit, including—

“(I) a description of the roles and responsibilities of eligible applicants, partner organizations, and management organizations, including the administrative and contractual roles and responsibilities;

“(II) a description of the quality controls agreed to between the eligible applicant and the authorized public chartering agency involved, as described in section 1111(d)(1)(I);

“(III) a description of how the eligible applicant will solicit and consider input from parents and other members of the community on the implementation and operation of each charter school receiving funds under the State entity's program; and

“(IV) a description of the planned activities and expenditures for the subgrant funds for purposes of opening and preparing to operate a new charter school, a replicated, high-quality charter school model, or an expanded, high-quality charter school, and how the school or model will maintain financial sustainability after the end of the subgrant period; and

“(ii) a description of how the State entity will review applications;

“(D) in the case of an entity that partners with an outside organization to carry out the State entity’s quality charter school program, in whole or in part, of the roles and responsibilities of this partner;

“(E) of how the State entity will help the charter schools receiving funds under the State entity’s program consider the transportation needs of the schools’ students; and

“(F) of how the State entity will support diverse charter school models, including models that serve rural communities.

“(2) ASSURANCES.—Assurances, including a description of how the assurances will be met, that—

“(A) each charter school receiving funds under the State entity’s program will have a high degree of autonomy over budget and operations;

“(B) the State entity will support charter schools in meeting the educational needs of their students as described in paragraph (1)(A)(xi);

“(C) the State entity will ensure that the authorized public chartering agency of any charter school that receives funds under the State entity’s program—

“(i) adequately monitors each charter school in recruiting, enrolling, and meeting the needs of all students, including students with disabilities and English learners; and

“(ii) ensures that each charter school solicits and considers input from parents and other members of the community on the implementation and operation of the school;

“(D) the State entity will provide adequate technical assistance to eligible applicants to—

“(i) meet the objectives described in clauses (viii) and (ix) of paragraph (1)(A) and paragraph (2)(B); and

“(ii) recruit, enroll, and retain traditionally underserved students, including students with disabilities and English learners, at rates similar to traditional public schools;

“(E) the State entity will promote quality authorizing, such as through providing technical assistance and supporting all authorized public chartering agencies in the State to improve the oversight of their charter schools, including by—

“(i) assessing annual performance data of the schools, including, as appropriate, graduation rates, student academic growth, and rates of student attrition;

“(ii) reviewing the schools’ independent, annual audits of financial statements conducted in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and ensuring any such audits are publically reported; and

“(iii) holding charter schools accountable to the academic, financial, and operational quality controls agreed to between the charter school and the authorized public chartering agency involved, such as through renewal, non-renewal, or revocation of the school’s charter;

“(F) the State entity will work to ensure that charter schools are included with the traditional public schools in decision-making about the public school system in the State; and

“(G) the State entity will ensure that each charter school in the State makes publicly available, consistent with the dissemination requirements of the annual State report card, information to help parents make informed decisions about the education options available to their children, including information for each school on—

“(i) the educational program;

“(ii) student support services;

“(iii) annual performance and enrollment data, disaggregated by the groups of students described in section 1111(c)(3)(A); and

“(iv) any other information the State requires all other public schools to report for purposes of section 1111(i)(1).

“(3) REQUESTS FOR WAIVERS.—A request and justification for waivers of any Federal statutory or regulatory provisions that the State entity believes are necessary for the successful operation of the charter schools that will receive funds under the State entity’s program under this section, and a description of any State or local rules, generally applicable to public schools, that will be waived, or otherwise not apply to such schools or, in the case of a State entity defined in subsection (i)(4), a description of how the State entity will work with the State to request necessary waivers where applicable.

“(f) SELECTION CRITERIA; PRIORITY.—

“(1) SELECTION CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall award grants to State entities under this section on the basis of the quality of the applications submitted under subsection (e), after taking into consideration—

“(A) the degree of flexibility afforded by the State’s public charter school law and how the State entity will work to maximize the flexibility provided to charter schools under the law;

“(B) the ambitiousness of the State entity’s objectives for the quality charter school program carried out under this section;

“(C) the quality of the strategy for assessing achievement of those objectives;

“(D) the likelihood that the eligible applicants receiving subgrants under the program will meet those objectives and improve educational results for students;

“(E) the State entity’s plan to—

“(i) adequately monitor the eligible applicants receiving subgrants under the State entity’s program;

“(ii) work with the authorized public chartering agencies involved to avoid duplication of work for the charter schools and authorized public chartering agencies; and

“(iii) provide adequate technical assistance and support for—

“(I) the charter schools receiving funds under the State entity’s program; and

“(II) quality authorizing efforts in the State; and

“(F) the State entity’s plan to solicit and consider input from parents and other members of the community on the implementation and operation of the charter schools in the State.

“(2) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to State entities to the extent that they meet the following criteria:

“(A) In the case of a State entity located in a State that allows an entity other than a local educational agency to be an authorized public chartering agency, the State has a quality authorized public chartering agency that is an entity other than a local educational agency.

“(B) The State entity is located in a State that ensures equitable financing, as compared to traditional public schools, for charter schools and students in a prompt manner.

“(C) The State entity is located in a State that uses charter schools and best practices from charter schools to help improve struggling schools and local educational agencies.

“(D) The State entity partners with an organization that has a demonstrated record of success in developing management organizations to support the development of charter schools in the State.

“(E) The State entity supports charter schools that support at-risk students

through activities such as dropout prevention, dropout recovery, or comprehensive career counseling practices.

“(F) The State entity authorizes all charter schools in the State to serve as school food authorities.

“(G) The State entity has taken steps to ensure that all authorizing public chartering agencies implement quality standards as described in section 1111(d)(1)(I).

“(g) LOCAL USES OF FUNDS.—An eligible applicant receiving a subgrant under this section shall use such funds to carry out activities related to opening and preparing to operate a new charter school, a replicated, high-quality charter school model, or an expanded, high-quality charter school, such as—

“(1) preparing teachers and school leaders, including through professional development;

“(2) acquiring equipment, educational materials, and supplies; and

“(3) necessary renovations and minor facilities repairs (excluding construction).

“(h) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Each State entity receiving a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary, at the end of the third year of the 5-year grant period and at the end of such grant period, a report on—

“(1) the number of students served by each subgrant awarded under this section and, if applicable, how many new students were served during each year of the subgrant period;

“(2) the progress the State entity made toward meeting the priorities described in subsection (f)(2), as applicable;

“(3) how the State entity met the objectives of the quality charter school program described in the State entity’s application under subsection (e), including how the State entity met the objective of sharing best and promising practices described in subsection (e)(1)(A)(x) in areas such as instruction, professional development, curricula development, and operations between charter schools and other public schools, and the extent to which, if known, such practices were adopted and implemented by such other public schools;

“(4) how the State entity complied with, and ensured that eligible applicants complied with, the assurances described in the State entity’s application;

“(5) how the State entity worked with authorized public chartering agencies, including how the agencies worked with the management company or leadership of the schools that received subgrants under this section;

“(6) the number of subgrants awarded under this section to carry out each of the following:

“(A) The opening of new charter schools.

“(B) The opening of replicated, high-quality charter school models.

“(C) The opening of expanded, high-quality charter schools; and

“(7) how the State entity has worked with charter schools receiving funds under the State entity’s program to foster community involvement in the planning for and opening of such schools.

“(i) STATE ENTITY DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘State entity’ means—

“(1) a State educational agency;

“(2) a State charter school board;

“(3) a Governor of a State; or

“(4) a charter school support organization.”.

SEC. 504. FACILITIES FINANCING ASSISTANCE.

Section 5204 (20 U.S.C. 7221c) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 5204. FACILITIES FINANCING ASSISTANCE.**“(a) GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—**

“(1) IN GENERAL.—From the amount reserved under section 5202(b)(1), the Secretary shall not use less than 50 percent to award grants to eligible entities that have the highest-quality applications approved under subsection (d), after considering the diversity of such applications, to demonstrate innovative methods of assisting charter schools to address the cost of acquiring, constructing, and renovating facilities by enhancing the availability of loans or bond financing.

“(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

“(A) a public entity, such as a State or local governmental entity;

“(B) a private nonprofit entity; or

“(C) a consortium of entities described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

“(b) GRANTEE SELECTION.—The Secretary shall evaluate each application submitted under subsection (d), and shall determine whether the application is sufficient to merit approval.

“(c) GRANT CHARACTERISTICS.—Grants under subsection (a) shall be of a sufficient size, scope, and quality so as to ensure an effective demonstration of an innovative means of enhancing credit for the financing of charter school acquisition, construction, or renovation.

“(d) APPLICATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under subsection (a), an eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary an application in such form as the Secretary may reasonably require.

“(2) CONTENTS.—An application submitted under paragraph (1) shall contain—

“(A) a statement identifying the activities proposed to be undertaken with funds received under subsection (a), including how the eligible entity will determine which charter schools will receive assistance, and how much and what types of assistance charter schools will receive;

“(B) a description of the involvement of charter schools in the application’s development and the design of the proposed activities;

“(C) a description of the eligible entity’s expertise in capital market financing;

“(D) a description of how the proposed activities will leverage the maximum amount of private-sector financing capital relative to the amount of public funding used and otherwise enhance credit available to charter schools, including how the eligible entity will offer a combination of rates and terms more favorable than the rates and terms that a charter school could receive without assistance from the eligible entity under this section;

“(E) a description of how the eligible entity possesses sufficient expertise in education to evaluate the likelihood of success of a charter school program for which facilities financing is sought; and

“(F) in the case of an application submitted by a State governmental entity, a description of the actions that the entity has taken, or will take, to ensure that charter schools within the State receive the funding the charter schools need to have adequate facilities.

“(e) CHARTER SCHOOL OBJECTIVES.—An eligible entity receiving a grant under this section shall use the funds deposited in the reserve account established under subsection (f) to assist one or more charter schools to access private sector capital to accomplish one or more of the following objectives:

“(1) The acquisition (by purchase, lease, donation, or otherwise) of an interest (including an interest held by a third party for the benefit of a charter school) in improved or unimproved real property that is necessary to commence or continue the operation of a charter school.

“(2) The construction of new facilities, or the renovation, repair, or alteration of existing facilities, necessary to commence or continue the operation of a charter school.

“(3) The predevelopment costs required to assess sites for purposes of paragraph (1) or (2) and which are necessary to commence or continue the operation of a charter school.

“(f) RESERVE ACCOUNT.—

“(1) USE OF FUNDS.—To assist charter schools to accomplish the objectives described in subsection (e), an eligible entity receiving a grant under subsection (a) shall, in accordance with State and local law, directly or indirectly, alone or in collaboration with others, deposit the funds received under subsection (a) (other than funds used for administrative costs in accordance with subsection (g)) in a reserve account established and maintained by the eligible entity for this purpose. Amounts deposited in such account shall be used by the eligible entity for one or more of the following purposes:

“(A) Guaranteeing, insuring, and reinsuring bonds, notes, evidences of debt, loans, and interests therein, the proceeds of which are used for an objective described in subsection (e).

“(B) Guaranteeing and insuring leases of personal and real property for an objective described in subsection (e).

“(C) Facilitating financing by identifying potential lending sources, encouraging private lending, and other similar activities that directly promote lending to, or for the benefit of, charter schools.

“(D) Facilitating the issuance of bonds by charter schools, or by other public entities for the benefit of charter schools, by providing technical, administrative, and other appropriate assistance (including the recruitment of bond counsel, underwriters, and potential investors and the consolidation of multiple charter school projects within a single bond issue).

“(2) INVESTMENT.—Funds received under this section and deposited in the reserve account established under paragraph (1) shall be invested in obligations issued or guaranteed by the United States or a State, or in other similarly low-risk securities.

“(3) REINVESTMENT OF EARNINGS.—Any earnings on funds received under subsection (a) shall be deposited in the reserve account established under paragraph (1) and used in accordance with such paragraph.

“(g) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—An eligible entity may use not more than 2.5 percent of the funds received under subsection (a) for the administrative costs of carrying out its responsibilities under this section (excluding subsection (k)).

“(h) AUDITS AND REPORTS.—

“(1) FINANCIAL RECORD MAINTENANCE AND AUDIT.—The financial records of each eligible entity receiving a grant under subsection (a) shall be maintained in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and shall be subject to an annual audit by an independent public accountant.

“(2) REPORTS.—

“(A) GRANTEE ANNUAL REPORTS.—Each eligible entity receiving a grant under subsection (a) annually shall submit to the Secretary a report of its operations and activities under this section.

“(B) CONTENTS.—Each annual report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include—

“(i) a copy of the most recent financial statements, and any accompanying opinion on such statements, prepared by the independent public accountant reviewing the financial records of the eligible entity;

“(ii) a copy of any report made on an audit of the financial records of the eligible entity that was conducted under paragraph (1) during the reporting period;

“(iii) an evaluation by the eligible entity of the effectiveness of its use of the Federal funds provided under subsection (a) in leveraging private funds;

“(iv) a listing and description of the charter schools served during the reporting period, including the amount of funds used by each school, the type of project facilitated by the grant, and the type of assistance provided to the charter schools;

“(v) a description of the activities carried out by the eligible entity to assist charter schools in meeting the objectives set forth in subsection (e); and

“(vi) a description of the characteristics of lenders and other financial institutions participating in the activities undertaken by the eligible entity under this section (excluding subsection (k)) during the reporting period.

“(C) SECRETARIAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall review the reports submitted under subparagraph (A) and shall provide a comprehensive annual report to Congress on the activities conducted under this section (excluding subsection (k)).

“(i) NO FULL FAITH AND CREDIT FOR GRANTEE OBLIGATION.—No financial obligation of an eligible entity entered into pursuant to this section (such as an obligation under a guarantee, bond, note, evidence of debt, or loan) shall be an obligation of, or guaranteed in any respect by, the United States. The full faith and credit of the United States is not pledged to the payment of funds which may be required to be paid under any obligation made by an eligible entity pursuant to any provision of this section.

“(j) RECOVERY OF FUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in accordance with chapter 37 of title 31, United States Code, shall collect—

“(A) all of the funds in a reserve account established by an eligible entity under subsection (f)(1) if the Secretary determines, not earlier than 2 years after the date on which the eligible entity first received funds under this section (excluding subsection (k)), that the eligible entity has failed to make substantial progress in carrying out the purposes described in subsection (f)(1); or

“(B) all or a portion of the funds in a reserve account established by an eligible entity under subsection (f)(1) if the Secretary determines that the eligible entity has permanently ceased to use all or a portion of the funds in such account to accomplish any purpose described in subsection (f)(1).

“(2) EXERCISE OF AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall not exercise the authority provided in paragraph (1) to collect from any eligible entity any funds that are being properly used to achieve one or more of the purposes described in subsection (f)(1).

“(3) PROCEDURES.—The provisions of sections 451, 452, and 458 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 124, 1234a, 1234g) shall apply to the recovery of funds under paragraph (1).

“(4) CONSTRUCTION.—This subsection shall not be construed to impair or affect the authority of the Secretary to recover funds

under part D of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1234 et seq.).

“(k) PER-PUPIL FACILITIES AID PROGRAM.—

“(1) DEFINITION OF PER-PUPIL FACILITIES AID PROGRAM.—In this subsection, the term ‘per-pupil facilities aid program’ means a program in which a State makes payments, on a per-pupil basis, to charter schools to provide the schools with financing—

“(A) that is dedicated solely for funding charter school facilities; or

“(B) a portion of which is dedicated for funding charter school facilities.

“(2) GRANTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—From the amount under section 5202(b)(1) remaining after the Secretary makes grants under subsection (a), the Secretary shall make grants, on a competitive basis, to States to pay for the Federal share of the cost of establishing or enhancing, and administering per-pupil facilities aid programs.

“(B) PERIOD.—The Secretary shall award grants under this subsection for periods of not more than 5 years.

“(C) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost described in subparagraph (A) for a per-pupil facilities aid program shall be not more than—

“(i) 90 percent of the cost, for the first fiscal year for which the program receives assistance under this subsection;

“(ii) 80 percent in the second such year;

“(iii) 60 percent in the third such year;

“(iv) 40 percent in the fourth such year; and

“(v) 20 percent in the fifth such year.

“(D) STATE SHARE.—A State receiving a grant under this subsection may partner with 1 or more organizations to provide up to 50 percent of the State share of the cost of establishing or enhancing, and administering the per-pupil facilities aid program.

“(E) MULTIPLE GRANTS.—A State may receive more than 1 grant under this subsection, so long as the amount of such funds provided to charter schools increases with each successive grant.

“(3) USE OF FUNDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A State that receives a grant under this subsection shall use the funds made available through the grant to establish or enhance, and administer, a per-pupil facilities aid program for charter schools in the State of the applicant.

“(B) EVALUATIONS; TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; DISSEMINATION.—From the amount made available to a State through a grant under this subsection for a fiscal year, the State may reserve not more than 5 percent to carry out evaluations, to provide technical assistance, and to disseminate information.

“(C) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds made available under this subsection shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, State and local public funds expended to provide per pupil facilities aid programs, operations financing programs, or other programs, for charter schools.

“(4) REQUIREMENTS.—

“(A) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—No State may be required to participate in a program carried out under this subsection.

“(B) STATE LAW.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), to be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, a State shall establish or enhance, and administer, a per-pupil facilities aid program for charter schools in the State, that—

“(I) is specified in State law; and

“(II) provides annual financing, on a per-pupil basis, for charter school facilities.

“(ii) SPECIAL RULE.—Notwithstanding clause (i), a State that is required under

State law to provide its charter schools with access to adequate facility space, but which does not have a per-pupil facilities aid program for charter schools specified in State law, may be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection if the State agrees to use the funds to develop a per-pupil facilities aid program consistent with the requirements of this subsection.

“(5) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, a State shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.”.

SEC. 505. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

Section 5205 (20 U.S.C. 7221d) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 5205. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—From the amount reserved under section 5202(b)(2), the Secretary shall—

“(1) use not less than 75 percent of such funds to award grants in accordance with subsection (b); and

“(2) use not more than 25 percent of such funds to—

“(A) provide technical assistance to State entities in awarding subgrants under section 5203, and eligible entities and States receiving grants under section 5204;

“(B) disseminate best practices; and

“(C) evaluate the impact of the charter school program, including the impact on student achievement, carried out under this subpart.

“(b) GRANTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible applicants for the purpose of carrying out the activities described in section 5202(a)(1), subparagraphs (A) through (C) of section 5203(a)(1), and section 5203(g).

“(2) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, grants awarded under this subsection shall have the same terms and conditions as grants awarded to State entities under section 5203.

“(3) CHARTER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS.—The Secretary shall—

“(A) use not less than 75 percent of the funds described in subsection (a)(1) to make grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible applicants described in paragraph (4)(B) except that no eligible applicant, including any applicant acting as lead fiscal agent if applying in consortium for a grant under this paragraph, may operate more than one active grant at a time; and

“(B) notwithstanding paragraphs (1)(A) and (2) of section 5203(f)—

“(i) award grants to eligible applicants on the basis of the quality of the applications submitted under this subsection; and

“(ii) in awarding grants to eligible applicants described in paragraph (4)(B), take into consideration whether such an eligible applicant—

“(I) demonstrates a high proportion of high-quality charter schools within the network of the eligible applicant;

“(II) demonstrates success in serving students who are educationally disadvantaged;

“(III) does not have a significant proportion of charter schools that have been closed, had their charter revoked for compliance issues, or had their affiliation with such eligible applicant revoked;

“(IV) has sufficient procedures in effect to ensure timely closure of low-performing or financially-mismanaged charter schools and clear plans and procedures in effect for the students in such schools to attend other high-quality schools; and

“(V) demonstrates success in working with schools identified for improvement by the State.

“(4) ELIGIBLE APPLICANT DEFINED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘eligible applicant’ means an eligible applicant (as defined in section 5210) that—

“(A) desires to open a charter school in—

“(i) a State that did not apply for a grant under section 5203; or

“(ii) a State that did not receive a grant under section 5203; or

“(B) is a charter management organization.

“(c) CONTRACTS AND GRANTS.—The Secretary may carry out any of the activities described in this section directly or through grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements.”.

SEC. 506. RECORDS TRANSFER.

Section 5208 (20 U.S.C. 7221g) is amended—

(1) by inserting “as quickly as possible and” before “to the extent practicable”; and

(2) by striking “section 602” and inserting “section 602(14)”.

SEC. 507. DEFINITIONS.

Section 5210 (20 U.S.C. 7221i) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) CHARTER SCHOOL.—The term ‘charter school’ means a public school that—

“(A) in accordance with a specific State statute authorizing the granting of charters to schools, is exempt from significant State or local rules that inhibit the flexible operation and management of public schools, but not from any rules relating to the other requirements of this paragraph;

“(B) is created by a developer as a public school, or is adapted by a developer from an existing public school, and is operated under public supervision and direction;

“(C) operates in pursuit of a specific set of educational objectives determined by the school’s developer and agreed to by the authorized public chartering agency;

“(D) provides a program of elementary or secondary education, or both;

“(E) is nonsectarian in its programs, admissions policies, employment practices, and all other operations, and is not affiliated with a sectarian school or religious institution;

“(F) does not charge tuition;

“(G) complies with the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), and section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232(g)) (commonly known as the ‘Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974’);

“(H) is a school to which parents choose to send their children, and admits students on the basis of a lottery if more students apply for admission than can be accommodated, except that in cases in which students who are enrolled in a charter school affiliated (such as by sharing a network) with another charter school, those students may be automatically enrolled in the next grade level at such other charter school, so long as a lottery is used to fill seats created through regular attrition in student enrollment;

“(I) agrees to comply with the same Federal and State audit requirements as do other elementary schools and secondary schools in the State, unless such State audit requirements are waived by the State;

“(J) meets all applicable Federal, State, and local health and safety requirements;

“(K) operates in accordance with State law;

“(L) has a written performance contract with the authorized public chartering agency in the State that includes a description of how student performance will be measured in charter schools pursuant to State assessments that are required of other schools and pursuant to any other assessments mutually agreeable to the authorized public chartering agency and the charter school; and

“(M) may serve prekindergarten or post-secondary students.”;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (4) as paragraphs (4) through (6), respectively;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1), the following:

“(2) CHARTER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘charter management organization’ means a not-for-profit organization that manages a network of charter schools linked by centralized support, operations, and oversight.

“(3) CHARTER SCHOOL SUPPORT ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘charter school support organization’ means a nonprofit, nongovernmental entity that is not an authorized public chartering agency, which provides on a statewide basis—

“(A) assistance to developers during the planning, program design, and initial implementation of a charter school; and

“(B) technical assistance to charter schools to operate such schools.”;

(4) in paragraph (5)(B), as so redesignated, by striking “under section 5203(d)(3)”;

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(7) EXPANDED, HIGH-QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOL.—The term ‘expanded, high-quality charter school’ means a high-quality charter school that has either significantly increased its enrollment or added one or more grades to its school.

“(8) HIGH-QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOL.—The term ‘high-quality charter school’ means a charter school that—

“(A) shows evidence of strong academic results, which may include strong academic growth as determined by a State;

“(B) has no significant issues in the areas of student safety, operational and financial management, or statutory or regulatory compliance;

“(C) has demonstrated success in significantly increasing student academic achievement, including graduation rates where applicable, consistent with the requirements under title I, for all students served by the charter school; and

“(D) has demonstrated success in increasing student academic achievement, including graduation rates where applicable, for the groups of students described in section 1111(b)(2)(C)(v)(II), except that such demonstration is not required in a case in which the number of students in a group is insufficient to yield statistically reliable information or the results would reveal personally identifiable information about an individual student.

“(9) REPLICATED, HIGH-QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOL MODEL.—The term ‘replicated, high-quality charter school model’ means a high-quality charter school that has opened a new campus under an existing charter or an additional charter if required or permitted by State law.”.

SEC. 508. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS. Section 5211 (20 U.S.C. 7221j) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 5211. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subpart \$300,000,000 for fis-

cal year 2016 and each of the 5 succeeding fiscal years.”.

SEC. 509. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) REPEAL.—Subpart 2 of part B of title V (20 U.S.C. 7223 et seq.) is repealed.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in section 2 is amended—

(1) by striking the item relating to subpart 1 of part B of title V and inserting the following:

“Subpart 1—Charter School Program”;

(2) by striking the item relating to section 5203 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 5203. Grants to support high-quality charter schools.”;

(3) by striking the item relating to section 5204 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 5204. Facilities financing assistance.”;

and

(4) by striking the items relating to subpart 2 of part B of title V.

Subtitle B—Magnet Schools

SEC. 510. DURATION OF AWARD; ACCOUNTABILITY.

Section 5309 (20 U.S.C. 7231h) is amended—

(1) in the heading by inserting “; ACCOUNTABILITY”;

(2) in subsection (a), by striking “3” and inserting “5”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) ACCOUNTABILITY.—The Secretary may reduce grant funding awarded to a local educational agency, or a consortium of such agencies, under this part if the agency or consortium does not show progress in the elimination, reduction, or prevention of minority group isolation in its magnet school program over the first 3-year period during which the agency or consortium was awarded such grant.”.

SEC. 511. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; RESERVATION.

Section 5311(a) (20 U.S.C. 7231j(a)) is amended by striking “\$125,000,000 for fiscal year 2002” and inserting “\$300,000,000 for fiscal year 2016”.

Subtitle C—Fund for the Improvement of Education

SEC. 512. FUND FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF EDUCATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part D of title V (20 U.S.C. 7241 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

“PART D—A WELL-ROUNDED EDUCATION

“SUBPART 1—GRANTS TO SUPPORT STEM EDUCATION

“SEC. 5401. PURPOSE.

“The purpose of this subpart is to improve student academic achievement in STEM subjects by—

“(1) improving instruction in such subjects from preschool through grade 12;

“(2) improving student engagement in, and increasing student access to, courses in such subjects;

“(3) improving the quality and effectiveness of classroom instruction by recruiting, training, and supporting effective teachers and providing robust tools and supports for students and teachers in such subjects;

“(4) implementing and integrating college and career ready standards, described in section 1111(b)(2), in STEM subjects and assessments aligned with those standards;

“(5) closing student achievement gaps, and preparing more students for postsecondary education and careers, in such subjects, particularly students who are traditionally underrepresented in STEM subject fields; and

“(6) Recognizing that STEM subjects are diverse and that STEM education programs

must expose students to content and skills in a host of constantly changing and evolving content areas.

“SEC. 5402. GRANTS; ALLOTMENTS.

“(a) RESERVATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts appropriated under section 5410 for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve—

“(A) \$35,000,000 for a STEM Master Teachers Corps program under section 5405;

“(B) 3 percent to carry out activities described in section 5405 and technical assistance to States, including technical assistance with implementation of programs consistent with the purpose of this subpart; and

“(C) if funds are not awarded by formula, as described in subsection (c)(1), 5 percent for State capacity-building grants in accordance with paragraph (2).

“(2) CAPACITY-BUILDING GRANTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In any year for which funding is distributed competitively, as described in subsection (b)(1), the Secretary may award 1 capacity-building grant to each eligible entity that does not receive a grant under subsection (b), on a competitive basis, to enable such States to become more competitive in future years.

“(B) DURATION.—Grants awarded under subparagraph (A) shall be for a period of 1 year.

“(b) COMPETITIVE GRANTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year for which the amount appropriated to carry out this subpart is less than \$250,000,000, the Secretary shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities to enable such eligible entities to carry out the activities described in this subpart.

“(2) DURATION.—Grants awarded under this subsection shall be for a period of not more than 3 years.

“(3) RENEWAL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If an eligible entity demonstrates progress, as measured by the metrics reported in section 5406(a)(5), the Secretary may renew a grant for an additional 2-year period.

“(B) REDUCED FUNDING.—Grant funds awarded under subparagraph (A) shall be awarded at a reduced amount.

“(c) FORMULA GRANTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year for which the amount appropriated to carry out this subpart is equal to or more than \$250,000,000, the Secretary shall award grants to States, based on the formula described in paragraph (2).

“(2) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—The Secretary shall allot to each State—

“(A) an amount that bears the same relationship to 35 percent of the excess amount as the number of individuals ages 5 through 17 in the State, as determined by the Secretary on the basis of the most recent satisfactory data, bears to the number of those individuals in all such States, as so determined; and

“(B) an amount that bears the same relationship to 65 percent of the excess amount as the number of individuals ages 5 through 17 from families with incomes below the poverty line, in the State, as determined by the Secretary on the basis of the most recent satisfactory data, bears to the number of those individuals in all such States, as so determined.

“(3) FUNDING MINIMUM.—No State receiving an allotment under this subsection may receive less than one-half of 1 percent of the total amount allotted under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year.

“(4) REALLOTMENT OF UNUSED FUNDS.—If a State does not successfully apply for or receive an allotment under this subsection for

a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reallocate the amount of the State's allotment to the remaining States in accordance with this subsection.

"SEC. 5403. APPLICATIONS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity desiring a grant under this subpart, whether through a competitive grant under section 5402(b) or through an allotment under section 5402(c), shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may require.

"(b) CONTENTS.—At a minimum, an application submitted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

"(1) A description of how grant funds will be used by the eligible entity.

"(2) A description of how the eligible entity has involved a variety of stakeholders in the development of the application and a description of how the State or eligible entity will continue to involve stakeholders in any education reform efforts related to STEM subject instruction.

"(3) A description of the steps the eligible entity will take to ensure that programs implemented by the subgrantees use evidence-based strategies, ensure high-quality curricula, and provide high-quality professional development.

"(4) An assurance that the eligible entity, in making awards under section 5404(c), will give priority to subgrantees that—

"(A) propose to serve students in schools in need of support and persistently low achieving schools; or

"(B) propose to serve schools with a high percentage or number of students that are eligible for free or reduced price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.).

"(5) A description of how the eligible entity's activities and subgrants will be coordinated with other Federal, State, and local programs and activities, including career and technical education programs authorized under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.).

"(6) A review of the industry and business workforce needs in the State in jobs that require knowledge or training in STEM subject areas and a description of how that review will inform efforts to improve education in STEM subjects.

"(7) A description of how the eligible entity will allocate funds in a manner that will provide services to both elementary schools and secondary schools.

"(8) A description of the technical assistance that the eligible entity will provide to subgrantees to support the activities undertaken by the subgrantees, including—

"(A) activities to employ multi-tiered systems of support to provide early intervening services and to increase student achievement in STEM subjects;

"(B) activities to ensure increased access for students who are traditionally underrepresented in STEM subject fields (including female students, minority students, students who are limited English proficient, students who are children with disabilities, and students from low-income families) to high-quality courses and other learning experiences;

"(C) implementing evidence-based programs of instruction based on college and career ready standards and high-quality assessments in the identified subjects; and

"(D) developing curricula consistent with the principles of universal design for learning as defined in section 103 of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

"(9) A description of the key data metrics that will be used and reported annually under section 5406(a)(5), that shall include—

"(A) student academic achievement on mathematics and science State academic assessments and student growth; and

"(B) for diploma granting schools, graduation rates.

"(10) Assurances that the eligible entity will monitor implementation of approved subgrantee plans.

"SEC. 5404. AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.

"(a) REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.—Each eligible entity that receives a grant under this subpart shall use not more than 5 percent of the grant funds to carry out each of the following activities:

"(1) Providing technical assistance to subgrantees as described in section 5403(b)(7) and technical assistance to subgrantees that are prioritized in section 5404(d), including subgrantees that serve low-capacity rural and urban areas by—

"(A) informing those subgrantees that they have a priority for competing for grants under section 5404(b); and

"(B) providing subgrantees who do not receive a grant under section 5404(c) technical assistance so that they may re-compete in following competitions.

"(2) Identifying and supporting high-quality professional development and other comprehensive systems of support for teachers and school leaders to promote high-quality instruction and instructional leadership in the identified subjects, aligned to college and career ready standards where applicable.

"(3) Disseminating information, including making publicly available on the websites of the State educational agency, on promising practices to improve student achievement in STEM subject areas.

"(b) PERMISSIBLE ACTIVITIES.—Each eligible entity that receives a grant under this subpart may use the grant funds to carry out 1 or more of the following activities:

"(1) Recruiting qualified teachers and instructional leaders who are trained in identified subjects, including teachers who have transitioned into the teaching profession from a career in a STEM field.

"(2) Providing induction and mentoring services to new teachers in identified subjects.

"(3) Developing instructional supports, such as curricula and assessments, which shall be evidence-based and aligned with State academic standards and may include online education.

"(4) Training personnel of subgrantees to use data systems to continuously improve student achievement in STEM subjects and use the data to better target curriculum and instruction to meet the needs of each student.

"(c) SUBGRANTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity that receives a grant under this subpart shall award subgrants, on a competitive basis, to eligible subgrantees.

"(2) MINIMUM SUBGRANT.—An eligible entity shall award subgrants under this subsection that are of sufficient size and scope to support high-quality, evidence-based, effective programs that are consistent with the purpose of this subpart.

"(3) SUBGRANTEE APPLICATION.—Each subgrantee desiring a subgrant under this subsection shall submit an application to the eligible entity at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the eligible entity may require, including, at a minimum:

"(A) A description of the needs identified by the subgrantee, based on a needs assessment which shall include—

"(i) data for elementary school and secondary school grades, as applicable and to the extent that such data are available, on—

"(I) student achievement in science and mathematics, including such data collected in accordance with the State academic assessments;

"(II) science and mathematics teacher evaluation results or ratings;

"(III) student access to mathematics and science courses needed to enroll in credit-bearing coursework at institutions of higher education in the State;

"(IV) access to science and mathematics courses for student prekindergarten through grade 12 attending schools prioritized under section 5404(d);

"(V) the percentage of students successfully—

"(aa) completing Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses in science and mathematics subjects; or

"(bb) completing rigorous postsecondary education courses in science and mathematics subjects;

"(VI) rates of college remediation in mathematics; and

"(VII) teacher shortages and teacher distribution among the local educational agencies and schools served by the subgrantee in science and mathematics subjects; and

"(ii) an analysis of the implementation of any multi-tiered systems of support that have been employed by the local educational agency served by the subgrantee to address the learning needs of students in any STEM subjects.

"(B) A description of the activities that the subgrantee will carry out based on the findings of the needs assessment described in subparagraph (A), and how such activities will improve teaching and student academic achievement in the identified subjects, in a manner consistent with evidence-based research.

"(C) A description of how the subgrantee will use funds provided under this subsection to serve students and teachers in schools prioritized under section 5404(d).

"(D) A description of how funds provided under this subsection will be coordinated with other Federal, State, and local programs and activities, including career and technical education programs authorized under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.).

"(E) If the subgrantee is working with outside partners, a description of how such outside partners will be involved in improving instruction and increasing access to high-quality learning experiences in the identified subjects.

"(4) SUBGRANTEE USE OF FUNDS.—

"(A) REQUIRED USE OF FUNDS.—Each subgrantee that receives a subgrant under this subsection shall use the subgrant funds to carry out activities for students from preschool through grade 12, consistent with the analysis and the activities described in the subgrantee's application, which shall include—

"(i) high-quality teacher and instructional leader recruitment, support, evaluation, and professional development in the identified subjects;

"(ii) professional development, which may include development and support for instructional coaches, to enable teachers and instructional leaders to increase student

achievement in identified subjects, through—

“(I) implementation of classroom assessments; and

“(II) differentiation of instruction in identified subjects for all students, including for students with disabilities and students who are English learners;

“(iii) activities to—

“(I) improve the content knowledge of teachers; and

“(II) facilitate professional collaboration, which may include providing time for such collaborations;

“(iv) training to principals and teachers in implementing STEM subject initiatives, particularly in the areas of—

“(I) utilizing data;

“(II) assessing the quality of STEM subject instruction; and

“(III) providing time and support for teachers to plan STEM subject instruction;

“(v) the development, adoption, and improvement of high-quality curricula, assessments, materials, and instructional supports that—

“(I) are aligned with State academic standards; and

“(II) the subgrantee will use to improve student academic achievement in identified subjects; and

“(vi) the development or improvement, and implementation, of multi-tiered systems of support to provide early intervening services and to increase student achievement in 1 or more of the identified subjects.

“(B) PERMISSIBLE USE OF FUNDS.—In addition to the required activities described in subparagraph (A), each subgrantee that receives a subgrant under this subsection, may also use the subgrant funds to—

“(i) support the participation of low-income students in nonprofit competitions and out-of-school activities related to STEM (such as robotics, science research, invention, mathematics, and technology competitions), including—

“(I) the purchase of parts and supplies needed to participate in such competitions;

“(II) incentives and stipends for teachers and instructional leaders who are involved in assisting students and preparing students for such competitions, if such activities fall outside the regular duties and responsibilities of such teachers and instructional leaders; and

“(III) paying expenses associated with the participation of low-income students in such local, regional, or national competitions;

“(ii) improve the laboratories of schools served by the subgrantee and provide instrumentation as part of a comprehensive program to enhance the quality of STEM instruction, including—

“(I) purchase, rental, or leasing of equipment, instrumentation, and other scientific educational materials;

“(II) maintenance, renovation, and improvement of laboratory facilities;

“(III) professional development and training for teachers;

“(IV) development of instructional programs designed to integrate the laboratory experience with classroom instruction and to be consistent with college and career ready content standards in STEM subjects;

“(V) training in laboratory safety for school personnel;

“(VI) design and implementation of hands-on laboratory experiences to encourage the interest of students, especially students who are traditionally underrepresented in STEM subject fields (including female students, minority students, students who are limited English proficient, students who are children

with disabilities, and students from low-income families) in STEM subjects and help prepare such students to pursue postsecondary studies in these fields; and

“(VII) assessment of the activities funded under this subparagraph;

“(iii) broaden secondary school students' access to, and interest in, careers that require academic preparation in 1 or more identified subjects;

“(iv) integrate instruction in the identified subjects with instruction in reading, English language arts, or other core and noncore academic subjects;

“(v) develop and implement a STEAM curriculum, which means the integration of instruction in the identified subjects with instruction in the arts and design; or

“(vi) establish or access online or distance learning programs for STEM subject teachers using evidence-based curricula.

“(C) LIMITATION.—Each subgrantee that receives a subgrant under this subsection shall not expend more than 15 percent of the subgrant funds on the activities described in subparagraph (B).

“(D) MATCHING FUNDS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—A State or eligible entity may require an eligible subgrantee receiving a subgrant under this subsection to demonstrate that such subgrantee has obtained a commitment from 1 or more outside partners to match, using non-Federal funds, a portion of the amount of subgrant funds, in an amount determined by the State or eligible entity.

“(ii) REQUIRED MINIMUM.—Notwithstanding clause (i), if an eligible subgrantee partners with an outside partner that is a for-profit entity, such subgrantee shall obtain matching funds from the outside partner in an amount equal to not less than 15 percent of the amount of the subgrant.

“(d) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this subpart, an eligible entity shall give priority to subgrantees proposing to target services to—

“(1) students in schools in need of support and high-priority schools; or

“(2) schools with a high percentage of students that are eligible for free or reduced price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.).

“SEC. 5405. NATIONAL COORDINATION.

“From the amount reserved under section 5402(a)(1)(B), the Secretary shall consult with the Director of the National Science Foundation and other Federal agencies conducting STEM education programs to enhance such programs and to improve coordination across agencies, such as—

“(1) clarifying the appropriate roles for the Department of Education and the National Science Foundation in the execution of summer workshops, institutes, or partnerships to improve STEM education in elementary and secondary schools; or

“(2) integrating afterschool, out-of-school, and informal education efforts conducted across Federal agencies into strategies for enhancing and improving STEM education.

“SEC. 5406. STEM MASTER TEACHER CORPS PROGRAM.

“(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—From the funds reserved under section 5402(a)(1)(A), the Secretary shall award 1 or more grants, on a competitive basis, to entities described in subsection (b)(1) to enable such entities to establish and operate a one-time STEM master teacher corps program.

“(b) STEM MASTER TEACHER CORPS.—The term ‘STEM master teacher corps’ (referred to in this section as the ‘corps’) means a one-time program—

“(1) that establishes the viability of creating a long-term national-level master teacher corps as a means to recognize and reward accomplished STEM educators;

“(2) operated by 1 or more State educational agencies, or a consortium of local educational agencies, acting in partnership with 1 or more outside partners that have a demonstrated record of success in improving the effectiveness of STEM teachers or increasing the retention of such teachers;

“(3) that selects a group of highly rated teachers (through a process, and for a duration, determined by the entity described in paragraph (1)), as members of the corps, that constitutes not less than 5 percent and not more than 10 percent of elementary school, middle school, and high school teachers who teach STEM subjects and who—

“(A) teach in a participating high-need school in the region served by the entity described in paragraph (1); or

“(B) agree to teach in a participating high-need school in the region served by the entity described in paragraph (1) if accepted as a member of the corps; and

“(4) that aims to attract, improve, and retain teachers who teach STEM subjects and to increase student achievement in such subjects, including by—

“(A) providing instructional leadership responsibilities for corps members in their schools, local educational agencies, or States, such as mentoring beginning STEM teachers and leading professional development activities for teachers not participating in the corps;

“(B) providing corps members with research-based professional development on instructional leadership and effective teaching methods for STEM subjects, including coordinating with out-of-school-time and after-school programs to provide engaging STEM programs;

“(C) providing each teacher who is a corps member with a salary supplement of not less than \$10,000 per year, in recognition of such teacher's teaching accomplishments, leadership, and increased responsibilities, for each year such teacher serves as a member of the corps; and

“(D) building a community of practice among corps members to enable such members to network, collaborate, and to share best practices and resources with each other.

“(c) DURATION.—Grants awarded under this section shall be for a period of not more than 3 years, after which the program under this subsection shall end.

“(d) APPLICATION.—Each entity described in subsection (b)(1) desiring a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may require.

“(e) MATCHING FUNDS.—The Secretary may require a grantee under this section to provide non-Federal matching funds in an amount equal to the amount of grant funds awarded under this section.

“SEC. 5407. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

“(a) ELIGIBLE ENTITY REPORTS.—Each State educational agency receiving an award under section 5403 shall report annually to the Secretary regarding the State educational agency's progress in addressing the purposes of this subpart. Such report shall include, at a minimum, a description of—

“(1) the professional development activities provided under the award, including types of activities and entities involved in providing professional development to classroom teachers and other program staff;

“(2) the types of programs and, for children from preschool to kindergarten entry, program settings, funded under the award;

“(3) the ages and demographic information that is not individually identifiable of children served by the programs funded under the award;

“(4) student performance on data metrics identified under section 5403(b)(8) used for STEM initiatives; and

“(5) the outcomes of programs and activities provided under the award.

“(b) **ELIGIBLE SUBGRANTEE REPORTS.**—Each eligible entity receiving a subgrant under section 5404(c) shall report annually to the State educational agency regarding the eligible entity’s progress in addressing the purposes of this subpart. Such report shall include, at a minimum, a description of—

“(1) how the subgrant funds were used; and

“(2) student performance on relevant program metrics, as identified in the State education agency’s implementation plan under section 5403(b)(8).

“SEC. 5408. SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.

“Funds received under this subpart shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, funds that would otherwise be used for activities authorized under this subpart.

“SEC. 5409. MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.

“A State that receives funds under this subpart for a fiscal year shall maintain the fiscal effort provided by the State for the subjects supported by the funds under this subpart at a level equal to or greater than the level of such fiscal effort for the preceding fiscal year.

“SEC. 5410. DEFINITIONS.

“In this subpart:

“(1) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term ‘eligible entity’ means a State educational agency in partnership with—

“(A) another State educational agency;

“(B) a consortium of State educational agencies; or

“(C) the State agencies that oversee childcare programs, state-funded prekindergarten, and part C of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

“(2) **ELIGIBLE SUBGRANTEE.**—The term ‘eligible subgrantee’ means—

“(A) a local educational agency;

“(B) 1 or more local educational agencies providing early learning programs, or 1 or more public or private early learning programs, serving children from preschool through kindergarten entry, such as a Head Start agency, a child care program, or a State-funded pre-kindergarten program, as appropriate;

“(C) an educational service agency serving more than 1 local educational agency;

“(D) a national intermediary with demonstrated expertise in STEM;

“(E) a consortium of local educational agencies; or

“(F) any of the entities described in subparagraphs (A) through (D) working in partnership with an outside partner.

“(3) **MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORT.**—The term ‘multi-tiered system of support’ means a comprehensive system of differentiated supports that includes evidence-based instruction, universal screening, progress monitoring, formative assessments, research-based interventions matched to student needs and educational decisionmaking using student outcome data.

“(4) **OUTSIDE PARTNER.**—The term ‘outside partner’ means an entity that has expertise and a demonstrated record of success in improving student learning and engagement in the STEM subjects, including any of the following:

“(A) A nonprofit or community-based organization, such as an Indian tribe.

“(B) A business.

“(C) A nonprofit cultural organization, such as a museum or learning center.

“(D) An institution of higher education.

“(E) An educational service agency.

“(F) Another appropriate entity.

“(5) **STEM SUBJECTS.**—The term ‘STEM Subjects’ means the subjects of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, including other academic subjects that build on or are integrated with these subjects, such as statistics, computer science, and environmental literacy, the arts and design, or other subjects a State identifies as important to the workforce of the State.

“SEC. 5411. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subpart \$500,000,000 for fiscal year 2016 and such sums as may be necessary for subsequent fiscal years.

“SUBPART 2—GRANTS TO SUPPORT COMPREHENSIVE LITERACY EDUCATION

“SEC. 5421. PURPOSES.

“The purposes of this subpart are—

“(1) to improve student literacy and academic achievement, including the ability to problem solve, communicate effectively, and acquire new knowledge and skills;

“(2) to assist State educational agencies and local educational agencies in the development, coordination, and implementation of comprehensive literacy plans that promote high-quality evidence based instruction in alignment with State early learning and college- and career-ready standards from preschool through grade 12;

“(3) to identify and support students reading and writing significantly below grade level by providing evidence-based, intensive interventions to help the students acquire the language and literacy skills the students need to stay on track for graduation;

“(4) to support State educational agencies and local educational agencies in improving reading, writing, and literacy-based academic achievement for children and students, especially children and students who are low-income, are English learners, are migratory, are children with disabilities, are Indian or Alaskan Native, are neglected or delinquent, are homeless, are in the custody of the child welfare system, or have dropped out of school;

“(5) to provide assistance to local educational agencies in order to provide educators with ongoing, job-embedded professional development and other support focusing on imparting and employing—

“(A) the characteristics of effective language and literacy instruction;

“(B) the special knowledge and skills necessary to teach and support literacy development effectively across the developmental span and age span;

“(C) the essential components of reading instruction; and

“(D) the essential components of writing instruction;

“(6) to evaluate whether the professional development activities and approaches are effective in building knowledge and skills of educators and their use of appropriate and effective practices.

“(7) to support State educational agencies and local educational agencies in using age appropriate and developmentally appropriate instructional materials and strategies that assist teachers as the teachers work with students to develop reading and writing competencies appropriate to the students’ grade and skill levels;

“(8) to support efforts to link and align college and career-ready standards and evidence-based teaching practices and instruction in early childhood education programs serving children from preschool through kindergarten entry;

“(9) strengthening coordination among schools, early literacy programs, family literacy programs, juvenile justice programs, public libraries, and outside-of-school programs that provide children and youth with strategies, curricula, interventions, and assessments designed to advance early and continuing language and literacy development in ways appropriate for each context; and

“(10) to engage the participation of parents in supporting their child’s communication and literacy development.

“SEC. 5422. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary is authorized—

“(1) to award State planning grants in accordance with section 5423; and

“(2) to award State implementation grants in accordance with section 5424 to enable the State educational agency to—

“(A) carry out the State activities described in section 5425;

“(B) award subgrants to eligible entities in accordance with section 5426; and

“(C) award subgrants to eligible entities in accordance with section 5427.

“(b) **AWARDS TO STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.**—

“(1) **AMOUNTS LESS THAN \$250,000,000.**—If the amount appropriated under section 5430 for a fiscal year is less than \$250,000,000, then the Secretary shall—

“(A) reserve not more than 5 percent to award planning grants, on a competitive basis, to State educational agencies, in accordance with section 5423; and

“(B) use the amount not reserved under subparagraphs (A) to make awards, on a competitive basis, to State educational agencies serving States that have applications approved under section 5424(b) to enable the State educational agencies to carry out sections 5424 and 5425.

“(2) **AMOUNTS EQUAL TO OR EXCEEDING \$250,000,000.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—If the amount appropriated under section 5430 for a fiscal year equals or exceeds \$250,000,000, then the Secretary shall—

“(i) reserve a total of 1 percent of such amount for—

“(I) allotments for the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to be distributed among such outlying areas on the basis of their relative need, as determined by the Secretary in accordance with the purposes of this subpart; and

“(II) the Secretary of the Interior for programs under sections 5423, 5424, 5425, 5426, and 5427 in schools operated or funded by the Bureau of Indian Education;

“(ii) reserve not more than 5 percent to award planning grants, to State educational agencies serving States, in accordance with section 5423;

“(iii) reserve not more than 3 percent for national activities, such as evaluations, training, and technical assistance, to the Department of Education to support comprehensive literacy reform at the State level; and

“(iv) use the amount not reserved under clauses (i), and (ii) to make awards, from allotments under subparagraph (C), to State educational agencies serving States that have applications approved under section

5424 and that are not receiving an allotment under clause (1)(I), to enable the State educational agencies to carry out sections 5424 and 5425.

“(B) SPECIAL RULES.—

“(i) PROPORTIONAL DIVISION.—In each fiscal year, the amount reserved under subparagraph (A)(i) shall be divided between the uses described in subclauses (I) and (II) of subparagraph (A)(i) in the same proportion as the amount reserved under section 1121(a) is divided between the uses described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of such section for such fiscal year.

“(ii) CONSULTATION.—A State educational agency that receives an allotment under this paragraph shall engage in timely and meaningful consultation with representatives of Indian tribes located in the State in order to improve the coordination and quality of activities designed to develop effective approaches to achieve the purposes of this subpart consistent with the cultural, language, and educational needs of Indian students.

“(C) STATE ALLOTMENT FORMULA.—The Secretary shall allot the amount made available under subparagraph (A)(iv) for a fiscal year among the States not receiving an allotment from the reservation under subparagraph (A)(i)(I) in proportion to the number of children, from preschool through age 17, who reside within the State and are from families with incomes below the poverty line for the most recent fiscal year for which satisfactory data are available, compared to the number of such children who reside in all such States for that fiscal year.

“(3) MINIMUM AWARD AMOUNT.—Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (2), no State educational agency receiving an award under this section for a fiscal year may receive less than one-fourth of 1 percent of the total amount appropriated under section 5430 for the fiscal year, except as provided under paragraph (2)(A)(i).

“(C) PEER REVIEW.—The Secretary shall convene a peer review panel to evaluate the application for each grant awarded to a State educational agency under sections 5423 and 5424 and shall make a copy of the peer review comments available to the public.

“(d) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Award funds provided under this subpart shall supplement, and not supplant, other Federal, State, or local funds that would, in the absence of such award funds, be made available for literacy instruction and support of children and students participating in programs assisted under this subpart.

“(e) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—Each State educational agency that receives an award under sections 5423 and 5424, and each eligible entity that receives a subgrant under section 5426 or 5427, shall maintain for the fiscal year for which the grant or subgrant is received and for each subsequent fiscal year the expenditures of the State educational agency or eligible entity, respectively, for literacy instruction at a level not less than the level of such expenditures maintained by the State educational agency or eligible entity, respectively, for the fiscal year preceding such fiscal year for which the grant or subgrant is received.

“SEC. 5423. STATE PLANNING GRANTS.

“(a) PLANNING GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—From any amounts made available under paragraph (1)(A) or (2)(A)(ii) of section 5422(b), the Secretary may award planning grants to State educational agencies to enable the State educational agencies to develop or improve a comprehensive planning to carry out activities that improve literacy for children and students from preschool through grade 12.

“(2) GRANT PERIOD.—A planning grant awarded under this section shall be for a period of not more than 1 year.

“(3) NONRENEWABILITY.—The Secretary shall not award a State educational agency more than 1 planning grant under this section.

“(4) LIMITATION.—A State educational agency may not receive a planning grant under this section at the same time it is receiving an implementation grant under section 5424.

“(b) APPLICATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each State educational agency desiring a planning grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may require.

“(2) EXISTING PLAN.—An existing federally funded State literacy plan can be used to meet the requirements of this subsection.

“(c) REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.—A State educational agency receiving planning grant funds under this section shall carry out each of the following activities:

“(1) Reviewing reading, writing, or other literacy resources and programs, such as school library programs, high-quality distance learning programs, and data across the State to identify any literacy needs and gaps in the State.

“(2) Forming or designating a State literacy leadership team which shall execute the following functions:

“(A) Creating a comprehensive State literacy plan that—

“(i) is designed to improve language, reading, writing, and academic achievement for children and students, especially those reading below grade level;

“(ii) includes a needs assessment and an implementation plan, including an analysis of child and student literacy data to identify baseline and benchmark levels of literacy and early literacy skills in order to monitor progress and improvement, and a plan to improve literacy levels among all children and students;

“(iii) ensures high quality strategies and instruction in early literacy development (which includes communication, reading, and writing) in early childhood education programs serving children from preschool through kindergarten entry and in kindergarten through grade 12 programs;

“(iv) provides for activities designed to improve literacy achievement for students who—

“(I) read or write below grade level;

“(II) attend schools in need of support and high-priority schools; and

“(III) attend schools with a high percentage or number of students that are eligible for free or reduced price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.); and

“(v) is submitted to the Secretary.

“(B) Providing recommendations to guide the State educational agency in the State educational agency's process of strengthening State literacy standards and embedding State literacy standards with the State's college and career ready standards, academic achievement standards, and early learning standards.

“(C) Providing recommendations to guide the State educational agency in the State educational agency's process of measuring, assessing, and monitoring progress in literacy at the school, local educational agency, and State levels.

“(D) Identifying criteria for high quality professional development providers, which

providers may include qualified teachers within the State, for the State educational agency and local educational agencies.

“(E) Advising the State educational agency on how to help ensure that local educational agencies and schools provide timely and appropriate data to teachers to inform and improve instruction.

“(F) Providing recommendations to guide the State educational agency in the State educational agency's planning process of building educators' capacity to provide high-quality literacy instruction.

“(3) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 1 year after a State educational agency receives a planning grant under this section, the State educational agency shall submit a report to the Secretary on the State educational agency's performance of the activities described in this subsection.

“SEC. 5424. STATE IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.

“(a) IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—From awards made available under paragraph (1)(B) or (2)(A)(iv) of section 5422(b), the Secretary shall, on a competitive basis or through allotments, respectively, award implementation grants to State educational agencies to enable the State educational agencies—

“(A) to implement a comprehensive literacy plan that meets the criteria in section 5423(c)(2)(A) for programs serving children from preschool through kindergarten entry through grade 12 programs;

“(B) to carry out State activities under section 5425; and

“(C) to award subgrants under sections 5426 and 5427.

“(2) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not award a implementation grant under this section to a State for any year for which the State has received a planning grant under section 5423.

“(3) DURATION OF GRANTS.—An implementation grant under this section shall be awarded for a period of not more than 5 years.

“(4) RENEWALS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Implementation grants under this section may be renewed.

“(B) CONDITIONS.—In order to be eligible to have an implementation grant renewed under this paragraph, the State educational agency shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Secretary that—

“(i) the State educational agency has complied with the terms of the grant, including using the funds to—

“(I) increase access to high-quality professional development;

“(II) use developmentally appropriate curricula and teaching materials; and

“(III) use developmentally appropriate classroom-based instructional assessments and developmentally appropriate screening and diagnostic assessments; and

“(ii) with respect to students in kindergarten through grade 12, during the period of the grant there has been significant progress in student achievement, as measured by the metrics described in section 5424(b)(2)(C).

“(b) STATE APPLICATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A State educational agency that desires to receive an implementation grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require. The State educational agency shall collaborate with all State agencies responsible for administering early childhood education programs, and the State agency responsible for administering child care programs, in the

State in writing and implementing the early learning portion of the grant application under this subsection.

“(2) CONTENTS.—An application described in paragraph (1) shall include the following:

“(A) A description of the members of the State literacy leadership team and a description of how the State educational agency has developed a comprehensive State literacy plan, as described in section 5423(c)(2)(A).

“(B) An implementation plan that includes a description of how the State educational agency will—

“(i) carry out the State activities described in section 5425;

“(ii) assist eligible entities with—

“(I) providing strategic and intensive literacy instruction based on scientifically valid research for students who are reading and writing below grade level, including through the use of multi-tiered systems of support, including addressing the literacy needs of children and youth with disabilities or developmental delays and English learners in early childhood education programs serving children from preschool through kindergarten entry and programs serving students from preschool through grade 12;

“(II) providing training to parents, as appropriate, so that the parents can participate in the literacy related activities described in sections 5426 and 5427 to assist in the language and literacy development of their children;

“(III) selecting and using reading and writing assessments;

“(IV) providing classroom-based instruction that is supported by one-to-one and small group work;

“(V) using curricular materials and instructional tools, which may include technology, to improve instruction and literacy achievement;

“(VI) providing for high-quality professional development; and

“(VII) using the principles of universal design for learning, as described in section 5429(b)(21);

“(iii) ensure that local educational agencies in the State have leveraged and are effectively leveraging the resources needed to implement effective literacy instruction, and have the capacity to implement literacy initiatives effectively;

“(iv) continually coordinate and align the activities assisted under this section and sections 5426 and 5427 with reading, writing, and other literacy resources and programs across the State and locally that serve children and students and their families and promote literacy instruction and learning, including strengthening partnerships among schools, libraries, local youth-serving agencies, and programs, in order to improve literacy for all children and youth; and

“(v) ensure that funds provided under this section are awarded in a manner that will provide services to all grade levels, including proportionally to middle schools and high schools.

“(C) A description of the key data metrics that will be used and reported annually under section 5427(b)(1)(E), that shall include—

“(i) student academic achievement on the English language arts State academic assessments and student growth over time;

“(ii) for diploma granting schools, graduation rates;

“(D) An assurance that the State educational agency will use implementation grant funds under this section for literacy programs as follows:

“(i) Not less than 10 percent of such grant funds shall be used for State and local pro-

grams and activities pertaining to learners from preschool through kindergarten entry.

“(ii) Not less than 40 percent of such implementation grant funds shall be used for State and local programs and activities allocated equitably among the grades of kindergarten through grade 5.

“(iii) Not less than 40 percent of such implementation grant funds shall be used for State and local programs and activities, allocated equitably among grades 6 through 12.

“(iv) Not more than 10 percent of such implementation grant funds shall be used for the State activities described in section 5425.

“(E) An assurance that the State educational agency shall give priority to awarding a subgrant to an eligible entity—

“(i) under section 5426 based on the number or percentage of children younger than the age of kindergarten entry and the number of students from kindergarten through 17 who are—

“(I) served by the eligible entity; and

“(II) from families with income below the poverty line, based on the most recent satisfactory data provided to the Secretary by the Bureau of the Census for determining eligibility under section 1124(c)(1)(A); and

“(ii) under section 5427, that proposes to serve—

“(I) a high number or percentage of students served by the eligible entity that are reading and writing below grade level according to State assessments;

“(II) students that attend schools in need of support and high-priority schools; and

“(III) students that attend schools with a high percentage or number of students that are eligible for free or reduced price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.).

“(C) APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the peer review panel established under paragraph (2), shall evaluate State educational agency applications under subsection (b) based on the responsiveness of the applications to the application requirements under such subsection.

“(2) PEER REVIEW.—The Secretary shall convene a peer review panel in accordance with section 5422(c) to evaluate applications for each implementation grant awarded to a State educational agency under this section.

“(3) EARLY LEARNING.—In order for a State educational agency's application under this section to be approved by the Secretary, the application shall contain an assurance that the State agencies responsible for administering early childhood education programs and services, including the State agency responsible for administering child care programs and the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care established under section 642B(b) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9837b(b)), approves of, and will be extensively consulted in the implementation of related activities and services consistent with section 5426 with respect to, the early learning portion of the application.

“SEC. 5425. STATE ACTIVITIES.

“(a) REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.—A State educational agency shall use funds made available under section 5422(a)(2)(A) and described in section 5424(b)(2)(D)(iv) to carry out the activities proposed in a State's plan consistent with section 5424(b)(2), including the following activities:

“(1) Carrying out the assurances and activities provided in the State application under section 5424(b)(2).

“(2) In consultation with the State literacy leadership team, providing technical assist-

ance or engaging qualified providers to provide technical assistance to eligible entities to enable the eligible entities to design and implement a literacy program under sections 5426 and 5427.

“(3) Providing technical assistance to eligible entities that are prioritized in section 5424(b)(2)(E), including eligible entities that serve low-capacity rural and urban areas by—

“(A) informing those eligible entities that they have a priority for competing for grants under section 5426 and 5427; and

“(B) providing eligible entities who do not receive a grant under section 5426 and 5427 technical assistance so that they may compete in following competitions.

“(4) Continuing to consult with the State literacy leadership team and continuing to coordinate with institutions of higher education in the State—

“(A) in order to provide recommendations to strengthen and enhance preservice courses for students preparing, at institutions of higher education in the State, to teach children from preschool through grade 12 in explicit, systematic, and intensive instruction in evidence-based literacy methods; and

“(B) by following up reviews completed by the State literacy leadership team with recommendations to ensure that such institutions offer courses that meet the highest standards.

“(5) Reviewing and updating, in collaboration with teachers, statewide educational and professional organizations representing teachers, and statewide educational and professional organizations representing institutions of higher education, State licensure and certification standards in the area of literacy instruction in early childhood education through grade 12.

“(6) Making publicly available, including on the State educational agency's website, information on promising instructional practices to improve student literacy achievement.

“(b) PERMISSIVE ACTIVITIES.—After carrying out activities described in subsection (a), a State educational agency may use remaining funds made available under section 5422(a)(2)(A) and described in section 5424(b)(2)(D)(iv) to carry out 1 or more of the following activities:

“(1) Training the personnel of eligible entities to use data systems that track student literacy achievement.

“(2) Developing literacy coach training programs and training literacy coaches.

“(3) Building public support among local educational agency personnel, early childhood education programs, and the community for comprehensive literacy instruction for children and students from preschool through grade 12.

“SEC. 5426. SUBGRANTS TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES IN SUPPORT OF PRESCHOOL THROUGH KINDERGARTEN ENTRY LITERACY.

“(a) SUBGRANTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A State educational agency, in consultation with the State agencies responsible for administering early childhood education programs and services, including the State agency responsible for administering child care programs and the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care established under section 642B(b) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9837b(b)), shall use implementation grant funds provided under section 5422(a)(2)(B) to award subgrants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities to enable the eligible entities to support high-quality early literacy

initiatives for children from preschool through kindergarten entry.

“(2) DURATION.—The term of subgrant under this section shall be for 5 years.

“(b) SUFFICIENT SIZE AND SCOPE.—Each subgrant awarded under this section shall be of sufficient size and scope to allow the eligible entity to carry out high-quality early literacy initiatives for children from preschool through kindergarten entry.

“(c) LOCAL APPLICATIONS.—An eligible entity desiring to receive a subgrant under this section shall submit an application to the State educational agency, at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the State educational agency may require. Such application shall include a description of—

“(1) how the subgrant funds will be used to enhance the language and literacy aspects of school readiness of children, from preschool through kindergarten entry, in early childhood education programs, including an analysis of the data used to identify how funds will be used to improve language and literacy;

“(2) the programs assisted under the subgrant, including demographic and socioeconomic information on the children enrolled in the programs;

“(3) a budget for the eligible entity that projects the cost of developing and implementing literacy initiatives to carry out the activities described in subsection (e);

“(4) how, if the eligible entity is requesting a planning period, the eligible entity will use that planning period to prepare for successful implementation of a plan to support the development of learning and literacy consistent with the purposes of this subpart;

“(5) the literacy initiatives, if any, in place and how these initiatives will be coordinated and integrated with activities supported under this section;

“(6) how the subgrant funds will be used to prepare and provide ongoing assistance to staff in the programs, through high-quality professional development;

“(7) how the subgrant funds will be used to provide services, incorporate activities, and select and use literacy instructional materials that meet the diverse developmental and linguistic needs of children, including English learners and children with disabilities and developmental delays, and that are based on scientifically valid research on child development and learning for children from preschool through kindergarten entry;

“(8) how the subgrant funds will be used to provide screening assessments, diagnostic assessments, classroom-based instructional assessments, and assessments of developmental progress;

“(9) how families and caregivers will be involved, as appropriate, in supporting their children's literacy development, instruction, and assessment;

“(10) how the subgrant funds will be used to help children, particularly children experiencing difficulty with oral and written language, to make the transition from early childhood education to formal classroom instruction;

“(11) how the activities assisted under the subgrant will be coordinated with literacy instruction at the kindergarten through grade 5 level;

“(12) how the subgrant funds will be used—

“(A) to evaluate the success of the activities assisted under the subgrant in enhancing the early language and literacy development of children from preschool through kindergarten entry; and

“(B) to evaluate data for program improvement; and

“(13) such other information as the State educational agency may require.

“(d) APPROVAL OF LOCAL APPLICATIONS.—The State educational agency, in consultation with the State agencies responsible for administering early childhood education programs, including the State agency responsible for administering child care programs and the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care established under section 642B(b) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9837b(b)), shall—

“(1) select applications for funding under this section based on the quality of the applications submitted, including the relationship between literacy activities proposed and the research base or data supporting such activities, as appropriate, and the recommendations of—

“(A) the State literacy leadership team; and

“(B) other experts in the area of early literacy; and

“(2) place priority for funding programs based on the criteria in section 5424(b)(2)(E)(i).

“(e) LOCAL USES OF FUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that receives a subgrant under this section shall use the subgrant funds consistent with the application proposed in subsection (c) to carry out the following activities:

“(A) Enhancing and improving early childhood education programs to ensure that children in such programs are provided with high-quality oral language and literature- and print-rich environments in which to develop early literacy skills.

“(B) Providing high-quality professional development.

“(C) Acquiring, providing training for, and implementing screening assessments, diagnostic assessments, and classroom-based instructional assessments.

“(D) Selecting, developing, and implementing a multi-tiered system of support.

“(E) Integrating evidence-based instructional materials, activities, tools, and measures into the programs offered by the eligible entity to improve development of early learning language and literacy skills.

“(F) Training providers and personnel to support, develop, and administer high-quality early learning literacy initiatives that—

“(i) utilize data—

“(I) to inform instructional design; and

“(II) to assess literacy needs; and

“(ii) provide time and support for personnel to meet to plan literacy instruction.

“(G) Providing for family literacy services, as appropriate, and partnering with families to support their child's learning.

“(H) Annually collecting, summarizing, and reporting to the State educational agency data—

“(i) to document and monitor, for the purpose of improving or increasing early literacy and language skills development pursuant to activities carried out under this section;

“(ii) to stimulate and accelerate improvement by identifying the programs served by the eligible entity that produce significant gains in skills development; and

“(iii) for all subgroups of students and categories of students that—

“(I) utilizes a variety of data; and

“(II) is consistent across the State.

“(2) LIMITATION.—An eligible entity that receives a subgrant under this section shall not use more than 10 percent of the subgrant funds to purchase curricula and assessment materials.

“(f) PROHIBITION.—The use of assessment items and data on any assessment authorized

under this section to provide rewards or sanctions for individual children, early childhood educators, teachers, program directors, or principals is prohibited.

“SEC. 5427. CONSEQUENCES OF INSUFFICIENT PROGRESS, REPORTING REQUIREMENTS, AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.

“(a) CONSEQUENCES OF INSUFFICIENT PROGRESS.—

“(1) CONSEQUENCES FOR GRANT RECIPIENTS.—If the Secretary determines that a State educational agency receiving an award under section 5422(b) or an eligible entity receiving a subgrant under section 5426 or 5427 is not making significant progress in meeting the purposes of this subpart and the key metrics identified by the State educational agency under section 5424(b)(2)(C) after the submission of a report described in subsection (b), then the Secretary may withhold, in whole or in part, further payments under this subpart in accordance with section 455 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1234d) or take such other action authorized by law as the Secretary determines necessary, including providing technical assistance upon request of the State educational agency or eligible entity, respectively.

“(2) CONSEQUENCES FOR SUBGRANT RECIPIENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A State educational agency receiving an award under section 5422(b) may refuse to award subgrant funds to an eligible entity under section 5426 or 5427 if the State educational agency finds that the eligible entity is not making significant progress in meeting the purposes of this subpart, after—

“(i) affording the eligible entity notice, a period for correction, and an opportunity for a hearing; and

“(ii) providing technical assistance to the eligible entity.

“(B) FUNDS AVAILABLE.—Subgrant funds not awarded under subparagraph (A) shall be redirected to an eligible entity serving similar children and students in the same area or region as the eligible entity not awarded the subgrant funds, to the greatest extent practicable.

“(b) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY REPORTS.—Each State educational agency receiving an award under section 5422(b) shall report annually to the Secretary regarding the State educational agency's progress in addressing the purposes of this subpart. Such report shall include, at a minimum, a description of—

“(A) the professional development activities provided under the award, including types of activities and entities involved in providing professional development to classroom teachers and other program staff, such as school librarians;

“(B) the instruction, strategies, activities, curricula, materials, and assessments used in the programs funded under the award;

“(C)(i) the types of programs and, for children from preschool to kindergarten entry, program settings, funded under the award; and

“(ii) the ages and demographic information that is not individually identifiable of children served by the programs funded under the award;

“(D) the experience and qualifications of the program staff who provide literacy instruction under the programs funded under the award, including the experience and qualifications of those staff working with children with disabilities or developmental

delays and with English learners and children from preschool to kindergarten entry;

“(E) key data metrics identified under section 5424(b)(2)(C) used for literacy initiatives;

“(F) student performance on relevant program metrics, as identified in the State education agency’s implementation plan under section 5424(b)(2)(C); and

“(G) the outcomes of programs and activities provided under the award.

“(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY REPORTS.—Each eligible entity receiving a subgrant under section 5426 or 5427 shall report annually to the State educational agency regarding the eligible entity’s progress in addressing the purposes of this subpart. Such report shall include, at a minimum, a description of—

“(A) how the subgrant funds were used; and

“(B) student performance on relevant program metrics, as identified in the State education agency’s implementation plan under section 5424(b)(2)(C).

“(C) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—The Secretary shall ensure that each member of the peer review panel described in section 5422(c) and each member of a State literacy leadership team participating in a program or activity assisted under this subpart does not stand to benefit financially from a grant or subgrant awarded under this subpart.

“SEC. 5428. DEFINITIONS.

“In this subpart:

“(1) CHARACTERISTICS OF EFFECTIVE LITERACY STRATEGIES AND INSTRUCTION.—The term ‘characteristics of effective literacy strategies and instruction’ means—

“(A) for children from preschool through kindergarten entry—

“(i) providing high quality professional development opportunities for early childhood educators, teachers, and school leaders in—

“(I) literacy development;

“(II) language development;

“(III) English language acquisition (as appropriate); and

“(IV) effective language and literacy instruction and teaching strategies aligned to State standards;

“(ii) reading aloud to children, engaging children in shared reading experiences, discussing reading with children, and modeling age and developmentally appropriate reading strategies;

“(iii) encouraging children’s early attempts at communication, reading, writing, and drawing, and talking about the meaning of the reading, writing, and drawing with others;

“(iv) creating conversation rich classrooms and using oral modeling techniques to build oral language skills;

“(v) multiplying opportunities for children to use language with peers and adults;

“(vi) providing strategic and explicit instruction in the identification of speech sounds, letters, and letter-sound correspondence;

“(vii) integrating oral and written language;

“(viii) stimulating vocabulary development;

“(ix) using differentiated instructional approaches or teaching strategies, including—

“(I) individual and small group instruction or interactions; and

“(II) professional development, curriculum development, and classroom instruction;

“(x) applying the principles of universal design for learning, as described in section 5429(b)(21);

“(xi) using age-appropriate screening assessments, diagnostic assessments, formative assessments, and summative assessments to identify individual learning needs, to inform instruction, and to monitor—

“(I) student progress and the effects of instruction over time; and

“(II) for children between the ages of preschool and kindergarten entry, progress and development within established norms;

“(xii) coordinating the involvement of families, early childhood education program staff, principals, other school leaders, and teachers in the reading and writing achievement of children served under this subpart;

“(xiii) using a variety of age and developmentally appropriate, high quality materials for language development, reading, and writing;

“(xiv) encouraging family literacy experiences and practices, and educating teachers, public librarians, and parents and other caregivers about literacy development and child literacy development; and

“(xv) using strategies to enhance children’s—

“(I) motivation to communicate, read, and write; and

“(II) engagement in self-directed learning;

“(B) for students in kindergarten through grade 3—

“(i) providing high quality professional development opportunities, for teachers, literacy coaches, literacy specialists, English as a second language specialists (as appropriate), school librarians, and principals, on literacy development, language development, English language acquisition, and effective literacy instruction that—

“(I) aligns to State standards as well as local curricula and instructional assessments; and

“(II) addresses literacy development opportunities across the curricula;

“(ii) providing age appropriate direct and explicit instruction;

“(iii) providing strategic, systematic, and explicit instruction in phonological awareness, phonic decoding, vocabulary, reading fluency, and reading comprehension;

“(iv) making available and using diverse texts at the reading, development, and interest level of students;

“(v) providing multiple opportunities for students to write individually and collaboratively with instruction and feedback;

“(vi) using differentiated instructional approaches, including individual, small group, and classroom-based instruction and discussion;

“(vii) using oral modeling techniques and opportunities for students to use language with the students’ peers and adults to build student language skills;

“(viii) providing time and opportunities for systematic and intensive instruction, intervention, and practice to supplement regular instruction, which can be provided inside and outside the classroom as well as during and outside regular school hours;

“(ix) providing instruction in uses of print materials and technological resources for research and for generating and presenting content and ideas;

“(x) using screening assessments, diagnostic assessments, formative assessments, and summative assessments to identify student learning needs, to inform instruction, and to monitor student progress and the effects of instruction over time;

“(xi) coordinating the involvement of families, caregivers, teachers, principals, other school leaders, and teacher literacy teams in the reading and writing achievement of children served under this subpart;

“(xii) encouraging family literacy experiences and practices; and

“(xiii) using strategies to enhance students’—

“(I) motivation to read and write; and

“(II) engagement in self-directed learning; and

“(C) for students in grades 4 through 12—

“(i) providing high quality professional development opportunities for teachers, literacy coaches, literacy specialists, English as a second language specialists (as appropriate), school librarians, and principals, including professional development on literacy development, language development, and effective literacy instruction embedded in schools and aligned to State standards;

“(ii) providing direct and explicit comprehension instruction;

“(iii) providing direct and explicit instruction that builds academic vocabulary and strategies and knowledge of text structure for reading different kinds of texts within and across core academic subjects;

“(iv) making available and using diverse texts at the reading, development, and interest level of the students;

“(v) providing multiple opportunities for students to write with clear purposes and critical reasoning appropriate to the topic and purpose and with specific instruction and feedback from teachers and peers;

“(vi) using differentiated instructional approaches;

“(vii) using strategies to enhance students’—

“(I) motivation to read and write; and

“(II) engagement in self-directed learning;

“(viii) providing for text-based learning across content areas;

“(ix) providing systematic, strategic, and individual and small group instruction, including intensive supplemental intervention for students reading significantly below grade level, which may be provided inside and outside the classroom as well as during and outside regular school hours;

“(x) providing instruction in the uses of technology and multimedia resources for classroom research and for generating and presenting content and ideas;

“(xi) using screening assessments, diagnostic assessments, formative assessments, and summative assessments to identify learning needs, inform instruction, and monitor student progress and the effects of instruction;

“(xii) coordinating the involvement of families and caregivers, to the extent feasible and appropriate as determined by the Secretary, to improve reading, writing, and academic achievement; and

“(xiii) coordinating the involvement of school librarians, teachers, principals, other school leaders, teacher literacy teams, and English as a second language specialists (as appropriate), that analyze student work and plan or deliver instruction over time.

“(2) CLASSROOM-BASED INSTRUCTIONAL ASSESSMENT.—The term ‘classroom-based instructional assessment’ means an assessment, for children between preschool through grade 3, that—

“(A) is valid and reliable for the age and population of children being assessed;

“(B) is used to evaluate children’s developmental progress and learning, including systematic observations by teachers of children performing tasks, including academic and literacy tasks, that are part of their daily classroom experience; and

“(C) is used to improve classroom instruction.

“(3) COMPREHENSIVE LITERACY INSTRUCTION.—The term ‘comprehensive literacy instruction’ means instruction that—

“(A) involves the characteristics of effective literacy instruction; and

“(B) is designed to support the essential components of reading instruction and the essential components of writing instruction.

“(4) DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY.—The term ‘developmental delay’ has the meaning given the term in section 632 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1432).

“(5) DIAGNOSTIC ASSESSMENT.—The term ‘diagnostic assessment’ means an assessment that—

“(A) is valid, reliable, and based on scientifically valid research on language, literacy, and English language acquisition;

“(B) is used for the purposes of—

“(i) identifying a student’s specific areas of strengths and weaknesses in oral language and literacy;

“(ii) determining any difficulties that the student may have in oral language and literacy and the potential cause of such difficulties; and

“(iii) helping to determine possible literacy intervention strategies and related special needs of the student; and

“(C) in the case of young children, is conducted after a screening assessment that identifies potential risks or a lack of school preparedness, including oral language and literacy development, or delayed development.

“(6) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means—

“(A) when used with respect to children from preschool through kindergarten entry—

“(i) 1 or more local educational agencies providing early childhood education programs, or 1 or more public or private early childhood education programs, serving children from preschool through kindergarten entry (such as a Head Start program, a child care program, a State-funded prekindergarten program, a public library program, or a family literacy program), that has a demonstrated record of providing effective literacy instruction for the age group such agency or program proposes to serve under section 5426; or

“(ii) 1 or more entities described in clause (i) acting in partnership with 1 or more public agencies or private nonprofit organizations that have a demonstrated record of effectiveness—

“(I) in improving the early literacy development of children from preschool through kindergarten entry; and

“(II) in providing professional development aligned with the activities described in section 5426(e)(1); or

“(B) when used with respect to students in kindergarten through grade 12—

“(i) that is—

“(I) a local educational agency;

“(II) a consortium of local educational agencies; or

“(III) or a local educational agency or consortium of local educational agencies that may act in partnership with 1 or more public agencies or private nonprofit organizations, which agencies or organizations shall have a demonstrated record of effectiveness, consistent with the purposes of their participation, in improving literacy achievement of students from kindergarten through grade 12 and in providing professional development described in section 5427(a)(3)(B);

“(ii) that—

“(I) is among, or consists of, the local educational agencies in the State with the highest numbers or percentages of students reading or writing below grade level, based on the most currently available State academic assessment data;

“(II) has jurisdiction over a significant number or percentage of schools that are

identified for school improvement under section 1116; or

“(iii) has the highest numbers or percentages of children who are counted under section 1124(c), in comparison to other local educational agencies in the State.

“(7) ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘English language acquisition’ means the process by which a non-native English speaker acquires proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing the English language.

“(B) INCLUSIONS FOR ENGLISH LEARNERS IN SCHOOL.—For an English language learner in school, such term includes not only the social language proficiency needed to participate in the school environment, but also the academic language proficiency needed to acquire literacy and academic content and demonstrate the student’s learning.

“(8) ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF READING INSTRUCTION.—The term ‘essential components of reading instruction’ means developmentally appropriate, contextually explicit, systematic instruction, and frequent practice, in reading across content areas.

“(9) ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF WRITING INSTRUCTION.—The term ‘essential components of writing instruction’ means developmentally appropriate and contextually explicit instruction, and frequent practice, in writing across content areas.

“(10) FAMILY LITERACY SERVICES.—The term ‘family literacy services’ means literacy services provided on a voluntary basis that are of sufficient intensity in terms of hours and duration and that integrate all of the following activities:

“(A) Interactive literacy activities between or among parents and their children, including parent literacy training.

“(B) Training for parents regarding how to be the primary teacher for their children and full partners in the education of their children.

“(C) Parent literacy training that leads to economic self-sufficiency.

“(D) An age-appropriate education to prepare children for success in school and life experiences.

“(11) FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT.—The term ‘formative assessment’ means a process that—

“(A) is teacher-generated or selected by teachers and students during instructional learning;

“(B) is embedded within the learning activity and linked directly to the current unit of instruction; and

“(C) provides feedback to adjust ongoing teaching and learning to improve students’ achievement of intended instructional outcomes.

“(12) HIGH-QUALITY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.—The term ‘high-quality professional development’ means professional development that—

“(A) is job-embedded, ongoing, and based on scientifically valid research;

“(B) is sustained, intensive, and classroom-focused;

“(C) is designed to increase the knowledge and expertise of teachers, early childhood educators and administrators, principals, other school leaders, and other program staff in applying—

“(i) the characteristics of effective literacy instruction;

“(ii) the essential components of reading instruction;

“(iii) the essential components of writing instruction; and

“(iv) instructional strategies and practices that are appropriate to the age, develop-

ment, and needs of children and improve student learning, including strategies and practices consistent with the principles of universal design for learning, as described in section 5429(b)(21);

“(D) includes and supports teachers in effectively administering age appropriate and developmentally appropriate assessments, and analyzing the results of such assessments for the purposes of planning, monitoring, adapting, and improving effective classroom instruction or teaching strategies to improve student literacy;

“(E) for educators working with students in kindergarten through grade 12—

“(i) supports the characteristics of effective literacy instruction through core academic subjects, and through career and technical education subjects where such career and technical education subjects provide for the integration of core academic subjects; and

“(ii) includes explicit instruction in discipline-specific thinking and how to read and interpret discipline-specific text structures and features;

“(F) includes instructional strategies utilizing one-to-one, small group, and classroom-based instructional materials and approaches based on scientifically valid research on literacy;

“(G) provides ongoing instructional literacy coaching—

“(i) to ensure high-quality implementation of effective practices of literacy instruction that are content-centered, integrated across the curricula, collaborative, and embedded in the school, classroom, or other setting; and

“(ii) that uses student data to improve instruction;

“(H) includes and supports teachers in setting high reading and writing achievement goals for all students and provides the teachers with the instructional tools and skills to help students reach such goals; and

“(I) is differentiated for educators working with children from preschool through kindergarten entry, students in kindergarten through grade 5, and students in grades 6 through 12, and, as appropriate, by student grade or student need.

“(13) LITERACY COACH.—The term ‘literacy coach’ means a professional—

“(A) who—

“(i) has previous teaching experience and—

“(I) a master’s degree with a concentration in reading and writing education;

“(II) demonstrated proficiency in teaching reading or writing in a core academic subject consistent with the characteristics of effective literacy instruction; or

“(III) in the case of a literacy coach for children from preschool through kindergarten entry, a concentration, credential, or significant experience in child development and early literacy development; and

“(ii) is able to demonstrate the ability to help teachers—

“(I) apply research on how students become successful readers, writers, and communicators;

“(II) apply multiple forms of assessment to guide instructional decisionmaking and use data to improve literacy instruction;

“(III) improve student writing and reading in and across content areas such as mathematics, science, social studies, and language arts;

“(IV) develop and implement differentiated instruction and teaching approaches to serve the needs of the full range of learners, including English learners and children with disabilities;

“(V) apply principles of universal design for learning, as described in section 5429(b)(21);

“(VI) employ best practices in engaging principals, early childhood educators and administrators, teachers, and other professionals supporting literacy instruction to change school cultures to better encourage and support literacy development and achievement; and

“(VII)(aa) for children from preschool through kindergarten entry, set developmentally appropriate expectations for language; and

“(bb) for all children, set literacy development and high reading and writing achievement goals and select, acquire, and use instructional tools and skills to help the children reach such goals; and

“(B) whose role with teachers and professionals supporting literacy instruction is—

“(i) to provide high-quality professional development;

“(ii) to work cooperatively and collaboratively with principals, teachers, and other professionals in employing strategies to help teachers identify and support student language and literacy needs and teach literacy across content areas and developmental domains; and

“(iii) to work cooperatively and collaboratively with other professionals in employing strategies to help teachers teach literacy across content areas so that the teachers can meet the needs of all students, including children with disabilities, English learners, and students who are reading at or above grade level.

“(14) MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORT.—The term ‘multi-tiered system of support’ means a comprehensive system of differentiated supports that includes evidence-based instruction, universal screening, progress monitoring, formative assessments, evidence-based interventions matched to student needs and educational decisionmaking using student outcome data.

“(15) READING.—The term ‘reading’ means a complex system of deriving meaning from print that requires, in ways that are developmentally, content, and contextually appropriate, all of the following:

“(A) PHONEMES.—The skills and knowledge to understand how phonemes, or speech sounds, are connected to print.

“(B) ACCURACY, FLUENCY, AND UNDERSTANDING.—The ability to read accurately, fluently, and with understanding.

“(C) READING COMPREHENSION.—The use of background knowledge and vocabulary to make meaning from a text.

“(D) ACTIVE STRATEGIES.—The development and use of appropriate active strategies to interpret and construct meaning from print.

“(16) SCIENTIFICALLY VALID RESEARCH.—The term ‘scientifically valid research’ has the meaning given the term in section 200 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1021).

“(17) SCREENING ASSESSMENT.—The term ‘screening assessment’ means an assessment that—

“(A) is valid, reliable, and based on scientifically valid research on literacy and English language acquisition; and

“(B) is a procedure designed as a first step in identifying children who may be at high risk for delayed development or academic failure and in need of further diagnosis of the children’s need for special services or additional literacy instruction.

“(18) SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL (SISP).—The term ‘Specialized Instructional Support Personnel’ or ‘SISP’

means school counselors, school social workers, school psychologists, and other qualified professional personnel involved in providing assessment, diagnosis, counseling, educational, therapeutic, and other necessary services (included related services as that term is defined in section 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) as part of a comprehensive program to meet student needs.

“(19) STATE.—The term ‘State’ has the meaning given the term in section 103 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1003).

“(20) STATE LITERACY LEADERSHIP TEAM.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘State literacy leadership team’ means a team that—

“(i) is appointed and coordinated by the State educational agency;

“(ii) assumes the responsibility to guide the development and implementation of a statewide, comprehensive literacy plan;

“(iii) is composed of not less than 11 individuals; and

“(iv) shall include—

“(I) not less than 3 individuals who have literacy expertise in one of each of the areas of—

“(aa) preschool through school entry, such as the State Head Start collaboration director;

“(bb) kindergarten entry through grade 5; and

“(cc) grades 6 through 12;

“(II) a school principal;

“(III) teachers and administrators with expertise in literacy and special education;

“(IV) teachers and administrators with expertise in teaching the English language to English learners;

“(V) a representative from the State educational agency who oversees literacy initiatives; and

“(VI) a representative from higher education who is actively involved in research, development, or teacher preparation in literacy instruction and intervention based on scientifically valid research.

“(B) INCLUSION OF A PREEXISTING PARTNERSHIP.—If, before the date of enactment of the Student Success Act, a State educational agency established a consortium, partnership, or any other similar body that was considered a literacy partnership for purposes of subpart 1 or 2 of part B of title I and that includes the individuals required under subparagraph (A)(iv), such consortium, partnership, or body may be considered a State literacy leadership team for purposes of subparagraph (A).

“(21) SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT.—The term ‘summative assessment’ means an assessment that—

“(A) is valid, reliable, and based on scientifically valid research on literacy and English language acquisition; and

“(B) measures—

“(i) for children from preschool through kindergarten entry, how the children have progressed over time relative to developmental norms; and

“(ii) for students in kindergarten through grade 12, what the students have learned over time, relative to academic content standards.

“(22) UNIVERSAL DESIGN FOR LEARNING.—The term ‘universal design for learning’ has the meaning given the term in section 103 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1003).

“(23) WRITING.—The term ‘writing’ means—

“(A) composing meaning in print or through other media, including technologies, to communicate and to create new knowledge in ways appropriate to the context of

the writing and the literacy development stage of the writer;

“(B) composing ideas individually and collaboratively in ways that are appropriate for a variety of purposes, audiences, and occasions;

“(C) choosing vocabulary, tone, genre, and conventions, such as spelling and punctuation, suitable to the purpose, audience, and occasion; and

“(D) revising compositions for clarity of ideas, coherence, logical development, and precision of language use.

“SEC. 5430. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subpart \$500,000,000 for fiscal year 2016 and such sums as may be necessary for subsequent fiscal years.

“SUBPART 3—A WELL-ROUNDED EDUCATION

“SEC. 5431. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.

“From the amount appropriated each fiscal year to carry out this subpart, the Secretary—

“(1) shall—

“(A) reserve not less than 5 percent for national activities under section 5438; and

“(B) of the funds remaining after the Secretary reserves funds under subparagraph (A)—

“(i) use at least 25 percent to award grants to eligible entities under this subpart to carry out proven practices, strategies, or programs in American history, civic education, and geography;

“(ii) use at least 15 percent to award grants to eligible entities under this subpart to carry out proven practices, strategies, or programs in economic and financial literacy education and entrepreneurship education;

“(iii) use at least 15 percent to award grants to eligible entities under this subpart to carry out proven practices, strategies, or programs in foreign language education;

“(iv) use at least 15 percent to award grants to eligible entities under this subpart to carry out proven practices, strategies, or programs for music and the arts education; and

“(v) use at least 10 percent to award grants to eligible entities under this subpart to carry out proven practices, strategies, or programs in Javits gifted and talented education; and

“(vi) use at least 10 percent to award grants to eligible entities as described in section 5432(2) to carry out proven practices, strategies, or programs in ready-to-learn; and

“(2) may use the funds remaining after the Secretary reserves and uses funds under paragraph (1) to award grants to eligible entities under this subpart to carry out any of the proven practices, strategies, or programs described in clauses (i) through (v) of paragraph (1)(B).

“SEC. 5432. ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.

“In this subpart, an eligible entity means one of the following:

“(1) A State educational agency, local educational agency, or an educational service agency with a local educational agency that is in partnership with one or more of the following:

“(A) An institution of higher education.

“(B) A nonprofit organization with demonstrated expertise in the content areas described in section 5431(1)(B).

“(C) A library or museum.

“(2) A public telecommunications entity that is able to demonstrate each of the following:

“(A) A capacity for the development and national distribution of educational and instructional television programming of high quality that is accessible by a large majority of disadvantaged preschool and elementary school children.

“(B) A capacity to contract with the producers of children’s television programming for the purpose of developing educational television programming of high quality.

“(C) A capacity, consistent with the entity’s mission and nonprofit nature, to negotiate such contracts in a manner that returns to the entity an appropriate share of any ancillary income from sales of any program-related products.

“(D) A capacity to localize programming and materials to meet specific State and local needs and to provide educational outreach at the local level.

“SEC. 5433. GRANT PRIORITY, DURATION, AND SIZE AND SCOPE REQUIREMENTS.

“(a) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this subpart, the Secretary shall give priority to—

“(1) eligible entities proposing to serve schools in need of support or persistently low achieving schools; and

“(2) eligible entities proposing to serve a high percentage and number of children from families with incomes below the poverty line according to the most recent census data approved by the Secretary.

“(b) DURATION.—The Secretary shall award grants under this subpart for a period of 5 years.

“(c) SUFFICIENT SIZE AND SCOPE.—In awarding grants under this subpart, the Secretary shall ensure that grants are of sufficient size and scope.

“SEC. 5434. SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.

“Funds received under this subpart shall be used to supplement, not supplant, Federal and non-Federal funds available to support child and youth services.

“SEC. 5435. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under one or more of the grant programs described in clauses (i) through (v) of section 5431(1)(B), an eligible entity shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing the information that the Secretary may require, including the information described in subsection (c).

“(b) MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS.—An eligible entity may apply for one or more grant programs under this subpart, and may use a consolidated application to apply for more than one grant program under this subpart.

“(c) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—An application submitted under subsection (a) shall contain the following:

“(1) A description of the promising or proven practice, strategy, or program that the applicant proposes to implement in a content area listed in clauses (i) through (v) of section 5431(1)(B).

“(2) A description of how the proposed practice, strategy, or program is evidence-based and will improve teaching practices as well as student achievement or student academic growth especially with high-need student populations.

“(3) A description of how the proposed practice, strategy, or program fits into the State or local educational agency’s overall strategy that students have access to a well-rounded education.

“(4) A description of how the proposed practice, strategy, or program will be aligned with school improvement plans.

“(5) A description of how the activities will adequately address the needs of students with disabilities and English learners.

“(6) A description of the applicant’s plan for data collection, analysis, and dissemination of results and outcomes, including an assurance that the applicant will make this information publicly available and accessible to educators, researchers, and other experts.

“(7) A description of how the applicant will provide for the completion of an independent evaluation of the project (including through the use of formative and summative evaluation methodologies) during the grant period to assess its impact on student achievement, student academic growth, student engagement, and other program goals, including its potential for replication and expansion.

“(8) If the applicant proposes to expand an existing practice, strategy, or program with at least moderate evidence, a description of how the applicant proposes to reach additional participants in such practice, strategy, or program.

“(d) PEER REVIEW.—The Secretary shall establish a peer-review process to assist in review of applications submitted under this section.

“SEC. 5436. USES OF FUNDS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity that receives a grant under this subpart shall carry out one or more of the following:

“(1) Plan, develop, expand, or improve practices, strategies, and programs in the applicable content area.

“(2) Develop and implement instructional materials, assessments (including performance-based assessments), and curriculum, aligned with State standards in a content area listed in clauses (i) through (v) of section 5431(1)(B), which embed principles of universal design for learning, as described in section 5429(b)(21), to support students with diverse learning needs including English learners and students with disabilities.

“(3) Develop and implement professional development for teachers in the applicable content area in order to improve classroom practices.

“(4) Align practices, strategies, and programs with postsecondary programs for the continuation of instruction in the academic subject for which the program strategy or practice proposes to increase student achievement or student growth.

“(5) Supporting the use of open educational resources or other innovative uses of technology that are designed to serve students at all levels of achievement.

“(6) Support efforts to expand access to advanced coursework, especially for high-need students.

“(7) In the case of an eligible entity that is a State educational agency, the eligible entity may also provide technical assistance to local programs within the State.

“(b) PROGRAM SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR GEOGRAPHY GRANTS.—In addition to meeting the requirements of subsection (a), an eligible entity receiving a grant described in section 5431(1)(B)(i) may use the grant to—

“(1) carry out local, field-based activities for teachers and students to improve their knowledge of the concepts and tools of geography while enhancing understanding of their home region; and

“(2) apply geographic information systems and technology to the teaching of geography; and

“(3) using internet or distance-learning technology.

“(c) PROGRAM SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL LITERACY, AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION GRANTS.—In addition to meeting the requirements of subsection (a), an eligible entity receiving a grant described in section 5431(1)(B)(ii)—

“(1) may use the grant to—

“(A) carry out programs to teach personal financial management skills;

“(B) carry out programs to teach the basic principles involved with earning, spending, saving, investing, credit, and insurance; and

“(C) implement financial and economic literacy activities and sequences of study within, or coordinated with, core academic subjects; and

“(2) is strongly encouraged to—

“(A) include interactions with the local business community to the fullest extent possible to reinforce the connection between economic and financial literacy; and

“(B) work with private businesses to obtain matching contributions for Federal funds and assist recipients in working toward self-sufficiency.

“(d) PROGRAM SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR FOREIGN LANGUAGE GRANTS.—In addition to meeting the requirements of subsection (a), an eligible entity receiving a grant described in section 5431(1)(B)(iii) may use the grant to carry out the following activities:

“(1) Developing and implementing intensive summer foreign language programs for professional development.

“(2) Linking nonnative English speakers in the community with the schools in order to promote two-way language learning.

“(3) Promoting the sequential study of a foreign language for students, beginning in elementary schools.

“(4) Making effective use of technology, such as computer-assisted instruction, language laboratories, or distance learning, to promote foreign language study.

“(5) Developing and implementing, high quality dual language programs.

“(6) Promoting innovative activities, such as foreign language immersion, partial foreign language immersion, or content-based instruction.

“(7) Providing opportunities for maximum foreign language exposure for students domestically, such as the creation of immersion environments in the classroom and school, on weekend or summer experiences, and special tutoring and academic support.

“(8) providing for the possibility for multiple entry points for studying the foreign language.

“(9) Creating partnerships with elementary and secondary schools in other countries to facilitate language and cultural learning and exchange.

“(10) Providing support for a language supervisor to oversee and coordinate the progress of the articulated foreign language program across grade levels in the local educational agency funded under this subpart.

“(e) PROGRAM SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR JAVITS GIFTED AND TALENTED GRANTS.—In addition to meeting the requirements of subsection (a), an eligible entity receiving a grant described in section 5431(1)(B)(v) may use the grant to carry out the following activities:

“(1) Providing funds for challenging, high-level course work, disseminated through technologies (including distance learning), for individual students or groups of students in schools and local educational agencies that would not otherwise have the resources to provide such course work.

“(2) Ensuring that assessments provide diagnostic information that informs instruction for high-achieving students.

“(3) Carrying out training and professional development for school personnel involved in the teaching of high-achieving, educationally disadvantaged students, such as instructional staff, principals, counselors, and psychologists.

“(4) Conducting education and training for parents of high-achieving, educationally disadvantaged students to support educational excellence for such students.

“(f) PROGRAM SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR READY-TO-LEARN.—In addition to meeting the requirements of subsection (a), an eligible entity receiving a grant described in section 5431(1)(B)(vi) may use the grant to carry out the following activities:

“(1) to develop, produce, and distribute educational and instructional video programming for preschool and elementary school children and their parents in order to facilitate student academic achievement;

“(2) to facilitate the development, directly or through contracts with producers of children and family educational television programming, of educational programming for preschool and elementary school children, and the accompanying support materials and services that promote the effective use of such programming;

“(3) to facilitate the development of programming and digital content containing Ready-to-Learn-based children's programming and resources for parents and caregivers that is specially designed for nationwide distribution over public television stations' digital broadcasting channels and the Internet;

“(4) to contract with entities (such as public telecommunications entities) so that programs developed under this section are disseminated and distributed to the widest possible audience appropriate to be served by the programming, and through the use of the most appropriate distribution technologies; and

“(5) to develop and disseminate education and training materials, including interactive programs and programs adaptable to distance learning technologies, that are designed—

“(A) to promote school readiness; and

“(B) to promote the effective use of materials developed under subparagraphs (2) and (3) among parents, teachers, Head Start providers, Even Start providers, providers of family literacy services, child care providers, early childhood development personnel, elementary school teachers, public libraries, and afterschool program personnel caring for preschool and elementary school children.

“SEC. 5437. EVALUATION.

“Each eligible entity receiving a grant under this subpart shall conduct an independent program-level evaluation and submit preliminary results to the Secretary at such a time and in such manner as the Secretary may require in order to determine the eligible entity's eligibility to continue to receive funding under this subpart.

“SEC. 5438. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts reserved under section 5431(1)(A), the Secretary shall carry out the national activities described in subsection (b) directly or by entering into contracts with an eligible educational entity.

“(b) NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.—The national activities that shall be carried out under this section are as follows:

“(1) Technical assistance.

“(2) Development of curricula.

“(3) Production, development, and dissemination of high-quality educational content (including digital content) in academic content areas under this subpart.

“(4) Research and collecting information on, and identifying, effective programs and best practices and disseminating that information to States, local educational agencies, institutions of higher education, and other stakeholders.

“SEC. 5439. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.

“(a) ELIGIBLE EDUCATIONAL ENTITY DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘eligible educational entity’ means a national non-profit educational entity with a proven track record and demonstrated expertise in one or more of the following areas as related to the activities described in subsection (b):

“(1) High-quality professional development programs, including writing programs for teachers across disciplines and at all grade levels.

“(2) History education programs.

“(3) Civics and government education programs.

“(4) Economic and financial literacy education programs.

“(5) Geography education programs.

“(6) Foreign Language education programs.

“(7) Music and the arts education programs.

“(8) Gifted and talented programs.

“(9) Reading and book distribution programs, including pediatric early literacy programs that engage parents.

“(10) Educational and instructional video programming (including early literacy programming) for a public telecommunications entity.

“(b) PRIORITY.—In awarding a contract to an eligible educational entity under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to an entity that provides support to the eligible entities receiving a grant under this subpart or eligible entities receiving a grant under the subpart 1 or 2 to develop instructional systems that provide—

“(1) a systematic and coherent combination of instructional materials;

“(2) embedded formative and interim assessments;

“(3) professional development;

“(4) information on student learning; and

“(5) academic interventions based on cognitive science and content-area knowledge and are aligned with college- and career-ready standards.

“SEC. 5440. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subpart \$250,000,000 for fiscal year 2016 and such sums as may be necessary for each succeeding fiscal year.

“SUBPART 4—TRANSFORMING EDUCATION THROUGH TECHNOLOGY GRANTS

“SEC. 5441. PURPOSES.

“The purposes of this subpart are to—

“(1) improve the achievement, academic growth, and college-and-career readiness of students who have developed the ability to think critically, apply knowledge to solve complex problems, work collaboratively, communicate effectively, be self-directed, and be responsible digital citizens;

“(2) ensure all students have access to individualized, rigorous, and engaging digital learning experiences;

“(3) ensure that educators have the knowledge and skills to develop and implement digital learning curriculum, use technology effectively in order to personalize and strengthen instruction, and effectively create, deliver, and utilize assessments to measure student outcomes and support student success;

“(4) ensure that administrators have the leadership, management, knowledge, and skills to design, develop, and implement a school or local educational agency-wide digital age learning environment; and

“(5) improve the efficiency and productivity of education through technology.

“SEC. 5442. E-RATE RESTRICTION.

“Funds awarded under this subpart may be used to address the networking needs of a recipient of such funds for which the recipient is eligible to receive support under the E-rate program, except that such funds may not be duplicative of support received by the recipient under the E-rate program.

“SEC. 5443. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING PURCHASING.

“Nothing in this subpart shall be construed to permit a recipient of funds under this subpart to purchase goods or services using such funds without ensuring that the purchase is free of any conflict of interest between such recipient, or any partner of such recipient, and the person or entity receiving such funds.

“SEC. 5444. DEFINITIONS.

“In this subpart:

“(1) DIGITAL LEARNING.—The term ‘digital learning’ means any instructional practice that effectively uses technology to strengthen a student's learning experience and encompasses a wide spectrum of tools and practices, including—

“(A) interactive learning resources that engage students in academic content;

“(B) access to online databases and other primary source documents;

“(C) the use of data to personalize learning and provide targeted supplementary instruction;

“(D) student collaboration with content experts and peers;

“(E) online and computer-based assessments;

“(F) digital content, adaptive, and simulation software or courseware,

“(G) online courses, online instruction, or digital learning platforms;

“(H) mobile and wireless technologies for learning in school and at home;

“(I) learning environments that allow for rich collaboration and communication;

“(J) authentic audiences for learning in a relevant, real world experience;

“(K) teacher participation in virtual professional communities of practice; and

“(L) hybrid or blended learning, which occurs under direct instructor supervision at a school or other location away from home and, at least in part, through online delivery of instruction with some element of student control over time, place, path, or pace.

“(2) ELIGIBLE TECHNOLOGY.—The term ‘eligible technology’ means modern information, computer, and communication technology hardware, software, services, or tools, including computer or mobile hardware devices and other computer and communications hardware, software applications, systems and platforms, and digital and online content, courseware, and online instruction and other online services and supports, including technology that is interoperable and is in accordance with principles of universal design for learning, as described in section 5429(b)(21).

“(3) STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.—The term ‘students with disabilities’ means students with disabilities as defined under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

“(4) STUDENT TECHNOLOGY LITERACY.—The term ‘student technology literacy’ means student knowledge and skills in using contemporary information, communication, and learning technologies in a manner necessary for successful employment, lifelong learning, and citizenship in the knowledge-based, digital, and global 21st century, including, at a minimum, the ability to—

“(A) effectively communicate and collaborate;

“(B) analyze and solve problems;

“(C) access, evaluate, manage, and create information and otherwise gain information literacy;

“(D) demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge, and develop innovative products and processes; and

“(E) carry out the activities described in subparagraphs (A) through (D) in a safe and ethical manner.

“(5) **TECHNOLOGY READINESS SURVEY.**—The term ‘technology readiness survey’ means a survey completed by a local educational agency that provides standardized information comparable to the information collected through the technology readiness survey administered under the Race to the Top Assessment program under section 14006 of division A of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5) on the quantity and types of technology infrastructure and access available to the students served by the local educational agency, including computer devices, Internet connectivity, operating systems, related network infrastructure, data systems, and—

“(A) requiring—

“(i) an internal review of the degree to which instruction, additional student support, and professional development is delivered in digital formats, media, and platforms and is available to students and educators at any time;

“(ii) an internal review of the ability of educators to use assessments and other student data to personalize and strengthen instruction and identify professional development needs and priorities; and

“(iii) any other information required by the State educational agency serving the local educational agency; and

“(B) may include an assessment of local community needs to ensure students have adequate on-line access and access to devices for school-related work during out-of-school time.

“SEC. 5445. TECHNOLOGY GRANTS PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—From the amounts appropriated under section 5451, the Secretary shall award State Grants for Technology Readiness and Access (in this title referred to as ‘grants’) to State educational agencies to strengthen State and local technological infrastructure and professional development that supports digital learning through State activities under section 5447(c) and local activities under section 5448(c).

“(b) **GRANTS TO STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.**—

“(1) **RESERVATIONS.**—From the amounts appropriated under section 5451 for any fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve—

“(A) three-fourths of 1 percent for the Secretary of Interior to provide assistance under this title for schools operated or funded by the Bureau of Indian Education; and

“(B) 1 percent to provide assistance under this title to the outlying areas.

“(2) **GRANTS.**—From the amounts appropriated under section 106 for any fiscal year and remaining after the Secretary makes reservations under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall make a grant for the fiscal year to each State educational agency with an approved application under section 5446 in an amount that bears the same relationship to such remainder as the amount the State educational agency received under part A of title I for such year bears to the amount all State educational agencies with an approved application under section 102 received under

such part (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.) for such year.

“(c) **MINIMUM.**—The amount of a grant to a State educational agency under subsection (b)(2) for a fiscal year may not be less than one-half of 1 percent of the total amount made available for grants to all State educational agencies under such subsection for such year.

“(d) **REALLOTMENT OF UNUSED FUNDS.**—If any State educational agency does not apply for a grant under subsection (b)(2) for a fiscal year, or does not use its entire grant under subsection (b)(2) for such year, the Secretary shall reallocate the amount of the State educational agency’s grant, or the unused portion of the grant, to the remaining State educational agencies that use their entire grant amounts under subsection (b)(2) for such year.

“(e) **MATCHING FUNDS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A State educational agency that receives a grant under subsection (b)(2) shall provide matching funds, from non-Federal sources, in an amount equal to 20 percent of the amount of grant funds provided to the State educational agency to carry out the activities supported by the grant. Such matching funds may be provided in cash or in-kind, except that any such in-kind contributions shall be provided for the purpose of supporting the State educational agency’s activities under section 104(c).

“(2) **WAIVER.**—The Secretary may waive the matching requirement under paragraph (1) for a State educational agency that demonstrates that such requirement imposes an undue financial hardship on the State educational agency.

“SEC. 5446. STATE APPLICATIONS.

“(a) **APPLICATION.**—To receive a grant under section 5445(b)(2), a State educational agency shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may require and containing the information described in subsection (b).

“(b) **CONTENTS.**—Each application submitted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

“(1) A description of the State Educational Agency’s long-term goals and strategies for improving student academic achievement, including through student technology literacy, through the effective use of technology.

“(2) A description of how the State educational agency will meet the following goals:

“(A) Use technology to ensure all students achieve college-and-career readiness and technology literacy, including by providing high-quality education opportunities to economically or geographically isolated student populations.

“(B) Provide educators with the tools, devices, content, and resources to—

“(i) significantly improve teaching and learning, including support to increase personalization for and engagement of students in pursuit of college-and-career readiness and technology literacy; and

“(ii) develop and use assessments to improve instruction, including instruction consistent with the principles of universal design for learning, as described in section 5429(b)(21), and instruction for students with disabilities and English-language learners.

“(C) Ensure administrators and school leaders have the flexibility and capacity to develop and manage systems to carry out activities described in subparagraphs (A) and (B), and support administrators and school leaders in utilizing technology to promote

equity and increase efficiency and productivity.

“(D) Enable local educational agencies to build the technological capacity and infrastructure (including through local purchasing of eligible technology), necessary for the full implementation of on-line assessments for all students, (including students with disabilities and English-language learners) and to—

“(i) ensure the interoperability of data systems and eligible technology; and

“(ii) carry out subparagraphs (A) through (C).

“(3) A description of the results of the technology readiness in the State as determined by local educational agency responses to the technology readiness survey, including—

“(A) the status of the ability of each local educational agency served by the State educational agency to meet the goals described in section 104(b)(1);

“(B) an assurance that not less 90 percent of the local educational agencies served by the State educational agency have completed and submitted the technology readiness survey to the State educational agency; and

“(C) an assurance that the results of the technology readiness survey for each such local educational agency are made available to the Secretary and the public through the Website of the local educational agency.

“(4) A description of the plan for the State educational agency to support each local educational agency served by the State educational agency in meeting the goals described in section 104(b)(1) not later than 3 years after the local educational agency completes the technology readiness survey by addressing the readiness gaps identified in such survey.

“(5) A description of the State’s process for the adoption, acquisition, distribution, and use of content, how the State will ensure integrity of such processes, and how such processes support the goals under paragraph (1) or how a State will change such processes to support such goals, and how the State will ensure content quality.

“(6) A description of how the State educational agency will ensure its data systems and eligible technology are interoperable.

“(7) An assurance that the State educational agency will consider making content widely available through open educational resources when making purchasing decisions with funds received under this title.

“(8) A description of the State’s student technology literacy standards and the technology standards for teachers and administrators, and an assurance that the State’s student technology literacy standards meet the requirements of section 7(8).

“(9) An assurance that subgrant awards under section 104 will be carried out by the local educational agency staff with responsibility for leadership, coordination, and implementation of instructional and other classroom technologies.

“(10) A description of how the State educational agency will award subgrants to local educational agencies under section 104.

“(11) A description of the process, activities, performance measures, and outcomes in learning, assessment, teaching, infrastructure, and communication that the State educational agency will use to evaluate the impact and effectiveness of the grant and subgrants funds awarded under this subpart across the State and in each local educational agency.

“(12) A description of how the State educational agency will, in providing technical and other assistance to local educational agencies, give priority to the local educational agencies proposing to target services to—

“(A) students in schools in need of support and high-priority schools; and

“(B) schools with a high percentage of students that are eligible for free or reduced price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.).

“(13) A description of how the State educational agency consulted with local educational agencies in the development of the State educational agency's application under this subsection.

“(14) An assurance that the State educational agency will provide matching funds as required under section 101(e).

“(15) A description of how the State educational agency will ensure that funds received under this title is not duplicative of support received under the E-rate program.

“(16) An assurance that the State educational agency, in making awards under section 5448, to improve equity of technology resources, will expend funds first to local educational agencies that—

“(A) serve students in schools identified as persistently low achieving or in need of support to remedy resource inequities identified in school improvement plans as described in section 1116; or

“(B) serve schools with a high percentage of students that are eligible for free or reduced price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.).

“(17) An assurance that the State educational agency will protect the privacy and safety of students and teachers, consistent with requirements of section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g) (commonly known as the ‘Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974’) and section 2441(a).

“SEC. 5447. STATE USE OF GRANT FUNDS.

“(a) RESERVATION FOR SUBGRANTS TO SUPPORT TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE.—Each State educational agency that receives a grant under section 101(b)(2) shall expend not less 90 percent of the grant amount for each fiscal year to award subgrants to local educational agencies in accordance with section 5448.

“(b) RESERVATION FOR STATE ACTIVITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A State educational agency shall reserve not more than 10 percent of the grant received under section 101(b)(2) for the State activities described in subsection (c).

“(2) GRANT ADMINISTRATION.—Of the amount reserved by a State educational agency under paragraph (1), the State educational agency may reserve not more than 1 percent or 3 percent, in the case of a State educational agency awarding subgrants under section 104(a)(2), for the administration of the grant under this title, except that a State educational agency that forms a State purchasing consortium under subsection (d)—

“(A) may reserve an additional 1 percent to carry out the activities described in subsection (d)(1); and

“(B) shall receive direct approval from the local educational agencies receiving subgrants under section 104(a) from the State educational agency prior to reserving more than the additional percentage authorized under subparagraph (A) to carry out the activities described in subsection (d)(1).

“(c) PRIORITY.—In awarding subgrants under this subpart, the State educational agency shall give priority to local educational agencies proposing to target services to—

“(1) students in schools in need of support or high-priority schools; and

“(2) schools with a high percentage or number of students that are eligible for free or reduced price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.).

“(c) STATE ACTIVITIES.—A State educational agency shall use funds described in subsection (b) to carry out each of the following:

“(1) Except for the awarding of subgrants in accordance with section 104, activities described in the State educational agency's application under section 102(b).

“(2) Providing technical assistance to local educational agencies to—

“(A) identify and address technology readiness needs;

“(B) redesign curriculum and instruction, improve educational productivity, and deliver computer-based and online assessment;

“(C) use technology, consistent with the principles of universal design for learning, as described in section 5429(b)(21), to support the learning needs of all students including students with disabilities and English-language learners;

“(D) support principals to have the expertise to evaluate teachers' proficiency in implementing digital tools for teaching and learning; and

“(E) build capacity of individual school and local educational agency leaders.

“(3) Developing or utilizing research-based or innovative strategies for the delivery of specialized or rigorous academic courses and curricula through the use of technology, including digital learning technologies and assistive technology.

“(4) Integrating and coordinating activities under this title with other educational resources and programs across the State.

“(5) Disseminating information, including making publicly available on the Websites of the State educational agency promising practices to improve technology instruction, and acquiring and implementing technology tools and applications.

“(6) Ensuring that teachers, paraprofessionals, library and media personnel, specialized instructional support personnel, and administrators possess the knowledge and skills to use technology—

“(A) for curriculum redesign to change teaching and learning and improve student achievement;

“(B) for formative and summative assessment administration, data analysis, and to personalize learning;

“(C) to improve student technology literacy;

“(D) to expand the range of supports and accommodations available to English-language learners and students with disabilities; and

“(E) for their own ongoing professional development and for access to teaching resources and tools.

“(7) Coordinating with teacher and school leader preparation programs to—

“(A) align digital learning teaching standards; and

“(B) provide ongoing professional development for teachers and school leaders that is aligned to State student technology standards and activities promoting college-and-career readiness.

“(d) PURCHASING CONSORTIA.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A State educational agency receiving a grant under section 101(b)(2) may—

“(A) form a State purchasing consortium with 1 or more State educational agencies receiving such a grant to carry out the State activities described in clause, including purchasing eligible technology;

“(B) encourage local educational agencies to form local purchasing consortia under section 104(c)(4); and

“(C) promote pricing opportunities to local educational agencies for the purchase of eligible technology that are—

“(i) negotiated by the State educational agency or the State purchasing consortium of the State educational agency; and

“(ii) available to such local educational agencies.

“(2) RESTRICTIONS.—A State educational agency receiving a grant under section 101(b)(2) may not—

“(A) except for promoting the pricing opportunities described in paragraph (1)(C), make recommendations to local educational agencies for or require use of any specific commercial products and services by local educational agencies;

“(B) require local educational agencies to participate in a State purchasing consortia or local purchasing consortia; or

“(C) use more than the reservation amount authorized for the administration of the grant under subsection (b) to carry out the activities described in paragraph (1), unless the State educational agency receives approval in accordance with subsection (b)(2)(B).

“SEC. 5448. LOCAL SUBGRANTS.

“(a) SUBGRANTS.—

“(1) GRANTS TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—From the grant funds provided under section 101(b)(2) to a State educational agency that are remaining after the State educational agency makes reservations under section 104(b) for any fiscal year and subject to paragraph (2), the State educational agency shall award subgrants for the fiscal year to local educational agencies served by the State educational agency and with an approved application under subsection (b) by allotting to each such local educational agency an amount that bears the same relationship to the remainder as the amount received by the local educational agency under part A of title I for such year bears to the amount received by all such local educational agencies under such part for such year, except that no local educational agency may receive less than \$5,000.

“(2) COMPETITIVE GRANTS TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—If the amount of funds appropriated under section 5459 is less than \$750,000,000 for any fiscal year, a State educational agency—

“(A) shall not award subgrants under paragraph (1); and

“(B) shall—

“(i) award subgrants, on a competitive basis, to local educational agencies based on the quality of applications submitted under (b), including—

“(I) the level of technology readiness as determined by the technology readiness surveys completed by local educational agencies submitting such applications; and

“(II) the technology plans described in subsection (b)(3) and how the local educational agencies with such plans will carry out the alignment and coordination described in such subsection; and

“(ii) ensure that such subgrants are of sufficient size and scope to carry out the local activities described in subsection (c).

“(3) DEFINITION OF LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY FOR CERTAIN FISCAL YEARS.—For purposes of awarding subgrants under paragraph (2), the term ‘local educational agency’ means—

- “(A) a local educational agency;
- “(B) an educational service agency; or
- “(C) a local educational agency and an educational service agency.

“(b) APPLICATION.—A local educational agency that desires to receive a subgrant under subsection (a) shall submit an application to the State at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the State educational agency may require, including—

“(1) a description of how the local educational agency will—

“(A) carry out the goals described in subparagraphs (A) through (C) of section 101(b)(1); and

“(B) enable schools served by the agency to build the technological capacity and infrastructure (including through local purchasing of eligible technology), necessary for the full implementation of on-line assessments for all students (including students with disabilities and English-language learners) and to—

“(i) ensure the interoperability of data systems and eligible technology; and

“(ii) carry out the goals described in subparagraphs (A) through (C) of section 101(b)(1); and

“(C) align activities funded under this subpart with school improvement plans, when applicable, described under section 1116(b)(3);

“(2) a description of the results of the technology readiness survey completed by the local educational agency and a description of the plan for the local educational agency to meet the goals described in paragraph (1) within 3 years of completing the survey;

“(3) a description of the local educational agency’s technology plan to carry out paragraphs (1) and (3) and how the agency will align and coordinate the activities under this section with other activities across the local educational agency;

“(4) a description of the team of educators that will coordinate and carry out the activities under this section, including individuals with responsibility and expertise in instructional technology, teachers that specialize in supporting students with disabilities and English-language learners, school leaders, technology officers, and staff responsible for assessments and data analysis;

“(5) a description of how the local educational agency will evaluate teachers’ proficiency and progress in implementing technology for teaching and learning;

“(6) a description of how the local educational agency will ensure that principals have the expertise to evaluate teachers’ proficiency and progress in implementing technology for teaching and learning and the interoperability of data systems and eligible technology;

“(7) a description of the local educational agency’s procurement process and process for the creation, acquisition, distribution, and use of content, how the local educational agency will ensure integrity of such processes, and how such processes support the goals described in paragraph (1) or how a local educational agency will change such processes to support such goals, and how the local educational agency will ensure content quality;

“(8) a description of how the local educational agency will carry out activities under subsection (c);

“(9) a description of how the subgrant funds received under subsection (a) will be

coordinated with and supported by other Federal, State, and local funds to support activities under this title;

“(10) a description of how the local educational agency will ensure that the subgrant received under subsection (a) is not duplicative of support received under the E-rate program; and

“(11) an assurance that the local educational agency will protect the privacy and safety of students and teachers, consistent with requirements section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g) (commonly known as the ‘Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974’) and section 2441(a).

“(c) USE OF FUNDS.—

“(1) TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE.—Subject to paragraph (3), a local educational agency receiving a subgrant under subsection (a) shall use not less than 35 percent of such funds to support activities for the acquisition of eligible technology needed to—

“(A) except for the activities described in paragraph (2), carry out activities described in the application submitted under subsection (b), including purchasing devices, equipment, and software applications, and improving connectivity to and within schools; and

“(B) address readiness shortfalls identified under the technology readiness survey completed by the local educational agency.

“(2) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR DIGITAL LEARNING.—Subject to paragraph (3), a local educational agency receiving a subgrant under subsection (a)—

“(A) shall use not less than 40 percent of such funds to carry out—

“(i) digital age professional development opportunities for teachers, paraprofessionals, library and media personnel, specialized instructional support personnel, technology coordinators, and administrators in the effective use of modern information and communication technology tools and digital resources to deliver instruction, curriculum and school classroom management, including for classroom teachers to assess, support, and provide engaging student learning opportunities, including professional development that—

“(I) is ongoing, sustainable, and scalable;

“(II) is participatory;

“(III) includes communication and regular interactions with instructors, facilitators, and peers and is directly related to up-to-date teaching methods in content areas;

“(IV) includes strategies and tools for improving communication with parents and family engagement;

“(V) may be built around active professional learning communities or online communities of practice or other tools that increase collaboration among teachers across schools, local educational agencies, or States; and

“(VI) may contain on-demand components, such as instructional videos, training documents, or learning modules;

“(ii) ongoing professional development in strategies, pedagogy, and assessment in the core academic subjects that involve the use of technology and curriculum redesign as key components of supporting effective, innovative teaching and learning, and improving student achievement;

“(iii) ongoing professional development in the use of educational technologies to ensure every educator achieves and maintains technology literacy, including possessing and maintaining the knowledge and skills to use technology—

“(I) across the curriculum for student learning;

“(II) for real-time data analysis and online or digital assessment to enable individualized instruction; and

“(III) to develop and maintain student technology literacy;

“(iv) ongoing professional development for school leaders to provide and promote leadership in the use of—

“(I) educational technology to ensure a digital-age learning environment, including the capacity to lead the reform or redesign of curriculum, instruction, assessment; and

“(II) data through the use of technology in order to increase student learning opportunity, student technology literacy, student access to technology, and student engagement in learning; and

“(v) a review of the effectiveness of the professional development and regular intervals of learner feedback and data; and

“(B) may use such funds for—

“(i) the use of technology coaches to work directly with teachers, including through the preparation of teachers as technology leaders or master teachers—

“(I) who are provided with the means to serve as experts and to create professional development opportunities for other teachers in the effective use of technology; and

“(II) who may leverage technologies, such as distance learning and online virtual educator-to-educator peer communities, as a means to support ongoing, participatory professional growth around the integration of effective educational technologies;

“(ii) innovative approaches to ongoing professional development such as non-standard achievement recognition strategies, including digital badging, gamification elements, use of learner-created learning objects, integration of social and professional networking tools, rating and commenting on learning artifacts, and personalization of professional development; and

“(iii) any other activities required to carry out the local educational agency’s technology plan described in subsection (b)(4).

“(3) MODIFICATION OF FUNDING ALLOCATIONS.—A State educational agency may authorize a local educational agency to modify the percentage of the local educational agency’s subgrant funds required to carry out the activities described in paragraphs (1) or (2) if the local educational agency demonstrates that such modification will assist the local educational agency in more effectively carrying out such activities.

“(4) PURCHASING CONSORTIA.—Local educational agencies receiving subgrants under subsection (a) may—

“(A) form a local purchasing consortia with other such local educational agencies to carry out the activities described in this subsection, including purchasing eligible technology; and

“(B) use such funds for purchasing eligible technology through a State purchasing consortia under section 103(d).

“SEC. 5449. REPORTING.

“(a) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—Each local educational agency receiving a subgrant under section 104 shall submit to the State educational agency that awarded such subgrant an annual report that meets the requirements of subsection (c).

“(b) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—Each State educational agency receiving a grant under section 101(b)(2) shall submit to the Secretary an annual report that meets the requirements of subsection (c).

“(c) REPORT REQUIREMENTS.—A report submitted under subsection (a) or (b) shall include, at a minimum, a description of—

“(1) the status of the State education agency’s plan described in section 102(b)(3) or

local educational agency's technology plan under section 104(b)(4), as applicable;

"(2) the categories of eligible technology acquired and types of programs funded under this title and how such technology is being used;

"(3) the professional development activities funded under this title, including types of activities and entities involved in providing such professional development; and

"(4) information on the impact of the grant on students and student outcomes, such as—

"(A) the number of and demographic information about students who are served under this subpart;

"(B) student achievement, student growth, and graduation rates of such students;

"(C) college-and-career readiness data about such students, such as rates of credit accumulation, course taking and completion, and college enrollment and persistence;

"(D) student attendance and participation rates;

"(E) student engagement and discipline;

"(F) school climate and teacher working conditions;

"(G) increases in inclusion of students with disabilities and English-language learners; and

"(H) such other information the Secretary may require or other information State educational agencies or local educational agencies served under this subpart propose to include, as approved by the Secretary.

"SEC. 5450. INVESTING IN INNOVATION.

"From the amounts appropriated under section 5459, the Secretary may reserve up to 30 percent to—

"(1) fund the identification, development, evaluation, and expansion of innovative, evidence-based practices, programs, and strategies in order to significantly—

"(A) increase student academic achievement and decrease achievement gaps;

"(B) increase secondary school graduation rates;

"(C) increase college enrollment rates, rates of college persistence, and rates of attainment of other post-secondary credentials;

"(D) improve teacher and principal effectiveness or retention of highly effective teachers or principals; and

"(E) increase the identification and dissemination of innovative educational strategies in rural areas; and

"(2) support the rapid development, expansion, and adoption of tools and resources that improve the efficiency, effectiveness, or pace of adoption of such educational practices, programs, and strategies.

"SEC. 5451. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECT AGENCY-EDUCATION.

"(a) PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—From the amounts appropriated under section 5459, the Secretary may reserve up to 5 percent to—

"(1) establish and carry out the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Education (in this section referred to as 'ARPA-ED') to—

"(A) identify and promote advances in learning, fundamental and applied sciences, and engineering that may be translated into new learning technologies;

"(B) develop, test, and evaluate new learning technologies and related processes; and

"(C) accelerate transformational technological advances in education;

"(2) convene an advisory panel under subsection (d); and

"(3) carry out the evaluation and dissemination requirements under subsection (e).

"(b) APPOINTMENTS.—

"(1) DIRECTOR.—ARPA-ED shall be under the direction of the Director of ARPA-ED, who shall be appointed by the Secretary.

"(2) QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS.—The Secretary shall appoint, for a term of not more than 4 years, qualified individuals who represent scientific, engineering, professional, and other personnel with expertise in carrying out the activities described in this section to positions in ARPA-ED, at rates of compensation determined by the Secretary, without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, except that such rates of compensation shall not to exceed the rate for level I of the Executive Schedule under section 5312 of such title.

"(c) FUNCTIONS OF ARPA-ED.—Upon consultation with the advisory panel convened under subsection (d), the Secretary shall select public and private entities to carry out the activities described in subsection (a)(1) by—

"(1) awarding such entities grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, or cash prizes; or

"(2) entering into such other transactions with such entities as the Secretary may prescribe in regulations.

"(d) ADVISORY PANEL.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall convene an advisory panel to advise and consult with the Secretary, Director, and the qualified individuals appointed under subsection (b)(2) on—

"(A) ensuring that the awards made and transaction entered into under subsection (c) are consistent with the purposes described in subsection (a)(1); and

"(B) ensuring the relevance, accessibility, and utility of such awards and transactions to education practitioners.

"(2) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS.—The Secretary shall appoint the following qualified individuals to serve on the advisory panel:

"(A) Education practitioners.

"(B) Experts in technology.

"(C) Specialists in rapid gains in student achievement and school turnaround.

"(D) Specialists in personalized learning.

"(E) Researchers, including at least one representative from a comprehensive center established under 203 of the Educational Technical Assistance Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9602) or the regional laboratories system established under section 174 of the Education Sciences Reform Act (20 U.S.C. 9564).

"(F) Other individuals with expertise who will contribute to the overall rigor and quality of ARPA-ED.

"(3) APPLICABILITY OF FACIA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the panel convened under this subsection and any appointee to such panel shall not be considered an 'employee' under section 2105 of title 5, United States Code.

"(e) EVALUATION AND DISSEMINATION.—

"(1) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall obtain independent, periodic, and rigorous evaluation of—

"(A) the effectiveness of the processes ARPA-ED is using to achieve the purposes described in subsection (a)(1);

"(B) the relevance, accessibility, and utility of the awards made and transactions entered into under subsection (c) to education practitioners; and

"(C) the effectiveness of the projects carried out through such awards and transactions, using evidence standards developed in consultation with the Institute of Education Sciences, and the suitability of such projects for further investment or increased scale.

"(2) DISSEMINATION AND USE.—The Secretary shall disseminate information to education practitioners, including teachers, principals, and local and State superintendents, on effective practices and technologies developed under ARPA-ED, as appropriate, through—

"(A) the comprehensive centers established under 203 of the Educational Technical Assistance Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9602);

"(B) the regional laboratories system established under section 174 of the Education Sciences Reform Act (20 U.S.C. 9564); and

"(C) such other means as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

"(f) ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding section 437(d) of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232(d)), the Secretary shall establish such processes as may be necessary for the Secretary to manage and administer ARPA-ED, which are not constrained by other Department of Education-wide administrative requirements that may prevent ARPA-ED from carrying out the purposes described in subsection (a)(1).

"SEC. 5452. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the Secretary shall reserve not more than 10 percent of the funds reserved under this section for each fiscal year to carry out activities of national significance, which may include—

"(1) technical assistance, including to applicants from rural areas;

"(2) pre-application workshops or web-based seminars for potential applicants, including applicants from rural areas;

"(3) the recruitment of peer reviewers, including individuals with a background in rural education and individuals with expertise in education technology, to participate in the review of applications submitted under section 5354;

"(4) dissemination of best practices, in consultation with the regional educational laboratories established under part D of the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9561 et seq.) and comprehensive centers established under section 203 of the Educational Technical Assistance Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9602), developed with grant funds provided under this part, including best practices developed with grant funds in rural areas;

"(5) entering into partnerships with other agencies, nonprofits, and the private sector to carry out advanced research and development activities, including research and activities in rural areas; and

"(6) carrying out prize awards, in a manner consistent with section 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719).

"(b) RESERVATION OF FUNDS FOR DISSEMINATION.—The Secretary shall reserve not less than 50 percent of the funds reserved under this section to carry out the dissemination activities described in subsection (a)(4).

"SEC. 5453. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED; LENGTH OF GRANTS; PRIORITIES.

"(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION.—From the amounts appropriated under this section and not reserved under section 5452, the Secretary shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities to carry out the activities described in section 5455.

"(b) DURATION OF GRANTS.—The Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities under this section for a period of not more than 3 years, and may extend such grants for an additional 2-year period if the eligible entity demonstrates to the Secretary that it is making significant progress on the program

performance measures identified in section 5456.

“(c) **RURAL AREAS.**—The Secretary shall ensure that not less than 25 percent of the funds awarded under this section for any fiscal year are for projects that meet both of the following requirements:

“(1) The eligible entity is—

“(A) a local educational agency with an urban-centric district locale code of 32, 33, 41, 42, or 43, as determined by the Secretary;

“(B) a consortium of such local educational agencies; or

“(C) an educational service agency or a nonprofit organization with demonstrated expertise in serving students from rural areas.

“(2) A majority of the schools to be served by the project are designated with a school locale code of 41, 42, or 43, or a combination of such codes, as determined by the Secretary.

“(d) **SUPPORT FOR NEW PRACTICES, STRATEGIES, OR PROGRAMS.**—The Secretary shall ensure that not less than one-half of the funds awarded under this section for any fiscal year are for projects that—

“(1) meet an evidence standard described in paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (f); and

“(2) do not meet the evidence standard described in paragraph (1) of subsection (f).

“(e) **PRIORITIES.**—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary may give priority to an eligible entity that includes, in its application under section 5354, a plan to—

“(1) improve early learning outcomes and academic connections between early learning and elementary school;

“(2) support college access, persistence, and success;

“(3) support family and community engagement;

“(4) address the unique learning needs of students with disabilities or English language learners;

“(5) support the effective use of education technology to improve teaching and learning;

“(6) improve the teaching and learning of science, technology, engineering, computing, or mathematics;

“(7) serve schools in rural local educational agencies;

“(8) train teachers or principals to adopt and implement college and career ready standards;

“(9) develop alternative career pathways or differentiated school staffing models for effective teachers or principals to expand their impact on student learning;

“(10) train or support principals or teacher leaders, including teacher leaders preparing for principal roles;

“(11) support, improve, or develop any other area of school innovation, as determined by the Secretary; and

“(12) address the learning needs of Indian, Native American, Alaska Native, or migrant children in school.

“(f) **STANDARDS OF EVIDENCE.**—The Secretary shall set standards for the quality of evidence that an eligible entity shall provide to demonstrate that the activities the eligible entity proposes to carry out with grant funds under this section are likely to succeed in improving student outcomes or outcomes on other performance measures. These standards may include any of the following:

“(1) Strong evidence that the activities proposed by the eligible entity will have a statistically significant effect on student academic achievement, student growth, graduation rates, or outcomes on other performance measures.

“(2) Moderate evidence that the activities proposed by the eligible entity will improve student academic achievement, student growth, graduation rates, or outcomes on other performance measures.

“(3) Evidence of promise or a strong theory that the activities proposed by the eligible entity will improve student academic achievement, student growth, graduation rates, or outcomes on other performance measures.

“SEC. 5454. APPLICATIONS.

“(a) **APPLICATIONS.**—An eligible entity that desires to receive a grant under section 5453 shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

“(b) **CONTENTS.**—Each application submitted by an eligible entity under subsection (a) shall—

“(1) describe the project for which the eligible entity is seeking a grant and how the evidence supporting that project meets the standards of evidence established by the Secretary under section 5453(f);

“(2) describe how the eligible entity will address at least one of the areas described in section 5455(a)(1);

“(3) provide an estimate of the number of students that the eligible entity plans to serve under the proposed project, including the percentage of those students who are from low-income families, and the number of students to be served through additional expansion after the grant ends;

“(4) demonstrate that the eligible entity has established one or more partnerships with the private sector, which may include philanthropic organizations, and that the partner or partners will provide matching funds, except that the Secretary may waive, on a case-by-case basis, the matching funds requirement under this paragraph upon a showing of exceptional circumstances, such as the difficulty of raising matching funds for a project to serve a rural area;

“(5) describe the eligible entity's plan for continuing the proposed project after the grant funding under section 5453 ends, including a plan for dissemination of best practices and collaboration with other local educational agencies;

“(6) demonstrate that the proposed project has incorporated input and feedback from educators working in the area to be served;

“(7) if the eligible entity is a local educational agency—

“(A) document the local educational agency's record in—

“(i) increasing student achievement, including achievement for each subgroup described in section 1111(b)(2)(C)(v); or

“(ii) decreasing achievement gaps; and

“(B) demonstrate how the local educational agency has made significant improvements in other outcomes, as applicable, on the performance measures described in section 5456;

“(8) if the eligible entity is a nonprofit organization—

“(A) provide evidence that the nonprofit organization has helped at least one high-need school or high-need local educational agency significantly—

“(i) increase student achievement, including achievement for each subgroup described in section 1111(b)(2)(C)(v);

“(ii) reduce achievement gaps; or

“(iii) increase graduation rates; and

“(B) describe how the nonprofit organization has helped at least 1 school or local educational agency make a significant improvement, as applicable, in other outcomes on

the performance measures described in section 5456;

“(9) if the eligible entity is an educational service agency—

“(A) provide evidence that the agency has helped at least one high-need school or high-need local educational agency significantly—

“(i) increase student achievement, including achievement for each subgroup described in section 1111(b)(2)(C)(v);

“(ii) reduce achievement gaps; or

“(iii) increase graduation rates; and

“(B) describe how the agency has helped at least 1 school or local educational agency make a significant improvement, as applicable, in other outcomes on the performance measures described in section 5456;

“(10) provide a description of the eligible entity's plan for independently evaluating the effectiveness of activities carried out with funds under section 5453;

“(11) provide an assurance that the eligible entity will—

“(A) cooperate with cross-cutting evaluations;

“(B) make evaluation data available to third parties for validation and further study consistent with protections established by applicable Federal, State, and local privacy requirements and other on provisions on the protection of personally identifiable information; and

“(C) participate in communities of practice; and

“(12) if the eligible entity is a nonprofit organization that intends to make subgrants, consistent with section 5455(b), provide an assurance that the eligible entity will apply paragraphs (1) through (10), as appropriate, in the eligible entity's selection of subgrantees and in the oversight of such subgrants.

“(c) **CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING APPLICATIONS.**—The Secretary shall award grants under section 5453 on a competitive basis, based on the quality of the applications under this section submitted and, consistent with the standards established under section 5453(f), each eligible entity's likelihood of achieving success in improving student outcomes or outcomes on other performance measures.

“SEC. 5455. USES OF FUNDS.

“(a) **USES OF FUNDS.**—Each eligible entity that receives a grant under section 5453—

“(1) shall use the grant funds to address, at a minimum, one of the following areas of school innovations:

“(A) Improving the effectiveness and distribution of teachers or principals.

“(B) Strengthening the use of data to improve teaching and learning.

“(C) Providing high-quality instruction based on rigorous standards that build toward college and career readiness and measuring students' mastery using high-quality assessments aligned to those standards.

“(D) Turning around the lowest-performing schools.

“(E) Supporting the effective use of technology to improve teaching or principals and learning, including training teachers or principals in the innovative use of technology.

“(F) Any other area of school innovation, as determined by the Secretary;

“(2) shall use those funds to develop or expand strategies to improve the performance of high-need students on the performance measures described in section 5456; and

“(3) may use the grant funds for an independent evaluation, as required by section 5454(b)(9), of the innovative practices carried out with the grant.

“(b) **AUTHORITY TO SUBGRANT.**—In the case of an eligible entity receiving a grant under

section 5453 that is nonprofit organization such eligible entity may use the grant funds to make subgrants to other entities to provide support to one or more high-need schools or high-need local educational agencies. Any entity receiving a subgrant under this subsection shall comply with the requirements of this part for eligible entities, as appropriate.

“SEC. 5456. PERFORMANCE MEASURES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish performance measures for the projects carried out under this part. These measures, at a minimum, shall track an eligible entity’s progress in—

“(1) improving outcomes for each subgroup described in section 1111(b)(2)(C)(v) that is served by the grantee on measures, including, as applicable, by—

“(A) increasing student achievement and decreasing achievement gaps;

“(B) increasing secondary school graduation rates;

“(C) increasing college enrollment rates and rates of college persistence;

“(D) improving teacher and principal effectiveness or the retention of highly effective teachers or principals;

“(E) improving school readiness; or

“(F) any other indicator as the Secretary or grantee may determine; and

“(2) implementing the eligible entity’s project in rural schools, as applicable.

“(b) DATA COLLECTION PERIOD.—From the amounts appropriated under this section, the Secretary may—

“(1) approve, for an eligible entity receiving a grant under section 5453, a data collection period of not more than 72 months beginning after the end of the eligible entity’s grant period; and

“(2) provide the eligible entity with funding during such period for the sole purpose of collecting, analyzing, and reporting performance information under this subsection on the project carried out during the grant period.

“SEC. 5457. ANNUAL REPORT.

“An eligible entity that receives a grant under section 5453 shall submit to the Secretary, at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may require, an annual report that includes information on—

“(1) the eligible entity’s progress on the performance measures established under section 5456; and

“(2) the data supporting such progress.

“SEC. 5458. DEFINITIONS.

“In this part:

“(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means—

“(A) a local educational agency;

“(B) an educational service agencies; or

“(C) a nonprofit organization in partnership with a local educational agency or consortium of schools.

“(2) HIGH-NEED LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term ‘high-need local educational agency’ means a local educational agency—

“(A) that serves not fewer than 10,000 children from families with incomes below the poverty line;

“(B) for which not less than 20 percent of the children served by the agency are from families with incomes below the poverty line; or

“(C) that is in the highest quartile of local educational agencies in the State, based on student poverty.

“(3) HIGH-NEED SCHOOL.—The term ‘high-need school’ means—

“(A) an elementary school or middle school in which not less than 50 percent of the enrolled students are children eligible for free

or reduced price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.);

“(B) a high school in which not less than 40 percent of the enrolled students are children eligible for free or reduced price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.), which may be calculated using comparable data from feeder schools.

“(4) PRINCIPAL.—The term ‘principal’ includes an assistant principal.

“(5) TEACHER.—The term ‘teacher’ includes teacher leaders.

“(6) TEACHER LEADER.—The term ‘teacher leader’ means a teacher who has demonstrated effectiveness and assumes leadership responsibilities to work with other teachers to raise student achievement in multiple classrooms.

“SEC. 5459. AUTHORIZATION.

“There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subpart \$750,000,000 for fiscal year 2016 and such sums as may be necessary for each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.”

(b) REPEAL.—Part B of title I (20 U.S.C. 6361 et seq.) is repealed.

Subtitle D—Family Engagement in Education Programs

SEC. 521. FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

Title V of the Act (20 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new part:

“PART E—FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS

“SEC. 5701. PURPOSES.

“The purposes of this part are the following:

“(1) To provide financial support to organizations to provide technical assistance and training to State and local educational agencies in the implementation and enhancement of systemic and effective family engagement policies, programs, and activities that lead to improvements in student development and academic achievement.

“(2) To assist State educational agencies, local educational agencies, community-based organizations, schools, and educators in strengthening partnerships among parents, teachers, school leaders, administrators, and other school personnel in meeting the educational needs of children and fostering greater parental engagement.

“(3) To support State educational agencies, local educational agencies, schools, educators, and parents in developing and strengthening the relationship between parents and their children’s school in order to further the developmental progress of children.

“(4) To coordinate activities funded under this part with parent involvement initiatives funded under section 1118 and other provisions of this Act.

“(5) To assist the Secretary, State educational agencies, and local educational agencies in the coordination and integration of Federal, State, and local services and programs to engage families in education.

“SEC. 5702. GRANTS AUTHORIZED.

“(a) STATEWIDE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT CENTERS.—From the amount appropriated under section 4306, the Secretary is authorized to award grants for each fiscal year to statewide organizations (and consortia of such organizations and State educational agencies), to establish Statewide Family Engagement Centers that provide comprehensive training and technical assistance to State educational agencies, local educational agen-

cies, schools identified by State educational agencies and local educational agencies, organizations that support family-school partnerships, and other organizations that carry out parent education and family engagement in education programs.

“(b) MINIMUM AWARD.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, ensure that a grant is awarded for a Statewide Family Engagement Center in an amount not less than \$500,000.

“SEC. 5703. APPLICATIONS.

“(a) SUBMISSIONS.—Each statewide organization, or a consortium of such an organization and a State educational agency, that desires a grant under this part shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and including the information described in subsection (b).

“(b) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted under subsection (a) shall include, at a minimum, the following:

“(1) A description of the applicant’s approach to family engagement in education.

“(2) A description of the support that the Statewide Family Engagement Center that will be operated by the applicant will have from the applicant, including a letter from the applicant outlining the commitment to work with the center.

“(3) A description of the applicant’s plan for building a statewide infrastructure for family engagement in education, that includes—

“(A) management and governance;

“(B) statewide leadership; and

“(C) systemic services for family engagement in education.

“(4) A description of the applicant’s demonstrated experience in providing training, information, and support to State educational agencies, local educational agencies, schools, educators, parents, and organizations on family engagement in education policies and practices that are effective for parents (including low-income parents) and families, English learners, minorities, parents of students with disabilities, parents of homeless students, foster parents and students, and parents of migratory students, including evaluation results, reporting, or other data exhibiting such demonstrated experience.

“(5) An assurance that the applicant will—

“(A) establish a special advisory committee, the membership of which includes—

“(i) parents, who shall constitute a majority of the members of the special advisory committee;

“(ii) representatives of education professionals with expertise in improving services for disadvantaged children;

“(iii) representatives of local elementary schools and secondary schools, including students;

“(iv) representatives of the business community; and

“(v) representatives of State educational agencies and local educational agencies;

“(B) use not less than 65 percent of the funds received under this part in each fiscal year to serve local educational agencies, schools, and community-based organizations that serve high concentrations of disadvantaged students, including English learners, minorities, parents of students with disabilities, parents of homeless students, foster parents and students, and parents of migratory students;

“(C) operate a Statewide Family Engagement Center of sufficient size, scope, and quality to ensure that the Center is adequate to serve the State educational agency, local educational agencies, and community-based organizations;

“(D) ensure that the Center will retain staff with the requisite training and experience to serve parents in the State;

“(E) serve urban, suburban, and rural local educational agencies and schools;

“(F) work with—

“(i) other Statewide Family Engagement Centers assisted under this part; and

“(ii) parent training and information centers and community parent resource centers assisted under sections 671 and 672 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act;

“(G) use not less than 30 percent of the funds received under this part for each fiscal year to establish or expand technical assistance for evidence-based parent education programs;

“(H) provide assistance to State educational agencies and local educational agencies and community-based organizations that support family members in supporting student academic achievement;

“(I) work with State educational agencies, local educational agencies, schools, educators, and parents to determine parental needs and the best means for delivery of services to address such needs; and

“(J) conduct sufficient outreach to assist parents, including parents who the applicant may have a difficult time engaging with a school or local educational agency.

“SEC. 5704. USES OF FUNDS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Grantees shall use grant funds received under this part, based on the needs determined under section 4303(b)(5)(I), to provide training and technical assistance to State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and organizations that support family-school partnerships, and activities, services, and training for local educational agencies, school leaders, educators, and parents—

“(1) to assist parents in participating effectively in their children's education and to help their children meet college and career ready standards, such as assisting parents—

“(A) to engage in activities that will improve student academic achievement, including understanding how they can support learning in the classroom with activities at home and in afterschool and extracurricular programs;

“(B) to communicate effectively with their children, teachers, school leaders, counselors, administrators, and other school personnel;

“(C) to become active participants in the development, implementation, and review of school-parent compacts, family engagement in education policies, and school planning and improvement;

“(D) to participate in the design and provision of assistance to students who are not making academic progress;

“(E) to participate in State and local decisionmaking;

“(F) to train other parents; and

“(G) to help the parents learn and use technology applied in their children's education;

“(2) to develop and implement, in partnership with the State educational agency, statewide family engagement in education policy and systemic initiatives that will provide for a continuum of services to remove barriers for family engagement in education and support school reform efforts; and

“(3) to develop, implement, and assess parental involvement policies under sections 1112 and 1118.

“(b) MATCHING FUNDS FOR GRANT RENEWAL.—For each fiscal year after the first fiscal year for which an organization or consortium receives assistance under this sec-

tion, the organization or consortium shall demonstrate in the application that a portion of the services provided by the organization or consortium is supported through non-Federal contributions, which may be in cash or in-kind.

“(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall reserve not more than 2 percent of the funds appropriated under section 4306 to carry out this part to provide technical assistance, by grant or contract, for the establishment, development, and coordination of Statewide Family Engagement Centers.

“(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a Statewide Family Engagement Center from—

“(1) having its employees or agents meet with a parent at a site that is not on school grounds; or

“(2) working with another agency that serves children.

“(e) PARENTAL RIGHTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section—

“(1) no person (including a parent who educates a child at home, a public school parent, or a private school parent) shall be required to participate in any program of parent education or developmental screening under this section; and

“(2) no program or center assisted under this section shall take any action that infringes in any manner on the right of a parent to direct the education of their children.

“SEC. 5705. FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN INDIAN SCHOOLS.

“The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, shall establish, or enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with local Indian or Indian-serving nonprofit parent organizations to establish and operate Family Engagement Centers.

“SEC. 5706. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this part \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2016 and such sums as may be necessary for subsequent fiscal years.”

Subtitle E—Fast Track to College

SEC. 531. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Fast Track to College Act of 2013”.

SEC. 532. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this subtitle is to increase secondary school graduation rates and the percentage of students who complete a recognized postsecondary credential by the age of 26, including among low-income students and students from other populations underrepresented in higher education.

SEC. 533. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this subtitle:

(1) DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM.—The term “dual enrollment program” means an academic program through which a secondary school student is able simultaneously to earn credit toward a secondary school diploma and a postsecondary degree or credential.

(2) EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL.—The term “early college high school” means a secondary school that provides a course of study that enables a student to earn a secondary school diploma and either an associate's degree or one to two years of postsecondary credit toward a postsecondary degree or credential.

(3) EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY.—The term “educational service agency” has the meaning given such term in section 9101(17) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801(17)).

(4) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible entity” means a local educational agency, which may be an educational service agency, in a collaborative partnership with an institution of higher education. Such partnership also may include other entities, such as a nonprofit organization with experience in youth development.

(5) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given such term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

(6) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term “local educational agency” has the meaning given such term in section 9101(26) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801(26)).

(7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Education.

(8) LOW-INCOME STUDENT.—The term “low-income student” means a student described in section 1113(a)(5) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6313(a)(5)).

SEC. 534. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; RESERVATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—To carry out this subtitle, there are authorized to be appropriated \$150,000,000 for fiscal year 2014 and such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019.

(b) EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOLS.—The Secretary shall reserve not less than 45 percent of the funds appropriated under subsection (a) to support early college high schools under section 535.

(c) DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS.—The Secretary shall reserve not less than 45 percent of such funds to support dual enrollment programs (other than early college high schools) under section 535.

(d) STATE GRANTS.—The Secretary shall reserve 10 percent of such funds, or \$10,000,000, whichever is less, for grants to States under section 539.

SEC. 535. AUTHORIZED PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to award 6-year grants to eligible entities seeking to establish a new, or support an existing, early college high school or other dual enrollment program in accordance with section 536.

(b) GRANT AMOUNT.—The Secretary shall ensure that grants are of sufficient size to enable grantees to carry out all required activities and otherwise meet the purposes of this subtitle, except that a grant under this section may not exceed \$2,000,000.

(c) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity shall contribute matching funds toward the costs of the early college high school or other dual enrollment program to be supported under this section, of which not less than half shall be from non-Federal sources, which funds shall represent not less than the following:

(A) Twenty percent of the grant amount received in each of the first and second years of the grant.

(B) Thirty percent in each of the third and fourth years.

(C) Forty percent in the fifth year.

(D) Fifty percent in the sixth year.

(2) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT CONTRIBUTED.—The Secretary shall allow an eligible entity to satisfy the requirement of this subsection through in-kind contributions.

(d) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—An eligible entity shall use a grant received under this section only to supplement funds that would, in the absence of such grant, be made available from non-Federal funds for support

of the activities described in the eligible entity's application under section 537, and not to supplant such funds.

(e) **PRIORITY.**—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to applicants—

(1) that propose to establish or support an early college high school or other dual enrollment program that will serve a student population of which 0 percent or more are students counted under section 1113(a)(5) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6313(a)(5)); and

(2) from States that provide assistance to early college high schools or other dual enrollment programs, such as assistance to defray the costs of higher education (including costs of tuition, fees, and textbooks).

(f) **GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.**—The Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure that grantees are from a representative cross-section of urban, suburban, and rural areas.

SEC. 536. USES OF FUNDS.

(a) **MANDATORY ACTIVITIES.**—An eligible entity shall use grant funds received under section 535 to support the activities described in its application under section 537, including the following:

(1) **PLANNING YEAR.**—In the case of a new early college high school or dual enrollment program, during the first year of the grant—

(A) hiring a principal and staff, as appropriate;

(B) designing the curriculum and sequence of courses in collaboration with (at a minimum) teachers from the local educational agency and faculty from the partner institution of higher education;

(C) informing parents and the community about the school or program and opportunities to become actively involved in the school or program;

(D) establishing a course articulation process for defining and approving courses for secondary school and postsecondary credit or credential;

(E) outreach programs to ensure that secondary school students and their families are aware of the early college high school or dual enrollment program;

(F) liaison activities among partners in the eligible entity; and

(G) coordinating secondary and postsecondary support services, academic calendars, and transportation.

(2) **IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD.**—During the remainder of the grant period—

(A) academic and social support services, including counseling;

(B) liaison activities among partners in the eligible entity;

(C) data collection and use of such data for student and instructional improvement and program evaluation;

(D) outreach programs to ensure that secondary school students and their families are aware of the early college high school or dual enrollment program;

(E) professional development, including joint professional development for secondary school and faculty from the institution of higher education; and

(F) school or program design and planning team activities, including curriculum development.

(b) **ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES.**—An eligible entity may also use grant funds received under section 535 otherwise to support the activities described in its application under section 537, including—

(1) purchasing textbooks and equipment that support the school or program's curriculum;

(2) developing learning opportunities for students that complement classroom experiences, such as internships, career-based capstone projects, and opportunities provided under chapters 1 and 2 of subpart 2 of part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a–11 et seq.);

(3) transportation; and

(4) planning time for secondary school and educators from an institution of higher education to collaborate.

SEC. 537. APPLICATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—To receive a grant under section 535, an eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and including such information as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(b) **CONTENTS OF APPLICATION.**—At a minimum, the application described in subsection (a) shall include a description of—

(1) the early college high school's or other dual enrollment program's budget;

(2) each partner in the eligible entity and its experience with early college high schools or other dual enrollment programs, key personnel from each partner and their responsibilities for the early college high school or dual enrollment program, and how the eligible entity will work with secondary and postsecondary teachers, other public and private entities, community-based organizations, businesses, labor organizations, and parents to ensure that students will be prepared to succeed in postsecondary education and employment, which may include the development of an advisory board;

(3) how the eligible entity will target and recruit at-risk youth, including those at risk of dropping out of school, first generation college students, and students from populations described in section 1111(b)(2)(C)(v)(II) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(2)(C)(v)(II));

(4) a system of student supports including, but not limited to, small group activities, tutoring, literacy and numeracy skill development in all academic disciplines, parental and community outreach and engagement, extended learning time, and college readiness activities, such as early college academic seminars and counseling;

(5) in the case of an early college high school, how a graduation and career plan will be developed, consistent with State graduation requirements, for each student and reviewed each semester;

(6) how parents or guardians of students in the early college high school or dually enrolled students will be informed of their academic performance and progress and, subject to paragraph (5), involved in the development of their career and graduation plan;

(7) coordination that will occur between the institution of higher education and the local educational agency, including regarding academic calendars, provision of student services, curriculum development, and professional development;

(8) how the eligible entity will ensure that teachers in the early college high school or other dual enrollment program receive appropriate professional development and other supports, including to enable them to utilize effective parent and community engagement strategies, and help English-language learners, students with disabilities, and students from diverse cultural backgrounds to succeed;

(9) learning opportunities for students that complement classroom experiences, such as internships, career-based capstone projects, and opportunities provided under chapters 1

and 2 of subpart 2 of part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a–11 et seq.);

(10) how policies, agreements, and courses taken will ensure that postsecondary credits earned will be transferable to, at a minimum, public institutions of higher education within the State, consistent with existing statewide articulation agreements;

(11) student assessments and other measurements of student achievement including benchmarks for student achievement;

(12) outreach programs to provide elementary and secondary school students, especially those in middle grades, and their parents, teachers, school counselors, and principals information about and academic preparation for the early college high school or other dual enrollment program;

(13) how the local educational agency and institution of higher education will work together, as appropriate, to collect and use data for student and instructional improvement and program evaluation;

(14) how the eligible entity will help students meet eligibility criteria for postsecondary courses and ensure that students understand how their credits will transfer; and

(15) how the eligible entity will access and leverage additional resources necessary to sustain the early college high school or other dual enrollment program after the grant expires, including by engaging businesses and non-profit organizations.

(c) **ASSURANCES.**—An eligible entity's application under subsection (a) shall include assurances that—

(1) in the case of an early college high school, the majority of courses offered, including postsecondary courses, will be offered at facilities of the institution of higher education;

(2) students will not be required to pay tuition or fees for postsecondary courses;

(3) postsecondary credits earned will be transcribed upon completion of the requisite course work; and

(4) faculty teaching postsecondary courses meet the normal standards for faculty established by the institution of higher education.

(d) **WAIVER.**—The Secretary may waive the requirement of subsection (c)(1) upon a showing that it is impractical to apply due to geographic considerations.

SEC. 538. PEER REVIEW.

(a) **PEER REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS.**—The Secretary shall establish peer review panels to review applications submitted pursuant to section 537 to advise the Secretary regarding such applications.

(b) **COMPOSITION OF PEER REVIEW PANELS.**—The Secretary shall ensure that each peer review panel is not comprised wholly of full-time officers or employees of the Federal Government and includes, at a minimum—

(1) experts in the establishment and administration of early college high schools or other dual enrollment programs from the secondary and postsecondary perspective;

(2) faculty at institutions of higher education and secondary school teachers with expertise in dual enrollment; and

(3) experts in the education of at-risk students.

SEC. 539. GRANTS TO STATES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary is authorized to award 5-year grants to State agencies responsible for secondary or postsecondary education for efforts to support or establish early college high schools or other dual enrollment programs.

(b) **GRANT AMOUNT.**—The Secretary shall ensure that grants are of sufficient size to enable grantees to carry out all required activities.

(c) **MATCHING REQUIREMENT.**—A State shall contribute matching funds from non-Federal sources toward the costs of carrying out activities under this section, which funds shall represent not less than 50 percent of the grant amount.

(d) **PRIORITY.**—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to States that provide assistance to early college high schools or other dual enrollment programs, such as assistance to defray the costs of higher education, such as tuition, fees, and textbooks.

(e) **APPLICATION.**—To receive a grant under this section, a State agency shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and including such information as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(f) **CONTENTS OF APPLICATION.**—At a minimum, the application described in subsection (e) shall include—

(1) how the State will carry out all of the required State activities described in subsection (g);

(2) how the State will identify and eliminate barriers to implementing effective early college high schools and dual enrollment programs after the grant expires, including by engaging businesses and non-profit organizations;

(3) how the State will access and leverage additional resources necessary to sustain early college high schools or other dual enrollment programs; and

(4) such other information as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(g) **STATE ACTIVITIES.**—A State receiving a grant under this section shall use such funds for—

(1) creating outreach programs to ensure that secondary school students, their families, and community members are aware of early college high schools and dual enrollment programs in the State;

(2) planning and implementing a statewide strategy for expanding access to early college high schools and dual enrollment programs for students who are underrepresented in higher education to raise statewide rates of secondary school graduation, readiness for postsecondary education, and completion of postsecondary degrees and credentials, with a focus on at-risk students, including identifying any obstacles to such a strategy under State law or policy;

(3) providing technical assistance to early college high schools and other dual enrollment programs, such as brokering relationships and agreements that forge a strong partnership between elementary and secondary and postsecondary partners;

(4) identifying policies that will improve the effectiveness and ensure the quality of early college high schools and dual enrollment programs, such as access, funding, data and quality assurance, governance, accountability and alignment policies;

(5) planning and delivering statewide training and peer learning opportunities for school leaders and teachers from early college high schools and dual enrollment programs, which may include providing instructional coaches who offer on-site guidance;

(6) disseminating best practices in early college high schools and dual enrollment programs from across the State and from other States; and

(7) facilitating statewide data collection, research and evaluation, and reporting to policymakers and other stakeholders.

SEC. 540. REPORTING AND OVERSIGHT.

(a) **REPORTING BY GRANTEEES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall establish uniform guidelines for all grantees con-

cerning information such grantees annually shall report to the Secretary to demonstrate a grantee's progress toward achieving the goals of this subtitle.

(2) **CONTENTS OF REPORT.**—At a minimum, the report described in paragraph (1) shall include, for eligible entities receiving funds under section 535, for students participating in the early college high school or other dual enrollment program within each category of students described in section 1111(h)(1)(C)(i) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(h)(1)(C)(i)):

(A) The number of students.

(B) The percentage of students scoring advanced, proficient, basic, and below basic on the assessments described in section 1111(b)(3) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(3)).

(C) The performance of students on other assessments or measurements of achievement.

(D) The number of secondary school credits earned.

(E) The number of postsecondary credits earned.

(F) Attendance rate, as appropriate.

(G) Graduation rate.

(H) Placement in postsecondary education or advanced training, in military service, and in employment.

(I) A description of the school or program's student, parent, and community outreach and engagement.

(b) **REPORTING BY SECRETARY.**—The Secretary annually shall compile and analyze the information described in subsection (a) and shall submit a report containing such analysis to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives. The report shall include identification of best practices for achieving the goals of this subtitle.

(c) **MONITORING VISITS.**—The Secretary's designee shall visit each grantee at least once for the purpose of helping the grantee achieve the goals of this subtitle and to monitor the grantee's progress toward achieving such goals.

(d) **NATIONAL EVALUATION.**—Not later than 6 months after the date on which funds are appropriated to carry out this subtitle, the Secretary shall enter into a contract with an independent organization to perform an evaluation of the grants awarded under this subtitle. Such evaluation shall apply rigorous procedures to obtain valid and reliable data concerning participants' outcomes by social and academic characteristics and monitor the progress of students from secondary school to and through postsecondary education.

(e) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—The Secretary shall provide technical assistance to eligible entities concerning best practices in early college high schools and dual enrollment programs and shall disseminate such best practices among eligible entities and State and local educational agencies.

SEC. 541. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.

(a) **EMPLOYEES.**—Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to alter or otherwise affect the rights, remedies, and procedures afforded to the employees of local educational agencies (including schools) or institutions of higher education under Federal, State, or local laws (including applicable regulations or court orders) or under the terms of collective bargaining agreements, memoranda of understanding, or other agreements between such employees and their employers.

(b) **GRADUATION RATE.**—A student who graduates from an early college high school

supported under this subtitle in the standard number of years for graduation described in the eligible entity's application shall be considered to have graduated on time for purposes of section 1111(b)(2)(C)(6) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(2)(C)(6)).

TITLE VI—FLEXIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

SEC. 601. FLEXIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

Title VI (20 U.S.C. 7301 et seq.), as amended by section 110(b), is further amended by amending section 6234—

(1) by striking “fiscal year 2002” and inserting “fiscal year 2016”; and

(2) by striking “, to be distributed equally between subparts 1 and 2”.

TITLE VII—INDIAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND ALASKA NATIVE EDUCATION

SEC. 701. IN GENERAL.

Title VII (20 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by striking “Bureau of Indian Affairs” each place it appears and inserting “Bureau of Indian Education”; and

(2) by striking “No Child Left Behind Act of 2001” each place it appears and insert “Student Success Act”; and

(3) in sections 7152, 7205(c), and 7304(d)(1), by striking “fiscal year 2002” each place it appears and inserting “fiscal year 2016”.

Subtitle A—Indian Education

SEC. 711. PURPOSE.

Section 7102 (20 U.S.C. 7402) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 7102. PURPOSE.

“It is the purpose of this part to support the efforts of local educational agencies, Indian tribes and organizations, postsecondary institutions, and other entities—

“(1) to ensure the academic achievement of American Indian and Alaska Native students by meeting their unique cultural, language, and educational needs, consistent with section 1111(c);

“(2) to ensure that Indian and Alaska Native students gain knowledge and understanding of Native communities, languages, tribal histories, traditions, and cultures; and

“(3) to ensure that principals, teachers, and other staff who serve Indian and Alaska Native students have the ability to provide culturally appropriate and effective instruction to such students.”.

PART 1—FORMULA GRANTS TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES

SEC. 721. FORMULA GRANT PURPOSE.

Section 7111 (20 U.S.C. 7421) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 7111. PURPOSE.

“(a) **PURPOSE.**—It is the purpose of this subpart to support the efforts of local educational agencies, Indian tribes and organizations, postsecondary institutions, and other entities to improve the academic achievement of American Indian and Alaska Native students by meeting their unique cultural, language, and educational needs.

“(b) **PROGRAMS.**—This subpart carries out the purpose described in subsection (a) by authorizing programs of direct assistance for—

“(1) meeting the unique educational and culturally related academic needs of Indians and Alaska Natives;

“(2) strengthening American Indian, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native students' knowledge of their languages, history, traditions, and cultures;

“(3) the education of Indian children and adults;

“(4) the training of Indian persons as educators and counselors, and in other professions serving Indian people; and

“(5) research, evaluation, data collection, and technical assistance.”.

SEC. 722. GRANTS TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES, TRIBES, AND INDIAN ORGANIZATIONS.

Section 7112 (20 U.S.C. 7422) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “and Indian tribes” and inserting “, Indian tribes, and Indian organizations”;

(2) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “a reservation” and inserting “an Indian reservation”;

(3) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) INDIAN TRIBES AND INDIAN ORGANIZATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If a local educational agency that is otherwise eligible for a grant under this subpart does not establish a committee under section 7114(c)(5) for such grant, an Indian tribe, an Indian organization, or a consortium of such entities, that represents more than one-half of the eligible Indian children who are served by such local educational agency may apply for such grant.

“(2) UNAFFILIATED INDIAN TRIBES.—An Indian tribe that operates a school and is not affiliated with either the local educational agency or the Bureau of Indian Education shall be eligible to apply for a grant under this subpart.

“(3) SPECIAL RULE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall treat each Indian tribe, Indian organization, or consortium of such entities applying for a grant pursuant to paragraph (1) or (2) as if such tribe, Indian organization, or consortium were a local educational agency for purposes of this subpart.

“(B) EXCEPTIONS.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), such Indian tribe, Indian organization, or consortium shall not be subject to the requirements of subsections (b)(7) or (c)(5) of section 7114 or section 7118(c) or 7119.

“(4) ASSURANCE TO SERVE ALL INDIAN CHILDREN.—An Indian tribe, Indian organization, or consortium of such entities that is eligible to apply for a grant under paragraph (1) shall include, in the application required under section 7114, an assurance that the entity will use the grant funds to provide services to all Indian students served by the local educational agency.

“(d) INDIAN COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If no local educational agency pursuant to subsection (b), and no Indian tribe, Indian organization, or consortium pursuant to subsection (c), applies for a grant under this subpart, an Indian community-based organization serving the community of the local educational agency may apply for such grant.

“(2) APPLICABILITY OF SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary shall apply the special rule in subsection (c)(3) to a community-based organization applying or receiving a grant under paragraph (1) in the same manner as such rule applies to an Indian tribe, Indian organization, or consortium.

“(3) DEFINITION OF INDIAN COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION.—In this subsection, the term ‘Indian community-based organization’ means any organization that—

“(A) is composed primarily of Indian parents and community members, tribal government education officials, and tribal members from a specific community;

“(B) assists in the social, cultural, and educational development of Indians in such community;

“(C) meets the unique cultural, language, and academic needs of Indian students; and

“(D) demonstrates organizational capacity to manage the grant.

“(e) CONSORTIA.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A local educational agency, Indian tribe, or Indian organization that meets the eligibility requirements under this section may form a consortium with other eligible local educational agencies, Indian tribes, or Indian organizations for the purpose of obtaining grants and operating programs under this subpart.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS FOR LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES IN CONSORTIA.—In any case where 2 or more local educational agencies that are eligible under subsection (b) form or participate in a consortium to obtain a grant, or operate a program, under this subpart, each local educational agency participating in such a consortium shall—

“(A) provide, in the application submitted under section 7114, an assurance that the eligible Indian children served by such local educational agency will receive the services of the programs funded under this subpart; and

“(B) agree to be subject to all requirements, assurances, and obligations applicable to a local educational agency receiving a grant under this subpart.”.

SEC. 723. AMOUNT OF GRANTS.

Section 7113(b) (20 U.S.C. 7423(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$3,000” and inserting “\$10,000”;

(2) by striking paragraph (2) and redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2); and

(3) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated, by striking “\$4,000” and inserting “\$15,000”.

SEC. 724. APPLICATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7114 (20 U.S.C. 7424) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “is consistent with” and inserting “supports”; and

(II) by inserting “, tribal,” after “State”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “such goals” and all that follows through the semicolon at the end and inserting “such goals, to ensure such students meet the same college and career ready State academic achievement standards under section 1111(b) for all children;”;

(B) in paragraph (5)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” after the semicolon; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) the parents of Indian children, and representatives of Indian tribes, on the committee described in subsection (c)(5) will participate in the planning of the professional development materials;”;

(C) in paragraph (6)—

(i) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) the Indian tribes whose children are served by the local educational agency; and”;

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(7) describes—

“(A) the formal process the local educational agency used to collaborate with Indian tribes located in the community in the development of the comprehensive programs; and

“(B) the actions taken as a result of the collaboration.”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the following:

“(A) determine the extent to which such activities address the unique cultural, language, and educational needs of Indian students;”;

(B) in paragraph (3)(C), by inserting “representatives of Indian tribes with reservations located within 50 miles of any of the schools that have Indian children in any such school,” after “Indian children and teachers”;

(C) in paragraph (4)(A)—

(i) by redesignating clauses (ii) and (iii) as clauses (iii) and (iv), respectively; and

(ii) by inserting the following after clause (i):

“(ii) representatives of Indian tribes with reservations located within 50 miles of any of the schools that have children in any such school;”.

(D) in subparagraph (4)(B), by adding “or representatives of Indian tribes described in subparagraph (A)(ii)” after “children”; and

(E) in subparagraph (4)(D)—

(i) by striking “; and” at the end of clause (i); and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) determined that the program will directly enhance the educational experience of Indian and Alaska Native students; and”;

and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall monitor the applications for grants under this subpart to identify eligible local educational agencies and schools operated by the Bureau of Indian Education that have not applied for such grants, and shall undertake appropriate outreach activities to encourage and assist eligible entities to submit applications for such grants.”.

SEC. 725. AUTHORIZED SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES.

Section 7115 (20 U.S.C. 7425) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by inserting before paragraph (2) the following:

“(1) activities that support Native American language immersion programs and Native American language restoration programs;”;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “challenging State academic content and student academic achievement standards” and inserting “college and career ready State academic content and student academic achievement standards under section 1111(b)”;

(C) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

“(4) integrated educational services in combination with other programs to meet the unique needs of Indian children and their families, including programs that promote parental involvement—

“(A) in school activities; and

“(B) to increase student achievement;”;

(D) by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

“(6) activities that educate individuals so as to prevent violence, suicide, and substance abuse;”;

(E) by striking paragraph (9) and inserting the following:

“(9) activities that incorporate culturally and linguistically relevant curriculum content into classroom instruction that is responsive to the unique learning styles of Indian and Alaska Native children, and ensures that children are better able to meet the college and career ready State academic

achievement standards under section 1111(b);"; and

(F) in paragraph (11) by striking "children," and all that follows through the period and inserting "children;"; and

(G) by adding at the end the following:

"(12) dropout prevention strategies for Indian and Alaska Native students; and

"(13) strategies to meet the educational needs of at-risk Indian students in correctional facilities, including such strategies that support Indian and Alaska Native students who are transitioning from such facilities to schools served by local educational agencies.".

(2) in subsection (c) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) the local educational agency identifies in its application how the use of such funds in a schoolwide program will produce benefits to the Indian students that would not be achieved if the funds were not used in a schoolwide program.".

SEC. 726. STUDENT ELIGIBILITY FORMS.

Section 7117(e) (20 U.S.C. 7427(e)) is amended to read as follows:

"(e) DOCUMENTATION AND TYPES OF PROOF.—

"(1) TYPES OF PROOF.—For purposes of determining whether a child is eligible to be counted for the purpose of computing the amount of a grant award under section 7113, the membership of the child, or any parent or grandparent of the child, in a tribe or band of Indians (as so defined) may be established by proof other than an enrollment number, notwithstanding the availability of an enrollment number for a member of such tribe or band. Nothing in subsection (b) shall be construed to require the furnishing of an enrollment number.

"(2) NO NEW OR DUPLICATE DETERMINATIONS.—Once a child is determined to be an Indian eligible to be counted for such grant award, the local educational agency shall maintain a record of such determination and shall not require a new or duplicate determination to be made for such child for a subsequent application for a grant under this subpart.

"(3) PREVIOUSLY FILED FORMS.—An Indian student eligibility form that was on file as required by this section on the day before the date of enactment of the Student Success Act and that met the requirements of this section, as this section was in effect on the day before the date of enactment of such Act, shall remain valid for such Indian student.".

SEC. 727. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

Subpart 1 of part A of title VII is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 7120. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

"The Secretary shall, directly or through contract, provide technical assistance to a local educational agency upon request, in addition to any technical assistance available under section 1116 or available through the Institute of Education Sciences, to support the services and activities described under this section, including for the—

"(1) development of applications under this section;

"(2) improvement in the quality of implementation, content of activities, and evaluation of activities supported under this subpart;

"(3) integration of activities under this title with other educational activities established by the local educational agency; and

"(4) coordination of activities under this title with programs administered by each Federal agency providing grants for the provision of educational and related services.".

SEC. 728. IMPROVEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIAN CHILDREN.

Section 7121(c)(1)(G) (20 U.S.C. 7441(c)(1)(G)) is amended to read as follows:

"(G) high-quality early childhood education programs that support children's school readiness, including kindergarten and prekindergarten programs, family-based preschool programs, and the provision of services to Indian children with disabilities;".

PART 2—SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS TO IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIAN CHILDREN

SEC. 731. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS AND EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS.

Section 7122 (20 U.S.C. 7442) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraphs (1) and (2) and inserting the following:

"(1) to increase the number of qualified and effective Indian teachers and administrators serving Indian students;

"(2) to provide training to qualified Indian individuals to become teachers, administrators, social workers, and other educators; and";

(2) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

"(e) APPLICATION.—Each eligible entity desiring a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information, as the Secretary may reasonably require. At a minimum, an application under this section shall describe how the eligible entity will—

"(1) recruit qualified Indian individuals, such as students who may not be of traditional college age, to become teachers or principals;

"(2) use funds made available under the grant to support the recruitment, preparation, and professional development of Indian teachers or principals in local educational agencies that serve a high proportion of Indian students; and

"(3) assist participants in meeting the requirements under subsection (h)."; and

(4) by striking subsection (g) and inserting the following:

"(g) GRANT PERIOD.—The Secretary shall award grants under this section for an initial period of not more than 3 years, and may renew such grants for not more than an additional 2 years if the Secretary finds that the grantee is achieving the objectives of the grant.".

PART 3—NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

SEC. 741. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

Section 7131(c)(2) (20 U.S.C. 7451(c)(2)) is amended by striking "Office of Indian Education Programs" and inserting "Bureau of Indian Education".

SEC. 742. IMPROVEMENT OF ACADEMIC SUCCESS FOR STUDENTS THROUGH NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE.

Subpart 3 of part A of title VII (20 U.S.C. 7451 et seq.) is amended by striking sections 7132 through 7136 and inserting the following:

"SEC. 7132. IMPROVEMENT OF ACADEMIC SUCCESS FOR STUDENTS THROUGH NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE.

"(a) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this section to improve educational opportunities and academic achievement of Indian and Alaska Native students through Native American language programs and to foster the acquisition of Native American language.

"(b) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this section, the term 'eligible entity' means a State educational agency, local educational agency, Indian tribe, Indian organi-

zation, federally supported elementary school or secondary school for Indian students, Indian institution (including an Indian institution of higher education), or a consortium of such entities.

"(c) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities to enable such entities to carry out the following activities:

"(1) Native American language programs that—

"(A) provide instruction through the use of a Native American language for not less than 10 children for an average of not less than 500 hours per year per student;

"(B) provide for the involvement of parents, caregivers, and families of students enrolled in the program;

"(C) utilize, and may include the development of, instructional courses and materials for learning Native American languages and for instruction through the use of Native American languages;

"(D) provide support for professional development activities; and

"(E) include a goal of all students achieving—

"(i) fluency in a Native American language; and

"(ii) academic proficiency in mathematics, English, reading or language arts, and science.

"(2) Native American language restoration programs that—

"(A) provide instruction in not less than 1 Native American language;

"(B) provide support for professional development activities for teachers of Native American languages;

"(C) develop instructional materials for the programs; and

"(D) include the goal of increasing proficiency and fluency in not less than 1 Native American language.

"(d) APPLICATION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that desires to receive a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may require.

"(2) CERTIFICATION.—An eligible entity that submits an application for a grant to carry out the activity specified in subsection (c)(1), shall include in such application a certification that assures that such entity has experience and a demonstrated record of effectiveness in operating and administering a Native American language program or any other educational program in which instruction is conducted in a Native American language.

"(e) GRANT DURATION.—The Secretary shall award grants under this section for an initial period of not more than 3 years, and may renew such grants for not more than an additional 2 years if the Secretary finds that the grantee is achieving the objectives of the grant.

"(f) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'average' means the aggregate number of hours of instruction through the use of a Native American language to all students enrolled in a Native American language program during a school year divided by the total number of students enrolled in the program.

"(g) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), not more than 5 percent of the funds provided to a grantee under this section for any fiscal year may be used for administrative purposes.

“(2) EXCEPTION.—An elementary school or secondary school for Indian students that receives funds from a recipient of a grant under subsection (c) for any fiscal year may use not more than 10 percent of the funds for administrative purposes.

“SEC. 7133. IMPROVING STATE AND TRIBAL EDUCATION AGENCY COLLABORATION.

“The Secretary, in consultation with the Director of the Bureau of Indian Education, shall conduct a study of the relationship among State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and other relevant State and local agencies, and tribes or tribal representatives to—

“(1) identify examples of best practices in collaboration among those entities that result in the provision of better services to Indian students; and

“(2) provide recommendations on—

“(A) State educational agency functions that tribal educational agencies could perform;

“(B) areas and agency functions in which greater State educational agency and tribal education agency collaboration is needed; and

“(C) other steps to reducing barriers to serving Indian students, especially such students who are at risk of academic failure.”.

Subtitle B—Native Hawaiian Education; Alaska Native Education

SEC. 751. NATIVE HAWAIIAN EDUCATION AND ALASKA NATIVE EDUCATION.

Title VII (20 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in the heading of part B, by inserting “; ALASKA NATIVE EDUCATION” after “NATIVE HAWAIIAN EDUCATION”; and

(2) by inserting before section 7201 the following:

“Subpart 1—Native Hawaiian Education”.

SEC. 752. FINDINGS.

Section 7202 (20 U.S.C. 7512) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 7202. FINDINGS.

“Congress finds the following:

“(1) Native Hawaiians are a distinct and unique indigenous people with a historical continuity to the original inhabitants of the Hawaiian archipelago, whose society was organized as a nation and internationally recognized as a nation by the United States, and many other countries.

“(2) Native Hawaiians have a cultural, historic, and land-based link to the indigenous people who exercised sovereignty over the Hawaiian Islands.

“(3) The political status of Native Hawaiians is comparable to that of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

“(4) The political relationship between the United States and the Native Hawaiian people has been recognized and reaffirmed by the United States, as evidenced by the inclusion of Native Hawaiians in many Federal statutes, including—

“(A) the Native American Programs Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 2991 et seq.);

“(B) Public Law 95-341 (commonly known as the ‘American Indian Religious Freedom Act’ (42 U.S.C. 1996));

“(C) the National Museum of the American Indian Act (20 U.S.C. 80q et seq.);

“(D) the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.);

“(E) the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.);

“(F) the Native American Languages Act (25 U.S.C. 2901 et seq.);

“(G) the American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Culture and Art Development Act (20 U.S.C. 4401 et seq.);

“(H) the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.); and

“(I) the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.).

“(5) Many Native Hawaiian students lag behind other students in terms of—

“(A) school readiness factors;

“(B) scoring below national norms on education achievement tests at all grade levels;

“(C) underrepresentation in the uppermost achievement levels and in gifted and talented programs;

“(D) overrepresentation among students qualifying for special education programs;

“(E) underrepresentation in institutions of higher education and among adults who have completed 4 or more years of college.

“(6) The percentage of Native Hawaiian students served by the State of Hawaii Department of Education rose 30 percent from 1980 to 2008, and there are and will continue to be geographically rural, isolated areas with a high Native Hawaiian population density.

“(7) The Native Hawaiian people are determined to preserve, develop, and transmit to future generations their ancestral territory and their cultural identity in accordance with their own spiritual and traditional beliefs, customs, practices, language, and social institutions.”.

SEC. 753. PURPOSES.

Section 7203 (20 U.S.C. 7513) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 7203. PURPOSES.

“The purposes of this part are—

“(1) to develop, implement, assess, and evaluate innovative educational programs to improve the academic achievement of Native Hawaiian students by meeting their unique cultural and language needs in order to help such students meet State academic content and achievement standards as described in section 1111(b);

“(2) to provide guidance to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies to more effectively and efficiently focus resources, including resources made available under this part, on the development and implementation of—

“(A) innovative educational programs for Native Hawaiians;

“(B) rigorous and substantive Native Hawaiian language programs; and

“(C) Native Hawaiian culture-based educational programs; and

“(3) to create a system by which information from programs funded under this part will be collected, analyzed, evaluated, reported, and used in decisionmaking activities regarding the types of grants awarded under this part.”.

SEC. 754. NATIVE HAWAIIAN EDUCATION COUNCIL GRANT.

Section 7204 (20 U.S.C. 7514) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 7204. NATIVE HAWAIIAN EDUCATION COUNCIL GRANT.

“(a) GRANT AUTHORIZED.—In order to carry out the purposes of this part the Secretary shall award a grant to an education council, as described under subsection (b).

“(b) EDUCATION COUNCIL.—

“(1) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive the grant under subsection (a), the council shall be an education council (referred to in this section as the ‘Education Council’) that meets the requirements of this subsection.

“(2) COMPOSITION.—The Education Council shall consist of 15 members of whom—

“(A) 1 shall be the President of the University of Hawaii (or a designee);

“(B) 1 shall be the Governor of the State of Hawaii (or a designee);

“(C) 1 shall be the Superintendent of the State of Hawaii Department of Education (or a designee);

“(D) 1 shall be the chairperson of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (or a designee);

“(E) 1 shall be the executive director of Hawaii’s Charter School Network (or a designee);

“(F) 1 shall be the chief executive officer of the Kamehameha Schools (or a designee);

“(G) 1 shall be the chairperson of the Queen Liliuokalani Trust (or a designee);

“(H) 1 shall be a member, selected by the other members of the Education Council, who represents a private grant-making entity;

“(I) 1 shall be the Mayor of the County of Hawaii (or a designee);

“(J) 1 shall be the Mayor of Maui County (or a designee from the Island of Maui);

“(K) 1 shall be the Mayor of the County of Kauai (or a designee);

“(L) 1 shall be appointed by the Mayor of Maui County from the Island of either Molokai or Lanai;

“(M) 1 shall be the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu (or a designee);

“(N) 1 shall be the chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission (or a designee); and

“(O) 1 shall be the chairperson of the Hawaii Workforce Development Council (or a designee representing the private sector).

“(3) REQUIREMENTS.—Any designee serving on the Education Council shall demonstrate, as determined by the individual who appointed such designee with input from the Native Hawaiian community, not less than 5 years of experience as a consumer or provider of Native Hawaiian education or cultural activities, with traditional cultural experience given due consideration.

“(4) LIMITATION.—A member (including a designee), while serving on the Education Council, shall not be a recipient of grant funds that are awarded under this part.

“(5) TERM OF MEMBERS.—A member who is a designee shall serve for a term of not more than 4 years.

“(6) CHAIR, VICE CHAIR.—

“(A) SELECTION.—The Education Council shall select a Chair and a Vice Chair from among the members of the Education Council.

“(B) TERM LIMITS.—The Chair and Vice Chair shall each serve for a 2-year term.

“(7) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS RELATING TO EDUCATION COUNCIL.—The Education Council shall meet at the call of the Chair of the Council, or upon request by a majority of the members of the Education Council, but in any event not less often than every 120 days.

“(8) NO COMPENSATION.—None of the funds made available through the grant may be used to provide compensation to any member of the Education Council or member of a working group established by the Education Council, for functions described in this section.

“(c) USE OF FUNDS.—The Education Council shall use funds made available through the grant to carry out each of the following activities:

“(1) Providing advice about the coordination of, and serving as a clearinghouse for, the educational services and programs for Native Hawaiians.

“(2) Providing direction and guidance, such as through the issuance of reports and recommendations, to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies in order to focus and improve the use of resources relating to Native Hawaiian education.

“(3) provide technical assistance to Native Hawaiian organizations that are grantees or potential grantees under this part;

“(4) assessing and evaluating the individual and aggregate impact of grants and activities funded under this part and how well they meet the needs of Native Hawaiians, including information and data about—

“(A) the effectiveness of such grantees in meeting the educational priorities established by the Education Council, as described in paragraph (6)(D), using metrics related to these priorities; and

“(B) the effectiveness of such grantees in carrying out any of the activities described in section 7205(c) that are related to the specific goals and purposes of each grantee’s grant project, using metrics related to these priorities;

“(5) assess and define the educational needs of Native Hawaiians; and

“(6) may use funds to hire an executive director to enable the Council to carry out the activities described in this subsection.

“(e) **USE OF FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS.**—The Education Council shall use funds made available through the grant under subsection (a) to hold not less than 1 community consultation each year on each of the islands of Hawaii, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, Oahu, and Kauai, at which—

“(1) not less than 3 members of the Education Council shall be in attendance;

“(2) the Education Council shall gather community input regarding—

“(A) current grantees under this part, as of the date of the consultation;

“(B) priorities and needs of Native Hawaiians; and

“(C) other Native Hawaiian education issues; and

“(3) the Education Council shall report to the community on the outcomes of the activities supported by grants awarded under this part.

“(f) **REPORTS.**—

“(1) **ANNUAL EDUCATION COUNCIL REPORT.**—The Education Council shall use funds made available through the grant under this section to prepare and submit to the Secretary, before the end of each calendar year, annual reports that contain—

“(A) a description of the activities of the Education Council during the preceding calendar year;

“(B) recommendations of the Education Council, if any, regarding priorities to be established under section 7205(b);

“(C) significant barriers to achieving the goals under this subpart;

“(D) a summary of each community consultation session, as described in subsection (d); and

“(E) recommendations to establish funding priorities based on an assessment of—

“(i) the educational needs of Native Hawaiians;

“(ii) programs and services currently available to address such needs, including the effectiveness of such programs in improving educational performance of Native Hawaiians; and

“(iii) priorities for funding in specific geographic communities.

“(2) **REPORT BY THE SECRETARY.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Student Success Act, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the authorizing committees a report that—

“(A) summarizes the annual reports of the Education Council;

“(B) describes the allocation and use of funds under this subpart and the information

gathered since the first annual report submitted by the Education Council to the Secretary under this section; and

“(C) contains recommendations for changes in Federal, State, and local policy to advance the purposes of this subpart.

“(g) **FUNDING.**—For each fiscal year, the Secretary shall use the amount described in section 7206(d)(2), to make a payment under the grant. Funds made available through the grant shall remain available until expended.”.

SEC. 755. GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.

Section 7205 (20 U.S.C. 7515 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 7205. GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.

“(a) **GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.**—In order to carry out programs that meet the purposes of this part, the Secretary is authorized to award grants to, or enter into contracts with—

“(1) Native Hawaiian educational organizations;

“(2) Native Hawaiian community-based organizations;

“(3) public and private nonprofit organizations, agencies, and institutions with experience in developing or operating Native Hawaiian education and workforce development programs or programs of instruction in the Native Hawaiian language;

“(4) charter schools; or

“(5) consortia of the organizations, agencies, and institutions described in paragraphs (1) through (4).

“(b) **PRIORITY.**—In awarding grants and entering into contracts under this part, the Secretary shall give priority to—

“(1) programs that meet the educational priority recommendations of the Education Council, as described under section 7204(d)(6)(E);

“(2) programs designed to improve the academic achievement of Native Hawaiian students by meeting their unique cultural and language needs in order to help such students meet State academic content and achievement standards as described in Section 1111(b) including the use of Native Hawaiian language and preservation or reclamation of Native Hawaiian culture-based educational practices; and

“(3) programs in which a local educational agency, institution of higher education, or a State educational agency apply for a grant or contract as part of a partnership or consortium with a nonprofit entity serving underserved communities within the Native Hawaiian population.

“(c) **AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**—Activities provided through programs carried out under this part may include—

“(1) the development and maintenance of a statewide Native Hawaiian early education system to provide a continuum of high-quality early learning services for Native Hawaiian children;

“(2) the operation of family-based education centers that provide such services as—

“(A) programs for Native Hawaiian parents and students;

“(B) early education programs for Native Hawaiians; and

“(C) research on, and development and assessment of, family-based, early childhood, and preschool programs for Native Hawaiians;

“(3) activities that enhance beginning reading and literacy in either the Hawaiian or the English language among Native Hawaiian students;

“(4) activities to meet the special needs of Native Hawaiian students with disabilities, including—

“(A) the identification of such students and their needs;

“(B) the provision of support services to the families of such students; and

“(C) other activities consistent with the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act;

“(5) activities that address the special needs of Native Hawaiian students who are gifted and talented, including—

“(A) educational, psychological, and developmental activities designed to assist in the educational progress of such students; and

“(B) activities that involve the parents of such students in a manner designed to assist in the educational progress of such students;

“(6) the development of academic and vocational curricula to address the needs of Native Hawaiian students, including curricular materials in the Hawaiian language and mathematics and science curricula that incorporate Native Hawaiian tradition and culture;

“(7) professional development activities for educators, including—

“(A) the development of programs to prepare prospective teachers to address the unique needs of Native Hawaiian students within the context of Native Hawaiian culture, language, and traditions;

“(B) in-service programs to improve the ability of teachers who teach in schools with high concentrations of Native Hawaiian students to meet the unique needs of such students; and

“(C) the recruitment and preparation of Native Hawaiians, and other individuals who live in communities with a high concentration of Native Hawaiians, to become teachers;

“(8) the operation of community-based learning centers that address the needs of Native Hawaiian students, parents, families, and communities through the coordination of public and private programs and services, including—

“(A) early education programs;

“(B) before, after, and Summer school programs, expanded learning time, or weekend academies;

“(C) career and technical education programs; and

“(D) programs that recognize and support the unique cultural and educational needs of Native Hawaiian children, and incorporate appropriately qualified Native Hawaiian elders and seniors;

“(9) activities, including program co-location, that ensure Native Hawaiian students graduate college and career ready including—

“(A) family literacy services;

“(B) counseling, guidance, and support services for students; and

“(C) professional development activities designed to help educators improve the college and career readiness of Native Hawaiian students;

“(10) research and data collection activities to determine the educational status and needs of Native Hawaiian children and adults;

“(11) other research and evaluation activities related to programs carried out under this part; and

“(12) other activities, consistent with the purposes of this part, to meet the educational needs of Native Hawaiian children and adults.

“(d) **ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of this part,

funds made available to carry out this section as of the day before the date of enactment of the Student Success Act shall remain available until expended. The Secretary may use such funds to support the following:

“(1) The repair and renovation of public schools that serve high concentrations of Native Hawaiian students.

“(2) The perpetuation of, and expansion of access to, Hawaiian culture and history, such as through digital archives.

“(3) Informal education programs that promote traditional Hawaiian knowledge, science, astronomy, and the environment through State museums or learning centers.

“(4) Public charter schools serving high concentrations of Native Hawaiian students.

“(e) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), not more than 5 percent of funds provided to a recipient of a grant or contract under this section for any fiscal year may be used for administrative purposes.

“(2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may waive the requirement of paragraph (1) for a nonprofit entity that receives funding under this section and allow not more than 10 percent of funds provided to such nonprofit entity under this section for any fiscal year to be used for administrative purposes.”.

SEC. 756. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS; AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 7206 (20 U.S.C. 7516) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 7206. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

“(a) APPLICATION REQUIRED.—No grant may be made under this part, and no contract may be entered into under this part, unless the entity seeking the grant or contract submits an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may determine to be necessary to carry out the provisions of this part.

“(b) DIRECT GRANT APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary shall provide a copy of all direct grant applications to the Education Council.

“(c) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), funds made available under this part shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, any State or local funds used to achieve the purposes of this part.

“(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to any nonprofit entity or Native Hawaiian community-based organization that receives a grant or other funds under this part.

“(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, and sections 7204 and 7205, such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016 and each of the 5 succeeding fiscal years.

“(2) RESERVATION.—Of the funds appropriated under this subsection, the Secretary shall reserve, for each fiscal year after the date of enactment of the Student Success Act not less than \$500,000 for the grant to the Education Council under section 7204.

“(3) AVAILABILITY.—Funds appropriated under this subsection shall remain available until expended.”.

SEC. 757. DEFINITIONS.

Section 7207 (20 U.S.C. 7517) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (6) as paragraphs (2) through (7), respectively; and

(2) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)) the following:

“(1) COMMUNITY CONSULTATION.—The term ‘community consultation’ means a public gathering—

“(A) to discuss Native Hawaiian education concerns; and

“(B) about which the public has been given not less than 30 days notice.”.

SEC. 758. ALASKA NATIVE EDUCATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart B of title VII (20 U.S.C. 7511 et seq.) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“Subpart C—Alaska Native Education

“SEC. 7301. SHORT TITLE.

“This part may be cited as the ‘Alaska Native Educational Equity, Support, and Assistance Act’.

“SEC. 7302. FINDINGS.

“Congress finds and declares the following:

“(1) It is the policy of the Federal Government to maximize the leadership of and participation by Alaska Native peoples in the planning and the management of Alaska Native education programs and to support efforts developed by and undertaken within the Alaska Native community to improve educational opportunity for all students.

“(2) Many Alaska Native children enter and exit school with serious educational disadvantages.

“(3) Overcoming the magnitude of the geographic challenges, historical inequities, and other barriers to successfully improving educational outcomes for Alaska Native students in rural, village, and urban settings is challenging. Significant disparities between academic achievement of Alaska Native students and non-Native students continues, including lower graduation rates, increased school dropout rates, and lower achievement scores on standardized tests.

“(4) The preservation of Alaska Native cultures and languages and the integration of Alaska Native cultures and languages into education, positive identity development for Alaska Native students, and local, place-based, and culture-based programming are critical to the attainment of educational success and the long-term well-being of Alaska Native students.

“(5) Improving educational outcomes for Alaska Native students increases access to employment opportunities.

“(6) The programs and activities authorized under this part give priority to Alaska Native organizations as a means of increasing Alaska Native parents’ and community involvement in the promotion of academic success of Alaska Native students.

“(7) The Federal Government should lend support to efforts developed by and undertaken within the Alaska Native community to improve educational opportunity for Alaska Native students. In 1983, pursuant to Public Law 98-63, Alaska ceased to receive educational funding from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Bureau of Indian Education does not operate any schools in Alaska, nor operate or fund Alaska Native education programs. The program under this part supports the Federal trust responsibility of the United States to Alaska Natives.

“SEC. 7303. PURPOSES.

“The purposes of this part are as follows:

“(1) To recognize and address the unique educational needs of Alaska Natives in order to help such students meet State academic content and achievement standards as described in 1111(b).

“(2) To recognize the role of Alaska Native languages and cultures in the educational success and long-term well-being of Alaska Native students.

“(3) To integrate Alaska Native cultures and languages into education, develop Alaska Native students’ positive identity, and support local place-based and culture-based curriculum and programming.

“(4) To authorize the development, management, and expansion of effective supplemental educational programs to benefit Alaska Native people.

“(5) To provide direction and guidance to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies to focus resources, including resources made available under this part, on meeting the educational needs of Alaska Natives.

“(6) To ensure the maximum participation by Alaska Native educators and leaders in the planning, development, implementation, management, and evaluation of programs designed to serve Alaska Natives students, and to ensure Alaska Native organizations play a meaningful role in providing supplemental educational services to Alaska Native students.

“SEC. 7304. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.

“(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—

“(1) GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.—To carry out programs that meet the purposes of this subpart, the Secretary is authorized to make grants to, or enter into contracts with:

“(A) Alaska Native Organizations; and

“(B) Alaska Native Organizations that are in partnership with State educational agencies and local educational agencies.

“(2) MANDATORY ACTIVITIES.—Activities provided through the programs carried out under this part shall include the following which shall only be provided specifically in the context of elementary and secondary education:

“(A) The development and implementation of plans, methods, strategies, and activities to improve the academic achievement of Alaska Native students by meeting their unique cultural and language needs in order to help such students meet State academic content and achievement standards as described in section 1111(b).

“(B) The collection of data to assist in the evaluation of the programs carried out under this part.

“(3) PERMISSIBLE ACTIVITIES.—Activities provided through programs carried out under this part may include the following which shall only be provided specifically in the context of elementary and secondary education:

“(A) The development of curricula and programs that address the educational needs of Alaska Native students, including the following:

“(i) Curriculum materials that reflect the cultural diversity, languages, history, or the contributions of Alaska Native people.

“(ii) Instructional programs that make use of Alaska Native languages and cultures.

“(iii) Networks that develop, test, and disseminate best practices and introduce successful programs, materials, and techniques to meet the educational needs of Alaska Native students in urban and rural schools.

“(iv) Methods to evaluate teachers’ inclusion of diverse Alaska Native cultures in their lesson plans.

“(B) Training and professional development activities for educators, including the following:

“(i) Pre-service and in-service training and professional development programs to prepare teachers to develop appreciation for, and understanding of, Alaska Native history, cultures, values, ways of knowing and learning in order to effectively address the cultural diversity and unique needs of Alaska Native students and incorporate them into lesson plans.

“(ii) Recruitment and preparation of Alaska Natives, and other individuals who live in communities with high a concentration of Alaska Natives, to become teachers.

“(iii) Programs that will lead to the certification and licensing of Alaska Native teachers, principals, and superintendents.

“(C) The development and operation of student enrichment programs, including those in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics that—

“(i) are designed to prepare Alaska Native students to excel in such subjects;

“(ii) provide appropriate support services to enable such students to benefit from the programs; and

“(iii) include activities that recognize and support the unique cultural and educational needs of Alaska Native children, and incorporate appropriately qualified Alaska Native elders and other tradition bearers.

“(D) Research and data collection activities to determine the educational status and needs of Alaska Native children and other such research and evaluation activities related to programs funded under this subpart.

“(E) Activities designed to increase Alaska Native students' graduation rates and prepare Alaska Native students to be college or career ready upon graduation from high school, such as—

“(i) Remedial and enrichment programs; and

“(ii) Culturally based education programs such as—

“(I) programs of study and other instruction in Alaska Native history and ways of living to share the rich and diverse cultures of Alaska Native peoples among Alaska Native youth and elders, non-Native students, teachers, and the larger community;

“(II) instructing Alaska Native youth in leadership, communication, Native culture, music and the arts, and languages;

“(III) providing instruction in Alaska Native history and ways of living to students and teachers in the local school district;

“(IV) intergenerational learning and internship opportunities to Alaska Native youth and young adults;

“(V) cultural immersion activities.

“(VI) culturally-informed curriculum intended to preserve and promote Alaska Native culture;

“(VII) Native language immersion activities; and

“(VIII) school-within-a-school model programs.

“(G) Student and teacher exchange programs, cross-cultural immersion programs, and culture camps designed to build mutual respect and understanding among participants.

“(H) Education programs for at-risk urban Alaska Native students that are designed to improve academic proficiency and graduation rates, utilize strategies otherwise permissible under this subpart, and incorporate a strong data collection and continuous evaluation component.

“(I) Programs and strategies that provide technical assistance and support to schools and communities to engage adults in promoting the academic progress and overall well-being of Alaska Native people such as through child and youth development, positive youth-adult relationships, improved conditions for learning (school climate, student connection to school and community), and increased connections between schools and families.

“(J) Career preparation activities to enable Alaska Native children and adults to prepare for meaningful employment, including programs providing tech-prep, mentoring, training, and apprenticeship activities.

“(K) Support for the development and operational activities of regional vocational

schools in rural areas of Alaska to provide students with necessary resources to prepare for skilled employment opportunities.

“(L) Regional leadership academies that demonstrate effectiveness in building respect, understanding, and fostering a sense of Alaska Native identity to promote their pursuit of and success in completing higher education or career training.

“(M) Strategies designed to increase parents' involvement in their children's education.

“(N) other activities consistent with the purpose of this part, to meet the educational needs of Alaska Native children and adults.

“(b) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more than 5 percent of funds provided to an award recipient under this part for any fiscal year may be used for administrative purposes.

“(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this part such sums as may be necessary for the fiscal years 2016 through 2020.

“SEC. 7305. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

“(a) APPLICATION REQUIRED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—No grant may be made under this part, and no contract may be entered into under this part, unless the Alaska Native Organization seeking the grant or contract submits an application to the Secretary in such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may determine necessary to carry out the provisions of this part.

“(b) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—Each applicant for an award under this part shall provide for ongoing advice from and consultation with representatives of the Alaska Native community.

“(c) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY COORDINATION.—Each applicant for an award under this part shall inform each local educational agency serving students who would participate in the program to be carried out under the grant or contract about the application.

“(d) CONTINUATION AWARDS.—An applicant described in section 6204(a)(2) that receives funding under this part shall periodically demonstrate to the Secretary, during the term of the award, that the applicant is continuing to play the lead role in its partnership and in the implementation and evaluation of the funded program.

“SEC. 7306. DEFINITIONS.

“In this part:

“(1) ALASKA NATIVE.—The term ‘Alaska Native’ has the same meaning as the term ‘Native’ has in section 3(b) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and their descendants.

“(2) ALASKA NATIVE ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘Alaska Native Organization’ means a federally recognized tribe or a tribal organization (as the terms are defined by the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b)), and a consortium of such entities, that—

“(A) has expertise or traditional knowledge that is relevant to the purposes and activities described in this part; and

“(B) has Alaska Native people in substantive, policymaking, and leadership positions within the organization.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Part C of title VII (20 U.S.C. 7541 et seq.) is repealed.

TITLE VIII—IMPACT AID

SEC. 801. PURPOSE.

Section 8001 (20 U.S.C. 7701) is amended by striking “challenging State standards” and inserting “State academic standards”.

SEC. 802. PAYMENTS RELATING TO FEDERAL ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY.

Section 8002 (20 U.S.C. 7702) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)(B), by striking “section 8014(a)” and inserting “section 3(d)(1)”; and

(2) by amending subsection (f) to read as follows:

“(f) SPECIAL RULE.—Beginning with fiscal year 2016, a local educational agency shall be deemed to meet the requirements of subsection (a)(1)(C) if records to determine eligibility under such subsection were destroyed prior to fiscal year 2000 and the agency received funds under subsection (b) in the previous year.”;

(3) by amending subsection (g) to read as follows:

“(g) FORMER DISTRICTS.—

“(1) CONSOLIDATIONS.—For fiscal year 2006 and each succeeding fiscal year, if a local educational agency described in paragraph (2) is formed at any time after 1938 by the consolidation of two or more former school districts, the local educational agency may elect to have the Secretary determine its eligibility and any amount for which the local educational agency is eligible under this section for such fiscal year on the basis of one or more of those former districts, as designated by the local educational agency.

“(2) ELIGIBLE LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—A local educational agency described in this paragraph is—

“(A) any local educational agency that, for fiscal year 1994 or any preceding fiscal year, applied for, and was determined to be eligible under section 2(c) of the Act of September 30, 1950 (Public Law 874, 81st Congress) as that section was in effect for that fiscal year; or

“(B) a local educational agency formed by the consolidation of 2 or more school districts, at least one of which was eligible for assistance under this section for the fiscal year preceding the year of the consolidation, if—

“(i) for fiscal years 2006 through 2015, the local educational agency notifies the Secretary not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of the Student Success Act of the designation described in paragraph (1); and

“(ii) for fiscal year 2016, and each subsequent fiscal year, the local educational agency includes the designation in its application under section 8005 or any timely amendment to such application.

“(3) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law limiting the period during which the Secretary may obligate funds appropriated for any fiscal year after fiscal year 2005, the Secretary may obligate funds remaining after final payments have been made for any of such fiscal years to carry out this subsection.”;

(4) in subsection (h)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by striking “section 8014(a)” and inserting “section 3(d)(1)”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking “section 8014(a)” and inserting “section 3(d)(1)”; and

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking “Impact Aid Improvement Act of 2012” and inserting “Student Success Act”;

(5) by repealing subsection (k);

(6) by redesignating subsection (l) as subsection (k);

(7) by amending subsection (k) (as so redesignated) by striking “(h)(4)(B)” and inserting “(h)(2)”; and

(8) by repealing subsection (m); and

(9) by redesignating subsection (n) as subsection (j).

SEC. 803. PAYMENTS FOR ELIGIBLE FEDERALLY CONNECTED CHILDREN.

(a) COMPUTATION OF PAYMENT.—Section 8003(a) (20 U.S.C. 7703(a)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1), by inserting after “schools of such agency” the following: “(including those children enrolled in such agency as a result of the open enrollment policy of the State in which the agency is located, but not including children who are enrolled in a distance education program at such agency and who are not residing within the geographic boundaries of such agency)”; and

(2) in paragraph (5)(A), by striking “1984” and all that follows through “situated” and inserting “1984, or under lease of off-base property under subchapter IV of chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code, to be children described under paragraph (1)(B) if the property described is within the fenced security perimeter of the military facility or attached to and under any type of force protection agreement with the military installation upon which such housing is situated.”

(b) BASIC SUPPORT PAYMENTS FOR HEAVILY IMPACTED LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—Section 8003(b) (20 U.S.C. 7703(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking “section 8014(b)” each place it appears and inserting “section 3(d)(2)”; and

(2) in paragraph (1), by repealing subparagraph (E);

(3) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking “CONTINUING” in the heading;

(ii) by amending clause (i) to read as follows:

“(i) IN GENERAL.—A heavily impacted local educational agency is eligible to receive a basic support payment under subparagraph (A) with respect to a number of children determined under subsection (a)(1) if the agency—

“(I) is a local educational agency—

“(aa) whose boundaries are the same as a Federal military installation or an island property designated by the Secretary of the Interior to be property that is held in trust by the Federal Government; and

“(bb) that has no taxing authority;

“(II) is a local educational agency that—

“(aa) has an enrollment of children described in subsection (a)(1) that constitutes a percentage of the total student enrollment of the agency that is not less than 45 percent;

“(bb) has a per-pupil expenditure that is less than—

“(AA) for an agency that has a total student enrollment of 500 or more students, 125 percent of the average per-pupil expenditure of the State in which the agency is located; or

“(BB) for any agency that has a total student enrollment less than 500, 150 percent of the average per-pupil expenditure of the State in which the agency is located or the average per-pupil expenditure of 3 or more comparable local educational agencies in the State in which the agency is located; and

“(cc) is an agency that has a tax rate for general fund purposes that is not less than 95 percent of the average tax rate for general fund purposes of comparable local educational agencies in the State;

“(III) is a local educational agency that—

“(aa) has an enrollment of children described in subsection (a)(1) that constitutes a percentage of the total student enrollment of the agency that is not less than 20 percent;

“(bb) for the 3 fiscal years preceding the fiscal year for which the determination is made, the average enrollment of children who are not described in subsection (a)(1)

and who are eligible for a free or reduced price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act constitutes a percentage of the total student enrollment of the agency that is not less than 65 percent; and

“(cc) has a tax rate for general fund purposes which is not less than 125 percent of the average tax rate for general fund purposes for comparable local educational agencies in the State;

“(IV) is a local educational agency that has a total student enrollment of not less than 25,000 students, of which—

“(aa) not less than 50 percent are children described in subsection (a)(1); and

“(bb) not less than 5,000 of such children are children described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(1); or

“(V) is a local educational agency that—

“(aa) has an enrollment of children described in subsection (a)(1) including, for purposes of determining eligibility, those children described in subparagraphs (F) and (G) of such subsection, that is not less than 35 percent of the total student enrollment of the agency; and

“(bb) was eligible to receive assistance under subparagraph (A) for fiscal year 2001.”; and

(iii) in clause (ii)—

(I) by striking “A heavily” and inserting the following:

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subclause (II), a heavily”; and

(II) by adding at the end the following:

“(II) LOSS OF ELIGIBILITY DUE TO FALLING BELOW 95 PERCENT OF THE AVERAGE TAX RATE FOR GENERAL FUND PURPOSES.—In a case of a heavily impacted local educational agency that fails to meet the requirements of clause (i) for a fiscal year by reason of having a tax rate for general fund purposes that falls below 95 percent of the average tax rate for general fund purposes of comparable local educational agencies in the State, subclause (I) shall be applied as if ‘and the subsequent fiscal year’ were inserted before the period at the end.”;

(B) by striking subparagraph (C);

(C) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) through (H) as subparagraphs (C) through (G), respectively;

(D) in subparagraph (C) (as so redesignated)—

(i) in the heading, by striking “REGULAR”;

(ii) by striking “Except as provided in subparagraph (E)” and inserting “Except as provided in subparagraph (D)”; and

(iii) by amending subclause (I) of clause (ii) to read as follows:

“(ii)(I)(aa) For a local educational agency with respect to which 35 percent or more of the total student enrollment of the schools of the agency are children described in subparagraph (D) or (E) (or a combination thereof) of subsection (a)(1), and that has an enrollment of children described in subparagraphs (A), (B), or (C) of such subsection equal to at least 10 percent of the agency’s total enrollment, the Secretary shall calculate the weighted student units of those children described in subparagraph (D) or (E) of such subsection by multiplying the number of such children by a factor of 0.55.

“(bb) Notwithstanding subitem (aa), a local educational agency that received a payment under this paragraph for fiscal year 2012 shall not be required to have an enrollment of children described in subparagraphs (A), (B), or (C) of subsection (a)(1) equal to at least 10 percent of the agency’s total enrollment.”; and

(iv) by amending subclause (III) of clause (ii) by striking “(B)(i)(II)(aa)” and inserting “subparagraph (B)(i)(I)”; and

(E) in subparagraph (D)(i)(II) (as so redesignated), by striking “6,000” and inserting “5,000”;

(F) in subparagraph (E) (as so redesignated)—

(i) by striking “Secretary” and all that follows through “shall use” and inserting “Secretary shall use”; and

(ii) by striking “; and” and inserting a period; and

(iii) by striking clause (ii);

(G) in subparagraph (F) (as so redesignated)—

(i) by striking “subparagraph (C)(i)(II)(bb)” and inserting “subparagraph (B)(i)(II)(bb)(BB)”; and

(ii) by amending clause (ii) to read as follows:

“(ii) beginning in fiscal year 2010, a local educational agency shall be deemed to meet the average tax rate requirements for general fund purposes of this paragraph if the average tax rate calculation submitted to the Department by the agency has been—

“(I) calculated by the State educational agency in which the applying agency resides to meet the - requirements of this paragraph for average tax rate for general fund purposes; and

“(II) the Department accepted calculation of average tax rate for general fund purposes from the state educational agency on behalf of the applying agency in at least 5 prior years.

“(III) notwithstanding any other provision of law limiting the period during which the Secretary may obligate funds appropriated for any fiscal year after 2010, the Secretary may obligate funds remaining after final payments have been made from any funds of such fiscal years in order to carry out this subparagraph.”;

(H) in subparagraph (G) (as so redesignated)—

(i) in clause (i)—

(I) by striking “subparagraph (B), (C), (D), or (E)” and inserting “subparagraph (B), (C), or (D)”; and

(II) by striking “by reason of” and inserting “due to”; and

(III) by inserting after “clause (iii)” the following “, or as the direct result of base realignment and closure or modularization as determined by the Secretary of Defense and force structure change or force relocation”; and

(IV) by inserting before the period, the following: “or during such time as activities associated with base closure and realignment, modularization, force structure change, or force relocation are ongoing”; and

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking “(D) or (E)” each place it appears and inserting “(C) or (D)”; and

(4) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by amending clause (iii) to read as follows:

“(iii) In the case of a local educational agency providing a free public education to students enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12, but which enrolls students described in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (D) of subsection (a)(1) only in grades 9 through 12, and which received a final payment in fiscal year 2009 calculated under this paragraph (as this paragraph was in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Student Success Act) for students in grades 9 through 12, the Secretary shall, in calculating the

agency's payment, consider only that portion of such agency's total enrollment of students in grades 9 through 12 when calculating the percentage under clause (i)(I) and only that portion of the total current expenditures attributed to the operation of grades 9 through 12 in such agency when calculating the percentage under clause (i)(II)."; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

"(v) In the case of a local educational agency that is providing a program of distance education to children not residing within the geographic boundaries of the agency, the Secretary shall—

"(I) for purposes of the calculation under clause (i)(I), disregard such children from the total number of children in average daily attendance at the schools served by such agency; and

"(II) for purposes of the calculation under clause (i)(II), disregard any funds received for such children from the total current expenditures for such agency.";

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking "subparagraph (D) or (E) of paragraph (2), as the case may be" and inserting "paragraph (2)(D)"; and

(C) by amending subparagraph (D) to read as follows:

"(D) **RATABLE DISTRIBUTION.**—For any fiscal year described in subparagraph (A) for which the sums available exceed the amount required to pay each local educational agency 100 percent of its threshold payment, the Secretary shall distribute the excess sums to each eligible local educational agency that has not received its full amount computed under paragraph (1) or (2) (as the case may be) by multiplying—

"(i) a percentage, the denominator of which is the difference between the full amount computed under paragraph (1) or (2) (as the case may be) for all local educational agencies and the amount of the threshold payment (as calculated under subparagraphs (B) and (C)) of all local educational agencies, and the numerator of which is the aggregate of the excess sums, by;

"(ii) the difference between the full amount computed under paragraph (1) or (2) (as the case may be) for the agency and the amount of the threshold payment as calculated under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of the agency."; and

(D) by inserting at the end the following new subparagraphs:

"(E) **INSUFFICIENT PAYMENTS.**—For each fiscal year described in subparagraph (A) for which the sums appropriated under section 3(d)(2) are insufficient to pay each local educational agency all of the local educational agency's threshold payment described in subparagraph (D), the Secretary shall ratably reduce the payment to each local educational agency under this paragraph.

"(F) **INCREASES.**—If the sums appropriated under section 3(d)(2) are sufficient to increase the threshold payment above the 100 percent threshold payment described in subparagraph (D), then the Secretary shall increase payments on the same basis as such payments were reduced, except no local educational agency may receive a payment amount greater than 100 percent of the maximum payment calculated under this subsection."; and

(5) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking "through (D)" and inserting "and (C)"; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking "subparagraph (D) or (E)" and inserting "subparagraph (C) or (D)".

(c) **PRIOR YEAR DATA.**—Paragraph (2) of section 8003(c) (20 U.S.C. 7703(c)) is amended to read as follows:

"(2) **EXCEPTION.**—Calculation of payments for a local educational agency shall be based on data from the fiscal year for which the agency is making an application for payment if such agency—

"(A) is newly established by a State, for the first year of operation of such agency only;

"(B) was eligible to receive a payment under this section for the previous fiscal year and has had an overall increase in enrollment (as determined by the Secretary in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Interior, or the heads of other Federal agencies)—

"(i) of not less than 10 percent, or 100 students, of children described in—

"(I) subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of subsection (a)(1); or

"(II) subparagraph (F) and (G) of subsection (a)(1), but only to the extent such children are civilian dependents of employees of the Department of Defense or the Department of the Interior; and

"(ii) that is the direct result of closure or realignment of military installations under the base closure process or the relocation of members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of Defense as part of the force structure changes or movements of units or personnel between military installations or because of actions initiated by the Secretary of the Interior or the head of another Federal agency; or

"(C) was eligible to receive a payment under this section for the previous fiscal year and has had an increase in enrollment (as determined by the Secretary)—

"(i) of not less than 10 percent of children described in subsection (a)(1) or not less than 100 of such children; and

"(ii) that is the direct result of the closure of a local educational agency that received a payment under subsection (b)(1) or (b)(2) in the previous fiscal year.".

(d) **CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES.**—Section 8003(d)(1) (20 U.S.C. 7703(d)) is amended by striking "section 8014(c)" and inserting "section 3(d)(3)".

(e) **HOLD HARMLESS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The total amount the Secretary shall pay a local educational agency under subsection (b)—

(A) beginning in fiscal year 2016 and for any fiscal year thereafter in which a local educational agency's payment is reduced by an amount greater than \$5,000,000 or 20 percent from the amount received in the previous fiscal year, the Secretary shall pay a local educational agency for each of the 3 years following the reduction under subsection (b)—

(i) for the first year shall not be less than 90 percent of the total amount that the local educational agency received under subsection (b)(1) or (b)(2) in the fiscal year prior to the reduction herein referred to as the base year;

(ii) for the second year shall not be less than 85 percent of the total amount that the local educational agency received under subsection (b)(1) or (b)(2) in the base year; and

(iii) for the third year shall not be less than 80 percent of the total amount that the local educational agency received under subsection (b)(1) or (b)(2) in the base year.

(2) **RATABLE REDUCTION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—If the sums made available under this title for any fiscal year are insufficient to pay the full amounts that all local educational agencies in all States are

eligible to receive under paragraph (1) for such year, then the Secretary shall ratably reduce the payments to all such agencies for such year.

(B) **ADDITIONAL FUNDS.**—If additional funds become available for making payments under paragraph (1) for such fiscal year, payments that were reduced under subparagraph (A) shall be increased on the same basis as such payments were reduced.

(f) **MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.**—Section 8003 (20 U.S.C. 7703) is amended by striking subsection (g).

SEC. 804. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES RELATING TO CHILDREN RESIDING ON INDIAN LANDS.

Section 8004(e)(9) is amended by striking "Bureau of Indian Affairs" and inserting "Bureau of Indian Education".

SEC. 805. APPLICATION FOR PAYMENTS UNDER SECTIONS 8002 AND 8003.

Section 8005(b) (20 U.S.C. 7705(b)) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking "and shall contain such information.".

SEC. 806. CONSTRUCTION.

Section 8007 (20 U.S.C. 7707) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "section 8014(e)" and inserting "section 3(d)(4)";

(B) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the following:

"(C) The agency is eligible under section 4003(b)(2) or is receiving basic support payments under circumstances described in section 4003(b)(2)(B)(ii)."; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking "section 8014(e)" each place it appears and inserting "section 3(d)(4)"; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "section 8014(e)" and inserting "section 3(d)(4)";

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (C)(i)(I), by adding at the end the following:

"(cc) At least 10 percent of the property in the agency is exempt from State and local taxation under Federal law."; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

"(F) **LIMITATIONS ON ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.**—The Secretary shall not limit eligibility—

"(i) under subparagraph (C)(i)(I)(aa), to those local educational agencies in which the number of children determined under section 8003(a)(1)(C) for each such agency for the preceding school year constituted more than 40 percent of the total student enrollment in the schools of each such agency during the preceding school year; and

"(ii) under subparagraph (C)(i)(I)(cc), to those local educational agencies in which more than 10 percent of the property in each such agency is exempt from State and local taxation under Federal law.";

(C) in paragraph (6)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "in such manner, and accompanied by such information" and inserting "and in such manner"; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (F); and

(D) by striking paragraph (7).

SEC. 807. FACILITIES.

Section 8008 (20 U.S.C. 7708) is amended in subsection (a), by striking "section 8014(f)" and inserting "section 3(d)(5)".

SEC. 808. STATE CONSIDERATION OF PAYMENTS PROVIDING STATE AID.

Section 8009 (20 U.S.C. 7709) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(1)(B), by striking "and contain the information"; and

(2) in subsection (d)(2)—

(A) by striking "A State" and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A State”; and

(B) by adding at the end of the following:

“(B) STATES THAT ARE NOT EQUALIZED STATES.—A State that has not been approved as an equalized State under subsection (b) shall not consider funds received under section 8002 or section 8003 of this title in any State formula or place a limit or direct the use of such funds for the purposes of determining a local educational agency’s fund balance.”.

SEC. 809. ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND JUDICIAL REVIEW.

Section 8011(a) (20 U.S.C. 7711(a)) is amended by striking “or under the Act” and all the follows through “1994”.

SEC. 810. DEFINITIONS.

Section 8013 (20 U.S.C. 7713) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and Marine Corps” and inserting “Marine Corps, and Coast Guard”;

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking “and title VI”;

(3) in paragraph (5)(A)(iii)—

(A) in subclause (II), by striking “Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act” and inserting “McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11411)”;

(B) in subclause (III), by inserting before the semicolon, “(25 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.)”;

(4) in paragraph (8)(A), by striking “and verified by” and inserting “, and verified by,”;

(5) in paragraph (9)(B), by inserting a comma before “on a case-by-case basis”.

SEC. 811. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 8014 (20 U.S.C. 7801) is amended—

(1) by striking “2000” each place it appears and inserting “2016”;

(2) by striking “2001” and inserting “2017”;

(3) by striking “2002” and inserting “2018”.

SEC. 812. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

Subsection (c) of the Impact Aid Improvement Act of 2012 (20 U.S.C. 6301 note; Public Law 112-239; 126 Stat. 1748) is amended—

(1) (1) by striking paragraphs (1) and (4); and

(2) (2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3), as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively.

TITLE IX—GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 900. GENERAL AMENDMENTS.

(a) GENERAL PROHIBITION.—Section 9527(a) (20 U.S.C. 7907(a)) is amended by inserting “specific instructional content, academic standards or assessments,” after “school’s curriculum.”.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Section 9534 (20 U.S.C. 7914) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Any public or private entity that receives funds allocated under this Act including from a State educational agency or local educational agency shall be considered a program under subsection (a) and be subject to the requirements of subsection (a) in carrying out programs or activities funded under this Act.”.

Subtitle A—Protecting Students From Sexual and Violent Predators

SEC. 901. BACKGROUND CHECKS.

Subpart 2 of part E of title IX (20 U.S.C. 7901 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 9537. CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—A State educational agency that receives funds under this Act shall have in effect—

“(1) requirements, policies, and procedures to require and conduct criminal background checks for each school employee including prospective school employees described in subsection (c)(1); and

“(2) prohibit the employment of a school employee as described in subsection (c).

“(b) REQUIREMENTS.—A criminal background check for a school employee under subsection (a) shall include—

“(1) a search of the State criminal and sex offender registry or repository in the State where the school employee resides, and each State where such school employee resided during the preceding 5 years;

“(2) a search of State-based child abuse and neglect registries and databases in the State where the school employee resides, and each State where such school employee resided during the preceding 5 years;

“(3) a search of the National Crime Information Center;

“(4) a Federal Bureau of Investigation fingerprint check using the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System; and

“(5) a search of the National Sex Offender Registry established under the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16901 et seq.).

“(c) PROHIBITIONS.—

“(1) SCHOOL EMPLOYEE.—A school employee shall be ineligible for employment by a local educational agency or State educational agency that is receiving funds under this Act if such individual—

“(A) refuses to consent to the criminal background check described in subsection (b);

“(B) knowingly makes a materially false statement in connection with such criminal background check;

“(C) is registered, or is required to be registered, on a State sex offender registry or repository or the National Sex Offender Registry established under the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16901 et seq.); or

“(D) has been convicted of a felony consisting of—

“(i) murder, as described in section 1111 of title 18, United States Code;

“(ii) child abuse or neglect;

“(iii) a crime against children, including child pornography;

“(iv) spousal abuse;

“(v) a crime involving rape or sexual assault;

“(vi) kidnapping;

“(vii) arson;

“(viii) physical assault or battery; or

“(ix) a drug-related offense committed during the preceding 5 years; or

“(E) has been convicted of a violent misdemeanor committed as an adult against a child, including the following crimes: child abuse, child endangerment, sexual assault, or of a misdemeanor involving child pornography.

“(2) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY OR LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—A State educational agency or local educational agency described in paragraph (1) shall be ineligible for assistance under this Act if the agency employs or contracts with a school employee who is ineligible for employment under paragraph (1).

“(d) SUBMISSION OF REQUESTS FOR BACKGROUND CHECKS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A State educational agency or local educational agency covered by subsection (c) shall submit a request, to the appropriate State agency designated by a State, for a criminal background check described in subsection (b), for each school employee.

“(2) SCHOOL EMPLOYEES.—Subject to paragraph (4), in the case of an individual who became a school employee before the date of enactment of the Student Success Act shall submit such a request—

“(A) prior to the last day described in subsection (k)(1); and

“(B) not less often than once during each 5-year period following the first submission date under this paragraph for that school employee.

“(3) PROSPECTIVE SCHOOL EMPLOYEES.—Subject to paragraph (4), in the case of an individual who is a prospective school employee on or after that date of enactment, the provider shall submit such a request—

“(A) prior to the date the individual becomes a school employee; and

“(B) not less than once during each 5-year period following the first submission date under this paragraph for that staff member.

“(e) BACKGROUND CHECK RESULTS AND APPEALS.—

“(1) BACKGROUND CHECK RESULTS.—The State shall carry out the request of a State educational agency or local educational agency for a criminal background check as expeditiously as possible, but not to exceed 45 days after the date on which such request was submitted, and shall provide the results of the criminal background check to such agency provider and to the school employee staff member.

“(2) PRIVACY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The State shall provide the results of the criminal background check to the State educational agency or local educational agency in a statement that indicates whether a school employee is eligible or ineligible for employment described in subsection (c), without revealing any disqualifying crime or other related information regarding the individual.

“(B) INELIGIBLE SCHOOL EMPLOYEE.—If the school employee is ineligible for such employment due to the background check, the State will, when providing the results of the background check, include information related to each disqualifying crime, in a report to the school employee.

“(C) PUBLIC RELEASE OF RESULTS.—No State shall publicly release or share the results of individual background checks, except States may release aggregated data by crime as listed under subsection (c)(1)(D) from background check results, as long as such data does not contain personally identifiable information.

“(3) APPEALS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The State shall provide for a process by which a school employee may appeal the results of a criminal background check conducted under this section to challenge the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in such member’s criminal background report.

“(B) APPEALS PROCESS.—The State shall ensure that—

“(i) each school employee shall be given notice of the opportunity to appeal;

“(ii) a school employee will receive instructions about how to complete the appeals process if the school employee wishes to challenge the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in such employee’s criminal background report; and

“(iii) the appeals process is completed in a timely manner for each school employee not to exceed 45 days.

“(C) COSTS.—A school employee who has successfully challenged the findings contained in such employee’s criminal background check report in the appeals process under this paragraph shall be allowed to seek compensation for any reasonable costs incurred from such appeal.

“(4) REVIEW.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The State shall establish a timely review process not to exceed 45

days through which the State may determine that a school employee identified in subsection (c) is eligible for employment with the educational agency.

“(B) FACTORS.—The review process shall be an individualized assessment consistent with title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.) and the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions, and may include consideration of the following factors—

- “(i) nature and seriousness of the offense;
- “(ii) circumstances under which the offense was committed;
- “(iii) lapse of time since the offense was committed or the individual was released from prison;
- “(iv) individual’s age at the time of the offense;
- “(v) social conditions which may have fostered the offense;
- “(vi) relationship of the nature of the offense to the position sought;
- “(vii) number of criminal convictions;
- “(viii) honesty and transparency of the candidate in admitting the conviction record;
- “(ix) individual’s work history, including evidence that the individual performed the same or similar work, post-conviction, with the same or different employer, with no known incidents of criminal conduct;
- “(x) evidence of rehabilitation as demonstrated by the individual’s good conduct while in correctional custody and/or the community; counseling or psychiatric treatment received; acquisition of additional academic or vocational schooling; successful participation in correctional work-release programs and the recommendations of persons who have or have had the applicant under their supervision;
- “(xi) whether the individual is bonded under Federal, state, or local bonding program; and
- “(xii) any other factor that may lead to the conclusion that the individual does not pose a risk to children.

“(C) LIMITATION.—This paragraph shall not apply to a school employee who has been convicted of a serious violent or sexual felony against a child, as determined by the State.

“(5) NO PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to create a private right of action if a State educational agency or local educational agency has acted in accordance with this section.

“(f) FEES FOR BACKGROUND CHECKS.—

“(1) Fees that a State may charge for the costs of processing applications and administering a criminal background check as required by this section shall not exceed the actual costs to the State for the processing and administration.

“(2) A local educational agency or State educational agency may use administrative funds received under this Act to pay for any reasonable fees charged for conducting a criminal background check under this section.

“(g) TRANSPARENCY.—The State must ensure that the policies and procedures under this section are published on the Web site (or otherwise publicly available venue in the absence of a Web site) of the State and the Web sites of local lead agencies.

“(h) CONSTRUCTION.—

“(1) DISQUALIFICATION FOR OTHER CRIMES.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent a State from disqualifying individuals as a school employee based on their con-

viction for crimes not specifically listed in this section that bear upon the fitness of an individual to provide care for and have responsibility for the safety and well-being of children.

“(2) RIGHTS AND REMEDIES.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter or otherwise affect the rights and remedies provided for a school employee residing in a State that disqualifies individuals as a school employee for crimes not specifically provided for under this section.

“(i) REPORTING.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Education shall report to Congress on—

“(1) any information available about numbers of individuals restricted or disqualified from being a school employee on the basis of a criminal record identified in the background check, pursuant to this section in total, and for each type of conviction, as specified in sections (c)(1)(D) and (c)(1)(E) and disaggregated by race, gender, national origin, and ethnicity;

“(2) the identity of each state’s agency with jurisdiction over the background check results and appeals process described in section (e);

“(3) the identity of each state’s agency with jurisdiction over the individualized assessment, as described in section (e)(4);

“(4) the numbers of individuals approved for consideration as a school employee by the individualized assessment, as defined in section (e)(4) in total, and for each type of conviction, as specified in sections (c)(1)(D) and (c)(1)(E) and disaggregated by race, gender, national origin, and ethnicity; and

“(5) the numbers of successful and unsuccessful appeals to the accuracy and completeness of records or information, in total, by State, and by type of conviction, as specified in section sections (c)(1)(D) and (c)(1)(E) and disaggregated by race, gender, national origin, and ethnicity.

“(j) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘school employee’ means—

“(1) an employee of, or a person seeking employment with, a local educational agency or State educational agency, and who, as a result of such employment, has (or will have) a job duty that results in unsupervised access to elementary school or secondary school students;

“(2) any person, or an employee of any person who has a contract or agreement to provide services with an elementary school or secondary school, local educational agency, or State educational agency, and such person or employee, as a result of such contract or agreement, has a job duty that results in unsupervised access to elementary school or secondary students; and

“(3) an employee of or a person seeking employment with a high-quality prekindergarten program (as defined in section 1112 of the Student Success Act) who has unsupervised access to children or a person who has a contract or agreement with such program and has unsupervised access to children.

“(k) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A State that receives funds under this Act shall meet the requirements of this section for the provision of criminal background checks for a school employee described in subsection (d)(1) not later than the last day of the second full fiscal year after the date of enactment of the Student Success Act.

“(2) EXTENSION.—The Secretary may grant a State an extension of time, of not more than 1 fiscal year, to meet the requirements of this section if the State demonstrates a

good faith effort to comply with the requirements of this section.

“(3) PENALTY FOR NONCOMPLIANCE.—Except as provided in paragraphs (1) and (2), for any fiscal year that a State fails to comply substantially with the requirements of this section, the Secretary shall withhold 5 percent of the funds that would otherwise be allocated to that State in accordance with this Act for the following fiscal year.

“SEC. 9538. EQUALITY IN ATHLETIC PROGRAMS.

“(a) REPORT.—Each coeducational elementary or secondary school that participates in any program under this Act and has an athletic program, shall annually, for the immediately preceding academic year, prepare a report that contains the following information:

“(1) The number of students that attended the school and for each student an identification of such student’s—

- “(A) sex;
- “(B) race; and
- “(C) ethnicity.

“(2) A listing of the teams that competed in athletic competition and for each such team the following data:

“(A) The total number of participants as of the day of the first scheduled contest for the team, and for each participant an identification of such participant’s—

- “(i) sex;
- “(ii) race; and
- “(iii) ethnicity.

“(B) The year the team began.

“(C) The total expenditures for each team from school and nonschool sources, including a listing of the following data for each team:

“(i) Expenditures for travel.

“(ii) Expenditures for equipment (including any equipment replacement schedule).

“(iii) Expenditures for uniforms (including any uniform replacement schedule).

“(iv) Expenditures for facilities (including locker rooms, fields, and gymnasiums) and their maintenance and repair.

“(v) Expenditures for training and medical facilities and services.

“(vi) Expenditures for publicity for competitions (including press guides, press releases, game programs, and publicity personnel).

“(D) The total number of trainers and medical personnel, and for each trainer or medical personnel an identification of such person’s—

- “(i) sex;
- “(ii) employment status (including whether such person is employed full-time or part-time, and whether such person is a head or assistant trainer or medical services provider) and duties other than providing training or medical services; and
- “(iii) qualifications, including whether the person is a professional or student.

“(E) The total number of coaches, and for each coach an identification of such coach’s—

- “(i) sex;
- “(ii) employment status (including whether such coach is employed full-time or part-time, and whether such coach is a head or assistant coach) and duties other than coaching; and
- “(iii) qualifications, including whether the person is a professional or student.

“(F) Total annual revenues generated by the team (including contributions from outside sources such as booster clubs), disaggregated by source.

“(G) The total number of competitions scheduled, and for each scheduled competition an indication of what day of the week and time the competition was scheduled.

“(H) The total number of practices scheduled, and for each scheduled practice an indication of what day of the week and time the practice was scheduled.

“(I) The season in which the team competed.

“(J) Whether such team participated in postseason competition, and the success of such team in any postseason competition.

“(3) The average annual institutional salary attributable to coaching of the head coaches of men’s teams, across all offered sports, and the average annual institutional salary attributable to coaching of the head coaches of women’s teams, across all offered sports.

“(4) The average annual institutional salary attributable to coaching of the assistant coaches of men’s teams, across all offered sports, and the average annual institutional salary attributable to coaching of the assistant coaches of women’s teams, across all offered sports.

“(b) SPECIAL RULE.—For the purpose of reporting the information described in paragraphs (3) and (4) of subsection (a), if a coach has responsibilities for more than 1 team and the school does not allocate such coach’s salary by team, the school should divide the salary by the number of teams for which the coach has responsibility and allocate the salary among the teams on a basis consistent with the coach’s responsibilities for the different teams.

“(c) DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO STUDENTS AND PUBLIC.—On an annual basis, each coeducational elementary or secondary school described in subsection (a) shall—

“(1) make available to students, potential students, and the public, upon request, the information contained in each report by the school under this section by October 15 of each school year; and

“(2) ensure that all students at the school and members of the relevant community are informed of their right to request such information.

“(d) SUBMISSION; INFORMATION AVAILABILITY.—On an annual basis, each coeducational elementary or secondary school described in subsection (a) shall provide the information contained in each report by the school under this section to the Commissioner for Education Statistics not later than 15 days after the date that the school makes such information available under subsection (c).

“(e) DUTIES OF COMMISSIONER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS.—The Commissioner for Education Statistics shall—

“(1) ensure that the data required under this section are posted on the Department of Education’s Web site within a reasonable period of time; and

“(2) not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Student Success Act, notify all elementary and secondary schools in all States about the requirements under subsection (c) and issue guidance to all elementary and secondary schools on how to collect and report the information required under this section.”.

SEC. 902. CONFORMING AMENDMENT.

Section 2 is amended by adding after the item relating to section 9536 the following:

“Sec. 9537. Background checks.

“Sec. 9538. Equality in athletic programs.”.

Subtitle B—Evaluation Authority

SEC. 911. EVALUATION AUTHORITY.

Title IX (20 U.S.C. 7801 et seq.) is further amended by amending part F to read as follows:

“PART F—EVALUATION AUTHORITY

“SEC. 9911. EVALUATION AUTHORITY.

“(a) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—The Secretary shall reserve not less than 1 percent of the amount appropriated to carry out each categorical program and demonstration project authorized under this Act, except the Secretary may not reserve more than 1 percent of title I, part A to carry out the evaluation activities described in this section.

“(b) EVALUATION ACTIVITIES.—From funds reserved under subsection (a), the reserved amounts—

“(1) shall first be used by the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Institute of Education Sciences, to—

“(A) conduct comprehensive, high-quality evaluations of the program that—

“(i) are consistent with the evaluation plan under subsection (d); and

“(ii) primarily include impact evaluations that use experimental or quasi-experimental designs, where practicable and appropriate, and other rigorous methodologies that permit the strongest possible causal inferences;

“(B) conduct studies of the effectiveness of the program and the administrative impact of the program on schools and local educational agencies; and

“(C) widely disseminate evaluation findings under this section related to programs authorized under this Act—

“(i) in a timely fashion;

“(ii) in forms that are understandable, easily accessible, and usable, or adaptable for use in, the improvement of educational practice;

“(iii) through electronic transfer, and other means, such as posting, as available, to the websites of State educational agencies, local educational agencies, the Institute of Education Sciences, the Department, or in another relevant place; and

“(iv) in a manner that promotes the utilization of such findings; and

“(2) may be used by the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Institute of Education Sciences—

“(A) to evaluate the aggregate short- and long-term effects and cost efficiencies across Federal programs assisted or authorized under this Act and related Federal early childhood education, preschool, elementary school, and secondary school programs under any other Federal law; and

“(B) assist grantees of such programs in collecting and analyzing data related to conducting high-quality evaluations under paragraph (1).

“(c) TITLE I.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Institute of Education Sciences, shall use funds authorized under subsection(a)(1) to carry out evaluation activities under this section related to title I.

“(d) CONSOLIDATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section the Secretary in consultation with the Director of the Institute of Education Sciences—

“(1) may consolidate the funds reserved under subsections (a) or (c) for purposes of carrying out the activities under subsection (b)(1) and subsection (g); and

“(2) shall not be required to evaluate under subsection (b)(1) each program authorized under this Act each year.

“(e) EVALUATION PLAN.—The Director of the Institute of Education Sciences, shall, on a biennial basis, develop, submit to Congress, and make publicly available an evaluation plan, that—

“(1) describes the specific activities that will be carried out under subsection (b) for the 2-year period applicable to the plan, and the timelines of such activities;

“(2) contains the results of the activities carried out under subsection (b) for the most recent 2-year period; and

“(3) describes how programs authorized under this Act will be regularly evaluated.

“(f) EVALUATION ACTIVITIES AUTHORIZED ELSEWHERE.—If, under any other provision of this Act, funds are authorized to be reserved or used for evaluation activities with respect to a program, the Secretary may not reserve additional funds under this section for the evaluation of that program.”.

Subtitle C—Keeping All Students Safe

SEC. 911. KEEPING ALL STUDENTS SAFE.

Title IX (20 U.S.C. 7801 et seq.) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“PART G—KEEPING ALL STUDENTS SAFE

“SEC. 9701. DEFINITIONS.

“In this part:

“(1) CHEMICAL RESTRAINT.—The term ‘chemical restraint’ means a drug or medication used on a student to control behavior or restrict freedom of movement that is not—

“(A) prescribed by a licensed physician, or other qualified health professional acting under the scope of the professional’s authority under State law, for the standard treatment of a student’s medical or psychiatric condition; and

“(B) administered as prescribed by the licensed physician or other qualified health professional acting under the scope of the professional’s authority under State law.

“(2) MECHANICAL RESTRAINT.—The term ‘mechanical restraint’ has the meaning given the term in section 595(d)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290jj(d)(1)), except that the meaning shall be applied by substituting ‘student’s’ for ‘resident’s’.

“(3) PHYSICAL ESCORT.—The term ‘physical escort’ has the meaning given the term in section 595(d)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290jj(d)(2)), except that the meaning shall be applied by substituting ‘student’ for ‘resident’.

“(4) PHYSICAL RESTRAINT.—The term ‘physical restraint’ mean a personal restriction that immobilizes or reduces the ability of an individual to move the individual’s arms, legs, torso, or head freely. Such term does not include a physical escort, mechanical restraint, or chemical restraint.

“(5) POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORTS.—The term ‘positive behavior supports’ means a systematic approach to embed evidence-based practices and data-driven decision-making to improve school climate and culture, including a range of systemic and individualized strategies to reinforce desired behaviors and diminish reoccurrence of problem behaviors, in order to achieve improved academic and social outcomes and increase learning for all students, including students with the most complex and intensive behavioral needs.

“(6) PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SYSTEM.—The term ‘protection and advocacy system’ means a protection and advocacy system established under subtitle C of title I of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15041 et seq.).

“(7) SCHOOL.—The term ‘school’ means an entity—

“(A) that—

“(i) is a public or private—

“(I) day or residential elementary school or secondary school; or

“(II) early childhood, elementary school, or secondary school program that is under the jurisdiction of a school, local educational agency, educational service agency, or other educational institution or program; and

“(ii) receives, or serves students who receive, support in any form from any program supported, in whole or in part, with funds appropriated under the Student Success Act; or

“(B) that is a school funded or operated by the Department of the Interior.

“(8) **SCHOOL PERSONNEL.**—The term ‘school personnel’ has the meaning—

“(A) given the term in section 4151(10); and

“(B) given the term ‘school resource officer’ in section 4151(11).

“(9) **SECLUSION.**—The term ‘seclusion’ means—

“(A) the involuntary confinement of a student alone in a room or area from which the student is physically prevented from leaving; and

“(B) does not include a time out.

“(10) **STATE-APPROVED CRISIS INTERVENTION TRAINING PROGRAM.**—The term ‘State-approved crisis intervention training program’ means a training program approved by a State and the Secretary that, at a minimum, provides—

“(A) training in evidence-based techniques shown to be effective in the prevention of physical restraint and seclusion;

“(B) training in evidence-based techniques shown to be effective in keeping both school personnel and students safe when imposing physical restraint or seclusion;

“(C) evidence-based skills training related to positive behavior supports, safe physical escort, conflict prevention, understanding antecedents, de-escalation, and conflict management;

“(D) training in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation;

“(E) information describing State policies and procedures that meet the minimum standards established by regulations promulgated pursuant to section 9702(a); and

“(F) certification for school personnel in the techniques and skills described in subparagraphs (A) through (D), which shall be required to be renewed on a periodic basis.

“(11) **STUDENT.**—The term ‘student’ means a student enrolled in a school defined in paragraph (7), except that in the case of a student enrolled in a private school or private program, such term means a student who receives support in any form from any program supported, in whole or in part, with funds appropriated under the Student Success Act.

“(12) **TIME OUT.**—The term ‘time out’ has the meaning given the term in section 595(d)(5) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290j(d)(5)), except that the meaning shall be applied by substituting ‘student’ for ‘resident’.

“SEC. 9702. MINIMUM STANDARDS; RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

“(a) **MINIMUM STANDARDS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Student Success Act, to ensure a safe learning environment and protect each student from physical or mental abuse, aversive behavioral interventions that compromise student health and safety, or any physical restraint or seclusion imposed solely for purposes of discipline or convenience or in a manner otherwise inconsistent with this part, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations establishing the following minimum standards:

“(1) School personnel shall be prohibited from imposing on any student the following:

“(A) Mechanical restraints.

“(B) Chemical restraints.

“(C) Physical restraint or physical escort that restricts breathing.

“(D) Aversive behavioral interventions that compromise health and safety.

“(2) School personnel shall be prohibited from imposing physical restraint or seclusion on a student unless—

“(A) the student’s behavior poses an imminent danger of physical injury to the student, school personnel, or others;

“(B) less restrictive interventions would be ineffective in stopping such imminent danger of physical injury;

“(C) such physical restraint or seclusion is imposed by school personnel who—

“(i) continuously monitor the student face-to-face; or

“(ii) if school personnel safety is significantly compromised by such face-to-face monitoring, are in continuous direct visual contact with the student;

“(D) such physical restraint or seclusion is imposed by—

“(i) school personnel trained and certified by a State-approved crisis intervention training program (as defined in section 9701(16)); or

“(ii) other school personnel in the case of a rare and clearly unavoidable emergency circumstance when school personnel trained and certified as described in clause (i) are not immediately available due to the unforeseeable nature of the emergency circumstance; and

“(E) such physical restraint or seclusion ends immediately upon the cessation of the conditions described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

“(3) States, in consultation with local educational agencies and private school officials, shall ensure that a sufficient number of personnel are trained and certified by a State-approved crisis intervention training program (as defined in section 9701(16)) to meet the needs of the specific student population in each school.

“(4) The use of physical restraint or seclusion as a planned intervention shall not be written into a student’s education plan, individual safety plan, behavioral plan, or individualized education program (as defined in section 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401)). Local educational agencies or schools may establish policies and procedures for use of physical restraint or seclusion in school safety or crisis plans, provided that such school plans are not specific to any individual student.

“(5) Schools shall establish procedures to be followed after each incident involving the imposition of physical restraint or seclusion upon a student, including—

“(A) procedures to provide to the parent of the student, with respect to each such incident—

“(i) an immediate verbal or electronic communication on the same day as the incident; and

“(ii) written notification within 24 hours of the incident; and

“(B) any other procedures the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(b) **SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall ensure that schools operated or funded by the Department of the Interior comply with the regulations promulgated by the Secretary under subsection (a).

“(c) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the Secretary to promulgate regulations prohibiting the use of—

“(1) time out (as defined in section 9701(20));

“(2) devices implemented by trained school personnel, or utilized by a student, for the specific and approved therapeutic or safety purposes for which such devices were de-

signed and, if applicable, prescribed, including—

“(A) restraints for medical immobilization;

“(B) adaptive devices or mechanical supports used to achieve proper body position, balance, or alignment to allow greater freedom of mobility than would be possible without the use of such devices or mechanical supports; or

“(C) vehicle safety restraints when used as intended during the transport of a student in a moving vehicle; or

“(3) handcuffs by school resource officers (as such term is defined in section 4151(11))—

“(A) in the—

“(i) case when a student’s behavior poses an imminent danger of physical injury to the student, school personnel, or others; or

“(ii) lawful exercise of law enforcement duties; and

“(B) less restrictive interventions would be ineffective.

“SEC. 9703. STATE PLAN AND REPORT REQUIREMENTS AND ENFORCEMENT.

“(a) **STATE PLAN.**—Not later than 2 years after the Secretary promulgates regulations pursuant to section 9702(a), and each year thereafter, each State educational agency shall submit to the Secretary a State plan that provides—

“(1) assurances to the Secretary that the State has in effect—

“(A) State policies and procedures that meet the minimum standards, including the standards with respect to State-approved crisis intervention training programs, established by regulations promulgated pursuant to section 9702(a); and

“(B) a State mechanism to effectively monitor and enforce the minimum standards;

“(2) a description of the State policies and procedures, including a description of the State-approved crisis intervention training programs in such State; and

“(3) a description of the State plans to ensure school personnel and parents, including private school personnel and parents, are aware of the State policies and procedures.

“(b) **REPORTING.**—

“(1) **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**—Not later than 2 years after the date the Secretary promulgates regulations pursuant to section 9702(a), and each year thereafter, each State educational agency shall (in compliance with the requirements of section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (commonly known as the ‘Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974’) (20 U.S.C. 1232g)) prepare and submit to the Secretary, and make available to the public, a report that includes the information described in paragraph (2), with respect to each local educational agency, and each school not under the jurisdiction of a local educational agency, located in the same State as such State educational agency.

“(2) **INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS.**—

“(A) **GENERAL INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS.**—The report described in paragraph (1) shall include information on—

“(i) the total number of incidents in the preceding full-academic year in which physical restraint was imposed upon a student; and

“(ii) the total number of incidents in the preceding full-academic year in which seclusion was imposed upon a student.

“(B) **DISAGGREGATION.**—

“(i) **GENERAL DISAGGREGATION REQUIREMENTS.**—The information described in subparagraph (A) shall be disaggregated by—

“(I) the total number of incidents in which physical restraint or seclusion was imposed upon a student—

“(aa) that resulted in injury;

“(bb) that resulted in death; and

“(cc) in which the school personnel imposing physical restraint or seclusion were not trained and certified as described in section 9702(a)(2)(D)(i); and

“(II) the demographic characteristics of all students upon whom physical restraint or seclusion was imposed, including—

“(aa) the categories identified in section 1111(h)(1)(C)(i);

“(bb) age; and

“(cc) disability status (which has the meaning given the term ‘individual with a disability’ in section 7(20) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 705(20))).

“(ii) UNDUPLICATED COUNT; EXCEPTION.—The disaggregation required under clause (i) shall—

“(I) be carried out in a manner to ensure an unduplicated count of the—

“(aa) total number of incidents in the preceding full-academic year in which physical restraint was imposed upon a student; and

“(bb) total number of incidents in the preceding full-academic year in which seclusion was imposed upon a student; and

“(II) not be required in a case in which the number of students in a category would reveal personally identifiable information about an individual student.

“(c) ENFORCEMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) USE OF REMEDIES.—If a State educational agency fails to comply with subsection (a) or (b), the Secretary shall—

“(i) withhold, in whole or in part, further payments under an applicable program (as such term is defined in section 400(c) of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1221)) in accordance with section 455 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1234d);

“(ii) require a State educational agency to submit, and implement, within 1 year of such failure to comply, a corrective plan of action, which may include redirection of funds received under an applicable program; or

“(iii) issue a complaint to compel compliance of the State educational agency through a cease and desist order, in the same manner the Secretary is authorized to take such action under section 456 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1234e).

“(B) CESSATION OF WITHHOLDING OF FUNDS.—Whenever the Secretary determines (whether by certification or other appropriate evidence) that a State educational agency who is subject to the withholding of payments under subparagraph (A)(i) has cured the failure providing the basis for the withholding of payments, the Secretary shall cease the withholding of payments with respect to the State educational agency under such subparagraph.

“(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to limit the Secretary’s authority under the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1221 et seq.).

“SEC. 9704. GRANT AUTHORITY.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—From the amount appropriated under section 922, the Secretary may award grants to State educational agencies to assist the agencies in—

“(1) establishing, implementing, and enforcing the policies and procedures to meet the minimum standards established by regulations promulgated by the Secretary pursuant to section 9702(a);

“(2) improving State and local capacity to collect and analyze data related to physical restraint and seclusion; and

“(3) improving school climate and culture by implementing school-wide positive behavior support approaches.

“(b) DURATION OF GRANT.—A grant under this section shall be awarded to a State educational agency for a 3-year period.

“(c) APPLICATION.—Each State educational agency desiring a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may require, including information on how the State educational agency will target resources to schools and local educational agencies in need of assistance related to preventing and reducing physical restraint and seclusion.

“(d) AUTHORITY TO MAKE SUBGRANTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A State educational agency receiving a grant under this section may use such grant funds to award subgrants, on a competitive basis, to local educational agencies.

“(2) APPLICATION.—A local educational agency desiring to receive a subgrant under this section shall submit an application to the applicable State educational agency at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the State educational agency may require.

“(e) PRIVATE SCHOOL PARTICIPATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A local educational agency receiving subgrant funds under this section shall, after timely and meaningful consultation with appropriate private school officials, ensure that private school personnel can participate, on an equitable basis, in activities supported by grant or subgrant funds.

“(2) PUBLIC CONTROL OF FUNDS.—The control of funds provided under this section, and title to materials, equipment, and property purchased with such funds, shall be in a public agency, and a public agency shall administer such funds, materials, equipment, and property.

“(f) REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.—A State educational agency receiving a grant, or a local educational agency receiving a subgrant, under this section shall use such grant or subgrant funds to carry out the following:

“(1) Researching, developing, implementing, and evaluating strategies, policies, and procedures to prevent and reduce physical restraint and seclusion in schools, consistent with the minimum standards established by regulations promulgated by the Secretary pursuant to section 9702(a).

“(2) Providing professional development, training, and certification for school personnel to meet such standards.

“(3) Carrying out the reporting requirements under section 9703(b) and analyzing the information included in a report prepared under such section to identify student, school personnel, and school needs related to use of physical restraint and seclusion.

“(g) ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—In addition to the required activities described in subsection (f), a State educational agency receiving a grant, or a local educational agency receiving a subgrant, under this section may use such grant or subgrant funds for one or more of the following:

“(1) Developing and implementing high-quality professional development and training programs to implement evidence-based systematic approaches to school-wide positive behavior supports, including improving coaching, facilitation, and training capacity for administrators, teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, and other staff.

“(2) Providing technical assistance to develop and implement evidence-based systematic approaches to school-wide positive behavior supports, including technical assist-

ance for data-driven decisionmaking related to behavioral supports and interventions in the classroom.

“(3) Researching, evaluating, and disseminating high-quality evidence-based programs and activities that implement school-wide positive behavior supports with fidelity.

“(4) Supporting other local positive behavior support implementation activities consistent with this subsection.

“(h) EVALUATION AND REPORT.—Each State educational agency receiving a grant under this section shall, at the end of the 3-year grant period for such grant—

“(1) evaluate the State’s progress toward the prevention and reduction of physical restraint and seclusion in the schools located in the State, consistent with the minimum standards established by regulations promulgated by the Secretary pursuant to section 9702(a); and

“(2) submit to the Secretary a report on such progress.

“(i) DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.—From the amount appropriated under section 9708, the Secretary may allocate funds to the Secretary of the Interior for activities under this section with respect to schools operated or funded by the Department of the Interior, under such terms as the Secretary of Education may prescribe.

“SEC. 9705. NATIONAL ASSESSMENT.

“(a) NATIONAL ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary shall carry out a national assessment to determine the effectiveness of this part, which shall include—

“(1) analyzing data related to physical restraint and seclusion incidents;

“(2) analyzing the effectiveness of Federal, State, and local efforts to prevent and reduce the number of physical restraint and seclusion incidents in schools;

“(3) identifying the types of programs and services that have demonstrated the greatest effectiveness in preventing and reducing the number of physical restraint and seclusion incidents in schools; and

“(4) identifying evidence-based personnel training models with demonstrated success in preventing and reducing the number of physical restraint and seclusion incidents in schools, including models that emphasize positive behavior supports and de-escalation techniques over physical intervention.

“(b) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate—

“(1) not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of the Student Success Act, an interim report that summarizes the preliminary findings of the assessment described in subsection (a); and

“(2) not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of the Student Success Act, a final report of the findings of the assessment.

“SEC. 9706. PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SYSTEMS.

“Protection and Advocacy Systems shall have the authority provided under section 143 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15043) to investigate, monitor, and enforce protections provided for students under this part.

“SEC. 9707. LIMITATION OF AUTHORITY.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this part shall be construed to restrict or limit, or allow the Secretary to restrict or limit, any other rights or remedies otherwise available to students or parents under Federal or State law or regulation.

“(b) APPLICABILITY.—

“(1) PRIVATE SCHOOLS.—Nothing in this part shall be construed to affect any private school that does not receive, or does not serve students who receive, support in any form from any program supported, in whole or in part, with funds appropriated to the Department of Education.

“(2) HOME SCHOOLS.—Nothing in this part shall be construed to—

“(A) affect a home school, whether or not a home school is treated as a private school or home school under State law; or

“(B) consider parents who are schooling a child at home as school personnel.

“SEC. 9708. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this part for fiscal year 2016 and each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.

“SEC. 9709. PRESUMPTION OF CONGRESS RELATING TO COMPETITIVE PROCEDURES.

“(a) PRESUMPTION.—It is the presumption of Congress that grants awarded under this part will be awarded using competitive procedures based on merit.

“(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—If grants are awarded under this part using procedures other than competitive procedures, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report explaining why competitive procedures were not used.”.

Subtitle D—Protecting Student Athletes From Concussions

SEC. 931. PROTECTING STUDENT ATHLETES FROM CONCUSSIONS.

Title IX (20 U.S.C. 7801 et seq.) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“PART H—PROTECTING STUDENT ATHLETES FROM CONCUSSIONS

“SEC. 9801. MINIMUM STATE REQUIREMENTS.

“Beginning with fiscal year 2016, in order to be eligible to receive funds for such year or a subsequent fiscal year under this Act each State educational agency shall issue regulations establishing the following minimum requirements in order to protect student academic achievement from the impact of concussions:

“(1) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY CONCUSSION SAFETY AND MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Each local educational agency in the State, in consultation with members of the community in which such agency is located, shall develop and implement a standard plan for concussion safety and management that includes—

“(A) the education of students, parents, and school personnel about concussions, such as—

“(i) the training and certification of school personnel, including coaches, athletic trainers, and school nurses, on concussion safety and management; and

“(ii) using and maintaining standardized release forms, treatment plans, observation, monitoring and reporting forms, record-keeping forms, and post-injury fact sheets;

“(B) supports for students recovering from a concussion, such as—

“(i) guiding such student in resuming participation in athletic activity and academic activities with the help of a multi-disciplinary team, which may include—

“(I) a health care professional, the parents of such student, a school nurse, or other relevant school personnel; and

“(II) an individual who is assigned by a public school to oversee and manage the recovery of such student;

“(ii) providing appropriate academic accommodations; and

“(iii) referring students whose symptoms of concussion reemerge or persist upon the reintroduction of cognitive and physical demands for evaluation of the eligibility of such students for services under the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 note et seq.); and

“(C) best practices designed to ensure, with respect to concussions, the uniformity of safety standards, treatment, and management, such as—

“(i) disseminating information on concussion management safety and management to the public; and

“(ii) applying uniform standards for concussion safety and management to all students enrolled in public schools.

“(2) POSTING OF INFORMATION ON CONCUSSIONS.—Each public elementary school and each secondary school shall post on school grounds, in a manner that is visible to students and school personnel, and make publicly available on the school website, information on concussions that—

“(A) is based on peer-reviewed scientific evidence (such as information made available by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention);

“(B) shall include—

“(i) the risks posed by sustaining a concussion;

“(ii) the actions a student should take in response to sustaining a concussion, including the notification of school personnel; and

“(iii) the signs and symptoms of a concussion; and

“(C) may include—

“(i) the definition of a concussion;

“(ii) the means available to the student to reduce the incidence or recurrence of a concussion; and

“(iii) the effects of a concussion on academic learning and performance.

“(3) RESPONSE TO CONCUSSION.—If any school personnel, including coaches and athletic trainers, of a public school suspects that a student has sustained a concussion during a school-sponsored athletic activity—

“(A) the student shall be—

“(i) immediately removed from participation in such activity; and

“(ii) prohibited from returning to participate in school-sponsored athletic activities—

“(I) on the day such student sustained a concussion; and

“(II) until such student submits a written release from a health care professional stating that the student is capable of resuming participation in school-sponsored athletic activities; and

“(B) such personnel shall report to the parent or guardian of such student—

“(i) the date, time, and extent of the injury suffered by such student; and

“(ii) any actions taken to treat such student.

“(4) RETURN TO ATHLETICS AND ACADEMICS.—Before a student who has sustained a concussion in a school-sponsored athletic activity resumes participation in school-sponsored athletic activities or academic activities, the school shall receive a written release from a health care professional, that—

“(A) states that the student is capable of resuming participation in such activities; and

“(B) may require the student to follow a plan designed to aid the student in recovering and resuming participation in such activities in a manner that—

“(i) is coordinated, as appropriate, with periods of cognitive and physical rest while symptoms of a concussion persist; and

“(ii) reintroduces cognitive and physical demands on such student on a progressive basis only as such increases in exertion do not cause the reemergence or worsening of symptoms of a concussion.

“SEC. 9802. REPORT TO SECRETARY OF EDUCATION.

“Not later than 6 months after promulgating regulations pursuant to section 9801 in order to be eligible to receive funds under this Act, each State educational agency shall submit to the Secretary of Education a report that contains—

“(1) a description of the State regulations promulgated pursuant to section 9801; and

“(2) an assurance that the State has implemented such regulations.

“SEC. 9803. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

“Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to alter or supersede State law with respect to education standards or procedures or civil liability.

“SEC. 9804. DEFINITIONS.

“In this subtitle:

“(1) CONCUSSION.—The term ‘concussion’ means a type of traumatic brain injury that—

“(A) is caused by a blow, jolt, or motion to the head or body that causes the brain to move rapidly in the skull;

“(B) disrupts normal brain functioning and alters the mental state of the individual, causing the individual to experience—

“(i) any period of observed or self-reported—

“(I) transient confusion, disorientation, or impaired consciousness;

“(II) dysfunction of memory around the time of injury; and

“(III) loss of consciousness lasting less than 30 minutes;

“(ii) any one of four types of symptoms of a headache, including—

“(I) physical symptoms, such as headache, fatigue, or dizziness;

“(II) cognitive symptoms, such as memory disturbance or slowed thinking;

“(III) emotional symptoms, such as irritability or sadness; and

“(IV) difficulty sleeping; and

“(C) can occur—

“(i) with or without the loss of consciousness; and

“(ii) during participation in any organized sport or recreational activity.

“(2) HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL.—The term ‘health care professional’ means a physician, nurse, certified athletic trainer, physical therapist, neuropsychologist or other qualified individual who—

“(A) is a registered, licensed, certified, or otherwise statutorily recognized by the State to provide medical treatment;

“(B) is experienced in the diagnosis and management of traumatic brain injury among a pediatric population; and

“(C) may be a volunteer.

“(3) SCHOOL PERSONNEL.—The term ‘school personnel’ has the meaning given such term in section 4151.

“(4) SCHOOL-SPONSORED ATHLETIC ACTIVITY.—The term ‘school-sponsored athletic activity’ means—

“(A) any physical education class or program of a school;

“(B) any athletic activity authorized during the school day on school grounds that is not an instructional activity; and

“(C) any extracurricular sports team, club, or league organized by a school on or off school grounds.”.

TITLE X—EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTHS

SEC. 1001. EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTHS.

Subtitle B of title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is amended to read as follows:

“Subtitle B—Education for Homeless Children and Youths

“SEC. 721. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

“The following is the policy of Congress:

“(1) Each State educational agency shall ensure that each homeless child and youth has access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youth.

“(2) In any State where compulsory residency requirements or other requirements of laws, regulations, practices, or policies may act as a barrier to the identification, enrollment, attendance, or success in school of homeless children and youth, the State shall review and revise such laws, regulations, practices, or policies to ensure that homeless children and youth are afforded the same free appropriate public education as is provided to other children and youth.

“(3) Homelessness is not a sufficient reason to separate students from the mainstream school environment.

“(4) Homeless children and youth shall have access to the education and other services that such children and youth need to ensure that such children and youth have an opportunity to meet the same college and career ready State student academic achievement standards to which all students are held.

“SEC. 722. GRANTS FOR STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTHS.

“(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary is authorized to make grants to States from allotments made under subsection (c) and in accordance with this section to enable such States to carry out the activities described in subsections (d) through (g).

“(b) APPLICATION.—In order for a State to be eligible to receive a grant under this section, the State educational agency, in consultation with other relevant State agencies, shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing or accompanied by such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

“(c) ALLOCATION AND RESERVATIONS.—

“(1) ALLOCATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (C), the Secretary is authorized to allot to each State an amount that bears the same ratio to the amount appropriated for such year under section 727 that remains after the Secretary reserves funds under paragraph (2) and uses funds to carry out section 724(d) and (h), as the amount allocated under section 1122 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6332) to the State for that year bears to the total amount allocated under section 1122 of such Act to all States for that year, except as provided in subparagraph (B)—

“(B) MINIMUM ALLOTMENTS.—No State shall receive for a fiscal year less under this paragraph than the greater of—

“(i) \$300,000; or

“(ii) an amount that bears the same ratio to the amount appropriated for such year under section 727 that remains after the Secretary reserves funds under paragraph (2) and uses funds to carry out section 724(d) and (h), as the amount the State received under this paragraph for the preceding fiscal year bears to the total amount received by

all States under this paragraph for the preceding fiscal year.

“(C) REDUCTION FOR INSUFFICIENT FUNDS.—If there are insufficient funds in a fiscal year to allot to each State the minimum amount under subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall ratably reduce the allotments to all States based on the proportionate share that each State received under this subsection for the preceding fiscal year.

“(2) RESERVATIONS.—

“(A) STUDENTS IN TERRITORIES.—The Secretary is authorized to reserve 0.1 percent of the amount appropriated for each fiscal year under section 727 to be allocated by the Secretary among the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, according to their respective need for assistance under this title, as determined by the Secretary. Funds allocated under this subparagraph shall be used for programs that are consistent with the purposes of the programs described in this subtitle.

“(B) INDIAN STUDENTS.—

“(i) TRANSFER.—The Secretary shall transfer 1 percent of the amount appropriated for each fiscal year under section 727 to the Department of the Interior for programs that are for Indian students served by schools funded by the Secretary of the Interior, as determined under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.), and that are consistent with the purposes of the programs described in this title.

“(ii) AGREEMENT.—The Secretary of Education and the Secretary of the Interior shall enter into an agreement, consistent with the requirements of this title, for the distribution and use of the funds described in clause (i) under terms that the Secretary of Education determines best meet the purposes of the programs described in this title. Such agreement shall set forth the plans of the Secretary of the Interior for the use of the funds transferred, including appropriate goals, objectives, and milestones for that use.

“(d) STATE ACTIVITIES.—Grant funds from a grant made to a State under this section shall be used for the following:

“(1) To provide activities for and services to improve the identification of homeless children and youth and enable such children and youth to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school, including in early childhood education programs.

“(2) To establish or designate an Office of the Coordinator for Education of Homeless Children and Youth in the State educational agency in accordance with subsection (f) that has sufficient knowledge, authority, and time to carry out the duties described in this title.

“(3) To prepare and carry out the State plan described in subsection (g).

“(4) To develop and implement professional development activities for liaisons designated under subsection (g)(1)(J)(ii), other local educational agency school personnel, and community agencies to improve their—

“(A) identification of homeless children and youth; and

“(B) awareness of, and capacity to respond to, specific needs in the education of homeless children and youth.

“(e) STATE AND LOCAL SUBGRANTS.—

“(1) MINIMUM DISBURSEMENTS BY STATES.—From the grant funds made available each year to a State under subsection (a) to carry out this title, the State educational agency shall distribute not less than 75 percent by making subgrants under section 723 to local

educational agencies for the purposes of carrying out section 723.

“(2) USE BY STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—A State educational agency may use any grant funds remaining after making subgrants under section 723 to conduct activities under subsection (f) directly or through making grants or entering into contracts.

“(3) PROHIBITION ON SEGREGATING HOMELESS STUDENTS.—In providing a free public education to a homeless child or youth, no State receiving funds under this title shall segregate such child or youth in a separate school, or in a separate program within a school, based on such child's or youth's status as homeless.

“(A) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding paragraph (3), paragraphs (1)(J)(i) and (3) of subsection (g), section 723(a)(2), and any other provision of this title relating to the placement of homeless children or youths in schools, a State that has a separate school for homeless children or youths that was operated and in receipt of funds under this title in fiscal year 2015 in a covered county shall be eligible to receive funds under this title for programs carried out in such school.

“(B) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘covered county’ means San Diego County, California.

“(f) FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICE OF COORDINATOR.—The Coordinator for Education of Homeless Children and Youth established in each State shall—

“(1) gather and make publicly available reliable, valid, and comprehensive information on

“(A) the nature and extent of the problems homeless children and youth have in gaining access to public preschool programs, and to public elementary schools and secondary schools;

“(B) the difficulties in identifying the special needs and barriers to participation and achievement of such children and youth;

“(C) any progress made by the State educational agency and local educational agencies in the State in addressing such problems and difficulties; and

“(D) the success of the programs under this title in identifying homeless children and youth and allowing homeless children and youth to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school; and

“(2) develop and carry out the State plan described in subsection (g);

“(3) collect data for and transmit to the Secretary, at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may require, reports containing such information as the Secretary determines is necessary to assess the educational needs of homeless children and youth within the State including data requested pursuant to section 724(h);

“(4) improve the provision of comprehensive education and related support services to homeless children and youth and their families, and to minimize educational disruption, through coordination of activities and collaboration with—

“(A) educators, including teachers, administrators, specialized instructional support personnel, and child development and preschool program personnel;

“(B) providers of services to homeless children and youth and homeless families, public and private child welfare and social service agencies, law enforcement agencies, juvenile and family courts, agencies providing mental health services, domestic violence agencies, child care providers, runaway and homeless youth centers, and providers of services and programs funded under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.);

“(C) providers of emergency, transitional, and permanent housing to homeless children and youth, and their families, including public housing agencies, shelter operators, operators of transitional housing facilities, and providers of transitional living programs for homeless youth;

“(D) local educational agency liaisons designated under subsection (g)(1)(J)(ii) for homeless children and youths; and

“(E) community organizations and groups representing homeless children and youth and their families; and

“(5) provide professional development and technical assistance to and conduct monitoring of local educational agencies, in coordination with local educational agency liaisons designated under subsection (g)(1)(J)(ii), to ensure that local educational agencies comply with the requirements of paragraphs (3) through (8) of subsection (g), and subsection (e)(3); and

“(g) STATE PLAN.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each State shall submit to the Secretary and implement a plan to provide for the education of homeless children and youth within the State. Such plan shall include the following:

“(A) A description of how such children and youth are (or will be) given the opportunity

“(i) to meet the same challenging State academic achievement standards all students are expected to meet; and

“(ii) to become college and career ready.

“(B) A description of the procedures the State educational agency will use, in coordination with local educational agencies, to identify such children and youths in the State and to assess their needs.

“(C) A description of procedures for the prompt resolution of disputes arising under this title, which shall—

“(i) be developed in coordination and collaboration with the liaisons designated under subparagraph (J)(ii);

“(ii) be readily available and provided in a written format and, to the extent practicable, in a manner and form understandable to the parents and guardians of homeless children and youth;

“(iii) take into account the educational best interest of the homeless child or youth, or unaccompanied youth, involved; and

“(iv) ensure that parents and guardians of homeless children and youth, and unaccompanied youth, who have exhausted the procedures available under this paragraph are able to appeal to the State educational agency, and are enrolled in school pursuant to paragraph (4)(C) and receive transportation pursuant to subparagraph (J)(iii) pending final resolution of the dispute.

“(D) A description of programs for school personnel (including the liaisons, principals, attendance officers, teachers, enrollment personnel, and specialized instructional support personnel) to increase the awareness of such personnel of the specific needs of homeless adolescents, including runaway and homeless youth.

“(E) A description of procedures that ensure that homeless children and youth are able to participate in Federal, State, or local nutrition programs.

“(F) A description of procedures that ensure that—

“(i) homeless children have access to public preschool programs, administered by the State educational agency or local educational agency, including through the policies and practices required under paragraph (3);

“(ii) homeless youths and youth separated from the public schools, are identified and

accorded equal access to appropriate and available secondary education and support services, including receiving appropriate credit for full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed while attending a prior school, and for work completed after their enrollment in a new school, consistent with State graduation requirements and accreditation standards; and

“(iii) homeless children and youth who meet the relevant eligibility criteria are able to participate in Federal, State, or local educational programs, such as

“(I) innovative school models, including charter schools, magnet schools, and blended learning schools;

“(II) expanded learning time and out-of-school time programs, including before- and after-school programs and summer schools;

“(III) middle and secondary school enrichment programs, including career and technical education, advanced placement, international baccalaureate, and dual enrollment courses;

“(IV) online learning opportunities, including virtual schools; and

“(V) relevant workforce investment programs.

“(G) Strategies to address problems identified in the reports provided to the Secretary under subsection (f)(3).

“(H) Strategies to address other problems with respect to the education of homeless children and youth, including enrollment problems related to—

“(i) immunization and other required health records and screenings;

“(ii) residency requirements;

“(iii) lack of birth certificates, school records, or other documentation;

“(iv) guardianship issues; or

“(v) uniform or dress code requirements.

“(I) A demonstration that the State educational agency and local educational agencies and schools in the State have developed, and shall review and revise, their policies and practices to remove barriers to the identification, enrollment, attendance, retention, and success of homeless children and youth in schools, including early childhood education programs, in the State.

“(J) Assurances that the following will be carried out—

“(i) the State educational agency and local educational agencies in the State will adopt policies and practices to ensure that homeless children and youth are not stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless;

“(ii) local educational agencies will designate an appropriate staff person as the local educational agency liaison for homeless children and youth, who shall have sufficient training and time to carry out the duties described in paragraph (7)(A), and who may also be a coordinator for other Federal programs.

“(iii) the State and local educational agencies in the State will adopt policies and practices to ensure that transportation is provided at the request of the parent or guardian involved (or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the liaison), to and from the school of origin for as long as the student has the right to attend the school of origin as determined in paragraph (4)(A), in accordance with the following, where applicable:

“(I) If the child or youth continues to live in the area served by the local educational agency for the school of origin, the child's or youth's transportation to and from the school of origin shall be provided or arranged by the local educational agency for the school of origin.

“(II) If the child's or youth's living arrangements in the area served by the local educational agency of origin terminate and the child or youth, though continuing the child's or youth's education in the school of origin, begins living in an area served by another local educational agency, the local educational agency of origin and the local educational agency for the area in which the child or youth is living shall agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and cost for providing transportation to and from the school of origin. If the local educational agencies are unable to agree upon such method, the responsibility and costs for transportation shall be shared equally between the agencies.

“(iv) The State educational agency and local educational agencies will adopt policies and practices to promote school success for homeless children and youth, including access to full participation in academic and extracurricular activities that are made available to non-homeless students.

“(2) COMPLIANCE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each plan adopted under this subsection shall also describe how the State will ensure that local educational agencies in the State will comply with the requirements of paragraphs (3) through (8).

“(B) COORDINATION.—Such plan shall indicate what technical assistance the State will furnish to local educational agencies and how compliance efforts will be coordinated with the local educational agency liaisons designated under paragraph (1)(J)(ii).

“(3) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY REQUIREMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The local educational agency serving each child or youth to be assisted under this title shall, according to the child's or youth's best interest—

“(i) continue the child's or youth's education in the school of origin for the duration of homelessness—

“(I) in any case in which the child or youth becomes a homeless child or youth between academic years or during an academic year; or

“(II) for the remainder of the academic year, if the child or youth becomes permanently housed during an academic year; or

“(ii) enroll the child or youth in any public school that nonhomeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend.

“(B) BEST INTEREST.—In determining the best interest of the child or youth under subparagraph (A), the local educational agency shall—

“(i) presume that keeping a homeless child or youth in the school of origin is in the child's or youth's best interest, except when doing so is contrary to the wishes of the child's or youth's parent or guardian;

“(ii) consider student-centered factors related to the child's or youth's best interest, including factors related to the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety of homeless children and youth, giving priority to the wishes of the homeless child's or youth's parent or guardian or the unaccompanied youth involved;

“(iii) if, after conducting the best interest determination described in clause (ii), the local educational agency determines that it is not in the child's or youth's best interest to attend the school of origin or the school requested by the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth, provide, in coordination with the local educational agency liaison, the homeless child's or youth's parent or guardian or the unaccompanied youth, with

a written explanation in a manner or form understandable to such parent, guardian, or youth, to the extent practicable, including a statement regarding the right to appeal under subparagraph (E);

“(iv) in the case of an unaccompanied youth, ensure that the homeless liaison designated under paragraph (1)(J)(ii) assists in placement or enrollment decisions under this subparagraph, gives priority to the views of such unaccompanied youth, and provides notice to such youth of the right to appeal under subparagraph (E); and

“(v) provide transportation pursuant to paragraphs (1)(J)(iii) and (5).

“(C) ENROLLMENT.—

“(i) ENROLLMENT.—The school selected in accordance with this paragraph shall immediately enroll the homeless child or youth, even if the child or youth—

“(I) is unable to produce records traditionally required for enrollment, including previous academic records, health records, proof of residency or guardianship, or other documentation;

“(II) has unpaid fines or fees from prior schools or is unable to pay fees in the school selected; or

“(III) has missed application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness.

“(ii) CONTACTING SCHOOL LAST ATTENDED.—The enrolling school shall immediately contact the school last attended by the child or youth to obtain relevant academic and other records.

“(iii) RELEVANT HEALTH RECORDS.—If the child or youth needs to obtain immunizations or other required health records, the enrolling school shall immediately enroll the child or youth and immediately refer the parent or guardian of the child or youth, or the unaccompanied youth, to the local educational agency liaison designated under paragraph (1)(J)(ii), who shall assist in obtaining necessary immunizations or screenings or other required health records, in accordance with subparagraph (D).

“(iv) NO LIABILITY.—Whenever the school selected enrolls an unaccompanied youth in accordance with this paragraph, no liability shall be imposed upon the school by reason of enrolling the youth without parent or guardian consent.

“(D) RECORDS.—Any record ordinarily kept by the school, including immunization or medical records, academic records, birth certificates, guardianship records, and evaluations for special services or programs, regarding each homeless child or youth shall be maintained—

“(i) so that the records involved are available when a child or youth enters a new school or school district, even if the child or youth owes fees or fines or did not withdraw from the previous school in conformance with local withdrawal procedures; and

“(ii) in a manner consistent with section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g).

“(E) DISPUTES.—If a dispute arises over eligibility, enrollment, school selection or service in a public school or public preschool, or any other issue relating to services under this title—

“(i) in the case of a dispute relating to eligibility for enrollment or school selection, the child or youth shall be immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought, pending final resolution of the dispute including all available appeals;

“(ii) the parent or guardian of the child or youth shall be provided with a written explanation of the school's decision regarding eligibility for enrollment, school selection, or

services, made by the school or the local educational agency, which shall include information about the right to appeal the decision;

“(iii) the child, youth, parent, or guardian shall be referred to the local educational agency liaison designated under paragraph (1)(J)(ii), who shall carry out the dispute resolution process as described in paragraph (1)(C) as expeditiously as possible after receiving notice of such dispute; and

“(iv) in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the liaison shall ensure that the youth is immediately enrolled in the school in which the youth seeks enrollment, pending resolution of such dispute.

“(F) PLACEMENT CHOICE.—The choice regarding placement shall be made regardless of whether the child or youth involved lives with the homeless parents or has been temporarily placed elsewhere.

“(G) SCHOOL OF ORIGIN DEFINED.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In this paragraph, the term ‘school of origin’ means the school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled.

“(ii) RECEIVING SCHOOL.—When a child or youth completes the final grade level served by the school of origin, as described in clause (i), the term ‘school of origin’ shall include the designated receiving school at the next grade level for the feeder school that the child or youth attended.

“(H) CONTACT INFORMATION.—Nothing in this title shall prohibit a local educational agency from requiring a parent or guardian of a homeless child to submit contact information.

“(I) PRIVACY.—Information about a homeless child's or youth's living situation shall be treated as a student education record under section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g) and shall not be released to housing providers, employers, law enforcement personnel, or other persons or agencies not authorized to have such information under section 99.31 of title 34, Code of Federal Regulations, paying particular attention to preventing disruption of the living situation of the child or youth and to supporting the safety of such children and youth who are survivors of domestic violence and unaccompanied youth.

“(J) ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT.—The school selected in accordance with this paragraph shall ensure that homeless children and youth have opportunities to meet the same college and career ready State student academic achievement standards to which other students are held, including implementing the policies and practices required by paragraph (1)(J)(iv).

“(4) COMPARABLE SERVICES.—In addition to receiving services provided for homeless children and youth under this title or other Federal, State, or local laws, regulations, policies, or practices, each homeless child or youth to be assisted under this title shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school selected under paragraph (4), including the following:

“(A) Transportation services.

“(B) Educational services for which the child or youth meets the eligibility criteria, such as services provided under title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), similar State or local programs, charter schools, magnet schools, educational programs for children with disabilities, and educational programs for students with limited English proficiency.

“(C) Programs in vocational and technical education.

“(D) Programs for gifted and talented students.

“(E) School nutrition programs.

“(F) Health and counseling services, as appropriate.

“(5) COORDINATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each local educational agency shall coordinate—

“(i) the provision of services under this title with the services of local social services agencies and other agencies or entities providing services to homeless children and youth and their families, including services and programs funded under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.); and

“(ii) transportation, transfer of school records, and other interdistrict activities, with other local educational agencies.

“(B) HOUSING ASSISTANCE.—Each State educational agency and local educational agency that receives assistance under this title shall coordinate, if applicable, with State and local housing agencies responsible for developing the comprehensive housing affordability strategy described in section 105 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12705) to minimize educational disruption for children and youth who become homeless.

“(C) COORDINATION PURPOSE.—The coordination required under subparagraphs (A) and (B) shall be designed to—

“(i) ensure that all homeless children and youth are identified within a reasonable time frame;

“(ii) ensure that all homeless children and youth have access to and are in reasonable proximity to available education and related support services; and

“(iii) raise the awareness of school personnel and service providers of the effects of short-term stays in a shelter and other challenges associated with homelessness.

“(D) HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTHS WITH DISABILITIES.—For children and youth who are to be assisted both under this title, and under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) or section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), each local educational agency shall coordinate the provision of services under this title with the provision of programs for children with disabilities served by such local educational agency and other involved local educational agencies.

“(6) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY LIAISON.—

“(A) DUTIES.—Each local educational agency liaison for homeless children and youth, designated under paragraph (1)(J)(ii), shall ensure that—

“(i) all homeless children and youths are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies;

“(ii) homeless children and youth are enrolled in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, schools of that local educational agency;

“(iii) homeless families, children, and youth have access to educational services for which such families, children, and youth are eligible, including services through Head Start, Early Head Start, early intervention, and Even Start programs, and preschool programs;

“(iv) homeless families, and homeless children and youth, receive referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health and substance abuse services, housing services, and other appropriate services;

“(v) homeless children and youth are certified as eligible for free meals offered under the Richard B. Russell National School

Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.), without further application;

“(vi) the parents or guardians of homeless children and youth are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children, including early learning opportunities, and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children;

“(vii) public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youth is incorporated into documents related to residency requirements or enrollment, provided upon school enrollment and withdrawal, posted on the local educational agency’s website, and disseminated in locations frequented by parents and guardians of homeless children and youth and unaccompanied youth, including schools, shelters, public libraries, and soup kitchens in a manner and form understandable to parents and guardians of homeless children and youth and unaccompanied youth;

“(viii) disputes are resolved in accordance with paragraph (3)(E);

“(ix) the parent or guardian of a homeless child or youth, or any unaccompanied youth, is fully informed of all transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin, as described in paragraph (1)(J)(iii), and is assisted in accessing transportation to the school that is selected under paragraph (4)(A).

“(x) school personnel are adequately prepared to implement this title and receive professional development, resource materials, technical assistance, and other support; and

“(xi) unaccompanied youth—

“(I) are enrolled in school;

“(II) have opportunities to meet the same college and career ready State student academic achievement standards to which other students are held, including through implementation of the policies and practices required by subparagraphs (F)(ii) and (J)(iv) of paragraph (1); and

“(III) are informed of their status as independent students under section 480 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087vv), including through school counselors that have received professional development about unaccompanied youth, and receive verification of such status for purposes of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid described in section 483 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1090).

“(B) NOTICE.—State coordinators appointed under subsection (d)(2) and local educational agencies shall inform school personnel, service providers, and advocates working with homeless families and homeless children and youth of the contact information and duties of the local educational agency liaisons, including publishing an annually updated list of the liaisons working in the State on the State educational agency’s website.

“(C) LOCAL AND STATE COORDINATION.—the local educational agency liaisons shall, as a part of their duties, coordinate and collaborate with State coordinators and community and school personnel responsible for the provision of education and related support services to homeless children and youth. Such coordination shall include collecting and providing to the State Coordinator the reliable, valid, and comprehensive data needed to meet the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (3) of subsection (f).

“(D) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.—The local educational agency liaisons shall participate in the professional development and

other technical assistance activities provided by the State Coordinator pursuant to subsection (f)(5).

“(h) EMERGENCY DISASTER GRANTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make emergency disaster grants to eligible local educational agencies and eligible States described in paragraph (2), in order to increase the capacity for such local educational agencies and States to respond to major disasters.

“(2) ELIGIBILITY; APPLICATION.—

“(A) ELIGIBILITY.—

“(i) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY ELIGIBILITY.—A local educational agency shall be eligible to receive an emergency disaster grant under this subsection, based on demonstrated need, if such local educational agency’s enrollment of homeless children and youth has increased as a result of a hurricane, flood, or other natural disaster for which the President declared a major disaster under title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170 et seq.).

“(ii) STATE ELIGIBILITY.—A State, through the Office of the Coordinator for Education of Homeless Children and Youths in the State educational agency, shall be eligible to receive an emergency disaster grant under this subsection if there are 1 or more eligible local educational agencies, as described in clause (i), located within the State.

“(B) APPLICATION.—In order for an eligible State or an eligible local educational agency to receive a grant under this subsection, the State educational agency, in consultation with other relevant State agencies, or local educational agency shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing or accompanied by such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

“(3) DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS.—The Secretary shall distribute emergency disaster grant funds—

“(A) based on demonstrated need, to State educational agencies or local educational agencies for local educational agencies whose enrollment of homeless children and youths has increased as a result of a hurricane, flood, or other natural disaster for which the President has declared a major disaster under title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170 et seq.);

“(B) expeditiously, and in no case later than 75 days after such funds are appropriated to the Secretary; and

“(C) in a manner that enables local educational agencies to use such funds for the immediate needs of disaster response and ongoing disaster recovery.

“(4) AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—The Secretary shall distribute grants under this subsection in amounts determined by the Secretary and related to the increase in enrollment of homeless children and youths as a result of such major disaster.

“(5) USES OF FUNDS.—A local educational agency or State educational agency that receives an emergency disaster grant under this subsection shall use the grant funds to carry out the activities described in section 723(d).

“SEC. 723. LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY SUBGRANTS FOR THE EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH.

“(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The State educational agency shall, in accordance with section 722(e), and from amounts made available to such agency under section 727, make subgrants to local educational agencies for the

purpose of facilitating the identification, enrollment, attendance, and success in school of homeless children and youth.

“(2) SERVICES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Services under paragraph (1)—

“(i) may be provided through programs on school grounds or at other facilities; and

“(ii) shall, to the maximum extent practicable, be provided through existing programs and mechanisms that integrate homeless children and youth with nonhomeless children and youth.

“(B) SERVICES ON SCHOOL GROUNDS.—If services under paragraph (1) are provided to homeless children and youth on school grounds, the schools involved may use funds under this subtitle to provide the same services to other children and youth who are determined by the local educational agency serving the school to be at risk of failing in, or dropping out of, school.

“(3) REQUIREMENT.—Services provided under this section shall not replace the regular academic program and shall be designed to expand upon or improve services provided as part of the school’s regular academic program.

“(4) DURATION OF GRANTS.—Subgrants under this section shall be for terms not to exceed 3 years.

“(b) APPLICATION.—A local educational agency that desires to receive a subgrant under this section shall submit an application to the State educational agency at such time, in such manner, and containing or accompanied by such information as the State educational agency may reasonably require. Such application shall include the following:

“(1) An assessment of the educational and related needs of homeless children and youth in the area served by such agency (which may be undertaken as part of a needs assessment for other disadvantaged group).

“(2) A description of the services and programs for which assistance is sought to address the needs identified in paragraph (1).

“(3) An assurance that the local educational agency’s combined fiscal effort per student, or the aggregate expenditures of that agency and the State with respect to the provision of free public education by such agency for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which the subgrant determination is made, was not less than 90 percent of such combined fiscal effort or aggregate expenditures for the second fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which the determination is made.

“(4) An assurance that the applicant complies with, or will use requested funds to comply with, paragraphs (3) through (7) of section 722(g).

“(5) A description of policies and procedures that the agency will implement to ensure that activities carried out by the agency will not isolate or stigmatize homeless children and youth.

“(6) An assurance that the local educational agency will collect and promptly provide data requested by the State Coordinator pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (3) of section 722(f).

“(7) An assurance that the local educational agency has removed the policies and practices that have created barriers to the identification, enrollment, attendance, retention, and success in school of all homeless children and youth.

“(c) AWARDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The State educational agency shall, in accordance with the requirements of this subtitle and from amounts made available to it under section 722(a),

make subgrants on a competitive basis to local educational agencies that submit applications under subsection (b). Such subgrants shall be awarded on the basis of the need of such agencies under this subtitle and the quality of the applications submitted.

“(2) NEED.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In determining need under paragraph (1), the State educational agency may consider the number of homeless children and youth enrolled in preschool, elementary schools, and secondary schools within the area served by the local educational agency, and shall consider the needs of such children and youth and the ability of the local educational agency to meet such needs.

“(B) OTHER CONSIDERATIONS.—The State educational agency may also consider the following:

“(i) The extent to which the proposed use of funds will facilitate the identification, enrollment, retention, and educational success of homeless children and youth.

“(ii) The extent to which the application reflects coordination with other local and State agencies that serve homeless children and youth.

“(iii) The extent to which the application reflects coordination with other local and State agencies that serve homeless children and youth.

“(iv) The extent to which the applicant exhibits in the application and in current practice (as of the date of submission of the application) a commitment to education for all homeless children and youth.

“(v) Such other criteria as the State agency determines to be appropriate.

“(3) QUALITY.—In determining the quality of applications under paragraph (1), the State educational agency shall consider the following:

“(A) The applicant's needs assessment under subsection (b)(1) and the likelihood that the program presented in the application will meet such needs.

“(B) The types, intensity, and coordination of the services to be provided under the program.

“(C) The extent to which the applicant will promote meaningful involvement of parents or guardians of homeless children or youth in the education of their children.

“(D) The extent to which homeless children and youths will be integrated into the regular education program involved.

“(E) The quality of the applicant's evaluation plan for the program.

“(F) The extent to which services provided under this subtitle will be coordinated with other services available to homeless children and youth and their families, including housing and social services and services provided under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), and similar State and local programs.

“(G) The extent to which the local educational agency will use the subgrant to leverage resources, including by maximizing funding for the position of the liaison described in section 722(g)(1)(J)(ii) and the provision of transportation.

“(H) The local educational agency's use of funds to serve homeless children and youth under section 1113(c)(3) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6313(c)(3)).

“(I) The extent to which the applicant's program meets such other measures as the State educational agency considers to be indicative of a high-quality program, including

the extent to which the local educational agency will provide services to unaccompanied youth and preschool-aged children.

“(J) The extent to which the application describes how the applicant will meet the requirements of section 722(g)(4).

“(d) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—A local educational agency may use funds awarded under this section for activities that carry out the purpose of this subtitle, including the following:

“(1) The provision of tutoring, supplemental instruction, and enriched educational services that are linked to the achievement of the same college and career ready State academic content standards and college and career ready State student academic achievement standards the State establishes for other children and youths.

“(2) The provision of expedited evaluations of the strengths, needs, and eligibility of homeless children and youth, including needs and eligibility for programs and services (including educational programs for gifted and talented students, children with disabilities, and students with limited English proficiency, charter school programs, magnet school programs, programs in career and technical education, and school nutrition programs).

“(3) Professional development and other activities for educators and specialized instructional support personnel that are designed to heighten the understanding and sensitivity of such educators and personnel to the needs of homeless children and youth, the rights of such children and youth under this subtitle, and the specific educational needs of runaway and homeless youth.

“(4) The provision of referral services to homeless children and youths for medical, dental, mental, and other health services.

“(5) The provision of assistance to defray the excess cost of transportation under paragraphs (1)(J)(iii) and (5)(A) of section 722(g) not otherwise provided through Federal, State, or local funding.

“(6) The provision of developmentally appropriate early childhood education programs, not otherwise provided through Federal, State, or local funding.

“(7) The provision of services and assistance to attract, engage, and retain homeless children and youth, particularly homeless children and youth who are not enrolled in school, in public school programs and services provided to nonhomeless children and youths.

“(8) The provision for homeless children and youths of before- and after-school, mentoring, and summer programs in which a teacher or other qualified individual provides tutoring, homework assistance, and supervision of educational activities.

“(9) If necessary, the payment of fees and other costs associated with tracking, obtaining, and transferring records necessary to facilitate the appropriate placement of homeless children and youths in school, including birth certificates, immunization or medical records, academic records, guardianship records, and evaluations for special programs or services.

“(10) The provision of education and training to the parents of homeless children and youths about the rights of, and resources available to, such children and youth, and other activities designed to increase the meaningful involvement of families of homeless children or youth in the education of their children.

“(11) The development of coordination of activities between schools and agencies providing services to homeless children and youths, as described in section 722(g)(6).

“(12) The provision of pupil services (including counseling) and referrals for such services.

“(13) Activities to address the particular needs of homeless children and youth that may arise from domestic violence and parental mental health or substance abuse problems.

“(14) The adaptation of space and purchase of supplies for any nonschool facilities made available under subsection (a)(2) to provide services under this subsection.

“(15) The provision of school supplies, including those supplies to be distributed at shelters or temporary housing facilities, or other appropriate locations.

“(16) The provision of assistance to defray the cost of the position of liaison designated pursuant to section 722(g)(1)(J)(ii), not otherwise provided through Federal, State, or local funding.

“(17) The provision of other extraordinary or emergency assistance needed to enable homeless children and youth to enroll, attend, and succeed in school, including in early childhood education programs.

“SEC. 724. SECRETARIAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

“(a) REVIEW OF STATE PLANS.—In reviewing the State plan submitted by a State educational agency under section 722(g), the Secretary shall use a peer review process and shall evaluate whether State laws, policies, and practices described in such plan adequately address the problems of all homeless children and youth relating to access to education and placement as described in such plan.

“(b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall—

“(1) provide support and technical assistance to a State educational agency to assist such agencies in carrying out their responsibilities under this subtitle; and

“(2) establish or designate a Federal Office of the Coordinator for Education of Homeless Children and Youths that has sufficient capacity, resources, and support to carry out the responsibilities described in this subtitle.

“(c) NOTICE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, before the next school year that begins after the date of enactment of the Student Success Act, develop and disseminate a public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youth. The notice shall include information regarding the definition of homeless children and youth in section 726.

“(2) DISSEMINATION.—The Secretary shall disseminate the notice nationally. The Secretary also shall disseminate such notice to heads of other Department of Education offices, including those responsible for special education programs, higher education, and programs under parts A, B, C, D, G, and H of title I, title III, title IV, and part B of title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq., 6361 et seq., 6391 et seq., 6421 et seq., 6531 et seq., 6551 et seq., 6801 et seq., 7102 et seq., and 7221 et seq.). The Secretary shall also disseminate such notice to heads of other Federal agencies, and grant recipients and other entities carrying out federally funded programs, including Head Start programs, grant recipients under the Health Care for the Homeless program of the Health Resources and Services Administration of the Department of Health and Human Services, grant recipients under the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, grant recipients under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.), grant recipients under the John H. Chafee Foster

Care Independence program, grant recipients under homeless assistance programs administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and recipients of Federal funding for programs carried out by the Administration on Children, Youth and Families of the Department of Health and Human Services.

“(d) EVALUATION AND DISSEMINATION.—The Secretary shall conduct evaluation, dissemination, and technical assistance activities of programs designed to meet the educational needs of homeless preschool, elementary school, and secondary school students, and may use funds appropriated under section 727 to conduct such activities.

“(e) SUBMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary shall require applications for grants under section 722 to be submitted to the Secretary not later than the expiration of the 120-day period beginning on the date that funds are available for purposes of making such grants and shall make such grants not later than the expiration of the 180-day period beginning on such date.

“(f) DETERMINATION BY SECRETARY.—The Secretary, based on the information received from the States and information gathered by the Secretary under subsection (h), shall determine the extent to which State educational agencies are ensuring that each homeless child and homeless youth has access to a free appropriate public education, as described in section 721(1). The Secretary shall provide support and technical assistance to State educational agencies in areas in which barriers to a free appropriate public education persist.

“(g) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall develop, issue, and publish in the Federal Register, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Student Success Act, a summary of the changes enacted by that Act and related strategies, which summary shall include—

“(1) strategies by which a State can assist local educational agencies to implement the provisions amended by the Act;

“(2) strategies by which a State can review and revise State policies and procedures that may present barriers to the identification, enrollment, attendance, and success of homeless children and youth in school; and

“(3) strategies by which entities carrying out preschool programs can implement requirements of section 722(g)(3).

“(h) INFORMATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—From funds appropriated under section 727, the Secretary shall, directly or through grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements, periodically, but not less frequently than every two years, collect and disseminate publicly data and information regarding—

“(A) the number and location of homeless children and youth;

“(B) the education and related support services such children and youth receive;

“(C) the extent to which the needs of homeless children and youth are being met;

“(D) the academic progress being made by homeless children and youth, including the percent or number of homeless children and youth participating in State assessments; and

“(E) such other data and information as the Secretary determines to be necessary and relevant to carry out this subtitle.

“(2) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordinate such collection and dissemination with other agencies and entities that receive assistance and administer programs under this subtitle.

“(i) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of the Student Suc-

cess Act, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the President and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report on the status of education of homeless children and youths, which shall include information on—

“(1) the education of homeless children and youth; and

“(2) the actions of the Secretary and the effectiveness of the programs supported under this subtitle.

“SEC. 725. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

“Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to diminish the rights of parents or guardians of homeless children or youth, or unaccompanied youth, otherwise provided under State law, policy, or practice, including laws or policies that authorize the best interest determination in section 722(g)(3) to be made solely by the parent, guardian, or youth involved.

“SEC. 726. DEFINITIONS.

“In this subtitle:

“(1) ENROLL; ENROLLMENT.—The terms ‘enroll’ and ‘enrollment’ include attending classes and participating fully in school activities.

“(2) HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH.—The term ‘homeless children and youth’—

“(A) means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (within the meaning of section 103(a)(1));

“(B) includes—

“(i) children and youth who—

“(I) are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;

“(II) are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;

“(III) are living in emergency or transitional shelters;

“(IV) subject to subparagraph (C), are awaiting foster care placement; and

“(V) are abandoned in hospitals;

“(ii) children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (within the meaning of section 103(a)(2)(C));

“(iii) children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and

“(iv) migratory children (as such term is defined in section 1312 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii); and

“(C) 1 year after the date of enactment of the Student Success Act, shall not include the children and youth described in subparagraph (B)(i)(IV).

“(3) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY; STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The terms ‘local educational agency’ and ‘State educational agency’ have the meanings given such terms in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

“(4) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Education.

“(5) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

“(6) UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH.—The term ‘unaccompanied youth’ means a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian.

“SEC. 727. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of carrying out this subtitle, other than section 725, there are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2016 and such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2022.

“(b) EMERGENCY DISASTER GRANTS.—In addition to sums authorized under subsection (a), there are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out subsection (h) such additional sums as may be necessary.”.

TITLE XI—PREKINDERGARTEN ACCESS

Subtitle A—Access to Voluntary Prekindergarten for Low- and Moderate-Income Families

SEC. 1111. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this subtitle are to—

(1) establish a Federal-State partnership to provide access to high-quality public prekindergarten programs for all children from low-income and moderate-income families to ensure that they enter kindergarten prepared for success;

(2) broaden participation in such programs to include children from additional middle-class families; and

(3) promote access to high-quality kindergarten, and high-quality early childhood education programs and settings for children.

SEC. 1112. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) CHILD WITH A DISABILITY.—The term “child with a disability” has the meaning given the term in section 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401).

(2) COMPREHENSIVE EARLY LEARNING ASSESSMENT SYSTEM.—The term “comprehensive early learning assessment system”—

(A) means a coordinated and comprehensive system of multiple assessments, each of which is valid and reliable for its specified purpose and for the population with which it will be used, that—

(i) organizes information about the process and context of young children’s learning and development to help early childhood educators make informed instructional and programmatic decisions; and

(ii) conforms to the recommendations of the National Research Council reports on early childhood; and

(B) includes, at a minimum—

(i) child screening measures to identify children who may need follow-up services to address developmental, learning, or health needs in, at a minimum, areas of physical health, behavioral health, oral health, child development, vision, and hearing;

(ii) child formative assessments;

(iii) measures of environmental quality; and

(iv) measures of the quality of adult-child interactions.

(3) DUAL LANGUAGE LEARNER.—The term “dual language learner” means an individual who is limited English proficient.

(4) EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM.—The term “early childhood education program” has the meaning given the term under section 103 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1003).

(5) ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.—The term “elementary school” has the meaning given the term in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(6) ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION DATE.—The term “eligibility determination date” means the date used to determine eligibility for public elementary school in the community

in which the eligible local entity involved is located.

(7) **ELIGIBLE LOCAL ENTITY.**—The term “eligible local entity” means—

(A) a local educational agency, including a charter school or a charter management organization that acts as a local educational agency, or an educational service agency in partnership with a local educational agency—

(i) that has met the requirement described in section 1112(9)(B); or

(ii) whose teachers are in progress of meeting such requirement within two years;

(B) an entity (including a Head Start program or licensed child care setting) that carries out, administers, or supports an early childhood education program and—

(i) that has met the requirement described in section 1112(9)(B); or

(ii) whose teachers are in progress of meeting such requirement within two years; or

(C) a consortium of entities described in subparagraph (A) or (B).

(8) **FULL-DAY.**—The term “full-day” means a day that is—

(A) equivalent to a full school day at the public elementary schools in a State; and

(B) not less than 5 hours a day.

(9) **HIGH-QUALITY PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM.**—The term “high-quality prekindergarten program” means a prekindergarten program supported by an eligible local entity that includes, at a minimum, the following elements based on nationally recognized standards:

(A) Serves children who—

(i) are age 4 or children who are age 3 or 4, by the eligibility determination date (including children who turn age 5 while attending the program); or

(ii) have attained the legal age for State-funded prekindergarten.

(B) Requires high qualifications for staff, including that teachers meet the requirements of 1 of the following clauses:

(i) The teacher has a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field with coursework that demonstrates competence in early childhood education.

(ii) The teacher—

(I) has a bachelor's degree in any field;

(II) has demonstrated knowledge of early childhood education by passing a State-approved assessment in early childhood education;

(III) while employed as a teacher in the prekindergarten program, is engaged in ongoing professional development in early childhood education for not less than 2 years; and

(IV) not more than 3 years after starting employment as a teacher in the prekindergarten program, enrolls in and completes a State-approved educator preparation program in which the teacher receives training and support in early childhood education.

(iii) The teacher has bachelor's degree with a credential, license, or endorsement that demonstrates competence in early childhood education.

(C) Maintains an evidence-based maximum class size.

(D) Maintains an evidence-based child to instructional staff ratio.

(E) Offers a full-day program.

(F) Provides developmentally appropriate learning environments and evidence-based curricula that are aligned with the State's early learning and development standards described in section 1115(1).

(G) Offers instructional staff salaries comparable to kindergarten through grade 12 teaching staff.

(H) Provides for ongoing monitoring and program evaluation to ensure continuous improvement.

(I) Offers accessible comprehensive services for children that include, at a minimum—

(i) screenings for vision, dental, hearing, health (including mental health), and development (including early literacy and math skill development) and referrals, and assistance obtaining services, when appropriate;

(ii) family engagement opportunities that take into account home language, such as parent conferences (including parent input about their child's development) and support services, such as parent education, home visiting, and family literacy services;

(iii) nutrition services, including nutritious meals and snack options aligned with requirements set by the most recent Child and Adult Care Food Program guidelines promulgated by the Department of Agriculture as well as regular, age-appropriate, nutrition education for children and their families;

(iv) programs coordinated with local educational agencies and entities providing programs authorized under section 619 and part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1419 and 1431 et seq.);

(v) physical activity programs aligned with evidence-based guidelines, such as those recommended by the Institute of Medicine, and which take into account and accommodate children with disabilities;

(vi) additional support services, as appropriate, based on the findings of the needs analysis as described in section 1120; and

(vii) on-site coordination, to the maximum extent feasible.

(J) Provides high-quality professional development for all staff, including regular in-classroom observation for teachers and teacher assistants by individuals trained in such observation and which may include evidence-based coaching.

(K) Meets the education performance standards in effect under section 641A(a)(1)(B) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9836a(a)(1)(B)).

(L) Maintains evidence-based health and safety standards.

(M) Maintains disciplinary policies that do not include expulsion or an extended suspension of participating children, and that include providing appropriate early educational services for participating children who are suspended for a short period of time.

(10) **GOVERNOR.**—The term “Governor” means the chief executive officer of a State.

(11) **HOMELESS CHILD.**—The term “homeless child” means a child or youth described in section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2)).

(12) **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given the term in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).

(13) **INDIAN TRIBE; TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.**—The terms “Indian tribe” and “tribal organization” have the meanings given the terms in 658P of the Child Care and Development Block Grant of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858n).

(14) **LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT.**—The term “limited English proficient” has the meaning given the term in section 637 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9832).

(15) **LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY; STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY; EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY.**—The terms “local educational agency”, “State educational agency”, and “educational service agency” have the meanings given the terms in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(16) **MIGRANT OR SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL LABOR.**—The term “migrant or seasonal agricultural labor” refers to an individual who is engaged in agricultural labor, including those who have changed their residence from one geographic location to another in the proceeding 36 months.

(17) **MIGRATORY CHILD.**—The term “migratory child” has the meaning given the term in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6399).

(18) **OUTLYING AREA.**—The term “outlying area” means each of the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

(19) **POVERTY LINE.**—The term “poverty line” means the official poverty line (as defined by the Office of Management and Budget)—

(A) adjusted to reflect the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor for the most recent 12-month period or other interval for which the data are available; and

(B) applicable to a family of the size involved.

(20) **SECONDARY SCHOOL.**—The term “secondary school” has the meaning given the term in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(21) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Education.

(22) **STATE.**—Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, the term “State” means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and each of the outlying areas.

(23) **STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE.**—The term “State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care” means the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care established under section 642B(b) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9837b(b)).

SEC. 1113. PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION.

From amounts made available to carry out this subtitle, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall award grants to States to implement high-quality prekindergarten programs, consistent with the purposes of this subtitle described in section 1111. For each fiscal year, the funds provided under a grant by a State shall equal the allotment determined for the State under section 1114.

SEC. 1114. ALLOTMENTS AND RESERVATIONS OF FUNDS.

(a) **RESERVATION.**—From the amount made available each fiscal year to carry out this subtitle, the Secretary shall—

(1) reserve not less than 1 percent and not more than 2 percent for payments to Indian tribes and tribal organizations;

(2) reserve $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 percent for the outlying areas to be distributed among the outlying areas on the basis of their relative need, as determined by the Secretary in accordance with the purposes of this subtitle;

(3) reserve $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 percent for eligible local entities that serve children in families who are engaged in migrant or seasonal agricultural labor; and

(4) reserve not more than 1 percent or \$30,000,000, whichever amount is less, for national activities, including administration, technical assistance, and evaluation.

(b) **ALLOTMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—From the amount made available each fiscal year to carry out this subtitle and not reserved under subsection (a), the Secretary shall make allotments to

States in accordance with paragraph (2) that have submitted an approved application.

(2) ALLOTMENT AMOUNT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall allot the amount made available under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year among the States in proportion to the number of children who are age 4 who reside within the State and are from families with incomes at or below 200 percent of the poverty line for the most recent year for which satisfactory data are available, compared to the number of such children who reside in all such States for that fiscal year.

(B) MINIMUM ALLOTMENT AMOUNT.—No State receiving an allotment under subparagraph (A) may receive less than ½ of 1 percent of the total amount allotted under such subparagraph.

(3) REALLOTMENT AND CARRY OVER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If one or more States do not receive an allotment under this subsection for any fiscal year, the Secretary may use the amount of the allotment for that State or States, in such amounts as the Secretary determines appropriate, for either or both of the following:

(i) To increase the allotments of States with approved applications for the fiscal year, consistent with subparagraph (B).

(ii) To carry over the funds to the next fiscal year.

(B) REALLOTMENT.—In increasing allotments under subparagraph (A)(i), the Secretary shall allot to each State with an approved application an amount that bears the same relationship to the total amount to be allotted under subparagraph (A)(i), as the amount the State received under paragraph (2) for that fiscal year bears to the amount that all States received under paragraph (2) for that fiscal year.

(4) STATE.—For purposes of this subsection, the term “State” means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

(c) FLEXIBILITY.—The Secretary may make minimal adjustments to allotments under this subsection, which shall neither lead to a significant increase or decrease in a State's allotment determined under subsection (b), based on a set of factors, such as the level of program participation and the estimated cost of the activities specified in the State plan under section 1116(a)(2).

SEC. 1115. STATE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.

A State is eligible to receive a grant under this subtitle if the State demonstrates to the Secretary that the State—

(1) has established or will establish early learning and development standards that describe what children from birth to kindergarten entry should know and be able to do, are universally designed and developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate, are aligned with the State's challenging academic content standards and challenging student academic achievement standards, as adopted under section 1111(b)(1) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(1)), and cover all of the essential domains of school readiness, which address—

(A) physical well-being and motor development;

(B) social and emotional development;

(C) approaches to learning, including music and the arts;

(D) developmentally appropriate oral and written language and literacy development; and

(E) cognition and general knowledge, including early mathematics and early scientific development;

(2) has the ability or will develop the ability to link prekindergarten data with its elementary school and secondary school data for the purpose of collecting longitudinal information for all children participating in the State's high-quality prekindergarten program and any other Federally-funded early childhood program that will remain with the child through the child's public education through grade 12;

(3) offers State-funded kindergarten for children who are eligible children for that service in the State; and

(4) has established a State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care.

SEC. 1116. STATE APPLICATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under this subtitle, the Governor of a State, in consultation with the Indian tribes and tribal organizations in the State, if any, shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may reasonably require. At a minimum, each such application shall include—

(1) an assurance that the State—

(A) will coordinate with and continue to participate in the programs authorized under section 619 and part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1419 and 1431 et seq.), the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.), and the maternal, infant, and early childhood home visiting programs funded under section 511 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 711) for the duration of the grant;

(B) will designate a State-level entity (such as an agency or joint interagency office), selected by the Governor, for the administration of the grant, which shall coordinate and consult with the State educational agency if the entity is not the State educational agency; and

(C) will establish, or certify the existence of, program standards for all State prekindergarten programs consistent with the definition of a high-quality prekindergarten program under section 1112;

(2) a description of the State's plan to—

(A) use funds received under this subtitle and the State's matching funds to provide high-quality prekindergarten programs, in accordance with section 1117(d), with open enrollment for all children in the State who—

(i) are described in section 1112(9)(A); and

(ii) are from families with incomes at or below 200 percent of the poverty line;

(B) develop or enhance a system for monitoring eligible local entities that are receiving funds under this subtitle for compliance with quality standards developed by the State and to provide program improvement support, which may be accomplished through the use of a State-developed system for quality rating and improvement;

(C) if applicable, expand participation in the State's high-quality prekindergarten programs to children from families with incomes above 200 percent of the poverty line;

(D) carry out the State's comprehensive early learning assessment system, or how the State plans to develop such a system, ensuring that any assessments are culturally, developmentally, and age-appropriate and consistent with the recommendations from the study on Developmental Outcomes and Assessments for Young Children by the National Academy of Sciences, consistent with section 649(j) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9844);

(E) develop, implement, and make publicly available the performance measures and targets described in section 1119;

(F) increase the number of teachers with bachelor's degrees in early childhood education, or with bachelor's degrees in another closely related field and specialized training and demonstrated competency in early childhood education, including how institutions of higher education will support increasing the number of teachers with such degrees and training, including through the use of assessments of prior learning, knowledge, and skills to facilitate and expedite attainment of such degrees;

(G) coordinate and integrate the activities funded under this subtitle with Federal, State, and local services and programs that support early childhood education and care, including programs supported under this subtitle, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.), the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9901 et seq.), the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.), the temporary assistance for needy families program under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), the State incentive grant program under section 14006 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5), Federally funded early literacy programs, the maternal, infant, and early childhood home visiting programs funded under section 511 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 711), health improvements to child care funded under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.), the program under subtitle B of title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.), the Investing In Innovation program under section 14007 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5), programs authorized under part E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 670 et seq.), the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-351), and any other Federal, State, or local early childhood education programs used in the State;

(H) award subgrants to eligible local entities, and in awarding such subgrants, facilitate a delivery system of high-quality prekindergarten programs that includes diverse providers, such as providers in community-based, public school, and private settings, and consider the system's impact on options for families;

(I) in the case of a State that does not have a funding mechanism for subgranting funds to implement high-quality prekindergarten, use objective criteria in awarding subgrants to eligible local entities that will implement high-quality prekindergarten programs, including actions the State will take to ensure that eligible local entities will coordinate with local educational agencies or other early learning providers, as appropriate, to carry out activities to provide children served under this subtitle with a successful transition from preschool into kindergarten, which activities shall include—

(i) aligning curricular objectives and instruction;

(ii) providing staff professional development, including opportunities for joint-professional development on early learning and kindergarten through grade 3 standards, assessments, and curricula;

(iii) coordinating family engagement and support services; and

(iv) encouraging the shared use of facilities and transportation, as appropriate;

(J) use the State early learning and development standards described in section 1115(1)

to address the needs of dual language learners, including by incorporating benchmarks related to English language development;

(K) identify barriers, and propose solutions to overcome such barriers, which may include seeking assistance under section 1126, in the State to effectively use and integrate Federal, State, and local public funds and private funds for early childhood education that are available to the State on the date on which the application is submitted;

(L) support articulation agreements (as defined in section 486A of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1093a)) between public 2-year and public 4-year institutions of higher education and other credit-bearing professional development in the State for early childhood teacher preparation programs and closely related fields;

(M) ensure that the higher education programs in the State have the capacity to prepare a workforce to provide high-quality prekindergarten programs;

(N) support workforce development, including State and local policies that support prekindergarten instructional staff's ability to earn a degree, certification, or other specializations or qualifications, including policies on leave, substitutes, and child care services, including non-traditional hour child care;

(O) hold eligible local entities accountable for use of funds;

(P) ensure that the State's early learning and development standards are integrated into the instructional and programmatic practices of high-quality prekindergarten programs and related programs and services, such as those provided to children under section 619 and part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1419 and 1431 et seq.);

(Q) increase the number of children in the State who are enrolled in high-quality kindergarten programs and carry out a strategy to implement such a plan;

(R) coordinate the State's activities supported by grants under this subtitle with activities in State plans required under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.), the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.), and the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (20 U.S.C. 9201 et seq.);

(S) encourage eligible local entities to coordinate with community-based learning resources, such as libraries, arts and arts education programs, appropriate media programs, family literacy programs, public parks and recreation programs, museums, nutrition education programs, and programs supported by the Corporation for National and Community Service;

(T) work with eligible local entities, in consultation with elementary school principals, to ensure that high-quality prekindergarten programs have sufficient and appropriate facilities to meet the needs of children eligible for prekindergarten;

(U) support local early childhood coordinating entities, such as local early childhood councils, if applicable, and help such entities to coordinate early childhood education programs with high-quality prekindergarten programs to ensure effective and efficient delivery of early childhood education program services;

(V) support shared services administering entities, if applicable;

(W) ensure that the provision of high-quality prekindergarten programs will not lead

to a diminution in the quality or supply of services for infants and toddlers or disrupt the care of infants and toddlers in the geographic area served by the eligible local entity, which may include demonstrating that the State will direct funds to provide high-quality early childhood education and care to infants and toddlers in accordance with section 1117(d); and

(X) ensure that all high-quality prekindergarten programs the State supports under this Act will conduct criminal history background checks that meet the requirements of section 9537 on employees and applicants for employment with unsupervised access to children; and

(3) an inventory of the State's higher education programs that prepare individuals for work in a high-quality prekindergarten program, including—

(A) certification programs;

(B) associate degree programs;

(C) baccalaureate degree programs

(D) masters degree programs; and

(E) other programs that lead to a specialization in early childhood education, or a related field.

(b) DEVELOPMENT OF APPLICATION.—In developing an application for a grant under this subtitle, a State shall consult with the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care and incorporate such Council's recommendations, where applicable.

(c) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter or otherwise affect the rights, remedies, and procedures afforded school employees, local educational agency employees, and the employees of early childhood education programs under Federal, State, or local laws (including applicable regulations or court orders) or under the terms of collective bargaining agreements, memoranda of understanding, or other agreements between such employees and their employers.

SEC. 1117. STATE USE OF FUNDS.

(a) RESERVATION FOR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A State that receives a grant under this subtitle may reserve for, not more than the first 4 years such State receives such a grant, not more than 20 percent of the grant funds for quality improvement activities that support the elements of high-quality prekindergarten programs. Such quality improvement activities may include supporting teachers, center directors, and principals in a State's high-quality prekindergarten program, licensed or regulated child care, or Head Start programs to enable such teachers or directors to earn a baccalaureate degree in early childhood education, or closely-related field, through activities which may include—

(A) expanding or establishing scholarships, counseling, and compensation initiatives to cover the cost of tuition, fees, materials, transportation, and release time for such teachers;

(B) providing ongoing professional development opportunities, including regular in-classroom observation by individuals trained in such observation, for such teachers, directors, principals, and teachers assistants to enable such teachers, directors, principals, and teachers assistants to carry out the elements of high-quality prekindergarten programs, which may include activities that address—

(i) promoting children's development across all of the essential domains of early learning and development;

(ii) developmentally appropriate curricula and teacher-child interaction;

(iii) effective family engagement;

(iv) providing culturally competent instruction;

(v) working with a diversity of children and families, including children with special needs and dual language learners;

(vi) childhood nutrition and physical education programs;

(vii) supporting the implementation of evidence-based curricula;

(viii) social and emotional development; and

(ix) incorporating age-appropriate strategies of positive behavioral interventions and supports; and

(C) providing families with increased opportunities to learn how best to support their children's physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development during the first five years of life.

(2) NOT SUBJECT TO MATCHING.—The amount reserved under paragraph (1) shall not be subject to the matching requirements under section 1120.

(3) COORDINATION.—A State that reserves an amount under paragraph (1) shall coordinate the use of such amount with activities funded under section 658G of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858e) and the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.).

(4) CONSTRUCTION.—A State may not use funds reserved under this subsection to meet the requirement described in section 1112(9)(G).

(b) SUBGRANTS FOR HIGH-QUALITY PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS.—A State that receives a grant under this subtitle shall award subgrants of sufficient size to eligible local entities to enable such eligible local entities to implement high-quality prekindergarten programs for children who—

(1) are described in section 1112(9)(A);

(2) reside within the State; and

(3) are from families with incomes at or below 200 percent of the poverty line.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—A State that receives a grant under this subtitle may reserve not more than 1 percent of the grant funds for administration of the grant, and may use part of that reservation for the maintenance of the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care.

(d) EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE PROGRAMS FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS.—

(1) USE OF ALLOTMENT FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS.—An eligible State may apply to use, and the appropriate Secretary may grant permission for the State to use, not more than 15 percent of the funds made available through a grant received under this subtitle to award subgrants to early childhood education programs to provide, consistent with the State's early learning and development guidelines for infants and toddlers, high-quality early childhood education and care to infants and toddlers who reside within the State and are from families with incomes at or below 200 percent of the poverty line.

(2) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to use the grant funds as described in paragraph (1), the State shall submit an application to the appropriate Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require. Such application shall, at a minimum, include a description of how the State will—

(A) designate a lead agency which shall administer such funds;

(B) ensure that such lead agency, in coordination with the State's Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care, will

collaborate with other agencies in administering programs supported under this subsection for infants and toddlers in order to obtain input about the appropriate use of such funds and ensure coordination with programs for infants and toddlers funded under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.), the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.) (including any Early Learning Quality Partnerships established in the State under section 645B of the Head Start Act, as added by section 202), the Race to the Top and Early Learning Challenge program under section 14006 of Public Law 111-5 (123 Stat. 283), the maternal, infant, and early childhood home visiting programs funded under section 511 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 711), and part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.);

(C) ensure that infants and toddlers who benefit from amounts made available under this subsection will transition to and have the opportunity to participate in a high-quality prekindergarten program supported under this subtitle;

(D) in awarding subgrants, give preference to early childhood education programs that have a plan to increase services to children with special needs, including children with developmental delays or disabilities, children who are dual language learners, homeless children, children who are in foster care, children of migrant families, children eligible for free or reduced-price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.), or children in the child welfare system; and

(E) give priority to activities carried out under this subsection that will increase access to high-quality early childhood education programs for infants and toddlers in local areas with significant concentrations of low-income families that do not currently benefit from such programs.

(3) **ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS.**—A State may use the grant funds as described in paragraph (1) to serve infants and toddlers only by working with early childhood education program providers that—

(A) offer full-day, full-year care, or otherwise meet the needs of working families; and

(B) meet high-quality standards, such as—

(i) Early Head Start program performance standards under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.); or

(ii) high quality, demonstrated, valid, and reliable program standards that have been established through a national entity that accredits early childhood education programs.

(4) **FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Education shall bear responsibility for obligating and disbursing funds to support activities under this subsection and ensuring compliance with applicable laws and administrative requirements, subject to paragraph (3).

(B) **INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT.**—The Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall jointly administer activities supported under this subsection on such terms as such Secretaries shall set forth in an interagency agreement. The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall be responsible for any final approval of a State's application under this subsection that addresses the use of funds designated for services to infants and toddlers.

(C) **APPROPRIATE SECRETARY.**—In this subsection, the term "appropriate Secretary" used with respect to a function, means the Secretary designated for that function under the interagency agreement.

SEC. 1118. ADDITIONAL PREKINDERGARTEN SERVICES.

(a) **PREKINDERGARTEN FOR 3-YEAR OLDS.**—Each State that certifies to the Secretary that the State provides universally available, voluntary, high-quality prekindergarten programs for 4-year old children who reside within the State and are from families with incomes at or below 200 percent of the poverty line may use the State's allocation under section 1114(b) to provide high-quality prekindergarten programs for 3-year old children who reside within the State and are from families with incomes at or below 200 percent of the poverty line.

(b) **SUBGRANTS.**—In each State that has a city, county, or local educational agency that provides universally available high-quality prekindergarten programs for 4-year old children who reside within the State and are from families with incomes at or below 200 percent of the poverty line the State may use amounts from the State's allocation under section 1114(b) to award subgrants to eligible local entities to enable such eligible local entities to provide high-quality prekindergarten programs for 3-year old children who are from families with incomes at or below 200 percent of the poverty line and who reside in such city, county or local educational agency.

SEC. 1119. PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND TARGETS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—A State that receives a grant under this subtitle shall develop, implement, and make publicly available the performance measures and targets for the activities carried out with grant funds. Such measures shall, at a minimum, track the State's progress in—

(1) increasing school readiness across all domains for all categories of children, as described in section 1123(b)(7), including children with disabilities and dual language learners;

(2) narrowing school readiness gaps between minority and nonminority children, and low-income children and more advantaged children, in preparation for kindergarten entry;

(3) decreasing placement for children in elementary school in special education programs and services as described in part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1411 et seq.);

(4) increasing the number of programs meeting the criteria for high-quality prekindergarten programs across all types of local eligible entities, as defined by the State and in accordance with section 1112;

(5) decreasing the need for grade-to-grade retention in elementary school;

(6) if applicable, ensuring that high-quality prekindergarten programs do not experience instances of chronic absence among the children who participate in such programs;

(7) increasing the number and percentage of low-income children in high-quality early childhood education programs that receive financial support through funds provided under this subtitle; and

(8) providing high-quality nutrition services, nutrition education, physical activity, and obesity prevention programs.

(b) **PROHIBITION OF MISDIAGNOSIS PRACTICES.**—A State shall not, in order to meet the performance measures and targets described in subsection (a), engage in practices or policies that will lead to the misdiagnosis or under-diagnosis of disabilities or developmental delays among children who are served through programs supported under this subtitle.

SEC. 1120. MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **MATCHING FUNDS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a State that receives a grant under this subtitle shall provide matching funds from non-Federal sources, as described in subsection (c), in an amount equal to—

(A) 10 percent of the Federal funds provided under the grant in the first year of grant administration;

(B) 10 percent of the Federal funds provided under the grant in the second year of grant administration;

(C) 20 percent of the Federal funds provided under the grant in the third year of grant administration;

(D) 30 percent of the Federal funds provided under the grant in the fourth year of grant administration;

(E) 40 percent of the Federal funds provided under the grant in the fifth year of grant administration;

(F) 50 percent of the Federal funds provided under the grant in the sixth year of grant administration;

(G) 75 percent of the Federal funds provided under the grant in the seventh year of grant administration; and

(H) 100 percent of the Federal funds provided under the grant in the eighth and following years of grant administration.

(2) **REDUCED MATCH RATE.**—A State that meets the requirements under subsection (b) may provide matching funds from non-Federal sources at a reduced rate. The full reduced matching funds rate shall be in an amount equal to—

(A) 5 percent of the Federal funds provided under the grant in the first year of grant administration;

(B) 5 percent of the Federal funds provided under the grant in the second year of grant administration;

(C) 10 percent of the Federal funds provided under the grant in the third year of grant administration;

(D) 20 percent of the Federal funds provided under the grant in the fourth year of grant administration;

(E) 30 percent of the Federal funds provided under the grant in the fifth year of grant administration;

(F) 40 percent of the Federal funds provided under the grant in the sixth year of grant administration;

(G) 50 percent of the Federal funds provided under the grant in the seventh year of grant administration;

(H) 75 percent of the Federal funds provided under the grant in the eighth year of grant administration; and

(I) 100 percent of the Federal funds provided under the grant in the ninth and following years of the grant administration.

(b) **REDUCED MATCH RATE ELIGIBILITY.**—A State that receives a grant under this subtitle may provide matching funds from non-Federal sources at the full reduced rate under subsection (a)(2) if the State—

(1)(A) offers enrollment in high-quality prekindergarten programs to not less than half of children in the State who are—

(i) age 4 on the eligibility determination date; and

(ii) from families with incomes at or below 200 percent of the poverty line; and

(B) has a plan for continuing to expand access to high-quality prekindergarten programs for such children in the State; and

(2) has a plan to expand access to high-quality prekindergarten programs to children from moderate income families whose income exceeds 200 percent of the poverty line.

(c) **NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES.**—

(1) **IN CASH.**—A State shall provide the matching funds under this section in cash

with non-Federal resources which may include State funding, local funding, or contributions from philanthropy or other private sources, or a combination thereof.

(2) FUNDS TO BE CONSIDERED AS MATCHING FUNDS.—A State may include, as part of the State's matching funds under this section, not more than 10 percent of the amount of State funds designated for State prekindergarten programs or to supplement Head Start programs under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.) as of the date of enactment of this Act, but may not include any funds that are attributed as matching funds, as part of a non-Federal share, or as a maintenance of effort requirement, for any other Federal program.

(d) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If a State reduces its combined fiscal effort per student or the aggregate expenditures within the State to support early childhood education programs for any fiscal year that a State receives a grant authorized under this subtitle relative to the previous fiscal year, the Secretary shall reduce support for such State under this subtitle by the same amount as the decline in State and local effort for such fiscal year.

(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the requirements of paragraph (1) if—

(A) the Secretary determines that a waiver would be appropriate due to a precipitous decline in the financial resources of a State as a result of unforeseen economic hardship or a natural disaster that has necessitated across-the-board reductions in State services, including early childhood education programs; or

(B) due to the circumstances of a State requiring reductions in specific programs, including early childhood education, if the State presents to the Secretary a justification and demonstration why other programs could not be reduced and how early childhood programs in the State will not be disproportionately harmed by such State action.

(e) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Grant funds received under this title shall be used to supplement and not supplant other Federal, State, and local public funds expended on public prekindergarten programs in the State.

SEC. 1121. ELIGIBLE LOCAL ENTITY APPLICATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—An eligible local entity desiring to receive a subgrant under section 1117(b) shall submit an application to the State, at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the State may reasonably require.

(b) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT.—A description of how the eligible local entity plans to engage the parents and families of the children such entity serves and ensure that parents and families of eligible children, as described in clauses (i) and (ii) of section 1116(a)(2)(A), are aware of the services provided by the eligible local entity, which shall include a plan to—

(A) carry out meaningful parent and family engagement, through the implementation and replication of evidence-based or promising practices and strategies, which shall be coordinated with parent and family engagement strategies supported under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) and part A of title I and title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq. and 7201 et seq.), if applicable, to—

(i) provide parents and family members with the skills and opportunities necessary to become engaged and effective partners in their children's education, particularly the families of dual language learners and children with disabilities, which may include access to literacy services;

(ii) improve child development; and

(iii) strengthen relationships among prekindergarten staff and parents and family members; and

(B) participate in community outreach to encourage families with eligible children to participate in the eligible local entity's high-quality prekindergarten program, including—

(i) homeless children;

(ii) dual language learners;

(iii) children in foster care;

(iv) children with disabilities; and

(v) migrant children.

(2) COORDINATION & ALIGNMENT.—A description of how the eligible local entity will—

(A) coordinate, if applicable, the eligible local entity's activities with—

(i) Head Start agencies (consistent with section 642(e)(5) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9837(e)(5)), if the local entity is not a Head Start agency;

(ii) local educational agencies, if the eligible local entity is not a local educational agency;

(iii) providers of services under part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.);

(iv) programs carried out under section 619 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1419); and

(v) if feasible, other entities carrying out early childhood education programs and services within the area served by the local educational agency.

(B) develop a process to promote continuity of developmentally appropriate instructional programs and shared expectations with local elementary schools for children's learning and development as children transition to kindergarten;

(C) organize, if feasible, and participate in joint training, when available, including transition-related training for school staff and early childhood education program staff;

(D) establish comprehensive transition policies and procedures, with applicable elementary schools and principals, for the children served by the eligible local entity that support the school readiness of children transitioning to kindergarten, including the transfer of early childhood education program records, with parental consent;

(E) conduct outreach to parents, families, and elementary school teachers and principals to discuss the educational, developmental, and other needs of children entering kindergarten;

(F) help parents, including parents of children who are dual language learners, understand and engage with the instructional and other services provided by the kindergarten in which such child will enroll after participation in a high-quality prekindergarten program; and

(G) develop and implement a system to increase program participation of underserved populations of eligible children, especially homeless children, children eligible for a free or reduced-price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.), parents of children who are dual language learners, and parents of children with disabilities.

(3) PROTECTIONS FOR SPECIAL POPULATIONS.—A description of how the eligible local entity will meet the diverse needs of

children in the community to be served, including children with disabilities, children whose native language is not English, children with other special needs, children in the State foster care system, and homeless children. Such description shall demonstrate, at a minimum, how the entity plans to—

(A) ensure the eligible local entity's high-quality prekindergarten program is accessible and appropriate for children with disabilities and dual language learners;

(B) establish effective procedures for providing necessary early screening for learning issues and delays in early literacy and math skill development and intervening services based on these screenings to children with disabilities prior to an eligibility determination by the State or local agency responsible for providing services under section 619 or part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1419 and 1431 et seq.);

(C) establish effective procedures for timely referral of children with disabilities to the State or local agency described in subparagraph (B);

(D) ensure that the eligible local entity's high-quality prekindergarten program works with appropriate entities to address the elimination of barriers to immediate and continuous enrollment for homeless children; and

(E) ensure access to and continuity of enrollment in high-quality prekindergarten programs for migratory children, if applicable, and homeless children, including through policies and procedures that require—

(i) outreach to identify migratory children and homeless children;

(ii) immediate enrollment, including enrollment during the period of time when documents typically required for enrollment, including health and immunization records, proof of eligibility, and other documents, are obtained;

(iii) continuous enrollment and participation in the same high-quality prekindergarten program for a child, even if the child moves out of the program's service area, if that enrollment and participation are in the child's best interest, including by providing transportation when necessary;

(iv) professional development for high-quality prekindergarten program staff regarding migratory children and homelessness among families with young children; and

(v) in serving homeless children, collaboration with local educational agency liaisons designated under section 722(g)(1)(J)(ii) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11432(g)(1)(J)(ii)), and local homeless service providers.

(4) ACCESSIBLE COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES.—A description of how the eligible local entity plans to provide accessible comprehensive services, described in section 1112(9)(I), to the children the eligible local entity serves. Such description shall provide information on how the entity will—

(A) conduct a data-driven community assessment in coordination with members of the community, including parents and community organizations, or use a recently conducted data-driven assessment, which—

(i) may involve an external partner with expertise in conducting such needs analysis, to determine the most appropriate social or other support services to offer through the eligible local entity's on-site comprehensive services to children who participate in high-quality prekindergarten programs; and

(ii) shall consider the resources available at the school, local educational agency, and

community levels to address the needs of the community and improve child outcomes; and

(B) have a coordinated system to facilitate the screening, referral, and provision of services related to health, nutrition, mental health, disability, and family support for children served by the eligible local entity.

(5) **WORKFORCE.**—A description of how the eligible local entity plans to support the instructional staff of such entity's high-quality prekindergarten program, which shall, at a minimum, include a plan to provide high-quality professional development, or facilitate the provision of high-quality professional development through an external partner with expertise and a demonstrated track record of success, based on scientifically valid research, that will improve the knowledge and skills of high-quality prekindergarten teachers and staff through activities, which may include—

(A) acquiring content knowledge and learning teaching strategies needed to provide effective instruction that addresses the State's early learning and development standards described under section 1115(1), including professional training to support the social and emotional development of children;

(B) enabling high-quality prekindergarten teachers and staff to pursue specialized training in early childhood development;

(C) enabling high-quality prekindergarten teachers and staff to acquire the knowledge and skills to provide instruction and appropriate language and support services to increase the English language skills of dual language learners;

(D) enabling high-quality prekindergarten teachers and staff to acquire the knowledge and skills to provide developmentally appropriate instruction for children with disabilities;

(E) promoting classroom management;

(F) providing high-quality induction and support for incoming high-quality prekindergarten teachers and staff in high-quality prekindergarten programs, including through the use of mentoring programs and coaching that have a demonstrated track record of success;

(G) promoting the acquisition of relevant credentials, including in ways that support career advancement through career ladders; and

(H) enabling high-quality prekindergarten teachers and staff to acquire the knowledge and skills to provide culturally competent instruction for children from diverse backgrounds.

SEC. 1122. REQUIRED SUBGRANT ACTIVITIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—An eligible local entity that receives a subgrant under section 1117(b) shall use subgrant funds to implement the elements of a high-quality prekindergarten program for the children described in section 1117(b).

(b) **COORDINATION.**—

(1) **LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS.**—A local educational agency that receives a subgrant under this subtitle shall provide an assurance that the local educational agency will enter into strong partnerships with local early childhood education programs, including programs supported through the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.).

(2) **ELIGIBLE LOCAL ENTITIES THAT ARE NOT LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.**—An eligible local entity that is not a local educational agency that receives a subgrant under this subtitle shall provide an assurance that such entity will enter into strong partnerships with local educational agencies.

SEC. 1123. REPORT AND EVALUATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Each State that receives a grant under this subtitle shall prepare an annual report, in such manner and containing such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—A report prepared under subsection (a) shall contain, at a minimum—

(1) a description of the manner in which the State has used the funds made available through the grant and a report of the expenditures made with the funds;

(2) a summary of the State's progress toward providing access to high-quality prekindergarten programs for children eligible for such services, as determined by the State, from families with incomes at or below 200 percent of the poverty line, including the percentage of funds spent on children from families with incomes—

(A) at or below 100 percent of the poverty line;

(B) at or below between 101 and 150 percent of the poverty line; and

(C) at or below between 151 and 200 percent of the poverty line;

(3) an evaluation of the State's progress toward achieving the State's performance targets, described in section 1119;

(4) data on the number of high-quality prekindergarten program teachers and staff in the State (including teacher turnover rates and teacher compensation levels compared to teachers in elementary schools and secondary schools), according to the setting in which such teachers and staff work (which settings shall include, at a minimum, Head Start programs, public prekindergarten, and child care programs) who received training or education during the period of the grant and remained in the early childhood education program field;

(5) data on the kindergarten readiness of children in the State;

(6) a description of the State's progress in effectively using Federal, State, and local public funds and private funds, for early childhood education;

(7) the number and percentage of children in the State participating in high-quality prekindergarten programs, disaggregated by race, ethnicity, family income, child age, disability, whether the children are homeless children, and whether the children are dual language learners;

(8) data on the availability, affordability, and quality of infant and toddler care in the State;

(9) the number of operational minutes per week and per year for each eligible local entity that receives a subgrant;

(10) the local educational agency and zip code in which each eligible local entity that receives a subgrant operates;

(11) information, for each of the local educational agencies described in paragraph (10), on the percentage of the costs of the public early childhood education programs that is funded from Federal, from State, and from local sources, including the percentages from specific funding programs;

(12) data on the number and percentage of children in the State participating in public kindergarten programs, disaggregated by race, family income, child age, disability, whether the children are homeless children, and whether the children are dual language learners, with information on whether such programs are offered—

(A) for a full-day; and

(B) at no cost to families;

(13) data on the number of individuals in the State who are supported with scholarships, if applicable, to meet the baccalaureate degree requirement for high-quality prekindergarten programs, as defined in section 1112; and

(14) information on—

(A) the numbers and rates of expulsion, suspension, and similar disciplinary action, of children in the State participating in high-quality prekindergarten programs, provided by any eligible local entity, as defined in section 1112(7) of this title;

(B) the State's progress in establishing policies on effective behavior management strategies and training that promote positive social and emotional development to eliminate expulsions and extended suspensions of children participating in high-quality prekindergarten programs; and

(C) the State's policies on providing early learning services to children in the State participating in high-quality prekindergarten programs who have been suspended.

(c) **SUBMISSION.**—A State shall submit the annual report prepared under subsection (a), at the end of each fiscal year, to the Secretary, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care.

(d) **COOPERATION.**—An eligible local entity that receives a subgrant under this subtitle shall cooperate with all Federal and State efforts to evaluate the effectiveness of the program the entity implements with subgrant funds.

(e) **NATIONAL REPORT.**—The Secretary shall compile and summarize the annual State reports described under subsection (c) and shall prepare and submit an annual report to Congress that includes a summary of such State reports.

SEC. 1124. PROHIBITION OF REQUIRED PARTICIPATION OR USE OF FUNDS FOR ASSESSMENTS.

(a) **PROHIBITION ON REQUIRED PARTICIPATION.**—A State receiving a grant under this subtitle shall not require any child to participate in any Federal, State, local, or private early childhood education program, including a high-quality prekindergarten program.

(b) **PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR ASSESSMENT.**—A State receiving a grant under this subtitle and an eligible local entity receiving a subgrant under this subtitle shall not use any grant or subgrant funds to carry out any of the following activities:

(1) An assessment that provides rewards or sanctions for individual children, teachers, or principals.

(2) An assessment that is used as the primary or sole method for assessing program effectiveness.

(3) Evaluating children, other than for the purposes of—

(A) improving instruction or the classroom environment;

(B) targeting professional development;

(C) determining the need for health, mental health, disability, or family support services;

(D) program evaluation for the purposes of program improvement and parent information; and

(E) improving parent and family engagement.

SEC. 1125. COORDINATION WITH HEAD START PROGRAMS.

(a) **INCREASED ACCESS FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall develop a process—

(1) for use in the event that Head Start programs funded under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.) operate in States or

regions that have achieved sustained universal, voluntary access to 4-year old children who reside within the State and who are from families with incomes at or below 200 percent of the poverty line to high-quality prekindergarten programs; and

(2) for how such Head Start programs will begin converting slots for children who are age 4 on the eligibility determination date to children who are age 3 on the eligibility determination date, or, when appropriate, converting Head Start Programs into Early Head Start programs to serve infants and toddlers.

(b) **COMMUNITY NEED AND RESOURCES.**—The process described in subsection (a) shall—

(1) be carried out on a case-by-case basis and shall ensure that sufficient resources and time are allocated for the development of such a process so that no child or cohort is excluded from currently available services; and

(2) ensure that any conversion shall be based on community need and not on the aggregate number of children served in a State or region that has achieved sustained, universal, voluntary access to high-quality prekindergarten programs.

(c) **PUBLIC COMMENT AND NOTICE.**—Not fewer than 90 days after the development of the proposed process described in subsection (a), the Secretary and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall publish a notice describing such proposed process for conversion in the Federal Register providing at least 90 days for public comment. The Secretaries shall review and consider public comments prior to finalizing the process for conversion of Head Start slots and programs.

(d) **REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**—Currently with publishing a notice in the Federal Register as described in subsection (c), the Secretaries shall provide a report to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate that provides a detailed description of the proposed process described in subsection (a), including a description of the degree to which Head Start programs are providing State-funded high-quality prekindergarten programs as a result of the grant opportunity provided under this subtitle in States where Head Start programs are eligible for conversion described in subsection (a).

SEC. 1126. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.

In providing technical assistance to carry out activities under this title, the Secretary shall coordinate that technical assistance, in appropriate cases, with technical assistance provided by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out the programs authorized under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.), the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.), and the maternal, infant and early childhood home visiting programs assisted under section 511 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 711).

SEC. 1127. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subtitle—

- (1) \$1,300,000,000 for fiscal year 2016;
- (2) 3,250,000,000 for fiscal year 2017;
- (3) \$5,780,000,000 for fiscal year 2018;
- (4) \$7,580,000,000 for fiscal year 2019;
- (5) \$8,960,000,000 for fiscal year 2020; and
- (6) such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

Subtitle B—Prekindergarten Development Grants

SEC. 1151. PREKINDERGARTEN DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—From the amounts appropriated under subsection (f), the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall award competitive grants to States that wish to increase the capacity and build the infrastructure within the State to offer high-quality prekindergarten programs.

(b) **ELIGIBILITY.**—A State that is not receiving funds under section 1115 may compete for grant funds under this subtitle if the State provides an assurance that the State will, through the support of grant funds awarded under this subtitle, meet the eligibility requirements of section 1115 not later than 3 years after the date the State first receives grant funds under this subtitle.

(c) **GRANTS.**—

(1) **DURATION.**—The Secretary shall award grants to States under this subtitle for a period of not more than 3 years and such grants shall not be renewed.

(2) **AUTHORITY TO SUBGRANT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—A State receiving a grant under this subtitle may use the grant funds to make subgrants to eligible local entities (defined in section 1112(7)) to carry out activities under the grant.

(B) **ELIGIBLE LOCAL ENTITIES.**—An eligible local entity receiving a subgrant under subparagraph (A) shall comply with the requirements for States receiving a grant under this subtitle, as appropriate.

(d) **APPLICATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A Governor of a State that desires to receive a grant under this subtitle shall submit an application to the Secretary of Education at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may reasonably require, including a description of how the State plans to become eligible for grants under section 1115 by not later than 3 years after the date the State first receives grant funds under this subtitle.

(2) **DEVELOPMENT OF APPLICATION.**—In developing an application for a grant under this subtitle, a Governor of a State shall consult with the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care, and incorporate their recommendations, where applicable.

(e) **MATCHING REQUIREMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—To be eligible to receive a grant under this subtitle, a State shall contribute for the activities for which the grant was awarded non-Federal matching funds in an amount equal to not less than 20 percent of the amount of the grant.

(2) **NON-FEDERAL FUNDS.**—To satisfy the requirement of paragraph (1), a State may use—

- (A) cash; or
- (B) an in-kind contribution.

(3) **FINANCIAL HARDSHIP WAIVER.**—The Secretary may waive paragraph (1) or reduce the amount of matching funds required under that paragraph for a State that has submitted an application for a grant under this subtitle if the State demonstrates, in the application, a need for such a waiver or reduction due to extreme financial hardship, as determined by the Secretary of Education.

(f) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subtitle—

- (1) \$750,000,000 for fiscal year 2016; and
- (2) such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 125, the gentleman

from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and a Member opposed each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman. Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Chair, I yield myself 5 minutes.

In the unanimous decision of Brown v. Board of Education, the Supreme Court said:

In these days, it is doubtful that any child may reasonably be expected to succeed in life if . . . denied the opportunity of an education. Such an opportunity, where the State has undertaken to provide it, is a right which must be made available to all on equal terms.

The fact is that equal educational opportunities are not now available in low-income communities: first, because education is generally funded by the local real estate taxes, guaranteeing that wealthier areas will have more resources for education; and, second, because, in the normal give and take of politics, low-income areas never do as well as wealthier areas.

All of these studies conclude that areas of concentrated poverty need more, not less, in order to provide adequate educational opportunities.

With the 1965 enactment of the first Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Congress provided Federal money to address “the special educational needs of children of low-income families and the impact that concentrations of low-income families have on the ability of local educational agencies to support adequate educational programs.”

Unfortunately, today, only a small handful of States has taken steps to completely equalize their education funding. ESEA was not and should never become a general education fund for all. The purpose of the law is to provide States limited, supplemental funding that is targeted to schools and students left behind in what remains an unequal system.

Over the last 50 years, we have recognized that students with disabilities, neglected and delinquent students, homeless students, and nonnative English speaking students also faced local educational systems unprepared and sometimes unwilling to provide the resources they needed.

We have made a difference. The improvement is real. Graduation rates are at all-time highs, and achievement gaps have narrowed. We have made real progress, but there is still a lot more that needs to be done.

The amendment before us is a substitute for the underlying bill because H.R. 5, in its current form, retreats from the most important principles of ESEA. During this debate, no one has refuted our assertion that this bill takes money from the poorest school districts in America and gives it to the most affluent ones. That is because the assertion is true.

Baltimore City, with a higher concentration of low-income students, will

lose an estimated \$5.7 million under H.R. 5, an 11 percent decrease, while the Baltimore suburb of Howard County, with lower poverty levels, will gain \$1.1 million, which is a 25 percent increase.

Chicago City schools have a student population with 85 percent receiving free and reduced lunches. The suburb of Naperville has 13 percent of students receiving free and reduced lunches. Under H.R. 5, Chicago loses \$64 million, while Naperville gains a half a million. Republicans call this “portability.” We call it reverse Robin Hood, taking from the poor to give to the wealthy.

In addition to the funding formula change, the bill reduces funding levels and eliminates maintenance of effort. Maintenance of effort prevents States from reducing educational spending and replacing it with Federal money.

We should guarantee the Federal money will be in addition to ongoing State spending so that children will actually benefit from the Federal resources. H.R. 5 further eliminates dedicated funding for English learners and disabled students.

The Democratic substitute seeks to address the fundamental flaws within the Republican bill. It restores funding priority to areas of concentrated poverty, English learners, and the disabled.

It requires States to set high and meaningful standards for all students so that those who graduate from high school will be college and career ready and will be able to pursue college or work without need for remediation.

It supports our teachers by ensuring that they will have the resources and training they need to do their jobs. It addresses the concerns of too much testing by providing States support to improve State assessment systems and by providing funding to eliminate all unnecessary tests.

We are faced with a tremendous opportunity to bring our education system into the 21st century in order to ensure that all students are prepared for success in the global economy.

Democrats and Republicans agree about the need for flexibility and innovation, but where we disagree is on the role of the Federal Government. We believe that there is a Federal role in fulfilling the promise of the Brown decision: that all students must have access to equal educational opportunities.

The choice is clear. We should reinstate the original purpose of ESEA by supporting the substitute amendment.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Minnesota is recognized for 10 minutes.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Chair, we have now had a few days to look at the 851-

page amendment that the Democrats brought forward. It was a little bit surprising during the markup to have it brought up to us.

I think one of my colleagues said something about not legislating by the pound, but if we had been legislating by the pound, there are a lot of pounds there, so I appreciate the time we have had to look at this.

It seems to me that the Democrats' substitute amendment just doubles down on the policy that we have now. The gentleman from Virginia—my friend, the ranking member—talked about areas of concentrated poverty, and we need to spend money there.

That is what we do. We spend money there now. We spend a lot more money per student in high-poverty areas; yet, in those areas, we have less than half the kids graduating.

He talked about progress that has been made, but right now in America, one in five students will drop out of high school. Only 26 percent of high school seniors are proficient in math, and only 38 percent of high school seniors—just over a third, Madam Chair—are proficient in reading. The current system is not working.

As I have said again and again in this debate, Republicans and Democrats agree that No Child Left Behind is fundamentally flawed and needs to be replaced. We have different ideas about how we want to go about doing that.

We believe that the much greater flexibility that the Student Success Act affords to superintendents and to local leaders to put the money where they think it can get the best results is a better way to do it than by adding program after program as we have seen in amendments during this debate.

We have a fundamentally different idea about how best to achieve what we all want to achieve, which is an excellent education for every child at every school. I think the underlying bill is a much better way to do it, and I would encourage my colleagues to oppose the Democrats' substitute amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Chair, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the distinguished Democratic leader.

Ms. PELOSI. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I congratulate him on his great leadership as he has taken the helm as our Democratic ranking member on the Education and the Workforce Committee.

Madam Chair, education is the single most important investment a nation can make in its future, a family can make in its children.

Nothing returns more money to the Treasury than the investment in education, whether it is earliest childhood education, K-12, higher education, postgrad, lifetime learning; and nothing contributes more to the success of

our children than education, which gives them a chance to succeed.

That is why, in 1965, Congress passed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, one of the great pillars of President Johnson's war on poverty. President Johnson told the people who gathered for the bill signing:

From our very beginnings as a nation, we have felt a fierce commitment to the ideal of education for everyone. It fixed itself into our democratic creed.

The Republican legislation before us today makes a mockery of this legislation's legacy and hollows out the foundation of our democracy: an educated and empowered citizenry.

Here is how. For the first time in more than 50 years, a majority of public school students in our country lives in poverty. Too many children are getting left behind. This Republican bill slams the door of opportunity for students who are striving to earn an education.

How will students achieve equality of opportunity without equality of education? How will students be able to maintain America's innovation leadership if they attend schools without a reliable technology infrastructure?

This proposed legislation eviscerates our investments in the future, and it is a monumental step backward in keeping our promise to America's children.

Republicans are turning back the clock on civil rights protections, academic achievement, funding for struggling schools, access to college prep curriculum for underserved children; and they are turning back the clock on students of color, students with disabilities, students who are homeless or who are living with foster families, migrant students, and those learning English as a second language.

This bill guts resources for the most impoverished schools, and it gives those resources to the richest schools. Rather than increase investments in schools, this legislation diverts resources and critical programs away from our schools, away from our students most in need.

Rather than provide a pathway for success to help our children prepare for the future, this legislation locks in Federal budget cuts for the rest of the decade. Rather than ensure funds are used for the classroom and teaching, this legislation lets limited resources be used for other purposes, such as tax cuts for the wealthy or sports stadiums.

This bill does nothing to invest in early education. It does nothing to ensure lifetime learning. It does nothing to update classroom technology and infrastructure, and it does nothing to boost the STEM curriculum.

□ 1230

President Obama has already declared his intention to veto this recycled, reheated, retrograde, warmed-

over stew Republican legislation that lacks the support of the civil rights community, the English as a second language community, teachers, education advocates, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Instead, we should take up the alternative bill put forth by Mr. SCOTT. His bill, in its wisdom, protects students' rights, guarantees access to world-class education for all students, and supports teachers and school leaders with better resources.

The substitute legislation put forth by Mr. SCOTT empowers schools and districts to tailor to local needs and ensures States set high standards and goals so students are career- and college-ready.

It is our moral obligation as a country to ensure that all children have equal access to a well-rounded, world-class education—and Mr. SCOTT's substitute does just that. He has presented an alternative that fulfills the promise of the landmark legislation passed in 1965—another 50-year anniversary—which is to ensure that access to high-quality education is the right of every student and not just some. We must honor that responsibility.

Madam Chair, frequently, people ask me: What motivated you to be involved in politics? I am a mom with five children. I want, of course, the best for my children, as every parent does. I saw that they had tender loving care, the opportunity for education, and the rest.

But the best for each of our children is that every other child has access to education. We do no favor to our children—and, in my case, our grandchildren—if we say, We want the best for you, and not pay attention to the needs of other children in our society. What kind of transitioning from one generation to the next is it if we say, My kids got the best—and, in some cases in this bill—at the expense of other children?

It is just not right. It is not the moral thing to do. It is not the patriotic thing to do. It doesn't honor our Founders' commitment to a democracy which calls upon an educated population.

So we must honor all of our responsibilities, personally and civically; reject this bill; and make certain that quality education is the right of every child in our country.

I thank BOBBY SCOTT, our ranking member, for giving us that opportunity, and I urge all my colleagues to vote "aye" on his substitute.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Chair, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROKITA), chair of the K-12 subcommittee on the Education and the Workforce Committee.

Mr. ROKITA. I thank the chairman for his leadership throughout this entire push.

What do I mean by push? Madam Speaker, I mean the fact that for the

last 7-plus years No Child Left Behind—the current Federal law of the land with regard to K-12 education in this country—has gone unrenowned. And for many of us, in a very real sense, that is just as well. Because after a decade of living under No Child Left Behind, and more importantly, our children being taught under No Child Left Behind, we realized where its shortcomings are and where we need to go next.

So we have worked on this product. And unlike the Democratic substitute, Madam Chair, that we are just now hearing about, this product has been 4 years in the works. In fact, it is so well-tuned and so well-reviewed that it passed this House in the last Congress. Now, finally, with a Republican Senate, we have a chance to move real reform that puts power back in the hands of our parents, teachers, local leaders, and local taxpayers so that we can again make the child the most important thing in the school.

We are sort of shooting with real bullets here. Again, we can get a product to the Senate. We can get that product to conference and then to the President's desk. So we are not talking in thin air here. Yet this Democratic substitute really does just that.

Introduced just a few weeks ago during our markup, it seems to be an amalgamation of every idea that most parents and most teachers and most local taxpayers and entrepreneurs have found to be wrong with education ever since the Federal Government has been involved.

And when I say wrong, it comes with a good deal of data and a good deal of evidence that says no Federal bureaucrat knows our kids better than that kid's teachers and parents and local school administrators.

So the whole theme of the Student Success Act is to trust those people, knowing that they care about their kids just as much and, in probably every case, more than we do here in Washington.

As the father of a 7-year-old boy with disabilities and a 5-year-old boy, I know that is how I feel. We need to act now to reverse the Federal mandates under No Child Left Behind and to stop the Obama administration from coercing States into adopting its preferred education reforms, including adoption of these Common Core standards.

If we fail to act, the Secretary of Education will continue imposing his will on schools unilaterally. In essence, Madam Chair, a national school board.

We have been working on this effort, like I said, for more than 4 years. Our goal from the beginning has been to roll back the role of Federal Government and return to State and local leaders the responsibility to deliver a quality education to their students.

Now, some may say the Student Success Act certainly isn't perfect—and, as

we know, no piece of legislation is—but we have heard over the years the concerns, I would say, of every type of stakeholder involved in this debate, and we found the right way forward with the Student Success Act. Everything in the Student Success Act is significantly better than anything in current law.

And so the question is to my colleagues—certainly my Republican colleagues, but also my Democratic colleagues: Do you want to move the ball forward or not? Do you want to do something, or not, for our children? Or, do you want the Department of Education to become this Nation's school board?

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI), a distinguished member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Chair, I would like to thank Ranking Member SCOTT for yielding, for his tremendous leadership, and for delivering a positive alternative to H.R. 5. I would also like to thank all the hardworking staff for their expertise and work.

Since the Elementary and Secondary Education Act first passed in 1965, Congress has stood beside America's disadvantaged students and neediest communities—those with the highest concentration of low-income students.

Unlike H.R. 5, this amendment continues the essential mission of delivering resources to students who need them the most. This substitute fixes what is broken in No Child Left Behind—and there is a lot—and it maintains the original intent of equity.

We have an opportunity to ensure that all students have access to high-quality public education and that schools and educators have the support they need to help all students reach high standards.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Chair, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. RUSSELL), a new member of the committee whose leadership has been very impressive, and his passion on this is unmatched.

Mr. RUSSELL. Madam Chair, for 200 years, we educated our children without Federal intrusion. During that time, we not only founded our Nation and strengthened it and held it together during a Civil War, we won two World Wars and put a man on the Moon. We did it with the innovative spirit that local, educated States, families, and people had without Federal intrusion mandating how they should be educated.

Now, we see an opportunity to preserve individual freedom, to preserve States' rights, to protect privacy, to allow our teachers, to allow our local school boards, to allow our local communities, to continue to educate.

Some States think that some other States don't do a good job. That may be, but it is not their choice, and it is certainly not the Federal Government's choice, to coerce and to put things out there.

My State of Oklahoma is often referred to as "flyover country." But our unemployment is 4.2 percent. That is nearly half that of many of these States that think that we ought to have some progressive Federal control of our education. We have no problem putting our population and our workforce to work. We also have the largest per capita population of astronauts and those in the space program. So much for lack of education in flyover country.

This is a good measure because we all agree in a bipartisan fashion that No Child Left Behind is bad—and it is leaving children behind—but we get there not by some collective coercive control. We get there by relying on teachers, school districts, and local control.

What this does is repeals the one-size-fits-all accountability metric, which will remain if we do nothing. And I think our colleagues, Madam Chair, would agree.

It eliminates over 65 wasteful programs that are currently authorized under law and which will remain if we do nothing. It eliminates mandates that force local schools to reserve 20 percent of their funds for activities that they don't desire to do. Those mandates will remain if we do nothing. And it will also prohibit any agency of the Federal Government from coercing States to adopt Common Core or any other set of standards through waivers, Federal grants, or any other authority. That coercion remains if we do nothing.

And, in bipartisan fashion, it eliminates the Feds from having control of individual data from teachers and students—a concern that we all share—and that being sent to the Secretary of Education or the Department of Education. It also covers tribal data protections that are often overlooked as well.

It strengthens states' rights language that is absent under No Child Left Behind. Where it says States may do this or that, it is not the Federal Government's authority to do so. Instead, it says States retain the right to.

And also, importantly, Madam Chair, it makes provisions for military dependent children, who currently are often overlooked as they move from place to place.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the Democratic whip.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Chair, this bill is complex and could be discussed for a long period of time. Mr. SCOTT doesn't have a long period of time, and I will be brief.

I want to point out that when we passed, at the request of President Bush, No Child Left Behind, which everybody has recognized does not have some of the components that it ought to have and has some components that it ought not to have—and Mr. SCOTT's substitute fixes that which is broken—I will point out that that bill passed 384-45.

This bill has, essentially, been on the floor before and got no Democratic votes. How sad it is that on an issue so important to our country, we don't have a bipartisan bill.

Now this bill had no hearings, notwithstanding the fact there are 63 new Members. I am very pleased—and I thank Mr. SCOTT—that the Democratic alternative includes the full service community school program that I have been promoting for years.

These full service community schools bring the successful model of the Judith P. Hoyer Early Childhood Centers to K-12 nationally.

Opportunities—there are 33 Judy Centers in Maryland, and there will be another three opening later this school year. My wife, for whom Judy Centers were named, was a strong proponent of this highly successful model, which has helped in closing the achievement gaps for thousands of students in Maryland. Sadly, H.R. 5 does not include provisions for those services, which will make a difference.

I thank the chairman for his leadership and the ranking member for his leadership and contribution.

□ 1245

Mr. KLINE. Madam Chair, can I inquire as to how much time is remaining on each side?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Minnesota has 1 minute remaining. The gentleman from Virginia has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Chair, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. I thank the gentleman from Minnesota for yielding 30 seconds.

Madam Chair, I think we all agree that No Child Left Behind does not work. I think we all agree that every child deserves a good education. That is what H.R. 5 provides. It provides our teachers, our boards of education, and our States the opportunity to innovate.

Isn't that what education is all about? That is what the business world is all about. That is why I am supporting this bill.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Chair, could you state again how much time is left?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Chair, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA).

Mr. HONDA. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Chair, I rise in support of the Democratic substitute amendment to H.R. 5. This amendment builds on the lessons we learned from No Child Left Behind, protecting our most vulnerable students without punishing teachers. It meets the needs of the whole child, provides a wraparound service promoting community schools.

It helps all students count, giving States valuable, disaggregated data about individual student groups with individual learning. It is innovative, it is creative, and it is encouraging innovative, evidence-based practices.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Madam Chair, I support the Democratic Substitute Amendment to H.R. 5.

This amendment builds on the lessons we learned from No Child Left Behind . . . protecting our most vulnerable students without punishing teachers.

It addresses the learning needs of the whole child . . . providing wrap-around services and promoting community schools.

It ensures that all students count . . . giving states valuable, disaggregated data about individual student groups with individual learning needs.

It supports educational innovation . . . by creating ARPA-ED, and encouraging innovative, evidence-based practices.

It supports and rewards exceptional teachers . . . by creating a STEM Master Teacher Corps.

Most importantly, this amendment continues the Federal commitment to students who are in the most need.

Fifty years ago, President Johnson signed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act into law.

This act was an historic step to help protect our most vulnerable students . . . by increasing the Federal commitment to education.

As we revisit this law, we have a real opportunity to take a step forward. To build on the successes and fix the problems.

Unfortunately, our Republican colleagues chose to take a step backwards . . . removing important protections for our most vulnerable students.

I urge my colleagues to support the Democratic Substitute.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Chair, I include for the RECORD a list of civil rights, education, child advocacy, and health-related organizations in support of this amendment.

ORGANIZATIONS IN SUPPORT OF SCOTT SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT #23 TO H.R. 5

1. Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, 2. Congressional Black Caucus, 3. Congressional Hispanic Caucus, 4. Alliance for Excellent Education, 5. American Association on Health and Disability, 6. American Congress of Community Supports and Employment Services, 7. American Foundation for the Blind, 8. American Speech Language Hearing Association, 9. Association for University Centers on Disability, 10. Autism National Committee, 11. Autistic Self Advocacy Network, 12. Bazelon Center for Mental

Health Law, 13. Brain Injury Association of America, 14. Council for Learning Disabilities, 15. Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates, 16. Easter Seals, 17. Education Trust, 18. Epilepsy Foundation, 19. Grantmakers in the Arts, 20. Knowledge Alliance.

21. Latino Elected and Appointed Officials: National Taskforce on Education, 22. Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, 23. Lutheran Services in America Disability Network, 24. Mental Health America, 25. National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities, 26. National Association of School Psychologists, 27. National Association of State Head Injury Administrators, 28. National Center for Learning Disabilities, 29. National Center for Families Learning, 30. National Center for Special Education in Charter Schools, 31. National Council on Independent Living, 32. National Disability Rights Network, 33. National Down Syndrome Congress, 34. National Urban League, 35. Nemours Children's Health System, 36. Perkins, 37. PACER Center, 38. Southern Poverty Law Center, 39. The Arc, 40. TASH, 41. United Negro College Fund, Inc., 42. Virginia Commonwealth University; University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, 43. Zero to Three.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Chair, I yield 30 seconds to my colleague from Virginia (Mr. BEYER), former Lieutenant Governor.

Mr. BEYER. Madam Chair, I rise in support of the Democratic substitute.

H.R. 5 lacks essential protections for our kids. It is our responsibility to make sure our kids are safe at school. Too often, dangerous and abusive techniques are used to discipline our students, disproportionately subjecting minority students and students with disabilities to seclusion and restraint in the classroom.

The Democratic substitute would protect our students by developing appropriate national standards on the use of seclusion and restraint. We cannot reduce the Federal oversight role for the very reason that our kids need to be safe in order to be educated.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Chair, can you remind us how much time we have left?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Minnesota has 30 seconds remaining. The gentleman from Virginia has 30 seconds remaining.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Chair, I yield 15 seconds to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS).

Mr. POLIS. While not perfect, the Democratic substitute is a lot better base bill than the Republican version. It does a better job getting accountability right, expanding and replicating what works in public education, and changing what doesn't work in public education.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Chair, is the gentleman prepared to close?

Mr. KLINE. I am.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Chair, I would like to take a moment

to thank my staff and would like to introduce a list of the staff members who have worked hard on this bill: Denise Forte, Jacques Chevalier, Christian Haines, Kelly Broughan, Scott Groginsky, Ashlyn Holeyfield, Brett Roude, and Theresa Thompson. They worked hard on this bill.

We were given 2 legislative days to put a substitute together. We did the best we could.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Chair, I feel like I have to compliment the minority for writing a bill in 2 days that is a ream and a half of paper—that is quite an accomplishment—that adds more programs, costs more money, and doubles down on what are failed policies.

The Democrat substitute, frankly, is going in exactly the wrong direction.

I urge my colleagues to oppose that substitute, support the underlying bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia will be postponed.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) having assumed the chair, Mrs. BLACK, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5) to support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 51 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess

□ 1416

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. FOXX) at 2 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 27, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 27, 2015 at 12:59 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S.527.

Appointments: National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

MOTION TO GO TO CONFERENCE ON H.R. 240, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule XXII, and by direction of the Committee on Appropriations, I move to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 240) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, disagree with the Senate amendment, and request a conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, we need to go to conference in order to move the process forward.

I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the motion.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on adoption of the motion will be followed by a 5-minute vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 228, nays 191, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 102]

YEAS—228

Abraham	Amash	Barton
Aderholt	Babin	Benishke
Allen	Barr	Blirakis

Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Costello (PA)
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Davis, Rodney
Denham
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris

Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Pompeo

NAYS—191

Adams
Aguilar
Ashford
Bartletta
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield

Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Ciilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper

Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Loudermilk
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Mica
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

Doyle, Michael
F.
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Jones
Katko
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)

Amodei
Frankel (FL)
Green, Gene
Hastings
Hinojosa

Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
McSally
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)

NOT VOTING—13

Kaptur
Keating
King (IA)
Lee
Long

Richmond
Ros-Lehtinen
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Stefanik
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

present for the vote on the Motion to go to Conference on H.R. 240, I would have voted "no."

I would like the record to reflect how I would have voted if I were present:

On rollcall No. 102, I would have voted "no." I remain strongly disappointed that Republican leadership has not brought a clean, long-term bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security to the floor. It is time to adequately fund DHS operations and personnel and stop playing games with our national security.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. GOWDY. Madam Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 226, noes 186, answered "present" 1, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 103]

AYES—226

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Barton
Becerra
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Capps
Cárdenas
Cartwright
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chu, Judy
Ciilline
Clark (MA)
Clay
Cole
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Cramer
Crenshaw

[Roll No. 103]

AYES—226

Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Davis (CA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Dent
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Doggett
Doyle, Michael
F.
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foster
Frelinghuysen
Gabbard
Gallego
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Grayson
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hardy
Harper
Harris

□ 1443
Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Messrs. GUTIERREZ and PETERS changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mr. MESSER changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the motion to go to conference was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 102, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Stated against:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 102, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 102, the motion to go to conference on H.R. 240, I was not present because I was unavoidably detained at the Army Corps Civil Works Review Board for the Port Everglades expansion project, which is important to the South Florida economy. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 102 I would have voted "no" on sending to conference. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, on February 27, 2015 Mr. Speaker, had I been

McCaul	Ribble	Stewart	Wenstrup	Wittman	Yoder
McClintock	Richmond	Stutzman	Wilson (FL)	Woodall	Young (AK)
McCollum	Roby	Takai	ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1		
McHenry	Rogers (KY)	Takano	Gohmert		
McMorris	Rokita	Thornberry	NOT VOTING—19		
Rodgers	Roskam	Titus	Ashford	Hudson	Pingree
McNerney	Ross	Tonko	Chaffetz	Israel	Quigley
Meadows	Rothfus	Trott	Courtney	Keating	Speier
Meng	Royce	Tsongas	Frankel (FL)	King (IA)	Tipton
Messer	Ruppersberger	Upton	Franks (AZ)	Lee	Turner
Mica	Russell	Wagner	Garamendi	Long	
Miller (MI)	Ryan (WI)	Walker	Hinojosa	Perlmutter	
Moolenaar	Salmon	Walorski	□ 1456		
Moore	Sanford	Walters, Mimi	So the Journal was approved.		
Moulton	Scalise	Walz	The result of the vote was announced		
Mullin	Schrader	Wasserman	as above recorded.		
Murphy (PA)	Schweikert	Schultz	Stated for:		
Nadler	Scott (VA)	Waters, Maxine	Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, on roll-		
Napolitano	Scott, Austin	Webster (FL)	call No. 103, had I been present, I would have		
Neugebauer	Scott, David	Welch	voted "yes."		
Nunes	Sensenbrenner	Westerman	ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER		
O'Rourke	Serrano	Westmoreland	PRO TEMPORE		
Olson	Sessions	Whitfield	The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without		
Palmer	Sherman	Williams	objection, a motion to reconsider the		
Pelosi	Shimkus	Wilson (SC)	vote on adopting the motion offered by		
Pitts	Simpson	Womack	the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CAR-		
Pocan	Sinema	Yarmuth	TER) is laid on the table.		
Polis	Smith (NE)	Yoho	There was no objection.		
Pompeo	Smith (NJ)	Young (IA)	MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES		
Posey	Smith (TX)	Young (IN)	ON H.R. 240, DEPARTMENT OF		
Price (NC)	Smith (WA)	Zeldin	HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015		
Rangel	Stefanik	Zinke	Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam		

NOES—186

Adams	Graves (GA)	Nugent
Aguilar	Graves (LA)	Palazzo
Amash	Graves (MO)	Pallone
Babin	Green, Al	Pascrell
Barletta	Green, Gene	Paulsen
Barr	Grijalva	Payne
Bass	Hanna	Pearce
Beatty	Hartzler	Perry
Benishkek	Hastings	Peters
Bera	Heck (NV)	Peterson
Beyer	Herrera Beutler	Pittenger
Bost	Hice, Jody B.	Poe (TX)
Boyle, Brendan	Hill	Poliquin
F.	Holding	Price, Tom
Brady (PA)	Honda	Ratcliffe
Brownley (CA)	Hoyer	Reed
Buck	Huizenga (MI)	Reichert
Bucshon	Hunter	Renacci
Burgess	Jackson Lee	Rice (NY)
Capuano	Jeffries	Rice (SC)
Carney	Jenkins (KS)	Rigell
Carson (IN)	Jenkins (WV)	Roe (TN)
Carter (GA)	Johnson (OH)	Rogers (AL)
Carter (TX)	Johnson, E. B.	Rohrabacher
Castor (FL)	Jones	Rooney (FL)
Clarke (NY)	Jordan	Ros-Lehtinen
Clawson (FL)	Joyce	Rouzer
Cleaver	Kelly (IL)	Roybal-Allard
Clyburn	Kilmer	Ruiz
Coffman	Kind	Rush
Cohen	Kinzing (IL)	Ryan (OH)
Collins (GA)	Kirkpatrick	Sánchez, Linda
Connolly	Lance	T.
Costa	Langevin	Sanchez, Loretta
Costello (PA)	Lawrence	Sarbanes
Crawford	Levin	Schakowsky
Cummings	Lewis	Schiff
Curbelo (FL)	LoBiondo	Schock
Davis, Danny	Love	Sewell (AL)
Davis, Rodney	Luján, Ben Ray	Shuster
DeFazio	(NM)	Sires
Delaney	Lynch	Slaughter
Denham	MacArthur	Smith (MO)
DeSantis	Maloney, Sean	Stivers
DeSaulnier	Marchant	Swalwell (CA)
Dingell	Matsui	Thompson (CA)
Dold	McDermott	Thompson (MS)
Duckworth	McGovern	Thompson (PA)
Duffy	McKinley	Tiberi
Ellison	McSally	Torres
Ellmers (NC)	Meehan	Valadao
Farenthold	Meeks	Van Hollen
Fitzpatrick	Miller (FL)	Vargas
Fleming	Mooney (WV)	Veasey
Flores	Mulvaney	Vela
Forbes	Murphy (FL)	Velázquez
Foxx	Neal	Visclosky
Fudge	Newhouse	Walberg
Garrett	Noem	Walden
Gibbs	Nolan	Watson Coleman
Gibson	Norcross	Weber (TX)

So the Journal was approved.
The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, on roll-call No. 103, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, a motion to reconsider the vote on adopting the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) is laid on the table.

There was no objection.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES
ON H.R. 240, DEPARTMENT OF
HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Roybal-Allard moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill H.R. 240 be instructed to recede from disagreement with the Senate amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XXII, the gentleman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

□ 1500

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, my motion would instruct the conferees to recede to the Senate position, which is the responsible position of providing a full-year funding for the Homeland Security Department.

Secretary Johnson has warned over and over again that the Republican leadership's refusal to allow a vote on a clean bipartisan funding bill, such as the one sent to this House by the Republican-led Senate, is threatening the national security of our country. Without a full-year bill, the Secretary tells us that he is unable to move forward

on key Homeland Security priorities, including new investments in border security technology, more aggressive ICE investigations related to transnational criminal organizations that engage in drug and human smuggling and human trafficking, enhanced preparedness for responding to surges in illegal migration such as the one experienced last summer, acquisition of the Coast Guard's eighth National Security Cutter, and the construction of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility in Manhattan, Kansas, both of which could potentially be delayed and lead to associated higher costs.

Also at risk are the badly needed security upgrades at the White House complex and the issuing of State and local terrorism prevention and response grants so critical to supporting our local first responders. These are just a few of the negative consequences of not fully funding our Department of Homeland Security.

Madam Speaker, nothing can be gained by another stopgap funding measure, but much can be lost. We should not allow ourselves or the American people to be fooled into thinking that the House can continue to delay resolving this issue without undermining the national security of our Nation, or that the Department of Homeland Security has been doing just fine under the continuing resolution and can operate effectively under the uncertainty of a continuing resolution for even another day, much less 3 more weeks.

The dire consequences of not funding the Department of Homeland Security are not the made-up warnings of Democrats. They are the warnings of the Secretary of Homeland Security and the heads of his agencies.

Let me again read a portion of a letter sent by Secretary Johnson to the bipartisan leadership of the House and Senate regarding the dangers of either a funding lapse or another short-term continuing resolution:

A mere extension of a continuing resolution has many of the same negative impacts of a shutdown. It exacerbates the uncertainty for my workforce and puts us back in the same position on the brink of a shutdown just days from now.

The Secretary ends his letter by saying: "The American people are counting on us." Again, Madam Speaker, the American people are indeed counting on us, and so far, the House Republican leadership has let them down.

This stopgap funding measure does not fully address our national security needs. It simply represents the complete and utter abdication of our responsibility as Members of Congress to protect the American people and our country. The Senate has acted in the best interests of our Nation and sent this House a bipartisan, bicameral agreement on funding for the Department of Homeland Security.

Madam Speaker, our enemies aren't waiting around while the Republican leadership continues to delay a full-year funding for the Department of Homeland Security or for Congress to go to conference in the hope that some time in the future we may have an agreement.

Let the House, like the Senate, do the right thing and send this bill to the President. I urge my colleagues to vote for this motion to instruct conferees to bring back a clean, full-year, bipartisan funding bill for this Nation's homeland security.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to instruct conferees. As the House and Senate come together to find a path forward on funding the Department of Homeland Security, we must reconcile our profound differences over how to handle the President's executive actions. But the minority should keep this in mind as we go to conference: the majority of American citizens oppose the President's actions on immigration, and they have asked us to fight those actions.

The House has acted decisively to fulfill that mandate. Six weeks ago, when the House approved a bill funding the Department of Homeland Security until the end of the fiscal year, the House also by large margins approved six amendments to stop the President's far-reaching actions.

The President himself has said—no fewer than 22 times—that he does not have the authority to change our immigration laws unilaterally. Now the courts have weighed in, saying that no law has given the President the power to make these sweeping changes to our immigration policies. The evidence is overwhelming on this side of the debate. Now, we can vote again, but the outcome will be the same. The American people have spoken. We must stand up against the administration's overreach on immigration.

While it is clear the President will not fulfill or act within the bounds of the law, we in Congress are here to defend our Constitution, to provide those checks and balances that our Founding Fathers put into place to ensure the President does not act like a king.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this motion to instruct, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from California has 25 minutes remaining.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs.

LOWEY), the ranking member on the full Appropriations Committee.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the motion to instruct conferees to agree to a clean funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security.

Democratic and Republican negotiators reached a deal on 2015 Homeland Security funding levels and related policy issues in December. The Republican leadership made the political calculation to hold this funding hostage to ideological policy riders reversing the President's executive actions on immigration.

Having failed to extort these policy concessions, the Senate has done the right thing and moved forward to pass a clean Homeland Security funding bill that does not include poison pill immigration riders. Yet House leadership continues to dither, keeping alive the threat of a shutdown affecting the agencies that protect our ports, borders, aviation systems, communities, and more.

This motion to instruct would make clear the will of the House is for a clean full-year Homeland Security funding bill. This motion rejects spending another 3 weeks failing to give our critical agency the budget certainty it needs to hire employees, invest in new equipment and technologies, and provide preparedness grants on which our communities rely.

A \$40 billion Cabinet-level department must be able to plan more than 3 weeks in advance and must not be forced to rely on outdated funding levels or policies for 1 day longer than they already have.

Madam Speaker, enough is enough. We know that the Senate cannot and will not pass a bill that irresponsibly ties Homeland Security funding to immigration policy. We know that the President would never sign such a bill into law.

This charade is wreaking havoc on some of the most important agencies in our Federal Government. It is time, my colleagues, it is time, my friends, to move on, and the way to do that is through a clean, full-year 2015 bipartisan Homeland Security funding bill that we negotiated, Democrats and Republicans, House and Senate. Let's do it.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, at this time, I would like to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. JOLLY), my friend.

Mr. JOLLY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Madam Speaker, I am a new member of the Appropriations Committee. I fully understand and respect the significant place that this committee sits in, Republicans and Democrats, to keep the government funded. I know that. I think the first responsibility of Congress is to keep the government open. But I take great reservation to my col-

league's suggestion that somehow this is an abdication of our constitutional responsibility. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Madam Speaker, I want to make something clear to the American people today. All week I have seen signs on the House floor saying that Republicans are shutting down the Department of Homeland Security, and I have seen press conferences saying Republicans are shutting down the Department of Homeland Security, scaring the American people about something that has not happened.

Here is what we have not heard: Where are the solutions and where is the compromise? Because I will tell the American people this today: what my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have said is: It is all or nothing.

I understand the interest in a clean DHS bill. I am very sympathetic to that. But to take that position when we know that there are Members of this body who take grave, grave reservation to the constitutional overreach of the President, that is an abdication of the constitutional responsibility of this body.

All or nothing is not legislating. Signs are not legislating. Press conferences are not legislating. Legislating is reaching a compromise between two sides of the aisle with very different views of this. I will tell you, this process has not gone how I would have wished it to go. But I know this: the Nation is better and the Congress is better when we have regular order and when we legislate the way the Constitution has ordained.

Madam Speaker, we cannot abdicate our constitutional authority to recognize that we have a bicameral, bipartisan Congress with a disagreement, and what we owe to the United States Constitution is the opportunity for us to find a compromise.

So I will ask you this: What if DACA provisions were removed from the DHS bill? Does that get us votes? What if we delayed the President's executive order until final disposition by the courts? Does that get us votes? What gets us the votes we need as a body of 300 Members? Not 218 Members, but 300 Members. Where is the compromise? All or nothing is not legislating.

I will tell you it was a remarkable comment by the majority leader on the other side of this building this morning to suggest that going to conference is a waste of time. That is an abdication of the constitutional responsibility of this body.

All I am asking for, Madam Speaker, is that we recognize the difference and we ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle: Where is the compromise? Because all or nothing is not legislating. Signs are not legislating, scare tactics are not legislating, and press conferences are not legislating.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I would just like to point out

that we have a solution, and it is the bipartisan, bicameral compromise bill that was sent by the Senate for us to vote on, and that is what we are asking for.

□ 1515

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN), the ranking minority member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, a lot of discussion has been that, somehow, the President has acted unconstitutionally or unlawfully. Nothing could be further from the truth.

There is ample legal authority for what the President has done. Prosecutorial discretion is a long-established practice in every area of the law, both civil and criminal. When a law enforcement agency has only enough resources to go after a fraction of the individuals who it suspects of violating the relevant law, it has to make choices. There is no alternative.

In the case of immigration, not only do we recognize this, Congress has specifically directed the head of the Department to set priorities, enforcement priorities, for removal.

Now, in addition to that, the Supreme Court has recognized in many cases the need—and really the authority of the executive—to make these decisions. In the Arizona case, it said Federal officials, as an initial matter, must decide whether it makes sense to pursue removal at all.

Our own Congressional Research Service has found that no court appears to have invalidated a policy of nonenforcement founded upon prosecutorial discretion on the grounds that the policy violated the take care clause.

Deferred action is nothing more than a tentative revocable signal to a non-citizen that the government does not intend to initiate removal proceedings at this time. Not only is that tentative, but the statute at U.S.C. 1182(a)(9)(B)(ii) authorizes the period of stay by the Department in such cases.

Congress has expressly recognized deferred action by name repeatedly. In addition to the statute, the formal regulations of the Justice Department and Homeland Security have also expressly recognized deferred action.

In the *Reno v. American-Arab Anti-Discrimination* case, Justice Scalia said, “At each stage, the Executive has discretion to abandon the endeavor”—referring to the removal process—“and at the time IIRIA was enacted, the INS had been engaging in a regular practice (which has come to be known as ‘deferred action’) of exercising that discretion for humanitarian reasons or simply for its own convenience.”

The arguments that somehow this is unlawful are so far wrong because

nothing in the recent executive actions conflicts with either the letter or the spirit of the Immigration and Nationality Act or any other Federal statute.

I would note that the court in Texas did not find the President’s action unconstitutional. It suggested—and I think wrongly—that the Administrative Procedure Act applies to these actions. There is nothing in the history of the Administrative Procedure Act that suggests that is the case.

I would just suggest that the Republicans fund Homeland Security and let the process work through the courts.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN), the ranking member on the Veterans’ Affairs Committee.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, let me just be clear—I am from Florida—the number one responsibility of any Member of Congress is to defend the American people, and we don’t do that by punting our responsibility to fund Homeland Security, period.

You all need to stop playing games with the safety of the American people.

Mr. JOLLY. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. BROWN of Florida. You are the one that got on this floor and said it is a political football. If it is a political football, you are done playing.

Mr. JOLLY. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. BROWN of Florida. My time has expired.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members must direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL).

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Texas not just for the time, but for the work he is doing to try to fund the responsibilities of the government.

I have been in this institution for 4 years, Madam Speaker, and I have grown to love this institution. I have grown to love the people who serve in this institution, and it is disappointing to me to see some of the tempers that boil over here and have that on display for the American people.

The truth is those tempers boil over, Madam Speaker, because folks here care. They don’t care a little; they care a lot.

What I have been grappling with as we have been going through this process—and the Appropriations Committee has been working so hard—is how do we bring our passion to the President’s desk in a way that can make a difference for our people back home.

I look at the chairman of the Appropriations Committee here and the ranking member. For Pete’s sake, they passed a bill out of committee on this issue last summer.

To watch this debate, you would think that the Congress is so derelict that we put everything off until the eleventh hour. Not true, Madam Speaker. Last summer, the House passed this out of committee.

Now, of course, the process broke down last summer. We passed seven bills across this floor. The Senate had yet to pass one. I am tired of figuring out who to blame here. I am in the business of trying to figure out how to solve problems.

The Senate is making some progress. Golly, they have considered more amendments in the Senate so far in 2015 than they considered all of last year combined. They are making progress. We are starting to get this train back on track.

What is happening here today, though it seems so controversial, is we have got a motion to instruct, Madam Speaker, conferees. Now, I disagree with the motion to instruct. The motion says: Let’s just do what the Senate said we should do.

I don’t actually think that fulfills my constitutional obligation, but the fact that we are even in a place today to instruct conferees, it takes us back. I would argue if we took a poll outside, Madam Speaker, we could find folks all up and down Constitution Avenue, all up and down Independence Avenue, who saw that skit on “Saturday Night Live” with the bill tumbling down the stairs as folks tried to remember how a bill becomes a law.

If we can pass this 3-week continuing resolution today, we are going to be able to demonstrate how a bill becomes a law when the House has a position and the Senate has a position and they come together to work out those differences before it goes to the President’s desk.

Madam Speaker, I have been here 4 years. I can count on one hand how many times I have seen that process work. These issues are too important to say: The other body took care of it, I will just defer to them.

The Members of this body are too talented, they are too committed, they love this country too much. For the 435 of us to come together and say, We have nothing to add, let’s just do what the Senate said—I can’t count the number of colleagues I have, Madam Speaker, on the Democratic side of the aisle who love this country, care about this country on one hand. I can’t count them on two hands. I can’t count them on all of my fingers and toes because it is every single Member.

The same thing is true on my side of the aisle. I would just ask my friends, my committed patriot friends, it is 3 weeks to have an opportunity to have

our collective voice heard. The American people deserve it; the Nation needs it. Our leaders on the Appropriations Committee, Republican and Democrat alike, have given us an opportunity to do it.

Let's take "yes" for an answer. Let's reject this motion to instruct, but let's do go to conference. Let's pass this continuing resolution, and let's restore some pride in a process that has served this country so well for so long.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just want to point out to the gentlemen that the ranking members and chairs of the Appropriations Subcommittees of the House and the Senate worked together on the bill that we are trying to bring for a vote, that this was a negotiated bill by both Houses.

This is not something that we are just trying to bring from the Senate without the House having any input. This was the negotiated, compromised bill of both Houses.

I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON), a member of the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, just for people who are watching this debate, I would like to take us back to December of 2014 when we passed this thing called the CR/Omnibus, all these spending bills together that we spent money for the American people over the course of a year to fund our government, except for the Department of Homeland Security bill, which would be funded right through midnight tonight.

Why did we single this one bill out for this short term? For one reason and one reason only: The Republican majority wanted to pick a fight with the President over the President's execution of his lawful authority to try to solve problems in the area of immigration.

Now, a Federal district court judge, who has a long history of Republican partisanship, decided that he would issue an order stopping the execution of this executive order action; so, now, why don't we let the district court handle it, pass a year-long bill, and look after the public safety of the American people?

This thing is where it should be. It is with the courts. People on the Republican side of the aisle, Madam Speaker, who say that this is unconstitutional—which it is not—now have the ball in the court they say they want it in, which is in the court's hands, so let us get about the business of protecting the homeland.

Madam Speaker, I am from Minneapolis, Minnesota, and I am proud of that, but I have got a terrorist group in Somalia talking about what they want

to do to my mall. That is a fact of my district right now, and I feel very bitter and resentful that we are holding up Homeland Security money.

I ask this body to not kick the ball for 3 weeks, but to get to business now, so that we can plan and protect our homeland.

This is serious business, not a political football to acquire power.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from the great State of Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT), my friend.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for letting me speak on this motion.

As a past chairman of this Subcommittee on Homeland Security, I know firsthand how important it is for the funding for Homeland Security to go forward. The bottom line is the House has done its job.

Back in December, the House voted to fund the Federal Government for the fiscal year. We kept the funding for the Department of Homeland Security on a continuing resolution so that it would not lapse.

By doing so, we were making a promise to the American people, a promise that once the Republicans had full control of the Senate, we would work together as a Congress to ensure that the President's unconstitutional and dangerous actions would not go unchecked.

Every President takes an oath under the Constitution that the laws of this land will be upheld; however, the concern that we have now is the President is directing Federal employees to take unlawful actions.

The House position on this bill provides proper funding. It defends the President's unlawful actions. The House has voted, the Senate has voted, and—as my colleague from Florida had said earlier—once that happens when you don't agree, you go to conference, and that is how you legislate.

I urge my fellow House Members to support the actions laid out by the Speaker so that we can move forward with this so that we can go to conference and act like true legislators in how the Founding Fathers in their wisdom meant for this to move forward.

□ 1530

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE), a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I realize that I haven't been serving in this body very long—only 8 weeks—but today is exactly the kind of day that drives most people nuts about Congress. Even though we all agree—Senate Repub-

licans, Senate Democrats, in a more than 2-1 vote; House Democrats and House Republicans—that we need to fund the Department of Homeland Security, yet here we are a few hours before the deadline once again playing around with the security of the United States.

Madam Speaker, we have a way to end this. We have the Senate bill in front of us. Let us adopt the bipartisan bill, get the Department of Homeland Security funded, and then we can move on and have this legitimate debate about immigration.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH), a member of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. YARMUTH. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I would like to repeat some things that I have heard over the last couple of weeks about this particular situation:

"I fully believe we should not be playing politics with a national security agency like the Department of Homeland Security, particularly given the high threat environment that we are in right now."

"The political impasse on DHS funding must end. Responsible members of both parties must work together to find some way to fund DHS without further delay."

"The worst thing we can do is let our enemies think we are backing off, that we are cutting off funding. This involves human lives, and this is too risky a game to be playing here. This is no way to run a government."

Madam Speaker, those aren't my words. Those are words from Republican Members of this body discussing the reckless game that their party is playing with the funding of the Department of Homeland Security.

Every rationale I have heard for not voting for a clean funding bill right now involves some kind of an ideological orientation. We have got a lot of constitutional lawyers, apparently, in this body because people are arguing whether it is constitutional or not. Meanwhile, we face threats day in and day out, both here and abroad, that we are not being able to cope with.

There is a great or legendary conservative thinker and writer, William F. Buckley, Jr. He once said: "Idealism is fine, but as it approaches reality, the costs become prohibitive." Right now, the costs to our defense, the security of our Nation are becoming prohibitive. Let's stop this argument. Let's do what we both agree on and fund our Nation's security apparatus.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. At this time, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE).

Mr. BYRNE. Madam Speaker, I rise to oppose this motion, and I would like to address the House with the reasons why.

I have been here for a year and 2 months, and I believe in my time here, this is the first time that we have actually been in the position to get a bill back from the Senate on which they disagreed with us and that we have even the opportunity to go to a conference.

Now, when I took high school civics, it was my understanding that that is the way the process works. The bill starts in one House, goes to another House; the other House disagrees, and it comes back to the other House. If the other House wants to go and discuss it, we go to conference and discuss it.

This House took a very important position back in January to fund the Department of Homeland Security, and we added some riders. Now we need to go to conference so that our position, the House's position, can be fully discussed by the conferees for both Houses. During that discussion, we don't know what the outcome will be, but that discussion could lead to something that could get us a solution. That is what the people of America want us to try to do is to get to a solution. So far what we have tried hasn't worked.

Now, I wish the Senate had acted earlier. I wish we could have gotten this back in time enough for us not to have to go through some of the gyrations we are doing now, but we are where we are. To go to conference and to give whoever is appointed as the House conferees the opportunity to work with whoever is appointed from the Senate as their conferees to try to arrive at something like a consensus that we can all vote for—even if we don't feel 100 percent good about it—seems to be what I thought we learned in high school civics class is the way the process is supposed to work.

So I hope that we will go forward. I hope this motion is defeated for that purpose, so that we can do things in regular order, which perhaps this Congress has forgotten to do, it has been so many years since we have done it. Now that the Senate has acted—and many of us, including me, have said we wanted the Senate to act—let's take their action, go to a conference committee with them, and work on trying to get this thing worked out.

Now, some people say that this isn't going to work, that nothing is going to come of it. I tell you this: if we don't try it, absolutely it is not going to work; but if we give it a chance, then we could get something out of it that is a win not for us in this House or the Senate, but a win for the people of the United States of America, the people we are here to represent.

So I hope that the people in both Houses and both parties can come to-

gether at least long enough for us to talk with one another, not at one another, not from an ideology, not from a partisan standpoint, but from the standpoint of what is best for the people of the United States and for what is appropriate under the Constitution of the United States, because we are also here, as our oath requires, to uphold the Constitution of our country.

I believe our conferees should have an opportunity to go in there and do the right thing to protect the people of America through the funding of the Department of Homeland Security and to do the right thing to defend the Constitution of our country. By defeating this motion and going forward with the conference, we give the process a chance to work, and to work well, in both of those regards.

So I respect the people on the other side who think we should just give in; but I don't think we should just give in, because I don't think the American people want us to just give in. I think the American people want us to do our work, to make sure we protect our country by appropriately funding the Department of Homeland Security, but that we also protect our country by defending the Constitution of the United States.

I believe the actions taken by the President are unconstitutional. A judge has stayed those actions because he has got some legal issues with them. I don't know what is going to happen in that court proceeding. I am not going to try to predict that here on the floor of the House, because a lot of times you try to predict a court proceeding, you will find out you are wrong.

In the meantime, we still have an obligation to do our job, and I think going forward with this conference committee is doing our job in the most important of senses. I appreciate the opportunity to stand here today and address this House and to urge my colleagues to defeat this motion so that we can do something we haven't done in a number of years, and that is to fulfill the obligations given to us by our forebears, do our job, get this thing done, get it done right, and make sure that we have done right by the people of the United States.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. How much time is remaining on both sides?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from California has 14 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Texas has 14 minutes remaining.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), ranking member of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me thank the gentlewoman for her excellent work on the Subcommittee on Homeland Security of the Committee on Appropriations and the gentleman, Mr. CARTER.

To the statements that have been made on the floor, might I just chronicle a more correct, if I might say, articulation of really what happened.

First, it is an applause and appreciation for the work done by the gentlewoman from California and the gentleman from Texas, along with the ranking member and the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, because they had 12 appropriations bills ready to go forward.

What my good friends have missed on the other side of the aisle is they debunked the full funding of the Department of Homeland Security because of their ire against the President's authorized constitutional executive action. That is why we are here today, for no other reason than, rather than allowing the debate on a clean funding on the omnibus bills, the 12 that have come from the House, they took out the Department of Homeland Security and left it to the side.

They took it out in the light of young women, as I indicated. Three Denver girls played hooky from school and tried to join ISIS. They took it out in the light of the FBI Director saying there is an ISIS cell in every State. They took it out in the light of the tragedies that happened in Paris, in Denmark, and have happened around the world in Australia. Boko Haram, they took it out. They took out that full funding of the Department of Homeland Security and skewed it by adding their contempt for the executive action.

But then, lo and behold, what happened is a judge didn't rule it unconstitutional in Texas. That was not the order of the court. It was that there were questions that should be decided—it was actually a stay—and that it should have gone through an administrative procedure, the APA. It did not rule it unconstitutional, but it was an action that caused, at least for the moment, a stay in the actions of the President.

What does that say, Madam Speaker? It says that today we can come and give a full funding for the Department of Homeland Security.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentlewoman.

Madam Speaker, that order answers their concern about the executive action. In the meantime, we have every opportunity tonight, today to vote on a clean full funding of the Department of Homeland Security until September, because that is what the Senate did. They did their work.

But now we are playing games, in spite of the letter from the Secretary of Homeland Security, and we are telling the Customs and Border Protection, we are telling the TSOs, the FAA,

the ICE officers, all of them, we put a stop sign and said we no longer want to secure America.

I ask for support of this motion to instruct, and I ask for full funding for the Department of Homeland Security. Let's do our job.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PITTENGER).

Mr. PITTENGER. I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Madam Speaker, I am here today absolutely in amazement that we are in this discussion about the Constitution of the United States. This is an issue of the balance of powers. This is an issue of our liberties. As important as the Homeland Security bill is, we recognize today that the Congress has made its statement, the President of the United States has made his statement 22 times that he did not have the right to declare amnesty, the courts have made their statement, and yet today we are in this dialogue.

I hope the American people are watching today and seeing the miscommunication of truth. The truth is we are committed to the Constitution, and we are going to stand by the Constitution. We are not going to allow the edict of one person to commit this country to a direction unchallenged. We are here committed to that principle. We believe that the rights of the American people are founded in this Constitution, and we will submit ourselves to that.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT).

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, as I listened to this debate and watched as some of the people talked about what our duty was and was not as Members of Congress, I thought I might come down and read the oath that we as Members of Congress take. It is simple.

"I do solemnly swear or affirm that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter, so help me God."

□ 1545

Ladies and gentlemen, this is not about immigration. This is about whether or not the President has the ability to unilaterally run this country by creating fees and spending those fees as he sees fit. I would submit to you that he doesn't. If the President

can do this and is allowed to get away with this, then, when we get a pro-life President, that pro-life President can create a fee on abortion providers and use it to fund adoption.

It seems to me that the Democratic Party, which prefers free cell phones to taking care of the men and women who protect our country in uniform, likes the rules when they are working for them but doesn't want to abide by the rules all the time.

What the President has done violates, I believe, the separation of powers. I would suggest to you that this is a very dangerous precedent, and this is well worth fighting for in maintaining our oath as Members of the United States Congress to defend the Constitution.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KEATING).

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, let's not lose focus here. We are talking about our country's security. We heard what would happen if the homeland function were to be eliminated immediately over a shutdown even with the emergency provisions that are existing.

I want to address an important issue, and that is the issue of our security being jeopardized because of these stopgap budgets. Now, what does that mean? That means we continue to work within the constraints of last year's priorities, that we can't move beyond the funding that is there for those functions that we said were important for our security last year. The trouble with that is the terrorist threats are changing every single day. The landscape is changing under our feet, yet we are in a straightjacket in dealing with it. We cannot continue going forward. It has already jeopardized our ability to look at nuclear detection in this country because of these stopgap budgets.

My State suffered a terrible tragedy with the Boston Marathon bombing, but I think all of us agree and all of us saw the way they organized, the way they coordinated all the functions—the State, the local, and the Federal Government, the medical functions, the emergency service. We all concluded—rightfully so—that countless lives were saved because of that. Do you know why? Because there was training and preparation for what could come.

We cannot deal successfully in this country with the threats that are confronting us here today and tomorrow—terrorist attacks—with last year's priorities and without being able to shift and meet those priorities. Let's stop the stopgap budgeting. It is hurting our country. It is hurting our security. Let's do what we are supposed to do under the Constitution—make these decisions to fund it.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the Democratic whip of the House.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this motion. I also rise to lament the fact that we had an opportunity just a few hours ago, or an hour ago, to do what the Senate rationally did. After four opportunities of trying to adopt the House position, the Senate failed to do so.

Now, I heard my young friend from Texas talk about the Constitution. I have heard a lot of people say we ought to read the Constitution. I agree with that. The Constitution has provided for the resolution of the injury of which you speak so passionately, and that is Article III of the Constitution.

Marbury v. Madison said that the Supreme Court had the authority, whether it was the President or the Congress, to say that that is not constitutional. Frankly, by our passing a law and saying this is constitutional, as has been attempted and done in the past by my Republican friends, to say, "we say, by legislative fiat, this is constitutional," unfortunately, today, we gave up the opportunity to act responsibly. My friend Mr. ROGERS, for whom I have great respect, and Mrs. LOWEY know we are going to be back here some 20 days from today with this same debate because the Senate has already said they are not going to conference. When I say "the Senate," the Democrats are not going to give 60 votes as the Republicans would not give 60 votes to go to conference on other bills in past years.

What we did was we reversed the order of the legislation we are considering. Had we done the original order, we would have done this motion to go to conference and the motion to instruct first. As a result, we would have still had the Senate bill in the House of Representatives so as to act responsibly, but there apparently was a fear that we might do that, so that bill was sent back to the Senate before we considered the CR for 21 days.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this motion to instruct. Vote "yes" to, at some point in time, do what is the responsible and doable alternative. It is not a question of whether you like it or I like it. It is the alternative that we in the Congress can do, and that is why 68 Members of the United States Senate—Republicans and Democrats—voted to say we have tried for 6 weeks to do what we all need to do, and that is to fund the Department of Homeland Security to keep America safe. We are going to delay that; but, at a minimum, we ought to say to the conferees—and few of us on this floor believe there will be any conference. Again, the Senate will not vote to go to conference. Let us vote at least for this responsible motion made by the gentlewoman from California.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time I have left.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 10½ minutes remaining, and the gentlewoman from California has 5½ minutes remaining.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would first like to say that I certainly hope that Mr. HOYER, when he referred to his young friend from Texas, was talking about me. That makes me feel really good. I appreciate that.

At this time, I yield 3 minutes to my young friend from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I appreciated so much my friend Mr. SCOTT for bringing up that oath. It does mean a lot—in my case, taking that oath to serve in the Army for 4 years, taking, basically, the same oath to be a prosecutor in Texas, to be a judge in Texas, to be a chief justice in Texas, and now to be in Congress. It means something. Protecting the Constitution means that, if we don't preserve the balance of power, then this little experiment in democracy—or “a Republic, madam,” as Benjamin Franklin referred to—will be lost.

I appreciated what my friend from Maryland said, and I wrote it down because it was profound: “we gave up the opportunity to act responsibly.”

I would humbly submit, Madam Speaker, that that has been going on for the last 6 years. Now, some of it went on during the Bush administration as the President used executive orders and took powers that probably shouldn't have been his. In talking to people who have been in Congress over the last 35 years or so, they have told me that, whether it was Gerald Ford or Richard Nixon when Goldwater went down Pennsylvania Avenue, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, or George W. Bush, there was a willingness on both sides of the aisle to get in a car together and go down Pennsylvania Avenue and say, “Mr. President, you have usurped far too much power. We can't let you destroy the Constitution any further. We are taking a stand.” We have missed that opportunity to act responsibly, but, fortunately, it is not yet too late.

If you do not know what “irresponsibility” is, then look at Judge Hanen's opinion. He spells it out. This President didn't even have the gumption to write an executive order and sign it. He spoke his new amnesty law into being, and then Jeh Johnson did a memo. That took the power of Congress away from us. So the question on acting responsibly is: Do we make that message clear that we are not having laws spoken into being in this country and having some bureaucrat—unelected—come around with a memo that undoes laws by different Congresses all these years that have been signed by different Presidents? With a memo? Come on.

It is time to act responsibly. Now is the time. Please. I know party divisions run deep, but stand with us for the Constitution.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the Democratic leader of the House.

Ms. PELOSI. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and I commend her and Congresswoman LOWEY for their very important motion to instruct conferees to accept the Senate language.

Madam Speaker, I want to address some of what a previous speaker had mentioned, but I am going to go to the most recent previous speaker.

If you feel so strongly—because I don't know if this is about thinking or feeling—about the immigration issue and the executive actions taken by the President, I respect that; but why are you jeopardizing the homeland security of the United States of America by attaching your emotions to this bill?

That is what this is about. If you have an argument about immigration, have an immigration bill come to the floor, and let's have that debate. You did say that we have given up the opportunity to act responsibly. That is exactly what you are doing today. Policy differences about immigration or the rest are a legitimate debate in this great marketplace of ideas that is called the House of Representatives; but it is not for you to hold hostage the homeland security of our country, to jeopardize the opportunity to prepare, to have what is current and necessary for the realities of the threats that we are facing now instead of—3 months since December until, it would be, March 19—3-month-old funding carried over from last year. A lot has happened since then in Paris, in the Middle East, with threats in our own country.

□ 1600

Get a grip on our responsibility. Get a grip, Madam Speaker. Give us a chance to vote on a bill that passed by more than two-thirds in the United States Senate with strong bipartisan support.

As far as your criticisms of President Obama, nobody said “boo” over there when President Reagan used—justifiably so, rightfully so—his executive orders on protecting immigrants in our country. George Herbert Walker Bush, the same. President Clinton. George W. Bush, who was one of the best Presidents on immigration in our country, wasn't able to convince his Republican colleagues to respect immigration as the invigoration of our country. But, nonetheless, he led on that subject.

So you have made a mess. We have so many bills, counter bills, CRs, all the rest of it coming back, forward, and all the rest, and every time I ask all of you what is happening, everybody says: I don't know.

It is only 8 hours until the government will shut down. That can't pos-

sibly happen. And I want to address that point. Someone has said to me, Well, the President said he won't let the government shut down—that he would sign this 3-week option. That is a bad choice that we have given the President—to shut the government down or extend it for 3 weeks—when that 3-week extension is as undermining to our national security as a shutdown in government. That is just not right. It is not responsible on our part.

So I say to our colleagues, if they want to go down that path of poor choices, let the Republicans do that. If they have got multiagendas here, anti-Obama agendas here about immigration and the rest, let them go down that path. Let them put their 218 votes on the board without our associating ourselves with it.

And just because the President's person says of the two bad choices he would choose the 3 weeks if it came to his desk, don't let that deter you from voting “no” on that and “yes” on what Congresswoman ROYBAL-ALLARD and Congresswoman LOWEY are putting forth as well.

Yes, we do take that oath, as the gentleman said, whether you are a judge, whether you are in the military, whether you are in Congress, or the President of the United States, to protect and support the Constitution of the United States. We are not protecting anything with what you are doing here. We are not protecting anything. We are dragging it out.

We are sending a message that, for some historic reason, we are now taking it out on Barack Obama because we are angry about what the gentleman on the Republican side said that Reagan, Bush, Clinton, and Bush have done. Bring it up under another circumstance. Keep it off the protection of our country.

Your chairman, Mr. ROGERS, working with our ranking member, Congresswoman LOWEY, was able to put together 12 bills which were a compromise—bills that everyone was prepared to support—until you decided you were going to use immigration to hold hostage the national homeland security of our country.

And so kick the can to here. Now you have kicked the can to here, and now you are going to kick the can to March 19. What do you think is going to happen on March 19? We have already had two recesses today in this very day of congressional deliberation. What do you think you are going to accomplish later if you are not willing to grow up, bite the bullet? You made your point.

Your colleagues, the Republican Senators, do not agree to drag this out. They have given you a face-saving path. The judge in Texas gave you a face-saving path. “I am Charlie”—“Je suis Charlie”—gave you a face-saving path.

The urgency is very, very clear—well, clear to everyone except if you happen to exist in this Chamber—when your negative attitudes toward President Obama have so overwhelmed you that you are willing to jeopardize the homeland security of our country. So whether it is firefighters, the SAFER Act, FEMA, or anything where the Federal Government comes in contact with people, you are standing in the way and using immigration as the excuse. For some of you, it may be a reason. Maybe it is for some of you, but for some of you it is an excuse. And for all of you it is a shame. It is a shame.

One gentleman said: If we accept the Senate language, we are not living up to our responsibility to have a bill in the House. And then you expect them to accept your language. Doesn't it hold true both ways? If you don't want to accept their language, why do you expect them to accept your 3-week language?

Do you not understand the legislative process? This Constitution, which we value, has the legislative branch. The first article of government is the legislature, preeminent. The President can't sign what we don't send him, in terms of making the law. He can take executive action, but the law is stronger.

Let us honor our responsibilities and stop standing in the way of protecting the American people. It is about the security of the American people versus the philosophy that you have going over there, which is perfectly to be respected in another piece of legislation. Let's have that debate separate from protecting.

It is about time for us to come together to get the job done. The Senate did it. We can. Please support Congresswoman ROYBAL-ALLARD's and Congresswoman LOWEY's motion to instruct the conferees to accept the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds Members to please direct their remarks to the Chair and not to other Members.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 7½ minutes remaining.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Does the gentlewoman have other speakers?

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. No. I am prepared to close.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I have had a lot of schoolteachers shake their fingers at me and tell me things. And most of the times, I have deserved it. I have been looked right at and told I was wrong before. Many of those times, I deserved it.

But I want to make something really clear. This is not a debate on immigra-

tion. This is not a debate on whether or not we are going to fund the Department. We are funding the Department for the next 3 weeks, using the same manner that we funded this Department for years at a time when our colleagues on the other side of the aisle were in charge of this House.

The CR was one of the most popular vehicles that they used in funding our country during the period of time they ran this place. So we are not using anything that we don't all use. It funds the Department. It keeps the Border Patrol okay and keeps them paid.

But it also allows us to do something that—by the way, the gentleman is absolutely right. In what we would call recent history, going to conference was so rare—my mother used to say “rare as hen's teeth”—when they ran this place.

So we are at least doing something that was designed to be done, and we are going to conference. When you go to conference and you have two sides of the story, you are supposed to go in there and discuss the two sides of the story. What they are asking to instruct here is to just take what the Senate sent us.

Well, to some extent, I guess we should reward the Senate. This is about the first thing they have sent us in recent history where we have actually had a bipartisan vote. In fact, last year we just didn't have any votes at all. In fact, you wondered if they even knew how.

And so here we are. We are going to conference and doing it the way it is supposed to be done. All parties will be able to participate, and maybe we will resolve our differences and maybe we won't, but the American people also ask us to try to work in a bipartisan manner. And here is our opportunity.

The Homeland Security Department will be funded. They will have a paycheck. We will address this issue in conference, and hopefully we will come to a resolution the way we are designed to with bipartisan participation.

This is not about immigration. And after having spent 4 years with some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and some of the colleagues over here working on immigration, I am not anti-immigration policy. This is anti-stepping on the feet of the Framers of the Constitution and walking all over that piece of paper.

And that is why we are here to fight today. We are fighting for the rights of this legislative body as we address the Executive. And we are fighting to fund the Department.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, let me just say that regardless of what the other side of the aisle will have us believe, the Secretary of Homeland Security and the men and women who put their lives on the front

line every day for us and to protect this country tell us that a continuing resolution jeopardizes their ability to fully and effectively protect this country.

And so I urge my colleagues to do the responsible thing and to vote for this motion to instruct conferees to bring back a clean, full-year, bipartisan funding bill that will enable the Department of Homeland Security to fully and effectively protect our Nation and the American people.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 35) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes, will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentlewoman opposed to the joint resolution?

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Yes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Roybal-Allard moves to recommit the joint resolution H.J. Res. 35 to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Page 1, line 3, strike “That the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2015” and insert the following:

SECTION 1. The Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2015

Page 1, lines 5 and 6, strike “March 19, 2015” and insert “September 30, 2015”.

Add at the end the following new section:

SEC. 2. The Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2015 is further amended by inserting at the end (before the short title) the following:

“SEC. 152. Notwithstanding any other provision of this joint resolution, funds and

other authorities made available for accounts of the Department of Homeland Security shall be available to the extent provided in, under the authority and conditions provided in, and at a rate for operations not to exceed the rate permitted by, H.R. 861, as introduced in the House of Representatives on February 11, 2015.”

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I reserve a point of order on the gentlewoman's motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes in support of her motion.

□ 1615

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, this motion to recommit will not kill the resolution or send it back to committee. If adopted, the continuing resolution will immediately proceed to final passage, as amended.

Adoption of this motion to recommit will change the date of the continuing resolution to September 30, 2015, and will incorporate by reference all the funding levels and provisions of H.R. 861, the clean, bipartisan, full-year funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security.

Once again, I ask my colleagues: What is gained by further putting off a resolution to this crisis of Republicans' own making?

Circumstances will be no different 3 weeks from now. We will almost certainly not have any final resolution from the judicial branch of the President's executive action. Nothing can be gained by further delay, but much can be lost.

These are the warnings of the Secretary of Homeland Security who has pointed out, over and over again, that the Department of Homeland Security is not doing just fine under the current continuing resolution and that there are significant consequences if we force the Department to keep living with the uncertainty of a continuing resolution.

As Secretary Johnson has said, the American people are counting on us, and the men and women of the Department of Homeland Security, so many of whom risk their health and safety every single day to keep us safe, are counting on us, too.

What message are we sending them when we continue to leave them in uncertainty over whether they will get paid 3 weeks from now? What message do we send them when we take their service for granted by using this funding bill as a pawn in a political game?

I urge my colleagues to vote for this motion to recommit so we can put an

end to this nonsense and allow the men and women of the Department of Homeland Security to go about the business of protecting this country knowing that we are fully behind them.

Madam Speaker, I yield the remainder of my time to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), the distinguished ranking member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the ranking member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee for yielding me the time.

I strongly support the Roybal-Allard motion, which gives the House an opportunity to vote for a full-year Homeland Security funding bill without any controversial immigration policy riders.

Almost 4:30 Friday afternoon, we have heard lectures all day about the Constitution. We have heard lectures all day about the process. I just want to remind my colleagues on the other side of the aisle—and especially those who may be new to the appropriations process—we can have a debate about the Constitution any time you want. We even can come up with amendments to the Constitution.

Right now, we are talking about Homeland Security keeping our country safe; and, again, because we have had so many debates about authority and who is doing what and who is obeying the Constitution, for me, it is a pleasure to work with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle on appropriations.

We passed the CR/Omnibus because, back in December, we couldn't agree to include the Homeland Security bill as part of an omnibus. Just to remind us again about process, Democrats on the Appropriations Committee and Republicans on the Appropriations Committee debated those bills.

We came together in a bipartisan way here in the House, and then we worked with the Senate to make sure we worked together in a bipartisan way. We had a good Homeland Security Appropriations bill. It may not have been perfect, but it was a bipartisan bill back in December. Here it is, almost March.

I just want to conclude by making it very clear, we cannot hold hostage to this bill and delay the Homeland Security bill anymore. I urge my colleagues to vote for full-year funding.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I make a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his point of order.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I make a point of order against the motion because it is in violation of section 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

The adoption of this motion would cause a breach of the 302(a) allocation of budget authority provided by the

Committee on the Budget and, therefore, is not permitted under section 302(f) of the Act.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does any Member wish to be heard on this point of order?

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I wish to be heard on the point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from California is recognized.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, the gentleman asserts that the motion exceeds the subcommittee's allocation. However, the Congressional Budget Office cost estimate noted “our estimate is the same as H.R. 240 as introduced.”

H.R. 240 was the bill introduced by the chairman of the subcommittee, Judge CARTER, and sent to the Senate.

If I understand the gentleman correctly, he is now asserting that the bill that he moved through this Chamber violated the rules of the House. I urge him to withdraw his point of order and allow for the House to vote on a clean, full-year bill for the Department of Homeland Security.

Absent that, I urge the presiding officer to overrule the gentleman's point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is prepared to rule.

The gentleman from Kentucky makes a point of order that the amendment proposed by the instructions in the motion to recommit offered by the gentlewoman from California violates section 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

Section 302(f) of the Budget Act precludes consideration of an amendment providing new budget authority if the adoption of the amendment and enactment of the bill or joint resolution, as amended, would cause the pertinent allocation of new budget authority under section 302(a) of the Act to be exceeded.

The Chair is authoritatively guided by an estimate of the chair of the Committee on the Budget under clause 4 of rule XXIX. That estimate shows that the amendment proposed in the motion to recommit provides new budget authority for fiscal year 2015 in excess of the applicable section 302(a) allocation.

The Chair therefore holds that the amendment violates section 302(f) of the Budget Act. Accordingly, the point of order is sustained and the motion to recommit is not in order.

The question is on the passage of the joint resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on passage of House Joint

Resolution 35 will be followed by a 5-minute vote on adoption of the motion to instruct on H.R. 240.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 203, nays 224, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 104]

YEAS—203

Abraham	Grothman	Poliquin
Aderholt	Guinta	Pompeo
Allen	Guthrie	Posey
Amodei	Hanna	Price, Tom
Ashford	Hardy	Reed
Barr	Harper	Reichert
Benishek	Harris	Renacci
Bilirakis	Hartzler	Reubens
Bishop (MI)	Heck (NV)	Ribble
Bishop (UT)	Hensarling	Rigell
Black	Herrera Beutler	Roby
Blum	Hill	Rogers (AL)
Boehner	Holding	Rogers (KY)
Bost	Huizenga (MI)	Rohrabacher
Boustany	Hultgren	Rokita
Brady (TX)	Hurd (TX)	Ros-Lehtinen
Brooks (IN)	Issa	Roskam
Brownley (CA)	Jenkins (KS)	Ross
Buchanan	Jenkins (WV)	Rothfus
Buck	Johnson (OH)	Rouzer
Bucshon	Jolly	Royce
Burgess	Joyce	Ruiz
Bustos	Katko	Russell
Byrne	Kelly (PA)	Ryan (WI)
Calvert	King (NY)	Scalise
Carter (GA)	Kinzingler (IL)	Schock
Carter (TX)	Kline	Schweikert
Chabot	Knight	Scott, Austin
Chaffetz	LaMalfa	Scott, David
Coffman	Lance	Sensenbrenner
Cole	Latta	Sessions
Collins (GA)	LoBiondo	Shimkus
Collins (NY)	Love	Shuster
Comstock	Lucas	Simpson
Conaway	Luetkemeyer	Sinema
Connolly	Lujan Grisham	Smith (MO)
Cook	(NM)	Smith (NE)
Costello (PA)	Lummis	Smith (NJ)
Cramer	MacArthur	Stefanik
Crawford	Marchant	Stewart
Crenshaw	Marino	Stivers
Culberson	McCarthy	Stutzman
Curbeo (FL)	McCaul	Thompson (PA)
Davis, Rodney	McClintock	Thornberry
Delaney	McHenry	Tiberi
Denham	McKinley	Tipton
Dent	McMorris	Trott
Diaz-Balart	Rodgers	Upton
Dold	McSally	Valadao
Duncan (SC)	Meehan	Wagner
Duncan (TN)	Messer	Walberg
Ellmers (NC)	Mica	Walden
Emmer (MN)	Miller (FL)	Walorski
Fitzpatrick	Miller (MI)	Walters, Mimi
Fleischmann	Moolenaar	Weber (TX)
Flores	Mooney (WV)	Webster (FL)
Fortenberry	Mullin	Westerman
Fox	Murphy (FL)	Westmoreland
Frelinghuysen	Murphy (PA)	Whitfield
Garrett	Newhouse	Wilson (SC)
Gibbs	Noem	Womack
Gibson	Nugent	Woodall
Goodlatte	Nunes	Yoho
Goody	Palazzo	Young (AK)
Graham	Palmer	Young (IA)
Granger	Paulsen	Young (IN)
Graves (GA)	Peters	Zeldin
Graves (LA)	Pittenger	Zinke
Graves (MO)	Pitts	

NAYS—224

Adams	Blumenauer	Carney
Aguilar	Bonamici	Carson (IN)
Amash	Boyle, Brendan	Cartwright
Babin	F.	Castor (FL)
Barletta	Brady (PA)	Castro (TX)
Barton	Brat	Chu, Judy
Bass	Bridenstine	Cicilline
Beatty	Brooks (AL)	Clark (MA)
Becerra	Brown (FL)	Clarke (NY)
Bera	Butterfield	Clawson (FL)
Beyer	Capps	Clay
Bishop (GA)	Capuano	Cleaver
Blackburn	Cárdenas	Clyburn

Cohen	Jackson Lee	Peterson
Conyers	Jeffries	Pingree
Cooper	Johnson (GA)	Pocan
Costa	Johnson, E. B.	Poe (TX)
Courtney	Johnson, Sam	Polis
Crowley	Jones	Price (NC)
Cuellar	Jordan	Quigley
Cummings	Kaptur	Rangel
Davis (CA)	Keating	Ratcliffe
Davis, Danny	Kelly (IL)	Rice (NY)
DeFazio	Kennedy	Rice (SC)
DeGette	Kildee	Richmond
DeLauro	Kilmer	Roe (TN)
DeBene	Kind	Rooney (FL)
DeSantis	King (IA)	Roybal-Allard
DeSaulnier	Kirkpatrick	Ruppersberger
DesJarlais	Kuster	Rush
Deutch	Labrador	Ryan (OH)
Dingell	Lamborn	Salmon
Doggett	Langevin	Sánchez, Linda
Doyle, Michael	Larsen (WA)	T.
F.	Larson (CT)	Sanchez, Loretta
Duckworth	Lawrence	Sanford
Duffy	Levin	Sarbanes
Edwards	Lewis	Schakowsky
Ellison	Lieu, Ted	Schiff
Engel	Lipinski	Schrader
Eshoo	Loebsack	Scott (VA)
Esty	Lofgren	Serrano
Farenthold	Loudermilk	Sewell (AL)
Farr	Lowenthal	Sherman
Fattah	Lowe	Sires
Fincher	Luján, Ben Ray	Slaughter
Fleming	(NM)	Smith (TX)
Forbes	Lynch	Smith (WA)
Foster	Maloney,	Swallow (CA)
Frankel (FL)	Carolyn	Takai
Franks (AZ)	Maloney, Sean	Takano
Fudge	Massie	Thompson (CA)
Gabbard	Matsui	Thompson (MS)
Galleo	McCollum	Titus
Garamendi	McGovern	Tonko
Gohmert	McNerney	Torres
Gosar	Meadows	Tsongas
Grayson	Meeks	Van Hollen
Green, Al	Meng	Vargas
Green, Gene	Moore	Veasey
Griffith	Moulton	Vela
Grijalva	Mulvaney	Velázquez
Gutiérrez	Nadler	Visclosky
Hahn	Napolitano	Walker
Hastings	Neal	Walz
Heck (WA)	Neugebauer	Wasserman
Hice, Jody B.	Nolan	Schultz
Higgins	Norcross	Waters, Maxine
Himes	O'Rourke	Watson Coleman
Honda	Olson	Welch
Hoyer	Pallone	Boyle, Brendan
Hudson	Pascarell	F.
Huelskamp	Payne	Brady (PA)
Huffman	Pearce	Brown (FL)
Hunter	Pelosi	Brownley (CA)
Hurt (VA)	Perlmutter	Bustos
Israel	Perry	Capps

NOT VOTING—6

Hinojosa	Long	Speier
Lee	McDermott	Turner

□ 1713

Mr. SCHRADER, Mrs. LAWRENCE, and Messrs. CARSON of Indiana, SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and FINCHER changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the joint resolution was not passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, on roll-call vote 104, on passage related to H.J. Res. 35, had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. MCCARTHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, Members are advised that additional votes are now possible later this evening and maybe this weekend.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to instruct on the bill (H.R. 240) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 201, nays 218, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 105]

YEAS—201

Adams	Denham	Kennedy
Aguilar	Dent	Kildee
Ashford	DeSaulnier	Kilmer
Bass	Deuch	Kind
Beatty	Dingell	King (NY)
Becerra	Doggett	Kinzingler (IL)
Bera	Dold	Kirkpatrick
Beyer	Doyle, Michael	Kuster
Bishop (GA)	F.	Lance
Blumenauer	Duckworth	Langevin
Bonamici	Edwards	Larsen (WA)
Boyle, Brendan	Ellison	Larson (CT)
F.	Engel	Lawrence
Brady (PA)	Eshoo	Levin
Brown (FL)	Esty	Lewis
Brownley (CA)	Farr	Lieu, Ted
Bustos	Fattah	Lipinski
Capps	Fitzpatrick	LoBiondo
Capuano	Foster	Loebsack
Cárdenas	Frankel (FL)	Lofgren
Carney	Frelinghuysen	Lowenthal
Carson (IN)	Fudge	Lowe
Cartwright	Gabbard	Lujan Grisham
Castor (FL)	Galleo	(NM)
Castro (TX)	Garamendi	Luján, Ben Ray
Chu, Judy	Gibson	(NM)
Cicilline	Graham	MacArthur
Clark (MA)	Grayson	Maloney,
Clarke (NY)	Green, Al	Carolyn
Clay	Green, Gene	Maloney, Sean
Cleaver	Gutiérrez	Matsui
Clyburn	Hahn	McCollum
Coffman	Hanna	McGovern
Cohen	Hastings	McNerney
Connolly	Heck (WA)	McSally
Conyers	Higgins	Meehan
Cooper	Himes	Meeks
Costa	Honda	Meng
Costello (PA)	Hoyer	Moore
Courtney	Huffman	Moulton
Crowley	Israel	Murphy (FL)
Cuellar	Jackson Lee	Nadler
Cummings	Jeffries	Napolitano
Davis (CA)	Johnson (GA)	Neal
Davis, Danny	Johnson, E. B.	Nolan
DeFazio	Jolly	Norcross
DeGette	Kaptur	O'Rourke
Delaney	Katko	Pallone
DeLauro	Keating	Pascarell
DeBene	Kelly (IL)	Paulsen

Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.

Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Stefanik
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)

Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Welch
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—13

Brooks (IN)
Butterfield
Clawson (FL)
Grijalva
Hinojosa
Lamborn
Lee
Long
Lynch
McDemott

□ 1723

So the motion to instruct was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York). The Chair will appoint conferees on H.R. 240 at a later time.

NAYS—218

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishke
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Davis, Rodney
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fox
Franks (AZ)
Garrett
Gibbs
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman

Guinta
Guthrie
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huiuzenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaMalfa
Latta
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCauley
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Poliquin

Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Rohy
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

COMMUNICATION FROM THE
DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, Democratic Leader:

FEBRUARY 26, 2015.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House, U.S. Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: Pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2702, I am pleased to reappoint Mr. John A. Lawrence of Washington, DC, to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress.

Thank you for your attention to this appointment.

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI,
Democratic Leader.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2130

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN) at 9 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 27, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 27, 2015 at 8:47 p.m.:

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 33.

Appointments: Senate National Security Working Group for the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIRE-
FIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RE-
SPONDERS ACT

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 33) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO
BE AVAILABLE TO SERVE ON IN-
VESTIGATIVE SUBCOMMITTEES
OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS
FOR THE 114TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to clause 5(a)(4)(A) of rule X, and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, of the following Members of the House to be available to serve on investigative subcommittees of the Committee on Ethics for the 114th Congress:

Mrs. BLACKBURN, Tennessee
Mr. COLLINS, Georgia
Mrs. COMSTOCK, Virginia
Mr. FORBES, Virginia
Mr. HULTGREN, Illinois
Mr. KATKO, New York
Mr. LATTA, Ohio
Mr. OLSON, Texas
Mr. RATCLIFFE, Texas
Mrs. ROBY, Alabama

COMMUNICATION FROM THE
DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, Democratic Leader:

FEBRUARY 25, 2015.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to clause 5(a)(4)(A) of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I designate the following Members to be available to serve on an Investigative Subcommittee of the Committee on Ethics during the 114th Congress:

The Honorable John C. Carney of Delaware
The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly of Virginia

The Honorable Janice Hahn of California
The Honorable Brian Higgins of New York
The Honorable Hakeem S. Jeffries of New York

The Honorable William R. Keating of Massachusetts

The Honorable Ed Perlmutter of Colorado
The Honorable Terri A. Sewell of Alabama
The Honorable Jackie Speier of California
The Honorable Dina Titus of Nevada

Best regards,

NANCY PELOSI,
Democratic Leader.

the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS.

The Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2015 (Public Law 113-164; 128 Stat. 1867) is amended by striking the date specified in section 106(3) and inserting "March 6, 2015".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 33.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Senate has acted this evening to take up a House bill and amend it to provide a 1-week continuing resolution for the Department of Homeland Security. I rise today to urge the House to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to prevent a shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security.

In a matter of hours, the current mechanism funding DHS will expire. To allow a shutdown of these critical functions would be an abdication of one of our primary duties as Members of the House. It is no way to govern the Nation, and the American people deserve better.

It is the 11th hour, and we must act to provide stable, continuous funding for the agencies and programs tasked with defending our home turf.

This continuing resolution will last until March 6, allowing us the needed additional time to continue negotiating a path forward on how to fund DHS for the rest of the year. Without any further delay, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this critical legislation.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I yield to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I ask the gentleman, what then happens to the underlying language where we were protecting the firefighters and others in regard to the bill as it originally stood and as it related to them being covered under PPACA?

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. My understanding is that we will take that up later.

Mr. GRIFFITH. I'm sorry, I couldn't hear the gentleman.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. My understanding is that we will take that up later.

Mr. GRIFFITH. If the gentleman will continue to yield for an additional question, Mr. Speaker, I would ask the gentleman, it is his understanding that we would take that up later, but that means that the bill that we previously passed—the language that we previously passed, at least—no longer exists based on the Senate amendment; am I correct in that assumption?

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. That is correct.

Mr. GRIFFITH. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this has been a day of confusion both here in this House and for the men and women of the Department of Homeland Security. Just hours ago, the House rejected a plan to fund a 3-week stopgap funding measure for the Department so that we might instead take up the clean, full year funding bill.

Now we have before us a 1-week CR that was just sent over to us by the Senate. To avoid further confusion and ensure there is no funding lapse for the Department, I urge my colleagues to put us on a path to enactment of the Senate-passed long-term funding of DHS by voting in favor of the 7-day patch.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I say vote "yes."

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak to the men and women of the Department of Homeland Security to let them know that many of us are listening and working very hard to make sure that the agency is fully funded for the rest of 2015.

Tonight we will extend funding through for an additional seven days for the Department of Homeland Security.

The fight was worth it.

Next week we are assured that we will have a vote on a clean DHS bill that fully funds DHS through the end of the fiscal year.

Democrats stood united and this was a battle for the American people and the brave men and women of the DHS who are dedicated to protecting the security of the homeland.

Now is the time to put politics aside and put the interest of the country first.

This is a step in the right direction—provided that we fully fund DHS for the remainder of this fiscal year when we reconvene for business next week.

We cannot afford to continue the political games played by the Republicans when there

are so many serious challenges facing our country from ISIS and other violent terrorist groups.

Just this week FBI Director James Comey, while speaking at the Winter meeting of the National Association of Attorneys General, reported that his agency is investigating ISIS suspects in all 50 states.

Next week Congress must take action, and send the right message to the men and women charged with protecting the homeland.

Mr. Speaker, we must focus our efforts next week on the needs of the 170,000 DHS employees who will be required to work without pay if we do not find a path forward.

These employees include members of the Coast Guard, Border Patrol, Secret Service, Transportation Security Administration and others on the front lines of Homeland Security.

An additional 30,000 employees of the Department of Homeland Security will be furloughed and sent home without pay.

A DHS shutdown would hit Texas especially hard.

The local and state negative impact of House inaction is the forgoing of fiscal year 2015 grants that go to first responders.

In 2014, DHS grants awarded to the city of Houston included \$24,000,000 from Urban Area Security Initiative grants and \$299,995 from the non-profit program.

In 2014, port security grants included: \$1,810,826 for Harris County; \$845,250 for the City of Houston.

Programs intended to aid our fire fighters such as the one at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston, which received a \$1,493,340 DHS research grant last year are being hurt by House inaction on fiscal year 2015 funding for the agency.

When Congress returns next week we must complete our work and fully fund DHS for the rest of the fiscal year.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 33.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 357, noes 60, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 106]

AYES—357

Abraham	Black	Buck
Adams	Blackburn	Buchshon
Aguilar	Blum	Bustos
Allen	Blumenauer	Butterfield
Ashford	Bonamici	Byrne
Barr	Bost	Calvert
Beatty	Boustany	Capps
Becerra	Boyle, Brendan	Capuano
Benishek	F.	Cárdenas
Bera	Brady (PA)	Carney
Beyer	Brady (TX)	Carson (IN)
Billirakis	Brooks (IN)	Carter (GA)
Bishop (GA)	Brown (FL)	Carter (TX)
Bishop (MI)	Brownley (CA)	Cartwright
Bishop (UT)	Buchanan	Castor (FL)

Castro (TX)
 Chabot
 Chaffetz
 Chu, Judy
 Cicilline
 Clark (MA)
 Clarke (NY)
 Clay
 Cleaver
 Clyburn
 Cohen
 Cole
 Collins (GA)
 Collins (NY)
 Comstock
 Conaway
 Connolly
 Conyers
 Cook
 Cooper
 Costa
 Costello (PA)
 Courtney
 Cramer
 Crawford
 Crenshaw
 Crowley
 Cuellar
 Culberson
 Cummings
 Curbelo (FL)
 Davis (CA)
 Davis, Danny
 Davis, Rodney
 DeFazio
 DeGette
 Delaney
 DeLauro
 DeBene
 Denham
 Dent
 DeSaulnier
 Deutch
 Diaz-Balart
 Dingell
 Doggett
 Dold
 Doyle, Michael
 F.
 Duckworth
 Duncan (SC)
 Edwards
 Ellison
 Ellmers (NC)
 Emmer (MN)
 Engel
 Eshoo
 Esty
 Farr
 Fattah
 Fitzpatrick
 Fleischmann
 Foster
 Foxx
 Frankel (FL)
 Frelinghuysen
 Fudge
 Gabbard
 Gallego
 Garamendi
 Garrett
 Gibbs
 Gibson
 Goodlatte
 Graham
 Granger
 Graves (GA)
 Graves (LA)
 Graves (MO)
 Grayson
 Green, Al
 Grothman
 Guinta
 Guthrie
 Gutiérrez
 Hahn
 Hanna
 Hardy
 Harper
 Harris
 Hastings
 Heck (NV)
 Heck (WA)
 Hensarling
 Herrera Beutler
 Higgins

Hill
 Himes
 Holding
 Honda
 Hoyer
 Huffman
 Huizenga (MI)
 Hunter
 Hurd (TX)
 Israel
 Issa
 Jackson Lee
 Jenkins (KS)
 Jenkins (WV)
 Johnson (GA)
 Johnson (OH)
 Johnson, E. B.
 Jolly
 Joyce
 Kaptur
 Katko
 Keating
 Kelly (IL)
 Kelly (PA)
 Kennedy
 Kildee
 Kilmer
 Kind
 King (NY)
 Kinzinger (IL)
 Kirkpatrick
 Kline
 Knight
 Kuster
 LaMalfa
 Langevin
 Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT)
 Latta
 Lawrence
 Levin
 Lewis
 Lieu, Ted
 Lipinski
 LoBiondo
 Loebach
 Lofgren
 Loudermilk
 Love
 Lowenthal
 Lowey
 Lucas
 Luetkemeyer
 Lujan Grisham
 (NM)
 Luján, Ben Ray
 (NM)
 Lummis
 Lynch
 MacArthur
 Maloney
 Carolyn
 Maloney, Sean
 Marchant
 Marino
 Matsui
 McCarthy
 McCaul
 McClintock
 McCollum
 McGovern
 McHenry
 McKinley
 McMorris
 Rodgers
 McNerney
 McSally
 Meehan
 Meeks
 Meng
 Messer
 Mica
 Miller (FL)
 Miller (MI)
 Moolenaar
 Mooney (WV)
 Moore
 Moulton
 Mullin
 Murphy (FL)
 Murphy (PA)
 Nadler
 Neal
 Newhouse
 Noem

Nolan
 Norcross
 Nunes
 O'Rourke
 Palazzo
 Pallone
 Paulsen
 Payne
 Pelosi
 Perlmutter
 Peters
 Peterson
 Pingree
 Pittenger
 Pitts
 Pocan
 Poliquin
 Polis
 Pompeo
 Price (NC)
 Price, Tom
 Quigley
 Rangel
 Reed
 Reichert
 Renacci
 Ribble
 Rice (NY)
 Richmond
 Rigell
 Roby
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rohrabacher
 Rokita
 Rooney (FL)
 Ros-Lehtinen
 Roskam
 Ross
 Rothfus
 Rouzer
 Roybal-Allard
 Royce
 Ruiz
 Ruppersberger
 Rush
 Russell
 Ryan (OH)
 Ryan (WI)
 Sánchez, Linda
 T.
 Sanchez, Loretta
 Sanford
 Sarbanes
 Scalise
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Schock
 Schweikert
 Scott (VA)
 Scott, Austin
 Scott, David
 Serrano
 Sessions
 Sewell (AL)
 Sherman
 Shimkus
 Shuster
 Simpson
 Sinema
 Sires
 Slaughter
 Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Stefanik
 Stewart
 Stivers
 Stutzman
 Swalwell (CA)
 Takai
 Takano
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Thompson (PA)
 Thornberry
 Tiberi
 Tipton
 Titus
 Tonko
 Torres
 Trott
 Tsongas
 Turner
 Upton
 Valadao

Van Hollen
 Veasey
 Vela
 Velázquez
 Wagner
 Walberg
 Walden
 Walorski
 Walters, Mimi
 Walz

Wasserman
 Schultz
 Waters, Maxine
 Watson Coleman
 Weber (TX)
 Webster (FL)
 Welch
 Westerman
 Westmoreland
 Whitfield
 Williams

Wilson (FL)
 Wilson (SC)
 Womack
 Woodall
 Yarmuth
 Yoho
 Young (AK)
 Young (IA)
 Young (IN)
 Zeldin
 Zinke

NOES—60

Amash
 Amodei
 Babin
 Barletta
 Barton
 Brat
 Bridenstine
 Brooks (AL)
 Burgess
 Clawson (FL)
 DeSantis
 DesJarlais
 Duffy
 Duncan (TN)
 Farenthold
 Lamborn
 Fleming
 Flores
 Forbes
 Franks (AZ)

Gohmert
 Gosar
 Gowdy
 Griffith
 Grijalva
 Hice, Jody B.
 Hudson
 Huelskamp
 Hultgren
 Hurt (VA)
 Johnson, Sam
 Jones
 Jordan
 King (IA)
 Labrador
 Lamborn
 Massie
 Meadows
 Mulvaney
 Napolitano

Neugebauer
 Nugent
 Olson
 Palmer
 Pascarella
 Pearce
 Perry
 Poe (TX)
 Posey
 Ratcliffe
 Rice (SC)
 Salmon
 Sensenbrenner
 Smith (TX)
 Smith (WA)
 Visclosky
 Walker
 Wenstrup
 Wittman
 Yoder

NOT VOTING—15

Aderholt
 Bass
 Coffman
 Fortenberry
 Green, Gene

Hartzler
 Hinojosa
 Jeffries
 Lee
 Long

McDermott
 Roe (TN)
 Schrader
 Speier
 Vargas

□ 2159

Mr. CUELLAR changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote 106, on motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment related to H.R. 33 had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2015

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday, March 2, 2015, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. SABLON (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for March 2 to April 30 on account of medical reasons.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, March 2, 2015, at noon for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

592. A letter from the Chairman, Broadcasting Board of Governors, transmitting a notice of a likely violation of the “personal services” clause of the voluntary services provision of the Antideficiency Act, 31 U.S.C. 1342; to the Committee on Appropriations.

593. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, OUSD(AT&L) DPAP/DARS, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Deletion of Obsolete Text Relating to Acquisition of Commercial Items (DFARS Case 2015-D002) (RIN: 0750-A150) received February 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

594. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, OUSD(AT&L) DPAP/DARS, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Domestic Source Restrictions on Certain Naval Vessel Components (DFARS Case 2014-D022) (RIN: 0750-AI36) received February 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

595. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's Alternative Fuel Vehicle (AFV) program report for FY 2014, as required by the Energy Policy Act (EPA) of 2005 (Pub. L. 109-58); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

596. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting a notice of a proposed lease to the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (Transmittal No.: 05-15), pursuant to Sec. 62(a) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

597. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No.: 15-09, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to Slovakia, pursuant to Sec. 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

598. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the FY 2014 Annual Performance Report and FY 2016 Annual Performance Plan; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

599. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

600. A letter from the Secretary/Treasurer, Financing Corporation, transmitting a copy of the Financing Corporation's Statement on the System of Internal Controls and the 2014 Audited Financial Statements; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

601. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland

Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision of Auxiliary Regulations [Docket No.: USCG-1999-6712] (RIN: 1625-AB66) received February 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

602. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Vessel Requirements for Notices of Arrival and Departure, and Automatic Identification System [Docket No.: USCG-2005-21869] (RIN: 1625-AA99) received February 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

603. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Lycoming Engines Reciprocating Engines (Type Certificate previously held by Textron Lycoming Division, AVCO Corporation) [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0540; Directorate Identifier 2014-NE-10-AD; Amendment 39-18074; AD 2015-02-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

604. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0446; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-077-AD; Amendment 39-18069; AD 2015-02-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

605. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0138; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-020-AD; Amendment 39-18086; AD 2015-02-19] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

606. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (Embraer) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0622; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-009-AD; Amendment 39-18080; AD 2015-02-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

607. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0527; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-045-AD; Amendment 39-18071; AD 2015-02-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

608. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0525; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-235-AD; Amendment 39-18078; AD 2015-02-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

609. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of

Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0231; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-163-AD; Amendment 39-18073; AD 2015-02-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

610. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0188; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-157-AD; Amendment 39-18079; AD 2015-02-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

611. A letter from the Acting Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel (02REG), Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Automobile or Other Conveyance and Adaptive Equipment Certificate of Eligibility for Veterans or Members of the Armed Forces With Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (RIN: 2900-AP26) received February 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

612. A letter from the Acting Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel (02REG), Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program (RIN: 2900-AO50) received February 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

613. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Insular Areas, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's "Report to the Congress: 2014 Compact Impact Analysis", along with the related "Impact of the Compacts of Free Association on Guam FY2004 through FY2013"; jointly to the Committees on Natural Resources and Foreign Affairs.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. SMITH of Texas (for himself, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. FORBES, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. MARINO, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. COOK, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey):

H.R. 1147. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to make mandatory and permanent requirements relating to use of an electronic employment eligibility verification system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOWDY (for himself, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. FORBES, Mr. CARTER of Texas, and Mr. CHABOT):

H.R. 1148. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to improve immigration law enforcement within the interior of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARTER of Texas (for himself, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. MARINO, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. WILLIAMS, and Mr. FLEISCHMANN):

H.R. 1149. A bill to amend the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 to provide for the expedited removal of unaccompanied alien children who are not victims of a severe form of trafficking in persons and who do not have a fear of returning to their country of nationality or last habitual residence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Ms. ESHOO):

H.R. 1150. A bill to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to improve the ability of the United States to advance religious freedom globally through enhanced diplomacy, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance efforts, and through stronger and more flexible political responses to religious freedom violations and violent extremism worldwide, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. RUSH):

H.R. 1151. A bill to amend title IX of the Public Health Service Act to revise the operations of the United States Preventive Services Task Force, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MARCHANT (for himself and Mr. ROSKAM):

H.R. 1152. A bill to prohibit officers and employees of the Internal Revenue Service from using personal email accounts to conduct official business; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CHAFFETZ (for himself, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. CHABOT, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. BARLETTA, and Mr. FORBES):

H.R. 1153. A bill to modify the treatment of unaccompanied alien children who are in Federal custody by reason of their immigration status, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a

period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STUTZMAN (for himself, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. JONES, and Mr. WESTMORELAND):

H.R. 1154. A bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to remove the mandate on the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal Open Market Committee to focus on maximum employment; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SMITH of Missouri (for himself, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. MARINO, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GOODLATTE, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER):

H.R. 1155. A bill to provide for the establishment of a process for the review of rules and sets of rules, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LIPINSKI (for himself, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. SWALWELL of California, and Ms. ESTY):

H.R. 1156. A bill to authorize the establishment of a body under the National Science and Technology Council to identify and coordinate international science and technology cooperation opportunities; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. LAMALFA (for himself, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. NUNES, Mr. COLE, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. COOK, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. MCCLINTOCK):

H.R. 1157. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for the benefit of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HULTGREN (for himself, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico):

H.R. 1158. A bill to improve management of the National Laboratories, enhance technology commercialization, facilitate public-private partnerships, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. ROHRBACHER):

H.R. 1159. A bill to reinstate reporting requirements related to United States-Hong Kong relations; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. STUTZMAN:

H.R. 1160. A bill to reduce Federal, State, and local costs of providing high-quality drinking water to millions of people in the United States residing in rural communities by facilitating greater use of cost-effective alternative systems, including well water systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. ADAMS (for herself, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. POCAN, Mr. COHEN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. POLIS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. MOORE, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. HONDA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. MEEKS):

H.R. 1161. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to designate at least one city in the United States each year as an "American Civil Rights City", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. SMITH of Texas):

H.R. 1162. A bill to make technical changes to provisions authorizing prize competitions under the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. CAPUANO:

H.R. 1163. A bill to protect investors in futures contracts; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. CAPUANO (for himself and Mr. JONES):

H.R. 1164. A bill to provide for notification to consumers before a video service collects visual or auditory information from the viewing area and to provide consumers with choices that do not involve the collection of such information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CAPUANO:

H.R. 1165. A bill to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to require that repurchase-to-maturity transactions be treated as secured borrowings; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CAPUANO:

H.R. 1166. A bill to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to require any person subject to accounting principles or standards under the securities laws to show all transactions of such person on the balance sheet of such person; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CAPUANO (for himself, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. LYNCH):

H.R. 1167. A bill to establish the Securities and Derivatives Commission in order to combine the functions of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission in a single independent regulatory commission; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CRAMER:

H.R. 1168. A bill to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to require background checks before foster care placements are ordered in tribal court proceedings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 1169. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the maximum contribution limit for health savings accounts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1170. A bill to amend the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Programs

Enhancement Act of 2001 and title 38, United States Code, to require the provision of chiropractic care and services to veterans at all Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers and to expand access to such care and services; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. KING of New York (for himself and Mr. PASCRELL):

H.R. 1171. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide recruitment and retention incentives for volunteer emergency service workers; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LARSEN of Washington (for himself and Mr. STIVERS):

H.R. 1172. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the rate of tax on distilled spirits produced by small distilleries; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 1173. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to prohibit trading on material inside information; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MARINO (for himself, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. AMODEI):

H.R. 1174. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to safeguard data stored abroad from improper government access, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MATSUI (for herself, Ms. ESTY, Mr. HONDA, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. TONKO, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. RUSH, Ms. LEE, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 1175. A bill to provide for the establishment of a Clean Energy Technology Manufacturing and Export Assistance Fund to assist United States businesses with exporting clean energy technology products and services; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MULVANEY:

H.R. 1176. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to carry out a study of the National Credit Union Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. POSEY (for himself and Mr. NUGENT):

H.R. 1177. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Defense to transport to any country, without charge, supplies that have been furnished by a nonprofit organization and that are intended for distribution to members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. GUTHRIE, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. ROSKAM, and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 1178. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modify payment under the Medicare program for outpatient department procedures that utilize drugs as supplies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. BOUSTANY, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. PAULSEN, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, and Mr. KLINE):

H.R. 1179. A bill to prohibit waivers relating to compliance with the work requirements for the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROONEY of Florida:

H.R. 1180. A bill to prohibit the Government of the United States from issuing or enforcing a new restriction or prohibition on the manufacture, importation, or sale in the United States of ammunition; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 1181. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for increased and improved public access to motor vehicle safety information, enhanced tools and accountability for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and protection of motor vehicle consumers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 1182. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prevent retroactive claims of the earned income tax credit by individuals receiving work authorizations pursuant to certain deferred action programs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia (for himself and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia):

H.R. 1183. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain burial benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SESSIONS:

H.R. 1184. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to revise Medicare coverage and payment for advanced surgical dressings in skilled nursing facilities and home health settings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STIVERS (for himself, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. BABIN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. HARPER, Mr. HANNA, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. PETERSON, Ms. SINEMA, and Ms. FUDGE):

H.R. 1185. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide the opportunity

for responsible health savings to all American families; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. THORNBERRY:

H.R. 1186. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act relating to controlled substance analogues; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ZELDIN (for himself, Mr. TAKANO, and Ms. LOFGREN):

H.R. 1187. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to adjust certain limits on the guaranteed amount of a home loan under the home loan program of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. YOHO (for himself, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. POE of Texas, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. THORNBERRY, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H. Con. Res. 20. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that all direct and indirect subsidies that benefit the production or export of sugar by all major sugar producing and consuming countries should be eliminated; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HASTINGS (for himself and Mr. DOLD):

H. Res. 130. A resolution to express the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe and to encourage greater cooperation with the European governments, the European Union, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in preventing and responding to anti-Semitism; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. PAYNE (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. DENT, and Mr. LANCE):

H. Res. 131. A resolution supporting the designation of March 2015, as National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. SMITH of Texas:

H.R. 1147.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 of the United States Constitution enumerating congressional authority "[t]o establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization."

By Mr. GOWDY:

H.R. 1148.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, clause 4, of the Constitution provides that Congress shall have

power to "establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization." The Supreme Court has long found that this provision of the Constitution grants Congress Plenary power over immigration policy. As the Court found in *Galvan v. Press*, 347 U.S. 522, 531 (1954) "that the formulation of policies [pertaining to the entry of aliens and the right to remain here] is entrusted to Congress has become about as firmly imbedded in the legislative and judicial tissues of our body politic as any aspect of our government."

By Mr. CARTER of Texas:

H.R. 1149.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4:

To establish a uniform rule of naturalization, and uniform laws on the subject of bankruptcies throughout the United States;

Article I Section 8, Clause 10:

To define and punish piracies and felonies committed on the high seas, and offenses against the law of nations;

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 1150.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8 of the Constitution

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

H.R. 1151.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. MARCHANT:

H.R. 1152.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clauses 1 and 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CHAFFETZ:

H.R. 1153.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 4 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. STUTZMAN:

H.R. 1154.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 5 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SMITH of Missouri:

H.R. 1155.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 1 of the United States Constitution, in that the legislation concerns the exercise of legislative powers generally granted to Congress by that section, including the exercise of those powers when delegated by Congress to the Executive; Article I, Sections 8 and 9 of the United States Constitution, in that the legislation concerns the exercise of specific legislative powers granted to Congress by those sections, including the exercise of those powers when delegated by Congress to the Executive; Article I, Section 8, clause 18 of the United States Constitution, in that the legislation exercises legislative power granted to Congress by that clause "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States,

or in any Department or Officer thereof;" and, Article III, Sections 1 and 2 of the United States Constitution, in that the legislation defines or affects judicial powers and cases that are subject to legislation by Congress.

By Mr. LIPINSKI:

H.R. 1156.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes; and

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. LAMALFA:

H.R. 1157.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution provides Congress with the authority to regulate commerce with Indians in the United States.

By Mr. HULTGREN:

H.R. 1158.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3:

The Congress shall have power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with Indian tribes.

and

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 1159.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. STUTZMAN:

H.R. 1160.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution which states, "Congress shall have the power . . . to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states and among the Indian Tribes."

By Ms. ADAMS:

H.R. 1161.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 1162.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3:

The Congress shall have power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with Indian tribes.

and

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. CAPUANO:

H.R. 1163.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 3 (relating to the power to regulate interstate commerce).

By Mr. CAPUANO:

H. R. 1164.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 1 (relating to the general welfare of the United States); and Article I, section 8, clause 3 (relating to the power to regulate interstate commerce).

By Mr. CAPUANO:

H.R. 1165.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 3 (relating to the power to regulate interstate commerce).

By Mr. CAPUANO:

H.R. 1166.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 3 (relating to the power to regulate interstate commerce).

By Mr. CAPUANO:

H.R. 1167.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 3 (relating to the power to regulate interstate commerce).

By Mr. CRAMER:

H.R. 1168.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, clause 3.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 1169.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1170.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. KING of New York:

H.R. 1171.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. LARSEN of Washington:

H.R. 1172.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

As described in Article 1, Section 1 "all legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives."

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 1173.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MARINO:

H.R. 1174.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes."

By Ms. MATSUI:

H.R. 1175.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill.

By Mr. MULVANEY:

H.R. 1176.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. "The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States."

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3. "To regulate Commerce . . ."

Article I, Section 8, Clause 14. "To make Rules for the Government . . ."

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18. "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 1177.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 12 of the Constitution of the United States: To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the forgoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 1178.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 1179.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. ROONEY of Florida:

H.R. 1180.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The 2nd Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 1181.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 1182.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1. Section 8.

By Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia:

H.R. 1183.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The Congress shall have the power to provide for the common defense.

By Mr. SESSIONS:

H.R. 1184.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. STIVERS:

H.R. 1185.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. THORNBERRY:

H.R. 1186.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause I of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution—Congress has the power to provide for the general welfare of the United States

By Mr. ZELDIN:

H.R. 1187.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 25: Mr. PALMER.
H.R. 55: Mr. RANGEL and Ms. LEE.
H.R. 67: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 72: Mr. RANGEL, Ms. BROWN of Florida, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.R. 73: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 77: Ms. MOORE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. RUSH, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 131: Mr. CRAMER, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. STEWART.
H.R. 160: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 173: Mr. HARDY.
H.R. 188: Ms. KUSTER and Mr. TROTT.
H.R. 218: Ms. GRAHAM.
H.R. 228: Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Mr. MACARTHUR.
H.R. 232: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 235: Mr. ADERHOLT.
H.R. 238: Mr. NORCROSS and Mr. DEUTCH.
H.R. 267: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 284: Mr. PERLMUTTER.
H.R. 288: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 306: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 333: Mr. RIGELL.
H.R. 360: Mr. LUCAS.
H.R. 366: Ms. GABBARD, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mr. NORCROSS.
H.R. 376: Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. BASS, and Ms. LEE.
H.R. 377: Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. LEE, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 378: Ms. LEE and Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 383: Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 386: Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 401: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, and Mr. ROTHFUS.
H.R. 413: Mrs. LAWRENCE.
H.R. 416: Mr. TIBERI.
H.R. 463: Mr. BABIN and Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 465: Mr. LUCAS and Mr. ROONEY of Florida.
H.R. 511: Mr. HUNTER, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
H.R. 539: Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 540: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska and Mrs. LUMMIS.
H.R. 551: Miss RICE of New York.
H.R. 572: Mr. PETERSON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RIBBLE, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. RIGELL.

H.R. 577: Mr. MACARTHUR, Mr. LATTA, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. ROTHFUS, and Mr. RIGELL.

H.R. 589: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.

H.R. 592: Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 594: Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 597: Mr. ABRAHAM.

H.R. 601: Mr. DUFFY.

H.R. 606: Mr. REED.

H.R. 608: Mr. CONYERS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. COHEN, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 613: Mr. AMODEI and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 624: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 632: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 635: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 638: Mr. POLIS and Mr. BUCK.

H.R. 642: Miss RICE of New York.

H.R. 653: Mr. GUINTA, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Mr. DESJARLAIS.

H.R. 654: Mr. HILL.

H.R. 662: Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. DENT, and Mr. BYRNE.

H.R. 663: Mr. HARPER.

H.R. 684: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 685: Mr. VISCLOSKEY and Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 692: Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 696: Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 705: Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 707: Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mrs. LOVE.

H.R. 712: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.

H.R. 721: Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. MICA, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. DENT, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. DIAZ-BALART.

H.R. 742: Miss RICE of New York.

H.R. 751: Mr. GUINTA.

H.R. 752: Mr. BERA.

H.R. 757: Mr. DESJARLAIS.

H.R. 762: Mr. DEFazio.

H.R. 767: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 768: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 797: Mr. SERRANO, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 799: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 815: Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. BARR, and Mr. POMPEO.

H.R. 825: Mr. PEARCE, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. MCSALLY, and Mr. GOHMERT.

H.R. 829: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. HASTINGS, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 845: Mr. PETERSON and Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 858: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 868: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 879: Mr. FINCHER, Mr. DESJARLAIS, and Mrs. NOEM.

H.R. 882: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 906: Mr. BYRNE, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. GIBSON, and Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 911: Ms. GABBARD, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. JONES, and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 912: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 915: Miss RICE of New York.

H.R. 919: Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. LEE, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 920: Ms. NORTON, Mr. POCAN, and Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 927: Ms. ESTY.

H.R. 932: Ms. DUCKWORTH and Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 950: Mr. SIREs.

H.R. 954: Mr. BLUM.

H.R. 955: Mr. MACARTHUR and Mr. SHUSTER.

H.R. 969: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr.

WESTERMAN, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MACARTHUR, and Ms. BROWN of Florida.

H.R. 973: Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. TURNER, Mr. HIMES, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. LEE, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, and Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 975: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H.R. 978: Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. O'ROURKE, and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 985: Mr. HUDSON and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 986: Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. HARPER, Ms. FOXX, Mr. COOK, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. ABRAHAM.

H.R. 988: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 997: Mr. ROE of Tennessee and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.

H.R. 999: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. JONES, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. SALMON, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

H.R. 1004: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 1006: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 1023: Mr. CURBELO of Florida.

H.R. 1024: Mr. KEATING, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. MEEKS, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 1029: Mr. BARTON.

H.R. 1030: Mr. TIPTON, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. BARTON, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1031: Ms. ADAMS, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Ms. GRAHAM, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. LEE, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 1037: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.

H.R. 1039: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1041: Mr. LYNCH, Mr. YOHIO, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 1046: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 1062: Mr. HANNA, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. ABRAHAM, and Mr. PEARCE.

H.R. 1075: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.

H.R. 1084: Mr. AMODEI and Mr. HURD of Texas.

H.R. 1086: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. ZINKE, and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.

H.R. 1094: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, Mr. BUCK, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. LATTA, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. POLIQUIN, and Mr. HURD of Texas.

H.R. 1095: Mr. VEASEY, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 1106: Mr. JONES, Mr. ZINKE, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.

H.R. 1111: Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 1122: Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 1135: Mrs. LAWRENCE.

H.J. Res. 25: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Mr. NORCROSS.

H.J. Res. 29: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska and Mr. GOODLATTE.

H. Res. 15: Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. BEN RAY LUJAN of New Mexico, Mr. POLIS, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. COHEN.

H. Res. 54: Mr. CÁRDENAS and Mr. TAKANO.

H. Res. 56: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.

H. Res. 109: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MARINO, Ms.

EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MAC-
ARTHUR, and Mr. CROWLEY.

H. Res. 118: Mr. TED LIEU of California.

H. Res. 122: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Penn-
sylvania and Ms. DELAURO.

H. Res. 123: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. COSTA.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN REMEMBRANCE OF SUMGAIT,
KIROVABAD AND BAKU MAS-
SACRES

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month I met with a constituent, Marat Khoudabakhshiev, whose family barely survived pogroms perpetrated 27 years ago today against the Armenian residents of then-Soviet Azerbaijan. He recounted how Azerbaijanis who had lived alongside Armenians for generations suddenly turned violent against them, causing Armenian families like his to flee their homes for safety.

Over three days, February 26th to 28th, 1988, a pogrom was perpetrated against the Armenian residents of Sumgait in then-Soviet Azerbaijan. Armenians were attacked and killed in their apartments and on the streets. Although official figures reported 30 deaths, it is believed that hundreds were murdered and injured as a result of the pogrom.

The violence against the Armenians in Sumgait was prompted by a vote, which took place one week prior by the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh, to unify the region with Armenia—the beginning of the Karabakh movement. In the days immediately after this vote Azeri civilians and local officials in the city of Sumgait held rallies calling for “death to Armenians”.

On the night of February 27, 1988, Armenian residents in Sumgait were targeted and indiscriminately raped, mutilated and murdered. Calls for help from Armenians were ignored by local police and city officials. Journalists were shut out from the area. The violence raged on for three days before Soviet troops were able to put an end to the pogrom.

Witnesses of the horrific massacres later testified that the attacks were planned, as civilians had gathered weapons and the exits of the cities were blocked in advance to prevent Armenians from escaping. The homes of Armenians were marked so that the Azeri mobs could easily target them.

Unfortunately, the perpetrators of the pogrom succeeded in their ultimate goal—driving out Armenians. Fearing more violence, Armenian families fled Sumgait. Later that year, another anti-Armenian pogrom occurred in Kirovabad, Azerbaijan from November 21st to 27th, which also forced hundreds of Armenians to flee the region. In January of 1990 violent mobs targeted the Armenian community of Azerbaijan's capital, Baku.

This year also marks the 100th anniversary of the commemoration of the first genocide of the 20th century, the Armenian Genocide. It is imperative that we honor the memory of Armenians killed in the pogroms of Sumgait, Kirovabad, and Baku, as well as the Armenian

Genocide. If we hope to stop future massacres, we must acknowledge these horrific events and ensure they do not happen again.

Recognizing the ethnic-cleansing of the Armenians from Azerbaijan is an important step. However, we need to do more—we need to demonstrate to Azerbaijan that the United States is committed to peace and to the protection of Artsakh from coercion.

As the current government of Azerbaijan grows even more hostile towards Armenians, we must call for an end to all threats and acts of violence by Azerbaijan's government against the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh.

Congress should strengthen Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act by removing the President's ability to waive U.S. law prohibiting aid to Azerbaijan because of its continuing blockade against Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh. In 1992, Congress prohibited aid to Azerbaijan because of its continuing blockade against Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh. However, in 2001, Congress approved a waiver to this provision, and administrations have used the waiver since then to provide aid to Baku. Azerbaijan should not be provided aid from the United States as long as they continue a policy of threats and blockades against Artsakh.

I urge the Administration to remove all barriers to broad-based U.S.-Nagorno Karabakh governmental and civil society communication, travel and cooperation.

HONORING NOREEN EVANS

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, MIKE THOMPSON, to recognize California Senator Noreen Evans, who recently retired on November 30, 2014 following twenty-one years of public service.

Senator Evans has a distinguished record of serving the North Coast as a public servant and community leader. She has devoted her career to protecting the North Coast's invaluable natural resources, reforming the California legal system, and advocating for the rights of underserved communities, especially women and children.

Ms. Evans began her career in public service on the Santa Rosa Planning Commission and continued this service as a member of the Santa Rosa City Council before serving three terms in the California State Assembly and one term in the California State Senate. As an Assembly member, Ms. Evans took on key roles as a Majority Whip, Human Services Committee Chair, and Budget Committee Chair. In the Senate, Ms. Evans led the Senate Banking and Finance Committee, the Senate Committee on Judiciary, the Legislative

Women's Caucus, and the Senate Select Committee on Wine. Ms. Evans used her leadership positions to champion local issues as well as statewide policy and was able to forge bipartisan consensus among her colleagues.

In addition to her time in elected office, Ms. Evans has practiced law for more than twenty years and litigated before both state and federal courts, up to the United States Supreme Court. In 2011, she became the first woman to receive the Defender of Justice Award from the Judicial Council of California.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that we honor Noreen Evans upon her retirement from the California State Senate for her tireless work representing the North Coast by protecting its valuable natural resources and championing its people. We express our deep appreciation to Noreen Evans for her exemplary public service, and convey our best wishes to Ms. Evans and her family as she pursues new endeavors.

RECOGNIZING ANNIE GALLAGHER

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Annie Gallagher, Public Affairs Specialists with the Philadelphia Region Social Security Administration for her 23 years of service to our nation and to congratulate her on her announced retirement.

Annie Gallagher, in her role as the Public Affairs Specialist at the Philadelphia Regional Office, provided assistance to a countless number of my constituents, as well as Virginians across the region and the Commonwealth. Her dedication and extraordinary commitment in providing solutions to those in need has been a credit to the Social Security Administration, which she has faithfully served for the past 13 years. Her efforts on behalf of the public have been in keeping with the highest standards of public service.

I congratulate Annie on a well-deserved retirement and wish her the best as she begins the next chapter in her life.

HONORING JUAN OSORIO ORTIZ,
MR. AMIGO OF THE 78TH AN-
NUAL CHARRO DAYS FIESTA

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Juan Osorio Ortiz who has been named Mr. Amigo 2014. A Mexican television

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

actor and producer, Juan Osorio Ortiz's distinguished career spans almost three decades.

This year from February 22 through March 1, the cities of Brownsville, Texas, and Matamoros, Tamaulipas, will come together to celebrate the 78th Annual Charro Days Fiesta.

Charro Days unites the bi-cultural, bi-literate and bi-national communities of Brownsville and Matamoros to commemorate our way of life and shared history and to celebrate the interconnectedness of our two communities. The Rio Grande, "El Rio Bravo," on the southern border of the U.S. and Mexico binds our two communities—one region with family and friends living on both sides of the border. Over generations we have shared memories and built relationships that span beyond any line or boundary.

The current security situation has strained our way of life, and those of us who frequented Matamoros to visit family and friends or to have dinner in the heart of the city have not been able to visit in a long time. In the face of today's challenges, the annual Charro Days Fiesta recommits the two communities to our valued friendship. We join in celebration of our shared past, customs, cultures and traditions, and to solidify our resolve for a better tomorrow.

Every year, the Mr. Amigo Association Selection Committee names an individual who serves as a role model for the community. The recipient must be a Mexican citizen who has contributed to friendship and understanding between the U.S. and Mexico, and has excelled in their profession, exemplifying the highest standards in their personal and professional lives.

Mr. Amigo 2014, Juan Osorio Ortiz, was born on June 24, 1957, in Mexico City. His passion for theatre started as a young boy when he would memorize all the lines and roles in school plays and fill in when someone was absent. At a young age, he went to Televiscentro, a training school for actors and actresses in Mexico. His interest in telenovelas, or soap operas, was sparked when he participated in "El Amor Tiene Cara de Mujer."

Working his way up the ladder in the entertainment industry, he began as a production assistant and had the opportunity to advance in 1986 when he stepped in as executive director on the soap opera "La Gloria y El Infierno". Juan Osorio Ortiz has been an executive producer of soap operas ever since. In the past 28 years, he has produced 24 soap operas, including "Mi Corazon Es Tuyo," "Una Familia Con Suerte," "Tormenta en El Paraiso," "Salome," "Marisol," and "Clarisa."

Today, we honor Juan Osorio Ortiz for his years of work bringing real life issues to the small screen in a thoughtful and engaging way. I join Brownsville, Texas, and Matamoros, Tamaulipas in welcoming him to Charro Days.

HONORING SHARON GOLDSWORTHY

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate my friend, Mayor Sharon Goldsworthy on being named the 2015 Germantown, Tennessee Lions Club Citizen of the Year. This award highlights her wonderful career in public service and enhances her legacy of dedication, passion, and commitment for the people of Germantown and all of Shelby County, Tennessee.

Mrs. Goldsworthy and her husband, Jim, moved to Germantown in 1977. Mrs. Goldsworthy saw a need and became involved with the local schools and the issues they were facing. Involvement with the PTA and other organizations eventually led her to commission and board meetings and a desire to be a part of the decision-making process. In 1992, Mrs. Goldsworthy was elected Alderman, and she was elected Mayor of Germantown in 1994.

Despite the "part-time" job she acquired, Mayor Goldsworthy worked overtime for the betterment of her city. She served on the Tennessee Air Pollution Control Board, Governor's Council on Higher Education, Chickasaw Basin Authority, Regional Rail Steering Committee, and Metro Planning Organization Transportation Board. Her service took her to halls and committee rooms in both Nashville and Washington with the West Tennessee Mayors Association, Tennessee Women in Government, the Tennessee Municipal League, and the United States Conference of Mayors. Through budgets, drainage issues, railroad crossings, public television, and thousands of other issues, Mayor Goldsworthy always fought for those in need and was ever-ready to meet any challenge or lend a helping hand.

The Germantown Lions Club could not have made a better selection for their Citizen of the Year than Mayor Sharon Goldsworthy. Indeed the award is a fitting tribute to the indelible contributions Mayor Goldsworthy provided to the people she served. On behalf of Tennessee's 8th Congressional District, I would like to congratulate and wish the best of luck in retirement and for all future endeavors to the family and friends of Mrs. Sharon Goldsworthy.

SUMGAIT POGROMS

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 27th anniversary of the pogrom against the Armenian residents of the town of Sumgait, Azerbaijan. On this day in 1988, and for three days following, Azerbaijani mobs assaulted and killed Armenians. When the violence finally subsided, hundreds of Armenian civilians had been brutally murdered

and injured, women and young girls were raped, and some victims were tortured and burned to death. Those that survived the carnage fled their homes and businesses, leaving behind all but the clothes on their backs. The Sumgait Pogroms came in the wake of a pattern of anti-Armenian rallies throughout Azerbaijan, aided and encouraged by high ranking officials in the Azeri government, and touched off a wave of violence culminating in the 1990 Pogroms in Baku.

In a pattern all too familiar to the Armenian people, the Azerbaijani authorities made little effort to punish those responsible, instead attempting to cover up the atrocities in Sumgait to this day, as well as denying the role of senior government officials in instigating the violence.

The Sumgait massacres led to wider reprisals against Azerbaijan's Armenian ethnic minority, resulting in the virtual disappearance of a once thriving population of 450,000 Armenians living in Azerbaijan, and culminating in the war launched against the people of Nagorno Karabakh. That war resulted in thousands dead on both sides and created over one million refugees in both Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Time has not healed the wounds of those killed and hurt in the pogroms in Sumgait, Kirovabad, and Baku. To the contrary, hatred of Armenians is celebrated in Azeri society, a situation most vividly exemplified by the case of Ramil Safarov, an Azerbaijani army captain who savagely murdered an Armenian army lieutenant, Gurgen Margaryan with an axe while he slept. The two were participating in a NATO Partnership for Peace exercise at the time in Hungary. In 2012, Safarov was sent home to Azerbaijan, purportedly to serve out the remainder of his sentence. Instead, he was pardoned, promoted, and paraded through the streets of Baku in a sickening welcome home. And as we speak, Azerbaijan continues its dangerous and provocative behavior along its border with Armenia and in Karabakh.

Mr. Speaker, this April we will mark the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, an event the Turkish government, Azerbaijan's closest ally, goes to great lengths to deny. We must not let such crimes against humanity go unrecognized, whether they occurred yesterday or 27 years ago or 100 years ago. Today, let us pause to remember the victims of the atrocities of the Sumgait pogroms. Mr. Speaker, it is our moral obligation to condemn crimes of hatred and to remember the victims, in hope that history will not be repeated.

RECOGNIZING AMERICAN HEART MONTH

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize American Heart Month and commend the staff and volunteers of the American Heart Association, and the organizations in New Jersey and around the country for participating in this year's successful effort

to raise awareness of heart disease and the associated risks.

American Heart Month is a critical public awareness tool that helps promote heart-healthy lifestyles, with a focus on prevention and incorporating a healthy diet and exercise into all of our daily lives.

Last Congress, I was honored to accept the position of co-chair of the Congressional Heart and Stroke Coalition. For nearly 20 years, the Coalition has served as a resource for all members of Congress and worked to advance federal policies that raise the quality of life for individuals with heart disease.

The partnership of the Association and the Coalition is critical to raising awareness of the disease and ensuring those of us making decisions on funding and policy are educated on how what we do affects those suffering. The Association's briefings—which they organize throughout the year—are a key component of this strategy.

Heart and stroke patients, as well as their loved ones and caregivers, need vocal advocates on Capitol Hill to ensure access to quality care and treatments. We have a duty to see that programs aimed at combating cardiovascular disease, or CVD, as well as medical research for prevention and treatment of stroke and heart attacks, are supported appropriately at the federal level.

Mr. Speaker, the numbers and their public health implications are shocking. CVD is the nation's number one killer. A staggering 85.6 million people—1 in 3 American adults—suffer from heart disease, stroke, or other cardiovascular diseases. An American dies from cardiovascular disease every 40 seconds. It is estimated that by 2030, about 44 percent of all adult Americans will be affected by heart disease—with direct and indirect costs from CVD estimated to reach almost \$1 trillion by 2030.

Further, as both the Association and the CDC point out, heart disease is sometimes thought of as a "man's disease." Yet, heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases are the No. 1 killer of women in the United States, claiming the lives of 398,035 women per year. According to the Heart Association, nearly half of all women are not aware that heart disease is the leading cause of death for women.

That's worth repeating, Mr. Speaker. Every minute, one woman dies as a result of CVD or a stroke.

The American Heart Association is leading the charge in raising awareness of this fact through coordinated campaigns, like National Wear Red Day and Go Red For Women.

One organization working in my Congressional district is the Meridian Health Foundation's "Women's Heart Fund." Since its inception in 2007, the Foundation—focused on promoting heart health in Monmouth and Ocean County—has funded nursing scholarships, equipment for management of the most severe heart attacks and vascular screenings, and boosted funding for the Pediatric Cardiology Program at the K. Hovnanian Children's Hospital and the CardioVascular Intensive Care Unit at the Jersey Shore University Medical Center, which opened last year.

While American Heart Month comes to a close tomorrow, it's important we continue

these efforts year round. I would like to thank all of my colleagues who are members of the Congressional Heart and Stroke Coalition and urge those who have not yet joined to do so. Help us continue and grow the critical Coalition-Association partnership that is working to improve our constituents' health, families, and future.

HONORING THOR CONSTRUCTION'S 35TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the founding of Thor Construction, one of the largest minority-owned construction companies in Minnesota, and an industry leader for contracting projects nationwide.

Founded with the objective of becoming the number one minority-owned company in the country, Thor Construction is well on its way to achieving that goal. Since 1980, Thor has led many of Minnesota's largest construction projects. Its impressive track record includes work on Target Field, the Minneapolis Central Library, the TCF Bank Stadium at the University of Minnesota, the Minneapolis Convention Center, and the new Minnesota Vikings football stadium. Thor Construction shows no signs of tiring in its mission to provide top-notch construction work that benefits both workers of color and communities at large.

Richard Copeland, the founder and chairman of Thor, is proud that his company "generates new investments and exponential returns to the communities [they] serve." This guiding principle of social service in conjunction with high-quality development has led to projects in countless communities around Minnesota, as well as in at least six other states and five foreign countries. These industry leaders have jumped at every opportunity to expand their mission, moving well above and beyond humble Midwestern beginnings to leave a mark on the world around them.

Thor Construction has received accolades from the City of Minneapolis, Black Enterprise, the US Green Building Council, and numerous other groups for their innovative approach to constructing with purpose. By creating good-paying, union jobs for thousands of underserved individuals, Thor Construction continues to ensure that building projects also entail community development.

I am proud to represent the congressional district that Thor Construction calls home, and I eagerly await the day that I can congratulate them for achieving their goal of becoming the number one minority owned company in the United States.

REMEMBERING THE KHOJALY TRAGEDY

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the 613 Azerbaijani men, women, and children killed in Khojaly on February 25 and 26, 1992. Marking the anniversary of such a tragedy is difficult, but it is critical that we remember and honor the precious lives lost.

Azerbaijan has been a reliable friend and valuable ally of the United States, and it is appropriate for Congress to commemorate the victims of the Khojaly tragedy as our Azerbaijani friends mark the 23rd anniversary of the event.

Despite such hardships, Azerbaijan has been a great support to U.S. efforts in the War on Terror, and the country has made great strides over its short history as an independent nation to promote economic growth and prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the town and people of Khojaly who died on those fateful days and in offering our deepest condolences to Azerbaijan on this tragic anniversary.

RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF MASSACRES AGAINST ARME- NIANS IN SUMGAI

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the twenty-seventh anniversary of the pogroms against people of Armenian descent in Sumgait, Azerbaijan. My district is home to thousands of Armenian-Americans, many who are the sons and daughters of survivors. As they know well, Azerbaijani rioters started a murderous rampage in response to peaceful protests on February 27, 1988, that forever changed Armenia. During those three days, scores of Armenians were killed, hundreds were wounded, and thousands were forced to leave their homes and livelihoods behind.

As we recognize this tragedy, we should also take this time to commend the people of Nagorno Karabakh on being the first to demand their right to freedom and self-governance from the Soviet Union. Although a small nation, Nagorno Karabakh sparked the democracy movement that ended decades of dictatorial rule in the USSR and eventually led to the fall of the Soviet Union.

Sadly, the Azerbaijani government continues to act as an aggressor today. In November 2014, Azerbaijani armed forces shot down a Nagorno-Karabakh helicopter participating in a training exercise near the cease-fire line, killing the three crew members on board. This aggression is completely unacceptable and further hurts efforts to achieve a peaceful resolution.

Today, I ask my colleagues to stand with the proud people of Nagorno Karabakh in recognizing the anniversary of these tragic events. Let today serve as a reminder for each and every one of us to continue advocating for human rights and democratic freedoms around the world.

HONORING THE 2015 ACADEMY
NOMINEES OF THE 11TH CON-
GRESSIONAL DISTRICT NEW JER-
SEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, every year, more school seniors from the 11th Congressional District trade in varsity jackets for Navy pea coats, Air Force flight suits, and Army brass buckles than most other districts in the country. But this is nothing new—our area has repeatedly sent an above average portion of its sons and daughters to the nation's military academies for decades.

This fact should not come as a surprise. The educational excellence of area schools is well known and has long been a magnet for families looking for the best environment in which to raise their children. Our graduates are skilled not only in mathematics, science, and social studies, but also have solid backgrounds in sports, debate teams, and other extracurricular activities. This diverse upbringing makes military academy recruiters sit up and take note—indeed, many recruiters know our towns and schools by name.

Since the 1830's, Members of Congress have enjoyed meeting, talking with, and nominating these superb young people to our military academies. But how did this process evolve? In 1843, when West Point was the sole academy, Congress ratified the nominating process and became directly involved in the makeup of our military's leadership. This was not an act of an imperial Congress bent on controlling every aspect of Government. Rather, the procedure still used today was, and is, a further check and balance in our democracy. It was originally designed to weaken and divide political coloration in the officer corps, provide geographical balance to our armed services, and to make the officer corps more resilient to unfettered nepotism and handicapped European armies.

In 1854, Representative Gerritt Smith of New York added a new component to the academy nomination process—the academy review board. This was the first time a Member of Congress appointed prominent citizens from his district to screen applicants and assist with the serious duty of nominating candidates for academy admission. Today, I am honored to continue this wise tradition in my service to the 11th Congressional District.

The Academy Review Board is composed of six local citizens who have shown exemplary service to New Jersey, to their communities, and to the continued excellence of education in our area—and all are veterans. Though from diverse backgrounds and professions, they all share a common dedication that the

best qualified and motivated graduates attend our academies. And, as true for most volunteer panels, their service goes largely unnoticed.

I would like to take a moment to recognize these men and women and thank them publicly for participating in this important panel. Being on the board requires hard work and an objective mind. Members have the responsibility of interviewing upwards of 50 outstanding high school seniors every year in the academy review process.

The nomination process follows a general timetable. High school seniors mail personal information directly to the Military Academy, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and the Merchant Marine Academy once they become interested in attending. Information includes academic achievement, college entry test scores, and other activities. At this time, they also inform my office of their desire to be nominated.

The academies then assess the applicants, rank them based on the data supplied, and return the files to my office with their notations. In late November, our Academy Review Board interviews all of the applicants over the course of 2 days. They assess a student's qualifications and analyze character, desire to serve, and other talents that may be hidden on paper.

This year the board interviewed over 40 applicants. The Board's recommendations were then forwarded to the academies by January 31, where recruiters reviewed files and notified applicants and my office of their final decision on admission.

As these highly motivated and talented young men and women go through the academy nominating process, never let us forget the sacrifice they are preparing to make: to defend our country and protect our citizens. This holds especially true at a time when our nation is fighting the war against terrorism. Whether it is in Afghanistan or other hot spots around the world, no doubt we are constantly reminded that wars are fought by the young. And, while our military missions are both important and dangerous, it is reassuring to know that we continue to put America's best and brightest in command.

ACADEMY NOMINEES FOR 2015 11TH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Gina-Marie Arrabito, West Orange, West Orange H.S.; John P. Dennehy, Rockaway, Morris Hills H.S.; Fredrik A. Eriksson, Woodland Park, Passaic Valley Regional H.S.; Joshua J. Fortes, Parsippany, Parsippany H.S.; Christian O. Hedengren, Brookside, St. Peters Preparatory; Leland E. Hemgren, Boonton, Mountain Lakes H.S.; Liam R. Sax, Sparta, Pope John XXIII Regional H.S.

MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

Travis Z. Feather, Pine Brook, Bergen Catholic H.S.; Paul T. Femia, Kinnelon, Valley Forge Military Academy; Maria F. Garcia, East Hanover, Hanover Park H.S.; Colleen M. Griffin, Kinnelon, Kinnelon H.S.; Christian A. Marini, Kinnelon, Seton Hall Preparatory; Luke H. Mayer, Morristown, Delbarton School; Christopher J.L. Morgan, West Orange, West Orange H.S.; Kelly A. Smith, Roseland, West Essex H.S.

NAVAL ACADEMY

Seth M. Abbott, Randolph, Randolph H.S.; Mark G. Brown, Brookside, West Morris

Mendham H.S.; James E. Crimmins, Madison, Chaminate H.S., NY; Joshua C. Corbett, Mendham, Gill St. Bernards School; Jacob S. Ferraro, Kinnelon, Kinnelon H.S.; Aaron J. Hanko, Montville, Naval Academy Preparatory School; Warren J. Lee, East Hanover, Oratory Preparatory School; Jay Oh, Madison, Madison H.S.; Austin J. Tighe, Little Falls, Seton Hall Preparatory; Jacob T. Valente, Wayne, Wayne Valley H.S.

MILITARY ACADEMY

Matthew E. Babich, Wayne, Regis H.S. NY, NY; Alexandra R.K. Bruno, Little Falls, Passaic Valley H.S.; Jonathan P. Davis, Chatham, Chatham H.S.; Alexander C. Lagasca, Sparta, Sparta H.S.; John M. Lowe, Parsippany, Gill St. Bernards School; Angela E. Martone, Lincoln Park, Trinity Christian School; Richard R. O'Connor, New Vernon, Miami University; Ivan V. Peters, Boonton, U.S. Army, Fort Bragg; James E. Schoch, Sparta, Sparta H.S.; Austin J.C. Williams, Verona, Verona H.S.

IN RECOGNITION OF RABBI
DONALD A. WEBER

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rabbi Donald Weber on his 30th Anniversary as Rabbi of Temple Rodeph Torah in Marlboro, New Jersey. Rabbi Weber is an outstanding leader of Temple Rodeph Torah and an active member of the community whose contributions are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Under Rabbi Weber's leadership, the Temple Rodeph Torah congregation has grown from 66 families in 1984 to more than 350 today. He also began the TRT Cares program to provide help to those in the community facing financial hardships, which earned the Fain Award for Social Justice in 2011.

In addition to his efforts within Temple Rodeph Torah, Rabbi Weber is also an active member of the community. He has served as the Marlboro Township Police Chaplain since 2005, is a founding member and Board Chair of the Marlboro Township Ethics Board and is a life member of the Morganville First Aid Squad. He remains an advocate for hunger issues and personal rights, serving as a member and co-chair of the Jewish Leaders' Council of MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger and a trustee of Planned Parenthood of Monmouth County, among others.

Prior to becoming the first full-time rabbi of Temple Rodeph Torah, Rabbi Weber served as Volunteer Chaplain and Supervisor of the Pediatrics Floor at Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, New York and as Associate Rabbi of Temple Beth David in Commack, New York. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies at Brandeis University and his Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters and Honorary Doctor of Divinity from Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Rabbi Donald Weber and recognizing him for his dedication to community outreach and social action.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 92, I was detained due to an unavoidable conflict.

Had I been present, I would have voted aye.

TEXANS KNOW BARBECUE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Killen's Barbecue, a Pearland, TX legendary institution, for being named in the top 10 in GQ Magazine's "25 Most Outstanding Restaurants of 2015."

All due respect to other states, Texans know barbecue better than anyone! Don't let the never-ending line to get in stop you from tasting a little bit of heaven. It's well worth the wait. Chef Ronnie Killen is a true master and his culinary skills are keeping true Texas barbecue alive.

I commend Chef Killen for sharing his true Texas Barbecue with the great folks of TX—22. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional of Texas, congratulations again to Killen's Barbecue for being named one of GQ's "25 Most Outstanding Restaurants of 2015."

IN RECOGNITION OF LILLI REY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Lilli Rey who was chosen as the 2015 Citizen of the Year by the Hillsborough Schools' Associated Parents Group. This extraordinary honor is reserved for an individual who has made sustained and significant contributions to the Hillsborough community, in particular to the education and well-being of our children. I can't think of a more deserving person than Lilli to receive this honor. She is the personification of generosity, grace and getting things done.

I have watched and admired her dedication and commitment since Lilli moved to Hillsborough two decades ago. I feel very fortunate to count Lilli as one of my closest friends and neighbors. The word "no" barely exists in her vocabulary; if there is a project that needs help, Lilli will take it on and bring it to a successful conclusion. She has given her time and energy to countless causes. She served as the President and Executive Board Member for the North School Parent Group, the 2010 Town of Hillsborough Centennial Co-Chair, Girl Scout Leader, 4th Grade North Yosemite Trip Chair, and Hillsborough Concours d'Elegance Tickets Chair. Lilli is part of the heartbeat of the town.

To say that Lilli loves children is an understatement. As the very proud mother of four—Zach, Zoe, Sadie and Cassie—she is devoted to them completely and always puts them first. But her love is not reserved exclusively for her own children, she shares the same care and tenderness for other children, always striving to contribute to their well-being.

Lilli has also been a steadfast and generous supporter of our local schools, Shelter Network, the San Mateo Community Hospital Foundation, NARAL and Protect Our Defenders Foundation. These groups protect the rights and dignity of our children, victims of domestic violence, the homeless, women, victims of sexual assault in the military, and health care for low income women—issues that are very near and dear to my heart and issues that have created a very deep bond between Lilli and me.

To watch Lilli at an event is to watch a symphony conductor. Even though she is working harder than anyone, she makes it look easy and harmonic. She is in the right place at the right time and she makes everything flow perfectly.

Any organization is lucky to have Lilli on board. She will identify what needs to get done and get it done while improving the organization and the community as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to recognize an exceptional woman and philanthropist who tirelessly gives back and never asks for anything in return. Lilli Rey is a treasured gift to the community and truly deserves to be honored as the 2015 Hillsborough Schools' Citizen of the Year.

DON NELSON: A LOCAL LEGEND IN BROADCASTING

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to wish a Houston icon, constituent and TV anchor Don Nelson a happy retirement.

Don has been a voice to Texans for 39 years and I have known him most of that time.

In those 39 years, Don has just about done it all.

He did broadcasting at a radio station in Pennsylvania after serving in the U.S. Air Force for 4 years.

And then worked in radio in West Virginia and New Mexico before he made it to the promise land, Texas when ABC 13 News hired him.

From hosting "Dialing For Dollars," "Good Morning Houston," covering traffic, and interviewing celebrities, sports stars and rodeo entertainers, Don is quite the commentator.

Don's genuine, happy personality and work ethic really have made Houston's morning news number one.

Our morning commutes won't be the same without him.

Hats off to you, Don.

You can now sleep in and enjoy your morning coffee.

The people of Houston extend our deepest appreciation.

Congrats on your retirement, you have earned it.

Best wishes in the next chapter of your life. You are quite the legend in local broadcasting.

And that's just the way it is.

CHURCH OF ST. PAUL'S "HOLY SMOKE" BBQ COOK-OFF

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the annual Church of St. Paul's "Holy Smoke" BBQ Cook-Off which takes place each March 6th and 7th, 2015 in the city of Mission, Texas.

The "Holy Smoke" BBQ Cook-Off is an International Barbecue Cookers Association state championship event; the occasion features a festive combination of good music and good eating, with proceeds going to fund scholarships for area youth.

Talented barbecue chefs from Texas face off to see who can cook up the tastiest brisket, pork spareribs, and chicken, along with beans, fajitas, pan de campo, and desserts. The "Holy Smoke" BBQ Cook-Off is an exciting time for young and old alike and is a much-anticipated gathering for residents of South Texas due to the scholarship assistance it provides to students in furthering their education.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize this celebration of Lone Star State-style food and music.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN L. CURTICE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and celebrate the retirement of Fresno County Sheriff Deputy, Christian L. Curtice. Deputy Curtice served an honorable thirty-three years with the Fresno County Sheriff's Office, and his service is to be commended.

Christian Curtice was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1959, and subsequently moved with his family to California. He graduated from the Pacific Grove High School in 1978. A few years after high school, Christian had moved to the Central Valley and was sworn in as a deputy sheriff with the Fresno County Sheriff's Office in 1982. The first few years Deputy Curtice served with the Fresno County Sheriff's office, he also pursued a college education. In 1986 he graduated from California State University, Fresno with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Criminology. Three years later he became a detective with the Sheriff's Crimes Against Persons Unit and became a member of the California Homicide Investigators Association. In 1992 he was promoted to Deputy IV, and was assigned as Field Training Officer in the Patrol Division in 2001.

During his years of service, Deputy Curtice has received many awards and commendations, including being the first deputy at the Fresno County Sheriff's Office to receive the California Highway Patrol's "10851 Award" for vehicle theft recovery in 1989. In 1992, he was the recipient of the American Legion's "Outstanding Law Officer of the Year" award for the Central Valley area, and in 1993 he was the recipient of the American Legion's "Outstanding Law Officer of the Year" for the State of California.

Apart from his awards, Deputy Curtice has been recognized in many instances in which he was integral to solving cases and saving lives through his use of ingenuity and bravery, often putting his own life at risk. Deputy Curtice was one of the principal investigators on the Ewell triple murder in the Sunnyside area of Fresno County. The case received major national news coverage and eventually led to the arrest and conviction of Dana Ewell and Joel Radovcich. Following their conviction, Deputy Curtice and his partner, Detective Souza, wrote the book "Catch Me If You Can," which chronicled the investigation.

Outside of his position as Deputy and Detective, Deputy Curtice has been a firm believer in giving back to his community. In 2008, he worked with the Central California Blood Center to launch the Holiday Heroes Blood Drive, which is now held every year during the week before Christmas, and continues to become increasingly more successful. He also made it a personal priority to revamp the Fresno County Sheriff's ailing website by hiring a dedicated IT specialist. Working with the IT specialist, Deputy Curtice helped launch a redesigned, user friendly website. Additionally, by creating new Facebook and Twitter pages for the agency, Deputy Curtice played an integral role in ensuring the Sheriff's Office is able stay in contact with the community they serve.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished career of Fresno County Sheriff Deputy Christian L. Curtice, and to wish him the best of luck in his retirement.

CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARC/MORRIS COUNTY CHAPTER

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the ARC/Morris County Chapter, located in Morris County, New Jersey as it celebrates its 60th Anniversary.

The ARC/Morris County Chapter, a non-profit organization, is Morris County's largest provider of services for people with intellectual and related developmental disabilities. ARC/Morris strives toward supporting and advancing these people and their families, and imagines a world where people with intellectual disabilities are valued by society. This organization participates in activities and projects for the purpose of helping people with intellectual disabilities achieve the highest level of self-sufficiency. With facilities in four towns, ARC/

Morris is prominent in the Morris County region. By offering multiple training facilities, ARC/Morris presents convenient locations, which better serve members of the community with intellectual disabilities.

Formally incorporated as the Morris County Unit of the New Jersey Association for Retarded Children in 1954, ARC/Morris has created Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops, Supportive Living Programs, and Supported Employment Programs. Over its 60-year history, ARC/Morris has formed a culture of assistance through the implementation of training programs. These programs, offered at ARC/Morris adult training facilities, provide adults with intellectual disabilities with the necessary skills to live independent and self-sufficient lives. Currently, over 200 individuals receive support from ARC/Morris at its several Morris County centers, while numerous families also receive assistance through ARC/Morris' After Care and Saturday Drop-Off Respite Programs. The caregiving services provided by ARC/Morris both support families in need of a helping hand. ARC/Morris currently provides individuals twenty-one years or older with housing options, including nineteen group homes, two respite group homes, and a variety of apartments and condominiums.

To serve individuals with intellectual disabilities, ARC/Morris holds various fundraising programs and events. The organization is innovative in its fundraising approach. For example, through the AmazonSmile Program, a portion of Amazon.com's profits is donated to ARC/Morris whenever an individual shops through smile.amazon.com. ARC/Morris has also implemented a Car Donation Program, where individuals can donate a car to the Charity Car Donation Center for the purposes of donating it to ARC/Morris. Volunteers are widely accepted by ARC/Morris and anyone looking to help persons with intellectual disabilities is welcome to assist in enhancing this cause.

ARC/Morris holds many events to raise awareness of its goals and achievements. Included in these events are the 26th Annual ARC/Morris Foundation Golf Outing, the 10th Annual Wine Tasting and Fine Art Exhibit, and an upcoming webinar on Social Security benefits for parents of individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities. On September 21, 2014, ARC/Morris held the 11th Annual Foundation Walk. This walk, which serves as a way to support the programs and services ARC/Morris offers, featured over 300 walkers and raised over \$28,000. Events like these help ARC/Morris continue its mission to create a society in which acceptance of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities is the norm and not the exception.

I commend the members and the Board of Directors of the ARC/Morris County Chapter for assisting individuals with intellectual disabilities in Morris County. This organization has consistently demonstrated a dedication and commitment to ensuring that these valued residents receive proper care and sufficient training in order to live a happy and self-sufficient lifestyle.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the ARC/Morris County Chapter as it celebrates its 60th Anniversary.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN CUBA: A SQUANDERED OPPORTUNITY

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month I held a hearing to examine the state of human rights in Cuba, which is a very timely topic indeed, given the Obama administration's sea change in policy toward Cuba announced at the end of last year.

I have repeatedly asked whether in undertaking this change in policy, the Obama administration used the considerable leverage that it wields to seek to better the condition of the Cuban people, or whether, as I fear, an opportunity was squandered in its haste to achieve a diplomatic breakthrough and create a legacy for the President.

The hearing was not only about Castro regime accountability, but also Obama administration accountability, with Congress exercising its role of both oversight and as a bully pulpit for reminding the world that Cuba remains a Communist dictatorship which continues to arrest political dissidents—over 200 so far in 2015—and one whose caudillo, Raul Castro, has declared would not change, even in response to the Obama administration's concessions.

This Castro regime continues to harbor fugitives from justice such as Joanne Chesimard, who was convicted in the 1973 murder of a state trooper in my home state of New Jersey, Officer Werner Foerster. Indeed, earlier this month, we had the Assistant Secretary of State for the Western Hemisphere Roberta Jacobson appear before the full Foreign Affairs Committee. I asked her what the response of the Cuban Government was when she raised the issue of the return of Joanne Chesimard to justice. She replied that the Cuban Government stated that it was "not interested in discussing her return."

This is unacceptable. I received a statement from Christopher J. Burgos, the President of the State Troopers Fraternal Organization of New Jersey, wherein he states on behalf of our Jersey State Troopers that "We are shocked and very disappointed that returning a convicted killer of a State Trooper was not already demanded and accomplished in the context of the steps announced by the White House regarding this despotic dictatorship."

We had with us three very brave and uniquely qualified witnesses to the brutality of the Cuban dictatorship, three human rights activists who at great personal cost to themselves and their families stood up for human dignity.

We heard about the deplorable state of human rights in Cuba, how Afro-Cubans in particular face discrimination on a day-to-day basis, and the brutality with which human rights activists, including women, are treated. We heard of murders sanctioned by the government, of beatings, of arrests and re-arrests.

And I would also like to point out that after testifying here, in public, two of our witnesses returned to Cuba. They know that one day the regime will exact a price against them for their temerity. Yet they insisted on appearing, so

that they can share the truth of what is happening in their beloved isle. What bravery!

I therefore would like to dedicate the hearing I held to the Cuban people, who have suffered for so many decades under the brutal regime of the Castro brothers, and to thank our witnesses for testifying. I also would like to thank in particular my dear friend and colleague, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, for her leadership day-in-and-day-out, in good weather and in bad, on behalf of the people of not only Cuba, but in countries such as Venezuela, China, and Vietnam, where the people continue to suffer under oppressive rulers. Thank you, ILEANA, for your leadership and moral clarity.

It is thus my belief that there should be no easing of the pressure until Cuba has met definitive and concrete human rights and democratic milestones. Among these milestones are the release of all political prisoners, the end of harassment and a policy of releasing and then re-jailing, the ending of restrictions on freedom of speech and the press, and on the rights of Assembly. Moreover, the Church must be allowed to conduct its affairs fully and freely without government interference.

And, finally, the Castro regime must be held to account for their harboring of some seventy fugitives from justice, including Joanne Chesimard, who is on the FBI's Most Wanted Terrorist list.

To that end, I would like to state that I intend to introduce legislation that will complement our existing legislation on Cuba, in particular Helms-Burton, making sure that important human rights milestones are met before our government makes concessions that are effectively unilateral, squandering leverage.

HONORING DAVID GOUDY

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, David Goudy has made the Montshire Museum of Science in Norwich his life's work. Over the three decades of his vigorous and enlightened service, David has led the Montshire Museum from a fledgling enterprise to a nationally recognized center for science learning.

Under David's leadership Montshire Museum has developed their capacity for high-quality science education. He helped form the Montshire School Partnership Initiative that supports science education in the region's rural K-8 schools by building capacity and infrastructure for high-quality science programs. Montshire Museum has become a national model, attracting research and program support from numerous private foundations and federal agencies including the National Science Foundation (NSF), Department of Education (DOE), National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA), National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

As Montshire's executive director, David was instrumental in creating the partnership between Dartmouth College and the Montshire

Museum, known as the Dartmouth-Montshire Institute for Science Education, a collaborative effort drawing upon the resources of these two leading institutions to better serve the educational needs of Vermont and New Hampshire. During David's tenure, Montshire became an official interpretive site for the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge in 1995.

David's leadership extends beyond the Montshire Museum. He currently serves on the executive committee of the New England Museum Association and key committees of the Association of Science and Technology Centers. He serves as an evaluator for the Museum Assessment Program of the American Alliance of Museums. David has been recognized with the first annual New Hampshire Corporate Fund Award for Excellence in Nonprofit Management, and represented Montshire at a White House reception with President Clinton recognizing Montshire as the first recipient of the National Award for Museum Service.

Mr. Speaker, David has provided the Montshire Museum with many years of remarkable service and his lasting legacy is immediately clear to anyone who visits the museum. While we will miss his exemplary leadership, the Board of Trustees is fully committed to maintaining the high standards that he has established for the Montshire's educational programs, exhibits, facilities and visitor services.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAYOR MICHAEL B. RYAN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Honorable Michael B. Ryan on his retirement as Mayor of Lake Como, New Jersey. As a mayor, union member, and United States Army Veteran, Mayor Ryan embodies the American spirit and his contributions are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Mayor Ryan has been an outstanding public servant and labor advocate for both New Jersey and his home state of California. Mayor Ryan's introduction to labor and politics began in his native California, but he continued his efforts upon moving to New Jersey after marrying his wife, Marlene Brown. Mayor Ryan dedicated many years to leading his community as a council member, council president and mayor. Although retiring from elected office, Mayor Ryan remains active in local and state politics. For nearly 20 years, he has been Democratic Municipal Chairman of South Belmar and Lake Como. He has also been elected to the New Jersey State Democratic Committee and previously served as President of the South Belmar Democratic Club. Mayor Ryan is also committed to protecting labor rights, currently serving as Secretary Treasurer of the Monmouth and Ocean Counties Central Labor Council AFL-CIO and as a member of Teamsters-GCIU 612M.

In addition to his work in the public and labor sectors, Mayor Ryan is an Account Rep-

resentative at Dimensional Management Corporation and is an active member of the community, volunteering at Camp Zehnder YMCA, serving as an usher at St. Rose Church and as a member of the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh of the Jersey Shore and the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating Mayor Michael Ryan on his retirement. It is my hope that my colleagues will join me in thanking him for his leadership and service to the Borough of Lake Como.

DETECTIVE SERGEANT THOMAS TROMMELEN

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Detective Sergeant Thomas Trommelen who, after 30 years of service to the City of Paterson as Supervisor of the Paterson Police Department's Special Investigations Unit, is being honored for his retirement celebration tonight on Friday, February 27, 2015.

A native son of Paterson, Detective Sergeant Trommelen has devoted his career to serving the community that raised him, most notably serving as Detective Sergeant in the Special Investigations Unit.

A graduate of Paterson's Don Bosco Technical High School, Detective Sergeant Trommelen first pursued his passion for public service as an emergency medical technician for Paterson's Fire Department. After displaying exemplary valor serving those in critical need, Detective Sergeant Trommelen was appointed as a Patrolman for the Passaic County Park Police Department and then, on November 4, 1985, found his true calling as a Patrolman with the Paterson Police Department.

During his time as a Patrolman for the Paterson Police Department, Detective Sergeant Trommelen strived to uphold the department's mission, which is, "to preserve the peace and to protect and serve all who live or work in, as well as those who travel through, our city and in so doing, make a meaningful contribution to the quality of life in our community." Detective Sergeant Trommelen's enthusiasm for public service and extraordinary work ethic in the Patrol Division prompted him to be assigned a permanent position to Paterson's Narcotics Division, a move that would greatly benefit the City of Paterson over the next three decades. Tasked with addressing the city's vice issues, Detective Sergeant Trommelen proved to be a formidable force within the department, receiving commendations, awards and respect amongst his colleagues and peers alike. He has also served at the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office as an 'Expert Witness' in the area of narcotics enforcement working with the DEA, FBI and other Federal Agencies in combating the plague of narcotics in and around the City of Paterson.

Residing in Clifton, Detective Sergeant Trommelen has been married to his wife

Joann for 25 years and they have two adult children, Alyssa and Tommy. Detective Sergeant Trommelen and his family sustained a life changing event in December of 1997 when he lost his older brother John, a Port Authority Police Officer, to a heart attack. However, he took tragedy and turned it into a positive force through serving his community, the Knights of Columbus and St. Phillips the Apostle Parish, for many years. Just in the past few years, he has solicited the donation, managed the collection of and organized the distribution of thousands of jackets and pairs of shoes for Paterson's children.

As Co-Chair of the Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus, I am honored to acknowledge Detective Sergeant Trommelen who has been a tremendous leader, mentor, and public servant in my hometown of Paterson. There is no doubt, in the minds of his family, friends and colleagues that the civic minded Detective Sergeant Trommelen will continue to 'Serve & Protect' for many years to come.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the achievements of individuals such as Detective Sergeant Thomas Trommelen.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Sgt. Trommelen's coworkers, family and friends, all those whose lives he has touched, and me, in recognizing the career of Detective Sergeant Thomas Trommelen.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,133,356,358,144.49. We've added \$7,506,479,309,231.41 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 93, I was detained due to an unavoidable conflict. Had I been present, I would have voted aye.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for roll call votes 86–90 due to a family emer-

gency. Had I been present, I would have voted no on #86, no on #87, yes on #88, yes on #89, and yes on #90.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FRANK EDWARD "ED" RAY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Frank Edward "Ed" Ray on what would have been his 94th birthday. In a 1976 incident, Ed helped save 26 students from a kidnapping attempt in the city of Chowchilla. Recognizing such heroic actions, it is fitting and appropriate that the City of Chowchilla has chosen to name its largest park "Ed Ray Park."

Frank Edward Ray was born in Le Grand, California on February 26, 1921. One of eight children of Frank and Marie Ray, he moved to Chowchilla with his family and graduated from Chowchilla High School in 1940. In 1942, he married his wife, Odessa, and bought a ranch where they raised dairy cows and grew corn. Ed then worked for the Dairyland Union School District as a bus driver for nearly 40 years.

Ed was the driver of the school bus packed with summer school kids that was hijacked in Chowchilla in 1976. They were later escorted into a buried moving truck in a quarry, where Ed led them to safety after he and two older boys dug their way out. During the time inside the quarry, Ray gave comfort and hope to the school children. No one was hurt and astonishingly he was able to recall significant details of the escort van's license plates, assisting in the police investigation.

Ed was a humble and quiet man; he rarely spoke of the ordeal. He did not flaunt himself as a hero. In his final days, Ed was visited by several of the schoolchildren he helped save from the kidnapping. They will always remember him as their hero. A few years after retiring in 1988, he bought the bus for \$500 because he did not want it to become scrap metal at a junkyard. He donated it to a nearby museum in Le Grand, California. Ed's selfless nature made him a pillar of the Chowchilla community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I recognize the memory of Frank Edward "Ed" Ray for his brave acts in 1976. May his brave deed and care for the children he drove to and from school every day never be forgotten.

EDUCATION WEEK SPOTLIGHT: THE COMMON-CORE STANDARDS' UNDEMOCRATIC PUSH

HON. MIMI WALTERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article by Williamson M. Evers, published online on January 13, 2015.

One of the most influential books in social science in the last 50 years is economist Albert O. Hirschman's *Exit, Voice, and Loyalty*.

In this pivotal 1970 book, Hirschman discusses how individuals react when services they rely on deteriorate. The basic responses available to us are "exit" and "voice," Hirschman points out, where exit means turning to a different provider or leaving the area, and voice means political participation.

We tend to think of these responses as stark alternatives. Hirschman, as a social scientist, wanted us to consider the interplay between them.

Exit usually has lower costs than voice for the individual. With exit, you can avoid the long slog of politics and simply turn to someone else or move somewhere else.

But there is a limiting case: Exit can have high costs when individuals are loyal to institutions—thus the third component in Hirschman's trio of exit, voice, and loyalty.

In the 1830s, when Alexis de Tocqueville visited the United States, he found Americans intensely loyal to their local schools. Americans saw schools as extensions of their families and neighborhoods. They viewed public schools as akin to voluntarily supported charities and as part of what social scientists today call civil society.

Tocqueville described township school committees that were deeply rooted in their local communities. State control of local public education took the form of an annual report sent by the township committee to the state capital. There was no national control.

Today, Americans retain much of the sentiment about local schools they had in Tocqueville's day. But, increasingly, parents and taxpayers view the public schools as an unresponsive bureaucracy carrying out edicts from distant capitals. Today, we are dealing with a deteriorating situation in a declining institution, namely widespread ineffective instruction in the public schools.

The Common Core State Standards have come to the fore precisely at a time when civically active individuals care much more than they usually do about exit, voice, and loyalty. But the common core has denied voice and tried to block exit.

The common core's designers have taken the existing bureaucracy and increased its centralization and uniformity. By creating the common-core content standards behind closed doors, the authors increased the alienation of the public from schools as institutions worthy of loyalty. The general public had no voice in creating or adopting the common core.

The other approach in times of a deteriorating public service is offering better exit options. But the common core's proponents have created an almost inescapable national cartel.

There has long been a monopoly problem in public education, which was why economist Milton Friedman called for opportunity scholarships (also known as vouchers) to create a powerful exit option. But even in the absence of opportunity scholarships and charter schools, we had some exit options in the past because of competitive federalism, meaning horizontal competition among jurisdictions.

Economist Caroline Hoxby studied metropolitan areas with many school districts (like Boston) and metropolitan areas contained within one large district (like Miami or Los Angeles). She found that student performance is better in areas with competing

multiple districts, where parents at the same income level can move to another locality, in search of a better education.

We have also seen competitive federalism work in education at the interstate level. Back in the 1950s, education in Mississippi and North Carolina performed at the same low level. North Carolina tried a number of educational experiments and moved ahead of Mississippi. Likewise, Massachusetts moved up over the years from mediocre to stellar.

The common core's promoters are endeavoring to suppress competitive federalism. The common core's rules and its curriculum guidance are the governing rules of a cartel. The common core's promoters and their federal facilitators wanted a cartel that would override competitive federalism and shut down the curriculum alternatives that federalism would allow.

The new common-core-aligned tests, whose development was supported with federal funds, function to police the cartel. All long-lasting cartels must have a mechanism for policing and punishing those seen as shirkers and chiselers, or, in other words, those who want to escape the cartel's strictures or who want increased flexibility so they can succeed.

The new leadership of the College Board by David Coleman, one of the common core's chief architects, is being used to corral Catholic schools, other private schools, and home-schooling parents into the cartel. The proponents of the common core have now established a clearinghouse for authorized teaching materials to try to close off any remaining possible avenue of escaping the cartel.

What was the rationale for the common core? The name given to the Obama administration's signature school reform effort, the Race to the Top program, promotes the idea that the federal government needs to step in and lead a race. Central to this rhetoric is the idea that state performance standards were already on a downward slide and that, without nationalization, standards would inexorably continue on a "race to the bottom."

I would disagree. While providers of public education certainly face the temptation to do what might look like taking the easy way out by letting academic standards decline, there is also countervailing pressure in the direction of higher standards.

If state policymakers and education officials let content standards slip, low standards will damage a state's reputation for having a trained workforce. Such a drop in standards will even damage the policymakers' own reputations.

In 2007, the Thomas B. Fordham Institute looked empirically at state performance standards over time in a study called "The Proficiency Illusion." The study showed that, while states had a variety of performance standards (as would be expected in a federal system), the supposed "race to the bottom" was not happening. The proponents of the common core are wrong in their claims that state performance standards were inevitably on a downward slide.

The common core, in fact, provided relief from competitive pressure from other states. Sonny Perdue, the governor of Georgia at the time that the common core was created (the initiative was launched in 2009, and the standards were released in 2010), did not like it when the low-performing students of his state were compared with students in other states with standards different from Georgia's. He became the lead governor in bringing the National Governors Association into the national standards effort.

Nationalizing standards and tests eliminated them as differentiated school reform instruments that could be used by states in competition over educational attainment among the states.

The common core undermines citizens' exit option and competitive federalism. It was designed to do so. It likewise evades and negates the voice option. But the makers of this malign utopia have forgotten a few things.

They forgot that the desire for a voice, the desire for political action, can become particularly intense when people are faced with the prospect of nowhere to exit to. They forgot that hemming in parents and teachers would create a demand for alternatives and escape routes. Alternatives to the national common-core-aligned tests have arisen. States are dropping these national tests. States are also struggling to escape the common-core cartel itself. Parents are opting out of common-core testing.

By trying to block exit and voice, the designers and proponents of the Common Core State Standards have caused blowback: A large parent-, teacher-, and community-based movement has arisen to oppose the common core and its national tests.

DEDICATION TO RESEARCH

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Arturo Hernandez, Pearland, Texas resident and University of Houston professor, on receiving the Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award. This award honors his groundbreaking research on how the brain processes and learns language.

Dr. Hernandez's research on language study merits such recognition not only because it is an outstanding accomplishment in its own right, but also because it opens the gate to a new and undiscovered field of study at the convergence of language processing and genetics.

I commend Dr. Arturo Hernandez on his dedication to research that promises to inform and meaningfully impact the education process. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional of Texas, congratulations again to Dr. Hernandez for receiving the Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE POMPEO

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 92, 93, 94 I was unable to cast my vote due to attending a speaking event on the importance of U.S. Cyber Security. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

NIGERIA ON THE BRINK?

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, Nigeria is Africa's most populous nation and is the continent's largest economy. Unfortunately, Nigeria is beset by various challenges that threaten the peace and stability of this African giant. The terrorist group Boko Haram continues its bloody reign of terror, now threatening to establish a "caliphate" on the model of ISIS in the Levant. Religious and ethnic discord, which pre-dates Boko Haram's emergence, continues unabated. Lower oil prices have seriously damaged an economy significantly dependent on oil revenues. Meanwhile, the prospect of a violent repeat of the 2011 post-election scene has ratcheted up tensions in Nigeria even further. A hearing that I recently held examined the situation in Nigeria and the U.S. efforts to maintain positive relations with the largest U.S. trading partner in Africa and a major ally in international peace-keeping.

U.S.-Nigeria relations were understandably rocky during the military rule of Sani Abacha in the 1990s. However, the advent of democracy with the 1999 elections ushered in an improved atmosphere of cooperation. Nigeria consistently ranks among the top recipients of U.S. bilateral foreign assistance and is the second-largest beneficiary of U.S. investment in Africa. In recent months, though, our relations have deteriorated. Apparently, some in the government of President Goodluck Jonathan feel the United States is meddling in their internal affairs, especially when it comes to our noting deprival of the due process rights of citizens by Nigerian military and security forces. Our view is that friends don't just stand by when friends commit human rights abuses.

The subcommittee that I chair held a hearing last July 10th to examine the complaints that human rights vetting was a major obstacle to U.S. counterterrorism. What we found was that the State Department estimated that half of Nigerian forces would pass our vetting process, which we found is slowed by too few staff working on these important issues. Still, the Nigerian Government must be more cooperative. Some units in larger divisions may have human rights issues, but if replaced by units without such baggage, there would be created an entirely acceptable division for training. Late last year, the Nigerian Government cancelled the counter-terrorism training of one of its battalions, which now places the entire training program on hold. We are making arrangements for discussions in the near future with Nigerian Military officials and Members of Congress and the Obama administration to overcome the current stalemate and resume the cooperation necessary to meet the challenge posed by Boko Haram.

This terrorist group has wreaked havoc on the people of Nigeria, particularly in the northeast. It is estimated that more than 5,500 people were killed in Boko Haram attacks last year alone, representing more than 60% of the more than 9,000 deaths caused by this group

in the past five years. As many as 2,000 people may have perished in the Boko Haram attack on the town of Baga and nearby villages last month. More than a million Nigerians have been displaced internally by the violence, and tens of thousands of others are now refugees in neighboring countries. Clearly, Boko Haram violence is escalating drastically.

Boko Haram has become part of the global jihadist movement and threatens not only Nigeria, but also Cameroon, Chad and Niger. While the terrorist group may not be an official affiliate of al-Qaeda or ISIS, they appear to be trying to create an Islamic caliphate in Nigeria. Various press reports estimate that the group has seized as much as 70% of Borno state, with additional territory under its control in neighboring Yobe and Adamawa states. In fact, Reuters calculated that by mid-January of this year, Boko Haram was in control of more than 30,000 square kilometers of territory—an area the size of the state of Maryland. For approximately two years, I pressed the administration to designate Boko Haram as a Foreign Terrorist organization (FTO). I argued that, like cancer, early intervention can mitigate its spread, severity and duration. I traveled to Nigeria twice and convened three hearings during the last Congress on why an FTO designation might help, only to be told by then-Assistant Secretary of State Johnnie Carson that “the phenomenon of Boko Haram is one of discrediting the Central Government in power for its failure to deliver services to people.”

On the very day of our hearing to consider a bill on FTO designation, the state Department, led by Secretary of State Kerry announced that Boko Haram was being designated a Foreign Terrorist organization.

Meanwhile, Nigeria faces the prospects of post-election violence after presidential voting. The race pits President Jonathan against former Nigerian military ruler General Muhammadu Buhari in a re-run of the 2011 elections. This time, however, Buhari's All Progressive Congress (APC) is a coalition of major opposition political parties and includes defectors from President Jonathan's People's Democratic Party (PDP), such as Speaker of the National Assembly Aminu Tambuwal.

Some PDP officials have referred to their opponents as “Nigeria's Muslim Brotherhood,” while APC officials accuse the Jonathan administration of representing only Christian southerners. Party spokesmen on both sides have warned of potential violence if their candidate doesn't win. Out of nearly 69 million registered voters in Nigeria, political observers believe this race could be decided by as few as 700,000 votes. Lack of action by the government to ensure that internally displaced voters can participate in the elections, delays in the distribution of voter cards and in the recruitment and training of poll workers places in question the effectiveness of the February elections.

Moreover, the election laws require that a winning presidential candidate must achieve a majority of the votes and at least 25% of the vote in two-thirds of the states. With so much territory in the control of Boko Haram or under the threat of their violence in the North, the northern-based APC likely would question a loss even though they have refused to accept a delay in voting to ensure that pre-election preparations are complete.

According to a recent Gallup poll, only 13% of Nigerians have confidence in the electoral process. This makes the “Quick Count” being planned by a coalition of Nigerian civil society groups vital in providing any confidence that the vote on February 14th reflects the will of the people.

In the face of all the challenges faced by Nigeria, its allies—such as the United States—must understand fully the context of this situation in order to determine how best to be of help. We hope that the Nigerian Government resulting from the February elections will be accepting of outside advice and assistance. Nigeria is the proverbial “too big to fail” nation. A collapse of its economy, increase in refugees to its neighbors or spread of its homegrown terrorism to the region and the broader international community clearly will be problematic for more than just Nigeria. Religious extremism already is a problem elsewhere in the Sahel region. Last month, Muslim extremists destroyed more than 40 Christian churches in Niger because of what they felt was irreverent depictions of the prophet Mohammed—not in Niger but in Europe. The hearing was just the beginning of our renewed efforts to help Nigeria address the problems that threaten its stability. We must be honest with Nigerians and ourselves about the difficulties we both face. This is why we have asked our witnesses to give their honest assessments of where we are in the various situations Nigeria encounters and to suggest what actions our Government can and should take to be most helpful. It is in our mutual interest to do so, and therefore, we will continue our efforts to restore full military and security cooperation between our two countries.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH— WEEKSVILLE (BROOKLYN, NY)

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, as Black History Month comes to a close, I would like to share with you the untold story of Weeksville. Weeksville, though rarely mentioned among the historically black and vibrant neighborhoods, was very dynamic and was founded by African-American free men in Brooklyn during the 19th century.

In 1838, a former Virginia slave named James Weeks bought land from another free African-American man. Several African-American investors, political activists and other free men from the South started moving to this plot of land bought by Mr. Weeks. As more and more people moved to this Promised Land, it became known as Weeksville. By 1850, more than 500 African-American free men were residing in Weeksville.

According to historical reports, the population of Weeksville was quite diverse, two of the residents were born in Africa, 40% of the residents were south-born and the rest of the inhabitants were from all over the East Coast. Not only was Weeksville diverse, but it was also a successful and independent community. One-third of the men in the neighborhood over

the age of 21 were landowners, the community had its own churches, had a school which was the first school in the U.S. to integrate both staff and students, and a newspaper called “Freedman's Torchlight”. In the 1860s, the national headquarter of the African Society Civilization was located in Weeksville and the neighborhood also housed an orphanage called the Howard Colored Orphan Asylum.

Today, all that remains of Weeksville are four small cottages known as the Hunter Road houses. Fortunately, the Weeks Heritage Center formed in 1972 has managed to raise funds to preserve the houses as National Historic places. Preserving such landscapes is important to educate our children and to embrace the beauty of their heritage.

If you want to learn more about Weeksville, I invite you to read the book “Brooklyn's Promised Land: The Free Black Community of Weeksville, New York” by Judith Wellman. In this book, Professor Wellman provides details about the everyday lives of the inhabitants of Weeksville and also narrates the rise and fall of this promising community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, on February 26, 2015 my vote on roll call no. 98 was not recorded electronically. I would like to state that I intended to vote “no”.

TRIBUTE TO THE TRINITY COLLEGE BANTAMS MENS SQUASH TEAM—2015 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 2015 National Team Championship (NTC) Men's champions, the Trinity College Bantams. On Sunday, February 22, the men secured their 15th national title and Potter Cup.

Their accomplishments continue to raise the standard for athleticism and achievement. I would like to congratulate each member of the team, Coach Paul Assaiente, and all the fans and supporters who made this great victory possible. Also, the Trinity's women's squash team deserves special recognition for their strong season under Coach Wendy Bartlett.

I cannot communicate these achievements more articulately than the Hartford Courant did in its editorial published on February 23rd: Trinity College Bantams Rule Men's Squash Roost.

I submit the text of that article.

[From The Hartford Courant, Feb. 23, 2015]

TRINITY COLLEGE BANTAMS RULE MEN'S
SQUASH ROOST

Congratulations to Trinity College's men's squash team, which defended its home court

Sunday and brought home its 15th national championship since 1998. The Bantams reclaimed the crown they have lost only lost four times in 19 consecutive finals appearances. Once the mouse that roared among the indoor racket game's longtime Ivy League establishment, Trinity has gone from upstart to pacesetter.

Under the steady tutelage of coach Paul Assaiante, who has guided the team's remarkable rise to the squash elite, the Bantams won a handy 7-2 victory over St. Lawrence University, which was making its initial appearance in the national finals. It was the first time that no Ivy League team was in the Potter Cup finals since the championship began in 1989. Among college champions crowned since 1942, only the U.S. Naval Academy and Trinity have supplanted Ivy League schools as national champions. In a sign of the sport's broadening reach, the University of Rochester and Franklin and Marshall College were other non-Ivy contenders this year.

Trinity's women's squash team, the 2014 national champions, deserves its own congratulations for a strong season that fell one win short of defending its title. The women, under coach Wendy Bartlett, lost in the national finals to the Harvard University women on Feb. 15.

RECOGNIZING DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT'S (DIA) 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Denver International Airport's (DIA) 20 years of service to the people of Colorado. The airport started serving flyers on February 28, 1995 and has brought travelers to and from Denver safely and swiftly ever since.

Today, Denver International's CEO, Kim Day, and the airport staff operate the fifth-busiest airport in the country. DIA has become an economic engine for the state of Colorado, stimulating more than \$26 billion in annual revenue for the region.

Additionally, DIA now supports more than 183,000 jobs, with an estimated annual payroll of nearly \$8.5 billion. The airport has grown to serve more than 170 nonstop destinations around the world in nine countries, representing new gateways to cultural and economic opportunities in Asia, Central America, Europe, and beyond.

In addition to serving the people of Colorado, DIA set the standard for environmentally responsible airports. Denver International's translucent fabric canopy takes advantage of our 300 days of sunshine per year to create a passively lit interior. Additionally, the airport hosts a 9,000 panel solar array that produces 3.5 million kilowatts of power.

For me, DIA's distinctive profile that mimics both the snow-peaked Rockies and the Native American teepees of Colorado's history means that I have arrived home.

I congratulate everyone involved with the airport in reaching this milestone anniversary and extend my sincere gratitude for their continued success and service to our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF RON FRANKEL

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ron Frankel who was chosen to receive the 2015 Community Care Award by the Hillsborough Schools' Associated Parents Groups. This award is reserved for an individual who has made sustained and significant contributions that have broadly touched the lives of our children. Not only is he a terrific science teacher, but you will not find anyone in Hillsborough or the entire school district who doesn't sing the praises of Mr. Frankel as the best administrator of the 6th grade Outdoor Ed program.

The 6th grade Outdoor Ed program is a one-week field trip to Jones Gulch for all 6th graders in the school district—that is approximately 200 students each year. This is no ordinary field trip, it's a life-changing experience for our children. It also is no ordinary field trip to coordinate; it is a complex, time-consuming and detail oriented process that most teachers would not want to lead. But then there is Ron Frankel, the outstanding science and music teacher who has singlehandedly coordinated the Outdoor Ed program for over 15 years. He spends countless hours before, during and after the trip arranging for teachers to attend, booking high school aged counselors, figuring out cabin assignments, holding parent information meetings, fielding all questions, and most importantly, putting the children at ease while they prepare for their big adventure away from home. Outdoor Ed is undoubtedly one of the most memorable experiences for all Hillsborough City School District students.

Ron's enthusiasm for this program is unmatched and he deserves credit for making it so successful. As a former student of Crocker Middle School and a teacher there for almost two decades, he has a unique connection to the students and the school. He lightens up the campus environment with music and laughter. Among his wonderful creations are the Ro-Sham-Bo World Championship, Pickle Day, Open Mike during recess and the 6th grade music appreciation class. Ron's quiet, gentle and understated way of teaching instills an honest and deep passion for learning in all of his students. He sets them on a path to become caring and engaged citizens.

I had the good fortune to have both my children taught by Mr. Frankel who said his passion for science made even the mundane interesting to 12 and 13-year-olds. Awesome! Words from children say it all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to recognize a model teacher in Hillsborough, California whose embrace of his students, science and life are an inspiration to parents and his colleagues. Ron Frankel truly deserves to be honored with the 2015 Hillsborough Schools' Community Care Award.

RECOGNIZING DR. KNEELAND YOUNGBLOOD

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Kneeland Youngblood, a physician, businessman, and former presidential appointee, who will be recognized by the Texas Legislative Black Caucus on March 1 for his marked achievements and distinguished success as a prominent African-American business leader and compassionate and dedicated civil and public servant.

Born from the town of Galena Park, Texas on December 13, 1955, Dr. Youngblood has led a remarkably storied life. After receiving his Bachelor of Arts in political science at Princeton University in 1978. During his studies at Princeton, Dr. Youngblood attended courses at Wamborough College in Oxford and the University of Stockholm in Sweden. He went on to earn his Medical Degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center in 1982. While at the University of Texas, he broadened his studies at the Cairo University Medical School.

Dr. Youngblood completed his medical residency in emergency medicine at the Emory University School of Medicine and subsequently returned to Texas and began medical practice at the Medical Center of Plano. In 1997, Dr. Youngblood left the medical profession and co-founded the Pharos Capital Group, LLC, which manages over \$200 million in technology, business services, and healthcare company investments.

During the Clinton Administration, Dr. Youngblood was appointed to the Board of Directors for the United States Enrichment Corporation charged with providing nuclear fuel to countries hoping to utilize nuclear power as a sustainable energy source. He took his work to South Africa in 1998 where he met Nelson Mandela and was inspired to pen *From Sit-In to Soweto*, the famous essay that details his reflection on time he spent as a student activist protesting South African businesses at Princeton to his work in South Africa. Furthermore, Dr. Youngblood was a part of First Lady Hillary Clinton's Health Care Task Force.

Since then, Dr. Youngblood has served in various senior management roles for a plethora of corporations and organizations. Some of these notable organizations include: the Teacher Retirement System of the State of Texas; AMR Investments; Starwood Hotels & Lodging; Burger King, and The Gap.

Please join me in recognizing Dr. Kneeland Youngblood for his immeasurable contributions to the Dallas community, the great state of Texas, and to the legacy of African American entrepreneurship in America.

HONORING SHERMAN L. JENKINS

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sherman L. Jenkins, who was named Outstanding African-American of the Year by the City of Aurora's African-American Heritage Advisory Board.

Mr. Jenkins has been a key figure in the growth and development of the city of Aurora, Illinois. From 1991 until his retirement in 2012, Mr. Jenkins worked as assistant director and then as executive director of the Aurora Economic Development Commission. Under his leadership, the Aurora Economic Development Commission fostered the creation of the city's first downtown Master Plan, formed the Seize the Future Development Foundation, and worked to bring the Chicago Premium Outlets and many other infrastructure and business projects to Aurora, Illinois.

In addition to his business career, Mr. Jenkins has been committed to serving his community. He is a member of the Ely Chapter of Lambda Alpha International, Rotary Club of Aurora, Past Chairman and Board Emeritus of the Aurora Public Library Foundation, a board member of the Northern Lights Development Corporation, and an Advisory Council member of the Board of Directors for the Quad County African American Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Jenkins is the President of SLJ Development Corporation and SLJ Communications, Inc., publisher of the monthly digital magazine Tell Me Somethin' Good, which focuses on African-American life outside the City of Chicago.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Jenkins as he receives the Outstanding African-American of the Year Award from the City of Aurora's African-American Heritage Advisory Board and thank him for his service to our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, due to the tragic shooting of three young Muslim students in my district, I was unable to vote during Roll Call 79, the motion to recommit H.R. 644, the Fighting Hunger Incentive Act, as well as Roll Call 80, final passage of H.R. 644.

I was also unable to vote on Roll Call 81, the motion to recommit H.R. 636, America's Small Business Tax Relief Act, as well as Roll Call 82, final Passage of H.R. 636.

Had I been present, I would have voted for both the motions to recommit and voted against H.R. 644 and H.R. 636 on final passage.

HONORING THOMAS H. WARREN, SR.

HON. BRAD ASHFORD

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, as we close out Black History Month, I want to recognize a leader in my community in Nebraska, Thomas H. Warren, Sr., the President and CEO of the Urban League of Nebraska. Prior to assuming his leadership role at ULN, Mr. Warren served for 24 years with the Omaha Police Department, serving 4 years as the Chief of Police—the first African American to assume this position. Mr. Warren transformed the struggling Urban League of Nebraska into an organization serving the public's interest and advocating for social justice. Today, ULN provides programs in youth development, employment services and violence prevention—services that were not previously offered in our community. Thomas Warren's record of public service is extensive, but it is safe to say that Omaha would not be the same without him. He has been recognized on both the local and national level for his dedication to our community, and it is with great honor that I recognize him here on the House floor. On behalf of our community, I want to say thank you to Mr. Thomas Warren, Sr.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote #95, a recorded vote on the Kennedy of Massachusetts Part B Amendment No. 1 to H.R. 5. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

I was not present for Roll Call vote #96, a recorded vote on the Grothman of Wisconsin Part B Amendment No. 2 to H.R. 5. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

I was not present for Roll Call vote #97, a recorded vote on the Castro of Texas Part B Amendment No. 6 to H.R. 5. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

I was not present for Roll Call vote #98, a recorded vote on the Quigley of Illinois Part B Amendment No. 9 to H.R. 5. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

I was not present for Roll Call vote #99, a recorded vote on the Moore of Wisconsin Part B Amendment No. 13 to H.R. 5. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

RECOGNIZING DUBLIN POLICE CHIEF TOM MCCARTHY

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dublin Police Chief Tom

McCarthy as he leaves his current position for a new role as Executive Director of the East Bay Regional Communications System Authority (EBRCSA).

For 32 years, Tom has worked diligently to keep the East Bay safe. He started with the Alameda County Sheriffs Office as Deputy Sheriff in 1983.

Tom rose through the ranks and in 2009 was named Commander. In that job he worked to improve regional disaster response across the San Francisco Bay Area.

For the last four and a half years, Tom has led the 50-person police department in Dublin. Beyond leading the effort to protect the residents of Dublin, he has been an active member of our community.

Tom has spoken often at schools, community meetings, and other events across the city. He also has led discussions on critical public health and safety issues facing Dublin.

Tom is committed to openness and engagement with residents. He has hosted a popular "Coffee with the Chief" program, which gives the people of Dublin a chance to meet and get to know Tom and other members of the Dublin police force.

Tom is a well-respected leader in Dublin, and the people of Dublin are better off due to his service.

Now Tom will be moving on to lead the EBRCSA, which is responsible for interoperable communications among dozens of agencies in the East Bay. I know he will continue to serve the people of the East Bay well in this new role, and I wish him all the best.

IN RECOGNITION OF PERLA IBARRIENTOS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Perla Ibarrios, an outstanding volunteer and citizen of San Mateo County, on the occasion of her 80th birthday. Perla currently serves on the Daly City Personnel Board and volunteers her time and energy to a long list of organizations benefiting everyone in our community, in particular our children. I am honored to count Perla as a dear friend and close adviser whom I have known for over three decades.

Perla turned her life into the American Dream. Born in the Philippines, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree and worked in her family's pharmacy. Her husband Mig, an engineer, worked for the electric company. During the 60s and 70s they lived under the repressive regime of President Ferdinand Marcos and dreamed of a better life for their family. In the early 70s, Mig, Perla and their three children, Glenn, Joy Ann and Gladys, left their home in the Philippines to create a brand new one in the United States. They settled in Broadmoor, California, and Perla immediately started to get involved in her new community. She volunteered as a teacher's aide at Garden Village Elementary and as an elder in the Presbyterian Church.

A few years later, the family moved to Daly City where they still live today. Perla served

on the PTA Board and Parents Advisory Board at Westmoor High School. She recruited qualified Filipino teachers to address a significant shortage of diversity and to better reflect the population. Daly City, which is located in my 14th Congressional District, has one of the largest Filipino communities in the world.

Perla is a tireless advocate for equality and access to education. Inside and outside of the classroom, she has instilled in children a passion for learning and set them on a path to become engaged and contributing citizens. Her own children are shining examples of her values. Glenn serves as the Director of Nursing for San Mateo County and is a retired Major in the U.S. Air Force Reserve. Joy Ann serves as Vice President of John Wells Production at Warner Brothers. Gladys is Assistant CEO of the San Mateo County Employees Retirement Association.

In the 1980s, Perla became a U.S. citizen, one of the proudest moments in her life. She never tires of civic engagement and seeking ways to help others. She serves a long list of organizations, including as the Chair of the Filipino Bayanihan Center in Daly City, Vice-President of the North Peninsula Food Pantry and Dining Center and Director of the American Baptist Homes of the West/Hillcrest Senior Housing.

Perla is a true trailblazer. She became the first Filipina to serve on the Daly City Library Board of Trustees from 1990 to 1995 and the Daly City Personnel Board since 2007. Her humility and resolve make her an effective leader, an inspirational role model and a wonderful person to be around. Her warmth, beautiful smile and embracing personality have earned her the love and respect of everyone in the community.

She has been recognized by numerous distinguished organizations. In 2013 and 1997, she was awarded the State of California Legislative Woman of the Year for the 19th Assembly District. In 2007, she was named one of the 100 Most Influential Filipina Women in the U.S.A. by the Filipino Women's Network and Outstanding Filipino American Women by the FilAm Coalition. In 2005, she was named Daly City Citizen of the Year and in 1999, she received the Presbyterian Women Honorary Life Membership Award. These awards reflect the great contributions Perla has made to the lives of Daly City residents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House of Representatives join to me in saying happy birthday to my friend Perla Ibarrientos and to recognize her for her decades of outstanding service to the community she loves. Her work and commitment have made Daly City a better place for all residents.

ANOTHER STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ricky Regas, Cinco Ranch High School senior, for winning his fourth consecutive wrestling state championship. Ricky also

ended his high school career with an undefeated season.

Despite being injured at regionals, Ricky was able to battle through to defeat his opponents. His parents and coaches also deserve credit for helping to play an important role in providing you with the tools to achieve success. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Ricky Regas for winning a fourth consecutive state championship. We wish him luck in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for roll call votes 91–99 due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted no on #91, no on #92, no on #93, no on #94, yes on #95, no on #96, yes on #97, yes on #98, and yes on #99.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 94 I was detained due to an unavoidable conflict. Had I been present, I would have voted aye.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VICTIMS OF SUMGAIT POGROMS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Sumgait pogroms—violent riots that resulted in the murder of hundreds of Armenians. This was perhaps one of the most gruesome atrocities in a series of hostile acts against the Armenian people.

In 1988, Armenians living in the town of Sumgait in Azerbaijan were burned alive, thrown from windows and senselessly murdered by Azerbaijanis. Hundreds of people were killed, raped, and maimed simply because they were Armenians.

The police forces turned a blind eye towards the situation and allowed the crimes to continue for three days without intervention. Since then, Azerbaijan has sought to cover up these crimes and rewrite history.

As we prepare to observe 100 years since the Armenian Genocide, these more recent acts of violence against Armenians remind us that the work towards peace in the region continues.

Today, we recognize the anniversary of the Sumgait pogroms and to call attention to the work we have ahead of us. We have a shared

responsibility to speak out when groups of people are targeted with oppression and violence just because of their ethnicity.

Along with my colleagues on the Congressional Armenian Issues Caucus, I continue my efforts to try and shed light on these events so that those lives lost are not forgotten. We will continue to promote mutual understanding and security through the Caucasus region.

It is my hope that we can all join together in condemning acts of violence in the past, and renew our commitment to vigilance in the future.

RECOGNIZING ST. MARK'S SCHOOL, SOUTHBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the St. Mark's School for its dedication to academia, guidance, and personal growth.

St. Mark's School, located in Southborough, Massachusetts, serves high school students from across the globe. With a dedicated faculty and a motivated student body, St. Mark's School is a model for high schools throughout the nation. St. Mark's School lays a foundation for young men and women, emphasizing a well-rounded education to spur creativity and analytical thought. With its roots in the Episcopalian tradition, the school values cooperation over self-interest, and encourages every student to explore their place in the world after high school.

For 150 years, the St. Mark's School has educated students in order to prepare them for adulthood. Joseph Burnett, St. Mark's founder, sought to create an institution that offered high-quality education. With this goal in mind, St. Mark's began with a single two-story building, painted with yellow and green blinds. This modest campus then started to grow, with the additions of a large schoolroom and dormitory in 1866. This growth continued through the 1890s until the campus grew to fill 250 acres. Today, St. Mark's is still expanding, with recent additions including a new athletic center, dormitory, and performing arts center within the last two decades. Joseph Burnett's dream currently benefits a class of 350 students from 19 states, the District of Columbia, and 15 nations.

Though St. Mark's began as an all-boys school, it currently educates both young men and women. In the 1970s, St. Mark's reached an agreement with the Southborough School to offer coordinated education for all students. The faculty and staff of St. Mark's understood the importance of spreading Joseph Burnett's dream so that all types of students could benefit from the educational opportunities offered by this establishment. St. Mark's continues to include students and faculty with diverse backgrounds, particularly those who have experienced prejudice or disadvantages. The St. Mark's community embraces all types of students, which empowers every St. Marker.

The St. Mark's motto, *Age Quod Agis*, or "Do and be your best," is instilled in every St.

Marker. These students are challenged every day, but receive constant support. Students do their best by receiving the best training in the most ideal academic setting. With a student to teacher ratio of 6 to 1, the classroom forms into a personal setting, tailored to the needs of the students. St. Mark's encourages students to do their best in the academic arena, on the athletic field, and in their campus community. St. Mark's school week traverses six days a week to instill personal discipline and academic excellence. The school week compliments the fact that St. Mark's is a boarding school. Students attend class together, work together, and live together, creating a school culture and community important for personal growth and socialization.

I commend the trustees, faculty and staff of St. Mark's School for spending their time and effort ensuring that their students achieve success. St. Mark's School has consistently demonstrated a dedication and commitment to helping these students receive a proper education to prepare for the future. The St. Mark's faculty and staff inspire both students and professionals, and I am happy to recognize them today for all of their hard work.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the St. Mark's School in serving such an important role in the lives of generations of high school students, both past and present.

SUPPORTING A CLEAN DHS FUNDING BILL

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to draw the attention of the House on the dangerous position in which my Republican colleagues have placed the American people by refusing to fund the Department of Homeland Security.

Republicans in the House of Representatives voted in January to fund DHS only if we threaten millions of undocumented parents and children with deportation. Unless Republicans stop playing games with our national security and vote to fund DHS, the agency will not have the ability to maintain critical operations by the end of February.

We have a responsibility to demonstrate to the people of the United States and the leaders of other nations that we are capable of supporting national security without concern for politics. The partisan interests that have convinced many Republicans to oppose the Obama administration on immigration are not in the interest of our nation as a whole. The position of the Republicans imposes serious risks on the American people. The failure to fund DHS, as President Obama has recently reminded us, will impact one hundred forty-three thousand Department of Homeland Security workers who are responsible for the safety of our families and children. In New York City, DHS resources support our police and fire departments to protect the city and the millions of visitors from around the world from attacks. Undermining the funding of the

DHS threatens their safety and the security of our communities across the nation. House Republicans should not hold our national security hostage to a narrow agenda.

In the community I represent in Brooklyn, New York, the many first-generation and second-generation immigrants will suffer irreparable harm if we fail to fund the DHS. Who among would want to know the fear that a knock on the door in the middle of the night or a citation for a minor infraction such as jaywalking could result in permanent separation from their children?

Mr. Speaker, instead of playing games with politics, Republicans should focus on avoiding a shutdown of the DHS by enacting a bipartisan bill to fund the DHS through the rest of the 2015 fiscal year.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOOK-IT REPERTORY THEATRE IN SEATTLE

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 25th anniversary of Book-It Repertory Theatre (Book-It) in Seattle and to salute the company's commitment to bringing great literature to life on stage.

Since its founding in 1990, Book-It has established itself as the nation's leader in narrative theatre, and over that time has transformed more than one hundred works of literature into a repertory of works of live theatre. Book-It's adaptation style has also been honed into a highly effective tool for teaching literature of all kinds, resulting in the current launch of its Literacy Initiative with Washington State schools.

Twenty-five years after it began as an artists' collective, the company's mainstage works are seen by 20,000 theatre-goers annually, and its prolific Arts and Education programs serve as many as 62,000 students through performances, workshops, and residencies State-wide.

Classic works by vaunted authors like Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, Leo Tolstoy, Edith Wharton, Mark Twain, Kurt Vonnegut, John Irving, Maya Angelou, Michael Chabon, and many more have been adapted into Book-It plays alongside treasured writers who live in the great State of Washington including Ivan Doig, Garth Stein, Stephanie Kallos, Jim Lynch, Jess Walter, and David Guterson. And Book-It adaptations have gone on to productions in regional theatres across the U.S.

The Arts and Education Programs, through alliances with school districts throughout the state, have helped to bring vital arts programming where it's needed, serving student audiences through performances of literature for youth, including bilingual plays for young people in areas with high immigrant populations, notably in Central Washington's food- and wine-growing regions.

Book-It's commitment to literature and literacy fosters community through partnerships with Seattle and regional libraries, as well as King County's 4Culture, which connects Book-

It artists with regional historical, cultural, and social service organizations to help tell their stories in meaningful ways. The performances resulting from these partnerships are often the only arts experience a group may have.

Founding Co-Artistic Directors Jane Jones and Myra Platt were named among seven Unsung Heroes and Uncommon Genius by The Seattle Times for their contribution to life in Seattle; The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation awarded them a 20th Anniversary Founder's Grant; in 2010, Book-It was given a Mayor's Arts Award; and in 2012, the Governor's Arts Award.

As we celebrate the Silver Jubilee of Book-It Repertory Theatre, I would like to convey my congratulations to Book-It on its steadfast commitment to delivering broad, high-quality live theatre experiences to its constituents in Seattle and throughout all of Washington.

THE SHAME OF IRANIAN HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, at a time when the administration seems keen to reach a nuclear accord that relies on trust in the Iranian regime and perhaps even a de facto collaboration in the fight against ISIS, it is wise to consider and scrutinize the dismal human rights record of this country with which we are currently conducting negotiations based on good faith. How they treat their own people is illustrative of how they see and will treat outsiders. A hearing I convened yesterday provided a critical examination of human rights in Iran—which is important and necessary in its own right—and also placed it in the context of the administration's efforts to partner with this regime on critical issues.

According to a report by the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Iran, between July 2013 and June 2014, at least 852 people were executed in Iran. Shockingly, some of those executed were children under the age of 18. Iranian human rights activists place the number of people executed by the Iranian regime at 1,181.

The current Department of State human rights report states that Iranian human rights violations include disappearances; cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, including judicially sanctioned amputation and flogging; rape, politically motivated violence and repression, harsh and life-threatening conditions in detention and prison facilities, with instances of deaths in custody; arbitrary arrest and lengthy pretrial detention, sometimes incommunicado.

While the Iranian constitution grants equal rights to all ethnic minorities and allows for minority languages to be used in the media and in schools, minorities do not enjoy equal rights, and the regime consistently denies their right to use their languages in school. In addition, a 1985 law, the Gozinesh (selection) law, prohibits non-Shia ethnic minorities from fully participating in civic life. That law and its associated provisions make full access to employment, education, and other areas conditional

on devotion to the Islamic Republic and the tenets of Shia Islam.

The regime disproportionately targets minority groups, including Kurds, Arabs, Azeris, and Baluchis for arbitrary arrest, prolonged detention, and physical abuse. These groups report political and socioeconomic discrimination, particularly in their access to economic aid, business licenses, university admissions, permission to publish books, and housing and land rights.

Because of severe religious freedom abuses, our Government has designated Iran as a Country of Particular Concern since 1999. The frequent arrest and harassment of members of religious minorities has continued, following a significant increase in 2012. The government severely restricts religious freedom, and there have been reports of imprisonment, harassment, intimidation, and discrimination based on religious beliefs. There have been continued reports of the government charging religious and ethnic minorities with "enmity against God," "anti-Islamic propaganda," or vague national security crimes for their religious activities. Those reportedly arrested on religious grounds faced poor prison conditions and treatment, as with most prisoners of conscience.

One of those imprisoned on religious grounds is Pastor Saeed Abedini, a U.S. citizen and father of two—Rebekkah Grace and Jacob Cyrus—and a Christian imprisoned in Iran because of his faith. Pastor Abedini was imprisoned by the Iranian regime nearly 1,000 days ago, when members of the Revolutionary Guard pulled him off of a bus and placed him under house arrest. He was later taken away—in chains—to Evin Prison, where he has endured periods of solitary confinement, beatings, internal bleeding, death threats, and continued psychological torture, all because he would not deny his Christian faith.

What was Pastor Abedini's crime? According to the court, he was a threat to the security of Iran because of his leadership role in Christian churches in 2000–2005. President Obama promised Pastor Abedini's son Jacob that he would do all he can to gain his father's release by the boy's birthday next month. Earlier this week, Secretary of State John Kerry, in answer to my question on this matter, said the administration was working quietly to gain Pastor Abedini's release as soon as possible. Let's hope.

Meanwhile, Iran is repeatedly cited for virtually unrelenting repression of the Baha'i community, which Iran's Shiite Muslim clergy views as a heretical sect. Baha'i number about 300,000–350,000. At least 30 Baha'is remain imprisoned, and 60 were arrested in 2012. A February 2013 UN report said in that 110 Baha'is were in jail, with 133 more expected to start serving jail time. Since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the regime has executed more than 200 Baha'is. The regime frequently prevents many Baha'is from leaving the country, harasses and persecutes them, and generally disregards their property rights. Iranian regime officials reportedly offer Baha'is relief from mistreatment in exchange for recanting their religious affiliation.

Iranian courts offer no recourse to the monstrous violation of human rights because without an independent judiciary, Iranians (and for-

eigners tried in those courts) are routinely denied fair public trials, sometimes resulting in executions without due process. This also results in ineffective implementation of civil judicial procedures and remedies and allows arbitrary interference with privacy, family, home, and correspondence.

This is the regime the administration trusts to make agreements and honor them. I call on the administration to do more than acknowledge these facts—it must take more seriously the blatant disregard of the rights of people and factor this into any interactions we have with this predatory regime. How can we make any binding agreement with such a dishonorable regime? That question remains to be answered.

RECOGNIZING MRS. ANNA BARRY
AS THE 2016 ESCAMBIA COUNTY,
FLORIDA, TEACHER OF THE
YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Anna Barry as the 2016 Escambia County Teacher of the Year. Teachers are amongst our Nation's most valuable public servants. They are responsible for mentoring our students and ensuring that our next generation emerges ready to lead our Nation in the future. Mrs. Barry's assiduous work ethic, unbridled enthusiasm, creativity, and commitment to student engagement exemplify the characteristics of an exemplary teacher.

For more than a decade, Mrs. Barry has served the students of Northwest Florida, inspiring them to strive for excellence and empowering all those who pass through her classroom to reach their full potential. Her dedication to her students' success fosters an atmosphere of achievement, and her commitment to a layered curriculum teaching method, where each individual student can take ownership of their education, helps ensure that students remain engaged and conscientious.

Mrs. Barry began her career teaching U.S. History, Science, and Geography at Ernest Ward Middle School. Despite being new to the profession, Mrs. Barry tackled her position head on and immediately began making an impact on her students. She also took on leadership positions at the school and helped to coordinate instruction amongst all grade levels.

Following her successful years at Ernest Ward, Mrs. Barry began teaching at her high school alma mater, Northview High School, where she once again established herself as an exceptional teacher and leader. At Northview, Mrs. Barry has served as a Faculty Leader, History Department Chair, and a member of the Florida Standards Team, which helps ensure that teachers are ready to meet the updated state education standards. While at Northview, she has also taken the lead in several other initiatives, including forming the first-ever Model United Nations (UN) Team for Escambia County and working with the local

community to secure the funding necessary to have her students travel to Orlando to participate in Model UN. Mrs. Barry also serves as the coach for the Varsity and Junior Varsity cheerleading teams, produces the Miss Northview High School Pageant, and is a co-sponsor of the Student Government Association.

Thanks in large part to her success within her own school environment, Mrs. Barry has also served in district-wide positions, including service on the World History Leadership Committee, where she helped to construct the district pacing guide, prepare essential questions to accompany units of study, and lead the district's new content session to help World History teachers integrate new standards into their curriculum. Mrs. Barry has received several previous recognitions for her excellence in the classroom, including being named the Escambia County High School Social Studies Teacher of the Year, as well being recognized by the Florida Council for Social Studies.

The importance of teachers is unquantifiable. Mrs. Barry clearly understands the important position that teachers serve as role models for their students. Being a role model demands an incontrovertible commitment to professionalism in all aspects of life. Mrs. Barry treats her students, their parents, faculty, and staff with the utmost respect, and, in turn, this respect inspires her students and helps engender success in future endeavors. Mrs. Barry also understands the importance of working together with other teachers to improve the educational experience of their students, and, by sharing her experience with all of her fellow colleagues, Mrs. Barry improves the quality of her own classroom, as well as the entire school.

Each and every teacher should be commended for their commitment to our Nation's future. To be selected as Teacher of the Year, chosen from a large pool of extremely qualified applicants, is a reflection of Mrs. Barry's tremendous work ethic and steadfast dedication to the students of Northwest Florida. She has proven to be among the many exceptional teachers in our Nation, and I am proud to have her as a constituent in Florida's First Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Mrs. Anna Barry for her accomplishments and her continuing commitment to excellence at Northview High School and in the Escambia County School District. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Mrs. Barry, and we wish her all the best.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
CHIEF TIBBET

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Tibbet of the Fairfield, California, Police Department on the occasion of his retirement. Chief Tibbet's career has been impressive. He began as a Police Officer with the Alameda Police Department in 1972. In

1980, he transitioned to the San Jose Police Department and was promoted through the ranks to Sergeant, Lieutenant and Captain before returning to the Alameda Police Department in 2006. After serving as Chief of Police for four years in Alameda, he was appointed as Chief of Police for the Fairfield Police Department on July 6, 2010.

Chief Tibbet had an immediate impact on the Police Department and the city. In the midst of staffing shortages due to the Great Recession and the State's release of more than 30,000 felons, he oversaw the Department's response to a series of high profile violent incidents. The Department remained extremely high functioning and proactive. Chief Tibbet was also a consummate advocate for the community. He fostered partnerships to expand the Department's outreach with neighborhoods, businesses, schools, and churches. His work with the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District to establish the Public Safety Academy and Sullivan Interagency Youth Services Center stand out in addition to his commitment to growing the P.A.L. program. Chief Tibbet was also a strong supporter for improving efficiencies through the use of new and enhanced technologies. Under his leadership, the Department secured numerous grants to maintain services during difficult financial times and deployed innovative technologies to protect the city.

Chief Tibbet has been a valued colleague and leader, and his commitment to the City and community was evidenced on a daily basis.

HONORING MR. RANDY SWAN

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to honor longtime Broadcast Journalist and news anchorman, Mr. Randy Swan, of Mississippi's Fourth Congressional District, upon the occasion of his retirement from WDAM, Channel 7, a television station covering the region known as the Pine Belt.

Ask anyone in the northern half of Mississippi's Fourth Congressional District who delivers their nightly news, and they will likely answer, "Randy Swan." For over 50 years, Randy's voice has narrated important events to the people of South Mississippi, first over radio, then television. For the past 38 years, it has been Randy's face in hundreds of thousands of Pine Belt homes as he reported the days' events on the evening news.

Randy was born and raised in broadcasting. At the time of his birth, in 1947, Randy's father, Jimmy Swan, held a contest on WFOR radio station to name his newborn son. Out of more than six thousand entries, the winning name, James Randolph, was chosen to honor the memory of a young local man who had died fighting in World War II.

Randy's broadcast career began at the age of three, talking on the radio while sitting on his father's lap, at WFOR. At the age of fifteen, he was working full-time in radio broadcasting while also attending high school. In the

1950s, Randy took to the television screen, singing on his father's music variety show, McCaffrey's Showtime.

After graduating from Hattiesburg High School in 1965, Randy attended the University of Southern Mississippi, earning a bachelor's degree in broadcasting in 1970. It was 1976, the year of our nation's bicentennial, when Randy began his career at WDAM, as morning anchor and reporter for the station covering a large portion of South Mississippi. Within a short six years, Randy was named News Director and soon became the main anchor for the station—his was the face many area residents turned to for their news.

In the 1990s, Randy served as Station Manager, News Director, and lead anchor at WABG in Greenville, Mississippi, but he returned to the Pine Belt and WDAM five years later.

The span of his career has given Randy the privilege of sharing some of the best and worst moments in history. He claims that one of the most fulfilling aspects of his career is in helping others through the sharing of information. For example, Randy and his team remained steadfast in their on-air coverage in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Thousands of residents relied on WDAM and the trustworthiness of Randy Swan to assist them with finding needed supplies and assistance in the recovery.

His dedication and professional integrity earned Randy distinction in the Mississippi Associated Press Hall of Fame (2006) and the University of Southern Mississippi School of Mass Communications & Journalism Hall of Fame (2010). Randy has four children and is married to the former Millie Ivey. The family resides in Hattiesburg. I am proud to honor Mr. Randy Swan for an outstanding career in radio and television broadcasting in South Mississippi. We extend our appreciation for a job well done, and wish him all the best in retirement.

HONORING MAE YATES

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Mae Yates, a wonderful woman who contributed significantly to the Florida community and enriched the lives of those around her. Mae raised her three children with a strong sense of fairness, compassion, and empathy for others, values that were imbedded in Mae herself and evident in all of her work.

Mae grew up in Brooklyn with a positive attitude and influence on those around her, always making the best of any situation. She excelled in her studies at Brooklyn College, and married the love of her life, Sam Yates. Together, they traveled to South America, Europe, and Asia, spending half a year living in India. They lived in various states on the East Coast of the United States, and Mae truly made a positive impact on Palm Beach County after moving to Florida 36 years ago.

Mae Yates was active in civic life and dedicated to the improvement of her community,

both locally and nationally. Her public engagement included organizing volunteers for Delray Hospital when it first opened and personally logging over 13,000 volunteer hours at that same hospital. She served as President of her children's school PTA, her condominium section in Kings Point, and the Atlantic Democratic Club. Mae was Director of the Area Agency on Aging, clerk of her voting precinct in Palm Beach, and worked in the South County Courthouse. Her many important contributions to the community include bringing a hospital to Delray Beach, bringing a fire station closer to the senior community, having traffic lights installed, and working on legislation to support victims of domestic abuse.

Mae believed in me when I first ran for office, and I always turned to Mae for insight and inspiration. It is a privilege to represent a district with citizens who work tirelessly to strive to make a difference. Mae was a woman of action who made every day count, and she will be greatly missed. I am fortunate to have known Mae Yates.

IN HONOR OF HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT CAPTAIN DWIGHT BAZILE

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the memory of a brave firefighter and exceptional man, Houston Fire Department (HFD) Captain Dwight Bazile of Houston Fire Station 46.

On Thursday, February 19, 2015, Captain Bazile suffered a cardiac arrest after assisting in the extinguishment of a fire at a duplex in south Houston. Two days later, Captain Bazile, aged 57, passed away at Memorial Hermann Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Pamela Bazile; his college-aged son, Dwight Bazile, II; and his mother, Charlotte Felder.

The loss of this intrepid fire captain, father, husband, and son is inestimable. Captain Bazile, as with all of our firefighters, selflessly risked his life and limbs to save people in the most dire circumstances. While our community is emotionally devastated, we are also in awe of the leadership, dignity, and courage of the late Captain Bazile.

Mr. Speaker, as we sadly bid farewell to Captain Bazile, we must find consolation in knowing that in his 37 years in HFD, Captain Bazile saved and comforted many all while "in the line of duty."

HONORING ELLY FAIRCLOUGH

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Elly Fairclough's exemplary public service.

Whereas, on the twenty-seventh day of February, of the year two thousand and fifteen,

Elly Fairclough will retire after twenty years of dedicated public service to Yolo County and Northern California communities; and

Whereas, Elly began her distinguished career with California Supervisor and Assemblymember Helen Thomson, continued with Congressman MIKE THOMPSON and concluded her service with Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI; and

Whereas, Elly's family, friends, and colleagues are thrilled about this most auspicious occasion and wish to acknowledge Elly with the recognition, love, and respect that she has most deservedly earned; and

Whereas, Elly has been a bridge for local seniors, veterans, home owners and immigrants with her assistance as they navigated through the various agencies of the state and federal government; and

Whereas, Elly represents the highest values of her community and has been a leading voice promoting women's equality; therefore be it

Resolved, that we, Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District and Congressman MIKE THOMPSON of California's Fifth District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the life and accomplishments of Elly Fairclough, as well as offer her our best wishes for a happy retirement, good health, and happiness in the years ahead.

THE SECOND AMENDMENT IS THE
LAW OF THE LAND WHETHER OR
NOT IT'S CONVENIENT

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when this Administration doesn't get its way, it sets aside the Constitution and does what it wants anyway. Much to the displeasure of the White House, Congress has defended the Second Amendment from the President's efforts to infringe on Americans' right to bear arms. So, the White House has now announced through an executive edict by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) a ban on common rifle ammunition used by millions of law abiding gun owners in the United States.

Instead of addressing the problem, those who unlawfully possess and use firearms, the ATF is now focused on disarming those who follow the law and exercise their constitutionally protected right. ATF's own mission statement says its duty is to protect our communities from dangers like "violent criminals" and "acts of terrorism." Mission aborted. Suppressing the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding Americans for political points is its new objective.

This country was founded on a system of checks and balances with certain enumerated powers and limitations. Restricted power is not always convenient, but that's what our Founders intended. This Administration views the

Constitution as a suggestion and not the law of the land. It views Congress as a nuisance that gets in the way of its agenda. So, it has used almost every agency of non-elected bureaucrats to achieve a political goal by bullying through kicking, stomping and ignoring the constitutional rights of the people. The President cannot obtain his government oppression of rights through the lawful legislative process. Thus the IRS targeting conservative organizations; the FCC imposing an unprecedented system to control the Internet; HHS restricting the religious liberty of companies; the Department of Justice wiretapping reporters to silence them; the NSA snooping on millions of Americans without a warrant; and the Department of Homeland Security imposing amnesty on this nation are clear violations of the Constitution. There are many other examples and now the ATF's proposal to ban AR-15 ammo is further proof that this Administration sees the Constitution as a mere suggestion, rather than the law of the land.

The natural right to bear arms is long ingrained in the soul of the people of this nation. The Administration forgets that America's War of Independence started when King George's Redcoats tried—unsuccessfully—to take the firearms away from the colonists. Further the Texas War of Independence began in a similar way when the Mexican Dictator tried—unsuccessfully—to take away the guns of Texans in 1835. The guarantees of the Second Amendment are intertwined in our nation's history, and the Constitution is the supreme law of the land whether or not it's convenient to the Administration.

And that's just the way it is.

IN MEMORIAM OF STANLEY
EDWARD KRZYZANOWSKI

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize the life and contributions of Stanley Edward Krzyzanowski, a lifelong resident of Tucson, Arizona. Stan passed away on February 13, 2015 at the age of 77.

Stan made significant contributions to the arts and sciences in Arizona and throughout the world. He served as President of Ballet Tucson and was a member of the Tucson-Pima Arts Council. A self-taught amateur paleontologist, Stan even had a species of dinosaur named after him: Krzyzanowskisaurus hunti.

Some of the fossils Stan discovered in Arizona are on display at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History, where according to curator Spencer Lucas, they are viewed by nearly 250,000 visitors per year.

Stan's friends and family remember him for his curiosity, kindness, and love for life. One friend described him as "an inspiration—enthusiastic, tireless, devoted to the arts, interested in everything," while another said, "Stan

was such a special man, positively inspiring and encouraging."

Stan is survived by his brother, David and his wife Martha; a son, Stephen; a daughter Karen Kowal and her husband David; and three granddaughters, Kasia Krzyzanowski, and Sarah and Katie Kowal.

Stan's lack of formal education in no way hindered his archaeological work. In describing his method of finding what others don't see, he said "I don't have that Ph.D. That's what I'm doing: I'm looking, not thinking."

HONORING MR. MIKE READER

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to honor longtime Broadcast Meteorologist, Mr. Mike Reader, of Mississippi's Fourth Congressional District, upon the occasion of his retirement from WLOX, Channel 13, a television station covering our beautiful Mississippi Gulf Coast region.

Mike Reader, a veteran of the United States Navy, began working part time at WLOX as a weekend weathercaster in 1983. When he retired from naval service in 1988, Mike became the morning weatherman and was soon promoted to Chief Meteorologist.

Born in Honolulu, Hawaii, and raised in Louisiana, it seems Mike's eyes have always been set on the skies. His twenty year career in the Navy trained him in weather observation and forecasting around the world. It was only natural that the man, who some call "Winnie" because of his likeness to the famous bear, would become the most trusted name in weather along the Gulf Coast.

One of Mike's most challenging assignments entailed flying with the Hurricane Hunters into numerous storms, collecting data for national forecasts. In the span of his thirty year career with WLOX, Mike has safely weathered countless weather threats to our area, but Mike's dedication and passion for the safety of Gulf Coast residents shone under the stress of three major hurricanes, each of which had a serious impact along the coastline: Hurricane Elena in 1985, Hurricane Georges in 1998, and of course, Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Mike holds a certificate in Broadcast Meteorology from Mississippi State University. He is also a member of the American Meteorological Society and the National Weather Association. His WLOX weathercast has received the coveted AMS Seal of Approval. He is married to Delores, the woman he calls his "best buddy." They have one son and three grandchildren.

I am proud to honor our friend, Mr. Mike Reader, for an outstanding career in weather broadcasting along Mississippi's Gulf Coast through WLOX news. We extend our appreciation for a job well done, and wish Mike "smooth sailing" in retirement.